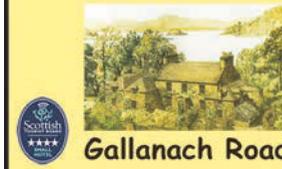


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# Worker with cancer wins claim for discrimination

## 'Outstanding' Jura Music Festival celebrates 25 years

The 'outstanding' Jura Music Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary last weekend. The three-day event featured some of Scotland's top traditional musicians. The festival kicked off with a concert and ceilidh on Friday night in Craighouse Village Hall. Saturday saw Fred Morrison and Blazin' Fiddles take to the stage, with Skipinnish headlining on Sunday night. Islander Heather Cameron said: 'The festival committee pulled out all the stops to bring an outstanding variety of music to celebrate the 25th anniversary. The Saturday concert was an absolute delight. Sunday saw the Jura Distillery Cooperage full and jumping to Skipinnish, [who were] fantastic as always.' The festival came to a close with Rhuvaal and 'amazingly festival-goers had plenty of energy left to pack the dance floor'. 'A great time was had by all,' Heather added.



by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Bosses at Tyndrum's Green Welly Stop have been told to pay £10,000 to a former employee accused of wearing her cancer 'as a badge'.

Amanda McCartney, 49, was a seasonal food and drinks worker at the popular tourist stop between March and July last year when a lump, originally thought to have been caused by an ingrowing hair, was diagnosed as cancer.

An employment tribunal in Edinburgh found Ms McCartney had suffered disability discrimination over a period of six weeks and ordered Green Welly partners Mr E Robertson and Mrs F Robertson to pay the five-figure compensation sum for injuring her feelings.

The tribunal heard how workers at the A82 service station were 'getting fed up' with Ms McCartney talking about her cancer and were overheard saying, 'Is she still going on about it again?' and that some of them were of the opinion she

was 'wearing cancer as a badge'. At no point were employees told by management to stop their 'negative discussion'.

Ms McCartney had complained to her line manager that she was 'sick of people being rude, nasty and bullying'.

The tribunal heard of a personality clash with another employee which started at the hot food counter and was taken outside. During the argument, the employee told Ms McCartney she was a 'liar' about having cancer and said she (Ms McCartney) was 'happy she had cancer'. Two managers witnessed it but took no action and the woman was later promoted by bosses. The tribunal found that the incident 'violated her dignity'.

Ms McCartney's partner, who also worked there, gave compelling evidence to the tribunal about how she cried before going to work and did not want to go because of the hostile environment.

Her GP provided bosses with a statement for fitness for work which suggested 'heavy loads  
Continued on page four

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OT

# Racer Susie heads for home in Oban

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Racing sensation Susie Wolff MBE will bring her son Jack to Oban for the first time this weekend.

Susie will be raising money for Atlantis Leisure with her fundraising gala An Evening With Susie Wolff and Friends.

The event will take place at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls from 7.30pm on Friday September 28.

Susie, who gave birth to her son in April 2017, said: 'I'm really looking forward to coming home.

It's the first time my son Jack will be in my home town so it has real significance for us as a family and I can't wait to show him around.

It means a lot to me personally to help raise money for Atlantis Leisure.

'The centre featured heavily in my childhood and I'm very grateful to have been able to



Susie Wolff will be in Oban this weekend.

train there and develop my sporting abilities. Accessible recreational facilities like Atlantis Leisure are essential for the community and essential in the fostering of future sporting talent in the region.

'Local people really need and value having sports facilities like this on their doorstep so I'm very happy to have the opportunity to support the sustainability and growth of

the centre. It's really important to me that the young people in Oban have the same opportunities and access to the facilities that I had with Atlantis.'

The former Formula 1 development driver has many fond memories of Atlantis Leisure.

She said: 'I started out in the swimming club – the Oban Otters. I remember so many mornings in the pool before school training there, working hard but also having a lot of fun.

'I learned tennis there, too. Ball sports are definitely not my strength but it was a brilliant place to learn. There was a huge refurbishment in the mid-1990s which was fantastic. My friends and I just loved meeting there and doing some sport for fun.

'The facility also became essential for my fitness and strength training when I started karting so it's fair to say that I spent a great deal of my childhood within its walls.'

An Evening With Susie Wolff and Friends will also feature other sports stars, including Scottish women's rugby international Abi Evans, who is also from Oban, and motorcycle road racing driver Robert Wilson.

'On the evening, I'll be talking about my personal journey from a small town on the west coast of Scotland right up to the international pinnacle of motorsport, Formula 1, and the life lessons I have experienced along the way,' Susie told The Oban Times. 'There'll be some memories of Atlantis and one or two funny moments in there too I'm sure.

'I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone and hope that the evening is a great success not only in raising important funds for Atlantis but also raising awareness of the ongoing good work that's being done there on grassroots sports' development.'

## Dispute over blood sample in court case

A man accused of drink driving on Tiree has had his case continued after his blood test was questioned.

Donald Macdonald, 41, of 10 Reef Terrace, Crossapol, Tiree, denied driving with more than four times the legal alcohol limit on the B8065 near Scarinish on August 25 last year. The charge says Macdonald read 213 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, when the legal limit is 50 milligrammes.

Constable Stephen Tanner, Tiree's only police officer, told Oban Sheriff Court that, following an anonymous report, he took his partner for corroboration to a local hotel.

Nearby he observed a car 'driving at excessive speed'. He said: 'He was swerving. His speech was slurred. His eyes were glazed. I could smell alcohol. He was unsteady on his feet. I formed the opinion he was drunk. I asked if he could provide a sample. He said, "Aye".'

But when Tiree's only breathalyser broke on its second test, and with no ferry until the next day, PC Tanner asked a

doctor to take a blood sample from Macdonald. He said it was stored in a refrigerator in Tiree's police station, where he and his partner also live, and could not be delivered via cool bag to the Oban station until he was relieved or left the island.

Procurator fiscal Joanne Gilmour said: 'It is not unusual for a specimen to stay on Tiree for a month. He brought it over to Oban police office on September 4 when he was going on holiday. Then it makes its way to the forensic lab. It was sealed.'

Defending, Ruben Murdan-aigum said there was 'a break in the evidential link', arguing the court did not know who took the blood sample to the lab, how or when, or who received it.

Sheriff Robert Dickson asked: 'What is the break? It seems to me there is a clear connection.' He said the same number appeared on PC Tanner's document as the certificate of the lab analysis. The sheriff granted a request for an adjournment until November 9 to consult a forensic expert.

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Professor Fiona McQueen, chief nursing officer for Scotland; Sarah Gilmour, Joanne Thom, Aime Davies, student nurses; Alison MacIver, winner of QNIS award; Elizabeth Anne Mackay, student nurse, and Pat Tyrell, QNIS representative.

## Scots chief nursing officer visits university

North nursing students had the opportunity to meet Scotland's chief nursing officer on Monday September 10 when she visited the University of the Highlands and Islands' nursing department in Inverness.

Professor Fiona McQueen spoke to students and staff in person at the Centre for Health Science and addressed students in Stornoway via a video conference link.

She also took part in the department's award ceremony, presenting certificates to nominees for the

university's nursing student of the year awards, as well as a certificate and £100 cheque to the overall winner, Aime Davies.

Aime, 29, who is originally from Portree and now lives in Nairn, was selected for the award for her outstanding performance in her academic work and clinical placement.

Marie Cameron, the university's head of undergraduate nursing, explained: 'Aime completed a nine-week placement working alongside her clinical nurse mentor in a community

setting, caring for elderly patients with a range of physical and mental health challenges. She demonstrated a great aptitude for clinical practice, with her mentor describing her as a "fantastic student" and an "exceptional worker".'

Aime said: 'I am over the moon to have been chosen to receive this award. I have been so privileged to have had such a strong support network of university staff, mentors, family and peers, and I hope I can be a credit to the nursing profession going into the future.'

# Mull mum secures charity status for rare syndrome

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Tobermory mum has achieved charitable status for a rare condition foundation helping families across the world.

Michelle Erskine's eldest son and two brothers all have the little known Aarskog Syndrome, and she is a carrier.

The 46-year-old, who has been on a one-woman mission via social media and her Facebook page for the past 10 years to raise the profile of the syndrome, hopes the new charitable status will mean the genetic condition can now become widely recognised and understood by families living with it, as well as GPs, consultants and schools so children can get

the tests and support they need to flourish in life.

Only females are carriers and only males inherit the gene which reveals itself through stunted growth, wide-set eyes, low-set ears and other broad facial abnormalities. Dyslexia, ADHD and other autistic spectrum disorders are not uncommon.

Other conditions can also develop with age. Ms Erskine's youngest brother has just been diagnosed with lymphoma and her oldest one has now lost his peripheral vision. She, too, has inflammatory arthritis, and a survey of carriers has revealed 70 per cent of them have some form of rheumatoid arthritis.

Later this month Ms Erskine, who already has a networking branch in Florida and will soon have others



Michelle Erskine is hoping to raise awareness worldwide.

in New Jersey and Holland, is flying out to a global genes conference in California to spread word about it.

She also works closely with the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital's Rare Condition Office and is part of a Holyrood working group creating a rare disease strategy 2019 for Scotland.

She said: 'I am so proud to have charity status at last. I've been working behind the scenes on social media and my own Facebook, and in 2017 I registered it as a non-profit organisation in the run-up to it becoming a charity.'

'Now we've got the status, it'll give us more power to help GPs diagnose and signpost people to get the right help. It will help schools identify children's needs earlier so they can get proper support before high

school and I'd like to set up a youth group so as the children get older they can help each other,' said Ms Erskine, who is already helping 385 families across 28 countries, including here in Scotland.

'There is so much work to do but I'm in love with it. I feel as though I've been given a gift to make a difference to so many lives,' she added.

Ms Erskine's 18-year-old daughter has also been diagnosed as a carrier, although her middle son who is 19 has been given the all-clear. 'I hope my story will trigger people living with this syndrome and with other rare disease or conditions to get the help they need,' she said.

To find out more about the charity go to aarskogsyndrome.foundation.co.uk. A free helpline is on 0800 0016623.

## Dramatic image as storm Ali lights up Oban

Storm Ali arrived with a bang over Oban last Tuesday night. This lightning-quick photograph of a spectacular thunderstorm was taken by Nick Edgington around midnight from Pulpit Hill. Mr Edgington told The Oban Times: 'I'm usually watching out for the Aurora but as soon as I heard the first bit of thunder I dashed around, grabbed my equipment and set up outside under a wee bit of shelter. 'Fortunately, I live on Pulpit Hill so I have a perfect



view of the bay right on my doorstep. I must have taken about 80 shots but most missed getting the lightning directly in the

picture. And then this one happened! Delighted is an understatement, as I've never managed to capture forked lightning before!'

## Police files

### Disorder

At about 11pm on Saturday September 22, two men were arrested and charged with behaving in a disorderly manner after an incident at Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban.

### Vandalism

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

### Assault

A 22-year-old man was

arrested and charged with assault after an altercation with another man on Queens Park Place, Oban, at about 2am on Sunday September 23.

### Traffic offences

A number of traffic offences have been detected over the past week.

At 4.10pm on Monday September 17, two men were reported for driving offences after being stopped on the A85 at Taynuilt. A 23-year-old man was charged with traffic offences following an incident during the early hours of Sunday

September 23 on Gallanach Road, Oban.

### Speeding

Several individuals have been charged with speeding offences over the past week and officers would like to remind everyone of the importance of obeying the speed limits on our roads.

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

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OT

# MSPs back ban on kelp dredging

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Petitioners against wild kelp dredging are 'delighted' after a Holyrood committee voted to ban the practice.

Ayr-based Marine Biopolymers Ltd (MBL) is applying to the Scottish Government for a five-year licence to 'sustainably harvest wild kelp', or Laminaria hyperborea, to extract natural polymers for uses in foods and pharmaceuticals, in seas inside the Western Isles from the Firth of Lorn to Stornoway.

MBL hopes to 'unlock the hidden treasures that are the different components of seaweeds', and harvest up to 1,300 tonnes in wet weight the first year, rising to 29,800 tonnes in year five, the minimum required per year to be commercially viable. The kelp would be transported to

MBL's proposed processing plant at Mallaig, subject to a future planning application to Highland Council.

MBL's scoping report, subject to a consultation, states this is a first for Scotland, but harvesting has been carried out 'sustainably for many decades in Norway, France and Iceland'.

But by Tuesday more than 15,500 people had signed a petition calling for Roseanna Cunningham MSP, the Scottish Government's cabinet secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform, not to grant any licences for mechanical kelp dredging in Scottish waters.

Campaigners and fishermen warned it could damage kelp beds as well as fish and shellfish stocks. Dozens of businesses from Argyll, Lochaber and Skye, which 'rely on a healthy coastal environment to prosper', are among the 116 names

that signed a letter calling for a ban.

Now the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee has backed an amendment from Green MSP Mark Ruskell which bans the removal of entire kelp plants from Scottish waters. Three committee members voted in favour of the amendment and there were six abstentions. It means harvesting would be allowed only where the plant can recover and rules out dredging.

Ullapool oyster farmer Ailsa McLellan, who started the petition, said: 'We were delighted to see that this amendment passed today, which is an enormous landmark for a campaign that began so recently.'

Mr Ruskell, the Scottish Greens' environment spokesman, added: 'Kelp forests provide a precious habitat for young fish and shellfish species.

Removing these en masse will have a devastating impact on many of these populations and a knock-on effect of Scotland's other fishing sectors.

'The forests also act as an important buffer for our island and coastal communities, protecting them from the more damaging effects of waves and coastal erosion.

'Members of the environment committee have received a wealth of submissions in recent weeks in support of a ban. There's now plenty of time to consider these in even more depth before we vote on the final bill in the coming months.'

Charles Millar, Scottish Inshore Fisheries Trust executive director and founder of Help the Kelp, said the vote would require all harvesting of kelp in Scottish waters to follow the rule hand-harvesters obey - that the plant must be allowed to regrow.

## Green Welly worker wins tribunal claim

Continued from page one. June to the end of July 'created an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating and offensive environment' for Ms McCartney.

Her duties were amended two days after the note to clearing tables and placing dirty dishes onto trolleys but, due to the weight of those trolleys, Ms McCartney had increased contact with heavy loads and found her work more onerous than before. She had to take extra painkillers to complete her working day. She also had no time to sit down because her one-hour break ended up being split into 12 five-minute breaks.

The Green Welly's defence solicitor said his clients accepted Ms McCartney had suffered harassment but added as a small business the respondents had been 'consistently sympathetic', making as many adjustments as they could. 'The overarching evidence suggests that even though they were unable to do everything right, they were a caring employer trying to do their best,' he said.

The tribunal accepted Ms McCartney's evidence that the actions of the respondents from mid June to late July 2017 caused her considerable upset, which she felt caused her health to deteriorate. The tribunal also had regard that she had little choice but to take a day's holiday to cover her hospital appointments.

On evidence the tribunal concluded the actions of the respondents between mid

June to the end of July 'created an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating and offensive environment' for Ms McCartney.

After the tribunal's decision, Ms McCartney told The Oban Times she had been shocked to be diagnosed with the same illness as her mother, at the same age she was first diagnosed and just a couple of weeks short of the fifth anniversary of her death from cancer.

She described the discrimination she experienced as 'a vicious campaign' to force her 'to admit' she was lying about being unwell.

'I did not expect further vexatious accusations in court but the judge recognised that those six weeks were a living hell for me and found in my favour. I hope that the Green Welly Stop has recognised that the Highland hospitality that it demands of its staff should also be extended to incoming seasonal workers.'

Speaking to The Oban Times, Fiona Robertson of the Green Welly Stop said: 'At the Green Welly Stop we pride ourselves on how we lead and manage our team. On this occasion our historically high standards slipped slightly and we will learn from this to ensure there is no repetition.'

'We are, of course, disappointed with the judgement, although we take some solace from the judge's comments about the professionalism and honesty demonstrated by those present from our business.'

## Call for extra ferry on Stornoway route

Labour in the Western Isles has called for a freight vessel to be chartered for the Stornoway-Ullapool route in order to ease pressure on the MV Loch Seaforth and the wider CalMac network.

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## North Connel baking sells like hot cakes

Children in Etive Park, North Connel, organised a bake sale in their street on Sunday September 23 and raised a whopping £145 for Children in Need, a charity chosen by the children. The youngsters, all of primary school age, did much of the organising, putting leaflets through the doors, making posters and helping bake lots and lots of cakes, scones, fudge, truffles and more. The children would like to thank everyone who came along and who donated baked goodies for the event.

## Euan cycles more than 1,000 miles for charity

A former Oban High School pupil celebrated his 30th birthday by cycling more than 1,000 miles for charity.

Euan Graham has raised more than £2,000 by cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in aid of Who Cares? Scotland (WCS). WCS supports care-experienced people and ensures their voices are heard.

Euan, who now lives in Glasgow, completed his unsupported journey in 16 days and was endorsed by Scottish comedian Limmy before he set off.

The WCS development

officer said: 'It was terrific. This was a big challenge for me. I cycled through Sutherland in storm Ali - I was cycling sideways into the wind and it was hailing.'

Euan said it was not his intention to do the journey as quickly as he could. 'I could have had just one change of clothes and have just fired through it, but what's the point?' he said.

Euan decided to do a less direct route and go through Arran, and visit his parents in Connel.

He added: 'Massive thanks to the 124 folk who have donated more than £2,000.'



Euan Graham cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats, where he found an Oban Times.

## Illegal cold callers scam Oban residents

Workmen have been cold-calling residents in Oban and the surrounding area offering to do work such as gardening, landscaping and general outdoor maintenance, according to the reports of Argyll and Bute Trading Standards.

The typical poor practices they offer include persuading the customer to have unnecessary work done, increasing the price of the job after it is finished and general malpractice.

A genuine trader legally must give a two-week waiting notice in case the customer changes their mind and must not start the work before this, unless the written permission of the client is given. They must also give the buyer their full written details.

It is advised that residents make sure these rules have been followed before they pay any money. The customer is not obliged to pay anything before the work is carried out and any harassment or aggression is unlawful.

# Man jailed for gouging

An Oban man has been jailed for 15 months after gouging a taxi driver's eyes when he was asked for the fare.

Kieran McLarney, of 24A Shuna Terrace, Oban, pleaded guilty to assaulting the man by punching him on the head and gouging his eyes on Oban's High Street on September 28 last year, and then resisting arrest and kicking two police officers.

The 25-year-old also admitted trying to force open and steal four vehicles in Stevenson Street on November 30, 2016,

and in Millpark Terrace on July 19, 2017, and then on October 31 striking cars with a baseball bat on Colonsay and Shuna Terraces, where he set one on fire.

Procurator fiscal Joanne Gilmour told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday September 24: 'The accused took a taxi. When he arrived at the destination, he was asked for the fare. The accused became aggressive. The accused poked him [the driver] in the centre of his forehead, then gouged his eyes.' Given the 'volume and

gravity' of the charges, defence agent Kevin McGinness argued the public interest could be served by a community payback order. 'Mr McLarney has previously completed a substantial community payback order,' he said. 'There is a good prospect Mr McLarney will adhere to the terms.'

Sheriff Robert Dickson replied: 'It did not deter him from behaving the way he did since then.'

'He is older and wiser,' Mr McGinness continued. 'At the heart of the disorder is his use

of drugs and alcohol. Much more might be achieved in addressing the underlying factors that trigger this behaviour.'

Sheriff Dickson sentenced McLarney to nine months

in prison for the assault, plus another six months for the vehicle charges, and three years' supervision with the condition he attend drink and drug counselling.

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Karen, Laura, and Seonaid selling Skerryvore merchandise. 17\_T39\_DMIConcert03



Oban High School Pipe Band also performed on the night. 17\_T39\_DMIConcert02



Kirsty, Karen, and Jenna MacInnes. 17\_T39\_DMIConcert04

# Charity gig raises

by David McPhee  
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk



Hundreds of people attended the final We'll Walk This Road Together concert, which raised at least £15,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Scotland.

More than 800 tickets were sold, meaning that DMI Cancer Trust has now raised more than £70,000 for various charities through its gigs.

The trust was set up by Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes, before the

former owner of Coasters Bar died in March 2017 after a battle with cancer. However, Nonny left behind a legacy that will help others defeat the dreaded disease. And this year his widow, Karen, decided to have one last concert.

Speaking in 2016, Nonny said: 'The vibe at the concert is brilliant. Once the concert is over, Oban is buzzing for weeks afterwards.' And given the energy and enthusiasm that was on display on Saturday,

that will certainly be the case for the next few weeks.

Skipinnish were the first to perform at the Corran Halls and, at the end of their set, the band dedicated their most recent song, Alive, to Nonny.

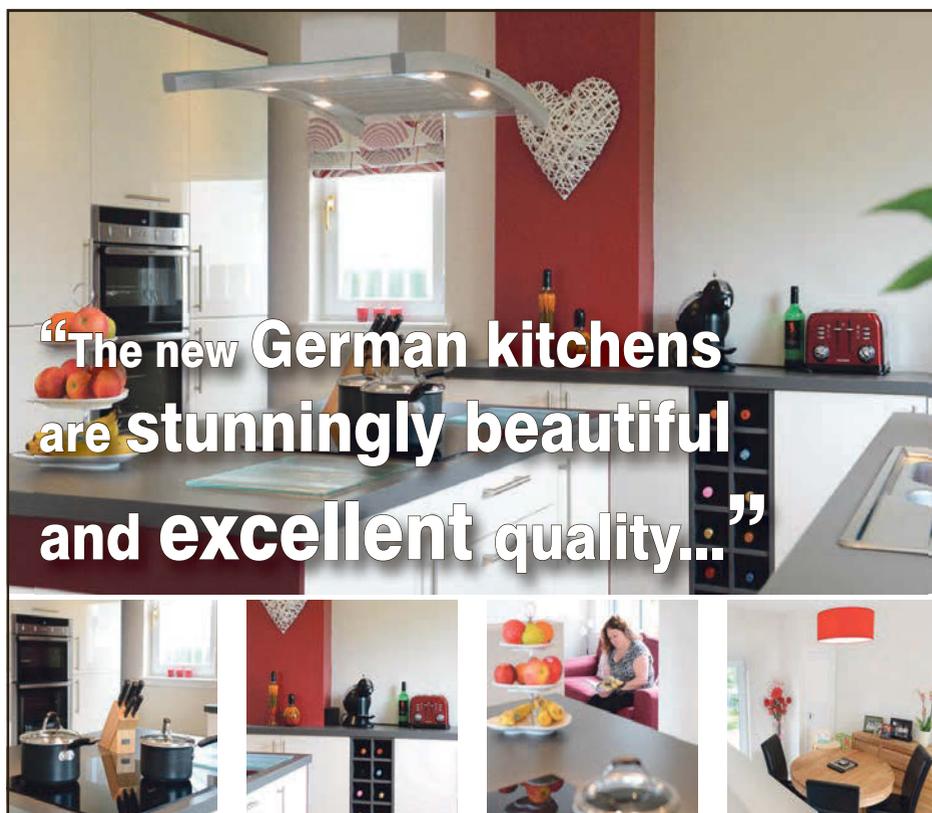
Angus MacPhail from the band said: 'Let's not forget who started all this. He is a man who is very much alive in us.'

As well as Skipinnish, the gig featured Mánran, Skerryvore and Oban High School Pipe Band.

Karen said the night surpassed her expectations. She said: 'We have raised a guaranteed £15,000 – that was the target. It's absolutely fantastic.'

Karen said she was getting 'a wee bit stressed' before the event with slow ticket sales. But, in the end, in true Oban fashion, there was a surge of sales and it was a sell-out.

'There were 800 tickets sold,' Karen added. 'Apart from a few under-agers, the crowd were amazing.' She previously



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**tailored to our needs"**

- Mr & Mrs Kitching, Inverness

## Missing your library visits? Call in to Rockfield Centre!

With Oban library currently undergoing refurbishment, volunteers at the Rockfield Centre charity shop have hit upon a novel idea.

One told The Oban Times: 'We thought it would be good to support our colleagues at Oban library and the public while the library is closed with the offer of two free books from the charity shop to any library user who comes in with their library card. So people should pop in and browse the selection of books.'

The idea is to help those who use the library regularly and who will be missing the service.

Oban library is due to reopen on October 17.

Eleanor MacKinnon, who is project facilitator for The Rockfield Centre, said: 'By showing the library card, two free books can be picked up from the shelves.'

'And for anyone not registered with the library, don't panic – provided you are happy to give contact details and data sharing permission, we have agreed to take your contact details and pass to the library service to process your membership. So it's a



Join in with the 'blether session' at The Rockfield Centre.

win-win all round for avid readers.'

This offer points up the partnership ethos The Rockfield Centre is all about. Already the centre works closely with Comar and Mull Theatre, recently putting on a production in the Corran Halls. There is also partnership with TALC in Tarbert and the after-school arts workshops with Elizabeth Stevenson currently running in the huts.

The centre's winter programme is now under way, with a series of 'blether sessions', which started last Friday, as well as a life

drawing class. The Big Draw this year is being led by centre volunteers on October 19.

The ever-popular Let's Make a Scene has moved to a Saturday night slot – check out the website [www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk) and the Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the centre is gearing up to be part of the Macmillan Cancer Care coffee morning tomorrow (September 28) and is open from 10am-noon for refreshments, cake and a blether.

For free books, the charity shop is open 10am-4pm at the Rockfield Centre, Mondays to Saturdays.



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Skipinnish dedicated their song *Alive to the late Nonny MacInnes*. 17\_T39\_DMICConcert01

## £15k

added: 'It has been a challenging process because Nonny and I did it as a team the last few times. It's a massive thing to organise and it's been quite emotional as well.'

While this is '100 per cent' the last We'll Walk This Road Together concert, Karen said she will continue with her charity work.

As well as ticket sales, there was also a raffle on the night which raised £3,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Scotland.



Jenna MacInnes, Ally McKerracher and Kirsty MacInnes. 17\_T39\_DMICConcert07

# Couple mark golden day with Parsley in Oban

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

An Edinburgh couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Oban so they could meet Parsley the cat.

Jane and Neil Campbell attended the four-year-old Maine Coon's One Cat Cafe in Hope Kitchen last Friday.

The couple travelled to Oban three times in 2016 to meet Parsley, but they weren't able to find him until their third visit.

Jane said: 'I was weeping last time, but I am a wee bit better today. I think he is brilliant and I think Fiona is brilliant. I love reading his stories.'

With their golden wedding looming, the couple were not sure what they wanted to do. That's when Neil said: 'You want to go to Oban to see Parsley.'

A delighted Jane said: 'We came up on the train, but I was panicking they were not going to be running.' But they man-



Neil, Fiona, Parsley and Jane at the One Cat Cafe last Friday. 17\_T39\_Parsley01

aged to arrive in Oban, despite storm Ali wreaking havoc on public transport.

Jane first caught a glimpse of Parsley when he appeared on an STV news programme in 2016. And, ever since, she has been keeping up with his antics on his Facebook page, which has now amassed 7,614 fans.

Fiona Ferris, Parsley's owner, gifted the couple two printed photographs of the cat.

An update was posted on his social media page, which

read: 'I gave these to Jane and Neil as an award for dedication to me.'

'Three times they came from Edinburgh to Oban (I suspect Neil may have been less enthusiastic than Jane) to look for me in the early days before I started the Friday cafe.'

'They tried all my old haunts but didn't catch up with me until last September at New Hope. Then a return visit yesterday on the most auspicious of occasions.'

# Ulva plans new homes and to hold midsummer festival

Plans to build new homes on Ulva are gathering pace following the island's community buy-out this summer.

John Addy, a director of the North West Mull Community Woodland Company, which led the buy-out, said repopulation was at the heart of its plans - 'up to around 20 by renovating the existing housing stock and then up to maybe as many as 50 or more by building new houses.'

The buildings have been surveyed, and the renovations are being designed, free, by Moxon Architects in Aberdeenshire, and the aim is to start construction next year.

Mr Addy said: 'We are in

discussions with Argyll and Bute Council with a view to building new houses.'

The 'neglected Big House', he added, 'offers a wonderful business opportunity if we can find the right investor', as a possible guest house, restaurant with rooms, artist's retreat or self-catering units.

He added: 'We are currently testing the market and are very much open to suggestions. We are commissioning surveys of the pier and slipways both on Ulva and on Mull at Ulva Ferry, to assess any urgent repairs. We are exploring better access and increased capacity - for example, to accommodate more than one boat at a time.'

'On the day we received the keys to the island, a group of enthusiastic gardeners established themselves to work on the overgrown garden close to the Big House. Over the summer it has been transformed by the hard work of around a dozen volunteers - the Ulva Garden Force.'

'The keys were handed over on the longest day, June 21, and we therefore expect midsummer's day on Ulva will have a special resonance each year. The community is already looking forward to planning our first anniversary celebrations on midsummer 2019 when we hope to be toasting significant progress achieved.'

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OT



Some of the vendors from the last market of the year. 17\_T39\_Market07



Iain Darling and Fiona Livingston from I Wynne and Son. 17\_T39\_Market02

# Success for town markets

Katherine Mackenzie from Duntarrin Foods. 17\_T39\_Market04



by David McPhee  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

The final Oban producers' market of this year took place on Saturday.

Throughout the summer, vendors have gathered at Oban's Station Square at the end of each month tempting

passers-by with pies, salmon and haggis or handmade goods.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: "This year's markets have been highly successful and well attended. Fortunately, this year the weather has been on our side and this has

improved their popularity.

"It is great to see the space in Station Square being used for events such as markets. In terms of benefits for the town, the market is another reason to visit and stay in Oban.

"It provides something different for everyone. "The dates for 2019 have

already been booked. Next year we would like to attract more vendors to the market because there is certainly plenty of space for the market to increase in size.

"Any businesses interested in attending the market are advised to contact the BID4Oban Office."

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Janice Stewart who owns Made in Argyll. 17\_T39\_Market05



Sally Knight from The Seil Bakehouse. 17\_T39\_Market01



Catherine Lee from Paradise Kitchen. 17\_T39\_Market06



Karen MacDonald and her granddaughter Cerys Sutherland. 17\_T39\_Market03

## Argyll residents praised by cancer charity

Argyll and Bute residents have been praised by blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan for the number of people in the community registered as stem cell donors.

To mark Blood Cancer Awareness Month this September, Michael Russell MSP revealed that Argyll and Bute was first in the Highlands

and islands, and fifth of 73 overall in the country for having the most stem cell donors on the register.

Mr Russell collected a certificate on behalf of Argyll and Bute from the charity at a reception on Thursday September 20 in the Scottish Parliament.

This achievement is being

celebrated by Anthony Nolan as part of its Communities vs Blood Cancer campaign, which shines a light on the work being done at a local level to ensure every patient in need of a stem cell transplant can find a lifesaving donor.

In Argyll and Bute, 1,807 potential stem cell donors are registered with Anthony Nolan.

# Watchdog criticises government's failed broadband projects

A fifth of the internet projects backed by Community Broadband Scotland have failed, a government spending watchdog has revealed.

Audit Scotland also claims the Scottish Government may have achieved its initial target to provide fibre broadband access to 95 per cent of premises, but its more recent 'Reaching 100 per cent' ambi-

tion 'will be more difficult to realise'.

A new report from the Auditor General looks at public sector spending to reach areas not covered by commercial providers. Up to March 31 2018, £259 million had been paid to BT for broadband roll-out. Lower costs and higher take-up is expected to enable around

60,000 more premises to be reached than originally planned.

An Audit Scotland spokesperson explained: 'People's experience of broadband speeds is often lower than those claimed, depending on technology and the package chosen.'

'The Reaching 100 per cent programme says every home

and business will have access to superfast broadband (speeds of 30 Mb/s or more) by the end of 2021.

'The report also points out that Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) did not deliver on its anticipated benefits. CBS was set up to back local initiatives, but only 13 of the 63 it helped finance have proved successful. The

report says lessons need to be learned from this.'

Attempts failed last year to save Mull's 'groundbreaking' £1 million project to bring superfast broadband to 1,600 homes in Argyll's remote blackspots after its contractor went bust.

The four-year-old scheme, hoping to bring superfast broadband to Mull, Iona,

Lismore, Colonsay, Luing, Islay, Jura and the Craignish peninsula, was granted £988,000 from CBS, and had spent at least £700,000.

GigaPlus Argyll's chosen contractor, AB Internet, went into administration in May, burdening it with eight masts on Mull it could not use, after only two houses were connected.

## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Regular eye tests more vital than ever with ageing workforce

WITH an ageing population and record number of older people in work, Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are reminding people of the importance of regular eye tests to maintain and protect their sight.

There are now more than 1.2 million Brits aged over 65 working as people continue to live longer and healthier lives. Yet research\* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all sight loss is avoidable. Early detection is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years as recommended.

Hairy Bikers star Dave Myers has teamed up with Specsavers and RNIB this National Eye Health Week (24-30 September) to help raise awareness of the importance of eye tests. The 61-year-old was diagnosed with glaucoma seven years ago following a routine visit to the opticians. It could have affected his career, but swift detection has protected the chef's sight by enabling him to successfully manage the condition with daily eye drops.

'I was shocked because I had no symptoms, but if it had gone unnoticed, I could have gone blind. Like so many people, my career is my passion and it's so hard to imagine doing all the things I love if I couldn't see.'

RNIB interim CEO Eliot Lyne added: 'Research shows that the older you are, the greater your chances of developing an eye condition, so it is very important that people book themselves in for an eye test every two years.'



'With the right support, people with sight loss can continue working, and if you are an employer, RNIB and other organisations can help you to properly support a member of staff who is losing their sight.'

'Advances in technology mean that blind and partially sighted people can now overcome many of the barriers to work that they faced in the past, and government schemes like Access to Work mean that many of the costs can be met.'

All Specsavers optometrists are accredited in detecting and monitoring glaucoma, cataracts and other eye health conditions. To complement their skills, Specsavers and RNIB have also launched eye health training for Specsavers' non clinical teams, including optical assistants and frame stylists, to ensure that whoever a customer first sees in-store is sympathetic to their eye care needs.

To book your free NHS-funded eye examination visit [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk) or call 0800 0680 241.

Free eye examination funded by the Scottish Government and available in Scotland only.

\* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.



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Transforming eye health

OT

# College set for graduations

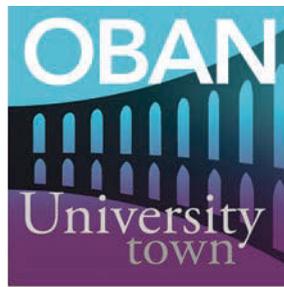
by Susan Szymborski-Welsh  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

September is a busy month for the University of the Highlands and Islands, with graduations taking place around the partnership and new students starting their courses.

In this coming academic year, SAMS UHI will host 44 postgraduate students, 36 of whom are University of the Highlands and Islands' students. The previous academic year was the first time students outnumbered staff at the Oban-based institute.

Argyll College UHI's graduation ceremony will take place tomorrow (Friday September 28). Dee Bradbury from Oban, president of the Scottish Rugby Union, will deliver the keynote address at the event.

The 2018 Argyll College UHI Higher Education Student of the Year award will be presented to Helen McGuigan



from Oban. Helen completed an HND in administration and information technology and will now progress to the third year of a BA business degree with the University of the Highlands and Islands.

She was nominated for consistently achieving excellent academic results and being a supportive and motivating classmate.

Helen's tutor, John Brett, explained: 'Helen often goes the extra mile for the class. She was a good motivator within the group as she would always provide encouragement to classmates, and ensured that less confident students were

## Capitalise on growing student numbers

**There were more than 800 students based in Oban last year, but that is number which is set to grow.**

**Higher education campuses in the Oban area include the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS UHI), Ballet West and Argyll College UHI, which, along with SAMS, is a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands.**

**Is your business making the most of this opportunity? A growing student population can mean more potential customers and a larger pool of potential employees.**

**To help businesses tap into this student market, the Oban as a University Town project is collating a student information pack, which will include a list of businesses offering special deals for students.**

**If anyone would like their student offer listed, free, email the details to Polly.Crooks@sams.ac.uk by October 10, including the business's name, website, contact details and a summary of the student offer.**

**A student offer does not have to be a discount: it could involve a free gift, an upgrade, a student night or event, a loyalty programme, recommend a friend, or tailored products or services.**

**To find out more about Oban as a University Town visit [www.obanunitown.org](http://www.obanunitown.org)**

brought into class discussions and were made to feel welcomed.' Helen will be presented with a certificate

and a cheque for £100 at the graduation ceremony.

The event will also see the first cohort of students from the college's Helensburgh campus graduate.

The University of the Highlands and Islands' ceremonial mace is used at graduation ceremonies across the region from August to October. It was designed by Edinburgh College of Art, made by silversmiths Hamilton and Inches and gifted by the universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Strathclyde in 2011.

The mace symbolises the landscape of Highlands and Islands region. It is made from silver and wood and features detail in gold and other mixed metals. The ornamentation symbolises sand, water and air, while the lower mount has gold wires depicting mountains. A plate at the bottom of the mace reflects the theme of water and waves.

The University of the

Highlands and Islands is fully involved in the idea of Oban as a University Town, building on its growing presence at Argyll College UHI and SAMS UHI.

The university is represented on the steering committee and it has colleagues in the four project teams. Its employment engagement officers have supported the project, providing market research data for project proposals.

It has been delighted to see new opportunities opening up in recent years such as teacher education, which will see newly qualified teachers who live and will work in the area coming through at graduation.

The graduation will be an encouragement to new students just starting out and able to study in the area. UHI is committed to support Oban as a University Town as the steering group further develops its strategy for the future.

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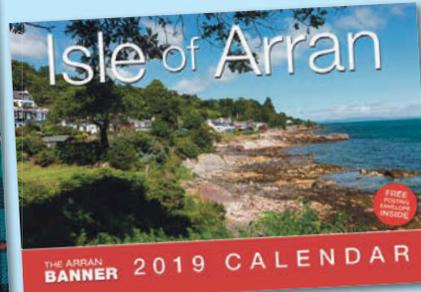
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# Event raises cash for brave Harris

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



Proceeds from this year's community bonfire and fireworks night in Dunbeg will go to a three-year-old boy who has leukemia.

Harris McGougan, who lives in the village, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia last year.

Event organiser James MacDonald said: 'His family have had a nightmare so this year Dunbeg is going to give them a night to remember.'

The bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm on Saturday November 3 at the Lochnell Road car park.

Last year's display raised a total of £2,500 for Oban High School Pipe Band.

Revealing why the organisers wanted to raise money for Harris and his family, James



**Harris McGougan has shown huge courage in suffering numerous treatments for his medical condition.**

said: 'Over the past year he has been living at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. It was full-on - from bone marrow tests, blood transfusions, many chemotherapy sessions, infection and much more.'

'His mum said the treatment "drained the life out of him".'

'Harris goes to Glasgow every Tuesday for blood tests. He has oral chemotherapy

every night if his bloods are okay. Every month he has to have chemotherapy intravenously and every three months has to be put under anaesthetic to have chemotherapy in his spine. This is one courageous little boy.'

James is now on the hunt for donations, whether that be a raffle prize, bottle stall contribution or money.

'Any donation you can make

would be greatly appreciated and we would like to thank you in advance,' he added.

Anyone wishing to make a donation by cheque can do so by making it payable to Dunbeg Development Committee.

The community bonfire and fireworks night was re-established in 2016 by James, his family and a merry band of volunteers.

The 2016 event raised a total of £1,800, with £500 of it going to Dunbeg Primary School to fund a new projector. Last year's display was even bigger.

Speaking afterwards, James said: 'It was absolutely outstanding and the fireworks were apparently brilliant - I couldn't see because I was underneath them. There were so many people there, you couldn't park in Dunbeg.'

## Argyll and Bute aims to reduce landfill waste

Argyll and Bute Council is upping its efforts to reduce waste going to landfill.

The council agreed that it needs a waste strategy that meets government regulations, explores commercial opportunities from waste and encourages closer working with businesses.

The top priority is to prevent waste in the first place, followed by re-use, recycling and recovery.

In 2017, 48 per cent of waste in Argyll and Bute was recycled, composted or recovered. This has to increase substantially in order to comply with the 2021 BMW landfill ban.

As well as looking at technology solutions to deal with waste, the council will also consider how it can work with the third sector and businesses to redistribute surplus food.

Training and education in food waste reduction will be an important strand of the strategy.

The council also states that training and education in food waste will be an important



Councillor Roddy McCuish.

part of the strategy, possibly including online information on the best ways to cut down.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for environment, development and infrastructure, said: 'Here in Argyll and Bute we recycle almost half of our waste, and we thank our residents for their efforts. There is still some way to go to meet government targets.'

'We are privileged to live in a region with natural beauty and clean air. To preserve this, we need to find a way of reducing the environmental impact of waste right across Argyll and Bute.'

**The Rotary Club of Oban has donated £3,000 to The Rockfield Centre to enable the creation of a community arts programme for the opening of the main building. The money is to provide a 'messy space' to support wide engagement in community arts for all ages. The Rotarians' cash will be matched by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust.**



## Coorie in this autumn with tea and cake

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Autumn is here with a vengeance now and it is beautiful. I even like the darker nights, drawing the curtains and getting to coorie in.

The darker nights don't seem to have put the visitors off but I think the lovely colours and slightly wilder weather are an attraction in themselves.

There's nothing like a windy walk through the woods or on the beach to make you feel really alive and then on to somewhere nice for tea and cake to warm up again.

And we're not short of fabulous places serving all sorts of refreshments - it is hard to choose where to go sometimes. Oban is overflowing with places to eat and drink, from

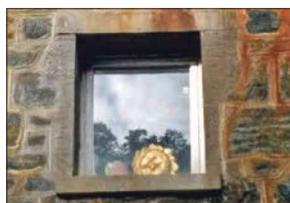
a full Scottish breakfast to a five-star dining experience and everything in between.

I really struggle trying to choose where to go and when a visitor asks for a recommendation then I tie myself in knots trying to explain that if they want anything from fish and chips sitting on the sea wall to a lovely restaurant, then they could just walk in anywhere and be delighted with what they get.

Tomorrow (Friday) is going to be a perfect example of tea and cake uniting people as the town joins together to host coffee mornings for the Macmillan Cancer Support World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Lots of businesses in the town take part in this every year and the effort they put in and support they receive from customers is amazing.

### WHERE IS THIS?



Our wee office on Stevenson Street is taking part this year again along with too many other businesses to list but if you see the purple and green bunting or posters then please do pop in and support them. It is a wonderful sociable thing to do, it helps a good cause, and you get tea and cake.

Last week's photo was of the plaque on the wall of the Corran Halls, which should have been quite easy to identify, but I'm not sure how easy this week's photo will be but good luck.



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OT

## Top chef Gary backs Dalmally based charity

MasterChef winner Gary Maclean is teaming up with Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals to celebrate World Porridge Day on Wednesday October 10.

Mary's Meals provides nutritious meals in school to more than 1.3 million impoverished children in 17 countries. For children receiving meals in Malawi, Zambia and Liberia, the simple bowl of likuni phala (vitamin-enriched porridge) attracts them to school and provides the nourishment and energy needed to focus on their education.

This October, the charity is inviting people across the UK to join its World Porridge Day celebrations by creating their own Porridge Smiles to share online and raise vital funds and awareness.

Porridge Smiles can be shared on social media using #PorridgeSmiles, while donations can be made by texting OATS18 £2 to 70070.



Author Jess Smith packed the big hall at Benderloch.



Kellan MacInnes was interviewed by Breege Smyth.

# Bookends is

by David McPhee  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

The Victory Hall in Benderloch was packed with people – and books – on Saturday for the launch of this year's Bookends Festival.

Joy Cameron and her nine-year-old assistant Elizabeth Needham declared the Bookends festival open just after 3pm.

Joy then read a poem to the audience titled I Opened a Book by Julia Donaldson.

'Welcome to Bookends 2018. I want to thank everyone who has had anything to do with putting the festival together,' she added. 'To the librarians, the people who built the shelves, who brought books and the people here today.'

Over the weekend a number of events took place with renowned authors.

They proved popular with Jess Smith's Travellers tales and songs topping of a terrific weekend, also comprising Kellan MacInnes, Morven



Enjoying quiet moments in the Reading Room.

May MacCallum and Alasdair Satchel.

Campbell Cameron said: 'Earlier in the week Fletcher Mather and Alasdair McCrone were immense. The pair made us happy, sad, angry, delighted and enchanted all in one show. Incredibly, they played all 14 parts in Jim Cartwright's tragi-comedic play set in a Highland pub – an immense undertaking delivered with style and aplomb.'

Events continue today (Thursday), with a bookbind-

ing and gold tooling workshop tonight in the Victory Hall from 7.30pm.

Friday night will see the Hollow Mountain String Band playing, and on Saturday the festival will come to an end with authors Lorn McIntyre and Lachlan Munro.

The reading room will be open throughout from 11am until 6.30pm, where people can browse or borrow books or chat among themselves.

For more information, visit [www.bookends.scot](http://www.bookends.scot).

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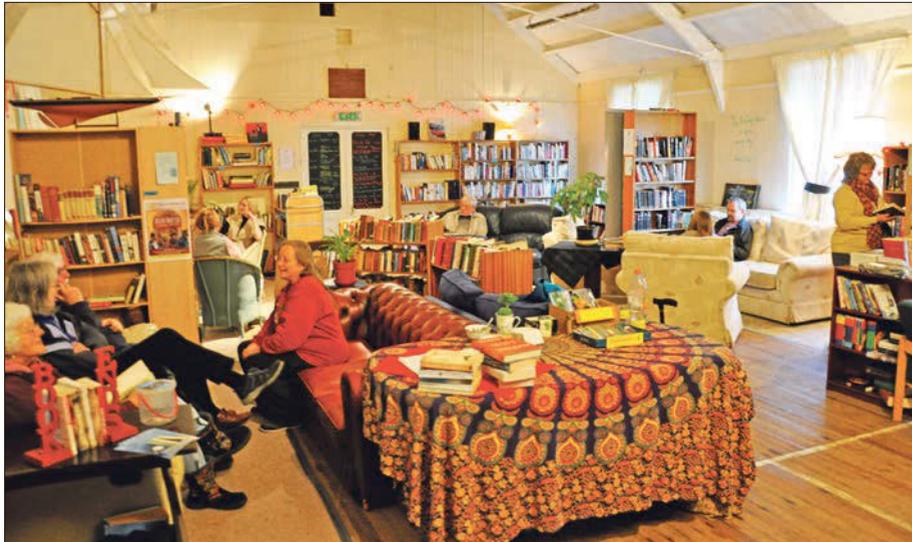
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# in full swing



The reading room will be open from 11am until 6.30pm. 17\_T39\_Bookends03

## Fringe week pops up at Bookends

Just when you think Bookends Festival couldn't get any better – up pops its fringe week.

The celebration of the written word rolls from this week's heaving programme of authors, workshops and storytelling sessions right on to Friday October 5.

Bookends' home at the Reading Room in Benderloch's Victory Hall will be open every day from Monday October 1 until the end of the fringe week, 11am to 6.30pm, for people to browse pre-loved and new books, swap them, share them or even take them home. The kettle will be on, says festival co-ordinator Joy Cameron.

Former teacher Sharon Wilkie-Jones will be at the fringe's first session on October 1 at 7.30pm telling how a creative arts project is raising awareness of homelessness. From humble beginnings in 2015, SHARE is now a successful social enterprise project producing three anthologies a year while juggling a host of other inspiring student campaigns getting word out about the plight of rough sleepers.

On Tuesday October 2 at 11.30am, Kirsty MacIntosh from Cosy Corner Bookshop will be in the Reading Room for storytelling sessions suitable for pre-school children. At 7.30pm, get your sea-legs ready for Sea Passages at 7.30pm, a peep through the porthole at how a group of community writers created a collection of short stories about ferry crossings and got them published. There will also be the chance to hear some of those stories from that voyage.



Alison Dawson and Joan MacDonald have stories in Sea Passages as part of fringe week.

Join station master's daughter Sheila Weir on Wednesday October 3 from 3pm for reminiscences of her life during and after the Second World War on the Ballachulish Line. The audience is cordially invited to keep this nostalgic session on track and bring along their own memories to share.

Then Terry Donovan from Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative gets hands on at 7pm leading an Upcycling Workshop for adults. Terry will bring along a variety of picture frames, tools and materials for people to get creative. There is room for 10 people. A donation to LORI is your ticket into this event. Book by emailing terry.donovan@grab.org or calling 07762 924745.

On Thursday, October 4 at 2pm Oban's Bob Toynton, who published his poetry collection Birds the Colours and Shapes of Leaves earlier this year, will be talking about 'the practicalities, the problems, the fears and the positive feelings' of taking the plunge from writing for yourself to putting 'a proper book of poetry out there' for the consumption of others.

'Some of these I only recog-

nised too late for this book. I'm now working, slowly, towards a second. I'd love to be able to help others achieve this too,' he said.

Stories of real-life farmers taking back control of their lives and livelihoods, refusing to be ground down by the machinery of agri-business will be screened at 7pm, hosted by Awakening in Argyll. In Our Hands is a 67-minute documentary filmed during 2016. Entry is by donation.

Friday's finale for this year kicks off with singer-songwriter Chris Bennett performing powerful Ballads Of Our Time. His cleverly crafted lyrics have produced 'heart-rending, thought-provoking pieces that will make you smile and wonder, inspire and challenge you', says Joy.

Chris will make-way for Grumpy Old Women storming the stage at 7.30pm to rant at the world then put it right again. 'This follows on from last year's very successful fringe finale Grumpy Old Men, when several opinionated women tell you how they actually got it wrong last year and how we're going to get it right. Audience participation expected,' said Joy.

Go to bookends.scot



Campbell Cameron, Alasdair Satchel, Elizabeth Needham and Jamie Forbes at the first event. 17\_T39\_Bookends01



Joy Cameron and nine-year-old Elizabeth Needham declared the Bookends festival open. 17\_T39\_Bookends02

## Western Isles tops national measurement

Western Isles Council has come out top for 16-19-year-olds in the 2018 Annual Participation Measure Report by Skills Development Scotland.

The Annual Participation Measure Report is used to inform policy, planning and service delivery, and to assess progress in the delivery of Opportunities for All, the Scottish Government's commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19-year-old in Scotland not in employment, education or training. The annual methodology takes account of all statuses of 16-19-year-olds in Scotland over one calendar year. For the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area, the 2018 publication shows an increase in participation rates among people aged 16 to 19 with the proportion of young people in education, training or employment increasing to 97.6 per cent (compared to 91.8 per cent nationally), 0.7 percentage points up on the 2017 figure.

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Judge Malcolm Hill was dressed for the occasion.  
17\_T39\_StoneSkimming15



There was a long queue to get off the island.  
17\_T39\_StoneSkimming16



Last year's champion, Keisieke Hashimoto, hit the back wall, but couldn't retain his title. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming03

# Hundreds skim to



Last year's champion, Keisieke Hashimoto with Catriona Melville. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming09

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

The World Stone Skimming Championships on Easdale Island engrossed hundreds of people this weekend – and even Red Bull were interested in the annual event.

The energy drink company set up a large tent and handed out free cans.

Organiser Donald Melville said: "They are considering sponsoring the event. They came down to see what it was like. I got an email from them saying thanks for a good day.

"They will go back and report, so we will see. They are keen to find out more. I don't know

what will come from it, if anything, but I think it ties in with Red Bull's Soapbox Race – that quirkiness."

Due to the number of people attending the event, there was a one-hour-plus wait to leave Easdale on Sunday, despite two boats going back and forth as quickly as they could.

There was a new world champion this year: Peter Szep from Hungary. He came out on top in a five-person, three-stone skim-off. In difficult conditions, Peter managed to hit the back wall and then with his other two attempts throw a total of 122 metres.

He saw off tough competition, including last year's

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Crowds of people crammed into the quarry for the competition. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming05



Around 350 people took part in the competition. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming07



There was fierce competition at the championships. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming12

# Easdale Island

winner Keisieke Hashimoto, who travelled all the way from Japan to defend his title.

Donald, whose voice was a little hoarse, said: 'It went very well. The weather behaved itself. I think everyone had a really good time. Lots of folk were happy and laughing. That's the main thing. I want everyone to go away having enjoyed themselves.'

There were around 350 competitors. 'The day seemed to go like clockwork,' Donald added. 'I don't think anything went wrong. We were happy the rain did not come to much.'

'The weather conditions at the end made it tricky to know who would win as there was

a bit of a chop in the water. There were five people who made it through (by hitting the back wall) into the three-stone skim-off.'

In the men's competition, Peter Szep was the overall winner and world champion. Ron Long won the Old Tosser, and Jamie Melville won the Bertie.

Lucy Wood was the best woman on the day, throwing 38m, and Irene Tulloch was the women's Old Tosser.

Cameron Hunter and Bea Del Priore were the junior champions, while Izen Bird and Lulu Bell were the under-10 winners.

After the event, there was a dance to celebrate.



Catriona Melville and Matt Rippon. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming11



Some competitors had a small warm up before their official throw. 17\_T39\_StoneSkimming13

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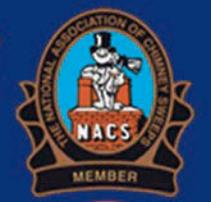
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Mr O'Hara and Joan Salter.

## Argyll MP meets Holocaust survivor

At the launch of Holocaust Memorial Day for 2019, Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara listened to Joan Salter MBE, a child survivor of the Holocaust, describe how, at the age of three, she was forced to flee from Europe to America in 1943 without her parents.

Holocaust Memorial Day, whose theme for 2019 is Torn from home, is held on January 27 each year and remembers the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

# Lifeboat launches in storm

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called out in storm force winds to search for a vessel reported as being adrift and in possible distress.

At 12.27pm on Wednesday September 19, the crew launched to aid the vessel to the north-east of Lismore.

The lifeboat with seven crew arrived in the area shortly after 1pm and recorded wind speeds of a steady 56 knots.

The incident began with a 999 call to the UK Coastguard from a member of public concerned for the safety of a boat near Lismore. The description suggested that it was adrift and in distress.

Searches were made by

the lifeboat and Oban and Appin Coastguard Rescue Teams as far north as Cuil Bay, checking all inlets and moorings along the way. The search was broadened during the afternoon to include the Coastguard rescue helicopter R199 based in Prestwick and also Fort William Coastguard Rescue Team.

As the search continued, Oban lifeboat was released to make contact with one of the first informants on Lismore, coming alongside at Achnacroish Pier and gaining further information.

At 4.03pm it was decided that the area had been thoroughly searched and the reports were likely to be a false alarm with good intent.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The perceptions of people towards us and, similarly, our own perceptions of others carry myriad inaccuracies that inevitably malign the subject of judgement.

We can only judge as we see and what we see is usually only a fraction of the overall picture. How we perceive that fraction of a picture changes with context and how we see ourselves at a given glimpse of time in a certain situation.

It is, of course, an essential and constant part of life to make conscious and subconscious judgement of others but the conclusions we reach can never be totally accurate.

It is a lifetime's work, even to judge inwardly on ourselves and try to work out why we are the way we are, why we do the things we do, what we're good at, what we're not, what we should be doing with our lives and what we shouldn't.

For someone else to glance in a tiny and clouded window on our lives and come to definite conclusions about what they see

is in most cases ridiculous, but we all do it.

Meeting people when years have elapsed is a situation that often most starkly illustrates just how misplaced judgements can be.

The following is a fairly clumsy observation on the subject.

### **The Movement of the Mind**

*We all are many people with layers running deep,*

*With complex contradictions in what we do and speak.*

*The nature of the mind is one of many parts*

*Personality and character, our feelings and our hearts.*

*You're a doer, you're a dreamer, you're a lover, you're a fighter.*

*You're a waster, high achiever, you can't read and you're a writer.*

*You're a drunkard, always sober, you're an athlete, you're unfit,*

*You've got steeled determination and you always like to quit.*

*You're a genius, you are stupid, you are able, you're a fool.*

*You are greedy, you are kind, you're a slave and born to rule.*

*You are charming, you are rude, you are selfish, you're a saint.*

*You're a violent raving madman, you're a native, dull and quaint.*

*The views of other people are our biggest fear and threat.*

*It's in the ways of man to look how other people bet;*

*But what they find comes to their mind when judging you or me*

*Depends which part of them they show and what they want to see.*

*The way we act it differs with what piece of us we bare.*

*This always moves and changes, worry not what people say.*

*We'll never solve how minds evolve in wild conflicting ways*

*But acceptance of the self is the road to tranquil days.*

*Discontentment is a product of deciding who to be*

*The striving need to pigeon-hole what other people see.*

*Accept our many facets unconfined by other's view*

*Steer your course with wisdom - 'to thine own self be true'.*

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# BUSINESS NEWS

Send us your business news by emailing:  
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## Business Gateway tops satisfaction survey

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute achieved top ranking for meeting customer expectations last year, according to an independent customer satisfaction survey.

The survey showed 94 per cent of respondents saying their expectations were met as well as 93 per cent saying their business would benefit from the support provided.

Overall customer satisfaction from users of the service in Argyll and Bute is consistently above the national average for Scotland.

In the last quarter, 100 per cent of respondents to the customer satisfaction survey said that they had got what they wanted from an adviser.

More than 300 meetings with local business advisers have already been completed in the first six months of this year and the team is keen to hear from anyone looking for help to start or grow a business in Argyll.

Recent comments from firms supported by a business adviser include:

'Very helpful as my situation was quite tricky to explain and the adviser was able to tell me what I needed to do';

'Very knowledgeable about businesses. Made great suggestions and guided us to relevant information and contacts';

'The adviser dealing with my plan was very



Angela Vernel of Business Gateway Argyll and Bute has a background in investment, having worked for many years for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

helpful, always smiling and cheery. They led me in a good direction to get started with my plans';

'Listened to our worries and questions with regard to what we are hoping to do. Our business has been running for many years and we are losing footfall and need to try another approach. The adviser was extremely understanding and suggested possible ways to help';

'Really helpful, realistic, honest and gave clear advice on next steps. It was a very new idea and they took it seriously.'

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

Angela has also been involved in the property sector and run her own tourism business abroad. Angela holds the Premier Adviser qualification and also has a BA in accountancy.

To book an appointment with Angela in the Oban area call 01546 604555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

## Workshops will help businesses

Business Gateway also offers a wide range of free-to-attend workshops, covering 25 topics including marketing, PR, HR, customer service, book-keeping, business start-up, as well as workshops on 13 digital topics ranging from Twitter to data analytics to creating video content for social media.

So far this year, 33 workshops have been held across Argyll and Bute, with well in excess of 300 attendees in total.

Spaces are still available at the Oban workshops coming up soon, including PR on a Budget on October 1, Business Start-Up on October 3 and 4, Reaching More Customers on October 26, Build Your Own Business Website on October 30, Introduction to Online Trading on November 22 and Video Production for Social Media on November 29. Book with the team or online at [www.bgateway.com/events](http://www.bgateway.com/events).

As well as assisting small businesses, Business Gateway works with both Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise to identify companies with high growth potential and support them through a growth pipeline.

To find out how Business Gateway could help you, contact the local team on 01546 604 555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).



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**Parking 'chaos' worries council**

Conflicting views of Oban's parking problems caused feelings to run high at Monday night's meeting of the town's community council.

A regional councillor said that the public must be educated on the subject of parking regulations or else the town would grind to a halt.

Mr Henderson said that while Mr David Chais agreed there were additional traffic warden posts needed at the moment, it was felt that there is only one warden to enforce Oban's parking regulations.

Mr Henderson said that while showing a complete disregard for traffic regulations, he added that he had told the divisional road engineer that there was no point in bringing in further regulations for Oban when the present ones were not respected.

The district councillor William Thomas said that members of the public were being told to "keep the people out of Oban". He said: "A warden such as is being suggested here, though, would ensure that Oban's

The cutting from The Oban Times dated September 4, 1980.

**Parking turns out to be a historic problem**

by Martin Laing  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Parking is a hot topic in the Oban area, and has been for some weeks now since the introduction of a new system of charging.

But it is not an entirely new source of controversy.

Andrew McIntyre, from Backwoodsman Engineering Ltd at Barcaldine, last week sent a cutting to The Oban Times from an edition of the newspaper dated September 4, 1980.

Andrew said: 'Just found this in our archives. It would seem that parking "chaos" has worried the council for nearly 40 years. For people younger than me, it will be interesting to see what measures will be taken over the next 40 years to resolve this.'

The story from 1980 says: 'Conflicting views of Oban's parking problems caused feelings to run high at Monday night's meeting of the town's community council.'

A regional councillor said that the public must be educated on the subject of parking regulations or else the town would grind to a halt but a district councillor voiced his concern that Oban's economy would be severely damaged by a "witchhunt", such as that being advocated by some members of the council.

'Attending Monday's meeting was Superintendent Robert MacBrayne, of Strathclyde Police, who said that the problem affecting Oban was two-fold - the sheer weight of traffic coming into the town plus the lack of enforcement.'

It seems little has changed in nigh on 40 years.

# Legendary Moidart

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



'I sprang to the stirrup, and Joris, and he; I galloped, Dirck galloped, we galloped all three; Good speed! cried the watch, as the gate-bolts undrew; Speed! echoed the wall to us galloping through. Behind shut the postern, the lights sank to rest, and into the midnight we galloped abreast.'

How they Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix by Robert Browning, is one of my favourite poems.

In a strange sort of way, it reminds me of Alex Richardson, the Polloch postie, making his way up Glenhurich on his old motorbike in the 1950s to deliver our letters which had come down Loch Shiel by boat from Glenfinnan earlier that morning.

He and we, of course, were lucky that he had motorised transport, albeit two wheels, in that small and remote part of the world then. Others, elsewhere in the Highlands, were not so fortunate; poste restante being much more common than post haste.

In 1895, when Royal Mail opened its first office at Genuig in Moidart on the south side of the Sound of Arisaig, it employed local crofter Angus MacDonald to carry the mail to and from Lochailort. There was no road in those days so Angus negotiated the old bridle path as best he could in all weathers, not on foot or a bicycle, but by pony which he himself provided.

For 40 years Angus made this 18-mile journey, six days a week, summer and winter, delivering and collecting letters and packages from Alisary, Irine and Roshven along the way.

He never missed a day and when he died in 1936, aged 73, his total distance on horseback was reckoned to have exceeded 260,000 miles.

His horse was called Johnny and, while Angus was having a meal and dealing with the mail in the post office beside the Lochailort Inn before it moved up to the nearby railway sorting office in 1901, Johnny was enjoying his lunch of hay and oats courtesy of Royal Mail. It was its only contribution towards Angus's travelling expenses although I have no doubt that in Moidart, being one of the most hospitable places in the Highlands, then and now, both he and his sturdy pony would

have been well cared for by their many friends along the way.

Fodder in lieu of the more usual type of fuel, was, if I recall correctly, also given to my old friend Eoghain MacLachlainn, an ex-captain in the Argylls formerly of Tobermory, after he moved to South Uist in 1972 so that his children might learn colloquial Gaelic.

As there was no road from his remote croft to the nearest primary school, and therefore no school bus, the only alternative was for his four children to travel on ponies for which their father, a passionate and uncompromising Gael, successfully claimed a hay allowance from the local authority.

When the Rev Samuel Mclasaac, interim priest of Moidart, organised a petition in 1919 to build a new road from Lochailort to Genuig, Angus was one of the signatories. Unfortunately, Mrs Christian Head, the owner of Inverailort Estate at the time, went against it on the grounds that her privacy would be compromised. Nothing came of the proposal, leaving Angus and Johnny to trudge over the Bealach Breac and the Allt a' Phiobair, rain hail or shine, for a few more decades.

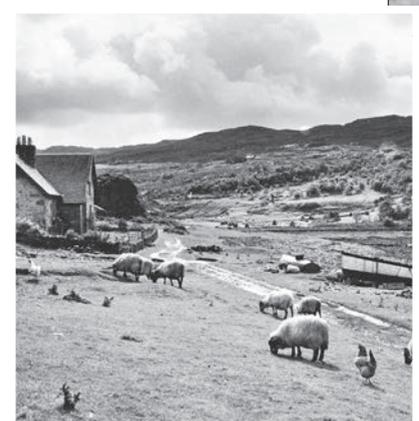
It was not until 1963, thanks to the persistent efforts of Lucretia Cameron-Head, Christian's daughter-in-law and the Inverness County Councillor for Moidart, that a fine new road was constructed along the rocky shoreline from Lochailort to Kinlochmoidart connecting Genuig and the outlying townships of Smirisary and Samalaman, to the rest of the world.

After Angus died, his niece, Christina Kennedy (1884-1962), continued working for Royal Mail as the Genuig postmistress, of whom it was said in an appreciation published in The Oban Times in July 1962 she 'knew so much and told so little'.

She was followed by her niece, Jean Kennedy, who was the last postmistress in the glen before the office was transferred to Inverailort Castle in 1988 where she continued until shortly before she died.

When I was researching this piece, I was disappointed for Angus's family not to find an obituary or an appreciation recording his long and remarkable service. It would be a graceful act by the Moidart History Group if it would remedy this oversight by erecting a plaque somewhere in Genuig to his memory.

Postmen in Angus's day had to be persons of unimpeachable character and required certificates to that effect from the parish clergyman or a Justice of the Peace. The slightest



misconduct or mistake could result in instant dismissal or worse, as the following example well illustrates.

In August 1828, 18-year-old Allan Maclean, a Tobermory postman, opened a mailbag and removed an envelope addressed to Tobermory solicitor James Nisbett from John Beith, a merchant and banker in Campbeltown, containing £50 in bank notes. He tore up the letter and threw it and the envelope onto the shore where it was later found and handed to the police.

Maclean was apprehended and eventually appeared in the Edinburgh High Court on a capital charge, meaning one punishable by death. As the charge had to be read in English and because Maclean could speak only Gaelic, Ranald MacDonald, the former laird of Staffa, was sworn in as an interpreter.

It was interesting to read in an account of the trial, that the Lord Justice Clerk had said that in such cases the indictment should have been

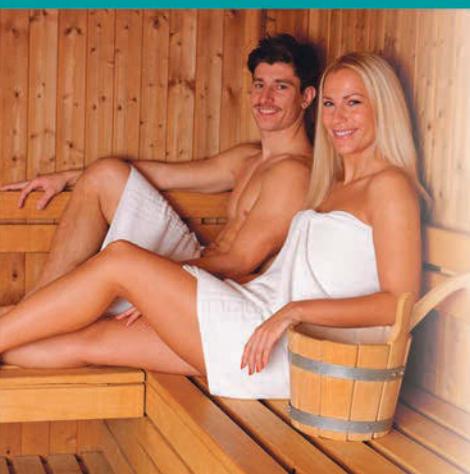


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# pony post



Angus MacDonald and Johnny on the track between Lochailort and Glenuig, 1933 (Photograph: A Beveridge); Angus MacDonald's grand-niece, Miss Jean Kennedy, postmistress at Inverailort Castle Post Office, 1983 (Photograph: Iain Thornber); and Glenuig Village in the 1950s before the arrival of the new road from Lochailort (Photograph: E Meadows).

in Gaelic for the benefit of the accused and others present.

Maclean pleaded guilty and, through the interpreter, told the court that he first went to a Neil McPhail to count the money and next to buy horses and boats. As soon as he had been arrested and learned of the seriousness of his crime, Maclean made a full confession.

Mr J W Dickson, his legal representative, spoke on his behalf saying that until he had committed the offence he had always been a useful and honest boy of good character. Notwithstanding this plea in mitigation, the Lord Justice Clerk reminded the judges that Maclean, as a servant of the Post Office, had violated the trust placed in him and they were, therefore, 'bound to inflict such punishment

as would show to all in the service, that it was their sacred duty to faithfully discharge the trust reposed in them'.

Sentence of transportation for life was pronounced on December 1, 1828. Allan was shackled and incarcerated in a floating hulk until May 22, 1829, when he left in a cage with 187 other prisoners for a penal colony in New South Wales, Australia, aboard a ship called the John. The voyage took 109 days.

It would be interesting to know what became of Allan and if he was eventually released. History has not told us yet, but one thing is certain: he must often have regretted what he did as he laboured beneath the hot Australian sun thousands of miles from Tobermory and Mull of the high cool bens.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph from The Oban Times archive dates back to, we think, 1999 and shows pupils from Eigg Primary School along with youngsters from the Caribbean island of Mustique who were visiting the Small Isles.



Fort William's West End - in days of old. Photograph from the Roamer Archive.

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## LETTERS

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 4HBCongratulations to  
volunteers across  
our communities

The summer may be over and autumn arrived but it has been a hectic period in the Oban and Argyll area, with a host of community activities.

As we report today, the final We'll Walk This Road Together charity concert took place at the weekend and was, once again, a magnificent success, raising as it did in excess of £15,000 for the DMI Cancer Trust.

The trust, set up by the late Nonny MacInnes, has now generated more than £70,000 in total, a splendid testament to a highly respected and popular man.

However, there were also other, less high profile, activities taking place.

Among them was the final Oban producers' market of the year in Station Square. That initiative has been a highly successful one and will carry on next year thanks to the efforts of the hard-working team at BID4Oban.

There was also a bake sale in North Connell organised and run by children in the village which raised £145 for Children in Need. Well done to those involved.

On a literary note, The Rockfield Centre has stepped into the breach left by the temporary closure of Oban library by offering a free book borrowing service. And the Bookends Festival is in full swing.

All these admirable activities and others reflect the wonderful and resilient sense of community for which this area is renowned.

Without the selfless individuals who work behind the scenes to organise all these events, they simply would not take place. We salute you all.

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

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

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



## Fish farm threat to 'place of wonder and amazement'

I have recently discovered that Kames Fish Farming Ltd, having – justifiably – been knocked back on their proposal to site a fish farm in the Sound of Jura have now applied for permission to put one in a secluded bay on the unspoiled west coast of the island of Jura.

I believe this to be perhaps the least suitable place for any such venture and should under no circumstances be allowed. The risk of long-term environmental damage to this pristine area is too great.

Some learned sage once said: 'The economy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the environment, not the reverse.'

And here we are again – the economy versus the environment.

I've sailed the waters off the west coast of Jura and it truly feels like a last wilderness. With its rugged cliffs and hardly accessible beaches standing sentinel against the wild Atlantic, there is a sense of time slowing while the modern world recedes.

I've watched tribes of wild goats dining on seaweed, next to rookeries of common and grey seals hauled out, warming on the shoreline. Overhead, golden eagles and sea eagles wheel on the westerly winds, dwarfing the myriad gulls that pepper the skies. Gannets circle, watching, and, in a blink, sheath their scimitar wings and fall from the sky like living lightning bolts to pierce the waters.

I have encountered the lumbering bulk of basking sharks with their great, gaping maws pushing slowly through the plankton-rich water while far behind the pendulum of tail rhythmically scythes the surface. I've witnessed the sleek, arching back of Minke whales roll through the swell, and the graceful play of dolphins and porpoises are not uncommon in this stretch of ocean. I believe, once, I even caught a glimpse of the weird and wonderful tropical sunfish before it sank into the gloom.

This coast is a place of wonder and amazement, visited by and home to some of the Earth's iconic creatures and it is unique in its glory. Are we really prepared to jeopardise all this for profit? To ship some plastic-wrapped, unnaturally produced protein halfway round the globe because the newly enriched Chinese market demands it?

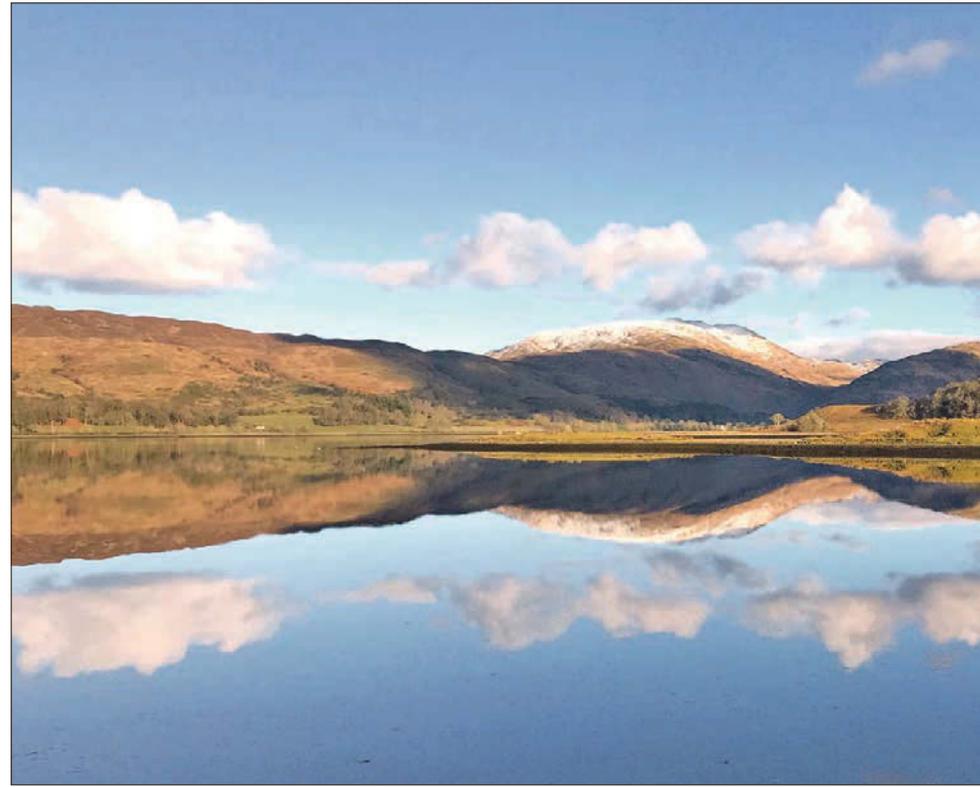
Please, no. I urge all with even the slightest regard for our natural heritage to object in the strongest terms possible and to sign the petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-proposed-fish-farm-on-west-coast-of-jura>.

**Andy Grant,  
Achnamara.**

Jura residents fear for their  
safety because of road

Jura people have been trying to have a piece of road in the area of Knockrome repaired since before Christmas.

## YOUR PICTURES



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

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

The road was 'repaired' with gravel – yes, gravel – earlier this year but the road is only getting worse and locals are concerned as winter returns.

Argyll and Bute Council seems to be ignoring the problem. It has been reported by multiple people, multiple times, months apart, on the online form but nothing has been done.

The collection of potholes is so deep you need to go into first gear and dodge them as best as

you can, and people are now taking to driving on the verges to avoid the holes but concerns are being raised of the banking leading down to the river giving way with vehicles having to mount the verge.

Emails have been sent along with photos to multiple Argyll and Bute officers but still nothing has been done. One local has taken it upon himself to email the transport minister, MSP and MP asking them to step in.

Another major concern is that this road is part of the route the ambulance has to take to get to the air ambulance. The road is in no state to be travelling along on a normal day, let alone during an emergency. It is uncomfortable for patients and risks delays or obstruction to the air ambulance, which is unacceptable.

**Nicky Mulholland,  
by email.**

Education is key in fighting  
the menace of drugs

There were a reported 934 drug-related deaths in Scotland during 2017, a number that is expected to rise.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



rant or newsagent. You and your children and your neighbours are all equally at risk.

All 'accidental' drug deaths are preventable so learn to just say no.

**Stephen Jones,**  
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.

### Rothesay work was carried out by volunteers

A few weeks ago I was painting some benches along the Rothesay sea front when I was approached by a couple who had spent 'three lovely days in Oban'.

They had told a shopkeeper in Oban that they were making their way back home via the Colintraive ferry to spend a day in Rothesay, then cross to Wemyss Bay and return south.

They were informed by that shopkeeper that 'the provost of Argyll and Bute lives there and it (Rothesay) gets all the money for improvements', quoting new lamp-posts and upgrading of the frontage.

I, as a Rothesay resident, can understand these rumours as we have always assumed, rightly or wrongly, that the main amount of council funding was allocated to the Dunoon area.

The truth is that, although we get an appreciative vocal backing from Provost Len Scoullar and our two elected councillors, Jean Moffat (Ind) and Jim Findlay (SNP), the work mentioned above was carried out voluntarily and free by my brother Gordon and myself, who are both in our 70s, with Argyll and Bute Council only supplying the paint.

We all, whether Dunoon, Oban or Rothesay, are lucky to live in some of Scotland's most beautiful areas and if the financial cuts and lack of manpower continue to erode the appearance of our individual environments, then we should be prepared to volunteer to keep the standards that we have been used to.

**Iain Gillespie,**  
Chairman, Bute in Bloom,  
East Princes Street, Rothesay.



Volunteers tend the flower beds.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo beagan làithean mus nochd e anns a' phàipear agus tha mi faicinn gum bheil deich bliadhna chun an latha an-diugh bho nochd a' chiad Beachd agam ann an Tim an Obain.

Cia mheud agaibh a th' air a bhith gam leantainn agus ag aontachadh neo ag eus-aontachadh leam thar nam bliadhnaichean sin?

Anns a' chiad phios sin a sgrìobh mi bha mi a' gabhail misneachd à fìor cheum sònraichte a bha a-nise air tachairt dhan Ghàidhlig is BBC Alba air fosgladh!

Bha mise agus luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air seirbheis craolaidh choileanta tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Cha b' iad a-mhàin Gàidheil a bhiodh a' dèanamh sogan ris a' chothrom ùr seo ach luchd-taice agus luchd-ionnsachaidh far feadh an t-saoghail, agus bha mi an dòchas gun gabhte brath air an uinneig trom faicte a-mach agus a-staigh air saoghal na Gàidhlig.

Bha ainm aig Gàidheil a bhith leis an cuid cànan a roinn le feadhainn a dh'iarradh a h-ionnsachadh ach bha mi an dòchas gun gabhte

a-nise cothrom sin a chur ceart le bhith misneachail, moiteil, agus fialaidh le ar cànan 's ar dualchas.

Deich bliadhna air adhart tha cothrom faighneachd dè an ìre gun do shoirbhich amasan BBC Alba agus cor na Gàidhlig na lùib.

Ged a bhios mòran a' cnàmhan 's a' gearan mu ath-chraoladh phrògraman cho tric 's gur mòr nach eil na briathran aig luchd-amhairc air an teanga, aig an aon àm tha sinn moiteil às a' chuid seo de cheartas mu dheireadh thall.

Agus tha seanail na Gàidhlig air fìor dheagh phrògraman a dhealbh is fhoillseachadh agus tha i air dilseachd àire-amh luchd-amhairc, fada nas motha na tha clàraichte mar luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig anns a' chunntas-sluaigh, a chosnadh agus a ghleidheadh. 'S e sàr ealantas obrach agus proifeiseantachd a thug sin gu buil, agus tha mi moiteil meal-a-naidheachd a chur air an sgioba aig MG Alba agus BBC Alba air fad!

Chan iarrainn luchd-obrach Rèidio nan Gàidheal a dhìochuimhneachadh nas mò oir tha an t-seirbheis sin daonnan againn far, agus aig amannan, nach

tèid againn air telebhisean a chleachdadh. Deagh chompanach dileas a' ceangal coimhearsnachd luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig le chèile.

Ach tha adhartas agus soirbheachas BBC Alba, mar iomairtean Gàidhlig eile, a-nise am feum tuilleadh maoin gus fàs. Tha an t-seirbheis air sin a chosnadh, agus tha luchd-amhairc airidh air an leasachadh sin cuideachd.

As I write, I realise that it is 10 years to the day since my first Beachd appeared in The Oban Times.

Welcoming the launch of BBC Alba, I shared the excitement and hope of so many for the Gaelic television channel for which we had campaigned for so long.

Ten years on, and with BBC Alba having attracted and retained viewer numbers substantially in excess of official Gaelic speaker numbers, it is clear that this service has delivered and its success, and its viewers, must now be rewarded with a substantial increase in new programme budget.

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

Fort William. This week's photograph is sent to us by Sharon Kill, who said: 'I thought you might like to use this beautiful still view over Loch Etive that I took.'



In a town such as Oban that means 1.7 more predicted deaths but today's modern designer and illegal drugs are an unknown quantity and quality, with many containing deadly chemicals of extreme toxicity.

Drug-taking is akin to Russian roulette in capsule, tablet or powder form. They can kill indiscriminately. Indeed, the youngest Scottish victim of ecstasy known as molly was just 13 years old.

The hospitalisation of nine youngsters in Scotland earlier in the year, two deaths in England at a music festival, and a 14-year-old child in Cornwall shows us that class A drugs are rife and constitute a nationwide pandemic.

The past decade has seen a doubling in drugs-related deaths in Scotland and a marked increase among young women, due to probably being mixed with alcohol. Only one in 10 users ever manages to kick their 'casual' habit. It becomes a lifelong fight.

The solution is good education in school about the dangers and being able to say no if offered drugs by a so-called friend.

The casual users or dealers of these deadly drugs may work in your library, hotel, charity shop, hairdresser, favourite café, bar, restau-

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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Belford Hospital:

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or 01631 569712

Fort William: 0845 601 4813

(child); 0800 902 0042 (adult)

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(Wednesday to Friday)

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Fort William: 01397 700944

Drinkline: 0800 7314 314

#### CHILDLINE SCOTLAND

0800 1111

#### CHILD DEATH HELPLINE

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#### SUNDAY CHEMISTS

Boots, George Street,

Oban: 01631 562517

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Other: www.argyll-bute.

gov.uk/road-faults

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## SALEN

The Mull Gaelic Choir will be hosting a concert and ceilidh in Salen Church on Saturday September 29 – just weeks before they perform at the Royal National Mòd.

The event, which starts at 7pm, will also feature music from Mull Junior Choir, Sandy MacAulay and other local musicians.

There will be homebaking, refreshments, as well as a raffle.

## TOBERMORY

Residents in Tobermory will be taking part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning this Friday (September 28) in Glen Isosal Common Room.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest fundraising event.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Mary-Jean Devon posted: 'We would appreciate any baking, raffle prizes or donations of any sort.'

'This is such a worthwhile cause which is so close to all of us and the more money we can raise, the more families will benefit.'

'At present in our own community we have people going through this traumatic journey.'

'Please please give generously and come along and join us for a cuppa.'

## APPIN

Compassionate Communities will be holding a public meeting in Port Appin Village Hall on October 16.

The event will explore how the community can reduce loneliness and isolation, as well as providing home care and repair advice.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, which runs from 11am until 3pm. There will be food and refreshments available at lunchtime.

## TYNDRUM

Tyndrum is set to benefit from



Ardnamurchan High students aboard the Tobermory lifeboat

## Lifeboat visits most westerly mainland high school

Tobermory RNLI's volunteers have been teaching students at Ardnamurchan High School, the most westerly secondary school on the British mainland, about the RNLI and water safety.

On Friday September 7, students from the S3 Scottish Studies class travelled to Salen pier to have a chance to look around Tobermory's Severn-class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, and to meet the crew.

As well as learning about the lifeboat's capabilities, they also learned about how to stay safe by the water. The crew also demonstrated how they recover a person from the water.

One week later, Tobermory RNLI education volunteer Kirsty Blackhall and lifeboat operations manager Sam Jones visited Ardnamurchan High School and gave a presentation on the work of the RNLI, crew training and

volunteering opportunities.

Simon Patterson, depute head teacher, said: 'It was great to see around the boat and meet the crew, who were friendly and informative.'

'Pupils found out all about how the RNLI is structured, the different roles within the organisation and the pathway into these careers.'

If any school or organisation is interested in visits to or talks from Tobermory RNLI, contact the station via [tobermory@rnli.org.uk](mailto:tobermory@rnli.org.uk).

vocals; Chris Amer, guitar; Gus Stirrat, bass; and Neil Paton, drums. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are free.

Killin SWI will meet in Lesser McLaren Hall on Thursday October 4 at 7.30pm. The speaker is Heather Stewart Koe, a local girl who is a marine geologist. This meeting is open to everyone, men included. The charge for visitors is £3.50 and will include tea or coffee.

## TAYNUILT

Musicians in Taynuilt are having a get together on October 1 in the village's sports pavilion.

Anyone interested in joining the party to play or learn drums and percussion should head along for 6.30pm.

As well as learning to play drums, other instruments are also welcome. Take along another instrument to weave in and around the beat eg harmonica, voice, xylophone, or whatever.

## LOCHAWE

A 'popular' guitarist in Europe and Australia will be performing at St Conan's Kirk on October 5. Tim McMillan will be performing alongside his partner and violinist Rachel Snow from 7.30pm.

## BUTE

Bute Advice Centre has been awarded a £20,000 grant from the Scottish Children's Lottery, supporting its work to help vulnerable and low income families improve their financial capability.

The funding from the Scottish Children's Lottery will enable the charity to work with Bute parents to improve financial skills, knowledge and confidence. The grant will also fund family events and day trips, promoting education, the arts and sporting opportunities.

superfast broadband by March 2019, a Stirling MSP has revealed.

The Scottish Government has committed £600 million to connecting every home and business property between now and the end of the parliament session in 2021.

MSP Bruce Crawford said: 'This is great news for Tyndrum, which will finally have access to up-to-date and reliable broadband speeds.'

'There will be slight disappointment in Crianlarich that this particular announcement has not included their community. Having met with the local community on many occasions to discuss this mat-

ter, I know how important getting connected is.

'I am encouraged by the response I received from the minister in parliament when I raised this issue and I know that the Scottish Government is committed to delivering full coverage in this parliamentary term – having committed a significant amount of funding to achieving just that.'

## KILLIN

A band that mixes traditional and worship music will be performing

at Killin Parish Church on Saturday October 27.

Celtic Worship blends traditional and contemporary worship music, infused with a Scottish Celtic sound.

They first performed during Celtic Connections at Adelaide Baptist Church in 2017.

Since then, they have performed in Scotland, Norway and Sweden. They are recording their debut album this autumn and plan to release this in 2019.

The band consists of Steph Macleod, vocals and guitar; Mhairi Marwick, fiddle; Scott Wood, bagpipes and whistle; Naomi Stirrat,

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## At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



### CalMac woes continue

Criticism of CalMac simply will not go away. The embattled ferry provider remains under fire over its inability to offer services running to timetables across its routes.

Last week Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell blasted CalMac for repeated cancellations and Islay Councillor Robin Currie contacted The Oban Times to say: 'It is unbelievable that one of the Islay ferries is removed to go on a mainland to mainland route, particularly on a holiday weekend and at the Jura Festival weekend and also when livestock are due to be transported to sales. Unacceptable.' Other Highlands and Islands MSPs and MPs as well as councillors have also been upset.

This is the end result of a lack of investment and planning over a considerable time. Robbie Drummond, CalMac's new managing director, is left firefighting the inferno of criticism but it is hardly his fault.

What the company needs, and urgently, is another vessel or two. Given how ageing its fleet is, there is an inevitability that ferries will break down and be out of service. The government should come to the rescue.

### Action at last

I wrote last July about the difficulty faced by people with mobility problems trying to cross Lochavullin Drive in Oban.

The issue for people using wheelchairs and motability scooters was that the dropped kerbs on the respective Homebase and Tesco sides of the extremely busy road were about 15 yards along from each other.

This, of course, meant that people were forced out into the traffic to try to navigate along and across the road.

I called back then for Argyll and Bute Council to act urgently to rectify the situation but nothing was done ... until now.

In the past couple of weeks, workers carrying out improvements to that stretch of road have finally done the right thing and installed dropped kerbs opposite each other.

It has only taken 14 months but at least it has been done now, so pats on the back for whoever is responsible.

### What do you think?

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



Joe Hughes, right, presents Bowmore distillery manager David Turner with the first of the defibrillators funded by Joe's sponsored kayak round the coast of Islay. Photograph and story: The Illeach

## Islay is now safer thanks to paramedic Joe

Islay is a safer place now, thanks to paramedic Joe Hughes, whose fundraising has ensured the island has a new set of defibrillators which will be available with full public access on a 24/7 basis.

The first of these vital pieces of equipment, which offer potentially life-saving support to people in cardiac arrest, has been fitted to the wall of Taste, in Bowmore. It will soon be joined by others at Port Ellen, Port Mor and Port Askaig.

It was the culmination of an epic fundraising campaign for Joe, which saw him kayak around the island - following the shoreline around Loch Indaal and so making it an even longer and more remarkable feat. He finally

completed the task a few weeks ago, having been thwarted by weather last year, while he came up agonisingly short on his first attempt earlier this summer.

With additional fundraising support and donations from generous companies connected with Islay and donations of whisky from the distilleries, which raised £2,109 at auction, Joe has raised over £8,500 to date while his efforts were recognised by a regional hero award for the islands in Argyll and Bute's Volunteer of the Year Awards 2018.

'I'm delighted we now have the first of the defibrillators commissioned. I have two ready to be installed and another on order. Robertson's, the company which carried out

the construction work for the Bruichladdich warehouses, has also donated a unit which is likely to go to the swimming pool,' said Joe.

The Taste defibrillator came as a result of fundraising by Bowmore Distillery, in conjunction with Joe, and the Bowmore team were delighted to be on hand for the final installation of the equipment.

'We are very much part of the community here in Bowmore so it is good to be able to give something back,' said distillery manager David Turner.

Kirsty-Anne McGregor, of Ardnahoe, has been working with The Oban Times to produce tourist maps marking the location of the island's defibrillators.

### RNLI races to help man in bay

Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew responded to a report of a person in the water in Tobermory Bay on Tuesday September 18.

A member of the public contacted the lifeboat station at 1.15pm to report that a man had fallen in the bay while trying to access his boat on a running mooring.

Coxswain David McHaffie swiftly activated the crew

and informed Stornoway Coastguard of the situation. Eight volunteers responded and the boarding boat, a former D Class lifeboat, was quickly launched with two crew aboard.

Tobermory's volunteer crew found that the man had managed to recover himself from the water. He was taken to the lifeboat station to be checked over.

Bunnahabhain Distillery held a farewell party for 'Long' John McGillivray, who retired after 29 years' service. John and his wife, Catriona, accepted gifts on behalf of the company and staff. All staff at Distell International wished John a long and happy retirement. The 'Other Places' cask on the Bunnahabhain road was also updated to mark the occasion.



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# OUTDOORS

## Skye otter group has 25th anniversary

November will see the 25th anniversary of the Skye-based International Otter Survival Fund.

Headquartered in Broadford, the fund now numbers supporters in 56 countries, and has supported projects in 44 countries and treated more than 200 cubs and injured otters at its hospital on Skye. Now one of the world's leading otter charities in the UK, the fund is the only charity solely dedicated to the conservation, protection and care of otters based on a quarter of a century of research in the UK and around the world.

The fund's head of operations, Dr Paul Yoxon, explained the reasons behind Skye being chosen as a base for the fund a quarter of a century ago.

'We came on a field trip to Skye in 1979 and just wanted to live there. We watched our first otter in 1980 and fell in love with them,' he explained.

'We have managed to run an international charity on Skye because it keeps us in touch with the reality of seeing them nearly every day in the wild – in London, commercially, it would have been easier, but we would have been so far removed from the animals.'

The fund will celebrate its 25th anniversary on November 16.



Otter cub Beatha is hand-fed on Skye.

Picture: Sarah Corrigan, IOSF

# New fund to help save Islay choughs

by Jack MacGregor  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A new £37,000 project on Islay is being set up to help choughs, a rare type of crow.

One of the last remaining groups of choughs in Scotland lives at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve called The Oa on the south-west of the island.

The work there will focus on the Highland and Luing cattle at the site, as their grazing affects different species of plants, some of which are vital for the choughs so they can feed on the wide range of insects the plants attract.

Their grazing also creates a short sward that allows the choughs to probe the soil for insect larvae.

Copious cowpats attract even more insects, and are particularly useful in helping young, inexperienced choughs to find natural food sources.

Choughs are charismatic members of the crow family with distinctive red legs and long red bills. Unlike other crows, they have found it difficult to adapt to a fast-changing countryside, and there are now just a few dozen breeding pairs in Scotland. One of the last remaining groups lives at The Oa.

This work is being funded by a £37,761 grant from WREN, a non-profit business that awards community grants from funds donated by FCC Environment, a waste and resource management company, through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

Meanwhile, a separate project is working to restore 280 hectares of peatland at The Oa and elsewhere in Loch Gruinart to ensure the preservation of the countryside, creating more wild habitats in the process. This is funded by Lagavulin distillery.

The project will help to create even more wild habitats, as well as storing carbon, and helping to preserve some of the island's unique wild places for future generations.

Jack Fleming, RSPB Scotland area reserves



Rare members of the crow family, choughs are easily recognisable by their red legs and long bills.

manager, said: 'Both The Oa and Loch Gruinart are large reserves, and each one presents us with unique challenges. Through scientific study and long experience, we know how to manage both sites for the extraordinary range of species that live there, but a lack of funding can limit what we're able to do.'

'A portion of the award received from WREN will go towards fencing and improving access at The Oa, both of which will help encourage our cattle into the remoter parts of the reserve that have not been as well grazed in the past.'

'Funds from Lagavulin are already going towards the restoration of hundreds of hectares of peatland at both The Oa and Loch Gruinart. Islay's peatlands are vital for wildlife, for stor-

ing carbon, and of course for the production of the island's world-famous whiskies.

'We're extremely grateful to both WREN and Lagavulin for their contribution to our work.'

Sophie Cade, grants manager at WREN, added: 'WREN is always pleased to support unique conservation projects, none more so than for the protection of iconic species such as the chough.'

Funding from Lagavulin is also going towards the production of new artwork for the visitor centre at Loch Gruinart, with 10 prints by artist Jane Smith. These will be officially launched this autumn.

To find out more about Loch Gruinart and The Oa, visit [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

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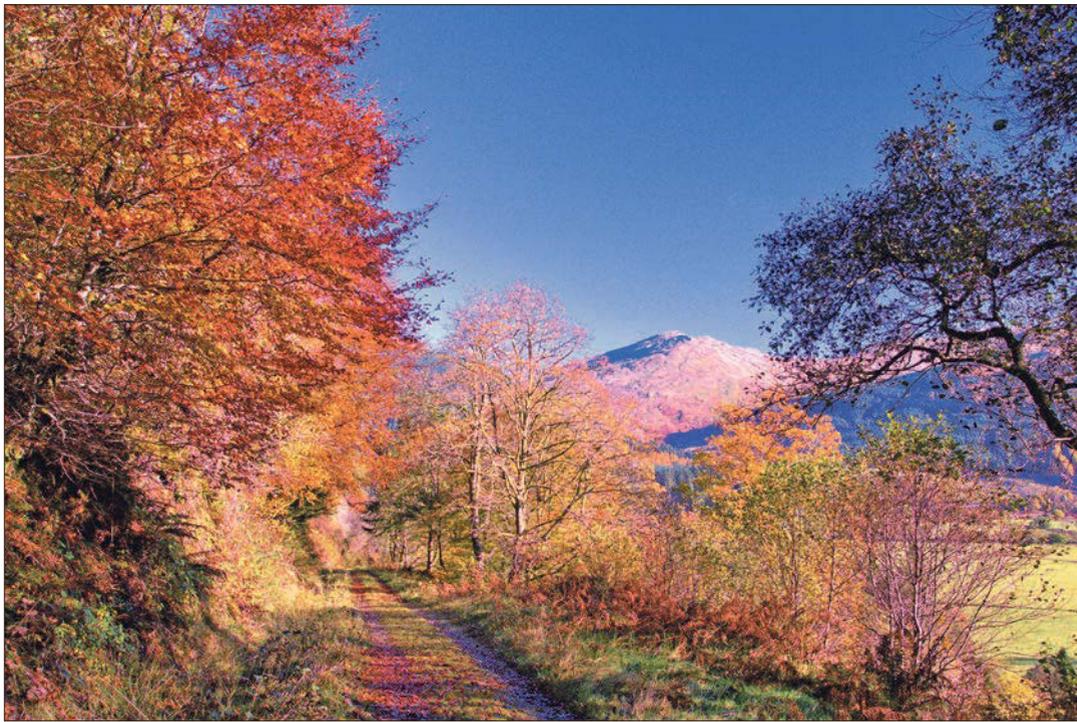
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## This week's walks



The Cowal Walking Festival has events for all levels of fitness.

# Walkers will take annual Cowal Fest in their stride

Next week sees the beginning of the annual Cowal Walking Festival, which runs from October 5 to 12.

This year's varied and exciting programme of walks, talks and outdoor events includes 14 new walks out of a total of 43 available, plus some evening activities to keep everyone entertained.

Serious challenges await the experienced walker with ascents of Cowal's highest mountains - and they are every day if participants fit enough.

If anyone needs a break in between, they can choose one of

the wooded glen or lochside social walks. For those who just want to chill out and relax, or need something to occupy a non-hiking partner, CowalFest offers guided heritage, nature, photography, culture and geology tours.

With experienced, friendly guides, folk can discover local clans, birds, botanic gardens, meditation and Gaelic.

In addition, the festival offers taster sessions in yoga, tai chi and creative writing.

For 2018, the CowalFest Hub during the festival week will be in the reception area of the Queen's

Hall, available for information, cash and card bookings, and all things CowalFest.

Buy a raffle ticket for £1 and win £100 cash prize, or £25 worth CalMac vouchers, or a Scottish salmon voucher. For further information and to book head, go to [www.cowalfest.org](http://www.cowalfest.org).

Some of the limited walks are filling up, including both Cowal Way sections, Strachur to Lochgoilhead on Tuesday October 9, and Portavadie to Kames on Thursday October 11, and a new walk, called From Hill to Shore, on the final Friday, October 12.

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](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)

#### Saturday September 29:

##### Beinn a' Bheithir, Ballachulish

A classic ridge walk with some easy scrambling on the ascent and great views down Loch Linnhe. The descent completes the route.

Start from Ballachulish TIC, NN083584. Head S through the village, over the river Laroch and up past the primary school and farm gates. Continue on the track leading up into Gleann an Fhiodh.

Soon after passing a gate, find a small cairn and an indistinct path on the right and follow it up the northeast ridge of Sgorr Bhan. The ridge narrows and steepens further up, with some easy scrambling, to reach the summit of Sgorr Bhan 947m. Continue along the ridge to the main summit, Sgorr Dhearg 1024m. Descend SW to the col at NN048554, 757m. Continue W, climbing steeply up the ridge to the summit of the second Munro, Sgorr Dhonuill 1001m. Return E down the ridge to the 900m contour where it is possible to divert N on to the ridge leading to the Dragon's Tooth. Hold mainly to its crest, descending N down the nose to the top of a prominent steep grassy ramp at NN045564. This leads down to the right to reach the floor of the coire.

Cross the river and up E a short way to a well-worn path. Follow this N, down through the trees to forest tracks which lead down through the glen to the CP. Transport required.

Grade: S; distance: 12km; height to climb: 1,300m; map(s): LR41, EX 384.

Meet at Longsdale CP, Oban, at 8.10am, Fort William WM at 8.30am. Start of walk at 9am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

#### Thursday October 4:

##### Schiehallion, Tummel Bridge

A classic hill and an easy Munro,

with fine views and autumn colours.

Start from the Forestry Commission CP at NN752556. Follow the path SW (signposted). It crosses a track and continues across the grassy lower slopes of the hill. The gradient steepens on peaty ground further up and the path is eroded in places.

The upper part of the hill is a broad ridge covered with stones and boulders, giving some rough walking, but the way is marked by numerous small cairns. Return from the summit by the same route.

Grade: M+; distance: 9km; Height to climb: 760m; map(s): LR51, EX386.

Meet at: Glencoe village car park at 8am, Fort William WM at 8am. Start of walk: 10am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

#### Sunday September 30:

##### Dun da Ghaoithe, Craignure, Isle of Mull

Start at CalMac Pier, Craignure NM718372. Take A849 S past the turning to Torosay Castle, then take track on right 250m further at NM725350. Follow track W past Upper Achnacroish farm then northwest uphill to TV masts at Maol nan Uan, 431m.

Take right fork past more masts on to ridge heading SW, then west to the summit of Mainnir nam Fiadh, 754m. Follow ridge NW to large cairn and a further 1km to summit of Dun da Ghaoithe. Great views of mainland and islands. Return by outward route or alternatively descend steeply down the east ridge to reach Scallastle Forest Walk leading to A849 and then back to ferry terminal. Cars can be taken on Lochaline-Fishnish Ferry to join up with rest of party at Craignure.

(15km, 850m ascent) Suggested by Chris Tracey; coordinated by Ken Stevenson.



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Islay enjoys jazz boom

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Whisky is booming on the Isle of Islay, and so is jazz, with the island's 20th jazz festival reporting a big rise in numbers.

This year tickets sales increased by more than 64 per cent, with more than 1,500 people attending the weekend's 18 concerts. An additional concert was added due to demand.

Two new venues, the Islay House Hotel and the Outback Gallery, joined the familiar haunts of Lagavulin Malt



Pianist Davis Rogan flew in from New Orleans for the 20th festival.

UK, including Islay.

Celebrating its 20th edition, organisers were delighted by the programme with its mix of new collaborations and world premieres, alongside concerts by established performers such as Soweto Kinch, who presents BBC Radio 3's Jazz Now programme and the stellar Scottish saxophonist Tommy Smith, while pianist David Rogan flew in from New Orleans.

The festival also featured a

raft of highly talented young musicians such as Fergus McCreadie, Corrie Dick, Stephen Henderson, and Joe Williamson, as well as the wonderfully inventive vocal interpreters of classic and modern standards, Ali Affleck, Georgia Cecile and Luca Manning.

The Tenement Jazz Band made their festival debut playing music of the 1920s; Brass Gumbo played funky, soulful contemporary New Orleans brass band music; and AKU! performed hard hitting in-the-moment contemporary jazz. Organisers also saluted Brian Palmer, the

Islay-based drummer, who has played every year of the festival and fronts Islay's own Islay Jazz Trio.

Stuart Todd from Islay Arts Association said: 'I have been delighted to see the success and growth of the festival. It is heartening to welcome so many visitors to Islay and to see so many locals enjoying the high quality programme.'

Colin Gordon, distillery manager at Lagavulin, said: 'We're proud to have been at the heart of the Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival for eight years now. The annual event is always one of our busiest and best times on Islay.'

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# Art and whisky are heady mix

A talented painting graduate from Robert Gordon University's (RGU) Gray's School of Art is enjoying working on Mull as the inaugural artist in residence at Tobermory Distillery.

Catherine Ross, who graduated in 2014, spent last year working at Gray's as the graduate in residence (2017-18). She will complete a six-week residency on Mull, doing her own research and developing new work relating to the local area and the idea of North.

The scheme was launched by ThreeBrand, which approached a number of Scottish Art Schools in a bid to find a painter who could add their own creative spark to the distillery.

The post has seen Catherine stay in accommodation adjoining the distillery while carrying out her research. On completion of the



Catherine Ross is Tobermory Distillery's first artist in residence.

'After working full time in a studio as a solitary artist, the graduate in residence post is very useful to me in building upon my ability to both study and work effectively in places that are unfamiliar to me.

'I believe the ability to maintain a high level of focus and make work in a range of varying environments is a crucial ability for artists to obtain.'

Keith Grant, head of painting at RGU, added: 'Catherine is the perfect choice for this particular commission. Her interest in the Scottish landscape and how it is used dovetails well with the aims of this particular brief. It is a very exciting opportunity and I wait with interest to see the outcomes.'

residency, two works will be selected and donated to Tobermory Distillery.

Catherine, who will return to Gray's as a visiting lecturer in painting for the new semester, said: 'It's absolutely beautiful here. As part of my research I am making directly observed drawings and

paintings while walking on the island, as well as making work back in the studio space.

'Working in a studio within the busy environment of Gray's once more since graduating has prepared me well for working here on the similarly small but very busy environment of Tobermory.

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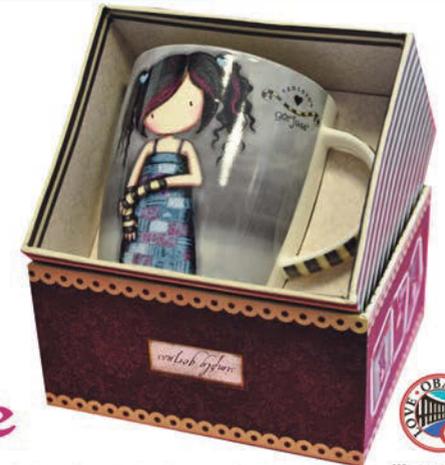
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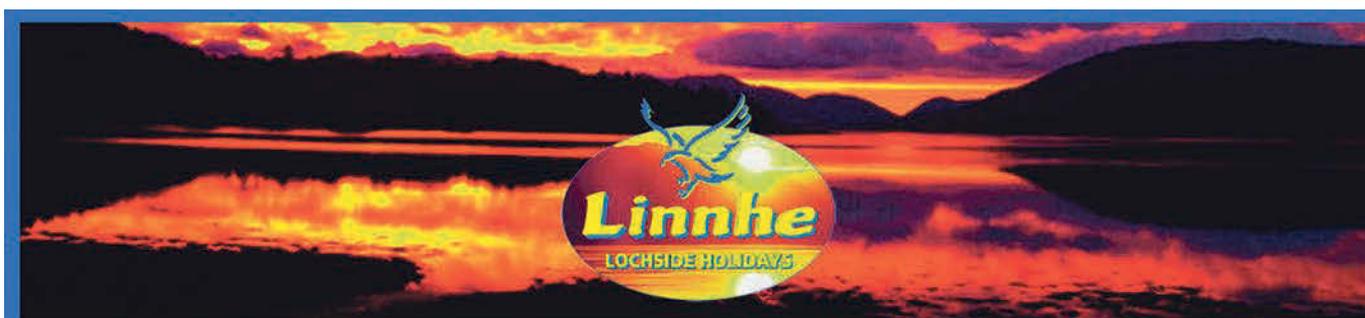


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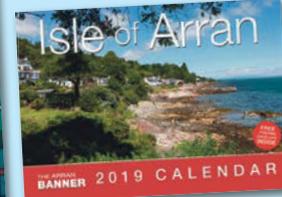
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046 Inveraray Primary School

Kevin McGlynn

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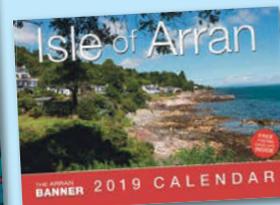
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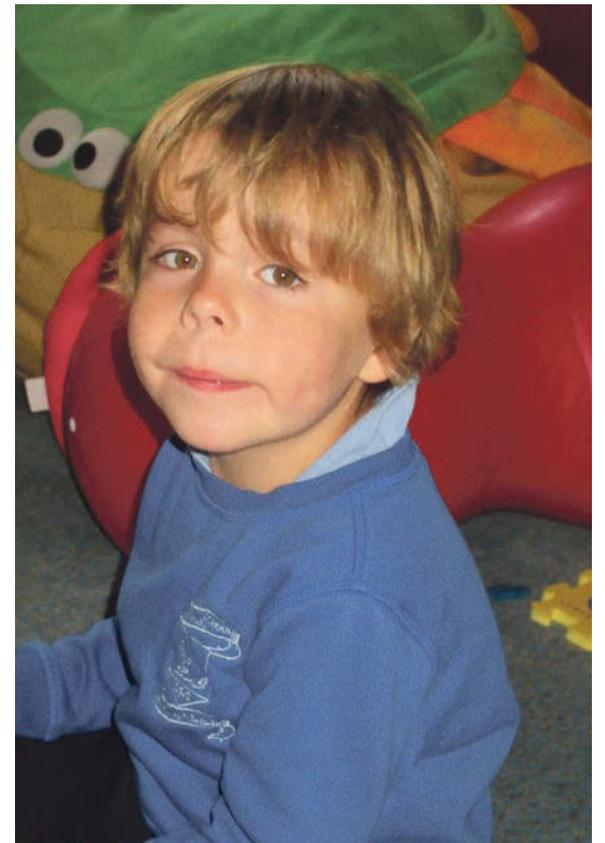


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The Campbeltown Courier

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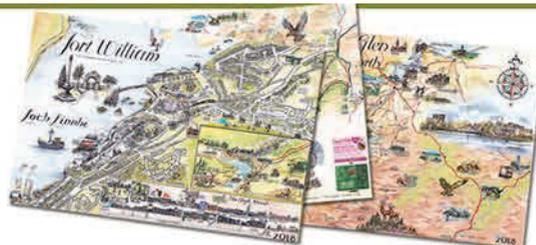


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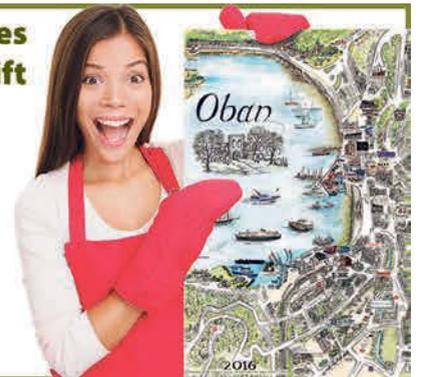
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# Colin MacIntyre launches new Mull Historical album

Mull's Colin MacIntyre has launched his new Mull Historical Society album, *Wakelines*.

Produced by the Mercury Award-winning songwriter and Brit Award-winning producer Bernard Butler, the album is Colin's eighth record.

He is now on tour and will play songs from the album at his *From Page To Stage* event at the inaugural Tobermory

Book Festival next month, on October 27.

The event will celebrate Colin's childhood on Mull in *Hometown Tales*, featuring songs and music from the Mull Historical Society, as well as poetry by Colin's grandfather Angus MacIntyre.

For more information about the tour and Colin's other events, visit [mullhistoricalsociety.com](http://mullhistoricalsociety.com)



# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

## Glasgow Skye Association

For one reason or another, the syllabus that the Glasgow Skye Association kindly sent me at the end of the summer never reached me and, therefore, I unfortunately didn't manage to include details of their first ceilidh of the new season.

This took place on Saturday September 15 and was a first rate concert in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, which (according to many in the audience) was worthy of an annual gathering.

Deirdre Graham, Wilma Kennedy, Alasdair Currie, Norman MacKinnon, Fiona MacAskill and John Angus Gillies were all in sparkling form and the evening was ably chaired by new president Fiona Ross.

Their next event is their Marag Supper on October 27 (also in the Crawford Hall) which is a highly anticipated event every year.

The Glasgow Skye Marag Supper, as I've written before, was actually my first gig in



Alasdair Currie with his Gold Medal from last year's Royal National Mòd in Fort William.

Glasgow when I moved down seven years ago, aged 17. It is always a cracking night.

Their biggest night of the year (the annual gathering concert and dance) is scheduled for Friday December 7.

## American Mòd

Talking of Alasdair Currie, who I hear was on particularly good form at the Glasgow Skye ceilidh, he is currently performing at the American National Mòd as a result of winning the Gold Medal in Fort William last October.

Reading his social media updates reminds me of my own trip out there after winning the medal in 2013. It is an amazing experience that all our gold medalists come

back having greatly enjoyed.

The Mòd itself takes place in the centre of a huge Highland Games in Pennsylvania.

After singing my Mòd pieces on stage, I remember thinking I was off for the day to enjoy the atmosphere of the event. That was until an incredibly anxious American woman ran up to me and asked if I could help her out.

I immediately said I would without inquiring any further.

'We're about to go on stage to compete in the Waulking Song competition,' she explained, 'and one of our members has taken unwell. Would you be able to stand in?'

To cut a long story short, I agreed before finding out that this was a woman only com-

petition and required me to dress up in shawls and tartan rugs to cover the fact that I was a man.

It was like a scene from Monty Python's *Life of Brian*.

And, to make things worse, they didn't tell me that every member of the team is required to sing a verse of the song. When it came to me, in the heat of the competition, I had to sing in the highest register of my voice so as not to give away my gender lest they be disqualified from the competition.

It was one of the most bizarre experiences of my life.

I'm sure I'll bump into Alasdair in Glasgow in the coming weeks and I dare say he will have one or two brilliant stories to tell me about his own time over in the States.

## Pub scene

### Park Bar

Friday 28: Eriskay Lilt.

Saturday 29: Scott Harvey.

Sunday 30: Trail West.

### Islay Inn

Friday 28: Bad Influence.

Saturday 29: Parting Glass.



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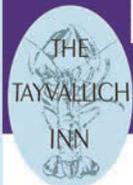


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## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)

## THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

**Oban Health Walk**  
Oban Congregational Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am**Oban Walking Tours**Oban, i-centre  
2.00pm - 3.30pm**Bookends Festival**The Reading Room, The Victory Hall  
3.00pm - 10.00pm**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams**

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day**Bookends Festival**The Reading Room, The Victory Hall  
3.00pm - 10.00pm**Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning**The Rockfield Centre  
10.00am - 12.00pm**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams**

Jono. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm

Free Entry

## SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

**Bookends Festival**The Reading Room, Victory Hall  
3.00pm - 10.00pm**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day**Live Argyll - First Birthday Party**The Corran Halls, Oban  
13.30pm - 16.00pm

Free Event

**Oban Walking Tours**Oban, i-centre  
10am - 11.30am

2.00pm - 3.30pm

**parkrun**

Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams**Calum MacPhail Band  
Open till 2am**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

## SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

**Hill Walk**Craignure, Isle of Mull  
All Day**Afternoon Session @ Markie Dams**

Calum MacPhail Band. 4.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams**

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER

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

## WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER

**Slimming World**Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban  
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
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Lorne Pub Quiz

Starting at 9pm

£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

## Renowned artist's work celebrated at Glencoe centre

One of Scotland's most successful contemporary artists is being celebrated at Glencoe Visitor Centre.

The work of renowned Glasgow artist Hamish MacDonald (1935-2008) is being exhibited at the National Trust for Scotland centre, with many of the pieces of Glen Coe and the spectacular surrounding scenery.

In 2008 the artist's youngest daughter Nicola took over Hamish MacDonald Fine Art Prints, which includes Giclée and lithographic prints in various sizes, signed and estate stamped limited editions

Nicola explained: 'We are celebrating a decade of Hamish MacDonald fine art prints at Glencoe Visitor Centre and sharing my father's work with the many visitors who are calling in. My father loved this area and

**Nicola MacDonald alongside her father's works.**

it is so special to be able to showcase many of his prints here at Glencoe.'

A former Glasgow School of Art student, Hamish MacDonald's broad, fluid style and bold palette place him directly within the continuing lineage of the Scottish Colourist tradition, while

showing his ability to capture the atmosphere and vitality of his subject. From 1968 he successfully combined painting with teaching and also guest lectured throughout Scotland.

The exhibition of Hamish MacDonald prints will run until October 13.

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

## WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

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## FRIDAY 28

16:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
18:15 THE NUN 15  
20:30 KING OF THIEVES 15

## SATURDAY 29

11:30 CHRISTOPHER ROBIN PG  
13:45 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
15:45 INCREDIBLES 2 PG  
18:30 THE NUN 15  
20:45 KING OF THIEVES 15

## SUNDAY 30

12:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
14:15 BLACKKLANSMAN 15  
17:00 THE SOUND OF MUSIC U  
20:15 KING OF THIEVES 15

## MONDAY 1

16:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
18:15 THE NUN 15  
20:30 KING OF THIEVES 15

## TUESDAY 2

16:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
18:15 THE NUN 15  
20:30 KING OF THIEVES 15

## WEDNESDAY 3

16:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
18:15 THE NUN 15  
20:30 KING OF THIEVES 15

## THURSDAY 4

16:15 TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES PG  
18:15 THE NUN 15  
20:30 KING OF THIEVES 15

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REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene: Nov 2

Basic Book keeping: Nov date TBC

Sage Basic: Oct 02

IOSH Working Safely: Oct 05, Nov 02, Dec 07

IOSH Managing Safely: Nov 01-22 (weekly)

Personal Licence Holder (refresh): Oct 08, Nov 12, Dec 10

Personal Licence Holder: Oct 11, Nov 29

First Aid at Work (3 day): Oct 15-17

First Aid Refresher (2 day): Nov 15-16

Mental Health First Aid: Oct 16-17

Emergency First Aid at Work: Oct 18, Nov 30

## KINLOCHLEVEN

Emergency First Aid at Work: Nov 28

## MALLAIG

MCA Personal Safety and Social Responsibility (PSSR) (STCW): Oct 30

MCA Personal Survival Techniques (PST STCW 95): Nov 07

RYA Level 2 Powerboat: Nov 1-2, 08-09, 15-16

RYA Day Skipper Theory: Nov 21-25

RYA Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper: Dec 04-05

RYA VHF Radio: Dec 12-14

MCA Elementary First Aid STCW 95: Dec 07

## ARDNAMURCHAN

REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene (refresher): Nov 05

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# Funny thing about climate change...



The comedy is at the Aros Centre, Portree, on October 17 and SEALL at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, on October 18.

Dogstar has teamed up with one of Sweden's leading independent theatre companies, Profilteatern, to present a new comedy, *Let's Inherit the Earth*, by Morna Pearson, addressing perhaps humanity's greatest existential threat outside *The White House* – climate change.

The Scottish tour opens on October 9 and heads to Skye on October 17 and 18.

Edinburgh-based Pearson is one of Scotland's most original and witty playwrights. It is a busy time, too, for director Ben Harrison, who returns to direct his fourth production for Dogstar. Harrison, Pearson and Swedish designer Ulla Karlsson will bring the play's anarchic world of crisis to life with songs, music and sound from Jonny Hardie and lighting by Martin Oglan.

*Let's Inherit the Earth* is Pearson's dark, funny, absurdist satire on human responses to climate change, from the arch materialists who deny it, to the preppers obsessed with getting ready for it, come hell or high water!

It's 2031. Adele has just hit number one with her new album, 43. Somewhere in the Caribbean, three turtles are staring in disbelief and helplessness at the expanding patch of seaweed which threatens to destroy their habitat. The seaweed spreads towards luxury beach-front condominiums, owned by the super-rich Mucklefannys of the Highlands and the Storskinkas of Sweden. Their concern is the threat to the value of their properties and the quality of their cocktails.

In Moray, Jane and Grant have

stocked up on weaponry, an inflatable canoe and Marmite in case of an 'event'. Sure enough, the North Sea floods in and the geography of northern Europe is transformed.

The forests of Sweden are on fire. Josef, Tove and their child Lukas are frantically packing as the fire approaches. Lukas asks about granny stuck upstairs.

The refugees from the fire and the flood meet in the wilderness, unsure of what country they are actually in. No sign of granny.

The turtles swim for safety as the condo owners welcome the sea lapping at their balconies – saves them the walk to the beach.

*Let's Inherit the Earth* is supported Creative Scotland, Swedish Arts Council, Västerbottensteatern.

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 27 AN T-SULTAIN THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Cuirm@Celtic – Moving Hearts (rpt)  
19.10 An Là – News (rpt)  
19.20 **UR | NEW:** Champions League – Glasgow City v Somatio Barcelona  
21.26 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017: Benjamin Francis Leftwich  
21.30 **UR | NEW:** Uisge ar Beatha  
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Func  
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas  
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Falls of Acharn) (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 28 AN T-SULTAIN FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 Cuirm@Celtic – Moving Hearts (rpt)  
19.35 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Dunfermline Athletic v Partick  
21.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)  
22.00 Trapped 1 (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Falls of Acharn) (rpt)  
23.00 Port S4 (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 29 AN T-SULTAIN

**SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**  
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v Motherwell  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 An t-Eilean (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Port S4

22.00 Fo Ghlas (rpt)  
22.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v Motherwell (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 30 AN T-SULTAIN

**SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER**  
16.00 **UR | NEW:** SWPL – Glasgow City v Celtic  
18.05 Cuirm@Celtic – Moving hearts (rpt)  
18.15 An Là – news  
18.30 Seachd Là – News review  
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)  
20.00 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr  
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlán (rpt)  
21.00 Iùl a' Chiùil (rpt)  
22.00 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)  
22.30 Func (rpt)  
23.00 Trapped 1 (rpt)  
23.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

### DILUAIN 01 AN DÀMHAIR MONDAY 01 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fuine S5  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Bannan S5  
21.30 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh S11 – Eileanaich Phagastain  
22.30 Talamh Torrach (rpt)  
23.30 Func (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 02 AN DÀMHAIR TUESDAY 02 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** An t-Eilean  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Iùl a' Chiùil  
22.00 Trusadh S11 – Eileanaich Phagastain (rpt)  
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl  
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 03 AN DÀMHAIR WEDNESDAY 03 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlán (rpt)  
21.00 Call air Cladach Ile (rpt)  
22.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)  
22.30 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)  
23.00 Uisge ar Beatha (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 04 AN DÀMHAIR THURSDAY 04 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Bliadhna na Sgoile  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Func  
22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)  
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas  
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Mòrlich) (rpt)



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## Hogmanay at The Nevis Centre

Bring in 2019 with music from Fergie MacDonald and a piper to bring in the bells

31st December 2018  
Doors 8:30pm  
Show 9:30pm - 1:00am  
Over 18s only\*  
Smart Dress Code  
Tickets £25

Tables of 8 Available  
Phone 01397 700707 to book



\*16-18s may be permitted if accompanied by parent/grandparent, please ask reception for more info

# Irish Stars set to shine at the Nevis Centre

Join four of Ireland's top country music stars all on one forthcoming Stars of Irish Country Show when it rolls into the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Sunday October 7 for an un-missable night of toe-tapping and hand clapping Irish country magic. The show now in its third year of touring the UK, it will feature a fantastic array of talent that includes the supreme vocals of Anthony Mc Brien, the multi-talented Stephen Smyth, Ireland's Tipperary Country queen Louise Morrissey and the hugely popular Curtis Magee, who each will perform their biggest hit songs in the company of the fabulous Celtic Storm Band.

This is a rare chance to see so many top stars in the one show, which has received standing nightly ovations and rave reviews. Tickets for the show are now on sale from the Thainstone Centre on 01397 700707. So keep Saturday October 6 free in your diary as all Country roads are Fort William bound.

To win a pair of tickets and a CD bundle worth more than £60, please answer this simple question. What year is the show in? Then fill in the entry form below and post your entry to The Oban Times, Irish Stars Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

The closing date for entries is midnight, September 24, 2018.

■ Stephen Smyth (The Boy from Donegal, visit /youtu.be/YPOKTn0Kj9c); Curtis Magee (The Wheels fell off the Wagon, visit youtu.be/Q8WxCsB351M); Louise Morrissey (September Sky, visit youtu.be/f7anftG-2bRo), Anthony Mc Brien ( Mothers Song ) Anthony McBrien Mothers Song.

Name.....  
Address.....  
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Email.....

**Terms and conditions:** Over 18s only. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations.

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## malts OF THE month

### Lochaline distillery bridges whisky and gin

It was during the 17th century that Scotland's most famous product, whisky, was properly developed.

Aqua vitae was distilled by religious establishments as early as 1494, but the Highlander either drank the fresh burn water, or milk, buttermilk and whey. Ale was drunk in the Lowlands, and wine was brewed from native fruits and plants.

Heavy duties were imposed on imports of French wine, but to compensate for this a clause in the law allowed families to distill sufficient whisky in their own homes for the need of the household. The surplus barley would be malted and turned into uisge-beatha (Gaelic for 'water of life') in a pot still over a peat fire.

These rougher whiskies often employed bitter or astringent plants. John Lightfoot in Flora Scotica (1777) notes 18th-century Scots added blaeberry jelly into whisky 'to give it relish to strangers'. Also used were juniper, wild raspberries, bird cherries, rowan berries and sloes – the last two Lightfoot and Thomas Pennant (on Jura) saw fermented and distilled into spirits of their own.

John de Vere Loder, in his book Colonsay and Oronsay, noted the tuberous roots of sweet, liquoricey bitter vetch tubers were dug up with a wooden trowel called a pleadhag and eaten raw, or tied in bundles and hung up in the kitchen roof to dry, and afterwards roasted. Hebridean tourer Martin Martin observed: 'It has a blue flower in July ... [and] gives a good relish to all liquors, milk

only excepted. It is aromatic and the natives prefer it to spice for brewing aquavita.'

This month, Ncn'ean, an experimental 'organic' whisky distillery on the Morvern Peninsula, released its first limited run of botanical spirit, described as a mix between whisky and gin, reminiscent of Scotland's traditional usquebaugh made by infusing local herbs, honey, fruits extracts and fresh spirit.

Ncn'ean, which is pronounced Nc-knee-ann and opened in March last year on the Drimnin Estate by Lochaline, redistills with coriander, juniper, and fresh grapefruit and locally foraged herbs such as heather, sorrel, bog myrtle and thyme, and is described as having 'creamy, nutty barley notes with grapefruit, herbs and sour berries'.

Its name is an abbreviation of Neachneohain, a witch-queen in Scots Gaelic folklore who was also referred to as 'Queen of the Spirits'. Lindores Abbey distillery in Fife also released a botanical spirit earlier this year called Aqua Vitae, made by infusing its own malt spirit with local botanicals.

Also this month, a 21-year-old single cask Ledaig has been released by independent bottler Douglas Laing & Co, which describes the flavours as 'sweet phenols up front, with barley, peat and burnt toast'.

A new whisky series Cladach – Gaelic for shoreline – combines malts from six of Scotland's coastal distilleries: Caol Ila, Clynelish, Inchgower, Lagavulin, Oban and Talisker. Diageo said Cladach, bottled at 57.1 per cent abv., was designed to 'capture the character of Scotland's coastline', with 'maritime aromas of salt, warm sand and seaweed... salty, with rich honey and citrus notes'.

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# IRISH COUNTRY SHOW

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## SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2018

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# Hollow Mountain String Band headline Bookends Festival



The Hollow Mountain String Band will bring their unique brand of Argyll Americana to the Victory Hall this Friday, September 28, as they help wrap up the third annual Bookends Festival in Benderloch.

A five-piece ensemble from Oban, the band takes its name from Ben Cruachan, a mountain that was hollowed out to house a hydroelectric power station, and in that spirit the band have a well-earned reputation for delivering an electrifying live performance.

'The Hollow Mountain String Band always draw the crowds to the Benderloch Palladium with the promise

of foot stompin' Scottish Americana,' said Campbell Cameron, co-organiser of Victory Hall Gigs.

'Great heartfelt vocals and tall tales from John match splendid tunesmithing from Rab. Added is the solid engine room rhythm section rapport from Nigel on bass and Michelle on drums, while balancing the whole circus is Ann with her delicious fiddle licks.'

Having started out as an old-time trio, the core of Hollow Mountain is multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and songwriter Rab Woods, along with guitarist, vocalist and songwriter John McMahon.

With the addition of Nigel Frydman on bass, Ann Barlow on fiddle, and, most recently, Michelle McAnally on drums, the band has evolved into a powerhouse that has been entertaining crowds from the Scottish Borders to the Highlands. Known for infectious, driving rhythms, heartfelt vocals and entertaining banter, Hollow Mountain's live show has been called 'a yee-haw and yee braw'.

In their ever-increasing catalogue of original songs, tunes and perfectly chosen covers, they embrace the close relationship between Americana and Scottish

roots, influenced by honky tonk, blues, country and jazz as well as traditional music, in a blend they call 'Americelidh'.

'We always love playing at Victory Hall,' Rab said. 'Campbell and Joy provide a warm welcome and the crowd is brilliant. We've got some brand new songs for them, plus some old favourites that are sure to get everyone out of their chairs and dancing in the aisles.'

Tickets for the Hollow Mountain String Band gig at Victory Hall are £10 in advance and £12 at the door, call 01631 720247 to reserve. For more information, visit [www.hmsb.co.uk](http://www.hmsb.co.uk)

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**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darling's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen

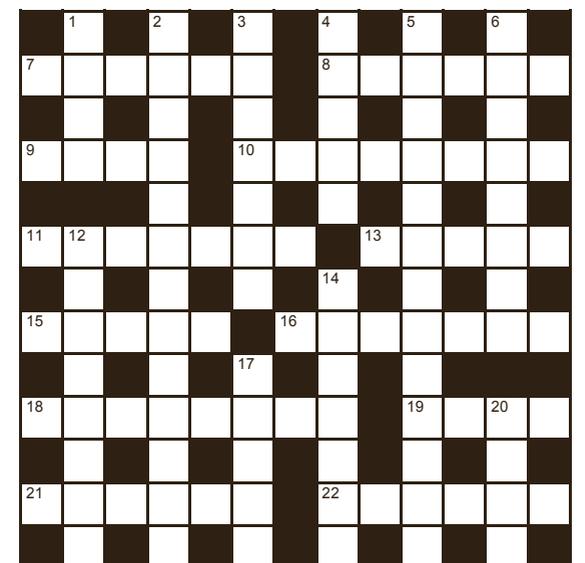
McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

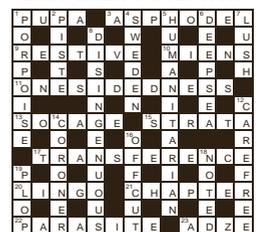
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## Crossword



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



#### Across

- 7 Sagely (6)
- 8 Green... (6)
- 9 ...tart (4)
- 10 News sent by one on holiday (8)
- 11 Great pleasure (7)
- 13 Pale (5)
- 15 Sternward (5)
- 16 Supporter of groom (4,3)
- 18 Fire starter (8)
- 19 Not minding one's business (4)
- 21 Shining (6)
- 22 Besides (6)

#### Down

- 1 Flat circular plate (4)
- 2 Table of numbers for calculations (5,8)
- 3 Signal (7)
- 4 Hex (5)
- 5 Put off (13)
- 6 Short musical (8)
- 12 Of the honeysuckle family (8)
- 14 Place built as a complete unit to accommodate overspill of ones unhouse (3,4)
- 17 The beginning... (5)
- 20 ...time period (4)

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

### Tim McMillan & Rachel Snow

Acoustic Guitar & Violin, Celtic to Rock  
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe  
Friday, 5th Oct, 7.30pm  
Refreshments  
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### Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club

Thursday 4th October 2018  
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## Around the markets



**A good day for young Innes MacKay and his dad Robert at Dalmally. The five Blackface ewe lambs sold for £130 each.**

**Dalmally** – United Auctions held its annual breeding sheep sale at Dalmally auction mart on Friday September 21 when 7,747 sheep of all classes were sold. Blackface ewe lambs lacked condition and size. All other sections were shown in good bloom and sold at

levels satisfactory to consignors. Despite an excellent ringside of buyers in attendance, prices failed to reach last year's levels in most sections, this being a reflection on the present shortage of cash throughout the whole farming sector. The following are



**Pole gimmers from the Jacksons made £1,000 per head in the ring at the annual breeding sale at Dalmally.**

the averages obtained on the day. Blackface ewe lambs £45.82 (-£8.95). Cross bred ewe lambs £58.01 (+£7.96). Blackface gimmers £83.10 (-£14.20). Cross bred gimmers £87.48 (-£9.38). Blackface ewes £46.31 (-£1.74). Cross bred ewes £47.86 (+£2.02).

The stud sheep offered for sale drew interest from all over the country with M/s Jackson, Pole, leading the prices with a pen of Blackface gimmers selling to £1,000 per head to Fletcher Farming, Laigh Hatton.

Ewe lambs:  
BF: £130 – Mill Park: £90 – Crammie: £78 – Acharonich: £75 – Crammie: £70 – Lurgan: £70 – Burnbank (Oban): £70 – Drumachar: £70 – Mill Park: £70 – Crammie: £70 – Tay and Torridon Estate: £70 – Kenknock

MULE: £90 and £78 – Duallin: £75 – Pitcastle Estate: £75 – Saulmore: £65 – Culbhuirg, Iona. TEXx: £60 – Stonefield Farms. CHEV: £62 – Kilchoan. CROSS: £52 and £51 – Balnahard.

Gimmers:  
BF (Studd): £1,000 – Pole Farm: £550 and £480 – Dalchirla: £450 – Tay and Torridon Estates: £390 – Lephinchapel: £350 and £320 – Dalchirla: £300 – Arnicle: £280 – Lephinchapel: £260 – Pole Farm: £250 – Arnicle: £250 – Lephinchapel: £190 – Nunnerie: £138 – Lephinchapel. BF (Commercial): £110 – Littleport: £108 – Tearman: £105 – Balliemeanoch: £100 – Laigh Balernock: £100 – Acharonich: £98 – Glenkiln: £98 – Auldallan: £95 – Pole: £95 – 20 Achnamarra: £95 – Invernahyle: £95 – Achalic Farm: £95 – Littleport (Ardveich): £95 – Balliemeanach. SWALE: Cross £80 – Achalic.



**Lambs from Graham and Colin Campbell, Clachan Seil, at last Tuesday's sale at Oban.** Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

MULE: £135 – Achalic: £122 – Culbhuirg, Iona: £110 – Achalic: £108 – Tullich Croft: £102 – Dall. CHEV: £100 – Cour Grazings.

Ewes:  
BF: £580 – Pole Farm: £200 – Arnicle: £140 – Balliemeanoch: £125 – Tay and Torridon Estates: £102 – Crammie: £82 – Barbreck (Neish): £82 – Croft 1 Fanmore: £80 – Gobagrennan: £80 – Crosshill: £80 – Pole: £78 – Gobagrennan: £75 – Antuim: £72 – Gobagrennan: £70 – Crosshill: £65 – Burnbank Oban: £65 – Balliemeanoch: £64 – Tullochcan: £62 – Littleport: £62 – Littleport (Ardveich): £60 – Maam: £58 – Luss Estate: £58 – Antuim, Mull: £55 – Luss Estate: £55 – Garraron and Melfort Farms: £55 – Croft 1 Fanmore, Mull: £55 – Pitcastle: £55 – Littleport: £55 – Roromore: £54 – Corrylorn; £54 – Braglenmore.

CHEV: £60 and £58 – Maam: £50 – Keppochan: £50 – Machrins: £50 – Strathoch: £50 – Blackmount. MULE: £45 – Kilchoan.

CROSS: £50.00 – Strongorm. MULE: £52.50 – Balnagown. BF: £39.50 – Ardnamurchan Estate: £36.00 – Ardachy: £35.00 – Tyree: £35.00 – Achinduin. Ewes: TEXx: £60.00 – Balnagown: £54.00 – Achna Breac. CHEV: £62.00 – Drumfingal. CROSS: £55.00 – Ricruin: £50.00 – Baligrundle 2: £50.00 – Frackersaig. BF: £54.00 – Glenmore: £41.00 – Blarachourinn. SIMx BULLOCKS: £915 and £785(2) – Sorrisdale, Coll: £650 – Ardencaple: £605 – Sorrisdale. SIMx HEIFERS: £540(2) – Ardencaple.

Fort William – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Friday September 21 sold 2,840 store sheep of all classes.

Lambs (2,346) sold to £66 gross for a Cross lamb from South Laggan, Spean Bridge. Feeding sheep (494) sold to £82 gross for a pen of Lleyng gimmers from Tign An Uilt, Kilchoan.

Other leading prices per head: Store lambs: Chev – Glengarsk, Arisaig, £64, South Laggan, £53, Annbank, Kilchoan, £49.50; LilyX – Tign An Uilt, £62, Traigh Farm, Arisaig, £47, 1 Kinlochiel, Fort William, £40.50; TexX – Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus, £61.50, Duror, Glenelg, £56, 7 South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £53; BF – 5 Aird, Ardvasar, £58, 4 Aird, Ardvasar, £50.50, 16 Moss, Acharacle, £45; Cross – Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £57, Glengarsk, £56.50, 4 Aird, £47; Mule – Glendoe Estate, £54; SuffX – Market Stance, Fort Augustus, £46; CharX – Sanna, Kilchoan, £46. Feeding sheep: Chev ewe – 13 Calgarry, Ardvasar, £60, Traigh Farm, Arisaig, £49, Inverailort Estate, £46; BF ewe – Traigh Farm, £54; TexX ewe – Myrtle Moss Croft, Strontian, £40.

**Oban** – United Auctions sold 3,199 lambs and sheep at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday September 18. A mixed show of smaller lambs were on offer and sold to level out at £33.29 recording a rise of £2.73 on the year. Lambs from Killiechronan, Mull, sold to £64 whilst ewes from Drumfingal, Mull, sold to £62. A small show of cattle was led by Simmental bullocks from Sorrisdale, Coll, realising £915 per head.

Principal lots and prices:  
Lambs:  
SUFFx: £64.00 – Killiechronan: £59.00 – Tyree: £57.50 – Strongorm.  
TEXx: £55.50 – Knock Farm: £55.50 – Baligrundle No2: £55.50 – Strongorm: £55.50 – Baleveolan.  
CHEV: £55.00 – Rhu-Ard: £52.50 – Croig.



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# Autumn Property Review

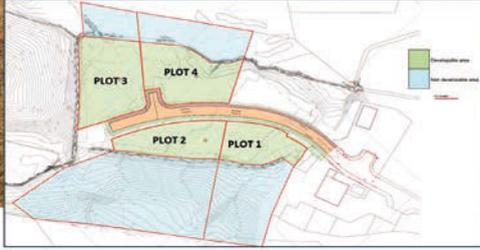


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**Tarbert**



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**Offers Over: £80,000**

1334

**2 Kerry View**  
**Tarbert**



**1-bedroom Flat**  
**Fixed Price: £38,000**

1324

**3 The Cairn**  
**Kilmartin**



**4-bedroom Maisonette Flat**  
**O.I.R.O: £160,000**  
**(HR value £185,000)**

1281

**Spindrifft**  
**Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig**



**3-bedroom bungalow**  
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**10 Linnet Court**  
**Ardrishaig**



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# Will you be hanging your stockings up in a new home this Christmas time?

Sorry to mention Christmas before we've been out guising or built our bonfires but there is plenty of time to move house before Christmas and start the New Year in a new home

The sales outlook is positive this autumn and both Scotland and Northern Ireland are showing a healthy house market.

The good news for self-builders and the sale of plots of land is the new Self-Build Loan Fund announced by the Scottish Government. Loans are

available for eligible urban or rural self-builders anywhere in the country who are unable to access standard bank lending to support build completion, allowing them access to a traditional mortgage which is used to repay the loan.

Whatever the markets are

doing, it always pays to use the excellent service you get from real, live people in estate agents' offices who live and work in the area and know and love the place where they work, rather than the online and impersonal. Happy house hunting and selling.



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Landlord reg no.

27108/130/12010

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Please state in your application whether you are interested in a full or part time role.

For further information and to apply by cover letter and CV for this position online, go to: [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please send a CV and cover letter to: Human Resources, Finance Assistant (Job Ref. D14/18.JM), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

The closing date for receipt of applications is

Thursday 4th October 2018

Interviews are scheduled for Thursday 11th October 2018

*SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.*

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Posts will sit within a pool of support scientists managed by our Technical Resources Manager. Individuals will be expected to pro-actively engage with a varied work load to support the requirements across the business.

**Attributes required** - You will have a relevant degree and/or proven experience in a similar role, with excellent communication skills. You will be well organised with the ability to multi-task and work well as part of a team that serves a wider research/business/educational community.

This is a great opportunity for those eager to progress their career in marine science. We are looking for individuals who bring enthusiasm to their work and are willing to tackle fresh challenges. Please read our job description for full job details.

Further information is available on line at [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk). Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Marine Support Scientists, D15/18.CC The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

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Part Time Estate Manager required by owner of a diversified estate on Isle of Mull to help with the running and development of the business. Possibly 2-3 days per week. Must be experienced in all aspects of estate management and have excellent communication and man management skills. Possibly suit a semi-retired person looking for a part time role.

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### Currently recruiting for a committed Financial Administrator

To assist our team with specific duties that include:

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Please submit a full CV and covering letter to **Ashley Bichard, Office Manager** at [office@pdkshellfish.com](mailto:office@pdkshellfish.com) or **2 South Pier, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4LS by 4th October, 2018.**

## North Argyll House

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Currently recruiting for:

### Part time cook

### Housekeeping staff

All permanent positions.

Good pay and conditions.

For an application form contact manager

**Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168**

Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)

## McGregor

CONSTRUCTION

### JOINERS

required for Internal Refurbishment Works  
in the Fort William area.

Interested applicants should forward their C.V. to:

**McGregor Construction (Highlands) Ltd**

Seafield Road, Inverness, IV1 1SG

or alternatively e-mail [mail@mcgregors.net](mailto:mail@mcgregors.net)

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MODIFICATION TO EXISTING MARINE FARM MACLEAN'S NOSE, LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an extension to an existing marine farm at:

Cost	<£2,500 - <£5,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Maclean's Nose, Loch Sunart	56° 41.197' N	006° 03.125' W
	56° 41.381' N	006° 02.687' W
	56° 40.952' N	006° 02.096' W
	56° 40.773' N	006° 02.511' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilchoan Community Centre, Pier Road, Acharacle, PH36 4LJ.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: **05458** and **Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd**

### Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

### First Registration of a Croft

Grant and Laura MacGregor have registered their croft 1, 2 & 3 Anaheilt, Anaheilt, Ardnamurchan on parish Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 13th June 2019.

Details of registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5399.

### First Registration of a Croft

Grant MacLean has registered their croft "12 Tighphuirst, Braehead, Tighphuirst, Lismore & Appin" on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by May 10th 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C3429.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

T Bryson  
65 Ormsaigbeg, Craigard //  
Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
0.0375 ha - Amendment to  
proposed development  
91577

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 26/10/18. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care).

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

Argyll and Bute Council Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997  
The Argyll and Bute Council (Part of Core Path C163 at Dunbeg) Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2018

Argyll and Bute Council hereby gives notice that it has made an Order under Section 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be known as "The Argyll and Bute Council (Part of Core Path C163 at Dunbeg) Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2018" (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") authorising the stopping up of part of Core Path reference C163 at Dunbeg and its temporary diversion along the closely adjacent alternative route and its permanent diversion along another closely adjacent alternative route as shown by the Plan 1 forming part of Part I of the Schedule annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The Order is to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation or to be confirmed as an unopposed Order. The Core Path will be stopped up and diverted along the said alternative routes all as more particularly described in the said Schedule. The stopping up and diversion of the Core Path is necessary to enable the development comprising the construction of a residential development of 300 affordable dwellings permitted under planning permission reference 18/00375/PP granted under Part III of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be carried out in accordance with the said planning permission.

A copy of the Order and Schedule including the Plan showing the routes of the temporary diversion of the path along the closely adjacent alternative route and its permanent diversion along another closely adjacent alternative route may be inspected at the offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, by any person, free of charge, within normal office hours during a period of Twenty eight days following the appearance of this advertisement. Within that period, any person, by written notice to the undersigned (quoting reference CGR/DK/04), may make representations or objections with respect to the Order. Any such representation or objection should state the name and address of the person making the representation or objection, the matter to which it relates and the grounds upon which it is made.

**CHARLES REPPKE**, Head of Governance and Law,  
Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT  
21 September 2018

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



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
18/04280/FUL	Land 25M North Of	Sunnara, Camaghael, Fort William	Erection of Dwelling House
18/04353/FUL	Land 90M NW Of Alltan	Strontian, Acharacle	Erection of house
18/03524/FUL	Land 265M SW Of Scotia	Lodge, Invergarry	Siting of 12 holiday letting pods and reception/office, toilet block and store/kitchen/toilet buildings
18/04270/FUL	Rodane, Badabrie,	Corpach, Fort William	Alterations and extension to form self contained unit
18/04275/FUL	Ben Nevis Inn, Achintee	Fort William	Erection of 2 no Holiday Chalets (Renewal of 15/04053/FUL)
18/04324/FUL	Unit 9, Blar Mhor	Industrial Estate, Lochyside, Fort William	Temporary parking area for HGV vehicles
18/03832/FUL	Land 500M North East Of	Old Schoolhouse, Tulloch Roy Bridge	Erection of house with associated chalet, outbuilding and external works
18/04151/FUL	Land 70M NW Of	Glenmore Cottage, Acharacle	Erection of dwelling house
18/03879/FUL	Traigh Beach Public	Toilets, Arisaig	Demolition of an existing disused toilet block and installation of two modular composting toilets
18/03685/FUL	Craigard, Invergarry		Change of use from guest house to hotel (amended proposals)
18/04322/FUL	West Bay Car Park,	Mallaig	Construction of a new public toilet block and motorhome service facility.
18/04256/FUL	Glenfinnan House Hotel	Glenfinnan	Alterations and extensions to hotel
18/04283/FUL	Land 60M SE Of The	Steadings, North Ballachulish, Onich	Installation of 2 no Holiday Cabins

**Time period for comments is 14 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

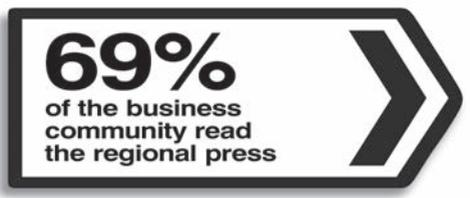
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01839/LIB	Render and paint white external elevation of the central gable wall	The White House Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE
18/01995/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land East Of The Steading Ardmor Road, Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/02020/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference: 15/02118/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse)	Land To East Of Hill House Arduaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ
18/01876/PP	Formation of car park and associated access	Land West Of Tiree Community Business Island Centre Crossapol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
18/01371/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Site East Of Tidereach Connel, Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01892/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Plot 4 Land East Of The Barn Cologin Lerags Argyll And Bute
18/01988/PP	Alterations and partial re-roofing, formation of vehicular access and rebuilding of entrance wall	Former Highland Arts And Monaveen Lodge Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil, Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01795/PP	Erection of two holiday let lodge units, decking and associated landscaping	Ben Cruachan Inn Lochawe Argyll And Bute
18/01972/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land 40M South West Of 4 Cornaigmore Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6AB
18/01845/PP	Erection of single storey steel framed building to accommodate wood chip boiler house, store and whey processing plant	Sgriob Ruadh Farm Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QD
18/01542/PP	Conversion of existing derelict outhouses to form 3 self-catering dwellinghouses, formation of campervan pitches and installation of septic tank	1 Ballymeanach Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SY
18/01959/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, formation of terrace area and erection of retaining wall	62 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL
18/01961/LIB	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	62 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL

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

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

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**RALEIGH FOLDING BICYCLE** 20 inch wheels, three speed hub gears. Tyres good condition with new inner tubes. Good condition, £70 Telephone 07867 624679.

## Building / DIY

**CONTAINER** half size 10ft x 8ft, has inner door, electric fittings & storage racks in place, in need of some TLC but works fine, £99.99 Telephone 07760 222154.

**QUICK STAGE SCAFFOLDING** Still some left. Probably enough for 5 or 6 full bays. Uprights, transoms, horizontals, adjustable feet etc. £2 per piece, Telephone 01546 605374.

**REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS** for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

**SMALL POWER SAW** in working order, £50 Telephone 07833 130432.

**TOWER SCAFFOLDING** galvanised 6ft width x 4ft depth x 15ft height, £80 Telephone 07760 222154.

## Car Accessories

**HELLA DAYTIME RUNNING LAMP SET** new, complete, boxed with instructions, £30 Telephone 01586 550068.

**REVERSE PARKING SENSOR KIT** new, unused, boxed with full instructions, £50 Telephone 01586 550068.

**RHINO ROOF RACK** for commercial vehicle with kamm roller bar in good working order, £55 Telephone 07917 665103.

## Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

**BLACK TRENCH COAT** as new, size 12, £20 Telephone 01631 565143.

**REAL LEATHER BOOTS** black, knee high, 2 inch heels, size 5, as new, £50 Telephone 01631 565143.

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**HOTPOINT FUTURE RLS** 175 clean larder fridge. Approx 5 years old. 175cm high x 60cm wide x 62cm deep, £35 Telephone 01838 200489.



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## Domestic Pets

**MALE COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES** Black and Gold. KC Reg. Pedigree. Micro-chipped, wormed and docked. Available mid October. Mother can be seen, Telephone 01499 302834.

**REGISTERED COLLIE PUPS** 12 weeks old, 2 Dogs, one black & tan, 1 black and white, of working parents, for particulars telephone, Telephone 07919 071747<sup>2</sup>.

## Furniture

**MARKS & SPENCER SOFA BED** in good condition, £95 Telephone 07919 522596.

**WARDROBE**, modern, 137cm wide x 222cm high x 61cm deep. Photos available, £29 Telephone 07966 435245.

## Garden

**HEDGE TRIMMER**, Spear and Jackson Model SP JHT 26 65cm 2 stroke petrol hedge trimmer. Hardly used, £25 Telephone 07966 435245.

**VINTAGE CART WHEELS** and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

**VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS** Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

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## Hobbies and Crafts

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## Home Entertainment

**SONY BRAVIA 40" TV** In good condition, £49.99 Telephone 07484 885777.

## Home Furnishings

**BAR STOOLS** 4 x faux black leather bar stools gas lift, good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 720452.

**LARGE MIRROR** 24" x 34" including frame, £25 Telephone 07484 885777.

## Lost and Found

**LOST INFLATABLE DINGHY** Blown off mooring near Kerrera ferry, Gallanach. Grey Avon Redcrest with 'AURELIA' written in black on the stern. Last seen on 15/9. If found please contact Felix, Telephone 07973 239892.

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**OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR**, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or telephone 01371 851868.

## Marine

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## PERSONAL

### DIAMOND WEDDING

**McKILLOP - At Oban Old Parish Church on September 27, 1958 by Rev. W. MacDonald, Christine to Bill. Love from all the family xxx**



## THANK YOU

After recent ophthalmic surgery at Raigmore Hospital, despite cut-backs and busy workloads, how cheerful and friendly everyone was. Grateful thanks to Dr Thomson, who operated and his team. Thanks also to Dr Susan Taylor of Morvern Medical Practice, for all her help and attention and to Dr Nicol of Specsavers Oban, for his expertise, help and encouragement. Neil MacKechnie, Lochaline

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## GOLDEN WEDDING

**COLLINS - ROBERTSON** - Hugh to Sandra Kathleen, married on September 27, 1968 at St Andrews Church, Fort William by Provost George Henderson. Present address: 20 Lionhouse Park, Hailsham, Sussex.

## DEATHS

**FINNIE** - John Finnie died peacefully at Dail Mhor Care Home, Strontian on September 21, 2018, aged 72 years old. Loved father to Karen, father-in-law of Adam and proud grandpa to Evie and Abbey. Funeral service to be held at Falkirk Crematorium on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 1p.m. No flowers please, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support, Oban.

**MACLACHLAN** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on September 19, 2018, Jeff, last surviving son of Cherry and the late Ian MacLachlan, he leaves behind three lovely daughters and a granddaughter. Sadly missed by all.

**MACNEIL** - Peacefully on Monday, September 24, 2018, in her 83rd year, Moira (Mary Katherine) MacNeil née McMonagle, beloved wife of the late Dougie (Dughall Dhondaidh). Much loved mother, granny, great-granny, sister and sister-in-law, aunt and friend. Will be sorely missed by all.

**MEES** - Peacefully at Belford Hospital, Janice Mees, aged 58 years. Devoted partner of Dan MacDonald, cherished daughter of Nan and the late Charles. Loving step mum, grannie, great-grannie. Funeral service will be held at 11am on Thursday October 4, 2018 in Ardour Parish Church, thereafter to Clydebank Crematorium for 3.30pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Lochaber Macmillan Nurses can be given at the service or forwarded to McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William, PH33 6JB.

**ROBINSON** - Peacefully, at Telford Centre, Fort Augustus, on Wednesday September 19, 2018, Joan

Robinson, aged 95 years, late of Nursery Park, Spean Bridge. Dearly loved wife of the late George Robinson, loving mother of David and Chris, devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service will be held at 1pm on Monday October 1, 2018 at Inverness Crematorium. Family flowers only please.

**STRACHAN** - Brian, of Roy Bridge, suddenly on the hill with his dogs by his side on Monday, September 17, 2018. Funeral service will take place on Friday, September 28 at 2 p.m. in Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge, followed by interment at Blarour Cemetery. Family flowers only please donations, if desired for Lochaber Mountain Rescue.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

**LEVY** - To whom it may concern: A Remembrance Tea for the late Barbara M Levy will be held at the Olive Garden, Railway Pier, Oban on Wednesday October 3, 2018 at 1.00 pm. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

## MEMORIAMS

**BLUE** - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary, who died October 2, 2011.

A leaf in the book of memories is gently turned today.  
- Mary

**BLUE** - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary, who died October 2, 2011.  
'Miss you Ma'.  
- Donnie.

**CAMPBELL** - Hughie, aged 20 years. Thoughts of a young man from Furnace, Argyll killed in action September 27, 1918 at Canal du Nord during WW1 and buried in Moeuvres Cemetery, France.

- Inserted by his great niece Flora Henning, Edinburgh.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering Chris, who passed away September 28, 2015.

Sadly missed by Fiona and Keilidh.

**CONOLLY** - In loving memory of a much loved friend and neighbour James Conolly (Jimmy), who passed away September 27, 2017.

Always in our thoughts. RIP.  
- DJ, Catriona, Jessie, Marie, John, Isobel, Davy and Jane, Arisaig.

**DAW** - Hugh. Beloved partner of the late Katherine MacGillivray. Remembering Hughie on the 6th anniversary Fondly remembered and thought of Look after mum and gran for me.  
- Paul.

**GORDON** - Loving memories of Michelle, died September 28, 2005, age 19 years.

A little angel with a smile Only here on earth a while. Precious memories keep her near As we wipe away a tear.  
- Cathie.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my dear fiancé Ian, who died October 1, 2014. Always in my thoughts and forever in my heart.  
- Jessie xxx

**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of John, our dearly loved son, brother and uncle, who died on September 27, 1992. Remembered always with all our love

Missed so much by all of us Forever in our thoughts and in our hearts  
- Mum, David, Agnes, Marina and families xx

**MACKENZIE** - Treasured memories of our son and brother Jamie who died October 1, 2000.

So full of life So full of fun A friend to almost everyone Wherever life leads us Whatever we may do You'll have a special place in our hearts That will forever belong to you.  
- Mum, Dad, and Andrew.

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of my grandson Jamie, who died October 1, 2000. Silent thoughts Memories unseen Wishing your absence was only a dream.  
- Granny Henderson.

**MACLEAN** - Kathryn. In loving memory of my sister Kathryn who died September 24, 2015. Sadly missed and always remembered.

**MACLEAN** - Kathryn, in our hearts you will always stay and are remembered every day.  
- Love Donald, Julie and Mark.

**MCLENNAN** - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Flora who passed away September 25, 1996 and Alex on August 28, 1999. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly loved and remembered every day.  
- From Elsie, Margaret and families.

**MILLIN** - In loving memory of my dear mother and father, mother who died on September 27, 1980 and father who died on May 10, 1986.  
- Inserted by their son Creagan, Strontian.

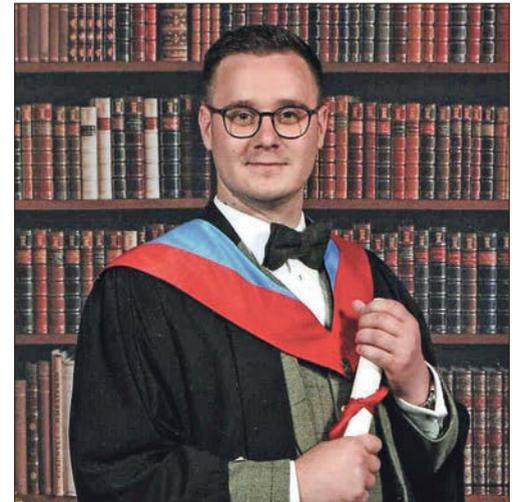
**RITCHIE** - Jean (Mary Jane), September 29, 2014. Four years have passed We think about you always We talk about you too We have so many memories But we wish we still had you - Love from your husband Andrew and family.

**SCOTT** - Remembering with love our dear dad and papa Eddie, who died September 27, 2013 and our dear mum and granny Jean, who died October 1, 2000 - always in our thoughts.  
- Pamela, David, Edmund, Bronwen, Gordon, Kirsten, Caitlin, Gavin and Sarah xxxx



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## GRADUATIONS



ALEXANDER SHAIRP

Graduated from the Glasgow Caledonian University with a First Class Bachelor of Arts in Finance, Investment and Risk. Alexander is the grandson of Sandy and Pam Shairp of the Island of Luing.



ROMANY SHAIRP

Graduated with Honours from the Winchester University with a Bachelor of Arts in Primary Education with Special Education and Q.T.S. Romany is the granddaughter of Sandy and Pam Shairp of the Island of Luing.



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# Fight to save clan chiefs' newly found grave from the sea

The final resting place of clan chiefs of the Macleods of Lewis has likely been found in a church graveyard falling into the sea

St Columba's Church, or Ui Church from the Gaelic for isthmus, is a 14th-century ruin sitting on the Aignish peninsula near Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. It is also known as the Eye Church, or its Gaelic equivalent Eaglais na h-Aoidhe.

It was one of the most important medieval churches in the Western Isles, but now it is in danger of being lost to the sea.

The cemetery around the church once extended at least 10 metres further than it does now, providing a buffer for storm force winds and waves but over time this graveyard has been claimed by the sea, along with the human remains which it once held. Now, the waves of Broad Bay lap at the very foundations of the church.

The Ui Church Trust, Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe, was formed in 2001 to safeguard, consolidate and preserve it. Now its annual Colm Cille lecture has claimed a grave called the Sword Stone most likely marks the exact burial spot of the clan chiefs of the Macleods of Lewis.

This coffin-shaped stone, which is decorated with a faintly visible sword, had previously given rise to a theory that the Ui Church was linked to the Knights Templar. But all the research now points to it marking the final resting place of the Macleod chiefs, with the sword

believed to be a reference to one particular chief's reputation as an excellent swordsman.

The lecture on links between Ui and the Macleod chiefs was delivered by genealogist Andrew MacLeod, and sponsored again by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

Colin Scott Mackenzie, honorary president of the Ui Church Trust, said the new information about the Sword Stone was 'vastly important', adding: 'The site is itself important, particularly for the parish of Stornoway as it was the parish church. It was, in its day, the most important church in the Hebrides. It was the richest church in the Hebrides. It was burned down twice in its early days, possibly by the Vikings, and that it's here at all is a wonder.'

The extent of the erosion is clear from typical designs of medieval church graveyards, which tended to be circular, with the church in the middle of the graveyard – but Ui Church is now right on the perimeter, next to Broad Bay.

Ui Church Trust secretary Liz Chaplin said it was 'a horribly exposed location' and that waves came 'right over' the church in the winter. 'We've had starfish in the church,' she said.

Hundreds of bodies are known to



lie at Ui – with a geophysical survey, a few years ago, establishing 'layers upon layers' of bodies.

There are even bodies under the coastal footpath between the church and the sea, according to Mr Mackenzie, as this area would

once have been close to the middle of the graveyard. He said: 'There have been local people who've been anxious about it and it would seem that winter storms have been getting worse in recent years. The sea wall that protects it has been damaged

severely half a dozen times in the past 10 years. We've spent what we could, and we protected the church. If we hadn't done that, it wouldn't be here now.'

Ms Chaplin added: 'Now we have to decide: do we move the stone and put it under shelter or leave it as it is? Knowing the provenance of it is a huge thing for us. Tradition tells us the MacLeod chiefs were buried here but we never had the actual location for them until now.'



**Pictured inside the Ui Church with the Sword Stone, left to right: Alex John Murray, Ui Church Trust committee member; Colin Scott Mackenzie, Ui Church Trust honorary president; Liz Chaplin, secretary of the Ui Church Trust; John Kennedy, a descendant of the Macleods of Lewis; and Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust.**

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

## Former Islay head teacher dies

Peter McAvoy, a former head teacher at Islay High School, has died in Dundee following a short illness. He was 60.

Peter was head of Islay High School for three years during the early 1990s having taken over from Jean Hunter when she retired.

He was a former social subjects adviser and did much to improve the high school's procedures, planning and performance.

During that time the family lived in the schoolhouse in Port Charlotte.

He was well liked by the staff and pupils and insisted on wearing the school sweatshirt to promote ethos.

He was also known as Mario by staff and pupils because of his resemblance to the Nintendo game character and he will be remembered with affection by longest serving members of IHS staff.

He went on to become head of education for Perth and Kinross District Council and had only recently retired when he was taken ill while on holiday in France.

He is survived by his wife Anne and two daughters, Jillian and Stephanie. Their son and brother, Peter, died four years ago, aged 22, while on a US college scholarship in New York State, from a heart attack.





# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Treble up for Newtonmore

Newtonmore added the Marine Harvest Premiership trophy to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup won last weekend, and the cottages.com MacTavish Cup won earlier in the season, whilst Inveraray are favourites to secure promotion from the Marine Harvest National Division following the shinty action last weekend

### Marine Harvest Premiership

#### Newtonmore 3 Oban Camanachd 2

Newtonmore clinched another Marine Harvest Premiership title, their eighth title success in nine seasons, following their 3-2 win over Oban Camanachd at The Eilan.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh originally made just one change from his Camanachd Cup winning starting 12 as Drew MacDonald came in instead of Jamie Robinson.

In a late switch, Steven Macdonald dropped on to the bench with Neil Stewart given a start. Fraser MacKintosh remained out with a broken collar-bone whilst Evan Menzies and Michael Russell were passed fit after limping out late in the Scottish win over Lovat.

Oban Camanachd boss Ian Hay was without Keith MacMillan but young defender Daniel Sloss returned to the defence after missing the defeat against Kyles Athletic a fortnight earlier whilst playing for Lochside Rovers in their Bullough Cup Final win. Willie Neilson and Connor Howe were restored to the starting line-up after missing the

Kyles Athletic game whilst Aidan MacIntyre was also back and he joined Malcolm Clark and Scott MacMillan on the bench.

Oban Camanachd made a bright start to this contest and they enjoyed most of the early pressure, forcing 'More keeper Kenny Ross into three early saves, so when Newtonmore went in front on 18 minutes, the goal came against the run of play.

There was no doubting the quality of the goal though. Iain Robinson had the ball on the right touchline and he passed it forward to Glen MacKintosh. Robinson made a diagonal run inside towards goal and when MacKintosh played a returned pass, the youngster controlled the ball and kept running, sending a looping effort past Cameron Sutherland in the visiting goal.

Both teams were forced to make changes at the back. First 'More's Craig Ritchie had to come off after being hit in the face by the ball so there was an early introduction for Steven Macdonald. Ritchie came back on later in the game to replace a limping Andy MacKintosh.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron took a heavy blow as he tussled with Glen MacKintosh. Cameron continued for five minutes or so before being replaced by Scott MacMillan with Garry Lord going to full back.

Newtonmore's Camanachd Cup final hero Evan Menzies made it 2-0 on 26 minutes. Glen MacKintosh was again the provider, playing the ball to Menzies who turned and twisted to make space to shoot and score.

The Oban side had to make another change around 10 minutes before



Oban Camanachd's David Lafferty in a chase for the ball with Newtonmore's Drew Macdonald during the Marine Harvest Premiership game played at The Eilan last Saturday, which the home side won by the odd goal in five to put them a step closer to winning the league title. Photo: Neil Paterson

the break when Connor Howe felt a tight hamstring so Malcolm Clark took over and went on to have a really good game.

Oban Camanachd went looking to get a goal back from the restart but it was Newtonmore who increased their advantage just four minutes after the restart with Evan Menzies getting his second goal of the game. The goal came after the Oban defence failed to clear a corner and Evan Menzies tapped the ball home from close range.

Oban Camanachd pulled a goal back just a couple of minutes later. There was a scramble in the 'More goal area following Daniel MacCuish's corner from the left and Andrew MacCuish ran in and flicked the ball past the keeper to make it 3-1 with the hosts claiming for offside.

It was game on come the hour mark as Andrew MacCuish got his second to make it 3-2. Scott MacMillan's free-hit wasn't dealt with and when the ball fell for Andrew MacCuish on the Oban left, he fired a shot across the keeper and inside the far post to make it 3-2.

With still half an hour to go, Oban Camanachd went in search of a leveller and Malcolm Clark forced a good save before Kenny Ross used his hand to keep out a Willie Neilson effort.

Andrew MacCuish also set up a chance for Malcolm Clark but his strike went over the bar.

One diving Kenny Ross save with his legs prompted Oban Camanachd claims for a penalty but referee Calum Girvan wasn't interested.

Newtonmore also had chances in the second half, forcing a couple of goalmouth scrambles with Cameron Sutherland having to be on his toes to clear the danger.

Newtonmore stalwart Norman Campbell was forced off with 10 minutes to go after suffering a blow to the hand leaving him with suspected broken knuckles. With Campbell due to step down from first team shinty at the end of the season, the Oban Camanachd match could be his final bow.

Newtonmore had gone six matches without even losing a goal ahead of this one and they have found both of this term's games against Oban Camanachd to be as testing as anything they've faced this season.

The win means a third trophy of the season for Newtonmore; added to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the cottages.com MacTavish Cup. With another treble won by the club's second team, the Eilan trophy room is bulging.

Newtonmore have one more match remaining as they visit Tighnabruach to play Kyles Athletic this coming Saturday when they will be presented with the league trophy.

Oban Camanachd finish their season off at home to Skye Camanachd on Saturday October 6.

### Kinlochshiel 0 Kingussie 0

Neither Kinlochshiel nor Kingussie were able to break the deadlock in their match at Kirkton.

Throw up remained at 3pm even although the earlier game between the Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart

second teams was postponed as it was felt the field could not take two games.

Apart from one soft area around the top penalty spot, which would have cut up had there been an earlier game, the field was in good condition considering the early rain.

With the supporters gathering, throw up was delayed for just more than 35 minutes as some of the Kingussie squad had been held up at road works near Lochcarron for around 90 minutes with 'Shiel keen to get the game started as players Finlay MacRae and Conor Cormack were due to begin work shifts in Inverness at 6pm.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill was unavailable so Duncan MacLeod, Doe MacRae and Innes MacRae looked after the side.

Keith MacRae was again 'Shiel's main absentee with Fraser MacVicar also unavailable. Youngsters Duncan Matheson and Duncan 'WD' MacRae were given a start with captain Paul MacRae joining Duncan 'DA' MacRae and Scott MacLean on the bench. John MacRae was at centre, flanked by brothers Donald Nixon and Ally Nixon, with Oliver MacRae at buckshee forward.

Savio Genini returned for Kingussie and he started on the bench. Louis Munro was still out and Fraser Munro and Calum Grant were unavailable as was long-term injury absentee Kieran MacPherson. However, Lee Bain was restored to the starting line-up and he played at wing back.

Kingussie boss John Gibson kept faith with the young forward



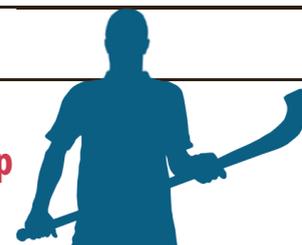
Michael Russell, Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie challenge for the ball. Photo: Neil Paterson

**Camanachd Cup  
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup  
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup  
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup  
Bullough Cup**



# as they win Premiership

line of Ruaridh Anderson, Liam Borthwick, James Falconer and Roddy Young which did so well against Skye a week earlier.

Kingussie, playing up the slope, made a bright start with James Falconer looking lively on the left. Falconer sent a good early ball across goal to create the game's first chance with Liam Borthwick shooting just wide of the target.

In 'Shiel's first attack, Duncan Matheson got a shot on goal following a free-hit but Craig Dawson saved comfortably with his feet.

A good ball forward from Kingussie full centre James Hutchison was knocked on by Roddy Young and Liam Borthwick again went close but the match remained scoreless.

Ally Nixon sent in a fine cross-field pass from the right and Duncan Matheson shot on target but keeper Craig Dawson did well to block the effort at the expense of a corner with Dawson palming away Duncan 'WD' MacRae's shot from the resultant corner.

Craig Dawson then made a low stop with his stick to his right to turn away Oliver MacRae's shot from the right.

Kinlochshiel brought on Paul MacRae for an injured Duncan 'WD' MacRae before a nice turn and shot from Duncan Matheson midway through the half produced another good Craig Dawson save in the air as 'Shiel enjoyed a period of pressure.

Kingussie went back on the attack and James Hutchison played a quick free-hit forward. David Falconer looked to clear but Ruaridh Anderson nipped in to win possession and he got a shot in but his effort went wide of target.

Kingussie's Roddy Young went into this match on the back of scoring five times in his last two outings and his turn and shot went just wide as the first half drew to a close.

A good Kinlochshiel move saw Duncan Matheson show great control as he took the ball down and he found Ally Nixon wide on the right. Nixon's deep cross fell for Jordan Fraser at the back post but he shot into the side-netting.

Kingussie then created the move of the match and some neat, swift passing ended when James Falconer found Ruaridh Anderson and his shot from the left was saved by 'Shiel keeper Scott Kennedy, low to his left.

'Shiel replaced Jordan Fraser with Duncan 'DA' MacRae as the game flowed from one end to the other.

The hosts forced a corner which Rory MacKeachan did well to clear and when Kingussie went on the attack, Ruaridh Anderson played the ball to Roddy Young. The 'Shiel defence got the ball away but only as far as Young and his effort was well saved to his right with his stick

by Scott Kennedy. Kennedy then made a magnificent stop with his club by his right post to deny James Falconer. A looping Liam Borthwick effort was saved with his feet by Kennedy as Kingussie cranked up the pressure.

Kingussie buckshee back Alexander Michie was next to try his luck as he surged down the right flank but his goal-bound shot was well-parried with his caman by defender Mark MacDonald.

Scott Kennedy then then saved with his hand to keep out Ruaridh Anderson's 25 yard shot.

'Shiel reintroduced Jordan Fraser for Oliver MacRae and the hosts now had Paul MacRae at full back and Finlay MacRae at buckshee back.

A Jordan Fraser shot on 83 minutes fizzed wide as the outcome remained in the balance.

John MacRae was fouled in a battle for possession with Rory MacKeachan on the 'Shiel left. MacRae played the free-hit into the danger-area and Duncan 'DA' MacRae ran onto the ball but steered his effort just the wrong side of the post.

Kingussie brought Barrie Dallas on for Ryan MacWilliam for the closing stages.

James Hutchison sent a good ball forward following a Craig Dawson free-hit by the Kingussie corner flag on the left. Liam Borthwick took a brilliant touch to get the ball under control but Scott Kennedy managed to scramble the ball away for a corner.

Kennedy then saved a shot through a ruck of players and he was the busier of the two goalies.

John MacRae and Duncan 'DA' MacRae combined with John MacRae hooking a shot over the top, injuring his hand in the process but he was able to see the game out the final couple of minutes.

Referee Iain Kennedy's final whistle meant the sides had to settle for a point each although Kingussie will feel their second half performance merited the win.

The sides are still to meet at the Dell with that one scheduled for Saturday October 6 in what will be Kingussie's final match of the season. Kinlochshiel have home meetings with Lovat and Caberfeidh either side of that game.

## **Lovat 3 Skye Camanachd 2**

Second-placed Lovat twice came from behind to deal second bottom Skye Camanachd's survival chances a blow as they won 3-2 in their 3pm throw up at Balgate.

Marc MacLachlan's knee injury, suffered in the last weekend's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup defeat to Newtonmore, kept him

out whilst captain Lewis Tawse was on his honeymoon. Lorne MacKay was suspended and Drew Howie dropped onto the bench – as he rested a knee injury – where he was joined by Jamie Buchan and Finlay Ogilvie. There were starts for Chris Johnston, Martin Mainland, Bailey MacKay and Thomas Fraser

With Skye manager John MacLeod stepping down following the 5-1 defeat to Kingussie a week earlier, his assistants Donnie MacDonald and Iain MacLeod took the side. They were still minus goalie Iain MacLeod so Ryan Morrison continued to deputise. Jordan Murchison remained out but Stewart Grant and John Gillies returned to the starting line-up and Connor Gilpin dropped on to the bench alongside Daniel Morrison and Martin Pringle.

Lovat were forced to introduce Drew Howie after Craig Mainland took a heavy knock and had to be withdrawn.

Skye went in front on 34 minutes when Ruaraidh MacLeod smashed a waist-high shot from the right into the net.

Greg Matheson drew Lovat level on 40 minutes when he was quickly into the D to force the ball over the line after an initial shot squirmed through the keeper's legs.

Will Cowie put Skye back in front on 49 minutes. Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald got a hand to Cowie's strike from wide on the right but he couldn't keep the ball out and it dropped over the line.

Ruaraidh MacLeod came close to making it 3-1 on 54 minutes when his shot from wide on the left rattled the keeper's right post.

Lovat's Callum Cruden played in attack and he made it 2-2 on 64 minutes. Cruden didn't catch the ball cleanly but it dropped behind the keeper and into the net.

Ruaraidh MacLeod looked Skye's best bet for another goal and he blasted a shot wide on 73 minutes.

However, Callum Cruden got his second on 79 minutes with what proved to be the winning goal. Skye keeper Ryan Morrison tried to play the ball out for a corner but Greg Matheson nipped in to win possession. Keeper Morrison made a terrific save with his leg to keep out Matheson's drive but the ball fell kindly for Cruden who dived in to play the ball into the net with one hand on his club.

Skye were denied the point they deserved when Stuart MacDonald made a terrific flying save to his left, using his stick to keep out a good shot from Ruaraidh MacLeod with just four minutes remaining.

The defeat means Skye remain in ninth place on the table, four points behind eighth placed Caberfeidh with the sides having two matches each to go. Caberfeidh have a sig-



Newtonmore manager PJ Mackintosh, right, celebrates winning the Premiership title with club stalwart David 'Tarzan' Ritchie.

Photo: Neil Paterson

nificant goal difference advantage so even though the sides meet at Castle Leod this Saturday, the odds are very much stacked against Skye.

## **Kyles Athletic P Glenurquhart P**

The heavy overnight rain led to the postponement of the match between Kyles Athletic and bottom side Glenurquhart at Tighnabruaich

This will be Glen's final match of the season whilst Kyles host Newtonmore this coming Saturday.

## **Marine Harvest National Division**

### **Inveraray 7 Kilmallie 1**

Inveraray boosted their promotion chances with a terrific 7-1 win over champions Kilmallie in their 3pm throw up at the Winterton.

Inveraray boss Ruaraidh Graham was without Hamish MacLellan who was still at sea whilst both Lewis

Continued on page 54

## **Fixtures**

### **Saturday September 29**

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Caberfeidh v Skye  
Kinlochshiel v Lovat  
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore

**Marine Harvest  
National Division**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Strathglass  
Kilmallie v Beaulie

**Marine Harvest  
North Division 1**  
Aberdeen University v Kingussie  
Skye v Fort William

**Marine Harvest  
South Division 1**  
Bute v Ballachulish  
Inveraray v Taynuilt  
Kyles Athletic v Col Glen  
Kilmory v Lochside Rovers

**Marine Harvest  
North Division 2**  
Beaulie v Strathspey  
Boleskine v Lochcarron  
Lochaber v Lovat

All throw ups 2.30 pm unless stated)

## **Results**

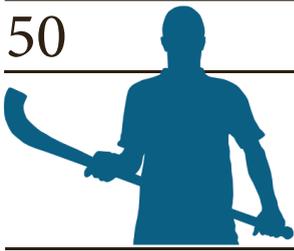
**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Newtonmore 3 v 2 Oban Caman  
Kinlochshiel 0 v 0 Kingussie  
Kyles Ath P v P Glenurquhart  
Unplayable pitch  
Lovat 3 v 2 Skye

**National Division**  
Inveraray 7 v 1 Kilmallie  
Glasgow MA 0 v 3 Fort William

**North Division One**  
Kinlochshiel P v P Glenurquhart  
Unplayable pitch  
Fort William 3 v 1 Kingussie

**South Division One**  
Inveraray P v P Lochside Rovers  
Unplayable pitch  
Kyles Athletic 5 v 0 Aberdour  
Col Glen P v P Kilmory  
Kilmory unable to field a team  
two points deducted  
Ballachulish 2 v 3 Taynuilt  
Bute 1 v 0 Tayforth

**North Division Two**  
Lovat 3 v 5 Caberfeidh  
Strathspey 1 v 2 Lochcarron  
Beaulie 3 v 4 Lochaber  
Kilmallie 2 v 2 Lewis  
Strathglass 6 v 1 Inverness



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 53

Montgomery and Ross Montgomery were on holiday.

Kilmallie's Michael Rodger was free of suspension but didn't travel. Indeed boss Mark MacPherson travelled south with no fewer than 10 players missing. As well as Rodger, the absentee list was Aaron Sandison, Lewis Birrell, Jordan MacPhee, Robbie MacFadyen, Stephen Macalister, Andrew Macalister, Calum MacDougall, Bryan Mackay and Martin Stewart.

Inveraray got off to a great start, taking the lead in the opening minute. The ball was cut back to Neil Campbell on the edge of the D and he slipped it past the keeper to make it 1-0.

Inveraray's second goal a couple of minutes later was similar and came when the ball was played into Neil Campbell, who made a nice first-time touch to Fraser Watt and he tucked the ball past the keeper.

Kilmallie pulled a goal back when Leigh Dunning, who normally plays wing back for the Kilmallie second team, got onto a looping ball to the back post and he slotted it into the bottom corner of the net to make it 2-1.

Lewis MacNicol restored Inveraray's two-goal cushion on 27 minutes when he got the ball around the penalty spot, took a touch past his marker, and fired into the roof of the net.

Fraser Watt got his second on 35 minutes. The ball was played in and took a deflection out wide where Watt hit it first time on the bounce into the opposite bottom corner of the goal.

There was now only going to be one winner and when Garry MacPherson gathered the ball at a narrow angle, he burst past his marker and hit a shot low into the bottom corner of the net to make it 5-1 at the break.

Inveraray continued to press and when Neil Campbell gathered the ball at the back post, he played it off to Inveraray player/manager Ruairaidh Graham, who was unmarked on the edge of the box and he slotted the ball past the keeper.

Lewis MacNicol got his second 15 minutes from time. The goal came following a free-hit where Garry MacPherson found Lewis MacNicol, who hit a low drive into the net with the keeper unable to adjust his feet quickly enough.

This was an important win for Inveraray as they are now just a point behind second-placed Fort William and their goal difference is such that just a draw in their final match at Beaully will secure promotion to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

## Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Fort William 3

Second-placed Fort William completed their season with a 3-0 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll at Yoker.

Craig Anderson returned for GMA whilst Fort William's Graham Campbell was free of suspension.

GMA played with the wind advan-



Inveraray's Gary MacPherson and Kilmallie's Brian MacKinnon in action during last Saturday's National Division game at the Winterton where the home side thrashed the league champions 7-1.

Photo Stephen Lawson

tage during the opening 45 minutes but the half ended goalless.

There were two significant turning points in the game. The first came when GMA lost full back Ryan Harrison with a hand injury and John Fraser took over.

Fort William, who made better use of the wind during the second period, pushed Arran MacPhee to full forward and he opened the scoring on 67 minutes.

The Fort doubled their advantage from the penalty spot on 73 minutes after referee Ross Brown penalised substitute John Fraser for throwing his stick. Arran MacPhee converted to make it 2-0.

Lewis Morrison sealed the win when he made it 3-0 on 77 minutes.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

### Fort William 3 Kingussie 1

The Fort William reserves go second in the table after they beat the Kingussie reserves 3-1 at An Aird.

Greig Kelly gave Fort William a 19-minute lead with what was the only goal of the first half.

Connor MacRae made it 2-0 on the hour and Lewis Murphy added a third just five minutes later.

Roma Fraser notched a consolation goal from the Kings a minute from time.

### Kinlochshiel P Glenurquhart P

The Kinlochshiel colts and the Glenurquhart colts will try again as their noon throw up at Kirkton was called off as the pitch couldn't take two games.

This will be the final game of the season for both sides. Kinlochshiel extinguished any doubts that they might be dragged into a relegation battle when they beat the Skye seconds in their last outing a fortnight earlier.

Glen, on the other hand, must win

the match to give themselves the best chance of beating the drop at Aberdeen University's expense.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Kyles Athletic 5 Aberdour 0

The Kyles Athletic second team stay in pole position in the division after they beat Aberdour 5-0 in their noon throw up which was switched to Strachurmore.

David Martin put Kyles ahead after just six minutes and he added a second just a couple of minutes before the break.

Two quick-fire goals early in the second half had Kyles in control as Martin MacFadyen netted on 46 minutes with Brandon Wilson making it 4-0 just a minute later.

Brandon Wilson got his second on 73 minutes to complete the 5-0 win in a match refereed by Lucy McNulty.

### Bute 1 Tayforth 0

Second-placed Bute edged out Tayforth, winning 1-0 at the Meadows.

Bute's Iain McDonald got the goal that made the difference on 25 minutes.

Bute still trail leaders Kyles Athletic reserves by a point with both sides having three games remaining.

### Ballachulish 2 Taynuilt 3

Taynuilt saw off a determined Ballachulish comeback to finally win 3-2 in their match at the Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish have been on a good run of form and were favourites to extend that run on their last home game of the season even with Connor MacGregor serving the second match of a two-game suspension.

The game was played on a perfect

pitch for shinty. The visitors won the toss and elected to take advantage of the strong wind and soon had the hosts under pressure.

Taynuilt opened the scoring after eight minutes when, after a scramble in the Ballachulish goal area, referee Fisher awarded a penalty. Scott Dempster despatched the ball past the keeper to give Taynuilt an early advantage.

The lead was doubled after 20 minutes when Billy Irving, returning to the Taynuilt team after his Indian jail nightmare, turned his marker and sent a low shot into the net.

Ballachulish started to put some pressure on the visitors' defence as half-time approached and forced three corners in quick succession but were unable to convert any of them.

The second half saw Ballachulish, with the wind at their backs, laying siege to the Taynuilt goal and they pulled a goal back after 55 minutes when Duncan MacDonald scrambled the ball passed Brian Logan in the Taynuilt goal.

Just 10 minutes later, Ballachulish were level when Alan Clark fired a 30-yard shot into the net.

With 25 minutes remaining, it only looked a matter of time before Ballachulish would score but Taynuilt stood firm and the defence, with 15-year-old Blair MacFarlane turning in an outstanding man-of-the-match performance, repelled all Ballachulish attacks.

The winning goal came on 80 minutes following the best move of the game. From deep in defence, Parr played a long ball up to Bergant who played a first time pass forward to Scott Dempster and he turned his marker and fired a 30-yard shot into the top corner to restore Taynuilt's advantage.

The last 10 minutes was end-to-end stuff with the visitors just hanging on.

### Col Glen P Kilmory P

Kilmory were unable to raise a team for their match against Col Glen at Glendaruel.

Kilmory have been deducted two points and the game will be rescheduled.

Kilmory organised an emergency meeting with the Camanachd Association at the Stag Hotel on Monday September 22 to discuss the future sustainability of the senior, juvenile and primary school set ups for shinty in their area.

This included participation, fund raising, volunteers, coaching, rules, competitions etc. The meeting was open to players, coaches, club members, supporters, parents and sponsors.

### Inveraray P Lochside Rovers P

The clash between the Inveraray second team and Lochside Rovers will be rescheduled after a Friday pitch inspection deemed the Winterton would be unable to host two matches.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Lovat 3 Caberfeidh 5

Marine Harvest North Division 2 champions Lovat seconds were presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 2 trophy following their 5-3 defeat to their Caberfeidh counter-parts in their noon throw up at Balgate.

James MacLeod signalled that Cabers were quite capable of spoiling the party when he took an Alan Ross pass and put the visitors ahead on 19 minutes with a low shot into the net from the right.

Another Raymond Rennie goal just three minutes later drew Lovat level as he out-muscled his marker before running in to score from just inside the D.

Alan Ross put Cabers back in front on 30 minutes when he dispossessed Martin Bell before striking the ball over the keeper to make it 2-1.

Colin MacLennan added a third on 35 minutes after running from some distance before scoring from out on the right.

Raymond Rennie again showed his strength to score from inside the D on 43 minutes to make it 3-2 at the break.

Alan Ross got his second goal a minute after the restart when he lobbed the ball from 30 yards out and the dropping ball crept in by the keeper's post.

Raymond Rennie completed his hat-trick on 57 minutes when he beat the full back and netted from 22 yards range to make it 4-3.

There was to be no come-back as Ruairidh MacKinnon knocked home a rebound after Lovat keeper Ronan MacMillan had made a save.

Colin MacLennan almost made it a more comfortable Caberfeidh win but he hit the post with five minutes remaining.

After the final whistle, Lovat seconds skipper James Grieve was presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 2 trophy by Camanachd Association Competitions Director Steven MacKenzie.

### Strathspey Camanachd 1 Lochcarron 2

Lochcarron came from behind to beat Strathspey Camanachd 2-1 in their 1.30pm throw up at Grantown Grammar School.

Martin Ross put Strathspey ahead on the stroke of half-time.

Lochcarron veteran Peter MacKenzie scored twice, on 55 and 80 minutes, to give Lochcarron a 2-1 win which keeps them fourth in the table.

### Beaully 3 Lochaber 4

A Lachlan Campbell goal four minutes from time gave the Lochaber seconds a 4-3 win over the Beaully seconds at Braeview Park.

Lachlan Campbell gave Lochaber an eight-minute lead but Kyle MacDonald equalised on 23

minutes. Lachlan Campbell put Lochaber back in front on the half-hour mark but Kyle MacDonald again drew Beaully level on 36 minutes.

Lochaber went in front again through Harvie Allison on 55 minutes only for Kyle MacDonald to complete his hat-trick as he drew the hosts level for the third time on the hour.

And that is the way it stayed until four minutes from time when Lachlan Campbell completed his hat-trick to give Lochaber a 4-3 victory.

**Kilmallie 2  
Lewis Camanachd 2**

Lewis Camanachd came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with the Kilmallie colts at the Canal Parks.

The first half ended scoreless but Jamie Morrison gave Kilmallie the lead on 63 minutes.

Andrew Gibb made it 2-0 just a minute later and although the strikes came against the run of play, Kilmallie looked good for the points.

Donald Lamont got Lewis back into it on 69 minutes. Ally Lamont won the ball in his own half and played it up to Ali Gordon on the left touchline, about 40 yards out. Gordon tussled for possession with his marker and Donald Lamont took advantage as he picked the ball up and ran with it past two defenders towards the by-line. With the keeper coming out to narrow the angle, Lamont managed to knock the ball past him to make it 2-1.

The Lewis equaliser came five minutes from time from 14-year-old Daniel Harrison, who made a big impact after coming on at half-time. The goal came after a sustained period of Lewis pressure and a one-two between Donald Lamont and Ally Lamont resulted in a shot which the goalie saved. However Daniel Harrison knocked the rebound into the net to make it 2-2.

The draw gives Lewis Camanachd their first-ever point at Caol and rounds off their season.

**Strathglass 6  
Inverness 1**

The Strathglass reserves were too strong for the Inverness reserves, winning 6-1 in their match at Cannich.

Penri Jones put Strathglass in front on 25 minutes but Andy Reid equalised just three minutes later.

However, the hosts regained the lead when Rory MacInnes netted a minute before the break to make it 2-1 at half-time.

Eddie Noble made it 3-1 on 48 minutes whilst Colin Birnie continued his fine scoring streak with strikes on 57 and 85 minutes.

In-between times, Barry John Phimister got the goal he was looking for when he finished on 82 minutes to seal the win which lifts the Strath colts to ninth place following what was their final match of the season.

**WCA Round Up**

The Marine Harvest National Division 1 title race will come down to a final day meeting between Skye Camanachd and Badenoch &

Strathspey following the weekend's Women's Camanachd Association fixtures which mostly took place on Sunday September 23.

**Marine Harvest  
National Division 1**

**Skye Camanachd 13  
Lochaber 1**

Skye Camanachd beat Lochaber 13-1 in their 3pm throw up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday 22 September 2018.

Skye needed to win to maintain their advantage at the top of the table and they did just that with Lorna MacRae scoring five times, Sarah Corrigan hitting the net four times and Jenna Beaton, Ilana Paterson, Caitlin MacLean and an own goal making up their tally.

Natalie MacDonald grabbed the Lochaber goal.

So Skye stay two points ahead of Badenoch & Strathspey in the title race. Skye have a 100 per cent record in the division whilst Badenoch's only defeat was a 3-1 reverse against the Islanders at the Dell earlier in the season. Both teams have one match remaining - against each other - scheduled for Pairc nan Laoch, Portree in a title-decider on Saturday October 6.

**Fort William 0  
Strathspey 2**

Strathspey completed their first season in the top flight with a 2-0 win over Fort William in their noon throw up at An Aird.

Lucy Davis and Jade Callum got the goals for Keith Callum's side.

**Ardnamurchan 1  
Aberdour 3**

Aberdour beat Ardnamurchan 3-1 in their 1pm throw up at the Strontian astro pitch.

Eilidh Ross scored for Ard'.

**Badenoch & Strathspey W/O v  
Glasgow Mid Argyll**

Badenoch & Strathspey were given a walk-over when Glasgow Mid Argyll were unable to raise a team for their match at the Dell.

**Marine Harvest  
North Division 2**

**Glenurquhart 2  
Strathglass 0**

Glenurquhart beat Strathglass 2-0 at Blairbeg. Ishbel Barr and Chloe MacLeod got the goals.

**Skye Camanachd 6  
Glengarry 6**

The Skye Camanachd second team and Glengarry shared the points following a 6-6 draw in their 1pm throw up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday September 22.

**Lovat 7  
Kinlochshiel 0**

Lovat beat Kinlochshiel 7-0 at Balgate.

**Lochaber P  
Inverness P**

The meeting between the Lochaber second team and Inverness at Spean Bridge has been rescheduled for Sunday October 28.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S  
**JACKPOT**  
**£500**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.  
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.  
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel No. ....

Please  
tape your  
£1 coin here  
(only if posting)

**LAST  
WEEK'S  
SHINTY  
BALL WAS  
HERE...**

**Congratulations to  
S Campbell, Oban  
who won last week's  
jackpot of £2550**

\*winner has been notified

OT

PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINTY

# Ian (Parrot) Macmillan schools shinty competition



Taynuilt, winners of the P5 to P7 competition.

The annual Ian (Parrot) Macmillan primary schools memorial shinty competition took place last Sunday at Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

Twelve teams took part, with 96 children participating. Some fantastic and exciting matches were played with Taynuilt coming out victors in the P5 to P7 competition with Rockfield winning the P5 and under section.

Nicola Duncan from Park school won the best girl of the day award.

Matthew Sloss from Taynuilt won for the third year running the Ian Macmillan Memorial Quaich. This is a fantastic achievement for the young talented player.

Scott Campbell, Park school, won the William 'Flip' Fleming award for the best overall player of the competition as he held his own in every game played and showed great skill and determination.

Thanks went to everyone involved and to David Hamilton for supporting the event for the sixth year running.



Nicola Duncan.



Matthew Sloss and Scott Campbell.



P5 and under section winners were Rockfield.



Oban Camanachd pictured with coach Stephen Sloss after winning the MacQuiston Cup last Sunday.

# Oban youngsters win MacQuiston Cup

Two top shinty youth finals took place at the Taynuilt Sports Field on Sunday September 23.

Oban Lorn	9
Ballachulish	1

U14 Development Final

Oban Lorn and Ballachulish battled it

out in a 1pm throw up to contest the U14 National Development League Final with Oban Lorn winning 9-1.

Coll MacKay grabbed a hat-trick with Innes MacDonald, William MacEwan and Eilidh Cameron bagging doubles. Lewis Moran scored for Ballachulish.

Col Glen	1
Oban Camanachd	3

MacQuiston Cup Final

Next up, Col Glen and Oban Camanachd clashed in a 3pm throw up with the MacQuiston Cup at stake and the Oban side took the honours with a 3-1 win.

Ross Campbell gave Oban Camanachd an 18-minute lead and Lennon Campbell added a second with 30 minutes played.

Connor Kennedy pulled a goal back on 43 minutes but Lennon Campbell got his second on 47 minutes to confirm a 3-1 victory. Ross Brown refereed both games.

# Poppy Scotland Armistice Memorial Challenge

The 2018 Women's Camanachd Association North v South boundaries have been adjusted to tie in with the Poppy Scotland sportive challenge event which takes place on Sunday.

This is one of the many events Poppy Scotland is holding in the run up to its Armistice 100-year celebration on Sunday November 11.

Both matches take place at

Mossfield, Oban on Sunday September 30 with the U14s starting at 1pm and the seniors at 2.30pm.

There will be a collection for Poppy Scotland throughout the day.

WOMEN'S SHINTY

The MacAulay Association was thanked for once again sponsoring both fixtures.

The squads are as follows:

**South Commando Under-14 squad from:**

- Samia Simmonds - Lochaber
- Thea Robertson - Lochaber
- Emma Wallace - Lochaber
- Hannah MacDonald - Ardnamurchan
- Kirsty Campbell - Ardnamurchan
- Aine O'Rua - Ardnamurchan
- Katie Cameron - Ardnamurchan
- Sunday Atkinson - Aberdour
- Catriona Chamberlain - Aberdour
- Riane Cooper - Aberdour
- Leah Maxtone - Fort William
- Izzy Crawford - Oban Lorn
- Ellie Hetherington - Dunadd
- Eilidh Cameron - Dunadd

**North Commando Under-14 squad from:**

- Hope Borthwick - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Laura Brandie - Inverness
- Grace Fraser - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Freya Gault - Glenurquhart
- Melissa Mackay - Inverness
- Maree Mackenzie - Kinlochshiel
- Leah Macleod - Skye Camanachd
- Leah Miller - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Beth Murphy - Kinlochshiel
- Chloe Mutch - Inverness
- Katie Slimon - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Evie Stubbs - Glengarry
- Freya Turner - Skye Camanachd
- Rebecca Van Loon - Glenurquhart

**South Commando senior squad from:**

- Taryn Neilson - Aberdour
- Elaine Wink - Fort William (captain)
- Hanna Dougan - Lochaber
- Rachel McCafferty - Glasgow Mid Argyll
- Rosie Mulligan - Aberdour
- Mairi Duncan - Lochaber
- Lucy McMillan - Ardnamurchan
- Christy Macintyre - Lochaber
- Lucy MacNulty - Glasgow Mid Argyll
- Natalie MacDonald - Lochaber
- Katie Booth - Aberdour
- Amy Disher - Lochaber
- Vicki Henderson - Aberdour
- Niamh Donnelly - Aberdour
- Heather Ferguson - Cowal & Bute

**North Commando senior squad from:**

- Elizabeth McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Jeanette McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey (captain)
- Zoe Reid - Badenoch & Strathspey
- Lorna MacRae - Skye Camanachd
- Rhianna Kirk - Skye Camanachd
- Caitlin MacLean - Skye Camanachd
- Emma Gordon - Skye Camanachd
- Christina Macdonald - Skye Camanachd
- Ilana Paterson - Skye Camanachd
- Sarah Corrigan - Skye Camanachd
- Jane Moodie - Strathspey & Strathspey
- Shaina Archibald - Glengarry
- Donna MacKenzie - Glenurquhart (vice-captain)
- Laura Gallacher - Lovat
- Katie MacMillan - Inverness

# Lorne Ladies hit top form in Greenock

Greenock Wanderers	0
Oban Lorne Ladies	70

Women's National League 1

Sunday saw Oban Lorne Ladies travel yet again, this time to Greenock Wanderers, a team currently sitting mid table. Having won four out of four the ladies were hungry for another win to add to their league success.

Oban's first try came just a few minutes into the game with a powerful run from centre Erika Scofka, who was on fire during the match with some great lines and unstoppable speed. Fly half Lucy Stewart converted to bring the score to 0-7.

Quick off the mark scrum half and all round 'pocket rocket' Audrey Barr was next under the post after an impressive pick-and-go off the back of the scrum around the five-metre line. Again the kick was converted by the reliable foot of Lucy Stewart.

Ellie MacNiven was replaced on the pitch due to a leg injury by Ailsa Murray, who was playing her first game for Oban Lorne Ladies.

Trys followed in quick succession from Erika Skofca, Lucy Stewart (two) and Audrey Barr.

Some great footwork from Eilidh Shearer along with support from captain Laura MacCormick and fellow flanker Ailsa Maclachlan meant Shearer was able to touch down under the posts. Stewart's conversions were on point as she converted 10/10 throughout the game.

The half time whistle blew

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

and Oban were leading by 0-49.

There was more of the same in the second half with outstanding runs from Oban, using their quick hands and speed to dominate the game.

Greenock came back with some huge hits and seemed to have more to give in the second half but this was not enough to overpower the strong ladies in green.

Trys from Erika, Audrey and Lucy again forcing their way over the try line.

Captain Laura MacCormick was replaced for a short period by Samara Croft while she received treatment for a shoulder injury. This meant scrums were uncontested due to no front row. Croft played well with some good support play along side Claire MacPherson and Liz Comer - the girls' teamwork showed how hard they have worked in the months prior. MacCormick returned to the pitch for the ending minutes before Greenock called time 10 minutes early following injuries to a couple of their players. 'Had enough,' stated one of their players as the ref called time with a final score of 0-70.

Oban ladies are sitting firmly at the top of the table with a points difference of 236 for and only 18 against, they have their first home game of the season this Sunday to Howe of Fife, 2pm kick off. Supporters are welcome as the ladies aim to make it six from six in what promises to be a great match.

# Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



## Kyokushinkai Karate

Kyokushin is a style of stand-up, full contact karate, founded in 1964 by Korean-Japanese Masutatsu Oyama. 'Kyokushin' is Japanese for 'the ultimate truth'. It is rooted in a philosophy of self-improvement, discipline and hard training. Its full contact style had international appeal. Practitioners have over the last 40-plus years numbered more than 12 million.

After formally establishing the Kyokushinkaikan in 1964, Oyama directed the organisation through a period of expansion. Oyama hand-picked instructors who displayed ability in marketing the style and gaining new members. Oyama would choose an instructor to open a new dojo. The instructor would move to that town and demonstrate his karate skills in public places. After that, word of mouth would spread through the area until the dojo had a dedicated core of students. Oyama also sent instructors to other countries such as the Netherlands, Australia, the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Brazil to spread Kyokushin in the same way. Many students traveled to Japan to train with Oyama directly. In 1969, Oyama staged the First All-Japan Full Contact Karate Open Championships and Terutomo Yamazaki became the first champion. All-Japan championships have been held every year. In 1975, The first world Full Contact Karate Open Championships were held in Tokyo.

If anyone thinks this style of Karate is for them please contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) for a friendly chat on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk, alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

## Kickboxing

The junior students at Senshi Do Kick Boxing are working hard training for their next grading, where the students test for the next belt.

They are also in training for the clicker tournament being organised by Caledonia Kyokushin in Lochgilphead on November 3.

The senior students were graded last week with Darryl McLaughlin Snr and Ian Robertson both getting 4th Kyu Red Belt, Rachael Speirs and Sine MacKay getting their 7th Kyu Green Belts.

Sessions continue on Wednesdays at 4.30pm for juniors and 6pm for seniors at the Old Crofters up above Stoddard's Motorbike shop.

Phone Wullie on 07480 273 190, or email shihanwill@gmail.com also find the club on Facebook as Senshi Do Kickboxing.

## Shukokai Karate

Chōjirō Tani began teaching the Karate style Shūkōkai (meaning the way for all) at a dojo in Kobe, Japan in 1946. Shūkōkai was designed around the study of body mechanics and is very fast due to its relatively high stance aiding mobility, and is known for the double hip twist, which maximises the force of its strikes; making it one of the most hard-hitting Karate styles.

Tani's most senior student, Sensei Shigeru Kimura, left Japan in 1965 to teach Shūkōkai in Africa. He developed Shukokai even further, emphasising its power and strength, and was regarded as an expert on the style. He continued to teach after travelling to Europe, before settling in the United States in 1970 at the age of 29, where he taught at Yonezuka's Cranford dojo for two years creating the first Shukokai World Tournament in 1981.

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

## BJJ

Brazilian jiu-jitsu is a martial art and combat sport system that focuses on grappling and especially ground fighting. Brazilian jiu-jitsu was formed from Kodokan judo ground fighting (newaza) fundamentals that were taught by a number of individuals including Takeo Yano, Mitsuyo

Maeda, Soshihiro Satake, and Isao Okano. Brazilian jiu-jitsu eventually came to be its own combat sport through the experiments, practices, and adaptation of judo and jujutsu through Carlos and Hélio Gracie (who passed their knowledge on to their extended family) as well as other instructors who were students of Maeda, such as Luiz França.

BJJ promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend themselves or another against a bigger, stronger, heavier assailant by using proper technique, leverage, and most notably, taking the fight to the ground, and then applying joint locks and chokeholds to defeat the opponent. BJJ training can be used for sport grappling tournaments and in self-defence situations. Sparring (commonly referred to as 'rolling' within the BJJ community) and live drilling play a major role in training, and a premium is placed on performance, especially in competition, in relation to progress and ascension through its ranking system.

Since its inception in 1882, its parent art of judo was separated from older systems of Japanese jujutsu by an important difference that was passed on to Brazilian jiu-jitsu. It is not solely a martial art; it is also a sport, a method for promoting physical fitness and building character in young people, and ultimately a way of life.

If anyone would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email @coogiepots@gmail.com.

## Wado Kai Karate

The Park Primary School class is always looking for new members, if anyone has a child aged 7-10 years and wants to know more about this class please contact Mike on 07709 229284 or email; m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

Kaishin Wado Kai at Dunbeg School is on a Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All ages are welcome at the club training sessions. Mike Faulkner said: 'We are a small and friendly club with four Black Belt trainers available to help students at any time.' For more details contact Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com

## Knights Of The Tower - Medieval Combat Oban

Knights of the Tower are still looking to boost their members, both the women and men, who are welcome to turn up and try out the sport of medieval combat.

The club trains on Tuesday nights from 7pm until 9.30pm above Stoddard's of Oban, in the old Crofters. Go along to have a look at what they do and have a chat with some of the members and maybe even try it out.

## MOTO3

# Tenth place finish for McPhee



John McPhee in action.

Connel's John McPhee finished in 10th place at the Aragon Grand Prix last Sunday. After the race John said: 'It was not a satisfying

result for all the work from the CIP team and myself but we're all looking forward to fighting back at the next race in Thailand on October 7.'



Senshi Do Kick Boxing's Cody McCulloch practises a jumping, spinning back kick.

OT

## GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photo: Bounce Sports

## Poor first round proves costly for Robert

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut at the Hopps Open de Provence last week which was played at the International de Pont Golf Club in Mallemort, France

Robert had a disastrous six over par in the first round to card a 78 which included four birdies, three bogeys and three double bogeys.

His second round was much better with seven birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey for a one under par 71 for a two round total of 149.

The tournament was won by Frenchman Romain Langasque who carded a four round total of 273, 15 under par, to pick up the winners cheque for 32,000 euros

The Glencruitten golfer will be hoping to get back on track as the Challenge Tour moves to Ireland for the Monaghan Irish Challenge played at the Concra Wood Golf Club in Castleblayney, County Monaghan starting on October 4.

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Lochnell hold their third primary football festival

The third Lochnell FC football festival, which will take place at the Lora View pitch in North Connel, has once again attracted huge interest with over 350 young footballers from 15 clubs from across the West of Scotland taking part.

Lochnell are delighted to welcome back teams from Paisley, Dumbarton, Glasgow and Fort William who will join well known Argyll clubs Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils, Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert, Helensburgh FC and of course hosts Lochnell FC.

Fun fours and five-a-sides for six to eight-year-olds will take place in the morning followed by seven-a-sides in the afternoon for teams consisting of nine and ten-year-olds.

A new feature of the festival will be a girls section, with the host club competing in a series of games with visitors Lochgilphead Red Star. The Lochnell club have over 30 girls attending each week's training from 6 to 7pm at Lora View, and this is a chance to measure the local club's progress in promoting girls' football.

Spectators are welcome with all day catering facilities on site giving an opportunity for a break from the excitement of the football.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

Last weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Scottish Cup first round - Under 16s 7, Everton BC 5. Scoring for Saints were Connor Moore (4), Ross Campbell (2) and Ellis Hunter.

The Sunday's fixtures: Scottish Cup, second round - Pirie Park v Under 13s; League games - Under 14s no game; Busby v Under 16s.

# Five out of five as Saints top league

Continued from page 56

Rippon, Kerr Newbigging and Jamie Graham, who dropped to the bench being joined by Dougal Graham and Craig MacEwan. Youngsters Kenny Black and Aaron Mckay missed out on selection.

Saints have a strong squad this season with Myles McAuley, Paul Carmichael, Matt Kelly and Shaun MacIver still to come back from injury and work commitments.

The home side started strongly and took the game to Thistle with Lewis Cameron testing the keeper on two occasions but failed to get any power into his shots.

It was no surprise when Saints took the lead on the 15-minute mark when Donald Campbell got on the end of a Fraser MacFarlane corner to flick the ball into the net.

The home side were playing excellent football, playing the ball out from the back.

Scott Maitland and James Ford were combing well on the left with Ford being a thorn in the flesh of the Thistle defence all afternoon.

Despite having the majority of possession, the visitors looked dangerous on the break and the Saints defence, well marshalled by skipper Dene Cassells, had to be on their toes.

Lewis Cameron had another

good chance just before the interval when he got on the end of a Ruaridh Horne cut back but his effort slid agonisingly past the post.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored home side increased their lead in the 52nd minute when Daniel Croarkin got on the end of a Willie Gemmell free kick to steer the ball past Jags keeper Nathan Wharton.

Saints replaced Fraser MacFarlane, Willie Gemmell and Daniel Croarkin with Craig MacEwan, Matt Rippon and Kerr Newbigging and it was MacEwan who was instrumental in setting up the third goal when he combined with Donald Campbell on the

left before the co-manager slammed the ball past a helpless keeper to make the score 3-0.

To their credit Thistle never gave up and it took a great sliding tackle from Ruaridh Horne to deny the visitors a clear run in on goal.

The Oban side then replaced both full backs with the Graham brothers, Jamie and Dougal taking over from Ruaridh Horne and the impressive Scott Maitland.

Saints thought they had scored another goal but Thistle keeper Nathan Wharton made a great diving save to turn a Craig MacEwan net-bound effort round the post for a corner kick. The

## FOOTBALL

Oban side played out time to record a well-deserved 3-0 win and keep them top of the league with a 100 per cent record with five wins from five.

The game was well handled by referee Peter Laing from Lochgilphead.

Saints have no match this weekend but return to action on October 6 with a tough home game against St Johns from Perth in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Raymond Patterson from the Central Scottish AFL.



Left: Daniel Croarkin slots the ball home for Saints' second goal.

Photo: Fiona McGinty

# Another impressive win on

Strathaven	17
Oban Lorne	31
Tennents West Division 2	

For the third week in a row Oban Lorne were on their travels looking to keep up the good form of previous weeks as they travelled to Strathaven in South Lanarkshire.

The two sides had previously met four weeks ago in the first round of the West Shield where Oban managed to secure a comfortable victory.

The Green Machine arrived slightly behind schedule at the fantastic new facility at Strathaven Rugby club to find that they were going to be playing on the new 3G pitch - an amazing facility and a model of what could be achieved by other clubs in the regional leagues.

Strathaven started the game strongly and put Oban under pressure right from the off.

Some spirited and well-organised defence allowed the Green Machine to hold out for 10 minutes before the constant pressure told and Strathaven crossed the line for the first try of the afternoon.

Oban were dealt a further blow after 15 minutes when young back row forward Daniel Speirs had to leave the field of play with a nasty looking shoulder injury which looks like it will keep him out of action for the next six weeks or so.

Oban closed the gap with a well-struck penalty kick by Finlay Carmichael to make it 3-7.

Oban were now finding their feet on the new playing

surface. Quick reactions from turnover ball allowed the ball to be switched wide to the wing where the veteran winger Roddy Morrison rolled back the years as he found his wheels to race in from the halfway line to score



Daniel Speirs had to leave the field with a nasty shoulder injury.

Oban's first try of the day. This was converted by Finlay Carmichael.

Oban continued to work hard defensively to keep the Strathaven attack under control. After Strathaven coughed up possession in the middle of the pitch Craig Wright found space in behind with a deft kick and chase to claim his first try of the afternoon.

One of the Strathaven players took exception to something that was said and was yellow carded for his reaction. Carmichael was once again on target with his kick to stretch Oban's lead to 17-7 which was to be the half time score.

Just before the interval Oban were dealt a further blow when Calum MacLachlan received a yellow card for



Scott Maitland challenges for the ball with Motherwell front man Declan Wedlock.

Photo: Fiona McGinty



Above: Donald Campbell fires home Saints' third goal past keeper Nathan Wharton.

Photo: Fiona McGinty



Lewis Cameron gets a shot on target but this effort was well saved by the Thistle keeper.

Photo: David McPhee

# the road for Oban Lorne

being offside at a ruck when Strathaven were deep in the Oban 22.

The second half started with Oban working hard to get on the front foot and they were rewarded with another fantastic try. This time No 8 Owen McDonald broke free from just outside the 22 and managed to ground the ball over the line after initially trying to ground the ball over the football lines marked on the artificial pitch.

Shortly after this Oban had to reshuffle the team again as Graham MacEachan strained his hamstring and young Andy Ritchie came on to the wing with David Cameron moving to centre from the wing.

Strathaven were posing problems for Oban with their very direct forward play and,

from an Oban mistake close to their line and another dubious penalty decision awarded against Oban, the hosts kicked to the corner and from the ensuing lineout they drove over the line for their second try of the day.

Oban were quick to hit back with Craig Wright once again finding space on the outside to outpace the defence out wide and score in the corner. Finlay Carmichael continued his amazing strike rate with the boot notching his fourth kick of the day on top of a 100 per cent success rate last week.

Another try for Strathaven was to follow when Oban worked really well to turnover ball deep in their 22. As the ball was worked to the back of the ruck it crossed the tryline and one of the Strathaven

players dived through the ruck to ground the ball and the referee awarded the try.

This brought an end to the scoring for the day with a final score of Strathaven 17 Oban 31.

This was a fantastic effort by the Oban team who managed to pick up their third bonus point win on the trot away from home. This was by no means an easy win with Oban living off scraps of possession as Strathaven dominated this area with their limited game plan of hitting a pod one out and recycling. The Oban defence were happy to let them have ball and fill the field ready for the next phase. Still some work needed to sharpen up the defence but the team looks dangerous any time it gets to attack.

Saturday's win lifts Oban

## RUGBY

Lorne into second place in West Division two with Lenzie RFC sitting out in front only on points difference. The two teams have a maximum of 20 points from their first four league games and meet in next in the league on Saturday October 6 in Lenzie.

This week Oban welcome Dalziel to Glencruitten for the quarter final of the West shield. Dalziel haven't had the best of starts to the season but will be hoping to get back on track playing a team from a lower league.

Oban will have to up their game to meet this challenge and would like to invite any former players of Oban Lorne up to the rugby club for a pie and a pint pre-match. Kick off 3pm.



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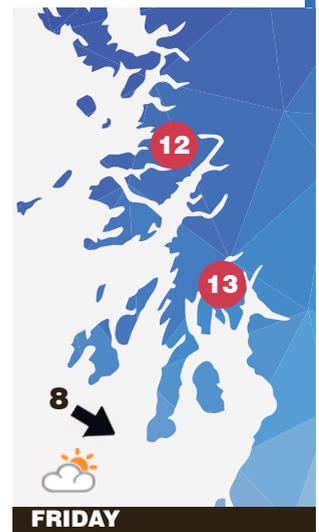


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze from the west  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze from the west north west  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the west north west  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 27, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	00.56	0.8	06.42	3.9
	13.04	0.8	19.05	4.1
<b>Fri</b>	01.25	0.8	07.09	3.9
	13.33	0.9	19.35	3.9
<b>Sat</b>	01.55	0.9	07.41	3.8
	14.06	1.1	20.09	3.7
<b>Sun</b>	02.32	1.1	08.18	3.6
	14.47	1.3	20.49	3.5
<b>Mon</b>	03.18	1.3	09.02	3.4
	15.41	1.5	21.41	3.2
<b>Tues</b>	04.20	1.5	10.00	3.2
	17.02	1.7	23.01	2.9
<b>Wed</b>	05.41	1.6	11.38	3.0
	18.39	1.8	**.*	*.*

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Another impressive win on  
the road for Oban Lorne

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MARINE**  
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AND TIDES • SEE PAGE 55

# Slick-moving Saints slam three past Motherwell



Different emotions as Donald Campbell opens the scoring against Motherwell Thistle at Glencruitten last Saturday. Photos: David McPhee

Oban Saints	3
Motherwell Thistle	0
SAFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints and Motherwell Thistle shunned the traditional Scottish Amateur Football League 'September Weekend' fixture holiday last Saturday to go head-to-head in a Premier Division clash.

Both sides had made 100 per cent starts to the season so something had to give in

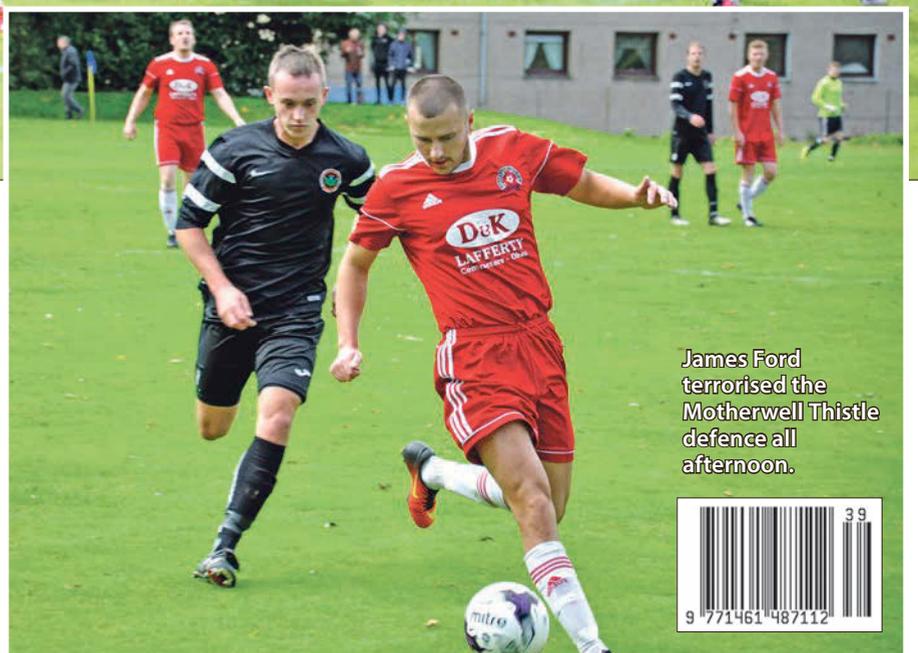
a fixture where Thistle have taken maximum points on their two previous visits, but it wasn't to be this time as Saints turned in a top-level performance to win 3-0.

Whatever the result everybody connected with Oban Saints wished their counterparts at Motherwell Thistle an enjoyable trip to Oban, their first since the death in tragic circumstances of their inspirational goalkeeper Paul Aiton. PG's personality on

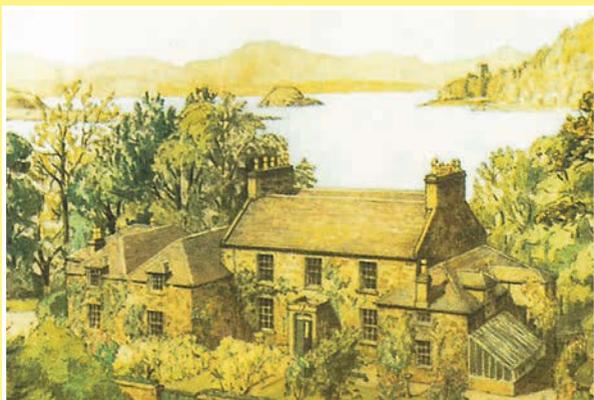
and off the pitch will live long in the memory of all who met him and is a massive loss to the amateur game in general and his beloved Motherwell Thistle in particular.

The home side made a number of changes from last week's squad who defeated Barrhead.

Lewis Cameron, Willie Gemmell and Ruaridh Horne came into the starting line-up at the expense of Matt  
**Continued on pages 50 and 51**



James Ford terrorised the Motherwell Thistle defence all afternoon.



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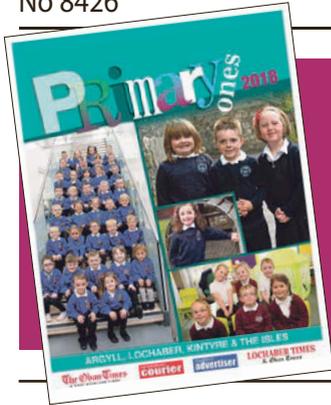
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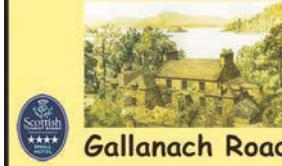
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# EE mobile issues ongoing

## Ardnamurchan remains without phone coverage

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

NHS Highland says no new concerns have been raised by either members of staff or the public as a result of the long-running problems with mobile phone provider EE on Ardnamurchan.

It is nearly three months since problems first began and yet EE customers on Ardnamurchan are still no closer to getting coverage restored.

The disruption to EE's service on the peninsula, believed to affect an area stretching from Glenuig to Strontian, began in early July and it is understood that a new radio link is now required to be fitted to the problem mast.

This week EE told the Lochaber Times it was working to get service restored to its customers in the area as soon as possible.

But Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has called on EE to get its act together, describing the situation as 'totally unacceptable'.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch said there was still no date for when the problem would be fixed.

Asked if EE's woes had implications for any medical staff on call for out-of-hours service or for lone health care workers on Ardnamurchan, an NHS Highland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times this week: 'There have been no new concerns raised by staff or the public.'

'Contingency measures have always been in place to address any connectivity limitations which includes lone working policies and landline messaging services.'

'However, we have been in discussions with Kate Forbes MSP who is championing the need to improve mobile connectivity in the area.'

'It should be also noted that this wider need for improved connectivity was clearly voiced by the community directly to the Scottish Government's planning officer at the recent Fort William 2040 event.'

Asked what these 'contin-

Continued on page five.

## Lochaber pupils shine in poignant WWI event



Pupils from Ardnamurchan and Kinlochleven high schools came together for a truly moving and unique show at the Sunart Centre on Friday as part of the Three Lochs Festival, using music and drama to shine a spotlight on the lingering impact of the First World War on Lochaber.

Pictured is Amy Halliday, left, from Ardnamurchan, playing a nurse, and Holly Baldwin, from Kinlochleven, as a wounded soldier.

For the full story, turn to page eight.

Photograph: Helen Tait.

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# Kilmallie fears over FW 2040 consultation

The future consultation of the Fort William 2040 masterplan has raised concerns among community councillors due to a perceived 'democratic deficit'.

At a Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) meeting on Monday night, September 24, members said they were 'very worried' about the next stage in the FW 2040 planning process which they fear will sidestep any further community engagement.

Around 120 people attended a public consultation event at the Nevis Centre a fortnight ago to give feedback on the Fort William 2040 masterplan, which sets out all the developments expected to be completed in the town within the next 22 years.

Planners said that the information and comments collected at the event would be used to refine the masterplan and develop a delivery programme.

However, KCC members raised concerns over the absence of any future public meetings on the masterplan, which will instead be 'signed off' by panels such as the Lochaber Delivery Group, Lochaber Community Partnership and the Highland Council's Lochaber area committee.

KCC chairwoman Christine Hutchison said: 'Most of these groups are not open to the public. The council area committee is open to the public but we are not allowed to speak. Can they come to

community meetings and not just meet behind closed doors?'

It was pointed out at the meeting that the Lochaber Delivery Group, which was set up to support the Lochaber Smelter through provision of housing, training and infrastructure, is not a community representative body and there was some confusion as to the role of the Lochaber Community Partnership.

Members also expressed disappointment in what they felt was a disproportionately high number of business representatives at the meeting, with one member saying that it created a 'somewhat intimidating' atmosphere during discussions.



Around 120 people attended the Fort William 2040 consultation event in the Nevis Centre a fortnight ago.

KCC member Mandy Ketchin said: 'It's quite a good illustration of how these issues are being communicated and decided. It's very partial and exclusive of the community. If there's a genuine attempt to make this a good place by 2040 it needs to be for the whole community and not just for the benefit of the powerful few.'

It was later suggested at the meeting that there should be a 'sign off' process for community councils, similar to that afforded to the aforementioned groups.

Mallaig councillor Denis

Rixson said that KCC members made some 'perfectly good points' in relation to the 'satisfaction of particular interests' in the masterplan.

Mr Rixson reassured the KCC that its concerns would be represented when the refined masterplan came back from the developers.

He said: 'As councillors we are representatives and are not deaf to your concerns. I feel that people think there is a bit of a democratic deficit here and that big business will make the deal.'

He added: 'Keep the fight going and keep making your

voices heard if you feel you're not being listened to.'

Councillor Alan Henderson defended the organisers of the consultation event and said that the criticism was 'a bit unfair' and that 'it's very hard to consult with the public'.

Mr Henderson said that he expected the plans to be reported back to the community and said that the intention was still to have as many people involved as possible. However, he did say that he would bring up the issue of community involvement with council planners.

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## Tributes pour in for well-known sheepdog breeder

The family of Brian Strachan say they have been overwhelmed by the hundreds of cards and messages of sympathy received following the sudden death last week of the well-known sheepdog breeder from Roy Bridge, writes Mark Entwistle.

Mr Strachan, who was 73 and had a heart condition, was with his son and a couple of good friends 'gathering in' on a local hillside when he died suddenly on Monday September 17.

Mr Strachan's faithful collie, Sam, was still by his master's side when the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team arrived on the scene.

Mr Strachan and his wife, Collette, had been married for 25 years and have six children and four grandchildren.

Mr Strachan had established a Highlands-wide reputation as a breeder of top quality sheepdogs and attended sheepdog trials across the country.

Over the past decade, many of the visitors to the annual Lochaber Agricultural Show will have witnessed Mr Strachan giving the very popular sheepdog



Brian Strachan and his dog Bonnie at the Scottish national sheepdog trials in 2009. Photograph: Farmers Guardian.

demonstrations. His family were breeders of German Shorthaired Pointers in Aberdeenshire and his own working life had also seen him employed as a gamekeeper and stalker in various places in Scotland and as far afield as Northumberland.

Mrs Strachan told the Lochaber Times her husband had died doing what he loved - being out on a hillside with his dogs by his side.

'I don't think we'd realised just how popular and well

respected Brian had been - we have received hundreds of cards and messages. It has been unbelievable.'

And Mrs Strachan explained: 'Brian had been out gathering in with his son and a couple of good friends and he had his dogs, Sam and Jim, with him. Sam wouldn't leave his side.'

Mr Strachan's funeral will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Kilmonivaig Parish Church at 2pm and thereafter to Blarour Cemetery.

# Cancer sufferer's anger over 'bucket list' rail trip

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Fife tourist with terminal cancer has slammed ScotRail after a 'bucket list' trip on the famous West Highland Line turned into a nightmare when trains were cancelled due to last week's storm Ali.

Anthony Vercoe, 70, and his wife, Flora, travelled by train last Tuesday from their home in Burntisland.

The couple had been looking forward to taking the iconic rail journey from Fort William to Mallaig, including a crossing of the 'Hogwart's Express' viaduct at Glenfinnan.

After staying overnight in Mallaig on Tuesday, the couple had been due to return to Fort William on the 4pm service last Wednesday, but Mr Vercoe felt unwell.

'I wasn't feeling too good so we decided to take an earlier train at 10.10am,' he explained.

But when Mr and Mrs Vercoe arrived in Fort William, they discovered that their onward train to Glasgow had been cancelled due to disruption caused along the line by storm Ali.

'The train company just abandoned us, basically, and we were left to get on with it and find our own way to Glasgow,' said Mr Vercoe.

'They gave us nothing at



Fort William station – not even so much as a cup of tea. They didn't even ask if any of the passengers had special needs before just dumping us back at Fort William.

'They even said they could not refund us money and we'd have to fill in a form when we got home. They were absolutely useless. I got more sympathy from other passengers on the bus than I did from rail company staff.'

Mr Vercoe added that around half-a-dozen of the passengers that were bound for Oban had been put on to taxis by rail staff.

However, he said for the 40-

plus heading back to Glasgow, there was nothing apparently organised.

'We were able to use our bus passes, but there were plenty of others who had to fork out money for tickets,' he continued.

The couple arrived back home in Burntisland about 11pm after reaching Glasgow and then travelling to Edinburgh, again by bus, and then another bus and taxi home to Fife.

'It made for a very long day when you're not feeling great,' Mr Vercoe said. 'The train makes long journeys easier than buses because you've got

Anthony Vercoe says the trip was ruined after the couple were forced to take the bus home.

a bit more space and can get up and stretch your legs a bit.'

Mr Vercoe told the Lochaber Times he had been told by his doctors that he might have less than a year left to live.

'They say they can't do anything else for me other than palliative care and that I don't really have that long to live – maybe six or nine months, possibly a bit longer, they can't be sure.'

'This was a 'bucket list' trip we'd been wanting to do for a while.

'It is one of the world's great rail journeys and the scenery was spectacular.

'We're just very disappointed it ended the way it did and we are now faced with filling in a massive form to try and

claim a refund of some sort.'

Asked to comment on Mr Vercoe's complaints, ScotRail said storm Ali had severely impacted the country's railway infrastructure last Wednesday, with major line blockages – for example a number of trees fell on to the line and overhead wires were damaged.

A ScotRail spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We're very sorry to hear about our customers' experience during storm Ali, and we would invite them to contact our customer relations team so that we can help put things right.'

'Anyone who arrived 30 minutes or more late is entitled to compensation under our Delay Repay guarantee. To claim, simply keep hold of your ticket and visit our website.'

## Residents revolt over Duisky dump

Residents on the shores of Loch Eil have threatened to leave their homes after complaining of nausea and headaches caused by the bad smell coming from the Duisky landfill site.

Members of Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) were told on Monday evening (September 24) that homeowners close to the Duisky site are so fed up of the pervasive odour coming from the site that they are contemplating leaving the area altogether.

SEPA reported that areas of landfill had been covered over to alleviate the bad smell following complaints made by residents earlier this year. However, KCC has heard that locals have photographic evidence showing that the areas were not in fact covered.

KCC secretary Russell Leaper said: 'It seems there's a disconnect between what the operators are doing and what SEPA is being told.'

## New road safety initiative welcomed in Lochaber

Police in Lochaber and across the rest of the Highlands and Islands are to adopt a new initiative aimed at improving road safety in the region.

Operation CEDAR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) will build on established practices and will focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the area.

A total of 17 people were killed on the roads in the Highlands and 74 seriously injured in 2017 alone.

In 2018 to date, 18 people have died in road traffic collisions in the Highlands.

Although a new initiative

in the Highlands and Islands, CEDAR has been used for the past three years in the north east of Scotland.

Partner agencies involved include local councils, BEAR Scotland, the North Safety Camera Partnership, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland has led the development of Operation CEDAR for Police Scotland Highlands and Islands Division.

He said: 'We all have a part to play in keeping our roads safe and we believe Operation CEDAR as a collaborative approach between agencies and the public can contribute

to preventing and reducing serious incidents.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the Highland Road Safety Group, said Highland Council was pleased to be a partner in this initiative.

'Partnership working is the key to achieving our vision of zero road deaths on Highland roads,' he said.

'Highland Council will support partners in any way we can to ensure the strategic approach of the principles of road safety, namely, education, engineering, enforcement and encouragement are used to achieve a long term reduction in road casualties in our area.'

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## Eco-friendly toilet plan for Traigh and Mallaig

A voluntary group has submitted planning applications to Highland Council for two new eco-friendly toilet blocks in West Lochaber.

The Road to the Isles Facilities Group is hoping to replace the closed toilet block at Traigh Beach with more environmentally friendly and cost-effective composting toilets.

The group has already purchased three off-grid composting modular toilets.

The group has also submitted plans to build a new toilet block in Mallaig which will also use environmentally sensitive building methods as well as modern public toilet ideas which aim to reduce cleaning and maintenance costs.

At the end of the 2017 season, the lack of toilet facilities and an increase in visitors had resulted in tensions between tourists and residents, and it was felt that some effort was required to improve facilities.

# Sex offender gave lift to teenage girls

## Man avoids jail despite breaching court order

A convicted sex offender gave a lift to three teenage girls in breach of a court order hours after escaping a jail sentence in May for a similar offence.

Then when Darren Duncan, a 32-year-old offshore oil worker with Fort William connections, heard that police were looking for him, he went on the run.

But he was eventually caught earlier this year at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel and when Duncan appeared for sentence at Inverness Sheriff Court on Thursday, he again avoided prison.

Instead, because he had been on remand since May 21, Sheriff Margaret Neilson decided that he had spent sufficient time in prison and sentenced him to eight



months, backdated to that date.

It effectively meant that he would be released almost immediately.

A background report had been called for on Duncan, who previously admitted failing to notify police within 72 hours of him forming any kind of relationship with females.

He was also subject to a Sex Offences Prevention Order

(SOPO) at the time which imposes strict conditions on sex offenders to guard against possible further offending.

The court was told by fiscal depute Michelle Molley that Duncan had been jailed in June 2014 at Peterhead for a sex offence involving a 15-year-old girl.

The SOPO was then granted on October 16, 2017, and he breached it shortly afterwards before flouting it on May 10 this year.

The court heard that Duncan picked up two 16-year-old girls in his car after they had been drinking, bought them a takeaway and then drove them to Tain.

Ms Molley said that another 16-year-old girl joined them and Duncan returned to Inverness where he dropped

one of them off at a city address.

'The other two girls contacted him to drive them to Tain and he complied. The police were then informed,' Ms Molley went on.

Defence solicitor Kevin Connor told the sheriff: 'The report shows that he appears to now realise the need for this order and that he has to comply with it. The report also shows his remorse.'

'He is currently on two community payback orders with 200 hours of work still to complete and he is keen to get those out of the way.'

Sentencing Duncan, who had also given a letter to Sheriff Neilson, she told him: 'Matters are in your hands or you will spend the rest of your life in and out of prison.'

## Daytime closures on A82 reversed

The decision to close the A82 between Invergarry and Invermoriston during the day has been reversed, with overnight closures now scheduled.

The road south of Fort Augustus will now close from Sunday September 30 to Friday October 19 between 7pm and 6am, while the road south of Fort Augustus will close from Sunday October 21 to Friday November 2 from 7pm to 6am.

These dates exclude Friday and Saturday nights.

Stewart MacLean, of the A82 Partnership, said he was pleased that the consultation process has resulted in the road closures being changed.

'It should be noted also that the dates for closures have been amended and extended,' he said.

'The A82 Partnership, while welcoming the cancellation of the daytime closures, will be requesting that the nighttime closures commence at 9pm and not 7pm.'

# 350 students to benefit STEM centre plan at Blar

Hundreds of students in Lochaber will benefit from a new science and technology centre on Blar Mhor, which is set to open in two years.

The £14million University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) development will see a new science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education centre built on the 2.5-acre former Tesco supermarket site, adjacent to the planned new Belford NHS hospital.

Developers hope to have the site completed and open by September 2020.

Matt Simpkinson, director of finance at UHI West Highland College, told Kilmallie community councillors this week that the new centre will accommodate 350 students, with up to 20 or 30 coming from outwith the area. The centre will also be used to teach Lochaber primary and secondary school pupils STEM subjects.

Mr Simpkinson explained that the new centre is being built to complement the college's current operation at



An artists impression of the new centre

An Aird, which is currently unable to meet the demand locally for engineering, construction and technology education.

He said: 'The project started in response to a very basic need that we want to be able to meet, as a college that is, the needs of students coming out of school and on to employers.'

Mr Simpkinson explained that although big companies in the area may be able to fully support their apprenticeships, smaller employers can't afford to do so and therefore the new

centre will provide them with the necessary support. He also said that the number of developments in the pipeline in Fort William, such as the new Liberty factory, meant there was more 'political intent' for a new STEM centre to be built in the area.

Concerns were raised at the meeting about the potential increased pressure on student accommodation and public transport, and the need for more 'civic space' in the wider Blar Mhor development.

Mr Simpkinson pointed out that the current design of the building and layout is not yet

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# Planners give Glenfinnan car park plans green light

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

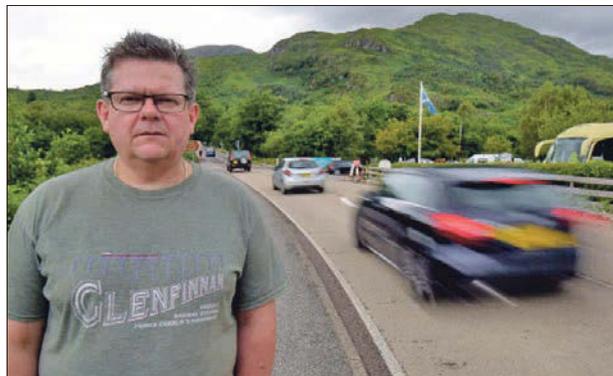
Highland Council planners have given the thumbs up to the creation of a new car park and associated footbridge at Glenfinnan to help alleviate traffic congestion problems caused by booming visitor numbers.

Last year saw the annual number of visitors to Glenfinnan top 330,000 with many flocking to see the local viaduct now immortalised in the Harry Potter movies.

The car park planning application was lodged by Glenfinnan Estate for land adjacent to the National Trust For Scotland visitor centre.

The next step is for funding to be secured, after which the additional extra parking will see 10 coach parking spaces and 103 car parking spaces.

At the rear of the car park



will be a turning head which will be adjacent to the start of a footpath that adjoins with the new footbridge.

The car park will be accessed via an existing access onto the trunk road which is to be upgraded.

In terms of design, planners say the new footbridge will not be detrimental to the sensitive nature of the Loch Shiel NSA (National Scenic

Area) and Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA (Special Landscape Area).

There were no letters of objection to the application and the aim of the car park is to remove parked cars from Glenfinnan Estate's access road and the walkway and to direct visitors to the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

It is Glenfinnan Estate's intention that the local

Local community council chairman Duncan Gibson said the car parking planning application's approval is great news.

community will manage the car park thereby generating income and a degree of additional employment in the area.

However, the new car park will not be used for overnight parking of caravans, campervans or other overnight accommodation.

Community council secretary Fiona Gibson said all those associated with the project are delighted planning consent has been processed quickly.

'We are all over the moon planning approval has been granted. This is very much a joint effort between the community and a private

landowner [the estate] which gives it a bit of a unique edge,' she told us.

'The next stage will be to secure funding and we are waiting to hear about that at the moment.

'Added to this is the fact Transport Scotland is reviewing the 60mph speed limit on this stretch of road because something really has to be done here.'

Local Highland councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig) also welcomed the speedy decision on the planning application.

'I am delighted that planning has been able to get this through so quickly, as this should help ease the funders towards a positive decision,' he said.

'Anything that can be done to alleviate the safety issue on the A830 has to be commended. The joint action

taken by the partnership of the landowner and the community council also has to be commended and supported, and will surely achieve this aspiration.

'For too long there has been an accident waiting to happen, firstly with the popularity of the National Trust Centre and now the Harry Potter phenomenon - so getting the cars off the A830 is a major step forward and also gives an opportunity for the village to get some return from this popularity.

'Hopefully the road traffic authorities will now also see sense and increase the length of the 40mph zone, if not reduce it to 30mph, to beyond the visitor centre.'

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## from Mhor

## Peninsula's mobile issues continue

Continued from page 1

agency measures' comprised, the spokesperson added: 'In this instance, it's the Lone Working Policy, alternative phone company usage and landline messaging services. There is also a single point of contact number for the public to contact us in Fort William.'

For her part, an angry Ms Forbes told us: 'Loyal customers who depend on the EE network have been waiting patiently, but enough is enough. Businesses cannot be expected to function without a phone signal when they're paying for a contract.'

'Just because the site is in a more remote area of the country, EE cannot be excused for not fixing the mast as a matter of urgency. This is no way for a commercial company to behave towards its most remote and rural customers, who depend on a phone signal for everything from healthcare to business transactions.'

'Time is ticking and EE must fix the mast and restore connectivity to its customers.'

And Ms Forbes's office confirmed she has now escalated the matter to EE's chief executive after one of her constituents

claimed recently that EE had now advised them and other locals to leave the network and go to another provider.

Told of the problems, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter said such a long-running issue with the mobile service was a real concern: 'Residents and professionals rely on this network every day. For such a remote area the even patchy current network coverage is important,' he said. 'It's vital that it is working and providing a reliable service.'

Asked to comment, an EE spokesperson said the ongoing signal issues in the Acharacle and Salen areas were the result of hardware faults at two separate sites: 'We're working with the site provider to restore service as quickly as possible, as well as exploring a number of temporary solutions to avoid further disruption, and we apologise for the inconvenience this may be causing our customers.'

And EE has assured the Lochaber Times that anyone making calls to 999 will be able to connect to any mobile network in the area, so will not be affected by this service issue.

fully decided upon and will take any community feedback into account: 'What we are really keen for is when we get proposals from funders, which will be happening in October, we can hand-on-heart say that there's support from the community - otherwise we are not meeting the needs of the area.'

Plans will be submitted for planning permission next month and funding is hoped to be agreed in principle by December.

Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of West Highland College UHI, said that the new STEM centre will 'transform opportunities for young people, businesses and communities' in the area.

'The planned state-of-the-art technology campus is the result of intensive multi-partnership working and engagement with key employers and stakeholders,' Mrs Rohmer explained. 'It is part of our strategy to develop Fort William into a major hub of learning in the West Highlands.'

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This projection of the likely facial appearance of 'Ava' by Maya Hoole went viral on the internet.



## Roy Bridge archaeologist to present 'viral' burial findings

A Lochaber archaeologist has been invited to present a talk on the findings of her recent project which went viral on social media and attracted millions of views worldwide, writes Neill Bo Finlayson. Maya Hoole, originally from Roy Bridge, will speak about her Achavanich Beaker Burial project, which she has managed over the last four years,

at a Lochaber Local History Society meeting next week. Ms Hoole rediscovered the story of a burial cist disturbed in 1987 during road widening in Caithness. The cist contained a beaker and some remains of a young adult female. Ms Hoole oversaw the detailed analysis of this woman, later named 'Ava', discovering a precise

date and details of her the diet and dwelling place. In the process, a projection of the likely facial appearance of the woman went viral on the internet with 50 million views on social media. To hear this story first hand, from the start to its conclusion, she will be talking at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Thursday October 4 at 8pm.

# 'Delight' expre back ban on k

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

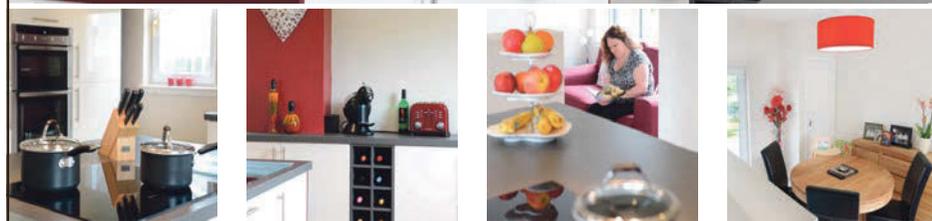


Petitioners against wild kelp dredging are 'delighted' after a Holyrood committee voted to ban the practice. Ayr-based Marine Biopolymers Ltd (MBL) is applying to the Scottish Government for a five-year licence to 'sustainably harvest wild kelp', or Laminaria hyperborea, to extract natural polymers for uses in foods and pharmaceuticals, in seas inside the Western Isles from the Firth of Lorn to Stornoway. MBL hopes to 'unlock the hidden treasures that are the different components of seaweeds', and harvest up to 1,300 tonnes in wet weight the first year, rising to 29,800 tonnes in year five, the minimum required per year to be commercially viable. The kelp would be transported to

that signed a letter calling for a ban. Now the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee has backed an amendment from Green MSP Mark Ruskell which bans the removal of entire kelp plants from Scottish waters. Three committee members voted in favour of the amendment and there were six abstentions. It means harvesting would be allowed only where the plant can recover and rules out dredging. Ullapool oyster farmer Ailsa McLellan, who started the petition, said: 'We were delighted to see that this amendment passed today, which is an enormous landmark for a campaign that began so recently.' Mr Ruskell, the Scottish Greens' environment spokesman, added: 'Kelp forests provide a precious habitat for

MBL's proposed processing plant at Mallaig, subject to a future planning application to Highland Council. MBL's scoping report, subject to a consultation, states this is a first for Scotland, but harvesting has been carried out 'sustainably for many decades in Norway, France and Iceland'. But by Tuesday more than 15,500 people had signed a petition calling for Roseanna Cunningham MSP, the Scottish Government's cabinet secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform, not to grant any licences for mechanical kelp dredging in Scottish waters. Campaigners and fishermen warned it could damage kelp beds as well as fish and shellfish stocks. Dozens of businesses from Argyll, Lochaber and Skye, which 'rely on a healthy coastal environment to prosper', are among the 116 names

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## Kate Forbes welcomes economic growth

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has praised new figures showing that Scotland's economy has outperformed the UK's in the second quarter of this year. According to official figures, announced by Scotland's chief statistician, the Scottish economy grew by 0.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2018, while growth in the UK was at 0.4 per cent. The last year has seen the Scottish economy grow by 1.7 per cent, while the UK lags

behind on 1.3 per cent. Ms Forbes said: 'It is extremely encouraging to see economic growth in Scotland is exceeding expectations - not only growing at a faster rate than the UK but also higher than independent forecasts. These latest figures show the success of the Scottish Government's approach, focused on building a strong economy, investing in business and enterprise and supporting the industries of the future.'



Kate Forbes MSP

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ A warm invitation is extended to all parents to go along to Lochaber High School's first open evening of the year tonight (Thursday September 27) from 7-8pm, and which is being held in the assembly hall. This is an informal but important evening to keep parents informed of the continued improvements and recent developments at Lochaber High School. The school's new Chrome Books will feature in discussions on the night. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and explore

what new developments mean for their child. ■ A coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer will be held on Saturday September 29, from 10am to 1pm, in Roy Bridge village hall, including lots of delicious home-baking, teas, coffee and a raffle. ■ Part two of Lochaber Sensory Care's AGM is being held in the Alexandra Hotel this Saturday, September 29. The meeting will run from 2-4pm. ■ There will be live music and songs at Fort William Baptist church on Sunday

September 30 from 7pm. The music will be followed by refreshments. The evening will be in aid of the extension fund. Everyone is welcome. ■ A public meeting will be held by the local community SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) for Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry on October 2 at Kilmonivaig Church Hall, Spean Bridge, starting at 7pm, to discuss proposals for micro hydro schemes in the Leanachan Forest. ■ West Highland Museum is organising Big Bang and

# Assessed as MSPs help dredging



The plans to dredge kelp sparked controversy.

young fish and shellfish species. Removing these en masse will have a devastating impact on many of these populations and a knock-on effect of Scotland's other fishing sectors.

'The forests also act as an important buffer for our island and coastal communities, protecting them from the more

damaging effects of waves and coastal erosion.

'Members of the environment committee have received a wealth of submissions in recent weeks in support of a ban. There's now plenty of time to consider these in even more depth before we vote on the final bill in the coming months.'

Charles Millar, Scottish Inshore Fisheries Trust executive director and founder of Help the Kelp, said the vote will require all harvesting of kelp in Scottish waters to follow the rule hand-harvesters obey – that the plant must be allowed to regrow.

'This wording would not ban mechanical harvesting of farmed kelp, nor would it obstruct any of the businesses currently using seaweed for everything from the drinks industry to make-up to food for racing camels.

'We know the Scottish Government may seek to remove these provisions when the bill goes into its final stage, but I would urge ministers to listen to the overwhelming voice of business and public opposition, and to accept that Scotland's growing seaweed industry is itself best served by following this simple rule when licences are to be issued.'

## Ferguson Transport's rail and marine plans

Ferguson Transport and Shipping has revealed plans to build a timber rail terminal and floating pier at Corpach.

The Lochaber logistics company hopes to eventually transport up to 50,000 tonnes of timber per annum from Rannoch forestry sites – roughly three trains per week carrying 400 tonnes each – directly into Annat point by rail.

Managing director Alasdair Ferguson presented Ferguson Transport's plans to Kilmallie Community Council on

Monday (September 24) and revealed that rail operations could begin by next spring.

The company has put together plans to construct a timber log terminal next to the sawmill yard as well as a floating pier at Loch Eil narrows in order to carry logs to and from ships. Mr Ferguson explained that the floating pier would supplement current operations at Corpach Port rather than replace.

Considering the number of complaints about excessive

noise at the Annat industrial site received in the last year, community councillors sought assurances that this expansion would not add to the problem.

Mr Ferguson said he wanted to work closely with the community to 'mitigate any light and noise complaints'.

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a rail terminal on the site in 2011. The company will apply for planning permission on other developments in the next month or two.

Beyond, a fun children's event as part of the Highland Archaeology Festival 2018 on Saturday October 6 from 10am to 1pm. To book a place call 01397 702169 or email [info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk)

A new group, Lochaber Ladies, will hold its first meeting in the Montrose Centre at Inverlochy on Monday October 1 at 7.15pm.

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club is holding a musical evening at the Railway Club, Inverlochy,

on Tuesday October 2 at 7.30pm. The guest group is the Sileas Sinclair Band. Admission is £5 and there will be a tea and raffle.

Lochaber Local History Society is pleased to welcome Maya Hoole, originally from Lochaber, who will speak of her project, the Achavanich Beaker Burial project, which she has managed over the last four years. Anyone is welcome on Thursday October 4 at 8pm at the Ben Nevis Hotel.

From October 3-5, a special 'open house' event

on proposals for a new cinema in Fort William will be held in the DV8 building in Cameron Square. Running each day from 11am -7pm, Highland Cinema Open House will include designs by Skye-based architects Dualchas. Owner Angus MacDonald will also be on hand to discuss the project and answer questions.

Lochaber Women's Aid will be hosting its annual general meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday October 10 at Voluntary Action Lochaber offices, An Drochaid.

## Kilmallie community discusses potential for Loch Linnhe harbour authority

The idea to create a Loch Linnhe Harbour Authority was mooted again at a recent meeting of Kilmallie Community Council amid proposals for developing the Corpach port area.

Concerns were raised at the meeting that proposed developments at Corpach harbour, which could involve a liquefied natural gas terminal and deep water port, will impact Corpach and the wider area along Loch Linnhe in a number of ways.

Members at the meeting felt that a port authority with strong community involvement could help to mitigate those issues whereas it would be more

difficult to address these if there was an authority that was controlled by individual business interests. Highland Council had commissioned a study in 2015 that concluded that a port authority was not financially viable, but at the time this was mainly focused on encouraging cruise ships and the area considered did not include Corpach or The Underwater Centre pier.

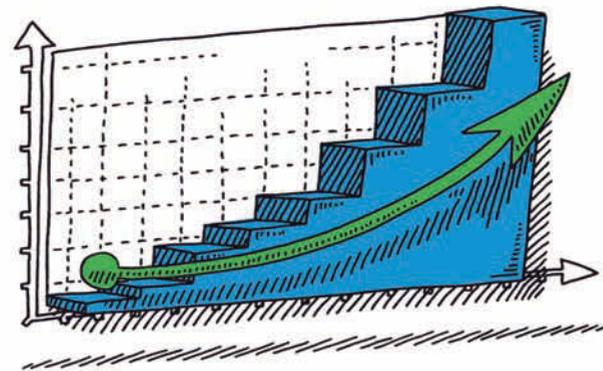
Members agreed to further pursue the idea of a trust port with strong community involvement and to request that Highland Council revisit its previous appraisal in the light of potentially greatly increased shipping traffic.

## Police warn dog owners

Dog owners are being warned to keep their dogs on leads near farms after two recent incidents of sheep worrying in the Corpach area.

Sergeant Ross McCartney told Kilmallie residents on Monday night that there had been two incidents in the area of dogs attacking sheep recently after getting through farm gates. Although no animals were killed, bite marks were found on one sheep. Farmers then raised concerns with local police.

He said: 'It's about being vigilant. Be prepared and keep your dog on a lead. Farmers work very hard so anything we can do to help them, the better.'



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# Three Lochs draws crowds

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

This year's Three Lochs Festival lived up to promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The festival of arts and literature takes place every two years in Strontian, and the weekend saw another packed programme for all ages and interests, including drama, music, film, photography and, of course, lots of books and literature with appearances by well-known writers such as Adam Nicholson, Ajay Close and Ross Collins.

This year's festival kicked off with a musical production of *No Petticoats Here* by Louise Jordan at The Highland Bookshop in Fort William and closed with a contemporary folk music evening in Strontian, from BBC Radio Two Folk Musician of the Year Tim Edey, ably supported by Jed Grimes.

Aspiring writers enjoyed a range of practical workshops led by successful published authors.

And anyone with an



**Outlander actor Scott Kyle gave a talk and was introduced by one of the festival organisers, Joanne Matheson.** Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

interest in nature, wildlife and the environment had a range of interesting talks to attend, including two from national wildlife champion Jim Crumley.

However, one of the undoubted highlights of this year's festival was the poignant show staged by Lochaber-based Bright Productions, involving pupils

from both Kinlochleven and Ardnamurchan high schools to tell the story of the impact which the First World War had on Lochaber.

Bright Productions is Lochaber's only professional theatre company and its team of creative minds worked with the youngsters to bring the show to life in the Sunart Centre on Friday evening.

The show was produced by the pupils, based on research they have done about the impact of the Great War on this area. The stories they uncovered were brought to life through a combination of plays, poetry and music.

Bright Productions' Ilona Munro Lawson was the director and worked closely with the youngsters. She said:



**A scene from the show in the Sunart Centre featuring high school pupils on the impact of the First World War.**

'We had a big audience for the show and the reaction was very positive. From my point of view, two things stand out – first, how much we all learned from this process. The pupils worked closely with a local historian, Riona Whyte, and I think everyone learned something new about this period.

'Secondly, seeing young

people from both Ardnamurchan high and Kinlochleven high working together and enjoying the shared experience was really special.'

And she went on to praise Veronique Walraven, Debbie White and Peter Newman for their roles in helping with the event, and Joanne Matheson, who secured funding.

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**Mark Kittle of the Abernethy Trust gives cooking advice to sisters Mya, left, and Maisie Carmichael.**



**Keeping participants fed were, left to right, Ailsa Lamont, Morag Jones and Catriona Hunter.**

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

International trade is a huge area for growth in the Highlands and Islands.

Whether in goods or services, Lochaber has fantastic potential to grow our local businesses into international businesses.

International trade can be anything from selling postcards online to exporting tonnes of timber – and it can cover any area and industry.

No matter how big or small, there is a world of opportunity out there for business, but it can be difficult for smaller firms to know where to start and where to go for expert guidance.

That is why we are running an informative seminar on 'navigating the world of international trade' as part



of Lochaber Ideas Week in November. The event is open to all Lochaber businesses of any size.

Everyone is welcome to come and find out more about how the world of international trade could open new doors for them.

International trade expert Ewan Ramsay will host the interactive session exploring the opportunities and challenges of international business and consider what the future may hold for trade after Brexit.

We will also be joined by representatives from HIE, Enterprise Europe and the Highlands and Islands Local Export Partnership to make sure that you are aware of the breadth of support available to all businesses in Lochaber and surrounding areas.

If you are already doing international business or you are interested in dipping your toes in international waters, don't miss this great chance to find out what it could do for your business.

The event takes place on Tuesday November 13, 1.30-3.30pm, at the Moorings Hotel. Book your free place on [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) or call the chamber team on 01397 705765 to register.

# Ferry board members frustrated by construction delays

Disappointment and frustration was the overriding feeling at a recent meeting of the CalMac community board in Mallaig as members expressed concerns over the continuing delays in the delivery of two vessels under construction.

The meeting follows the news last month that technical challenges in building

a dual-fuel ferry that can use liquified natural gas (LNG) fuel had led to a further delay.

One of the boats is for the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert triangle, while the first, the MV Glen Sannox, is for the Ardrossan to Arran route.

Chairman of the board Angus Campbell said members were keen to work positively with all parties

concerned to bring about a more robust process in future.

He said: 'The board recognises that all parties need to work together to bring the necessary improvements and are committed to inform and positively contribute to that process but stress the need for action now.'

Ferguson Marine on the

Clyde won the £97 million Scottish Government

contract to build the vessels but notified CalMac's parent company, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), in August of the delay. The shipbuilder said that construction was expected to be completed by next summer, a full year behind schedule.

CMAL and Transport

Scotland both made presentations at the meeting on how they plan and prioritise vessel and port improvements and renewals. This was followed by a presentation from the community board's operational sub group which recommended a number of action points, including better communication of incidents, a review of

the dry docking programme and schedule, and a move to on-going timetable discussions, not just twice a year. The subgroup also suggested a new ferries plan process to include a five, 10 and 15-year build programme.

The CalMac community board's primary purpose is to be the voice of the communities to CalMac.

## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Regular eye tests more vital than ever with ageing workforce

WITH an ageing population and record number of older people in work, Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are reminding people of the importance of regular eye tests to maintain and protect their sight.

There are now more than 1.2 million Brits aged over 65 working as people continue to live longer and healthier lives. Yet research\* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all sight loss is avoidable. Early detection is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years as recommended.

Hairy Bikers star Dave Myers has teamed up with Specsavers and RNIB this National Eye Health Week (24-30 September) to help raise awareness of the importance of eye tests. The 61-year-old was diagnosed with glaucoma seven years ago following a routine visit to the opticians. It could have affected his career, but swift detection has protected the chef's sight by enabling him to successfully manage the condition with daily eye drops.

'I was shocked because I had no symptoms, but if it had gone unnoticed, I could have gone blind. Like so many people, my career is my passion and it's so hard to imagine doing all the things I love if I couldn't see.'

RNIB interim CEO Eliot Lyne added: 'Research shows that the older you are, the greater your chances of developing an eye condition, so it is very important that people book themselves in for an eye test every two years.'



'With the right support, people with sight loss can continue working, and if you are an employer, RNIB and other organisations can help you to properly support a member of staff who is losing their sight.'

'Advances in technology mean that blind and partially sighted people can now overcome many of the barriers to work that they faced in the past, and government schemes like Access to Work mean that many of the costs can be met.'

All Specsavers optometrists are accredited in detecting and monitoring glaucoma, cataracts and other eye health conditions. To complement their skills, Specsavers and RNIB have also launched eye health training for Specsavers' non clinical teams, including optical assistants and frame stylists, to ensure that whoever a customer first sees in-store is sympathetic to their eye care needs.

To book your free NHS-funded eye examination visit [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk) or call 0800 0680 241.

Free eye examination funded by the Scottish Government and available in Scotland only.

\* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.



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Transforming eye health

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# 'Pop-up' event proves a hit

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Linking the Lochaber Rotary Club's second 'pop-up' café event of the season with a craft fair proved a winner with the public, as more than 150 people 'popped' in for refreshments and lunches.

The event, which was held in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William on Saturday, had it all, with an array of craftware, the Rotary 'Children's Bedtime Stories' book stall and the busy café with its hearty home-cooked lunches and delicious baking.

Club president Iain Johnston was delighted with the level of public support. 'We welcomed well over 150 locals and visitors. The hall had a terrific buzz with all the activity and our charity book stall was very well patronised,' he said.

'Thanks again to the gener-



ous Lochaber public, to my rotary colleagues and to the stallholders for making the day a great success.'

Craft fair organiser Chris Heardman added: 'Combining the pop-up cafe and the craft fair worked really well and created a wonderful atmosphere.'

'The crafters all had a great day and we look forward to collaborating once again on

Saturday October 27 for our early Christmas fair.'

The early Christmas fair is from 11am to 3pm in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Hall.

Tea/coffee and cake/tray-bake will be available from 11am to 3pm, with soup and sandwiches being served from noon to 2pm. To book a craft stall, contact Chris at 07900 928515.



Clockwise from top left: Lochaber Rotary Club held a successful pop-up cafe event at the weekend; Margaret Boyd, left, and Cath Johnson sell gift tags and a children's book to raise money for rotary charities; and Millie Henderson, Jodie Gillies and Keira Cameron set up a stall at the Rotary pop-up cafe to sell ever-popular homemade slime.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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Michael will give a motivational talk based on his incredible experience of fighting to compete in the

Calgary Winter Olympics 1988 as the UK's unlikely ski-jumper.

The UK hadn't entered a competitor into ski jumping for 60 years but, where there's a will there's a way, and Michael earned the right to compete in the Winter Olympics against all the odds...and the wishes of the winter sports establishment.

Eddie first represented Great Britain at the 1987 World Championships and was ranked 55th in the world. This performance qualified him, as the sole British applicant, for the 1988 Winter Olympics.

He may not have won (he came last) but he became the stand-out star of the competition and a world-wide audience took him to their hearts because of his tenacity, bravery, positive attitude and good humour.

At the closing ceremony, the President of the Olympic Organizing Committee singled him out for his contribution to the event, saying, "At these Games, some competitors have won gold, some have broken records and some you have even soared like an eagle."

His amazing story has gone on to inspire a whole new generation since the 2016 release of the smash-hit feel-good comedy, Eddie



the Eagle film starring Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman.

Whether you remember him well or he's someone you've only seen in the film, come along to this great family-friendly event to hear his inspirational true story of persevering

against the odds to achieve his goal.

Please book early to avoid disappointment - visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) to buy your ticket online. Kids tickets will be available on the door for £6 each (cash only) for ages 16 and under (ID may be asked for).

This event is sponsored by HWEnergy.

Renewable heating company HWEnergy have specialised in the design, installation and operation of biomass heating systems since 2003. The company are based in Fort William, though operate across the UK.



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# Future looks bright for Kishorn's 'sleeping giant'

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

More than 100 delegates from the oil and gas sector were given an insight last Wednesday (September 19) into the redevelopment of the Kishorn yard and dry dock.

Organised by Kishorn Port Limited (KPL), the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), stakeholders from the oil and gas industry were given presentations on the developments of the Kishorn Port project by the directors of KPL, Simon Russell and Alasdair Ferguson, with Bill Cattanach OBE, head of supply chain at the OGA, chairing the proceedings.

The day provided an opportunity for attendees to tour the site and see first-hand the results of the latest round of



refurbishment and upgrading works to the dry dock, which is now available for hire. The 160m diameter facility, with up to 13.8 metres of draft, is one of the largest dry docks in western Europe and was designed for use in the decommissioning and reactivation of rig, renewables and

fabrication sectors.

Audrey MacIver, director of energy and low carbon from HIE, said that it was now 'only a matter of time' before the dry dock secured a long line of decommissioning and construction projects.

'It's great to be here today with our partners as well as

Alasdair Ferguson, director of KPL and Ferguson Transport managing director, welcomed the delegates to the meeting inside a Ferguson lorry inside the dry dock.

the oil and gas representatives,' he said. 'The dock has huge potential, particularly in the decommissioning of floating structures and platforms which can be removed in a single lift, renewables and aquaculture. It would be great to see it coming to life again, providing valuable rural jobs, contributing to both economic and community growth and the wider competitiveness of the region.'

The site was originally developed in the 1970s

as a manufacturing and fabrication yard for oil platforms, with more than 3,000 employed at the site in 1977 during the construction of the renowned 600,000-tonne Ninian Central Platform.

As one of the largest dry docks in Europe, the facility was also central to the manufacturing of the two Skye Bridge concrete caissons which were floated out in 1994.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Ian Blackford praised the operators of Kishorn Port Ltd on their efforts to 'waken a sleeping giant', alluding to the 1970s times he believes, which could come again.

He said: 'What we have

here is the biggest dry dock in western Europe, which is a tremendous resource, capable of offering facilities for a number of industries.

Decommissioning of oil assets, for one, is in growing demand across the globe and with much of this work on our doorstep, it only seems logical that Kishorn should play a major role.

'This place has huge potential in providing jobs for people right across the West Highlands and I am delighted with what has been achieved so far. Kishorn offers a tremendous opportunity for growth and I am delighted that Kishorn Port Ltd has taken this opportunity to showcase just what it can do.'



Around 100 representatives of different industries, funding agencies and businesses visited Kishorn dry dock last week.

## Community to resist Corpach Station demolition

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) has agreed that efforts should be made to prevent the potential demolition of Corpach Station.

KC had been informed that the future of Corpach Station had been discussed by the West Highland Community Rail Partnership because the building has been closed for some time and ScotRail has

been considering possible demolition.

The building was designed by Simpson and Wilson, built by Robert McAlpine and Sons and is typical of small railway stations of the period.

It was noted that the building was of historical significance and also contributed to the experience of passengers

on the West Highland line including the very popular Jacobite steam train.

At a recent meeting of KCC, it was agreed that efforts should be made to avoid demolition and there were many uses for the building but that it would require considerable work to restore it to a state where it could be used.



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## Skye's Moll Road closed 'until further notice'

The Moll road on the east coast of Skye will be closed until further notice, the Highland Council has confirmed.

The damage to the U4853 Moll Road, south of Sconser, happened last Monday night (September 17) before the heavy rain and gale-force winds expected during storm Ali.

Police have asked people to avoid the area.

The Moll Road connects in a loop with the main A87 trunk road.

Advance 'road closed ahead' signs have been located at various points along the Moll Road from its north and south ends at locations that allow turning. Access will be maintained to all properties but there will be no through traffic.

The damage to the road covers the full width of the single track road and includes a collapsed culvert.

# MSP demands island banking services saved

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has demanded the Conservative government at Westminster steps in to save island banking services in a Scottish Parliament debate highlighting the negative impact of branch closures on communities across Scotland.

The debate follows a damning report by Holyrood's Economy Committee which investigated the impact of local bank closures across Scotland.

The Scottish Government has continued to engage closely with banks and senior representatives from all major companies in the financial services industry on

the issue of branch closures and the provision of banking services.

Mr Allan said: 'Concluding that it is the most vulnerable who will be affected most by these closures, the committee report says: "RBS previously said that it would not shut the last branch in town. Clearly that was a hollow promise." Nowhere was that promise more obviously hollow than on the isle of Barra.

'Some 12,000 people - 10 times the population of Barra - have signed a petition demanding RBS reverse the decision about the branch closure, recognising that this is indeed perhaps the most extreme example of RBS's callousness towards its rural customers.

'It cannot have escaped the

notice of any community in Scotland facing such closures that the cost to the UK taxpayer of bailing out RBS was some £45.5 billion.

'Last week RBS chairman Sir Howard Davies admitted it was 'unlikely' the UK Government would be able to recoup this money.

'It seems that despite all this, RBS doesn't see itself as having any responsibility to provide a service to taxpayers.

'RBS is still effectively owned by the Conservative government as it owns some 62 per cent of RBS shares.

'It is within its power to save branches such as Castlebay, and I urge it to step in and finally end the uncertainty surrounding the branch's future.'



Construction began on the car park in August.

## Upper tier of Fairy Pools car park open

The upper tier of the new Fairy Pools car park recently opened.

The opening of this section, on Tuesday September 18, will provide improved parking and extend the capacity of the existing car park to accommodate up to 70 vehicles. This increase in parking spaces is the first step in the project's objective to help reduce the current congestion along the single-track road leading to Glenbrittle.

Members of the Minginish Community Hall Association (MCHA) will be able to apply for a free parking permit, while other

Skye residents will be able to apply for a season ticket at a cost of £15.

Details on how to apply for these permits will be available after October 1.

One of the overriding ambitions of the Fairy Pools car park project is to provide local community benefits and benefits to the wider Skye community. This phase of the development is the first step in delivering some of those benefits. According to MCHA members, the project is progressing well and the lower tier and linking loop should be completed by mid-November.

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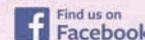
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# New information on burial of clan chiefs at Ui church

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe held its annual lecture recently and learned more about the history of the important Ui Church on the Aignish peninsula – including the likelihood that the ‘Sword Stone’ marks the exact burial spot of the clan chiefs of the Macleods of Lewis.

The coffin-shaped stone, decorated with a faintly-visible sword, was previously thought to have been linked to the Knights Templar.

But all the research now points to it marking the final resting place of the Macleod chiefs, with the sword believed to be a reference to one particular chief’s reputation as an excellent swordsman.

For Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe (the Ui Church Trust), which knew that Macleod clan chiefs were buried at Ui



but not exactly where, it is valuable new information.

The links between Ui and the Macleod chiefs, including the importance of the Sword Stone, were the subject of this year’s Colm Cille lecture delivered by genealogist Andrew MacLeod.

Organised by the Ui Church Trust and held at Ionad Stoodie in Point earlier this

month, it was sponsored once again by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

Mr MacLeod is the genealogy co-ordinator of the Associated Clan Macleod Societies and was put in touch with the Ui Church Trust through a mutual friend.

The Ui Church on the Aignish peninsula dates back



From left: Alex John Murray, Ui Church Trust committee member; Colin Scott Mackenzie, Ui Church Trust honorary president; Liz Chaplin, secretary of the Ui Church Trust; John Kennedy, a descendant of the Macleods of Lewis; and Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust pictured inside the Ui Church, with the Sword Stone. Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

to the 14th century and was one of the most important medieval churches in the Outer Hebrides. It is also one of the best preserved and there has been consolidation and conservation work to safeguard and protect the church building.

However, although the church was secured by works carried out in 2012 and 2015,

the general site has not and coastal erosion continues to threaten the graveyard.

The trust’s honorary president, Colin Scott Mackenzie, said the new information about the Sword Stone was ‘vastly important’, adding: ‘The site is itself important, particularly for the parish of Stornoway as it was the parish church.

‘It was, in its day, the most important church in the Hebrides. It was the richest church in the Hebrides. It was burned down twice in its early days, possibly by the Vikings, and that it’s here at all is a wonder.’

Hundreds of bodies are known to lie at Ui – with a geophysical survey, a few years ago, establishing there were ‘layers upon layers’ of bodies, particularly at the church and close to it.

Trust secretary Liz Chaplin said the organisation now had to decide if it should move the stone and put it under shelter or leave it as it is.

Part of the church is roofed but the main section, which contains the Sword Stone, is unroofed.

‘Knowing the provenance of it is a huge thing for us. Tradition tells us the MacLeod chiefs were buried here but we never had the actual location for them until now,’ she added.

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# Bookends is in full swing



Author Jess Smith packed the big hall at Benderloch.

by David McPhee  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

The Victory Hall in Benderloch was packed with people – and books – on Saturday for the launch of this year's Bookends Festival.

Joy Cameron and her nine-year-old assistant Elizabeth Needham declared the Bookends festival open just after 3pm.

Joy then read a poem to the audience titled I Opened a Book by Julia Donaldson.

'Welcome to Bookends 2018. I want to thank everyone who has had anything to do with putting the festival together,' she added. 'To the librarians, the people who built the shelves, who brought books



Enjoying quiet moments in the Reading Room.

14 parts in Jim Cartwright's tragi-comedic play set in a Highland pub – an immense undertaking delivered with style and aplomb.'

Events continue today (Thursday), with a bookbinding and gold tooling workshop tonight in the Victory Hall from 7.30pm.

Friday night will see the Hollow Mountain String Band playing, and on Saturday the festival will come to an end with authors Lorn McIntyre and Lachlan Munro.

The reading room will be open throughout from 11am until 6.30pm, where people can browse or borrow books or chat among themselves.

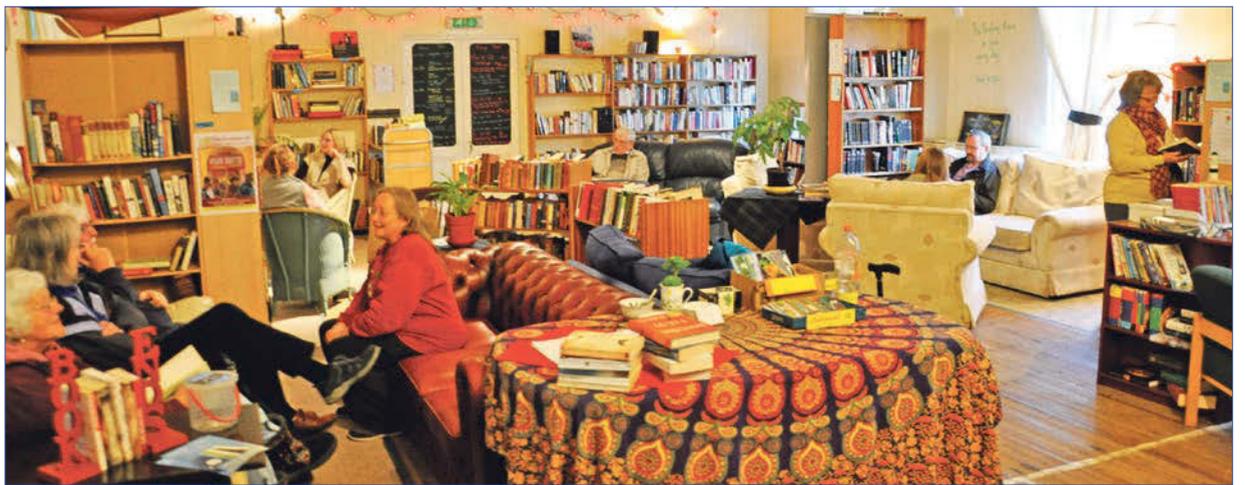
For more information, visit [www.bookends.scot](http://www.bookends.scot).



Kellan MacInnes was interviewed by Breege Smyth.



Joy Cameron and nine-year-old Elizabeth Needham.



The reading room will be open from 11am until 6.30pm. 17\_T39\_Bookends03

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# Green Welly worker wins tribunal claim

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Bosses at Tyndrum's Green Welly Stop have been forced to pay £10,000 to a former employee accused of wearing her cancer 'as a badge'.

Amanda McCartney, 49, was a seasonal food and drinks worker at the popular tourist stop between March and July last year when a lump, originally thought to have been caused by an ingrowing hair, was diagnosed as cancer.

An employment tribunal in Edinburgh found Ms McCartney had suffered disability discrimination over a period of six weeks and ordered Green Welly partners Mr E Robertson and Mrs F Robertson to pay the five-figure compensation sum for injuring her feelings.

The tribunal heard how workers at the A82 service station were 'getting fed up' with Ms McCartney talking about her cancer, were overheard saying, 'Is she still going on about it again?' and that some of them were of the opinion she was 'wearing cancer as a badge'. At no point were employees told by management to stop their 'negative discussion'.

Ms McCartney had complained to her line manager that she was 'sick of people being rude, nasty and bullying'.

The tribunal heard of a personality clash with another employee which started at the hot food counter and was taken outside. During the argument, the employee told Ms McCartney she was a 'liar' about having cancer and said she (Ms McCartney) was 'happy she had cancer'. Two managers witnessed it but took no action and the woman was later promoted by bosses. The tribunal found that the incident 'violated her dignity'.

Ms McCartney's partner, Ian Scott-Moncrieff, who also worked there, gave compelling evidence to the tribunal how she cried before going to work and did not want to go because of the hostile environment.

Her GP provided bosses with a statement for fitness for work which suggested 'heavy loads are difficult given tumour site and size and this work should not be carried out. Opportunity to sit when needed should be given'.

Her duties were amended two days after the note to



'On this occasion our historically high standards slipped slightly and we will learn from this to ensure there is no repetition'

clearing tables and placing dirty dishes onto trolleys but, due to the weight of those trolleys, Ms McCartney had increased contact with heavy loads and found her work more onerous than before. She had to take extra painkillers to complete her working day. She also had no time to sit down because her one-hour break ended up be-

ing split into 12 five-minute breaks.

The Green Welly's defence solicitor said his clients accepted Ms McCartney had suffered harassment but added as a small business the respondents had been 'consistently sympathetic', making as many adjustments as they could. 'The overarching evidence suggests that even though they were unable to do everything right, they were a caring employer trying to do their best,' he said.

The tribunal accepted Ms McCartney's evidence that the actions of the respondents from mid June to late July 2017 caused her considerable upset, which she felt caused her health to deteriorate. The tribunal also had regard that she had little choice but to take a day's holiday to cover her hospital appointments.

On evidence the tribunal concluded the actions of the respondents between mid June to the end of July 'created an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating and offensive environment' for Ms McCartney.

After the tribunal's decision, Ms McCartney told The Oban Times she had been shocked to be diagnosed with the same illness as her

mother, at the same age she was first diagnosed and just a couple of weeks short of the fifth anniversary of her death from cancer.

She described the discrimination she experienced as 'a vicious campaign' to force her 'to admit' she was lying about being unwell.

'I did not expect further vexatious accusations in court but the judge recognised that those six weeks were a living hell for me and found in my favour. I hope that the Green Welly Stop has recognised that the Highland hospitality that it demands of its staff should also be extended to incoming seasonal workers.'

Speaking to The Oban Times, Fiona Robertson of the Green Welly Stop said: 'At the Green Welly Stop we pride ourselves on how we lead and manage our team. On this occasion our historically high standards slipped slightly and we will learn from this to ensure there is no repetition.'

'We are, of course, disappointed with the judgement, although we take some solace from the judge's comments about the professionalism and honesty demonstrated by those present from our business.'

## Lifeboat launches into storm

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called out in storm force winds to search for a vessel reported as being adrift and in distress.

At 12.27pm on Wednesday September 19, the crew launched to aid the vessel to the north-east of Lismore.

The lifeboat, with seven crew, arrived shortly after 1pm having recorded wind speeds of 56 knots.

The incident began with a 999 call to the UK Coastguard from a member of public concerned for the safety of a boat near Lismore. The description suggested that it was adrift and in distress.

Searches were made by the lifeboat and Oban and Appin Coastguard Rescue Teams as far north as Cuil Bay. The search was broadened during the afternoon to include the Coastguard rescue helicopter R199 and also Fort William Coastguard Rescue Team.

As the search continued, Oban lifeboat was released to make contact with one of the first informants on the Isle of Lismore, coming alongside at Achnacroish Pier and gaining further information.

At 4.03pm it was decided that the area had been thoroughly searched and the reports were likely to be a false alarm with good intent.

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ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES**

LT

# Mum secures charity status

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Tobermory mother has achieved charitable status for a rare condition foundation helping families across the world.

Michelle Erskine's eldest son and two brothers all have the little-known Aarskog Syndrome, and she is a carrier.

The 46-year-old, who has been on a one-woman mission via social media and her Facebook page for the past 10 years to raise the profile of the syndrome, hopes the new charitable status will mean the genetic condition can now become widely recognised and understood by families living with it, as well as GPs, consultants and schools so children can get the tests and support they

need to flourish in life. Only females are carriers and only males inherit the gene which reveals itself through stunted growth, wide-set eyes, low-set ears and other broad facial abnormalities. Dyslexia, ADHD and other autistic spectrum disorders are not uncommon.

Other conditions can also develop with age. Ms Erskine's youngest brother has just been diagnosed with lymphoma and her oldest one has now lost his peripheral vision. She, too, has inflammatory arthritis, and a survey of carriers has revealed 70 per cent of them have some form of rheumatoid arthritis.

Later this month Ms Erskine, who already has a networking branch in Florida and will soon have others in New Jersey and Holland, is flying out to a global genes

conference in California to spread word about it.

She said: 'I am so proud to have charity status at last. I've been working behind the scenes on social media and my own Facebook, and in 2017 I registered it as a non-profit organisation in the run-up to it becoming a charity.'

'Now we've got the status, it'll give us more power to help GPs diagnose and signpost people to get the right help. It will help schools identify children's needs earlier so they can get proper support before high school and I'd like to set up a youth group so, as the children get older, they can help each other.'

To find out more about the charity go to [aarskogsyndrome.foundation.co.uk](http://aarskogsyndrome.foundation.co.uk). A free helpline is on 0800 0016623.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



The perceptions of people towards us and, similarly, our own perceptions of others carry myriad inaccuracies that inevitably malign the subject of judgement.

We can only judge as we see and what we see is usually only a fraction of the overall picture. How we perceive that fraction of a picture changes with context and how we see ourselves at a given glimpse of time in a certain situation.

It is, of course, an essential and constant part of life to make conscious and subconscious judgement of others but the conclusions we reach can never be totally accurate.

It is a lifetime's work, even to judge inwardly on ourselves and try to work out why we are the way we are, why we do the things we do, what we're good at, what we're not, what we should be doing with our lives and what we shouldn't.

For someone else to glance in a tiny and clouded window on our lives and come to definite conclusions about what they see

is in most cases ridiculous, but we all do it.

Meeting people when years have elapsed is a situation that often most starkly illustrates just how misplaced judgements can be.

The following is a fairly clumsy observation on the subject.

### **The Movement of the Mind**

*We all are many people with layers running deep,*

*With complex contradictions in what we do and speak.*

*The nature of the mind is one of many parts*

*Personality and character, our feelings and our hearts.*

*You're a doer, you're a dreamer, you're a lover, you're a fighter.*

*You're a waster, high achiever, you can't read and you're a writer.*

*You're a drunkard, always sober, you're an athlete, you're unfit,*

*You've got steeled determination and you always like to quit.*

*You're a genius, you are stupid, you are able, you're a fool.*

*You are greedy, you are kind, you're a slave and born to rule.*

*You are charming, you are rude, you are selfish, you're a saint.*

*You're a violent raving madman, you're a native, dull and quaint.*

*The views of other people are our biggest fear and threat.*

*It's in the ways of man to look how other people bet;*

*But what they find comes to their mind when judging you or me*

*Depends which part of them they show and what they want to see.*

*The way we act it differs with what piece of us we bare.*

*This always moves and changes, worry not what people say.*

*We'll never solve how minds evolve in wild conflicting ways But acceptance of the self is the road to tranquil days.*

*Discontentment is a product of deciding who to be*

*The striving need to pigeon-hole what other people see.*

*Accept our many facets unconfined by other's view*

*Steer your course with wisdom - 'to thine own self be true'.*

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# BUSINESS NEWS

Send us your business news by emailing:  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or call 01631 568000

## Business Gateway tops satisfaction survey

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute achieved top ranking for meeting customer expectations last year, according to an independent customer satisfaction survey.

The survey showed 94 per cent of respondents saying their expectations were met as well as 93 per cent saying their business would benefit from the support provided.

Overall customer satisfaction from users of the service in Argyll and Bute is consistently above the national average for Scotland.

In the last quarter, 100 per cent of respondents to the customer satisfaction survey said that they had got what they wanted from an adviser.

More than 300 meetings with local business advisers have already been completed in the first six months of this year and the team is keen to hear from anyone looking for help to start or grow a business in Argyll.

Recent comments from firms supported by a business adviser include:

'Very helpful as my situation was quite tricky to explain and the adviser was able to tell me what I needed to do';

'Very knowledgeable about businesses. Made great suggestions and guided us to relevant information and contacts';

'The adviser dealing with my plan was very



Angela Vernel of Business Gateway Argyll and Bute has a background in investment, having worked for many years for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

helpful, always smiling and cheery. They led me in a good direction to get started with my plans';

'Listened to our worries and questions with regard to what we are hoping to do. Our business has been running for many years and we are losing footfall and need to try another approach. The adviser was extremely understanding and suggested possible ways to help';

'Really helpful, realistic, honest and gave clear advice on next steps. It was a very new idea and they took it seriously.'

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

Angela has also been involved in the property sector and run her own tourism business abroad. Angela holds the Premier Adviser qualification and also has a BA in accountancy.

To book an appointment with Angela in the Oban area call 01546 604555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

## Workshops will help businesses

Business Gateway also offers a wide range of free-to-attend workshops, covering 25 topics including marketing, PR, HR, customer service, book-keeping, business start-up, as well as workshops on 13 digital topics ranging from Twitter to data analytics to creating video content for social media.

So far this year, 33 workshops have been held across Argyll and Bute, with well in excess of 300 attendees in total.

Spaces are still available at the Oban workshops coming up soon, including PR on a Budget on October 1, Business Start-Up on October 3 and 4, Reaching More Customers on October 26, Build Your Own Business Website on October 30, Introduction to Online Trading on November 22 and Video Production for Social Media on November 29. Book with the team or online at [www.bgateway.com/events](http://www.bgateway.com/events).

As well as assisting small businesses, Business Gateway works with both Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise to identify companies with high growth potential and support them through a growth pipeline.

To find out how Business Gateway could help you, contact the local team on 01546 604 555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).



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## LETTERS

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 4HBRoad campaign is  
timely and welcome

We are very pleased to report this week on the road safety initiative being launched across the Highlands and Islands.

The figures for the number of those killed and injured in the region each year are, frankly, shocking.

According to Police Scotland, 18 people have died in road traffic collisions in the Highlands this year, and that number already exceeds the total who died in accidents in 2017. Add in the number of other road users who are seriously injured and the statistics represent a litany of pain and suffering.

Operation CEDAR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) will build on established practices and focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the area.

The initiative is both welcome and timely.

Lessons must be learned  
from on-going ferry saga

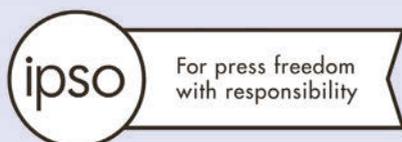
The 'disappointment and frustration' voiced by members of the CalMac community board when it met at Mallaig is justifiable and understandable.

The delays to the construction of two new ferries, one of which is for the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert triangle, has been well-documented. This is a sorry saga that has dragged on and will now see the new vessels a full year behind schedule. CalMac, CMAL and the Scottish Government must learn lessons from this episode.

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

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

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

Fish farm threat to 'place of  
wonder and amazement'

I have recently discovered that Kames Fish Farming Ltd, having – justifiably – been knocked back on their proposal to site a fish farm in the Sound of Jura have now applied for permission to put one in a secluded bay on the unspoiled west coast of the island of Jura.

I believe this to be perhaps the least suitable place for any such venture and should under no circumstances be allowed. The risk of long-term environmental damage to this pristine area is too great.

Some learned sage once said: 'The economy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the environment, not the reverse.'

And here we are again – the economy versus the environment.

I've sailed the waters off the west coast of Jura and it truly feels like a last wilderness. With its rugged cliffs and hardly accessible beaches standing sentinel against the wild Atlantic, there is a sense of time slowing while the modern world recedes.

I've watched tribes of wild goats dining on seaweed, next to rookeries of common and grey seals hauled out, warming on the shoreline. Overhead, golden eagles and sea eagles wheel on the westerly winds, dwarfing the myriad gulls that pepper the skies. Gannets circle, watching, and, in a blink, sheath their scimitar wings and fall from the sky like living lightning bolts to pierce the waters.

I have encountered the lumbering bulk of basking sharks with their great, gaping maws pushing slowly through the plankton-rich water while far behind the pendulum of tail rhythmically scythes the surface. I've witnessed the sleek, arching back of Minke whales roll through the swell, and the graceful play of dolphins and porpoises are not uncommon in this stretch of ocean. I believe, once, I even caught a glimpse of the weird and wonderful tropical sunfish before it sank into the gloom.

This coast is a place of wonder and amazement, visited by and home to some of the Earth's iconic creatures and it is unique in its glory. Are we really prepared to jeopardise all this for profit? To ship some plastic-wrapped, unnaturally produced protein halfway round the globe because the newly enriched Chinese market demands it?

Please, no. I urge all with even the slightest regard for our natural heritage to object in the strongest terms possible and to sign the petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-proposed-fish-farm-on-west-coast-of-jura>.

**Andy Grant,  
Achnamara.**

Jura residents fear for their  
safety because of road

Jura people have been trying to have a piece of road in the area of Knockrome repaired since before Christmas.

## GET IN TOUCH

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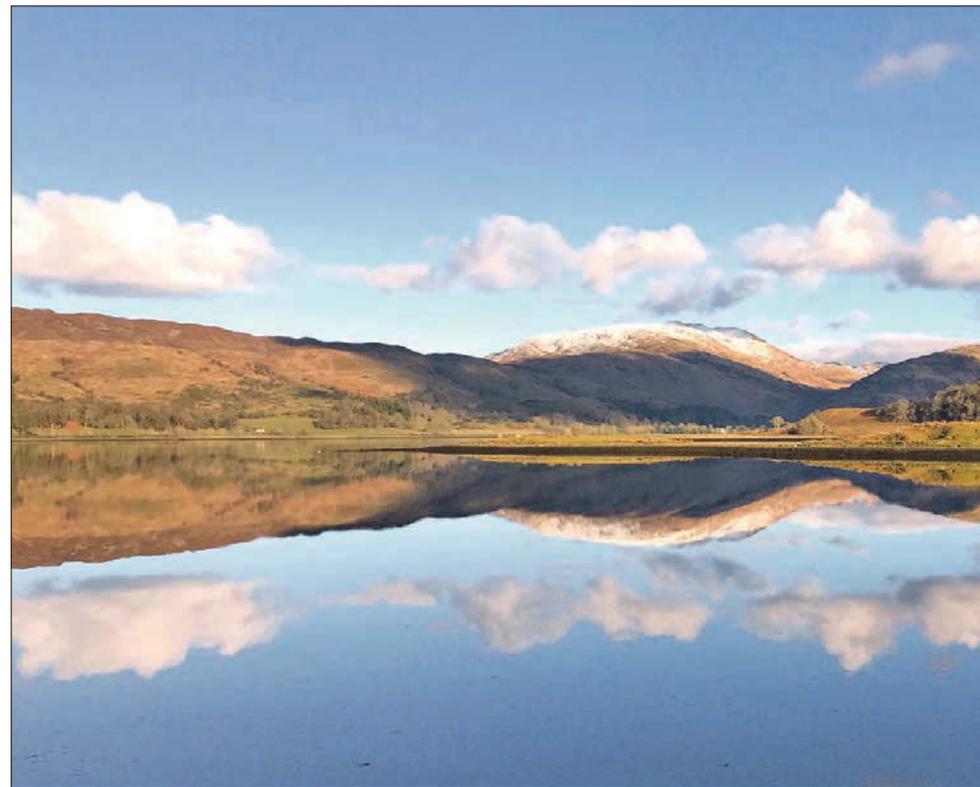
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## YOUR PICTURES



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

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

The road was 'repaired' with gravel – yes, gravel – earlier this year but the road is only getting worse and locals are concerned as winter returns.

Argyll and Bute Council seems to be ignoring the problem. It has been reported by multiple people, multiple times, months apart, on the online form but nothing has been done.

The collection of potholes is so deep you need to go into first gear and dodge them as best as



you can, and people are now taking to driving on the verges to avoid the holes but concerns are being raised of the banking leading down to the river giving way with vehicles having to mount the verge.

Emails have been sent along with photos to multiple Argyll and Bute officers but still nothing has been done. One local has taken it upon himself to email the transport minister, MSP and MP asking them to step in.

Another major concern is that this road is part of the route the ambulance has to take to get to the air ambulance. The road is in no state to be travelling along on a normal day, let alone during an emergency. It is uncomfortable for patients and risks delays or obstruction to the air ambulance, which is unacceptable.

**Nicky Mulholland,  
by email.**

Education is key in fighting  
the menace of drugs

There were a reported 934 drug-related deaths in Scotland during 2017, a number that is expected to rise.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry held its September meeting recently at Kilmonivaig Church Hall.

Among the agenda items discussed were the following:

**Highland Council** – The chairman has had confirmation of a likely temporary 7.5 tonne weight restriction on the Corriechoille Road Railway Bridge. Residents and the community council will be consulted when Network Rail publishes its plans.

The verges on the Upper Inverroy Road have been cut, but confirmation is still awaited of a start date for 20's Plenty.

Altour Road in Spean Bridge is on the programme for resurfacing although no start date is known.

Mark Smith has examined the Leanachan road to see if it could be widened at its junction with the A82, but it would not be cost effective due to the cost of moving services alongside the existing road.

The broken fence in Roy Bridge opposite the village garden has been passed to the relevant person to resolve.

A broken manhole cover at Bohenie Road End will be reported to Highland Council.

**Reports:** Police Sgt Deborah McCartney reported that someone had unsuccessfully attempted to access the donation box at the Commando Memorial. She informed the meeting that two crash investigators had been appointed locally and some officers had been taser trained.

Concerns were expressed about speeding in Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Inverroy particularly in the early morning. Sgt McCartney promised to find out whether the local crash investigators were fully equipped or if would they still need assistance from Dingwall.

### Matters Arising:

**BEAR and Transport Scotland** – Advanced warning of the A82 closure from Aberchalder to Fort Augustus October 1-12, except at the weekend between 8am and 5pm, to allow

essential resurfacing with a diversion via Bunloyne, was given.

**BEAR Scotland** has reported that the culvert at the Bridge Café will need further inspection before it can resolve the flooding issue. A meeting with SSE will be arranged to get approval to repair infrastructure and road surfaces damaged during the turbine movements on the A82.

**Community Benefit** – The community council has reached an agreement with SSE to benefit from the Stronelaig Wind Farm Fund. The award will be for three years, open to all residents and organisations throughout the Community Council Area. When SSE makes the formal announcement a roadshow will take place to alert residents to the opportunities this windfall presents. The Forestry Commission and Vento Ludens have confirmed that if the planning application for Allt Mhuic is approved the community council only will decide who will be the recipient of the community benefit.

## KILMALLIE

**Kilmallie Community Council (KCC)** held a meeting on Monday August 27. The following matters were discussed:

**Blar Mhor housing development** – John McHardy from Highland Council and Stuart Graham from ThreeSixty Architecture attended to discuss their proposed housing development on land to the east of the Police Station. KCC had already submitted comments on the two related planning applications based on input at the consultation event (18/03314/ MSC and 18/03647/PIP). The current application is for planning in principle which would normally just cover the strategic issues including transport implications and environmental impact. Mr McHardy explained that they had provided more detail than usual on the design of the individual houses in order to speed up the process towards a full planning application. However, there were many major issues associated with the development that still needed to be considered. Many of these issues relate to whether the site is an appropriate



Ardnamurchan High students aboard the Tobermory lifeboat

## Lifeboat visits most westerly mainland high school

Tobermory RNLI's volunteers have been teaching students at Ardnamurchan High School, the most westerly secondary school on the British mainland, about the RNLI and water safety.

On Friday September 7, students from the S3 Scottish Studies class travelled to Salen pier to have a chance to look around Tobermory's Severn-class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, and to meet the crew.

As well as learning about the lifeboat's capabilities, they also learned about how to stay safe by the water. The crew also demonstrated how they recover a person from the water.

One week later, Tobermory RNLI education volunteer Kirsty Blackhall and lifeboat operations manager Sam Jones visited Ardnamurchan High School and gave a presentation on the work of the RNLI, crew training and

volunteering opportunities.

Simon Patterson, depute head teacher, said: 'It was great to see around the boat and meet the crew, who were friendly and informative.'

'Pupils found out all about how the RNLI is structured, the different roles within the organisation and the pathway into these careers.'

If any school or organisation is interested in visits to or talks from Tobermory RNLI, contact the station via [tobermory@rnli.org.uk](mailto:tobermory@rnli.org.uk).

place for a major housing development, and how it would impact on environmental obligations, the town and wider area.

**Pedestrian crossing on A830 at Corpach Co-op** – The consultation event was advertised in the newsletter and notices were also delivered to the properties most likely to be affected, including the Co-op. The proposed design that was discussed resulted in loss of some parking spaces on both sides of the road in order to meet the minimum visibility distances for traffic at 30mph. For eastbound traffic, eight spaces are lost and three retained; for westbound traffic, five spaces are

lost and six retained. In addition the bus stop was moved 60m east such that the bus would stop on the road rather than in a layby. Both of the current traffic islands would also be removed. There was considerable discussion about the merits of this proposal, but it was acknowledged that it was the best that was likely to be achieved in order to provide a controlled crossing for those who really need it to allow them to cross the road with confidence.

**Coire Glas pumped storage scheme** Three members of KCC had met with Corinna Scholes and Sean Kelly of SSE on July 12 to discuss their proposed scheme. An earlier scheme

had been given planning permission and the current discussions related to a proposal for a larger scheme with higher generating capacity.

The main aspect that will affect Kilmallie related to this development is the transport of rock. The current estimates of 3.9 million tons are maximum 'worst case' scenarios.

This would require around 80,000 lorry movements or transport by canal. All agreed that this level of road traffic would not be acceptable. SSE was meeting with Scottish Canals to discuss transport by canal and said that this was its preferred option. Barges would take around 1,000 tonnes.

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Duror Primary School has been teaching children how to cook, prepare and enjoy their greens. On Friday September 14, pupils held a vegetable taster day to learn about the wonders of vegetables while managing to raise some money for school funds. Head teacher Mrs MacDonald said: 'I thank everyone who supported Duror Primary School's vegetable taster day through donations of ingredients, help on the day, attendance at the event and in helping to raise £178 for school funds.'

Storm Ali brought strong gusts of wind and some heavy spells of rain last week, resulting in disruption to travel across parts of Lochaber. This yacht moored off Fort William in Loch Linnhe, was captured being battered by Storm Ali by our photographer John Paul Peebles of Abrightside Photography.



A830 sunken waste water gully drain covers in Corpach – Several waste water gullies along the A830 in Corpach are below the level of the road surface. HGVs often run over these creating a loud noise. These also cause problems for cyclists. Some of these have been marked by cones or paint and it was agreed to write to BEAR to request that they were repaired. It was noted that this was a common problem throughout the road network.

Banavie war memorial KCC – had been informed that a stonemason had been contracted to undertake the cleaning work which will be completed by November.

## LOCHABER

Police in Lochaber are urging people to be on their guard against bogus workmen following the recent storms.

Some individuals may see the bad weather as an opportunity to defraud home owners by offering home repairs which are not needed or have been exaggerated.

Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh Preventions and Interventions officer PC Katy Duncan has urged people to be wary of these unscrupulous individuals.

She said: 'Please be vigilant of anyone calling at your home offering to carry out repair work on roofs and chimneys, or offering to cut down trees which are dangerous. No genuine tradesman will cold-call at your door offering to do such work.'

'Say no to doorstep callers and call the police on 101 immediately.'

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ The phone we use in the office – solely to make outgoing calls – rang stridently and annoyingly one morning last week. It does that very occasionally – and invariably it's a wrong number from people expecting to speak to West Highland Oil, or with the caller asking 'Is that Lords and Ladies?' – 'Can you do me in 10 minutes?' So you can imagine my surprise when I picked up the phone, and the voice of Alistair Morar (MacLeod) boomed out. 'Is that Munro the Butchers?' Says I: 'Hang on, Alistair, and I'll get you the numbers of Annie in Corpach or Norrie in Toronto.' (They're two former stalwarts of Munro the Butchers of decades ago before the High Street shop closed.) Alistair, it transpired, had the right number – but the wrong code – for Munro the Butchers. In Dingwall.

■ Still at Morar – but with fish not meat. Anglers there are catching shoals of salmon! It appears that Nessie's cousin, Morag, the Loch Morar monster, may have gone into early hibernation. And, while salmon fishermen everywhere else in Scotland are bemoaning their 'worst ever season', the members of Morar Angling Club are doing salmon leaps of joy. In September, so far, on Loch Morar scores have been landed, including 31 in one competition alone. The heaviest was a near 18 pounder, reeled in by John MacVarish. Only around 15 salmon were caught in the loch in the whole of 1990. Alistair Morar himself says, as secretary of Morar Angling Club: 'Something's happening on the loch to make the fishing the best anyone can remember. We can't explain it. But there are some who reckon Morag has gone off her diet of salmon, and is leaving them for the locals.' Meanwhile, on Loch Shiel, it's a similar story. The salmon have been reeled in like there's no tomorrow. And Angie the Gate would like to know why this marine miracle has been wrought on Loch Shiel which was hard put last year to yield three little fishes.

■ Last weekend's eagerly anticipated challenge match at Fort William Golf Club between Fort William Round Table and the Rotary Club of Lochaber went the way you would expect. The repartee, kidology and gamesmanship took over from the golf! In fact, the tourney started with one of the young bucks from the Table giving the elder statesmen the initial advantage. Up he stepped, withdrawing an iron, and, having sized up the short distance to the green, he announced, 'A drive and a putt.' Couple of practise swings. Then 'swish' – down came the club. Contact. And the ball hopped about five feet

from the tee. 'Now for a hell of a putt,' observed his Rotarian rival.

■ MJM Motors came to the rescue of Nevis Garage the other night. By providing a tow. In this case, however, it was Donald MacPherson's outboard motor-powered Galleon which was handily placed on Loch Linnhe to pull along to the yacht club Robbie Robertson's becalmed Soling. Vorsprung Durch Technik, as they say in Caol – and Claggan.

■ Three local lads are serving in the UN Forces Sector in Cyprus. Steve, Dean and Gordon are sent The Oban Times and Lochaber News which are later circulated to every other Scot in their unit. So they're a well-read bunch out there.

■ Aye, the pupils are switched on in Lochaber's primary schools. Take youngster, Ross McKenzie, for example. Last week he came home with a book, the title of which was How to Handle Teachers. Ross's dad is Eric McKenzie, depute rector of Lochaber High School.

■ Female shopper went into the stationery department of one of our High Street establishments, looking for envelopes. 'How much are these?' she queried, holding up a packet of the brown variety. 'They're free,' the assistant replied. 'Free!' echoed the intending customer, no doubt musing that this, after all, was Fort William High Street. 'Yes,' continued the lassie behind the counter, 'They're a bit stuck together.' To which the still suspicious shopper responded, 'Well, why are you selling them, then?' Came the patient reply: 'We're not. We're giving them away.' As far as I know they could still be enveloped in this discussion.

■ 'Don't Go On The Eight Three Oh!' So the song has it. Indeed on the day of the Morar Road Blockade it took a few members of the non-local media ages to traverse the A830 – The Road to the Isles. By which time the roadblock had been lifted. 'Where's the demo action?' the visiting press gang demanded to know. This, of course, brought the wry/dry response from the blockaders: 'That was what this was all about – and you've missed it.'

At the weekend it was so busy in Fort William in Presto's that Robert MacMillan, one of the demonstrators, who had successfully driven along the A830 from Kinloird to the Fort was confronted by a couple of Morarites. In among all the trolleys, boxes and customers they said to Robert: 'We didn't know you were organising a blockade in here as well.'

■ An elderly female customer presented herself at Sammy's chip van at Corpach on Saturday. 'I'd like a fish supper, please, with nothing on,' she said. Replied Sammy: 'Madam, how you eat it is entirely up to you!'

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LT

## GOLF



Robert MacIntyre. Photo: Bounce Sports

## Poor first round proves costly for Robert

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut at the Hopps Open de Provence last week which was played at the International de Pont Golf Club in Mallemort, France.

Robert had a disastrous six over par in the first round to card a 78 which included four birdies, three bogeys and three double bogeys.

His second round was much better with seven birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey for a one under par 71 for a two round total of 149.

The tournament was won by Frenchman Romain Langasque, who carded a four-round total of 273, 15 under par, to pick up the winner's cheque for 32,000 euros

The Glencruitten golfer will be hoping to get back on track as the Challenge Tour moves to Ireland for the Monaghan Irish Challenge played at the Concra Wood Golf Club in Castleblayney, County Monaghan starting on October 4.

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Lochnell football festival

The third Lochnell FC football festival, which will take place at the Lora View pitch in North Connel, has once again attracted huge interest with more than 350 young footballers from 15 clubs from across the west of Scotland taking part.

Lochnell are delighted to welcome back teams from Paisley, Dumbarton, Glasgow and Fort William, who will join well-known Argyll clubs Oban Saints, Campbeltown Pupils, Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert, Helensburgh FC and, of course, hosts Lochnell FC.

Fun fours and five-a-sides for six-to-eight-year-olds will take place in the morning followed by seven-a-sides in the afternoon for teams consisting of nine- and ten-year-olds.

A new feature of the festival will be a girls' section, with the host club competing in a series of games with visitors Lochgilphead Red Star. The Lochnell club have more than 30 girls attending each week's training from 6-7pm at Lora View, and this is a chance to measure the club's progress in promoting girls' football.

## LOTTERY RESULTS

## Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 2, 4 and 8. There was one winner this week, Stewart Duncan, who won the £500 jackpot. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday September 27) will be £100.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 5, 12 and 20. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 3, 9 and 19. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,600.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 7, 17 and 18. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £300.



Carradale's Elliot Gemmill tackles Barna Tot. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Jags romp to a nine-goal victory over Carradale

South Lochaber Thistle	9
Carradale	0
GGPL Division 2	

Hat-tricks from Martin Munro and Andrew MacLean secured an emphatic nine-goal victory for South Lochaber Thistle over Kintyre side Carradale, giving them a perfect start to the new league campaign.

After gaining promotion to Division 2 last season, SLT were keen to get off to a good start to the new campaign.

Munro set the tone for the match with a quick brace after three minutes, while Barna Tot made it 3-0 at half-time.

Andrew MacLean got on the scoresheet just after the break before Munro completed his hat-trick.

Paulo Novotony responded

## FOOTBALL

quickly to a spilled save from the Carradale goal from a David Forbes free-kick to put SLT 5-0 up. McLean then scored two in quick succession to get his second and third for the day.

David Forbes rounded off the scoring in the 85th minute.

The opening day victory gives SLT a dream start to life in the new Division 2 following their promotion from Division 3 last season.

Carradale's Daniel Docherty takes the ball from SLT's hat-trick hero Martin Munro.



# Slick-moving Saints slam three past Motherwell



Oban Saints	3
Motherwell Thistle	0
SAFL Premier Division	

Last Saturday Oban Saints and Motherwell Thistle shunned the traditional Scottish Amateur Football League 'September Weekend' fixture holiday to go head-to-head in a Premier Division clash.

Both sides had made 100 per cent starts to the season so something had to give in a fixture where Thistle have taken maximum points on their two previous visits, but it wasn't to be this time as Saints turned in a top-level performance to win 3-0.

The home side started strongly and took the game to Thistle with Lewis Cameron testing the keeper on two occasions but failed to get any power into his shots.

It was no surprise when Saints took the lead on the 15-minute mark when Donald Campbell got on the end of a Fraser MacFarlane corner to flick the ball into the net.

The home side were playing excellent football, playing the ball out from the back.

Scott Maitland and James Ford were combing well on the left with Ford being a thorn in the flesh of the Thistle defence all afternoon.

Despite having the majority of possession, the visitors looked dangerous on the break and the Saints defence, well marshalled by skipper Dene Cassells, had to be on their toes.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored home side increased their lead in the 52nd minute when Daniel Croarkin got on the end of a Willie Gemmell free kick to steer the ball past Jags keeper Nathan Wharton.

Saints replaced Fraser MacFarlane, Willie Gemmell and Daniel Croarkin with Craig MacEwan and Kerr Newbigging and it was MacEwan who was instrumental in setting up the third goal when he combined with Donald Campbell on the left before the co-manager slammed the ball past a helpless keeper to make



Different emotions as Donald Campbell opens the scoring against Motherwell Thistle at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Photo: David McPhee

## FOOTBALL

the score 3-0. To their credit Thistle never gave up and it took a great sliding tackle from Ruaridh Horne to deny Declan Wedlock a clear run in on goal.

The Oban side then replaced both full backs with the

Graham brothers Jamie and Dougal taking over from Ruaridh Horne and the impressive Scott Maitland

Saints thought they had scored another goal but the Thistle keeper made a great diving save to turn a Craig MacEwan net-bound effort round the post for a corner

kick. The Oban side played out time to record a well-deserved 3-0 win and keep them top of the league with a 100 per cent record with five wins from five.

The game was well handled by referee Peter Laing from Lochgilphead.

Saints have no match this

weekend but return to action the following Saturday with a tough home game against St Johns from Perth in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Raymond Patterson.

# Another impressive win on the road for Oban Lorne

Strathaven	17
Oban Lorne	31
Tennent's West Division 2	

For the third week in a row Oban Lorne were on their travels looking to keep up the good form of previous weeks as they travelled to Strathaven in South Lanarkshire.

The two sides had previously met four weeks ago in the first round of the West Shield where Oban managed to secure a comfortable victory.

The Green Machine arrived slightly behind schedule at the fantastic new facility at Strathaven Rugby club to find that they were going to playing on the new 3G pitch – an amazing facility and a model of what could be achieved by other clubs in the regional leagues.

Strathaven started the game strongly and put Oban under pressure right from the off.

Some spirited and well organised defence allowed the Green Machine to hold out for 10 minutes before the constant pressure told and Strathaven crossed the

line for the first try of the afternoon.

Oban were dealt a further blow after 15 mins when young back row forward Daniel Speirs had to leave the field of play with a nasty looking shoulder injury which looks like it will keep him out of action for the next six weeks or so.

Oban closed the gap with a well-struck penalty kick by Finlay Carmichael to make it 3-7.

Oban were now finding



Daniel Speirs had to leave the field with a nasty shoulder injury.

their feet on the new playing surface. Quick reactions from turnover ball allowed the ball to be switched wide to the wing where veteran winger Roddy Morrison rolled back the years as he found his wheels to race in from the halfway line to score Oban's first try of the day. This was converted by Finlay Carmichael.

Oban continued to work hard defensively to keep the Strathaven attack under control. After Strathaven coughed up possession in the middle of the pitch Craig Wright found space in behind with a deft kick and chase to claim his first try of the afternoon.

One of the Strathaven players took exception to something that was said and was yellow carded for his reaction. Carmichael was once again on target with his kick to stretch Oban's lead to 17-7 which was to be the half time score.

Just before the interval Oban were dealt a further blow when Calum MacLachlan received a yellow card for

being offside at a ruck when Strathaven were deep in the Oban 22.

The second half started with Oban working hard to get on the front foot and they were rewarded with another fantastic try. This time No 8 Owen McDonald broke free from just outside the 22 and managed to ground the ball over the line after initially trying to ground the ball over the football lines marked on the artificial pitch.

Shortly after this Oban had to reshuffle the team again as Graham MacEachan strained his hamstring and young Andy Ritchie came on to the wing with David Cameron moving to centre from the wing.

Strathaven were posing problems for Oban with their very direct forward play and from an Oban mistake close to their line and another dubious penalty decision awarded against Oban the hosts kicked to the corner and from the ensuing lineout they drove over the line for their second try of the day.

Oban were quick to hit back

with Craig Wright once again finding space on the outside to outpace the defence out wide and score in the corner. Finlay Carmichael continued his amazing strike rate with the boot notching his fourth kick of the day on top of a 100 per cent success rate last week.

Another try for Strathaven was to follow when Oban worked really well to turnover ball deep in their 22. As the ball was worked to the back of the ruck it crossed the tryline and one of the Strathaven players dived through the ruck to ground the ball and the referee awarded the try.

This brought an end to the scoring for the day with a final score of Strathaven 17 Oban 31.

This was a fantastic effort by the Oban team who managed to pick up their third bonus point win on the trot away from home. This was by no means an easy win with Oban living off scraps of possession as Strathaven dominated this area with their limited game plan of hitting a pod one out and recycling. The Oban de-

## RUGBY

fence were happy to let them have ball and fill the field ready for the next phase. Still some work needed to sharpen up the defence but the team looks dangerous any time it gets to attack.

Saturday's win lifts Oban Lorne into second place in West Division two with Lenzie RFC sitting out in front only on points difference. The two teams have a maximum of 20 points from their first four league games and meet in next in the league on Saturday October 6 in Lenzie.

This week Oban welcome Dalziel to Glencruitten for the quarter final of the West shield. Dalziel haven't had the best of starts to the season but will be hoping to get their season back on track playing a team from a lower league.

Oban will have to up their game considerably to meet this challenge and would like to invite to any former players of Oban Lorne up to the rugby club for a pie and a pint pre-match. Kick off 3pm.

LT

## FOOTBALL

## Ten-man Fort knocked out of Scottish Cup by Rose

Linlithgow Rose	3
Fort William	0
Scottish Cup 1st round	

Fort William were knocked out of the Scottish Cup on Saturday by Linlithgow Rose after playing most of the second half with 10 men.

The scoreline was goalless before Fort goalkeeper Mateus Kulbacki was sent off for handling the ball outside the penalty area 10 minutes into the second half. The keeper rushed out of his area to thwart the Rose forward who tried to slide the ball past the keeper in a one-on-one situation but the Fort keeper diverted the ball with an outstretched arm.

The resultant free-kick was well saved by the stand-in goalkeeper.

The sending off proved to be the decisive factor as Tommy Coyne, son of former Celtic and Republic of Ireland international Tommy Coyne, opened the scoring for the hosts on the hour mark after controlling a deep cross into the box and driving the ball low into the net. The Fort continued to defend well and stifled Linlithgow's forward line.

However, the home side began to make the numerical advantage count and started to overload



Fort William manager Kris Anderson

on the right flank to put the Fort under pressure. It was from that wing that Linlithgow got their second of the match with just five minutes to go as a well-worked passing move created space for midfielder Robert Sloan to curl the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

The third and final goal came in the 87th minute when another low cross from the right wing was cushioned into the net at the back post from three yards out.

Rose are no stranger to cup runs themselves having progressed to the latter rounds of the national competition in recent years and so the Fort can be pleased with their dogged performance.

The Lochaber side are back in Highland League action this weekend as they take on Lossiemouth at Claggan Park.

## GOLF

## Course record equalled at Spean Bridge senior open

There was an international flavour to the competition that unfolded at the Spean Bridge Golf Club senior open on Friday (September 14).

There was an Australian, a Frenchman, some friends from south of the border, five ladies and Scots from Arisaig, Dumbarton, Lochgilphead, Spean Bridge and Fort William all competing in the open.

The competition was won by Gary Martin with a sparkling round of golf, scoring 45 Stableford points to equal the course record. Martin took home the Langan Smith Trophy and a voucher for £60.

First in their age groups were Willie Atkinson and JP Mainardi with 37 and 36 points respectively.

In what was the first time the club has had ladies play at the senior open, Margaret Cassidy won the competition. Cassidy will be presented with the Betty Campbell Trophy, provided by RE Campbell (joiners) Ltd, as well as receiving a voucher.

The committee wishes to thank everyone who helped to make the day a success, especially the sponsors, people who helped on the day and, of course, the competitors.

## Depleted Lochaber of the season

Waysiders Drumpellier	41
Lochaber	10
Tennent's West Division 3	

Lochaber's unbeaten start to the season came to an abrupt end on Saturday as they suffered a 31-point defeat to Coatbridge side Waysiders Drumpellier in the Tennent's West Division 3.

With nine changes to the starting line up from last Saturday's win over Birkmyre through injuries and absences, Lochaber knew a tough game was in store for this top-of-the-table clash which pitted two of the league's undefeated teams against one another.

Lochaber started the brighter and after sustained pressure were awarded a penalty 10 metres out, from which Calum Sandison fed Conor Taylor the ball and he smashed through Waysiders' defence to get over the line to score, with Callum Boyd converting.

Waysiders responded quickly and were next to get on the scoreboard with a try

of their own to make it 7-7. Soon after, Lochaber lost influential fly half Euan Larter to injury which saw flanker Daniel Thomas drop into the backs with Niall MacIntyre introduced from the bench. Then only a few minutes later Lochaber suffered another blow when they lost Thomas to a knee injury leaving Lochaber with 14 players.

With only a couple of minutes left in the first half Waysiders got their second of the match from the right wing. After some great defence from Lochaber a quick pick and go over the top of the ruck was enough to get the try. With only a few seconds left Lochaber restarted the game but were immediately penalised at the breakdown. Waysiders decided to kick for touch but a late flag from the linesman to indicate the ball was out of play caused confusion in the Lochaber ranks which Waysiders were able to exploit for their third try to make it 17-7 at the interval.

Lochaber started the second half brightly and were awarded a penalty

## RUGBY

which Boyd kicked to make it a one score game at 17-10. From the kick-off though Waysiders hit straight back. After a missed tackle from the catch, they broke left and scored in the corner. The game settled down for a while and Lochaber's scrum was once again performing well even with seven players and against a much bigger pack. Boyd was causing Waysiders' defence all sorts of problems in the midfield but didn't have his usual support to make the breakthrough.

With 10 minutes to play, Waysiders finally made full use of their numerical advantage as, with Lochaber's defence tiring, they were able to score three late tries to secure a 41-10 victory, which may be seen as a flattering scoreline.

The loss sees Lochaber drop to second in the table, one point behind Waysiders. Lochaber will look to get back to winning ways this Saturday when they play host to Police Scotland Glasgow at Banavie 3pm kick off.



Lochaber's Callum Boyd breaks out

## Women's Camanachd Association redraw

The Women's Camanachd Association has redrawn the boundaries for this year's north vs south clash to mark the Poppy Scotland Sportive Challenge.

As the Commando

Memorial at Spean Bridge is such an iconic monument in the heart of the shinty community, and so significant to Armistice Day, the organisers of Saturday's exhibition match have decided to use

the memorial as the marker point for the regional divide in the squads. This signals a shift from the 'traditional format' that has been used in previous years.

The regional squad match

## WOMEN'S SHINTY

takes place this Sunday September 30 and is one of the many events Poppy Scotland is holding in the run up to commemorate the Armistice 100-year celebration on November 11.

Both junior and senior matches are to be played at Mossfield Park, Oban with the under 14s at 1pm and the senior match at 2.30pm.

The Women's Camanachd Association will be collecting money for Poppy Scotland throughout the day. The association thanked the Macaulay Association for its continued sponsorship of this fixture.

The Commando North squad will feature players from Skye, Kinlochsheil, Glengarry, Lovat, Strathglass, Glenurquhart, Inverness, Strathspey and Badenoch, while the Commando South will comprise players from Lochaber, Fort William, Ardnamurchan, Dunadd, Cowal and Bute, Tayforth, Aberdour, Uddingston, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Oban.



South captain Leah Maxtane, 13, of Fort William Shinty Club, right, and north captain Maree MacKenzie, 13, of Kinlochshiel Shinty Club at the Commando Memorial in Spean Bridge before their big clash this Saturday in Oban. Photo: Anthony MacMillan

# suffer first defeat



with the ball during last Saturdays away game against Waysiders Drumpellier.

## ws boundaries to mark Armistice Day

The squads are as follows:

### South Commando Under-14 squad from:

Samia Simmonds - Lochaber  
Thea Robertson - Lochaber  
Emma Wallace - Lochaber  
Hannah MacDonald - Ardnamurchan  
Kirsty Campbell - Ardnamurchan  
Aine O'Rua - Ardnamurchan  
Katie Cameron - Ardnamurchan  
Sunday Atkinson - Aberdour  
Catriona Chamberlain - Aberdour  
Riane Cooper - Aberdour  
Leah Maxtone - Fort William  
Izzy Crawford - Oban Lorn  
Ellie Hetherington - Dunadd  
Eilidh Cameron - Dunadd

### North Commando Under-14 squad from:

Hope Borthwick - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Laura Brandie - Inverness  
Grace Fraser - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Freya Gault - Glenurquhart  
Melissa Mackay - Inverness  
Maree Mackenzie - Kinlochshiel  
Leah Macleod - Skye Camanachd  
Leah Miller - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Beth Murphy - Kinlochshiel  
Chloe Mutch - Inverness  
Katie Slimon - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Evie Stubbs - Glengarry  
Freya Turner - Skye Camanachd  
Rebecca Van Loon - Glenurquhart

### South Commando senior squad from:

Taryn Neilson - Aberdour  
Elaine Wink - Fort William (captain)  
Hanna Dougan - Lochaber  
Rachel McCafferty - Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Rosie Mulligan - Aberdour  
Mairi Duncan - Lochaber  
Lucy McMillan - Ardnamurchan  
Christy Macintyre - Lochaber  
Lucy MacNulty - Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Natalie MacDonald - Lochaber  
Katie Booth - Aberdour  
Amy Disher - Lochaber  
Vicki Henderson - Aberdour  
Niamh Donnelly - Aberdour  
Heather Ferguson - Cowal & Bute

### North Commando senior squad from:

Elizabeth McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Jeanette McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey (captain)  
Zoe Reid - Badenoch & Strathspey  
Lorna MacRae - Skye Camanachd  
Rhianna Kirk - Skye Camanachd  
Caitlin MacLean - Skye Camanachd  
Emma Gordon - Skye Camanachd  
Christina Macdonald - Skye Camanachd  
Ilana Paterson - Skye Camanachd  
Sarah Corrigan - Skye Camanachd  
Jane Moodie - Strathspey & Strathspey  
Shaina Archibald - Glengarry  
Donna MacKenzie - Glenurquhart (vice-captain)



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### WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze from the west  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze from the west north west  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the west north west  
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.



### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 27, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.56	0.8	06.42	3.9
<b>Thur</b>	13.04	0.8	19.05	4.1
<b>Fri</b>	01.25	0.8	07.09	3.9
	13.33	0.9	19.35	3.9
<b>Sat</b>	01.55	0.9	07.41	3.8
	14.06	1.1	20.09	3.7
<b>Sun</b>	02.32	1.1	08.18	3.6
	14.47	1.3	20.49	3.5
<b>Mon</b>	03.18	1.3	09.02	3.4
	15.41	1.5	21.41	3.2
<b>Tues</b>	04.20	1.5	10.00	3.2
	17.02	1.7	23.01	2.9
<b>Wed</b>	05.41	1.6	11.38	3.0
	18.39	1.8	** **	* *

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

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Women's Camanachd Association  
redraws boundaries to mark  
Armistice Day

**NORTH WEST  
MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS  
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER  
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

# Last-minute goal seals league title for Mallaig

Kyleakin	1
Mallaig	2
William Wilson League	

Mallaig pulled off a dramatic victory over Kyleakin in the championship play-off on Saturday to clinch the Skye and Lochalsh Amateur Football Association league title in their debut season in the competition.

There were jubilant scenes among the travelling Mallaig fans in Broadford on Saturday after goals at either end of the 90 minutes from Andy Cunningham secured victory for Mallaig in an enthralling winner-takes-all title decider.

It was Mallaig who struck first, just one minute into the match, after Cunningham converted a penalty following a foul on Marius Stoian.

Eager to shrug off that early goal, Kyleakin responded by taking control of the match

and possession but unfortunately for them, Mallaig goalkeeper Mark Johnston was in fine form and pulled off a series of outstanding saves in the first half.

The Skye side did have the ball in the back of the net but Gordy Mccarroll's goal was chalked off after being ruled offside.

Mccarroll again came close to an equaliser just minutes later but Johnston was equal to his freekick and managed to save low to his left.

The match ebbed and flowed, and Mallaig began to create chances.

They came close to a second after a blocked Ross Douglas shot rebounded into the path of Angus MacNaughton who put the ball into the net only to find out he was in an offside position.

At the other end Johnston was called into action again from Mccarroll who had another curled free-kick



The Mallaig players in a joyous mood after their victory over Kyleakin in the play-off.

blocked by the keeper.

Both sides had chances before the half-time break but neither side were able to get the ball in the net and the match was finely poised

at 1-0. Clearly buoyed by the half-time break and desperate to get an equaliser, Kyleakin came out flying in the second half.

Mallaig goalie Johnston was again forced into a save from another dangerous Mccarroll free kick before Mallaig cleared the ball from near their goal line.

Finally Kyleakin were able to break the deadlock after Norman Gillies latched on to a Mccarroll pass down the left.

He then squeezed the ball past Johnston at his near post with a shot from a tight angle.

With Kyleakin in the ascendancy and in the hunt for a second, the play began to open up and Mallaig began

to put the island side's defence under pressure. Marius Stoian almost put Mallaig ahead again with a good free-kick which was tipped past the post by Kyleakin stopper Craig Wilson.

With five minutes left, it looked like Kyleakin might grab a winner but Stuart Gillies' shot was deflected wide and Mccarroll just missed the target from the resultant corner.

With the clock ticking into the 90 minutes, Mallaig's Angus MacNaughton played the ball into a dangerous area for Cunningham who initially mis-kicked the ball. However, he was able to recover and, with virtually the last kick of the game, turned

## FOOTBALL

the ball into the goal past the keeper.

The Mallaig bench and support erupted in joy and rushed to celebrate with the players as the referee eventually blew for full time.

Player-manager, Jamie MacGregor, was 'absolutely delighted' to get his hands on the trophy after what has been an incredible debut season for the Lochaber side, who also made it to two cup finals earlier this summer.



Mallaig push for a second goal in the league title decider.



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