

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8321

Thursday 22 September, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

FREE inside Autumn PROPERTY GUIDE 2016

Young stars' Olympic dream put at risk by planning row

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THE OLYMPIC dreams of two rising stars in the surfing world are turning into a bit of a nightmare as Argyll and Bute Council planning officers were expected to recommend that the hut the youngsters train from should be torn down, at a planning meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

But the owner of the hut says she is determined to fight any demolition order, while another objector says the council is 'playing with children's dreams'. Blackhouse Watersports' hut is three metres by four metres and has the backing of Argyll MSP Michael Russell and former MSP Jamie McGrigor,



The hut at Balevullin that has caused controversy.

as well as celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, but it does not have the support of every islander. Some want the council to remove the 'blot' on an otherwise unfettered

landscape. Tiree has long been known for its outstanding natural beauty, but in the past few decades it has also become world-renowned for surfing.

The island has the reputation as the Hawaii of the north because of strong winds and perfect waves.

Tiree's waves have helped two island youngsters compete all over the world in surfing competitions. This week under-18 Scottish champion Finn MacDonald, 15, and under-14 national champion Ben Larg, 11, are competing in the Azores as part of the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships.

The pair are hoping to make it to the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 by continuing to use the beach at Balevullin as a training

ground. The boys and their parents say the hut is intrinsic to their training and safety.

When mum and entrepreneur Iona Larg set up Blackhouse Watersports with a colleague, they spent a few seasons working from a trailer in Balevullin beach car park before seeking permission from landowners, Argyll Estates, to erect a hut.

It was Argyll Estates who approved a plan for the hut on the beach.

Some years on, Argyll and Bute Council officers have now said leaving the hut standing without council planning permission sets a precedent for other people who may want to place huts on the beach.

At the time of going to press, there were 39 objections to the

hut, 100 expressions of support and a 135-signature petition of support.

A report by council officials said: 'Officers have not been persuaded that such a building must necessarily be sited directly on the beach.'

'It could, effectively, be elsewhere on the island with those more essential functions such as shelter, first aid and lifeguard facilities provided for from a temporary shelter taken to the beach and then removed at the end of the business day.'

Karl Hughes, father of Finn, said the idea of beach hut on the island is not a new concept.

Mr Hughes, who works in Iraq as an environmental consultant, said: 'The precedent

was set some 16 years ago at Barrapoll Loch where there is already a hut on an inland loch for surfers.'

Ms Larg said the hut was fundamental to her growing business at Balevullin beach.

She said: 'The hut is a point of contact, a place of reference, a place that offers safety for those people who are out surfing.'

'We have even been contacted by the RNLI, which wants to find a safe place for emergency equipment to be stored.'

'As anyone knows who is regularly out on the water, the hut offers the comfort of the safety side of our business. It gives those people who come here to surf an added sense of security.'

'I hope that matters will be reconsidered.'

Islay man stalked 'love rival'

AN UNEMPLOYED Islay man has admitted harassing a love rival he feared was starting a relationship with his ex-partner.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Euan Fraser Munro, 40, of Ruadhhort Beag, Port Askaig, pleaded guilty to causing fear and alarm to Simon Hart after suspecting he was starting a relationship with the woman.

He denied a charge of theft of his ex-partner's mobile phone.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that on March 29 this year, the woman was going to a dance competition in Oban. Munro was at the ferry terminal and, to avoid an upsetting dispute, she agreed to let him go to the competition.

While staying at a friend's house in Connel, the woman's mobile phone was missing the next morning. She found what she described as 'bizarre' texts supposedly from her sent to Mr Hart.

On May 8, now aware that Munro had a problem with him, Mr Hart went into the Co-op when he became aware he was being followed. He hid in the staff area until Munro left.

On May 15, in the vicinity of the Co-op, Munro confronted Mr Hart and told him to stay away from his ex-partner, leaving Mr Hart badly shaken. He reported the matters to police on June 8, and Munro was detained.

Defence solicitor Craig Grimes said that the report was submitted some weeks later than the incidents, indicating that his client had not caused any further distress since the last incident.

Sheriff Anderson called for a criminal justice social work report and granted him bail.

A safer crossing for a long and winding road

A PLEA to remember the rules at Oban's newest zebra crossing has been made to the whole community by a band of lively ladies.

Agnes Morris, Elspeth Kerr, Betty Nudds and Riona MacEwan, who all live close to the crossing near Lynn Court, say it is badly needed.

But they also revealed that it is mainly women drivers who sometimes forget to stop and allow people to cross.

Asked by *The Oban Times* to model for a picture, the women were delighted to highlight the new crossing, and even more

delighted when two workmen agreed to join them in the photograph.

The ladies had only praise for the workforce on the site, saying they had made every day a pleasure.

Mrs Morris said: 'All the staff working on the new Lidl store and the crossing have been very considerate. What a nice group of people.'

'We are all excited about them finishing but the building has given us all something to talk about over the past few months.'

'We can't wait for it to open.'



Medics in videos to attract staff

A DRIVE to recruit doctors, nurses, radiographers and consultants to Argyll - in particular Oban, Lorn and the Isles - has begun this week.

Lifestyle, innovation and a team approach are part of the attraction of moving to the West Coast for work, say the medical practitioners who appear in seven short videos to promote living and working in Argyll and the islands.

For many years NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council have made no secret of the number of positions that remain unfilled in health and social care.

A number of key vacancies exist on Mull, in Oban, Tay-



nuilt and Lorn and throughout the community.

Sandra Melville, a pharmacist based in Oban hospital, is very clear that her role has been enhanced by the autonomy she has to do her job.

Ms Melville was instrumental in planning for and delivering the chemotherapy service alongside her colleagues in Oban. She said: 'There is a real community spirit in the

hospital. Our patients told us they wanted chemotherapy services in the hospital and, with support from the Beatson Unit, the treatment can be delivered to patients in Oban without the need for travelling to Glasgow.'

Jason Davis a consultant anaesthetist, said a view of *The Oban Times* website showing the headline 'New lollipop man for Mull' was one of the reasons he relocated from Toronto, Canada, to Oban.

Mr Davis explains: 'One April or May there had been as many murders in that year than had been in the previous year and a serial rapist was hiding at the local shopping mall.

My wife and I wanted to move somewhere else. We were surfing the net and found *The Oban Times* website and we thought, "We'd like a bit of that".'

Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality manager Annie Macleod said the drive to recruit staff was a community responsibility.

She said: 'For anyone interested in coming to work here, we want you to think seriously about the job opportunities and the amazing lifestyle we can offer.'

For jobs and opportunities at NHS Highland see *The Oban Times* recruitment pages, hijobs.net and www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk.

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Celebrating apprentices

THE benefits to Scotland's aquaculture industry of a new modern apprenticeship for managers were highlighted at a Scottish parliamentary reception hosted by Michael Russell MSP during Scottish Food and Drink fortnight.

The Technical Award in Aquaculture at level 4, initially available through NAFC Marine Centre UHI, offers progression and on-the-job learning for those in higher level and managerial positions within one of Scotland's most successful industries.

Speaking at the event, Mr Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'As an MSP for a West Coast rural constituency, as well as a former environment minister, I am well aware of the economic and social importance of aquaculture. These apprenticeships will make a big impact and I am delighted to be celebrating them this evening.'



Henry Graham, Lantra; Haley Eccles, SSF; Michael Russell MSP; Lisa Askham, SSC; Anne MacColl, SSPO.

Council tax legislation

LEGISLATION to remove the automatic council tax discount for second homes has been laid in parliament, paving the way for further reforms due to take effect from April 2017.

This change will give councils the option of offering no discount for second homes, arming them with another lever to encourage better use of housing stock in their areas.

If all councils were to remove discounts, they could generate up to £3 million of additional revenue across the country.

Oban Times
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Highland dancers Shona Marie MacIennan, Amy Macleod, Claire Wilson, Alicia Mackenzie, Joanna Maclean and Caitlan Macdonald limber up ahead of this year's Royal National Mòd 2016.

Lewisian Dìamh to open Royal National Mòd

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AM Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail (The Royal National Mòd) kicks off its return to the Western Isles with a sensational opening ceremony featuring headline performances by Dàimh and the Mischa Macpherson Trio.

Taking place in Stornoway for the first time since 2011, Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival will see a

nine-day spectacular of music, arts and sport take place from Friday October 14 to Saturday October 22.

Last year's event generated close to £3 million for host town Oban and Argyll, and organisers are confident they will have a similar impact on the Western Isles, which is known for its strong community spirit.

The opening day of this year's festival kicks off with the traditional torchlight procession, led by the Lewis Pipe

Band, which will see hundreds of people weave through the streets of Stornoway in breathtaking scenes.

The procession will draw the crowds to Lewis Sports Centre, where the opening ceremony takes place, with performances by local acts the Mischa Macpherson Trio and Gaelic supergroup Dàimh, who were crowned Folk Band of the Year at the 2015 Scots Trad Music Awards.

Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the oldest and

most respected national Gaelic organisation, the Mòd is the most important festival of the Gaelic language in Scotland.

It sees thousands of competitors from Scotland and across the world, including Germany and Abu Dhabi, take part, with more than 200 competitions in highland dancing, sport, literature and drama, as well as Gaelic music and song.

Alongside the main competition, the Mòd fringe will run a bustling programme filled with traditional music, unique

poetry, numerous concerts and art forms of every description.

Marketing manager at sponsor CalMac Peter Griffiths said: 'Of all the events we lend our support to across the West Coast, the Mòd is one of the closest to our hearts.'

'It captures the very essence of the culture and history of the communities we support and we are very proud to offer our continuing support and are looking forward to catching up with old friends and making some new ones.'

Oban march for independence

A SEA of blue balloons and Scotland flags could be seen marching from the Corran Halls to Station Square in Oban last Sunday, writes David McPhee.

Around 100 people showed up to take part in the march to show their support for Scottish independence.

Upon reaching their destination, the chanting crowd gathered at the newly upgraded station to listen to a series of speakers and musicians.

Some of the speakers included Breege Smyth, pupils from Oban High school, John Finnie MSP and Joyce McNickel – an activist from the United States.

Following the talks, local musicians played for the crowd, including The Hollow Mountain String Band.

Around 100 people marched through Oban on Sunday to voice their support for Scottish independence.

07_139March01



Tirisdeachs enjoy a rare day trip to Coll

FOR the first time in a long-time Tیره residents got the chance to take a day trip to Coll last week.

Several groups took that opportunity, including Tیره Primary School and Tیره Community Council, as well as some individuals from the island who wanted a day out.

But for Alison Jones, the mother of the only child under five living on Coll, it was a wonderful day where her son got the chance to spend time with children his own age without having to go off island to do so.

Alison explained: 'Thanks to a change in the CalMac timetable, Tیره finally got an opportunity to take a day trip to Coll, and a number of them took the once in a lifetime chance to come to see their neighbouring island, many for the first time.'

'Tیره's Chocolates and Charms even closed for the day, so momentous was this opportunity. Thankfully the sun shone for us.'

'Our 20-month old son, Harris, is the only under-five-year-old on Coll, so it was fantastic for us to spend the day with a good group of Tیره parents and their pre-five children.'

'We all had lunch in the Island Café and shopped in the adjacent Ethical Sales Co, before visiting the gift shops of An Acarsaid and the Art Den.'



Harris Jones with some Tیره children at the Coll playpark.

'The kids had great fun playing in the local park with its stunning view of the bay.'

'We then visited RecyColl, the local recycling shop, and had a play at An Cridhe before getting an ice-cream and returning to the park.'

'Some also took the opportunity to go for a drive and see a bit more of Coll. The others stored that away as something to look forward to the next time they come to the island.'

'The day was finished off perfectly with a drink and some nibbles in the gardens of the Coll Hotel, with its

fabulous view across the bay. Harris and I really enjoyed the day and appreciated the effort made by those who travelled across. We look forward to visiting Tیره soon, and hope that Tیره might also be able to visit us again when the 2017 summer timetable begins.'



The Tinkers' Heart, at Strachur, was protected in law after a decade-long campaign by Jess Smith.

'Tireless' advocate for traveller monument nominated

THE volunteer who contributed to the safeguarding of a Scottish travellers' commemorative monument in Argyll and Bute has been chosen to go through to the finals of the 2016 Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, writes Louise Glen.

Jess Smith has campaigned for many years to have the Tinkers' Heart, a place of celebration and gathering for travelling communities, to be nationally recognised. She achieved her aim after a decade-long struggle.

Perthshire-based Ms Smith is nominated for an award in the category of Caring and Protecting. This shortlisting recognises her work and campaign which helped ensure the heart-shaped setting of quartz stones be granted scheduled monument status. Ensuring its preservation for future generations, it offers a real insight into the past and traditions of Scottish travellers who were thought to have gathered at the site for weddings.

Known as the Tinkers' Heart, the commemorative monument helps contribute towards creating a better understanding of the history, heritage and culture of the travelling community in Scotland.

Fiona McAllister, secretary of the Heart of the Travellers, said: 'The committee of the Heart of the Travellers group is absolutely thrilled that Jess Smith has been nominated for a Scottish Heritage Angel Award.'

'Jess is really modest about her achievements, but we think she more than deserves the acknowledgement given by her nomination for her years and years of hard work, determination and dedication to saving the Tinkers' Heart.'

Ulva house project nominated for award

THE Ulva Ferry Housing Project on Mull has been nominated for a Rural Innovators Award under the housing category, writes Katrina Rasmussen.

Housing project manager Helen MacDonald said: 'We are delighted to be nominated for this award. The passive house design of our community-owned rental houses will ensure heating bills are minimal for tenants, directly tackling fuel poverty, which is prevalent in this very rural area.'

'Construction is now under way and the houses will be ready for occupation next spring.'

Other projects nominated in this category include Argyll Community Housing Association, the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust Rent to Buy Scheme and SBHA Rutherford Square.

The Rural Innovators Awards are run by Scottish Rural Action and seek to recognise and showcase some of the most innovative and effective ways in which rural challenges can be addressed.

FREE Business Gateway workshops

MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS
Improve the marketing of your business, review the impact of current marketing activity, and develop a realist marketing plan that is right for your business objectives and budget.
Oban, Monday 3rd October 2016 10am-4pm

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY BENEFITS
Sustainable procurement is a vital element of public sector procurement. This workshop will help you understand how best to demonstrate community benefit in your bid.
Inveraray - Tuesday 4th October 2016 9.45am-1.30pm

WORLDHOST™ PRINCIPLES OF CUSTOMER SERVICE
Train your front-line staff to deliver a great customer experience that will leave your customers raring to return. The WorldHost Principles of Customer Service workshop will give your staff the skills and knowledge to deliver excellent customer service that will give your business a great reputation.
Oban - Thursday 6th October 2016, 8.45am-5pm

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL MEDIA
Are you curious about social media and what it can do for your business? Do you think your a bit of a digital dinosaur? Then this workshop is for you, designed for businesses who haven't used social media before and would like to learn more.
Oban - Tuesday 11th October 2016, 1.00-5.00pm

DOING MORE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA
Do you want to take your social media marketing to a new level? Have you been using social media to market your business? This workshop will help you grow your presence, improve your reach and become more effective and efficient in social media marketing.
Oban - Wednesday 12th October 2016, 9.30am-1.30pm

BECOMING AN EMPLOYER
Are you looking to take on your first employee, this workshop will help you understand the process of employing people, your legal obligations and gives you an insight into recruitment good practice.
Inveraray - Thursday 13th October 2016, 10.00am-1.30pm

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING
Learn how to keep accurate financial records, understand the key components of book-keeping and VAT and produce a bank reconciliation.
Oban - Tuesday 18th October, 9.30am-12.30pm

Do you have plans to start your own business? or plans to develop or expand your existing business?

To make an appointment or book a place call 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Oban Post Office to open on Sundays

OBAN Post Office in Tesco will have new opening hours from Wednesday October 26. The facility will launch a new seven-day-a-week service, and will be open from 8am to 8pm, Monday-Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

Local residents and small business customers will be able to access a wide range of Post Office and mail services, including bill payment, banking, benefits, travel money, postage, home shopping returns, local collect and financial service advice.

The services will be provided from four serving positions, two modern screened and two open-plan counters.

Damien Mulholland, Post Office area manager, said: 'We are making it easier for customers to get their cash, send and collect their mail, and do their banking because we know how important these services are to local residents'.

To create the modernised facility, Oban Post Office will close at 6.30pm on Tuesday October 11 for the refurbishment to take place, and will reopen at 1pm on Wednesday October 26.

During the closure the Post Office services can be accessed from George Street Post Office, 128 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT or Lochgilphead Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE.

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Residents say new housing could destroy communities

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RESIDENTS of Glenshellach in Oban have blasted comments by a leading rural housing advocate saying 'social problems' will increase unless the current scheme behind the hospital stops until a masterplan is developed.

In last week's *Oban Times*, residents of Glenshellach were told by former councillor Drew MacFarlane Slack they should be 'expressing thanks' rather than complaining about housing developments in the area.

Matters have now come to boiling point after an application for blocks of flats was lodged in mid-August with Argyll and Bute Council.

To date 55 letters have been received by the council's planning department, 53 of which are against the application.

A pro-forma letter used by the majority of complainants states that they believe the number of units on the site has more than doubled.

Complainants wrote: 'This development is the wrong development on the wrong site.' They cite a number of reasons, including a conflict with the local development plan (LDP), the scale of the development – the flats are eight metres higher than existing flats – and inadequate private and public open space.

Residents say they have been guaranteed a masterplan for the area by councillors. But a council press officer said that, while there is an LDP, he had no knowledge of a masterplan. The spokesman said it was the developer's responsibility to put together a masterplan.

A spokesman for Glenshellach Residents Group (GRG) said:

'Proposing three-storey flats at this site is completely inappropriate. The visual impacts of this scale of development in this location would be jarring and be visible from Nant Drive, Soroba and the railway.'

'Over-development and high density can lead to undesirable outcomes. There is no shortage of development land in the Oban area, therefore no need for high-density development. The development at Catalina Avenue was originally allocated 50 units but this was increased to 90 units through the 2015 local development plan.'

The GRG spokesman believed the application with the council would mean there are 102 units – 12 more than the allocation in the LDP.

'To grant a near doubling of the unit numbers changing the site from medium to high density and then allowing

further increases is ludicrous', he said. 'The result is that long-established traditional communities will disintegrate and social problems escalate. If everybody only took the LDP as an indication rather than a rule then it would be a free for all.'

Jane MacLeod on behalf of the developer, MacLeod Construction, said: 'The LDP contains policies that are intended to guide development.'

'The council is obliged to consider any planning application that is made against all of the planning policies and guidance within the plan and against any other material planning considerations. The LDP is a guide, not a tablet of stone. As far as we are aware the development plan does not require a masterplan for the current application.'

'Eleven units, which is the indicative capacity set out in the LDP, is an under-utilisation of

land as the site can comfortably accommodate a higher density development that meets all other council policy requirements and helps to deliver much needed affordable housing.'

'At a time when the population of Argyll and Bute is falling and there is an impetus to drive forward economic development, it is important to create jobs and to train and retain our young people, as well as attracting people to live here.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There are two applications currently being considered for this area, neither of which require a masterplan.'

'We are hoping that a masterplan to guide the wider development of the area will come forward in due course.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I met the local community and assured them that we expect a masterplan to be submitted.'

Three points for careless driving

A MAN has pleaded guilty to careless driving while overtaking a bicycle on the A85 near Dunbeg.

Gareth John Mathias, of 8 Walkington Road, Little Weighton, Cottingham, admitted driving carelessly on the A85 near the Halfway House filling station on February 22, when he overtook a cyclist in contravention of double solid white lines, forcing an oncoming police car to take emergency action to avoid a collision.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday: 'The police had to slow down to allow the vehicle to overtake safely.'

Sheriff John Herald fined 31-year-old Mathias £250, and endorsed his driving licence with three penalty points.

Appin man fined for having cocaine

AN APPIN man was fined for possessing cocaine when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

The court heard on September 14 that Hamish Conner Duncan, of Appin House, pleaded guilty in absentia to possessing a small quantity of cocaine in Oban High Street on February 6.

Sheriff John Herald fined 21-year-old Duncan £350, reducing the fine from £500, and ordered him to pay the sum within three months.

Guy organises Oban stem cell fundraising gig



Guy's fundraising gig is on October 22.

AN OBAN musician is playing a gig next month to fundraise for stem cell therapy to treat his multiple sclerosis.

Twenty-three-year-old Guy Fortieith was diagnosed with MS when he was aged 16 and is hoping to raise £20,000 towards the new treatment which he hopes will change his life.

'I've had MS for seven years and it's getting on my nerves. I'm just sick of it,' he said.

'I have problems with my vision, my balance and my walking. I have had all my teenage years ruined and this past year I have felt myself slowly but surely getting worse and worse. No matter how much I do to stay on top of it, the MS is always going to drag me down bit by bit. I am tired of been laughed at and ques-

tioned about my walking, or asked why I can't read or see things, or even blamed for not recognising people in the street if they see me.'

To try to alleviate the symptoms, Guy has spent the past three years bodybuilding on a strict gym regime, and studying to become a personal trainer focusing on people with disabilities.

But 'the disease isn't going to go away', he added, and stem cell therapy could offer hope for the future.

Stem cells can turn into almost any type of cell in the human body, and so have the potential to help many different conditions, including the neurodegenerative disease MS. Many research projects are under way to try to understand how these cells could be applied to the treatment of MS.

Guy said: 'I have looked at a lot of studies and talked to people about stem cell therapy, but have recently had the chance to speak with the people who had the therapy, with some unbelievable and life-changing improvements.'

Guy, a singer/songwriter and sound engineer, plans to host many events to help raise funds for his treatment, publicised through his Facebook page, but the first gig titled 'A Night of Music, Stem Cells for MS' is set for October 22 at Cuan Mor, Oban.

Guy will be joined by Oban artists Nicky MacInnes, Shannon Taylor and Moonshine Maggie, with pianist Ralf Roeder flying in from Germany especially for the event. Tickets cost £7 at the door.



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Museum celebrates 600,000 visitors



Charles Struthers hands the 600,000th visitor, Tony Munn, the quail. 16_139warandpeace01.

THE War and Peace museum celebrated its 600,000th visitor on Monday since opening its doors in 1995.

Tony Munn, from Larkfield, near Kent, walked into the museum at around 10.45am and was greeted by members of the board, who handed him a silver quail.

Tony was in the area looking at his wife's family history.

He said: 'My wife's family come from Iona, so we've been on a bit of a pilgrimage.'

Paul travelled from Kent all the way to Iona via public transport.

He said: 'We had three days on Iona. It's been an adven-

ture. The area is phenomenal.'

Paul said where he lives there is nothing but flat land. 'To come and see the mountains is fantastic,' he continued. 'It's unbelievable.'

Charles Struthers, chairman of the museum, said: 'I think it's lovely that we continue to have visitors who are inter-

ested in the heritage of Oban. We would really like to get the young people of Oban in to come and see what is here.'

Fergus Gillanders, board member, said: 'It's called the War and Peace museum, but it's not just about the military. It's also about the town's history.'

Caring Eilidh is a cut above...

A SIX-YEAR-OLD girl from Oban had seven inches of her hair cut off last Saturday so it could be made in to a wig.

Eilidh Graham donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, which provides real hair wigs to boys and girls who have lost their locks through cancer treatment. She had her haircut by Elaine Smith in Spruce.

Eilidh's dad, Paul Graham, said: 'What happened was, a young girl was suffering from a cancer-related disease and she had no hair and Eilidh asked me what happened and I explained to her what cancer was.'

Paul then explained to his daughter that people could donate hair to be made into a wig to help people who have lost theirs.

After explaining to Eilidh



what a wig was, she then asked if she could donate her hair.

Eilidh said: 'When people don't have hair and are sick, you can get your hair cut to make wigs.'

Mum Debra added: 'We got a DVD sent through and she [Eilidh] saw a girl getting

a wig for the first time. Eilidh was a bit emotional watching that, but she wants to help someone who is sick and losing their hair.'

'Everyone who knows she is getting it done is so proud of her. It's nice to think that a family who don't have much

money could benefit from this.'

As well as donating her hair, Eilidh has also been raising money. Donation tins have been placed in businesses around town such as Boots, Spruce and at the West Coast Motors shop.



BEFORE: Paul, Eilidh and Debra in Spruce, Oban, before Eilidh had seven inches of her hair chopped off. 07_139haircut01. AFTER: Eilidh holding up her freshly cut ponytail. 139haircut02no.

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Delight as planned boundary changes in Argyll are scrapped

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

CHANGES to council ward boundaries in Argyll and Bute have been rejected by the Scottish Government, following a 'united campaign' of local opposition.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland's fifth electoral review recommended changing electoral ward boundaries in each of Scotland's 30 local authorities, and reducing the number of Argyll and Bute councillors by three to 33, in

time for local government elections in May 2017.

It also proposed transferring Luig, Seil, Kilniver and Kilmelford, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Councils, and the east Lochaweside section of Glenorchy and Innishail, from the Oban North and Lorn ward to the Mid-Argyll ward, centred on Lochgilphead.

Many councillors and community councillors opposed the plans for breaking local links, with Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell also urging Holyrood ministers to reject the



Michael Russell backed the opposition campaign.

'tinkering' changes 'driven by irrelevant number-based formulae' with 'no financial savings.'

On Wednesday last week, parliamentary business minister Joe FitzPatrick decided to accept the changes in 25 out of 30 council areas, but rejected those in five. He said: 'In a small number of cases – Argyll and Bute, Dundee City and Scottish Borders – we have listened to local representations and left boundaries as they currently stand, to ensure that strong historic ties in particular areas and communities are maintained.

'Significant concerns were raised about aspects of the commission's proposals for those areas, in particular that they would not reflect local communities. While the commission did try to address these in its final recommendations, it was clear from the responses to those recommendations that many of those concerns remained. We therefore decided that the better course would be to keep the status quo for those areas.'

'In the case of the three island councils, we are committed to introducing an Islands Bill in

this first parliamentary year enabling the creation of one- or two-member island wards. We do not propose to pre-empt the bill by changing ward boundaries in Orkney, Shetland or Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, so we are therefore not implementing any changes in those areas.

'However, we will be asking the commission to look at electoral arrangements for the islands areas once the bill has been enacted, with the aim of having any changes arising from the Islands Bill in place for the local elections in 2022.'

TIMESLINE

Mountain weather service to continue

REASSURANCES have been made to mountaineering communities following reports last week that a vital weather service was to close.

Following reports of the closing of the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS) on its website at the weekend, SportScotland has said that the 'critical mountain weather reporting remains secure not just for the coming winter, but on a long-term basis'.

Lead forecaster for MWIS, Geoff Monk, said the service was set to close after SportScotland withdrew funding.

But in the latest statement issued by the government body, SportScotland said it has 'moved to reassure the mountaineering community that the provision of a high-quality weather forecasting service will continue and was always going to continue'.

A petition to save MWIS was set up and gained 11,183 signatures since the weekend.

The petition closed Friday (September 16) with plans for it to be delivered to Shaun Roberts, principal of Glenmore Lodge, SportScotland.

Funding call for care partnerships

ARGYLL and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is now inviting applications from local organisations for Integrated Care Funding (ICF) for 2016/17.

The ICF is a source of funding provided by the Scottish Government to help HSCPs transform local health and social care services in order to improve the health and well-being of individuals through a more preventative approach to healthcare.

The closing date is Monday October 10 and further information is available by emailing fsharples@nhs.net.

Only two GPs will get 'golden hello'

THE £20,000 'golden hello' scheme for trainee GPs, a new initiative heralded by the Scottish Government, will only be applicable to two posts in the NHS Highland area next year.

The scheme will offer a one-off bursary of £20,000 to trainee GPs committed to working in one of 37 training posts in Scotland which are in areas and programmes that have proven difficult to recruit to in the past.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart, in a parliamentary question, asked Health Secretary Shona Robison how many bursary places would be available in his region and was told there will be two.

Inspiring speaker sets SAMS students on the road to research success

THE head of science at Marine Scotland has urged graduates from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to help convey key public messages about climate change, as they begin their research careers.

Professor Colin Moffat was guest speaker at graduation ceremony in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls recently when 12 BSc marine science students and seven PhD students from the Dunstaffnage institute gained their awards. One Masters student, Thomas Butler, became the first student in the UK to receive a Masters by Research (MRes) in algal biotechnology.

Following his inspirational speech, in which he spoke passionately about the importance of marine science in helping people understand a fast-changing climate, Prof Moffat said: 'We can't manage the environment; we can only manage people and human activity. These graduates will have to help people understand that we can't go on as we are.'

'It is predicted that by 2050 nearly every seabird will have plastic in its stomach. That's not acceptable. What do we do now to make sure that doesn't happen? To make these changes and to take people with us we need evidence and we need the scientists to deliver.'

The graduation was also an opportunity to celebrate the individual achievements of students, not least Sam Black and Dr Laura Hobbs, who



Student of the year Sam Black, right, shows off his certificates, which were presented following a speech by Professor Colin Moffat, above.

won the University of the Highlands and Islands undergraduate and post-graduate student of the year prizes respectively.

SAMS UHI director Prof Nicholas Owens said: 'It has been a magnificent day of celebration and I congratulate all of our graduates, who I hope will keep in touch with us.'

'Our speakers, professors Colin Moffat and Ian Bryden, University of the Highlands and Islands vice-principal research, had some great advice for our students.'

Other prize-winners on the day were: Johanna Fehling Memorial Prize

for best published paper by a PhD student – Dr Greg Moschonas; best Masters project conducted at SAMS – Jacob Bentley; SAMS Council Award for Academic Excellence – Felix Butschek; SAMS award for overall achievement – Rosalind Barnes; the Tim Boyd Prize for Oceanography – Lucy Hyams.

The graduation was held in the same week that SAMS UHI welcomed new cohorts of students across a number of courses. At the beginning of the academic year, the Dunstaffnage campus has 160 students across undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



Employment charity helps young people into the workplace

WORKINGRITE, a youth employment charity, has seen a significant success rate in Mid and North Argyll, putting local 16-19-year-olds on the path to employment and modern apprenticeships – and giving businesses a welcome boost.

Since 2010, WorkingRite has successfully supported

more than 1,500 young people. Allan Cameron, 17, a trainee at Kevan Brown Ltd, said: 'I am glad I joined the WorkingRite programme as it has let me gain first-hand experience in a trade that I want to work in.'

WorkingRite matches young people to small- or medium-sized businesses and supports them

through a work-based training programme. Trainees with WorkingRite complete a three- to six-month placement with an employer and are given a weekly training allowance. They are supported by an adult mentor in the workplace, as well as their local WorkingRite project co-ordinator.

Nicola McDade, a project co-ordinator, said: 'Some of the young people we work with have already experienced various barriers in their lives that mean they need a helping hand from a programme like WorkingRite to help them on their way.'

'WorkingRite treats each person individually and places

them carefully with local businesses in a trade that interests them and this is getting great results throughout Argyll.'

Young people joining the scheme want to work but most have struggled in school. However, if helped onto the right career path, they can cope with a mixture of work-based and

formal learning to achieve the qualifications needed.

Nicola added: 'We are hoping that these latest success stories will show other young people that there is a way for them to achieve a positive and successful future.'

For more information contact Nicola on 07341 561965.

HOW BUSINESS GATEWAY HELPED Ben find the right tonic

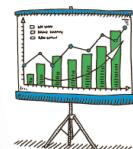


Founded by Ben Iravani, Josh Rennie and Alex Lawrence in 2015, Porter's Gin was the first juniper-based spirit to be distilled in Aberdeen for 100 years and soon became a true Business Gateway success story.

Only five months after launching, Porter's unique blend of botanicals was gracing the pages of Vogue and the shelves of Harvey Nichols.



Business Gateway helped the friends fine tune their business plan, develop a growth strategy and access specialist support. This has opened the door to overseas markets, including landing a deal to sell their gin in one of the world's best bars in Amsterdam.



"Business Gateway has saved us tens of thousands of pounds in initial investment."

Ben Iravani
Owner, Porter's Gin

How we helped:

- 1:1 Adviser Support
- Exporting
- Recruitment Advice
- Growth Strategy

Be Your Own Boss with Business Gateway
visit www.bgateway.com/planyourbusiness or call 01546 808 363.

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MP champions cause of Trossachs Mobility

A NEW Callander charity improving access to the Trossachs for wheelchair users has been championed in the House of Commons, writes Sandy Neil.

Trossachs Mobility, founded by friends Wayne Johnson and Gordon Wilson, is a non-profit organisation of volunteers who provide all-terrain access for the physically challenged into Trossachs National Park.

'We take for granted walking in the woods or skimming a stone across the river,' writes Gordon Wilson, a wheelchair user, on the charity's website. 'These are simple but important things, yet almost impossible achievements for wheelchair users.'

'Luckily these barriers can be broken down thanks to the world of ingenious inventors. Given the right equipment nothing is impossible and freedom can be reclaimed. Photography, fishing, exploring, whatever it may be, it should be easy for everyone to access.'

'Our quest is to create a hub where we can provide all-ability access by means of a selection of all-terrain chairs, therefore opening the door to our beautiful countryside for all.'

Trossachs Mobility is currently trying to raise start-up funds and recently received its official charity status and secured premises.

Welcoming the charity's progress, Stirling MP Steven Paterson called on Parliament to debate how MPs can better support innovative projects such as Trossachs Mobility.

During business questions at Westminster last week, Mr Paterson asked the Leader of the House, David Lidington MP: 'Trossachs Mobility is a new and innovative charity that has



Trossachs Mobility aims to help physically challenged people enjoy the great outdoors.

been established in my constituency to offer opportunities to people who are wheelchair users to get out and about in the outdoors – the spectacular terrain, woodland and hills in the Trossachs. May we have a debate to explore how we can promote such excellent initiatives across the country?'

Mr Lidington welcomed Mr Paterson's comments and suggested that other MPs could learn from Trossachs Mobility's innovative success.

Mr Paterson added: 'Trossachs Mobility is an inspirational start-up organisation, born out of a friendship. Gordon and Wayne have worked together to think of ways which wheelchair users can enjoy the outdoor experiences that the Trossachs have to offer.'

'When I first met Gordon and Wayne, their personal story of friendship was as inspiring as their sheer determination to make this ambitious project a reality.'



Andrew Kyle, Andy Moore and Iain Bruce's quick thinking and rescue ensured a tragedy was averted.

Dawnfresh trio save yacht crew

THREE fish farmers were hailed heroes this week after rescuing the crew of a yacht in trouble on Loch Etive.

Andrew Kyle, Andy Moore and Iain Bruce, who work at a Dawnfresh trout farm, rushed to the rescue of the capsized boat, pulling the two crewmen from the stricken vessel and bringing them safely to shore.

The drama began on the afternoon of Friday September 9 when the three men were made aware of a capsized yacht in the Airds Bay area of Loch Etive.

Within moments, the three men had leaped into their boat and were tearing to the rescue.

The two men were pulled from the water, cold and tired but thankfully unhurt, and met on the shore by the Coastguard who offered medical attention while they warmed up. The yacht was then safely lifted out of the loch by a Dawnfresh support vessel.

Andrew Kyle, one of the men involved in the rescue, said: 'The two guys obviously got in to some trouble and their yacht had begun to overturn, leaving them no choice but to go into the water. We were fortunate we were able to get out to them quickly.'

'We always keep an eye on the loch during our work on the farm and monitor radio channels so we can help anyone



The yacht was safely lifted out of the loch by a Dawnfresh support vessel.

in trouble. Working here, we consider ourselves to be a real part of the community. Anyone who works on or near the water knows how quickly it can become dangerous, even for an experienced crew, so it is important we all try to help each other.'

Stewart Hawthorn, farm director at Dawnfresh, added: 'We are incredibly proud that our crew at Loch Etive were able to help these men in trouble near one of our sites.'

'The men reacted quickly and effectively and we are delighted they were unhurt.'

'The kind of professionalism the team showed, both to recover the men and, subsequently, the boat itself, is the kind of standards we want to bring to all of our work. Hopefully, however, nothing quite so eventful will happen again in the future.'

Scotgold strike it lucky in Tyndrum

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

PROSPECTORS at Scotland's only gold mine near Tyndrum produced their historic 'first pour' of the precious metal in August, by processing spoil heaps of ore.

Scotgold launched its six-month bulk processing trial (BPT) at the Cononish mine on August 3, to produce 'Scotland's first gold on a commercial basis'.

'We've produced our first gold,' Scotgold's CEO Richard Gray told *The Oban Times*. 'We're accumulating it. We're putting our foot down.'

Mr Gray expected the first Scottish gold to be available by the end of the year.

'This is a trial,' he added. 'We're learning a lot about processing to see what improvements we can make.'

The 'small-scale, low-cost' pilot plant, estimated to cost £140,000, aims to process



Scotgold produced their first batch of gold as part of the trial.

2,400t of the 7,000t of stockpiled ore, which grades at around 7.9g/t of gold and 39g/t of silver. The company hopes to produce around 150ozs of Scottish gold at Cononish, and a further 350ozs offsite, which can then be sold at a premium.

Scotgold hopes the BPT will demonstrate the marketability

and profitability of Scottish gold production from Cononish, and the viability of ethical gold production, where no chemicals will be used onsite.

Instead the ore will be crushed and gravity used to separate out the gold-rich material, which will be smelted into impure bullion bars called doré both on-

and offsite. Their first yield of Scottish gold represents 'a very significant development for the company as it seeks to advance Cononish to full production', the company stated.

Announcing the BPT in February, Mr Gray said: 'In addition to anticipated positive technical results, the trial will produce an historic first pour gold output, sufficient to determine whether there are grounds to review the mine development plan and moreover to establish Cononish as a low-cost, low-risk, near-term production, gold project.'

Speaking at the official BPT launch in August, when guests could watch the first gold being produced, he added: 'It is extremely satisfying to be able to celebrate this significant milestone. The achievement of gold production provides tangible evidence of our progress and we appreciate the support of all our stakeholders in getting to this point.'

Harmony singing correction

THE HARMONY singing workshops, run by Scotland Sings, will be held in Connel Village Hall on October 1.

The venue will not be North Connel Village Hall, as reported in a recent edition of *The Oban Times*, due to incorrect information being provided.

The workshop will run from 10.30am to 4pm.

More information and booking details can be found at the Scotland Sings website, www.sing.scot.

The Scots come to Oban to recruit

THE SCOTS were in Oban this week as part of a tour of the West Coast.

Highlander Fraser and Lance Corporal Coburn, who were standing guard at the recruitment van in Tesco's car park, were hoping to talk to both men and women about the range of full-time and part-time job opportunities available in The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Lance Corporal Coburn said joining the army has given him friends for life: 'In the army people become more than just your friends - they become your family.'

Police thank public for information as drugs operation sees 19 people arrested

FOLLOWING a two-week intelligence-led operation by officers in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire police division, officers have arrested 19 people and a further 10 people are subject of a report to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged drugs offences.

During the operation, 22 properties were searched under warrant in the Oban, Clydebank, Dumbarton, Alex-

andria and Helensburgh areas. As a result, 17 men and two women were arrested. Nine men and one woman are the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged drugs offences.

During the searches, drugs believed to be diamorphine, cocaine, cannabis and diazepam with an estimated street value of £94,000 were recovered.

Police inquiries are continuing and a full report will be forwarded to the procurator fiscal.

Detective Sergeant Iain Gillies said: 'This operation demonstrates our ongoing commitment to crackdown on drugs in our communities.'

'Many of our operations are based on intelligence received from members of the public and this is vital in helping us

disrupt serious and organised crime and detect offenders.

'We are grateful for any assistance we are given in ridding our streets of drugs.'

'I would urge anyone with information regarding drugs in their area to contact their local police office through 101. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.'

Argyll Enterprise Week update...

31 Oct - 04 Nov 2016

Business Support Fair is key

Argyll Enterprise Week is a new event supporting Argyll and Bute's business community and encouraging enterprise.

Central to the week is a Business Support Fair, bringing together a wide range of public and private organisations.

More than 25 organisations will be on hand to outline the advice and support they can offer.

'The success of our business community is crucial to the long-term prosperity of Argyll and Bute,' explains Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable development.

'Argyll Enterprise Week is all about helping businesses make new connections, share ideas and access the wide range of



Joanne Blanusa.

support that is available.' Joanne Blanusa of the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service

(SMAS) agrees, saying: 'We are pleased to be part of Argyll Enterprise Week.'

Working in partnership with HIE, SMAS supports Scottish companies of all sizes to grow and thrive by supporting improvements in productivity, culture and innovation from the shop floor to the boardroom.

'Our respected team of practitioners brings at least 20 years of industry experience to challenge and support business leaders compete in the global economy,' Ms Blanusa continues. 'We want to encourage businesses in Argyll to take advantage of our support.'

'We'll be at the Business Support Fair to answer questions

and show how SMAS can help. Cost, quality and delivery performance, along with increased capacity, are just some of the benefits clients we have worked with are now enjoying.'

Organisations exhibiting at the Business Support Fair include:

Expert help: HIE innovation specialist, HIE creative sector, Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service, Scottish Development International Export Advisory Service.

Digital: DigitalBoost, the Digital Garage by Google, Community Broadband Scotland.

Social enterprise: Firstport, InspirAlba, Just Enterprise.

Finance: DSL Business Finance Ltd, RBS, Pensionwise,

Princes' Trust - Youth Business Scotland.

Training and education: Argyll College/UHI, Skills Development Scotland.

Jobs: HJobs, JobCentre Plus Business organisations: B1-D4Oban, Federation of Small Businesses.

Energy efficiency: ALI Energy, Resource Efficient Scotland.

Business services: McPhee & Partners, Argyll Financial Services.

Tourism: Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative.

Council: Planning and Building Control, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Procurement, Business Gateway.

Media: Oban Times Group.



Midton Acrylics have benefited from the SMAS coaching sessions.

Take advantage of the advice on offer

A business that has already benefited from Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service support is Midton Acrylics.

Midton Acrylics is based in Lochgilphead and is Europe's leading specialist in acrylic embedment.

Internationally renowned, the company produces items such as financial tombstones, commemorative gifts and bespoke awards for clients such as Manchester United and Santander.

The company prides itself on quality and has more than 30 years of manufacturing experience.

Craig Cameron, managing director at Midton Acrylics, said: 'Our coaching sessions with SMAS have been very helpful in highlighting ways to improve our manufacturing processes.'

'Process changes implemented as a result of these sessions have improved both production flow and capacity.'

Small changes can make a difference

A series of taster sessions will run throughout the day alongside the Business Support Fair.

These informal, 45-minute sessions will feature a short presentation on the free help available, followed by a question and answer session.

First up will be the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) at 11am. This session will show how small changes to working practices can make a big difference to

productivity, and highlight the tailored, flexible support available from SMAS.

The WorldHost™ customer service training session at 11.45am will outline the WorldHost™ training programme and how businesses in the tourism sector can get involved with plans for Argyll to become a WorldHost™ accredited destination.

The Digital Garage by Google will run at 12.30pm, with a

Google digital expert explaining how to make your business more visible online and help new customers find you through search optimisation, local listings and search engine marketing.

The Google expert will also be available for one-to-one mentoring sessions throughout the day.

Anyone about to start, or thinking of, exporting can join the internationalisation ses-

sion at 2pm. One of Scottish Development International's export advisers will explain the support available to help local businesses develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to grow overseas.

HIE's specialist adviser will talk about intellectual property at 2.45pm, addressing how unique knowledge in a business such as trade secrets, recipes and processes can be protected through copyright,

trademarks, design rights and patents.

Argyll and Bute Council Trading Standards' session at 3.30pm will cover the support available to help businesses become compliant and sustainable.

The Business Support Fair is a drop-in event but to guarantee your place at one of the taster sessions, book now at argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk.

inspire - connect - inform

Join us in Oban for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk or call the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555



Mull

MULL and Iona Community Trust is working in partnership with the NHS Choose Life initiative to bring a series of training courses to An Roth, Craignure, from December 5-8.

The courses will be free to participants and include lunch.

There will be a range of courses covering topics such

as mental health, first aid, suicide intervention skills training and working with bereavement by suicide.

Organisers anticipate that places will fill up fast so if you are interested and would like more information, please get in touch with Laura at lpercy@mict.co.uk or call 01680 812907.

Taynuilt

THIS month (September), Taynuilt couple Doug and Donna Bannatyne are undertaking a remarkable challenge in order to raise money for the RNLI.

The challenge is called H2Only where they are only allowed to drink water – no tea, coffee, milk, alcohol, juice or flavoured

water. Just pure water. Anyone interested in sponsoring Doug and Donna in this worthwhile cause can find out about it and send a donation via Just Giving on www.justgiving.com/tfch2only2016 or simply fill in the couple's sponsorship form at Taynuilt Post Office.

Ardanaiseig

ARDANAISEIG Hotel on the shores of Loch Awe near Kilchrenan is boasting more success after being praised by the AA for its wine list.

The 16-bedroom grade two-listed house has been given a prestigious Notable Wine List Award, one of only 257 establishments in the whole of the UK to have been accorded the distinction.

'Our wines come from a great supplier who genu-

inely cares about which wines are selected from vineyards worldwide,' said Ardanaiseig's Lauren Todd. 'Our wine list has something for everyone, from an easy light-drinking Italian white to a full-bodied Bordeaux.'

Ardanaiseig was voted Country House Hotel of the Year in the 2015-16 Scottish Hotel Awards and shortlisted in the Luxury and Fine Dining categories in the same awards for 2016-17.

Barra and Vatersay

IT WAS with great delight and some considerable relief that the board members of Cobhair Bharragh heard that their application to the Big Lottery fund had been successful.

The award of £30,000 per year for three years goes a long way towards enabling Cobhair Bharragh to maintain the level of service that the organisation gives to the people of Barra and Vatersay.

Demand for services such

as day care, transport, care at home and support for carers is ongoing and maintaining the standards of care to obtain the highest accolade from the Care Commission is a priority for the organisation.

Cobhair Bharragh now receives only 34.5 per cent of core funding from the statutory agencies and is dependent on grants from organisations such as charitable trusts and the Big Lottery.

Benbecula

THE airport on Benbecula has become the first civil airport in Scotland to have its runway fully-lit by LED ground lighting.

The £150,000 improved lighting system provides greater illumination for incoming and outgoing aircraft, while simultaneously reducing the airport's energy consumption and meeting parent firm Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) energy use aspirations.

Benbecula airport, one of the most westerly airports in the UK, is also the first airport in the HIAL network to have its runway entirely fitted out with the energy-efficient lights.

To date, the newest gen-

eration of LED lighting is only in service at a handful of large airports in England, including Manchester and Heathrow.

Station manager Roderick MacKay said: 'Benbecula is the first airport in Scotland to have its runway fully equipped with LED lighting. So far, they have helped us greatly when visibility is bad due to cloud cover, which is particularly beneficial with the mixed weather we have on our island.'

'These LED lights are using 65 watts per unit of energy instead of 150 watts, which is a massive saving.'

Replacement of the 153 runway lights took just under two weeks to complete in July.

Benderloch and Connel



The trophy winners from Sr Oran's and Dunbeg flower show.

Children blossom at show

THE church hall in Connel was filled with wonderful displays of flowers, vegetables and baking on September 10 for the St Oran's Church, Connel and Dunbeg annual show.

Marion Fisher, the organiser, was delighted with the turnout. She was especially pleased to see so many children taking part, with entries from Achaleven and Barcaldine Primary Schools.

Marion remembers as a child picking wild bluebells and displaying them in jam-jars for the show. This year the overall winner was Ian

Brown for his wonderful flower exhibits.

BENDERLOCH is the location for the inaugural Bookends Festival that takes place from September 24.

The Victory Hall will be transformed into a sumptuous reading room for this week-long festival.

The programme includes evening and afternoon events featuring local writers Kenneth Steven, Norman Bissell, Judy Fairbairns and Russell Campbell.

Watch out for 'book

bins' that will be located in Barcaldine, Bonawe, North Connel, Connel, Taynuilt, SAMS, Dunbeg, Hope Kitchen and Seil. People are encouraged to use these book bins to take a book or leave a book or just have a peek.

More information on Facebook: Bookends Festival Benderloch. Email: joycameron57@hotmail.com or phone Joy Cameron on 01631 720247.

ACHALAVEN Primary School is 150 years old this year. Part of the celebration is a study into the his-

tory of the school and the village. It would welcome any old photographs or stories of the area. To get in touch, call 01631 710259.

BENDERLOCH Badminton Club started on Wednesday last week at the Victory Hall. Primary school session are from 6.30-8pm, and high school sessions are from 8-9.30pm.

THERE was fundraising lunch on September 8 at Connel Church Hall in aid of Mary's Meals. Entry was by donation.



THE diecast model show raised £1,100 in Benderloch's Victory Hall this month.

The Diecast Model Association's annual show attracted several hundred visitors to view the rows of tables displaying model lorries, boats, railways, cars,

buses and island crofts, crafted by enthusiasts from as far as Caithness and Orkney.

The money raised was split in two: £800 going to Oban lifeboat and £300 for Victory Hall funds.

Organiser George Berry said it was 'a brilliant

weekend', and thanked all model collectors and sponsors, especially the Isle of Eriska Hotel, Ben Lora Café and Hodge Fencing.

Next year's event has already been booked, he added, and it will raise money for Mary's Meals.

Pictured above, left to right, are John MacAlister holding a model of one of his nine fishing boats, as Garry Gemmell of Oban receives a unique model of one of John's lorries, made by Robbie Holmes of Wick.

Islands

ISLAND communities will see up to 100 affordable homes built through a new £5 million fund.

The Scottish Government has announced it will establish a new Islands Housing Fund, backed by £5 million over three years, to increase the availability of affordable homes on the islands.

Speaking during a Scottish

Parliament debate, housing minister Kevin Stewart said: 'Our new £5 million Islands Housing Fund will increase the supply of good quality affordable housing which is an essential part of attracting and retaining people in our islands.'

The investment comes in addition to the £25 million rural housing fund which supports people building

new homes and refurbishment of existing ones in rural areas.

Mr Stewart continued saying: 'Investment in this support for the islands and through the Rural Housing Fund will help us deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes over the lifetime of this parliament and ensure we are reaching across all of Scotland in our ambitions.'

Skye

CONSULTATION events will take place later this month to gauge public opinion on initial plans for a new power line to connect Skye with Fort Augustus.

The aim of the project is to increase electrical capacity between the areas to facilitate the connection of new renewable generation that is located in the north of the island.

The events will run from September 20 across vari-

ous locations to explain the need for the work and seek initial views on the preferred route option before more detailed design work and environmental studies get under way.

The first consultation was taking place at Fort Augustus Village Hall on Tuesday this week, followed by Glenelg Community Hall yesterday (Wednesday) and Broadford Village Hall today (Thursday). Further

events are scheduled on Tuesday September 27 at Portree Community Centre and finally in Dunvegan Community Hall on Wednesday September 28. All events will run from 2pm to 7.30pm.

Anyone who cannot attend and wants more information should call 07342 026270, or visit www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/fort-augustus-skye.

Stornoway

The annual Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture will be given this year by the deputy first minister of the Scottish Government, John Swinney MSP.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday October 19 at 3.30pm in the CnES council chamber Stornoway, during Royal National Mòd week. Appropriately,

the topic of the lecture will be 'The Place of Gaelic in a Modern Scotland'.

In addition to his other duties, Mr Swinney has cabinet responsibility for Gaelic policy and the lecture will be an opportunity to hear how the deputy first minister sees the future of the language and Gaelic-speaking communities amid

the many challenges they face. There will also be an opportunity to put questions to Mr Swinney.

The prestigious annual lecture commemorates the life and work of the late Angus 'Ease' Macleod MBE of South Lochs, and is organised by the Islands Book Trust and Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc.

MORVERN lines

Frank Lockwood's Island

IN A part of the world where place names are predominantly Gaelic, Old Norse, Pictish or a combination of all three, anything else is unusual and generally has an interesting story behind it.

Frank Lockwood's Island, lying a few yards off the southernmost point of Lochbuie Estate on Mull, is no exception. It comprises no more than a few acres of hard rock, an occasional patch of grass, several brackish pools and very little else. Migratory gulls, herons and the odd oily cormorant are its only occupants, which probably accounts for its original Gaelic name 'Eilean straid eun' – the island of the street of the birds.

So, who was Frank Lockwood and why is his name attached to this isolated and barren rock in the Firth of Lorn? He was born in 1846 in Doncaster where his great-grandfather and grandfather had both been mayors. He was educated privately and at Manchester Grammar School before going up to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

He was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1872 and made a Queen's Counsel in 1882. He became Liberal MP for York in 1885 and 10 years later was appointed solicitor-general in England and Wales and knighted. He died in 1897 and had been one of the best-known men in England.

Lockwood is remembered, firstly, for defending Charlie Peace (1832-1879), an English burglar and murderer, who embarked on a life of crime. Lockwood lost the case and Peace was hanged in Leeds prison. His story has inspired many books and films. Secondly, as counsel for the prosecution in the famous Crown v Oscar Wilde case, which led to the poet being found guilty and sentenced to two years' hard labour. Thirdly, as an accomplished artist and cartoonist. He drew frequently for *Punch* – an influential British weekly magazine of wit and satire established in 1841. It became a household word because of its sophisticated humour and absence of offensive material, especially when viewed against the satirical press of the time. One of its more famous cartoons was of two



Sir Frank Lockwood QC MP [picture: W & D Downey, London] and the island that curiously carries his name [picture: Iain Thornber]

farmers arguing over the ownership of a cow. One was pulling the head, the other the tail and underneath there was a fat lawyer sitting on a stool milking it dry.

In 1874, Lockwood married Julia Schwabe, whose sister Katherine was the wife of Murdoch Gillian MacLaine, 22nd chief and laird of the 30,000-acre Lochbuie Estate, which explains how Lockwood came to be associated with the area.

As to the naming of the island, there are two suggestions. One has it that Lockwood was interested in ornithology and spent hours in the vicinity watching the birds, which seems unlikely given the number and same species to be found in Loch Buie. The other is that he wanted to become a member of the prestigious Argyllshire Gathering but, as membership in those days was restricted to landowners of Argyllshire, their sons and brothers, the landless Lockwood stood no chance. Lochbuie, who was the honorary secretary at the time, got round the issue by giving his wife's brother-in-law the worthless island which now bears his name.

Sir Frank and his wife evidently didn't take these social obstacles too seriously. On one occasion they left their London house for a gathering and happened to arrive slightly after the MacLaines, and heard the butler announce: 'Lochbuie and Mrs MacLaine.' Sir Frank whispered something to the butler. The man hesitated, but apparently Lockwood convinced him, because when he flung open the door to admit them, he announced: 'No 26 Lennox Gardens and Lady Lockwood.'

A few miles west of Frank Lockwood's Island there is a mystery. It is a large cave, allegedly 300 yards long, whose entrance is now hidden behind a rock fall. It is shown on maps and charts as Lord Lovat's Cave and was where, according to local tradition, Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat and chief of Clan Fraser, took refuge after Culloden. As there is no documentary evidence to support the claim that Lovat of the '45 was in Mull before or after the Jacobite rising, the story cannot be true. At one time it was known as St Aidan's Cave, which is much more credible.

There is no mystery about the iron wreckage to be seen lying in the shallows between Frank Lockwood's Island and the shoreline. It is all that remains of HMS Maine (a 315ft, 169-ton steel steamship, built in 1887 by William Grey and Co, West Hartlepool), that ran aground in thick fog on June 17, 1914.

HMS Maine, which was serving as a Royal Fleet Auxiliary hospital ship, was in the area picking up patients from a mine-laying fleet engaged in exercises in Loch Linnhe when she struck. The casualties, who were in no danger, were carried ashore and billeted in tents until help arrived. A salvage operation was considered but later abandoned because of the likelihood of the vessel sinking if it was pulled off the rocks. So there it remained until after the end of the First World War when it was broken up and removed.

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COMING SOON

Primary ones in the picture

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Gary takes the hot seat for top BBC radio programme

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

HE'S conquered Scotland, China and America – among other exotic destinations – but now Gary Innes is gearing up to *Take the Floor*.

The Spean Bridge musician announced on Friday that he would be the new host of BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor*, after veteran presenter Robbie Shepherd confirmed he was retiring from the Scottish country dance music show.

Tributes were paid to the 'legendary' broadcaster, who hung up his headphones after more than 30 years on Saturday.



Gary Innes swaps 'tools of the trade' with Alan Knox helped by Councillor Thomas MacLennan.

And now 35-year-old Gary has 'big boots to fill' but, with a huge fanbase, he is excited for

the new challenge ahead. Gary told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm totally delighted. It was just one of those things in life that I never saw coming, so it's an exciting new challenge for me.'

'The response from everyone has been overwhelming and really wonderful. It's lovely that people have been so supportive.'

The Mánran accordionist covered two *Take the Floor* shows in May when Robbie was away and said: 'People were forthcoming with compliments and praise, but now I'm not just filling in for Robbie so it feels quite different. I'm sure it will take everyone, including me, a while to get used to.'

Gary was showered with congratulations on his Facebook page when revealing the news but knows the pressure is on. 'I would be lying if I said I wasn't feeling the pressure, but I will just go in smiling and do the best that I can. I have spoken with the producers who are keen for me to make the show my own and I'll be writing my own script.'

'I know people may be worried about the show changing, with my folk music background, but the content and the music of the show will stay exactly the same.'

Between playing in one of Scotland's best-loved bands and working on his solo career, Gary

also has his own record label, is a shinty commentator for the BBC and a first responder with the Scottish Ambulance Service. So how does he juggle it all?

'I don't know how I manage to fit it all in, but it's good to be busy. I had to give up some things a few years back, like playing shinty and being part of the fire service.'

'*Take the Floor* is pre-recorded, but without losing the magic of the show, so I'll still be able to go touring with the band.'

Gary also recently swapped 'tools of the trade' with paramedic Alan Knox to mark the launch of two fundraising ceilidhs he will be holding to

raise money for defibrillators to be placed in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge.

'I have spoken with the village halls in both communities who have said they are happy for the defibrillators to be fitted externally.'

'We want to raise as much money as possible, but the minimum is £1,000 from each concert so the villages have their own equipment.'

The concerts will be held in Spean Bridge on October 5 and Roy Bridge on October 7.

Gary looks set to be ending his year with a Lochaber Christmas concert in the Nevis Centre, on Saturday December 17.

TIMESLINE

Charity team looks for cash donations

A TEAM of volunteers dedicated to making 'Fort William look fabulous' is welcoming donations from home and away.

Fort William Town Team is a registered charity for which volunteers spruce up flowerbeds in the High Street and surrounding area.

The team now has a BT donate fundraising page and said via its Facebook page: 'If anyone would like to donate to the town funds or you have friends or family who may like to support us from afar please share this post or let them know.'

Donations can be made via <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/fortwilliamtownteam> or by clicking the 'donate' button at the top of the Facebook page.

Help for tenants with rent arrears

A 'FIRM but fair' approach is being taken after more than £110,000 of rent was unpaid in Lochaber.

A recent housing performance report conducted by the Highland Council (HC) showed the rent arrears figure is £1,394,688. Lochaber rent arrears at quarter one stood at £117,306.

A spokesperson from the HC explained: 'Rent arrears can occur for a variety of reasons. The approach we take in managing arrears is a firm but fair one. We will give tenants every advice, support and assistance to help them pay their rent and address any financial or benefit problems, but we will also use all legal options to ensure rent is collected. It is important that tenants contact the council if they are having problems.'



All change at school

IT'S THE end of an era at Lochside RC Primary as the school bell rang yesterday for the last time.

After 52 years, the school in Fort William has closed. Now a new uniform and a new building await the staff and pupils at St Columba's in Caol which they will share with Caol Primary as of Monday.

In the week leading up to the last day, head teacher Violet Smith said there had been lots of mixed emotions as they packed up boxes and prepared for the move.

She said: 'The young ones created a model of the school and we have been talking about it at assembly. The kids asked lots of questions which we hadn't even thought of. They

were particularly interested in the cafeteria and the playground of course.'

'It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Lochside but the new school is so 21st century. There will be an interactive catering system where the kids will click on their photo in the morning and make their lunch choices which they are really excited about.'

'It is going to be wonderful in terms of the children's development. We are looking forward to settling in.'

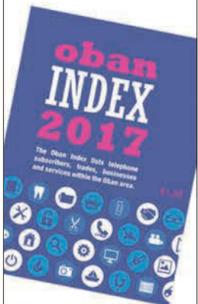
Pupils of St Columba's Nursery and their p6 helpers who between them created a model of their new school from cardboard boxes.

Picture Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



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SNP Engagement Day

ADVERTORIAL

SNP Oban & Lorn Branch is holding an SNP Engagement Day on Saturday 24th September 2016 at the Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street from 10am until 5:30pm. MP's, MSP's, MEP and Councillors from all over the country will arrive in Oban for this regional event.

A highlight of the day will be the SNP Depute Leader hustings. Candidates contesting the position are: Alyn Smith MEP, Angus Robertson MP, Cllr. Chris McEleny and Tommy Sheppard MP, the Hustings will be chaired by Maree Todd MSP. Voting has started for the position of Depute Leader; the successful candidate will be announced at the SNP conference in October. The hustings is for SNP members only.

There is an ideal opportunity for non-members to hear Tommy Sheppard MP when he hosts a public meeting talking about his year in Westminster.

Brexit is the topic for what will be an engaging and informative session in the afternoon at 16:30. With so many 'unknowns', it will be interesting to hear what Alyn Smith MEP and Michael Russell MSP consider what might and will be involved in the exit process. Michael Russell MSP has recently been appointed as the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe. Alyn Smith has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2004; he is a member of the Agriculture Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. This meeting is open

to the public, it is a great opportunity to hear first-hand what Brexit means.

Other topics for discussion during the day are the SNP Manifesto for Council 2017 at 10am and The National Survey; a chat about Independence - if you are still to be convinced then come along at 14:15.

The Rt Hon Angus Robertson MP, leader of the SNP Parliamentary Group at Westminster, will host a discussion about the SNP; the party, the policies and the people - a potted history. Brendan O'Hara MP will chair this public meeting at 3:30pm.

All events are free but places are limited so you are advised to book a ticket on www.snp.org/events or phone 01631 710889.

Saturday 24th September

10:00 COUNCIL MANIFESTO 2017

10:00 DRAFT A RESOLUTION JULIE HEPBURN

12:30 HUSTINGS *

14:15 THE NATIONAL SURVEY

15:30 THE SNP STORY Rt. Hon ANGUS ROBERTSON MP

15:30 ACTIVISTS CORNER * MAREE TODD MSP

* DENOTES MEMBER ONLY EVENT

The Rockfield Centre
Stevenson St. OBAN
FREE TICKETS: snp.org/events



Tommy Sheppard MP
My year in Westminster
Starts 11.15am



Michael Russell MSP
The National Survey:
A discussion on Independence
Starts 2:15pm



Rt Hon Angus Robertson MP
The SNP story
Chair: Brendan O'Hara MP
Starts 3.30pm



Alyn Smith MEP
Michael Russell MSP
BREXIT:
What does it mean?
Starts 4.30pm

SNP Oban & Lorn Branch



Jeannie MacColl was highly commended for the Volunteer of the Year award.



Members of the Isle of Luing Community Trust pick up the Social Enterprise of the Year award for their efforts that saw the Atlantic Islands Centre become a reality.

Volunteers have their good works recognised at awards ceremony

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

FROM creating island employment to everyday acts of kindness – volunteers from across Oban, Lorn and the Islands have won a host of awards at this year's Volunteer of the Year celebrations.

The Isle of Luing Community Trust Atlantic Islands Centre won the prestigious Social Enterprise of the Year award for its efforts to provide a space for people on the island to socialise and to support the creation of new jobs.

The centre, which has a community hub, visitor centre and restaurant, has benefited the island. Its voluntary board has also shown a huge commitment towards its staff and volunteers.

Other winners at the event, held by Argyll and Bute TSI in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall in Oban on Friday September 16, were regional heroes Marie Grier from Oban and John Bottomley from Tiree.

Retired health visitor and midwife Marie won a Regional Hero award for her volunteering efforts on behalf of the recycling project LORI (Lorn and Oban Refuse Initiative) while also managing her ME condition.

Meanwhile, small daily acts of volunteering earned John his Regional Hero award. Since

moving to Tiree 10 years ago, John has never been known to say 'no' – taking people shopping, driving them to appointments, delivering meals on wheels and many countless other acts of kindness that mean so much to so many people. The Sargus Memorial Prize was also awarded to John Bottomley.

The Organisation of the Year award, voted for on the day, went to Hope Kitchen.

Island Castaways was highly commended in the Social Enterprise of the Year category. It has more than 40 regular volunteers working in three island charity shops.

Jeannie McColl from Mull was highly commended in the Volunteer of the Year category for more than 40 years of volunteering with many organisations, including the rugby club and pony club.

Erin Macgregor was a highly commended as Young Volunteer for her years of volunteering that have earned her the 500-hour Saltire certificate as well as a Saltire Ambassador role.

Susan Simpson was highly commended in the NHS Health Volunteer of the Year. Following her own tragic experience of the stillbirth of her daughter in 2010, Susan started to fundraise for the charity SiMBA, which supports those affected by the loss of a baby.

This is the first time the awards were hosted by the TSI, which was created last year when Argyll Voluntary Action, Islay and Jura CVS and Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network merged to form one organisation supporting the third sector across Argyll and Bute.

TSI chief executive Glenn Heritage said: 'It is a fantastic haul of awards for this area and shows the diverse range of ways that people support their communities.'

'It is important that people like them – who give up much of their own precious time to help others – are recognised for the huge contribution they make. They don't do it for the recognition but our communities are so much richer for their efforts. We hugely value them.'

Among the guests at the award ceremony were MSP Mike Russell, Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Clelland Sneddon, chief officer for health and social care integration Christina West and the Provost of Argyll and Bute, Councillor Len Scoular.

The keynote speaker at the event was Bill Clifford from Mary's Meals, the hugely successful charity that provides food for some of the world's poorest children so they can go to school.



Volunteers from Hope Kitchen were on hand to receive their Organisation of the Year award from Michael Russell, MSP.



Susan Simpson was highly commended in the NHS Health Volunteer of the Year award.



Volunteers from Island Castaways, which has a charity shop in Craignure, Isle of Mull, who were highly commended.

Ex-sheriff convicted in his own court for driving while drunk

COURT REPORTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER sheriff who admitted driving while almost three times over the alcohol limit was handed a 12-month ban in his former court last week.

Richard Twining Sidgwick pleaded guilty in Fort William Sheriff Court to driving near his home in Spean Bridge with a breath alcohol level of 60 on May 11, 2016. The legal limit is 22mg.

The court heard Sidgwick, now 72, has battled alcoholism since he retired around 10 years

ago and that it was his wife who raised the alarm on the day he was charged because she had become frustrated with his drinking habits.

Fiscal Alison Wyllie said: 'It was his wife who spoke to his son and his son contacted the police. When he came home around 8 o'clock in the evening it was perfectly clear to his wife that he had been drinking. She had gotten to the end of her tether.'

During his professional career, Sidgwick, as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, was invited to high-profile events.

Sidgwick had previously pleaded not guilty to driving with 110mg of alcohol in his system.

The court heard that, on the date of the incident, Sidgwick had been at an event in Badenoch, drove home and almost immediately consumed spirits. It was explained Sidgwick continued drinking over the course of the evening before the police had arrived at 9.50pm and the amended charge was accepted by the crown.

Charges of being in possession of a knife at Fort William police station and failing to identify

the driver of the vehicle were also dismissed.

Speaking on behalf of Sidgwick, Hamish Melrose said: 'He went into the house, consumed some more alcohol when it was brought to his attention by his wife that his dogs had escaped. Sidgwick believed he had more authority over the dogs than his wife and he made the decision to go and find them.'

Melrose continued that Sidgwick believed the dogs may be at a nearby campsite and drove half a mile there and half a mile back. Sidgwick returned to the house without the dogs, who

were found some time later having destroyed some chickens. Sidgwick had gone into the conservatory of his house and drank some more.

Mr Melrose then explained to the court that the incident had made Sidgwick realise he had a problem, which the accused believed began after he retired prematurely on health grounds. He added Sidgwick has been treated for depression and alcoholism at Castle Craig Hospital and elsewhere for the past six weeks.

The solicitor asked Sheriff Jim Scott to take into consideration

Sidgwick's good record, age and clean licence when deciding on an appropriate way to resolve the case. Further, that a disqualification from driving would hinder Sidgwick's treatment and daily life given that he lives in a rural area. He added: 'Mr Sidgwick has significant savings, a financial penalty would not be a problem.'

In response, alongside the 12-month ban, the sheriff fined Sidgwick £300, reduced from £400 because of his guilty plea but stated if Sidgwick completes a drink-driving rehabilitation course, the disqualification could be reduced.

TIMESLINE

Bus users' meeting is open to public

LOCHABER Transport Forum has launched a new group to look at the issues of local bus travel.

The bus users' group will hold its first meeting on Wednesday September 28 at 11.30am in the Fort William council chambers.

Development worker Benny MacDonald explained: 'During recent forum meetings there has been much more time spent with regard to problems for bus and coach travel.'

'It's felt the best way forward to allow more discussion is to hold separate meetings. This has been useful in other areas and is a good chance to put matters such as cuts to services, timetables and passenger comfort directly to bus/coach company representatives. This first meeting is open to the public and feedback is welcome on how future meetings should take place.'

Town youth hostel is to be rebuilt

PLANNING permission for the demolition and erection of a new youth hostel in Fort William has been granted.

One of the town's busiest youth hostels, at Glen Nevis, will be taken down and replaced with a new facility.

The Highland Council approved the application last Friday (September 16).

First concert in series is planned

THE FIRST in a series of concerts hosted by Lochaber Music for All takes place next month.

Arctic Winds, made up of five of Scotland's most in-demand wind players, will perform at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, on October 1 at 7.30pm. This will be the first of five concerts running until March. Visit <http://lochabermusicforall.weebly.com>.

Garden party to mark rail anniversary

THE West Highland Community Rail Partnership has celebrated its first year in business.

Members of the partnership, which helps to bring the stations back into the hands of communities from Mallaig to Crianlarich, held a garden party on Saturday September 17 at Arisaig railway station.

Hege Hernaes, secretary of the West Highland Community Rail Partnership said: 'The garden party is really to raise awareness of what we do and what we are about. We work with the rail industry, and get funding from them, to do community rail projects.'

'We want to build a sense of community ownership of our railways and improve the access people have to them.'

'One project we are working on just now is building community noticeboards at the stations, where people from the local community update them, so others in the community and visitors can find out information and know what's going on in the village they are visiting.'

And the community rail partnership is looking for people's opinions on its own train services.

Ms Hernaes added: 'We are seeking to find out from locals if they are using the train, why are they, and if they aren't, then why not?'

'We want to take on projects which are informed by the community, so we are really dictated to by what local people think money should be spent on.'

To take part in the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/tr/westie>.



Hege Hernaes, left, and rail partnership chairman Oliver Millington get the party started, with music provided by Royal Scottish National Orchestra's string section.



POLICE FILES

A CHARITY collection bottle containing about £250 has been removed from the canteen of the Highland Council Roads Department. The theft took place on Monday September 12 at Cars Corner in Fort William. Police say this 'brazen theft' has occurred during working hours in the busy canteen.

Between 7pm on September 10 and 6pm on September 12, a child's specialised black Hard Rock mountain bike was stolen from Camanachd Crescent.

Between 4pm on Thursday September 15 and 11am on Friday September 16 a theft oc-

curred from a shed at 38 Moray Place, Fort William. Nike Vapor golf clubs in a blue and yellow Wilson bag, a Cube push trolley and a bag of tools were stolen. The lock screws were removed by the culprit.

Between noon and 4pm on Monday September 5 a Nintendo 3DS portable device and a charger were removed from an insecure room in Lochaber UHI College accommodation at An Aird. Anyone who has information about this or knows of the whereabouts of these items is asked to contact police.

Between 7pm on September 10 and 10am on September 13,

damage was caused to the security padlock at the entrance to the New Start compound in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate. This appeared to be an attempt to gain entry to commit theft. Police are appealing for more information.

At 5pm on Friday September 17 on the path from Victoria Road to Fassifern Road, Fort William, a female was assaulted. She was harassed by four males who shouted at her and then threw a stone. These males were wearing sports clothing and appeared to be drinking in the bushes on the path. Police are appealing for any detail on the identity of these males.

Telephone boxes to be removed

BT IS set to slash 158 phone boxes across the Highlands with plans for 40 to be axed across Lochaber and Skye.

The announcement came after BT data showed payphone usage had declined by more than 90 per cent in the past decade.

At 97 payphones across the Highlands, fewer than one call per month was made, and 59 had no calls in the past 12 months.

Payphones at Kennedy Road and Glen Nevis Place, Fort William, have had no calls in the past 12 months, and the same went for the one in Banavie.

However, the phone box at Aonach Mor, Torlundy, near Fort William, was used 158 times in the past year.

A BT spokesman said: 'BT is committed to providing a public payphone service, but with usage declining by more than 90 per cent in the past decade, we've continued to review and remove payphones.'

'Any removal of payphones is carried out in strict adherence to the Ofcom guidelines and, where appropriate, with the consent of local authorities.'

'In all instances where there's no other payphone within 400 metres, we'll ask for consent from the local authority to remove the payphone. Where we receive objections from the local authority, we won't remove the payphone.'

'As an alternative to removal, we will continue to actively promote our Adopt a Kiosk scheme to all councils while being committed to maintaining the payphones that remain.'

'There are 479 BT payphones in the Highland Council area.'



Children given a taste of healthy eating

PUPILS and staff celebrated 'seed to plate' ethos at a vegetable taster days recently.

Glencoe and Duror primaries participated in the events by preparing a variety of dishes

using fresh ingredients grown at the school. On Tuesday September 6, the Glencoe children enjoyed a courgette cake.

All parents and community members were invited along

and the older pupils practised their serving skills on the day.

Duror Primary School held their event on Wednesday September 7 in the Duror/Kentallen Village Hall.



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Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Planning. It's a bit of a contentious issue. Planning officials across Scotland often have the difficult task, even with clear guidelines laid down, of steering people through the maze of rules and regulations. They will try their best to ensure a positive outcome, but it's not always possible.

This week our front page story focuses on that very difficulty.

A hut on a Tiree beach, erected around five years ago with the permission of the landowner, has now come to the attention of Argyll and Bute planners as it appears not to have council planning permission.

The hut is the hub for a thriving local business, and is well used by locals and visitors who come to Tiree to enjoy the fantastic surfing. The RNLI has also approached the business owners about storing emergency equipment in the hut due to its position near the shoreline.

There are always two sides to every argument, and it's clear the hut is falling foul of the planning rules. But considering it has been there for a number of years and has a huge swell of support, would it not be in everyone's interest if the planners could work with the business to find a compromise to this situation?



Days gone by – heading down under

All setting off for Australia in 1964 were Angus Pelman, centre, presently residing in Onich, Mr and Mrs Bobbie Mackenzie with son Craig, from Sutherland Avenue, Kinlochleven (going to Melbourne), and Mr and Mrs Peter Low, of Wades Road Kinlochleven, who will be staying with their son Peter and his family in Sydney.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
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The second Shawfest is nearly upon us

THE second annual Shawfest will take place on this coming weekend after the success of last year's inaugural event.

The aim of the festival is to raise funds for the Fraser Shaw Trust (www.fraser-shaw-trust.com), which was set up in memory of the wonderful musician from Islay who died in May 2015 after battling MS and eventually PML.

The trust raises funds for MS charities through a range of projects celebrating Fraser and his music.

Festivities will kick off on Saturday September 24 in St Peter's Hall in Partick where there will be a craft fair, pottery and knitting demonstrations, and face-painting – fun for all the family.

The festival is also delighted to host Dr Libby McGugan, who will be running a workshop on 'The Truth about Stress' – how intentional mindlessness can help restore ease, flow and resonance in life.

A silent auction stand will be in place, wherein festival-goers can bid anonymously on some very exciting items. There will also be a festival raffle.

Make sure to bring your dancing shoes for some night-time entertainment with the Blas Collective. On this occasion the band will consist of Jenn Butterworth, Adam Sutherland, Hamish Napier and Steve Forman. Blas deliver stunning off the cuff

Social media

There was a spirited response to our story about the zebra crossing on Soroba Road, near Lidl, which many people have classed as dangerous. Charlie Jack warned: 'There is far too much happening in the immediate vicinity, for pedestrians crossing the road to be kept safe by a zebra crossing.' Willie Reid lamented: 'The problem is that a lot of drivers in Oban think that a zebra crossing is a Banksie. The ones at tescos and Lidl are routinely ignored. Time to join the 20th century folks, never mind the 21st.'

Caroline Macarthur agreed: 'Imme-



Shawfest will take place in Glasgow's West End this week in memory of Fraser Shaw from Islay.

arrangements of tunes and songs, and there will be a few ceilidh dances thrown in for good measure.

Supporting will be Carla Feuerstein (Die Feuersteins) with some German folk songs, and Seán Gray (Paul McKenna Band).

Tickets are available at the door at £10 (£5 afternoon ticket), and doors open at 2pm. Refreshments are provided throughout the day, and the concert starts 8pm. BYOB.

On Sunday September 25, the festivities will continue in The Sparkle Horse, Downhill Street, from 6pm. Here, the raffle draw and a not-so-silent auction will take place. Drinks will be had, memories shared and a toast made to the man himself, Fraser Shaw.

diated area around new crossing is far too busy with signs, bollards, garage awning etc. Crossing does not stand out and is easily missed. Bad enough for local people who at least know it is there now. Will never be noticed by through traffic and tourists. In the dark it is even worse. An accident waiting to happen!' Marie Archer countered: 'How ever it will also lead to the safety of folk crossing soroba road who have been dodging for months when the road was a single lane hoping that some kind drivers would wave them over!'

Joseph Cormack Snr wrote: 'Unfor-

Glasgow revellers spoiled for choice

LAST weekend was a busy weekend of music in Glasgow.

In last week's Glasgow Letter, I previewed the Oidhe Americana evening hosted by Ceòl's Craic.

I could not make it along to the concert but I have heard it was a wonderful night featuring, among many other things, a fantastic duet version of Dolly Parton's famous *Jolene* by Dol Eòin Mackinnon and Mairi Morrison, a surreal moment when Warren MacIntyre sat down, cross-legged, on the floor while playing the guitar, and a characteristically captivating performance from Kathleen Macinnes who sang a great selection of country numbers.

That same evening, the Islay Inn was bouncing to the sound of Trail West and (the previous night) the Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar enjoyed a lovely ceilidh in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie. It was certainly a weekend full of great music for the highland community in Glasgow.

Pub scene

Park Bar.
Friday September 23: Trail West.
Saturday September 24: Dùn Mòr.
Sunday September 25: Dùn Mòr.
Islay Inn.
Friday September 23: The Raggaels.
Saturday September 24: Deep River.
Wednesday September 28: quiz night.

unately I think there is a high risk of a pedestrian casualty, there is just too much road marking instructions in a short small area.'

Hazel Kelso suggested: 'I'd rather cross at the islands! Not convinced people will stop at the zebra crossing!'

Christine Fox warned: 'Not sure pedestrians know how to use them sure they cross anywhere at tesco and don't use the crossing!'

Bill L Harvey said: 'Leave at least an hour to get through Oban at busy times this is just going to lead to frustration and delay.'

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Oban desperately needs new homes

Sir,
Drew MacFarlane-Slack is to be congratulated for standing up for affordable housing, jobs and the needs of our communities in his contribution to the debate on housing provision in Glenshellach, covered in last week's *Oban Times*.

Oban has an acute affordable housing shortage and Glenshellach has been zoned for housing development for the past 20 years.

Argyll is haemorrhaging young people – and is one of only two local authority areas in the country to see population decline in recent times.

The lack of affordable housing for young families to stay in and to come to is profound in this town.

I am delighted that, in November of this year, ACHA will be completing its current development in Glenshellach of 17 new homes, some of which will provide desperately needed housing for large families needing four-bedroomed homes, of which there are only a handful in the town.

In addition to the above, a further eight family homes have just gone on site this month as well.

ACHA will continue to work with its partners in the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and the construction sector to build more affordable homes in Glenshellach to meet Oban's housing need.

I make the simple point to conclude: why should some people be denied what others have – a home to live in?

Alastair MacGregor,
Chief executive,
ACHA,
Menzies House,
Oban.

Unionist governments failed to improve A82

Sir,
I refer to the letter from Donald Cameron, Conservative MSP, published in last week's letters page regarding the A82 and the SNP government.

I agree that the A82 is a lifeline to the West Highlands. For nearly 40 years, the traffic lights at Pulpit Rock on the side of Loch Lomond bore testament to the fact that improvements to the road were long overdue.

That section of road was recently upgraded by the Scottish Government.

Donald acknowledged that the road had been improved with the new Criannarich bypass.

The improvements at Bridge of Orchy and Black Mount should also be noted.

Unfortunately, these improvements fall well short of the extensive works required to upgrade the A82 which, in effect, is a major commercial route to the West Coast. Having been in power for nine years, the SNP government has made a start.

Donald asks why it has taken the SNP so long to take an interest in the road as upgrading work has been required for a very long time.

The A82 improvements have been

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THEAGAMH GUM BHEIL iomadh cuspair air nach aontaich mi fhin is am Ball Parlamaid Albannach Iain Finnie ach tha mi a' dol leis gu tur na bheachd gum bheil draibhear-an a tha a' siubhal gu slaodach air na rathaidean againn nan cunnart! Na mo thursan dhan Eilean Sgitheanach is air ais air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, chail mi cunnantas air na chunnaic mi de chàraichean a' snàgail is aig amannan suas ri fichead carbad eile glaise às an dèidh. Cha bheag an t-ionnadh gum bheil leithid seo ag adhbharachadh thubaistean is cuid den fheadhainn a th' air am bacadh a' call foighidinn is a' feuchainn seachad nuair nach eil sin uile gu lèir sàbhailte. 'S e bhios a' cur na feirge orm fhin gum bheil mòran den fheadhainn a tha ris an t-snàgail seo den bheachd gum bheil iadsan nan deagh dhraibhearann cùramach sàbhailte, ged a tha e follaiseach dha daoine eile nach ann mar sin a tha idir.

Tha Còd an Rathaid ag òrdachadh nach fhaodar a bhith a' cur maille air

required since locals, tourists and commercial vehicles have been using the road.

That's an awful long time – a lot longer than the nine years the SNP government has been in power.

He also rightly states that landslides are a threat.

Like the requirement to improve the A82, the threat of landslides on this route has not abated over the years that traffic has trundled up and down.

Having agreed with Donald on the future improvements required, I would ask how much money did the Unionist governments of the day spend on this road, which areas of road were upgraded and when was this work carried out?

Also, as landslides were always a threat to road users, what works were carried out by any Unionist government during Scotland's oil bonanza to ensure safety on the A82?

Who benefited from Conservative budget decisions? Not a great deal has changed on that score.

By reducing budgets to Scotland, the Conservative government cannot be absolved of blame.

Unionist politicians cannot be all things to all people any more than they can serve two masters.

MSP Kate Forbes, like Donald, has only just been elected.

I am sure there is more chance of Kate being successful in getting monies from the reduced total Scottish budget spent on the A82 than Donald will be in persuading the Conservative government in Westminster to top up our reduced budget or maybe provide some of the money it syphoned from oil fields in the North Sea over a longer period of time than the existence of the traffic lights located on the single-track road at Pulpit Rock.

Councillor Bill Clark,
Highland Council.

Charity air ambulance relies on our giving

Sir,
May I in this, National Air Ambulance Week (September 19 to 25), highlight the amazing work being carried out by Scotland's only charity-funded helicopter air ambulance.

Scotland is justifiably proud of its two government-funded helicopter air ambulances – but a similar third resource proving vital to the people of Scotland relies totally on members of the public to keep it in the air.

Now in its fourth year, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has flown the equivalent of more than four times round the world, taking expert paramedic aid to the scene of accidents and emergencies across the whole of the country and our many islands and flying patients onwards to hospitals.

We have responded to well over 1,220 emergency call-outs from Sanday in the Orkney Isles and south to Gatehouse of Fleet – and even to communities across the English border.

Our vital frontline service, headed up by a team of highly experienced

and expert pilots and paramedics, has saved many lives and improved many more. We have touched the lives of families, friends, colleagues and communities of those we attend.

SCAA has attracted invaluable backing from the people of Scotland – it is your helicopter – and we are hugely appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from those already engaged with the charity.

No-one likes to think they or their loved ones will ever need the services of SCAA, but we all like to know it's there if we do.

Please help to ensure that SCAA can fly into the future to continue our amazing work for everyone – whenever and wherever the need is greatest – by considering a donation in National Air Ambulance Week.

Your giving is the only fuel we fly on. You might need our help tomorrow, but we need your help today.

Please donate now by texting with your amount to SCAA16 or find out more about Scotland's airborne life-savers by visiting www.scaa.org.uk.

Thank you on behalf of all those whose lives we will touch in the future.

David Craig,
Chief executive,
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance,
Perth Airport.

Asking the question seems sensible option

Sir,
Alastair Redman seems upset about the SNP asking No voters in the independence referendum for their opinions and concerns post-Brexit (letters, September 8).

Since Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU, and since Scotland will be disproportionately economically disadvantaged as a result of leaving the EU, it seems to me a fair question to ask voters.

After all, it is Mr Redman's Tory government which has visited this economic upheaval upon us.

We do not yet know what Brexit will mean, but surely we should be looking at the full range of options open to us, including independence, should the final deal with the EU be economically damaging for Scotland.

This seems sensible to me, as does initiating discussion about the issue.

Anne Hilditch,
Salloch Cottage,
Barcaldine.

Women deserve a sporting chance

Sir,
Apart from three children, I was unable to spot one female competitor on any of the seven sports pages of last week's *Oban Times*. Of course, there may have been one wearing a motorcycle helmet but I suspect that is unlikely.

I wonder what this says about sport in Oban, opportunities for women or perhaps media coverage.

Tina Jordan,
Alltbeath, Kilmore.

Ailean Caimbeul

fianais air na rathaidean, tha feum air fada bharrachd aire bhon phoileas air leithid seo agus saoilidh mi gun toireadh peanasachadh neo dhà aire dhraibhearann chun an lagh agus theagamh gun toireadh e leasachadh air modh luchd-cleachdaidh nan rathaidean cuideachd.

Chan eil mi air chor sam bith ag àicheadh a' chunnairt a th' ann an cus astair, ach tha mi ag ràdh gum bheil a' cheart uimhir ann an snàgail gun aire!

I TOTALLY SUPPORT MSP John Finnie's request that Police Scotland enforce the Highway Code rule that forbids impeding following vehicles.

Most drivers will have experienced delay, frustration, and fury at being blocked by slow vehicles which do not allow safe overtaking.

Not a new problem, but I have never seen or heard of police action over such dangerous driving!

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

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Surprise view of Yes campaigner

'NO REFERENDUM in the next two years and I'm sceptical if we should really want one' - that was the message from a pro-independence campaigner who visited Lochaber last week, writes *Monica Gibson*.

Robin McAlpine is the founder of the Common Weal, a group with the aim of achieving a Scotland of social and economic equality and environmental sustainability. Mr McAlpine travelled to Fort William on Friday September 16 and held a discussion in Aye2Aye to gauge how people now feel about independence ahead of the two-year anniversary of the referendum.

He expressed frustration with the breakdown in communication since the vote and said he believes there is no clear network for interested parties to share views.

He added: 'Westminster has a strong hand in saying no following the Brexit vote. From their point of view, it would really just heap crisis on crisis.'

The CommonSpace columnist said he thinks the Yes campaigners should be more focused on looking inwards and creating a plan before talking outwards.

He believes the three most important factors moving

forward are 'strategy, policy and movement', and said that if there is to be a second referendum it doesn't necessarily have to be tackled in the same manner as two years ago.

Mr McAlpine added: 'Bluffing is not the way to do this. We need to convince people that we have a plan. People don't need to read reams of white papers about every single detail of what independence would actually mean. They just need to absorb the sense that things are being done correctly.'

Mr McAlpine also spoke about the need to accept that being Scottish is being different to others.

He said: 'We speak differently, we sound different and we think differently - and that's okay. We need to get rid of the idea that it's embarrassing or cringey to be a Scot. If anything, the 2014 campaign could have been doing with being a wee bit more Scottish.'

During the weekend the 'indy pedlars' also embarked on a 120-mile cycle over three days - from Dunoon, to Inveraray, Oban and Fort William - to promote Scottish independence.

The three men finished the challenge in Cameron Square on Sunday where they were welcomed by supporters.

Robin McAlpine of the Common Weal in the Aye2Aye shop in Fort William High Street.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Youngsters celebrate Roald Dahl Day



A LITTLE nonsense was cherished by pupils at St Columba's school as they celebrated the life of Roald Dahl.

The author's 100th birthday was marked with a magical day, where children wore costumes, held a special assembly and performed songs from Roald Dahl musicals.

Violet Smith, head teacher, said: 'It was a super day. There were so many different ideas and characters from different books.'

'The older kids went down to the nursery and read some of the easier books to the youngsters. The P7s spoke about Roald Dahl's life.'

'Everyone has a favourite from the books and it was wonderful to see how they put that across in their costumes. There was everything - not just Charlies from the chocolate factory or Miss Trunchbulls - the children let their imagination run wild and the whole school participated.'

Clockwise from top: pupils dressed as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory characters; the youngsters perform 'I've got a golden ticket'; Willy Wonka Jamie McPhee (p5) oompa lumpa left, Caitlin O'Meara (p3) and right, Liam Donaldson (p1).

All pictures: A Brightside

TIMESLINE

Ardnamurchan ban set by court

A MAN accused of committing sex offences against young girls is due back in court next month.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons and who currently lives in France, stands accused of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices.

The complaints date back to a period from 2001 to 2006 and involve a serious of incidents taking place in Ardnamurchan and at Sierra Nevada in Spain.

The indecent behaviour was committed against two members of his extended family who were under the age of 12 when the events began.

The case is continued until October 11 and in the meantime a special condition has been placed on the man not to enter the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

The 68-year-old entered no pleas when he appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court on September 13. The court heard he was to 'basically avoid crossing the Corran Ferry'.

MSP welcomes homes investment

A £3 BILLION government investment pledge for more affordable homes has been welcomed.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Kate Forbes, said that, from her constituency travels, housing was 'repeatedly raised as one the single biggest needs'.

Ms Forbes said: 'High prices, low availability and poor stock are the three prongs that push out people from rural areas of Scotland to urban centres.'

'I welcome every new house built in rural Scotland because it means another family whose children go to the local school, or retired couple who can remain part of the community, or individual who is working locally and driving forward the Highland economy.'

Time to transform eye health

ADVERTORIAL

SPECSAVERS is backing National Eye Health Week by urging people to have regular eye tests to help maintain and protect their sight.

Recent research for Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, suggests nearly 14 million people in the UK are not having their eyes tested every two years as recommended by optometrists. Some 30% claimed it was because they think there is nothing wrong with their eyes, while 29% said they just don't have the time.

Specsavers recently announced a new partnership with Royal National Institute of Blind People to support its vital work. The relationship includes a significant multi-media investment to help educate people about eye health and to raise awareness of how regular eye tests can help reduce preventable sight loss.

Dr Nigel Best, Specsavers' clinical spokesperson, said: 'We're reaching out to the people of the UK to encourage them to take better care of their own and their family's sight.'

'A routine eye test not only helps detect any problems with your vision, it can also check for more general health problems and a wide range of conditions that can lead to sight loss if not treated in time. Early detection and timely intervention is critical to managing any eye health condition.'

At present there are more than two million people in the UK living with sight loss, which has a significant impact on their daily lives.

Dr Best added: 'Incredibly nearly



half of sight loss cases are preventable, regular eye tests could pick up the warning signs before it's too late.'

The advice to have regular eye tests also applies to people with existing prescriptions who don't think their vision has changed. The research revealed that many spectacle and contact lens wearers ignore warnings that wearing the wrong prescription could cause symptoms such as headaches and dizziness.

Dr Best said: 'People should have their eyes tested every two years or more frequently if recommended. Opticians prescribe glasses or contact lenses based upon precise testing at a given time so if that information is not regularly checked and updated there can be severe consequences. Spectacle wearers could experience unnecessary discomfort while contact lens wearers could risk damaging their eyes.'

The research also revealed parents across the country are putting off taking their children to the optician with a surprising 27% of parents with children aged 3 to 16 can't recall taking, or have never taken their child for an eye test.

As part of National Eye Health Week Specsavers stores up and down the UK are raising vital funds for RNIB to allow them to deliver much needed support for people affected by vision loss.

Sally Harvey, acting chief executive of RNIB, says: 'More than two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. However, of those two million, more than a third of people would notice a huge improvement in their vision simply by wearing the correct prescription glasses or contact lenses. We would encourage anyone who has put off going for an eye test to book one at the earliest opportunity.'

Specsavers recently launched a children's vision screening campaign making screening software available free of charge to all schools in the UK. The equipment - SchoolScreener EZ - is unique in being suitable for screening the vision of children aged four to 16 and includes a colour vision test. Designed to be simply operated by teachers or classroom assistants, the screener can be used in 35 different languages. Schools can register to receive their free kit at screeningforschools.com

IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES

An eye test can help keep your eyes healthy and detect a range of health conditions. 13.8 million people don't have one regularly. Book yours today.

To book a discounted eye test visit specsavers.co.uk



Transforming eye health

Source: YouGov plc online omnibus survey of 10,000 people, July 2016. A regular test is at least once every two years. To check discounted eye test vouchers on offer and full terms and conditions visit specsavers.co.uk/stores ©2016 Specsavers. All rights reserved.



Arena

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

Lagavulin Islay Jazz hailed great success



Most concerts were sold out across Islay.

THE Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival, held in the distillery's 200th anniversary year, has been hailed as the most successful to date, with most of the 19 performances sold out across the island.

Many musicians and visiting jazz fans were delayed on Islay after the weekend festival when Monday's storms disrupted ferry crossings back to Kennacraig, but revellers took the longer stay in their stride. One first-time visitor told organisers: 'I'm going to be a bit late back to Dingwall and will miss some work, but the festival was great. I'll be back.'

Stuart Todd, a festival organiser from Portnahaven, even called the three-day event 'the most successful Islay Jazz Festival so far', with most concerts across the island fully booked. Ardbeg and Laphroaig distilleries hosted concerts, alongside village halls, the island's Gaelic College and the RSPB centre.

First up on Friday, on Lagavulin's home turf at the Old Malt Mill, was Martin Taylor playing alongside Swedish virtuoso Ulf Wakenius, who were described on the festival website as two of the greatest

guitarists in the world, playing for nearly a decade each with jazz legends Stephane Grappelli and Oscar Peterson.

On Saturday, James Torme, son of the singing and acting star Mel Torme, came from Los Angeles to another packed house in this intimate whisky venue. Stuart said: 'James too relished the audience contact that rarely happens in the theatres he usually plays across the United States.'

Artists from 25 countries have played the festival since 1999, with top Scottish players and singers. This year spotlighted several adventurous Norwegian acts such as Haftor Medbøe, Espen Eriksen, Gunnar Halle and the 'earthy and ethereal' band Pixel. Among the Scottish artists, the Islay Jazz Quartet made their debut at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, including teenage saxophonist Kirsty MacArthur from Bowmore.

Stuart Todd explained: 'Among the festival's aims is to showcase many of the styles that make up the broad church of jazz.'

'As one regular visitor blogged, "What I really love about Islay is being able to



Kirsty MacArthur.

hear ultra modern music as well as stuff from nearly 100 years ago. And I can have a dance or even see folkie type players who have popped up at Celtic Connections. The friendly people and the complimentary drinks are important too.'

Jazz Scotland, who also organise several other festivals including the massive Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, present the Islay event in partnership with the local Islay Arts Association.

Financial support from Creative Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council helps fund the festival alongside the sponsorship from Lagavulin. Plans are already in hand for September 2017.

Murderous Maths drops in



Oban High teachers learn to fold a hexaflexagon.

MURDEROUS Maths made a visit to Oban High School last week, in a bid to make numbers more fun.

Yorkshire 'thoroughbred' Kjartan Poskitt, a former piano player, started the Murderous Maths book series and school talks 20 years ago, and since then they have taken him all over the world.

The books take a comic 'Beano approach'

to maths subjects such as algebra and trigonometry, he explained, featuring cartoon-strip characters like the evil Gollarks from Planet Zog, gangster Blade Bocelli, Pongo McWhiffy and his horrible burger van, and Urgum the Axeman, who poses fiendish mathematical puzzles and games.

'You want people to go away with a smile on their face, and see maths

is not the worst thing in the world,' he said. 'My aim is to entertain, but also to boost numeracy skills, and show numbers can be fun.' Before giving an evening talk to pupils and parents at Oban High School on Thursday, Kjartan gave a class for the teachers, pictured above, to teach them how to cut and fold a 'hexaflexagon'. 'It's not for everyone,' he said afterwards.



MacPhail's MUSIC

And a' the best till then – it's the end of an era

ROBBIE SHEPHERD'S return from presenting *Take the Floor* was the big news in the music world last week and, after a lifetime of listening to him, I am going to miss his unique articulate, informative and friendly tones.

Having turned 80 this year, he has given many years of pleasure to generations of listeners and been a source of great encouragement to young bands and musicians.

Replacing him is Spean Bridge accordionist and shinty star Gary Innes. Gary's energy and charisma are just the qualities needed to fill these very large shoes.

I will return to Robbie and to Gary in the coming weeks.

A new song for CalMac

WRITING songs is, for me, still a bit of mystery. Mostly when the process is started, the end result is unknown – and some songs get started and remain unfinished for years.

There are some subject matters that dominate how my brain works when it comes to composing and the sea is certainly one of them.

So when Peter Griffiths at CalMac asked if Skipinnish could provide a song for a new

advert, at least the subject matter was familiar.

After looking through some old stuff, the bones of the lyrics published here were found and then, along with Robert Robertson, the song was completed.

CalMac is releasing the advert next week online and we'll be performing it for the first time this Sunday night at the Jura Festival, from where the CalMac team will be doing a live-stream.

Even once a song is complete and recorded, it is impossible to know how it will be received so it is always a slightly nerve-wracking experience.

We had planned to release our own new Skipinnish single at the end of this month but CalMac's timetable has meant we're delayed – no further comment on that.

Anyway, as with ferries, you can't have two songs leaving the pier at the same time, so our other song will need to wait till October when this one is clear of the link-span with the bow doors shut.

Home on the Sea

Composed by Angus MacPhail and Robert Robertson

Chorus

Bring us home on the sea

In the warm island weather As the ferry leaves the harbour

We again will be together Bring us home on the sea

Many summers passed away Since the last days we parted But the blessings of the ocean Bring us back to where we started

Bring us home on the sea

From the waters of the Clyde To a Hebridean voyage The culture of our Islands Our roads of skill and knowledge

Bring us home on the sea

See the wash roll off the bow And caress familiar colour Her black and white of beauty As Red Lions proudly guard her

Bring us home on the sea

And we'll see again the men Wearing symbols of their station On the bridge-wing and the stern

Bring us home on the sea

All the wonders of the world They will never quell the burning Or the power of the yearning For the day we'll be returning

Bring us home on the sea

MEMORY FEST – OBAN

Tickets on sale now

Alzheimer's Research UK is the leading dementia and Alzheimer's disease research charity. Their vision is a world where people are free from the fear, harm and heartbreak of dementia. Their scientists have been behind some of the biggest breakthroughs in dementia research. They are working hard to raise awareness and tackle issues with key decision makers.

Memory Fest – Oban will therefore be raising money for the same cause and hope to do this

while giving people a great night of entertainment at The Wide Mouthed Frog at Dunstaffnage.

The charity event/Halloween party is on Friday October 28, with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's research UK.

The Wide Mouthed Frog have some great entertainment lined up. Headlining the event is Simply Mo, winner of the best male vocalist at the Tenerife Entertainers' Awards. Scottish band Fingerhalo are also performing on the night with

tracks from David Bowie and The Kinks plus many more.

The guitarist in Fingerhalo, Jo Callis, was the guitarist/keyboards player for the popular 1980s band Human League, famous for tracks such as 'Don't you want me baby?'

The night's events, which kick off at 8pm, include quiz, karaoke, disco, live music and free food, all for £10 per person.

We are also providing a night's accommodation, free meal and wine for best Halloween costume. Rick Gothard at The Wide

Mouthed Frog stated: 'Entrance to what is going to be a fantastic evening will be by ticket only. We are delighted to be organising this charity event for such a worthwhile cause. Come along and support Memory Fest – Oban.'

Tickets for this good cause will be going on sale on October 7 and can only be purchased at The Frog. The price of £10 includes food.

All ticket sales will go to the Alzheimer's research UK charity to start the ball rolling.

The Wide Mouthed Frog,
Dunstaffnage Bay,
By Oban, PA37 1PX,
Tel: 01631 567005

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

World Stone Skimming Championships 2016
Pre Skim Dance with live music from 'The Antics'
Saturday 24th September
Easdale Island Community Hall
Doors and Bar Open 7.30pm
Late Return Ferries 11pm & Midnight

World Stone Skimming Championships 2016
Sunday 25th 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

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Across

1 Replenish with water (7)

5 Device to connect computers by telephone line (5)

8 Stickers for mail (7,6)

9 High pitched bark (3)

10 Large black seabird (9)

12 Disturb from sleep... (6)

13 ...then have 40 winks (6)

15 Bibbed trousers (9)

16 Balloon filler (3)

18 Out of nappies! (6-7)

20 Correct (5)

21 Puts up with (5,2)

Down

1 By chance (5)

2 A let down (13)

3 Pain relief (9)

4 Medicine to cause vomiting (6)

5 Small carpet (3)

6 Unrespectable women (13)

7 Faux pas (7)

11 Petiole (9)

12 Account examiner (7)

14 An orchids 'chin' (6)

17 Device to tune in and listen (5)

19 Consume (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

S	P	N	M	S	F	A	R	D			
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Friday 23 - Thursday 29 September

BAD MOMS | 15 | 120 MIN
Sat, Sun: 16:30, Tue, Thu: 18:45

Like most modern mothers, Amy takes care of everyone but herself. Her life is perfect: a happy marriage, overachieving kids, a beautiful home, and 365 good-hair days a year. She bakes for the school bake sale and chairs every committee – all while holding down a career. And, she makes it all look easy.

CAFÉ SOCIETY | 12A | 116 MIN

Fri: 18:15, Sat: 14:15, Sun: 14:00, Mon: 17:00, Tue: 18:15, Wed: 16:15, Thu: 18:15

Set in the 1930s, a young Bronx native moves to Hollywood where he falls in love with the secretary of his powerful uncle, an agent to the stars. After returning to New York he is swept up in the vibrant world of high society nightclub life.

HELL OR HIGH WATER | 15 | 122 MIN

Fri: 20:30, Sat: 19:00, Sun: 16:15, Mon, Tue: 20:30, Wed: 18:30, Thu: 20:30

Parent and Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30
In HELL OR HIGH WATER, two brothers, Toby (Chris Pine) and Tanner (Ben Foster), go on a calculated bank robbery spree that puts them on a collision course with a West Texas Ranger (Academy Award®-winner Jeff Bridges) determined to take them down.

KIDS CLUB: THE LION KING | U | 90 MIN

Sat: 11:30
Children's classic. Lion cub and future king Simba searches for his identity. His eagerness to please others and penchant for testing his boundaries sometimes gets him into trouble. (1994)

MICHAEL BUBLÉ - TOUR STOP 148 | 105 MIN

Sun: 18:30
Michael Bublé - TOUR STOP 148 presents a front row seat to the superstar's phenomenally successful sold out To Be Loved Tour which concluded in 2015 and was seen globally by over two million fans.

NINE LIVES | PG | 107 MIN

Fri: 16:15, Sat: 12:00, 15:15, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue: 16:15, Wed: 16:30, Thu: 16:15

Tom Brand is a daredevil company billionaire but Tom's workaholic lifestyle has disconnected him from his family, particularly his beautiful wife Lara and his adoring daughter Rebecca (Rebecca's 11th birthday is here, and she wants the gift she wants every year, a cat. His GPS directs him to a mystical pet store brimming with odd and exotic cats - where the store's eccentric owner- Felix Perkins (Christopher Walken), presents him with a majestic tomcat, named Mr. Fuzzypants.

RSC LIVE: CYMBELINE | 210 MIN

Wed: 19:00
Cymbeline is a ruler of a divided Britain. When Innogen, the only living heir, marries her sweetheart in secret, an enraged Cymbeline banishes him. But a powerful figure behind the throne is plotting to seize power and murder them both

SAUSAGE PARTY | 15 | 103 MIN

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 17:15, Mon: 18:15
Sausage Party, the first 15-rated CG animated movie, is about one sausage leading a group of supermarket products on a quest to discover the truth about their existence and what really happens when they become chosen to leave the grocery store.

SILVER SCREEN - THE SILENT STORM | 15 | 102 MIN

Sun: 14:30
Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Tea and cake £1.50

An enigmatic outsider living on a remote Scottish island finds herself caught between her minister husband and the delinquent who is sent to live with them.

SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS | PG | 117 MIN

Fri: 16:30, Sat: 13:00, Sun: 12:15, Tue, Thu: 16:30
An enchanting new take on the beloved novel by Arthur Ransome, Swallows & Amazons tells the story of the Walker children, whose summer holiday in the Lake District sees them sailing out on their own to a local island, only to find themselves in competition with a rival group of children who call themselves the Amazons and ultimately an adventure far bigger than they could have imagined.

THE BOOK THIEF - BOOKENDS FESTIVAL | 12 | 131 MIN

Sun: 19:30
While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. In the basement of her home, a Jewish refugee is being protected by her adoptive parents. (2013) Part of the Benderloch Bookends Festival.

THE NAME OF THE ROSE - BOOKENDS FESTIVAL | 18 | 130 MIN

Mon: 19:30
An intellectually nonconformist friar investigates a series of mysterious deaths in an isolated abbey. (1986). Part of the Benderloch Bookends Festival.

WAR DOGS | 15 | 134 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 19:30, Tue: 21:00, Wed: 20:45, Thu: 21:00
The true story of two young men, David Packouz and Efraim Diveroli, who won a \$300 million contract from the Pentagon to arm America's allies in Afghanistan.

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen
TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 -1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin
SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Funbox return to Oban with some 'Animal Magic'

FROM the tops of the trees to the deep blue sea and all the world in between, come and join Funbox for their new singalong show as the family favourites return to Argyll and Bute in October. They are visiting Campbelltown, Oban and Helensburgh.

Whether you roar, squeak, flap or swim, it's time for some fun with Anya, Gary and Kevin (the former stars of the Singing Kettle).

There are songs and silliness galore in this exciting new show and, of course, keys to find to open the Funbox, which has everything you need to sing a song or have an adventure and, who knows, they might even need your help on stage too.

Fluffy and Flossie, the fuzzy funsters, are on hand to help and, of course, everyone's favourite naughty dog Bonzo will be swinging in to join in the fun.

Remember to dress as your favourite animal or bird. It's been an amazing year for the Funbox gang with shows all over Scotland and beyond.

'We had our first gigs in England this summer,' says Kevin, 'with performances in Whitehaven and at the Cambridge Folk

Festival. We really like visiting Argyll and this year we are coming in the autumn.

'We always love a visit to Oban though - the prawn sandwiches on the pier are a must.'

Animal Magic comes to the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday October 8 at 2pm and promises the usual mix of music and mirth for all the family.

Packed with classic singalong favourites like *Down In The Jungle*, *The Bear Hunt* and *Three Crows*, as well as brand new songs, it's the perfect treat for kids of all ages - from nought to 90.

The show has proved so popular the gang have filmed it for their latest DVD.

'People kept asking for it, so we are giving them what they want,'

continues Anya. 'We recorded it in Musselburgh and the finished Animal Magic DVD should be along some time in October, hopefully in time for Oban.'

Funbox have also announced their upcoming Christmas Wonderland tour, which will see them visit 10 venues, including Glasgow, Johnstone and Troon. Full details at their website: www.funbox.co.uk.

Funbox present Animal Magic.

Corran Halls, Oban, on Saturday October 8 at 2pm.

Tickets: £10.50 (family saver: £38).

Available in person from the Corran Halls, call 01631 567 333 or online at ticketmaster.co.uk.

Photography © John Young © YoungMedia



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FUN BOX ANIMAL MAGIC

KEVIN GARY ANYA

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Knitting firm take the road the isle of Mull with second show

ATTENTION all knitters, patchworkers and crafters: Karelia House Roadshow are coming to Mull - again.

Karelia House are very excited to announce that they will be returning to the Isle of Mull for their second roadshow this year.

On Saturday October 1, from 10am to 4pm, Karelia House will be taking over Craignure Hall. They are based near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, where they have a vast selection of yarns from Debbie Bliss, Noro, Erika Knight and Rowan, as well as hundreds

of bolts of beautiful fabrics from Lewis and Irene, Moda, Stof and Tilda. After a very successful trip in June, they have decided to take their shop on the road again as they have many great customers from the Highlands and Islands who visit both the craft show-room and online shop at www.kareliahouse.co.uk.

This time they will be offering some craft workshops in quilting and crocheting. For more information, and to book your place, please go to their website. Karelia House hope that craft-

ers from all over Mull will come and see them again and maybe some will take the ferry over for the day from Oban for a chance to buy some of the latest and the best yarns and fabrics they have on offer as well as patterns and accessories. They will have some great deals just for the day so make sure you put October 1 in the diary.

Call 01887 822027 for more information or if there is something in particular that you would like them to bring. They look forward to seeing you there.

One Day Road Show!
Craignure Hall,
Isle of Mull
Saturday 1st October
From 10am - 4pm

kh Karelia House
ON TOUR

Jarvis from Debbie Bliss, Noro, Erika Knight and Rowan as well as beautiful fabrics from Lewis and Irene, Moda, Tilda and Stof.

We will be offering craft workshops in quilting and crocheting - For more information, and to book your place today, go to our website

For more information, or if there is something in particular you would like us to bring, please call us on the number below

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Bookends Festival

Celebrating the written and spoken word

IF, AS they say, a book is a dream that you hold in your hand, then the upcoming Bookends Festival will make dreams come true this September in Benderloch.

Organised by the husband and wife duo of Joy and Campbell Cameron, and a team of ambassadors, the festival runs from Saturday September 24 to Saturday October 1, and features locally inspired authors and poets, spoken word, a Bookbug session, creative events, raffles and competitions. As a legacy of the festival, organisers hope to leave a permanent library area in Victory Hall.

'A couple of years ago we had an evening with the poet and novelist Kenneth Steven, who did some readings at Lochnell Primary and at the Lochnell Hotel. They were so appreciated and well attended that it led to us thinking about having a book festival in Benderloch,' Joy said.

In order to generate interest in the festival, Bookends ambassadors will roll out book bins – modified wheelie bins – around the Oban and Lorn area. 'As well as containing the Bookends' programme, the book bins will be filled with a variety of books, from children's titles to reference works, from recipe books to novels,' Joy said. 'We hope that folk will enjoy helping themselves and swapping any books they are finished with.'

In addition to Kenneth Steven, authors on the bill include Norman Bissell, Judy Fairbairns and Rus-

sell Campbell. Ruth Moody, Kundalini coach and counsellor, will discuss mantras and meditation, and Mairi Stones will hold a session on the emotional freedom technique. One evening is dedicated to creating your own special reading chair, and another to a family quiz. Oban Phoenix Cinema will be showing book-themed films throughout the week.

'We are going to transform the Victory Hall into a sumptuous reading room,' said Joy. 'MacQueen Bros are lending sofas, armchairs and bookcases and loads of books to fill them. We are promoting Forward Art Foundation's and Scottish Poetry Library's National Poetry Day and the Scottish Book Trust's book week, which follow hot on the heels of our Bookends Festival, so it's tying in with national events. Local schools and nurseries will also be making use of the reading room throughout the Bookends Festival.'

The reading room will be open to everyone every day that week from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. It's an easy way to go to the library. The legacy of this will be a reading corner left in the hall, and we can organise events there or book groups can use it to meet.'

Ambassadors can provide lifts to the hall or help those with special needs.

For more information, ring 01631 720247, email joycameron57@hotmail.com or join Bookends Festival on Facebook for updates and news. Look for a Bookends book bin near you.

JURA Music Festival promises great craic

JURA Music Festival welcomes a few of Scotland's best folk musicians this weekend, swelling the island's population of 200 people and 6,000 deer.

Now in its 23rd year, the festival for lovers of the traditional music scene promises great craic between September 23 and 25, from the locals' Friday night ceilidh to the Sunday night concert in the Jura Distillery cooerage, with a big marquee, workshops and spontaneous sessions in between.

The line-up for the Saturday night concert and ceilidh features Daimh, the Gaelic supergroup and unchallenged champions of straight-in-the-eye Highland music. They have 'set audiences alight Moscow to San Francisco', the festival website says, 'and they can now add Jura to their global list.' Daimh, pronounced Dive, were also voted Scottish Folk Band of the Year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards last year, and the Best Folk Band in Europe at Folkherbst in Germany.

Masters of the fiddle and accordion,

Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham are also performing at the festival for the first time on Saturday at Jura Village Hall in Craighouse, beside the Saturday Night Big Marquee. 'Thanks to their well-honed skills and hilarious banter, we're thrilled to welcome them to Jura,' organisers said.

Comper for the evening is Glasgow Gael Mary Ann Kennedy, billed on the festival website as 'a major figure in the Scottish music scene, equally respected as a performer and as an authoritative commentator on world, classical, traditional and folk music – the perfect MC for our Saturday night concert in Jura Village Hall'.

The Sunday night cooerage concert welcomes champions of West Coast music Skippinish, fresh after Ceòl Cholasna on Colonsay and the Bustofolk Festival Interceltico in Italy, as well as The Fold, 'a super talented cover band guaranteed to get the tent rocking on its pegs' with dance music and twists and turns to keep the mind occupied too.

Jura's own Pete Smoke and the Roaches, aka Craig and Ross Rozga, Martin Boyle, Neil Gow and Michael Walton, also perform on Sunday 'playing anything from classic rock and roll to modern pop and indie'. The band's list of awards include the Jura pet show, in 1993, 1994, 1999 and 2008.

'The island has a wealth of musical talent,' the festival website says. 'As well as Pete Smoke and the Roaches, one of the best cover bands on the West Coast, there's RSAMD graduate and fiddle player Simon Moran from Deoch n Dorus and his singer/songwriter brother Danny Moran, their local partner in crime from Cum-A Dol, the excellent accordion player Graham Rozga.' The island also boasts the talented musicians of Birlinn Brew, and box player David MacDonald, a stalwart of the West Coast style, who has released two albums with the Jura Ceilidh Band.

More information and tickets can be found via the Jura Music Festival website.

Argyll Papers launches to worldwide audience

THE launch of the Argyll Papers on September 30 will be a rich resource for both a national and international audience.

The Argyll Papers are the family and estate archive of the Campbell family, earls and dukes of Argyll. The family rose to prominence in the 14th century and enjoyed close relations with the Scottish royal family and other noble families.

As a result, they acquired positions of power and responsibility and grants of land – the family became the major landowner in Argyll, owning the lands of Inveraray, Rosneath, Kintyre, Tiree, Mull, Iona, Morvern, Lismore and Scammadale as well as other parts of Appin, and lands and houses elsewhere, including Castle Campbell (Clackmannanshire), Stirling, Edinburgh and London.

The papers reflect family members' political, military and business interests as well as their personal lives. The estate papers tell the story of what they owned and how they managed it, and include lots of information about the people, places and rural industries of Argyll.

The records themselves have an interesting past. They were initially kept by the earls of Argyll at Inveraray or at Carrick Castle on Loch Goil but, during the 17th century, they were removed for safety. Correspondence detailed in the Atholl Chronicles follows 'the privat conveyance of the papers belonging to the Late Earle of Argyll' by Robert Campbell in Uig from Inveraray to Ardkinglas, to Uig and then to Holy Loch.

Local tradition then tells that the pre-



Volunteers scan the archives at Inveraray.

cious documents were concealed in what is still known as the Paper Cave near the shore of Loch Eck, but in late September eight barrels or puncheons of 'wholle papers and evidents' were found in 'a mean tennant's house' and then taken to Edinburgh by a Glasgow carrier for storage in the Exchequer House.

After the restoration of the family fortunes, the papers found their way home to Inveraray and, despite being held temporarily in highly unsuitable conditions, the collection from those years has survived. They were then stored in the attics and vaults of Inveraray Castle until, following the death of the 12th duke in 2001, the decision was made to bring the archive together in one place where it could be stored appropriately and made available to researchers.

Since 2004, a new home has been created for the archives in the Argyll Estates office at Cherry Park, a professional archivist

has been appointed and the collection is being promoted, conserved, catalogued and made freely available.

The Argyll Papers are a rich resource for Scottish and British history from the 13th to the 21st centuries.

They attract visitors from all over Argyll and Bute, the UK and the world, researching a wide range of subjects, including family and local history, Gaelic studies, place names, military, political, economic and social history, agriculture and industry, architecture and so much more.

The Friends of the Argyll Papers has been established to support the development of the collection and to promote its use and enjoyment by a wide audience, and membership is open to anyone, near or far. The Friends' launch event will be held at Inveraray Castle on Friday September 30 at 5pm, and the organisers would like to invite anyone interested to join in.

The event will include a tour of the castle, refreshments and an opportunity to hear more about the papers 'from the Union of the Crowns in 1603 up to the succession of the 4th duke in 1761' given by Professor Allan MacInnes, one of the leading experts on the history of the Highlands and Argyll.

Tickets cost £15 for friends and £20 for all others. They are available from Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/friends-of-the-argyll-papers-launch-tickets-27151296258> or from the archives on 01499 302698. Email archives@inveraray-castle.com. Tickets must be purchased before September 23.

Dunollie Castle set to shine

THE story of Dunollie Castle will be shone onto its walls in a light show this weekend.

The 'flamboyant' evening of light displays, storytelling and music, called 'Telling the Castle Story', celebrates the completion the £257,000 conservation of the south-east and south-west walls.

The light show, which will be projected onto the outer walls of the 15th-century tower, has been created by a group of local young people aged between 13 and 19 who have been working towards earning a National Arts Award through Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds.

The participants mentored by Louis Barrow, have researched ancient objects from the castle and have created the light show based on their own interpretations of the history through a variety of sound recordings, illustrations and film.

Storytelling on the evening will be provided by Catherine Gillies who will provide fascinating tales of chiefs who ruled from the castle in days gone by. In addition, music will be performed by young pipers Donald MacDougall and Lucy Hennessy with tunes inspired by heritage of the MacDougall Clan and their position held at Dunollie Castle.

The event takes place at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds on Friday September 23 at 7pm. Tickets cost £12 and can be collected at the Dunollie reception booth during opening hours (Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-3pm). Soup and refreshments will be included, provided by The Kettle.

As this will be an outdoor event it is advised that all guests attending to wrap up warmly, and the path to the castle is fairly steep and therefore relative fitness is required.



Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

A distinguished history of boatbuilding

THE NEWS Scotland hosted the International Canals Conference last weekend brought the Highland canals into sharp focus. Built to service commercial shipping, the canals cater almost entirely to leisure traffic. It is worth remembering that among the community plans for this and that along their banks, the primary function of canals is the navigation of boats.

Nothing shouts boat quite as loudly as traditional wooden craft, and there is a strong local tradition of building and sailing all manner of vessels from fishing boats to elegant yachts. Some of the great names in boatbuilding have local connections, and today a heroic group of dedicated craftspeople keep traditional skills alive.

McGruer and Company is world famous. Records show that McGruer built men-o-war as early as the late 13th century, but the company is best remembered for seven decades of production of a bewildering array of vessels at yards on the Rosneath peninsula near Helensburgh. The build register includes classics like the Gareloch One Design Class, eight-metre cruiser-racers and more recent cold-moulded racing yachts built to the International Off-shore Rule. Production finally ended in 2000, when the company moved to survey and consultancy services.

Nearby, James A Silver served an apprenticeship under local boatbuilder Peter McLean in the 1880s. By 1910, the famous Silvers motor yachts were in production and remained so for 60 years. DM Russell acquired the business in the

mid-1970s and focused on production of Jura-class motor-sailors until 1982. The business was sold the following year and renamed Silvers Marine, and now provides storage and maintenance facilities.

Archibald Dickie moved to Tarbert, Loch Fyne, in 1885 and started building fishing boats for the herring fleet. By the 1920s, A M Dickie and Sons employed 10 men on the design and production of commercial boats known for their sea-keeping abilities as well as a few specially-ordered leisure craft, including Quest III, Morna, Moonshine and Mouse. The great Scottish yacht designers J A MacCallum, William Fife and GL Watson insisted Dickie build some of their boats, many of which are still sailing. Business dwindled after the war and the yard closed in the early 1980s.

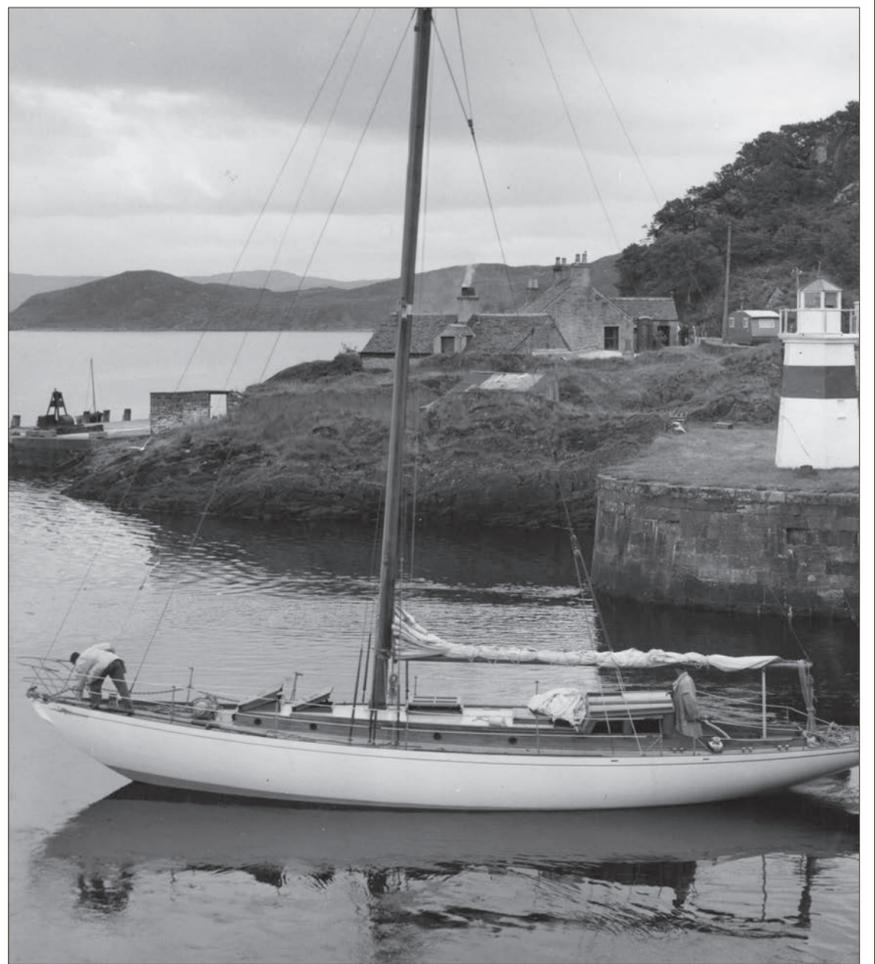
Ardrishaig, being at the eastern terminus of the Crinan Canal, has a long and continuing tradition of boatbuilding, repair and restoration. There is now no trace of Munro's boatyard between locks three and four, but descendants of the original owner still live and work in Mid Argyll today. Ardrishaig Boatyard has been run by Jackie Kay for nearly four decades and he shows no sign of slowing down or giving up. In the 1980s, Malcolm Elliot had a yard and slip on the other side of Pier Square and specialised in the repair of fishing boats.

At the other end of the canal, Crinan Boatyard has a team dedicated to wooden boat repairs, at one time headed by the famous Ronnie Gilbert, and there are specialist services available at the

majority of marinas and yards up and down in the region: Ardfern Yacht Centre, Craobh Haven, Melfort Yacht Haven, Ardoran Marine, Melfort Yacht Haven, Dunstaffnage Marina, Portavadie, Ard-maleish and Barcaldine. Sailmaker W B Leitch and Son was established in Tarbert generations ago, and today the sail loft overlooks the marina.

A and R Way represent the new wave of traditional boatbuilding. From their base in Lochgilphead, they have undertaken repairs and restorations of all sizes of wooden boats, and shared their skills with the Tiree Maritime Trust and a number of coastal rowing groups who have built their own skiffs. Mobile wooden boat repair services were also provided by Howie Nixon in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and there are amateur enthusiasts who spend countless hours and endless amounts of money on keeping their own traditional boats afloat.

Up and down the country, there are wooden boats in sheds, under tarpaulins and even exposed to the elements, each of them undergoing active restoration, a pipe dream or an abandoned project. Many of these examples will be important examples of our rich maritime history and deserve their chance of immortality. I know of a local sailing boat that was built for Colonel Duncan Neil, Sir Thomas Lipton's adviser on the Shamrock series of America's Cup challengers. She is undergoing her second restoration in her 81-year history and is bound for the Scottish Maritime Museum – but that's another story.



Sun sets on another fantastic Best of the West

By COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk



No room to be had as the main tent is packed for Skipinnish. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

SMILING faces said it all at Best of the West 2016.

The weather was kind for the two-day festival of music, food, arts and crafts – and fun. People came from near and far and across the generations to enjoy some of the best Argyll has to offer.

An intimate festival set in the shadow of Inveraray's magnificent gothic castle, the event is hosted annually by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll.

The sixth Best of the West featured top-class music from headliners Manran on Saturday and Skipinnish the following day. But there was talent everywhere you looked, and listened, across both main stage and the more intimate whisky stage.

From Mid Argyll, youngsters Tiegan Holroyd and Holly Renton performed beautifully, their pitch-perfect voices leaving hardly a dry eye in the marquee. Across in the whisky tent, Bar None community choir from Mid Argyll gave a rousing recital under musical director Stephen Povey.

Quality is the watchword at Best of the West, with nary a paste-burger or plastic cheese slice in sight in a food tent bursting with flavour. Every taste, every dietary requirement was catered for in an array of stalls from a wide range of food outlets – from Loch Fyne Oysters to Bumble Puddings. Hearty locally-produced food from Real MacKay stovies vied with Cowal producers Winston Churchill venison and Shellfield Farm for festival-goers' tastebuds.

A big attraction was the Argyllshire Advertiser and Oban Times-sponsored Festival Kitchen, where some of Argyll's finest chefs demonstrated their skills, creating some mouth-watering dishes for enthusiastic audiences.

There were free activities for the kids. Bungee trampolines, a bucking bronco, climbing wall, face-painting and plenty more kept them happy. For those of a more mature vintage,



The Duke of Argyll welcomes Sunday headliners Skipinnish on to the main stage. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

the George Hotel ran a popular bar to keep thirst at bay.

After all that eating, drinking and falling off broncos, there was always the craft tent to soothe the soul. The talent in Argyll and the Isles never ceases to amaze. Skilled craftspeople from all corners of the region showed off their wares, featuring ceramics, jewellery, textiles, paintings and woodwork.

As she thanked main sponsors, Caledonian MacBrayne and Clan Campbell Whisky, as well as the event's many more sponsors and supporters, Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll, said: 'Best of the West 2016 has been a fantastic weekend, with a great atmosphere from start to finish. The crowd made the most of the delicious local food, drink and children's entertainment, while our top music acts provided an excellent soundtrack to the festival throughout the weekend.'



Musical director Stephen Povey from Kilmartin with Bar None community choir on Sunday in the whisky tent. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.



At the festival kitchen, John McNulty and David Lapsley of the Tainuill Hotel work their magic. Photo: Stephen Lawson.



Accordionist Gary Innes of headliners Manran in full flow. Photo: Stephen Lawson.



The Black family from Colintraive had a great time. 06_a38bowfest24



Festival-goers from Oban enjoy the atmosphere. 06_a38bowfest03



Heron Valley on the main stage on Saturday. 06_a38bowfest09



In the frame are Jackie Cullen, Colin Matheson and Claire Smally. Photo: Stephen Lawson



This group of ne'er-do-wells would identify themselves only as The Cowal Crew. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Relentless return to Corran Halls



EIGHT years after its last event, legendary Oban club night Relentless returns to the Corran Halls on Saturday October 1, headlined by QFX.

The popular Scottish techno band will play some of their classic tracks, including *Freedom*, *Every Time You Touch Me* and *You Got the Power*.

Other acts and DJs on the night include DJ and MC Clarkie's Casio Brothers, Trevor Reilly, Alan Tait, The Doctor, Mark McLaughlan, local

hero Drew Walker and MC Conduct. Doors open from 9pm with a 12.30am curfew.

Tickets are available now for £15 each from the Corran Halls, The Image and Coasters Bar.

Relentless will have a big sound system, a big light show and big screens with visuals. If you have never been to a Relentless gig, you don't want it miss out, for the ones who have been – you know it's a party from start to finish.

SATURDAY 1ST OF OCTOBER

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Highbridge Kennels & Cattery, Springfield, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EX, Tel: 01397 712 567





All sectors of the emergency services attended Motorfest, including members of Oban Mountain Rescue Team. 07_139MotorFest11.



Gordon Campbell with his award-winning Massey Ferguson 135. His 1966 red tractor was chosen as best vehicle on display. 07_139MotorFest12.



George Berry stands proudly in front of his award-winning fire engine. 07_139MotorFest06.

Motorfest enjoys wheely good turnout despite the weather

A RENOVATED hearse and an electric car that can reach 60mph in less than three seconds were just some of the 74 vehicles that attended this year's Oban Motor Festival.

For the first time since its inception three years ago, the festival experienced adverse weather conditions.

However, that didn't stop a variety of unique and interesting cars, the emergency services and electric vehicles, which people could test drive, parking at Mossfield Stadium.

The Nissan Leaf and the Tesla Model S were both at the festival on Sunday.

Organisers were delighted with how the day went despite the weather, although they admitted some people might have been put off.

Kevin Devine, chairman of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club, said: 'We had 74 vehicles there, including cars, motorcycles, tractors and the emergency services.'

'We were well supported by the local clubs. We had a lot of individuals who travelled



David Paul from the Perth and District Classic Vehicle Club. 07_139MotorFest08a.

here from all over the country.' Oban FM broadcast from its travelling trailer at the festival, and Little Bay Café's burgers and hotdogs kept visitors fed.

Derek Connery of Bid4Oban said the annual Oban event is Scotland's friendliest motor festival, adding: 'Despite the weather, it was a really good day. Everyone I spoke to had a really good time and seemed to be keen to come back next year.'



David Price in his Ford Crossle, which he bought in 1977. 07_139MotorFest01.



Charlie Campbell, 64, from North Connel, with his trusty green tractor, which he says is slightly younger than him. 07_139MotorFest03.



The Tesla Model S was available to test drive on the day. 07_139MotorFest04.

Lochaber Ideas Week

November 14-18, 2016

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce joins forces with The Oban Times to launch Ideas Week



LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce a media partnership with *The Oban Times* as a headline sponsor of Ideas Week 2016 and as the key partner for Around Lochaber in 80 Tables.

Lochaber Ideas Week is organised each year by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to celebrate business, education and community through a gathering of exceptional talks, workshops, competitions, discussion and networking opportunities.

Ultimately, Lochaber Ideas Week is a catalyst to stimulate fresh initiatives and ventures, creating new connections and points of collaboration designed to enhance the area we live in.

Chris O'Brien, destination manager with Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'This is a fantastic partnership with a media organisation that is well placed to partner with us on our mission to promote collaboration among the Lochaber business community, and act as a

voice for them on important issues locally and nationally.

'This association will also provide the perfect platform for Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to keep the Lochaber public well informed about The Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK)!

'Under the OCUK brand we publicise, sponsor and promote Lochaber as a tourism destination. We do so through our website www.outdoorcapital.co.uk and through a range of other collaborative marketing initiatives and activities. We promote Fort William and Lochaber as the best place in the UK for everyone to experience the outdoors with a view to developing local jobs and wealth and encouraging sustainable economic growth.'

Nicky Murphy, advertising director at *The Oban Times*, said: 'I'm delighted that *The Oban Times* is playing a major part as headline sponsor and media partner for Ideas Week. This year looks to be the biggest yet and we are delighted to be able to support this fantastic opportunity and we look forward to helping deliver an incredibly successful Ideas Week that everyone in Lochaber can enjoy.'

Lochaber Ideas Week runs in par-



allel with Global Entrepreneurship Week and Scotland's Towns Week.

Attending Lochaber Ideas Week will allow participants to become part of a diverse community of practitioners from Lochaber, the Highlands and the UK. Lochaber Ideas Week offers a unique platform to share ideas, hear ideas on the next big projects in the Lochaber region and provides a multitude of opportunities. You won't want to miss it.

This year's programme, running from November 14-18, looks to be the best yet, with high-profile speakers, inspiring workshops, the return of Dragons' Glen and much more.

Around Lochaber in 80 Tables with The Oban Times - Speed Networking event.

This is a lively, fast paced event brought to you by *The Oban Times* which is a lot of fun. Participants have brought business information, lots of good humour and a warm welcome to one another - and fancy dress at least once (thank you, BC Technologies).

Over the past three years Around Lochaber in 80 Tables has connected more than 200 businesses to new business contacts and contracts, and its past success has earned it a place in the 2016 Lochaber Ideas Week programme once again.

Networking can be one of the most powerful and productive activities an individual can do to launch and manage their career or business. Around Lochaber in 80 Tables is a structured and fast-paced networking event where participants interact with others in a series of brief one-on-one information exchanges.

This type of event can provide exposure to a lot of people in a short amount of time. It is a way to let others know who you are and what you are looking for, whether

new customers or clients, business or sales leads, or a new job.

The event leader, Laurence Young will ring a bell, sound a buzzer or blow a whistle to indicate the beginning and end of each round. Once the round begins, you introduce yourself and your purpose for being there, share your business card and, perhaps, business brochure. A few questions and answers back and forth can quickly clarify if there is any potential for a follow-up phone call or meeting. At the halfway point, the conversation switches to the second person. After a second exchange of information, the event leader rings a bell and you move on to the next person. The event culminates with time allowed for open networking. We guarantee you will have fun.

The fast pace of this kind of event contributes to a high level of energy in the room. The goal is to meet new individuals who can directly help you. But it doesn't stop there: each person you meet has a network of people they know and it may be one of them who is a good match. By networking at Around Lochaber in 80 Tables you potentially 'plug in' to the people they know, extending your ability to expand your business.

Have your appetite whetted at inspiring dinner evening

THE Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Ideas Week dinner 2016 is shaping up to be a fantastic evening.

Sponsored once again by Twin Deer Law, which provides a niche and flexible specialist legal service to businesses and business people in every industry sector throughout Scotland, the evening will be hosted by the Moorings Hotel, at Banavie, Fort William, and will feature special guest Fraser Doherty as the after-dinner speaker.

Mr Doherty started his business career at the age of just 14. After being taught how to make jam in his grandmother's kitchen in Scotland, he came up with a way of making jam 100 per cent from fruit. At 16 he presented his brand, SuperJam, to Waitrose and went on to become the youngest ever supplier to a major supermarket.

He said: 'My story shows that what can start as a passion, with love and hard work can grow into something amazing - something that changes your life.'

SuperJam has since grown into a company that has sold many millions of jars through thousands of supermarkets around the world.

As well as being a commercial success, the business has invested in successful charitable projects - running hundreds of free tea parties for the elderly in Europe, Korea and Australia, and setting up community beehives in the UK and Korea.

Mr Doherty regularly lectures on entrepreneurship at universities around the world and has also shared his incredible story at more than 500 conferences in 27 countries, as well as in his best-selling books *SuperBusiness*, published in UK, US, Australia, Korea and Japan, and *The SuperJam Cookbook*.

As well as the three-course dinner, the event will include a drinks reception and the announcement of the Dragons' Glen 2016 winner. Tickets for the event are priced at £37.50 and early booking is advised. For more information, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

In association with West Highlands and Islands College UHI, The Oban Times, powered by No Fuss Events and hosted by The Moorings Hotel.



No Fuss Events - an evening with David Millar

SCOTTISH former professional road racing cyclist David Millar spent 17 years at the top of the sport, including a period when he was banned for drug taking, but came out the other side to compete again.

He went on to become an athlete representative to the World Anti-Doping Authority and had a successful career before retiring in 2014.

A highly popular athlete with his colleagues, fans and the media, David is known for being

erudite and articulate, while his offbeat sense of humour has won him more than 150,000 followers on Twitter. David is a former member of the UCI World Tour pro cycling peloton. One of only two British cyclists to have worn the leader's jersey in all three Grand Tours, he is also a former Olympic team captain, an author, media commentator, film-maker, coach and entrepreneur.

On November 14, 2016, at 6pm David will talk about his career, discussing points that can

help others, including defining success, crisis management and overcoming failure, what makes a great team, handling pressure and embracing change.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to hear David's story and take part in the question and answer session.

Tickets are £10. For more information, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Sponsors No Fuss exploded onto the adventure event scene in 2005.



David Millar.

A spokesperson for the company said: 'At No Fuss, it's challenges that feed our creativity and encourage us on to achieve results that exceed expectations every time. We feel every day should be different, especially when it is our customers' leisure time.'

'We are passionate about the outdoors, highly experienced experts who deliver exceptional results. We live and breathe event design and production, bringing innovative events to life.'

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FARMING NEWS

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Farmers urged to protect properties against blazes

FARMERS and crofters are being urged to take precautions to protect their property as the number of fires in rural areas reached its peak last year. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), in conjunction with NFU Scotland, earlier this year launched the rural risk survey to encourage farmers and crofters to inform SFRS of what they have on their properties, and map out any dangers. By having a rural risk form completed, fire crews can work to prevent extensive damage in the event of a fire, but also prevent injury to the farmer, crofter, their family, workers and the fire crews.

Last year alone there were 343 fires on agricultural land, with Aberdeenshire (47), Highlands (44) and Dumfries and Galloway (25), topping the table for fires on farms and crofts between April 2015 and March 2016. The rural risk survey has now been rolled out to three areas of Scotland – South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway, and Highlands. It is hoped that resources will permit further expansion. However, even if farmers and crofters are out with these areas, they are encouraged to contact their local fire station to inform them of what they hold

on their farms and crofts, in particular those who have silos. Through the survey, farmers and crofters provide basic details, and are then contacted by SFRS who will come out and map out a plan of the farm to pinpoint hazards, including slurry, but also where livestock are kept, old buildings and the nearest water supply. NFU Scotland's president Allan Bowie commented: 'A fire on a farm or croft can be devastating and it is worrying to see that incidents are at their peak since 2010. 'With farms and crofts often in remote areas, which can on occasion be hard to find, this

rural risk survey will assist in helping fire crews to reach the fire quicker and more easily and prevent wider damage. 'We encourage farmers and crofters to take the time to contact the fire service to inform them of what you hold on your property, and to map out where the dangers are. 'By doing this, it could save your farm or croft if a fire was to ever occur. 'Any precaution we can take to make our properties safer can only be a good thing. We are aware of how quickly a fire can spread, please take time to fill out the survey, and contact your local station.'



Allan Bowie: fires on farms and crofts can be 'devastating'.

MARKET PRICES

DALMALLY SALE: September 17
United Auctions had a catalogued entry of MORE THAN 6,000 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. All classes sold at similar rates to the previous Saturday sale. Blackface lambs sold to average £37.53 per head or 135.95 pence per kilo as against £35.99 or 130.87 at the corresponding sale last year. The overall average price for all classes of lambs was £42.57 per head or 156.71 per kilo against £37.39 and 139.60 pence per kilo at last year and for 2300 head more sold on the year.
LAMBS
BF: £56.50 – Tullochcan: £49.00 – Glenturret Estates: £48.50 – Ederline Estate & Machrins Farm: £47.00 – Littleport & Lubroch Farming: £45.50 – Tullochcan, Achalic & Castles Estate: £45.00 – Glenfeochan Estate: £43.00 – Blairmore Farm: £42.50 – Blarachourinn: £42.00 – Keilator, Blarghour, Brackley, Blarmafalach, Ballimeanoch & Braglenbeg: £41.00 – Benmore HF, Ederline Estate, Garrogie Estates, Lagganulva & 83 Borve Barra: £40.50 – High Carse: £40.00 – Stronachullin.
SUFFX: £54.50 – Glenshellach: £54.00 – Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay & Torran Farm: £51.50 – Ardsheal Farm: £51.00 – High Carse.
BELTX: £55.50 – Innischeroch.
TEX: £64.00 – Barguilean Farm: £60.50 – Lephinkill: £59.00 – Brencchoille: £58.50 – Stroneskar: £57.00 & £56.50 – Garrogie Estates: £55.50 – Barguilean Farm: £54.50 – Blairmore Farm & Glenshellach: £54.00 – Brackley: £53.50 & £53.00 – Stonefield Farms: £52.50 – Carse Estate & Brackley (MacArthur): £52.00 – Garrogie Estate.
CHEV: £61.00 – Barndromin: £55.00 – 15 Ardmhor, Barra: £52.50 – Stonefield Farms: £51.00 – Barndromin & Glenshe-ro: £50.50 – Machrins Farm Colonsay.
CROSS: £60.00 – Stonefield Farms: £58.00 – Rhu House: £56.00 – Brencchoille: £53.00 – Lochdochart: £53 – Blarachourinn: £50.50 – Kiloran Farmers.
MULE: £57.50 – Achalic.
CHEV MULE: £58.50 – Barguilean Farm.

GIMMERS
MULE: £148 – 2/15 Balevullin: £120 – Drumfrahoch: £94 – 36 Balepethrish. TEX: £100 & £98 – Hillcrest: £98 – 1 Heanish.
CHEV: £122 – Drumfrahoch. SUFFX: £100 – Mannal. CROSS: £84 – 34 Balepethrish. BF: £70 – 7 Balinoe.
CAST EWES
SUFFX: £90.50 – Heylipol Farm: £77.50 – Drumasaidh: £59.50 – 3A Caolis.
BELTX: £83.00 & £67.50 – Heylipol Farm. TEX: £82.50 – Hillcrest: £81.50 – Heylipol Farm: £80.00 – 4 Kilkenneth & 2/15 Balevullin: £78.50 – 2/15 Balevullin: £77.50 – Lochphuil & Drumagale: £75.50 – Heylipol Farm: £73.50 – 2/15 Balevullin: £72.50 – Sandaig: £71.50 – 6 Balevullin & 9 Barrapol: £67.50 – 6 Crossapol: £66.50 – Heylipol Farm: £64.50 – Hough & Croft House.
CHEV: £70.50 – 3A Caolis: £60.00 – 2/15 Balevullin: £54.50 – Ardeas, 4 Heanish & 8 Kilkenneth.
CROSS: £70.50 – 4 Kilkenneth: £66.50 & £58.50 – Hillcrest: £57.50 – Ruag.
MULE: £69.50 – Heylipol Farm: £67.50 – Lochside & Ruag.
CHEV MULE: £73.50 – 2/15 Balevullin. BF: £35.50 – Ruag: £30.00 – Mannal.
WEDDERS
SUFFX: £71.50 – Ardmay. BELTX: £68.50 – Heylipol Farm. TEX: £75.50 – Hillcrest: £73.50 – Skipinnis.
CHEV: £50.50 – Scarinish Farm. CROSS: £73.50 – 10 Balevullin. MULE: £59.50 – 3A Caolis. BF: £41.50 – Ardmay.
RAMS
TEX: £220(2) – Ruag.

UNITED AUCTIONS held their annual September sale of all classes of cattle when 146 head was forward. Stock sold at values in keeping with current mainland values. Bulls sold to a top of £1,155 per head for Charolais Crosses from 4 Kilkenneth, while Limousin Crosses from Ruag led this section per kilo at 253 pence. Leading prices for Heifers came from the Braeside consignment when their Charolais crosses sold at £1,085. Heylipol Farm led the prices per kilo in this section with Charolais Crosses selling to 252 pence. Cast Cows from Heylipol Farm sold to £1,085.

TOP PRICES PER HEAD
BULLOCKS
AAx: £1145 – Croish: £925 – Heylipol Farm.
BSx: £1005(6) – Croish.
CHARx: £1155 – 4 Kilkenneth: £1145 – Heylipol Farm: £1045 – Braeside: £1035(2) & £1000(2) – Heylipol Farm: £900 – 4 Kilkenneth.
GALx: £1055(2) – Croish.
LIMx: £875(2) – Ruag.
SILMx: £895 – Braeside.
HEIFERS
AAx: £810 – Middleton Farm.
BSx: £945(2), £865(3) – Croish.
CHARx: £1085 & £1065 – Braeside: £1045 & £1025(2) – Heylipol Farm: £985 – 4 Kilkenneth, Braeside & Heylipol Farm(2): £975(3) – Heylipol Farm: £955(2) – 4 Kilkenneth.
LIMx: £1055(3) – Drumasaidh: £875 – Ruag: £865 – Heylipol Farm: £850 – Hillcrest: £825 – Ruag.
SILMx: £735 – 4 Kilkenneth.
TOP PRICES PER KILLO
BULLOCKS
AAx: 222p – Heylipol Farm.
BSx: 209p(6) – Croish.
CHARx: 238p – Heylipol Farm(2) and Braeside: 232p, 225p(2) & 220p – Heylipol Farm.
GALx: 209p – Croish.
LIMx: 253p(2), 247p(2), 242p and 225p(2) – Ruag.
SILMx: 209p – Braeside.
HEIFERS
BSx: 195p(2) – Croish.
BRBx: 204p – 4 Kilkenneth.
CHARx: 252p(2), 226p & 223p(3) – Heylipol Farm: 223p – Braeside: 222p – Heylipol Farm(2) & Braeside.
LIMx: 228p, 223p(3) & 222p – Ruag: 221p – Braeside.
CAST COWS
AAx: £865 & £805 – Croish.
BAx: £685 – 5 Balevullin.
LIMx: £1085 – Heylipol Farm.
SALx: £685 – 5 Balevullin.
SILx: £605 – Middleton Farm.
SILMx: £640 – Drumasaidh.
BBx: £785 – Heylipol Farm.
BULLS
CHAR: £1000 – Heylipol Farm.
LIM: £1000 – Heylipol Farm.

Ewing calls on government to 'play fair'

RURAL Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing has called on the UK government to 'play fair' by Scotland's dairy farmers in its allocation of EU emergency funding. In a letter to George Eustice, minister of state at DEFRA, Mr Ewing stresses the need for fair distribution of EU emergency funding, according to the CAP budget model. He calls for the distribution to be based on the long-established and accepted model for sharing the UK's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget, which recognises the unique features of the industry in Scotland. Mr Ewing said: 'It's important that the allocation of the EU emergency support within the UK is fair and equitable. Both dairy farmers and the wider livestock sector in Scotland have suffered greatly from the financial effects that the volatility within global markets caused. I believe that situation is being made worse by the uncertainty caused by the outcome of the EU referendum. 'The level of remoteness and limited access to processing facilities, which affects large numbers of our livestock farmers, also present pressures which are unique to Scotland.



Fergus Ewing: 'Dairy farmers and the wider livestock sector in Scotland has suffered greatly from the financial effects that the volatility within global markets caused.'

Loan scheme could inject £300m into rural economy

A NEW loan scheme aims to provide certainty for farmers and crofters over the coming winter and seeks to inject up to £300 million into the rural economy, safeguarding jobs and local agricultural businesses. Farmers and crofters will be

able to apply for a loan of 80 per cent of their CAP basic payment and greening 2016 entitlement, up to a maximum of 150,000 euros and receive their loan payments in November. Farmers will not have to wait until 2017 to receive payment of

their CAP entitlement. Letters will be issued before the end of the month to farmers inviting them to apply. Everyone who applies by the deadline of October 12 will receive a loan of 80 per cent of their entitlement in November.

Details of the nationally-funded loan scheme for CAP basic payment 2016 were unveiled by Rural Economy and Connectivity Secretary Fergus Ewing. Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Having learned

lessons from the 2015 round of CAP payments, the Scottish Government is determined to provide as much certainty as possible – not just for farmers and crofters, but for the wider economy in rural communities such as Argyll and Bute.'

Massey Ferguson 5455, 4wd, 2006, c/w loader and muck grab£21,495
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New Holland 6635 4WD, 1999, c/w Trima 350 Professional loader£13,795
Massey Ferguson 390 4wd, 1994, 12/12 shuttle, very clean.....£10,995
Massey Ferguson 6150 4wd, 1994, full details on www.gordonagri.co.uk£10,995
John Deere 6200 4wd, 1993, 85hp approx, telescopic PUH.....£10,995
Ford 5030 4wd, 1993, 75 HP, synchro shuttle.....£9995
New Holland TC24D, 2010, c/w Lewis loader/rear actor with bucket.....£9995
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John Deere 2040 4wd, 1982 Y reg, c/w Quicke loader, average condition...£7,495
Case 685 4wd, 1987, c/w Tanco 968 loader 4ft bucket, 2 spools.....£7495
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Suzuki King Quads, new, 2 year warranty, in stock from.....£4999
Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian, 2011, black, customer sale, no VAT.....£8,795

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INFINITI to launch all-new connected services with Q60 Sports Coupe



ROLLE, Switzerland – Infiniti will launch its all-new Infiniti InTouch Services with the new Q60 sports coupe, due on sale in European markets soon.

The new infotainment features, which ensure Infiniti remains competitive in the premium connectivity arena, improve comfort, convenience and safety, and reflect the brand's strategy towards customer-centric and premium mobility services that give confidence to the driver.

In touch with your connected world through INFINITI InTouch

With faster processing power, Infiniti InTouch can now manage over 250 programmable settings for engine, suspension and steering (accessed through the Drive Mode Selector), seat position, audio and navigation, as well as heating and ventilation. The preferred settings for three drivers can be stored on the Infiniti Intelligent Key.

Q60 owners will be able to access certain vehicle functions remotely using the Infiniti InTouch Services App, which interacts directly with the car. Drivers can easily activate Infiniti InTouch Services and use them through the Q60, smartphone or personal computer.

The comfort, convenience and safety features that come with Infiniti InTouch Services include:

- Call Infiniti Assistance: In-vehicle breakdown calling at the touch of a button.
- Maintenance alert notification: Reminder notification when vehicle is due for scheduled maintenance.

- My Car Finder: Ability to check the latest available position of your Infiniti on your smartphone or computer.
- Remote horn and remote lights: Ability to sound the horn or flash the lights remotely using the Infiniti InTouch Services App to locate the car when needed.
- Vehicle Health Report: Providing a monthly overview of the car's status regarding ABS, airbags, brakes, engine, oil pressure, and tyre pressure.
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- Infiniti InTouch Tracking: After potential theft, incident is communicated either with an automatic alert or directly by the customer to the Service Provider, who later liaises with the Police and tracks the vehicle position.

Customer deliveries of the new Infiniti Q60 sports coupe will commence in selected markets in October 2016.

For further media information, including extended press information and images on Q60, please visit www.InfinityQ60News.com.

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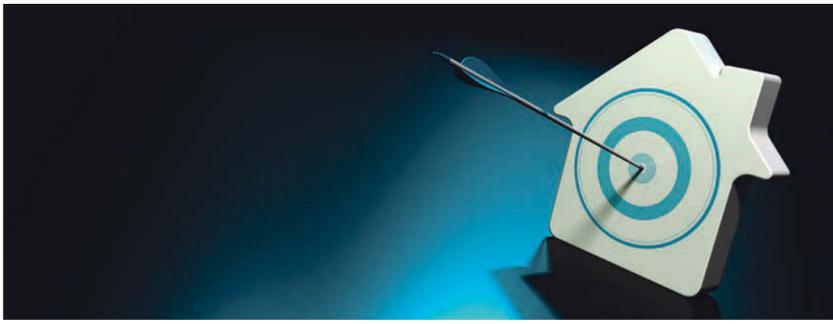
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New poll shows big variations in housing preferences and awareness across Scotland



AN OPINION poll commissioned to coincide with the first official Scottish Housing Day has found the public knows very little about their housing options beyond buying with a mortgage and private and social renting. The poll also found significant regional variations in the types of housing tenure people are interested in considering as a future home.

The purpose of Scottish Housing Day is to raise public awareness of the latest developments in housing and the options potentially available and to acknowledge that renting is an option that can work best for many households. The aim is to give the public easier access to the resources they need to make properly informed housing decisions. Housing organisations are hosting various activities to mark Scottish Housing Day and the general public are being encouraged to get involved through participation in events and interaction with social media and a dedicated website.

For the new opinion poll, a total sample of 1,046 adults were surveyed online between September 7 and 9. The survey was undertaken by Progressive Partnership in conjunction with YouGov. The results are weighted to be representative of all Scottish adults aged 18 and over.

Some 89 per cent of all respondents said they know 'nothing' or 'very little' about the Home Owners' Support Fund and 83 per cent knew 'nothing' or 'very little' about mid-market rent (sometimes referred to as intermediate rent or sub-market rent). And 81 per cent said they know 'nothing' or 'very little' about the Open Market Shared Equity Scheme, which allows a property to be purchased with shared ownership. Those out of the total sample knowing 'nothing' or 'very little' were 80 per cent in relation to supported accommodation and 71 per cent for both Help to Buy (ie, buying new-build with shared ownership) and self-build.

The survey results also showed significant regional variations in people's preferences when it came to housing tenures they might consider as a future home. Overall, buying with a mortgage remains the most often considered option with 41 per cent of all people responding saying they would consider this followed by social renting (20 per cent) and renting from a private landlord (18 per cent). But the proportion of adults considering buying with a mortgage varied considerably between regions, being as high as 62 per cent in the Lothians and as low as 32 per cent in the Central region.

The Open Market Shared Equity Scheme was notably popular in the west of Scotland, where 12 per cent of respondents said they would consider this as a future housing option. There was notably strong interest in self-build in the Highlands and Islands where 28 per cent of people said they would consider this option. Interest in social renting as a housing option ranged from 10 per cent of those responding from the Highlands and Islands to 30 per cent in the south of Scotland.

And 29 per cent of respondents in the Lothians were interested in renting from a private landlord compared to just eight per cent in the Highlands and Islands. At 16 per cent, there was also particularly strong interest in mid-market rent in the Lothians region.

Commenting on Scottish Housing Day, Kevin Stewart MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Housing and Local Government said: 'This poll shows that people could be missing out because they don't know and understand the range of affordable housing options that are open to them.'

'Scottish Housing Day is a great opportunity to raise awareness of all the types of housing that are available - whether it's equity schemes, mid-market rent, or even building your own home. We want to make sure people are making the most of the wide range of ways they can access the housing market.'

'We are committed to making sure everyone has access to a warm, good quality home which is why we are investing £3 billion and have set the ambitious target of delivering 50,000 affordable homes, with 35,000 of these being for social rent, over the lifetime of this parliament. We are also supporting people into home ownership with our £500 million Help to Buy (Scotland) and open market shared equity schemes.'

Commenting on the opinion poll results, CIH Scotland director Annie Mauger said: 'The results of this new poll confirm that, aside from buying with a mortgage, social renting and renting from a private landlord, the Scottish public generally knows very little about the broader range of housing options potentially available

to them when considering where to live. The huge regional variation in housing preferences identified by the poll also reflects the differences in economic and environmental circumstances across Scotland, which we need to take into account when planning housing solutions.'

'What it also shows is that we make a mistake to assume everyone aspires to buy their own home. Indeed, renting can be the best option for many people.'

'We should also bear in mind that not everyone has a choice about where they live and that social housing provision continues to be vital for many people.'

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Glebe Cottage, Taynuilt, PA35 1HW

Guide Price £270,000

An immaculately presented detached bungalow with mountain views situated within the village of Taynuilt which has been totally refurbished and extended to the very highest standards. EPC D62.

The accommodation is immaculately presented and is practically configured for day to day living or entertaining.

To the front of the property is a large and extensively glazed garden room from which is accessed the dining room and which also provides access via double pocket doors to a well-proportioned sitting room. The sitting room is a bright dual aspect room with large windows looking onto the mountains and a multi fuel stove. The kitchen breakfast room sits at the rear and is a particular feature of the property, with an Aga, bespoke oak kitchen and double doors opening onto a slate terrace with wonderful views over surrounding fields to the mountains. There is a well-appointed family bathroom and a double guest bedroom which features a hand crafted oak corner wardrobe, built from locally grown timber. The master bedroom is to the rear and benefits from the mountain views and access to the terrace, with a well-appointed en suite shower room.

- Beautifully presented throughout
- Panoramic mountain views
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- EPC D62



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3 LOCHANDHU COTTAGES, TAYNUILT
Guide Price **£150,000** EPC F22

A charming mid terrace traditional stone cottage with wonderful views towards Loch Etive offering scope for redecoration and improvement,

More investors now valuing rental yields over capital gains

Investors across the UK have traditionally sought out impressive capital gains, largely thanks to the fact that over the years and decades, British property prices have increased fairly quickly. This gives buyers the chance to see a substantial increase on what they've spent in a reasonably short period of time.

However, the market always eventually changes, and according to new reports, this is happening with investor sentiment, after it was revealed that a greater number of people are now investing in property for rental yields rather than capital gains.

Fewer people buy homes now than in the past - only around two-thirds of us live in the property we own - and the more favourable rental market has become an attractive option, rather than just the only alternative to being able to afford a home.

This pushed up demand, and investors can increase what they charge tenants as a result of this demand, which means getting a larger income, and a better return on investment overall than could be found with capital gains. Returns of up to eight per cent means that buyers often now see their rental properties as being a real earner for their retirement.

The political uncertainty in the market is helping to push towards rental returns over capital gains again. In the stabler times, people tend towards the excitement of red-hot price rises, rather than the long-term gains that are associated with rental income.

However, at times like the present, where no one is buying homes and ownership levels are falling, people will look towards the stability of money coming in month after month, rather than all at once, and the long-term ability to earn that this brings with it.

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<p>Dalmally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacious detached house • 6 Bedrooms • 4 Bathrooms • Stunning Mountain Views • Excellent B&B potential • EPC Rating - C70 <p>OIRO £235,000</p> <p>Ashcroft, Dalmally - Built in 2002 this deceptively spacious 1.5 storey house occupies an elevated position with stunning panoramic mountain views. Viewing is highly advised to appreciate this property's spacious and practical layout and enjoy its stunning views.</p>	<p>Drimvargie Terrace, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Floor Flat • 3 Bedrooms / Bathroom / Shower Room • Stunning panoramic views • Close to Oban town centre • Spacious rooms • EPC Rating - C73 <p>OIRO £170,000</p> <p>3, 9 Drimvargie Terrace - A stunning top floor flat boasting three spacious bedrooms and far reaching views over Oban Bay. The flat is accessed via a carpeted communal stairwell, a large front door opens onto the spacious central hallway.</p>	<p>Pulpit Road, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Storey End Terrace • 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom • Located in Popular Residential Area • Excellent Condition • Ideal Family Home • EPC Rating - D58 <p>OIRO £170,000</p> <p>54 Pulpit Road - This two storey end terrace located in the popular Pulpit Hill area of Oban boasts spacious rooms and the practical layout make this an ideal family home. The ground floor accommodation comprises a large lounge leading to the dining room and then kitchen at the rear of the house.</p>	<p>Erray Road, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacious detached bungalow • 4 Bedrooms / 1 Bathrooms • Quiet and private situation in Tobermory • Sheltered rear garden • Excellent family home or potential holiday rental • EPC Rating - C70 <p>OIRO £215,000</p> <p>Achalltunn offers an opportunity to purchase a spacious family home in a popular residential area in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Situated in a generous plot the property comprises a bright and spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen, 4 bedrooms and a bathroom (with separate shower and bath).</p>

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Please can enquiries be made to Iona Smith at West Highland Housing Association, Crannog Lane, Oban on 01631 566451 or e-mail iona@westhighlandha.co.uk

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To run the kitchen in our 32 cover restaurant within Melfort Village.

The applicant should be self motivated and creative. Salary dependant on experience.

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Requires **Time served joiners experienced in fitting PVCu roofline** (fascias, soffits, barge boards, rainwater goods) and PVCu Windows and doors. General experience of roofing work an advantage.

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If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

For more information, please contact David McColl on 01546 605842

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 30th September 2016

Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oban) Ltd

CENTRE ASSISTANT

required to assist with the day-to-day running of the MS Centre, Oban.

16 hours per week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings).

For more details, please e-mail oban.msc@btconnect.com or telephone 01631 566602.

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We are looking to recruit a part time Practice Nurse for 20 hours per week, worked over 3 days.

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We currently have a team of 2 part time Nurses and 1 healthcare Assistant and would hope to find a suitable candidate to compliment our friendly, dedicated team.

To apply for this post you must be registered with NMC. For further details contact :- Helen Adams, Practice Manager, Craig Nevis Surgery, Fort William Health Centre or hadams2@nhs.net.

Closing date Friday 7th October 2016.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited, company registration number 09800322, whose registered office is situated at 172 Southgate Street, Gloucester, England, GL1 2EZ (a subsidiary of Ecotricity Group Limited) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a wind farm on forested land at Upper Sonachan, near Portsonachan, Ardbrecknish and Cladich (Central Grid Reference: NN065188) and for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted. The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 61.2 MW, comprising 18 turbines with a maximum overall ground to blade tip height of 136.5 metres.

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited has now submitted to Scottish Ministers further information in the form of a Further Environmental Information (FEI) report including information in relation to ecology, ornithology, landscape, hydrology, forestry and peat, to the Upper Sonachan Wind Park Environmental Statement.

Copies of the Further Environmental Information (FEI) report supplementing the Environmental Statement have been provided explaining the Company's proposals in more detail are available for inspection during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Oban	Monday and Wednesday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 7:00pm	77 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL
Library	Thursday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 6:00pm Friday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 5:00pm Saturday – 10:00am – 1:00pm	

The FEI report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. A copy of the further information has been made available to Argyll and Bute Council Offices (Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm then 1.30pm to 4.00pm daily) for public inspection. Copies of the FEI report may be obtained from Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited (tel: 01453 790152) at a charge of £250 for a hard copy and £10 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations should be made in writing to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or emailed to representations@gov.scot identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than 28th October 2016, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email and postal address of those making representation. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

All previous representations received in relation to this development remain valid.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Local Energy & Consents processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: Econsents_admin@gov.scot or write to Local Energy & Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Gillian Wilson Barton has registered her croft 1 Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 9th June 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A 1535.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Catherine Shaw McKinlay has registered her croft, Loch Awe View, Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail, in the Parish of Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 7 June 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3079.

First Registration of a Croft

William Dundas has registered his croft, Lara Croft, Knockrome, Isle of Jura, in the Parish of Jura on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 23 May 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3010.

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED) TOBERMORY HARBOUR EMPOWERMENT ORDER 201[] (the "Order")

1 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Tobermory Harbour Association ("the Applicant") has applied to the Scottish Ministers for a Harbour Empowerment Order ("the Order") under section 16 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act").

2 The Order will:

2.1 authorise the Applicant to exercise jurisdiction as a harbour authority (within the meaning of section 57 of the 1964 Act) within such area of Tobermory Harbour as is specified in the Order; and

2.2 grant to the Applicant the powers specified in the Order to enable the improvement, management and maintenance of Tobermory Harbour.

3 A copy of the Order and the harbour maps (as referred to in the Order) may be inspected, free of charge, between the hours of 9am and 5pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Tobermory Harbour Association, Taigh Solais, Ledaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NR until the expiry of the forty two day period specified below. A copy of the draft order can also be obtained by contacting Chris Mackay or Andrew Little of Burness Paul LLP at the undernoted address.

4 Paragraph 16 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act (which requires information to be supplied concerning a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Great Britain and in another European Economic Area State) does not apply to the application.

5 No land is proposed for compulsory acquisition.

6 Any person wishing to make an objection to the application to the Scottish Ministers should write to Val Ferguson, Ports and Harbours Branch, Transport Scotland, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or email harbourorders@scotland.gsi.gov.uk within forty-two days from the date at the foot of this notice quoting Tobermory Harbour Empowerment Order stating the grounds of their objection and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection may be sent.

7 All objections made, including personal information provided to Scottish Ministers, will be shared with the Applicant who may contact you to discuss your concerns. Names and the text of any representation may also be published on Transport Scotland's website due to Freedom of Information requirements. If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the use of your personal data please contact the person specified in paragraph 7 of this notice.

8 If an objection is duly made to the application and not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers may, before making their decision (i) cause an inquiry to be held, or (ii) give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by them.

Agents for the Applicant

Burness Paul LLP
Chris Mackay/Andrew Little
50 Lothian Road
Festival Square
Edinburgh
EH3 9WJ
chris.mackay@burnesspaull.com/andrew.little@burnesspaull.com

Date of First Publication of this Notice
15 September 2016

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/02194/PP	Refurbishment and partial change of use of disused primary school to be used as community events space, including demolition of toilet block extension and installation of new entrance and temporary access ramp	Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NA	Oban Area Office
16/02380/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access (part retrospective)	Land West of Schoolhouse Ulva Ferry Isle of Mull	Sub Post Office: Aros Isle of Mull
16/01473/PP	Erection of wooden garden shed	Braehouse Ellenbeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RF	Sub Post Office: Balvicar
16/02426/PP	Erection of extension	90 Main Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JH	Bowmore Area Office: Isle of Islay
16/02399/PP	Erection of 6 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works (overall structure height 8 metres high)	Land North East of Kiloran Bay Tobar Challium Chille Kiloran Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YU	Sub Post Office: Isle of Colonsay
16/02193/LIB	Refurbishment and alterations to allow building to be used as community events space, including demolition of toilet block extension and installation of new entrance and temporary access ramp	Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5NA	Oban Area Office
16/02469/PP	Installation of 6 no. rooflights and air source heat pump, including conversion of attic space to form bedroom and en-suite	Saddlers Brae Lower School Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TW	Sub Post Office: Port Charlotte
16/02263/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/01116/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land South West of Ardhivaig Cottage Bunnass Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office: Bunnass Isle of Mull
16/02058/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and private water supply. Formation of vehicular access (amendment to planning permission 15/02886/PP)	(Plot 3) Land North West of Knockalla Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office: Craignure
16/02388/PP	Installation of access ramp and associated works	2 Fern Cottages Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QJ	Sub Post Office: Dervaig
16/02421/PP	Erection of 6 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works (overall structure height 8 metres high)	Land North of Ormsaig Penngyhael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office: Bunnass Isle of Mull
16/02391/PP	Erection of storage shed	Dachaigh Mo Chridhe Vaul Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TP	Tiree Area Office
16/02424/LIB	Erection of single storey rear extension	Flat Ground/2 22 Alexandra Place Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5PU	Oban Area Office
16/02486/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of planning permission in principle 13/01828/PPP)	Site North of Moine Mor North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RA	Sub Post Office: Ledaig
16/02256/PP	Amendment to planning permission 15/01839/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse - amended design relative to planning permission reference 11/00896/PP) - Installation of dormer window to rear elevation	Garden Ground South East of Dunrobban Laurel Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
16/03648/FUL	Station Bar, Station Square, Fort William	Change of use from shop to flat
16/03792/FUL	Lochside, Inverie, Knoydart, Mallaig	Change of use from house to B&B
16/03947/FUL	Scottish Whisky & Craft Centre 137-139 High Street, Fort William	Demolition of existing Scottish Whisky & Craft Centre and erection of 12 self-contained flats with shared circulation area and associated car parking.
16/04089/FUL	Land 50M NW of 1 Columba Road, Morar	Proposed Shed
16/04098/FUL	Farm Foods, Lochyside, Fort William	Extension of shop
16/04143/FUL	Glencoe Independent Hostel, Glencoe, Ballachulish Ardtornish, Morvern	Change of use of 1 static caravan pitch into 2 pitches for moveable eco log cabins

Time period for comments is 14 days, 16/04045/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

NEW FORESTRY GRADE MAINTENANCE ACCESS ROAD FROM CAR PARK BASE STATION TO PLATEAU, TOP STATION OF CHAIRLIFT AT WHITE CORRIES SKI CENTRE GLENCOE

The Council has received an application from Glencoe Mountain Resort for new forestry grade maintenance access road from car park base station to plateau, top station of chairlift at White Corries Ski Centre, Glencoe PH49 4HZ (16/00836/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Statement.

The application, the accompanying Environmental Statement and its addendum are available for public inspection online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 16/00836/FUL)

Copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased for £40 for paper or £15 for CD. Please contact: Andy Meldrum admin@glencoemountain.co.uk tel: 01855 851226 at Glencoe Mountain Resort, Glencoe. The Non Technical Summary and DVD can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Statement and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure

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S Reid
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70343
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Condition - With fencing conditions. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

First Registration of a Croft
Euphemia MacDonal and Iain Alan MacDonald has registered their croft 4 Bunacaimb, Arisaig & Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by May 4 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2950.

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Happy 50th Birthday
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 Lots of love Lorraine, Sophie, Morgan & Buster xx xx xx xx

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BIRTHS

ARTHUR - Paul and Nicola née MacInnes, the gift of a daughter Mia Sophie on September 13, 2016 at St. John's Hospital, Livingston, second grandchild for Caroline and Iain and eighth grandchild for Maureen and Eamonn.



BLAIR - MACLEOD

Scott, Louise and big brother Charlie are happy to announce the arrival of Fergus James Blair on the August 22, 2016. A third grandson for David and Joan MacLeod, Oban and second grandson for Colin and Karen Blair, Lochgilphead. Thanking all staff involved at the RAH Paisley and Oban Maternity Unit.

DEATHS

MACLEAN - Alasdair (Tobermory/Edinburgh). At home in Edinburgh following a long illness borne with strength, patience and dignity, on September 9, 2016, Alasdair (formerly Lothian and Borders Police) beloved husband and best friend of Jean, loving father of Gordon and Iain and proud grandfather of Camrie, Sorren, Gemma and Ruaridh and great grandfather of Riean. Private funeral at his request.

McKECHNIE - Suddenly but peacefully, at his home, 15A Hill Street, Oban, on September 16, 2016, Charles Arthur (Charlie) McKechnie, aged 58 years, formerly of Campbeltown, loving and much loved son of the late Kathleen McKechnie, née Taylor, and of the late Charles Arthur McKechnie, adored brother of Jane, Paul, Kathleen and Marina, and a dearly loved nephew, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle to all the family. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and cared for him, especially by his carers, who helped him achieve so much in his life and afforded him his independence. Funeral service will be held in Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 7.00pm, followed by a service in Highland Parish Church, Campbeltown, on Friday, September 23 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Donations, if desired, to Argyll Animal Aid. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KENNEDY - The family of the late Ann would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy they received following the sad loss of Ann. Grateful thanks to nurses in Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their excellent care. Sincere thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and Hamish Hoey and Sons for support and kindness shown at this difficult time. Also the Royal Hotel for refreshments.

MEMORIALS

BLUE - In loving memory of our dear sister Lillian, who died September 22, 2011. Too dearly loved to be forgotten - Donnie, Mary, Jim, Kevin and Ryan.

CAMPBELL - Ever loving memory of Chris, who passed on September 28, 2015. Always just a thought away - Fiona and Keilidh

FLEMING - In loving memory of our dear dad and bampa William (Flip) who died on September 27, 2015. Loved and remembered every day. - Cameron, Brenda, Danica, Leigh and families

GROSS - In loving memory of Jimmy, who passed away September 23, 2015. Always in our thoughts - Rhoda and family

HUNTER - In loving memory of my dear friend Betty, who passed away September 21, 2013. Loved and remembered. - Ruth xx.

JOHNSTON - In memory of Karen who died September 26, 2012. Forever in our hearts. Mum, Hal and Iona x

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of our dear parents, George who died August 16, 1992 and Chrissie who died September 17, 2005. Always in our thoughts. - Mary, Peggy, Hugh, Christine and families.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Betty, my dear wife, died September 25, 2012. Much love. - Jim xx

MACLEAN - Kathryn, we can't believe it has been a year since we have seen your beautiful smile. Your presence we miss Your memories we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never Always in our hearts - Donald, Julie & Mark

MACLEAN - Kathryn. In loving memory of my dear sister who died September 24, 2015. Always in our thoughts - Anne.

MACLEAN - Loved and remembered Kathryn, our sister-in-law and aunt, died September 24, 2015. Always in our thoughts. - Andy Catriona, Iain and Megan.

MARSHALL - Fondest memories of happy times shared with family over many years at Kilpatrick, Bunessan, Mull. - Senga and family

McLENNAN - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and brother, Flora, who passed away September 26, 1996, Alex on August 25, 1999 and our dear brother Willie on February 24, 2008. Gone from our sight But never our memory Gone from our touch But never our hearts - Love from Elsie, Margaret and families

MILLIN - In loving memory of my mother and father, mother who died September 27, 1980, father who died May 10, 1986. - Inserted by their son, Creagan, Strontian

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NICOLSON - Treasured memories of our dear mum, mum-in-law and gran Catriona Nicolson, who passed away September 24, 2015. Forever in our hearts. Loved and remembered always. - Christina, Alastair and Isla.

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of my Dad, Alasdair who died January 17, 1998 and my Mum, Bunty who died October 1, 2003. Always in our thoughts. - Pamela and John, Glencoe

POLLOCK - In loving memory of my Mum, Catherine who died September 15, 1994 and my Dad, Ian who died December 5, 1981. Loved and remembered always. - Pamela and John, Glencoe

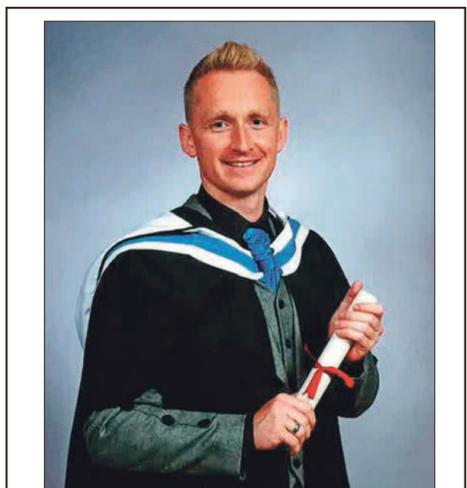
RAMSAY - In loving memory of our mum, mother-in-law and nana Janette, who died September 24, 2015 and also our dad, father-in-law and papa Jimmy, who died June 12, 1990. Loved and remembered always. - Family in Killin, Oban, Lochgilphead and Edinburgh.

ROSS - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Marion, who died September 15, 2003. Years have gone since you were here But in our eyes there is still a tear In our hearts you will always stay We love and miss you every day. - Loving husband Rusty and family.

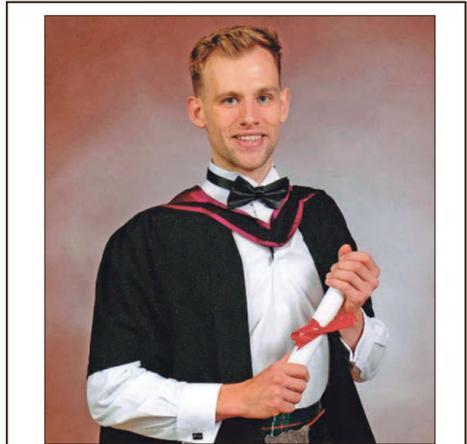
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GRADUATION



Daniel Anthony Gillespie
Graduated with a Master of Business Administration with Distinction from Strathclyde University. Daniel is the elder son of the late Danny Gillespie and Joyce and is a former pupil of Three High School. He is also one of the founder members of the Trad/ Rock band Skerryvore.



Alexander Cameron Ferguson
Graduated recently from Glasgow University with a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering with First Class Honours. Alexander is the son of Alasdair and Jill Ferguson, Spean Bridge and grandson of Anne Ferguson and the late Archie Ferguson, Spean Bridge and the late Jack and Mary Tudhope, Inverloch. Alexander is due to take up a Post Graduate position with Nexen Petroleum Ltd in Aberdeen in October.



Ross Jespersen
Ross, son of Pauline and Erik, graduated Summer 2015 from Aberdeen University with LLB Hons in Law and Economics. He recently graduated from Tilburg University, Netherlands with a Masters in Law and Technology LLM with distinction. Following his legal diploma at Glasgow University, Ross will commence as a Trainee Solicitor with DLA Piper based in Edinburgh. Ross is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School.

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Clerk retires after four decades of sheriff court service



David Irwin, sheriff clerk depute, retires.

DAVID Irwin has seen it all as sheriff clerk depute at Oban Sheriff Court, but last week he hung up his gown for good for a quiet retirement of hillwalking and skiing. David has spent the past four decades helping to keep sheriff courts and the admin of the law ticking over but, despite all his long experience sitting in the courtroom, he has only served on a jury once – as an extra on the set of the BBC TV drama River City. Speaking to us on the day he retired, Friday September 9, the 61-year-old reflected he had spent 41 years in the court service, which he joined quite unexpectedly. 'I was working for Safeway in East Kilbride,' he recalled. 'I was home one night and my mother said someone from Hamil-

ton sheriff court was on the phone, and they said I was to start there on Monday morning. I said: 'What's a sheriff court?' That was September 8, 1975. So it's been 41 years and one day.' Both David and his wife Anne grew up in East Kilbride and moved together to Troon, where they raised their two children – Heather, now a French and Spanish teacher at Alloa Academy, and Kenny, who works for Morgan Stanley bank in Glasgow. When he moved his job as clerk from Kilmarnock to Oban Sheriff Court in 2001, the family moved to the town, where David and Anne now plan to spend their retirement. On Monday, his first day as an OAP, David planned to listen to his alarm clock ... and not get up. Maybe,

he added, if the weather was kind, 'we might take a picnic hamper with us and go for a walk. 'I like being outdoors, and in the hills,' he said. 'I would like to travel and see the islands, the local islands. It's a lovely part of the world.' On the evening of his retirement, David was presented with a landscape painting of Eigg and Rum. 'I will miss the office,' he said. 'Working with my three colleagues – Caroline, Allison and Janet – has been wonderful. I will miss the friendship and helpfulness shown by everyone in the court service and staff in other departments. My best wishes go to Caroline Brady and Allison Black, who will take over from me as job-sharing clerks for Oban.'

Tackling rising cost of funerals is important to help bereaved loved ones

TACKLING the debt and spiralling costs associated with paying for a funeral will be debated at a series of discussions this autumn. Funeral directors, local authorities, charities and other organisations with an interest will attend the first of three events starting today, and will be followed by the Scottish Government's first national conference on funeral poverty on November 16 in Edinburgh. The discussions, which were recommended by the independent report on funeral poverty, will focus on how best to support people to plan ahead for their funeral, helping people understand their choices and developing more affordable funeral options. The announcement of the national conference coincides with the publication of burial and cremation costs charged by local authorities and private providers. Citizens Advice Scotland figures show an eight per cent increase in burial and an 11 per cent increase in cremation costs in the past year, and continued varia-

tion in costs between local authorities. Cabinet secretary for communities, social security and equalities, Angela Constance, who will lead today's discussions, said: 'For families who are mourning the loss of a loved one to be faced with mounting debt and distress because of the cost of paying for a funeral is completely unacceptable and I'm determined to address it. 'This national conference will bring together the funeral industry, local authorities and charities to discuss how we can address the rising, and disproportionately different, costs which are incurred in different parts of the country. 'We know funeral directors want the best for their customers and, as a government, we want to raise awareness of funeral planning. Therefore it's important we make sure all parts of the industry work together to give people a realistic choice when they are making difficult decisions about the funeral of a loved one.' Funeral payments, which are part of the regulated

social fund, are among the social security powers to be devolved to Scotland which the Scottish Government is currently consulting on. Minister for social security Jeane Freeman said: 'Our new powers over funeral payments give us the opportunity to set up a benefit which is simpler to understand, fairer and more streamlined. 'We have already committed to processing applications within 10 working days, allowing people to make better informed decisions when they are planning a funeral and relieving the stress and anxiety current long delays can cause. This will also create more certainty for funeral directors, allowing them to give appropriate advice and potentially eliminating the need to take a deposit from those who make a successful application. 'I would encourage anyone with an interest to take part in the consultation we are running now so they can help shape our fairer, more dignified approach to social security.'

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Lorne Ladies defeat Helensburgh

Oban Lorne Ladies	38
Helensburgh Ladies	0
BT Women's National D2	

OBAN Lorne Ladies welcomed Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC to Glencruitten on Sunday in their first match of the season and the first ever 15-a-side meeting between the two teams.

Having struggled for players last season and moving down to National Division 2, the local ladies started the new season strongly, fielding a squad of 17 players. Training numbers hit a high of 23 last Thursday night with the team preparing well under the guidance of coach Corrie Louw.

Both experienced and new players were quick to get stuck in and make their mark on the

Helensburgh defence, with a couple of near misses in the first 10 minutes.

This eventually led to an opening try after a clever offload by winger Kelly Lamont to full back Ashley Lazzara to score under the posts (5-0).

The ladies had opportunities to increase their lead that were unfortunately missed, with drizzly weather creating slippery ball handling conditions, but centre Kirsty Sinclair battled through the defence to score under the posts and front row Ellie MacNiven successfully converted (12-0).

MacNiven showed further skill on the pitch with a quick pop ball to prop Laura MacCormick who bulldozed through the defence and over the line for a third try (17-0).



Ailsa MacLachlan charges her way through the Helensburgh defence.

Women's rugby

The remainder of first half was played on the halfway line with possession switching back and forth, and impressively strong tackles by Helensburgh preventing the girls in green from making much ground.

However, another try by Sinclair, again converted by MacNiven, took the half-time score to 24-0.

The second half opened with an impressive third and, shortly after, fourth try for Sinclair, who shrugged off tackles from left and right to score under the posts once again, with both conversions also successful (38-0).

Play was halted while MacNiven received treatment for a shoulder injury and eventually left the field. The remainder of the game was played out without any great pressure on either try line.

Unfortunately, after a particularly hard tackle, Lazzara required treatment on the pitch for a potential head/neck injury, and the referee decided to call the game to a close with a few minutes remaining. This meant a comfortable opening win for the Green Army at 38-0.

Helensburgh have just established a competitive ladies side, training as a development team last year and even lending players to Oban to help them in fulfilling the few fixtures they



Oban Lorne's Kirsty Sinclair touches down for a try during the 38-0 win over Helensburgh. Photos: Stephen Lawson

played during last season.

With this in mind, the ladies formed an impressive opposition and the game was a great opportunity to introduce some

of Oban's new players to the sport and shake off any early season nerves before moving on to more experienced opposition in the coming weeks.

Oban take on Grangemouth away next Sunday and will look to build on this week's success by continuing to practice their set plays at training this week.

The ladies train every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm at Oban Rugby Club, Glencruitten, with newcomers and experienced players very welcome.

Oban youth rugby round-up

T4 Schools Conference

OBAN High School travelled to Cartha Queens Park RFC last Thursday to take on Shawlands Academy in their latest T4 schools fixture tie.

Oban fielded three teams, under-13, -14 and -16, with encouraging numbers travelling on the day.

Unfortunately all the teams lost out on the day despite some good rugby being played. The under-13s were well beaten but improved as the game went on and managed to cross the try line a few times in the second half.

Shawlands won by two tries in the under-14 fixture but it could have gone in the favour of either team.

The hosts scored a last-gasp

try in a narrow win in the under-16 game with Oban leading for the majority of the match.

The T4 Schools Conference has been successful in providing schools with competitive midweek fixtures and is having a positive impact in raising playing numbers at all youth age levels.

U18s

Oban under-18s failed to build on last week's home win over Strathaven as they travelled to take on Garnock/Birkmyre on Saturday with a weakened squad. The Oban team did well to be in the game at only 12-7 down at half-time but fell apart in the second half, losing 40-7. Despite the loss, there were some very encouraging per-

formances, particularly from Daniel Speirs, Alex Houston, Ben MacFarlane Barrow, James Divers and Lorne Sinclair.

Oban under-18s have now scheduled fixture this weekend.

U16s

The under-16 team recorded a very convincing 70-7 win over Hillhead Jordanhill in Glasgow on Sunday. This was the team's seventh competitive game of the season so far and the high number of matches has seen a huge improvement in both the individual and team performances. The next match for the under-16s is away to Cartha Queens Park RFC this Sunday.

U14s

Strathaven were the visitors

Youth rugby

to Glencruitten on Sunday as Oban's under-14s recorded a convincing 70-20 win.

The Oban team have vastly improved after a big loss against Glasgow Hawks at the start of the season.

Stand-outs on Sunday were the performances of Dougie MacDonald and Kenni Gray. Oban under-14s join the under-16s away to Cartha Queen Park RFC on Sunday.

U13S

The under-13s were without a game last weekend as Way-siders RFC could not raise a team. The 13s are due to play Strathaven at home on Sunday.

University boys too clever for Argyll

Argyll and Bute	19
Glasgow Uni Medics	42
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL and Bute welcomed West Division 4 newcomers Glasgow University Medics to Glencruitten on Saturday. The visitors are unbeaten in the league so far with wins over Hyndland and Isle of Mull.

The home side knew that they would be in for a tough game with the medics possessing a young and physically fit squad. Argyll, though, were able to field a strong squad of 17 players complete with the welcome

returns of Liam Burns, Travis Smith and Daniel Hoey.

Argyll were left frustrated in the build-up to the game on learning of the opposition's request for uncontested scrums. With a strong pack starting the game, Argyll would be without their powerful scrummaging for the 80 minutes.

It was a disappointing home performance from the hosts as they went down 19-42 as they gifted the visitors some soft scores with some exceptionally poor defence. The medics had a wealth of pace in the team that dominated against

Rugby

the slower but more physical Argyll side. Despite the defeat, Argyll scored three tries with Liam Burns, Dan Hoey and Ed Meskuskas all crossing the line and scrum-half Steven Parr knocking over two conversions. Next Saturday Argyll and Bute have a tough away game to local rivals Cowal RFC in Dunoon.

Cowal had a narrow 23-22 win over Isle of Mull RFC on Saturday and have made a good start to the season



The Oban High School under 13, under 14 and under 16 squads who travelled to play Shawlands last week

News from Oban Bowling Club

WITH the end of the 2016 season looming last Saturday, the Duncan Campbell Memorial Trophy was played for at Oban Bowling Club.

Fifteen teams were reduced to a last four for the semis, which saw John and David McLaren take on Anne Stewart and Marian Carr, while the other semi was contested by Rosemary Miller and Roddy MacLeod against Gerry Flannigan and Colin Carmichael.

Both matches were played to a high standard, with the final of six ends being fought out by the eventual winners Anne and Marian, edging home against Rosemary and Roddie.



Anne Stewart and Marian Carr.

Weather fails to dampen the spirits at the Ian 'Parrott' Macmillan sixes

SIXTEEN teams entered the Ian 'Parrott' Macmillan sixes tournament at Mossfield Stadium last Sunday with 128 children taking part - which

is a fantastic turnout - and all the credit goes to the school coaches.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't at its best and could have

been a bit kinder, but this did not detract from some superb shinty from the youngsters.

The teams taking part were from Park School, Rockfield, Taynuilt, Inveraray, Kilmory, Ardnamurachan and Ballachulish.

The competition was split into two leagues - P5 to P7 and P5 and under.

The group stages finished with the teams from Taynuilt and Rockfield in both finals. The P5 and under league was won by Rockfield Rovers who defeated Taynuilt 2-1 in a great final with both teams giving their all.

In the older age group, Taynuilt defeated Rockfield this time, which again was a fantastic final. The score ended 0-0 but Taynuilt won a very tense penalty shoot-out 3-2.

The William (Flip) Fleming Memorial player of the year was won by Calum Macmillan, Park School.

Winner of the Ian Macmillan most endeavour quaiach was Matthew Sloss from Taynuilt and the winner of the best female player on the day was Eilidh Cameron of Inveraray.

The Macmillan family would like to thank everybody for all the help on the day especi-

ally the referees Sandy McLeod, Andrew Macmillan and Cameron Macmillan, who got thoroughly soaked.

A special tournament where every child gets a medal to take away on the day for a little keepsake.



Rockfield were winners of the P5 section at the Ian Macmillan Memorial Trophy tournament held at Mossfield Stadium last Sunday. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Player showing most endeavour was Matthew Sloss, Taynuilt.



Eilidh Cameron, 11, from Inveraray was voted best female player.



Taynuilt were winners of the P7 section of the Ian Macmillan Memorial Trophy tournament held at a wet Mossfield.

Oban Wee Peaks race is a big success

THE OBAN Wee Peaks race has proved a really popular addition to Oban Sailing Club's programme for the last few seasons.

The event is a fun adventure race organised by the club for dinghy sailors, either sailing single- or double-handed and canoeists/kayakers in the Sound of Kerrera.

It involves sailing or paddling to hills in the proximity of Oban Bay and incorporates three short hill runs – suitable for both juniors and adults.

All participants must complete the runs – if the wind is light propulsion of dinghies by non-mechanical means is allowed – human power only.

This year 25 people took part in 13 dinghies and seven kayaks and canoes. The weather was excellent with a strong breeze

Sailing

from the north-east aiding all craft on their passage between the hills.

Freddie White and Zander McInnes were victorious in the junior dinghy class with the adult section being lifted by Chris Dowd and his son Ewan. Calum Peden was the outright winner in the canoe/kayak section.

Mandy Peden, secretary of Oban Sailing Club, said: 'It's been another wonderful Oban Wee Peaks race in this fourth year of running. And we've seen an increase in numbers from last year. We very much think this event will take off, much like the club's annual Round Mull Race. We look forward to next year.'



Prize-winners, marshalls and organisers pictured after the Oban Wee Peaks race.



Alasdair Currie.

Injury forces Currie out of Mull Rally

TOBERMORY'S Alasdair Currie has been forced to pull out of the upcoming Mull Rally after a serious hand injury.

The 18-year-old was also due to compete in the last round of the British Rally Championship in the Isle of Man this week. Currie and navigator Steven Brown were hoping to wrap up the 1600cc class title at the Manx event after a challenging season.

Severed tendons

Unfortunately for the youngster, all his plans were ruined after an accident last week. An operation took place in Glasgow to mend severed tendons in his hand, and the news soon came that the young driver would not be able to compete or have use of his left hand for several months.

Currie said: 'I'm gutted to be missing out on the final two rallies of the season. The nature of the injury was seriously unlucky.'

Rallying

Currie and Brown recently announced they would run/cycle the Mull Rally route to raise money for Marie Curie and RNLI. Even though the pair have been forced out of competing, they will still complete their charity fundraiser. Steven will continue to run/cycle, while Alasdair will have to walk/run the route. They urge everyone to donate online at just giving.

Currie told *The Oban Times*: 'Even though I can't compete I will do what I can to stick by my word and support my chosen charity and help the car club in any way with the running of the event.'

'I will be back next year, bigger, better and just as determined. Nothing will stop me.'

BJJ

TRAINING continues with classes various available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The club regularly takes part in national and international events with great success.

Anyone interested in learning Brazilian Jiu Jitsu should contact club coach Iain 'Coogie' Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Kyokushinkai Karate

Club coach Iain Rodger is gearing up as coach for the GB karate team's trip to Japan for the world tournament.

The team (which includes Oban's Craig MacLachlan) head out on October 19 for the weigh-in on the 21st and fighting takes place on 22nd and 23rd.

Elsewhere, Oban junior fighter Darryl McLaughlin is in preparation to represent his country at the National Junior Championships in London on November 13.

Darryl will be the sole representative for Scotland at the event. Darryl also helps coach beginners in the children's classes.

The classes take place in Oban every Thursday with children at 6pm and adults at 7pm.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Other classes are available in Lochgilhead on Wednesday evenings.

Anyone interested in learning this traditional style of karate should contact club instructor and team GB coach for 2016 Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Shukokai Karate

Argyll Martial Arts Club has awarded Zoe McKillop, Kenny Gray, Iona McCulloch, Shira MacAskill, Andrew Fraser and Sam Barker the status of junior instructor.

The students, who are all brown or black belts, have studied a six-month theory course and have had plenty of practical experience during normal classes.

The course brings out leadership qualities in the young people while also building up their self-confidence.

Classes continue as usual in Oban and Inveraray. The club's next grading is planned for late October/early November.

Anyone thinking of taking up

Favourite technique – tornado kick.

Favourite combination – right kick to thigh, left kick to body, right kick to head.

Best tournament result – second full contact, first clicker (points).

Ambitions – to fight professionally.

Training continues as usual, Wednesdays at 6.30pm for juniors and 7.30pm for seniors, Sundays at 11am for juniors, noon for seniors and women only sessions at 2pm

For more information contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com.



Cody McCulloch finishing off a Tornado kick.

Argyll take on Scottish League select at Tarbert

AN ARGYLL select will take on the might of the Scottish Amateur Football League in the annual Joe Paterson memorial fixture to be played on Saturday at Tarbert.

The game should have been held in Campbeltown, but work being done on the playing surface at Kintyre Park meant the game was switched to Tarbert.

The trophy has been played for on 32 occasions with each team winning 16 times so this will add a bit more spice to this weekend's fixture.

The Argyll squad is chosen from players from Campbeltown Pupils, Lochgilhead Red Star, Oban Saints and Tarbert.

The squad chosen is – Ryan Gilchrist, Gary Grumoli, Liam Renton and Keith Mitchell (Campbeltown Pupils); Kieran Moore, Aaron Moore, Lee MacLean and Luke Naisby (Lochgilhead Red Star); Thomas McCulloch, Scott Maitland, Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan (Oban Saints); Fraser Talbot, Andrew Guy, David Ronald and Craig Johnstone (Tarbert).

The Scottish League have picked a very strong squad for the game: goalkeepers – S Urquhart (Drumchapel Colts); R Brown (Ferguslie). Defenders – K Docherty, K Boyce, K Green and C Cameron (all St Joseph's

Football

FP); G Russell (Rutherglen). Midfield – T Whitmore (Kings Park Rangers); C Harkin, S Smith and D Gallagher (all St Joseph's FP); S Fitzpatrick, M Atkinson, and S Chatterjee (all Drumchapel Colts); M Stewart, Ferguslie and J McDougall (Rutherglen). Forwards – D Edwards and A Turner (Ferguslie); S McAuley (Kings Park Rangers).

Referee is Gordon Kelso assisted by Jimmy Litster and John Caampbell. The match kicks off at 1.30pm.



Oban Saints international defender Scott Maitland will be lining up for Argyll on Saturday.



MacIntyre crowned Amateur Golfer of Year

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre has been handed the perfect lift ahead of this week's World Amateur Team Championship in Mexico after being crowned Scottish Amateur Golfer of the Year.

Thanks to finishing as the leading Scot (13th), at both male and female level, on the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) at the September 9 cut-off point, left-hander MacIntyre has secured the coveted accolade.

With a record-equalling eight male Scots regularly populating the top 100 on WAGR this year, the Glencruitten player held off the challenge of Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup winner Grant Forrest (19th) and Connor Syme (23rd), the Australian amateur champion, to come out on top.

MacIntyre, coached by George Boswell, follows in the spike marks of the previous two winners of the award, Bradley Neil (2014) and Ewen Ferguson (2015).

'I've just pipped Grant to the post, so it's always nice to get another accomplishment like this,' said MacIntyre of his award, having reached his highest ever world ranking.

Glencruitten

JAMES Muir and Stephen Murphy won the Dennis Cathro pairs competition at Glencruitten on Saturday with a better ball score of 55. Alan Jamieson and Steven McCuish were runners-up with a score of 56. Willie McAdam and Donald McGill were third with 58 points.

A four-man scramble takes place on Saturday.

Fort William

THE men's medal final was played on Saturday September 17: Section one – 1 Andrew Brown net 72 (81-9); 2 Stephen Howden net 72 (84-12) BIH; 3 Steven Jamieson net 73 (78-5).

Section two – 1 Lewis Fyfe net 73 (89-16); 2 Marc MacDonald net 74 (89-15); 3 Lewis Corbett net 78 (98-20).

The senior medal final, played on Sunday September 18 – 1 Brian Gillespie net 63 (75-12); 2 Frank Sweeney net 67 (83-16) BIH; 3 David Martin net 67 (85-18).

The Ladies' Budget Trophy, was played on Saturday September 10 – 1 Rosemary Macintyre net 72 (83-11); 2 Iona Cameron net 77 (96-19).

Islay

MACHRIE Salver played Sunday September 18: 1 S Johnston – 2; 2 I MacCuaig – 4; 3 A MacAllister – 4.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

R Bruce
Glenmore Road
Oban

J Petrie
Lochybridge
Fort William

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

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Address

.....

Tel No.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Newtonmore lift Camanachd Cup after narrow win over red and blacks

Camanachd Cup final

**Newtonmore 1
Oban Camanachd 0**
Newtonmore lifted the Camanachd Cup, winning 1-0 in a tight final against Oban Camanachd on a glorious afternoon at An Aird, Fort William, on Saturday.

This 109th Camanachd Cup final was a much anticipated encounter as these sides currently occupied the top two places in the Marine Harvest Premiership but they had yet to meet this season.

The supporters from both clubs contributed to a colourful occasion as the blue and white of Newtonmore, in a crowd of close to 4,000, mingled with the red and black of Oban Camanachd.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh had missed much of the lead up to the game as his work commitments took him to the Czech Republic. However, he arrived home in the early hours of Friday morning and the one significant change to his starting line-up saw the pacey Ackie MacRae, who had himself spent much of the past year abroad, come in at wing centre. Chris Sellar failed to recover sufficiently from a knee infection so he missed out.

Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay was pleased to see defender Garry Lord play against Fort William the previous weekend in his comeback game following a four-match ban. Lord took up his usual role in defence so Willie Neilson started on the bench. Daniel Cameron and Andrew MacCuish played despite receiving stitches to facial wounds suffered in the Fort William game.

The teams were piped out onto the field by the Lochaber Pipe Band before being introduced to Camanachd Association president Jim Barr, Camanachd Association chieftain Jock Turner as well as Caol and Mallaig Highland Councillor Allan Henderson. Newtonmore won the toss and played with a slight wind advantage in the first half.

Oban Camanachd had an early set-piece chance but Lorne Dickie's shot was taken out of the air by Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald before the ball reached the goal. MacDonald held off a challenge before ushering the ball out of play.

'More keeper Owen Fraser sent the goal hit into the Oban half and when Rory Kennedy

gathered possession, he sent the ball long but out of play.

This was the lead up to the game's decisive moment which came after just three minutes. Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart didn't strike the resultant goal-hit cleanly and Evan Menzies reacted first, controlling the ball ahead of Scott MacKillop around 40 yards from goal. Menzies burst forward, running at the heart of the Oban defence, and he held off a challenge from the chasing MacKillop before showing great awareness to push the ball back into the path of Glen MacKintosh who had found just enough space left of centre. MacKintosh's finish was as clinical as it was instinctive – drilling the ball low across keeper Stobbart into the far corner of the net to make it 1-0.

A swift Newtonmore move down the right on six minutes saw Neil Stewart find Evan Menzies on the left with a cross-field pass. Menzies played a reverse pass to the outside which picked out Norman Campbell who then ran into the D with the ball but Stobbart came off his line to block Campbell's path.

Oban Camanachd were very much in the game and Newtonmore goalie Owen Fraser had to produce a great save as he stretched to turn away a Daniel Cameron strike from wide on the right with the ball dipping just under the bar.

Andrew MacCuish made enough space to send a shot wide on 15 minutes as the Mossfield men battled to get back on level terms.

The sides fought out the midfield area before a turn and shot from Glen MacKintosh, following a Norman Campbell pass, bounced wide of Gavin Stobbart's right post with the contest just a couple of minutes short of the half-hour mark.

Newtonmore were forced to make a change moments later when Neil Stewart landed awkwardly, dislocating his left knee. Stewart, who had been on a fine run of form leading up to the final, was stretchered off and this is the third time that he has suffered such an injury. Fraser MacKintosh came on in his place.

Just after play restarted, Gary McKerracher played the ball out of the Oban defence to Daniel Cameron on the right, just in front of the main stand. Cameron was nudged in the back by Andy MacKintosh and Scott MacMillan sent the free-hit into the D where Daniel



The victorious Newtonmore team celebrate after defeating Oban Camanachd 1-0 at An Aird last Saturday. Photo: Neil Paterson.

MacVicar tucked the ball low past Owen Fraser. However, the Oban celebrations were cut short as the goal judge had immediately flagged for offside and referee Robert Baxter ruled out the effort.

Andrew MacCuish took a Daniel MacVicar ball under control and shot wide as Oban Camanachd, with Lorne Dickie prompting play in midfield, continued to make best use of the wide areas and the final moved into the closing stages of the first half.

Gavin Stobbart got his body behind a Glen MacKintosh shot before the ball was bundled out for a corner and MacKintosh went close again during four minutes of first-half added time; accumulated mainly because of Neil Stewart's injury, and when the half-time whistle did blow, the teams remained on the field for the duration of the break.

Newtonmore made a second change at half-time as Drew MacDonald replaced Jamie Robinson, adding speed to the 'More' midfield.

Oban Camanachd now had the wind in their favour and they went into the second half in confident mode.

Gavin Stobbart was called into the first serious action of the second half when he did superbly well to turn away a deflected Norman Campbell strike from the right before stopping Paul MacArthur's shot from the left with his feet and the Oban defence survived the period of pressure on their goal.

Stobbart then did well to get his right foot to a Norman Campbell shot, deflecting the ball to safety.

Oban Camanachd made their first switch as Aidan MacIntyre made way for Willie Neilson with 56 minutes played.

Oban Camanachd had a let-off a minute later when Fraser MacKintosh and Glen MacKintosh combined down the left wing to play in Norman Campbell who took a heavy challenge from Gary McKerracher before taking the ball round the keeper to score. However, McKerracher's challenge was penalised and play was brought back for a 'More free-hit with Newtonmore's Paul MacArthur booked for airing his protests.

Gavin Stobbart saved with his legs from Glen MacKintosh before a Daniel Cameron shot at the other end went wide. Michael Russell survived

a booking when he tripped Andrew MacCuish on 66 minutes as the Oban man bore in on goal. Owen Fraser had to be alert as he used his feet to keep out Daniel Cameron's low shot from Scott MacMillan's free-hit.

There was a booking for Scott MacKillop with 20 minutes remaining for upending Evan Menzies as he cut in from the 'More' left.

Malcolm Clark came on for Andrew MacCuish and Conor Jones took over from Evan Menzies as both teams introduced fresh legs into their attacks with 10 minutes to go.

Oban Camanachd tried hard to force a late leveller but the Newtonmore defence of Steven MacDonald, Michael Russell, Andy MacKintosh and Rory Kennedy, in front of keeper Owen Fraser, has been solid throughout the season and never really looked like lapsing.

Oban reintroduced Aidan MacIntyre for Scott MacMillan. Norman Campbell almost broke through the Oban defence with five minutes remaining but he was brought down by keeper Stobbart just outside the D. The set-piece was cleared for a corner which Oban defended well.

Referee Robert Baxter's final whistle sounded bang on the 90 minutes and, while there was ultimately disappointment for Oban Camanachd, the strides they have taken this season mean that rather than battling relegation, they have pushed themselves into the upper echelons of the game.

Andy MacKintosh's role in a well-oiled Newtonmore defence earned him the Albert Smith medal for the man of the match. He was presented with the coveted medal by family member Mrs Rene Smith.

Newtonmore captain Steven MacDonald accepted the Camanachd Cup from Jock Turner and he held aloft shinty's famous trophy which made it back to the Eilan for the third time in the past six years.

So Newtonmore add the Camanachd Cup to the RBS MacFavish Cup which is already in their trophy cabinet. They are desperate to add a seventh successive Marine Harvest Premiership title to their haul. Oban Camanachd stand in their way and the sides meet again this coming weekend, this time at Mossfield, and a Newtonmore win will mean they only need one more

point to make the title certain. Throw up is at 1pm with newly crowned Marine Harvest South Division 1 champions Oban Celtic hosting the Kyles Athletic second team at the same venue at 4pm.

After the match, scorer Glen MacKintosh said: 'It felt great to get the winner but the whole team played really well. Our defence was magnificent again. We had a lot of chances and their keeper made some good saves.'

On his goal, MacKintosh added: 'The ball fell nicely to me and it was a snap-shot which went into the bottom corner and I'm just delighted. We train a few nights every week and put in a lot of hard work and we have a number of younger players coming through who keep us older ones on our toes.'

Delighted Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh said: 'To win the Camanachd Cup again means so much to our small community. I thought the boys were first class today. They are hungry for success and the older ones make the most of it as they know they might not have so many years left on the field.'



A delighted Newtonmore captain Steven Macdonald lifts the Camanachd Cup after his team's 1-0 win over Oban Camanachd. Photo: Neil Paterson



Man of the match, Newtonmore's Andy MacKintosh, shares his Albert Smith medal with his week-old daughter Marnie. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Newtonmore goalscorer Glen MacKintosh challenges Garry Lord. Photo: Neil Paterson

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



No way through for Newtonmore's Norman Campbell as he's blocked by Oban Camanachd keeper Gavin Stobbart.
Photo: Neil Paterson



Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron tries a wee bit keepie-uffie as he's chased down by Andy MacKintosh.
Photo: Kim Ferguson

Youth shinty round-up . . . youth shinty round-up . . . youth shinty round-up . . .

MacMaster Cup final

**Kingussie U14 0
Skye Camanachd U14 7**
Skye Camanachd Under 14s lifted the MacMaster Cup, beating Kingussie 7-0 at An Aird, Fort William, last Saturday.

The sides had met a week earlier in Marine Harvest North Division 1 at the Dell. Skye were 5-0 winners in that game but the opening exchanges were relatively even in this 11am throw up.

Kingussie had the wind advantage in the first half but Skye made a crucial breakthrough with two goals in the closing couple of minutes of the half. First, Kingussie were unable to clear a Dan MacDonald ball from the left, which deflected into the D off Ross Gordon's stick, and Holly MacLean scored with 34 minutes played. Then, just a minute later, Ross Gordon took down a shy from the left before thumping the ball over the keeper to make it 2-0 at the break.

Ross Gordon got his second on 39 minutes when he sent a powerful back-hand shot from wide on the right across the keeper and into the far to corner of the net to make it 3-0. It was a superb finish and Gordon went on to complete his hat-trick a minute later with a bullet-shot from distance.

A bouncing Mark MacQueen strike on the hour mark made it 5-0 and Dan MacDonald added a sixth when he beat his marker before cutting in from the right and sending the ball low into the net just five minutes later.

Ross Gordon got his fourth goal of the game to wrap up the 7-0 win when he was afforded too much space in a central position with just a couple of minutes remaining.

Skye were MacMaster Cup runners up last year and their captain and full centre Jamie

Gillies, who has shared the captaincy with Christina MacDonald this season, was presented with the MacMaster Cup by Dave MacMaster to the delight of his team's support.

London Shield semi-finals

**Fort William U-17 0
Skye Camanachd U-17 5**
Skye Camanachd U17 are through to the London Shield final after they beat Fort William U17 5-0 at Blairbeg.

Skye's Ruairaidh MacLeod scored the only goal of the first half but he netted three more times after the restart. James Pringle got Skye's other goal.

**Oban Camanachd U17 P
Beaulieu U17 P**

The London Shield semi-final between Oban Camanachd U-17 and Beaulieu U-17 was postponed with Oban youngsters Daniel MacVicar and Ross MacMillan involved in the senior team's Camanachd Cup final squad. The match will be rescheduled for a later date.

South Under-14 League play-off

**Oban Camanachd 1
Kyles Athletic 3**
Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic faced each other at Inveraray to decide the winners of the South Under-14 League last Wednesday evening. With both teams having lost only to each other in the league it was this game that would decide who would be crowned league champions 2016.

Kyles started the match the brighter playing the ball quicker up front and started creating chances from the start. From one such move Scott Harvey finished off from close range after 10 minutes to put Kyles in front.

Oban were finding it hard to get into the game and Kyles continued to put pressure on but Camanachd's Euan Logan, who had a fine game helping to keep the eager Kyles attack at bay.

The Tighnabruaich side though got a deserved second when Neilly MacNaughton finished of a fine passing move on 22 minutes.

The Oban side managed to get into the game with some competitive tackling throughout the middle of the park, in particular the battle between Connor Kennedy and Daniel Sloss was a joy to watch.

Half-time came with no further scoring.

A few tactical changes at half-time soon paid dividends for Camanachd and Lenon MacKechnie ran through the Kyles defence before astutely slipping the ball to Jamie MacGillivray who finished from the edge of the D three minutes after the restart.

Camanachd found more attacking threat and started playing the ball quicker. Kyles though grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and Scott Harvey hit home from 20 yards to make the final score 3-1.

This was a fine exhibition of junior shinty by both teams who can be satisfied they gave it their all on the night.

The league medals were presented to the Kyles team by regional development officer, west, Euan McMurdo with Connor Kennedy lifting the league winners shield for Kyles.

Under-14 Development Trophy

**Ballachulish 11
Glengarry 1**
A strong Ballachulish side won the 2016 nine-a-side Development Trophy with a commanding performance

against an inexperienced but talented Glengarry side.

Ballachulish got off to the perfect start with a goal after four minutes from full centre David Wilson, followed by a quick-fire double from full forward Marcus Spence.

Glengarry at this stage were far from out of the game and created a few half chances of their own only for Ballachulish to go up the other end to make it 4-0 with a goal from Lewis Moran.

This goal seemed to take the wind out of the sails of the young Glengarry team and further goals from Marcus Spence (2), David Wilson (2) and Robbie Middleton with the classy Mungo Blakey scoring for Glengarry to bring the half-time score, Ballachulish 9 Glengarry 1.

Far from downbeat, Glengarry started the second half strongly and went close to scoring early on.

The rest of the half was closely contested with chances at both end, but two goals in a minute from Ballachulish's Logan Thompson put the gloss on a commanding 11-1 victory.



Kyles Athletic won the South Under-14 League after defeating Oban Camanachd 3-1 in a play-off at Inveraray. Photo: Ann MacNaughton



Ballachulish won the nine-a-side Development Trophy after defeating Glengarry in the final. Photo: Ballachulish Shinty Club



Fixtures

**Saturday September 24
Marine Harvest Premiership**
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
John Angus Gillies – 3pm
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
David Mitchell
Lochaber v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron
Oban Caman v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron – 1pm
Skye v Fort William
Evan MacRae

**Marine Harvest
National Division**
Ballachulish v Beaulieu
Andy MacLean
Caberfeidh v Inveraray
Martin MacLean – 3pm
Glasgow MA v Kilmallie
Innes Wood

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
Ross Brown
Kinlochshiel v Skye
John Wood – noon
Kingussie v Lovat
Ronnie Campbell

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Taynuilt v Aberdeen
Willie MacDonald
Oban Celtic v Kyles Athletic
Robert Baxter – 4pm

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron
Brian MacKay – noon
Kilmallie v Strathspey
John Matheson
Inverness v Glengarry
Iain Kennedy

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**
Dunoon v Aberdeen
Des McNulty
Kilmory v Tayforth
Scott McNeil – 2pm

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

**Womens Camanachd
Association
Sunday September 25
Representative Shinty**
North U-17 v South U-17
Alex MacVicar
at Mossfield Park, Oban
1pm throw-up

Senior Ladies
North v South
Alex MacVicar
at Mossfield Park, Oban
3pm throw-up)

Results

**Saturday September 17
Camanachd Cup Final**
Newtonmore 1-0 Oban Caman

**MacMaster Cup Final
– National Under 14
competition**
Kingussie 0-7 Skye

North v South youth representative matches take place this weekend

Later in the afternoon, the North U17 v South U17 clash takes centre stage. Throw up is at 2.30pm. The squads have been confirmed as follows:

North U-17 from:
Lee Dunbar – Beaulieu
Scott MacKenzie – Lovat
Alexander Michie – Kingussie
Stuart Mitchell – Newtonmore
Chris Townend – Kinlochshiel
Connor Gilpin – Skye Camanachd
John Gillies – Skye Camanachd
Callum MacDougall – Kilmallie
Seamus Gall – Fort William
Findlay MacDonald – Lochaber
Robbie Brindle – Beaulieu
Roddy Young – Kingussie
Iain Robinson – Newtonmore
James Pringle – Skye Camanachd
Liam Arnott – Lochcarron
Ruairaidh MacLeod – Skye Camanachd

South U-14 from:
Charlie Ferguson – Kyles Athletic
Scott MacVicar – Kyles Athletic
Murdo MacRae – Kyles Athletic
Cally MacNaughton – Kyles Athletic
Connor Kennedy – Kyles Athletic
Andrew MacLachlan – Bute
Marcus Plank – Bute
Scott Harvey – Bute
Daniel Sloss – Oban Camanachd
Euan Logan – Oban Camanachd
Blair MacFarlane – Oban Camanachd
Campbell Watt – Inveraray
Marcus Spence – Ballachulish
Jamie Anderson – Aberdeen
Neilly MacNaughton – Kyles Athletic
Gary MacCuish – Oban Lorn

NORTH and South youth squads meet at An Aird for their annual challenge matches on Sunday September 25.

First up is the North U14 v South U14 clash for the Fraser MacPhee Trophy. Throw up is at noon. The squads have been confirmed as follows:

North U-14 from:-
Kieran MacPherson – Kingussie
Finlay Ralston – Glenurquhart
William MacKinnon – Inverness
Niall MacCallum – Strathglass
Duncan Matheson – Kinlochshiel
Jamie Gillies – Skye Camanachd
Murphy Henderson – Skye Camanachd
Victor Smith – Fort William
Lachie Shaw – Fort William
Jamie Foster – Fort William
Cameron Clark – Kilmallie
Daniel MacDonald – Skye Camanachd
Mark MacQueen – Skye Camanachd
Mungo Blakey – Glengarry
Paul Hilson – Newtonmore
Ross Gordon – Skye Camanachd

South U-17 from
Cameron Sutherland – Ballachulish
Craig Kirkpatrick – Oban Camanachd
Ross MacMillan – Oban Camanachd
Craig Easton – Oban Camanachd
Daniel MacCuish – Oban Camanachd
Lewis Buchanan – Oban Camanachd
Daniel MacVicar – Oban Camanachd
Evan MacLennan – Oban Camanachd
Ruairidh Graham – Inveraray
Allan Cameron – Inveraray
Hamish MacLellan – Inveraray
Ross Montgomery – Inveraray
Arik MacKechnie – Glenorchy
Ryan Craig – Bute
Calum McLay – Glasgow Mid Argyll
Scott MacDonald – Kyles Athletic



The victorious Skye Camanachd team which won the MacMaster Cup after beating Kingussie 7-0 in the final. Photo: Neil Paterson

Oban side lose to early goal in Camanachd Cup final

SHINTY'S 'big day' out ended in success for Newtonmore as they lifted the Camanachd Cup for the 31st time following a tense and keenly contested 1-0 victory over Oban Camanachd.

The final took place on a sunny day and in front of large crowd in Fort William on Saturday. The only goal of the match was scored by Glen MacKintosh in the third minute of play.

Shinty

For a full match report and more photographs, turn to pages 26 and 27.



It was a great day for Matthew and Briana Sloss who lead out the Oban Camanachd team at the Camanachd Cup. They are pictured with club president Iain MacIntyre, captain James MacMillan and goalkeeper Gavin Stobbart. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Determination written all over the face of Newtonmore's Fraser MacKintosh as he gets to grips with Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie during the Camanachd Cup final held at An Aird, Fort William, last Saturday, which the Badenoch men won by the only goal of the game.

Photo: Neil Paterson

Saints hold full-scale practice match

Football

WITH no game next Saturday due to the September holiday weekend and with the club asking for a free Saturday last weekend so the players could go up to Fort William to support Oban Camanachd in the Camanachd Cup final, Oban Saints held a full-scale practice match at Glencruitten last Wednesday night.

Manager Alex Craig was delighted with the workout for his players. He said: 'We fielded two 11-a-side teams plus substitutes with all the squad getting plenty of game time.'

'The players took a competitive match very seriously with the yellow team defeating the blue team 4-3.'

In preparation for their home Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie against Bishopston on Saturday October 1, the Oban side arranged a friendly match away to West of Scotland League team South Lochaber Thistle at Kinlochleven last night (Wednesday).

Saints have been drawn away in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup to Petershall Villa. This game will be played at St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge, on Saturday October 22.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Eddlewood 5, Under-13s 1. Scoring for Saints was Kieran MacLarty. Under-14s 2, Hillwood 1. On target for Saints were Gavin Forgive and Liam Richmond. Under-15s 2, Milngavie 1. On target for Saints were Garry MacIvor and Toby MacFarlane-Barrow. Port Glasgow 1, Under-16s 7. Saints goalscorers were Cameron Kerr (3), Keir MacLean (2), Ben Smith and Scott Mossman. Under-17s, no game.

This weekend's fixtures - Drumchapel United v Under 13s; Giffnock Reds v Under 14s; Under 15s v Ardencape; Under 16s v Ardencape; Under 17s, no game.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 4, St Joseph's FP 6; Oban Saints, no game; Premier Division 2A - Lochgilphead Red Star 4, East Kilbride YM 1; Premier Division 2B - Tarbert, no game.

Saturday's fixture: Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy - Argyll Select v Scottish Amateur League Select at Cil Andries, Tarbert, kick-off 1.30pm.

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Poor decision-making proves costly for Oban Lorne

Kilmarnock 23
Oban Lorne 10
BT West Division 1

OBAN Lorne's stuttering start to the season continued last Saturday with a disappointing 23-10 loss away to Kilmarnock.

The Green Machine were hoping to build on the previous weekend's 16-10 home win against Irvine. Coach Corrie Louw fielded a strong team with a variety of changes, Carl Lay starting his first match of the season with Robin MacQueen and Tommy Sutherland completing the front row.

A late call-off from Andrew MacDougall saw player/coach Louw return to the side partnering an inform Jack Baxter in the second row.

Also returning to the team after a two-match absence was No8 Connor MacDougall and, with Struan Smith unavailable, Vladi Mihov returned to the

line-up with Stephen Povey completing the back row.

The back line made two changes, powerhouse winger Calum MacLachlan in place of Tom Harrison and the creative Rudolphe Bartrande replacing the unavailable Dave McCabe. Despite the five changes, the Green Machine were in a confident mood going into this match, having beaten Kilmarnock home and away last season.

The match started with both teams looking for territory rather than possession, Kilmarnock gaining the upper hand and getting three points for their efforts after an infringement at a ruck. A series of missed tackles led to Kilmarnock scoring the first try of the day, with the conversion sailing wide.

This seemed to kickstart Oban as they controlled the rest of the half, with great disruption at the lineouts from Jack Baxter, and the front row causing problems.

Kilmarnock couldn't cope with the pressure. A finely tuned penalty from Finlay Carmichael brought Oban back into the game, and a try after a powerful run from Craig Wright took the scores to 10-8 for Oban at half-time.

There was a lot of encouragement from coaching trio Louw, Harrison, and Collins at half-time, and a few changes to the side as the coaching staff looked the fresher things up.

Oban started the second half with the wind against them, and soon found themselves under a lot of pressure from Kilmarnock, too many collisions in contact going the way of the home team for Oban's liking. Soon Kilmarnock were in front again with another infringement at the breakdown costing Oban the lead.

The play swung from end to end with neither team really finding their feet until Oban

found themselves camped on Kilmarnock's line, subsequently ending in the ball being held up over the line and penalty after the scrum saw the home side clear. A big missed opportunity for Oban.

This was as close as Oban would come to scoring in the second half. Kilmarnock, however, took advantage yet again of poor defence from Oban to score under the posts, the conversion making it 18-10 to Kilmarnock.

In what would be the last play of the match, a blindside move saw debutant winger Aleksejs Maslakovics knock on and the ball go towards touch. Vasil Borisov tried to keep the ball alive by throwing it back into play.

Unfortunately for Borisov, the ball landed straight into the Kilmarnock scrum-half's hands and saw him finish off in the corner.

On another day, the match could easily have gone in Oban Lorne's favour with some poor decision-making and a lack of cutting-edge costing the team in the end.

With three losses in four matches, it has been a very disappointing start to the season for the Green Machine, who are in a bad run of results taking the

poor finish to last season also into account.

This Saturday Oban Lorne will hope to get back to winning ways but have a tough match at home to unbeaten Newton Stewart. The visitors have won all four matches this season and recorded home and away wins against Oban last season.

Kick off 3pm at Glencruitten.

BT West Division 1 table

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
1	East Kilbride	4	4	0	0	19
2	Newton Stewart	4	4	0	0	18
3	Carrick	4	3	1	0	14
4	Garnock	4	2	2	0	10
5	Allan Glen's	4	2	2	0	10
6	Kilmarnock	4	2	2	0	9
7	Annan	4	1	3	0	7
8	Helensburgh	4	1	3	0	7
9	Oban Lorne	4	1	3	0	5
10	Irvine	4	0	4	0	4

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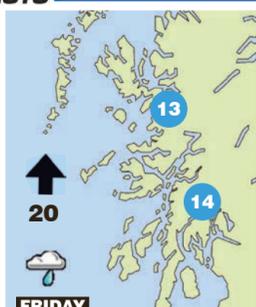
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals with heavy showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 22, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.22 0.9 09.02 3.5 15.53 1.1 21.41 3.3	
Fri	04.19 1.2 10.00 3.2 16.59 1.4 22.59 3.0	
Sat	05.26 1.4 11.34 3.0 18.18 1.6 *** **	
Sun	01.17 2.9 06.42 1.5 13.54 3.0 20.05 1.6	
Mon	02.50 3.0 08.06 1.5 15.18 3.2 21.28 1.5	
Tues	03.48 3.2 09.15 1.3 15.53 3.4 22.17 1.3	
Wed	04.21 3.4 10.05 1.1 16.18 3.7 22.55 1.1	

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

FREE inside Autumn PROPERTY GUIDE 2016

Gary takes the hot seat for top BBC radio programme

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

HE'S conquered Scotland, China and America – among other exotic destinations – but now Gary Innes is gearing up to *Take the Floor*.

The Spean Bridge musician announced on Friday that he would be the new host of BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor*, after veteran presenter Robbie Shepherd confirmed he was retiring from the Scottish country dance music show.

Tributes were paid to the 'legendary' broadcaster, who hung up his headphones after more than 30 years on Saturday.



Gary Innes swaps 'tools of the trade' with Alan Knox helped by Councillor Thomas MacLennan.

And now 35-year-old Gary has 'big boots to fill' but, with a huge fanbase, he is excited for

the new challenge ahead. Gary told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm totally delighted. It was just one of those things in life that I never saw coming, so it's an exciting new challenge for me.'

'The response from everyone has been overwhelming and really wonderful. It's lovely that people have been so supportive.'

The Mánran accordionist covered two *Take the Floor* shows in May when Robbie was away and said: 'People were forthcoming with compliments and praise, but now I'm not just filling in for Robbie so it feels quite different. I'm sure it will take everyone, including me, a while to get used to.'

Gary was showered with congratulations on his Facebook page when revealing the news but knows the pressure is on. 'I would be lying if I said I wasn't feeling the pressure, but I will just go in smiling and do the best that I can. I have spoken with the producers who are keen for me to make the show my own and I'll be writing my own script.'

'I know people may be worried about the show changing, with my folk music background, but the content and the music of the show will stay exactly the same.'

Between playing in one of Scotland's best-loved bands and working on his solo career, Gary

also has his own record label, is a shinty commentator for the BBC and a first responder with the Scottish Ambulance Service. So how does he juggle it all?

'I don't know how I manage to fit it all in, but it's good to be busy. I had to give up some things a few years back, like playing shinty and being part of the fire service.'

'*Take the Floor* is pre-recorded, but without losing the magic of the show, so I'll still be able to go touring with the band.'

Gary also recently swapped 'tools of the trade' with paramedic Alan Knox to mark the launch of two fundraising ceilidhs he will be holding to

raise money for defibrillators to be placed in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge.

'I have spoken with the village halls in both communities who have said they are happy for the defibrillators to be fitted externally.'

'We want to raise as much money as possible, but the minimum is £1,000 from each concert so the villages have their own equipment.'

The concerts will be held in Spean Bridge on October 5 and Roy Bridge on October 7.

Gary looks set to be ending his year with a Lochaber Christmas concert in the Nevis Centre, on Saturday December 17.

TIMESLINE

Charity team looks for cash donations

A TEAM of volunteers dedicated to making 'Fort William look fabulous' is welcoming donations from home and away.

Fort William Town Team is a registered charity for which volunteers spruce up flowerbeds in the High Street and surrounding area.

The team now has a BT donate fundraising page and said via its Facebook page: 'If anyone would like to donate to the town funds or you have friends or family who may like to support us from afar please share this post or let them know.'

Donations can be made via <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/fortwilliamtownteam> or by clicking the 'donate' button at the top of the Facebook page.

Help for tenants with rent arrears

A 'FIRM but fair' approach is being taken after more than £110,000 of rent was unpaid in Lochaber.

A recent housing performance report conducted by the Highland Council (HC) showed the rent arrears figure is £1,394,688. Lochaber rent arrears at quarter one stood at £117,306.

A spokesperson from the HC explained: 'Rent arrears can occur for a variety of reasons. The approach we take in managing arrears is a firm but fair one. We will give tenants every advice, support and assistance to help them pay their rent and address any financial or benefit problems, but we will also use all legal options to ensure rent is collected. It is important that tenants contact the council if they are having problems.'

All change at school

IT'S THE end of an era at Lochside RC Primary as the school bell rang yesterday for the last time.

After 52 years, the school in Fort William has closed. Now a new uniform and a new building await the staff and pupils at St Columba's in Caol which they will share with Caol Primary as of Monday.

In the week leading up to the last day, head teacher Violet Smith said there had been lots of mixed emotions as they packed up boxes and prepared for the move.

She said: 'The young ones created a model of the school and we have been talking about it at assembly. The kids asked lots of questions which we hadn't even thought of. They

were particularly interested in the cafeteria and the playground of course.'

'It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Lochside but the new school is so 21st century. There will be an interactive catering system where the kids will click on their photo in the morning and make their lunch choices which they are really excited about.'

'It is going to be wonderful in terms of the children's development. We are looking forward to settling in.'

Pupils of St Columba's Nursery and their p6 helpers who between them created a model of their new school from cardboard boxes.

Picture Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Meeting will discuss health care

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A MEETING to discuss how to improve out-of-hours medical care across the Highlands and Islands is to take place after the current system was described as 'clearly unsustainable'.

Members of NHS Highland's board will be asked to consider on Tuesday September 27 proposals on how to reduce heavy dependency on doctors.

The move follows a report which explained attracting GPs has become increasingly difficult, thus creating the need to employ locums to provide cover and causing

an overspend in budgets. The shortage is part of a nationwide trend which is understood to have hit the Highlands particularly hard.

Earlier this month, *The Oban Times* reported private medical procedures in the area had racked up a £50,000 bill for the health service last year.

In recent days MSP Rhoda Grant wrote to the health secretary raising concerns about the level of care received by her constituents, particularly in relation to NHS 24.

The Highlands and Islands MSP took the action after being contacted by the son of an elderly lady with mild cognitive impairment who had

difficulty receiving treatment as she could not speak directly to a telephone operator.

This latest report, titled 'Transforming Urgent Care', has called for a 'significant change' in the way staff are recruited and trained and the ability to move staff to areas of greatest need.

According to NHS Highland, one of the priorities is to address the challenges in the Inner Moray Firth area, where contingency plans are required most weeks and there is extensive use of locums.

It highlighted the situation on the Small Isles, where there was previously a resident GP on one island and subsequent-

ly a vacant practice staffed by locum doctors.

The Acharacle practice in Ardnamurchan was cited as a positive example of a change to a more innovative care model where the out-of-hours rota is partially covered by advanced nurse and paramedics. Emergency care is supported by first responders and clinical decision-making support is provided from Fort William and Lochaline.

A spokesman admitted changes are required in urban areas and smaller communities and that funding has been approved by the Scottish Government to enable testing of the new approaches in the Highlands.

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Ex-sheriff convicted in his own court for driving while drunk

COURT REPORTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER sheriff who admitted driving while almost three times over the alcohol limit was handed a 12-month ban in his former court last week.

Richard Twining Sidgwick pleaded guilty in Fort William Sheriff Court to driving near his home in Spean Bridge with a breath alcohol level of 60 on May 11, 2016. The legal limit is 22mg.

The court heard Sidgwick, now 72, has battled alcoholism since he retired around 10 years

ago and that it was his wife who raised the alarm on the day he was charged because she had become frustrated with his drinking habits.

Fiscal Alison Wyllie said: 'It was his wife who spoke to his son and his son contacted the police. When he came home around 8 o'clock in the evening it was perfectly clear to his wife that he had been drinking. She had gotten to the end of her tether.'

During his professional career, Sidgwick, as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, was invited to high-profile events.

Sidgwick had previously pleaded not guilty to driving with 110mg of alcohol in his system.

The court heard that, on the date of the incident, Sidgwick had been at an event in Badenoch, drove home and almost immediately consumed spirits. It was explained Sidgwick continued drinking over the course of the evening before the police had arrived at 9.50pm and the amended charge was accepted by the crown.

Charges of being in possession of a knife at Fort William police station and failing to identify

the driver of the vehicle were also dismissed.

Speaking on behalf of Sidgwick, Hamish Melrose said: 'He went into the house, consumed some more alcohol when it was brought to his attention by his wife that his dogs had escaped. Sidgwick believed he had more authority over the dogs than his wife and he made the decision to go and find them.'

Melrose continued that Sidgwick believed the dogs may be at a nearby campsite and drove half a mile there and half a mile back. Sidgwick returned to the house without the dogs, who

were found some time later having destroyed some chickens. Sidgwick had gone into the conservatory of his house and drank some more.

Mr Melrose then explained to the court that the incident had made Sidgwick realise he had a problem, which the accused believed began after he retired prematurely on health grounds. He added Sidgwick has been treated for depression and alcoholism at Castle Craig Hospital and elsewhere for the past six weeks.

The solicitor asked Sheriff Jim Scott to take into consideration

Sidgwick's good record, age and clean licence when deciding on an appropriate way to resolve the case. Further, that a disqualification from driving would hinder Sidgwick's treatment and daily life given that he lives in a rural area. He added: 'Mr Sidgwick has significant savings, a financial penalty would not be a problem.'

In response, alongside the 12-month ban, the sheriff fined Sidgwick £300, reduced from £400 because of his guilty plea but stated if Sidgwick completes a drink-driving rehabilitation course, the disqualification could be reduced.

TIMESLINE

Bus users' meeting is open to public

LOCHABER Transport Forum has launched a new group to look at the issues of local bus travel.

The bus users' group will hold its first meeting on Wednesday September 28 at 11.30am in the Fort William council chambers.

Development worker Benny MacDonald explained: 'During recent forum meetings there has been much more time spent with regard to problems for bus and coach travel.'

'It's felt the best way forward to allow more discussion is to hold separate meetings. This has been useful in other areas and is a good chance to put matters such as cuts to services, timetables and passenger comfort directly to bus/coach company representatives. This first meeting is open to the public and feedback is welcome on how future meetings should take place.'

Town youth hostel is to be rebuilt

PLANNING permission for the demolition and erection of a new youth hostel in Fort William has been granted.

One of the town's busiest youth hostels, at Glen Nevis, will be taken down and replaced with a new facility.

The Highland Council approved the application last Friday (September 16).

First concert in series is planned

THE FIRST in a series of concerts hosted by Lochaber Music for All takes place next month.

Arctic Winds, made up of five of Scotland's most in-demand wind players, will perform at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, on October 1 at 7.30pm. This will be the first of five concerts running until March. Visit <http://lochabermusicforall.weebly.com>.

Garden party to mark rail anniversary

THE West Highland Community Rail Partnership has celebrated its first year in business.

Members of the partnership, which helps to bring the stations back into the hands of communities from Mallaig to Crianlarich, held a garden party on Saturday September 17 at Arisaig railway station.

Hege Hernaes, secretary of the West Highland Community Rail Partnership said: 'The garden party is really to raise awareness of what we do and what we are about. We work with the rail industry, and get funding from them, to do community rail projects.'

'We want to build a sense of community ownership of our railways and improve the access people have to them.'

'One project we are working on just now is building community noticeboards at the stations, where people from the local community update them, so others in the community and visitors can find out information and know what's going on in the village they are visiting.'

And the community rail partnership is looking for people's opinions on its own train services.

Ms Hernaes added: 'We are seeking to find out from locals if they are using the train, why are they, and if they aren't, then why not?'

'We want to take on projects which are informed by the community, so we are really dictated to by what local people think money should be spent on.'

To take part in the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/tr/westie>.



Hege Hernaes, left, and rail partnership chairman Oliver Millington get the party started, with music provided by Royal Scottish National Orchestra's string section.



POLICE FILES

A CHARITY collection bottle containing about £250 has been removed from the canteen of the Highland Council Roads Department. The theft took place on Monday September 12 at Cars Corner in Fort William. Police say this 'brazen theft' has occurred during working hours in the busy canteen.

Between 7pm on September 10 and 6pm on September 12, a child's specialised black Hard Rock mountain bike was stolen from Camanachd Crescent.

Between 4pm on Thursday September 15 and 11am on Friday September 16 a theft oc-

curred from a shed at 38 Moray Place, Fort William. Nike Vapor golf clubs in a blue and yellow Wilson bag, a Cube push trolley and a bag of tools were stolen. The lock screws were removed by the culprit.

Between noon and 4pm on Monday September 5 a Nintendo 3DS portable device and a charger were removed from an insecure room in Lochaber UHI College accommodation at An Aird. Anyone who has information about this or knows of the whereabouts of these items is asked to contact police.

Between 7pm on September 10 and 10am on September 13,

damage was caused to the security padlock at the entrance to the New Start compound in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate. This appeared to be an attempt to gain entry to commit theft. Police are appealing for more information.

At 5pm on Friday September 17 on the path from Victoria Road to Fassifern Road, Fort William, a female was assaulted. She was harassed by four males who shouted at her and then threw a stone. These males were wearing sports clothing and appeared to be drinking in the bushes on the path. Police are appealing for any detail on the identity of these males.

Telephone boxes to be removed

BT IS set to slash 158 phone boxes across the Highlands with plans for 40 to be axed across Lochaber and Skye.

The announcement came after BT data showed payphone usage had declined by more than 90 per cent in the past decade.

At 97 payphones across the Highlands, fewer than one call per month was made, and 59 had no calls in the past 12 months.

Payphones at Kennedy Road and Glen Nevis Place, Fort William, have had no calls in the past 12 months, and the same went for the one in Banavie.

However, the phone box at Aonach Mor, Torlundy, near Fort William, was used 158 times in the past year.

A BT spokesman said: 'BT is committed to providing a public payphone service, but with usage declining by more than 90 per cent in the past decade, we've continued to review and remove payphones.'

'Any removal of payphones is carried out in strict adherence to the Ofcom guidelines and, where appropriate, with the consent of local authorities.'

'In all instances where there's no other payphone within 400 metres, we'll ask for consent from the local authority to remove the payphone. Where we receive objections from the local authority, we won't remove the payphone.'

'As an alternative to removal, we will continue to actively promote our Adopt a Kiosk scheme to all councils while being committed to maintaining the payphones that remain.'

'There are 479 BT payphones in the Highland Council area.'



Children given a taste of healthy eating

PUPILS and staff celebrated 'seed to plate' ethos at a vegetable taster days recently.

Glenceo and Duror primaries participated in the events by preparing a variety of dishes

using fresh ingredients grown at the school. On Tuesday September 6, the Glenceo children enjoyed a courgette cake.

All parents and community members were invited along

and the older pupils practised their serving skills on the day.

Duror Primary School held their event on Wednesday September 7 in the Duror/Kentallen Village Hall.

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Surprise view of Yes campaigner

'NO REFERENDUM in the next two years and I'm sceptical if we should really want one' – that was the message from a pro-independence campaigner who visited Lochaber last week, writes *Monica Gibson*.

Robin McAlpine is the founder of the Common Weal, a group with the aim of achieving a Scotland of social and economic equality and environmental sustainability. Mr McAlpine travelled to Fort William on Friday September 16 and held a discussion in Aye2Aye to gauge how people now feel about independence ahead of the two-year anniversary of the referendum.

He expressed frustration with the breakdown in communication since the vote and said he believes there is no clear network for interested parties to share views.

He added: 'Westminster has a strong hand in saying no following the Brexit vote. From their point of view, it would really just heap crisis on crisis.'

The CommonSpace columnist said he thinks the Yes campaigners should be more focused on looking inwards and creating a plan before talking outwards.

He believes the three most important factors moving

forward are 'strategy, policy and movement', and said that if there is to be a second referendum it doesn't necessarily have to be tackled in the same manner as two years ago.

Mr McAlpine added: 'Bluffing is not the way to do this. We need to convince people that we have a plan. People don't need to read reams of white papers about every single detail of what independence would actually mean. They just need to absorb the sense that things are being done correctly.'

Mr McAlpine also spoke about the need to accept that being Scottish is being different to others.

He said: 'We speak differently, we sound different and we think differently – and that's okay. We need to get rid of the idea that it's embarrassing or cringey to be a Scot. If anything, the 2014 campaign could have been doing with a wee bit more Scottish.'

During the weekend the 'indy pedlars' also embarked on a 120-mile cycle over three days – from Dunoon, to Inveraray, Oban and Fort William – to promote Scottish independence.

The three men finished the challenge in Cameron Square on Sunday where they were welcomed by supporters.

Robin McAlpine of the Common Weal in the Aye2Aye shop in Fort William High Street. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Youngsters celebrate Roald Dahl Day



A LITTLE nonsense was cherished by pupils at St Columba's school as they celebrated the life of Roald Dahl.

The author's 100th birthday was marked with a magical day, where children wore costumes, held a special assembly and performed songs from Roald Dahl musicals.

Violet Smith, head teacher, said: 'It was a super day. There were so many different ideas and characters from different books.'

'The older kids went down to the nursery and read some of the easier books to the youngsters. The P7s spoke about Roald Dahl's life.'

'Everyone has a favourite from the books and it was wonderful to see how they put that across in their costumes. There was everything – not just Charlies from the chocolate factory or Miss Trunchbolls – the children let their imagination run wild and the whole school participated.'

Clockwise from top: pupils dressed as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory characters; the youngsters perform 'I've got a golden ticket'; Willy Wonka Jamie McPhee (p5) oompa lumpa left, Caitlin O'Meara (p3) and right, Liam Donaldson (p1).

All pictures: A Brightside

TIMESLINE

Ardnamurchan ban set by court

A MAN accused of committing sex offences against young girls is due back in court next month.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons and who currently lives in France, stands accused of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices.

The complaints date back to a period from 2001 to 2006 and involve a serious of incidents taking place in Ardnamurchan and at Sierra Nevada in Spain.

The indecent behaviour was committed against two members of his extended family who were under the age of 12 when the events began.

The case is continued until October 11 and in the meantime a special condition has been placed on the man not to enter the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

The 68-year-old entered no pleas when he appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court on September 13. The court heard he was to 'basically avoid crossing the Corran Ferry'.

MSP welcomes homes investment

A £3 BILLION government investment pledge for more affordable homes has been welcomed.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Kate Forbes, said that, from her constituency travels, housing was 'repeatedly raised as one the single biggest needs'.

Ms Forbes said: 'High prices, low availability and poor stock are the three prongs that push out people from rural areas of Scotland to urban centres.'

'I welcome every new house built in rural Scotland because it means another family whose children go to the local school, or retired couple who can remain part of the community, or individual who is working locally and driving forward the Highland economy.'

Argyll Enterprise Week update...

31 Oct - 04 Nov 2016

Business Support Fair is key

Argyll Enterprise Week is a new event supporting Argyll and Bute's business community and encouraging enterprise.

Central to the week is a Business Support Fair, bringing together a wide range of public and private organisations.

More than 25 organisations will be on hand to outline the advice and support they can offer.

'The success of our business community is crucial to the long-term prosperity of Argyll and Bute,' explains Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable development.

'Argyll Enterprise Week is all about helping businesses make new connections, share ideas and access the wide range of



Joanne Blanusa.

support that is available.' Joanne Blanusa of the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service

(SMAS) agrees, saying: 'We are pleased to be part of Argyll Enterprise Week.'

Working in partnership with HIE, SMAS supports Scottish companies of all sizes to grow and thrive by supporting improvements in productivity, culture and innovation from the shop floor to the boardroom.

'Our respected team of practitioners brings at least 20 years of industry experience to challenge and support business leaders compete in the global economy,' Ms Blanusa continues. 'We want to encourage businesses in Argyll to take advantage of our support.'

'We'll be at the Business Support Fair to answer questions

and show how SMAS can help. Cost, quality and delivery performance, along with increased capacity, are just some of the benefits clients we have worked with are now enjoying.'

Organisations exhibiting at the Business Support Fair include:

Expert help: HIE innovation specialist, HIE creative sector, Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service, Scottish Development International Export Advisory Service.

Digital: DigitalBoost, the Digital Garage by Google, Community Broadband Scotland.

Social enterprise: Firstport, InspirAlba, Just Enterprise.

Finance: DSL Business Finance Ltd, RBS, Pensionwise,

Princes' Trust – Youth Business Scotland.

Training and education: Argyll College/UHI, Skills Development Scotland.

Jobs: HIJobs, JobCentre Plus Business organisations: BIDD4Oban, Federation of Small Businesses.

Energy efficiency: ALI Energy, Resource Efficient Scotland.

Business services: McPhee & Partners, Argyll Financial Services.

Tourism: Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative.

Council: Planning and Building Control, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Procurement, Business Gateway.

Media: Oban Times Group.



Midton Acrylics have benefited from the SMAS coaching sessions.

Take advantage of the advice on offer

A business that has already benefited from Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service support is Midton Acrylics.

Midton Acrylics is based in Lochgilphead and is Europe's leading specialist in acrylic embedment.

Internationally renowned, the company produces items such as financial tombstones, commemorative gifts and bespoke awards for clients such as Manchester United and Santander.

The company prides itself on quality and has more than 30 years of manufacturing experience.

Craig Cameron, managing director at Midton Acrylics, said: 'Our coaching sessions with SMAS have been very helpful in highlighting ways to improve our manufacturing processes.'

'Process changes implemented as a result of these sessions have improved both production flow and capacity.'

Small changes can make a difference

A series of taster sessions will run throughout the day alongside the Business Support Fair.

These informal, 45-minute sessions will feature a short presentation on the free help available, followed by a question and answer session.

First up will be the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) at 11am. This session will show how small changes to working practices can make a big difference to

productivity, and highlight the tailored, flexible support available from SMAS.

The WorldHost™ customer service training session at 11.45am will outline the WorldHost™ training programme and how businesses in the tourism sector can get involved with plans for Argyll to become a WorldHost™ accredited destination.

The Digital Garage by Google will run at 12.30pm, with a

Google digital expert explaining how to make your business more visible online and help new customers find you through search optimisation, local listings and search engine marketing.

The Google expert will also be available for one-to-one mentoring sessions throughout the day.

Anyone about to start, or thinking of, exporting can join the internationalisation ses-

sion at 2pm. One of Scottish Development International's export advisers will explain the support available to help local businesses develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to grow overseas.

HIE's specialist adviser will talk about intellectual property at 2.45pm, addressing how unique knowledge in a business such as trade secrets, recipes and processes can be protected through copyright,

trademarks, design rights and patents.

Argyll and Bute Council Trading Standards' session at 3.30pm will cover the support available to help businesses become compliant and sustainable.

The Business Support Fair is a drop-in event but to guarantee your place at one of the taster sessions, book now at argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk.

inspire - connect - inform

Join us in Oban for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk or call the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555



WYVEX MEDIA



Young stars' Olympic dream put at risk by planning row

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE OLYMPIC dreams of two rising stars in the surfing world are turning into a bit of a nightmare as Argyll and Bute Council planning officers were expected to recommend that the hut the youngsters train from should be torn down, at a planning meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

But the owner of the hut says she is determined to fight any demolition order, while another objector says the council is 'playing with children's dreams'.

Blackhouse Watersports' hut is three metres by four metres and has the backing of Argyll MSP Michael Russell and former MSP Jamie McGrigor,



The hut at Balevullin that has caused controversy.

as well as celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, but it does not have the support of every islander. Some want the council to remove the 'blot' on an otherwise unfettered

landscape. Tíree has long been known for its outstanding natural beauty, but in the past few decades it has also become world-renowned for surfing.

The island has the reputation as the Hawaii of the north because of strong winds and perfect waves.

Tíree's waves have helped two island youngsters compete all over the world in surfing competitions. This week under-18 Scottish champion Finn MacDonald, 15, and under-14 national champion Ben Larg, 11, are competing in the Azores as part of the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships.

The pair are hoping to make it to the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 by continuing to use the beach at Balevullin as a training

ground. The boys and their parents say the hut is intrinsic to their training and safety.

When mum and entrepreneur Iona Larg set up Blackhouse Watersports with a colleague, they spent a few seasons working from a trailer in Balevullin beach car park before seeking permission from landowners, Argyll Estates, to erect a hut.

It was Argyll Estates who approved a plan for the hut on the beach.

Some years on, Argyll and Bute Council officers have now said leaving the hut standing without council planning permission sets a precedent for other people who may want to place huts on the beach.

At the time of going to press, there were 39 objections to the

hut, 100 expressions of support and a 135-signature petition of support.

A report by council officials said: 'Officers have not been persuaded that such a building must necessarily be sited directly on the beach.'

'It could, effectively, be elsewhere on the island with those more essential functions such as shelter, first aid and lifeguard facilities provided for from a temporary shelter taken to the beach and then removed at the end of the business day.'

Karl Hughes, father of Finn, said the idea of beach hut on the island is not a new concept.

Mr Hughes, who works in Iraq as an environmental consultant, said: 'The precedent

was set some 16 years ago at Barrapoll Loch where there is already a hut on an inland loch for surfers.'

Ms Larg said the hut was fundamental to her growing business at Balevullin beach.

She said: 'The hut is a point of contact, a place of reference, a place that offers safety for those people who are out surfing.'

'We have even been contacted by the RNLI, which wants to find a safe place for emergency equipment to be stored.'

'As anyone knows who is regularly out on the water, the hut offers the comfort of the safety side of our business. It gives those people who come here to surf an added sense of security.'

'I hope that matters will be reconsidered.'

Islay man stalked 'love rival'

AN UNEMPLOYED Islay man has admitted harassing a love rival he feared was starting a relationship with his ex-partner.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Tuesday, Euan Fraser Munro, 40, of Ruadhthort Beag, Port Askaig, pleaded guilty to causing fear and alarm to Simon Hart after suspecting he was starting a relationship with the woman.

He denied a charge of theft of his ex-partner's mobile phone.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that on March 29 this year, the woman was going to a dance competition in Oban. Munro was at the ferry terminal and, to avoid an upsetting dispute, she agreed to let him go to the competition.

While staying at a friend's house in Connel, the woman's mobile phone was missing the next morning. She found what she described as 'bizarre' texts supposedly from her sent to Mr Hart.

On May 8, now aware that Munro had a problem with him, Mr Hart went into the Co-op when he became aware he was being followed. He hid in the staff area until Munro left.

On May 15, in the vicinity of the Co-op, Munro confronted Mr Hart and told him to stay away from his ex-partner, leaving Mr Hart badly shaken. He reported the matters to police on June 8, and Munro was detained.

Defence solicitor Craig Grimes said that the report was submitted some weeks later than the incidents, indicating that his client had not caused any further distress since the last incident.

Sheriff Anderson called for a criminal justice social work report and granted him bail.

A safer crossing for a long and winding road

A PLEA to remember the rules at Oban's newest zebra crossing has been made to the whole community by a band of lively ladies.

Agnes Morris, Elspeth Kerr, Betty Nudds and Riona MacEwan, who all live close to the crossing near Lynn Court, say it is badly needed.

But they also revealed that it is mainly women drivers who sometimes forget to stop and allow people to cross.

Asked by *The Oban Times* to model for a picture, the women were delighted to highlight the new crossing, and even more

delighted when two workmen agreed to join them in the photograph.

The ladies had only praise for the workforce on the site, saying they had made every day a pleasure.

Mrs Morris said: 'All the staff working on the new Lidl store and the crossing have been very considerate. What a nice group of people.'

'We are all excited about them finishing but the building has given us all something to talk about over the past few months.'

'We can't wait for it to open.'

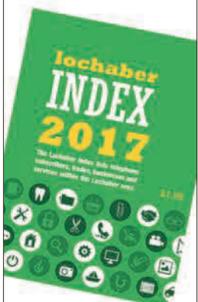


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SNP Engagement Day

ADVERTORIAL

SNP Oban & Lorn Branch is holding an SNP Engagement Day on Saturday 24th September 2016 at the Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street from 10am until 5:30pm. MP's, MSP's, MEP and Councillors from all over the country will arrive in Oban for this regional event.

A highlight of the day will be the SNP Depute Leader hustings. Candidates contesting the position are: Alyn Smith MEP, Angus Robertson MP, Cllr. Chris McEleny and Tommy Sheppard MP, the Hustings will be chaired by Maree Todd MSP. Voting has started for the position of Depute Leader; the successful candidate will be announced at the SNP conference in October. The hustings is for SNP members only.

There is an ideal opportunity for non-members to hear Tommy Sheppard MP when he hosts a public meeting talking about his year in Westminster.

Brexit is the topic for what will be an engaging and informative session in the afternoon at 16:30. With so many 'unknowns', it will be interesting to hear what Alyn Smith MEP and Michael Russell MSP consider what might and will be involved in the exit process. Michael Russell MSP has recently been appointed as the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe. Alyn Smith has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2004; he is a member of the Agriculture Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. This meeting is open

to the public, it is a great opportunity to hear first-hand what Brexit means.

Other topics for discussion during the day are the SNP Manifesto for Council 2017 at 10am and The National Survey; a chat about Independence - if you are still to be convinced then come along at 14:15.

The Rt Hon Angus Robertson MP, leader of the SNP Parliamentary Group at Westminster, will host a discussion about the SNP; the party, the policies and the people - a potted history. Brendan O'Hara MP will chair this public meeting at 3:30pm.

All events are free but places are limited so you are advised to book a ticket on www.snp.org/events or phone 01631 710889.

Saturday 24th September

10:00 COUNCIL MANIFESTO 2017

10:00 DRAFT A RESOLUTION JULIE HEPBURN

12:30 HUSTINGS *

14:15 THE NATIONAL SURVEY

15:30 THE SNP STORY Rt. Hon ANGUS ROBERTSON MP

15:30 ACTIVISTS CORNER * MAREE TODD MSP

* DENOTES MEMBER ONLY EVENT

The Rockfield Centre
Stevenson St. OBAN
FREE TICKETS: snp.org/events



Tommy Sheppard MP
My year in Westminster
Starts 11.15am



Michael Russell MSP
The National Survey:
A discussion on Independence
Starts 2:15pm



Rt Hon Angus Robertson MP
The SNP story
Chair: Brendan O'Hara MP
Starts 3.30pm



Alyn Smith MEP
Michael Russell MSP
BREXIT:
What does it mean?
Starts 4.30pm

SNP Oban & Lorn Branch

FW

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Oban Post Office to open on Sundays

OBAN Post Office in Tesco will have new opening hours from Wednesday October 26. The facility will launch a new seven-day-a-week service, and will be open from 8am to 8pm, Monday-Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

Local residents and small business customers will be able to access a wide range of Post Office and mail services, including bill payment, banking, benefits, travel money, postage, home shopping returns, local collect and financial service advice.

The services will be provided from four serving positions, two modern screened and two open-plan counters.

Damien Mulholland, Post Office area manager, said: 'We are making it easier for customers to get their cash, send and collect their mail, and do their banking because we know how important these services are to local residents'.

To create the modernised facility, Oban Post Office will close at 6.30pm on Tuesday October 11 for the refurbishment to take place, and will reopen at 1pm on Wednesday October 26.

During the closure the Post Office services can be accessed from George Street Post Office, 128 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT or Lochgilphead Post Office, 46 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NE.

Oban Times
newsdesk
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Residents say new housing could destroy communities

LOUISE GLEN
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RESIDENTS of Glenshellach in Oban have blasted comments by a leading rural housing advocate saying 'social problems' will increase unless the current scheme behind the hospital stops until a masterplan is developed.

In last week's *Oban Times*, residents of Glenshellach were told by former councillor Drew MacFarlane Slack they should be 'expressing thanks' rather than complaining about housing developments in the area.

Matters have now come to boiling point after an application for blocks of flats was lodged in mid-August with Argyll and Bute Council.

To date 55 letters have been received by the council's planning department, 53 of which are against the application.

A pro-forma letter used by the majority of complainants states that they believe the number of units on the site has more than doubled.

Complainants wrote: 'This development is the wrong development on the wrong site.' They cite a number of reasons, including a conflict with the local development plan (LDP), the scale of the development – the flats are eight metres higher than existing flats – and inadequate private and public open space.

Residents say they have been guaranteed a masterplan for the area by councillors. But a council press officer said that, while there is an LDP, he had no knowledge of a masterplan. The spokesman said it was the developer's responsibility to put together a masterplan.

A spokesman for Glenshellach Residents Group (GRG) said:

'Proposing three-storey flats at this site is completely inappropriate. The visual impacts of this scale of development in this location would be jarring and be visible from Nant Drive, Soroba and the railway.'

'Over-development and high density can lead to undesirable outcomes. There is no shortage of development land in the Oban area, therefore no need for high-density development. The development at Catalina Avenue was originally allocated 50 units but this was increased to 90 units through the 2015 local development plan.'

The GRG spokesman believed the application with the council would mean there are 102 units – 12 more than the allocation in the LDP.

'To grant a near doubling of the unit numbers changing the site from medium to high density and then allowing

further increases is ludicrous', he said. 'The result is that long-established traditional communities will disintegrate and social problems escalate. If everybody only took the LDP as an indication rather than a rule then it would be a free for all.'

Jane MacLeod on behalf of the developer, MacLeod Construction, said: 'The LDP contains policies that are intended to guide development.'

'The council is obliged to consider any planning application that is made against all of the planning policies and guidance within the plan and against any other material planning considerations. The LDP is a guide, not a tablet of stone. As far as we are aware the development plan does not require a masterplan for the current application.'

'Eleven units, which is the indicative capacity set out in the LDP, is an under-utilisation of

land as the site can comfortably accommodate a higher density development that meets all other council policy requirements and helps to deliver much needed affordable housing.'

'At a time when the population of Argyll and Bute is falling and there is an impetus to drive forward economic development, it is important to create jobs and to train and retain our young people, as well as attracting people to live here.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There are two applications currently being considered for this area, neither of which require a masterplan.'

'We are hoping that a masterplan to guide the wider development of the area will come forward in due course.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I met the local community and assured them that we expect a masterplan to be submitted.'

Three points for careless driving

A MAN has pleaded guilty to careless driving while overtaking a bicycle on the A85 near Dunbeg.

Gareth John Mathias, of 8 Walkington Road, Little Weighton, Cottingham, admitted driving carelessly on the A85 near the Halfway House filling station on February 22, when he overtook a cyclist in contravention of double solid white lines, forcing an oncoming police car to take emergency action to avoid a collision.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday: 'The police had to slow down to allow the vehicle to overtake safely.'

Sheriff John Herald fined 31-year-old Mathias £250, and endorsed his driving licence with three penalty points.

Appin man fined for having cocaine

AN APPIN man was fined for possessing cocaine when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday.

The court heard on September 14 that Hamish Conner Duncan, of Appin House, pleaded guilty in absentia to possessing a small quantity of cocaine in Oban High Street on February 6.

Sheriff John Herald fined 21-year-old Duncan £350, reducing the fine from £500, and ordered him to pay the sum within three months.

Guy organises Oban stem cell fundraising gig



Guy's fundraising gig is on October 22.

AN OBAN musician is playing a gig next month to fundraise for stem cell therapy to treat his multiple sclerosis.

Twenty-three-year-old Guy Forteith was diagnosed with MS when he was aged 16 and is hoping to raise £20,000 towards the new treatment which he hopes will change his life.

'I've had MS for seven years and it's getting on my nerves. I'm just sick of it,' he said.

'I have problems with my vision, my balance and my walking. I have had all my teenage years ruined and this past year I have felt myself slowly but surely getting worse and worse. No matter how much I do to stay on top of it, the MS is always going to drag me down bit by bit. I am tired of been laughed at and ques-

tioned about my walking, or asked why I can't read or see things, or even blamed for not recognising people in the street if they see me.'

To try to alleviate the symptoms, Guy has spent the past three years bodybuilding on a strict gym regime, and studying to become a personal trainer focusing on people with disabilities.

But 'the disease isn't going to go away', he added, and stem cell therapy could offer hope for the future.

Stem cells can turn into almost any type of cell in the human body, and so have the potential to help many different conditions, including the neurodegenerative disease MS. Many research projects are under way to try to understand how these cells could be applied to the treatment of MS.

Guy said: 'I have looked at a lot of studies and talked to people about stem cell therapy, but have recently had the chance to speak with the people who had the therapy, with some unbelievable and life-changing improvements.'

Guy, a singer/songwriter and sound engineer, plans to host many events to help raise funds for his treatment, publicised through his Facebook page, but the first gig titled 'A Night of Music, Stem Cells for MS' is set for October 22 at Cuan Mor, Oban.

Guy will be joined by Oban artists Nicky MacInnes, Shannon Taylor and Moonshine Maggie, with pianist Ralf Roeder flying in from Germany especially for the event. Tickets cost £7 at the door.



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Museum celebrates 600,000 visitors



Charles Struthers hands the 600,000th visitor, Tony Munn, the quach. 16_139warandpeace01.

THE War and Peace museum celebrated its 600,000th visitor on Monday since opening its doors in 1995.

Tony Munn, from Larkfield, near Kent, walked into the museum at around 10.45am and was greeted by members of the board, who handed him a silver quach.

Tony was in the area looking at his wife's family history.

He said: 'My wife's family come from Iona, so we've been on a bit of a pilgrimage.'

Paul travelled from Kent all the way to Iona via public transport.

He said: 'We had three days on Iona. It's been an adven-

ture. The area is phenomenal.'

Paul said where he lives there is nothing but flat land.

'To come and see the mountains is fantastic,' he continued. 'It's unbelievable.'

Charles Struthers, chairman of the museum, said: 'I think it's lovely that we continue to have visitors who are inter-

ested in the heritage of Oban.

We would really like to get the young people of Oban in to come and see what is here.'

Fergus Gillanders, board member, said: 'It's called the War and Peace museum, but it's not just about the military. It's also about the town's history.'

Caring Eilidh is a cut above...

A SIX-YEAR-OLD girl from Oban had seven inches of her hair cut off last Saturday so it could be made into a wig.

Eilidh Graham donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, which provides real hair wigs to boys and girls who have lost their locks through cancer treatment. She had her haircut by Elaine Smith in Spruce.

Eilidh's dad, Paul Graham, said: 'What happened was, a young girl was suffering from a cancer-related disease and she had no hair and Eilidh asked me what happened and I explained to her what cancer was.'

Paul then explained to his daughter that people could donate hair to be made into a wig to help people who have lost theirs.

After explaining to Eilidh



what a wig was, she then asked if she could donate her hair.

Eilidh said: 'When people don't have hair and are sick, you can get your hair cut to make wigs.'

Mum Debra added: 'We got a DVD sent through and she [Eilidh] saw a girl getting

a wig for the first time. Eilidh was a bit emotional watching that, but she wants to help someone who is sick and losing their hair.'

'Everyone who knows she is getting it done is so proud of her. It's nice to think that a family who don't have much

money could benefit from this.'

As well as donating her hair, Eilidh has also been raising money. Donation tins have been placed in businesses around town such as Boots, Spruce and at the West Coast Motors shop.



BEFORE: Paul, Eilidh and Debra in Spruce, Oban, before Eilidh had seven inches of her hair chopped off. 07_139haircut01. AFTER: Eilidh holding up her freshly cut ponytail. 139haircut02no.

CÙRSAICHEAN CEUMA

Faigh barrachd fiosrachaidh air na cùrsaichean fo-cheum dha fileantaich is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a cheanglas an cànan le caochladh chuspairean a leithid ceòl traidiseanta, na meadhanan agus teagasg.

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Andrew Kyle, Andy Moore and Iain Bruce's quick thinking and rescue ensured a tragedy was averted.

Dawnfresh trio save yacht crew

THREE fish farmers were hailed heroes this week after rescuing the crew of a yacht in trouble on Loch Etive.

Andrew Kyle, Andy Moore and Iain Bruce, who work at a Dawnfresh trout farm, rushed to the rescue of the capsized boat, pulling the two crewmen from the stricken vessel and bringing them safely to shore.

The drama began on the afternoon of Friday September 9 when the three men were made aware of a capsized yacht in the Airds Bay area of Loch Etive.

Within moments, the three men had leaped into their boat and were tearing to the rescue.

The two men were pulled from the water, cold and tired but thankfully unhurt, and met on the shore by the Coastguard who offered medical attention while they warmed up. The yacht was then safely lifted out of the loch by a Dawnfresh support vessel.

Andrew Kyle, one of the men involved in the rescue, said: 'The two guys obviously got in to some trouble and their yacht had begun to overturn, leaving them no choice but to go into the water. We were fortunate we were able to get out to them quickly.'

'We always keep an eye on the loch during our work on the farm and monitor radio channels so we can help anyone



The yacht was safely lifted out of the loch by a Dawnfresh support vessel.

in trouble. Working here, we consider ourselves to be a real part of the community. Anyone who works on or near the water knows how quickly it can become dangerous, even for an experienced crew, so it is important we all try to help each other.'

Stewart Hawthorn, farm director at Dawnfresh, added: 'We are incredibly proud that our crew at Loch Etive were able to help these men in trouble near one of our sites.'

'The men reacted quickly and effectively and we are delighted they were unhurt.'

'The kind of professionalism the team showed, both to recover the men and, subsequently, the boat itself, is the kind of standards we want to bring to all of our work. Hopefully, however, nothing quite so eventful will happen again in the future.'

Scotgold strike it lucky in Tyndrum

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

PROSPECTORS at Scotland's only gold mine near Tyndrum produced their historic 'first pour' of the precious metal in August, by processing spoil heaps of ore.

Scotgold launched its six-month bulk processing trial (BPT) at the Cononish mine on August 3, to produce Scotland's first gold on a commercial basis.

'We've produced our first gold,' Scotgold's CEO Richard Gray told *The Oban Times*. 'We're accumulating it. We're putting our foot down.'

Mr Gray expected the first Scottish gold to be available by the end of the year.

'This is a trial,' he added. 'We're learning a lot about processing to see what improvements we can make.'

The 'small-scale, low-cost' pilot plant, estimated to cost £140,000, aims to process



Scotgold produced their first batch of gold as part of the trial.

2,400t of the 7,000t of stockpiled ore, which grades at around 7.9g/t of gold and 39g/t of silver. The company hopes to produce around 150ozs of Scottish gold at Cononish, and a further 350ozs offsite, which can then be sold at a premium.

Scotgold hopes the BPT will demonstrate the marketability

and profitability of Scottish gold production from Cononish, and the viability of ethical gold production, where no chemicals will be used onsite.

Instead the ore will be crushed and gravity used to separate out the gold-rich material, which will be smelted into impure bullion bars called doré both on-

and offsite. Their first yield of Scottish gold represents 'a very significant development for the company as it seeks to advance Cononish to full production', the company stated.

Announcing the BPT in February, Mr Gray said: 'In addition to anticipated positive technical results, the trial will produce an historic first pour gold output, sufficient to determine whether there are grounds to review the mine development plan and moreover to establish Cononish as a low-cost, low-risk, near-term production, gold project.'

Speaking at the official BPT launch in August, when guests could watch the first gold being produced, he added: 'It is extremely satisfying to be able to celebrate this significant milestone. The achievement of gold production provides tangible evidence of our progress and we appreciate the support of all our stakeholders in getting to this point.'

Harmony singing correction

THE HARMONY singing workshops, run by Scotland Sings, will be held in Connel Village Hall on October 1.

The venue will not be North Connel Village Hall, as reported in a recent edition of *The Oban Times*, due to incorrect information being provided.

The workshop will run from 10.30am to 4pm.

More information and booking details can be found at the Scotland Sings website, www.sing.scot.

The Scots come to Oban to recruit

THE SCOTS were in Oban this week as part of a tour of the West Coast.

Highlander Fraser and Lance Corporal Coburn, who were standing guard at the recruitment van in Tesco's car park, were hoping to talk to both men and women about the range of full-time and part-time job opportunities available in The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Lance Corporal Coburn said joining the army has given him friends for life: 'In the army people become more than just your friends - they become your family.'

Police thank public for information as drugs operation sees 19 people arrested

FOLLOWING a two-week intelligence-led operation by officers in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire police division, officers have arrested 19 people and a further 10 people are subject of a report to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged drugs offences.

During the operation, 22 properties were searched under warrant in the Oban, Clydebank, Dumbarton, Alex-

andria and Helensburgh areas. As a result, 17 men and two women were arrested. Nine men and one woman are the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal in connection with alleged drugs offences.

During the searches, drugs believed to be diamorphine, cocaine, cannabis and diazepam with an estimated street value of £94,000 were recovered.

Police inquiries are continuing and a full report will be forwarded to the procurator fiscal.

Detective Sergeant Iain Gillies said: 'This operation demonstrates our ongoing commitment to crackdown on drugs in our communities.'

'Many of our operations are based on intelligence received from members of the public and this is vital in helping us

disrupt serious and organised crime and detect offenders.

'We are grateful for any assistance we are given in ridding our streets of drugs.'

'I would urge anyone with information regarding drugs in their area to contact their local police office through 101. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.'

Time to transform eye health

ADVERTORIAL

SPECSAVERS is backing National Eye Health Week by urging people to have regular eye tests to help maintain and protect their sight.

Recent research for Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, suggests nearly 14 million people in the UK are not having their eyes tested every two years as recommended by optometrists. Some 30% claimed it was because they think there is nothing wrong with their eyes, while 29% said they just don't have the time.

Specsavers recently announced a new partnership with Royal National Institute of Blind People to support its vital work. The relationship includes a significant multi-media investment to help educate people about eye health and to raise awareness of how regular eye tests can help reduce preventable sight loss.

Dr Nigel Best, Specsavers' clinical spokesperson, said: 'We're reaching out to the people of the UK to encourage them to take better care of their own and their family's sight.'

'A routine eye test not only helps detect any problems with your vision, it can also check for more general health problems and a wide range of conditions that can lead to sight loss if not treated in time. Early detection and timely intervention is critical to managing any eye health condition.'

At present there are more than two million people in the UK living with sight loss, which has a significant impact on their daily lives.

Dr Best added: 'Incredibly nearly



half of sight loss cases are preventable, regular eye tests could pick up the warning signs before it's too late.'

The advice to have regular eye tests also applies to people with existing prescriptions who don't think their vision has changed. The research revealed that many spectacle and contact lens wearers ignore warnings that wearing the wrong prescription could cause symptoms such as headaches and dizziness.

Dr Best said: 'People should have their eyes tested every two years or more frequently if recommended. Opticians prescribe glasses or contact lenses based upon precise testing at a given time so if that information is not regularly checked and updated there can be severe consequences. Spectacle wearers could experience unnecessary discomfort while contact lens wearers could risk damaging their eyes.'

The research also revealed parents across the country are putting off taking their children to the optician with a surprising 27% of parents with children aged 3 to 16 can't recall taking, or have never taken their child for an eye test.

As part of National Eye Health Week Specsavers stores up and down the UK are raising vital funds for RNIB to allow them to deliver much needed support for people affected by vision loss.

Sally Harvey, acting chief executive of RNIB, says: 'More than two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. However, of those two million, more than a third of people would notice a huge improvement in their vision simply by wearing the correct prescription glasses or contact lenses. We would encourage anyone who has put off going for an eye test to book one at the earliest opportunity.'

Specsavers recently launched a children's vision screening campaign making screening software available free of charge to all schools in the UK. The equipment - SchoolScreener EZ - is unique in being suitable for screening the vision of children aged four to 16 and includes a colour vision test. Designed to be simply operated by teachers or classroom assistants, the screener can be used in 35 different languages. Schools can register to receive their free kit at screeningforschools.com

IT'S AMAZING
WHAT WE CAN
SEE THROUGH
YOUR EYES

An eye test can help keep your eyes healthy and detect a range of health conditions. 13.8 million people don't have one regularly. Book yours today.

To book a discounted eye test visit specsavers.co.uk



Transforming eye health

Source: YouGov plc online omnibus survey of 10,000 people, July 2016. A regular test is at least once every two years. To check discounted eye test vouchers on offer and full terms and conditions visit specsavers.co.uk/stores ©2016 Specsavers. All rights reserved.



Narrow win for Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup final

SHINTY'S 'Big Day' out ended in success for Newtonmore as they lifted the Camanachd Cup for the 31st time following a tense and keenly contested 1-0 victory over Oban Camanachd.

The final took place on a sunny day and in front of large crowd at Fort William on Saturday.

The only goal of the match was scored by Glen MacKintosh in the third minute of play.

Shinty

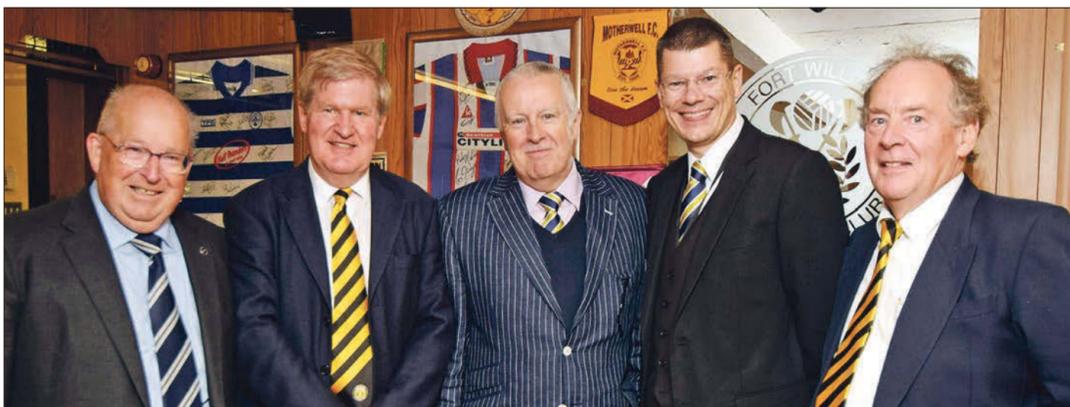
For a full match report and more photographs, turn to pages 26 and 27.



Newtonmore captain Steven Macdonald lifts the Camanachd Cup after this team's narrow 1-0 win over Oban Camanachd at An Aird last Saturday. Photo: Kim Ferguson



Newtonmore's Ackie Macrae and Oban Camanachd's Aiden MacIntyre in a tussle for the ball during the final. Photo: Neil Paterson



Special guests at Wednesday's Fort v Nairn match were Rod Houston, secretary of the Scottish Highland Football League (left), and Neil Doncaster and Iain Blair of the Scottish Professional Football League, with Fort directors Stewart MacLean (right) and Gerald MacIntyre. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Special guests attend Fort's game against Nairn County

Fort William	1
Nairn County	2
Highland League	

FORT William took the lead in the first half of the match with a sixth-minute goal from Michael Ellis.

The home side completely dominated the first half and could have easily been four or five up at the break.

But as has happened on numerous occasions this season, the failure to get a second goal while on top came back to haunt the local team, as two second-half goals from Nairn secured the win for the visitors.

Fort suffered another blow when midfielder Adam Porritt suffered a serious knee injury which could lead to him being out for the remainder of the season.

The Fort had a special visit at Wednesday's match from Rod Houston, secretary of the Scottish Highland Football League, and Neil Doncaster and Iain Blair of the Scottish Professional Football League.

Vice-chairman David Mac-

donald said: 'This was the first time the guys had been at a Fort William match and it was a very pleasant surprise for the club.'

It was another disappointing game for the Fort on Saturday as they were beaten by Forres Mechanics.

Football

An under-strengthened Fort William side went down 4-0 at Mossett Park, in a game that saw the Fort only manage to field four substitutes.



Fort William's Martin Munro and Nairn's Steven MacKenzie.



Agnes and Peter win balloted pairs

WINNERS of the McPherson Welding balloted pairs bowling competition held at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club at Inverloch were Agnes Boyle (second right) and Peter Black (right), with runners-up Alan Lawrie and Lyn Donald.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography

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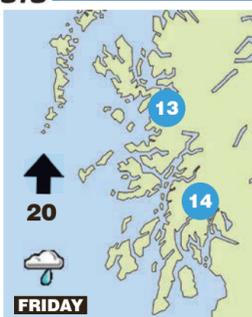
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals with heavy showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 14°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 22, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	03.22 0.9 09.02 3.5 15.53 1.1 21.41 3.3		Ardrishaig	-5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	04.19 1.2 10.00 3.2 16.59 1.4 22.59 3.0		Campbeltown	-5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	05.26 1.4 11.34 3.0 18.18 1.6 *** **		Crinan	-0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	01.17 2.9 06.42 1.5 13.54 3.0 20.05 1.6		Islay Port Ellen	2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	02.50 3.0 08.06 1.5 15.18 3.2 21.28 1.5		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	03.48 3.2 09.15 1.3 15.53 3.4 22.17 1.3		Ferry Crossings/Sea States	
Wed	04.21 3.4 10.05 1.1 16.18 3.7 22.55 1.1		Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
			Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate