

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### FREE INSIDE

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# Celebrities join campaign to free Billy from jail in India

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THE campaign to have Connel man Billy Irving freed from prison in India has won celebrity backing from a Coronation Street star.

Actor Simon Gregson, who plays Steve McDonald in the hit soap, has posted a video on the Bring Billy Back Facebook page to show his backing for the campaign to release ex-paratrooper Billy.

Billy was arrested in 2013 along with five other British ex-servicemen. The Chennai Six, as they are being called, were armed guards protecting shipping from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

The Indian authorities accused the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio of straying into Indian waters with unlicensed arms and ammunition. The crew of the vessel were sentenced to five years in January 2016.

In his video intervention, the Coronation Street actor says: 'Hi, Simon Gregson here just giving a little message to say I'm showing my support for the Chennai Six.'

'Check it out on Google - Chennai6 - about the lads over there. Awful for them ... awful ... and awful for their families.'

'I hope it all gets sorted out ASAP so take a look and show support.'

And there was also support in the past week from cast members of *Emmerdale*.

Actor John Bove posted a photograph showing *Emmerdale* stars with a Union Jack flag with the words FREE THE #chennai6 and a message saying: 'We thought India was friendly. @BorisJohnson @theresa\_may



Actor Simon Gregson backs Billy on Facebook.

Please bring these innocent men home.'

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, has fought a dogged campaign to have Billy freed, while also trying to mitigate the hardships he faces in jail.

In a post on the same Facebook page this week, Yvonne says: 'There has been a few people asking about parcels for Billy.'

'He's gave me a list of things he's needing if anyone wants to send stuff, think parcels are running low again.'

'So NO toiletries needed (he has that in abundance) cooking powders (like fajita powders, those maggi cook bag things, anything that'll give flavour) soya mince, haribo, breakfast/protein/oatmeal bars, tuna in packets not tins etc anything edible and tasty and if anyone can bake fruit loafs and fancies sending that over he'll be more than grateful ... just no toiletries.'

Parcels can be sent to:

Central Prison 1 Puzhal, c/o Superintendent's office, William Irving 6150, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600066, India.

And messages on the same Facebook page show that support for Billy also came from trad band Skipinish, who played a gig in Glasgow last week.

Linda Savage Dignan wrote: 'Angus [MacPhail] and the guys in Skipinish did a lovely tribute to Billy at the Barrowland on Saturday, they're not forgotten.'

Support across the country has been growing, with an online petition now signed by more than 405,000 people. The petition - which will be delivered next month to Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn - tells of the shock felt by the men's families when they were jailed and urges action from the British government.

It reads: 'The devastation and anguish this has caused us, the families, is huge. It has left us crushed and with little hope. We know have no communication with the men and we don't know who or where to turn to.'

'We understand fully that one country cannot intervene in another's judicial process. But when innocent men are being prosecuted for a crime they have not committed, then they should have an obligation to protect the human rights and freedom of these men and have them released and brought home. These men devoted their lives protecting others. They fought for the British government. Now the British government must fight for them.'

To sign the petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/british-foreign-secretary-free-the-6-british-veterans-from-indian-jail>

## Stone me, she said 'yes'!



The Easdale Stone Skimming World Championships ended in dramatic fashion - with a marriage proposal. Following the awards ceremony, Easdale man Donald Melville, who organises the event, got down on one knee and proposed to his now fiancée Maggie Young. This was met with a massive 'roar' from the hundreds of people who were still in the hall.

Full story and pictures - page 14.

## Acid spill closes A85

THE A85 was closed at the Halfway House filling station on Wednesday due to an acid leak on the road.

At the time of going to press it was not known how long the road was to be closed.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was alerted at 8.32am on Wednesday September 27 to reports of a lorry spillage on the A85, Oban.'

'Two fire appliances were immediately mobilised to the incident and firefighters are currently working to clean up the area.'

'Police Scotland has closed the road in the meantime.'

INSIDE YOUR  
OBAN TIMES  
THIS WEEK

## Dangerous route

THE new St Conan's Pilgrims' Way from Iona to St Andrews is an 'accident waiting to happen'. Full story - page two.

## Height of fashion

ALMOST £1,000 was raised at a charity fashion show held in Oban last Friday night. Full story and pictures - page three.

## Guns banned

ROYAL Marines on an annual visit to schools in Dunbeg and Oban have been banned from showing children their unloaded weapons. Full story - page four.

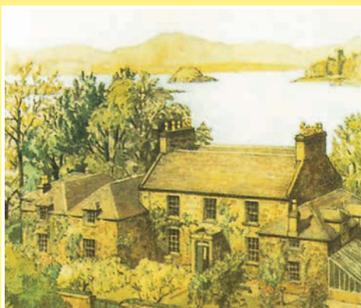
## Oban Live latest

BID4OBAN is to once again be the principal backer of next year's Oban Live music festival. Full story - page five.



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## Noisy generators torment visitors

A 'PERSISTENT' noise from a bank of generators on Oban's North Pier has forced one couple visiting to cut short their stay and has led to complaints from hotel guests, writes *Marian Milarvie*.

But an Argyll and Bute Council official told the visitors there had not been any other complaints about the generators, which provide power to the recently opened pontoons off the North Pier.

Sandra and Brian Whittell, from Peebles, in the Scottish Borders, were last week on their third visit in the past 12 months to Oban, staying in a self-catering apartment in the former *The Oban Times* building on the Esplanade.

Sandra said: 'It is such a peaceful place to come normally. We didn't notice with the TV on but, when we went to bed, we went for a search around the apartment to find the fan making this terrible noise. Then we realised it was coming from outside and where it was coming from.'

'It is so loud that it is uncomfortable to be next to it during the day but at night if you are within 100 yards you get this humming,' said Brian. 'It sounded like we had left the bathroom fan on.'

The couple complained at Argyll and Bute Council's customer service point in Oban but felt the implication was that they were being 'fussy'. Brian said: 'We were

disappointed with the reaction of the chap in the council.'

They filled in an online complaints form and visited neighbouring hotels to ask if there had been any complaints about noise. 'When we spoke to two hotel owners/managers, they said they have had lots of complaints from their customers,' said Sandra.

The manager of one hotel opposite the generators confirmed he had spoken to the Whittells and said he had also complained a month ago about the noise. 'I have mentioned it to the council and was told that it was waiting for the building next door to the Regent Hotel to be constructed - something to do with the electricity box

next to the generators,' he said. He said guests had complained about the noise, which, with the town now quietening down from the summer, was becoming more noticeable.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The generators are temporarily providing power to the North Pier pontoons and visiting boats until Scottish and Southern Energy can connect the facility to the mains.'

The spokesman did not say when they were likely to be removed.

The Whittells told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday they would be cutting short their fortnight's stay to return home 'to get a good night's sleep'.

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OT

# Mull walking route is blasted as accident waiting to happen

DAVID MCPHEE  
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A PROPOSED walking route on Mull has been labelled an accident waiting to happen.

A charity in Dalmally says the coastal path could attract people from all over the world if it was developed.

Volunteers and staff from Craig Lodge Trust have been working for the past five years on a route from their premises in Dalmally to Iona.

In June this year, 20 people embarked on the 60-mile walk. People from all over the world took part, enjoying 'some of the most beautiful parts of Argyll'.

'The challenge came when we arrived on Mull,' Callum MacFarlane-Barrow, from Craig Lodge Trust, said. 'The majority

of walkers preferred the coastal route and were disappointed, to put it mildly, when they could not complete the Lochbuie to Carsaig walk.

'The rope at the halfway point was too dangerous to use. It was not long enough and the safety stewards deemed the route unsafe so the group had to turn back, await the support vehicle and forego the stunning views of that very special coastal walk to Carsaig.

'The main road from Craignure to Fionnphort also has its dangers. It proved extremely demanding for the stewards as they chaperoned the party of walkers on the very busy single-track road.

'Passing places proved hazardous because there was nowhere for the walkers to go if it was occupied by a car.



One of the ropes to help on the Carsaig Path.

'Trying to move the group to a position of safety to allow cars, vans and campervans to pass was difficult and very stressful for all concerned.

'Many of us felt it would only

be a matter of time before a serious accident occurs.

'We have an opportunity to develop an area of tourism that is second to none and that will benefit this area economically

and ecologically but it is being hampered due to safety and access issues.

'The spectacular coastal route should be developed using imagination and ambition to provide a safe way for walkers and a cycle/walk path adjacent to the A849 should be constructed without delay.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We would be supportive of any initiative which also has landowner support and happy to work with the local community and landowners to support applications for funding to undertake path improvements, as we have done elsewhere.

'We supported an application by the Mull and Iona Community Trust to improve the path to the lighthouse north of Tobermory.

'The path between Aird Ghlas and Carsaig Arches on Mull is designated as a core path.

'However, there is no obligation on the council or the landowner to maintain or improve the route.

'We are aware of an aspiration to see a route from Craignure and the Ross of Mull, forming part of a longer pilgrims' route from St Andrews to Iona.

'This has the support of the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage, and there is funding available for community organisations to improve paths, including the coastal section of the route on Mull, from the government's Improving Public Access grant scheme.

'We will continue to provide advice and support to groups where we can.'

## Face of Argyll campaign sets record

CYCLIST Mark Beaumont has broken the world record for cycling around the world, completing his journey in 79 days.

Inspired by the novel Around the World in 80 days, Mark broke the world record by 44 days, finishing off in Paris a day ahead of schedule.

To complete the 18,000-mile challenge within his target, he had to cycle 240 miles a day, relying on just five hours of sleep.

Last summer Mark took on a 12-day Wild About Argyll adventure challenge across Argyll and the Isles. He sailed, swam and cycled across the region, finishing off the challenge running 20 miles across the 22 peaks of Colonsay's MacPhies.

Mark started off his around the world challenge in Paris on July 2 and cycled through Europe, Russia, Mongolia and China. He then cycled across Australia, up New Zealand and across North America. He finished the cycle by 'sprinting' through Portugal, Spain and France.

## Mull firm features in review

A MULL-BASED company has been featured in the parliamentary review as an example to others.

Inverlussa Marine Services features alongside the Prime Minister and other 'outstanding organisations' in a document that looks back on the year in industry and at Westminster.

The main aim of the review is to showcase best practice as a learning tool to the public and private sectors.

The parliamentary review's director, Daniel Yossman, said: 'Inverlussa Marine Services and other hardworking organisations from across the country have come together to make this year's review possible.

'Sharing knowledge and insight with both peers and government is essential work and I am delighted that this year's review will reach every corner of the British economy.'

## Playparks plan is prioritised

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar's Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee on Tuesday this week approved a prioritised list for refurbishment of play areas in partnership with communities.

Over the past two years, the comhairle has been working towards developing a sustainable strategy for the playparks it maintains. There are more than 80 play areas throughout the Outer Hebrides, with the standards and equipment at each varying widely.

## Pupils blaze a trail on Fire Reach course

Ten students from Tobermory High School graduated from Mull's first Fire Reach course this month. The week-long training for young people taught CPR, 'hard-hitting' driver safety for new drivers and how to extinguish fires. Pupils also honed their fire safety skills at Oban airport and at Oban Community Fire Station by using its breathing apparatus.

Pictured left to right are crew manager Michael Buckley, Emma Noble, Justin Geall, Kara Gray, Sophie Ralston, Beth De La Ray, Cameron Ferguson, Jay Wood, Harley Ware, Bobby Gunn, youth worker Mairianne Noble and firefighter Iain Hunter.



## New chairman for health board

COUNCILLOR Kenny John Macleod has been appointed as the new chairman of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), which oversees a range of health and social care services in the Western Isles.

Mr Macleod is also the comhairle's chairman of communities and housing.

Ian Burgess, a non-executive director from NHS Western Isles and a member of the IJB since its inception, was appointed vice-chairman.

Outgoing chairman of the IJB Neil Galbraith said: 'The past two years have seen a new era of partnership working and

effective decision-making about transforming health and social care services during financially challenging times.

'Effective partnership arrangements are vital if we are to meet the challenges of providing health and social care services for our communities, whether that be in relation to mental health redesign or the development of new services for frail older people.

'That partnership has seen a number of key achievements, including reducing the number of people delayed in hospital by two thirds over the past nine months; we have been supporting collab-

oration between GP practices through a new quality cluster approach, which helps to share best practice in improving patient care; and we have supported more people with disabilities back from mainland placements to live in their own communities.

'I wish Kenny John every success in building on the work of the past two years.'

Mr Macleod added: 'We face major challenges - tighter resources, growing demand for services and more complex care. However, these challenges reinforce the importance and value of effective partnership working.'

## Engagement on ferries welcomed

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has welcomed a new round of stakeholder engagement and consultation on ferry services affecting the Outer Hebrides.

At this week's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Brian Fulton, director of community and stakeholder engagement, provided the comhairle with an update on matters associated with the arrangements for stakeholder engagement and consultation to be implemented by CalMac, in particular the establishment of a community board.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee, said: 'We warmly welcome this new consultation and stakeholder engagement on ferry services affecting us here in the Western Isles. These are lifeline services which are of huge importance to our economy and it is vitally important that people share their views.

'As the summer progressed, the ferry capacity issues in the Outer Hebrides became increasingly acute. The comhairle has long been of the view that the present ferry operation to the Outer Hebrides is not providing sufficient capacity during increasing peak periods to service the needs of the community.

'The comhairle would once again call on the Scottish Government to provide a second vessel on the Stornoway to Ullapool route. In the next couple of months, people will be looking to book ahead for next summer and the current lack of capacity is impacting on the lifeline nature of the service and is an increasing inhibitor to economic growth and population retention.

'We continue to be of the view that the continuing capacity issues can only be fully resolved by the provision of separate vessels serving North Uist and Harris.'

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## Argyll's only boarding school opens doors to interested families

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'At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences' - said Education Scotland. Argyll's only boarding school is inviting families to come and see for themselves what makes Lomond so unique.

Located in the picturesque coastal town of Helensburgh, with its safe community environment and excellent transport links, Lomond School has a long tradition of boarders from the West Highlands and Isles.

### Key facts

- High academic attainment.
- Broad-ranging curriculum.
- Extensive programme of extra-curricular and outdoor learning.
- Strong focus on art, music and drama.
- Purpose-built, modern facilities.
- On demand boarding - eg, weekly boarding.
- Excellent transport links to the West Highlands.

As the top performing school in Argyll, Lomond offers a wide-ranging curriculum, including eight National Fives as S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers in S5.

Extra-curricular activities include hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing and canoeing. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is another significant feature and Lomond has enjoyed great success carrying out expeditions both locally and abroad. In 2015, Lomond was the top performing school in Scotland for the gold award. The school also has a long-standing history of traditional Scottish music. Boarders at Lomond benefit from excellent facilities with the new Burnbrae boarding house, built in 2003, offering comfortable lounges, a gym and mostly twin en-suite study bedrooms. Lomond also allows male and female siblings the opportunity to live together in the same boarding house. Families are also offered the flexibility of weekly boarding.

Lomond School principal Johanna Urquhart said: 'Here at Lomond we pride ourselves on taking an individual approach to the education and care of each and every pupil. Boarding provides a particularly rewarding experience thanks to our family ethos, excellent facilities and professional, dedicated staff. We are also very proud of our long-standing links to the west of Scotland and would welcome any families interested in boarding to come and see us.'

A parent had this to say: 'We would like to say that it's the individual approach to education that we value the most, along with the breadth of the curriculum from forest school to music that allows all the children an opportunity to excel! Families interested in boarding at Lomond can confirm their attendance at the open morning. To find out more, please contact [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com)

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# Skipper sent to prison for 10 months for stealing boat

A SKIPPER has been jailed for 10 months for stealing a fishing boat belonging to Islay Crab Exports and fraudulently using one of the company's credit cards.

But 37-year-old skipper Christopher Brown said during his trial at Campbeltown Sheriff Court that he had acted out of desperation. He said: 'No person in this world works for seven weeks for nothing.'

Brown, whose address was given in court as HMP Edinburgh, had pleaded not guilty to nine charges, all on July 2, 2015. The main charges were stealing the fishing vessel, the catch and a company credit card.

The remaining six charges were of fraud with the credit card in Troon and in Silverburn shopping centre; buying tobacco and lighters from a Spar shop in

Troon, to the value of £18; fuel, tobacco and energy drinks from Tesco, £105.79; clothes from JD Sports, £700.03; a mobile telephone, £529.99; attempting to buy iPads from Argos at £739.97 and also food to the value of £22.35 from McDonald's, but the card was declined on these two occasions.

His not guilty plea to stealing the catch was accepted by the Crown and Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the theft of the credit card not proven. He found him guilty of all the other charges.

Sheriff Hughes heard that Brown has been hired by the Islay-based company through a find-a-fishing-boat website and Brown was to organise his own crew and board the scalloper Kayleigh M at Mallaig. The company's advertisement said

the boat was ready to go to sea. Brown told the court: 'No way. It was filthy. It took 12 hours a day, for three or four days to get it up to standard.'

James Monaghan, a director of Islay Crab Exports, said Brown was to receive a 30 per cent share of the price of the catch sold to the company, which had its own processing plant on Islay. 'It is up to the skipper to decide how to pay the crew,' he said, adding that each boat had access to a company credit card. Skippers were expected to send receipts to the office and, once established with the firm, were given a card of their own.

Mr Monaghan said Brown had taken a credit card from his pick-up truck.

Brown said in his evidence that he had been given the card by the company secretary and

had been using it already for two weeks with the company's consent.

Brown admitted he might have damaged a winch on board and with it some welding and there was water ingress into the living accommodation on board which had damaged property and clothing.

'Whenever I tried to contact him [James Monaghan], his attitude was get on with it, fix it, I'm busy. It is all right, you will be reimbursed.'

Brown paid crew from his own funds and eventually the two men argued. He used the card to buy replacement clothes and possessions. He said: 'I told him I was taking the boat to Troon, because I was done, I was finished.'

Mr Monaghan said this conversation did not take place. He told the court: 'At 7am I was

sent a text message that he was coming in at 11pm tonight. I arranged for a lorry to be there when they came in to land the catch but they didn't come in. At about 9pm that night I thought something was seriously wrong.'

The company director said he believed Brown had done this to buy himself time to get to Troon and sell the catch.

Thomas Newton, of Coquet Island Shellfish, North Shields, said that Brown had approached him to buy the catch. Brown had wanted cash and the company never paid in this way; the money was paid to Islay Crab Exports.

When giving his verdict, Sheriff Hughes said that while some of the evidence he had heard for the prosecution had been contradictory, he was satisfied the offences occurred.



John and Catherine on their wedding day and more recently.

## A diamond couple

JOHN and Catherine Arthur (nee Ferguson) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Tuesday September 26.

They were the first couple to be married in the Christ Church, Dunollie, in 1957, by

minister Tommy Thompson. The couple now stay in Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

The Oban Times would like to join their family in congratulating John and Catherine on their diamond wedding anniversary.



Doreen Henderson, centre, at the start of Oban's parkrun.

## Granny Doreen, 70, runs half-marathon

NORTH Connel granny Doreen Henderson is getting ready for her first half-marathon since turning 70.

Fresh from running last Sunday's Loch Ness 10k in 55 minutes, which she said 'was not bad for an old lady', Doreen is limbering up for this Sunday's Great Scottish Run in Glasgow.

A bad bone scan jolted Doreen into jogging three decades ago, and she has since run five marathons and countless half-marathons and 10Ks, raising thousands for the Coeliac Society and Alzheimer's Scotland.

She explained: 'I had a bone scan at the age of 42. I was at

risk of severe osteoporosis, and I was only in my early 40s.

'I got a fright and my family took me in hand. They really encouraged me. I did my first 10k with a very kind daughter.'

Running hugely improved her bone density, she said. She joked: 'I am not a fast runner, but I have got endurance - and a patient husband.'

The retired headteacher at Taynuilt Primary has eight grandchildren who all run.

Doreen said: 'I would love to encourage other folk to run. There are huge physical and mental health benefits. I am a 70-year-old missionary.'

## Fashion night raises nearly £1,000 for Cancer Research

ALMOST £1,000 was raised to help battle cancer at a charity fashion show held in Oban last Friday night.

Dozens of people made their way to Oban's M&Co to watch the models strut their stuff on the catwalk in aid of Cancer Research.

There was something for everyone with boys, girls and adult models showing off what the clothing store has to offer.

The money was raised through entry fees and raffle tickets.

Glynis Dewar said: 'It has been a fantastic turnout. This is the first time we have done this so we are very grateful to M&Co. It all goes to research into a cure for cancer.'

Speaking after the event, she added: 'We have raised £946 for Cancer Research. This town is fantastic. The money that has been raised is incredible.'

Mrs Dewar thanked the models, spectators, those who took part in the raffle and Linda Crosher for commenting on the night.



The girls take one last stroll down the cat walk, above, while David and Josh show off some of the smart clothes that M&Co has to offer for youngsters, and Moira models clothing and accessories from the women's section.



## Staff shortage hits Oban's hospitality sector

A SHORTAGE of staff in Oban's hospitality sector is causing concern, writes David McPhee.

Dozens of vacancies remain unfilled and a man who has worked in the industry for four decades says this has been one of the most difficult years in a long time.

Allan McKie said: 'I am just concerned about the number of vacancies in the hospitality sector in the area and how difficult it is to recruit at the current time.'

'I have been in the industry for 40 years. I think this year is as difficult as I have seen it for many long years. It's so

difficult to get staff. We are seeing establishments taking people for the sake of providing a service.'

'I am not knocking them because at the end of the day we have to provide a service, but it's about quality.'

'I think it's great that we have companies wanting to invest in the area, but there's no point in investing in businesses and a very good product if you don't have the people to manage that business.'

'There's no point in having the nicest place in the world if you don't have the staff to service it. Investing in people is just as important as investing

in your property. We have been relying on the EU workforce, but that well seems to be drying up and Brexit could be an issue.'

A study released in March of this year, Labour Migration in the Hospitality Sector, revealed that 13.8 per cent of Scotland's hospitality workforce are EU nationals.

Mr McKie added: 'I am just fearful because the foreign workforce have been coming across and have been a revelation, but they have dried up or for whatever reason they are fearful of coming here.'

Mr McKie said people are also using hospitality as a step-

ping stone to a different career path, saying: 'There are great opportunities in the industry and great careers and we have to sell that message.'

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'BID4Oban is aware of the shortage of staff in the hospitality sector in Oban.'

'This is obvious from the numerous businesses advertising current vacancies. It is not just hospitality that is suffering but also retail with businesses struggling to recruit.'

'It is difficult to find a solution to this situation. It may be that businesses need to get together to share best practice.'

## Service for Kilbride First World War soldiers

A MEMORIAL service is to be held this weekend for three soldiers who died during the First World War.

By a series of coincidences, it came to the notice of the Friends of Kilbride Kirk near Lerags, Oban, that two family gravestones had inscribed upon them memorials for soldiers killed in action in the First World War. Though the families concerned are not connected, the stones stand virtually side by side.

Hugh McIntyre was a stonemason working in Oban and living with his parents at 8 Argyll Square, Oban, until he emigrated to Canada.

In 1914, Hugh joined as a volunteer with the 48th Highlanders of Canada, returned to Britain, and made it home to Oban for four days' leave. Sadly, Hugh was killed in 1915.



Friend of Kilbride Liam Griffin found the graves of fallen First World War servicemen next to one another at Kilbride Kirk.

Two McCulloch brothers joined in 1914 from their home in Oban. Iain was promoted to sergeant in the Cameron Highlanders within a few days of enlisting, but was killed in action, also in 1915. His brother, Donald, eventu-

ally joined the newly-created Tank Corps, and was killed in action at the Battle of St Julian, on August 2, 1917, 100 years ago last month.

Liam Griffin, a Friend of Kilbride, approached the Rev Dugald Cameron at Glencruit-

ten Church, and asked if he thought it appropriate to hold a short, simple commemoration service at Kilbride for these almost forgotten soldiers. He enthusiastically agreed to lead such a service.

With significant input from Jill Bowis, Colin McIntyre, Hugh's great-nephew, was able to accept their invitation to visit his great-uncle's memorial at Kilbride, and tell of his family's history.

Along with other members of his family, Colin intends to attend the service at Kilbride. Anyone with McCulloch family connections will be warmly welcomed.

That service is planned for 1pm this Sunday (October 1). People of all faiths and none are invited to attend. The short service will be followed by a light buffet, tea and coffee.

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# Ban on Marines' guns in schools

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A COUNCILLOR has defended triggering a ban on Royal Marines carrying unloaded weapons on their annual visits to Oban primary schools, arguing 'there is no place for militarism in our schools'.

The Royal Marines, on an annual visit, were invited to talk to pupils at Dunbeg and Rockfield primary schools on Tuesday, but at the last minute were asked to leave their weapons outside.

The Royal Marines visit the two schools regularly in memory of Marine Gordon MacPherson, a former Dunbeg

pupil killed on the last day of the Falklands conflict.

Like last year's visit, organised by Gordon's sister-in-law, Jean MacPherson, the marines were to receive a cheque to fund a memorial garden at the Marines' HQ in Arbroath - this year for £5,000. On previous visits they were also allowed to show their guns to the 'excited' children.

Parents had received a letter leaving them free to decide whether to allow their children to attend, but when the marines arrived on the day, they were asked to leave the tools of their trade outside.

Oban North and Lorn council-

lor Julie McKenzie confirmed: 'Following complaints from concerned parents, I raised questions with senior education officers around the policy of weaponry being taken into Argyll and Bute primary schools, and I welcomed the decision that was subsequently taken. There is no place for militarism in our schools.'

'There is already policy in place which prevents armed forces recruitment in our schools. As a parent of two young and impressionable boys myself, I can completely understand the concerns of the local parents who contacted me on this issue.'

Ms McKenzie pointed to Dunbeg Primary School's Twitter page on September 19 which tweeted: 'Great careers day finding out what it's like to be a marine #skillsforlearning-lifeandwork'.

She added: 'Primary schools are for education and semi-automatic weapons have nothing to do with the education of under-12s or remembrance. The only issue some parents had with the visit was the involvement of weapons. To suggest any disrespect to our armed forces is utterly shameful.'

'I find it absolutely shameful local councillors have attempted to spin the facts of this issue

beyond all recognition to the national press, in nothing more than a cynical attempt to gain divisive headlines and political capital.'

Councillor Kieron Green supported her stance, saying: 'I just don't understand the need or benefit of them bringing the weapons into schools.'

However, not all agreed on Ms McKenzie's Facebook page. One person wrote: 'For goodness sake, it's a Royal Marine remembrance to Gordon, also to his brother and family for the charity work they do on behalf of the Royal Marines. The children love it.'

Another asked: 'What next,

not allowing the police to visit schools with hand-cuffs and truncheons?' Another commented: 'I'd ban all politicians and councillors from visiting schools, hospitals and prisons unless they were picking up kids or visiting family members. They surely don't have any ulterior motives, do they?'

Argyll and Bute Council declined to explain why it had changed its mind over the ban, how long it would last and which schools it would cover. A spokesperson responded: 'The school visits were a great success and we would like to thank the Royal Marines for attending.'

## Preparing for the big Christmas switch-on

THE COUNTDOWN to the last council-funded Christmas is on in Argyll and Bute.

Workers are checking and reading lights ahead of the traditional big switch-ons and plans are being put in place with local communities for this year's events.

But as of next year, communities will have to take over the reins as a way to save the council money.

Talks have been held and are ongoing with a number of groups for community-led switch-ons from next year.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'It's all go for Christmas 2017 with work well under way on making sure plans are in place and lights are ready.'

'We have also had very fruitful discussions with communities which are extremely positive about making their own arrangements for the festive season after this year.'

'Historically, we have worked with communities to help them enjoy festive displays in their towns and villages, at a cost of around £100,000 a year.'

'The financial challenges facing the council led us to take the decision to look at alternative ways of providing this in future.'

Funds have been set aside to help communities develop festive plans from 2018.

## Oban Music Society to open new season

OBAN MUSIC Society's season opens with a concert on Sunday October 1 in St John's Cathedral at 3pm.

The Doric String Quartet will be playing works by Britten, Haydn and Mendelssohn. This is in conjunction with the Mendelssohn on Mull series of concerts being held on the island next week.

Tickets are available at the door; £10 for non-members, ordinary membership of the society is £15 with an extra cost of £5 for each of the six subscription concerts attended. Subscription membership is £40 with no extra cost for each of the six subscription concerts attended. Children and students are free to attend.

## Two brave the shave for charity

A WOMAN who beat cancer shaved her head, as did her hairdresser, on Thursday to raise money for charity.

Nancy MacDonald and Allan Mckechnie of Hair by Rutherfords 'braved the shave' in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Allan gave Nancy a haircut, before the roles were reversed and she was let loose on his locks.

Nancy MacDonald, who is originally from Luig, but lives in Oban, said: 'I am actually a volunteer for Macmillan Support.'

'I am raising money for Macmillan. I have had cancer myself and Macmillan were absolutely brilliant.'

'I am nervous about doing his hair, but I am not worried about my own.'

Allan added: 'Nancy popped in and asked if we would do it, so we agreed. I then said to her I will shave yours if you shave mine.'

'I thought that it would help to raise more money.'

'It was all right. Nancy did a good job. I expected it to be a bit sorer. It's been a long time since I was this short.'

Oban Library boasts a 'comfortable delegated space' run by Macmillan Cancer Support. It has a wide range of information and booklets and leaflets, which are free to take away.

Every Wednesday there is a drop-in session from 2.15pm to 4.15pm, which is staffed by trained volunteers who are on hand to listen to worries or concerns and offer free confidential support.

They can also point people in the right direction of other sources of support where needed.

This is open to anyone, whether they've been diagnosed with cancer, or they are a family member or carer.



Allan and Nancy took it in turns to shave each other's heads in the name of charity.



## Teacher training scheme praised

A PROGRAMME to 'grow our own' teachers in Argyll and Bute is proving a success.

Since a partnership with Argyll College to put students through a post-graduate education diploma started in 2015, 21 people have registered as teachers.

## Centre's under-fives playpark is now open to the public

THE UNDER-FIVES playpark at Atlantis Leisure is now open to the public following years of hard work and fundraising.

The new facility cost around £95,000, which was raised by Friends of Oban Community Playpark.

Chairwoman of the friends

Lyndsay Elliot confirmed the news.

'It is 100 per cent open. It's just fantastic and a relief. Seeing the children in the playpark makes all the hard work worth it,' she said.

The under-fives playpark integrates the pirate-ship theme,

which it adopted from its neighbour - the five-to-15-year-olds' park.

The ship's name has been chosen by an *Oban Times* reader and will be revealed at the park's official opening this Saturday (September 30) at 12.30pm in the Atlantis Leisure Centre.

In total, the Friends of Oban Community Playpark raised £334,000 to construct both parks.

They are now focusing on the grand opening, which coincides with Atlantis Leisure's 25th birthday celebrations.

Lyndsay extended her thanks

to the three people from Ardforn who have been working to get the garden area in tip top condition before then.

'They are coming back next week,' she said.

'We are trying to get everything looking fancy as it's the opening next week.'

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## Successful year for Friends of Oban Hospice

THE Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the hospice, were at the recent Macaulay Cup final where they operated a wheel of fortune and raffle, raising £317.

Prior to the Macaulay Cup, £273 was raised from a home baking stall at the Bank of Scotland, a sum which is to be matched by the bank.

Following these fundraisers in early September was the annual fashion show at the Argyllshire Gathering which raised £1,346 for the hospice charity and last week a coffee morning, which included a raffle, was organised by the friends at Oban Bowling Club, which brought in the splendid figure of £694.

At the first meeting for the



Friends of Oban Hospice at the Macaulay Cup final.

new fundraising year, held at Thursday evening, Margaret Glencruitten Church Hall last MacLean, who chairs the

friends' committee, heaped praise on her hardworking and dedicated members as well as expressing gratitude to the generosity of people in Oban and beyond.

The friends look forward to putting on a flower show in November against the backdrop of an afternoon tea and in December there is the well-attended annual Light up a Life evening which provides a platform for people to remember loved ones who have died.

The highlight, however, for 2017 will be the opening of The Dove Centre in Stevenson Street, which will give the hospice its own premises and identity, something the friends have strived for over many years.

## It's all going on at Atlantis Leisure

IT'S going to be a big weekend at Atlantis Leisure as it celebrates its 25th birthday and the official opening of the new playpark on Saturday, writes *Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald*.

I can't believe how much it has managed to cram into the day.

There's archery, laser tag, afternoon tea, roller disco, surf simulator, face painting and every sporty thing you could think of - truly something for everyone.

Atlantis is such an asset to the town and it's continuing to grow and improve every year. The party is a fantastic way for everyone in the town to support it and say thank you for all their efforts.

This Friday also gives us a chance to support Home-start Lorn by attending 'A

stool against the printed rule' at Oban Phoenix Cinema, a play from Sarah Palmer and Graham Alexander (Tobermory Main Street Players) which was recently performed at the Edinburgh Fringe.

For the book lovers among you, the Bookends Festival in Benderloch has a quiz at 7pm on Friday night in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, with the fabulous Craig Munro as quizmaster.

It's good to see that, despite the darker nights creeping in, there is still plenty to see and do and at this rate it won't be long before the Winter Festival is here, something I'm really looking forward to.

We also welcome our last cruise ship of the season today (Thursday) with the arrival of

the Hanseatic, a five-star expedition ship which carries 175 passengers and 125 crew. One of the Hapag-Lloyd line, she specialises in cruises to the Antarctic and is on her way to Reykjavik.

It's been a busy year for cruise ships and we hope 2018 will continue to keep us busy welcoming returning ships and those visiting Oban for the first time. It's certainly going to be much easier with our new pontoons and the new Marine Centre which will be open for next year's season.

Last week's photo was taken at the memorial in front of the Corran Halls and this week's is about a 10-minute walk from there and should be much more familiar.

## WHERE IS THIS?



# BID4Oban returns as Oban Live's principal local partner

BID4OBAN, Oban's Business Improvement District company, has announced it will return as Oban Live's primary local 2018 event partner.

The two organisations are set to work together on a new hands-on partnership that will bring benefits to the local economy.

Not only is BID4Oban's investment and commitment to Oban Live bringing a generous financial grant for the 2018 event, but also a whole range of supporting activities: resources and administration, joint communication campaigns and collaborative working with the town's business community, use of office facilities and forward-thinking plans for a new and improved fringe programme.

Held at Oban's famous shinty ground, Mossfield Stadium, Oban Live is the biggest live music event in the region of Argyll and Bute.



Left to right are Neil Mackay, Oban Live event director; Martin Gillespie, Oban Live finance director; Pauline Clifford, Oban Live head of communications; Andrew Spence, BID4Oban chief executive; Yvonne MacLean, BID4Oban administrator; and Daniel Gillespie, Oban Live managing director.

place on June 8 and 9. This year's event attracted more than 8,000 attendees, bringing

people to Oban from all over Scotland, the UK and the world and injecting an estimated

£1.1 million economic boost for the town. Andrew Spence, who was

recently appointed as chief executive for BID4Oban, said: 'In anticipation of a successful BID4Oban ballot on October 5, we are delighted to return as key partners of Oban Live 2018. We have worked closely with Oban Live since the very beginning and so we understand the event's popularity and what's involved in staging such a major concert in the town.'

'Improving economic opportunities for businesses in the town, promoting business to business relationships, and increasing local and visitor footfall is high on the list of our objectives. Therefore it makes perfect sense to continue our support for Oban Live 2018, an event that not only brings thousands of customers through the doors of our local businesses, but also has such a positive social impact on the community.'

Daniel Gillespie, managing director for Oban Live, added: 'We are incredibly grateful to BID4Oban and Oban's

business community for awarding Oban Live this financial grant and resource package.

'Oban Live is a spectacular two-day event with a worldwide audience. This award will help us to promote the event globally with the aim of attracting more visitors to Oban as well as supporting the role of our locally-based head of communications. To ensure the event's successful delivery, working collaboratively and gaining financial and in-kind support as great as this from BID4Oban is critical.'

'We look forward to working closely with BID4Oban to ensure that Oban businesses can maximise the economic and social opportunities available from the thousands of attendees visiting the town for the event.'

Dates and details for early bird Oban Live 2018 tickets will be announced soon on Oban Live's social media channels. [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) [www.obanlive.com](http://www.obanlive.com)

## TIMESLINE

### Support for islands plan

THERE is enthusiasm for the creation of a National Islands Plan, according to the Argyll Islands Strategic Group.

Following the most recent meeting of the group, Argyll and Bute Council has submitted its response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Islands (Scotland) Bill, which is designed to empower Scotland's island communities while recognising the needs of residents.

The group agreed that this should lead to the creation of an Argyll and Bute Islands Plan which would help island communities overcome the challenges they face and boost their local economies.

The group hosted a number of conferences, by telephone and video, with representatives of a number of island communities and the submission represented the views of those who took part.

Argyll and Bute has 23 inhabited islands, each with its own distinct identity.

The submission can be viewed at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s120242/Islands%20Bill%20Consultation%20Response.pdf>

### Late licences will be made available

PUBS and hotels will be able to open later over the festive season.

Argyll and Bute Licensing Board has agreed licensed premises will be able to apply for extended hours over Christmas and New Year.

Operators of premises are being urged to get their applications in early - not just for Christmas, but all year round.

On December 24, 25, 26 and 31 and January 1, hours are extended to 3am for all premises.

Go to <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trade-festive-licensing-hours-2017>

### Success for Adult Learning team

THOUSANDS of adults are gaining access to learning and job opportunities through Argyll and Bute Council.

The council's Adult Learning team has worked with more than 4,000 people over the past year.

It includes 2,856 adults having face-to-face learning or literacy help between 2016 and 2017 - an increase of 34 per cent on the previous year.

A total of 1,132 people also took part in activities aimed at improving their chances of getting a job.

## All change at the top for two Argyll emergency services

COLIN CAMERON  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

NEW faces have arrived to head up two of the emergency services covering Argyll and Bute.

Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service each have their local headquarters in West Dunbartonshire, and it is there that senior officers for the area are based.

But the new commanders for Argyll have the same focus in straitened economic times - that service and performance levels are maintained no matter where anyone lives across the region.

Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren, Argyll's newest

police commander, took up her post in June.

Chief Superintendent Hendren is responsible for the area's local policing strategy. She is based at the divisional headquarters in Dumbarton.

Chief Superintendent Hendren, who has been in the police for 27 years, previously worked as a superintendent in Glasgow before being promoted to her new role. She has taken over from Grant Manders, who has retired.

Describing her job as an 'exciting and new challenge', the Glasgow native is still getting used to one of the more rural sides of Scotland.

She said: 'Coming from Glasgow, I am used to city policing such as large events and foot-



Chief Supt Hazel Hendren.



Area manager Jim McNeil.

ball games. I'm very honoured to have been given this post.

'It is different because of the rural side of things. I have been getting out and about and

asking local people what their expectations are from local policing, and finding out what they think the biggest issues are.

'I plan to build on the partnerships that were made by Grant during his time as chief superintendent, and maintain the police performance in West Dunbartonshire and Argyll.'

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service area manager Jim McNeil, prior to starting his new role as the senior manager covering Argyll and Bute in May, was based at service headquarters in Cambuslang heading up a year-long project looking at a new duty system for Scotland.

He took over from Jim Hymas, who has moved on to senior officer for the City of Glasgow area.

Coming from the big city to rural Argyll is not something that fazes Mr McNeil too much, as he explained:

'Previously, I was the deputy commander in East, North and South Ayrshire. These were three dynamic local authorities with whole-time, retained and volunteer stations.'

'Before that I spent three years as a volunteer manager for both retained and volunteer crews, so I have a good knowledge of the kinds of station we have in this area, with 27 volunteer and 16 retained stations.'

'I was used to Arran and Millport in my previous role, so there is a huge familiarity to the geography with all the islands in Argyll and Bute.'

'Travel distance is the big thing here, but whether you are on an island or the mainland it's my intention that the same level of service delivery is there.'

## Man charged with stabbing

A 33-YEAR-OLD man appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday charged with serious assault and repeated stabbing.

He made no plea or declaration and was remanded in custody pending further investigation.

## Woman is fined following football fall-out

A WOMAN who fell out with her ex-partner while they were watching football on television on Saturday has been fined £200.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Linda Boa, 42, 11a

Tweeddale Street, Oban, and her partner of nine years had split up in April but he was still living in her flat.

He had telephoned the police to make a complaint when the pair had fallen out

and Boa could be heard in the background shouting and being aggressive.

When police arrived at the flat, Boa's former partner was hostile towards police although he was 'covered in blood'. He

was treated by paramedics at the scene for a cut to the head.

Boa admitted shouting, being aggressive and abusive towards her former partner on September 23 and was fined by Sheriff Patrick Hughes.

## Age limit for community councillors could be 16

ARGYLL and Bute Council is reviewing community councils, including lowering the age of membership, electors and co-option from 18 to 16, and has invited residents to give their views in a consultation.

Other proposals include increasing Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council's membership from eight to 10 to reflect new electorate figures, and a timetable for the next election on April 26, 2018.

There are 56 community councils in Argyll and Bute, representing urban, rural and island communities.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for communities, said: 'The community councils help to ensure the council and other public agencies are aware of the opinions and needs of the communities it represents.'

'The feedback of the local people of Argyll and Bute is extremely important in letting the council know if proposals for community councils continue to be

fit for purpose.

'Community councils offer local people the opportunity to make a difference in the place where they live, from organising local galas or events, conducting local opinion surveys, campaigning on local issues, developing projects to improve their local area and commenting on planning or licensing applications.'

'We really look forward to hearing from our communities and finding out what matters to them as the newly-formed community councils will represent their collective views for the next four years and it is important that we have the framework in place to provide for this.'

To have a say, visit the consultation page on the council website, and consultation documents are available in all Argyll and Bute Council libraries.

Any representations or comments on the revised proposed scheme must be received by October 19.

## Grants available for older people's social projects

AGE Scotland has announced £15,000 in grants for innovative projects that promote social wellbeing among older people.

The charity has invited Men's Sheds across the country to apply for funding towards start-up costs, volunteer training, storage units, tools, machinery or other equipment.

The sheds provide an opportunity for older men to socialise, pursue hobbies and share skills. There are more than

100 throughout Scotland, including Oban, Fort William and Campbeltown.

The charity's small development grants programme is supported by the Robertson Trust and the Scottish Government. The closing date for applications is October 31.

Keith Robson, Age Scotland chief executive, said: 'We're delighted to announce this new funding. I hope it will continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands of older people.'

Advertorial

## Loans from the Scottish Government help homes stay warm and cut bills

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money saving improvements to their homes.

Up to £32,500 per property is currently available to owner-occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems like biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent out; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on a householder's behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until a loan offer in writing is received.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5 per cent of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

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

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

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OT

Skye

THIS year's Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Lecture was given by internationally-renowned Gaelic singer and musician Julie Fowlis from North Uist.

Julie is a multi-award winning singer who is deeply influenced by her early upbringing in North Uist. She was nominated as 'Folk Singer of the Year' at the 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and 'Best Artist' at the Songlines World Music Awards 2015.

She delivered the lecture, entitled *Playing the Skyline*, on Thursday September 14 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture on Skye.

She spoke of how music, story and poetry can strengthen people's sense of connection with, or at times separation from, the landscape.

Speaking afterwards, Julie said: 'In 2015 I was invited by BBC Radio



Julie Fowlis.

4, along with five other composers from Scotland, England and Wales, to compose a new piece of music inspired by a landscape and its skyline.

'The musicians involved were asked to take one landscape local to them and examine how the land meets the air and imagine how this might sound musically.

'This project opened my eyes to the mainland Highland skylines around me and forced me to consider my own relationship with the landscape in which I now live and how music, story and poetry can reinforce one's sense of connection to - or indeed disconnect from - a physical landscape.

'This has led me to further musical exploration, including a project investigating local stories, song and cultural mapping around Loch Ness, and to this new collaborative project with Eamon Doorley, Zoë Conway and John McIntyre aimed at creating new music for existing Gaelic poetry, old and new.'

The Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Lecture began in 1990 when Dr James Hunter gave the inaugural talk. Since then a string of high-profile guests have travelled to speak at the annual event.

Western Isles

A WESTERN Isles MSP has written to the Minister for Transport to inquire about a 'motor home levy' which could be used to improve local infrastructure.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar's Alasdair Allan MSP wrote to Humza Yousaf to ask what consideration could be given to such a tax.

Mr Allan said: 'It has been a fantastic thing for our local economies in the Western Isles that we have had record numbers of tourists visiting here and enjoying our island hospitality. However, this success has brought its own set of problems and it is apparent our infrastructure has not been able to keep up with demand.

'The numbers of motor homes using island ferry routes has shot up nearly 10-fold over the last decade and issues associated with motor homes have been repeatedly brought up.

'There is a lack of suitable sites for them, a lack of waste disposal units and the extra space they require on the ferries has contributed to the capacity problems we have seen over the summer.

'While there has been substantial and welcomed investment by the Scottish Government in new and larger ferries, we need to recognise the continued pressure on local people trying to travel in the busy summer months.

'Motorhomes play an important part in our tourism economy and this should not be about making motorhome visitors feel unwelcome. They are welcome. This is about recognising the pressures created on infrastructure by such a rapid growth in tourism and providing communities with a new source of funding that they can direct as they see fit.'

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Smiles all round as representatives from Cathleen's Cabin are presented with the £3,600 cheque from the Scottish Children's Lottery.

Cash boost for Cathleen's Cabin charity

DUNOON charity Cathleen's Cabin has been awarded a £3,600 grant from the Scottish Children's Lottery.

Cathleen's Cabin provides respite holidays for families who have children with life-shortening conditions.

The charity also offers holidays to families of children who have experienced extreme trauma.

In 2015, the decking at Cathleen's Cabin, a three-bedroomed static

caravan with beautiful surroundings, was badly damaged by rain.

With help from the Scottish Children's Lottery, new decking has been installed.

Maddie McCance, founder and trustee of Cathleen's Cabin, said: 'There are not words enough to express our thanks to the Scottish Children's Lottery for caring and helping our wee charity.

'With life-limiting conditions there sadly is not always time to save up for the usual family holiday and money is tight when mum and dad have to give up work to be carers.

'A wee trip 'doon ra watter' has brought many a smile to a child's eye over the years and it continues to do so at Cathleen's Cabin. Thank you for making our wonderful brave guests so much safer.'

Taynuilt rugby player Tom to be mascot at Scotland game

A YOUNG rugby player from Taynuilt will take to the field at Murrayfield Stadium in November - but he's not on the teamsheet.

Seven-year-old Tom Corns has been selected to be a mascot at the Scotland versus Australia game on Saturday November 25.

Tom's team, the Etive Vikings, was approached by the Scottish Rugby Union and asked to provide a mascot.

The club decided the fairest way would be to pick names out of a hat - and Tom's was chosen.

His face lit up at first 'then he went sad,' his dad, Matthew Corns, said. 'He said he didn't want to play against those big Australians!'

But his mood soon turned around when his dad explained to him the role of a mascot. 'He is over the moon,' added Matthew. 'He is counting down the days.'

The Etive Vikings are based in Taynuilt and welcome anyone in primary 2-7 who lives between Dunbeg and Appin.

They train from 6pm until 7pm on Wednesdays at Taynuilt Sports Hub.



Tom is looking forward to being a mascot at Murrayfield.



Find out about digital technology in Dunoon next month. Photograph: Malcolm McCurrach.

Demonstrating new technology and innovation

A DIGITAL demonstration centre is to open in Dunoon for six months.

The free #hellodigital initiative, run by Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE), can be found at The Fairmile Building on the Sandbank Business Park. The programme kicks off on Monday October 2 with a Google Digital Garage talk. Experts will talk to

businesses, social enterprises and community groups about digital innovations and give a them a chance to get 'hands on' with 360-degree cameras, virtual reality and augmented reality. Liza Moran from the HIE Argyll office said: 'We are delighted to be bringing #hellodigital to Dunoon. It was launched in Inverness last year and more than 2,000

people have already gone along to sessions which show how new technology can help their projects grow. There's a demand in Argyll for sessions like this. It's especially relevant for people living outwith Scotland's big cities, as we rely more and more on digital technologies but have fewer opportunities to keep up with developments.'

Digital pupils create and unveil their new mobile app

A MOBILE app created by Dunoon Primary School pupils was unveiled at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Community Services Committee last week.

The app provides information about the education strategy 'Our Children Their Future' and was presented to members by three of Dunoon

primary's digital leaders Barry Campbell, Cameron MacRaidl and Laurie Thorup. It is currently available on the Google store.

The council's policy lead for education councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'I would like to thank the digital leaders from Dunoon Primary School for providing us with a very professional

and informative presentation of the new app which has been created. The app provides easy access to the Education Vision and Strategy and is available to download from the Google store.

'It will also soon be available in the Apple iOS store. These pupils are a credit, not only to their own school, but to the whole of Argyll and Bute.'

At Random

MARTIN LAING  
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Hot topic

A PRESS release landed in *The Oban Times* email inbox last week that trumpeted the opening of a new control centre for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

It said: 'A highly-trained team of control firefighters who provide a voice of reassurance at times of emergency will continue to keep communities safe - thanks to a new £2.5m investment for the north of Scotland.

'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's skilled Operations Control personnel are the 'unseen front line', responding to calls from the public and quickly mobilising firefighters to assist.

'They will now operate from a new, state-of-the-art operations control for the north of Scotland.

'The purpose-built facility at Dundee ... Dundee?'

Since when was Dundee in the north of Scotland? Surely it would have been better to locate such a control centre in Inverness or Fort William.

Police Scotland have been justifiably lambasted in recent times for a number of mistakes, attributed to the centralisation process that has resulted in a lack of local knowledge.

I'm a huge admirer of all our 'blue light' services, but how is someone on Tayside supposed to have any knowledge of communities in the north of Scotland?

Where is our university?

ANOTHER press release that ruffled my feathers last week was sent to us to highlight *The Times*' and *The Sunday Times*' Good University Guide.

This guide ranks all of Scotland's universities in various categories, including excellent teaching, student experience and graduate job prospects. The guide claims to be a comprehensive assessment of our universities and ranks the 14 in its list according to its various criteria.

The only problem is there is not a single mention of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). Not very clever.

Brilliant treatment

I HAD occasion last week to visit Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban for a surgical procedure.

I cannot praise highly enough the treatment I received from the people there. From arrival

to departure, I was dealt with by a very professional team.

I didn't get everyone's name so apologies to those I am missing out, but my thanks go to Louise, Aileen, Alistair and the others for making my stay as comfortable as it was.

Hair-raising

AS WE report this week, a big-hearted pair of local residents decided to 'brave the shave' to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Nancy MacDonald and Allan McKechnie took turns to shave each other's heads as part of the fundraising initiative.

One spin-off benefit is that the event also raised awareness of support provided in Oban for people suffering from cancer and their families.

Oban Library has a wide range of cancer information and holds a drop-in session from 2.15pm to 4.15pm every Wednesday, with volunteers present to listen to worries or concerns and offer free confidential support.

Well done to Nancy and Allan for their selfless gesture.

What do you think? Write to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or *The Oban Times*, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.

# Help celebrate Scotland's inaugural day of history

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S first day dedicated to celebrating heritage takes place next week.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is urging people across Argyll to come face to face with history for the inaugural Heritage Awareness Day on Friday October 6, as the country continues to celebrate the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

'Whether it's highlighting local heritage projects, theming a community event or gathering, encouraging schools to research or dress up as a historical character to raise funds for a community project of their choice, or taking the opportunity to share and celebrate heritage through a virtual conversation online, Heritage Awareness Day is a chance to collectively celebrate Scotland's vibrant and varied heritage,' an HES spokesperson said.

HES chief executive Alex Paterson said: 'Scotland's first Heritage Awareness Day will provide a platform for people across the country to celebrate heritage in all its different forms.'

'Heritage means different things to different people and spans everything from places, traditions, buildings and landscapes to family history, people



From the Canmore catalogue, Oban and Sound of Kerrera circa 1880.

and archaeology. It promotes a sense of place, shapes and defines communities, and we want the day to be a celebration of this.'

As part of the celebration of Heritage Awareness Day, HES has extended opening at

its sites across Scotland, meaning that more sites will be welcoming visitors on October 6, including Dunstaffnage Castle and Rothesay Castle, which will be extending to open for seven days throughout October.

Canmore, compiled and managed by Historic Environment Scotland, is the online catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage.

It contains more than 320,000

records and 1.3 million catalogue entries for archaeological sites, buildings, industry and maritime heritage across Scotland.

To see more historical images, visit <https://canmore.org.uk>.



Two ladies in Iona Abbey's north transept. No date.



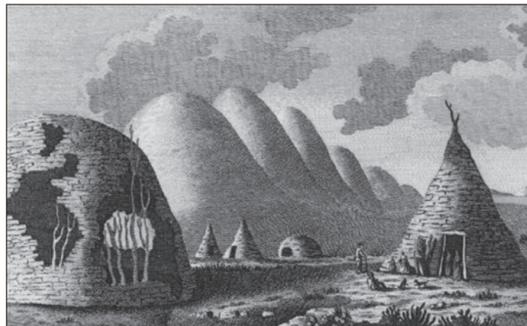
Oban train station, demolished in the late 1980s.



Craighouse on the Isle of Jura, 1817.



1967: before ferries, vehicles going to the islands had to be brought ashore in small boats.



Engraving of sheilings and the Paps of Jura.

## MORVERN lines

### Gentlemen prefer tweeds

IT IS often said that if you spot someone sporting a kilt in the Highlands these days, the chances are the wearer is either a visitor or an expatriate Scot and certainly not local. Like the Gaelic language, kilts are no longer the garment of the playground, although I dare say there are one or two exceptions.

If kilts are less popular than they were 50 years ago, the same cannot be said of estate tweeds. No mere relic of Victoriana, tweeds are part of the history of the Highlands and can still be seen in almost every town up and down the country.

There are two reasons. Firstly, the wool used in the making of tweed which, despite the arrival of 'high-tech' synthetic fibre, is still the most popular choice among professional hill-men for warmth and comfort.

And, secondly, they reflect the distinctive features of many local landscapes. This not only provides deer-stalkers and ghillies with essential camouflage, it also identifies the wearers with an area associated with a family name which has been around for several generations in much the same way as a district tartan does.

A lavish book of these individual patterns, called Scottish Estate Tweeds, was first published by Johnstons of Elgin to commemorate the bicentenary of this well-known clothing company in 1995. A great deal has changed in 22 years. Many large estates have been broken up and resold. Some tweeds



The Achnacarry Sporting and Country Pursuits tweed worn by Alex MacDonaid illustrating how well it blends with the local scenery.

have been discontinued and new ones have been added, so an update is under way.

This important new work traces the origins of estate tweeds back to the aftermath of the Jacobite Rising of 1745 and the subsequent clearances when ancient clan lands were broken up and sold to southern owners attracted to the grandeur of the Highlands and Islands and their sporting potential.

The new lairds, unable to claim a tartan, and for those old ones who could but were not permitted to do so by statute until the Repeal Act of 1782, adopted distinctive tweed for themselves, their friends and employees.

The first of these was designed in the 1840s at Glenfeshie, 10 miles south of Aviemore, by the daughter of General Balfour of Balbirnie who rented the estate from Sir George MacPherson-Grant. Lamenting that she had no tartan, she borrowed a local Border shepherd's plaid of black and white check, superimposed a scarlet over-check and clothed the estate stalkers and ghillies with it from then on. Others soon followed, including the Balmoral Tweed which was designed by Prince Albert sometime before 1857.

Among the earliest of the 185 estate and regimental tweeds listed in Johnstons of Elgin's first book, is that of Ardtornish, Kingairloch, Glensanda and Laudale on the Morvern peninsula. The Ardtornish tweed is a simple brown and white shepherd check which may have been introduced by Patrick Sellar who came into Morvern in 1838. No sooner had Sellar arrived than he evicted several hundred local people from his estate and replaced them with large flocks of cheviot sheep managed by Sutherland and Border shepherds who undoubtedly brought traditional tweed plaids with them.

Ardtornish remained in the Sellar family until 1929. Sadly, as on a number of other Highland estates, this fine old pattern is no longer used as a working tweed among those who manage the deer, sheep and cattle.

The need for camouflage played an important role in the creation of estate tweeds. Looking at the Locheil, Glenfinnan and Conaglen tweeds to be seen in the Fort William High Street on a Saturday afternoon shopping expedition,

they might appear to do the opposite, but it is surprising how effective these brightly coloured checks are at breaking up a man's outline when seen on the ground they were designed for.

There is a good example of this at Stratheconnon in Ross-shire. Mr Peter Combe, a previous owner, has a selection of eight variations of tweed dating to the time of his grandfather who, along with a local weaver, established the most suitable blend for his land. Different patterns were given to the stalkers who went up the hill with sample lengths while his grandfather sat outside the lodge with his telescope to see which was the most invisible. The late Lord Lovat of D-Day landing fame, used to relate of his grandfather pointing out to his wife one day, how the colours of the heather, bracken, bluebells and sand on the far shore of Loch Morar all blended together to make one beautiful colour effect which resulted in the world famous 'Lovat Mixture'.

It was not only the need for invisibility during the deer stalking season that led to Lord Elcho designing his tweed. In raising the London Scottish Regiment in 1860, he felt it wrong that soldiers should wear conspicuous bright scarlet. Instead he produced a cloth blended white and claret-brown after the colour of the red-brown soils on his estate in East Lothian. In time this became the khaki used by soldiers throughout the British army and is now worn in some form or other by all armies of the world.

Iain Thornber  
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# The new windows for number 8 have arrived...

Before



Oh don't the new windows look fantastic, they were put in so quickly, with no fuss and they left the place spotless.

After



I know! and as they're A rated they'll keep the heat in better and save us money too!

And because they're made that bit tougher in the Highlands they'll offer us a bit more protection... from Ryan's wayward football antics!



1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU  
Tel: 01463 238 000

Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY  
Tel: 01343 545315

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG  
Tel: 01847 894956

Email: [info@cairngormgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@cairngormgroup.co.uk)  
[www.cairngormgroup.co.uk](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk)



#MeetTheCairns

# The Gutenberg Press, Twitter and the Users of Modern Technology

This article was written by **BRIDGET COX** at Oban High School as part of her Scottish Baccalaureate in Expressive Arts, Languages, Science and Social Sciences. Last year the school had three pupils who all achieved the Scottish Baccalaureate in Social Science. They were Bridget, Anna Bavington and Mary Donnelly. This year the school has nine students working on the Baccalaureate awards.



Bridget Cox contends that Donald Trump and Martin Luther have much in common.

A LOUD and opinionated outsider who shocked the world and successfully fought against the establishment, changing the course of history through his use of modern technology to promote his controversial views.

Who springs to mind? Donald Trump? Or Martin Luther? He, too, used modern technology to publicise his anti-establishment opinions and cause the Protestant Reformation.

Donald Trump and Martin Luther are not the same, but their uses of Twitter and the Guten-

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Twitter has become a tool responsible for political revolution”

berg printing press respectively have had many similar effects, and it could be argued that nailing a pamphlet to the door of a church was the 16th century equivalent of a Tweet.

Despite being centuries apart,

the Gutenberg Press and Twitter share many qualities. Both are the latest technologies and allow anyone and everyone to publish an idea or opinion, regardless of what it is and whether or not it is true. The potentially huge number of people who will read and react to it means it can undermine what has previously been accepted and attack the establishment's view.

A number of recent political events including Brexit and the election of Donald Trump would likely have been impossible without modern technology; Hugo Rifkind calls what we are experiencing 'the baby steps of a truly mass political engagement brought about by technology that suddenly makes mass political engagement possible'.

In other words, Twitter has become a tool responsible for political revolution as it allows ordinary people to get involved in current affairs. The same goes for the Reformation. Bernd Muller believes 'without printing, no Reformation'.

As well as this, they both allow messages which have been published to be republished and further promoted socially and geographically, either through reprinting or retweeting. This has the obvious advantage of spreading the message, meaning its impact will be greater and

wider; however, it also comes with a number of problems.

With more readings come more and different interpretations which can be difficult as people's different life experiences can lead them to reinterpret things. Martin Luther found this to be a problem as he wanted everyone

on his side and sharing his opinion against the corruption of the Catholic Church. However, the Gutenberg Press and Twitter allow people to have their own opinions and break free from only being allowed to believe what the establishment have told them.

Luther was one of the first people to write for the masses and provide them with information, as the elite and the Catholic Church believed that because they were uneducated, it was irresponsible to provide them with any information.

They were not entitled to an opinion on issues much too complex for their feeble understanding of the world.

Luther believed that they had as much right as anyone who had been educated to access the information about societal issues which concerned them, significantly the corruption of the Catholic Church.

In order to include them, he wrote in the vernacular, in this case German. Although literacy levels were low, around 30 per cent in the towns and cities and only five per cent in rural areas, by writing in German a much larger percentage of the population were able to learn of what he thought, either through reading one of the readily available pamphlets the printing press allowed him to produce, or by listening to him, or others who had read what he had written, speak about the subject. This meant that by the mid-1520s, a huge proportion of the German population had heard of Martin Luther and understood his ideas and his call for the reformation of the Catholic Church, all thanks to the Gutenberg Press.

Similarly, the large number of retweets that Donald Trump's tweets get had a massive impact on his campaign to become the 45th President of the USA. Since 2009, he has sent more than 34,000 tweets and now has more than 26 million followers.

Although his tweets are often retweeted for their unintentional comical and sometimes ridiculous content, and nearly 60 per cent of them have at least one exclamation mark in them, the fact that most of his tweets get between 10,000 and 100,000 retweets highlights just how far his opinion goes.

Despite the fact that many of his views have remained controversial, his use of Twitter had similar success as Martin Luther's use of the Gutenberg Press in convincing people (a proportion of the American

population significant enough to get him elected) of his anti-establishment and rather extreme message.

Without Twitter it is unlikely that he would be so well known or indeed President of the United States as the message he communicated directly to the public was not acceptable to the papers and news stations which would previously have been needed to spread it. Trump has frosty relationships with most news companies and so Twitter is largely responsible for his success because it has always been the main source of promotion for his policies and the best way to spread his unfiltered opinion.

On complex issues, people only being subjected to one side of an argument is a real danger. Neither the Catholic Church during the Reformation, nor the Remain campaign during the run up to the EU referendum used modern

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His tweets are often retweeted for their comical content”

technology as much as their opponents and as a result the people were more aware of the other side of the argument. Although both groups did later realise the impact that modern technology was having on influencing the masses,

by that time it was too late to reverse the popularity that the more extreme opposition had already gained because, for a significant amount of time, people had been hearing one side unopposed. No matter someone's level of education or their original opinion, constantly being exposed to information which shows one side of an argument in a positive light and the opposing one negatively will have an effect.

In the case of the EU Leave campaign, Twitter was particularly important in their victory as it allowed them to frame the debate around immigration, a subject which suited them. It was the most controversial issue of the campaign for a lot of people, so by promoting their opinions on it using Twitter, they forced the other side to

campaign on the subject of their choice.

Self-selected news can result in the creation of an echo chamber, which repeats only one side of the argument. Although during the Brexit campaign, the Leave echo chamber was forced on people due to the lack of Remain presence on Twitter, it is not uncommon for people, without realising, to create their own echo chambers. This occurs when someone follows only people and accounts which support issues they already agree with and consequently all the opinions and ideas they read on Twitter each day just reinforce the opinion they already have.

Not only does this make them oblivious to the other side of the argument, they also forget that it, too, is well supported. Should one group then make gains against the other, people who have only been exposed to one side become angry and disbelieving because, to them, the only valid option is the only one they are aware of.

In order to try to prove that when people are only exposed to the point of view they agree with, this forms a self-reinforcing loop, I carried out a practical experiment on the subject of Scottish independence. Taking five Yes voters and five who would vote No, I monitored a 15-minute group discussion with each of the groups on their own, and then one with both groups together.

All three discussions began with a controversial prompt: 'The fall in oil price has killed the case for Scottish independence'. The Yes group argued that there was more to their desire for independence than economic reasons. Their passionate discussion about patriotism, failed promises, lack of representation, and the prospect of a brighter future without England, included little reference to any of the issues raised by the question of economic stability. They were also very sympathetic to the fact that the SNP had failed to provide any concrete answers to many vital questions.

The 15 minutes I spent with the No voters also failed to address any of the issues why Scottish independence could benefit Scotland as a democracy or why emotionally people might want to be independent. This was the anticipated result from both groups as without any input from the other side, they didn't bring up issues which weren't of benefit to their line of argument.

As expected, both groups used most of their time speaking in favour of the point of view they supported.

For 78 per cent of the time, the Yes voters spoke about the issue from a pro-independence stance, while they only spent three per cent of it dealing with the other side of the argument. The other 19 per cent was neutral. Similarly, the No voters spent 82 per cent of the time talking about the issue from an anti-independence stance, five per cent on the pros of independence, and 13 per cent neutral. This clearly highlights how self-reinforcing debates without an opposition can be.

However, both groups together were more positive. The debate began dominated by the louder Yes voices who continued to argue about the 'undying passion' of the Scots and the other options for an independent Scotland; however, as the No voters directed the debate to the issue of the economy, they all reached the

“  
Self-selected news can result in the creation of an echo chamber”

agreement that now is not the right time for a second referendum. Interestingly, both sides seemed to become more sympathetic to the other as soon as they found something they could agree on. Overall, the discussion was neutral for 42 per cent of time, pro-independence for 25 per cent, and anti-independence for 33 per cent. In comparison to the figures for the single group discussion, it is evident that the presence of the other side of the argument really impacted both the Yes and No voters, and led them to some common ground.

Speaking to someone from each side, after the discussion, the No voter felt that the debate was no longer as simple as Yes/No and, although there were some reasons why independence could be good for Scotland, overall it would do more harm than good. The Yes voter said that she, too, could understand some of the concerns of the No campaign, and felt less secure in her understanding of some of the facts when faced with the opposition than she had when she had been with only Yes supporters. The line of argument from both sides became less radical when they were confronted with opposition, because they were challenged by points which didn't support their thinking and so were forced to consider more thoroughly.

This leads to the conclusion that echo chambers and surrounding yourself with only like-minded accounts is a serious danger for politics and society. People need to be aware of all the facts in order to make a genuine decision about an issue, and the number of people who are only informed about one side of the argument is exacerbated by the other similar accounts suggested by Twitter. In order to combat this, it would be more sensible if suggestions of other accounts to follow encouraged people to make themselves aware of the opposing side of the argument, as that way people wouldn't end up in this self-reinforcing loop of biased opinion, and could make properly informed decisions.

Twitter and the Gutenberg Press have both changed the way we think. However, the right to have a voice comes with a certain responsibility.

The danger of unfiltered access is that the opposing side is not always heard by everybody.

Retuning...

Important information about your TV signal

Freeview TV signals in the south west Highlands and Islands are being updated on Wednesday, 4 October 2017. You may need to retune your TV equipment to restore any missing channels.

Other terrestrial services that offer Freeview channels such as **YouView**, **BT TV** and **TalkTalk** will also be affected. Satellite TV is not affected.

The changes are part of a nationwide upgrade to pave the way for improved mobile broadband services.

More information and advice on retuning Freeview equipment is available online at [www.freeview.co.uk/tvchanges](http://www.freeview.co.uk/tvchanges) or from the Freeview Advice Line on **0808 100 0288**.

Sleepless nights for Kilmallie residents

DISGRUNTLED residents in Kilmallie are calling for action after being kept awake at night by noisy industrial works in Corpach, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

At a meeting of Kilmallie Community Council on Tuesday evening, unhappy locals expressed their frustration over continued night works at the industrial estate and pier at Annat Point, which is keeping some residents awake.

Kilmallie Community Council member Mandy Ketchin said: 'We've been talking about this for six months. None of us are wanting to cause problems with local business but this is a lot of people's lives being affected. It's every night, yet nothing's happening about it.'

A number of Corpach residents have complained to the Highland Council about noise beginning at 4.15am and lasting until after 11pm.

Senior environmental health officer for the council Graeme Corner previously assured the community there has been no contraventions of noise restraints in planning conditions.

He said noise reduction measures would 'require significant engineering works' and the timescale of completion 'would reflect the complexity and scale of the works'.

One Corpach resident said in a letter to community councillors: 'We are subject to a regular loud barrage of "cannon shot" ... It wakens shift workers, unnerves children, pensioners, locals and visitors.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Alan Henderson said: 'One way or another [the council officer] has to come back and report to us on progress. I'm disappointed that hasn't happened and at the lack of action.'

# Trust argues Glencoe extension will stick out like a 'sore thumb'



Youngsters from Lochaber High School took part their annual fundraising hike in fancy dress.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Youngsters step out and raise £6,000 for school and charity

AROUND 600 youngsters stepped out on Lochaber High School's annual fundraising hike on Tuesday and raised the amazing total of £6,000.

The sun shone on the walkers as they trekked to the Rural Complex education centre at Torlundy where they had a break for lunch before walking back to the school.

In keeping with tradition, sixth-year pupils

were in fancy dress and one group of hikers also climbed Ben Nevis. Cash raised from the day will be used to support extra-curricular activities in the school, with 10 per cent being donated to a charity chosen by pupils.

A school spokesperson said: 'As always, we are indebted to the Forestry Commission and to Isabel and Linda Campbell of the Rural Complex who always make us feel so welcome.'

SUSAN WINDRAM  
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THE JOHN MUIR TRUST is calling for a planning application to replace a 1960s extension at the Kingshouse Hotel in Glencoe to be refused, saying the 'large, incongruous building will stick out like a "sore thumb".'

The leading conservation charity said the 'proposal does not respect, enhance or make responsible use of our natural and cultural assets' and that the 'barracks-style, block design is not in keeping with the area'.

The concerns have been echoed by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

The original 17th-century droving inn, which closed last November ahead of proposed building work, is owned by Black Corries Estate, which plans to create a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on the site.

The company originally bought the hotel with planning permission for changes which included a single-storey extension with turf roof. Those plans were scrapped as commercially unviable.

Objecting to the proposals this week, NTS's property manager for Glencoe and Dalness, Scott McCrombie, said that while fully supporting people accessing and enjoying Scotland's landscapes and the social and economic benefits that brings, any developments to support this 'should not come at the cost of the assets that attract visitors in the first place'.

He continued: 'The proposals are for a very large structure in an otherwise open and little developed area. The National Scenic Area special qualities description notes that one of the attractive features of the area is

that: "Where houses and settlements are present, they appear small among the large-scale surrounds of mountain, moor, glen and sea loch".

'A development with such a significantly larger elevation and footprint would detract from this contrast. It could also pave the way for further adverse development.'

The NTS also raised concerns about the built heritage, saying: 'The proposals would see the addition of an annex that would dwarf what remains of the historic Kingshouse. We recommend that lower impact proposals are developed, preferably low-rise and conserving as much as possible of the historic character of this important site.'

While in favour of the application, chairman of Glencoe and Glen Etive community council Alister Sutherland said the council had not appreciated the size of the proposed extension.

Speaking on behalf of the community council, Mr Sutherland said: 'The Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council believe the development should go ahead as planned.'

'This community doesn't have any industrial or commercial developments, it's just got two or three hotels. The result is that there is little scope for employment for young people to stay and work in the community. This looks like a golden opportunity for the community.'

'We know we're in a National Scenic Area but that doesn't mean that nothing can happen here.'

Community councillors were, however, concerned about the accuracy of the architect's impressions of what the proposed

development will look like. Mr Sutherland continued: 'In terms of the appearance of the development, we have had a look at the plans and the drawings don't show all the trees that are currently there.'

'These trees will lessen the starkness of the development.'

'The community council are critical of these plans as we can't imagine those trees will be felled.'

'As a community council, and in view of the planning process, we would like to see any future developments be presented to the community council before it gets to this stage.'

A third objection, from a local resident, opposes the siting of a large car and coach park on health and ecological grounds.

The resident said that not only would the car park mean diesel and petrol fumes being blown straight into their home, but they added: 'The proposed parking area goes right to the end of the wood where there is a long-established heronry. They raised young this year but are easily disturbed.'

'The busiest time for the hotel coincides with the nesting season, so continual traffic by the heronry could mean the nests being abandoned.'

Efforts were made to contact Black Corries Estate, but there was no response before going to press.

The deadline for a decision by Highland Council is October 15.

Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

## LiveArgyll will be responsible for the on-going management and development of the Council's Leisure and Library Services. The service will continue to be delivered as normal utilising the Council's existing Leisure, Library and Hall facilities.

LiveArgyll is committed to enhancing the health and fitness, creativity and personal well-being of the residents and visitors of Argyll and Bute.

As part of our launch programme, on Saturday 7th October we will be offering free access to a number of facilities across Argyll and Bute. The timetable below highlights the programme on offer:

### Oban Corran Halls Programme Saturday 7th October

Bouncy Castle	12pm - 2pm
Children's Sports	12pm - 2pm
Story Corner	12pm - 2pm
Photo Board - facility tours	12pm - 2pm
Face painting	12pm - 2pm
Coffee, tea and cakes session	12pm - 2pm

For further information contact the Corran Halls  
Tel: 01631 567333

### Oban Library Programme Saturday 7th October

Coffee, tea and cakes session	10am - 1pm
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For further information contact Oban Library  
Tel: 01631 571444



OT

## Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

We make no apology for returning this week to the plight faced by Connel ex-paratrooper Billy Irving, who remains languishing in a prison in India.

Billy is one of six British ex-servicemen sentenced to five years in prison after a ship they were working on to combat Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean strayed into Indian territorial waters.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, and the other men's relatives have campaigned tirelessly to have the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office intervene to secure their release from what have been

described as appalling conditions. To say that the government has been found wanting is an understatement.

Now the Bring Billy Back campaign has been given new momentum as a result of input from a number of television celebrities, principal among them soap stars Simon Gregson from *Coronation Street* and John Bowe from *Emmerdale*.

More than 400,000 people have also now signed an online petition demanding action. It will be handed over to our national leaders in the near future. The address is on page one and we would urge everyone to sign it.



## Days gone by – 1995

This week we travel back to August 1995 and the St Columba's bazaar. Pictured are sisters Holley and Laura Hughes, who helped to sell the delicious home-baking.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I'M GOING to venture back into music for this week's offering as last Wednesday I had one of the musical highlights of my life in one of the most unlikely places.

Music can grab the soul in a way that is impossible to quantify, predict or create at will, but when the right combination of person, instrument, skill, talent, melody, friendship, respect and genius combine, it can create a moment of total euphoria and satisfaction unmatched by almost any other human experience.

With music being a part of my working life for more than 20 years, I think I have been slightly dulled to its effects and often find that what I listen to just does not do anything to inspire emotion. But what I heard last week had an instant and overwhelmingly powerful effect.

The context of it made it even more surprising. Rehearsal studios are mind-numbingly boring places. There is no natural light, they are stuffy, the sound is as dull as a dead herring and

a day in one of them can feel like a two-month prison sentence, where those jailed are forced to play the same music over and over again until the sequence of arrangements and sets can be collectively decided on by which time everyone wants to set fire to their instruments.

When Malcolm Jones launched into his electric guitar version of *Crò Chinn t-Sàile*, he turned that dull room into a musical paradise.

We have worked with Malcolm on and off for more than 16 years, and his musical genius never fails to have an impact.

Last week he surpassed even his own track record of putting a musical spell on me.

I cannot envisage a musician on the face of the earth playing that tune with the same magic that Malcolm delivered. For me, it was six minutes of musical perfection and the boys probably thought I was in some sort of trance, with the tears that were streaming down my face.

It is no secret that Runrig, despite

being by a long way the most successful and significant entity ever to emerge from the Celtic music scene, have borne the brunt of relentless criticism in the media and by music reviewers. I would love to have herded a flock of them into Berkeley Studios last week, made them listen to Malcolm and conducted a study on them as to why they do not understand the raw genius of that band's lead guitarist.

Last Friday, we had the most important gig of our career so far and it was indeed an incredible experience with an amazing audience that lifted the roof of the Barrowland Ballroom with the atmosphere they created.

Our gratitude to the audience and the honour of sharing the stage with some of our musical heroes was immense, but even that did not match the power of effect on me that one man and his guitar created in a dingy rehearsal studio on the banks of the River Clyde two days before.

The genius and gentleman that is Malcolm Jones will not be seen again in my lifetime.



### Social media

**NEWS** that Lynn of Lorne Care Home has been issued with a warning notice by the Care Inspectorate because of its poor standards prompted a flurry of comment.

**Cheryl Bryars** said: 'I feel sorry for the staff I know how much pressure they are under not changed at all from when I worked there.'

**Suzy Anderson** wrote: 'It's really not the people working there, it's the management and directors. I can guarantee that the staff go home exhausted and heartbroken every day, no one does that job for the pittance they are paid if they don't want to help people. Heard a lot about the appalling culture there, change needed for staff and residents. Both deserve so much better.'

**Margaret Blair** posted: 'More pay doesn't make you a better carer. Caring comes from within. Standards come from who is managing this home, and many like them. Bless the people that

are left uncared for. The fees paid they should be living in luxury.'

**Allan Strang Jnr** commented: 'I'm speaking from experience of working in the mentioned place for 6 years. I've seen the evidence of the place with directors putting their pockets first. £700 a WEEK for 62 residents. £1.23 A day for to eat per person. Where apart from the poorly paid wages was the money going. Because at the end of the day it wasn't going on the premises or on equipment to ease staff workload or enhance elderly folks lives.'

**Elaina Macdonald** said: 'I don't understand why staff don't speak out even anonymously?? I know that it must be difficult but there is lots of staff that have left and knew what was happening and said nothing!! When you make an anonymous complaint to the care inspectorate that is exactly what it is, unless you give your name!! I'm not blaming the care staff as it's ultimately

down to the owners and management, I do think all staff have a responsibility to the vulnerable people in their care to keep them safe and a clear picture of what's going on in their "Home"!!'

**Donna Prosser** responded: 'It's not easy for the staff of private companies to do so! Especially in that one! Even anonymously the management have ways of finding out and staff are penalised!'

**Vary Ferguson** blasted: 'Lining their own pockets!'

**Frances Black** wrote: 'The management need to help the hard workers, it's a thankless task if short staff too and rubbish pay.'

**Siobhan Guiheen** posted: 'They have wonderful staff over there years, and still have. Maybe some should ask how they feel leaving to go home at night can tell u many are heart broking, the company who owns with are there to make money.'

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

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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.

### Toilets are needed at McCaig's Tower

Sir,  
I read the recent article 'Disgust as human faeces found at Oban attractions' (*The Oban Times*, September 7) and felt that I should repeat the stories told to me by residents of the area around the car park at McCaig's Tower.

Not only has one resident been pestered for years for permission to use her toilet, but others tell of frequent use of their gardens as toilets by visitors to the tower.

I can testify to this as the path behind my garage has recently been used – a disgusting sight to come across first thing in the morning.

I'm aware that there has been a longstanding demand for facilities at the tower car park. Apparently a local contractor offered to build and maintain free of charge a small toilet facility in a space created when the council compulsorily purchased several lock-up garages a while ago. This offer was not taken up for various reasons, but the need remains, as is proved by the continuing use by visitors of local gardens and the car park itself as toilets.

The council has replied by saying: 'Oban has sufficient public toilet facilities.' This may be so, but they are located at Pulpit Hill, Ganavan Beach, the library, the railway station and the North Pier. These will not help an elderly tourist who has stogged up to McCaig's Tower only to find that there is nowhere to go.

In the short term, maybe all the signs directing tourists to McCaig's Tower should have an addition pointing out that there are no toilets there. If we take tourism seriously in this town, we ought to at least provide suitable facilities.

**Maurice Wilkins,**  
Keep Oban Beautiful.

### Rural economy is being starved

Sir,  
It seems that not a day goes by when I'm contacted by farmers and crofters in my ward with justifiable concerns about single farm payments and the plight of our rural economy.

Unfortunately, the bad news just keeps rolling in as the Scottish Government could face a fine of up to £700,000 for the late payment of European subsidies to farmers this year. The penalty, estimated at between £500,000 and £700,000, relates to delays to 2016 Common Agricultural Policy.

The figure is on top of potential financial penalties of around £5 million as a result of late payments in 2015 after delays caused by the introduction of a new £178 million IT system. A total of 90.4 per cent of payments due to farmers were paid by the June deadline, with the European Commission rejecting a request from Scottish ministers for an extension to the payment window.

Even worse, the Scottish Government could also face separate EC financial penalties, known as disallowance, if weaknesses in the administration and control of CAP payments are identified. A recent assessment from Audit Scotland warned the figure for this could be as high as a massive £60 million.

To add insult to injury, the SNP has announced cuts worth tens of millions

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



AN DEICHEAMH LÀ do theas a' Mhàigh theich uam mo nàdar bròin, 'S mi 'm sheasamh làmh ri easan gàireach dearcadh blàth 'n Uillt-Mhòir.

Thàinig faclan a' bhàird Dòmhnall nan Òran nam inntinn nuair a chuala mi gu robh Abhainn Hamara, neo An t-Allt Mòr, ann an Gleann Dail air cur thar a' bhuairchean a-riohist. B' e dealbh gu math eadar-dhealaichte a bha fo shealladh mhuintir a' Ghlinne an turas seo, agus chithear air an eadar-lìon an craos uisge a bha a' sruthadh mu iochdar lotaichean Ghlas Pheighinn agus Fhearrann Mhic Guaire, agus a' dòrtadh thar an Leth Pheighinn agus tro Thalla Coimhearsnachd Ghlinn Dail! Seo an dàrna turas, saoilidh mi, a tha an Talla seo air a bhith air a milleadh le tuil den t-seòrsa agus chan eil teagamh nach eil cosgais mhòr dol a thighinn an lùib càraidh. Dhùisg an aìmlighe ceist nam inntinn a thaobh na h-ìre gun deach beachdachadh air cunnart thuiltean, neo an robh mothachadh sam bith air leithid de chunnart, nuair a bhathas a' dealbh an togalach seo bho

of pounds for projects aimed at helping Scotland's farming communities.

In a recent written statement to the Scottish Parliament, rural affairs secretary Fergus Ewing said he was slashing support for less favourable areas by £40 million, with a further £42 million being removed from climate change schemes.

Along with the SNP's aforementioned mishandling of hundreds of millions of pounds in Common Agricultural Policy payments due to a botched IT system, this makes for a double hammer blow for our farmers, crofters and the wider economy in rural Scotland.

Most shocking of all is that as part of the revision, the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme will have money reduced from £459 million to £419 million. That's money which supports businesses in areas of the country which are harder to farm successfully, particularly in remote areas.

Due to a mixture of incompetence and indifference, we in rural Scotland are having our economy starved by an urban, central belt and separatism obsessed Scottish Government.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,**  
Islay.

### Solution is needed to solve road logjam

Sir,  
Joe Wilson's justified praise (*The Oban Times*, September 21) of I&H Brown's well-managed roundabout construction is timely and serves to remind us of the 30th anniversary of the publication of Trunk Road Orders for the proposed realignment of the A82 from the old Fort roundabout to the Fort William Golf Club and to reflect on how we got to the current situation.

Thirty years ago, prior to devolution and the existence of Transport Scotland, BEAR and the like, Highland Regional Council, along with other regional councils, was the agent of the Scottish Development Department (SDD) for management of the trunk roads in its area.

On September 28, 1987, the notice heralding the Trunk Road Orders was published for the route which would have extended from An Aird, round Inverloch, crossing the A82 by flyover at the Tailrace and continuing through Jewson's yard, then council-owned, parallel to the railway, to join the existing A82 close to the golf club. The A830 would be extended to join the new road at a roundabout south of the distillery.

While local traffic would still be able to use the existing A82 to access premises on the North Road, the loss of passing tourist trade was a matter of concern to the owners of the Milton (now Ben Nevis) Hotel who persuaded the Fort William Chamber of Commerce and Lochaber District Council to oppose the regional council's proposal at a public local inquiry, jointly financing the considerable cost of a QC to do so.

These parties were successful in blocking the proposed A82 realignment and the Caol link road was offered as an alternative at that time. Consequently, the entire project was stopped and, since then, the political logjam of the A82 realignment versus the Caol link road has presented a convenient local dilemma to the benefit of parties furth of Lochaber who had few qualms in diverting trunk road funds to the A96, A9 and the like.

Since 1996, the Highland Council has safeguarded both routes in its various local plans but under the current draft revision of the West Plan indicated that it intended to drop the safeguard on the A82 realignment since it wouldn't open up any development land; of course it wouldn't, since that's not the function of a trunk road.

Among others, I objected and I am pleased that the matter has now been held over awaiting a roads review called a STAG appraisal which has been the subject of earlier columns in this newspaper.

Readers will also be interested to learn that the original improvement scheme for the A82 Glen Nevis junction that was recommended to the Scottish Development Department in the late seventies was for a right-turning lane which would have retained the priority for the A82 in both directions.

Intervention by the then under-construction woollen mill meant that the SDD stipulated a mini roundabout, much in vogue at that time, thus allowing the woollen mill traffic the same priority as the A82, which was far from logical.

Delay on the A82 is a trunk road problem for Transport Scotland to deal with and the chance of an Inverness-centred Highland Council financing a Caol link road to solve a separate issue is nil and remains a distraction.

As divisional road engineer with the regional council at the time, I find this a pretty gloomy anniversary; things could have been very much different. Thirty years on, I still believe the proposed A82 realignment, or a revised version of same, presents the right way forward.

The 1987 estimated cost of £7.6 million was surely considerably less than the cumulative damage to business and community in recent years alone. We need local leadership from the Highland Council and Chamber of Commerce to put pressure on the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to get us back to where we were 30 years ago and have some solution to look forward to.

**John C Hutchison,**  
Badabrie, Fort William.

### Campervans bring needed revenue

Sir,  
As a campervan owner for the past 24 years I have watched the increasing number of campervans and motorhomes on our roads.

It is surely up to local authorities to cater for the increasing numbers and make facilities available. These vehicles bring much-needed trade into the area and most people who own a campervan or motorhome are responsible people - it's the few who spoil it.

Could local authorities, in this case Argyll and Bute, not follow the example set by our continental neighbours and provide 'aires du service'? This would provide a chemical disposal and grey water facility and a fresh water tap for a nominal fee. There are car parks lying empty at night which could be utilised for this, with a limit of a 12- or 24-hour stay for, say, £5 per night. This could be earning the council much-needed revenue and hopefully stop unpleasant dumping of waste.

**Ann Gillies,**  
Hunters Quay, Dunoon.

Ailean Caimbeul

le Dam Chluainidh a' gleidheadh uisge nam beanntan agus ga leigeil às beag air bheag agus nach cuir aibhneachan a' ghlinne thairis. Cha tig leithid de dham gu ruige Gleann Dail gu bràth!

Dh'fheumte billèanan a chosg agus dàrna leth a' Ghlinne fhàsachadh agus a chur fo uisge, agus tha sin a' fàgail dùbhaln leantainneach aig luchd-stiùiridh na talla coimhearsnachd air ciomar a ghabhas sochair deatamach coimhearsnachd a dhion bho na tuiltean a thig cho cunbhalach 's a rinn iad fad linntean.

WHILE EXTREMELY SORRY to hear that Skye's Glendale Community Hall has suffered flooding again, I found myself wondering whether this risk had been considered in the planning of an important community resource. The Hamara River has been flooding for centuries when heavy rainfall coincides with high tides.

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

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### Your letters

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

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

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

## Council delays approval of student flats

COUNCILLORS won't make a decision on plans to build student accommodation on the site of a former primary school in Fort William without making a site visit.

Members of the Highland Council's south planning committee agreed this week that a visit is needed to the site on Fassifern Road.

Councillors said photographs submitted with the planning application didn't show the proximity of the planned building to neighbouring property.

Cityheart Ltd hopes to build a three-storey building within the grounds of the former St Mary's RC Primary School to house 40 students. The company has already built flats in An Aird for students studying in the town.

Residents living next to the Fassifern Road site have raised concerns, including insufficient parking, road safety and that the building will impose on adjacent properties.

Cityheart Ltd says it plans to angle the roof to reduce the impact on neighbouring properties. It also said parking outlined in the proposals is in line with similar student accommodation elsewhere in the Highlands.

### Business change in the spotlight

LOCHABER Environmental Group and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce are hosting an event to showcase the support available to local businesses to be more environmentally friendly. It takes place on Thursday October 5 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at the Lime Tree Gallery, Fort William.

# Fort William factory site to be studied after battlefield setback



Ian Blackford MP, middle left, and David Mundell, MP and secretary of state for Scotland, middle right, during their visit to the GFG complex in Fort William with GFG director Brian King, left, and chief investment officer Jay Humbo, right. IF F39 GFG Smelter 01

NEILL BO FINLAYSON  
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL study will determine whether plans for a new car wheel factory in Fort William infringe on the site of two historical battlefields.

GFG Alliance has commissioned an archaeological study on land earmarked for a £120m factory development after Historic Environment Scotland (HES) claimed this week the project may lie within the site of two battlefields at Inverloch of 'national significance'.

An HES spokesperson said: 'We fully recognise the potential economic boost this expansion of industry could make to the area, however, because of the importance of the designated sites, we advised the developer should undertake some exploration work to further inform their proposals and welcome their decision to conduct an impact assessment.'

In response to HES' claims, GFG Alliance said it wants to continue to 'develop in a sensitive manner' and have therefore arranged for a professional archaeological study on the site.

A statement from GFG said: 'We've taken up the recommendation of the Highland Council and commissioned a professional assessment to establish whether or not there might be any risk and, if so, to include appropriate mitigation measures in our planning application, which we hope to submit in November.'

A GFG spokesperson later commented: 'This is all part of the process.'

'We're not expecting it to delay anything, but we need to receive

what the archaeologists say and respond to that. It's hard to say what impact it will have on the plans until we hear from them.'

On Tuesday, MP for Lochaber Ian Blackford, along with Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell MP, visited GFG's aluminium smelter in Fort William, to hear of these plans, which, if given the green light, will employ 400 people.

On the issue of the archaeological study, Mr Blackford said: 'Obviously this is something that has to be looked into, studied carefully and recorded as part of the area's history.'

'I am sure Liberty GFG Alliance will take all findings into account and do what they can to mitigate any issues, while still proceeding with its plans to build the new factory, which will be a vital contributor to the future prosperity of Lochaber'

## Fisheries 'disappointed' by fish farm approval

TWO LOCHABER fishery bodies have expressed their disappointment in local councillors after approving controversial plans to upgrade a Loch Linnhe fish farm.

At a meeting of the Highland Council's south planning committee this month, members approved Marine Harvest's proposals to upgrade salmon pens at its Gorsten Salmon Farm, near Ardgour - despite two objections from local groups.

Councillor Ben Thompson said at the meeting that although he was 'deeply troubled' by Marine Harvest's application

for the fish farm, he didn't see a justification for refusing it, while Councillor Andrew Baxter said that he, too, was concerned by some content of the application, before reluctantly approving the proposals.

Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board and Lochaber Fisheries Trust formally objected to the proposals over concerns of the high level of sea lice found on wild salmon in surrounding rivers.

Jon Gibb of Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board said: 'The board is deeply disappointed councillors have ignored the

scientific evidence that would strongly suggest that net pen fish farming is unsustainable and damaging to the environment when practiced in the wrong location, however good the intentions and management of the operating company.'

'Gorsten is one of the worst locations in Scotland, being at the top of the long inland fjord of Loch Linnhe and close to the mouth of several important salmon and sea trout rivers, including the largest sporting salmon fishery on the west coast in the River Lochy.'

'The board supports a thriving

Scottish aquaculture industry and recognises the enormous benefits it brings to the West Highlands, but only when undertaken in a sustainable manner. Salmon farming is not ecologically justifiable when practised in inland locations near the mouths of salmon rivers.'

'It is highly regretful councillors have not recognised this, in spite of our evidence-based representations, and have waived through yet more expansion at this entirely inappropriate site.'

Marine Harvest has been given approval to replace the existing

20 square salmon farming pens at the Gorsten site with 12 larger pens, but within an extended boundary on the loch.

The Lochaber Fisheries Trust, also concerned about the council's decision to approve the expansion at Gorsten, claim 'millions more infectious lice will be released into the environment'.

A trust representative explained: 'The lice numbers we recorded in 2017 were the worst we have seen and we estimate nearly 70 per cent of the sea trout we caught in Loch Linnhe would go on to die as a result

of the high lice loads they were carrying. I understand and welcome the huge efforts Marine Harvest are making to get lice on their farms under control, but in locations such as Gorsten - sheltered sea lochs near the mouths of rivers - there is inevitably going to be an impact on wild fish populations and we feel farm expansion in these areas is not the way to bring about a sustainable aquaculture industry.'

The trust said it would be happy to work with the council to understand and control better the impacts of fish farms on the environment.

## Skipper jailed for 10 months for theft of Mallaig fishing boat

A SKIPPER has been jailed for 10 months for stealing a fishing boat belonging to Islay Crab Exports and fraudulently using one of the company's credit cards.

But 37-year-old skipper Christopher Brown said during his trial at Campbeltown Sheriff Court that he had acted out of desperation. He said: 'No person in this world works for seven weeks for nothing.'

Brown, whose address was given in court as HMP Edinburgh, had pleaded not guilty to nine charges, all on July 2, 2015. The main charges were stealing the fishing vessel, the catch and a company credit card.

The remaining six charges were of fraud with the credit card in Troon and in Silverburn shopping centre; buying tobacco and lighters from a Spar shop in Troon, to the value of £18; fuel, tobacco and energy drinks from Tesco, £105.79; clothes from JD Sports, £700.03; a mobile telephone, £529.99; attempting to buy iPads from Argos at £739.97 and also food to the value of £22.35 from McDonald's, but the card was declined on these two occasions.

His not guilty plea to stealing the catch was accepted by the Crown and Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the theft of the credit card not proven. He found him guilty of all the other charges.

Sheriff Hughes heard that Brown has

been hired by the Islay-based company through a find-a-fishing-boat website and he was to organise his own crew and board the scalloper Kayleigh M at Mallaig. The company's advertisement said the boat was ready to go to sea.

Brown told the court: 'No way. It was filthy. It took 12 hours a day, for three or four days to get it up to standard.'

James Monaghan, a director of Islay Crab Exports, said Brown was to receive a 30 per cent share of the price of the catch sold to the company, which had its own processing plant on Islay.

'It is up to the skipper to decide how to pay the crew,' he said, adding that each boat had access to a company credit card. Skippers were expected to send receipts to the office and, once established with the firm, were given a card of their own.

Mr Monaghan said Brown had taken a credit card from his pick-up truck.

Brown said in his evidence that he had been given the card by the company secretary and had been using it already for two weeks with the company's consent.

Brown admitted he might have damaged a winch on board and with it some welding and there was water ingress into the living accommodation on board which had damaged property and clothing.

'Whenever I tried to contact him [James

Monaghan], his attitude was get on with it, fix it, I'm busy. It is all right, you will be reimbursed.'

Brown paid crew from his own funds and eventually the two men argued. He used the card to buy replacement clothes and possessions.

He said: 'I told him I was taking the boat to Troon, because I was done, I was finished.'

Mr Monaghan said this conversation did not take place. He told the court: 'At 7am I was sent a text message that he was coming in at 11pm tonight. I arranged for a lorry to be there when they came in to land the catch but they didn't come in. At about 9pm that night I thought something was seriously wrong.'

The company director said he believed Brown had done this to buy himself time to get to Troon and sell the catch.

Thomas Newton, of Coquet Island Shellfish, North Shields, said that Brown had approached him to buy the catch. Brown had wanted cash and the company never paid in this way; the money was paid to Islay Crab Exports.

When giving his verdict, Sheriff Hughes said that while some of the evidence he had heard from the prosecution had been contradictory, he was satisfied the offences occurred.

### Help needed with Banavie memorial

KILMALLIE Community Council is calling on members of the community to help with restore Banavie war memorial.

Members discussed ways to fund and carry out work to the monument on the hillside above the main road in Banavie.

Chairwoman Christine Hutchison said in a public appeal to local residents: 'Kilmallie Community Council has been trying for two or three years to progress a grant application for improvements to make access easier for folk who are elderly or infirm.'

'We are keen to achieve this before the November 2018 centenary of the First World War.'

The community council is looking for anyone with suitable experience to help complete applications, get tenders and arrange work.

## Fèisean nan Gàidheal celebrates expansion of fèis programme

FÈISEAN nan Gàidheal, the organisation which supports the development of community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals throughout Scotland, published its annual report on Friday at the group's annual general meeting in Ballachulish.

Guest speaker at the event was musician and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy and there was music from Fèis Lochabair which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Fèisgoil experienced substantial growth last year with the development of Blasad Gàidhlig, which offers Gaelic lessons in schools where the language is not currently taught. Gaelic tuition is now being delivered in several local authority areas and this increase in demand has led to employment for a growing number of tutors.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's chief executive Arthur Cormack explained: 'Everything we do is to support the local Fèisean, increase opportunities for young people or to create employment for tutors. Over the past year we have provided employment for 97 full time equivalent posts. In addition we have offered many young people opportunities to develop their skills through cèilidh trails, drama work and performing at events as part of Blas and

other national and international festivals. We strengthen Gaelic education, too, through the work carried out in schools and with pre-school groups. In March 2017 we formally launched our FèisTV service which will, through time, offer online opportunities for an international audience to participate in the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.'

According to a survey conducted by the Traditional Music Forum, the work of the Fèisean now accounts for a third of all traditional music tuition for young people across Scotland, with the report showing it engaged with at least 71,000 people in 2016-17.

In his foreword, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's chairman Duncan MacQuarrie MBE said: 'This report demonstrates that our year-round programme, agreed with Creative Scotland, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, was successfully delivered. We were pleased to deliver services for The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll and Bute Council, as well as securing a number of contracts from other local authorities and public bodies, which were delivered through our Fèisgoil service.'

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's priority is to ensure continued support for and development of local Fèisean.'

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# Arena

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**OBAN U3A**  
Tuesday 3rd October 2017  
at 10.30 am  
Studio Theatre and cafe area, Corran Halls, Oban  
This month we have a speaker from SAMS, Ms Courtene-Jones, whose topic is "Life in Plastics: Not so Fantastic. Do come along."

**Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group**  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
Glencruitten Road Church Hall  
Saturday 30 September, 10am - 12 noon  
All the usual stalls  
Any donations gratefully accepted

**Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Thursday 5th October 2017  
(First club night of the season)  
7.30pm Royal Hotel  
Guest Artist: Leonard Brown & Malcolm Ross  
Admission £4  
All welcome!

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**  
If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

## Islay hosts festival of wild books,

THE ISLAY Book Festival expands across the island and over the Sound to Jura this week, including a 'crime evening' in the Round Church.

Islay's annual 'lively and enjoyable festival', which runs from September 28 to October 1, grew out of a small book club in Port Ellen, but now its volunteers are offering a bigger programme of events for adults and children of all ages.

Colin MacIntyre hosts a words and music performance on September 29, after visiting Islay High School's higher and advanced higher English classes to discuss his contribution to publisher W&N's 'Hometown Tales' series, in which he writes about growing up on Mull.

As a bonus, Colin is also bringing his uncle

Eric MacIntyre to speak to the school's history students about his re-

**“ Crime-writing is hugely popular on Islay, ”**

Isla Rosser Owen

search into World War I. There are also local history walks based on 'Islay Voices', an anthology of oral history, writings, records, poems and songs about Islay, and book-binding craft workshops and drop-in sessions. Bowmore's Round Church hosts a historical crime evening

on Saturday September 30, involving a conversation between two of Scotland's leading crime writers, Sara Sheridan and ES Thomson.

Chairwoman Isla Rosser Owen said: 'Both have recently contributed to the Bloody Scotland crime-writing anthology set in Scotland's historic buildings, so the Round Church would seem to be a very appropriate venue for this event.'

'Crime writing is hugely popular on Islay, with about half the mobile library shelves taken up with the likes of Peter May and Ann Cleeves in particular, so we look forward to offering some crime to the local community while also introducing writers they may be less familiar with.'

'Our writing workshop sold out fairly early on, which was a big surprise to us as it's the first time we've offered a writing workshop on the island and so it was a bit of an experiment, and it was a real pleasure to see the level of interest in this. I think 90 per cent of the attendees are from Islay and Jura.'

'This year, we've also got a puppetry workshop for children, as well as a Gaelic storytelling and song session, and, of course, we have Alan



Sara Sheridan

Windram coming along to do some sessions in the primary schools and promote his new book 'One Button Benny', which intriguingly features 'robot dancing' and 'robot karaoke'.

'We had a 'wild books' scheme where we placed our authors' books around the island for people to find, read, and then leave for someone else to find. We've been tracking these on the Bookcrossing.com website, and we've discovered that they've already travelled to all sorts of

places. Some of Ryan's poetry ended up at Blair Atholl horse trials and Helen Sedgwick's 'The Comet Seekers' reached as far as North Carolina around the same time as Hurricane Irma.

'We've also been running a photography competition linked to Konrad Borkowski's 'Whisky Island' photography session, which is on September 30. We asked people to send in pictures of what the 'Spirit of Islay' meant to them and we received an amazing 112



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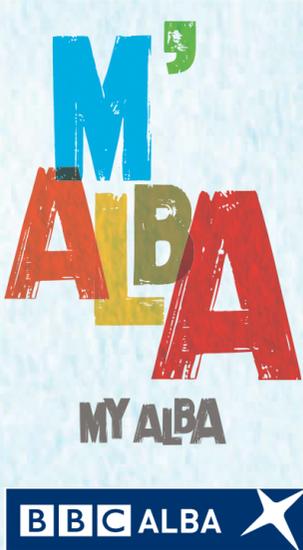
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Barbara Henderson.

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Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request proof of identity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with generators and sponsors.



Listings for Thursday 28 September - Thursday 5 October 2017

**DIARDAOIN 28 SULTAIN THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19.05 Bailtean Alba - Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)  
19.25 Binneas - Cuirim @ Celtic: Chicago - Rura (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 UR | NEW: Air an Rathad  
22.00 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Bombskare (rpt)  
22.30 UR | NEW: Lana Turner  
23.20 Dhan Uisge - Loch Lomond (rpt)  
23.30 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 29 SULTAIN FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
18.35 Machair - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)  
19.00 An Là - News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Pro 14 Live Rugby - Leinster v Edinburgh  
21.25 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan (rpt)  
21.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)  
22.00 Seirm (rpt)  
23.00 Lana Turner - the life and Hollywood success of Lana Turner (rpt)  
23.50 Dhan Uisge - Loch Coruisk (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 30 SULTAIN SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER**  
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
17.30 Machair - Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)  
17.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

18.00 Scottish Premiership - St Johnstone v Hamilton  
20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)  
20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 UR | NEW: Seirm - Music show from Celtic Connections  
22.00 HMS Timbertown (rpt)  
22.55 Scottish Premiership - St Johnstone v Hamilton (rpt)

**DIDOMHNAICH 01 DÀMHHAIR SUNDAY 01 OCTOBER**  
16.00 Scottish Championship - St Mirren v Queen of the South  
18.15 Binneas - Na Trads (rpt)  
18.30 Seachd Là (rpt)  
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)  
20.00 DIY le Donnie - An Dùbhlann (rpt)  
21.00 Sàr-sgeòil: His Bloody Project (rpt)  
22.00 Seirm (rpt)  
23.00 Rita Hayworth (rpt)  
23.50 Dhan Uisge - Loch Coruisk (rpt)

**DILUAIN 02 DÀMHHAIR MONDAY 02 OCTOBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19.00 Sruth gu Sàl - series looking at the waterways of Scotland (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 UR | NEW: Puirt-adhair  
21.00 UR | NEW: Trusadh - Saighdearan Dhe  
22.00 UR | NEW: Bannan  
22.30 Talamh gu Truinsear (rpt)  
23.30 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Bombskare (rpt)

**DIMÀIRT 03 DÀMHHAIR TUESDAY 03 OCTOBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan - Stories from Fishermen's working lives at sea  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News

20.30 Highland Midwives - Mnathan-glùine - a' leanail na leanabain (rpt)  
21.00 Chi mi anns a' Bhothan Thu - Inside story of illegal drinking dens on Lewis (rpt)  
22.00 Trusadh - Saighdearan Dhe (rpt)  
23.00 HMS Timbertown (rpt)

**DICIADAIN 04 DÀMHHAIR WEDNESDAY 04 OCTOBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19.00 Sruth gu Sàl - series looking at the waterways of Scotland (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 UR | NEW: Prosaig  
21.00 UR | NEW: Talamh gu Truinsear  
22.00 UR | NEW: Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live!  
22.30 Bannan (rpt)  
23.00 Air an Rathad - Off-Road (rpt)

**DIARDAOIN 05 DÀMHHAIR THURSDAY 05 OCTOBER**  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan - Stories from Fishermen's working lives at sea (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là - News  
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 UR | NEW: Air an Rathad  
22.00 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Keston Cobblers (rpt)  
22.30 UR | NEW: Frank Sinatra  
23.20 Dhan Uisge - Easdale (rpt)  
23.30 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)

# crime, and robot dancing



ES Thomson

entries from near and far. In fact, two of our shortlisted finalists are from France. 'And our other, still ongoing, initiative is that we've challenged visiting poet Pauline Prior-Pitt to compose a poem for Islay in real-time over the festival weekend based on word contributions from the public. So we've been asking people to send in words to us via social media or email, or

to put them on post-its and stick them up on our board during the festival. So far we've had some great words submitted, e.g. skein, gloaming, and mizzle. 'We're visiting Jura on September 28, which also happens to be National Poetry Day so we're sending poet Ryan Van Winkle over to do a poetry workshop at the primary school and a poetry event for the community. Our



Ryan Van Winkle



Colin MacIntyre. Photograph by Ben Morse.

bookbinder, Corinna Krause, will also be joining him to talk about her work. It's nice to be able to offer something to our very close neighbour and we hope to continue to do so in future. Our main aim this year has been to offer our audiences a lively and enjoyable programme for adults and children, in order to set the festival on a new path for the future, and we really hope we've achieved that.'

# Record sell-out for Islay Jazz Fest



The Colin Steele trio who opened this year's Islay Jazz Festival at Lagavulin Distillery

ISLAY Jazz Festival organisers reported a record number of sold-out concerts, with audiences coming from across the globe. Highlights included the Rose Room's concert at Rhinns Hall, Portnahaven, Mario Caribe Islay All Stars, Tommy Smith playing solo in the Round Church and the Islay debut for singer Luca Manning. Sadly Jacqui Dankworth was taken ill and could not perform, but audiences were treated to a world premiere duo from Charlie Woods and Seonaid Aitken. Luca Manning also appeared for a short guest slot. Stuart Todd from Islay Arts Association said: 'This was a vintage year for the festival and we were delighted to see so many old friends return and to welcome so many newcomers.'

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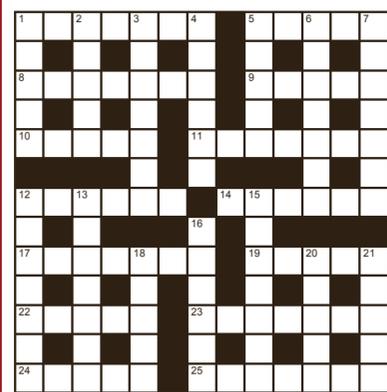
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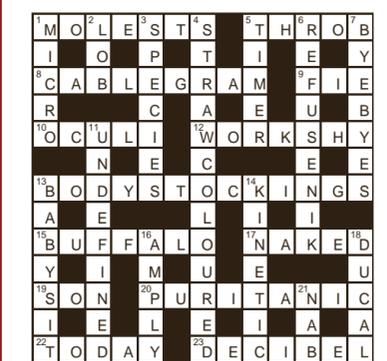
**MONDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2  
**TUESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.  
**THURSDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.  
**FRIDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.  
**SATURDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.  
**SUNDAY:** 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Moving (7)
  - 5 Spruce (5)
  - 8 Furthest (7)
  - 9 Former capital of Japan (5)
  - 10 Body (5)
  - 11 Ridge left by a glacier (7)
  - 12 Band worn round upper limb (6)
  - 14 Upright (6)
  - 17 City of Israel (3,4)
  - 19 New (5)
  - 22 Projecting part (5)
  - 23 Farm alarm clock (7)
  - 24 Thirst for (5)
  - 25 Past the middle years (7)
- Down**
- 1 Strain (5)
  - 2 Harmony (5)
  - 3 Form of chemical element (7)
  - 4 Bury (6)
  - 5 Card game (5)
  - 6 Worship (7)
  - 7 Major undertaking (7)
  - 12 Final surgery performed (7)
  - 13 A region in NE Romania (7)
  - 15 Transfer goods from ship to land (7)
  - 16 Reluctant (6)
  - 18 No meat or dairy (5)
  - 20 Type in (5)
  - 21 Shrew (5)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# Lochaber Wedding Fair 2017

GETTING married is one of the most important events in life, so it is vital that everything comes together to make a wedding day perfect. Deciding exactly what you would like to make your wedding day that extra bit special and knowing how to organise things can seem like a daunting task but help is at hand with an exciting wedding fair this Sunday in Fort William. It is organised by Steve Brown of Wonderland, who, with 24 years in the business, is highly experienced at knowing just what couples want on their special day.



Steve Brown and Claire Innes - Wonderland.

The wedding fair in Caol Community Centre on Sunday October 1 will feature all the professionals anyone will ever need to make their day a success. Suppliers include florists, venues, event decorators, chair cover hire, harpist, car hire, photographers, videographers, stationers, humanist celebrants, live music from award-winning band Wonderland and fashion shows from bridal boutiques, with the potential for even more on the day. Entry is free with the bonus of a free copy of the latest edition of the Scottish Wedding Directory magazine for the first 50 clients. Doors are open from 1pm till 4pm so why not take the opportunity to meet the professionals who will give you the best results to make your dream come true.



Photo: John Lawton, Fairy Tale Productions.



Some of the models from 2015's wedding fair.

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# Arena

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



## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Teenagers, computers and smartphones

I AM particularly passionate about preventing children and teenagers becoming myopic (short sighted). There is compelling evidence excessive close work is a major factor in the development of myopia. A recent study has found the average teenager now spends 6.5 hours per day using some form of computer screen. Those 6.5 hours do not include time spent in class where lessons are now frequently computer based. Is it any wonder so many of this generation of youngsters are becoming myopic?

Australian researchers found getting our youngsters outside playing was a significant factor in reducing the risk of developing myopia. Limiting time spent on near vision tasks e.g. smartphone use and reading was also beneficial.

Many youngsters believe it is possible to multi-task using a smartphone in class and still pay attention to their lessons. Research has shown conclusively academic performance drops significantly when a child tries to multi-task. How many times have you been sitting talking to your child when they are on their smartphone, and you might as well be talking to yourself. The human brain is not capable of multi-tasking and, yes ladies, that applies to both sexes!

What can we do to help our youngsters? We could all stop using our phones at the dinner table and rediscover the art of conversation. We could have phone free rooms at home and perhaps encourage our youngsters to stop taking their phones into their bedrooms as they go to bed. We could all get more physically active and spend time outdoors. As families we all need to sit down and discuss sensible use of smartphones and computers and agree some basic rules about their use. We also need to ensure our youngsters have regular eye examinations to maximise their sight and minimise the risk of developing myopia.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# This year's World Stone Skimming Championships was one to remember

A MARRIAGE proposal, a nine-man final and an international winner were all featured in the 21st annual World Stone Skimming Championships held on Easdale Island.

A man from Japan was crowned the overall winner and the event organiser got engaged in front of hundreds of people after the awards ceremony.

Keisieke Hashimoto decided to compete, and win, the world championships on Easdale after winning a competition in his home country.

He made the 5,689-mile trip and - with his 'unusual technique' - hit the back wall to advance through to the three-stone skim-off.

Eight other men skimmed their stones 61 metres to hit the back wall and to join Keisieke, including last year's champion, Dougie Isaacs.

'Everyone thought he [Dougie] was going to pull it off again,' event organiser Donald Melville said. 'But Keisieke Hashimoto won it. He was chuffed to bits.'

'He had an unusual technique, but he was good. He is the champion over in Japan and said he came here to win and he did. I'm really pleased for him.'

Keisieke's total of 169 metres, was enough to win him the title over stone skimming stalwart Dougie Isaacs, who reached a total of 158 metres.

The women's event was won by Nina Luginbuhl from Switzerland with distance of 44 metres.

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

'We have been in touch with them,' Donald said. 'Her home town was voted the most boring holiday resort, so to counter that they came up with an unusual event - stone skimming.'

Overall, Donald was happy with how the day went. 'I think it went fantastically well despite the weather,' he said.

'Folk still seem to come and have a laugh even if it's wet.'

'I think the numbers were slightly down because of the weather, but we still had a full entry - around 350 people.'

Speaking about proposing to his now-fiancee Maggie Young on stage after the awards ceremony, Donald said: 'It was just something I had been planning for a few weeks. I decided this would be the perfect occasion to do it.'

'It got such a roar from the crowd and there were still [hundreds] of people in the hall.'

He had asked Maggie on to the stage. 'Maggie thought I was going to give her a row and I got down on one knee.'

'I made a ring out of wood and put a bit of slate with fool's gold in it. It's more of a token. I didn't want to get her one without her seeing it.'

'I asked her dad in the morning. He was happy. He seems to like me, which is good.'

'I really don't know what I would have done if she had said no.'

Colin Dower from Belgium and Elizabeth Marshal from Scotland were the under-10s boy and girl winners with a distance of 28 metres and seven metres respectively.

Scotland's Silvana Donaldson was the girls' 10-15 years winner with 19 metres and Cameron Hunter from England won the boys' category with a throw of 55 metres.

The old tosser categories for over-60s was won by Ron Long from Wales, who hit the back wall, and Irene Tulloch with a distance of 17 metres.

Ron has won the old tosser category for the past nine years in a row.

Neil Fraser won the Bertie for the furthest throw by an islander with a distance of 53 metres.



Keisieke Hashimoto from Japan skimmed his stone across the surface of the water. 16\_t39StoneSkimming02

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



### Aig Faire / Keeping Vigil:

#### The songs of Angus Campbell

SINGER Alasdair Whyte and piano player Ross Wilson, both from Mull but based in Glasgow, have recorded a very interesting CD due to be released soon.

Angus Campbell, a retired carpenter from Gearradh na Mònadh in South Uist, has been composing songs since 1971. Recently, he got in touch with Alasdair (whom he had never met, but whose singing he greatly admired) to express his desire that the songs be recorded.

Alasdair and Ross, recognising the quality of the compositions, agreed that making a CD containing a selection of the songs would be a good idea and so began a project to ensure the songs were not lost to future generations - as too many traditional Gaelic songs have been in the past.

The result is a very enjoyable, six-track CD - also featuring the talents of Ewen Henderson on fiddle, Seonaidh Macintyre on whistle and Allan Nairn on guitar.

From the atmospheric title track, Aig Faire, in which Alasdair's singing is accompanied only by a drone, to the anthemic Saorsa, which finishes the album off on a note of strong, lyrical positivity backed by fiddle, small pipes and guitar, the six tracks are varied and captivating.

A favourite track of mine is Fhalbh 's Èigh e far nam Beanntanan - an uplifting Gaelic interpretation of the spiritual song, Go Tell it on the Mountain.

I will include details of how to get a copy in the Glasgow Letter as soon as I am aware of its launch date. By the end of the six tracks, you will be desperate to hear many more; so it is just as well that Angus has been composing songs and poetry for more than 40 years.

Hopefully, this CD will be the first of many examples of Angus's work.

### Good cèilidh in Stirling

THE STIRLING branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach had an excellent opening cèilidh last Saturday night with a good audience. Piper

Alec Souter, accordionist Archie McKechnie and singers Mary C MacLean, Gordon McKeeve, Graham Neilson and Seumas Campbell were all in fine form and ably managed by Karen Campbell.

### What's on

**Friday September 29:** Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

**Saturday September 30 and Sunday October 1:** Theatre Gu Leòr presents Staran: Step Dancing in a Contemporary Context, workshops with Sophie Stephenson in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

**Friday October 13:** Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

**Friday October 27:** Coll Association quiz night at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Hall.

**Friday October 27:** Helensburgh and District Association dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

**Friday October 27:** The second annual Eriskay Gathering dance in Glasgow University Union at 9pm.

**Saturday October 28:** Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

### Pub scene

**Islay Inn**  
Friday September 29: Trail West.  
Saturday September 30: Auld Skool.  
Sunday October 1: Calum Macphail Duo.

**Park Bar**  
Friday September 29: Deoch 'n' Dorus.  
Saturday September 30: Eriskay Lilt.  
Sunday October 1: Martainn Skene.

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## Attention all knitters, patchworkers and crafters, Karelia House is on the road again

KARELIA House is very excited to be returning to the Isle of Mull again this year.

On Friday, October 6, from 10am - 3pm we will be taking over Craignure Hall.

We are based near Abefeldy, Perthshire where we stock a vast selection of yarns from Debbie Bliss, Noro, Erika Knight, Juniper Moon Farm, Sirdar and West Yorkshire Spinners as well as hundreds of bolts of beautiful fabrics from Lewis and Irene, Moda, Stof and Tilda.

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We really value our customers from the Highlands and Islands who visit both our Craft Showroom and our Online Shop - www.kareliahouse.co.uk

We hope that crafters from all over

Mull will come and see us 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 we have on offer as well as patterns and accessories. We will be bringing with us new, great deals on packs and pre-cut fabrics which will get you inspired for all your Christmas projects. Mark your calendars.

With this being our fourth visit to the island, we have made lots of friends now. If you have bought from us before we would love to see you on the day with either your finished knitting items or sewing projects. We always love to see what people make using our products. Mark your calendars - FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 10am to 3pm.

For more information, or if there is something in particular that you would like us to bring, please call us on 01887 822027. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Lismore's Taproot festival dug deep

LISMORE'S first Festival of Music and Literature (aka Taproot) was a resounding success in the words of the chairwoman of the Gaelic Heritage Centre, Jennifer Baker.

Jennifer and Patron Mairi Campbell and a group of willing volunteers organised this 'fabulous weekend' which boasted literary and musical icons such as Liz Lochhead, James Kelman, Donald Meek, Norman Bissell and Davy and the Clincarts.

Mairi brought her five star Fringe show 'Pulse' to a packed hall on Saturday night and this was followed by a concert featuring Dirt Roadsters and Delightful Squalor, a duo who created total magic on stage: Cera Impala and Lake Montgomery.

Mairi said Taproot was 'a unique and beautiful thing'. 'The blend of word and music worked extremely well and it was very sociable too. It was really special to play Pulse on Lismore, where the story begins,' she said.

Alice Fernbank and Svend Erik told stories about giants and spent Friday with the school children in workshops and storytelling.

The festival has evolved from the book week which takes place on Lismore annually and had



Norman Bissell evoked enchanted images of the West Coast reading from Slate, Sea and Sky

the aim of celebrating the rich mix of performance art and culture and its intertwining with Scottish Gaelic history, literature and music.

The festival began on Thursday evening with a film classic The Field, followed on Friday with workshops and performances by the participating artists and an evening of traditional ceilidh music and dances with Lismore's own music makers. Festival-goers had nothing but praise for the artists dripping with talent and enthusiasm.

Blessed with fine weather, the island atmosphere was one of welcome and magic, mixed with conviviality and goodwill with literary sessions and recitals by Liz Lochhead from her highly entertaining poems and prose, and James Kelman movingly reciting extracts from his book 'The Dirt Road'.

Poets and writers Donald Meek and Norman Bissell hosted thought-provoking sessions in the Heritage Museum, as well as sessions from Lismore's own published authors Martyn Murray, Jennifer Baker and Pauline Isobel Dowling.

Saturday night, after the spectacular Pulse stageplay by Mairi Campbell, featured the talented musicians Cera Impala and Lake Montgomery (Delightful Squalor) from the US and Scotland's own 'The Dirt Roadsters' plus contributions from singers and musicians from the island.

The Sunday finale after Bob Hay's historical island walk took place in the Lismore Kirk. Mairi Campbell rounded off the festival with a breathtaking solo viola performance of Bach. The Lismore Voices also sang a new song: a poem recently written by Donald Meek in praise of the late Donald Black, a well-loved Liosach whose vision inspired the work of the Gaelic Heritage Centre.

# Oban Music Group's first gig is hailed a success

OBAN Music Group's inaugural event, Freshers Fest, has been hailed a success with around 250 people attending the first gig.

People packed into Skipinnish Ceilidh House to listen to local bands The Signal Fires, Neon Sheeba, and Citizen 9.

The organisers had to change the venue of the event on short notice, which added some last minute stress, however, this didn't hinder the night.

Doors opened at 7.30pm on Saturday September 16 and closed at 10.30pm.

Angela Anderson of OMG said: 'It went really well. We were really pleased with the numbers.'

'I didn't expect that. It was nice to get locals and visitors. It showed that there's a [want] for that kind of stuff and not just for normal pub and trad bands, which are great, but it's nice to have something a bit different in town.'

OMG's next event will take place during Oban's Winter Festival, with more details to be released in the near future.

Angela added: 'The plan is to have more gigs with local bands and have new, up-and-coming bands [from various cities] to come and put Oban on the map as a touring venue.'

To stay up to date with future events, search Oban Music Group on Facebook.



Neon Sheeba opened the show



The Signal Fires' first gig with new drummer Alex Campbell



Colin Abernethy and Andy Moog from Citizen 9

# Bookends Festival plans busy weekend followed by its fringe

BENDERLOCH'S Bookends Festival 2017 got off to a flying start on Saturday September 23 when Kenneth Steven, author and poet, launched this festival of the written and spoken word in The Reading Room at The Victory Hall in Benderloch.

Locals and visitors then gathered in the story cave to hear Patsy Dyer, a storyteller from Ardfern regale them with several Tales from Argyll. Alex MacPherson, 12, said: 'The stories were good and the storyteller really brought them to life.' His brother, Andrew, aged 5, added: 'I liked the bit about the dragon!'

Following the storytelling sessions there was still plenty of time to browse the shelves of pre-loved books and share old and new titles with other readers.

Children and adults also added their handprints to the Bookends Blanket to record a visit to The Reading Room.

The first author event brought Adam Ardrey, of Finding Merlin and Finding Arthur fame, to The Reading Room. Adam provoked a great deal of discussion and questions when he shared his research explaining why he believes Arthur, a prince though never a King, fought in a battle in the centre of Benderloch around the Pictish fort of Beregonium. He

also explained why the story had been corrupted and Arthur was not recognised for who he truly was.

Following the event Adam said: 'My confidence in Argyll life has been restored by the Benderloch Bookends Festival. Whether I am right or wrong about Argyll's King Arthur connection, the council and the local tourist industry could use Argyll's King Arthur connection to (let's not mince words) make money.'

'Argyll has a better claim to Arthur than Somerset or Cornwall in England (both of which make millions of pounds every year) but the council and the local tourist industry don't want to know. I found an audience ready and willing to consider new ideas.'

Monday morning brought younger visitors to The Reading Room when Stramash Nursery came to visit. After a snack the children gathered together to listen to the story Shark In The Park read by Bookends organiser Joy Cameron.

The Reading Room continues to open from 3.30-6.30pm each day during the festival and the fringe.

Tonight (Thursday) there are still a few places left for the creative session, Lino-cut bookmark making. Go along at 7.30pm when Jennifer Shaw will lead folk through the steps to create a bespoke bookmark to

take away; £5 and all materials are included.

Lindsay Campbell will curdle blood with tales of derring-do on Saturday September 30 at 2pm and Graeme Pagan and Allison Pringle will entertain everyone and give food for thought at 7pm when they bring two books to consider, Once Bitten Twice Fined, stories from the court house and Don't Mention The Coal Scuttle which aims to help deal with the loss of a loved one.

Bookends takes a breather on Sunday October 1 but kicks off again on Monday when The Reading Room opens once more for Bookends Fringe with a 'Shamanic Workshop' with Heather Craig at 7pm, followed on Tuesday with a performance piece by Sheila Quillan and the Bookends Blanket called With These Hands. Wednesday sees European Board Games Night at 7.30pm with Nicholas Holliday, before the film night shows Tomorrow at 10.30am and 7pm on Thursday.

Finally on Friday people are invited to listen to the rants and ravings of three local worthies in a talk titled Grumpy Old Men: The Campbells are Coming.

Details of all events are on [www.bookends.scot](http://www.bookends.scot) and on Facebook at Bookends Festival Benderloch.

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# Pet Idol



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**How to enter**

Pet Idol is open to all pets belonging to households across Argyll and Lochaber. Just take a snap of your pet and enter online at [www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol](http://www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol). Photographs must have been taken on or after September 1, 2017 (we don't want pictures of cute kittens that are now the size of Mufasa!)

**The Oban Times Pet Idol Supplement**

After you enter your pet, look out for our fantastic Pet Idol supplement on 2 and 3 November. This will give you the chance to boast to your friends that your little fur-ball really is the cutest thing in Argyll and the West Highlands!

**Vote for your favourite!**

Readers will have the important job of voting for their favourite pets in the supplement. We will then break it down to further rounds of top 50, 30, 20 and finally top 10. From the top 10, the pet with the most votes will be crowned our Pet Idol Champion early in 2018. **Good luck!**

The closing date for entries is midnight, Sunday, October 22, 2017.

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## £20,000 funding boost for paths

MOUNTAIN paths in Scotland will benefit from a £20,000 boost thanks to Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

The donation will be spread out over four years and will be used to improve mountain paths in both of Scotland's national parks, as part of the Mountains and the People project.

The project was established in June 2015 and has made improvements to a number of paths within the parks.

With a team consisting of both staff and volunteers, its work has included upgrading well used mountain paths in the Trossachs as well as recent improvements at the Lauder Monument path at Invernaden in Cowal, which has seen the existing wooden steps replaced by sturdier stone ones.

The project is funded through the Friends of Our Park visitor giving scheme, which involves more than 100 businesses throughout the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park collecting donations from visitors by a variety of means, including opt-out donations on overnight accommodation and menu items in cafés and restaurants.

James Fraser, chairman of the friends, said: 'We are delighted to be supporting this very valuable mountain paths work which is providing trainees and volunteers with an opportunity to learn new skills as well as making a real difference to the overall quality of heavily used paths throughout both national parks.'



The cash will also help improve mountain paths as part of the Mountains and the People project.



## Scientists gather in Oban for Arctic conference

OBAN became the focus of the UK's Arctic science community during a three-day research conference hosted by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

The biennial UK Arctic Science Conference welcomed 125 scientists to the Corran Halls, where the multi-national gathering discussed urgent issues such as increased sea ice melt, rising temperatures and a rapidly changing ecosystem.

The conference gave scientists an opportunity to share ideas and research in how to better predict, and prepare for, extreme changes in the climate across the northern hemisphere.

Held from Tuesday to Thursday last week, the conference included a public lecture by BBC broadcaster Tom Heap, a familiar face to viewers of Countryfile. The lecture on Tuesday evening was attended by around 250 people and addressed the historical and current relationship with the



Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, broadcaster Tom Heap, head of NERC Arctic office Henry Burgess and SAMS director Prof Nicholas Owens; above, 125 scientists attended the conference.

Arctic region. Delegates were also treated to a ceilidh at the Skipinnish Ceilidh House on the Wednesday night.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara opened the conference with a speech welcoming the delegates. Describing himself

as a 'devotee' to Arctic causes, he told attendees about a recent trip with an all-party group to Ny-Alesund in Svalbard.

He said: 'The potentially catastrophic effect of climate change is arguably the most important issue facing the planet right now.

'On my recent visit to the UK's Arctic Research Station on Svalbard I saw first hand how rising temperatures are diminishing the levels of sea ice and shrinking back the glaciers.

'It is a looming crisis and we are extremely fortunate to have an organisation like SAMS here in Oban working locally for a global solution.

'We in Argyll and Bute are extremely proud of SAMS and they are rightly regarded as being one of the jewels in Scotland's academic crown, an opinion that I found on my recent trip to the Arctic was universally shared by the international scientific community.'

Henry Burgess, head of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Arctic Office, which co-hosted the conference, said: 'The UK Arctic conference is a fantastic opportunity for researchers to share their latest findings and make new connections. It's a real pleasure to be able to support and promote

this event here with SAMS - an organisation at the leading edge of Arctic research.'

Arctic scientist Dr Finlo Cottier of SAMS chaired the conference's local organising committee and said delegates had enjoyed Oban as a venue.

He added: 'It was a very successful conference and the feedback I received was that delegates really appreciated the west Highland hospitality and the unique nature of a conference in Oban.'

'I would like to thank the Corran Halls and the local organising team at SAMS for hosting an extremely professional event.'

The event was supported by the University of the Highlands and Islands, BID4Oban, VisitScotland Business Events, Canadian Science Publishing, Planet Ocean and the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES) and Back of Beyond Broadband.

## Appeal to save ice age heritage of Scotland's national tree

TREES for Life has launched an initiative to save ancient Scots pines across the Highlands from becoming the last generation in a lineage of trees dating back to the last ice age.

Through its Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project, the conservation charity wants to help restore 50 areas of remnant and neglected pinewoods - mainly made up of lone,

ancient 'Granny' pines which are more than 200 years old but dying as they stand, with no young trees to succeed them.

The fragments - scattered over a large area - face growing threats from overgrazing by deer, tree diseases and climate change, and are at risk of disappearing forever over the next few years. If they are allowed to die, the extraor-

dinary wildlife dependent on them - such as crossbills and capercaillie - will be lost too.

Thanks to support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Trees for Life has already raised £150,000 for the ambitious project. It now needs to raise at least £20,000 from the public to be able to start the work.

'The Scots pine is Scotland's

national tree and symbolises the Caledonian Forest - but the last fragments of these ancient pinewoods are dying. Without action, the chance to bring back the wild forest could slip away forever, with only the skeletons of these special trees revealing where a rich woodland once grew,' said Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive.

'We are determined to ensure these trees are not the last generation of Scots pine in these places. This project is one of our biggest and most crucial initiatives ever, and every donation will help save these precious fragments of our natural heritage.'

To support the project, visit [www.treesforlife.org.uk/appeal](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/appeal) or call 01309 691292.

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy.

Participants can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

Thursday September 28  
Elleric to Ballachulish

Start at the car park at Elleric, NN035488. Follow the forest track up NE, forking left at every junction, to the foot of a steep footpath at NN064534. Head N up the path to a col, Mam Uch-daichEX, just beyond the forest boundary.

The path continues N, down into Gleann an Fhiodh. Ford the River Laroch and join the main path near a conspicuous cairn. Follow the path NE to Ballachulish to finish at the TIC. Transport required.

Grade: M; Distance: 12Km; Height to climb: 400m; Map(s):

LR50/41, EX384. Meet at Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 09.50, Ballachulish TIC NN083584 at 09.45. Start of walk at 10.30. Leader: Marilyn Drummond 01631 565878.

**Saturday September 30**  
**Beinn Each, Strathgry Corbett**  
Start from the lay-by on the A84 at NN582137. Head NE up the right of way and join the forest track in Glen Ample at NN58736141 22.

Continue to the watershed at Bothan Eas an EoinEX, NN5898515050. Leave the track

and follow a narrow path E steeply uphill on the N side of a burn. The path continues up, heading NE along the crest of the escarpment to reach the summit of Beinn Each, 813m. Descend SE to a col and climb to the small summit of Meall na Caora.

Turn SW on to a spur. When the ground steepens, head down W to rejoin the outward route just N of the woodland.

Grade: M+; Distance: 8Km; Height to climb: 776m; Map(s): LR57, EX365 or OL46. Meet at Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 08.45, Glencoe Village CP

NN098587 at 09.00. Start of walk at 10.30. Leader: Ann Jones 07770 4341144.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club).

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

**Saturday October 1**  
**Map 40, NM856813, Glenfinnan, Beinn Odhar Mhor, Beinn Odhar Bheag**

Start from the lay-by on the

A830, where limited parking is available. Cross the railway and head SW up uneven slopes on the NW side of the Allt Coire a' Choin Duinn.

Following the fall-line, the route curves S past a lochan at NM846801, then SE to the summit of Beinn Odhar Mhor.

Follow the undulating and sinuous ridge S, curving SE up to the summit of Beinn Odhar Bheag.

Return by the same route. (11km, 1000m ascent)

Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

## Concerns raised over goose management

COUNCILLOR Donald Crichton, chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's sustainable development committee, has written to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform, to express concern about goose management in the Outer Hebrides.

The issue was discussed at a recent comhairle's crofting joint consultative committee meeting, which is comprised of representative organisations including the comhairle, Community Land Scotland and the Scottish Crofting Federation.

In the letter, Mr Crichton states: 'The committee was hugely concerned by the apparent retreat by the Scottish Government from funding goose management schemes such as the Adaptive Management of Greylag Geese.'

'As you will be aware geese are causing severe damage to grass and crops across the Outer Hebrides, particularly in sensitive habitats such as the Uist machair. This, in turn, is having a detrimental impact on crofters' livelihoods.'

'Our experience in the Outer Hebrides demonstrates that goose management schemes, when properly funded and managed, can effectively control populations of geese thereby reducing the incidence and severity of agricultural damage experienced by crofters.'

'With the Adaptive Management Pilot having come to an end, we have been advised that a £10,000 Challenge Fund - to be shared between four areas, Coll and Tiree, the Uists, Lewis and Harris and Orkney - is the only central avenue open to enable us to further control/reduce the numbers of greylag geese in the area. This funding is insufficient and will not cover the costs of running a scheme in one area, let alone the required shooting and scaring efforts required across our respective crofting communities.'

'The committee was also disappointed to note that licences to sell goose meat are no longer being granted. Even if funding were in place, a restriction on selling goose meat renders it impossible for any management scheme to become sustainable in the long term. Without a licensing scheme and adequate funding, it is inevitable that the goose population will rise to the further detriment of croft land, our communities and our already fragile local economy.'

### Clarification

IN LAST week's report about a community forest on Mull being used as an example of best practice in place-based community development at the upcoming Strengthening Communities Conference in Aviemore, we mistakenly used the wrong logo for South West Mull and Iona Development Ltd.

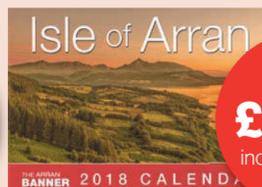
We apologise for this error.

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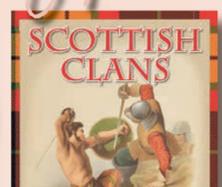
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## Argyll Enterprise Week – now open for bookings

ARGYLL Enterprise Week will bring a host of free events to towns across Argyll and Bute from November 6-10.

The event programme has been published and tickets can be booked via <http://argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com>

The week kicks off on November 6 with one of the main issues facing all growing businesses – securing funding for growth. Lochgilphead will host a series of briefings, a networking lunch and a chance to talk directly to funders informally at a funding marketplace.

On Tuesday November 7 in Oban, Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) will lead an event focusing on emerging trends and practical advice on achieving growth in the tourism sector. The day will be delivered by industry leaders and provides a rare opportunity for the industry to meet and share ideas.

Food from Argyll takes over on Wednesday November 8, this time in Inveraray, to look at how food tourism is playing such an important role in the local economy.

Local food producers will hear about new initiatives for distribution, learn about digital marketing and branding and meet new producers and partners.

It will be time to get creative on Thursday November 9 when XpoNorth brings a one-day version of its leading creative festival to Dunoon. It offers the chance to meet a range of industry specialists, look at a range of challenges and opportunities and put questions forward.

There will be events in Oban and Arrochar on Friday November 10. In Arrochar, communities can come together to share ideas and learning and hear the latest news on Right to Buy and community-led housing initiatives.

## BOW Fest success for new Oban business

AN AWARD-WINNING company that creates a range of natural, 100 per cent organic aromatherapy room sprays originally designed with women in mind, has found its products are now increasingly popular with men who love the sensual sprays.

Margaret Morrison-Macleod set up The Divine Hag in January 2017 after being inspired by her childhood beach in Oban.

With a workshop in Oban and an office in London, Margaret handcrafts the room sprays using a mixture of organic aromatherapy oils.

Due to demand, Margaret is soon to release a range of reed diffusers and candles

with the same signature scents. And thanks to support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, Margaret now sells online at [www.thedivinehag.co.uk](http://www.thedivinehag.co.uk), as well as through stockists in Scotland and London.

Margaret was one of six winners of a Business Gateway Argyll and Bute competition which saw her win a trade stand at the popular Best of the West festival.

She said: 'I was thrilled that my product was chosen to represent The Best of The West.'

'I had a wonderful response to my products and to the beautifully-crafted Baby Bliss spray which launched on the day.'

'It was wonderful to meet customers and get feedback, and as a result I will be bringing forward the launch of my menopause relief spray as so many women asked if I made a product such as this and it is currently being tested.'

'I had a wonderful day, driving in the early morning sunshine from Oban, and Inveraray Castle was a magical location for the festival.'

'I am very grateful for the help and support given by Business Gateway.'

To find out how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 808363 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute)

In Oban, businesses can get practical advice on why and how to trade internationally, including market access information and case studies, as well as sources of support and expertise.

Attendees will gain a clear understanding of how to successfully sell products or services overseas. Everyone attending this event will also receive their own bespoke international toolkit, to support and guide them through their export journey.

Throughout the week, there will be a range of exciting and practical seminars aimed at helping small businesses make the most of digital and social media to sell their business. From Campbeltown to Oban, and across to Dunoon and

Helensburgh, with Lochgilphead in between, experts will be offering targeted tutorials, on a variety of topics, as well as question and answer sessions on getting your business online.

This second Argyll Enterprise Week will be delivered, like the first of 2016, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and the business community.

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We have worked with industry partners to target what's most important to them and I hope the series of events on offer tackles the topics that they most want to talk about.'

David Smart, HIE's head of special projects in Argyll and

the Islands, said: 'Last year, more than 400 participants representing at least 150 businesses or organisations took part in events across the week. In feedback, 97 per cent said they had made new connections and 96 per cent said they had been inspired by the event. We want to make sure that our events allow people to continue to make new connections and to be inspired by each other.'

For more information or to book tickets go to <http://argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com> or phone the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555.

Argyll Enterprise Week 2017 is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 Structural Funds Programme.

## All go as Kilchrenan hotel wins top award

TOP Scottish country house hotel Ardanaiseig in Kilchrenan, Argyll has received an award for outstanding service from leading price comparison Website gohoteles.com.

The site lists best value deals for more than 200,000 hotels in 120,000 destinations worldwide.

Its awards are presented to establishments which consistently achieve high customer review ratings in the categories of cleanliness, facilities, location, rooms and service.

Ardanaiseig, on the banks of Loch Awe near Taynuilt, was named as the best country house and most romantic hotel in Scotland by the editors of the 2017 UK Good Hotel Guide. It was voted Scotland's top country house hotel in 2015 and is renowned as a premier wedding venue.

General Manager Bronwyn Smith said: 'We're proud to have been recognised again for our

outstanding service. Our staff constantly pull out all the stops to provide a truly warm Highland welcome to complement great value packages for luxury stays amid spectacular scenery.'

Meanwhile, Mull's Ninth Wave restaurant at Bruach Mhor, Fionnphort, is one of five finalist for the 2017 Seafood Restaurant of the Year.

The award, presented by Seafish and The Caterer, is designed to find the best restaurants cooking and serving delicious seafood dishes and the top five were chosen after mystery dining visits and a further group judging session.

This year's judging panel included Alex Aitken, chef-patron of the Jetty Restaurant in Christchurch and winner of the 2016 title; Derek Marshall, chef-owner of Gamba in Glasgow and winner of the 2015 title; Calum Richardson, owner of the Bay Fish and Chips

in Stonehaven; and Giovanna Grossi, AA advisor and ambassador. José Souto, chef-lecturer at Westminster College London; and Catey winner Paul Hurren, managing director of Lusso Catering, also joined the panel.

The final five demonstrate great service, fish and shellfish species knowledge and are seen as ambassadors to other restaurants in the UK which have an ambition to sell more fish and shellfish on their menus.

Andy Gray, trade marketing manager for Seafish, said: 'The Seafood Restaurant of the Year competition provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wide range of restaurants, pubs and cafés that are excelling in providing customers with top quality fish and shellfish dining experiences.'

The overall UK winner of the 2017 competition will be announced in October.

# #hellodigital

## DIGITAL DEMONSTRATION CENTRE COMING TO DUNOON

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## Jura business in spirit for growth

THREE women who set up their own gin business based on the Isle of Jura are now looking to expand production to cope with demand.

Claire Fletcher, Alicia MacInnes and Georgina Kitching founded Lussa Gin last year producing the drink from 15 locally grown and gathered botanicals.

So far more than 4,500 bottles of Lussa Gin have been sold online or at one of 50 retailers across Scotland which stock the unique product.

Lussa Gin has recently been awarded a Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator programme grant, supported by the European Regional Development Fund, which will allow the trio to expand their production capacity.

Claire said: 'We began to talk about our idea in the summer of 2015 and our first bottle went on sale a year later. We have been



**Claire Fletcher, Alicia MacInnes and Georgina Kitching founded Lussa Gin.**

overwhelmed by the response – even our tiny community shop on Jura has sold more than 800 bottles. The next step for us is to renovate and move into an old stables building so we can upscale and invest in a bigger still which will increase our output. We sell online and in shops, restaurants, hotels and bars across Scotland. We've also exported to Sweden and are looking at other export opportunities. We've had guidance from Business Gateway from the

planning stages of the business to helping us source funding for the renovation of the stables and will access further specialist advice when it is time to pursue exporting properly.'

Barbara Halliday, business adviser for Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, added: 'As well as one-to-one advice, Claire, Alicia and Georgina have benefited from our fully-funded workshops, our knowledge funding opportunities and our relationships with other support

organisations including Highlands and Islands Enterprise.'

Lussa Gin, which has been shortlisted for a Scotland Food and Drink award and a Scottish Gin award, is a fresh, zesty and smooth gin with a subtle, aromatic finish. It is made with Jura spring water with all elements of the process, including bottling and labelling, taking place on the island.

Claire said: 'The inspiration for setting up the business comes from the island. We all live and work at the north end of Jura and opportunities for work are limited.'

'We wanted to use the place we love as the foundation for our business and to find something that will enable us to stay here. We have had great community support and we love venturing out in our rowing boat or climbing trees to collect ingredients for our product.'

Visit [www.lussagin.com](http://www.lussagin.com)

## Get the best from your business with help from Business Gateway.

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## Film crews put spotlight on work done at SRUC

By EWEN CAMPBELL, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

AUTUMN is a busy time of the year for all farms, with the harvest taking place on the lower land and store lambs and calves being gathered off the hills and uplands to go for sale.

At Kirkton and Auchtertyre, we have been gathering and weaning our lambs and checking the ewes to see if they are fit to use for breeding for another year.

The lambs from our research flock at Kirkton have been weighed and wormed, with the tup lambs in our PARK system utilising the grass before going into the shed to be fattened and the tup lambs in our HILL system going straight into the shed after weaning.

All male lambs (except the ones we keep for breeding) will go to Scotbeef in Bridge of Allan, once fattened, and the ewe lambs will be going off to their wintering next month.

This year has been a good one. We weaned 680 lambs (445 Blackface and 235 Lleyns) from our research flock.

Lamb numbers at weaning from our high hill flock at Auchtertyre have also been good which shows that lambing went well this year for the Auchtertyre and Corrie flocks. At lambing time we tagged and recorded 491 lambs across the two flocks having scanned 522 lambs in total.

Of the lambs lost between tagging and weaning, there are only 18 that we do not have a reason for. This is vastly better than previous years and although we have a 9.7 per cent mortality rate (most of which were the



A film crew records the activities at Kirkton and Auchtertyre.

bullocks and sent the heifers back in the spring, in time for bulling. This year, however, we will be selling the bullocks at one of the local auction marts in the next few weeks and will winter the heifers here at Kirkton and Auchtertyre.

Overall we have a lot more lambs than we had last year.

Lambs which were castrated were sent to SRUC Oatridge for finishing, any tup lambs have been put in the shed for fattening and ewe lambs will go to wintering.

In the next few weeks, the farm may well look empty with all these lambs gone but it will give the grass a chance to grow before tupping time.

The calves have also recently been weaned and they looked very well coming in off the hill, with 26 averaging 253kg without any creep feed.

Over the past few years the calves were sent to SRUC Oatridge which finished the

bullocks and sent the heifers back in the spring, in time for bulling. This year, however, we will be selling the bullocks at one of the local auction marts in the next few weeks and will winter the heifers here at Kirkton and Auchtertyre.

Previous groups of heifers have taken a check on returning home from Oatridge and it has taken them quite a long time to catch up, so hopefully that will not happen this year.

On the grass front, we finally managed to get our reseeding done after waiting for several weeks for the soil to dry up.

The conditions were still not perfect, but near enough and as the Indian summer that the forecasters have been promising us for weeks has never turned up, we decided that we would just have to get on with it.

Time will tell whether this has

been a good decision or not.

We have also been busy with visitors and events. At the beginning of the month, we hosted a workshop for land managers and other stakeholders on woodland creation and management on farms, in association with the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the Farm Advisory Service and the Woodland Trust.

The workshop highlighted a range of woodland priorities within the national park and explored the different types and scales of woodland management and creation that can be implemented on farms across Scotland.

It is not quite Hollywood here, or Outlander, but not far off!

A couple of weeks ago, we had a filming team from SEFARI (Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research In-

stitutes), who wanted to put together a short film to show the different groups within SEFARI.

Since we had colleagues from the Moredun Research Institute who were doing some data collection with us as part of our lamb worming project, we had an eventful morning.

They filmed us outside gathering the sheep, and in the handling shed too.

At the same time, colleagues from our own SAC Consulting were keen to get some footage on our worming experiment to produce another short film for farmers.

Just as well it was a lovely day, and, being on camera, I had to mind my Ps and Qs! It will be good to see the end result though.

And, being September, it is when students start college again.

As such, we have had a whole raft of SRUC students visiting the farms over the past couple of weeks.

We had 90 MSc students from the environmental courses at Edinburgh who came to learn about the landscape, biodiversity, history and land management of the estate.

We also had about 70 fresher students from SRUC Edinburgh. They were the new recruits from the Agriculture, Animal Science, Rural Business Management and Environment courses. They were using our wigwams as a base to tour around Scotland.

We talked to them one day, to show them the research and activities we do here on the farms. Hopefully, we gave them a flavour of what they will study over the next three or four years.

## Around the markets

OBAN - United Auctions held a special sale of all classes' lambs and sheep at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday September 19 when 3,465 head was sold.

The entry of lambs consisted mainly of smaller hill types which proved hard to cash.

Ewes sold in keeping with current levels.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:

Suff: £56.50 & £53.50 - Frackersaig Farms: £52.50 - Balnagown: £52.00 - Sgrìob Ruadh: £51.00 - Kilbride Farm.

Tex: £59.00 - Kengharair: £57.00 - Assapoll: £56.00 - Gallanach Farms: £54.50 - Balgrundle No2: £53.00 - Strongorm: £52.50 - Homestead: £50.00 - Assapoll & Plochaig.

Chev: £51.00 - Shenavallie & Rhugarbh Cottage: £50.00 - Daltone.

Cross: £50.00 - Frackersaig & Achnamonie.

Mule: £55.00 - Rhu-Ard.

Chev mule: £50.00 - Homestead.

BF: £35.00 - Creagan Inn: £35.00 - Gorteneorn Farmers: £34.00 - Tirahoi: £32.00 - Ardachy.

Ewes:

Suff: £48.00 - Balnagown: £40.00 - Shenavallie.

Tex: £40.00 - Antuim.

Chev: £64.00 & £60.00 - Ensay: £60.00 - Drumfingal: £60.00 - Ensay: £58.00 & £56.00 - Drumfingal.

Cross: £60.00 - Balgrundle No2: £57.00 - Sgrìob Ruadh: £50.00 - Frackersaig Farms & Tullich Croft.

BF: £50.00 - Ensay: £40.00 - Gallanach Farms.

Riggs:

Tex: £37.00 - Strontolier.

Chev: £40.00 - Gallanach Farms.

Cross: £41.00 - Plochaig: £40.00 - Frackersaig Farms.

BF: £39.00 - Clachan Farms.

DALMALLY - United Auctions had a catalogued entry of 9,983 sheep at their annual breeding sheep sale at Dalmailly Auction Mart on Friday September 22.

A packed ringside of buyers was presented with a selection of quality stock in all sections. The following were the sale averages in the various sections.

Cross-bred gimmers £96.86 (-£3.01).

Blackface gimmers £97.30 (+£0.93).

cross-bred ewes £45.84 (-£8.36).

Blackface ewes £48.05 (-£5.27).

cross-bred ewe lambs £50.05 (-£5.18).

Blackface ewe lambs £54.77 (+£4.45).

The lead price of the day went to M/s McArthur, Arniele when they sold a pen of six for £680 per head.

Principal lots and prices:

Ewe lambs:

BF: £300 - Crunachy: £104 - Burnbank: £102 - Ballachlaven: £95 - Crammie: £90 - Tay & Torridon: £90 - Crammie: £85 - Kerrnock: £80 - Crunachy, Invernahyle, Saulmore & Clachan Farms: £78 - Millpark, Burnbank, Invernahyle, Crunachy & Lurignish.

Mule: £75 - Saulmore & Slatich: £70 - Achalic & Duallin.

Chev: £54 - 2 Kiel Crofts.

Gimmers:

BF: £290 - Arniele: £200 - Succothmore: £190 - Achnamara: £190 - Arniele: £170 - Lephinchapel: £160 - Tay & Torridon: £150 - Luss Estate, Lephinchapel & Arniele: £145 - Arniele & Pole: £130 - Balliemean-

och: £125 - Pole, Balliemeanoch & Lephinchapel.

Swale: £95 - Duncroisk: £90 - Achalic.

Mule: £140 & £135 - Achalic: £132 - Glenshellach: £118 - Silvercraigs: £115 - Achalic: £100 - Saulmore.

Chev mule: £115 - Barguillan.

Chev £105 & £98 - Brackley: £90 - Garvachy.

Warranted ewes:

BF: £680 - Arniele: £400 - Pole: £300 & £130 - Arniele: £120 - Pole: £110 - Tay & Torridon, Arniele & Balliemeanoch: £82 - Maam: £78 - Littleport & Maam: £75 - Roromore: £74 - Littleport: £72 - Corrylorn & Auchnashul: £70 - Acharonich, Luss Estate & Braglenmore: £69 - Gobagrennan: £66 - Auchnashul: £64 - Eden Taggart: £62 - Luss Estate: 60 - Glenturret, Roromore & Ronachan Farms.

Chev: £68 - 2 Kiel Crofts: 64 - Glenkiln.

Cross: £60 - Strathoich.

Mule: £54 - Strathoich.

Swale: £58 - Strathoich.

LOCHBOISDALE - United Auctions held its second sale of all classes' lambs and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart on Wednesday September 20 when it had a catalogued entry of 2,077 head.

A good offering of lambs were available and sold well in keeping with current mainland values with the overall average dropping £1.45 per head on the year.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:

Suff: £70.50 & £64.50 - 330 North Boisdale: £63.00 - 6 Rhughasinish: £61.50 - 6 Dunganich: £58.50 - 414 Smerclate & 6 Rhughasinish: £58.00 - 4 Middlequarter: £56.50 - 11 Aird: £54.50 - 414 Smerclate: £54.00 - 6 Rhughasinish.

Tex: £60.50 - 355 North Boisdale: £57.50 - 49 Balgarva: £57.00 - 18 West Gerinish: £55.50 - 49 Balgarva: £55.00 & £54.50 - 1 Malaglate, Chev: £56.50 - 5 Torlum & 350 North Boisdale: £54.50 - 203 Stonebridge & 3 South Locheynort: £53.50 - Doon & Ardkeneth: £53.00 - 1 Stilligarry.

Cross: £59.00 - 44 Linnique: £55.50 - St Mary's Bornish: £54.50 - 363 North Boisdale.

Mule: £51.00 - 5 Howmore.

BF: £43.50 - 3 South Locheynort: £40.00 - 15 West Gerinish: £38.50 - 44 Linnique: £35.50 - 1 Sanwick: £34.50 - 2 Kilerivagh: £34.00 - 472 North Lochboisdale & 3 North Locheynort: £31.50 - 4 South Glendale & 7 Frobst: £30.50 - 5 Milton: £30.00 - 12 Ardvainish, Barra.

Ewes:

Suff: £68.00 - 57 Clachan.

Tex: £58.00 - 383 Garrynamonie: £53.50 - 49 Balgarva: £43.00 - 3 Bunavullin.

Chev: £54.00 - 31 Aird: £48.00 - 9 Milton: £46.00 - 203 Stonebridge: £45.00 - 11 Aird.

Wedders:

Suff: £45.00 - 11 Aird.

Tex: £38.00 - 355 Northboisdale.

Chev: £47.00 - 9 Milton.

Cross: £49.00 - 57 Clachan.

Gimmers:

Tex: £70.00 - 355 North Boisdale.

Cross: £65.00 - 1 Craigstrome.

BF: £95.00 & £85.00 - 9 Aird.

Rams:

Chev: £110 - 9 Milton: £100(2) - Corunna, Claddach.

## Bidfood launches new dairy and eggs range

DAIRY and egg producers across Scotland expect to see business grow thanks to a raft of new listings with UK-wide foodservice company, Bidfood.

Bidfood Scotland is launching a full range of Scottish dairy products and free-range eggs into the food service sector from this month.

Ten local farmers will supply products across 35 lines.

The range has taken Bidfood

Scotland six months to put together for its 5,000 customers, across hotels, restaurants, cafes, care homes, healthcare and education in Scotland.

It will mean customers can source more of their everyday products from local suppliers.

Four of the most recent additions to the range, First Milk, Inverloch Cheese Company, Yester Farm Dairies and Scotlay Eggs, all expect growth

opportunities as part of the new deal. The range also complements their existing supply, such as the Arran truckles and cheddars from Orkney.

Bidfood Scotland's business development manager Katie Sillars said the business was proud to partner local suppliers, offering opportunities to grow into what was often a new part of the hospitality sector.

'Our strategy is about finding

the right balance between quality and value for money. Our aim is to work in partnership with our suppliers and help them to drive growth of the dairy and egg categories regionally in Scotland, as well as across the whole of our UK business,' said Ms Sillars.

Already two suppliers have moved from a regional to a national, UK-wide listing - Campbelltown mature colour grated cheddar and Yester Farm's

mozzarella, both of which are now being supplied into a large UK customer base.

The development of Bidfood's new dairy and eggs range is part of the company's support of Scotland Food and Drinks' new Ambition 2030, which works in partnership with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Dairy Hub to double turnover in the Scottish food and drink sector to reach £30 billion by 2030.

ADVERTORIAL

## Argyll and the islands to stage women in agriculture event

WOMEN involved in agriculture from across Argyll and the Islands will gather for a one-day conference being held on Wednesday October 4 in Lochgilphead Community Centre starting at 10am.

This free one-day event is aimed at all women involved in agriculture, bringing them together to discuss and find out more about a range of issues.

Guest speaker on the day will be Joyce Campbell, a Sutherland sheep farmer, winner of the inaugural AgriScot Scottish Sheep Farm of the Year Award in 2015 and currently joint chairwoman of the Scottish Government Women in Agriculture Task Force.

Ahead of the event, Joyce said: 'I'm really looking forward to hearing from grass-root members what their thoughts and

ideas are for the Women in Agriculture Task Force. I want to know what challenges they all face, and what they feel needs to happen to make our Scottish agricultural industry more representative of everyone who's involved in it.'

The conference will be chaired by Sarah Allison, vice-chairwoman of the NFUS New Generation Group and previously chairwoman of the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs Agri and Rural Affairs Committee. Sarah also sits on the newly created National Council of Rural Advisers.

Sarah said: 'Women can be the under-utilised resource in rural Scotland, at the heart of many of our rural businesses, but all too often missing from crucial decision-making processes and rural boardrooms.

'It is important that,

to develop the rural economy, we empower and encourage our fellow ladies to share their talents with the wider industry. Events like this are important in breaking down the barriers to participation, evaluating how we can do things differently and involve the full scope of skills we have available. I am delighted to be involved in this event, and hope that we can encourage more women get involved in shaping the industry that we work and live in.'

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Women in Agriculture - Argyll & the Islands

One-day Conference

Wednesday 4 October 2017,  
starting at 10am to 3.30pm

Lochgilphead Community Education Centre,  
Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PW

Are you a working farmer or crofter?

Are you involved in agriculture?

Would you like to meet others involved  
in the sector?

This one-day free event is aimed at all women involved in agriculture, who would like to get together to discuss and find out more about a range of issues.

The day will involve a range of guest speakers and workshop sessions

Everyone welcome, but booking is essential - to book your place or for further information please contact:  
Lucy Sumsion, NFUS Regional Manager

Tel: 01499 600154 or Email: [lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk](mailto:lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk)

# Autumn Property REVIEW



## AUTUMN is not traditionally the time of year perceived to be the season for buying and selling property.

However, it is generally agreed among estate agents that the lines are being continually blurred between the 'seasons' for sales and purchases, particularly homes – except December when the property market practically slows to a halt.

So, if you are in the process of deciding whether to sell your property or invest in a new one before the turn of the year, now is a good time to start making that move.

Finding out what is happening on the property market has moved on from the days of standing outside an estate agent peering in through the window – although there is nothing quite like getting to know the estate agents for the area you wish to move to.

They usually have expert knowledge of what is happening in their local market, including properties potentially about to come up for sale.

Failing that, all good estate agents will have a website and many are linked into the big online agencies such as Rightmove and Zoopla.

If you wish to look at how much similar properties were sold for or what average houses prices are within a street over the past few months, year or even 10 years, or if you wish to see how much a property has sold for in the past or which streets in a particular town have the highest value or turnover, then these websites present this kind of data, gleaned from the Registers of Scotland, in a variety of formats.

According to the Registers of Scotland, property prices on average across the country have been increasing year-on-year since March 2015.

In July this year, there was an increase of 4.8 per cent to £149,185 in the average price in Scotland compared to July 2016 – the UK average was £226,185, an increase of 5.1 per cent on the previous year.

In Argyll and Bute, the increase was just 0.7 per cent to £133,188, while in the Highlands the average property price was £157,643, an increase of 3.8 per cent on July 2016.

Na h-Eileanan Siar (Western Isles) saw its average property prices fall from £104,421 in July 2016 to £99,628 in July 2017, a decrease of 4.6 per cent.

Although the volume of sales for the past three months is not yet available from the Registers of Scotland, sales for May, year-on-year, show a more than 20 per cent increase for Argyll and Bute and the Highlands.

However, Na h-Eileanan Siar suffered from a 26 per cent reduction in sales in May 2017, compared to May 2016, although it should be noted that a low volume of sales overall can have a significant impact on the percentage increase or decrease.

Registers of Scotland business development and information director Kenny Crawford said: 'While average prices have been steadily increasing each month since March 2016, when compared with the same month of the previous year, sales volumes figures have been more changeable over the 12 months to May.'

'May 2017 showed an increase in sales volumes in Scotland of 13.7 per cent when compared with May 2016; however, volumes in May 2016 were lower than usual, a possible effect of the introduction of changes to the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax that came into effect on April 1, 2016.'

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# Renovating a home

**Whether you are selling now or maintaining your home to sell in the future, there are many small home improvements you can address to add value and keep your property in best shape for when the time comes to sell-up.**

## Opening up space

Opening up living space is becoming more and more popular, particularly for the kitchen and dining room. Knocking through walls to create this open-plan living space is an effective way to add value to a property because a larger space is not only trendy, but more useful.

## Makeover the kitchen

An attractive, hygienic and fresh looking kitchen is essential. Start by painting the cabinets to give a fresh look and replace doors and handles if needed. Make sure there is adequate lighting as well, it's very easy and cost effective to install under unit lighting. Finally, ensure that any floor tiles are well fitted and a colour that is easy to maintain and keep clean.

## Converting the loft

A loft conversion is a more expensive improvement, yet probably gives back the best

value for money. Most lofts can be easily converted and expanding the house upwards offers homeowners an extra bedroom for growing families or a space for extra storage. Adding an extra bedroom can give huge value to your home, particularly if it includes an en-suite bathroom.



## Install a fireplace

A fireplace can bring a lot of character to a room and creates a focal point. It's also practical; the warmth from the fire allows you to reduce the use of your central heating which will lead to savings on your energy bills.

## Kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms

### Kitchens

Homeowners today want an open and thoughtfully designed kitchen that blends seamlessly with the rest of the home's design aesthetic. From hidden appliances and bins to beautifully painted cabinets in complementing colours, homeowners want their kitchen to be stylish enough for entertaining, yet welcoming and functional for everyday use.

### Clean lines

Cabinetry with clean lines and built-in styles are popular. More homeowners might be willing to go with a more modern look because of the new technologies being introduced in kitchens.

### Two tone

White and grey are still the go-to colours for many. Two-tone kitchens are also trending. Wood cabinets still dominate the kitchen, but metal

cabinets (such as stainless steel, gold, and black) could be on the rise. Quartz is the top countertop choice.

### Long-term investment

Accessible and universal design features are trending as homeowners are choosing to age in place and more households are multi-generational. Technology is on the rise with internet-connected appliances making their way into the kitchen as well as induction cook tops and steam ovens.

### Bin it

Integrated kitchen bins, which feature multiple compartments, allow you to make the most of unused kitchen cupboard or drawer space.

### Bedrooms

The bedroom market is coming of age as homeowners seek a designer look, just as they do in the kitchen and the bathroom. The range

of options available in the fitted bedroom market has expanded offering more choice than ever.

### Luxury and comfort

Jonathan Warren, director at bed and sleep specialist Time 4 Sleep, thinks we should add an element of luxury to our homes this year. He says: 'Autumn is all about feeling cosy your home. Indulge in beautiful furnishings to create a charming, boutique-style room. Your bedroom should be a haven of relaxation at the end of a long day so choose furniture that will make you feel calm and content. Opt for a plush, upholstered headboard to add a luxurious touch to your bedroom. Team this with an excellent quality mattress for the perfect combination of comfort and style.'

### More options than ever

Recent developments have seen an explosion of not just colours, textures and styles but a totally

new approach that coordinates bedside tables, beds and occasional furniture. More sophisticated hidden storage options and lighting allows consumers to personalise their bedroom design like never before.

### Technology with a vintage feel

Current stand out trends in bedrooms include the growth in synchronised MFC finishes. Modern technology has enabled the production of beautiful wood grained finishes with texture and variety that are much closer to the real thing, making these very popular.

### Sleek solutions

In terms of products, sliders are surging in popularity. There is a growing demand for sliding wardrobes because they present a sleek solution to bedroom storage and are available in a wide range of colours and finishes.

### Bathrooms

From Nordic to coolness and vintage, stylish design is in demand for bathrooms in 2017.

### Urban coolness

Black, metal and concrete are hot for the coolest of looks. Characterised by clear, strong lines, sharp edges and complete avoidance of embellishments, the urban coolness interior trend is all about purist minimalism in its most pared-down form. This style is also ringing the changes in the bathroom, with black and white replacing bright colours, single shades instead of patterns, stainless steel rather than brass and raw concrete in place of warm plaster.

### Vintage style

Retro and vintage styles are still key trends, enhanced in some cases with a modern note. Familiar items are being rediscovered and revealed

in new interpretations, inspired by style influences, but avoiding direct replication. And no one wants to sacrifice modern technology and contemporary comforts, especially in the bathroom. Quite the reverse, functionality is taken for granted, exclusive luxury is a must.

### Scandi

Scandinavia's appeal is as strong as ever. All over the world, the Nordic lifestyle stands for friendliness, authenticity and an affinity with nature. And nature is also an inspiration in interior design, with lots of wood, understated shapes, clear lines and soft colours reflecting the typical Nordic lifestyle and inviting a feeling of well-being into the bathroom.

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## Market facts and figures

Figures compiled by Rightmove.co.uk from the Registers of Scotland for the year to July 2017 indicate that the average property price in Argyll and Bute was £153,125 and in the Highlands and islands, including the Western Isles, was £161,744.

The most expensive area in Argyll and Bute was Loch Lomond at £287,750 and the cheapest was Campbeltown at £78,161.

According to Rightmove.co.uk, average property prices for the year to July 2017 in Taynuilt (£174,651) and Dalmally (£182,036) were above that of Oban, but the volume of sales and wider range of prices within the town will affect its overall average.

The website states that the average price for the year to July 2017 in Oban was £150,249 and in Fort William £146,372, both of which figures have not seen a huge change from the previous year.

The Isle of Skye continues to show an average higher than Scotland as a whole, with its year-to-July 2017 average at £191,198, compared to £185,507 on Mull and £144,413 on Islay. Lochgilphead had an overall average of £105,945, according to Rightmove.co.uk, which was down 16 per cent; Inveraray's average was £148,714; Tarbert £150,967 and Campbeltown £78,161.

According to the Registers of Scotland, between July 3 and September 12 2017, a total of 36 properties were sold in the Oban postcode area of PA34 4, with a total value of £5,397,355, meaning an average property price of £149,926.

In the Fort William postcode area of PH33 6, a total of 42 properties were sold between July 12 and September 8, at a total value of £7,425,494, giving an average of £176,797.48

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### THE OLD MANSE, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL, PA75 6PS



Price Guide £545,000

The Old Manse forms an impressive, superior detached period property, occupying a prime elevated position in the heart of the popular town of Tobermory on the beautiful Scottish west-coast island of Mull. A former manse, the property is late-Victorian and commands outstanding views towards Tobermory Bay, The Sound of Mull and Morvern Peninsula.

This exceptional and unique property is further complemented by the carefully designed, generous garden grounds, surrounded by a stone wall and in addition offers a detached garage & workshop, stone outbuilding and ample parking.

The Old Manse has been beautifully maintained and restored, and now offers an exceptional blend of modern, comfortable accommodation and traditional charm.

**£55,000 BELOW HOME REPORT VALUATION**

- Beautifully Presented
- Idyllic Elevated Position with Stunning Sea Views
- Drawing Room with Open Fire
- Dining Room
- Kitchen, Pantry & Utility
- Four Bedrooms & Box Room
- Two Bathrooms & Cloakroom
- Double Glazing
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Spacious Detached Garage
- Stone-Built Outbuilding
- Generous, Landscaped Garden Grounds & Orchid House
- Private Parking
- EPC Rating: E 39

### Seaward, Memorial Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PR



- Desirable Detached Bungalow
- Island Location
- In Need of Modernisation
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Electric Storage Heating
- Double Glazing
- Fully Furnished As Seen
- Garden, Garage & Store Room
- EPC Rating: E 39

Price Guide: £250,000

### St Ola, Union Road, Fort William, PH33 6RB



- Impressive Detached Property
- Stunning Elevated Views over Loch Linnhe
- Superb Family Home
- Lounge & Sitting Room
- Kitchen/Diner & Dining Room
- Utility
- 5 Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Oil Fired Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garden Grounds
- Detached Double Garage & Spacious Parking Area
- EPC Rating: E 39

Price Guide: £375,000

### Flat 9, Polfearn House, Taynuilt, PA35 1JQ



- Attractive Upper Apartment
- Country House Conversion
- Rural Village Location
- Pleasant Countryside Views
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Common Garden and Shared Drying Green
- Shared Parking Area
- EPC Rating: D 67

Price Guide: £78,000

### Carradale, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RN



- Spectacular Mountain & Loch Views
- Desirable Location
- In Very Good Order
- Lounge with Open Fire
- Dining Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Shower Room
- Oil Fired AGA & Electric Central Heating
- Mixed Glazing
- Garden
- Garage
- EPC Rating: G 16

Price Guide: £275,000

### The Swallows, 7 Otter Creek, Taynuilt, PA35 1HP



- Superior, Architect-Designed Detached Villa
- Exclusive Private Development
- Spectacular Views to Ben Cruachan
- In Immaculate Order
- Beautifully Presented
- Impressive Open-Plan Lounge/Dining Room/Kitchen
- Utility
- 5 Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Double Glazing
- Oil Fired Underfloor Heating Throughout
- Generous, Landscaped Garden Grounds
- Detached Garage/Workshop, Garden Sheds & Wood Stores
- Private Fishing Rights
- EPC Rating: C 70

Price Guide: £398,000

### Ardachy, Albyn Drive, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7LW



- Desirable Detached Villa
- In Immaculate Order
- Open-Plan Sitting Room, Kitchen & Dining area
- Upper Lounge
- 3 Double En-suite Bedrooms
- Utility
- Cloakroom
- Double Glazing
- LPG Central Heating
- Double Detached Garage
- Landscaped Garden
- EPC Rating: C 79

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Price Guide: £285,000

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### STROMA, CORPACH, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7JS



Price guide £230,000

Enjoying commanding views to Ben Nevis and the surrounding countryside, the subjects of sale form a substantial detached villa in the desirable area of Corpach in Fort William. Set in spacious grounds with potential for further development (subject to necessary planning conditions), the sale of Stroma presents an exciting opportunity to purchase a generous family home. Whilst in need of upgrading and modernisation, the property benefits from oil fired central heating and double glazing. Providing deceptively spacious accommodation in a convenient layout, Stroma offers the successful purchaser a most flexible property due to the extra sitting room and study.

The desirable village of Corpach is situated approximately 4 miles from Fort William and offers a range of amenities including a post office, shop, hotel and pub, while the famous Caledonian Canal is in close proximity.

- Substantial Detached Villa
- Desirable Village Location
- In Need of Upgrading & Modernisation
- Semi Open-Plan Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility
- Sitting Room
- 4 Bedrooms
- Study
- Bathroom, Shower Room & WC
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Garden
- Double Garage & Garden Shed
- EPC Rating: F 30

### ARDAROS, MONUMENT PARK, STRONTIAN, PH36 4HZ



Price Guide £325,000

Situated on a prime, elevated site, close to the popular residential village of Strontian on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, Ardaros forms a most impressive and attractively decorated detached villa set in the heart of this beautiful part of the West Highlands. The property enjoys breath-taking panoramic views, sweeping across Loch Sunart to the hills beyond. In immaculate order throughout, the property has been designed and built to capitalise on the views that surround it whilst benefiting from double glazing, oil fired central heating and an open fire. Due to the size, location and flexibility of the property, Ardaros would be ideally suited as an excellent family home, idyllic holiday home or a premium self-catering business as is currently run. Ardaros is a family run business which benefits from all year-round trading. This successful business has a high reputation in place, which is further compounded by a 4 Star Self Catering accreditation from the Scottish Tourist Board whilst the website is included in the sale - [www.ardnamurchancottage.com](http://www.ardnamurchancottage.com)

- Impressive Detached Villa
- Stunning Elevated, Panoramic Views over Loch Sunart
- Superb Family Home or Excellent Business Opportunity
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility
- 5 Bedrooms (2 En-Suite)
- Oil Fired Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Mooring Available, located nearby
- Garden Grounds
- Garage & Spacious Parking Area
- EPC Rating: D 65

# Build your own home



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## Lagganmore, Kilninver, Oban, PA34 4UU



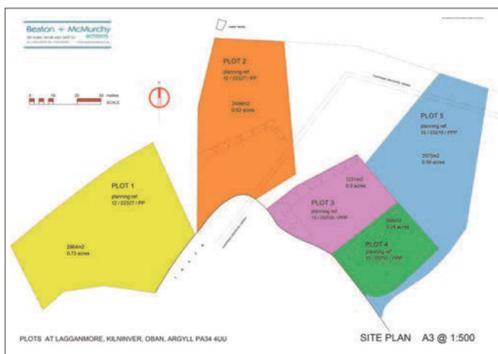
### Scenic Building Plots

Five building plots at Lagganmore which range in size from 0.24 acres up to 0.73 acres.

There is Outline Planning Permission in Perpetuity for Plot 1 and Plot 2 (Ref: 12/02327/PP) and Outline Planning Permission in Principle for Plot 3 (Ref: 15/00700/PPP), Plot 4 (Ref: 15/00701/PPP) and Plot 5 (Ref: 15/03210/PPP) for the erection of a single dwelling on each site. Copies of these are available upon application to the sole selling agents.

- 5 building plots
- Private water supply installed
- Permission for private drainage
- Situated in a peaceful location
- Close to local amenities

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## Kilvaree, Connel, by Oban, Argyll, PA37 1RN

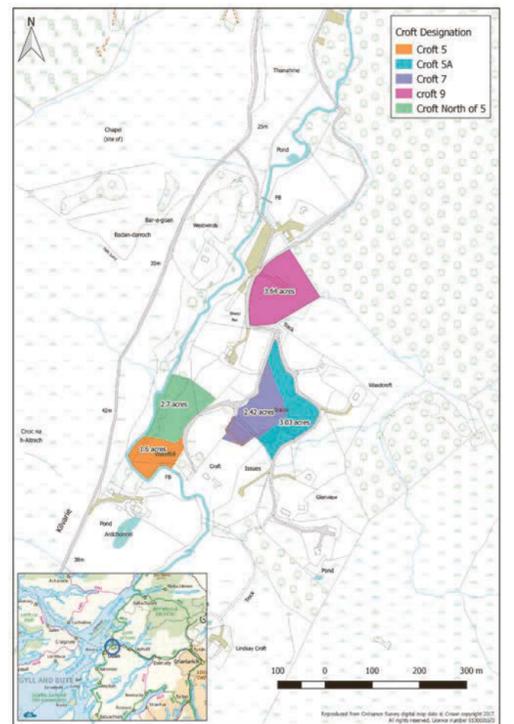


### Prime Croft Sites

Attractively situated croft sites with crofting tenure in place and excellent development potential located on the outskirts of Oban

- Five croft sites in a scenic rural location
- Stunning countryside views
- Close to facilities and amenities
- Planning permission in principle for a dwelling on each croft
- Services available for connection close by

Sites range from 1.6 to 3.6 acres approx.



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## WHAT IF YOU COULD BUILD THE PERFECT HOME FROM SCRATCH?

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET



If you are thinking 'I'd love to, but I wouldn't know where to start', you may be surprised to learn that people from all walks of life successfully self-build their own homes. For every 'Grand Design' there are hundreds of 'Standard Designs' that become fantastic family homes.

Whether it's a desire to create a modern, environmentally friendly home, or the vision of that picture-perfect spot overlooking a stunning view that motivates them, more than 12,000 Brits that embark on a self-build adventure each year.

The process can seem overwhelming, but we give you some guidance on the first steps you will need to take.

### Set a realistic budget

Take a sensible approach to your budget and your project won't turn into a money pit. Set a firm, realistic figure before the design stage begins, but include a contingency - at least 10%

of your overall budget is wise. Use this money only for unexpected cost or unavoidable delays. If you don't spend it, can you do so later on the finishing touches.

### Arrange financing

Whether through a bank or a dedicated self-build mortgage company, your next step should be to secure funding. This means when you find a plot you love, you will be able to seal the deal before it gets sold out from under you. Self-build mortgages often work on a staged payment basis, in which funds are released at key points throughout the project as stages are completed. Building a new home from scratch will also net you savings on VAT. Labour costs on new build housing are zero-rated for VAT (ensure it's not included on contractors invoices, as there's no recourse to get it back once you've paid it) while you can reclaim the VAT charged on many of the building materials after completion.

### Choose a building route

Many first-time builders choose a package company to guide them through the entire process, from design to build. The other option is to hire an architect and contractor or professional project manager, so that the house can be built to your exact specifications.

### Enjoy your dream home!

By this stage, you will be raring to move in. First, consider a few practicalities, such as obtaining the Completion Certificate from building control, making sure any last minute snags are dealt with - and don't forget to reclaim the VAT. After months of paperwork and stress, it's time to enjoy the fruits of your labour!

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### PLOTS AT SCALLASTLE, CRAIGNURE

- 3 Exceptional serviced plots
- Close to Craignure
- Stunning panoramic views
- Ranging from 0.5 to 1.1 acres
- Services on site
- Access road completed

OIRO £90,000

Plots 2, 3, 4 Scallastle Farm - 3 exceptional plots close to the village of Craignure on the Isle of Mull. These plots offer an excellent opportunity to purchase a sizable plot with beautiful panoramic views across countryside to the nearby hills and north towards the Sound of Mull. Each plot is marketed serviced and with planning permission in principle for a single 1 & 1/4 storey dwelling house. The shared access has already been prepared ready for development at the site. Planning permission details can be found via the Argyll & Bute website using reference numbers 14/02329/PPP (Plot 3) & 14/02330/PPP (Plot 4).

### PLOT 1 LAND NORTH WEST OF CRAIGSPIUR LANE, TOBERMORY

- 0.25 Acre Plot
- Stunning View towards the Sound of Mull
- Elevated site above Tobermory
- Planning Permission for a 1.5 storey architect designed house

OIRO £65,000

This elevated site enjoys views across Tobermory towards the Sound of Mull and the Ardmurchan peninsula. The 0.25 acre site currently has detailed planning permission for a 1.5 storey architect designed house with large expanses of glazing to allow maximum enjoyment of the far reaching views. The site has connections for services nearby and access completed ready for sale. Details of the detailed planning permission (granted Sept 2014) can be found via the Argyll & Bute Council website using reference 14/01663/PPP or they can be requested from the selling agent.

### PLOT AT CREICH, CREICH

- Plot with full planning permission
- 0.3 acre
- Stunning loch views
- Rural situation
- Close to village & Isle of Iona

OIRO £65,000

Building plot with FULL PLANNING PERMISSION set in a stunning location overlooking Loch Pottle on the Ross of Mull. This plot at Creich is unique in that it is a quiet ruined house with Ross of Mull Granite sitting on site. The old granite quarry, is located not far away. This plot is approximately 0.3 acre and allows for a generous garden following the new home build. This is a fantastic opportunity to build a bespoke home in a pretty, rural situation.

### LAND FOR SALE, CONNELL VILLAGE

- Building Plot situated within the heart of Connell Village
- Highly desirable location, just five miles from Oban
- Planning Permission in Principle for a two storey house
- Convenient for local amenities

OIRO £70,000

A rare opportunity to purchase an attractive building plot in a prime village location, close to wide-ranging local amenities, and only 5 miles from Oban. This desirable plot is situated in the centre of the village, less than 100 metres from Connell Village Store and Post Office. As well as offering restaurants, pubs, primary school, church, large medical practice and a village hall, Connell benefits from a railway station and regular bus services to Oban, Glasgow and beyond. Planning Permission in Principle for a three bedroom, two storey house. Argyll & Bute Reference: 15/02122/PPP

### PLOTS 1 AND 2 WEST ARDHU, DERVAIG

- Planning permission in principle
- Plot 1 - 0.40 Acre
- Plot 2 - 0.42 Acre
- Close to Dervaig village
- Option to purchase additional ground

OIRO £45,000

Plots 1 and 2, West Ardhru, Dervaig - Two secluded woodland plots close to the village of Dervaig on the Isle of Mull. The plots are marketed at £45,000 each. The plots offer an excellent opportunity to build a house in a secluded woodland setting. The plots are marketed with planning permission in principle for a single 1 & 1/2 storey dwelling house. The plots will utilise a private water supply (survey required) and require installation of private drainage. Phone line and electricity connection is available only a short distance away near neighbouring properties.

### PLOT AT BENDERLOCH

- Building plot
- Close to local amenities
- Partial views of the sea
- Part access in situ
- Boundary fence in place

OIRO £70,000

A reasonably sized building plot located on the outskirts of Benderloch village. The plot is offered with outline planning permission for a 1 1/2 storey dwelling house. The plot offers the opportunity to purchase a plot within walking distance of all Benderloch's amenities and only a short walk to the shore. Details of the planning permission can be viewed via the Argyll & Bute website using reference 16/00489/PPP or contact West Property for more information.

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# Trades and professionals

Four in ten British homeowners say they feel nervous about hiring a builder or tradesmen, a study has revealed. Nearly three quarters of Brits said they feel anxious when it comes to dealing with workmen they haven't met before, and almost half feel they are going to get ripped off.

Despite these fears, 70% never bother to check for professional credentials, and three quarters don't even know the last name of the person they are hiring. Less than one in four said they took up references from previous customers. Our guide can help you find honest, hardworking professionals, and here we share tips on how to make sure you find the perfect tradesmen for your self build, from the joiners to the plumbers, from the glaziers to the electricians. Get a written estimate. Write down your specifications, desired time frames and budget before calling. Never approve a job from a verbal contract.

Beware the VAT-free 'deal'. A VAT-free deal means one of two things. Either the builder does not do more than £81,000 worth of business per annum, or alternatively he is avoiding his legal tax liabilities. You need to ask yourself - Is this builder large enough to be able to complete my work, Will he be around if any of the work requires repair? How can I have a valid contract if there is no proof of payment?

Always get more than one quote. Price should not always be the deciding factor, quality of materials, proven accreditations, experience and reputation should play a large part in your decision. Do they offer a skill as one of many or do they specialise? Remember, cheapest is not always best. Be cautious of employing trades who have no trading address in their advert and no landline number.

Get a warranty. Some traders have deposit protection insurance or offer guarantees. Check what warranties they have in place. Check their accreditations. Do not be afraid to

make sure their accreditations are up to date. If your trader is a member of a registered trade referral body, such as FMB, and do not be afraid to contact the government Trustmark [www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk), to make sure they have not lapsed.

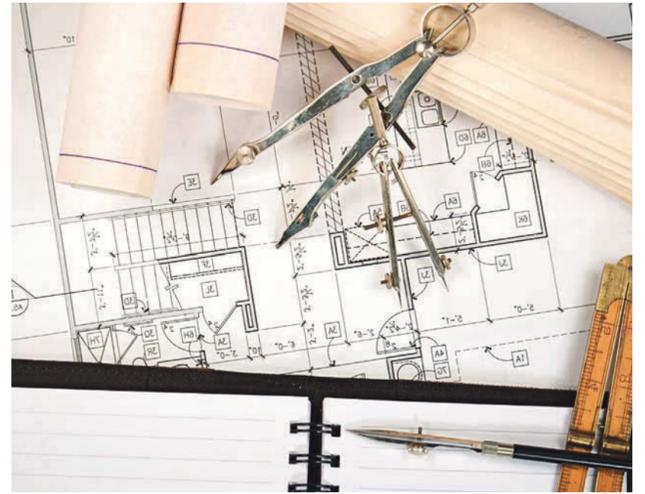
Pay by credit card if you can, this gives you more protection. If they only take cash, get a receipt, if it is a door knocker - be wary, get advice. Crucially, don't do business at the door. Paying for a job up front is also not advisable. It is much better to pay in instalments as agreed between you and your tradesperson.



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Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)  
For more information, please contact Iain McLeod on 01546 605807  
This post will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check. CV's are not accepted.  
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Interviews will be held in Menzies House, Oban on Thursday 19th October 2017

  
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[fiona@dunollie.org](mailto:fiona@dunollie.org) / 01631 570550 for further information

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Please apply in writing with CV to Janice McGhee, Practice Manager, Connel Surgery, Connel, PA37 1PH or phone 01631 710229 for further information.  
Closing date Friday 6th October 2017.

  
**Donald Cameron MSP**  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Highlands and Islands Region  
We are looking for a hard-working and enthusiastic Caseworker to work in our Oban regional office.  
Hours: Part-time (12 hours a week based on 37 FTE)  
Salary: £20,725 pro rata  
Closing date: 5pm on Friday 13th October 2017  
Applicants must send a CV of no more than two pages and a covering letter of no more than one page to [Averil.Wilson@parliament.scot](mailto:Averil.Wilson@parliament.scot)  
For more information about the requirements of the job, please visit [www.mspjobs.scot](http://www.mspjobs.scot)  
The cost of this publication has been met from parliamentary allowances.

  
**Qualified Accountant**  
We are a leading independent firm of Chartered Accountants in the Highlands and Islands, operating across offices in Oban, Fort William and Tobermory with our team of 5 partners and over 40 staff.  
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If so, please contact us including your CV, by 6th October to:-  
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[dg@raclement.co.uk](mailto:dg@raclement.co.uk)  
[www.raclement.co.uk](http://www.raclement.co.uk)

  
**Qualified Electrician** Closing Date Friday 6th October  
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We expect the successful applicant to be highly motivated with a positive 'hands on' attitude. They must also ensure that all tasks are completed in a professional manner adherent to strict health and safety requirements and practice good house keeping throughout all activities. Good communication skills are also essential.  
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Is this you?  
Send your CV and covering letter to: Ailie Moss, Practice Manager, Kyles Medical Centre, Tighnabruaich, PA21 2BE.  
e-mail: [ailie.moss@nhs.net](mailto:ailie.moss@nhs.net)  
Informal enquiries are welcome.  
Closing date for applications: 20/10/2017  
Interviews will be held on: 07/11/2017

The Church of Scotland Oban is seeking an  
**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
20 hours per week  
Monday - Friday 9am-1pm  
Closing date for applications 12 October 2017  
Please apply with covering letter and CV to Rev Dugald Cameron, Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban PA34 4DN or email: [obancofs@btinternet.com](mailto:obancofs@btinternet.com)  
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**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](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/04228/FUL	Strathdoon, Fassifern Road, Fort William	Erection of replacement garage with self-catering unit above
17/04312/LBC	High Land, 1 New Buildings, Arisaig	Replace windows, amend extension roof specification to metal profile, form access onto public road (further to approval ref: 17/02173/LBC)
17/04346/FUL	WM Morrison Supermarkets PLC, An Aird Road, Fort William PH33 6AN	Extension to an existing PFS Kiosk within the Morrison's site to provide additional retail space and ATM.
17/04350/FUL	Land 135M South of Silver Hill, Acharacle	Erection of house, installation of access and foul drainage system

**Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/04312/LBC is 21 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [elanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ON CROFTING LAW CONSULTATION**

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT hereby give notice that they have arranged public meetings relating to the consultation on the future of crofting law at the following venues:  
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William - Wednesday 4 October 2017  
Glenuig Community Association Hall, Glenuig - Thursday 5 October 2017  
Both events run from 19:30 - 21:00, doors will open at approximately 19:00.

Scottish Government officials will deliver a presentation on the purpose of the consultation, an explanation of the options for changing legislation, and an overview on to respond to the consultation. There will be the opportunity to discuss the options available and to raise questions relating to the consultation.

This is a free event, tea and coffee will be made available. A limited number of paper copies of the consultation will be available on the night, additional copies can be arranged to be posted if required. The Consultation can be completed and related documents can be viewed on the Citizen Space website at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/> using the search term "crofting". Additional public meeting information can be obtained from the EventBrite website at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> using the search term "crofting". Enquiries relating to the consultation can be e-mailed to [croftingconsultation@gov.scot](mailto:croftingconsultation@gov.scot) or submitted in writing to the address below.

**M O'NEILL**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Crofting Bill Team, Saughton House, D-Spur, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02266/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Fishnish House Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/02470/LIB	Installation of external stairs	Commissioners Of Northern Lighthouses Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office
17/02402/PP	Installation of oil tank	The Old Police House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/02397/LIB	External and internal alterations to existing storage area to form single dwellinghouse	Kilchoman House Kilchoman Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UY	Sub Post Office Bridgend
17/02078/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and formation of vehicular access	The Lodge Lussagiven Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XJ	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
17/02451/PP	Erection of canopy over accessible entrance	Iona Abbey Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SQ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
17/02438/PP	Erection of recreational hut (part retrospective)	Land Approx 830 Metres North East Of Atlantic Bridge Clachan Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QZ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
17/02012/PP	Erection of garden store/garden room (retrospective).	Inveraray Chalet Portsonachan Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BJ	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02477/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/02767/PP (Erection of a dwellinghouse, formation of a vehicular access and the installation of a septic tank)	Land To North Of Seabank Farmhouse Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SB	Sub Post Office Leidaig
17/02473/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/01324/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of new access, installation of septic tank and LPG tank)	Land North East Of Kyle Rhea Port Ramsay Isle Of Lismore Argyll And Bute PA34 5UN	Sub Post Office Lismore
17/02265/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Knockalla Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Proposed Assignment of a Grazing Share**

I, Mrs Sheila Dykes am applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 9 & 10 North Ballachulish, Onich to Allan Dykes of Aultbeg, Old Town, North Ballachulish, Onich, Fort William, Inverness-shire.

If you have any comments, you may submit these in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or e-mail: [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
APPLICATION**

J MacDonald  
27 Mingary, Arisaig & Moidart  
0.205 ha - Site of a new dwelling house  
82832

P Johnston  
Croft 1 Lettershuna, Lismore & Appin  
0.096 ha - Site of a new dwelling house  
83075

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 26/10/17. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MARINA, CORPACH, FORTH WILLIAM**

Notice is hereby given that Caol Regeneration Ltd (per Arch Henderson LLP) has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of a new marina at:

Cost	£3,500,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Corpach, Forth William	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
	56° 50.509' N	005° 07.626' W
	56° 50.516' N	005° 07.487' W
	56° 50.529' N	005° 07.427' W
	56° 50.548' N	005° 07.434' W
	56° 50.555' N	005° 07.369' W
	56° 50.560' N	005° 07.452' W
	56° 50.533' N	005° 07.464' W
	56° 50.544' N	005° 07.631' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach. Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference:

**MCMS No. 06319**  
Caol Regeneration Ltd (per Arch Henderson LLP)

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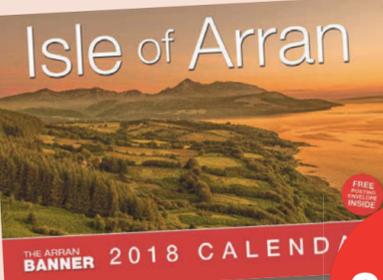
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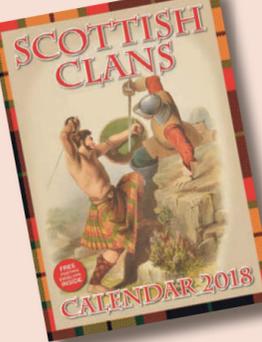
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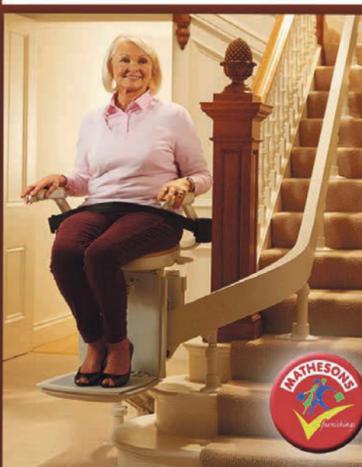
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**BIRTHS**

**MACKINNON** - Grant and Naeko MacKinnon are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter Karen Allison MacKinnon. Born on September 18, 2017 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, Karen is another granddaughter for Donald and Allison MacKinnon from Tobermory, Mull and Yoshinobu and Etsuko Akiyama in Akita, Japan.

**MARRIAGES**

**ALLAN - ALVADIA** - On Wednesday September 13, 2017, Laura Allan, daughter of Willie and Catherine, married Fabio Alvia, son of Jose and Maria at Pestana Palacio do Freixo in Porto, Portugal. A wonderful day was had by all.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**MACDONALD-ALDRIDGE** On September 30 1967 at St. Andrews Parish Church, Mottingham, SE London, Hugh (ex Glendessary Street, Caol) to Brenda. Current Address: "Kilmallie", 2 Marquis Drive, Hempstead, Kent, ME7 3DR

**RUBY WEDDING**

**GRAY - SCOTT** - On September 30, 1977 at St. Columba's Argyll Square Church, Oban by Rev. Brian Wilkinson, David to Pamela. Love from all the family.

**DEATHS**

**BLACK** - Peacefully at home surrounded by his family, on September 21, 2017, aged 79 years, Hughie, loving husband to Helen, dad to David and Mary, father-in-law to Sharon, grandpa to David, Kirstin, Lauranne and Cameron, papa to Chloé and Lyra and a dear brother to Maimie. Sadly missed.

**BYATT** - Harry, aged 19, much beloved son of Alexandra and Duncan and brother of Letty, tragically whilst underwater swimming in Greece on Sunday August 6, 2017. Private cremation service. For all those who loved Harry, there will be a Memorial Service on Friday October 6 at Kilberry Church, Carse PA29 6YB at 2.00 pm. If you would like to join us as we celebrate Harry's life, please email harryscotland17@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly

**DICKIE** - Peacefully at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton on September 8, 2017, Effie (née McKinnon) aged 93. Beloved wife of the late William Dickie, much loved mum, grandmother and great-grandmother. Dearly loved by all.

**GILLIES** - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on September 21, 2017, after an illness borne bravely, Marion (Mar) Eileen Topping Gillies, née Stewart, aged 70 years, of 2 Nursery Cottages, Ford, beloved wife of Robert Gillies, loving mum of Aileen and a dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Kilmartin Parish Church, on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to the Macmillan Day Unit and Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**GROVER** - Peacefully at home on September 22, 2017 aged 93 years, George Grover, Salen, Isle of Mull. Loving husband of Jean, dear dad of Mark and father-in-law of Claire, a wonderful papa to Millie and Charlie. Funeral service to be held at Cardross Crematorium on Friday September 29, 2017 at 12.15pm. Donations if wished to Marie Curie.

**MACDONALD** - Suddenly but peacefully at Trianaid Care Home, on September 13, 2017 in her 90th year, Katie Maggie (née MacPherson), beloved wife of the late Angus and much loved mother and mother-in-law of Helen (Archie) Margaret (Archie) Archie (Mary Ann) Neil (Sandra) and Rena (Alan); dearly loved grandmother and great-grandmother, dear sister of Marion. Very much missed by all the MacDonald family, 4 Torlum, Benbecula. The undertakers used were MacPhee Brothers, Funeral Directors, Benbecula Tel: 01870 602538.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on September 21, 2017, Edith (née MacPherson), much loved wife of Peter, devoted mum to Alan and Diane, adored mother-in-law of Douglas and very special granny to Lauren, Dougie, Callum and Eilidh. A brave lady that will be sorely missed by all.

**MACLENNAN** - Peacefully on Tuesday September 19, 2017, at Belford Hospital, Fort William, aged 88 years, Donald MacLennan of Station House, Glenfinnan, beloved husband of the late Catherine (Katrena) MacLennan and dear father of Alistair. Sadly missed.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACINTYRE** - Vera and family would like to thank family and friends for their support and thoughtful cards following the sudden passing of Ken. Special thanks to Fr Roddy McAuley, Jamie and staff at Mike McFall, Meg and staff at Railway Club for catering. Retiral collection for Leukaemia Research raised £263.

**RIX** - (Fort William/Kirkhill. Mrs Elizabeth Rix and family wish to express their sincere thanks to the many relatives, friends and neighbours for sympathy shown to them in their recent bereavement. They also wish to thank the staff of Ward 7A, Raigmore Hospital, Dr Ross Jaffrey and Beauldy District Nurses for their care and compassion during Nigel's long illness. Special thanks to Laura Gillespie from the Humanist Society Scotland for the moving service. The sum of £414.11 was collected for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Salvation Army. Thanks also to Vicki Fraser and all at John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness for their exemplary service.

**STUART** - Ian would like to thank everyone for kind expressions of sympathy through cards, letters, phone calls and visits following the sad death of Catriona. Special thanks to the caring staff of ward A, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. D&A Munn for funeral services and Petals for floral tributes. Rev Dugald Cameron and Donald MacKinnon for a personal and fitting eulogy. Particular thanks to Agnes, Wilma, Alasdair and Gemma. Cousins, past colleagues and friends for their support and attendance at Kilmore Church, graveside and Royal Hotel. Retiral collection for Alzheimer Scotland raised £541.90.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BLUE** - In loving memory of my mother Mary Blue, died 2 October, 2011. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Inserted by her daughter Mary and husband Jim.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering with love Chris, who passed on September 28, 2015. Life is not forever. Love is. Sadly missed by Fiona and Keilidh.

**FLEMING** - In loving memory of our dear dad and bampa William (Flip), who died September 27, 2015. Loved and remembered every day. - Cameron, Brenda, Danica, Leigh and families. xx

**KIRSOP** - Joanna, who passed away on October 1, 2015. Silent thoughts, memories dear As time unfolds another year. - Mum, Dad and Thomas xxx

**KIRSOP** - Joanna, who passed away October 1, 2015. Time goes passed but memories stay Loved and remembered every day - Kathleen, Sine and families xx

**MACDONALD** - Jimmy Drumfern / Tirindrish. It's hard to believe it's five years since you slipped away without a fuss and broke the hearts of all of us. - Love Hazel and family x

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008. Will miss you forever. - Julie and Roddy.

**MACINNES** - Roddy, tragically taken from us on September 28, 2010. I have only your memory Roddy To remember my whole life through But the sweetness will linger forever As I treasure the image of you. - From your loving mum. Treasured memories of our dear brother - Violet, Marina and Hazel.

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of my dear fiancé Ian, who died on October 1, 2014. Thank you for the years we shared The love you gave And the way you cared In my heart you will always stay Loved and remembered every day - Jessie xxx

**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of our dearly loved son, brother and uncle, John who died on September 27, 1992. There is a place in our hearts that is forever yours You're always with us in all that we do Memories of you John we treasure You're loved and missed beyond measure - Mum, David, Agnes, Marina, and all your nephews and nieces xx

**MACKENZIE** - Treasured memories of our beloved son and brother Jamie, died October 1, 2000, aged 24. Our hearts still ache with sadness Our secret tears still flow For what it meant to lose you No one will ever know. - Mum, Dad, and Andrew.

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of my dear grandson Jamie, who died October 1, 2000. Silent thoughts Memories unseen Wishing your absence was only a dream. - Granny Henderson.

**MACNICOL** - William A MacNicol. In remembrance, so greatly missed. - Wife Cona and family.

**McLENNAN** - Treasured memories of Alex, who died August 28, 1999 and Flora, who died September 25, 1996. Much loved parents and grand parents. - Margaret, Elsie and families.

**SCOTT** - Treasured memories of Jean, loving mum and granny, died October 1, 2000 and Eddie loving dad and papa, died September 27, 2013. - Pamela, David, Edmund, Bronwen, Gordon, Kirsten, Caitlin, Sarah and Gavin xxxx

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**Celtic saints book focuses on the sites where early Christians lived and worked**

A NEW book gives an account of the lives of early Christian men and women in Scotland, based on surviving archaeological clues, place names and early texts.

The book, titled *Celtic Saints of Scotland, Northumbria and the Isle of Man*, focuses on the sites where these early Christians lived and worked.

Argyll and Bute alone has a rich history of Celtic saints, including Adomnan, Blane, Brendan, Cainnech, Cathan, Columba, Donna of Eigg, Ernan, Inan, Moluag, Munno and Oran.

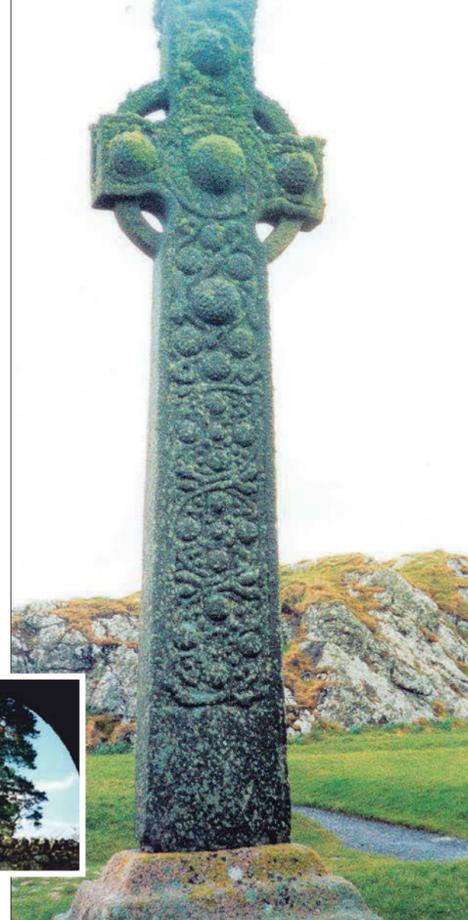
Archaeology, combined with early inscriptions and texts, offer important clues, helping to piece together something of the fascinating world of early Christianity.

The book is illustrated with the author's own photographs of the sites where the Celtic saints of north Britain worked and prayed, drawing readers into the beautiful world that these men and women inhabited.

*Celtic Saints of Scotland* includes accounts of most well-known saints and less famous individuals. It is not, however, exhaustive: lack of historical data means that there are hundreds more Celtic monks and nuns of whom we know little beyond their names.

It is the ninth book written by Elizabeth Rees, a Roman Catholic nun and one of Britain's leading authorities on the Celtic saints in relation to the sites where they lived and worked.

She lectures on Celtic Christianity around Britain; for seven years, she was a guest lecturer at the Centre for the Study of Religion in Celtic Societies at the University of Wales, Lampeter. She also runs a house of prayer in rural Somerset.



View from Ardchattan Priory towards Loch Etive.

St Martin's Cross, Iona.

**Thought for the week**

NO-ONE could question the fact that we live in very uncertain times. We long for some clarity and naturally look to those in authority and leadership to give some.

Often we find ourselves disappointed, frustrated, leading to disillusion. There are no end of lists of desirable leadership qualities available online. It was gratifying to find that humility made it on to at least some of the lists.

What might have been interesting would have been some examples of humble leadership in action. For those of us who are Christians, the perfect example of this is Jesus himself, who with all the rights and authority of God, humbled himself and came as he said not to be served but to serve and give his life for others.

Paul, one of the early church leaders, uses the example of Jesus to encourage the Christians in Philippi to have the same outlook as Jesus. People were demanding their perceived 'rights'. Paul says look at Jesus's example. How do your demanded rights look when you think about the one you profess to follow?

Whether we are Christians or not, whether in leadership or not, a good dose of humility wouldn't do any of us any harm!

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# Lochaber rider wins Oban Sportive cycling challenge

THE ROTARY Club of Oban in partnership with North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) had another successful Sportive cycle challenge last Sunday with 78 cyclists taking part although 94 entries were received.

The event covered two country routes, the Loch Avich one at 52 miles and the longer Kilmartin one at 84 miles with both routes also having a timed hill climb.

Cyclists came from as far afield as Aberdeen, Arbroath, Berwick on Tweed and Glasgow with four members of the worldwide cycling club – Rapha – taking part.

Coming in first on the 84-mile route was 16-year-old Alex Dent from Onich who is a member of the Nevis Cycle Race team with a splendid time of four hours, 41 minutes, which was 56 minutes ahead of the second fastest time.

Alex also clocked the best time for the hill climb.

The fastest time for the 52-mile route was recorded by NACC's Steven Groom from Benderloch who covered the distance in three hours, 11 minutes, 59 seconds.

Very credible times were also recorded by Oban's Fraser Ing-

## Cycling

lis and Gavin Blainey with three hours, 21 minutes, 52 seconds and three hours, 26 minutes, 07 seconds respectively. Fraser and Gavin were team-mates in Oban Camanachd's 1996 Camanachd Cup-winning team.

Although it was very wet in Oban on Sunday, the cyclists regarded the weather conditions out in the country as favourable to them with very little rain in evidence and they were also very complimentary regarding the organisation of the event in terms of health and safety, signage, feed stations etc.

Oban Rotary Club president Tommy McQuade commented on the good turnout by his members and he also expressed his gratitude to the ladies of Inner Wheel for their baking and for the support the event receives from its sponsors, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Atlantis Community Leisure, MacQueen Brothers, the Rusty Cycle Shed, BID4Oban and Tesco. The net proceeds from the event go towards supporting local good causes.



Allan Brown, Ellie Dixon, Caroline Bingley and Rob Dixon of the Rapha Cycling Club.



Nevis Cycle Team's Alex Dent was winner of the 84-mile route at last weekend's Oban Sportive.

## Argyll and Bute sports award winners

THE winners of the 2017 Argyll and Bute Sports Awards have been announced. Eight community heroes have been honoured for their contribution to sport.

Announcing the finalists and winners was Dee Bradbury, vice-president of Scottish Rugby.

The awards aim to celebrate and reward the success and achievements of athletes, coaches and volunteers and are run in partnership with sportscotland.

Awards will be presented to

the winners in front of fellow members at their individual sports clubs.

Dee Bradbury made the announcement via video link and it is available to view at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sport-sawards](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sport-sawards).

Congratulating the winners and nominees, she told them: "Regardless of whether you win or not, you have all played a massive part in the success of sport in Argyll and Bute."

The winners of the various awards were – Adult Youth Coach: Winners, Ian and Elizabeth Stewart, archery,

Lochgilthead. Runners-up, Brian MacNaughton, Col-Glen and Dunoon Grammar School shinty clubs and Jennifer Wilkie, G84 Netball Club, Helensburgh.

Young Coach: Winner, Michael Strathern, Benderloch Badminton Club. Runners-up, Shannon McCuish, swimming, Oban and Davina Batey, Islay High School (who teaches after-school activities in a primary school).

Primary Young Leader: Winner, Darren Hamilton, formerly Port Ellen Primary, Islay. Runners-up, Leanne Abbot, formerly Bowmore Primary, Islay and Shannon Tangy, formerly Salen Primary, Mull.

Community Coach: Winner, Gordon Shearer, Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club and Oban High Rugby Club. Runner-up, Sid Gallagher, Kintyre Canoe

## Awards

Club and Campbeltown Sea Sports project.

Service to Sport: Winner, Bobby Crowe, Dunoon Shinty Club. Runners-up, Jane Isaac, Argyll Riding for the Disabled, Arlene McNeillage, Cove Sailing Club.

Sporting Achievement of the Year: Winner, Louis MacMillan, Loch Eck Orienteering Club. Runners-up, Anna Sherry, G84 Netball Club, Helensburgh and Eilidh Gammons, Highland dancing.

Club of the Year: Winner, G48 Netball Club, Helensburgh. Runners-up, Helensburgh Youth Rugby and Hermitage Academy S3 netball club, Helensburgh.

## Saints prepare for Scottish Cup tie

WITH the Scottish Amateur Football League in its traditional September Weekend shutdown, Oban Saints arranged a 90-minute 11-a-side training match at Glencruitten last Saturday to keep the wheels turning ahead of this Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup tie against Plains.

To allow the players to take in the spectacle unfolding at Ibrox, a 9.45 kick-off was arranged although some will wish they had missed that particular event altogether.

The usual mix of injuries, holidays and work commitments dictated that youth team players and guest stars would be required to make up the numbers. However, those who appeared certainly enjoyed a good workout.

In keeping with the informal nature of the match, the strips were kept in the kit bag in

favour of the players' own training gear and yellow bibs.

None of Saints' goalkeepers was available so grateful thanks are extended to Ben Pollock of Lochgilthead Red Star who kept goal for the bibs while the gaffer donned the gloves at the other end.

The unexpected goalkeeping gig for Alex meant a late change of referee with coach Peter MacCallum taking the whistle and stopwatch. Dressed for an afternoon in Aulay's Bar rather than a football match, Peter wisely restricted his movements to a minimum, rarely straying out of the centre circle.

Another Lochgilthead Red Star man, Andy Moore, opened the scoring for the non-bibs, venturing out from the left side of defence and firing a 35-yard screamer into the postage stamp corner past Red Star colleague Pollock.

The non-bibs doubled their advantage with crisp finish from Sol Smith low past Pollock's left hand.

A sensational header from Mark Robertson, powering home a Fraser MacFarlane free-kick, brought the bibs back into contention. Unfortunately for Mark, his header was past his own goalkeeper earning him the dubious distinction of scoring one of the finest own goals ever witnessed at Glencruitten.

Donald Campbell drew the bibs level just before half-time, getting on the end of a David Smith pass and slotting the ball low past Alex Craik's despairing left hand. Chances were at a premium in the second half with only a moment of brilliance from Donald Campbell able to finally separate the two sides. Donald collected a Daniel Croarkin through ball

## Football

and, after tricking his way past Jude Bain and Marc Maccallum, beat Alex Craik from the tightest of angles guiding the ball inside the far post to seal victory for the bibs.

Saints face Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League opposition for the second consecutive fixture when they take on Plains FC from Airdrie in the Scottish Amateur Cup second round at Glencruitten this Saturday.

After seeing off Cambusnethan Talbot Community in the West of Scotland Cup in their last outing, Saints now turn their attention to the national cup competition and their quest to go one better than in each of the past two seasons.

Founded in 2015, Satur-



Players pictured at the training game. Report and photo: Derek Black

day's opposition joined the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League where they ended their debut season second bottom of the Second Division. Plains made significant progress with their league standing in their second season, finishing seventh in the 10-team Division 1B.

A win and two draws from their opening league fixtures sees Plains in ninth place in this season's Championship B, trailing leaders Holytown Colts by six points but with

two games in hand. Unlike Saturday's opponents, Plains, who received a bye, Saints had to negotiate a tricky Scottish Amateur Cup first round tie against Mauchline United of the Ayrshire Amateur Football Association First Division. The Oban side eventually ran out 4-0 winners in a hard-fought encounter.

With squad numbers recovering, manager Alex Craik should be able to field a strong line-up for what is likely to be a thorough examination of

Saints' Scottish Amateur Cup credentials.

Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football, the Scottish Amateur Cup includes replays therefore Saints must put the tie to bed during the 90 minutes if they are to avoid a difficult trip to Airdrie in seven days.

Kick-off at Glencruitten will be 2pm. If Glencruitten is unplayable the match will go ahead on the 3G pitch at Oban High School. Referee is Peter Kerr from Glasgow.



## Tarbert

AS THE season comes to a close, Glenralloch members gathered at Tarbert Golf Club recently for Dodie's Cup.

Taking the honours was Mealdarroch's Iain MacAlister, with 71-5 for 66 net.

In second place was green-keeper Graham Prentice with a net of 70.

In the Cairns Christie semi-final, Iain MacArthur defeated Chris Smyth, booking his place in the final against Iain Johnstone Jnr.

The President's Cup final will see John MacNab take on Dodie's Cup-winner Iain MacAlister.

## Killin

RESULTS from the Senior Ladies' Open played on Wednesday September 20 – 1 Lynn MacDonald (Strathtay) 36; 2 Susan Ogg (Dunkeld & Birnam) 33; 3 Lily McKay (Dalmally) 32.

Best Veteran (age 70+) – Janet Buchanan (Dalmally) 27 BIH.

Longest drive, silver – Sue Mawhinney (Parkstone); longest drive, bronze – Lesley Whitwood (Strathtay).

Nearest the pin – Lily McKay (Dalmally).

Magic 2 – Lily McKay (Dalmally) x2. Css 67.

## Taynuilt

RESULTS: MacDougall Cup – 1 Allan Stewart 57+62=119; 2 Mark Grant 64+66=130; 3 David Thomson 66+65=131.

Medal final – 1 David Currie 78-18=60; 2 Mark Grant 78-14=64; 3 Andrew Diggory 71-5=66.

Ladies' section, September Swan – 1 Fiona McGlynn 33 pts; 2 Anne MacCalman 28 pts; 3 Sandra Elliot 26 pts.

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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Camanchd Cup final on Saturday

THE TULLOCH Homes Camanchd cup final between Lovat and Newtonmore takes place on Saturday at the Bught Park, Inverness, with a 2pm throw-up. The match is being televised live on BBC 2 Scotland.

Meanwhile, after last Saturday's results, Kinlochshiel moved into pole position in the Marine Harvest Premiership title race, Caberfeidh and Fort William continue to battle it out for the second Marine Harvest National Division promotion spot, Lochside Rovers are within touching distance of the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title and the Newtonmore seconds were presented with the North Division 1 trophy.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

#### Kinlochshiel 4 Kyles Athletic 0

Shinty's match of the day was the meeting between the Premiership's top two teams, Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel have already had to give up home advantage in two of their recent league fixtures – against Glasgow Mid Argyll and Glenurquhart – and manager Johnston Gill made it clear his charges would not do so again for this crucial clash.

Match referee John Angus Gillies inspected the park on Friday lunchtime and ruled it playable, Kinlochshiel club officials monitored the situation carefully with further inspections on Friday evening and Saturday morning ahead of Kyles' early morning departure from Tighnabraich.

With just one more league match each remaining after this encounter, the sides were level on points with Kyles just in front on goal difference.

Kinlochshiel were along usual lines with Scott MacLean starting and Duncan 'DA' MacRae at wing centre.

Kyles Athletic boss James Perlich was without Roddy MacDonald, who served the second match of a two-game suspension. Callum Miller, returning from injury, took a place on the bench alongside Dunkie Kerr, Innes MacDonald and Rupert Williamson. Donald Irvine had recovered from a knock sustained in the previous week's win over Newtonmore.

You could sense the nerves pre-match as both camps knew the chance of a first top flight league championship was at stake.

The two captains – Scott Kennedy for Kinlochshiel and Gordon Whyte for Kyles – were well aware that one of them would go down in history as the first to lift a Marine Harvest Premiership trophy for their side.

Kinlochshiel won the toss of the coin and opted to play down the slope in the first half, against the wind.

Kinlochshiel quickly settled into the game and took the lead on four minutes following

a brilliant passing move. Conor Cormack knocked the ball down in midfield and Donald Nixon got a touch ahead of Robbie MacLeod. Oliver MacRae tapped the ball to Finlay MacRae who played a weighted pass down the right flank where Scott MacLean played the ball wide to Oliver MacRae who had continued his run forward. MacRae's cross was touched on by John MacRae to Keith MacRae and he blasted a back-hand effort over Kyles Athletic keeper John Whyte's right shoulder and into the net.

There was more to come as Oliver MacRae made it 2-0 in 12 minutes. John MacRae played a Kinlochshiel free-hit from the right to Keith MacRae at the back post and his shot from a tight angle was blocked with his body by John Whyte, but Oliver MacRae was quickly onto the rebound to stroke the ball home to the delight of the home support.

Kinlochshiel defender Paul MacRae had to be bandaged up after suffering a head cut, whilst Kyles goalie John Whyte needed treatment after taking a point-bank John MacRae shot,

4-0 with five minutes remaining. Donald Irvine pushed the ball out of the defensive area where it was gathered by Fraser on the Kinlochshiel left. Jordan Fraser didn't catch his initial attempt properly but he then beat Cammy Keith in a challenge before steadying himself and blasting the ball inside the post to put Kinlochshiel out of sight.

Kinlochshiel deserved the win, although the four-goal winning margin was harsh on Kyles who missed Callum Miller at the back and Roddy MacDonald up front.

The title race has taken a number of twists in recent weeks and Kyles will hope there is still another turn still to unfold.

Kinlochshiel, though, finish the season against Oban Camanchd at Mossfield on Saturday October 7, knowing that a point is enough for a first Marine Harvest Premiership success.

Kyles Athletic are scheduled to complete their league programme against Glasgow Mid Argyll at Tighnabraich the same day.

Speaking immediately after the final whistle, Kinlochshiel

#### Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kinlochshiel	17	12	4	1	46	17	28
Kyles Athletic	17	12	2	3	51	25	26
Newtonmore	16	9	3	4	37	19	21
Kingussie	18	9	3	6	32	27	21
Lovat	16	10	1	5	33	29	21
Oban Camanchd	14	8	1	5	43	20	17
Glenurquhart	18	3	4	11	28	49	10
Lochaber	17	4	1	12	21	51	9
Kilmallie	16	3	1	12	18	46	7
Glasgow Mid Argyll	17	2	2	13	18	44	6

from the edge of the 'D', full in the face. Both players were able to carry on.

The next goal was always going to be important and it came from the hosts four minutes into the second half. Conor Cormack played a free-hit forward and substitute Jordan Fraser, who had come on for Scott MacLean during the first period, sent a bouncing shot goalwards from a central position. John Whyte dealt with the effort, pushing the ball out to his left. John MacRae saw an initial effort blocked before he wriggled forward past a couple of defenders and showed great perseverance to slot the ball into the net from close range.

Kyles had their chances in this game but the Kinlochshiel defence were excellent, with Mark MacDonald outstanding. Whenever the Tighnabraich men got a sight of goal, they found 'Shiel keeper Scott Kennedy in no mood to give anything away and one flying first half save, diving to his right to deny Grant Irvine, was special.

Kinlochshiel also showed good game management as they closed the match out in the second half.

Kyles threw Dunkie Kerr on in midfield and Callum Miller and Innes MacDonald on up front, but it was Jordan Fraser who put the icing on the cake, making it

manager Johnston Gill said: 'I'm really pleased for the players. They were up for it from the start and they gave their all. Kyles are a great team and they have more big game experience than us, but we've tried to get inside the players' heads this season so they can cope with the big games and they certainly came through today.'

'We have huge respect for Oban Camanchd and we know we'll have to be at our best to take something from that game.'

'We'll do our usual preparation over the next fortnight. We didn't pick up any injuries or suspensions today so we'll be good to go again.'

#### Oban Camanchd 4 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Glasgow Mid Argyll will return to the National Division next season after their 4-1 defeat to Oban Camanchd at Mossfield confirmed the end of their 12 month stay in shinty's top flight.

Oban Camanchd captain Garry Lord served the final match of his four-game suspension whilst Gary McKerracher was also banned for this one.

Keeper Gavin Stobbart returned from his ban but Scott McKillop has been ruled out for the rest of the season through injury. Matt Rippon returned from injury and was on the bench alongside Daniel MacVicar who

suffered a shoulder injury in training the previous Tuesday.

Glasgow Mid Argyll's Ryan Harrison sat this one out after collecting a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Gary Luke was free to play but he will miss GMA's final match of the season away to Kyles Athletic because of a bookings accumulation.

Oban Camanchd went in front on 21 minutes. The goal came following a throw-up near the edge of the 'D'. Daniel Cameron scuffed a shot goalwards and Andrew MacCuish tapped the ball into the net.

Oban Camanchd keeper Gavin Stobbart did well to save a Calum Mclay penalty with his feet before GMA levelled on 24 minutes. Calum Mclay ran in on keeper Stobbart and although his initial shot was saved, the ball rose into the air and Mclay shielded the rebound into the bottom corner of the net from a tight angle.

Oban Camanchd regained the lead five minutes into the second half when Aidan MacIntyre fired the ball into the corner of the net from close-in.

Oban Camanchd boss Iain Hay was forced to make changes with both David Lafferty and Lorne Dickie picking up injuries. Matt Rippon replaced Lafferty at half back, with Daniel MacVicar taking over from Dickie.

Daniel MacVicar played well following his introduction and made it 3-1 on 65 minutes. There was a scramble around the GMA goal and MacVicar flicked a rebound off keeper Robert Dunning into the roof of the net from five yards.

Andrew MacCuish, who started the scoring, also had the final say four minutes from time. Malcolm Clark won the ball in midfield and found Daniel Cameron on the Oban Camanchd right. Cameron crossed to MacCuish who took the ball around on-rushing keeper Dunning before scoring from a tight angle.

Oban Camanchd could have added to their four goal haul but Robert Dunning in the GMA goal made some good saves against his former club.

With four matches still to go, Oban Camanchd have more league games remaining than any other side in the top flight. Their recently postponed league trip to Canal Parks to face Kilmallie has been rescheduled for this Saturday. Throw up is at noon to allow the squads and supporters to watch the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup Final between Lovat and Newtonmore, which is broadcast live on BBC2 Scotland from 1.45pm.

Oban Camanchd then meet Kinlochshiel the week after whilst Iain Hay's side travel to The Eilan to play Newtonmore on Saturday October 14. Oban Camanchd complete their season against Lovat at Mossfield on Saturday October 28.

#### Lovat 3 Kingussie 1

Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup finalists Lovat warmed up for the big day with a 3-1 win over Lovat in their 3pm throw up at Balgate.

Craig Mainland returned to the Lovat starting line-up, whilst Marc MacLachlan was on the bench.

Kingussie manager Dallas Young gave second team keeper Robert Shiels a start in goal but Lee Bain was missing. James Hutchison was listed as a substitute after missing recent games through work commitments.

Greg Matheson scored on 14 minutes to give Lovat the lead. Lorne MacKay ran out to the corner flag on the Lovat right and sent the ball into the danger area. Greg Matheson showed a brilliant first touch as he leapt to take the ball down before hammering it into the net from close to the edge of the 'D'.



Kinlochshiel players celebrate the third goal scored by John Macrae, left. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Lovat only stayed in front for 60 seconds though. The Kingussie centre line won the ball from the re-start and Chris Holleysong let the ball run forward, taking it past Drew Howie, and his early strike was good, sending the ball low to the keeper's left to make it 1-1.

Greg Matheson collected the ball wide on the left on 34 minutes. His initial shot on his left side was charged down by a defender but the re-bound fell to the Lovat captain on his right side who beat Robert Shiels to make it 2-1.

Just before half time, Greg Matheson came within an inch of completing his hat-trick. Matheson anticipated a dropping ball over the Kingussie defence and, with a flick of the wrist, fired the ball across the keeper but it came off the post and away to safety.

When Lovat moved the ball across their forward line on 52 minutes, Lorne MacKay steered the ball into the net to make it 3-1.

This was a great, open game for the supporters with play flowing from end-to-end. Kingussie were never out of it and created three glorious chances with Ryan Borthwick, particularly, unlucky not to score as his shot from the edge of the 'D' produced a Stuart MacDonald reflex save with the ball taking the merest nick off MacDonald's stick and onto the post.

Greg Matheson and Craig Mainland were withdrawn during the second half and Lovat substitute Marc MacLachlan also hit the post.

Greg Matheson's superb performance during his time on the field made him the man of the match and he will be key to Lovat's hopes of winning what would be only a second Scottish success since 1953.

Lovat will now make their final preparations ahead of Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup Final against Newtonmore. Throw-up at the Bught Park is 2pm.

#### Kilmallie 2 Newtonmore 6

Newtonmore prepared for Saturday's Scottish final with a 6-2 victory over Kilmallie in their 3pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall was suspended, whilst Liam MacDonald returned to the senior squad, starting on the bench.

Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald was also banned and Rory Kennedy remained out

as he struggles to gain fitness ahead of this Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup Final. In an interesting move, Newtonmore played keeper Norman Campbell at full back, with Paul MacArthur between the sticks.

Kilmallie created several early chances but Newtonmore's Glen MacKintosh opened the scoring after 12 minutes and Evan Menzies made it 2-0 on 20 minutes.

Daniel Stewart pulled a goal back on 31 minutes but Fraser MacKintosh's strike a couple of minutes later restored Newtonmore's two-goal cushion.

Jamie Robinson made it 4-1 a couple of minutes into the second half and although Liam MacDonald pulled another goal back on 62 minutes, shortly after coming on, Iain Robinson on 77 minutes and a second from Jamie Robinson on 82 minutes completed the 6-2 victory.

Kilmallie have two matches remaining in their attempt to overcome eighth-placed Lochaber who are two points better off. They host Oban Camanchd this Saturday, whilst Lovat visit Canal Parks a week after the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup Final.

Newtonmore boss Paul John MacKintosh will be pleased to have five separate scorers ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanchd Cup Final against Lovat but he does have important decisions to make in defence, including assessing Norman Campbell's performance at full back where he did well in this outing.

### Marine Harvest National Division

#### Caberfeidh 6 Beaully 2

Promotion hopefuls Caberfeidh finished their league programme on a high, beating Beaully 6-2 at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh boss Jodi Gorski had Kevin Bartlett, Liam Symonds and Martin MacDonald all free of suspension, although the latter was to feature for their second team.

Kevin Bartlett put the hosts ahead on three minutes and Craig Morrison added a quick-fire hat-trick with goals on 13, 17 and 30 minutes to make it 4-0.

Referee Graham Cameron awarded Beaully a penalty on 33 minutes and Jack MacDonald scored from the spot.

Colin MacLennan, with a goal a couple of minutes later, made it 5-1 at the break. Jamie Mathe-

son added a sixth on 78 minutes and Jordan Zeblewski's effort in the final minute made it 6-2.

Beaully's Robbie Brindle was sent off.

Caberfeidh have now completed their league programme and their promotion hopes lie in the balance. They are on 20 points and can only wait and watch as promotion rivals Fort William play their final two matches of the season.

#### Fort William 9 Inverness 0

Fort William's promotion push also remains on course after they beat Inverness 9-0 in their 3pm throw-up at An Aird.

Fort William's James Tangney and Lewis Clark were free of suspension, as was Inverness defender David Campbell.

Alexander MacMillan opened the scoring on 15 minutes and Calum Shepherd made it 2-0 on 21 minutes.

A Graham Campbell strike on 34 minutes followed by Alexander MacMillan's second on 39 minutes made it 4-0 and a second from Calum Shepherd on 43 minutes made it 5-0 at the break.

Graham Campbell got his second on 53 minutes and Lachie Shaw added his name to the list of scorers three minutes later.

Calum Shepherd completed his hat-trick on 80 minutes and Alexander MacMillan did likewise three minutes later.

Fort William will win promotion if they win their final two league matches of the season, at home to Skye Camanchd and Inveraray.

#### Inveraray 1 Oban Celtic 2

Oban Celtic recorded a good win, beating Inveraray 2-1 in their 3pm throw-up at The Winterton.

The pitch passed a Saturday morning inspection, although the surface was difficult for both sides.

The hosts were without Nicholas Crawford, John Kennedy and Ally Munro.

This was Oban Celtic's first match since early August. Ross Macmillan started a two-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Ally McKerracher and Andy Hunt were ruled out through injury with both likely to miss the rest of the season. Robert Alexander was also injured, whilst Connor Howe is now playing junior football.

Oban Celtic got themselves in front on seven minutes when make-shift full forward Andy MacDonald scored with the help of a deflection.

The visitors suffered a blow on 12 minutes when experienced defender David MacInnes was sent off by referee Ross Brown for retaliation following an off-the-ball incident.

With keepers Stephen Davidson and Jack Hill both missing, Iain MacFarlane again deputised in goal and played well throughout the 90 minutes as did the Celtic defence of John Hill, Fulton Ronald, Lewis MacPhee and David Hill, with the latter filling in for MacInnes.

Inveraray pressed hard from the start of the second half but Oban Celtic had the chance to double their lead six minutes after the re-start when they were awarded a penalty.

David Hill's clearance found Neil Carmichael who picked out Daniel Madej who lost his marker and made for goal, only to be brought down inside the box. David Hill sent the spot-hit low and hard to the keeper's right.

Oban Celtic now led 2-0 with the goal coming against the run of play. Iain MacFarlane continued to deny Inveraray, turning in an outstanding performance between the posts.

Garry MacPherson made it 2-1 with a rocket-shot on 79 minutes but, despite intense pressure, Oban Celtic held out to move up to sixth place in the division, just



Oban Camanchd's Daniel MacCuish fires in a shot during the Premiership match against Mid Argyll at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

two points behind fifth-placed Inveraray, with what was their fourth league win of the season.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Fort William 3  
Newtonmore 2**  
The Fort William reserves beat Marine Harvest North Division 1 champions Newtonmore reserves 3-2 in their noon throw-up at An Aird.

Scott Henderson put Fort William ahead on 10 minutes but Calum Stewart levelled five minutes later.

Victor Smith put the home side back in front on 57 minutes but Calum Stewart levelled for a second time with five minutes remaining.

It stayed that way until the final minute when a second Scott Henderson goal put Fort William ahead for the third time in the match and this time there was no comeback.

This was a final Fort William match for Bobby MacMillan after a career spanning more than 17 years.

This was also a last match in charge for Cammy MacDonald after 10 years managing the Newtonmore seconds, so it was fitting that he signed off with another title success.

This was the Newtonmore reserves final match of the season and, after the final whistle, their captain Darrin Fowler was presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 1 trophy.

## Glenurquhart 2 Kingussie 2

The Kingussie seconds and the Glenurquhart seconds shared the points in a 2-2 draw in their noon throw-up at Blairbeg.

James MacPherson and Oliver Black scored the Glenurquhart goals with a Kevin Thain brace counting for Kingussie.

## Aberdeen University P Beaully P

The Beaully seconds were unable to raise a team for their match against Aberdeen University at Balgownie.

The match will be re-scheduled for a later date.

This will be the fifth time this season that this match has been scheduled.

The original fixture in mid-March was postponed because of an unplayable field. Beaully have since been unable to fulfil the match on three occasions and they have found it difficult to field a second string on the same day as their first team has a match.

Beaully have been deducted another two points and remain bottom of the table.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Aberdour 1 Lochside Rovers 4

Lochside Rovers took a giant step towards lifting the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title when they beat second placed Aberdour 4-1 at Silversands.

The recently crowned Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup winners showed no hang-over from the previous week's celebrations and took the lead on 22 minutes.

Referee Willie MacDonald spotted a 'kick' inside the Aberdour 'D' and awarded the Oban side a penalty which was well-taken by Michael MacQueen who fired the ball low into the corner of the net.

Lochside keeper Cameron Sutherland saved a thunderbolt shot with his body before Lewis

Buchanan added a second Lochside goal three minutes before the break. Ruairidh Horn played the ball to Buchanan from around the penalty spot and the youngster shot into the top corner of the net.

Lochside thought they had extended their lead early in the second half when Lewis Buchanan shot goalwards but the goal judge confirmed the ball had not crossed the line.

Lochside had keeper Cameron Sutherland to thank on 63 minutes when he stretched to make a brilliant save with his foot to deny Roddy MacColl.

Aberdour reduced the deficit on 79 minutes when Alec Mitchell's shot was stopped with his legs by Cameron Sutherland but Angus Thorburn knocked the rebound home to make it 2-1.

Lochside boss Gareth Evans introduced youngster Ross Campbell, who impressed by scoring all seven goals for the club's U14 side in a win over their Bute counter-parts, for the final third of the match and he certainly livened things up.

Campbell was involved in Lochside's third goal on 82 minutes when he held the ball up before working it wide and drawing the keeper.

Campbell knocked the ball across the goal line, leaving Niall MacFarlane the easiest chance to make it 3-1.

With centre Michael MacQueen and forward Craig MacDougall swapping places, Lochside went for the kill and Ross Campbell completed an afternoon to remember three minutes from time.

Good work from Callum Kir-sop set up the chance and Ross Campbell thumped the ball high into the net from 20 yards out to make it 4-1.

Daniel Sloss and Chrissie MacMillan were terrific at the back for Lochside, whilst Craig Callaghan in the Aberdour goal made some great saves.

The defeat knocks Aberdour out of the title race and Lochside Rovers are within a whisker of becoming champions.

They have now reached the 25 point mark and whilst Kilmory can reach 26 points, they would have to win all their games to do so and rely on a complete Lochside collapse.

## Ballachulish 3 Tayforth 2

Ballachulish go sixth after they edged out Tayforth 3-2 at Jubilee Park.

Tayforth's Sean Taylor scored the only goal of the first half on 34 minutes.

Ballachulish turned things around though with Duncan MacDonald on 47 minutes, Craig MacLachlan on 50 minutes and Stuart Robertson on the hour putting them 3-1 to the good.

Calum Barton made it 3-2 three minutes from time but Ballachulish stayed in front to take the points.

## Taynuilt 5 Kyles Athletic 0

Taynuilt were 5-0 winners against the Kyles Athletic second team at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Scott Dempster on 19 minutes and Robbie Brown on 25 minutes made it 2-0 at the break.

Willie Lafferty on the hour, Ryan Gillies on 77 minutes and Jamie MacLaren on 81 minutes completed a comfortable 5-0 win.

## Glenorchy P Kilmory P

The match between Glenorchy and Kilmory was postponed as Mart Park was unplayable.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2 Strathspey Camanachd 2 Lochaber 5

The Lochaber reserves narrowed the gap at the top of the table to two points when they beat Strathspey Camanachd 5-2 at Grantown Grammar School.

Keith Neville gave Lochaber the lead on 12 minutes but Stewart Sloss levelled soon after.

Lachlan Campbell restored Lochaber's advantage on 15 minutes but Matthew Davis made it 2-2 on 34 minutes and it stayed that way until the final 20 minutes of the match.

Three goals in a four-minute spell gave Lochaber victory. Max Campbell put them back in front on 72 minutes and the youngster got a second three minutes later.

Keith Neville got his second on 76 minutes to make it 5-2 and leave his side two points behind leaders Glengarry with both sides having two matches remaining.

## Lovat 4 Caberfeidh 4

The Lovat seconds and the Caberfeidh seconds drew 4-4 in an action-packed midday meeting at Balgate.

Raymond Rennie gave Lovat the lead on eight minutes with the goal coming against the run of play. A perfectly weighted pass from Duncan Urquhart evaded the visiting defence and Rennie took advantage to send the ball low into the net.

Lovat keeper Ronan MacMillan made a fine double-save, first with his body and then with his feet, to keep his side ahead.

Duncan Urquhart made it 2-0 on 14 minutes when he had time to pick his spot from wide of the penalty spot.

Rory Campbell and Raymond Rennie combined on 17 minutes with the latter getting his second from the edge of the 'D'.

Caberfeidh had had much of the play but the goals lifted Lovat and Bailey MacKay and Chris Johnston were providing the home forwards with plenty of ball from midfield and Raymond Rennie completed his hat-trick with a fine strike on 23 minutes.

Rennie took a powerful cross from the clubhouse side of the park in the air and struck the ball mid-air, giving the keeper no chance as he completed a 15 minute hat-trick, making a late push for a Camanachd Cup Final place.

Russell MacKenzie gave Caberfeidh some hope when he came forward from midfield to strike home a loose ball from 20 yards on the stroke of half-time.

Caberfeidh now had their tails up and things went wrong for Lovat when referee Martin MacLean sent off Rory Campbell on the hour.

Caberfeidh were awarded a penalty on 62 minutes when James Grieve bundled over a visiting forward. Martin MacDonald didn't strike the spot-hit as cleanly as he'd have liked though and Ronan MacMillan saved low by the post.

Martin MacDonald made amends when he tapped the ball home to make it 4-2 on 66 minutes after a goal-mouth scramble.

The home support were left to wonder just how the Caberfeidh goal survived moments later. Chris Johnston found Bailey MacKay and his back-hand effort hit the inside of the post.

The ball rebounded to Raymond Rennie but his strike was saved by Ian MacColl in the Caberfeidh goal. The ball then fell for Duncan Urquhart who tried to take the ball round the keeper but couldn't find the net.

Caberfeidh were using the spare man well and Ruairidh McCreadie shot home from the left on 70 minutes to make it 4-3.

Caberfeidh completed an excellent come-back a minute later through Ruairidh MacLeman but Lovat held on to take a point.

## Lochcarron 5 Lewis Camanachd 0

Lochcarron go sixth in the table after they defeated Lewis Camanachd 5-0 in their 1.30pm



The North Under 21 team defeated their South counterparts 10-0 at Mossfield last Sunday.



The North senior ladies made it a double with a 5-0 win over the South.

throw-up at Battery Park. Andrew Ford gave the hosts the lead on 27 minutes when, at the back post, he struck the ball low across goal and into the net.

An unmarked Lance MacCuish made it 2-0 on 32 minutes with a great strike.

Liam Arnott added a third five minutes later when he fired a loose ball into the top corner of the net.

When Lewis Camanachd player/manager Dougie MacIntyre was brought down inside the 'D', the visitors were awarded a second-half penalty. However Dougie Shaw's spot-hit was saved by home keeper Ronnie Cameron from Applecross.

Lance MacCuish completed his hat-trick with goals on 68 and 71 minutes. He found space at the back post to score before making it 5-1 three minutes later.

Lewis were denied a late goal when Dougie MacIntyre dragged an effort wide of goal.

This was Lewis Camanachd's final league match of the season.

## Kilmallie P Inverness P

The noon throw-up between the Kilmallie colts and the Inverness colts was postponed on Friday evening when it became clear Canal Parks, which was also to host the Premiership meeting between Kilmallie and Newtonmore, could not take two games.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2 Inveraray P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The Inveraray colts will have to wait for the chance to seal the Marine Harvest South Division 2 title, and promotion to Marine Harvest South Division 1, after their 3pm meeting with the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts was postponed as The Winterton was unable to host two matches.

## Strachur W/O v Oban Lorn

Strachur were awarded the points when Oban Lorn were unable to raise a team for their meeting at Strachurmore.

## Bute P Dunoon Camanachd P

The meeting between the Bute second team and Dunoon Camanachd was postponed on Friday as The Meadows was ruled unplayable.

## WCA North v South

The ladies North v South matches, sponsored by the Macaulay Association, took place at a wet Mossfield Stadium last Sunday.

## South U21 0 North U21 10

The U21 encounter between the North and South was a 1pm

Kingussie U17s defeated Skye Camanachd U17s 4-2 at Craighard. Roddy Young, a Ruairidh Anderson brace and Dylan Borthwick counted for Kingussie, whilst Ross Nicolson and Jamie Gillies got the Skye goals.

Lochside Rovers recently beat the Kingussie second team 3-1 to lift the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup and many of the players on show that day will feature in the London Shield Final to be played at An Aird on Saturday October 28.

The red and blacks have already won the McQuiston Cup defeating a team from Col Glen, Kyles, Strachur and Aberdour 3-0 in the final.

Whilst enjoying success at youth level, players including Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan, Evan MacLellan, Cameron Sutherland and Craig Easton have played for the Oban Camanachd senior team in the Premiership and have adapted very well at the top level.

The Oban U17s won the South Area Sixes at Peterson Park, Yoker, last Sunday defeating Bute in the final.

## Camanachd U14s keep up the challenge

Oban Camanachd Under 14s maintained their South League challenge defeating Bute by 7-3 at Mossfield Stadium. Man of the match was Ross Campbell who scored all seven goals.

Ross made his debut for Lochside Rovers against Aberdour last Saturday in a South Division One league game which was well refereed by former Oban Camanachd player Alec McVicar.

Following an adjustment in the age limit which resulted in the loss of key players, team coaches Alan MacKechnie and Brian Logan must be well pleased with the progress of the young group of players.

Next up for the Under 14s is a game against Col Glen.

The Camanachd youngsters won the South Sixes at Yoker last Sunday defeating Dunoon in the final making it an U14 and U17 double for the Oban club.

## Balla' youngsters retain title

Ballachulish U14s successfully defended their Marine Harvest National Development trophy, beating Oban Lorn 6-2 at Mossfield.

Lewis Moran scored four times for Ballachulish whilst David Wilson netted twice. Coll MacKay and Duncan MacEwan were on target for Oban Lorn.



## Fixtures

### Saturday September 30

**Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final**  
Lovat v Newtonmore  
Lachie Wood - 2pm  
Bught Park, Inverness

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kilmallie v Oban Camanachd  
Robert Baxter - noon

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Ballachulish v Kilmory  
John Wood - noon  
Kyles Athletic v Glenorchy  
Ewan MacDonald - noon  
Lochside Rovers v Taynuilt  
Ronnie Campbell - noon

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute v Strachur  
Euan Pearson - noon

**Youth Fixture**  
**MacMaster Cup Final**  
**National U14 competition**  
Lochaber v Kingussie  
Steven MacLachlan - 11am  
Bught Park, Inverness



## Results

### Saturday September 23

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Oban Cam 4 v 1 Glasgow MA  
Lovat 3 v 1 Kingussie  
Kilmallie 2 v 6 Newtonmore  
Kinlochshiel 4 v 0 Kyles Ath

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Caberfeidh 6 v 2 Beaully  
Fort William 9 v 0 Inverness  
Inveraray 1 v 2 Oban Celtic

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Aberdeen Uni P v P Beaully  
Beaully unable to field a team, to be rescheduled  
Fort William 3 v 2 Newtonmore  
Glenurquhart 2 v 2 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour 1 v 4 Lochside Rovers  
Ballachulish 3 v 2 Tayforth  
Glenorchy P v P Kilmory  
Unplayable pitch  
Taynuilt 5 v 0 Kyles Athletic

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Kilmallie P v P Inverness  
Unplayable field  
Lovat 4 v 4 Caberfeidh  
Strathspey 2 v 5 Lochaber  
Lochcarron 5 v 0 Lewis

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute P v P Dunoon  
Unplayable field  
Inveraray P v P Glasgow MA  
Unplayable field  
Strachur P v P Oban Lorn  
Oban Lorn unable to field a team, points to Strachur

Marine Harvest South Division One							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	14	12	1	1	64	10	25
Aberdour	16	8	4	4	46	32	20
Kilmory	13	7	2	4	42	29	16
Tayforth	16	7	2	7	30	44	16
Bute	13	9	3	1	47	15	13*
Ballachulish	16	4	4	8	25	45	12
Taynuilt	15	4	3	8	27	32	11
Kyles Athletic	13	4	2	7	26	42	10
Col Glen	16	2	5	9	18	40	9
Glenorchy	12	1	2	9	18	54	2*

\*points adjustment



Oban Camanachd U17s with the South Sixes trophy.



Oban Camanachd's U14s also won the South Sixes title. Photographs: John Fullerton.



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## Solid sixth place for McPhee



John McPhee gives an interview after his sixth place finish at Aragon.

'I feel like we can up our game and really show our potential'

CONNEL Moto3 rider John McPhee had a great race at MotorLand Aragon in what is almost another 'home' race for the Scot, taking sixth and some solid points to move up to sixth place in the championship.

Losing slightly off the line from his P7 grid position, John stayed in the front freight train throughout the race and chose his moment wisely to begin moving through.

Making progress through the latter stages - with the race distance shortened to 13 laps due to fog delays earlier in the day - the British Talent Team rider was able to cross the line in P6; a margin ahead of the man behind and only two tenths off the top five.

McPhee also feels he could have done more over the full distance.

Now it's crunch time as the paddock prepares for the flyways. First up is the Twin Ring Moteji, as McPhee aims to keep bagging the points to move up in the fight for the top five in the title.

After the race John said: 'I feel like we've had a really successful weekend as a team and we've managed to make a small step forward. All through practise and qualifying we've managed to up our game a little bit so it's really good to see that everything's working so well.'

'I think with a couple more laps we could have challenged for the win today, so the shorter race distance was disappointing but it was the same for everyone.'

### Moto3

'Me and my crew chief made a joint decision to use the soft tyre - it could have been risky but it seemed to work pretty good. We started with a tyre that had already done a couple of laps in qualifying and it worked well; we were the only ones on that tyre to finish the race in the top 20.'

'It was a good achievement all round. I'm happy with how things are progressing, we've got a really clear progression now heading into the three overseas races and we know what we need with the bike and from me.'

'I feel like we can up our game and really show our potential before the year ends.'

## Lorne Ladies turn on the style

Ardrossan Ladies	0
Oban Lorne Ladies	65
BT Women's National League 2	

OBAN Ladies set off early for their first away fixture for this season's BT Women's National League 2 against Ardrossan Ladies. This team have just moved up from the development league but did prove to be a challenge.

After the journey it took a while for the players to settle, particularly as their experienced scrum half was taken ill during the journey leaving players playing out of position. But soon Oban were doing what they do best, using the width and demonstrating their pace.

The scrum featured a powerful Ardrossan pack, but glimmers of their inexperience did show through leaving the scrums well matched overall.

Outside centre Erika Skofca stood out in the back line as she made great headway up the middle of the pitch before fly half Lucy Stewart was rewarded with the opening try, having taken the ball from the back of a scrum. Shortly after, Skofca intercepted the ball to score a try herself.

As the cobwebs of the journey cleared and nerves settled, the Green Army were putting in big tackles and making use of the

strategies they have been honing at training over recent weeks.

Ardrossan managed to keep Oban Ladies under control, with only two scores in the opening 20 minutes, but shortly after this Skofca burst through the defensive line once again, with the try afforded to winger Rachel MacDonald. This was quickly followed by a second try for Stewart.

As in last week's game, the back line showed impressive handling and running skills, and after a string of convincing passes, MacDonald scored her second try of the match.

The tries kept coming thick and fast through the remainder of the game. Following an impressive run, back row Rebecca Sims executed a strong hand-off to keep Ardrossan tacklers at bay and secure a further five points.

This was followed by another try, this time for second row Veronica Speirs, who played an excellent game, repeatedly making massive hits and exhibiting great ball carrying skills.

Unfortunately, the ball was then dropped over the line after a scrum turn over, with a second attempt resulting in the ball being held up over the line. However, No 8 Camilla Leslie rallied team spirits once more

### Women's rugby

with a deft pick up off the scrum to burst through and score.

At this point, the drizzle that had threatened to affect play from the opening whistle started to fall in more earnest and handling became scrappy, with frustration levels rising for the ladies in green.

Tidying up, the backs once again utilised the width of the pitch, this time for winger Ellen Barlow to score under the posts before captain Laura McCormick, keen to lead by example, ran through two tackles to dive over the line once more.

The final try saw Skofca secure her hat-trick for the match, and unfortunately the game had to be called off early after an Ardrossan player received a nasty ankle injury.

This brought the final score to 0-65, leaving the Oban Ladies team still to concede a single point for this season so far.

Oban Lorne Ladies travel to Glasgow next weekend where they will take on the University team in the first round of the Sarah Beane Cup.

Their next league game will take place at home on October 8 against Grangemouth, 2pm kick off.



The captains of Lovat and Newtonmore Greg Matheson and Rory Kennedy were this week promoting Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final to be played at the Bught Park, Inverness. The match will be shown live on BBC 2, starting at 1.45pm. Also in the photo is Lynne Boyd, sales director and George Johnstone, foreman joiner, Tulloch Homes. They are surrounded by shinty players from Dalneigh Primary School. Photo: Neil Paterson

## Impressive win for Oban Lorne U16s

Oban Lorne U16s	50
Newton Stewart	7
West Conference	

OBAN Lorne U16s continued their unbeaten run in the West Conference with another good home win against Newton Stewart after the previous weekend's convincing win away at Annan.

Captain Tommy McQuade, full back Jordan Normand and wing forward Finbar Dunn led the way with two tries each, followed by tries from wing Kenny Grey and open side

Nathan MacCulloch. Angus Neil converted five from eight to give a final score of 50-7 with a consolation try for the visitors in the dying minutes.

Oban dominated up front with a solid scrum and powerful driving play from the lineout and in the loose.

More could have been made of the space wide outside in the first half, but with continued possession and a change of emphasis in the second half, a more expansive game lead to some excellent moves from the

### Youth rugby

Oban back line who began to show their abundance of pace and elusive running.

All round an excellent team effort with both forwards and backs linking well.

Despite the current difficulties at 1st XV level, judging from this display by the club's U16s, the future seems bright for the Oban club.

Oban Lorne 1st XV are at home on Saturday to Irvine, kick off at Glencruitten is 3pm.

## Oban and Mull mini tournament

NEARLY 50 players from Oban Hockey club and Mull Hockey club met at Oban High School on Sunday afternoon to play a mini tournament.

Originally billed as a single match, the clubs had such a response that both could field two teams.

In total there were six 20-minute games as all the teams played each other.

Despite the heavy rain, there was some fantastic energy and

### Hockey

skill on display. The games were played in a friendly, but determined, manner. Spirits remained un-dampened and as the post tournament photo shows there were many happy faces.

Eventual winners were Oban blues winning two of their three games.

Not that that was too impor-



The hockey players from Oban and Mull pose for a photograph.

tant as it had stopped raining and the players got stuck into their pizzas and drinks.

Ali Burton the Oban captain thanked Mull for making the trip over which was not the first

time and certainly won't be the last. It was really pleasing to see so many players looking to play

on a very wet, miserable day and demonstrates that hockey is truly alive here on the west coast.

## Football festival to be held at North Connel

### Youth football

A MAJOR youth football event being held this Saturday will bring the curtain down on a month of fundraising for Loch-nell Football Club.

'30 Days (of football) Hath September' aimed to get club members engaged in a football related activity every day of the past month - culminating in the club's second festival taking place this weekend at North Connel pitch.

Sponsored events over the month included the 'Hundred Ball Take Down Challenge', a Coaches v Players Match, and a daily 'Home Skills Challenge' using examples from the best players in the world. With a month of practise now behind them, the Lochnell players are itching to put their new skills to the test at the weekend.

The festival, which proved highly popular with visiting teams last year, has grown significantly this time round, involving some 300 young footballers and an incredible 130 games.

The morning sees teams from Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Fort William, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Tarbert join the hosts and Oban sides to compete in Under 8s Fun Fours sections. Then in the afternoon, teams from Glasgow, Paisley and Arran will add their colours to the proceedings, taking part in the Under 10 age group sections which consist of a series of five- and seven-a-side games.

## Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

THE ARGYLL teams in the Scottish Amateur Football League are back to action on Saturday after the September weekend break with the following fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, second round - Oban Saints v Plains; Lochgilphead Red Star v Lanarkshire Forrest; Helensburgh v Dunoon; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Duntocher.

## Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

OBAN Saints youth teams resume duties after the holiday break with the following fixtures: Under 13s v Kilbowie Union; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Ardencaple v Under 16s; Scotstoun Athletic v Under 17s.

### Bridge classes

OBAN Bridge Club classes for beginners commence Tuesday October 3 at 7pm in St Columba's Cathedral Hall.

Further information from David Marshall davaldance@gmail.com or telephone 016361 569984 or Catherine MacGregor, telephone 01631 562165.

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**WEATHER**

Thursday Sunshine and light showers  
Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Friday Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 28, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm	
Thur	05.03	1.9	10.34	3.0	17.20
Fri	06.14	2.0	13.17	2.9	18.33
Sat	01.55	2.8	07.41	2.0	14.35
Sun	03.01	3.0	09.02	1.8	15.20
Mon	03.38	3.2	09.50	1.5	15.56
Tues	04.13	3.4	10.26	1.2	16.31
Wed	04.47	3.7	10.59	1.0	17.05

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & Oban Times

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Thursday 28 September, 2017

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# FREE INSIDE

\*PRINT EDITION ONLY

A souvenir supplement marking the primary one intake for 2017

### Sleepless nights for Kilmallie residents

DISGRUNTLED residents in Kilmallie are calling for action after being kept awake at night by noisy industrial works in Corpach, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

At a meeting of Kilmallie Community Council on Tuesday evening, unhappy locals expressed their frustration over continued night works at the industrial estate and pier at Annat Point, which is keeping some residents awake.

Kilmallie Community Council member Mandy Ketchin said: 'We've been talking about this for six months. None of us are wanting to cause problems with local business but this is a lot of people's lives being affected. It's every night, yet nothing's happening about it.'

A number of Corpach residents have complained to the Highland Council about noise beginning at 4.15am and lasting until after 11pm.

Senior environmental health officer for the council Graeme Corner previously assured the community there has been no contraventions of noise restraints in planning conditions.

He said noise reduction measures would 'require significant engineering works' and the timescale of completion 'would reflect the complexity and scale of the works'.

One Corpach resident said in a letter to community councillors: 'We are subject to a regular loud barrage of "cannon shot" ... It wakens shift workers, unnerves children, pensioners, locals and visitors.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Alan Henderson said: 'One way or another [the council officer] has to come back and report to us on progress. I'm disappointed that hasn't happened and at the lack of action.'

# Trust argues Glencoe extension will stick out like a 'sore thumb'



Youngsters from Lochaber High School took part their annual fundraising hike in fancy dress.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Youngsters step out and raise £6,000 for school and charity

AROUND 600 youngsters stepped out on Lochaber High School's annual fundraising hike on Tuesday and raised the amazing total of £6,000.

The sun shone on the walkers as they trekked to the Rural Complex education centre at Torlundy where they had a break for lunch before walking back to the school.

In keeping with tradition, sixth-year pupils

were in fancy dress and one group of hikers also climbed Ben Nevis. Cash raised from the day will be used to support extra-curricular activities in the school, with 10 per cent being donated to a charity chosen by pupils.

A school spokesperson said: 'As always, we are indebted to the Forestry Commission and to Isabel and Linda Campbell of the Rural Complex who always make us feel so welcome.'

### SUSAN WINDRAM

swindram@obantimes.co.uk

THE JOHN MUIR TRUST is calling for a planning application to replace a 1960s extension at the Kingshouse Hotel in Glencoe to be refused, saying the 'large, incongruous building will stick out like a "sore thumb".'

The leading conservation charity said the 'proposal does not respect, enhance or make responsible use of our natural and cultural assets' and that the 'barracks-style, block design is not in keeping with the area'.

The concerns have been echoed by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

The original 17th-century droving inn, which closed last November ahead of proposed building work, is owned by Black Corries Estate, which plans to create a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on the site.

The company originally bought the hotel with planning permission for changes which included a single-storey extension with turf roof. Those plans were scrapped as commercially unviable.

Objecting to the proposals this week, NTS's property manager for Glencoe and Dalness, Scott McCrombie, said that while fully supporting people accessing and enjoying Scotland's landscapes and the social and economic benefits that brings, any developments to support this 'should not come at the cost of the assets that attract visitors in the first place'.

He continued: 'The proposals are for a very large structure in an otherwise open and little developed area. The National Scenic Area special qualities description notes that one of the attractive features of the area is

that: "Where houses and settlements are present, they appear small among the large-scale surrounds of mountain, moor, glen and sea loch".

'A development with such a significantly larger elevation and footprint would detract from this contrast. It could also pave the way for further adverse development.'

The NTS also raised concerns about the built heritage, saying: 'The proposals would see the addition of an annex that would dwarf what remains of the historic Kingshouse. We recommend that lower impact proposals are developed, preferably low-rise and conserving as much as possible of the historic character of this important site.'

While in favour of the application, chairman of Glencoe and Glen Etive community council Alister Sutherland said the council had not appreciated the size of the proposed extension.

Speaking on behalf of the community council, Mr Sutherland said: 'The Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council believe the development should go ahead as planned.'

'This community doesn't have any industrial or commercial developments, it's just got two or three hotels. The result is that there is little scope for employment for young people to stay and work in the community. This looks like a golden opportunity for the community.'

'We know we're in a National Scenic Area but that doesn't mean that nothing can happen here.'

Community councillors were, however, concerned about the accuracy of the architect's impressions of what the proposed

development will look like. Mr Sutherland continued: 'In terms of the appearance of the development, we have had a look at the plans and the drawings don't show all the trees that are currently there.'

'These trees will lessen the starkness of the development.'

'The community council are critical of these plans as we can't imagine those trees will be felled.'

'As a community council, and in view of the planning process, we would like to see any future developments be presented to the community council before it gets to this stage.'

A third objection, from a local resident, opposes the siting of a large car and coach park on health and ecological grounds.

The resident said that not only would the car park mean diesel and petrol fumes being blown straight into their home, but they added: 'The proposed parking area goes right to the end of the wood where there is a long-established heronry. They raised young this year but are easily disturbed.'

'The busiest time for the hotel coincides with the nesting season, so continual traffic by the heronry could mean the nests being abandoned.'

Efforts were made to contact Black Corries Estate, but there was no response before going to press.

The deadline for a decision by Highland Council is October 15.



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## First meeting of reformed community council

MEMBERS of the newly-reformed Fort William Community Council (FWCC) held their inaugural meeting last week, almost a year after the organisation was officially dissolved, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Following its first meeting last Thursday, FWCC's new chairman heralded a fresh start for the new community council and hopes it will be 'a forward looking organisation'.

Ten newly-elected community councillors met last week to appoint office bearers before having a general discussion on their aims and aspirations.

Alex Farquhar, appointed chairman at last Thursday's meeting, said: 'A lot of people have been hoping it would reform after the resignations. There has been a few attempts since but this was the first time an attempt to reform has been successful.'

In January 2016, FWCC was disbanded following a mass resignation from members, triggered by what they perceived to be a lack of understanding and attention paid to their concerns by the Highland Council.

Since then three attempts have been made to re-establish the community group but to no avail and FWCC was officially dissolved in November last year.

When asked why this attempt has been successful, Mr Farquhar explained timing was probably the most important factor.

He said: 'A lot of people interested in reforming the community council stepped forward at the same time.'

'There is an awareness at the moment that Fort William is a very changing town. Fort William in 10 years is going to be very different to the one we have today, so it is important the town, as the biggest community in Lochaber, has a voice.'

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter also welcomed the news, saying: 'The community council is vital for Fort William. There are issues in Fort William that affect everyone, such as the A82 and the High Street, so if community councils can work together on these then so much the better.'

Mr Farquhar said that although no definitive set of priorities are in place, some key issues will be the focus of the community council.

He added: 'There are possibly three main priorities for FWCC. These are the new aluminium factory, the new Belford hospital and the traffic. We're seeing in Skye and on the North Coast 500 how a lack of facilities and infrastructure is causing problems. We can see it happening already on Ben Nevis.'

## Wedding Fair

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FW

WHAT'S ON

HIGHLAND Comic Con returns with Fort Con 2 on Saturday September 30 at the Nevis Centre, Fort William. The convention opens at 9am and will run until 6pm.

NEVIS Range will play host to the Great Nevis Range Bake-Off on Friday September 29. Staff at the ski resort have rolled up their sleeves and donned their aprons to bake tasty cakes for Macmillan Cancer Support. It's all happening in the Pinemarten cafe and everyone is encouraged to go along, sample some cake and make a donation. The cake with the most donations will win and the baker will be crowned Nevis Range Star Baker.

ON SATURDAY September 30, Nevis Range will be hosting a rescue day from 1-5pm to raise funds for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. The event will be held at the base station at Nevis Range and will include team vehicles and stretcher demonstrations, gondola evacuations, search and rescue dog demos, meet and greet with the dogs, a chance to meet the rescue team, technical ropes demonstrations and more. In the evening, there will be a ceilidh with music by a local live band in the Pinemarten cafe bar from 7.30pm. Tickets, £5, are available from Nevis Range. Call to book on 01397 705825.

THE FIRST meeting of the new session of the Fort William branch of the Scottish Women's Institute will be held in the Montrose Centre, Inverlochy, at 7.15pm on Monday October 2. The speaker will talk about the work of the Sandpiper Trust. A warm welcome is extended to women of all ages.

THE LOCAL History Society will welcome back Bill Cameron for his talk 'A Run around St Kilda - Past, Present and Future'. An interesting evening is promised with photographs and tales of St Kilda not found in the numerous books written about the island. Everyone welcome on Thursday October 5 at 8pm in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

THE WARREN Smith Ski Academy will be coming to Fort William in October as part of its tour of ski technique lab talks. Consisting of a lecture and a personal range test assessment, the evenings will take place at the Ellis Brigham Mountain Sports shop in Fort William at 7pm.

ON SATURDAY October 7, Fort William Mountain Festival will host a film night in association with West Highland College UHI showcasing some of the best mountain movies around. Tickets and information can be found at mountainfestival.co.uk. Films will be suitable for all ages.

# Allan jets in from Canada – all for the love of Fergie

MARK ENTWISTLE  
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IF FURTHER proof were ever needed of the affection and respect in which Moidart's 'Ceilidh King' Fergie MacDonald is held by other musicians, look no further than next month's Royal National Mòd in Fort William. Fergie, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday with a special show at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, will be playing three gigs with his band on three nights during the Mòd in the Volunteer Arms pub.

Fergie will be joined by the usual members of his band - Colm Oru, of Glenfinnan, on banjo; Hugh MacCallum, of Inverlochy, on drums; Iain MacFarlane, of Glenfinnan, on fiddle; Addie Harper, from Wick, on accordion and Robert Nairn, from Acharacle, on accordion. Also in the line-up will be regular fiddler and Blazin' Fiddles founder member Allan Henderson, of Mallaig, who will make a special trip across the Atlantic from Canada where he will be on tour.

Allan will take the stage alongside Fergie and the rest of the band in the Volunteer Arms on Wednesday October 18, Thursday October 19 and Friday October 20.

Following the Friday night show, Allan will grab a few hours' sleep before getting up at the crack of dawn and making his way to Glasgow for the first flight to New York, where he will take the stage later the same night.

Asked what it was about Fergie that made him want to come all that way from Canada, Allan said: 'I'd travel an awful lot further than that for Fergie.'

'I've been playing with him since I was 14 and he has been a huge influence on me and my career - on top of which we're good friends.'

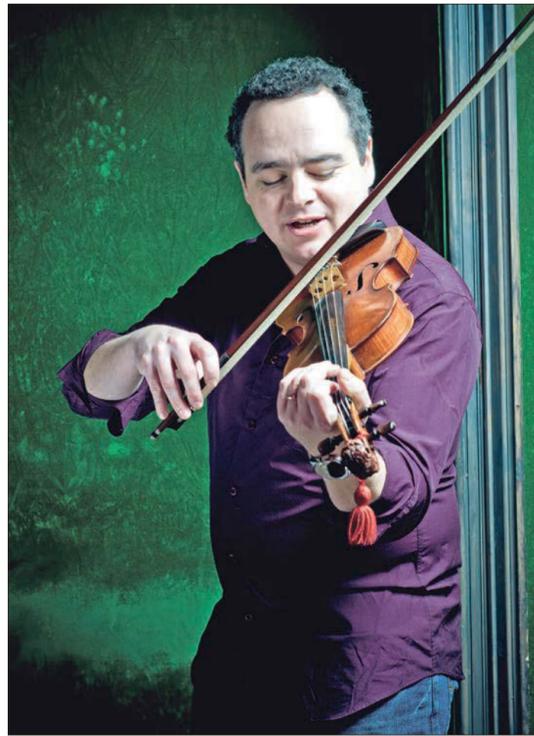
Allan will be playing at venues in Cape Breton in early October. 'I will then fly back to play with Fergie at the Mòd and then on the Saturday will fly to New York for a show that night, before a series of gigs on the east coast,' he said.

Asked what he thought of Fergie having been in the music business for 65 years, Allan said it was amazing: 'Fergie's staying power is incredible.'

'Every so often he talks about retiring, but then he's out playing again and playing as well as ever. He still has the same amount of energy as when I first met him.'

'His popularity has never waned because his music is a cross-generational thing and people love him. That's why the shows at the Volunteer Arms will be something special.'

And asked how he felt about Allan travelling thousands of



Allan Henderson will make a special trip from Canada to play with Fergie in Fort William.

miles back and forward over the Atlantic just to play the three shows with him, Fergie said: 'That's something else, isn't it? But I think it says more about the kind of person Allan is, than anything it says about me.'

The BBC broadcast the special 80th birthday show staged recently at the Nevis Centre and, ahead of the Mòd, Fergie fans will have a chance to hear him in concert with a special edition of BBC Radio Scotland's 'Take the Floor' programme to be broadcast this Saturday, September 30, from 7pm.

The programme was recorded in Glasgow and saw Fergie give an hour-long interview to presenter Gary Innes, also from Lochaber, on his 65 years in the music business.

Born in Glasgow, Fergie grew up on a Moidart croft and it was here he developed his expert marksman's eye that would eventually see him represent Scotland numerous times at international shooting events.

He has also been a physiotherapist, army PT instructor, Highland Games athlete, hotelier, red deer manager, writer and historian, gamekeeper and even a poacher.

At the age of 14, Fergie acquired his own accordion and his high school headmaster invited him to perform at the Christmas school dance.

'I can remember it like it was yesterday,' Fergie said. 'I was

shaking in my shoes. The school always used to hire a band for its dances but one of the masters also played the accordion and thought I was capable of doing the Christmas dance.'

'That must've been 1954 as I was away to the army in 1955. Aye an' there's been some water under the bridge since then!'

It was when Fergie went to Glasgow to study physiotherapy, that his music career really took off and the rest, as they say, is history.

He has played with the greats of Scottish music, of which he himself has long been counted, but has never lost his down-to-



Fergie MacDonald, centre, with his band at the recording of 'Take the Floor' in Glasgow. From left: Colm Oru, Hugh MacCallum, Allan Henderson, Iain MacFarlane, Addie Harper and Robert Nairn.

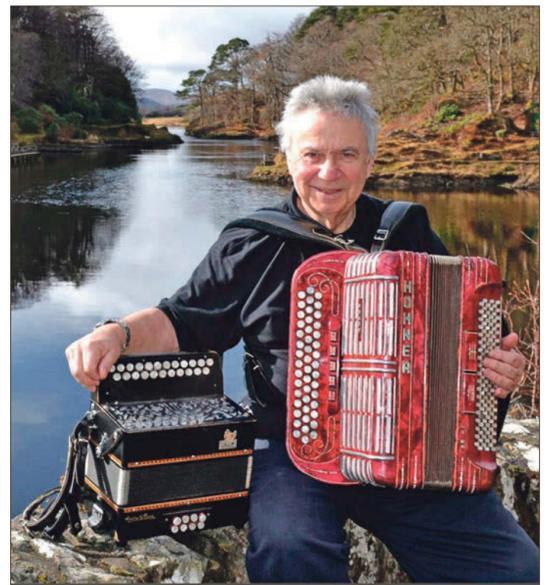
I'd travel an awful lot further than that for Fergie

Allan Henderson

earth honest Highland manner and charm. To mark his 65 years in music, Fergie was recently presented with a Landmark Award by the Hands Up for Trad music organisation in Fort William.

On his upcoming gigs at this year's Mòd, Fergie says he can't wait. 'I really like being in the fringe at the Mòd, in amongst the crowds. The boys and I are really looking forward to it.'

'Allan will be the slightly tired, jet-lagged one on the fiddle.'



Fergie is looking forward to playing three gigs in Fort William when it hosts the Royal National Mòd next month.

## View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for a fantastic Lochaber Ideas Week from Monday November 13 to Friday November 17 and if you haven't yet booked for events, now is the time to do it.

Many of the events are free and it's a great way to find out what's going on in our vibrant business community. Plus it's an ideal way to develop your own business ideas through inspirational workshops, lectures and networking.

We all know the benefits of networking in business are enormous, but it's all too easy to focus on the essential day-to-day tasks in our business and put off 'networking' as a nice idea for another day.

But investing a bit of time to make con-



nections will help you in your work. People do business with people. Talking face-to-face is the best way to connect with other people in business, raise awareness of what you do and find out about opportunities you could easily otherwise have missed. That's why we created our informal

Around Lochaber in 80 Tables event during Lochaber Ideas Week. This fast-paced and fun speed-networking event is designed to help local businesses get together to promote what they do, find out more about other businesses and spot potential opportunities.

Last year's attendees had great fun hopping from table to table for short 'business dates', getting to know new people and making valuable business connections. Invest some time in networking - you never know what doors it could open.

Give us a call on 01397 705 765 to book your table or check out www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk for more details. We'd love to see you there.

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from Lochaber Hope

Many people helped us to get where we are in our new premises, the list below is not exhaustive, and is in addition to all our fundraisers who can be found on our website, [www.lochaberhope.org.uk](http://www.lochaberhope.org.uk), thank you to everyone.

**Corpach Boatyard** who laid our wooden floors AND some.

**Royal Bank of Scotland** who supplied us with a lot of the furniture, John McManus who sorted this all out for us at the warehouse in Blantyre.

**Lochaber Rotary Club** immense planning, architecture and valuable advice

**Howdens** who supplied our wooden flooring, awesome.

**LBS Lochaber Business Supplies**, Gerry supplied paint and materials and allowed customers to donate.

**William Wilson** gave us our toilets and wet wall, remember this was a nursery and we only had baby toilets.

**Allan Ingram** cleaned out carpets so that we could save the existing ones and save funds.

**Travis Perkins** and **City Electrics** gave us two water heaters

**Chris Donnelly DMD construction and the team** did all the internal construction at a very reasonable price

**Men's Shed** who laid a carpet for us.

**Sheraton Homes** provided a carpet and linoleum.

**All Round Signs**, who helped us on the move day.

**Alistair Young Construction** - are putting locks on our internal doors.

**Emergency Action Training** - carried out First Aid training for us, PAT testing and our Fire Safety regulations.

Thank you to Stevie Barr, Tommy Smith, Julie Brownrigg and all our volunteers, too many to mention, who gave so much of their time, expertise and energy and in many cases - patience - to get the building ready for opening and afterwards... and are still helping...

Please see our website for the full list of supporters, so many people helped us raise funds, we are forever grateful.

Last but by no means least, our very own Lochaber Hope Staff, Volunteers, Mentors, Counsellors and Directors, without these dedicated people there would not be a Lochaber Hope...

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## Council delays approval of student flats

COUNCILLORS won't make a decision on plans to build student accommodation on the site of a former primary school in Fort William without making a site visit.

Members of the Highland Council's south planning committee agreed this week that a visit is needed to the site on Fassifern Road.

Councillors said photographs submitted with the planning application didn't show the proximity of the planned building to neighbouring property.

Cityheart Ltd hopes to build a three-storey building within the grounds of the former St Mary's RC Primary School to house 40 students. The company has already built flats in An Aird for students studying in the town.

Residents living next to the Fassifern Road site have raised concerns, including insufficient parking, road safety and that the building will impose on adjacent properties.

Cityheart Ltd says it plans to angle the roof to reduce the impact on neighbouring properties. It also said parking outlined in the proposals is in line with similar student accommodation elsewhere in the Highlands.

### Business change in the spotlight

LOCHABER Environmental Group and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce are hosting an event to showcase the support available to local businesses to be more environmentally friendly. It takes place on Thursday October 5 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at the Lime Tree Gallery, Fort William.

# Fort William factory site to be studied after battlefield setback



Ian Blackford MP, middle left, and David Mundell, MP and secretary of state for Scotland, middle right, during their visit to the GFG complex in Fort William with GFG director Brian King, left, and chief investment officer Jay Humbo, right. IF 319 GFG Smelter 01

NEILL BO FINLAYSON  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL study will determine whether plans for a new car wheel factory in Fort William infringe on the site of two historical battlefields.

GFG Alliance has commissioned an archaeological study on land earmarked for a £120m factory development after Historic Environment Scotland (HES) claimed this week the project may lie within the site of two battlefields at Inverloch of 'national significance'.

An HES spokesperson said: 'We fully recognise the potential economic boost this expansion of industry could make to the area, however, because of the importance of the designated sites, we advised the developer should undertake some exploratory work to further inform their proposals and welcome their decision to conduct an impact assessment.'

In response to HES' claims, GFG Alliance said it wants to continue to 'develop in a sensitive manner' and have therefore arranged for a professional archaeological study on the site.

A statement from GFG said: 'We've taken up the recommendation of the Highland Council and commissioned a professional assessment to establish whether or not there might be any risk and, if so, to include appropriate mitigation measures in our planning application, which we hope to submit in November.'

A GFG spokesperson later commented: 'This is all part of the process.'

'We're not expecting it to delay anything, but we need to receive

what the archaeologists say and respond to that. It's hard to say what impact it will have on the plans until we hear from them.'

On Tuesday, MP for Lochaber Ian Blackford, along with Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell MP, visited GFG's aluminium smelter in Fort William, to hear of these plans, which, if given the green light, will employ 400 people.

On the issue of the archaeological study, Mr Blackford said: 'Obviously this is something that has to be looked into, studied carefully and recorded as part of the area's history.'

'I am sure Liberty GFG Alliance will take all findings into account and do what they can to mitigate any issues, while still proceeding with its plans to build the new factory, which will be a vital contributor to the future prosperity of Lochaber'

## Fisheries 'disappointed' by fish farm approval

TWO LOCHABER fishery bodies have expressed their disappointment in local councillors after approving controversial plans to upgrade a Loch Linnhe fish farm.

At a meeting of the Highland Council's south planning committee this month, members approved Marine Harvest's proposals to upgrade salmon pens at its Gorsten Salmon Farm, near Ardgour - despite two objections from local groups.

Councillor Ben Thompson said at the meeting that although he was 'deeply troubled' by Marine Harvest's application

for the fish farm, he didn't see a justification for refusing it, while Councillor Andrew Baxter said that he, too, was concerned by some content of the application, before reluctantly approving the proposals.

Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board and Lochaber Fisheries Trust formally objected to the proposals over concerns of the high level of sea lice found on wild salmon in surrounding rivers.

Jon Gibb of Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board said: 'The board is deeply disappointed councillors have ignored the

scientific evidence that would strongly suggest that net pen fish farming is unsustainable and damaging to the environment when practiced in the wrong location, however good the intentions and management of the operating company.'

'Gorsten is one of the worst locations in Scotland, being at the top of the long inland fjord of Loch Linnhe and close to the mouth of several important salmon and sea trout rivers, including the largest sporting salmon fishery on the west coast in the River Lochy.'

'The board supports a thriving

Scottish aquaculture industry and recognises the enormous benefits it brings to the West Highlands, but only when undertaken in a sustainable manner. Salmon farming is not ecologically justifiable when practised in inland locations near the mouths of salmon rivers.'

'It is highly regretful councillors have not recognised this, in spite of our evidence-based representations, and have waived through yet more expansion at this entirely inappropriate site.'

Marine Harvest has been given approval to replace the existing

20 square salmon farming pens at the Gorsten site with 12 larger pens, but within an extended boundary on the loch.

The Lochaber Fisheries Trust, also concerned about the council's decision to approve the expansion at Gorsten, claim 'millions more infectious lice will be released into the environment'.

A trust representative explained: 'The lice numbers we recorded in 2017 were the worst we have seen and we estimate nearly 70 per cent of the sea trout we caught in Loch Linnhe would go on to die as a result

of the high lice loads they were carrying. I understand and welcome the huge efforts Marine Harvest are making to get lice on their farms under control, but in locations such as Gorsten - sheltered sea lochs near the mouths of rivers - there is inevitably going to be an impact on wild fish populations and we feel farm expansion in these areas is not the way to bring about a sustainable aquaculture industry.'

The trust said it would be happy to work with the council to understand and control better the impacts of fish farms on the environment.

## Skipper jailed for 10 months for theft of Mallaig fishing boat

A SKIPPER has been jailed for 10 months for stealing a fishing boat belonging to Islay Crab Exports and fraudulently using one of the company's credit cards.

But 37-year-old skipper Christopher Brown said during his trial at Campbeltown Sheriff Court that he had acted out of desperation. He said: 'No person in this world works for seven weeks for nothing.'

Brown, whose address was given in court as HMP Edinburgh, had pleaded not guilty to nine charges, all on July 2, 2015. The main charges were stealing the fishing vessel, the catch and a company credit card.

The remaining six charges were of fraud with the credit card in Troon and in Silverburn shopping centre; buying tobacco and lighters from a Spar shop in Troon, to the value of £18; fuel, tobacco and energy drinks from Tesco, £105.79; clothes from JD Sports, £700.03; a mobile telephone, £529.99; attempting to buy iPads from Argos at £739.97 and also food to the value of £22.35 from McDonald's, but the card was declined on these two occasions.

His not guilty plea to stealing the catch was accepted by the Crown and Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the theft of the credit card not proven. He found him guilty of all the other charges.

Sheriff Hughes heard that Brown has

been hired by the Islay-based company through a find-a-fishing-boat website and he was to organise his own crew and board the scalloper Kayleigh M at Mallaig. The company's advertisement said the boat was ready to go to sea.

Brown told the court: 'No way. It was filthy. It took 12 hours a day, for three or four days to get it up to standard.'

James Monaghan, a director of Islay Crab Exports, said Brown was to receive a 30 per cent share of the price of the catch sold to the company, which had its own processing plant on Islay.

'It is up to the skipper to decide how to pay the crew,' he said, adding that each boat had access to a company credit card. Skippers were expected to send receipts to the office and, once established with the firm, were given a card of their own.

Mr Monaghan said Brown had taken a credit card from his pick-up truck.

Brown said in his evidence that he had been given the card by the company secretary and had been using it already for two weeks with the company's consent.

Brown admitted he might have damaged a winch on board and with it some welding and there was water ingress into the living accommodation on board which had damaged property and clothing.

'Whenever I tried to contact him [James

Monaghan], his attitude was get on with it, fix it, I'm busy. It is all right, you will be reimbursed.'

Brown paid crew from his own funds and eventually the two men argued. He used the card to buy replacement clothes and possessions.

He said: 'I told him I was taking the boat to Troon, because I was done, I was finished.'

Mr Monaghan said this conversation did not take place. He told the court: 'At 7am I was sent a text message that he was coming in at 11pm tonight. I arranged for a lorry to be there when they came in to land the catch but they didn't come in. At about 9pm that night I thought something was seriously wrong.'

The company director said he believed Brown had done this to buy himself time to get to Troon and sell the catch.

Thomas Newton, of Coquet Island Shellfish, North Shields, said that Brown had approached him to buy the catch. Brown had wanted cash and the company never paid in this way; the money was paid to Islay Crab Exports.

When giving his verdict, Sheriff Hughes said that while some of the evidence he had heard for the prosecution had been contradictory, he was satisfied the offences occurred.

### Help needed with Banavie memorial

KILMALLIE Community Council is calling on members of the community to help with restore Banavie war memorial.

Members discussed ways to fund and carry out work to the monument on the hillside above the main road in Banavie.

Chairwoman Christine Hutchison said in a public appeal to local residents: 'Kilmallie Community Council has been trying for two or three years to progress a grant application for improvements to make access easier for folk who are elderly or infirm.'

'We are keen to achieve this before the November 2018 centenary of the First World War.'

The community council is looking for anyone with suitable experience to help complete applications, get tenders and arrange work.

## Fèisean nan Gàidheal celebrates expansion of fèis programme

FÈISEAN nan Gàidheal, the organisation which supports the development of community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals throughout Scotland, published its annual report on Friday at the group's annual general meeting in Ballachulish.

Guest speaker at the event was musician and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy and there was music from Fèis Lochabair which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Fèisgoil experienced substantial growth last year with the development of Blasad Gàidhlig, which offers Gaelic lessons in schools where the language is not currently taught. Gaelic tuition is now being delivered in several local authority areas and this increase in demand has led to employment for a growing number of tutors.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's chief executive Arthur Cormack explained: 'Everything we do is to support the local Fèisean, increase opportunities for young people or to create employment for tutors. Over the past year we have provided employment for 97 full time equivalent posts. In addition we have offered many young people opportunities to develop their skills through cèilidh trails, drama work and performing at events as part of Blas and

other national and international festivals. We strengthen Gaelic education, too, through the work carried out in schools and with pre-school groups. In March 2017 we formally launched our FèisTV service which will, through time, offer online opportunities for an international audience to participate in the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.'

According to a survey conducted by the Traditional Music Forum, the work of the Fèisean now accounts for a third of all traditional music tuition for young people across Scotland, with the report showing it engaged with at least 71,000 people in 2016-17.

In his foreword, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's chairman Duncan MacQuarrie MBE said: 'This report demonstrates that our year-round programme, agreed with Creative Scotland, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, was successfully delivered. We were pleased to deliver services for The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll and Bute Council, as well as securing a number of contracts from other local authorities and public bodies, which were delivered through our Fèisgoil service.'

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's priority is to ensure continued support for and development of local Fèisean.'

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## Centre stalls on Sunday opening

AN ARTS centre and community hub on the Isle of Lewis has decided against trialling Sunday openings, despite public support for the idea.

An Lanntair arts centre in Stornoway held public meetings to discuss the potential of opening on Sundays. Although the meetings showed considerable support for the proposal, the board of directors has decided against opening on a Sunday.

In a statement released last week, an An Lanntair spokesperson said: 'The responses from this initial consultation showed considerable support for Sunday opening. As a result, we asked our membership whether they would be in favour of a trial period of Sunday opening during the coming winter to further test demand and inform our future plans. A significant majority have told us they would be in favour of a Sunday opening trial.'

In a subsequent meeting, the board agreed to look at ways for a trial in the future but said it is not in a position to do so now. The spokesperson continued: 'Following the review into the existing operational challenges associated with opening on Sundays, our board has decided we are not currently in a position to announce a Sunday trial at An Lanntair.'

## More areas with pay and display

CHANGES to the areas covered by pay and display parking charges in Stornoway came into force on Monday.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's transportation and infrastructure committee agreed at its June meeting to extend the pay and display car parking in Stornoway town centre into the Fisherman's car park and areas of South Beach adjacent to the Star Inn and the Caledonian Hotel.

The changes came into force on September 25. No objections were received during the consultation earlier this year. Motorists have been warned that all the parking machines will only take the new, 12-sided pound coins rather than the round version which is being withdrawn.

# First Raasay distillery opens

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THE FIRST whisky distillery on Raasay officially opened last weekend, with the first batch of single malt due to be ready by 2020.

Craft whisky makers R and B Distillers are in the final stages of building the island's first distillery, but that didn't stop them officially opening the new site on Saturday.

Isle of Skye Pipe Band marched off the ferry and led a procession of islanders, press, founders and VIPs up the hill to the new distillery, which began distilling on Saturday.

The opening party included a tour of the distillery, a ribbon cutting ceremony by whisky writer Dave Broom and co-founder of R and B Distillers Alasdair Day and was followed by a drinks reception in the new visitor centre. In the evening, a banquet with speech by co-founder Bill Dobbie was followed by a ceilidh at Raasay House into the small hours of the morning.

Visitor experience manager



Iain Hector-Ross commented: 'It may only be 14 miles long and just three miles across at its widest point, but Raasay is an ideal place for making whisky. Fertile soils for growing barley and an abundance of water, or

uisge in Scots Gaelic, provide perfect conditions for making uisge beatha, the water of life: whisky.'

The visitor centre will open in October, allowing visitors to tour around the distillery.

Above: Tim Johnston, Iain Robertson, Alasdair Day, Iain Anderson.

Right: Staff welcome guests in the orientation room.

Photographs: Scott Mooney.



## Gaelic colleges form partnership

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig has teamed up with a Gaelic college in Cape Breton, Canada.

The National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture on Skye will be working closely with Colaiste na Gàidhlig in Cape Breton, Canada to develop the Gaelic language, culture and heritage. The Skye college principal has also agreed to partner with Taigh Chearsabhagh Trust in North Uist.

On a recent visit to Cape Breton, director of studies at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig John Norman MacLeod signed a memorandum of understanding between Colaiste na Gàidhlig and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig which commits both partners to work together.

They hope to explore options for extending Gaelic educational provision, support visits and exchanges and promote Gaelic

oral heritage, music and the performing arts.

A' Ceangal nan Gàidheal (Linking of the Gaels), an international summit, was held at the Gaelic college in Cape Breton in July. This was the first meeting of its kind in Canada which brought together representatives involved in developing language, culture and economy in the Gaelic diaspora.

John Norman MacLeod said: 'It is highly significant and appropriate that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Colaiste na Gàidhlig should enter into this formal agreement having already established strong collaborative links. This will provide shared opportunities to build on common interests and to engage in initiatives to further enhance the Gaelic language and culture in Scotland and in Nova Scotia.'



Vice principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig John Norman MacLeod, right, and Rodney MacDonald, chief executive officer of Colaiste na Gàidhlig.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has also linked up with Taigh Chearsabhagh in North Uist to develop Gaelic language at the arts centre in Lochmaddy.

Professor Boyd Robertson commented: 'North Uist and Sleat were historically linked through Clan Donald and this memorandum affords the two communities an opportunity to forge a new association.'

'As the National Centre for Gaelic language and culture, it is incumbent upon us to meet the needs of communities throughout the country and to run classes and courses wherever there is a demand. We were, therefore, more than happy to help Taigh Chearsabhagh establish a learners' class in the centre and it is pleasing this group has now successfully completed our beginners' course.'

## New Harris Marina Hub nears completion

THE HARRIS Marina Hub project is nearing completion with two pontoons now ready to use.

The project has pontoons built at Tarbert and Scalpay's North Harbour.

A total of £1,350,000 has been secured, including £300,000 from the Scottish Government-administered coastal communities fund and £600,000 from the Scottish Government's regeneration capital grant fund.

Alasdair Allan MSP commented: 'It's really fantastic to see the Harris Marina Hub now taking shape and being so close to completion.'

'The project will bring much-needed economic benefit to the local economy while helping to market the whole of the Western Isles as an attractive place for yachting and tourist activity.'

'Those on the steering group who have made this project a reality have put in a huge amount of hard work and dedication over the years and it is great to see their labour now bearing fruit.'

## HIE funding boost for Glendale Trust's pier plans

THE GLENDALE Trust has secured up to £20,500 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to help improve Meanish Pier on the Isle of Skye, with help from a Highland fish farm company.

Since the Glendale Trust took ownership of the slipway, pier and surrounding

land at Meanish, there have been plans to develop visitor moorings, safe walk ashore access from the water, better parking and improvements to the slipway.

Meanish Pier working group has agreed to work with Kames Fish Farm Limited, Oban, which has offered to

deliver the much-needed infrastructure. The £20,500 award from HIE will fund the professional services required to formalise agreements between Kames and the community group to develop the site.

Glendale Trust director Karen Redfern said: 'The trust understands the impor-

tance of its role as owner of the pier, slip and surrounding land at Meanish in its negotiations with Kames. The funding will enable the trust to secure the professional services that will ensure it delivers the maximum benefit to the local community and area users.'

## Lecture focuses on language and music



Julie Fowles delivering this year's lecture.

LANGUAGE, music and landscape was the focus of this year's Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) Lecture, presented by internationally-renowned Gaelic singer and musician Julie Fowles.

Julie, originally from North Uist, delivered the 21st SMO Lecture, entitled 'Playing the Skyline', earlier this month at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture on Skye.

She spoke of how music, story and poetry can strengthen people's sense of connection with, or at times separation from, the landscape.

Her exploration of the relationship between people and their environment has led to the collaborative project of the

same name, Playing the Skyline.

Julie was joined by the three other musicians involved in the project for a musical performance which formed part of her lecture.

Speaking afterwards, Julie said: 'In 2015 I was invited by BBC Radio 4, along with five other composers from Scotland, England and Wales, to compose a new piece of music which was inspired by a landscape and its skyline.'

'The musicians involved were asked to take one landscape local to them and examine how the land meets the air and imagine how this might sound musically.'

'This project opened my eyes to the mainland Highland sky-

lines around me and forced me to consider my own relationship with the landscape in which I now live and how music, story and poetry can reinforce one's sense of connection to - or indeed disconnect from - a physical landscape.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's principal professor Boyd Robertson said: 'I am delighted this year's lecture was delivered by a former Sabhal Mòr student.'

'Julie Fowles has won acclaim as a singer and musician par excellence and has showcased her Gaelic heritage to audiences worldwide.'

'We are proud of her and of the sterling work she does as a representative of, and ambassador for, our language and culture.'

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## Spat over wind project progress

HIGHLAND politicians are embroiled in a war of words over the progress of a UK Government island wind project.

Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland Lesley Laird wrote to the Scottish secretary last week urging the UK government to bring forward plans to build the proposed Western Isles Radial Connector, commonly referred to as the interconnector.

In the letter, the Labour politician said her party would 'rural-proof' all their policies to ensure no communities were left behind.

The comments come following a series of meetings on the islands led by UK Energy Minister Richard Harrington MP.

The planned interconnector will be used to transmit electricity generated by renewable developments on the Western Isles to areas of demand around towns and cities. The UK government has committed to

finishing the project, but without a specific completion date.

Scottish Labour's rural affairs spokesperson, and Highland regional list MSP, Rhoda Grant commented: 'As anyone living on the Western Isles is aware, the interconnector has long been discussed but repeatedly failed to materialise.'

She continued: 'The Tories committed in the manifesto to funding its construction, so now must begin that process. Otherwise, local people will be rightly sceptical about the project ever beginning.'

Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Donald Cameron has hit back at Rhoda Grant and the Labour party over the UK government's work on the interconnector.

He said: 'It is clear Labour are putting the horse before the cart and don't understand the difference between constructing an interconnector and making a commitment to

subsidising island wind projects. We made a very specific pledge in our manifesto to support the development of island wind projects where there is community benefit and both the UK Government and myself have met regularly with the comhairle and other local stakeholders in Lewis and at Holyrood to discuss how we can deliver on that commitment.'

'It is a bit rich for Labour to make these demands when their UK-wide manifesto never mentioned remote island wind once. 'As usual, Labour are coming late to this, and it's about time they set out their own vision for the islands rather than merely piggy-backing on ours.'

Ms Laird has argued that, given there is widespread agreement on the benefits of the proposal, the Conservative government should begin the construction process immediately.

## Success for Marine Harvest

MARINE Harvest's international success has been marked at an awards ceremony.

The company received the Benromach Award for Excellence in International Business at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's Highlands and Islands Business Excellence Awards.

Marine Harvest, which supports almost 700 jobs in the Highlands and Islands, was commended for its success in exporting across the world and its plans to grow production.

Steve Bracken, business support manager for Marine Harvest (Scotland), said: 'We are delighted to receive this award. Marine Harvest is investing heavily to support our growth to meet increasing demand, providing well paid jobs and helping to support a sustainable Scottish economy.'

## Rare chance to see collection

THE PUBLIC is being given rare access to the only mountaineering museum exhibition in the UK, right in the heart of Lochaber.

The Scottish Mountain Heritage Collection - a charitable trust dedicated to the collection of mountaineering and miscellaneous outdoor gear - has agreed to open its collection to the public as part of the Highland Archaeological Festival 2017.

The exhibition is housed principally in the barn and other outbuildings at Bohuntin, Glen Roy, just north of Fort William and contains more than 2,000 items of mountaineering memorabilia from Scotland and around the world.

Items including Tom Weir's bonnet, Tom Patey's surgery desk and the full range of Hamish McInnes's legendary ice-axes and hammers can be seen at the exhibition as well as Everest oxygen sets, Antarctic anoraks and an extensive ski collection.

The collection can normally only be viewed online but will be open from Saturday September 29 to Sunday October 8 daily from 9am to 5pm.

# New effort to stop ancient Scots Pines being last of their kind

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
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A NEW effort has been launched to save ancient Scots Pines across the Highlands from becoming the last generation in a lineage of trees dating back to the last ice age.

Through its Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project, the Trees for Life conservation charity wants to help restore 50 areas of remnant and neglected pinewoods - mainly made up of lone, ancient so-called 'Granny'

pinews which are more than 200 years old but dying as they stand, with no young trees to succeed them.

The fragments, scattered over a large area, face growing threats from overgrazing by deer, tree diseases and climate change, and are at risk of disappearing forever over the next few years.

If they are allowed to die, the extraordinary wildlife dependent on them, including crossbills and capercaillie, will be lost too.

Thanks to support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation,

Trees for Life has already raised £150,000 for the ambitious project. It now needs to raise at least £20,000 from the public to start the work.

Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive, says the Scots Pine is Scotland's national tree and symbolizes the Caledonian Forest - but the last fragments of these ancient pinewoods are dying.

'Without action, the chance to bring back the wild forest could slip away forever, with only the skeletons of these special trees revealing where a rich wood-

land once grew,' he said. 'We are determined to ensure these trees are not the last generation of Scots Pine.'

In total, only 42,000 acres of the original Caledonian pinewoods remain in 84 fragments, spread across a wide area from Loch Lomond, northwards to near Ullapool and eastwards to Glen Ferrick near Aberdeen.

Some of these have been largely restored but, based on a review of previous studies by Forestry Commission Scotland and the UK Government, Trees for Life believes that at least 50

are declining and could disappear within a generation. Where seeds manage to germinate, the resulting saplings are grazed and killed by deer.

The forest fragments are also isolated from each other, which is bad news for wildlife.

Red squirrels can't reach and colonise restored woodlands, while the rare capercaillie is rapidly declining in Scotland as there is too little connected forest to enable these birds to reach a stable population.

Funds will enable Trees for Life to produce detailed plans

on how to save each remnant so that a new generation of Scots Pine can grow and to establish where pinewoods need to expand to survive changes caused by climate change.

Action will help ensure young Scots Pine trees are growing among the 'Granny' pines.

This will provide a renewed forest that is more resilient to threats, with pinewood fragments successfully joined up - making them large enough to provide a good home for the unique wildlife only they can support.

## Saltire Awards for helpful students

LOCHABER High School's sixth-year students have been presented with Saltire Awards for volunteering to help S1 pupils during their transition from primary school.

The award recognises the support the older pupils give the new pupils, which includes guiding them around the building, helping at breaks and lunch-times and generally ensuring everyone feels safe and included in the school.

Thanks go to Claire at Voluntary Action Lochaber and Mrs Clark and Mrs MacAllister from the school for organising this volunteering opportunity.

Many of the sixth years are now continuing their volunteering through a paired reading scheme organised by Mrs Dent.

The Scottish Government's Saltire Awards celebrate, recognise and reward the commitment and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland, aged between 12 and 25.



Lochaber High School's sixth-year students with Yvonne Clark, left, and Lynn MacAllister, right.

## Diabetes a 'ticking time bomb' says Highlands MSP Stewart

NHS HIGHLAND has the second highest percentage of people in Scotland who have not undergone vital retinopathy screening for people with diabetes.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart, co-convenor of the Scottish Parliament's

cross party group on diabetes, pointed out the 'postcode lottery' that exists for retinopathy screening during a parliamentary debate last week.

He told MSPs NHS Highland's area percentage of people who have not been screened was 20.7 per cent, with only Lanarkshire

higher at 21.2 per cent. 'The difference in provision across Scotland needs to be addressed,' said Mr Stewart.

The members' business debate was held during Diabetes Scotland and RNIB Scotland's campaign to mark National Eye Health Week and highlighted

the threat to vision posed by diabetic retinopathy for people with all types of diabetes.

Diabetic retinopathy affects blood vessels in the light-sensitive tissue called the retina that lines the back of the eye. It is the most common cause of vision loss among people with diabetes

and the leading cause of vision impairment and blindness among working-age adults.

'Diabetes is a ticking time bomb and the fastest growing health crisis of our time, affecting more people than any other serious health condition in Scotland,' said Mr Stewart

## Call for levy on motorhomes

A WESTERN Isles MSP is calling on the government to introduce a 'motorhome levy' to improve local infrastructure.

SNP's Alasdair Allan said: 'It has been a fantastic thing for the Western Isles that we have had record numbers of tourists visiting here. However, this success has brought its own set of problems and it is apparent our infrastructure has not been able to keep up with demand.'

'The numbers of motorhomes using island ferry routes has shot up nearly tenfold over the last decade. There is a lack of suitable sites for them, a lack of waste disposal units and the extra space they require on the ferries has contributed to the capacity problems. While there has been substantial and welcomed investment by the Scottish Government in new and larger ferries, we need to recognise the continued pressure on local people trying to travel in the busy summer months.'

'Motorhomes play an important part in our tourist economy and this should not be about making motorhome visitors feel unwelcome. They are welcome.'

'This is about recognising the pressures created on infrastructure by such a rapid growth in tourism and providing communities with a new source of funding they can direct as they see fit.'



Taking steps to highlight the work of Support in Mind, left to right, John Northover, volunteer; Nick Sedgewick, ScotRail; Jackie Sherry and Ellen Nicolson, assistant manager, Cothrom Centre.

## Steps to support mental health

STAFF and service users of a charity in Fort William got on the right track last week in their campaign to raise awareness of mental health.

Fort William railway station was the venue for the Cothrom Centre's promotion of Support in Mind Scotland's 1 in 100 campaign as the group encouraged commuters to 'walk in our shoes'. By stencilling people's footprint on a roll of paper and talking about where they were from, the team saw how far around the world awareness of mental health could be raised.

Travellers from places as far away as Russia, India, Japan, the Czech Republic, France, USA and Belgium got involved.

Cothrom assistant manager Ellen Nicolson said: 'Thanks to the railway station for helping us. We wanted somewhere that people were travelling through that could help us mark 100 steps.'

Lochaber Gaelic Choir will be visiting the centre to sing for service users on Friday October 20 before competing in the Royal National Mòd. Ellen is a member of the choir.

Advertorial

## Loans from the Scottish Government help homes stay warm and cut bills

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money saving improvements to their homes.

Up to £32,500 per property is currently available to owner-occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems like biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent out; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on a householder's behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until a loan offer in writing is received.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5 per cent of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

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

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

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## Plockton

THE LOCHALSH branch of Legion Scotland continues to raise funds at bingo sessions at Balmacara House. The latest event raised £171. The branch recently donated £500 to Erskine hospital. The next bingo evening is on Wednesday October 11.

THE LOCHALSH branch of the Scottish Women's Institute held a social evening in Achmore Hall on September 7. Douglas Strachan from Breakish showed a film of his visit to Nepal where he took part in a marathon. Musical entertainment was provided by his wife Mary.

NATASHA Macneil, from Frithard Road, Plockton, completed a parachute jump in St Andrews last month and raised more than £4,000 for Muscular Dystrophy UK. Her six-year-old son Keiran has been diagnosed with Becker Muscular Dystrophy.

NINETEEN teams took part in the annual Gunn Trophy junior sailing competition on Saturday September 16 at Lochcarron. Teams of three sailors complete in a series of races. This year Plockton 'A' won with 57 points, one point ahead of Lochcarron 'A'. Skye Blue from Portree were third with 71 points. Top sailor was Calum Reid, from Plockton, who won all three races and with the help of Ellie Pearson and Charlie Clark were awarded the cup.

SEVEN and a half inches of rain fell in Plockton in August, the same as 2016, with only four dry days. The warmest day was 21C and coolest was 7.5C. The only consolation was that at Achnagart, Glenshiel, 28 inches was recorded from June to August, while Plockton only had 15.5 inches.



Pam Cuthbert and her collie Mozzie after winning the rally obedience competition in Ballachulish.

## Pam and Mozzie rally to top in canine event

LOCHABER and District Canine Society (LDCS) held a rally obedience competition in Ballachulish village hall on Sunday.

Fourteen dogs and handlers, from as far afield as St Andrews, entered the contest which challenged them to work as a team to navigate a series of exercises.

Pam Cuthbert, from Dundee, with her collie Mozzie, took first place in levels one and two.

Competition organiser Sarah Holroyd thanked judge Elaine Miller, scribe Susie Galloway, score keeper Tanya Stuart, LDCS committee for supporting the event and the venue for the use of 'a terrific hall'.

To find out more about rally obedience or dog training contact Lochaber and District Canine Society or visit lochaberanddistrictcaninesociety.com.

## Mallaig

STAFF and volunteer members of Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be in Mallaig on Tuesday October 3.

The team will be at Mallaig Medical Centre from 2pm to 3pm to offer help and advice to anyone living with a hearing loss or sight loss.

They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain the hearing aids.



The team get to work on the Greenfingers community garden. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

## Groups join forces to tidy up Claggan garden

THE GREENFINGERS community garden in Claggan, Fort William, received a welcome tidy up last week.

The team got their hands dirty alongside volunteers from the Greenfingers committee, Claggan Residents Association, the Men's Shed, Lochaber Environmental group, the Montrose Centre and Inverloch Primary School pupils

who all helped to dig, clear weeds and put a new cover on the poly tunnel.

Six members of the new management team from the M&S Foodhall due to open in Fort William soon, also joined in the tidy up, hoping to encourage more people to grow their own produce and help bring a splash of colour when spring comes. While there is still a lot

of work to be done, Donald Young, Greenfingers Community Garden treasurer, said: 'The difference to the site is amazing.'

'We now have a new cover on the poly tunnel, the paths are clear and with the help of Inverloch Primary School pupils, we have planted bulbs which will provide a splash of colour in the spring.'

'I would like to thank Bowmans for providing the skip, Jewsons for use of the power washer, all the volunteers and in particular the M&S Fort William team for their enthusiasm, energy and support.'

Anyone interested in helping with the Greenfingers project should get in touch with donaldmelby@hotmail.co.uk.

## Ardgour's Wee Tower is Eco Shed of the Year

AN INNOVATIVE shed in Ardgour is the pride of the Lochaber village after being crowned Eco Shed of the Year by Channel 4's Amazing Spaces programme.

The Wee Tower at Cuil Moss Cottage on Ardgour Estate fended off three other finalists to win the top prize in the eco section of the competition. The mini structure was the only shed in the Highlands to make it to the finals across all the categories.

Owners Annie and Ewen MacLean, who own Cuil Moss holiday cottage, said it was great fun to take part in the competition.

Built with only sustainable materials a year ago, the off-grid Wee Tower is hidden in the woodland by the cottage. Based in an area of abundant wildlife, the shed is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of 21st century life.



Annie MacLean next to the Wee Tower at Cuil Moss Cottage on Ardgour Estate.



Alyssa Smillie.

## Ardgour

THANKS to the support of Ardgour Area Fund, Watercolour Music recording studios will host concerts featuring rising local talent this autumn and winter.

The opening concert will feature Alyssa Smillie, from Arisaig, a student of renowned Lochaber musician Jim Hunter. Alyssa has just finished recording her debut EP at Watercolour,

under the guiding hand of Jim, and will be showcasing songs from the soon-to-be-released recording.

The concert also marks the end of Watercolour's annual residential guitar weekend, with students from Britain and Germany spending time with respected guitarists John Goldie and Peter Kroll-Ploeger to hone their skills.

Watercolour Music director Nick Turner said: 'We are very grateful for the support from Ardgour Area Fund, which this year is allowing us to support young artists from the area, to give them a platform and to record their performance so they will have a professional recording which will stand them in great stead as they bid for other bookings.'

## Spean Bridge

### Road safety high on council agenda

ROAD safety featured high on the agenda of this month's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge & Achnacarry Community Council meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Inspector Isla Campbell of Police Scotland, who introduced new police liaison officer Sergeant Deborah McCartney.

Inspector Campbell gave a short explanation about the police issues that were important to the Lochaber community before answering questions.

Various concerns about road safety in the area

were voiced by members, specifically issues relating to speeding vehicles, the apparent reluctance of Transport Scotland to implement their own speed limits review at Inverroy, the movement of wide loads and the impending closure of the Police Scotland Inverness control room.

Responding, Inspector Campbell was generally supportive and urged the community to report any near misses as well as incidents, as road network changes are driven by statistics.

She acknowledged the movement of wide loads on

trunk roads was a particular problem, but pointed out it was not Police Scotland which was the authorising authority, but Transport Scotland.

She said wide loads causing problems by travelling without escorts, should be reported to police and these would be investigated.

However complaints about wide loads causing traffic congestion or complaints from members of the public about the time of day such loads were travelling, should be directed to Transport Scotland and/or the haulier involved.

### Bus route gets back on track

A BUS route is to be re-instated after a community council voiced concerns to Lochaber Transport Forum.

The September meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council heard that chairman John Fotheringham had raised concerns over changes to the number 41 Stagecoach service which meant it no longer went to the bus station. This was adversely affecting elderly shoppers and tourists visiting Aonach Mor.

Highland Council's Community Transport representative had apologised as it had been an administrative error and said it would be re-instated on Monday October 2. The delay was due to a 42-day registration period with Traffic Commissioners.

### Priority gritting for Altour Road

HIGHLAND Council has agreed to re-instate gritting of Altour Road at Spean Bridge to the fire and rescue garage back onto the primary gritting list.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry's September meeting heard that, thanks to the intervention of councillor Allan Henderson, this stretch of road would now have 24/7 gritting coverage when required.

But the meeting also heard potholes on either side of the Gairloch Bridge and on the B8004 at the Commando Memorial had still to be filled in. The council is to contact Highland Council and ask if it would consider naming the road from the A82 to the former Kilmonivaig School following difficulties with utility firms.

## RETRO Roamer

More tales from the end of the 1980s

☐ 'When does the next one go up?' That was the question posed by a foreign 'tourist' as she stood below the gondola cable car on the gantry outside Nevisport. She thought she had missed the previous one and was waiting for another gondola to come along. It IS close to the transport centre, right enough.

☐ You'll recall I was complimentary about the speedy way the new town toilets were made ready in Station Square. But there was a hiccup because the 'communal urinal', in all its stainless steel glory, wasn't delivered in time. So the standing ovation for the official opening has had to be postponed. But now, you'll be mightily relieved to learn, progress is being made as the complete contraption has arrived. But, and here's the rub, it is too large to go through the door of the conveniences. Thus the urinal is being installed once council workmen have removed a large window to allow it through. Clochemerle hadn't a look-in.

☐ The Mallaig public conveniences, however, have 'had it'. Well, that's according to a memo from the environmental health services department. It reads: 'It is not possible to convert the existing toilets in Mallaig to provide a satisfactory end product.'

☐ Up the stairs went Mrs MacDonald who plonked herself down on a chair and waited for the shampoo. Much to her consternation she was asked if she had an appointment. 'Yes, of course I have,' Mrs MacDonald replied. She was advised, nicely, that her name wasn't in the book. Which wasn't too surprising as she was occupying a chair in the dentist's surgery when she should have been 'through the wall' in the hairdressers.

☐ A lot of people were wondering last week if major changes in the Catholic hierarchy were about to be announced. The reason was the pall of black smoke rising from the St Mary's Hall lum. However, all is well. It was just the heating being adjusted prior to a ceilidh.

☐ 'If I don't see you through the week, I'll see you through the window', or, in the case of the village, through the letter box. Houses in Inverloch are having new doors fitted. As a result there are letter boxes on the back doors as well as the front. I can just imagine Jim, Neil, Allan and Hector separating the day's mail so that letters and postcards have front door delivery and the trade circulars and junk mail go through the back. In the meantime, believe it or not, the replacement Dorran houses in Caol don't have letter boxes at all.

☐ John Doherty demonstrated his engineering and practical prowess towards the end of this year's 'tourist season' by converting a redundant mangle, which had been left in an outhouse at his Beaufort House B&B down Achintore, into an eye-catching roadside advertising structure. 'Vacancies' and 'No Vacancies' signs revolve round it as required. Last time John was involved with technological devices was when he was taking advice on what to do with a bomb discovered under the fifth fairway of Fort William Golf Course. In wartime, that area had formed part of the BA Dummy Factory.

☐ In the clubhouse last week, a note was pinned to the notice board by Jonathan Benyon from Braunton in Devon. Jonathan advised he had seen a golden eagle circling above the fifth fairway. 'It was a rare treat,' he wrote. 'That and playing round Fort William Golf Course really made our holiday.'

☐ It's all the the rage just now. Rubbing bits of coal across your bingo book for luck. Winners galore are reported. But is it actually a clever promotional plan by Shiel Valley? Maybe it would be worth buying a hundredweight and spreading it on my pools coupon during the season to turn it from coal dust to gold dust.

☐ Philomena Begley was 'in concert' at the Pulp Mill Club. Packed out, the place was, especially with the arrival of 30 country and western fans from Arisaig and Mallaig. Mind you, Philomena herself didn't get off to the brightest start. She came in at the door, along with a crowd of the club's patrons and, in a show of real Highland hospitality, was charged £1 for the privilege of hearing herself sing!

☐ You'll be desolated to hear Fort William is not going to strike up a twinning arrangement with Shoreview, Minnesota. Representatives of Shoreview's Sister City Association have been in touch with An Gearasdan but Lochaber District Council has declined acceptance as a 'Transatlantic Sister'. So it's hands off - across the sea.

☐ Davie Revie watched Fort William Football Club triumph over Cove Rangers. However, he had arrived late at Claggan Park on his racing bike. 'Had trouble with eight of my nine gears,' Davie announced. Then he joined his railway colleagues Davie Davidson and Hendry Hay in the grandstand. Apart from Hendry remarking that Davie Revie, with his black beret and bow tie, looked like an 'Ingin Johnny', the conversation which reverberated through the stand was all about railwaymen, past and present. Their ages, when they retired, their clashes with 'higher authority' over the years was all so diverting it nearly derailed this week's match report in the sports pages as I could hardly concentrate on the football.

☐ Word reaches me from the 'alternative tourist board' that the number of foreign visitors calling in at the Belford to book B&B has far exceeded the figures of previous seasons. And all because of a badly sited sign at the Belford Road junction.



Lochy Bridge, Fort William, in days gone by.

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# Celebrities join campaign to free Billy from jail in India

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

THE campaign to have Connel man Billy Irving freed from prison in India has won celebrity backing from a Coronation Street star.

Actor Simon Gregson, who plays Steve McDonald in the hit soap, has posted a video on the Bring Billy Back Facebook page to show his backing for the campaign to release ex-paratrooper Billy.

Billy was arrested in 2013 along with five other British ex-servicemen. The Chennai Six, as they are being called, were armed guards protecting shipping from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

The Indian authorities accused the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio of straying into Indian waters with unlicensed arms and ammunition. The crew of the vessel were sentenced to five years in January 2016.

In his video intervention, the Coronation Street actor says: 'Hi, Simon Gregson here just giving a little message to say I'm showing my support for the Chennai Six.'

'Check it out on Google - Chennai6 - about the lads over there. Awful for them ... awful ... and awful for their families.'

'I hope it all gets sorted out ASAP so take a look and show support.'

And there was also support in the past week from cast members of *Emmerdale*.

Actor John Bove posted a photograph showing *Emmerdale* stars with a Union Jack flag with the words FREE THE #chennai6 and a message saying: 'We thought India was friendly. @BorisJohnson @theresa\_may



Actor Simon Gregson backs Billy on Facebook.

Please bring these innocent men home.'

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, has fought a dogged campaign to have Billy freed, while also trying to mitigate the hardships he faces in jail.

In a post on the same Facebook page this week, Yvonne says: 'There has been a few people asking about parcels for Billy.'

'He's gave me a list of things he's needing if anyone wants to send stuff, think parcels are running low again.'

'So NO toiletries needed (he has that in abundance) cooking powders (like fajita powders, those maggi cook bag things, anything that'll give flavour) soya mince, haribo, breakfast/protein/oatmeal bars, tuna in packets not tins etc anything edible and tasty and if anyone can bake fruit loafs and fancies sending that over he'll be more than grateful ... just no toiletries.'

Parcels can be sent to:

Central Prison 1 Puzhal, c/o Superintendent's office, William Irving 6150, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600066, India.

And messages on the same Facebook page show that support for Billy also came from trad band Skipinnish, who played a gig in Glasgow last week.

Linda Savage Dignan wrote: 'Angus [MacPhail] and the guys in Skipinnish did a lovely tribute to Billy at the Barrowland on Saturday, they're not forgotten.'

Support across the country has been growing, with an online petition now signed by more than 405,000 people. The petition - which will be delivered next month to Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn - tells of the shock felt by the men's families when they were jailed and urges action from the British government.

It reads: 'The devastation and anguish this has caused us, the families, is huge. It has left us crushed and with little hope. We know have no communication with the men and we don't know who or where to turn to.'

'We understand fully that one country cannot intervene in another's judicial process. But when innocent men are being prosecuted for a crime they have not committed, then they should have an obligation to protect the human rights and freedom of these men and have them released and brought home. These men devoted their lives protecting others. They fought for the British government. Now the British government must fight for them.'

To sign the petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/british-foreign-secretary-free-the-6-british-veterans-from-indian-jail>

## Stone me, she said 'yes'!



The Easdale Stone Skimming World Championships ended in dramatic fashion - with a marriage proposal. Following the awards ceremony, Easdale man Donald Melville, who organises the event, got down on one knee and proposed to his now fiancée Maggie Young. This was met with a massive 'roar' from the hundreds of people who were still in the hall. Full story and pictures - page 14.

## Award scheme given new structure

MEMBERS of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee were asked to note a report on Tuesday this week detailing the new model and structure for delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the Western Isles.

The new model, which has been approved both by head office in Edinburgh and head office in Windsor, includes extending the expedition season which currently runs from April to October to January to December.

This will allow winter expeditions to take place for the first time through the award scheme. Through e-Sgoil, the award will offer online support to participants living in some of the most remote areas. DoFE and e-Sgoil will establish a Direct Virtual Centre to allow this to progress.

Through the new model, each school in the Western Isles will appoint a co-ordinator who will have the responsibility to support pupils engaging in the award. In communities, community learning and development (CLD) officers will be available to meet young people who wish to undertake the award through a community group or youth club and will support volunteers. CLD officers will also create a community links platform that will take the shape of a one-stop website ensuring sufficient links and supports are equal across the islands.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Western Isles is the second highest in Scotland for participant uptake.

In recent years the award participant figures have consistently increased.

# Lochaber Ideas Week

November 13-17, 2017



## Question Time

The Future of Lochaber Business

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce a Question Time event sponsored by Read Coaching as part of Ideas Week 2017.

Question Time is a free event on Monday November 13 at 2.30pm, but tickets must be booked in advance.

Hosted by Laurence Young of Glencoe Activities, Question Time will be focused on the 'Future of Lochaber Business'. Attendees will be invited to submit questions in advance of the event.

The panel comprises Kate Forbes MSP, Donald Cameron MSP, Suzie Read (Read Coaching), Calum MacPherson (Robertson Group) and one more to be announced.

This event is sponsored by Read Coaching, which offers a highly professional, ethical and confidential service that



is flexible to suit the evolving needs of your business, whether you are looking for one to one business coaching or team coaching.

In partnership, we can work with you to reflect on your professional and personal capacities. This allows individuals and business teams to focus on growing to their full potential and ultimately

increase their productivity and performance.

Collaboratively, we can create a heightened awareness of your professional strengths and work in partnership to evolve beyond limiting factors.

Your personalised coaching programme enables you to set forward-focused goals based on your current priorities to achieve greater success.

Working in partnership with Read Coaching enables you to develop self-sustaining change for future growth and maximum potential.

Recently founded, Read Coaching provides an innovative approach to learning and development within business. With a background in education and understanding of the psychology of behaviour and leadership, Suzie Read is well qualified to contribute to organisational growth strategies.

## Around Lochaber in 80 Tables

Speed networking sponsored by RA Clements - a quick way to expand your business contacts



BC Technologies at Around Lochaber 2016.

THIS is a lively, fast-paced event which is a lot of fun. Participants have brought business information, lots of good humour and a warm welcome to one another, and we are also delighted to welcome back Laurence Young of Glencoe Activities as our facilitator for this year's event.

Doors open for set up from 9am Tuesday November 14, and there is an opportunity for general networking until the event starts at 9.30am.

Over the past four 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 well-deserved place in the 2017 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 allowing participants to interact with oth-

ers, typically in a series of brief one-on-one information exchanges. Participants readily share contact information with each other and decide themselves who they will follow up with.

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.

This event is sponsored by R A Clement Associates. The firm of R A Clement Associates is the largest accountancy practice in the West Highlands of Scotland, with about 40 employees and four partners.

The firm has offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Tobermory.

To book a table for your business or tickets for Question Time please sign up on Eventbrite or email [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk).



Panel member Kate Forbes MSP.

FW

## Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

THERE is often a fine balance to be struck when it comes to the consideration of planning applications, perhaps especially in remote and rural scenic locations.

So it is perfectly understandable that controversy has reared its head over the application by Black Corries Estate to create a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on a site at Glencoe.

As we report on the front page today, the company originally bought the hotel with planning permission for changes which included a single-storey extension with turf roof. Those plans were scrapped as commercially

unviable. And it should come as little surprise that objections have been lodged by such august bodies as the John Muir Trust and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

The Highlands have experienced a boom in tourism activity in recent times and it is somewhat obvious that for this to continue the right infrastructure must be in place to accommodate visitors.

Yet there is that aforementioned balance to be struck. Black Corries Estate should be encouraged to restore the building but in a far more sensitive development.



## Days gone by – 1995

This week we travel back to August 1995 and the St Columba's bazaar. Pictured are sisters Holley and Laura Hughes, who helped to sell the delicious home-baking.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



I'M GOING to venture back into music for this week's offering as last Wednesday I had one of the musical highlights of my life in one of the most unlikely places.

Music can grab the soul in a way that is impossible to quantify, predict or create at will, but when the right combination of person, instrument, skill, talent, melody, friendship, respect and genius combine, it can create a moment of total euphoria and satisfaction unmatched by almost any other human experience.

With music being a part of my working life for more than 20 years, I think I have been slightly dulled to its effects and often find that what I listen to just does not do anything to inspire emotion. But what I heard last week had an instant and overwhelmingly powerful effect.

The context of it made it even more surprising. Rehearsal studios are mind-numbingly boring places. There is no natural light, they are stuffy, the sound is as dull as a dead herring and

a day in one of them can feel like a two-month prison sentence, where those jailed are forced to play the same music over and over again until the sequence of arrangements and sets can be collectively decided on by which time everyone wants to set fire to their instruments.

When Malcolm Jones launched into his electric guitar version of *Crò Chinn t-Sàile*, he turned that dull room into a musical paradise.

We have worked with Malcolm on and off for more than 16 years, and his musical genius never fails to have an impact.

Last week he surpassed even his own track record of putting a musical spell on me.

I cannot envisage a musician on the face of the earth playing that tune with the same magic that Malcolm delivered. For me, it was six minutes of musical perfection and the boys probably thought I was in some sort of trance, with the tears that were streaming down my face.

It is no secret that Runrig, despite

being by a long way the most successful and significant entity ever to emerge from the Celtic music scene, have borne the brunt of relentless criticism in the media and by music reviewers. I would love to have herded a flock of them into Berkeley Studios last week, made them listen to Malcolm and conducted a study on them as to why they do not understand the raw genius of that band's lead guitarist.

Last Friday, we had the most important gig of our career so far and it was indeed an incredible experience with an amazing audience that lifted the roof of the Barrowland Ballroom with the atmosphere they created.

Our gratitude to the audience and the honour of sharing the stage with some of our musical heroes was immense, but even that did not match the power of effect on me that one man and his guitar created in a dingy rehearsal studio on the banks of the River Clyde two days before.

The genius and gentleman that is Malcolm Jones will not be seen again in my lifetime.



### Social media

NEWS that Lynn of Lorne Care Home has been issued with a warning notice by the Care Inspectorate because of its poor standards prompted a flurry of comment.

Cheryl Bryars said: 'I feel sorry for the staff I know how much pressure they are under not changed at all from when I worked there.'

Suzy Anderson wrote: 'It's really not the people working there, it's the management and directors. I can guarantee that the staff go home exhausted and heartbroken every day, no one does that job for the pittance they are paid if they don't want to help people. Heard a lot about the appalling culture there, change needed for staff and residents. Both deserve so much better.'

Margaret Blair posted: 'More pay doesn't make you a better carer. Caring comes from within. Standards come from who is managing this home, and many like them. Bless the people that

are left uncared for. The fees paid they should be living in luxury.'

Allan Strang Jnr commented: 'I'm speaking from experience of working in the mentioned place for 6 years. I've seen the evidence of the place with directors putting their pockets first. £700 a WEEK for 62 residents. £1.23 A day for to eat per person. Where apart from the poorly paid wages was the money going. Because at the end of the day it wasn't going on the premises or on equipment to ease staff workload or enhance elderly folks lives.'

Elaina Macdonald said: 'I don't understand why staff don't speak out even anonymously?? I know that it must be difficult but there is lots of staff that have left and knew what was happening and said nothing!! When you make an anonymous complaint to the care inspectorate that is exactly what it is, unless you give your name!! I'm not blaming the care staff as it's ultimately

down to the owners and management, I do think all staff have a responsibility to the vulnerable people in their care to keep them safe and a clear picture of what's going on in their "Home"!!'

Donna Prosser responded: 'It's not easy for the staff of private companies to do so! Especially in that one! Even anonymously the management have ways of finding out and staff are penalised!'

Vary Ferguson blasted: 'Lining their own pockets!'

Frances Black wrote: 'The management need to help the hard workers, it's a thankless task if short staff too and rubbish pay.'

Siobhan Guiheen posted: 'They have wonderful staff over there years, and still have. Maybe some should ask how they feel leaving to go home at night can tell u many are heart broking, the company who owns with are there to make money.'

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](mailto: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.

### Toilets are needed at McCaig's Tower

Sir, I read the recent article 'Disgust as human faeces found at Oban attractions' (*The Oban Times*, September 7) and felt that I should repeat the stories told to me by residents of the area around the car park at McCaig's Tower.

Not only has one resident been pestered for years for permission to use her toilet, but others tell of frequent use of their gardens as toilets by visitors to the tower.

I can testify to this as the path behind my garage has recently been used – a disgusting sight to come across first thing in the morning.

I'm aware that there has been a longstanding demand for facilities at the tower car park. Apparently a local contractor offered to build and maintain free of charge a small toilet facility in a space created when the council compulsorily purchased several lock-up garages a while ago. This offer was not taken up for various reasons, but the need remains, as is proved by the continuing use by visitors of local gardens and the car park itself as toilets.

The council has replied by saying: 'Oban has sufficient public toilet facilities.' This may be so, but they are located at Pulpit Hill, Ganavan Beach, the library, the railway station and the North Pier. These will not help an elderly tourist who has stogged up to McCaig's Tower only to find that there is nowhere to go.

In the short term, maybe all the signs directing tourists to McCaig's Tower should have an addition pointing out that there are no toilets there. If we take tourism seriously in this town, we ought to at least provide suitable facilities.

Maurice Wilkins,  
Keep Oban Beautiful.

### Rural economy is being starved

Sir, It seems that not a day goes by when I'm contacted by farmers and crofters in my ward with justifiable concerns about single farm payments and the plight of our rural economy.

Unfortunately, the bad news just keeps rolling in as the Scottish Government could face a fine of up to £700,000 for the late payment of European subsidies to farmers this year. The penalty, estimated at between £500,000 and £700,000, relates to delays to 2016 Common Agricultural Policy.

The figure is on top of potential financial penalties of around £5 million as a result of late payments in 2015 after delays caused by the introduction of a new £178 million IT system. A total of 90.4 per cent of payments due to farmers were paid by the June deadline, with the European Commission rejecting a request from Scottish ministers for an extension to the payment window.

Even worse, the Scottish Government could also face separate EC financial penalties, known as disallowance, if weaknesses in the administration and control of CAP payments are identified. A recent assessment from Audit Scotland warned the figure for this could be as high as a massive £60 million.

To add insult to injury, the SNP has announced cuts worth tens of millions

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
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AN DEICHEAMH LÀ do theas a' Mhàigh theich uam mo nàdar bròin, 'S mi 'm sheasamh làmh ri easan gàireach dearcadh blàth 'n Uillt-Mhòir.

Thàinig faclan a' bhàird Dòmhnall nan Òran nam inntinn nuair a chuala mi gu robh Abhainn Hamara, neo An t-Allt Mòr, ann an Gleann Dail air cur thar a' bhuairchean a-rithist. B' e dealbh gu math eadar-dhealaichte a bha fo shealladh mhuintir a' Ghlinne an turas seo, agus chithear air an eadar-lìon an craos uisge a bha a' sruthadh mu iochdar lotaichean Ghlas Pheighinn agus Fhearrann Mhic Guaire, agus a' dòrtadh thar an Leth Pheighinn agus tro Thalla Coimhearsnachd Ghlinn Dail! Seo an dàrna turas, saoilidh mi, a tha an Talla seo air a bhith air a milleadh le tuil den t-seòrsa agus chan eil teagamh nach eil cosgais mhòr dol a' thighinn an lùib càraidh. Dhùisg an aìmlig ceist nam inntinn a thaobh na h-ìre gun deach beachdachadh air cunnart thuillean, neo an robh mothachadh sam bith air leithid de chunnart, nuair a bhathas a' dealbh an togalach seo bho

of pounds for projects aimed at helping Scotland's farming communities.

In a recent written statement to the Scottish Parliament, rural affairs secretary Fergus Ewing said he was slashing support for less favourable areas by £40 million, with a further £42 million being removed from climate change schemes.

Along with the SNP's aforementioned mishandling of hundreds of millions of pounds in Common Agricultural Policy payments due to a botched IT system, this makes for a double hammer blow for our farmers, crofters and the wider economy in rural Scotland.

Most shocking of all is that as part of the revision, the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme will have money reduced from £459 million to £419 million. That's money which supports businesses in areas of the country which are harder to farm successfully, particularly in remote areas.

Due to a mixture of incompetence and indifference, we in rural Scotland are having our economy starved by an urban, central belt and separatism obsessed Scottish Government.

Councillor Alastair Redman,  
Islay.

### Solution is needed to solve road logjam

Sir, Joe Wilson's justified praise (*The Oban Times*, September 21) of I&H Brown's well-managed roundabout construction is timely and serves to remind us of the 30th anniversary of the publication of Trunk Road Orders for the proposed realignment of the A82 from the old Fort roundabout to the Fort William Golf Club and to reflect on how we got to the current situation.

Thirty years ago, prior to devolution and the existence of Transport Scotland, BEAR and the like, Highland Regional Council, along with other regional councils, was the agent of the Scottish Development Department (SDD) for management of the trunk roads in its area.

On September 28, 1987, the notice heralding the Trunk Road Orders was published for the route which would have extended from An Aird, round Inverloch, crossing the A82 by flyover at the Tailrace and continuing through Jewson's yard, then council-owned, parallel to the railway, to join the existing A82 close to the golf club. The A830 would be extended to join the new road at a roundabout south of the distillery.

While local traffic would still be able to use the existing A82 to access premises on the North Road, the loss of passing tourist trade was a matter of concern to the owners of the Milton (now Ben Nevis) Hotel who persuaded the Fort William Chamber of Commerce and Lochaber District Council to oppose the regional council's proposal at a public local inquiry, jointly financing the considerable cost of a QC to do so.

These parties were successful in blocking the proposed A82 realignment and the Caol link road was offered as an alternative at that time. Consequently, the entire project was stopped and, since then, the political logjam of the A82 realignment versus the Caol link road has presented a convenient local dilemma to the benefit of parties furth of Lochaber who had few qualms in diverting trunk road funds to the A96, A9 and the like.

Since 1996, the Highland Council has safeguarded both routes in its various local plans but under the current draft revision of the West Plan indicated that it intended to drop the safeguard on the A82 realignment since it wouldn't open up any development land; of course it wouldn't, since that's not the function of a trunk road.

Among others, I objected and I am pleased that the matter has now been held over awaiting a roads review called a STAG appraisal which has been the subject of earlier columns in this newspaper.

Readers will also be interested to learn that the original improvement scheme for the A82 Glen Nevis junction that was recommended to the Scottish Development Department in the late seventies was for a right-turning lane which would have retained the priority for the A82 in both directions.

Intervention by the then under-construction woollen mill meant that the SDD stipulated a mini roundabout, much in vogue at that time, thus allowing the woollen mill traffic the same priority as the A82, which was far from logical.

Delay on the A82 is a trunk road problem for Transport Scotland to deal with and the chance of an Inverness-centred Highland Council financing a Caol link road to solve a separate issue is nil and remains a distraction.

As divisional road engineer with the regional council at the time, I find this a pretty gloomy anniversary; things could have been very much different. Thirty years on, I still believe the proposed A82 realignment, or a revised version of same, presents the right way forward.

The 1987 estimated cost of £7.6 million was surely considerably less than the cumulative damage to business and community in recent years alone. We need local leadership from the Highland Council and Chamber of Commerce to put pressure on the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to get us back to where we were 30 years ago and have some solution to look forward to.

John C Hutchison,  
Badabrie, Fort William.

### Campervans bring needed revenue

Sir, As a campervan owner for the past 24 years I have watched the increasing number of campervans and motorhomes on our roads.

It is surely up to local authorities to cater for the increasing numbers and make facilities available. These vehicles bring much-needed trade into the area and most people who own a campervan or motorhome are responsible people - it's the few who spoil it.

Could local authorities, in this case Argyll and Bute, not follow the example set by our continental neighbours and provide 'aires du service'? This would provide a chemical disposal and grey water facility and a fresh water tap for a nominal fee. There are car parks lying empty at night which could be utilised for this, with a limit of a 12- or 24-hour stay for, say, £5 per night. This could be earning the council much-needed revenue and hopefully stop unpleasant dumping of waste.

Ann Gillies,  
Hunters Quay, Dunoon.

Ailean Caimbeul

le Dam Chluainidh a' gleidheadh uisge nam beanntan agus ga leigeil às beag air bheag agus nach cuir aibhneachan a' ghlinne thairis. Cha tig leithid de dham gu ruige Gleann Dail gu bràth!

Dh'fheumte billèanan a chosg agus dàrna leth a' Ghlinne fhàsachadh agus a chur fo uisge, agus tha sin a' fàgail dùbhal leantainneach aig luchd-stiùiridh na talla coimhearsnachd air ciomar a ghabhas sochair deatamach coimhearsnachd a dhion bho na tuilleanan a thig cho cunbhalach 's a rinn iad fad linntean.

WHILE EXTREMELY SORRY to hear that Skye's Glendale Community Hall has suffered flooding again, I found myself wondering whether this risk had been considered in the planning of an important community resource. The Hamara River has been flooding for centuries when heavy rainfall coincides with high tides.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

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

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# Skipper sent to prison for 10 months for stealing boat

A SKIPPER has been jailed for 10 months for stealing a fishing boat belonging to Islay Crab Exports and fraudulently using one of the company's credit cards.

But 37-year-old skipper Christopher Brown said during his trial at Campbeltown Sheriff Court that he had acted out of desperation. He said: 'No person in this world works for seven weeks for nothing.'

Brown, whose address was given in court as HMP Edinburgh, had pleaded not guilty to nine charges, all on July 2, 2015. The main charges were stealing the fishing vessel, the catch and a company credit card.

The remaining six charges were of fraud with the credit card in Troon and in Silverburn shopping centre; buying tobacco and lighters from a Spar shop in

Troon, to the value of £18; fuel, tobacco and energy drinks from Tesco, £105.79; clothes from JD Sports, £700.03; a mobile telephone, £529.99; attempting to buy iPads from Argos at £739.97 and also food to the value of £22.35 from McDonald's, but the card was declined on these two occasions.

His not guilty plea to stealing the catch was accepted by the Crown and Sheriff Patrick Hughes found the theft of the credit card not proven. He found him guilty of all the other charges.

Sheriff Hughes heard that Brown has been hired by the Islay-based company through a find-a-fishing-boat website and Brown was to organise his own crew and board the scalloper Kayleigh M at Mallaig. The company's advertisement said

the boat was ready to go to sea. Brown told the court: 'No way. It was filthy. It took 12 hours a day, for three or four days to get it up to standard.'

James Monaghan, a director of Islay Crab Exports, said Brown was to receive a 30 per cent share of the price of the catch sold to the company, which had its own processing plant on Islay. 'It is up to the skipper to decide how to pay the crew,' he said, adding that each boat had access to a company credit card. Skippers were expected to send receipts to the office and, once established with the firm, were given a card of their own.

Mr Monaghan said Brown had taken a credit card from his pick-up truck.

Brown said in his evidence that he had been given the card by the company secretary and

had been using it already for two weeks with the company's consent.

Brown admitted he might have damaged a winch on board and with it some welding and there was water ingress into the living accommodation on board which had damaged property and clothing.

'Whenever I tried to contact him [James Monaghan], his attitude was get on with it, fix it, I'm busy. It is all right, you will be reimbursed.'

Brown paid crew from his own funds and eventually the two men argued. He used the card to buy replacement clothes and possessions. He said: 'I told him I was taking the boat to Troon, because I was done, I was finished.'

Mr Monaghan said this conversation did not take place. He told the court: 'At 7am I was

sent a text message that he was coming in at 11pm tonight. I arranged for a lorry to be there when they came in to land the catch but they didn't come in. At about 9pm that night I thought something was seriously wrong.'

The company director said he believed Brown had done this to buy himself time to get to Troon and sell the catch.

Thomas Newton, of Coquet Island Shellfish, North Shields, said that Brown had approached him to buy the catch. Brown had wanted cash and the company never paid in this way; the money was paid to Islay Crab Exports.

When giving his verdict, Sheriff Hughes said that while some of the evidence he had heard for the prosecution had been contradictory, he was satisfied the offences occurred.



John and Catherine on their wedding day and more recently.

## A diamond couple

JOHN and Catherine Arthur (nee Ferguson) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Tuesday September 26.

They were the first couple to be married in the Christ Church, Dunollie, in 1957, by

minister Tommy Thompson. The couple now stay in Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

The Oban Times would like to join their family in congratulating John and Catherine on their diamond wedding anniversary.



Doreen Henderson, centre, at the start of Oban's parkrun.

## Granny Doreen, 70, runs half-marathon

NORTH Connel granny Doreen Henderson is getting ready for her first half-marathon since turning 70.

Fresh from running last Sunday's Loch Ness 10k in 55 minutes, which she said 'was not bad for an old lady', Doreen is limbering up for this Sunday's Great Scottish Run in Glasgow.

A bad bone scan jolted Doreen into jogging three decades ago, and she has since run five marathons and countless half-marathons and 10Ks, raising thousands for the Coeliac Society and Alzheimer's Scotland.

She explained: 'I had a bone scan at the age of 42. I was at

risk of severe osteoporosis, and I was only in my early 40s.

'I got a fright and my family took me in hand. They really encouraged me. I did my first 10k with a very kind daughter.'

Running hugely improved her bone density, she said. She joked: 'I am not a fast runner, but I have got endurance - and a patient husband.'

The retired headteacher at Taynult Primary has eight grandchildren who all run.

Doreen said: 'I would love to encourage other folk to run. There are huge physical and mental health benefits. I am a 70-year-old missionary.'

## Fashion night raises nearly £1,000 for Cancer Research

ALMOST £1,000 was raised to help battle cancer at a charity fashion show held in Oban last Friday night.

Dozens of people made their way to Oban's M&Co to watch the models strut their stuff on the catwalk in aid of Cancer Research.

There was something for everyone with boys, girls and adult models showing off what the clothing store has to offer.

The money was raised through entry fees and raffle tickets.

Glynis Dewar said: 'It has been a fantastic turnout. This is the first time we have done this so we are very grateful to M&Co. It all goes to research into a cure for cancer.'

Speaking after the event, she added: 'We have raised £946 for Cancer Research. This town is fantastic. The money that has been raised is incredible.'

Mrs Dewar thanked the models, spectators, those who took part in the raffle and Linda Crosher for commenting on the night.



The girls take one last stroll down the cat walk, above, while David and Josh show off some of the smart clothes that M&Co has to offer for youngsters, and Moira models clothing and accessories from the women's section.



## Staff shortage hits Oban's hospitality sector

A SHORTAGE of staff in Oban's hospitality sector is causing concern, writes David McPhee.

Dozens of vacancies remain unfilled and a man who has worked in the industry for four decades says this has been one of the most difficult years in a long time.

Allan McKie said: 'I am just concerned about the number of vacancies in the hospitality sector in the area and how difficult it is to recruit at the current time.'

'I have been in the industry for 40 years. I think this year is as difficult as I have seen it for many long years. It's so

difficult to get staff. We are seeing establishments taking people for the sake of providing a service.'

'I am not knocking them because at the end of the day we have to provide a service, but it's about quality.'

'I think it's great that we have companies wanting to invest in the area, but there's no point in investing in businesses and a very good product if you don't have the people to manage that business.'

'There's no point in having the nicest place in the world if you don't have the staff to service it. Investing in people is just as important as investing

in your property. We have been relying on the EU workforce, but that well seems to be drying up and Brexit could be an issue.'

A study released in March of this year, Labour Migration in the Hospitality Sector, revealed that 13.8 per cent of Scotland's hospitality workforce are EU nationals.

Mr McKie added: 'I am just fearful because the foreign workforce have been coming across and have been a revelation, but they have dried up or for whatever reason they are fearful of coming here.'

Mr McKie said people are also using hospitality as a step-

stone to a different career path, saying: 'There are great opportunities in the industry and great careers and we have to sell that message.'

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'BID4Oban is aware of the shortage of staff in the hospitality sector in Oban.'

'This is obvious from the numerous businesses advertising current vacancies. It is not just hospitality that is suffering but also retail with businesses struggling to recruit.'

'It is difficult to find a solution to this situation. It may be that businesses need to get together to share best practice.'

## Service for Kilbride First World War soldiers

A MEMORIAL service is to be held this weekend for three soldiers who died during the First World War.

By a series of coincidences, it came to the notice of the Friends of Kilbride Kirk near Lerags, Oban, that two family gravestones had inscribed upon them memorials for soldiers killed in action in the First World War. Though the families concerned are not connected, the stones stand virtually side by side.

Hugh McIntyre was a stonemason working in Oban and living with his parents at 8 Argyll Square, Oban, until he emigrated to Canada.

In 1914, Hugh joined as a volunteer with the 48th Highlanders of Canada, returned to Britain, and made it home to Oban for four days' leave. Sadly, Hugh was killed in 1915.



Friend of Kilbride Liam Griffin found the graves of fallen First World War servicemen next to one another at Kilbride Kirk.

Two McCulloch brothers joined in 1914 from their home in Oban. Iain was promoted to sergeant in the Cameron Highlanders within a few days of enlisting, but was killed in action, also in 1915.

His brother, Donald, eventu-

ally joined the newly-created Tank Corps, and was killed in action at the Battle of St Julian, on August 2, 1917, 100 years ago last month.

Liam Griffin, a Friend of Kilbride, approached the Rev Dugald Cameron at Glencruitt-

ten Church, and asked if he thought it appropriate to hold a short, simple commemoration service at Kilbride for these almost forgotten soldiers. He enthusiastically agreed to lead such a service.

With significant input from Jill Bowis, Colin McIntyre, Hugh's great-nephew, was able to accept their invitation to visit his great-uncle's memorial at Kilbride, and tell of his family's history.

Along with other members of his family, Colin intends to attend the service at Kilbride. Anyone with McCulloch family connections will be warmly welcomed.

That service is planned for 1pm this Sunday (October 1). People of all faiths and none are invited to attend. The short service will be followed by a light buffet, tea and coffee.

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## Clach hit the Fort for eight in Scottish Cup

### Football

Clachnacuddin	8
Fort William	0
Scottish Cup 1st Round	

FORT William's dreams of a Scottish Cup run were stamped out on Saturday after a rampant Clachnacuddin put the Lochaber side to the sword.

The Fort, still struggling with a long injury list and a number of absentees, travelled to Clach in the hope of upsetting the odds to progress to the second round. The management set up with a fairly attack-minded team, with John Treasurer, Iain MacLellan and Liam Taylor all starting.

It wasn't long before the difference in class, and perhaps confidence, between Fort William and their Highland League counterparts began to show. Three goals in the first half sent the Fort in at half-time searching for some inspiration.

The second half, however, followed much of the same pattern and the home side's desire for more goals didn't ease up. A long afternoon was in store for the young Fort defence as another five goals were shipped in the second forty-five.

Clach ran out 8-0 winners in the end and will now be part of the draw for the second round of the Scottish Cup.

Fort William don't have long to dust themselves down, however, as they face a tough away tie against reigning Highland League champions Buckie Thistle this Saturday, October 30.

## Rescheduled Spean Bridge tournament correction

THE SPEAN Bridge Senior Open has been rescheduled to be played on Friday, October 13.

Last week's edition of *The Lochaber Times* had reported the rescheduled date as October 1, which is incorrect. We apologise for the error and any inconvenience caused.

The Senior Open is now open to both ladies and men and the minimum qualifying age is 55. There are two age groups: 55 to 67, and 68 and over.

The entry fee is £10. There are two time blocks for tee-time: 8.24am to 10am and 12.24pm to 2.00pm.

The overall winner will receive the Langan and Smith Shield, and in both the 55 to 64 group and the 65 and over group, there will be voucher prizes for top three finishers.

To book a tee-time, phone 01397 712445.

Lochaber cyclist wins Oban Sportive  
See page 29

# Controversial decision sees Cameron bow out

PRODIGIOUS Spean Bridge boxer Cameron Whyte once again proved he can contend on the international stage despite an early exit from the European Junior Championships in Bulgaria this week.

The 15-year-old Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club boxer knew he was in for a tough week of boxing being the youngest competitor in his weight category, but Whyte was eager to prove his talent against some of the best junior boxers on the continent.

In the last 16 stage of the competition, Whyte came up against Armenian boxer Artur Shakhpazyan - who has previously won both a bronze and silver at the European Championships.

In the end, the young Lochaber fighter was unfortunate to bow out of the tournament after a controversial 3-2 split decision in favour of Shakhpazyan.



Cameron shortly before his last 16 fight at the European Championships in Bulgaria.

Despite the difference in age, Whyte's ferocity meant he could pressurise Shakhpazyan

from the opening bell, attempting to close down the ring while the Armenian darted in and out trying to steal points.

Neither boxer had gained a foothold until about 30 seconds to go when Whyte landed a crunching right uppercut then left hook to having Shakhpazyan looking uncomfortable.

This was the opening Whyte had been waiting for, pouncing on any opportunity to land more punishing shots until the round finished.

Whyte began the next round as he ended the first by putting Shakhpazyan under severe pressure and had the Armenian looking distressed at times. Not that this bout was a one-sided affair. The Armenian is a master at countering and had his fair share of success but Whyte looked to be the driving force in the contest.

The last round saw both boxers give their all in the ring but once

again Whyte appeared to be landing the more eye-catching shots and the Scotland team were distraught to see the decision go against them.

As *The Lochaber Times* went to press, the Armenian had booked his place in the semi-finals and clinched a European medal for an incredible third successive year.

One of Whyte's coaches, Niall Clark, reflected on the fight: 'Although Cameron didn't medal this year, his talent and pedigree are as good as anyone in Europe.'

'What a lot of people don't realise is the dedication needed to achieve this level in the sport. When the Scotland squad flew from Edinburgh airport in the early hours of the morning, Cameron had been training in the foyer of the airport hotel prior to leaving.'

'Then when the team arrived in Bulgaria his weight was checked and another training session

### Boxing

took place to keep his weight under control.

'His weight was checked again to determine how much food he could eat.'

Niall explained that this grueling process was repeated at 6.30am every morning and every evening until he was no longer in the competition. Within 24 hours of his contest with the Armenian, Whyte had gained around half a stone just through eating normally.

After his elimination and before returning home, over the course of four days Whyte took part in several heated sparring sessions with the number one boxers from England, Belarus, Poland, Finland and Germany.

Niall added: 'Cameron is still looking to improve and learn which should stand him in good stead for the upcoming season.'

## Cameron Whyte awarded Fraser MacPhee Trophy

LOCHABER High School student Cameron Whyte is this year's recipient of the Fraser MacPhee Ambassador for Sport Trophy.

The trophy is presented annually by Duncan and Rosemary MacPhee in memory of their son, Fraser, who died in 2002 while a pupil at Lochaber High School. The trophy pays tribute to Fraser's sporting endeavours and is awarded to the most promising sportsman in S4 at Lochaber High School.

Fifteen-year-old Cameron, from Spean Bridge, is a distinguished boxer, becoming the North of Scotland Champion and the Scottish Champion no less than five times. He is a former Great Britain champion and was the first ever Scottish schoolboy to become a European Silver medalist. Cameron flew back this week after representing Scotland at the European Junior Championships in Bulgaria. In addition to boxing, Cameron is also a keen shinty player, representing and scoring for the school recently in this year's Wade Cup final.



Cameron Whyte is presented with the Fraser MacPhee Ambassador for Sport Trophy by Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee.



## Fort pair bowl to victory at Inverlochly green

Lochaber bowlers Kevin Douglas and Suzanna Williamson took top spot at the John McLellan and Co nominated pairs bowling competition at the Railway Bowling Club. Pictured are Kevin Douglas and Suzanna Williamson with runners-up Helen Ross and Allan MacDonald.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## Rugby club stripped and ready for action

LOCHABER Rugby Club have been presented with a brand new set of home kits as their foray into the new West League Division 3 gets well underway.

With two wins from three league games so far this season, the players seem to be enjoying wearing the new black and gold strips and are looking to do the double in a crucial home match this weekend.

The new kit is sponsored by civil engineering company Leiths, which operates and manages the limestone quarry in Fort William. The club would like to thank Leiths for its continued support.

Although the Banavie outfit weren't in action on Saturday, the team have been busy preparing for a big double-header tie against Police Scotland Glasgow this weekend. The match is being played as both a West League Division 3 and a West Regional Bowl tie, with the result of the game counting for both competitions.

The police team travel to Banavie on Saturday for a 3pm kick-off.

### Rugby



Alistair Gibson, left, and Ali MacKinnon unveil the gleaming new black and gold home strips.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography.

## Lochaber select win inter-district tournament

### Youth shinty

THE LOCHABER district under-17 squad have been crowned the best district team in shinty after beating select teams from across the country.

Select teams from across the shinty districts gathered at Spean Bridge for the Ferguson Transport and Shipping under-17 inter area tournament.

The competition not only pits the best young talent in these areas against each other but also provides an opportunity for players to stake a claim for selection for the North District under-17 squad to play their south counterparts at An Aird this Sunday October 1.

This year's competition saw a round robin format with the four squads from Inverness, Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross and Badenoch playing each other in 30-minute games.

The league matches were closely contested with all players giving a good account of themselves throughout the day's competition.

Lochaber topped the league on five points, only dropping one point to the Skye and Wester Ross team, and were duly presented with the Ferguson Transport and Shipping shield by Colin MacKinnon.

Badenoch clinched second place, two points behind Lochaber.

David Pringle will coach the North Squad in the game versus the South. All selected players will be informed in the next few days and the squad will be formally announced once the players have accepted their place.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank referee Ronnie Campbell and Lochaber Camanachd Club for hosting this year's event and Ferguson Transport and Shipping for its continued support of this event.

## Lochaber club lottery numbers

### Lottery

THE NUMBERS drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 1, 7 and 10. There were no winning tickets this week. There will now be a jackpot for £300 for next Thursday's draw.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 3, 9 and 13. There were no winners this week meaning that next week's total returns to £400.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 2, 9 and 16. There were no winning tickets this week so there is a £800 jackpot up for grabs next week.

This week's Fort William Club lotto numbers were 8, 15 and 17. There were no winners this week. There will now be £500 in the pot for next week's draw on Thursday, September 28.

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**WEATHER**

Thursday Sunshine and light showers  
Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Friday Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.



**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 28, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm				
Thur	05.03 1.9 10.34 3.0 17.20 2.1 22.29 2.8		Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	06.14 2.0 13.17 2.9 18.33 2.1 ** ** *		Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	01.55 2.8 07.41 2.0 14.35 3.1 20.01 2.0		Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.01 3.0 09.02 1.8 15.20 3.3 21.19 1.8		Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.38 3.2 09.50 1.5 15.56 3.6 22.04 1.5		Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	04.13 3.4 10.26 1.2 16.31 3.8 22.41 1.1					
Wed	04.47 3.7 10.59 1.0 17.05 4.0 23.16 0.9					

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate