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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Russell backs union stance over school teacher figures

BUT COUNCIL REJECTS MSP'S CLAIMS ABOUT CENSUS AND SAYS IT IS FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

LOUISE GLEN
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CLAIMS by a union that head teachers in Argyll are being pressurised into inflating the number of qualified classroom staff in their schools has been strenuously denied by the council.

Concerns have been growing among senior teachers who said they have been asked to count 'special advisers' or those on weeks-long temporary contracts as part of their school's permanent teaching complement for a council census.

Some educationalists estimate that Argyll and Bute council has a shortage of 40 teachers and, as a consequence, stands to lose £800,000 from the Scottish government.

The Association of Head Teachers and Deputies trade union confirmed that head teachers in Argyll and Bute had contacted them 'to raise concerns'.

A spokesman for the union said: 'It has come to our attention that a minority of local authorities are putting considerable pressure on head teachers to submit misleading census returns - by suggesting central staff are on



STERN WARNING:
Michael Russell

I am very concerned at the warning from the Association of Head Teachers and Deputies

Michael Russell

returns on your behalf without you having sight of and agreeing with the information, you should query this immediately.

'In short, the advice is that members should always ensure that they understand and agree with any information being submitted before they sign it or consent to it being submitted in their name.'

As many as 15 head teachers have said they felt under pressure from the local authority to deliver 'positive' results. In fact, one head teacher said they thought their job was under threat if they failed to comply with the request.

The senior teacher said: 'Immense pressure was being put on teachers in order that the local authority did not miss out on £800,000 worth of extra funding from the Scottish government by allowing teacher numbers to fall below the benchmark level.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute and former Cabinet Secretary for Education in the Scottish government, issued a stern warning to the local authority: 'I am very concerned at the warning from the Association of Head Teachers and Deputies, a highly reputable teaching trade union. Their information about attempts to cheat the teaching census in Argyll and Bute or anywhere else must have come directly from their own members in schools.'

A persistent critic of the council, the Holyrood politician continued: 'I shall be asking the Scottish government to be very vigilant with regard to these

returns, due for publication in December.'

'They relate to a central issue of vital importance to parents, pupils and Scottish education - the employment of the right number of teachers in classrooms the length and breadth of the country.'

'Councils receive money to support the maintenance of teacher numbers, so submitting false returns would be an act of deliberate financial fraud.'

He also called for tough disciplinary sanctions if 'some types of teachers are being wrongly included or if any other illegitimate technique for boosting numbers is being used'.

Michael Russell also said he would deal with any 'whistle-blowers' sympathetically: 'If a head teacher or education official in Argyll and Bute has been asked or told to submit false or doctored returns, they should feel free to contact me and I will make sure that information is passed to the government in the strictest confidence whilst, of course maintaining their anonymity.'

In some schools, staff from quality improvement teams and

specialist advisers in subjects were said to be added to government returns.

While census returns were due to be collated in the week of September 21 -25, 2015, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute said: 'The process for undertaking the staff census is not yet complete and therefore we are not able to respond to the figures at this time.'

'We will be submitting these figures in line with Scottish government guidance.'

Census returns in 2014 show that there were 878 teachers in Argyll and Bute.

Sources say the local authority has not replaced teachers with as many as 40 teachers having left the education system.

A Scottish government spokeswoman said: 'This government is committed to ensuring we have the right number of teachers, with the right skills, in the right places to educate our young people.'

'These are national statistics and local authorities are obliged to make sure their returns are correct and they will be subjected to robust checking to confirm the accuracy of the data provided.'

TIMESLINE

Homes plunged in darkness for hours

MORE THAN 690 houses were plunged into darkness by a power cut on Tuesday afternoon in the Oban south area.

The majority of properties were reconnected within an hour of the outage.

Although electricity provider Scottish and Southern Energy said all homes would be reconnected by 11pm that day, around 100 houses still had no power at midnight.

End delay on Mull emergency plans

AFTER almost a year of wrangling, community councillors have given the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) a six-week ultimatum to find a solution for emergency care on Mull.

Community council chairman, Billy MacClymont, said SAS must either set an agreed timetable for delivering a solution or give clear reasons why it has chosen to reject the emergency care plans.

Cancer treatment fails target times

CANCER patients are not being treated quickly enough by NHS Highland, according to statistics.

At least 95 per cent of cancer patients must be treated within 31 days of diagnosis, but NHS Highland treated 94.5 per cent, missing the Scottish government's target 16 times, between April and June this year.

Roof thieves strike again at St Conan's

A FURTHER theft at St Conan's Kirk between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning saw more lead stolen from an ornate roof. Police are appealing for information. Call them on 101.



Ray the groundsman
@ Isle of Mull Rugby
Club is:
#thelawnranger

Lawn ranger Reay admits he's a star without trying

A MULL man has become an unwitting star of the rugby world cup after donning a green hat and looking miserable.

In his defence, Reay Whyte (pictured), a fish farmer from Salen, Mull, says the day the advert for the Rugby Union's Keeping it Real, advertising campaign to promote the world

cup in England was filmed it was 'pouring,' and to top it all 'the grass didn't even need cut.'

The hat now has its own social media hashtag #thelawnranger, and Reay is being recognised in the street, he says 'mainly to ask me for money.'

Reay said: 'My lovely daughter, Megan, gave me the hat to cover

up the tufts of hair I had left after chemotherapy.'

'It is a lovely warm hat. The day the PR company came to film at Mull rugby club, the grass didn't need cutting. So I went up and down in the tractor not really doing anything at all.'

'I wouldn't say I was miserable, not really.'

National plan for islands now on Holyrood agenda

THE Scottish government's commitment to island communities took a step forward on Wednesday with a set of proposals that could see additional powers, stronger representation at Holyrood and the creation of a National Islands Plan.

Speaking from Lewis, the Scottish government's islands minister, Derek Mackay, MSP said: 'This is the start of a conversation with our island communities, councils and wider stakeholders about what a future bill may look like.'

Derek Mackay continued: 'And who better to inform these decisions than the very people who live, work and study there.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who lives on Mull, welcomed the breaking news.

She said: 'This is a step in the right direction - but we must make sure the islands in Argyll and Bute are included in the plan.'

'For example, Mull is the fourth largest island in the UK and deserves recognition under any national plan.'

Public to have their say on spending decisions

BUDGET papers are due to be published today, Thursday, October 1, showing how Argyll and Bute council will bridge its funding gap.

Ideas for making savings will then be considered at next week's meeting of the policy and resources committee.

Councillors will consider more than 140 options for recommendation to the full council.

Those approved will go to public consultation.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Over the next five years, the council's funding is expected

to be reduced significantly. Budget estimates show that it will have to bridge a funding gap of between £21.7 and £26 million.'

'This means a savings target of around £9 million in both 2016/17 and 2017/18, with further savings in future years.'

'At the same time, we must invest in building a prosperous future for Argyll and Bute.'

'We would encourage people to help progress these ideas to decisions, by responding to the consultation. The focus is on reaching the right decisions for Argyll and Bute.'

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Come clean on ferry dealings, demands MSP

AN Highlands and Islands MSP has claimed the Scottish government wants to keep secret correspondence between it and the European Commission (EC) over the possible privatisation of lifeline ferry services.

Labour MSP David Stewart asked ministers to publish communications between Brussels and Holyrood since May 2011, regarding EU regulations and the tendering for the Clyde and Hebrides freight and ferry services.

The services are currently operated by CalMac, but a new five-year contract is out to competitive tender and will be awarded next year.

In a written reply, the Scottish government said it had no current plans to publish the correspondence.

Now Mr Stewart is set to write to Derek Mackay, the Scottish government transport minister, calling for the correspondence to be made public.

The Labour Party's shadow transport minister at Holyrood said: 'I have consistently argued the Scottish government should have made a stronger case to the EC to extend lifeline subsidised ferry services away from the ferry tendering process.'

'I think we should know exactly what they have discussed over recent years with the EC and Holyrood regarding ferry tendering.'

'CalMac is publicly-owned and managed and presents the best option for the workforce, passengers and the tax payer. The Scottish government should have been taking every measure to ensure our services don't fall into the hands of the private sector.'

Decision soon on island ferries

PLANS for ferries at Lismore, Luin and Easdale to transfer ownership to the Scottish government have not progressed 'for years'.

The ferries are owned by Argyll and Bute council. The council's head of service, Fergus Murray, told a full council meeting he was hoping to hear from the government in the next three months.

Councillor Elaine Robertson asked Mr Murray: 'Do we have any time frame for this? This has been in the pipeline for years.'

Mr Murray answered: 'We submitted all the information three months ago - we think in the next month or two months, we will have a decision from Transport Scotland on whether it wishes to proceed with taking over the service.'

Board reduces council cohort

THE number of councillors on Argyll Community Housing Association's board has been reduced to three.

Councillors Roddy McCuish, Donnie MacMillan and Richard Trail will now represent the local authority on the social housing landlord's board.

The blood is up as moon shines on the tower



MOONSTRUCK: German tourist, Ralf Schmitt, took this stunning picture of last Sunday's total eclipse of the moon (known as a blood moon) at McCaig's Tower in Oban. He and his wife travelled all the way to Argyll last week to follow the world stone-skimming championships at Easdale. See story below

COMPETITORS FROM AFRICA, PAKISTAN AND MAINLAND EUROPE GET 'STONED' ON EASDALE



ACTION SHOTS: (above left) a competitor is a study in concentration as she gets ready to aim for glory; (above right) a thrower adds a bit of colour to the event

It's seventh heaven for Dougie

HUNDREDS of people from all over the world gathered at Easdale on Sunday to take part in the annual stone skimming world championship, writes David McPhee.

More than 300 'chuckers' threw in their lot as they battled for the coveted title.

The event attracted participants from 20 different countries including Holland, Germany, the Congo, Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Last year's winner, Dougie Isaacs, from Blairgowrie, was victorious yet again, making it

seven wins in 11 years. Jamie Melville won 'the Bertie' for the farthest local skim.

For a throw to qualify, the naturally formed Easdale slate stone must bounce no less than three times and stay within the designated lane marked by buoys. Skims are judged on the distance thrown, rather than the number of bounces.

Event organiser, Donald 'Melon' Melville, said: 'The day went very well. It's a great fundraiser and very important to the community. We sold out all the hoodies, hats and T-shirts.'



PULLING POWER: crowds gather at the quarry for the world championships Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Problem lies with people drinking too much, rather than too many pubs, says council

LOUISE GLEN
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ARE there too many pubs and off licences in Oban? That was a question posed to Oban community council (OCC) on Monday evening.

Members of OCC felt that, while there was a problem with cheap pricing in supermarkets, the holiday town needed more places selling alcohol for the tourist trade.

Consultant, Lorraine Simpson, had been commissioned by Argyll and Bute council's licensing board to find out whether the effects of over-provision of licensed premises was brewing up trouble for the town's residents.

Ms Simpson said: 'There are a number of licensing objectives that are used to assess the relevance of the provision in any area.'

'These are crime, public safety, public nuisance, promoting public health and protecting children from harm.'

Ms Simpson said her organisation was not going to be making a recommendation to the licensing board - but would be feeding back issues that local people had raised with them.

Oban resident Kenny MacLennan, said: 'I am not an expert in this matter. But all these negative aspects of alcohol have nothing to do with over-provision, it has more to do with consumption of alcohol'

“
In most of north Argyll, no new pubs will open”

Councillor Neil MacIntyre

'Close two pubs in Oban and it won't make any difference to that consumption.'

Community councillor, George Berry, said: 'It is not the off licences and the pubs that are to blame. The problem lies in the supermarkets.'

Councillor Neil MacIntyre said: 'I doubt there will be a new pub open in Oban ever again, but there will be hotels.'

'In most of north Argyll, no new pubs will open, but we will have increased tourism. So you will be cutting your own throat if you introduce over-provision.'

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It's primary colours for new P1 intake

DUE to a technical glitch at the *Oban Times*, two Argyll schools were not included in the perennial and highly-popular feature on new primary one pupils appearing in two consecutive issues of last month's newspaper. The gremlins have now been ironed

out and the two new classes from Park primary school in Oban (pictured above) and Taynuilt primary school (pictured right) can now take pride of place in this week's *Oban Times*.

A black mark against us but a gold star to pupils and parents for their patience.



MULL lines

Sea eagle project hits a milestone

NORTH West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWCWC) is only one of its kind in Scotland to host a successful breeding pair of white-tailed sea eagles.

Two chicks were ringed in June this year, and flew the nest in August.

This milestone coincides with the 40th anniversary of the reintroduction of white-tailed sea eagles to Scotland, and the pair are one of a hundred now breeding in the country. Mull has been home to sea eagles since 1985, with numbers increasing to 20 pairs in 2015.

Colin Morrison, chairman of NWMWCWC, said: 'We are now considering creating viewing opportunities next year should the eagles breed again in the same site.'

Dave Sexton, the RSPB Scotland Mull officer, said: 'Within certain limits, sea eagles are capable of happily co-existing in active commercial forestry as this case shows.'

'All the partners in this remarkable case worked very closely together to ensure the two chicks fledged successfully and it's one of the most satisfying projects of its kind I've ever been involved with.'

Iain Moody, Tiltill Forestry Harvesting manager said: 'A success like this shows us that active timber harvesting and wildlife conservation need not be mutually exclusive.'

OT

Ian passes with flying colours

OBAN airport has gained an historic first after its first student passed with flying colours.

Ian McConnell, a senior nurse practitioner and member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue team, passed his skill test with a Civil Aviation Authority examiner on Sunday, September 20.

Ian has become the first ever person to gain a civilian pilot licence qualification in the history of the airport.

On landing back at Oban, Ian was presented with a bottle of 'sparkly' wine by the staff at the airport, which he quickly disposed of in 'Grand Prix' style.

Grinning broadly, Ian said: 'This is now my licence to learn about flying.'

Graham Dawson from Border Air Training and Ian's primary instructor, said: 'Learning to fly here is no "Chumley-in-the-Hedges". You really have got to have your wits about you. I am very proud of his achievement.'

Ian was the first to say that he could not have done it without the unstinting support of his wife, Lindsey, and also of the staff at Oban, who have always welcomed and encouraged him.

After his first solo flight (another first in itself) they held up score cards 'ice-skating style' as he taxied back in after the flight.

Still looking to fill dentist role

PLANS to rent out the state-of-the-art dental unit in Oban has made little progress since a meeting almost four weeks ago.

Health representative to Oban community council, Duncan Martin, said while he believed a dentist was still interested in taking over the dental unit at Lorn and Islands hospital, nothing had been signed by either the health board or any potential providers.

Mr Martin, a community councillor, said: 'No public announcement will be made until he (the potential dentist) signs on the dotted line.'

Marr Malloy, chairwoman of Oban community council, asked the question: 'So it could go on for six months?'

Mr Martin agreed that the dental unit may remain unoccupied for six months or more.

Face-saving explanation after confusion over social media blog

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MEMBERS of Oban community council were upset on Monday night when they thought plans to spend more than £6.9 million were being revealed on Facebook, rather than through the community council - a statutory consultee. They believed consultant, Helen Ford, whose company was paid more than £80,000 in 2014 by Argyll and Bute council, had heralded plans for the town centre on the social media site.

Her Facebook blog post, which was read out at the

community council, said she was 'pleased to advise' that her former school friend had been appointed to the post of Oban CHORD project manager.

Mrs Ford, who is a sole-trader and has been with the council for more than three years, said on Facebook: 'I am pleased to advise you that Kirsteen Macdonald is the new Oban CHORD Project Manager with responsibility for delivering the North Pier Maritime Quarter, with Andrew Collins leading on the delivery of the Oban CHORD public realm works.'

The blog post continued: 'Bit of a blast from school days past to speak to Kirsteen

and fantastic news that it is actually an Argyll local who's been appointed...in my humble opinion.'

Community council chairwoman Marr Malloy said: 'There was a long update from Helen Ford on Facebook, and it would have been nice for her to come to the community council first. We are the ones who have been elected.'

'The former CHORD manager would come to the community council every time and update us.'

'I wish she had come and talked to us before using Facebook.'

Community councillor, Andy

Harper, said: 'Facebook is a poor point of contact.'

Veteran councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'It is clear that the workers want to communicate with the community.'

'I think it is time people stopped taking things from Facebook. Let's get the community council up and running with this and I would suggest you get Helen Ford and Fergus Murray to come to this meeting.'

Oban and Islands councillor Mary-Jean Devon added: 'We cannot answer why it appeared on Facebook and why no-one had notified the community council. But we must get the

information out to the community council.'

Oban area council chairman Roddy McCuish agreed, and said: 'We should get information from a reliable source and not from Facebook.'

However, an Argyll and Bute council spokesman said it had been a misunderstanding and the comments attributed to Helen Ford, were not actually made by her.

He said: 'This is not true. What appears to have happened here is that a response was given in good faith to a query by a member of the public and this was subsequently related on Facebook by them.'

Helping hand for town's transplant families

A FUNDRAISING company which raises money for transplant patients has donated £3,000 to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Transplant Life UK is an organisation dedicated to helping those associated with transplant surgery in the UK.

Founders of the company, Patricia and David Pollock, who previously lived in Ayr, were in the Tesco store in Oban on Friday to present the cheque to representatives from the hospital.

David explained: 'When we started Transplant Life UK, three years ago, we felt there was not enough help available for transplant patients and their families.'

'We decided to set up the company and have given more than £100,000 to Yorkhill Children's Hospital alone, since we started.'

Peter Thorpe, clinical lead at the hospital, said: 'I'd like to thank transplant UK for their support.'

'I'm sure the money used will further improve patient experience here in Oban.'



LIFE-CHANGING: Patricia Pollock, front right, with members of staff from both Tesco and the hospital 15_t40tescocheque01

TIMESLINE

Almost £3K seized off Oban supplier

AN OBAN man who admitted supplying cannabis from his home has had more than £2,700 of cash seized by the town's sheriff court.

James Adam Richell, 30, of Lorne Avenue, supplied the class B drug on March 5 this year, the court heard on Monday, September 28.

Procurator fiscal, Eoin McGinty, said that £2,785 had been seized in total at the property by police and asked for it to be confiscated.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, deferred sentence on Richell until October 13 for criminal justice reports, and ordered the money to be forfeited.

The court also heard that Richell had committed the offence while on bail granted at Dumbarton sheriff court on December 2 last year.

Admonished after charity donation

A WOMAN who fraudulently cashed cheques at an Oban town centre bank has been admonished, after donating the stolen sum to charity.

Marlene Elizabeth Armstrong, 58, of Dalinart Drive, Oban, admitted cashing the cheques worth £150 using forged signatures at the Bank of Scotland on Station Road, between May 3 and June 6 last year.

The person who issued the cheques was satisfied that the £150 had been donated to charity. The sheriff admonished Armstrong on Monday at Oban sheriff court.

Cash stolen from church collection

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after money was stolen from a donation box at Achnaba church, North Connel. The money went missing between Sunday, September 20 and Sunday, September 27.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.



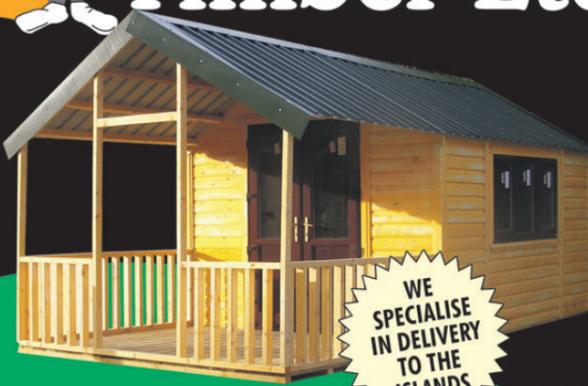
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Survey to give clearer picture

A HOUSING association wants to know how tenants view its performance and is offering a 40 inch TV set as a prize in a bid to get a clearer picture.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is carrying out a short customer satisfaction telephone survey among its tenants this month and those taking part will be entered into a prize draw for the TV set.

A sample of tenants from across Argyll and Bute will be telephoned by ACHA staff and asked to contribute to the satisfaction survey. The results will be reported to tenants and also to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Yvonne Angus, ACHA's regional manager, said: 'We are keen to seek the opinions from our tenants across a range of subjects, including the quality of our homes, communication and value for money.'

'Feedback from our tenants will identify areas of concern and ensure that services can be improved. All information given will be entirely confidential.'

Pots of cash for cancer charity

AN Oban guesthouse raised £1,200 for Macmillan cancer support last Friday by hosting a coffee morning.

Glen Ridh guesthouse, which overlooks the seaford, sold home baking and raffle tickets to raise the four-figure sum.

The staff at Glen Ridh were delighted with the response from the public and thanked everyone who supported the event.

And they paid a special tribute to Mrs Carswell, who stood at the door to collect the money.

A new form for physio patients

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS at Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban have seen a 70 per cent increase in the number of referrals in the last two years, a spokesman for NHS Highland confirmed last week.

With more than 2,500 patients attending the unit, he said NHS Highland had streamlined the self-referral process with the introduction of a comprehensive referral form, which is now available on the NHS website.

Leader admits no targets set for population growth

GROWING Argyll's population is proving more difficult than councillors initially thought.

For many years, one of the stated key objectives of Argyll and Bute council is to increase the number of people living in the area.

Population figures in the local authority area are falling quicker than most places in the UK.



But at a meeting of the full council last week, leader Dick Walsh (pictured) admitted he had no idea what progress had been made.

When questioned by former council leader, councillor James Robb, Dick Walsh confirmed that targets would have to be introduced.

Mr Walsh said: 'The question

of the growth of Argyll and Bute council lies at the door of all parties including the Scottish government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.'

After the meeting, Mr Robb said: 'Increasing population is not a meaningful objective in itself. It is largely a consequence of a growing economy either creating more local jobs or at-

tracting retired people. Still, it is surprising that there is no target or monitoring of progress.'

'It all seems to be a bit of a smokescreen by an administration which is falling short in growing our economies and communities.'

'An objective that isn't being monitored and measured is meaningless,' he added.

● A CARD and present celebrating the marriage of council leader, Dick Walsh, and his long-term partner, Tina, was given at the start of the full council meeting last Thursday. Mr Walsh, who has been council leader on a number of occasions over the last two decades, said he was genuinely speechless at the council's kindness.

Riddoch - 'It's all about a judgement call'

'This is a high point of the year for us. It's an amazing effort. You can't be anything but proud'

A LEADING broadcaster has told Oban students to use their heads when it comes to embarking upon a career, writes David McPhee.

Lesley Riddoch was speaking at the Argyll College graduation ceremony last Friday, held in the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban.

More than 70 students from all over the country graduated from the college, which is affiliated to the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

Oban's very own Emily Hobson was one of three students crowned 'student of the year'.

Writer and TV pundit, Lesley, who attended classes in Nordic studies part-time at UHI and is now studying for a doctorate, said: 'In the future, the jobs that will not be replaced by robots are those that require judgement calls. Use your judgement and find something that interests you.'

'Those graduating have done just that. They made a goal and they got there.'

'They've shown they can work together as a team and these are the qualities employers value.'

Fraser Durie, of Argyll College, said: 'This is a high point of the year for us. It's an amazing effort.'

'You can't be anything but proud. This ceremony gets bigger every year with more students and more subjects. We're constantly looking for new and exciting courses to add to the curriculum.'

More than 1,500 students studied with Argyll College UHI across 14 centres in 2014/15.



GLITTERING PRIZES: (main picture) Argyll College students celebrate their graduation; (inset picture, above) Campbeltown's Fiona Lang, Struan Walker from Dunoon and Emily Hobson from Oban with their 'student of the year' certificates 15_t40graduation5 /15_t40graduation1



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- Naidheachdan an deireadh sheachdain sa Ghàidhlig
- Barrachd phrògraman tùsail airson Clann agus Òigridh
- Barrachd chomadaidh, dhibhearsain agus phrògraman do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh

- Fewer repeats (currently at 73%)
- More new programmes (currently at 1.7 hours per day; MG ALBA aims to have 3 hours per day)
- Weekend news in Gaelic
- More original programming for Children and Young People
- More comedy, entertainment and programmes for Learners

Tha MG ALBA am beachd gu bheil an luchd-amhairc airidh air barrachd bhon BhBC.

MG ALBA believes that audiences deserve more from the BBC. Please join us in persuading the UK government and the BBC to invest more in BBC ALBA.

Nach tig sibh còmhla rinn ann a bhith a' cur ìmpidh air Riaghaltas na RA agus am BBC barrachd a chuir gu BBC ALBA?

The renewal process for the BBC's royal charter is currently underway. We would be grateful if you would add your voice to MG ALBA's call for a more comprehensive service for our audiences.

Tha pròiseas ùrachadh cairt rioghail a' BhBC an-dràsta beò. Airson taic a chuir ri iarrtas MG ALBA airson seirbheis nas coileanta, bhiodh sinn nur comain nan togaibh sibhse ur guth cuideachd.

The UK Government's consultation documents can be viewed on:

Gheibhear pàipearan co-chonaltraidh Riaghaltas na RA aig:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation

The deadline for submissions is the **8th October**.

'S e Diardaoin **8 Dàmhair** an ceann-là airson freagairtean.

Submit your views:

Bhiodh sinn air leth toilichte nan cuireadh sibh ur beachdan a-steach mar a leanas:

E-mail: BBCCharterReviewConsultation@culture.gov.uk

Post-dealain: BBCCharterReviewConsultation@culture.gov.uk

Letter: BBC Charter Review Consultation, DCMS, 100 Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ.

Sgrìobh gu: BBC Charter Review Consultation, DCMS, 100 Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ.

You can find more information on MG ALBA's charter renewal proposals on our website at

Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu iarrtas MG ALBA aig www.mgalba.com

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Drugs and drink led to brutal stabbing

SHERIFF SENDS KNIFE THUG TO JAIL FOR FIFTEEN MONTHS AFTER JURY REJECTED HIS CLAIMS OF SELF DEFENCE

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN who stabbed a friend during a drink and drug-fuelled fishing trip to Loch Awe was sent to prison for 15 months on Monday when he appeared for sentencing at Oban sheriff court.

Robert Edwards, 52, was found guilty by a jury on September 2, to assaulting William McNally, 26, by stabbing him on his body, to his injury and permanent disfigurement.

The altercation happened following an argument between Edwards, of Heriot Avenue, Paisley, William McNally, and his father Samuel McNally, also from Paisley during the early hours of Sunday, April 19.

The three were in a hired van at the time, and had been drinking and smoking cannabis since arriving at Loch Awe on the afternoon of Friday, April 17.

Samuel and William McNally

gave similar accounts during the trial of how Edwards began to act strangely during the trip, claiming he was related to the Royal Family.

A row broke out among the three men, when the father and son accused Edwards of tormenting their dog.

Edwards replied that he would stab their dog if it snapped at him again.

As William McNally went to the back of the van to let the dog out, Edwards threw a camping chair at him then stabbed him in the chest with a knife he had been using to peel vegetables the previous day, leaving a wound 2cm deep and 2cm long.

Edwards' defence lawyer, Edward Thornton, said that, until the recent case, Edwards had not been in trouble with the law for 17 years.

He also said that although Edwards used a knife, he had not been in possession of the weapon



“It is the fact you used it as a weapon, regardless of the reason it was in your possession”

Sheriff Ruth Anderson (on sentencing Robert Edwards, pictured left)

with the intent to cause harm. Passing sentence on Edwards, Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, said: 'Despite your account of events on April 19, the jury rejected your explanation of

self-defence. We also have no explanation as to what happened to the knife or sheath.

'Had you been an innocent man acting in self-defence, we might have seen the items in court, but they were disposed of before the police arrived and were never found. You threw them away.

'Also, the reason you had a knife is not the issue here. It is the fact you used it as a weapon, regardless of the reason it was in your possession.

'This assault I accept was unplanned, but was also unprovoked and resulted in injury and permanent disfigurement.

'You were told at trial that the most likely disposal would be custody and I see nothing in your background reports which convinces me it would not be appropriate to deal with this with anything other than prison.

'Therefore, I sentence you to 15 months' imprisonment from today's date.'

TIMESLINE

Charged for Oban taxi rank assault

A MAN was rushed to hospital with 'significant' facial injuries following an incident at a taxi rank in Oban.

The assault was alleged to have taken place in Station Road at 2.30am on Saturday, September 26.

A 23-year-old man has been arrested and charged, and reported to the procurator fiscal.

However, police are still appealing for witnesses to the incident. Anyone with any information should telephone the police on 101.

Police plea after woman punched

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a woman was punched in the face.

The assault happened around 11.15pm on Friday, September 25, in the lane running between Millpark Terrace and Lynn Road in Oban.

Anyone with any information is urged to call the police on 101.

Kilchrenan man's homegrown case

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after being accused of growing cannabis.

Police searched a house in the Kilchrenan area on Sunday, September 27, where plants, as well as harvested quantities of the drug, were allegedly found.

The man was subsequently charged and reported to the procurator fiscal.

Teenager to face diazepam charge

POLICE have arrested a teenager after they allegedly found him with a quantity of diazepam in Oban at the weekend.

He was stopped in Station Road in the early hours of Sunday, September 27.

The 19-year-old man was subsequently charged, and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Kicking hotel door results in arrest

A MAN was detained by police for allegedly vandalising an Oban hotel door.

The man, aged 20, was arrested on Saturday, September 26, after reports he had been kicking the door of the Balmoral hotel in Craigard Road. He has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Drink driver fails early hours test

A DRINK DRIVER was arrested by police in the Kilchrenan area in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Police stopped the 23-year-old man who subsequently failed a roadside breath test.

Driver's year ban for blind bend manoeuvre

A KILMELFORD driver who narrowly avoided a head-on collision as he overtook a car on a blind bend, has been banned from driving for a year.

Angus Files, 53, of The Glebe, who previously worked as an HGV driver, appeared in Oban sheriff court on Monday, September 28, accused of dangerous driving on the A816 on November 24 last year.

The court heard on that day, married couple, Donald and Helen McPherson, had been driving from Oban to Kilmelford, when Files overtook their vehicle on a blind bend, about a mile south of Oban.

As he turned the corner on the right-hand side of the road, a car

was coming towards him, but Files managed to avoid a head-on collision by sharply pulling his vehicle to the left-hand side of the carriageway, narrowly missing the McPhersons' motor car by 'inches'.

Files denied he had overtaken at an unsafe part of the road.

Procurator fiscal, Eoin McGinty, asked Mr McPherson to recount what happened. He said: 'I couldn't believe he was passing me on that bend. My wife said, "Oh my God". It was a scary moment and I really thought we were going to crash.'

Files' defence lawyer, Edward Thornton, asked Mr McPherson: 'I put it to you that what you are saying is wrong, and Mr Files

passed you safely on a different part of the carriageway.'

Mr McPherson replied: 'No, I put it to you that what you are saying is wrong. He should never have overtaken on that bend, and I could see a head-on collision coming. If I hadn't hit the brake, he wouldn't have made it. In some ways I still don't know how he did make it.'

Mr Thornton continued: 'I put it to you that the vehicle completed a safe manoeuvre with 100 metres to spare.' But Mr McPherson replied: 'If that was true, why would I go to the police? The man was driving dangerously. I was scared there would be a three-car collision.'

'There was nowhere for me to

go to my left and, with my wife in the car, I thought we were going to be involved in a very serious crash. Why would I make up lies about this?'

The defence lawyer said that he was not suggesting the couple had 'colluded a pack of lies', but had got the location of the overtaking manoeuvre wrong, and it had in fact taken place on a safer stretch of the road.

However, Eoin McGinty pointed out that Mr McPherson, who has been driving for 60 years, had never previously reported another driver to the police.

Mrs McPherson also told the court that this was the only time she had reported another driver to the police in her 50 years

behind the wheel. She added: 'I was breathless, saying, "Oh no" and couldn't quite believe an accident didn't happen.'

'He just managed to squeeze in, in front of us. It was absolutely shocking.'

Eoin McGinty asked Files if he knew Mr or Mrs McPherson, or if there was any 'bad faith' between them, to which he replied, "none whatsoever, we have never met before today".

Mr McGinty then asked Files what would their motive be for coming to court today tell lies about him, to which he suggested it could be to cover up Mr McPherson's own alleged erratic driving.

Mr McGinty said: 'So, in order

to cover up Mr McPherson's own alleged dangerous driving, they have made up these malicious lies about you?'

'You are claiming they have made up a very calculated and malicious lie, reported it to the police and then perjured themselves in court, for no actual reason?'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, said there was reasonable doubt to the credibility of Files' evidence, and convicted him of dangerous driving.

Disqualifying Files from driving for one year, she ordered him to sit an extended test when re-applying for his licence.

Sheriff Anderson also fined Files £400.

ISLAY letter by Hugh Smith

Plotting a literary triumph as writers arrive for festival

Murder, mystery and magic will be in the literary spotlight when a group of visiting authors discuss their wares at the island's book festival in Port Ellen primary school on Saturday and Sunday, (October 3-4).

Among the children's authors appearing at the increasingly popular island festival will be Vivian French, writer of satirical fairy stories, including the award-winning 'The Most Wonderful Thing in The World', and Caroline Clough, author of 'Red Fever' and winner of the Kelpies Award in 2010.

Antipodean writer, Simon Puttock, will discuss his 'Moonlight School' series, and 'Metaphrog' under the guise of graphic novelists and illustrators, Sandra Marr and John Chalmers, who will be sprinkling their own magic comic dust. Catering for the adults will



Christopher Brookmyre

be the award-winning Barrhead author and crime writer, Christopher Brookmyre, who will shed further light on his Jack Parlabane series while Stirling's R J Mitchell will concentrate on his Glasgow-based murder mysteries including 'Parallel Lines'.

Shirley MacKay will be on hand to highlight her 'Hew Cullan'

mysteries, and artist Andrew Crummy will share aspects of his involvement with the 'Great Tapestry of Scotland' publication.

Local input will come from the Jura resident photographer, Konrad Borkowski, who will reveal some of the pictorial inspirations he receives from his surroundings in the deer island.

And catering for all will be the ladies from St John's Church whose culinary creations are always guaranteed to be best-sellers.

Stephen appointed to the top position

Staff and pupils at the island's High school in Bowmore have welcomed the appointment of Stephen Harrison as headteacher more than a year after the previous incumbent left.



Stephen Harrison

The new appointee has served as deputy head under three headteachers and was responsible for the introduction of a number of innovations which are still in operation.

The new dominie is very much part of the local community life: his own children were educated at the Bowmore school while his wife, Maggie, is on the teaching staff at Port Ellen primary school.

Stephen's appointment is

regarded as a step in the right direction as the school looks forward to a period of stability which will focus on maintaining the quality of education.

Mr Harrison describes his appointment as being 'a privilege and an honour as well as being a huge responsibility'. He is also most grateful for the words of encouragement and support that he has received.

Rehearsal for the big event in Oban

Junior competitors who are shortly heading for the Royal National Mòd in Oban, previewed their competition pieces before an appreciative audience at the pre-Mòd concert in Bowmore primary school's assembly hall on Friday.

The school choir members,

under the baton of Clare Jordan, were all in splendid voice as were soloists, Megan MacMillan, and Morven Brown. Further songs and poetry came from Emily and Liam Gray, Lauren Morris and Diùra Paterson.

Bàrdachd was also the topic favoured by Maggie Brown and Orla Davidson, and Isabel Ferguson sang and played the whistle.

Guest soloists, Clare Jordan and Libby Morris, will also be seeking Mòd success and the efforts of all the performers were commended by Helen Gilbert, the school's acting headteacher.

We wish every success to these and all other competitors as they strut their stuff at Oban.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX
Tel: 01496 810 658

Benefit cheat told to consider work

A MAN who fraudulently obtained more than £3,000 by lying to Argyll and Bute council has pleaded guilty at Oban sheriff court.

Derek Grier, 43, of Longsdale Terrace, Oban admitted that, between August 2010 and September 2012, he failed to notify the local authority he was living with his partner, and continued to receive housing and council tax benefit he was not entitled to, totalling £3,322.

The court heard that Grier had previously worked in the fishing industry, but had been medically retired since 2008, and was living off a pension as his source of income.

Sherrif Ruth Anderson QC said: 'Seven years and you haven't worked because of a sore back? People have sore backs who work day-in, day-out.'

Deferring sentence for one month to find out more about his financial situation, she added: 'I'm not impressed. Clearly you simply lied about your financial status.'

'I want to know how much you have still to pay and when you can pay it. You might have to get yourself a job, Mr Grier.'

Website makes the UK's top hits list

HALF a million visitors surfed Argyll and Bute council's website last year, with 45 per cent of them using mobile devices.

This reflects the latest Ofcom national survey which shows a huge increase in internet access from mobile devices.

Council leader, Dick Walsh, praised the work which has seen the authority's website win four stars from the Society of Information Technology Management.

He said: 'The council's website is fully accessible using mobile devices which has placed it on the top 20 local authority sites across the UK.'

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Western Isles

ISLANDERS were left bemused when a wide-body jet plane circled the Western Isles for more than an hour. The Boeing 747 circled the Minch between the mainland and the Hebrides multiple times, in what turned out to be a test flight, before returning to Hamburg, Germany, last Wednesday.

A curious Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, made enquiries after a flurry of speculation on social media.

He said: 'The movement of this aircraft over Na h-Eileanan an Iar caused a lot of discussion and the explanation from the National Air Traffic Control Service was that this was a Boeing 747 on a test flight.'

'I hope the pilots enjoyed the stunning views over the islands and maybe that explains why they chose to keep circling again and again.'

Kilmelford

THE ANNUAL parish lunch at Kilmelford village hall will be held next Wednesday.

A selection of produce and preserves, baking, handicrafts, garden plants and a bottle stall, as well as a special 'guess the weight of the cake' competition will all be taking place.

Attendees are also invited to stay for lunch, which includes homemade soups, 'famous' filled rolls, tea and coffee and biscuits, with gluten-free options.

Entry is £6 for adults and £2 for children, with all the money going to parish funds.

Organisers hope for a good crowd and a chance to catch up with old friends.

Callander

POLICE have warned guest house and bed and breakfast owners in the Callander area to be on their guard against a thief alleged to have stolen thousands of pounds worth of jewellery.

Items stolen include a £4,000 watch, several necklaces and rings and a wallet, between September 17 and 18 from a room at the Crags Hotel in Main Street.

Also on September 17, several items of jewellery - valued at thousands of pounds - were stolen from the Glangarry Guest House. Items taken include a watch and several diamond rings.

Then on Saturday September 19 at Tulipan Lodge, two jewellery boxes and their contents were stolen.

Police believe the incidents may be linked with three other attempted thefts from hotels over the weekend in Callander. A man and woman were seen acting suspiciously at two other Callander hotels and one guesthouse in Crianlarich.

Stirling chief inspector, Paul Rollo, said: 'Some of the items taken are quite rare, and anyone who is offered items of jewellery should contact police. We would advise hotel or bed and breakfast owners to look out for anyone behaving suspiciously, and to make sure that rooms are kept secure at all times.'

Seil



THE SEIL branch of the Royal British Legion held its annual sale recently in the island hall. The event was very well attended and £1,776 was raised. Maurice Corry, Argyll and Bute veterans' champion opened the sale, and won the toy Peter the painter in the raffle. Mr Corry is pictured standing with Ann Reid who won Guess the Weight of the cake competition. Jean Alexander, branch secretary said: 'We wish to hank everyone helped us raise this marvellous sum.'



BEST FEET FORWARD: Luing's charity walkers before embarking on the Sir Walter Scott

Luing walkers set sail for funds

LUING'S annual fundraising event for Cancer Research UK, organised by islanders, John and Sue Blackwell, started this year with a sail up Loch Katrine in the steamship Sir Walter Scott.

Loch Katrine is a freshwater loch in the centre of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, roughly

eight miles long by three quarters of a mile wide, running the length of Strath Gartney.

Since its opening in 1859 by Queen Victoria, it has been the primary water reservoir for the city of Glasgow and surrounding areas.

The 21 walkers, above, who took part embarked on the Sir Walter

Scott at Trossachs Pier, disembarking further up the loch at Stonachlachar Pier, where the 14 mile challenge along the north shores of Loch Katrine began.

The total amount raised for Cancer Research was £3,405 and the organisers thank everyone who took part.

Uist

UIST Community Riding School enjoyed another successful show this year, with more than 100 entries.

The weather was kind to the riders on Benbecula and a large crowd gathered to enjoy the 115 entries, spread over 27 classes with 30 horses and ponies.

Hannah MacDonald and her horse, Lilly, stole the spotlight on the day, taking home prizes for supreme show champion and Welsh section D as well as both horse and rider with highest points on the day.

Results:

Ridden pony 13hh-14.2hh, Jenny Ross with Maisie; Ridden horse, Laura MacKay with Danny; Best rider aged 13 and under, Mollie Perkins with Abbey; Best rider aged 14-16, Laura MacKay with Danny; Fine ridden horse, Jenny MacVicar with Mona; Best rider aged 17 and up, Nina Wren with Phoenix; Best newcomer, Hannah MacDonald with Thorn; Ridden coloured, Katie MacDonald with Thorn; Ridden Highland, Hayley MacClay with Torin; Ridden Conemara, Laura MacKay with Danny; Welsh section D, Hannah MacDonald with Lilly; Ridden veteran, Molly Perkins with Abbey;

In hand Shetland, Chloe Mackenzie with Sheltie; In hand Highland, Mary Paton with Silver; In hand Eriskay, Marie MacDonald with Sparky; Lead rein, William MacCullum; Best primary school ride, Chloe Mackenzie with Sparky; Ridden small pony, Molly Perkins with Culla; In hand small pony, Craig Buchanan with Sheltie; In hand horse, Laura Mackay with Danny; In hand large pony, Jenny Ross with Maisie; Champion pony, Joan MacKay with Patrick; Champion horse, Hannah MacDonald with Lilly; Supreme show champion, Hannah MacDonald with Lilly; Rider with highest points of the day, Hannah MacDonald; Horse with highest points of the day, Lilly; Rider and horse with most placings of the day, Laura MacKay with Danny; Best turned out rider, Beatrix Wood; Best turned out horse, Chloe Mannix with Ony; Junior award for best time and commitment for the year, Craig Buchanan; Senior award for best time and commitment for the year, Jenny MacVicar; Junior most improved rider, Alana Beaton and Stella MacKinnon; Senior most improved rider, William MacCallum.



WINNER: Hannah MacDonald rides supreme show champion, Lilly



SHOW SMILES: Jenny MacVicar leading her horse, Mona, winner of the fine horse award

Strathfillan calls for same travel compensation

PATIENTS in Tyndrum are not compensated for travel to medical appointments in the central belt.

While 200-yards along the road the health board compensates NHS Highland residents up to £100 per day for hospital visits, Strathfillan community council wants

the situation to change immediately and have called a meeting with NHS Forth Valley.

In an email to Tom Steele, director of strategic property and facilities for NHS Forth Valley, chairman of the community council, John Riley, said: 'If Strathfillan was in Argyll, patients

would receive reimbursement of travelling expenses to hospitals or clinics. Tyndrum is only a few hundred yards away from the Argyll border. We in Strathfillan pay the same level of taxes as residents in nearby villages in Argyll, so we should surely receive equitable treatment.'

MORVERN lines

Shipwrecks in the Sound of Mull

THE SOUND of Mull is littered with shipwrecks; some well known, others not so and many yet to be rediscovered.

Considering the number we know of - at least 16 - one might well think that a clan of Highland sirens inhabit its numerous points and headlands and are constantly luring seamen ashore to death and ruin.

The Inniemore Islands, sometimes shown on charts and maps as 'Eilean Rubha an Ridrie' lying at the southerly entrance to the Sound, have been the scene of many a maritime mishap over the centuries.

No less than seven vessels are known to have been either wrecked on them or driven ashore in the vicinity, including one only a few weeks ago which is now safely tied up in Oban Bay. Presumably strong currents, fickle winds and swirling tides are to blame rather than mythical females.

The earliest and by far the most important on record, is HMS Dartmouth, a Royal Naval, 22-gun, fifth rate vessel of the 17th century engaged in anti-Jacobite activities in the area.

Dragging her anchor in a violent storm from Scallastle Bay on the evening of October 9, 1690, the Dartmouth struck the north west side of the islands stern first and at least partially capsized and foundered with the loss of 124 lives.

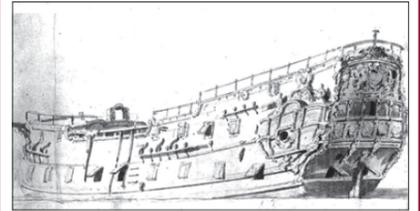
Although tales of a ship going down in the area, under the command of a Captain Pottinger, appeared in local tradition, it was not until 1973 that the Dartmouth was located and positively identified. Admiralty records showed that she was, indeed, captained by a man called Edward Pottinger who, not long before the mishap, had sent a message to his superiors in London complaining that the ship's anchor ropes were weak and required replacing.

Hopefully the unfortunate man was exonerated in absentia at the subsequent enquiry. The site of the Dartmouth was subject to an extensive archaeological survey in the 1970s under the direction of well-known marine archaeologist, Professor Colin Martin of the University of St Andrews and Kirk Brae, Lochaline.

Later, whole sections of the Dartmouth's wooden hull and many other artefacts, including navigational and surgical instruments, several guns and cast iron hand grenades still with their gunpowder and beech wood plugs, were lifted from the sea bottom.

A small part of the collection can be seen in the Tower Museum in Londonderry.

Other pieces will eventually be on view in the National Museum of Scotland after they have been cleaned and preserved.



HMS Dartmouth

Almost exactly on the spot where the Dartmouth was shattered against the rocky shore, two other vessels foundered.

The first was carrying a cargo of coal. Little is known about her other than she is thought to have gone down in the late 1940s.

In February 1973, the Ballista, owned by the Elliot Diving Company, anchored close by with the intention of lifting her cargo. A terrific storm rose during the night causing the Ballista's stern ropes to snap and she came ashore immediately above the wreck her divers and been salvaging the day before. Parts of her superstructure still appears at low water on spring tides.

Other vessels which lie not far away are: an unnamed Spanish vessel, a sister ship to the one that was blown up in Tobermory Bay in 1588. The salvors working on the Tobermory wreck in 1909 searched but failed to find her; the Onyx, a wooden schooner from Porthmadog in North Wales carrying a cargo of potatoes from Beaulieu to the Mumbles near Swansea, struck a nearby reef, probably the same one which claimed the St Apollo a few weeks ago, and went down off Rubha an Ridrie in February 1861. Her mast heads were visible for some time above water at low springs; the Thesis, an iron steamship belonging to David Grainger of Belfast, left her home port on 15 October, 1889 with a cargo of iron ore and a crew of 12 bound to Middlesbrough. Not long after entering the Sound of Mull a thick fog descended and she struck the dreaded Rubha an Ridrie reef and sank some four hours later near an inlet on the Morvern shore.

All her crew got off safely.



GROUNDINGS: the Sound of Mull is littered with shipwrecks

In the days before wireless telegraphy and radar, many stricken ships were left to the mercy of the elements and relied almost entirely on help from passing vessels.

There had been an undersea telegraph cable from Oban to Mull, Lochaline and Coll as early as 1890 but, as the cable was constantly being damaged by the elements, it was unreliable.

In 1905 it was replaced by a Marconi wireless system by which messages could be passed up and down the Sound through a series of towers at Lochaline, Achnacraig and Tobermory.

I heard an amusing story from the late John Campbell, Bunessan, about an old man from the Ross of Mull who was visiting some of his friends in Tobermory not long after the Post Office built the wireless mast above the town.

On leaving a local hostelry and not having seen anything like it before, he asked what it was. 'That's the Marconi tree', he was told, 'and what kind of fruit does it produce?' 'Electric currents,' was the pithy response!

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



SUCCESS: First year pupils at Kinlochleven high school completed an adventure and challenge course and were rewarded for their efforts

Kinlochleven high top class in great outdoors

KINLOCHLEVEN high school has been awarded a certificate of recognition from an outdoor education charity.

The Outward Bound Trust rewarded the school for the emphasis they place on developing pupils in the natural environment.

This comes after fourth year pupils spent five days learning how to live and work on a sailboat, while first years completed the adventure and challenge course at the trust's centre in Lochiel.

All Kinlochleven pupils also take part in the bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, with the opportunity to progress to silver

and gold. Teacher, Donald Smith, who co-ordinated the Outward Bound trip and helps with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, said: 'We are delighted to receive this award. Outdoor learning plays an important role at Kinlochleven high school from five-day residential courses to the John Muir Award, Eco Schools and to simply using our village and countryside to help make learning more active and interesting. We believe that the great outdoors helps our young people to unlock their true potential and prepares them for the unforeseen challenges they may face later in life.'

A82 Tarbet to Inverarnan upgrade
Preferred route option
Public Exhibitions

Public exhibitions are being held by Transport Scotland at various locations to give the public the opportunity to see the preferred route option for the A82 from Tarbet to Inverarnan following route option assessment work.

We are inviting views and feedback on the identified preferred route option to help inform its further development.

Transport Scotland officials and design consultants will be on hand to discuss the assessment process and the preferred option, and to answer any questions.

Details of upcoming exhibitions are as follows:

Thursday 1st October, 12 noon - 7pm Crianlarich Village Hall, Main Street, Crianlarich, Perthshire, FK20 8QN	Tuesday 6th October, 12 noon - 7pm Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, The Parade, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6BA
Friday 2nd October, 2pm - 7pm Kilmore & Oban Parish Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4DN	

For further information on the project, and to view the exhibition material online (available from 30 September), please visit: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-tarbet-inverarnan-upgrade

Significant investment in bid to boost jobs

ALMOST £6million is to be invested into the Highlands and islands to get people back to work.

Highland council has received £5,170,000 as part of the European Social Fund and another £770,000 has been given to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to promote sustainable employment and increase opportunities to gain new skills.

Highland council leader, Margaret Davidson, said the money will be mainly spent on young people and those who have been unemployed for a long time. She also confirmed the contribution will be matched 'pound for pound' by the local authority.

She said: 'This is an important milestone towards providing a series of interventions that are aimed at tackling poverty in Highland, by enabling people to enter employment. Highland has a growing economy and it is important we work together to ensure as many people as possible are able to take up available opportunities.'

'The £5,170,000 of European Social Fund will be matched pound for pound by the Highland council as lead partner for this intervention, along with contributions by some of our partners. Together, we are making a very significant upfront investment, in helping people into work and stimulating growth of our economy in the Highlands.'

Roseanna Cunningham, fair work secretary for the Scottish government, welcomed the £43 million Scotland-wide fund: 'While the overall economic picture for Scotland remains positive, particularly when compared to where we were at the peak of the recession, there remains work to be done. We must maintain momentum and ensure every power at our disposal is used to grow the economy, increase employment, lower unemployment and remove barriers to the jobs market.'



Generations chip in with charity cash

A BAKER and chip shop owner in Lochaber came together to raise more than £1,000 for Macmillan cancer support.

Roy Bridge cake maker, Lynne Nairn, sold her wares in her father Sammy's fish and chip shop in Caol on Friday night and, combined with a raffle, made £1,177 with donations still coming in when the Oban Times went to press.

Three generations came together for the good deed as Lynne's daughter, Sophie, helped to sell the cakes and Sammy's freshly-made donuts went down a treat.

Lynne said: 'I'm delighted with what we raised. Last year I raised £969 so this year I wanted to raise over £1,000 and I managed that and more.'

THREE GENERATIONS: Sophie Nairn, mum, Lynne Nairn, and grandfather, Sammy Cameron, raised more than £1,000 for Macmillan cancer support at a bake sale in Sammy's fish and chip shop. 21_40sammys01

TIMESLINE

Slow progress on fast food outlet

THERE has still been no progress made to build a KFC in Fort William, despite the original aim to open in 2015.

Planning permission for the fast food restaurant was approved in August last year but, when approached this week by the Oban Times about when work would start, a spokesman for the food chain remained tight-lipped.

When planning permission was granted, a spokesman said the restaurant would be open in 2015. A KFC spokesman said: 'There is no update on the start date for construction or expected opening date.'

Police appeal on missing man, 69

POLICE are urging people in Glencoe to look out for a missing pensioner.

Robin Garton, 69, from Wiltshire, was reported missing on Monday after he failed to meet friends in Kinlochewe.

He was last seen checking out of his accommodation near Buachaille Etive Mor at around 8am on Friday, September 25 and is thought to have been hill walking.

Mr Garton is described as 6'2" in height and of slim to medium build. He has fair hair and occasionally wears glasses. If anyone sees Mr Garton they are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Third age group up and running

A NEW group has been set up for retired or semi-retired people, providing educational, creative and leisure activities.

Lochaber U3A, University of the Third Age, will kick off with a meeting in Lochaber Geopark office, Fort William High Street, from 2pm today (Thursday).



MARINA ASSOCIATION WAITING TO HEAR IF BID FOR GOVERNMENT CASH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL

Group confident of landing cash to build Fort pontoons

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

PONTOONS for cruise ships will 'definitely' be installed in Fort William, according to a campaign group behind the plan.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Association (FWMSA) is waiting to hear if it has been successful in applying for a share of the Scottish government's Town Centre Communities Capital Fund, which could see a landing stage built at the north end of the West End car park by March next year.

Norrie MacLean, a member

of the association, said he is confident they will be given the £150,000 needed, but said even if the application is rejected, it is 'only a matter of time' before the facility is installed.

This comes after 800 holidaymakers on board a cruise liner had to be ferried from Loch Linnhe to dry land on a local seal-spotting boat, Souters Lass, when visiting Fort William in August.

Both crew and passengers gave feedback saying they would be keen to return, reigniting calls for somewhere for ships to berth in the town.

Norrie said: 'There's a definite need for a landing

strip here and we have the backing of Highland council.

'The Souters Lass was great but it wasn't practical for disabled passengers. I've spoken to captains who said they would be keen to return if we had the right facilities. 'We're meeting captains from Norwegian Line [cruise operators] to discuss the best way to make that happen.'

Norrie also said there is a growing need for a landing stage in Fort William and ideally this could be upgraded to a permanent cruise ship terminal for boats to berth: 'Everyone can see this is what the town is missing. It's definitely going to happen,

it's just a matter of time and funding. If we don't get this funding, we'll find another way, it's only a matter of time.'

'When the Adonia visited last year it had 800 people on board. If we can have that more regularly it will be great for the town and its economy.'

'In the long-term, we would like to have a hammer head terminal so ships can berth. That would mean the crew can also come on shore and would be spending money. But the last quote I had for that was around £12 million so that's a long way away. It's a bit "back to the future" because Fort William used to be a major port town but

it's all very positive and has plenty of backing.'

The deadline for funding applications closed on Tuesday and FWMSA will find out this month if it has been successful.

Brian Murphy, Highland councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, welcomed the plan: 'The feedback we got from the Adonia was very positive and it would be great for the town to see more of the same. I hope the association is successful.'

Highland council and Fort William community council have both confirmed their backing for the plan.

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Be on guard for unexpected visitors
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Don't keep large amounts of money at home
Call the police if you see anything suspicious

Secure
Use a door chain or bar or check from a window
Use a security spy-hole if you have one
Keep other doors and windows secure
Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful

Question
If you answer the door always ask for ID
Remember - IDs can be faked
Don't assume a caller wearing a uniform is genuine
Ask a friend or neighbour for help if you need them
Tell the caller to come back when someone else is home

SCOTLAND POLICE Keeping people safe
101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999
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MSP backs new caring campaign

HIGHLAND MSP, Rhoda Grant, has backed a new campaign to help students who are balancing higher education with unpaid caring for a relative or friend.

Carers Trust Scotland's new project, Going Higher in Scotland, is calling on all universities in Scotland to provide support to unpaid student carers of those with an illness, disability, mental health problem or addiction.

Ms Grant, Highlands and Islands MSP and Labour spokeswoman for carers, said: 'Many carers are students trying to juggle many hats with the intention of continuing in further education. We need to make sure our universities and colleges are doing all they can to support these individuals in every way they can.'

Doors open on Harris distillery

THE FIRST distillery on Harris will be opened to the public today (Thursday).

Isle of Harris Distillers opened for production in Tarbert last week and is now ready for visitors.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor visited the distillery last week. He said: 'I am absolutely delighted the new Isle of Harris Distillery has now formally been opened.'

'The creation of up to 20 local jobs is a very significant boost to the local economy and to the tourism offering of Harris and the Western Isles.'

Graduation cheer for students



West Highland College said goodbye to 250 graduating students on Friday

MORE than 300 guests gathered in Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church on Friday to celebrate the West Highland College UHI graduation.

Shirley Spear, chairwoman of the Scottish Food Commission, gave the key note speech as students received a range of vocational, further and higher education awards.

Ms Spear encouraged all students to use their qualifications to benefit the Highlands: 'I congratulate and applaud all of you for what you have achieved so far.'

'You are the generation who will be creating the legacy of a successful Scotland - I encourage you to stay and contribute, if not here in the Highlands, then to Scotland and its future.'

And Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of West Highland College, congratulated her departing

students: 'As you would expect of our rapidly growing college, we have more graduands here than ever before; this year more than 250 eligible graduates from over 40 different course awards. More than 80 graduands have attended today, together with around 60 of their fellow students from last year's further education courses. We welcome you all to this celebration of all your achievements.'

Three people were given special recognition by receiving the students of the year award.

Mike Martin was awarded the higher education award and will be forwarded for selection in the University of the Highlands and Islands overall student of the year award.

Jayne Lear from Kinlochleven and Cathryn Baillie from Skye were jointly named further education student of the year.



Colin Cameron from Portree received the Springboard Scotland Bowl tourism award from Lorna Ferguson, of the same company, for his work on the professional cookery course



Right: Skye's Cathryn Baillie, further education student of the year for Certificate in Crofting and Countryside Affairs, receives her award from guest speaker, Shirley Spear



Mike Martin, West Highland College's higher education student of the year award



Fort William's Jayne Lear received recognition as a student of the year



SUCCESS: Ardnamurchan high school pupil, Sara Mackinnon, received the Lochaber Housing Association award for academic achievement from headteacher, Christopher Millar-Craig

Top class results for high school pupil Sara

AN AWARD for academic achievement has been presented to Ardnamurchan high school pupil, Sara Mackinnon.

The sixth year pupil was recognised for her Higher exam results, passing with four As and one B, when she was given the Lochaber Housing Association award by headteacher Christopher Millar-Craig last week.

Mr Millar-Craig also made special mention to fourth year pupil, Charlie Anne Fleming, for her five As at National 5 and a further A at Higher.



Gifts for friends from Malawi

PUPILS of Lochside RC primary school heard first-hand where the money from their fundraising efforts is going when they hosted two women from Malawi.

Mercy Glyn and Mary Jackson travelled to Fort William as part of a trip organised by the Scottish Catholic International Aid fund to tell the children how they have been helped by the charity. Lochside pupils had been putting spare change in a box every day at school which has been used to help the people of Malawi access water and harvest crops.

Lochside RC pupils, Arran MacFadyen and Gracie Henderson presented Mary Jackson, second left, and Mercy Glyn with Scottish shortbread when they visited from Malawi as part of a trip by the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund 21_140lochside01

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN 2016/17 – 2018/19

This is your chance to comment on the Argyll and Bute Strategic Plan for Health and Social Care and to influence the way services are planned and delivered in your locality.

All services need to be locally planned, locally owned and locally delivered, so that they reflect and meet the needs of our local areas and communities.

DROP IN AND TALK TO US

Lochgilhead
Thursday 8th Oct, 10am - 2pm,
Meeting Rooms, J03-7, Mid Argyll Community Hospital

Oban
Friday 9th Oct, 10am - 2pm,
Lecture Theatre, Lorn & Islands Hospital

Campbeltown
Tues 20th Oct, 10am-2pm,
Day Room, Campbeltown Hospital

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT
www.healthytogetherargyllandbute.org.uk

Tell your friends and family and we look forward to speaking with you!



FAREWELL: Lochaber Housing Association chairman, Di Alexander, thanks housing officer, Irene Christie, for 20 years of service

Retiring housing chairman marks Irene's long service

LOCHABER Housing Association (LHA) has had a 'good and productive year', according to retiring chairman, Di Alexander.

Mr Alexander, who has come to the end of his five-year tenure, made a speech at the association's annual general meeting for the last time.

He said: 'I'm delighted we are now about to start on four sites, three houses at Strontian, with 21 at Heathercroft, 10 in Lochside [both Fort William]

and three in Kilchoan. In addition, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust has built another three low cost home ownership houses on sites provided by the association at Arisaig and will soon be building more in Mallaig and Strontian.'

During the financial year 2014-15, LHA subsidy company, Lochaber Housing Association Property Services CIC, spend more than £1million on repairs and improvements, including

58 bathrooms and 32 new heating systems.

Over the same period, tenants reported 100 per cent satisfaction with their new home when moving in and an overall satisfaction rate of 94 per cent for repairs.

In what was Mr Alexander's final act as chairman, he presented housing officer, Irene Christie, with an award and flowers to mark 20 years of service to Lochaber Housing Association.

Dedication of Skye officer recognised

A SKYE policewoman has been recognised for her efforts by chief constable, Sir Stephen House.

Alison MacLennan, based in Portree, was given a certificate along with two other female officers from Inverness, for her dedication in her role as a special constable.

Suzie Mertes, chairwoman of the Scottish Women's Development Forum, said: 'It is important we celebrate the exceptional work being done by our staff within Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.'



Julian Innes, chief constable for the Highlands and Islands, celebrates the achievements of special constable, Alison MacLennan from Portree

Stepping back in time

A CLAN Cameron historian and Gaelic scholar will be speaking at the Lochaber local history society tonight (Thursday).

Ronald Cameron from Banavie will discuss the 'strife and times' of Iain Lom, a key player in the Keppoch murders, who was also present at the second battle of Inverlochry in 1645.

The talk begins at 8pm in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.

Bridge work traffic chaos fears

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE PROPOSED closure of a swing bridge in Lochaber in the new year will see disruptions to a busy main road once again.

One lane on the A830 at the Banavie swing road will be closed for nine weeks from the middle of January 2016.

The road has already been partially closed twice this year causing drivers lengthy tailbacks and delays.

In April, the bridge was closed for four weeks for road resurfacing and then, later in the summer, the road was closed off while an upgrade to a power cable at Camaghael was under way.

In January the work carried

out will be to repaint the steel bridge. A spokesperson from BEAR Scotland said: 'The steel section of the bridge is showing signs of corrosion therefore repainting is required, which will protect the steelwork for years to come.'

The proposal is in its early stages and will not go to public consultation until November this year when it is expected the details will be finalised.

Kilmallie Community Council member, Christine Hutchison, had been unaware of the pending proposal until the Oban Times contacted her.

Mrs Hutchison said: 'It is a real pity local residents are going to have disruptions, yet again, on their commutes to and from work and schools.'

'There are going to be disrupt-



WORK REQUIRED: Banavie swing bridge

tions to local and the Mallaig bus services as well, although I am sure the bus companies will have their own timescales for the notice they receive. As long as the community council has more than two months notice, we will have time to consider it, but I don't think we are going to be able to avoid it. 'All we can say is that we advise people to plan ahead of their journeys and allow plenty of time for the delays when the work starts.'

Bill Clark, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, said: 'Any work on roads is going to cause some disruption, however I hope they take into account traffic pressure points on the road and work around those times as best they can. 'BEAR has to take those on

board or we are all in trouble. I won't get to work and half of the population of Lochaber won't get to work.'

The spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland added: 'We anticipate the essential maintenance work will be carried out over nine weeks, Mondays to Fridays and during the day with no work planned at weekends. 'The bridge will not be closed to motorists. However, for the safety of those working on the bridge and road users, a lane closure will be in place under temporary traffic light control. 'We'll be carrying out these works during the winter when the canal is closed to boat traffic and will ensure all steps are taken to minimise disruption to motorists as much as possible during the essential works.'

TIMESLINE

Applications open for local elections

NOMINATIONS are open for community councils across the Highlands.

Anyone interesting in acting as a voice for their town or village can put themselves forward to stand for election.

Elections will take place on Wednesday, November 18, and anyone on the electoral register for their community council area can apply.

Applications must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday, October 6. Forms are available from the council's service centre by calling 01349 886606 or online at www.highland.gov.uk

Strictly debut for Morar girl Carol

LOCHABER-BORN weather girl Carol Kirkwood swapped her umbrella for sequins at the weekend when she made her first appearance on Strictly Come Dancing.

The 53-year-old, whose own name is McKellaig, grew up in Morar and attended the village school, Lady Lovat primary. On Friday night the BBC One presenter debuted in the first episode of the season with dance partner, Pasha Kovalev.

Trust hosts repair cash workshop

A FREE workshop will be held in Fort William this week to explain how to receive funding to repair war memorials.

The War Memorials Trust is hosting the event in the Nevis Centre on Wednesday night (October 7), starting at 7pm.

Allan Henderson, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'There are still grants available from the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund and I would urge anyone who wants to find out more about how to get funding to conserve their local war memorial to go along to their nearest workshop.'

Plantation college workshops win place in finals of national awards

WORK in one of the most deprived areas of Lochaber has earned West Highland College UHI a place in the finals of a national award.

The college provides weekly workshops in the Plantation area of Fort William, recognised as an area of severe economic and social deprivation, to help residents get back into work or further education. Since the project was

launched three years ago, more than 50 people have gained long-term employment and 93 have continued on to courses at West Highland College.

In recognition of this achievement, the Scottish Training Federation has shortlisted the college for its employability of the year award and the results were due to be announced at a ceremony in Crieff last night, (Wednesday).

Nigel Patterson, employment and development team co-ordinator for West Highland College, said: 'At the start, the workshops were seen by the Plantation community as another example of an agency parachuting in and telling the community how to live their lives and then disappearing at the end of the project funding.'

'By establishing trust and being the conduit between the

community and agencies and employers, we are able to support individuals in their chosen journeys.

'Those enrolling on college courses know that support does not stop when they enter the more formal courses available in the college. We are still there to have a chat and a cuppa, which is often all that is needed to help people stay on track and to succeed.'

Crackdown on doorstep crime and bogus callers

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands police division has renewed its crack down on doorstep crime and bogus callers.

Operation Monarda will see public, private and third sector organisations work together to minimise risk and prevent harm to vulnerable and older people from criminals who commit doorstep crime.

The project, in conjunction with Trading Standards, Police Scotland and Crimestoppers, includes work with the general public, as well as enforcement work to target criminals.

Doorstep crime is an issue across Scotland with more than 1,000 incidents and 262 bogus caller crimes recorded

between February 1, 2015 and July 31, 2015.

Around £238,300 was taken from victims during this time - around £100,000 lower than during the previous reporting period. Highland and Islands division is headed by Detective Superintendent Colin Carey.

He said: 'Bogus callers and associated doorstep crime is a vastly under-reported crime so we hope the campaign will encourage members of the public to report incidents. Throughout the campaign police and other organisations will offer advice to people in communities across the Highlands and Islands.'

Police appeal follows thefts and attempted break-in

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about a number of thefts and housebreakings in the area.

Overnight between Monday, September 21, and the following morning two large rock hammers were stolen from a construction site near Glenfinnan.

The plant machinery is heavy,

bulky and expensive and police say a large vehicle would be needed to move them.

On Saturday, September 19, someone tried to break into a bungalow in Glencoe and a window was smashed.

Between Saturday, September 19, and the following day two large garden gnomes were stolen from a garden in the

Upper Achintore area of Fort William. One was later found damaged but the other is still missing.

A private garden in the Camaghael area was broken into some time between September 23 and 26 but nothing was stolen.

Several bikes have both been reported stolen and handed in

to the police station as found property.

Police have asked anyone with information about these incidents to contact them by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

They have also reminded the public to check with the police station if they have lost any property.

MORRISON

Clydebank Museum & Art Gallery - 21st August to 24th October

Strathearn Gallery, Crieff - 12th September to 10th October

Gullane Art Gallery, Gullane - 9th October to 1st November

The Mitchell, Glasgow - 19th November to 26th November

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Jordan hopes success is on menu at top final

A YOUNG chef who works at Loch Melfort hotel, near Oban, has been nominated for a prestigious national award.

Jordan Clark, 20, who is originally from Perth, was nominated for young Highland chef of the year. He was one of nine chosen finalists, after successfully making his way through the application process, where he had to create a three-course menu for under £20.

Jordan thinks the secret to his success and how he stands out in the competition is through the ingredients he uses. He sources organic, local produce and kept his

budget down by foraging what he could in the surrounding areas.

The young chef, who has worked at Loch Melfort for eight months, said: 'When I left school, I thought, I'll do cooking, it will be easy, but I fell in love with it.'

'I was absolutely delighted to have been nominated, especially considering my age.'

'I'll be up against some head chefs, which is a bit daunting, but I'm confident in my ability.'

He will have the opportunity to bring his menu to life when he cooks it live, alongside the other competitors, for the award-winning

judging panel. Famous chef, Albert Roux OBE, will lead the panel, with support from Andrew Fairlie and Glen Watson.

The competition was open to 18-30 year olds and the final will take place on Monday, October 5, in Burghfield House, Dornoch.

First prizewinner will take home a £500 cheque and a week of work experience at Le Gavroche, the Roux family's two Michelin starred restaurant in London.

Second place will receive £250 as well as a week's work experience at the RAC Club in London and third place will be awarded £100.



COOKING UP A STORM: Jordan at work in the kitchen

Social scene

Groove is in the

Stone skimmers feel vibes of Deep



Keren Cafferty and Donald Melville present Maggie Young with a raffle prize



Carole Cameron, left, with Drew Cameron, Andy Gallimore and Marty Brogan.



Pauline Cameron, left, with Tania Robertson and Heather Pollay.

Performing with Nicola was 'awesome'

FIVE Lochaber Music School pupils had the 'awesome experience' of performing on the same stage as international violinist, Nicola Benedetti.

The musician invited 17-year-old Helena Rose to play at her 'Italy and the Four Seasons' concert in Inverness last week.

Helena was also asked to bring along some musical friends to join the performance and was joined by the music school's Rhona Mackintosh, Caitrin Edmond, Corran Wineberg and Francesca Rose, as well as Rosie MacLeod from Raasay

and Chrissie Johnson from Melrose.

Peter Rose, director of Lochaber Music School, said: 'The girls were phenomenal and the applause from the capacity audience was truly thunderous.'

'Nicola couldn't have been more complimentary; she was amazed by their musical style and the sheer professionalism the girls brought to their performance. We couldn't have been more proud of them all. To be playing alongside one of the world's finest musicians was an awesome experience and one they'll never forget.'



Lochaber Music School students and friends from Raasay and Melrose performed for international violinist, Nicola Benedetti, in Inverness

Music hall of fame honour for Kirsteen



Kirsteen Graham

A SKYE-BASED Gaelic singing tutor has been inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame.

Kirsteen Graham, who dedicated 24 years of her life to supporting Gaelic medium on the island, was honoured at a ceremony in Inverness.

The hall of fame gives recognition to those who have supported

and influenced the development of Scottish traditional music.

Arthur Cormack, chief executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, said: 'There are simply not enough hours in the school day to encompass the scope of Kirsteen's work. She has spent years preparing children for the local and national Mòds and for Christmas and end-of-

term concerts and she has also, over many years, written original material for drama competitions and schools performances.'

Bill Alexander, Highland Council's director of care and learning, also paid homage to Kirsteen: 'This is a tremendous tribute to someone who has been committed to supporting children and

Gaelic music and culture on Skye for 24 years.'

'This award recognises individuals who work tirelessly to help their community and enrich the lives of others through selfless service. Kirsteen has certainly given that service, and it is wonderful that she has received this remarkable acknowledgement from a national body.'



Deep Joy Bass player, Nigel Frydman, was laying down a serious 70s disco vibe.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

'WALKING FOOTBALL' HAS MOVED TO THURSDAYS AT 5PM AT ATLANTIS LEISURE
COME AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT
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COFFEE MORNING
10am - 12 noon
Saturday 3rd October 2015
Church Centre
Glencruitten Rd
Admission by donation

Monday 5th October
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
Church of Scotland Centre
8pm
Beginners welcome

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All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details

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MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch) PRE-MOD CEILIDH
Saturday, 3rd October in Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.30pm
Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Taynuilt Ladies' Gaelic Choir, Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, Dunbeg Primary School Choir plus local singers and musicians.
Admission £4.00. £3 for Members. £2 for Children 5-16 yrs
A Warm Welcome Extended to All
(Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture)

Oban U3A
Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 10.30am
Glencruitten Church Centre
Glencruitten Road
Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting, with an opportunity this time to sign up for a range of interest groups. Please note the change of venue for the September meeting.

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3rd OCTOBER
10.30AM - 4PM
Collection for Oban Community Playpark

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Argyll band makes waves around the globe

THE SIGNAL FIRES
IGNORANCE IS BLISS

THE debut single from Oban-based band, The Signal Fires, reached international status this month, with plays in New Zealand, Alaska, New Jersey, Florida and Boston.

The single, Ignorance is Bliss, was even played live on prime-time radio in Norway.

Guitarist, John Hausrath, said: 'Working with local company, Omnibeat Music Group, we managed to

get the single on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and Spotify and from there it has just snowballed.'

Motivated by the messages of support that they have received, the band is already working on their next release, which will be available in

November.

They plan to follow that up with an EP in 2016.

Anyone interested in listening to, or purchasing Ignorance is Bliss, visit www.omnibeatmusicgroup.com or alternatively, buy it from any of the major music distributors.

Easdale Island

heart of Easdale

o Joy at World Championship



It's so good! Singer, Vee Sheldrick, makes classic hits her own with incredible vocal range and powerful delivery.

Stone skimmers followed the call of the disco ball to Easdale Hall on Saturday night. Mid Argyll soul and funk band, Deep Joy, kept the throngs on the dance floor into the wee hours for the kick-off party of the 2015 World Stone Skimming Championships. Organisers say it was

the biggest Pre-Stone Skimming bash yet, as hundreds packed the hall to dance the night away to the likes of Donna Summer, James Brown and Daft Punk covers. Deep Joy, Mid-Argyll's hot dance band of the moment, delighted the crowd with soul, funk and disco favourites from the

1960s to today. Singer Vee Sheldrick led the talented five-piece band with an electrifying and soulful performance that had the audience begging for more. A variety of exciting prizes were raffled off and auctioned during the intermission, including prints by local artists, gift certificates and bicycles.



Vicky Shelly, left, with Karen McDonough, Louise Mutch and Caroline England.



Volunteer, Jess Hill, won a Tesco voucher.



Archie Holloway shows off the print he won from the prize raffle. Photobombing by Fiona Blakey.

Folk sensation Mairi Campbell kicks off Glencoe concert season

THE AUTUMN concert season kicks off at Crafts & Things in Glencoe on Tuesday, October 13, with an encore performance by renowned Scottish folk musician, Mairi Campbell. 'A multi award-winning artist, Mairi has enthralled audiences here in the past,' said owner and concert organiser, David Cooper. 'I am delighted she is returning with a collection of new material, as well as some of her standards.'

Mairi counts Scots Singer of the Year and Female Musician of the Year among her many awards, and is part of renowned bands such as The Cast and The Occasionals.

Originally from Edinburgh, she has roots in Lismore and is currently starring in a well-reviewed one-woman theatre show called Pulse, directed by Kath Burlinson, which is based on the true story of Mairi's own musical journey.

'Crafts and Things is a special venue to me,' Mairi said. 'I've known David Cooper for many years and have always appreciated his support since the early 90s when Dave Francis and I were touring as the duo, The Cast. I often drop in for a cuppa on my way to or from a music retreat on Lismore.'

David closed out a successful 2014 concert season with the likes of American fiddler, Bruce Molsky, which was a sold-out performance, and he has a host of celebrated musicians lined up this season. Held in the shop, the atmosphere is cosy and ambient, and the acoustics are perfect for the space, providing a first-rate experience for music lovers.

'There is no stage, no sound system, and we have an absolute maximum capacity of 70,' David said. 'And when it's full, the musicians are just a foot or two away from their audience. It's a very intimate place for them to play, and many who play here are more accustomed to big two to five thousand seat venues. None of them pay for a guaranteed return. The arrangement I have is that they all play for 100 per cent of the door.'

'I am happy to feed and accommodate them, so they only have to get here. I am doing this for the love of traditional live music, not to make any money.'

'This venue is a fine place to play - warm and inviting,' said Mairi. 'So I'm very much looking forward to being back, this time as a solo act with a great selection of songs and soundings on viola, voice and keyboard.'

Other acts lined up for this season are Lily Neill on October 24 and Fred Morrison on November 25. Fiddlers Iain MacFarlane will perform in December and Duncan Chisholm is set for February. Lily has captivated au-

diences around the world with her passionate Irish harp playing, having performed for everyone from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Irish President Mary McAleese.

'Lily Neill is a harpist of extraordinary talent and skill'. David said. 'Originally from the United States, Lily lives in Ireland, and it's her second time at Crafts & Things.'

'Fred Morrison is arguably the finest piper in the land and it is his second time around here as well. Iain is putting together a concert with his very musical family including Ingrid and Ewan Henderson. Both he and Duncan are regulars here.'

'I am so very fortunate that they seem to enjoy playing here.'

Tickets for Mairi Campbell are available at Crafts & Things for £12, general public and £10 for students. The show starts at 8 pm. For more information ring 01855 811325.



Coll author up for Role Model of the Year

ISLE OF Coll resident and author, Julie Clarke, has made it to the finals in the Role Model of the year category for the Scottish Icon Awards.

This award recognises 'an individual who is an inspiration as a role model to all within the LGBTI community of Scotland.' According to Julie: 'This

is in recognition of my achievements in bringing the plight of transgender people to the attention of mainstream readers through my book Becoming Julie.'

Becoming Julie is the story of her painful emotional journey from a transsexual boy in 1950s Scotland to a well-adjusted

transgender woman. The public is invited to vote to determine the winner, who will be recognised, along with other category winners, at a celebration gala in Glasgow on October 9.

To vote, visit icon-awards.co.uk/vote

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Entertainment Guide

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02 OCTOBER 2015 - 08 OCTOBER 2015

A WALK IN THE WOODS (12A)

Fri: 16:30, 19:30; Sat: 22:00; Sun: 19:00; Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:30

INSIDE OUT (U)

Sat: 11:00, 12:30; Sun: 11:00, 11:15

LEGEND (18)

Fri: 21:45; Sat: 19:00, 21:15; Sun: 20:00; Mon, Wed: 19:15; Tue, Thu: 19:30

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS (12A)

Sat, Sun: 16:15

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS 3D (12A)

Sat: 15:00; Sun: 13:45

MULAN (KIDS CLUB - £4) (U)

Sat: 10:00

THE MARTIAN (12A)

Fri, Mon, Wed: 16:15, 18:45; Sat, Sun: 13:15; Tue, Thu: 18:45

THE MARTIAN 3D (12A)

Fri, Mon, Wed: 22:00; Sat: 18:00; Sun: 16:45; Tue, Thu: 16:15

COMING SOON

NT LIVE: HAMLET (12A) 15/10/2015

Academy Award® nominee Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's Sherlock, The Imitation Game, Frankenstein at the National Theatre) takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

124mins - In this new comedy adventure, celebrated travel writer, Bill Bryson, instead of retiring to enjoy his loving and beautiful wife, and large and happy family, challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail - 2,200 miles of America's most unspoiled, spectacular and rugged countryside from Georgia to Maine. The peace and tranquility he hopes to find, though, is anything but, once he agrees to being accompanied by the only person he can find willing to join him on the trek - his long lost and former friend Katz, a down-on-his-luck serial philanderer who, after a lifetime of relying on his charm and wits to keep one step ahead of the law - sees the trip as a way to sneak out of paying some debts and sneak into one last adventure before it's too late. The trouble is, the two have a completely different definition of the word, "adventure". Now they're about to find out that when you push yourself to the edge, the real fun begins.

INSIDE OUT

118mins - After a girl moves to a new home, her emotions are plunged into chaos as they compete for control of her mind.

LEGEND

151mins - The film tells the story of the identical twin gangsters Reggie and Ronnie Kray, two of the most notorious criminals in British history, and their organised crime empire in the East End of London during the 1960s.

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

152mins - In this next chapter of the epic 'Maze Runner' saga, Thomas (Dylan O'Brien) and his fellow Gladers face their greatest challenge yet: searching for clues about the mysterious and powerful organization known as WCKD. Their journey takes them to the Scorch, a desolate landscape filled with unimaginable obstacles. Teaming up with resistance fighters, the Gladers take on WCKD's vastly superior forces and uncover its shocking plans for them all.

MULAN (KIDS CLUB - £4)

88mins - Children's Classic. This retelling of the old Chinese folktale is about the story of a young Chinese maiden who learns that her weakened and lame father is to be called up into the army in order to fight the invading Huns. Knowing that he would never survive the rigours of war in his state, she decides to disguise herself and join in his place. Unknown to her, her ancestors are aware of this and to prevent it, they order a tiny disgraced dragon, Mushu to join her in order to force her to abandon her plan. He agrees, but when he meets Mulan, he learns that she cannot be dissuaded and so decides to help her in the perilous times ahead.

THE MARTIAN

161mins - During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:

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

TUESDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY:

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

FRIDAY:

0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin

SATURDAY:

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

SUNDAY:

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

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

The students, let alone the staff, of both West Highland and Argyll colleges have come up with the glittering prizes once again.

This year's crop of graduates are a credit to themselves, their educational establishments (including the University of the Highlands and Islands) and to the West Highlands.

Principal and chief executive of West Highland college UHI, Lydia Rohmer, could barely conceal her pride when she revealed at last week's graduation cere-

mony in Fort William that 250 students made the grade over 40 different course awards. And her counterpart Fraser Durie, the principal of Argyll college UHI, was ecstatic about his 70 graduates: 'It's an amazing effort. You can't be anything but proud.'

These young men and women carry the hopes, ambitions and promise that can help transform communities the length and breadth of Argyll and Lochaber.

The challenge is now to convince each student that their future lies in the West Highlands.



Days gone by - Oban scout group camp, Blairgowrie, 1953

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Ronnie MacKillop of Oban and features the 14th Argyll (Oban) Boy Scout camp at Blairgowrie in 1953. Back row: 'Goofy'; A MacIntyre; A Campbell; D Troup; J Cruickshank; R Reid; J Hunter; A Graham; L MacAdie; R Mellis and D Skinner. Middle: unknown; D Bannatyne; unknown; Archie MacCallum; unknown; unknown; W Macrea; R MacKillop and unknown. Front: unknown; G MacHardy; A Sanders; I Calder; G Bryce; H Dunn, unknown and D Harold. Digital versions of flashback photos for the *Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Remember late MP with life-size statue

Sir, Having recently set the ball rolling for a statue to be erected in Fort William in memory of the late Charles Kennedy MP, I was interested to read the comments in last week's *Oban Times* in favour of a library. Perhaps both might be achieved.

Conn O'Neill suggests Mr Kennedy would not have approved of a statue. Unfortunately, no matter how well we think we knew someone, we cannot enter their minds when they have gone to discover their innermost thoughts and intentions when they have not explained them to us. It must suffice to admire and cherish their memory.

Statues must be popular in Lochaber evidenced by one at the west end of the town's high street, the old Parade Ground, Inverloch green and the possibility of a replica car in Cameron Square which ought to be somewhere else.

In this day and age it seems memories are not enough; we need visual reminders. I doubt if there is a house in the whole of Lochaber which does not have a photograph of a relative or a loved one who has passed away.

The Commando Memorial above Spean Bridge draws visitors from all over the world. Charles Kennedy trod the international stage as well as the Balmhor. For all that he did for Lochaber, placing a life-size statue in Fort William's premier square is the least we can do to remind us of the man.

Iain Thornber, Morvern.

Marine plans will see worst fears realised

Sir, As the deadline for the establishment of a marine conservation area draws nearer, it looks like my worst fears could be realised.

Governments and politicians seem determined to work against the people, and I know from history that any time 'the people' ever won their case was when they took a stand without the involvement or politics being involved.

Take all the land raiders, for instance from Vatersay to Lewis, and Knoydart. Those folk had a backbone and were prepared to go to jail for their values and principles, and some did too, but they won their case in the end.

Do not trust any council, politician or government to defend us because they let us all down. That's my view

on these matters so, here I stand, by the grace of God, and that alone.

This matter is far too important to be left to politicians and academics as not only does your lives depend on it, but your children's. They will never forgive you for leaving them with the legacy of not taking a stand for them just like our brave forefathers did for us.

Remember, politics will fail you, governments will fail you. Standing for values and principles is in our hands alone.

Angus Campbell, Garrynamonie, South Uist.

Thanks for return of special wedding ring

Sir, My sincere thanks to the unknown person who found my wedding ring in Oban's Aldi store last Thursday and kindly handed it in to the office.

It is particularly special to me because it was made for me by my late husband.

He was a bit behind with the job and we thought I might be getting wed with an old brass curtain ring, but on the day it was the real thing.

Thanks also to the helpful Aldi staff member who quickly retrieved it from the back shop.

Sona Campbell, Kilmore.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Taigh na Gàidhlig/ Gaelic Flat

WITH a new term under way, there are new students in the University of Glasgow's Gaelic flat.

The 'Taigh na Gàidhlig' was one of the first things I wrote about when I took over the Glasgow Letter earlier this year because I think it is one of the most beneficial and inspiring things the university's Gaelic department does.

Residents can study any course, and be of any background, as long as they are fluent in the language and are committed to speaking only Gaelic with their flatmates and contribute to Gaelic life at the uni.

Since the birth of the scheme in 2009, it has been an invaluable means for so many native speakers to continue speaking Gaelic in Glasgow and for many newly-fluent speakers who have learnt the language in uni to get used to Gaelic as a linguistic norm outside a classroom situation.

Last week, the new residents had the famous 'Taigh-na-Gàidhlig' welcome ceilidh which I heard, if any of their mothers and fathers are reading this column, was a very sensible affair!

As well as hard work and studying, there is always craic and music to be found at Taigh na Gàidhlig.

This year, the residents are: Catriona Morrison from Inverness, doing a PGDE at the University of Strathclyde in Gaelic and History teaching; Erin Marie, from Pennsylvania, USA, doing Gaelic and English Language at Glasgow Uni; Alison MacVicar from Oban, studying Gaelic at Glasgow Uni, and Shannon Cowie from Inverness studying Pharmacology, also at Glasgow Uni.



NEW FACES: Another university year is under way with new residents in Glasgow Uni's Gaelic flat.

Lasag

AN LÒCHRAN is staging a series of 'meet the author' events in which Gaelic writers will be in attendance to discuss their contribution to 'Lasag' - a new series of short novels for young adults.

Last month, Tim Armstrong talked about his novel 'Fear Buidhe an t-Samhraidh'.

At the end of this month, it is the turn of Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul who will speak about her text, 'Nigheanan Mòra'. It is the story of Bell, Anna and Jo trying to adapt to life after university and, in particular, Jo's decision to move in with her boyfriend.

In the coming months, there will be similar events with authors including Daibhidh Eyre, Martainn Mac an t-Saoir, Ruairidh MacIlleathain, Alison Lang, Maureen Nic Leòid, and Micheal Klevenhaus.

What's on

Saturday October 3: East Ayrshire Gaelic Forum Gaelic Conversation Day, Shortlees Community Centre, Glasgow.

Saturday October 3: Comunn Sgiathanach (Glasgow Skye Association) Race/curry night, West of Scotland Cricket Club.

Saturday October 10: Latha Gàidhlig (Gaelic Day), Beith Community Centre, Kings Road, Beith.

Friday October 23: Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, Crawford Hall.

Saturday October 24: Tìre Association fundraising race night, Crawford Hall.

Thursday October 29: 'Lasag: Coinnich ri Ughdar' (Meet the author), Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul, the Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield Street, 7pm.

Thursday October 29: Seinn Air a' Phìob (Song on the Pipes) by An Lòchran and the Big Music Society, St Andrews in the Square.

Friday October 30: Comunn Uibhist agus Bharragh Ghlaschu (Glasgow Uist and Barra Association), ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall.

Saturday October 31: Leugh and Seinn le Linda, at the Gaelic Books Council, from An Lòchran and Comhairle nan Leabharaichean.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday, October 1: Session. Friday, October 2: Scott Harvey. Saturday, October 3: Dodgy Ground. Sunday, October 4: Martainn Skene.

Islay Inn: Friday, October 2: The Keelies. Saturday, October 3: Crooked Reel. Wednesday, October 7: Quiz Night.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BIDH Mòran air an uabhasachadh às na th' air nochdadh a thaobh 's mar a tha Volkswagen air a bhith a' toirt an car à luchd-reic agus ceannach nan càraichean diesel aca le bathair-bog sònraichte air a thogail a-staigh dha na càraichean airson sgrùdaidhean truaillidh àrainneachd a mhealladh.

Ach ged a tha seo air cron mòr a dhèanamh air iomhaigh na buidhne mar-thà, agus tha gun teagamh an tuilleadh dòrainn ri tighinn dhan bhuidhinn à cùisean-lagha is eile, tha cuid fhathast den bheachd nach cail na càraichean aig VW cus den cuid inbhe am measg dhàibhearann.

Tha na carbadan aca aithnichte airson an cuid earb-sachd, agus airson cho math 's a tha iad air an togail. Ach 's e mar a tha an sgeulachd seo a' sniomh ann am poilitigs eadar-nàiseanta 's dòcha an rud as motha a ni cron dha VW, agus gu dearbha dha buidheann sam bith eile a ghlacair ris an aon seòrsa cleas.

Air an t-seachdain seo chaidh dh'fhoillsich Na Dùthchannan Aonaichte plana leasachaidh airson nan còig bliadhna deug a tha romhainn, fo ainm A' Cruth-atharrachadh air Saoghail: Clàr-gnothaich 2030 airson Leasachadh Seasmhach. Sheas àrd-riochdairean bho na 193 ball de na DA gus fàilte aona-guthach a chur air innleachd leasachaidh a bhios ag amas air cur às do shàr bhochdainn san t-saoghal, bacadh a chur air blàthachadh na cruinne, agus òigheachd ri còrr air dusan dùbhlain eadar-nàiseanta eile.

Cha tig an t-adhartas gun chosgais ge-tà is tuairmse ga dhèanamh gum feum luach eadar trì gu leth agus còig trillean dolair a chur an sàs gach bliadhna eadar seo is 2030 ma tha dòchas gu bhith air na h-amasan a choileanadh.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, bha na dùbhlain a dh'ionnsaigh cinn-uidhe a' phlana nam prìomh chuspairean deasbaid aig coinneimh nan DA, agus a bharrachd air òraid bho Cheann-suidhe Ameireagaidh, Barack Obama, chualas cuideachd bho cheannardan mhòran de phrìomh dhùthchannan an t-saoghail le Breatann agus a' Ghearmailt nam measg sin.

Chuir Ard-Rùnaire nan DA Ban Ki-moon an cuimhne na coinneimh gur e gnìomh a dhearbhas adhartas agus

dh'iarr e taic bhon mhòr-shluagh anns gach dùthaich, agus gu sònraichte làn-thaic phoilitigeach aig na h-irean as àirde.

Thuir e gum bheil an innleachd seo na sgàthan air rùn an t-sluaigh anns gach àite airson bith-beò sìtheil, tèarainte, agus urramach, ann an saoghal fallain. Thuir e gum bheil na h-amasan ann cinn-uidhe deatamach dha mac an duine, agus dhan chruinne.

Cuiridh na h-amasan eadar-nàiseanta sin ri masladh Volkswagen!

THE UNITED Nation's latest 15-year strategy, Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sets targets to tackle poverty, climate change and other international challenges.

Not surprisingly, this was unanimously welcomed by all members of the organisation which called for political commitment at the highest levels and support from people everywhere. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reminded members that action is the ultimate measure of success.

Renewed focus on the environment will add to the fall-out developing from the exposure of Volkswagen's 'manipulation' of its diesel engine emissions tests.

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

Le taic bho

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

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We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25			

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 - 12 Practice of an early group of poets (7)
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

V	O	T	E	B	A	D	D	E	B	T	S	
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Royal National Mòd 2015 fringe

Your FREE Mòd 2015 entertainment guide

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

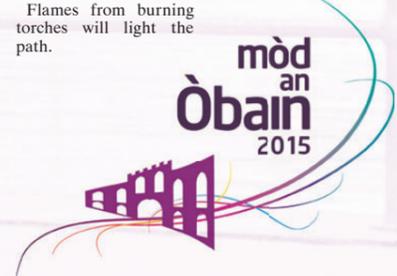
INSIDE:
Full nine day listings for all the Mòd fringe events



Torchlight procession kicks off Mòd 2015

LOVE Oban and The Royal National Mòd are organising a spectacular Torchlight Procession on Friday, October 9. The march will meet at Station Square at 6.15pm and will depart shortly afterwards. Award-winning Oban High School pipe band will lead the procession. Revellers will make their way along the seafront towards the Corran Halls. Flames from burning torches will light the path.

This will be a spectacular event not to be missed. Groups, families and choirs are welcome to take part and bring along a banner. For more details, contact Neil Mackay, town event manager, on: 01631 569 915. The formal Mòd Opening Ceremony will commence at 7.30pm. It is a ticketed event.



Oban Times and the Mòd: lifelong pals

SINCE The Royal National Mòd began 124 years ago, Oban has been at its very heart. The Oban Times has recorded the highs and lows of the biggest Scottish Gaelic festival. And rightly so has followed the competition all over the country to see the west coast and its Gaelic competitors. Staff have dedicated their time to reporting on events, seeking out winners, commenting on those taking part from all over the region.

For many reporters they have seen children come through the ranks, to then go on to compete as adults. This year will see some of the archives from Mod editions and in particular the photos go online. Like the skateboarding Highlander, above, the Oban Times has the best catalogue as it has recorded the Mod for more than 100 years. Looking through the archive readers will be amazed at how many

memories the black and white pictures stir up. Many will also ask what on earth possessed them to have their hair style, or indeed wear what they did. While many of the newspaper archives are rare and fragile to touch - the new display is an easy resource to use for people from all over the world. While the archives can be looked at via The National Library in London, the online photo resource is only

one click away. While many had to wait a week or more for their picture to be seen, this year for the first time people will be able to view their pictures almost immediately. Bringing the service up to the minute - photographs taken by Oban Times staff will be available online from midnight on the day they have been taken. As a special introductory offer next week in The Oban Times there will be a buy one, get

one free, voucher for use on the new website. www.obantimes.co.uk/mod The Oban Times, in partnership, with Oban Phoenix Cinema, are hosting a photobooth. Come along every day from 9am to have your picture taken. During the day, photographers will be on hand to snap your pictures. Tweet and Facebook your pictures with the hashtag #otmod and the best will be published on our homepage.

Coming home: Donald and Karen open Royal National Mòd 2015

THIS year's Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, The Royal National Mòd, will open with a sensational homecoming concert headlined by Capercaillie's Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson. Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival, will return to Oban this autumn for the first time since 2009 and the nine day spectacular will take place from Friday 9, to Saturday 17, October. Organisers aim to have a positive impact on Oban and are setting the tone by kick-starting proceedings with a performance by Donald and Karen, who hail from Argyll and formed Capercaillie in the town. Kirsteen Macdonald

and the Oban High School Trad Band complete the bill for the opening concert which will take place in the Corran Halls following a torchlight procession from Station Square to the venue. Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the oldest and most respected national Gaelic organisation, the Mod is the most important festival of the Gaelic language in Scotland. Thousands of competitors and spectators from throughout Scotland, the UK and from all corners of the globe including USA, Australia and Holland will descend on Oban to take part and watch more than 200 competi-

tions in Highland Dancing, Gaelic Music and Song, Sport, Literature and Drama. The Fringe will run alongside the contests and has a packed programme of concerts, music sessions, poetry, dance and other art forms of every description. John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We're thrilled to be returning to Oban for the first time in six years. Competition is at the heart of the Mod and we have had substantial entries this year. The Fringe also means we can bring Gaelic culture to a new audience, Gaels and non-Gaels together

and celebrate talented musicians from around the world with our exciting programme of events. 'We're delighted to have secured Donald and Karen to open this year's event - it's not to be missed.' Karen Matheson, of Capercaillie, said: 'Traditional Scottish music has been part of my whole life and, as a kid, I even took part in The Royal National Mòd, so to have it return to my hometown of Oban is really exciting. 'I was thrilled to be asked to take part in the opening ceremony with Donald and other terrific acts. The Mod festival line up looks amazing and it's

wonderful that there is still such a thirst for traditional and Gaelic music in Scotland.' Paul Bush OBE, director of events at VisitScotland, said: 'We are delighted to be once again supporting the Royal National Mòd, which is a fantastic celebration of Scotland's rich cultural heritage and the Gaelic language. 'Scotland is the perfect stage for events, and the extensive fringe programme at this year's Mod will showcase the very best of Gaelic culture.' Martin Dorchester, Managing Director of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) said: 'CalMac has been a proud

supporter of the Royal National Mòd, for many years as we greatly value the opportunity it gives us to meet and engage with people from across our network. 'Oban is at the centre of our network and our busiest port so we are especially delighted that it is hosting the Mod this year. 'We have happy memories of the Oban Mod in 2009 and are sure this year will be every bit as successful.' For a full event programme and details, visit www.ancomunn.co.uk. Tickets are available now from The Mòd Shop, George Street, Oban.



Aldi are proud to support The Royal National Mod.

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Welcome to Oban Let the party begin



THE convener of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish of Argyll and Bute council, welcomed visitors to the town and said the hospitality they would find here would be second to none.

Mr McCuish, an Oban man, said: 'Oban is the perfect home for the Royal National Mod.'

'As children we grew up with the culture of Gaelic all around us – and it is great to see our children and our children's children now having the opportunities with Gaelic heritage and culture that my generation certainly missed out on.'

'Of course we all benefited from the culture of the Mod that inspires the Mod fringe – more than 200 opportunities for people to take part in the language and cul-

ture in a more informal setting.'

'Those interested in Gaelic are making their way to Oban to find out what it is – and Oban and our islands are the best way to find out.'

'The Mòd fringe programme includes many varied and interesting events.'

'I have no doubt that there will be very few beds left with family and friends coming from all over the world to take part in the festival competitions and fringe events.'

'There is nothing quite like it – many of our own children, grand children and family members will be taking part. It is thanks to the time and effort of parents, teachers and tutors who encourage and inspire new generations to come forward to enjoy the mod.'

'If the nerves are with anyone it will be no one more than family and friends who have come to see loved ones perform. I wish the best of luck to you all.'

'Oban is the best place to relax after the competitions – from a swim in Atlantis, or catching a film at the cinema. Both venues are community owned and offer to the West Highlands the industrious spirit of our people.'

'The Gaelic language is important to Oban and the islands. Long may its traditions and hospitality remain in the town.'

'The Mod fringe activities and events complement the formal Royal National Mod competitions and, together, give us the world's premier Gaelic festival.'

Townpeople all 'gold medalists' and backbone of the festival

A MESSAGE of welcome to the Royal National Mod from David Adams McGilp, regional director of Visit Scotland.

'Oban welcomes the Royal National Mod for the sixteenth time since An Comunn Gàidhealach founded the festival in the town in 1892. Hooray!'

'The world's premier Gaelic festival returns home to celebrate the language, culture and spirit of Gaeldom, and represent an international platform from which to promote the values of artistic expression in an atmosphere of friendly

competition and social exuberance.'

'These scenes will be played out in a town in a region thick with Gaelic influence: the familiarity of place-names, road signs, even the given and nicknames of those closest to us will take on special significance, as the local population plays host to scholars, artists, performers and lovers of the Gaelic tradition from all over the world.'

'How special is it to have these incontrovertible links to such a long and proud history? How this cultural identity – and its influence on the future – must be the envy of other places, other peoples, other cultures. But we can hold it in our hands, speak and sing it from our hearts, learn it, embrace it, love it and preserve it.'

'The cultural elements of this year's programme and fringe events are priceless – the very

essence of the history of the highlands and islands of Scotland captured through performance – and the Mod experience burns itself into the senses of performers and audiences across backgrounds and generations.'

'This is a celebration of Gaeldom in all its richness, but also a celebration of regional identity: Oban, Argyll and the Islands – varied, fascinating places bound up with the beauty and sorrow of a rare tongue. Places that capture the imagination and the heart, places that live and breathe.'

'Of course, the Mod extravaganza brings enormous economic benefits too: venues, guest accommodation, bars and restaurants, transport providers and local retailers have an opportunity to welcome visitors and demonstrate the rich and diverse suite

of things to see and do in and around Oban in October, and encourage them to return. The town and neighbouring countryside epitomise the west highlands: simultaneously elegant and hearty, the area is extraordinarily scenic and accessible.'

'Visitors often marvel at how quickly they can retreat to wilderness, or enjoy such a vibrant town centre on the edge of mainland Scotland; and every few years the Mod introduces new people to this exciting and varied place and the limitless experiences on offer.'

'I wish this year's festival every success: competitors, supporters, audiences and townspeople are the very heart of the Mod, and they play a hugely significant part in saving the culture of the Gael. For that, every one of them is a gold medalist.'



Visit Scotland's Regional Director David Adams McGilp welcomes the Gaelic fringe festival

The history of the Mod begins with the town of Oban

The Royal National Mod is organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach (The Highland Association) which was founded in Oban in 189. Her Majesty The Queen is its patron.

It is Scotland's premier festival celebrating its Gaelic linguistic

and cultural heritage and provides opportunities for people of all ages to perform across a range of competitive disciplines including Gaelic music and song, Highland dancing, instrumental, drama, sport and literature. Although the focus

of the Royal National Mod is on competition, the event also offers a wide and comprehensive programme of non-competitive fringe events which regularly include performances from some of Scotland's top traditional musicians and Gaelic

singers. In addition to providing a national and international platform for promotion of the Gaelic language and culture, the Mod provides a major economic and cultural boost to the host area and also attracts considerable

national and international publicity, raising the profile of the host location.

The Mod also represents an annual opportunity for Gaels and non-Gaels to gather and renew old friendships as well as forging new ones.



Search our Gaelic collections

Discover one of the world's largest collections of printed Scottish Gaelic items at the National Library of Scotland.

We're at The Royal National Mod 2015 from 12-16 October, or explore our rich collection of Gaelic material online at

www.nls.uk/explore

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The Gaelic Books Council is the lead organisation with responsibility for supporting Scottish Gaelic authors and publishers, and for raising the profile and reach of Scottish Gaelic Books in Scotland and internationally.
www.gaelicbooks.org | brath@gaelicbooks.org

Comadaidh le Carina

Oban All Hours

air 15mh & 16mh Dàmhair

Taigh-òsta Rìoghail
Seòmar Earra-Ghàidheal
10:30f

MG ALBA



**Sunday October 11
Fiddlers' Rally**
Corran Halls 7.30pm

**Fiddlers' Rally
'best of the year'**

THE SWIRL of the pipes blended alongside the wonderfully tuned fiddles of one of the finest musical societies in the west Highlands will entertain those from near and far on Sunday, October 11 in Oban's Corran Halls.

To add to the delight, the outstandingly talented Sileas Sinclair is the director for the evening.

Sileas loves a little bit of syncopation and musical blending. It promises to be a night to remember. The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society are joined on stage by award-winning fiddler Joanie Garvin and international accordionist Michael Garvin.

Award-winning Oban high school pipe band pipers and the Oban High School Traditional School of Music Band complete the set.

The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society was founded in 1944.

The inaugural concert was held in 1945 and the chairman was the Rev Willie Mac Donald.

In 1968, it was decided to hold an annual rally, attracting fiddlers from all parts of the country and the first National Mod Fiddlers' Rally was held in 1970 at the Royal National Mod in Oban.

Fondly remembered founder-member Charlie Hunter was well known for his composition The Hills of Lorne, to which former Gaelic Ambassador Anne Lorne Gilles added some fine lyrics.

The tune is a firm favourite with the society and is played as their signature tune at their many concerts.

Sileas is from Connel, near Oban and is a musician, teacher and composer.

Sileas has followed in her dad, Neil's, footsteps into the traditional music scene.

Sileas plays both accordion and piano and being brought up in the lively West Coast cèilidh dance culture, Sileas has also been very much influenced by the native Gaelic scene around her.

She conducts the Oban Gaelic Choir, runs the Oban High School Traditional School of Music, teaches music privately and plays with her own cèilidh band 'Drams Allowed'.

Oban Phoenix Cinema



**Monday October 12
Fìghe**
Corran Halls 8pm

Rachel Walker weaves her magic with this highly entertaining evening of song music and dance – a brand new piece featuring traditional and newly composed songs and instrumental music in both Gaelic and Scots by award winning singer/songwriter Rachel Walker.

The composition is inspired by the rhythm, written information and poetry surrounding looms, mills and tapestries, paying particular attention to the Prestons Tapestries.

The performance also features Gaelic singer Arthur Cormack and Scots singer Fiona Hunter.

Even the first minister Nicola Sturgeon says 'I'll be back'.

OBAN Phoenix Cinema has a long history of supporting the Royal National Mod. But it also has known the kindness of the Gaels in supporting the community-owned picture house.

Re-opened three years ago, the cinema, formerly the Highland Theatre has a strong emphasis on supporting local groups, and promoting the culture and arts of the West Highlands.

Cinema convenor Louise Glen-Lee welcomed everyone into the cinema for a wee nosy during the Royal National Mod.

She said: 'We hope that the cinema will be an important part of this year's Royal National Mod in Oban.'

'We were delighted to have been asked to host competitions and various activities during the Royal National Mod. We are hoping to run a Phoenix Night to give people the opportunity to perform in front of a small/medium/large crowd.'

'We will be doing this alongside some Scottish films. In our small screen we will be showing (Sunday) Whisky Galore, (Monday) I know Where I am Going, (Tuesday) The Maggie, (Wednesday) Brave, (Thursday) Trainspotting and (Friday) Local Hero.'

'During the Mod we are working in partnership with The Oban Times, who will be running a free to use Photo Booth in the cinema and giving away some wonderful freebies to people.'

'The cinema is the first in Scotland to pay the Living Wage to our small but perfectly formed staff team.'

'We will be serving freshly prepared sandwiches and soup during the Mod, and for our special events we will be offering our donation-only drinks suite.'

'Benedict Cumberbach is performing Hamlet, the great Scottish play, of course, live from London on Thursday evening.'

Jenny Larney and the team will be ready to greet you to the cinema.

Oban Phoenix Cinema open from 9am to late, every day.



Rachel Walker performs the outstanding Fìghe.

Mòd 2015 event listings

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9
MOD TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION
6.15PM TOWN CENTRE FREE
Oban welcomes the Royal National Mod with a torchlight procession leaving Station Square through the town to the Corran Halls for the opening ceremony and concert.

OFFICIAL MÒD OPENING CEREMONY in association with the National Trust for Scotland
8PM CORRAN HALLS £5 (Free for members)
The opening ceremony of the Royal National Mod, featuring the unique sound of Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson and showcasing the emerging talents of the traditional band from Oban High School. Presented by Kirsteen MacDonald.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9PM TOWN CENTRE PUBS AND HOTELS FREE
The fun is not finished yet. Join your friends in one of the many city venues playing Celtic music.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10
SHINTY
11.00AM MOSSFIELD PARK FREE
Primary schools' Shinty Tournament
2.30PM MOSSFIELD PARK FREE
Oban Celtic and Lochside Rovers compete for the Mod Cup.

MÒD FOOTBALL MATCH
2.00PM MOSSFIELD PARK FREE
Oban Saints v Glasgow Island

CEARCALL CIÙIL
2.30PM TOWN CENTRE PUBS AND HOTELS FREE
Join some fantastic musicians and singers in various venues around the town.

FIDDLERS' RALLY
7.30PM CORRAN HALLS £10 (£5 Children)
One of the top fiddle events of the year. The Fiddlers' Rally, directed by Sileas Sinclair, promises to be a night to remember. The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society are joined on stage by Joanie and Michael Garvin, the Oban High School Pipers and the Oban High School Traditional School of Music.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE
With fiddle tunes ringing in your ears, why not go along to one of the city centres venues for more great sounds.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11
GAELIC SERVICE
3.00PM KILMORE AND OBAN PARISH CHURCH
An inter-denominational service giving thanks for the Royal National Mod's visit to Oban, led by the Rev Dr Roddy Macleod. The Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will give a sermon with John MacLeod among those who will be leading the psalm singing.

CELTIC PRAISE
8.00PM CORRAN HALLS
A joyous Sunday celebration of praise in the Corran Halls.

MONDAY OCTOBER 12
BOOKBUG
10.00AM GREAT WESTERN HOTEL FREE
Join Duncan MacNeil to learn Gaelic with song, stories and rhymes. All pre-school children and their families welcome.

RBS COME AND TRY MUSIC SESSIONS in association with Fèisean nan Gàidheal
10.00-12.00 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, OBAN FREE
Drop-in and 'try' different traditional musical instruments under the instruction of excellent tutors.

ART EXHIBITION
11.00AM OBAN DISTILLERY FREE
An opportunity to view the work of Uist artist Floraith Macdonald. The event runs all week

CHILDREN'S CÈILIDH
7.00PM ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALL FREE
A fun night for children and their families. Time to let off steam after the competitions.

FIGHE
8.00PM CORRAN HALLS £10 (Members £5)
A new work from award winning Rachel Walker, based on the songs and rhythms of the Scottish textile industry. Arthur Cormack and Fiona Hunter also perform in a top-class show.

DIHAOINE 9 DÀMHAIR
CAISMEACHD LÒCHRANACH A' MHÒID
6.15PM MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH
Tha an t-Oban a' cur failte air a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail le caismeachd lòchrannach a' fàgail Ceàrnag an Stèisein agus a' dol tron bhaile gu Tallaichean a' Chorrain airson an tachartas fosglaidh agus a' chuimh.

TACHARTAS FOSGLAIDH OIFIGEIL A' MHÒID ann an co-bhann le Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba
8.00F TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN £5
(An-asgaidh airson buill)
Bidh tachartas fosglaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail, le seirm sònraichte Dòmhnall Seathach is Karen NicMhathain agus a' taisbeanadh na tàlant follaicheach aig còmhlan traidiseanta Àrd-sgoil an Obain. Air a' lùbheagaidh le Kirsteen NicDòmhnall.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00F TAIGHEAN-SEINNSE & TAIGHEAN-ÒSTA MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH
Chan eil am fealla-dhà seachad fhathast. Thig còmhla ri do charaidean gu aon de na ioma àite sa bhaile far a bheil Ceòl Celteach ga chluich.

DISATHAIRNE 10 DÀMHAIR
IOMAIN A' MHÒID
11.00M PAIRC ACHADH NAM MÒINTICH AN-ASGAIDH
Farpais nam bun-sgoiltean.
2.30F PAIRC ACHADH NAM MÒINTICH AN-ASGAIDH
Bidh Oban Celtic agus Lochside Rovers a' farpais airson Cupa Camanachd a' Mhòid.

BALL-COISE A' MHÒID
2.00F PAIRC ACHADH NAM MÒINTICH AN-ASGAIDH
Bidh Oban Saints a' cluich an aghaidh Glasgow Island airson cupa ball-coise a' Mhòid.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
2.30F TOWN CENTRE PUBS AND HOTELS AN-ASGAIDH
Thig còmhla ri luchd-ciùil is seinneadairean sgoinneil ann an diofar àiteachan air feadh a' bhaile

CUIRM NAM FIDHLEAR
7.30F TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN £10 (£5 Clann)
Aon de na tachartasan fiddlearachd as fheàrr sa bhliadhna. Thathas a' gèalltainn gur e oidhche nach tèid air diochumhinn a' bhios ann an Cuirm nam Fidlearean, air a stiùireadh le Sileas Nic na Ceàrdaich. Bidh Comunn Srathspeidh is ruidhne an Obain is Latharana a-measg na bhios air an àrd-ùrlar.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH
Le seirm ceòl na fìdhle na do chluasan, carson nach toir thu sgrìob gu aon de dh' àiteachan meadhan a' bhaile far an cluinn thu tilleadh ceòl.

DIDÒMHNACH 11 AN DÀMHAIR
SEIRBHEIS GHÀIDHLIG
3.00F EAGLAIS PHARAISDE CHILL-MHOIRE IS AN OBAIN
Seirbheis eadar-bhuidhneil a' toirt taing airson tadhail a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail air an Oban, leis an Fhìor Urramach An t-Ollamh Ruaridh Macleod an ceann na seirbheis. Bidh searmon ann leis an Fhìor Urramach An t-Ollamh Aonghas Moireasdan, Modaireator, Eaglais na h-Alba, le Iain MacLeòid a-measg an fheadainn a' bhios a' togail an fhùinn.

CUIRM CELTEACH
8.00F TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN
Comharachadh aobhneach de mhòladh Latha na Sàbaid ann an Tallaichean a' Chorrain

DILUAIN 12 AN DÀMHAIR
BOOKBUG
10.00M TAIGH-ÒSTA GREAT WESTERN AN-ASGAIDH
Thig còmhla ri Donnchadh MacNeill airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh le òrain, sgeulachdan agus rabhdhan. Tha fàilte ga chuir air clann ro-sgoile agus an teaghlach ean.

RBS THIG AGUS FEUCH - ann an co-bhann le Fèisean nan Gàidheal
10.00M-12.00F BANCA RÌOGHAIL NA H-ALBA, AN T-OBAN AN-ASGAIDH
Feuch gun tig sibh a-staigh gus measgachadh de dh' ionnstramaidean eadar-dhealaichte fheuchainn, fo stiùir tìdeasan air leth.

TAISBEANADH EALAIN
11.00M TAIGH STAILE AN ÒBAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Cothrom sùil a thoirt air obair an neach-ealain Uibhisteach Flòraidh MacDòmhnall. Bidh an tachartas a' ruith fad na seachdain.

CÈILIDH NA CLOINNE
7.00F TALLA CRUINNEACHAIDH EARRA-GHÀIDHEAL AN-ASGAIDH
Oidhche spòrsail dha clann agus an teaghlach ean. Beagan ùine airson faochadh fhaighinn bhò na farpaisean.

FIGHE
8.00F TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN £10 (Bull £5)
Obair ùr bhò Raonaid Walker a tha air dualsean a chosnadh, stèidhichte air òrain is ruitheaman

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Argyll and Bute Council is committed to the promotion and future growth of Gaelic education, language and cultural activities through continued awareness raising and language learning opportunities for employees and our communities.

We aim to increase the number of Gaelic speakers in Argyll and Bute, and actively promote bilingualism in our primary and secondary schools.

Over 45 of our primary schools currently offer Gaelic for learners and five secondary schools that offer Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig to Advanced Higher level. Gaelic Medium Education is offered in five primary schools and their associated pre-school establishments.

Enquiries about Gaelic education in Argyll and Bute – please email: argyllhouse@argyll-bute.gov.uk or Tel 01389 704000

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Faigh barrachd fiosrachaidh air na cùrsaichean fo-cheum dha fileantaich is luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a cheanglas an cànan le caochladh chuspairean a leithid ceòl traidiseanta, na meadhanan agus teagasg.

Find out more about the range of undergraduate courses available for fluent speakers and learners of Gaelic which combine the language with a choice of subjects including traditional music, media studies and teacher education.

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Meet the stars

FERGIE MACDONALD

The Man Behind The Myth

Born Ferguson MacDonald, Fergie descends from a direct line of Moidart MacDonald Clanranalds. Sherrifmuir, the 1745 Jacobite rising, Culloeden and the highland clearances are all in the genetic mix. He is a Gaelic speaking indigenous Gael with all the trimmings of Moidart culture and history. Educated at Mingarry primary and Fort William high schools, he joined the army and became a physical training instructor. On leaving the army he graduated as a physiotherapist

in Glasgow. He formed his first band in 1953, had his first BBC radio broadcast and first television appearances in 1964 and, to date, has recorded 32 vinyl, cassette and CD albums. Occupations and hobbies include: Physiotherapist Band Leader Army PT instructor Highland games athlete Hotelier Poacher Gamekeeper Red Deer Management Clay target shooting Scottish internationalist Singer

Writer Music composer Highland ceilidh band musician Local Moidart historian

In 1965 Fergie broke away from pure Scottish country dance music and introduced ceilidh dance music, which now has international recognition. Following major heart surgery life is very precious to Fergie. Being back again on the circuit and performing regularly to his thousands of fans gives him the greatest pleasure. He openly rates the non-recognition of ceilidh

music as one of the major disappointments in life. Every Scottish musical genre has been honoured but, after five attempts to have it recognised as a distinct style, ceilidh music remains unacknowledged. Family is Fergie's pride and joy. John, Angela, Morven, James, Emma and Ross are all bonded together by one person - Maureen, for whom Maureen's Jig was written. On his future he says: 'Good health, providing for everybody and to just keep going - like the Rolling Stones. It's in the blood, and why not?'



SKERRYVORE



The boys are back in town. When Skerryvore formed in Tiree in 2005 they could not have dreamed that they would go to play areas as diverse as Central Park in New York and the Huangpu River in Shanghai. From traditional roots, the band has evolved both in size and sound. Their unique trad-rock-pop fusion has gained them legions of fans throughout the world, but not least at home with 6,000 people turning up at Mossfield Park in Oban earlier this year to celebrate their decade of music. Now you can hear them at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Thursday October 15 at 9.30pm.

SILEAS SINCLAIR



The highly popular Fiddlers' Rally is in the very capable hands of Sileas Sinclair. Sileas, from Connel, has followed in her dad Neil's footsteps in the traditional music scene. She plays accordion and piano with her musical influences coming from the vibrant west coast ceilidh culture. She is the conductor if the Oban Gaelic Choir, runs the Traditional School of Music at Oban High School and has tutored many aspiring musicians to great success. She is the musical director for the rally on Saturday October 10th in the Corran Halls at 7.30

Fàilte gu Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2015

Diluain 12 Dàmhair ✕ Dimàirt 13 Dàmhair
Mòd na Cloinne | 10f - 11.30f

Diciadain 14 Dàmhair
Buinn Òir a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich - BEÒ | 7.30f - 10f

Diardaoin 15 Dàmhair ✕ Diardaoin 22 Dàmhair
Dè a-nis? | 6f - 7f

Diardaoin 15 Dàmhair
Buinn Òir an t-Seann Nòis - BEÒ | 7.30f - 10f

Dihaoine 16 Dàmhair
Mòd 2015: Na Còisirean | 10f - 11.30f

BBC RADIO NAN GÀIDHEAL air 103.5 - 105fm

Didòmhnaich 11 Dàmhair
Seirbheis a' Mhòid | 3f

Diciadain 14 Dàmhair
Aileag aig a' Mhòd | 4f
Buinn Òir a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich | 7.30f

Diardaoin 15 Dàmhair
Na Còisirean Dùthchail | 1.30f
Buinn Òir an t-Seann Nòis | 7.30f

Dihaoine 16 Dàmhair
Cèilidh Mire ri Mòir | 10m
(Tallaichean Cruinneachaidh Earra-Ghàidheal)
Farpaisean nan Còisir | 1.30f

agus air-loidhne air...

www.bbc.co.uk/alba ✕ www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer ✕ bbc.co.uk/radionagaidheal

The BBC ALBA air a ruith le MG ALBA ann an co-bhuinn ris a' BHBC. | BBC ALBA is run by MG ALBA in partnership with the BBC.

KAREN MATHESON

Karen Matheson OBE, from Taynuilt, is widely recognised as providing the haunting vocals of supergroup Capercaillie, which she formed with Donald Shaw when they were at Oban High School. After hearing her sing on the acclaimed Blood is Strong series for television Sean Connery said it was a "voice touched by the hand of God". Karen's universal appeal has helped introduce Gaelic song to a worldwide audience and she was awarded an OBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours List. Karen has developed a highly successful solo career running in parallel with her Capercaillie commitment and her latest album Urram has just been released. The opening concert is being held at the Corran Halls on Friday October 9 at 8pm.



DONALI

Donald Shaw returns to his old stomping ground with his appearance at the ing concert in the Corran Halls. A nearby Taynuilt the highly accomplished musician was destined for a career in music becoming the All-Britain champion at the age of 16. He led the band Capercaillie while still at school and they have gone on to achieve international success. Donald has been involved in music for film and television with numerous awards. He was appointed Artist in Residence of Celtic Connections in 2010 over the past 10 years has produced more than 30 albums in all areas of music. The opening concert is being held at the Corran Halls on Friday October 9 at 8pm.



JOY DUNLOP

Crowned Traditional Singer of the Year and Traditional Dance Champion at the 2015 Pan Celtic Festival, Joy Dunlop is a Gaelic singer from Argyll, Scotland. Joy's singing career is the result of a lifelong fascination with Scotland's traditional music and has led her all over the world; from major Celtic festivals to touring the UK, Europe, Canada and New Zealand. Through her singing, she showcases Gaelic music and song in a contemporary way that always remains true to its roots.

Nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year 2010 and 2011, she has also won both the coveted Royal National Mòd Gold Medal and the Oban Times Gold Medal. A fluent Gaelic speaker, Joy presents shows on BBC ALBA and makes frequent appearances on Radio nan Gàidheal. She is also an award winning Scottish step-dancer and was the first person to win both the Pan Celtic traditional singing and dancing competitions in the same year.

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UNTRANSLATEABLE

Sgriob
Gaelic

The itchiness that overcomes the upper lip just before taking a sip of whisky.

Tartle
Scottish

The act of hesitating while introducing someone because you've forgotten their name.

of the Mòd

RACHEL WALKER

The creator of the show FIGHE, being performed at the Corran halls on Monday October 12, has developed a reputation as an accomplished producer running in tandem with her own singing commitments. She is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of music, where she studied Gaelic song under the renowned tutor Kenna Campbell. Rachel was named Gaelic Singer of

the Year at the Trad Awards in 2013. She is a member of the group Cruinn, has released three solo albums and still finds time to be the musical and artistic director of the summer shows at Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban. FIGHE is based on the songs and rhythms of the Scottish textile industry weaving new material through the rich tapestry of traditional music.



RIONA WHYTE

Riona lives on the Island of Mull with her husband, Reay. Their two children, Alasdair and Megan, have both flown the nest but still have the occasional visit home. Riona has been singing solo from an early age and has also been a member of groups and choirs as well as duets and quartets. She is actively

involved in many community projects, especially Gaelic ones. Riona Whyte won the Gaelic Singer of the Year award at the 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards in Fort William. Riona released her debut album 'Bunachas' (Roots) on Watercolour's Stòras imprint, celebrating her own Argyll roots.

KIRSTEEN MACDONALD

Gaelic ambassador Kirsteen MacDonald is in line for a busy Mod. She will host the opening ceremony and concert in the Corran Halls on October 9 at 8pm. The following night she is on stage in the halls again to introduce the performers at the prestigious fiddlers rally. As you expect from a singer that has

won both the Gold Medal and the Traditional medal at the Mod she will be on stage at the Convener's Ceilidh in the Great Western Hotel on Thursday October 15 at 10pm. The ceilidh will have a host of other medal winners and the music will be provided by Robert and Alan Nairn.



SINEAG MACINTYRE

Sineag MacIntyre from Kilphedar, South Uist, started singing from an early age. She released a CD 'Laithean Sgoile' when she was in her sixth year in Sgoil Lionacleit and won the Traditional Gold Medal in Dunoon at the Royal National Mod in 2006. She

also won the prestigious An Common Gaidhealach Mod Gold Medal in 2009. She is an honours graduate of Scottish Music from the RSAMD. She was nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards 2010.

NORMAN MACKINNON

Norman MacKinnon is from Argyllshire with family connections in Tieve and Glenelg but is now exiled in Glasgow. Gaelic Mod winner, radio and television performer, Norman is a very well-known singer. Here he sings a few songs in English, along with a good num-

ber in Gaelic. A very interesting spread of styles and song types, ranging from a Gaelic lament with keyboard, autoharp and mandolin, through a very jaunty riffing of Loch Maree Islands, to Cape Breton piano backing a disparaging Gaelic ditty!



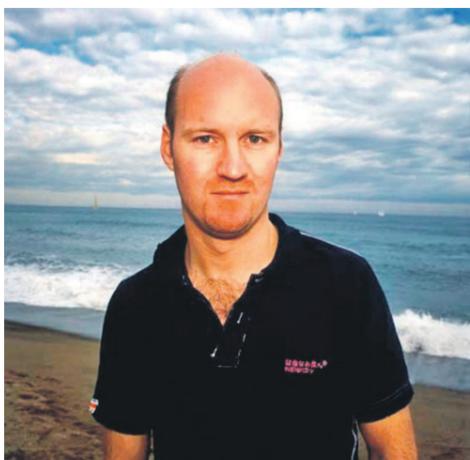
ANGUS MACCOLL

Angus MacColl from Benderloch, near Oban, is recognised as one of the world's leading pipers. He has won virtually every award in solo piping. He began piping as a young boy,

initially taught by his father. He now passes on the tradition of piping helping develop young talent in Argyll. The opening concert is being held at the Corran Halls on October 9 at 8pm.

D SHAW

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CATRIONA LEXY CAMPBELL



Catriona Lexy Campbell has worked in the Gaelic arts since early childhood as a writer, actor and performer. She is a prolific writer whose work covers a range of age groups and skill levels in the Gaelic language. The major themes of her books are inter-personal relationships, secrets and lies, all be it with a light and comic tone. Catriona, born in Lewis, is heading up a creative writing session inspired by the collection of Gaelic

manuscripts held by the National Library of Scotland. The event supported by the National Library and the Moniac Mhor writing centre is being held on Wednesday October 14 at 2pm in the library of Oban high school. The workshop is open to anyone over the age of 16, with a basic knowledge of Gaelic. It is free, but booking on 0131 623 3734 is essential because of the limited number of places.

Mòd 2015 event listings

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE
Take a trip around the numerous pubs and hotels for top class entertainment.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13
BOOKBUG
10.00AM GREAT WESTERN HOTEL FREE
Duncan MacNeil with stories and songs for pre-school children and their families

RBS COME AND TRY MUSIC SESSIONS in association with Fèisean nan Gàidheal
10.00-12.00 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, OBAN FREE
Drop-in and 'try' different traditional musical instruments under the instruction of excellent tutors.

NA CLOINNE BIGE
11.00AM SHOWCASE STAGE CORRAN HALLS MARQUEE FREE
Evelyn Coull introduces a new CD and app to help children learn songs.

GAELIC AND GOVERNMENT
2.00PM SHOWCASE STAGE CORRAN HALLS MARQUEE FREE
The Scottish Government outline their plans for Gaelic Education Consultation

THE CANNA COLLECTION
4.00PM SHOWCASE STAGE CORRAN HALL FREE
Mod Gold medalist Fiona J. MacKenzie presents a musical snapshot of the lives of Margaret Fay Shaw and John Lorne Campbell. Fiona, the Archivist of the priceless Canna Collection will tell the story of these remarkable people using music and pictures. Margaret's photographs and music and John's sound archive are preserved in Canna House for the National Trust for Scotland.

GAELIC EUCHARIST
5.30PM ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
A Scottish Episcopal Church Gaelic liturgy with celebrating the Rev Canon Simon MacKenzie. Bi-lingual order of service available to welcome the Royal National Mod to Oban.

GAELIC IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND'S COLLECTIONS : FROM RARE BOOKS TO COLLECTING THE FUTURE
Tues 13 October, 6-7pm
Great Western Hotel, Oban
Free of charge

Join us to hear more about our collections, and for the launch of the Library's new online Gaelic rare books resource. Anette Hagan, Rare Books Curator, will introduce you to the world's largest collection of printed Gaelic items dating from 1631 to the 20th century. Private libraries acquired from individuals such as JF Campbell, as well as rare and important Gaelic items dispersed throughout the collections will be showcased. Jennifer Giles, General Collections Curator, will then explain how legal deposit has secured the memory of Scotland for centuries by ensuring the collection of the National Published Archive, from poetry pamphlets to newspapers to Twitter accounts, with illustrations from across our Gaelic and local collections.

CHILDREN'S CÈILIDH
7.00PM ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALL FREE
Finished your competitions? Come and join the fun.

PARA HANDY: A HIGHLAND VOYAGE
8.00PM CORRAN HALLS £10 (Members £5)
Allan MacDonald, Iain Macleod and Russell Hunter recount Para Handy's comic adventures in music and song.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE
Fantastic entertainment in the various pubs and hotels throughout the town.

BOOK LAUNCH-UIST DYES: CROTAL COLOURS
1.30PM OBAN DISTILLERY FREE
Join Floraidh MacDonald in launching her latest, fantastic book.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14
SRADAGAN AT THE MÒD in association with Comunn na Gàidhlig
10.00-15.00 ROCKFIELD PRIMARY £10
Gaelic holiday club (games, crafts, fun activities) for primary aged children £10 per day. To book a place please email: shona@cnag.org or phone 01463234138

ALLAN MACDONALD (STAFFIN) TALK-SKYE BARDS
1PM THE REGENT HOTEL, OBAN FREE
A fascinating talk and insight into Skye Bards.

MUSIC SESSIONS
FROM 2.00PM SKIPINNISH CÈILIDH HOUSE FREE
Informal music sessions with musicians, singers and choirs all welcome.

Creative writing workshop with Catriona Lexy Campbell
Wednesday 14 October, 2-3.30pm
The Library, Oban High School
Free of charge
Taking inspiration from the Gaelic collections at the National Library of Scotland, novelist and children's author Catriona Lexy Campbell will lead this dual-language workshop for anyone interested in improving their creative writing and Gaelic language skills. The workshop is open to anyone aged 16 or over, and with at least a basic level of Gaelic.
In partnership with the National Library of Scotland and Moniac Mhor. Free but booking essential as places limited. Book online at events@nls.uk or phone 0131 623 3734.

SCOTLAND'S NATURAL HERITAGE
3.00PM SHOWCASE STAGE CORRAN HALLS FREE
Hear about the work of Scottish Natural Heritage and the organisation's Gaelic legacy with Ruairidh MacIleathain and John MacFarlane. Followed by music from Iain MacFarlane and friends

OLD OBAN
7.00PM PHOENIX CINEMA
Marvel at the characters and the scenes that have shaped Oban over the years with Bob MacCulloch and original music from Erik Spence and Dave Mason.

HERON VALLEY
9.00PM SKIPINNISH CÈILIDH HOUSE £5
Music from the latest top cèilidh band to emerge from Argyll. Come and dance the night away.

CONVENER'S CÈILIDH
10.00PM GREAT WESTERN HOTEL £10

bho ghniomhachas aodaich na h-Alba. Bidh Art MacCarmait agus Fiona Nic an t-Sealgair cuideachd nam pàirt den taisbeanadh fìor mhath seo.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH
Cothrom turas a ghabhail timcheall na diofar thaighean-seinne is thaighean-òsta airson fèisdeas aig àrd-ìre.

DIMÀIRT 13 AN DÀMHAIR
BOOKBUG
10.00M TAIGH-ÒSTA GREAT WESTERN AN-ASGAIDH
Donnchadh MacNèill le sgeulachdan is òrain dha clann ro-sgoile agus an teaghlachan

RBS THIG AGUS FEUCH-ann an co-bhann le Fèisean nan Gàidheal
10.00M-12.00F BANCA RÌOGHAIL NA H-ALBA, AN T-OBAN AN-ASGAIDH
Feuch gun tig sibh a-staigh gus measgachadh de dh'ionnstramaidean eadar-dhealichte fheuchainn, fo stòir tìdearan air leth.

NA CLOINNE BIGE
11.00M ÀRD-ÙRLAR AN TAISBEANAIDH PUBALL TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Evelyn Coull ag aithris mu CD ùr agus app gus clann a chuideachadh òrain ionnsachadh.

A' GHÀIDHLIG AGUS AN RIAGHALTAS
2.00F ÀRD-ÙRLAR AN TAISBEANAIDH PUBALL TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' dèanamh cunntas air na planaichean aca a thaobh Co-chomhairleachadh Foghlam Gàidhlig

Cruinneachadh Chanaidh
4.00F ÀRD-ÙRLAR AN TAISBEANAIDH PUBALL TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Bidh Fiona J. MacCoinnich a' toirt duinn bliasad den cheòl aig Mairead Fay Shaw agus Iain Lathama Cairneach. Bidh Fiona, an tasglannaiche aig Cruinneachadh prìseil Chanaidh, ag innse nan stòraidhean iontach aig na daoine ainmeil seo, a' cleachdadh ceòl agus dealbhan. Tha a dealbhan agus an ceòl aig Mairead còmhla ris an cruinneachadh clàraidh aig Iain air a chumail gus prìseil ann an Taigh Chanaidh airson Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba.

SUIPEIR AN TIGHEARNA SA GHÀIDHLIG
5.30F CATHAIR-EAGLAIS NAOMH EÒIN
Ùrnaigh-choitcheann Ghàidhlig Eaglais Easbuigeach na h-Alba leis an t-Uramach Canon Sim MacCoinnich. Cunntas seirbheis dà-chànach ri fhaighinn gus fàilte a chuir air a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Oban.

CRUINNEACHADH LEABHRAICHEAN TEARC
6.00F Taigh-òsta Great Western, An t-Oban
Saor 's an-asgaidh
Thigibh còmhla rinn gus tuilleadh a chluinntinn mu na cruinneachaidhean againn, agus airson a' ghroireas ùr leabhraichean tearc Gàidhlig air-loidhne a chuir air bhog. Bheir Anette Hagan, Curadar Leabhraichean Tearc, iomradh dhuibh air a' chruinneachadh de stuthan Gàidhlig clò-bhuailte as motha san t-saoghal a' dol air ais gu 1631 agus suas chun 20mh linn. Chithear leabharlannan prìobhaideach a' fuarar bho dhaoine leithid IF Cairneach, a' bharrachd air stuthan tearc is cudromach Gàidhlig a tha ann measg nan cruinneachaidhean Mhinichidh Jennifer Giles, Curadar nan Cruinneachaidhean Coitcheann mar a' tha reachdas eòrlais air dèanamh cinnteach gum bithear a' cumail cruinneachadh an Tasglann Fòillseichte Nàiseanta, a' toirt a-steach bhileagan bardachd, phàipearan-naidheachd is chunntasan Tuilear, le dealbhan bho air feadh nan cruinneachaidhean Gàidhlig is ionaid againn, ann an cuimhne muinntir na h-Alba airson linntean ri thloinne.

CÈILIDH NA CLOINNE
7.00F TALLA CRUINNEACHAIDH EARRA-GHÀIDHEAL AN-ASGAIDH
Deiseil leis na farpaisean agad? Thig còmhla rinn airson spòrs.

PARA HANDY: TURAS GÀIDHEALACH
8.00F TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN £10 (Buill £5)
Bidh Aileen Dòmhnallach, Iain Macleòid agus Russell Hunter a' cur nar cuimhne na cuairtean-dànachd eibhinn aig Para Handy ann an ceòl is òrain.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
9.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH
Fèisdeas sgoinneil ann an grunn thaighean-seinne is thaighean-òsta air feadh a' bhaile.

FOILLSEACHADH LEABHAR-UIST DYES: CROTAL COLOURS
1.30F TAIGH-STÀILE AN ÒBAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Nach tig sibh a' chèilidh air Fioraidh's i a' foillseachadh an leabhair as ùire aice

DICIADAIN 14 DÀMHAIR
SRADAGAN AIG A' MHÒD ann an co-bhann le Comunn na Gàidhlig
10.00M-15.00F BUN-SGOIL ACHACH NA CREIGE AN-ASGAIDH
Club Gàidhlig (geamaichean, ealain, cur-seachadan spòrsail) airson clann aois bun-sgoile. Airson àite a ghhlèidheadh, cuiribh post-d gu: shona@cnag.org no fòn gu 01463234138

ORAID AIR BÀIRD AN EILEIN SGITHEANACH, LE AILEAN DÒMHNALLACH (STAFAINN)
1.00F TAIGH-ÒSTA AN REGENT AN-ASGAIDH
Oraid air leth sònraichte air bàird an Eilein Sgitheanach le Aileen Dòmhnallach

SEISEANAN CIÙIL
BHO 2.00F TAIGH-CÈILIDH SKIPINNISH AN-ASGAIDH
Seiseanan ciùil neo-fhoirmeil le fàilte bhlaht ro luchd-ciùil, seinneadairean agus còisrean gu lèir.

BÙTH-OBRAICH CRUTHACHAIL LE CATRIONA LEXY CHAIMBEUL
Diciadain 14 Dàmhair, 2-3.30F
An Leabharlann, Àrd-sgoil an Obain
Saor 's an-asgaidh
A' togail air brosnachadh bho na cruinneachaidhean Gàidhlig aig Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba, bidh an sgrìobhadair nobhail agus ùghdar cloinne Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul a' stiùireadh a' bhùth-obrach dà-chànach seo dha neach sam bith le ùidh ann a bhith ag adhartachadh nan sgilean sgrìobhaidh cruthachail is Gàidhlig aca. Tha a' bhùth-obrach fogsailte dha neach sam bith de aois 16 no nas sine, agus le co-dhùiri bhuanaiche de chomasan Gàidhlig.
Ann an co-bhann le Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba agus Moniac Mhor.

An-asgaidh ach feumar àite a ghhlèidheadh leis nach eil na tha sin de dh' àiteachan ri fhaighinn. Gleidh àite air-loidhne aig events@nls.uk no cuir fòn gu 0131 623 3734.

DUALCHAS NÀDAIR NA H-ALBA
3.00F ÀRD-ÙRLAR AN TAISBEANAIDH PUBALL TALLAICHEAN A' CHORRAIN AN-ASGAIDH
Cluinn mu obair Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba agus dìleab Ghàidhlig na buidhne le Ruairidh MacIleathain agus Iain MacPhàrlain. Tha ceòl a' leantainn bho Iain MacPhàrlain agus a charaidean.

SEANN BHAILE AN ÒBAIN
7.00F TAIGH-DEALBH PHOENIX
Gabh iongnadh mu na caractaran agus na suidheachaidhean a tha air cumadh a thoirt air an Oban thar nam bliadhnaichean le Bob MacCulloch agus ceòl tusaibh bho Erik Spence agus Dave Mason.

HERON VALLEY
9.00F TAIGH-CÈILIDH SKIPINNISH £5
Cèol bho aon de na còmhlaichean-cèilidh as fhèarr a' gearradh Earraghaidheal. Tiugainn a dhannsa!

The Royal Hotel is open for food from 7am till late each day during the Royal National MOD with Live Music on every day.

Live Music Lounge Bar

Mon 12th	Gunnasound - 2pm - 5pm Gunnasound - 9pm
Tues 13th	Gunnasound - 2pm - 5pm Gunnasound - 9pm
Wed 14th	Craig's Trio - 2pm Strathmore Band - 9pm
Thu 15th	Craig's Trio - 2pm Strathmore Band - 9pm
Fri 16th	Craig's Trio - 2pm Strathmore Band - 9pm
Sat 17th	Gunnasound - 9pm

Royal Hotel, Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4BE
www.strathmorehotels.com

An Comunn Gàidhealach
ORGANISERS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail - The Royal National Mod

2015	MÒD AN ÒBAIN 9-17 DÀMHAIR OBAN 9-17 OCTOBER
2016	MÒD NAN EILEAN SIAR 14-22 DÀMHAIR WESTERN ISLES 14-22 OCTOBER
2017	MÒD LOCH ABAIR 13-21 DÀMHAIR LOCHABER 13-21 OCTOBER

For Provincial Mòd dates and more go online:
www.ancomunn.co.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC001282



ECHOES OF WAR – MAC-TALLA COGAIDH

Oban Parish Church is set to host what was regarded as one of the centre pieces of last year's Royal National Mod in Inverness.

Mac-Talla Gogaidh commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. The project involved the poems and songs of the late Rev John MacLeod set to music by Erik Spence.

The highly acclaimed event was so successful that Mod Organisers, An Comunn Gaidhealach, were keen that it should be repeated at this year's celebration.

Rev MacLeod lost his father

when over 200 servicemen were drowned within sight of Stornoway at the end of the war when the Iolaire sank after hitting rocks on New Year's Day 1919.

He wrote movingly about his mother and how her life was affected by the loss of her husband. The work, called Bantrach Cogaidh (War Widow) will be narrated by Mr MacLeod's great friend and ministerial colleague, Rev Roddy MacLeod.

There will be a moving tribute to Oban soldier Gordon MacPherson who was killed in the Falklands War, aged

only 20. His brother David and his mother, Dorothy, are expected to be in the congregation.

Dingwall Gaelic Choir will sing, with Mod Gold medalists Kirsteen Menzies and James Graham as soloists. The programme will also feature Dunbeg Primary School Gaelic choir conducted by Sine MacVicar.

Erik Spence said, 'It is a great privilege to take this project to this church. My father was a senior elder, my brother a choir member. I got married there and my son and daughter, Erik and Iona, were

baptized by Mr MacLeod. I occasionally stood in as deputy organist.'

The programme will conclude with a rendition of the award-winning song of reconciliation Thoir Dhomh do Lamh (Give Me Your Hand) led by the choir and with no fewer than five Mod Gold medalists.

The event is free but will require tickets (from the Mod shop) and is on Thursday October 15 at 1.00pm.

A retiring collection will be taken for Help our Wounded who support the Royal Marine Commandos.

Donnachadh Ban's Boys

Scottish Natural Heritage is delighted to support a performance of Miorbhall nam Beann (The Wonder of the Mountains) at this year's Royal National Mod Fringe.

The show was created with the support of SNH as the 2014 Blas Festival Commission.

SNH welcomes its return to the stage on October 15 at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.

The bilingual commission, created by Iain MacFarlane is based upon the writings of Duncan Ban McIntyre.

It features tunes especially written for the show.

The Donnachadh Ban Boys alongside Iain are all familiar names in the Scottish music scene;

Ewen Henderson, Ewan Robertson and Hamish Napier.



Together, they use music, images and words to explore the

past and the present relationship between people, the land and

Gaelic culture.

The show is a ticketed event and takes place

on Thursday October 15, at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall £10, £5.

Gaelic Church Service

The Gaelic Service during the Royal National Mod will see the Moderator of the Church of Scotland deliver a sermon.

The service on Sunday October 11 at 3.00pm will be played live on Radio nan Gaidheal.

Participating in worship will be a good collection of local Gaelic speakers including Monsignor James MacNeil from St. Columba's RC Cathedral, Brigadier John MacFarlane from St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Mary MacDougall, Session Clerk of Lismore Parish Church, Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod who leads the church's monthly Gaelic

service and the sermon will be delivered by the Rev Dr Angus Morrison Moderator of the General Assembly.

Gaelic learner Rev Dugald Cameron will be introducing the service.

It is the first time since anyone can remember that a moderator will deliver a sermon in Gaelic in celebration of the Royal National Mod. But the west coast of Scotland and its languages are no stranger to the Rev Dr Angus Morrison.

He has had a long history on the west coast – not least in his birthplace.

The Right Reverend Dr Angus Morrison

MA BD PhD was born in Glencoe, Scotland, in 1953.

His father worked for the Northern Light-house Board.

As a child, Dr Morrison lived in various places around Scotland and went to school in Oban, Stromness and Edinburgh.

He studied Classics and Divinity at the University of Glasgow, followed by studies at the Universities of Pisa and London. He studied for a doctorate (PhD) at New College of the University of Edinburgh.

Highly unusually for a moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Dr Morrison was not ordained by the Church of Scotland.

He was ordained by the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1979.

He served as a minister in Oban (1979-1986) and Edinburgh (1986-1989), including as Moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church Southern Presbytery.

Following a split in the Free Presbyterian Church in 1989 he joined the Associated Presbyterian Churches (APC) becoming minister of the Edinburgh congregation of the APC (1989-2000) and was Moderator of the General Assembly of the APC in 1998-99.

Set a pose for a prize

THE OBAN Times is offering a very special prize for the best selfie with an Oban Times reporter.

Reporters will be at most events during the mod and wants to meet the readership of the newspaper. She would like members of the public to take a selfie with her then email the picture to her at lglen@obantimes.co.uk. The best photos will appear in the newspaper, Facebook page and cinema poster.

Old Oban in pictures and music

A NIGHT of nostalgia remembering Oban as it was – and is now.

With the help of some excellent photographs help the history and people of the town

come alive. Marvel at the characters and the scenes that have shaped Oban over the years.

Hosted by Bob MacCulloch with

original music from Erik Spence and Dave Mason.

Oban Phoenix Cinema, George Street, Oban Wednesday 7pm. By donation.

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<p>Tuesday 13th October 9.30pm - 12.30am Aulays Ceilidh Band (Charlie Kilpatrick and Niall Kilpatrick)</p> <p>Wednesday 14th October 2.30pm - 5.30pm Aulays Ceilidh Band with Special Guest Artiste Erik Spence 9.30pm - 2.30am Aulays Ceilidh Band</p>	<p>Thursday 15th October 2.30pm - 5.30pm Aulays Ceilidh Band with Special Guest Artiste Erik Spence 9.30pm - 2.30am Aulays Ceilidh Band</p> <p>Friday 16th October 2.30pm - 5.30pm Trailwest 9.30 - 2.30am Aulays Ceilidh Band</p>
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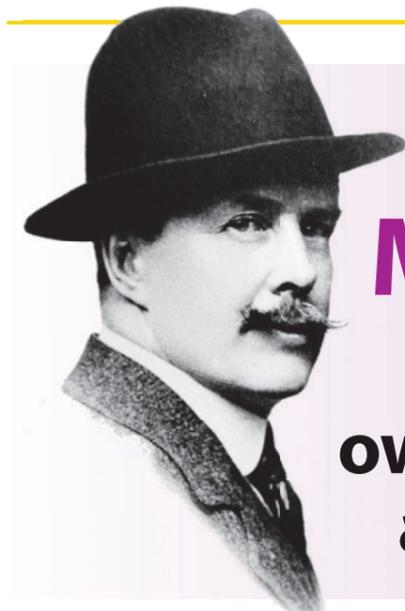
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Neil Munro

Argyll's own writer and poet

Highlander Neil Munro left his native Argyll to find work in Glasgow, but the Highlands stayed in his heart, and featured in most of his literary work, most famously in his Para Handy stories.

Neil Munro was born to a single mother in Inveraray in 1863, but left before his 18th birthday to seek work in Glasgow.

He pursued a career in journalism, eventually becoming editor of the Glasgow Evening News. He was a popular novelist and short-story writer; his successful historical novels relate to the Highlands. His love of his birthplace and the Gaelic language spoken by his mother and grandmother never left him.

During the First World War, Munro visited the front line as a war correspondent, in 1914 and again in 1917.

Munro also published many poems in magazines and newspapers during his lifetime, but they were not collected until after his death, when John Buchan edited The Poetry of Neil Munro (William Blackwood, 1931).

80 years on

A REDEDICATION of the Neil Munro monument in Glen Aray paid tribute to the longevity of the English and Gaelic writings of one of Argyll's most influential writers.

Members of An Comunn Gàidhealach were joined by members of the Neil Munro Society for the moving hillside service in late September this year.

Piper James Beaton played two tunes dedicated to the writer: Neil Munro and a Salute to Neil Munro. Prayers were given by the Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and a Psalm read by John MacLeod. Items from the original dedication service were read by Michael Kidd, Neil Munro's grand-daughter Finella Wilson and Dr Douglas Ansdell of the Scottish government.



Oh Para Handy

If you loved The Maggie and need a bit of a Vital Spark during the Royal National Mod - Allan MacDonal, Iain MacLeod and Russell Hunter are ready to entertain.

With pipes, vocals, mandolin, accordion and piano the trio recount comic adventures in music and song. It's anchors a-weight for

a musical cruise aboard the good ship Vital Spark, Neil Munro's iconic Clyde puffer - 'the smartest boat in the coastin' tred' - as she plies the route between Glasgow and Skye.

THE OBAN TIMES. SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1935

SCHOOL DAY
 The Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and a Psalm read by John MacLeod. Items from the original dedication service were read by Michael Kidd, Neil Munro's grand-daughter Finella Wilson and Dr Douglas Ansdell of the Scottish government.

MEMORIAL TO DR NEIL MUNRO
 Unveiled by Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Cairn erected in Glen Aray. His poet's soul, that lived so well Glen Aray, where white clouds like gullies, in their, and he, the sweet story of the Gael.

SCHOOL DAY
 The Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and a Psalm read by John MacLeod. Items from the original dedication service were read by Michael Kidd, Neil Munro's grand-daughter Finella Wilson and Dr Douglas Ansdell of the Scottish government.



ORIGINAL DEDICATION of the Glen Aray monument: left to right, Neil Munro junior, George Houston, Sir Harry Lauder, Mrs Jessie Munro (widow), RB Cunningham, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Houston, Rev Mr Dawson. In front: Jean and Moira Bruce - Neil Munro's first grandchildren



REDEDICATION: An Comunn Gàidhlig president, chief executive and mod manager joined members of the Neil Munro Society to rededicate the monument. Afterward a fine lunch was enjoyed in the Inveraray Inn. Memories of Neil and his Inveraray family were shared.

ORIGINAL OBAN TIMES report: The original report of the dedication of the Glen Aray monument in memory of Neil Munro. Sir Harry Lauder, a friend of Munro, climbed the hillside to take part in the event described as 'moving'.

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SHERIFF CAMPBELL'S ADDRESS
 Neil Munro's Genius. In the course of an eloquent address, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell paid tribute to the genius of Neil Munro, a man of letters and whose high distinction as a man of letters and whose constant devotion to his native Highland have endeared his memory not only to his countrymen at home but to those of the world who are the great world over.

"The Last Fibre"
 I had the privilege of forming acquaintance with Neil Munro when, in an early twelvemonth, he came from Glasgow to Edinburgh to seek a publisher for his first effort in Highland poetry. I met him at the house of the late Mr. James MacCallum, who was then in Glasgow.

Mòd 2015 event listings

(Members £5)
 Join the Royal National Mod Local Convenor Duncan Macdonald in what is one of the highlights of Mod week. Kenny Thomson (Fear an Taighe), Alastair MacLean (piper), Band (Paddy & Libby Shaw and Calum MacPhail, Anne Lorne Gillies, Seumas Campbell, Robert Robertson, Janet Campbell (Tobermory) and Freddie MacKenzie. CEARCALL CIÙIL 10.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE The night is still young and there are a host of singers and musicians waiting to entertain you in the hotels and bars.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15
 SRADAGAN AT THE MÒD in association with Comunn na Gàidhlig 10.00-15.00 ROCKFIELD PRIMARY £10 Gaelic holiday club (games, crafts, fun activities) for primary aged children £10 per day. To book a place please email: shona@cnag.org or phone 0146323138

MAC-TALLA COGAIHDH
 1.00PM KILMORE AND OBAN PARISH CHURCH FREE A special performance of the songs and poetry of the late Rev John MacLeod, with music from Erik Spence. Dingwall Gaelic Choir, James Graham, Kirsteen Menzies and Dunbeg Primary School.

MUSIC SESSIONS
 FROM 14.00PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE FREE Informal music sessions with musicians, singers and choirs all welcome.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT EARLY EXHIBITION
 4.00PM-8.00PM THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE FREE The Rockfield Centre's oral history project presents stories and photographs gathered over the summer with pupils who attended Rockfield Primary School between 1945 and 1955. Come and learn about Oban in the post-war years through the eyes of children. Open Thursday 4pm - 8pm and Friday 10am - 2pm. Tea, coffee and baking available.

MÌORBHAIL NAM BEANN
 1.00PM ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING HALL £10 (Members £5) Donnchadh Bàn's Boys led by Iain MacFarlane ready to provide a night of superb entertainment featuring the work of Argyll bard Donnchadh Bàn MacIntyre. The event is sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage

MOVIE MEMORIES
 7.30PM OBAN GOLF CLUB FREE Did you laugh at Laurel & Hardy, wished you could dance like Fred Astaire? Action on Dementia are running this event if you are interested in film memories.

SKERRYVORE/SKIPINNISH/DUN MOR CÉILIDH BAND
 9.30PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE £15 (£10 early bird) A trio of amazing bands guaranteed to have you dancing all night.

TRADITIONAL CÉILIDH
 10.00PM GREAT WESTERN HOTEL £10 (Members £5) Fantastic entertainment with Robert and Alan Nairn, Christine Kennedy, Joan Morrison and a host of other top line performers.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
 10.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE 12.30PM in the mood for a dance and a song? Go along to the many hotels and pubs providing first class entertainment.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16
 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT EARLY EXHIBITION 10.00-2.00PM THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE FREE The Rockfield Centre's oral history project presents stories and photographs gathered over the summer with pupils who attended Rockfield Primary School between 1945 and 1955. Come and learn about Oban in the post-war years through the eyes of children.

MUSIC SESSIONS
 FROM 2.00PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE FREE Informal music sessions with musicians, singers and choirs. All welcome.

SOISEUGL
 4.30PM (APPROX.) CORRAN HALLS Super choir Soiseugl, under the direction of Mary Anne Kennedy, will entertain the crowds as they await the results of the prestigious Lovat and Tullibardine competition.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
 9.00PM TOWN CENTRE FREE It's party time on the last night of the Mod and the town's pubs and hotels will be buzzing. Get along there.

MÒD FINAL DANCE WITH SKIPINNISH TRAIL WEST AND HERON VALLEY
 10.00PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE £15 (£10 early bird) Three of the county's most popular bands will have the place jumping on the last night of the Mod.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17
 MASSED CHOIRS 10.30AM TOWN CENTRE FREE Join the massed choirs for a march through the town and a giant sing song

MUSIC SESSIONS
 FROM 2.00PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE FREE Informal music sessions with musicians, singers and choirs. All welcome.

CÉILIDH TRADISIONTA
 10.00F TAIGH-ÒSTA GREAT WESTERN £10 (Buill £5) Féisdeas sgoineil le Raibeart is Aileen Nairn, Seumas Greumach, Kirsteen NicDhòmhnaill Cairistiona Cheanadach, Seonag Mhoireasdan agus grunn sheinneadairean is luchd-ciùil ainmeil eile.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
 10.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH Tha an oidhche fhathast òg agus tha mòran sheinneadairean is luchd-ciùil a' feitheamh gus toileachas a thoirt dhuibh anns na taighean-òsta agus na taighean-seinne.

DIARDAOIN 15MH DÀMHAIR
 SRADAGAN AIG A' MHOD ann an co-bhann le Comunn na Gàidhlig 10.00M-15.00F BUN-SGOIL ACHADH NA CREIGE £10 Club Gàidhlig (gamaichean, ealain, cur-seachadan spòrsail) airson clann aois bun-sgoile. Airson àite a ghèillheadh, cuiribh post-d gu: shona@cnag.org no fon gu 0146323138.

MAC-TALLA COGAIHDH
 1.00F EAGLAIS PHARAISE CHILL-MHOIRE IS AN OBAIN AN-ASGAIDH Tachartas sònraichte de dh'òrain is bhàrdach an t-Urramach Iain Macleòid nach maireann, le ceòl bho Erik Spence. Coisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Pheothairan, Seumas Greumach, Kirsteen Menzies agus Bun-sgoil An Dùn Bhìg.

SEISEANAN CIÙIL
 BHO 14.00F TAIGH-CÉILIDH SKIPINNISH AN-ASGAIDH Seiseanan ciùil neo-fhoirmeil le fàilte bhàlth ro luchd-ciùil, seinneadairean agus coisrean gu leir.

TAISBEANADH TRÀTH PRÒISEACT BEUL-AITHRIS
 4.00F-8.00F IONAD ACHADH NA CREIGE AN-ASGAIDH Bidh am pròiseact beul-aithris 'Achadh na Creige' a' taisbeanadh sgeulachdan agus dealbhan a chaidh a chruinneachadh a' samhraidh bho sheann sgoilearan Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige eadar 1945 - 1955. 'Se e cotrom a' th' ann beagan ionnsachadh mun Obain anns na bliadhnaichean an dèidh a' chogaidh, tro shùilean doinne.

MÌORBHAIL NAM BEANN
 7.00F TALLA CRUINNEACHAIDH EARRA-GHÀIDHEAL £10 (Buill £5) Balaich Dhonnchadh Bhàin le Iain MacPhàrlain aig an stiùir deiseil gus deagh oidhche a thoirt dhuibh bho na sgrìobh baird Earra-Ghàidheal Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir. Tha Dualchas Nàdar na h-Alba a' toirt taic do thachartas seo

CUIMHNEACHAN FIOILMAICHEAN
 7.30F TAIGH-RAON GOLF AN OBAIN AN-ASGAIDH Did you laugh at Laurel & Hardy, wished you could dance like Fred Astair? Action on Dementia are running this event if you are interested in film memories.

SKERRYVORE/SKIPINNISH/CÒMHLAN-CÉILIDH DÙN MOR
 9.30F TAIGH-CÉILIDH SKIPINNISH £15 (£10 tiocaiden tràth) Tri comhlàn-ciùil a bheir oirbh dannsa fad na h-oidhche.

CÉILIDH AN NEACH-GAIRM
 10.00F TAIGH-ÒSTA GREAT WESTERN £10 (Buill £5) Thigibh còmhla ri Neach-gairm Ionadail a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail Donnchadh Dòmhnallach airson a' bhios an a' h-oidhcheannan a' fheàrr a' bhios an a' fheàrr seachdain a' Mhòid. Bidh rionnagan mòra a' gabhail pàirt agus gheibh ceòl dannsa bho Raibeart is Aileen Nairn.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
 10.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH Fhathast ann an suidhe airson dannsa agus òrain? Tadhail air mòran taighean-òsta agus taighean-seinne anns am bh fèisdeas àrd-è.

DIHAOINE 16 DÀMHAIR
 TAISBEANADH TRÀTH PRÒISEACT BEUL-AITHRIS 10.00M-2.00F IONAD ACHADH NA CREIGE AN-ASGAIDH Bidh am pròiseact beul-aithris 'Achadh na Creige' a' taisbeanadh sgeulachdan agus dealbhan a chaidh a chruinneachadh a' samhraidh bho sheann sgoilearan Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige eadar 1945 - 1955. 'Se e cotrom a' th' ann beagan ionnsachadh mun Obain anns na bliadhnaichean an dèidh a' chogaidh, tro shùilean doinne.

MUSIC SESSIONS
 FROM 2.00PM SKIPINNISH CÉILIDH HOUSE FREE Informal music sessions with musicians, singers and choirs. All welcome.

SOISEUGL
 4.30F (TUARMSÈACH) TALLAICHEAN A' CHOR-RAIN Bidh an coisir sgoineil Soiseugl, fo stiùir Màiri Anna NicIarlaig a' seinn fhad 's a' bhios an slugh a' feitheamh ri co-dhùnaidhean farpais inbheil Mhìchimidh is Thuilach Bhàirdain.

CEARCALL CIÙIL
 9.00F MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH Seo oidhche nach pàrtaidhean air an oidhche mu dheireadh den Mhòd agus bidh taighean-seinne agus taighean-òsta a' bhaile air leth beòthail. Dèan cinnteach gun bh tu ann.

DANNSA DEIREANACH A' MHÒID LE SKIPINNISH, TRAIL WEST AGUS HERON VALLEY
 10.00F TAIGH-CÉILIDH SKIPINNISH £15 (£10 tiocaid tràth) Tri de na comhlàn is aithnichte anns an dèidh a' bhios an seachdain a' Mhòid a thoirt gu ceann.

DISATHAIRNE 17 DÀMHAIR
 NA MÒR-CHOISREAN 10.30M MEADHAN A' BHAILE AN-ASGAIDH Thigibh còmhla ris na mòr-choisrean airson caiseachd tron bhàla agus seinn le luchd-ciùil riutha aig a' chruinneachadh deireanach.

SEISEANAN CIÙIL
 BHO 2.00F TAIGH-CÉILIDH SKIPINNISH AN-ASGAIDH Seiseanan ciùil neo-fhoirmeil le fàilte bhàlth ro luchd-ciùil, seinneadairean agus coisrean gu leir.

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HIGHLAND CATTLE SHOW & SALE

Sunday 11th & Monday 12th October 2015



The Highlanders are coming to Oban

THIS year's 118th annual autumn show and sale of Highland Cattle takes place on Sunday October 11 and Monday October 12 at Oban Livestock Centre.



Prizewinner in last year's young handlers' competition, Blair Garrick from Glenlivet, shows one of his grandfather's calves

With entries from all over Scotland and the north of England this premier sale will be well worth visiting.

The Highlander has been synonymous with Oban for a great number of years, and the October sale is predominately made up of females, consisting of heifers, cows in calf or calves at foot with a small selection of males. There will also be a dispersal of the Severie fold with 67 animals on offer. Traditionally the sale of females has been held in the autumn, and the sale of males has been in February before the bulls are put out with the females.

New folds, as herds of Highlanders are known, are founded every year both at home and abroad and in recent years Highland cattle societies have been started in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, France, Switzerland and Norway. There are also Highlanders in Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Faroe Islands. In the British Isles folds are found from the furthest south to the extreme north on many different types of ground varying from the slopes of the Sussex Downs, the fenslands of East Anglia, to the windswept machair of the Outer Hebrides.

But it is on the vast areas of poor mountain land with high annual rainfall and bitter winds that Highland cattle thrive and breed where no other cattle could exist making the most of poor forage, calving outside and seldom, if ever, housed they make a real economic contribution to hill and upland areas. The breed is exceptionally hardy, with a natural and unique ability to convert poor grazing efficiently. They are remarkable for their longevity, and many Highland cows - which are great mothers - continue to breed to ages in excess of eighteen years having borne fifteen calves.

The versatility of the Highlander led to a great upsurge in exports

to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Austria, Holland and South America.

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Judging this year's show on Sunday October 11 will be Ewan MacKay of Killearn, near Glasgow, who will have to choose the winners from 32 competing Highland cattle folds. Mr MacKay has a number of categories to judge, including three separate heifer sections, heifer calves, cows and the bull section. From the various winners, male and female champions will be chosen.

Trophies are to be presented at the Highland Cattle Society dinner and ceilidh at Oban's Royal Hotel on the Sunday evening.

Ahead of the main event, a youth development workshop will be held on October 10 at 4pm, in Oban Livestock Centre. All keen Highland cattle enthusiasts between 11 and 18 years of age are welcome at this inaugural event. For more details contact the mart office or call 07747 610513.



Young Adam McIntyre from Ayrshire in the sales ring at last year's event.

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Pride and passion the key to future prosperity

DESPITE the current significant challenges facing livestock farmers, the future looks bright - provided the pride and passion of those who work in the industry continues to be harnessed with innovation and positivity, according to Jim McLaren, chairman of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

Speaking at the launch of Quality Meat Scotland's annual review 2014/15, Mr McLaren said there were very encouraging signs that livestock farmers were focusing on the long term.

'During the past year, more than 3,000 farmers - keen to look at ways of further reducing their costs and improving their returns - have attended meetings supported by our industry development team,' said Mr McLaren.

He added: 'Marketing is very important in terms of its potential to stimulate consumer demand but our work to help farmers look at ways of improving returns is also crucial to meet both our statutory remit and overall strategy to shape a sustainable and prospering Scottish red meat industry.'

More than 70 per cent of the QMS levy is spent on consumer-facing activities including marketing and promotion behind the brands.

“During the past year, more than 3,000 farmers - keen to look at ways of further reducing their costs and improving their returns - have attended meetings supported by our industry development team.”

Mr McLaren
Chairman of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)

Jim McLaren continued: 'We have seen a welcome surge in membership of our quality assurance scheme following a recruitment campaign we launched in response to industry feedback. During the past year we have seen an increase in membership of our cattle and sheep scheme by around 350 new members.'

'Scotland was a global pioneer in quality assurance and it is very encouraging to see those working in our industry, along with chefs and butchers, really appreciating the value it delivers in terms of consumer confidence.'

Uel Morton, QMS chief executive, emphasised value for money: 'The QMS team also works very hard to secure additional financial resources for the Scottish red meat industry. During the past year QMS secured £1.25 million in grants used to deliver qualifying activities.'

'It's worth noting that when you add the additional income we secure from grants, for every £1 of levy collected, £1.10 is spent delivering activities on behalf of the Scottish red meat industry. Of this £1.10 total, 75 pence is spent on consumer-facing activity and 28 pence on industry-facing activity.'



Jim McLaren, chairman of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)

New record gimmer price set at Dalmally

A FINE pen of blackface gimmers all the way from Ayrshire set a new Dalmally record for United Auctions last Friday, as sellers and buyers descended on the Lorn village for the annual breeding sheep sale.

A CATALOGUE entry of 8,480 head included quality bred sheep on offer in all sections, with standing room only around the ringside and parking overspill pressed into action.

The day's top trading came from the pen of blackface gimmers from Messrs Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk, which sold for a new record of £2,300 each for gimmers.

Sale averages are as follows with last year's comparison in brackets: cross-bred ewe lambs, £55.34 (£57.14); blackface ewe lambs, £52.38 (£44.20); cross-bred gimmers, £77.16 (£89.48); blackface gimmers, £93.13 (£102.27); cross-bred ewes, £54.38 (£66.41); blackface ewes, £55.37 (£60.36).

Principal lots and prices

Ewe lambs
Mule: £95.00 - Ardmay, Tیره : £80.00 - Garraron and Melfort Farms and Saulmore Farm : £78.00 - Garvachy. Blackface: £70 - Ballachlaven, Islay, Tullochcan, Roromore, Castles Estate and Burnbank : £68 - Tullochcan & Roromore : £66 - Texa, Islay, Tullochcan and Lephinkill Farm : £64 - Braefoot, Glenfeochan and Upper Cragabus, Islay : £62 - Burnbank : £60 - Bragleenmore, Ballachlaven, Lurignish and Clachan Farms : £58 - Crunachy : £57 - Gobagrennan : £56 - Roromore, Corrylorn, Bragleenmore and Kiloran Farms, Colonsay : £54 - Caddleton Farms, Clachan Farms and Ronachan Farms : £52 - Tullochcan and Lurignish : £51 - Corrylorn : £50 - Castles Estate.

Gimmers
Mule: £105 and £102 - Glenshellach : £95 - Monydrain Cottage. Cheviot: £90 and £85 - Balure Farm.

Leyn cross: £72 - Whitegates. Blackface: £2,300 - Auldhouseburn : £550 - Pole Farm : £320 and £200 - Lephinchapel : £195 - Balliemeanoch : £160 - Pole Farm : £130 - Lephinchapel and Balliemeanoch : £128 - Balliemeanoch : £110 - Texa, Islay and Achnamara : £105 - Lephinchapel : £102 - Balliemeanoch : £100 - Littleport : £94 - Ardveich : £92 - Achnamara : £91 - Duncroisk : £90 - Orchilmore Farm.

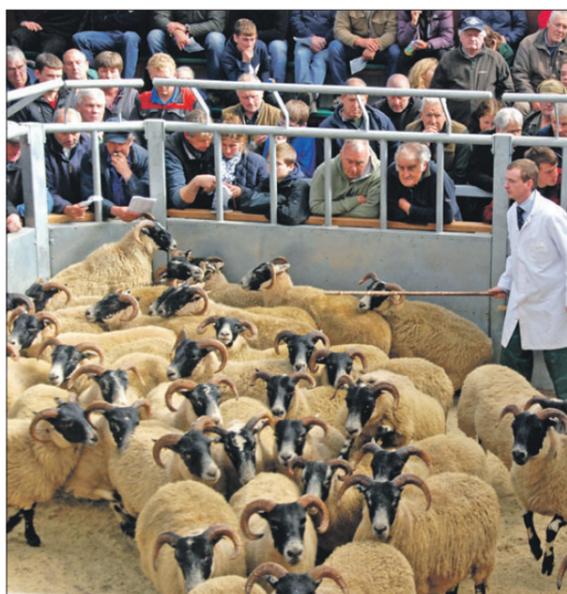
Warranted ewes

Texel cross: £66 - Alaval. Cheviot: £60 - Maam Farm. Cross: £65 - Alaval : £61 - Aberchelder.

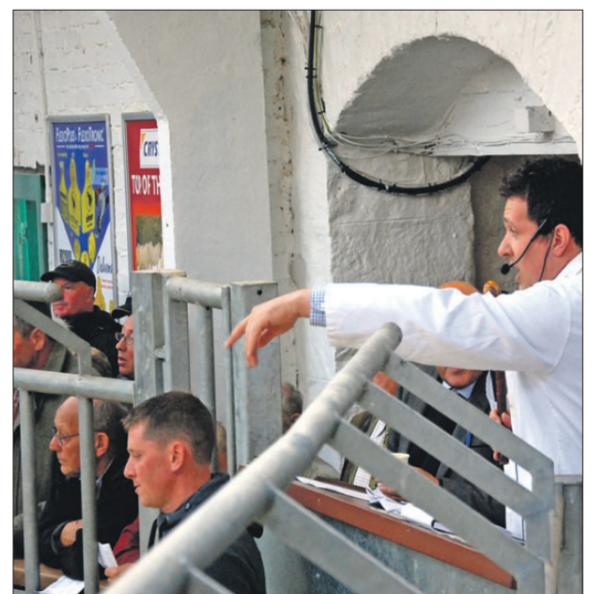
Blackface: £440 - Pole Farm : £100 - Lurgan : £76 - Bragleenmore and Pole : £75 - Corrylorn : £72 - Braefoot : £70 - Roromore : £69 - Eden Taggart : £68 - Tullochcan and Ballachlaven, Islay : £66 - Bragleenbeg and Meggernie Estate : £65 - Castles Estate : £64 - Achalic : £63 - Glenfeochan Estate, Ardveich, Garrogie Estates and Duncroisk : £62 - Clachan Farms, Meggerine Estate, Duncroisk, Cuilaine, Bragleenmore, Castles Estate and Garrogie Estate : £60 - Ballachlaven, Islay, Pitcastle Estate, Duncroisk, Musdale Farm, Invernahyle and Achalic.



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Raymond Kennedy works in the ring to keep these ewes moving for buyers' benefit.



Peter Wood keeps the bidding going from the auctioneer's rostrum.

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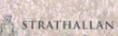


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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL REVOCATION OF PLANNING PERMISSION
REFERENCE 12/02748/PP ORDER 2015**

Argyll and Bute Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, being satisfied that it is expedient to revoke the Planning Permission dated 11th February 2013 granted by them under Planning Reference Number 12/02748/PP for the erection of 6 semi-detached dwellings (renewal of Planning Permission 07/01748/DEI) at Land North East of Tigh Na Creag, Pulpit Rock, Oban, Argyll and Bute hereby make the following Order:

- This Order may be cited as The Argyll and Bute Council, Revocation of Planning Permission Reference 12/02748/PP Order 2015.
- Whereas on 11th February 2013, Argyll and Bute Council granted Planning Permission under Planning Reference Number 12/02748/PP for the erection of 6 semi-detached dwellings (renewal of Planning Permission 07/01748/DEI) at Land North East of Tigh Na Creag, Pulpit Rock, Oban, Argyll and Bute, and, having had regard to the development plan and other material considerations in relation thereto, it appears now to Argyll and Bute Council to be expedient to revoke the said Planning Permission, it is hereby provided that the said Planning Permission is hereby revoked in its entirety, with effect from the date on which this Order is confirmed.

Given under the Seal of said Argyll and Bute Council and signed by me Charles George Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law and a duly authorised officer, at Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll on the Twenty Fifth day of September Two thousand and Fifteen.
Charles George Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02127/PPP	Site for the erection of 4 terraced dwellings	Shop Bonawe Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
15/02424/PPP	Site for the erection of 13 holiday letting units, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular accesses	Taychreggan Hotel Kilmheran Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HQ	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02553/PPP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land East of Tigh An Daraich Taynuilt Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02481/PPP	Change of use of land to form 5 motorhome short-stay parking bays with associated facilities including chemical toilet building	Land Adjacent to Filling Station Charlotte Street Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7DF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 2nd October 2015 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

He can be contacted by email - Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/03207/FUL	Cruachan Hotel	Achintore Road Fort William	Demolish existing extension & erection of 14 bedroom extension
15/03456/FUL	Camas An Fhiasgain	Lochalort Inverness-shire	Marine Shellfish Farm, Mussels, application to extend site area in compliance with condition 3 of SFA/HLD/028 issued by Scottish Ministers (Retrospective)
15/03547/FUL	Caravan at Croft 104	Glenmallee Road Caol, Fort William	Erection of house (amended design from extant planning permission 11/04288/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
REALIGNMENT OF PIPELINE & EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ACCESS TRACK FOR THE CONSENTED NEVIS RANGE HYDRO SCHEME (AMENDMENT TO 14/03043/FUL)
AT ALLT CHOILLE-RAIS BURN 1900M EAST OF TOP GONDOLA STATION NEVIS RANGE TORLUNDY FORT WILLIAM**

The Council has received an application from Nevis Range Hydro Company Ltd at Allt Choille-Rais Burn 1900M East of Top Gondola Station, Nevis Range, Torlundy, Fort William (15/03402/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Statement.

The application, the accompanying Environmental Statement and its addendum are available for public inspection online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 15/03402/FUL)

Hard copies of the Non Technical Summary may be purchased for £10 and the ES (including the landscape figures document and all technical appendices) for £100 per hard copy. Electronic copies (CD-ROM) of the ES package can be purchased for £10. Please contact: Jacqueline Marshall jac@greencatrenewables.co.uk 01899 309100 at Green Cat Renewables Ltd, Covington Mill, Thankerton, South Lanarkshire, ML12 6NE.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Statement and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black
Director of Development & Infrastructure

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Balephetrish General Common Grazings, Three
Registration Number: CG179

Kenovay Special Common Grazings, Three
Registration Number: CG180

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home

CROFTING ROADSHOWS 2015

The Crofting Commission along with Registers of Scotland, Scottish Crofting Federation, SAC Consulting and Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate will be holding a meeting on key crofting issues in:

The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Wednesday 14th October 2015.

Representatives will be available between 6-7pm for one to one meetings on a "first come, first served basis" but if you would like to book an appointment please call 01463-663424 or email communications@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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For details contact:
Scottish Property Centre, Argyll 4 - 6
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BIRTHS

STERLING - DAVIDSON - Andrew and Louise, Port Appin are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Amber Louise Sterling on September 4, 2015 at the RAH, Paisley.

ENGAGEMENTS

KENNEDY - MACINNES - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Claire Kennedy, daughter of Colin Kennedy, Isle of Coll and Marjorie Kennedy, Oban to Iain MacInnes, son of Alastair MacInnes and Fiona Malcolm, Isle of Tiree.

RUBY WEDDINGS

MACDOUGALL - MACLEAN - On October 3, 1975 in Salen Parish Church, Christian MacDougall to Colin MacLean by the late Rev. Moses Donaldson.

DEATHS

AUSTIN - Kathleen aged 95 years. Peacefully on September 28, 2015 in Mossbank, devoted wife of the late Jack for 71 years, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who will be sadly missed by all the family. Funeral service to take place on Friday, October 2 in St John's Church, Caol at 12 noon and thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

CAMPBELL - Christopher. Peacefully at home on September 28, 2015. Partner of Fiona Stewart for 16 years and dad to Keildih. Will be sadly missed by all.

FLEMING - On September 27, 2015 a kind heart stopped beating. William (Flip) in his 78th year. A beloved dad, grandad and special bampa to Danica. Very sorely and sadly missed by all.

GROSS - Peacefully at home, 'Rossie' 10 Drummore Road, Oban, on September 23, 2015, after a short illness, surrounded by his family, James Maurice Gross, in his 83rd year, beloved husband of Rhoda and the late Joan, dear brother of Jean, much loved dad to Anne, Susan and Andrew and step-dad to Tina and Hazel. A much loved father-in-law, grampa and great-grampa. Sadly missed by all.

MACARTHUR - Peacefully at Islay Hospital, Margaret (Maggie) nee Cameron on September 28, 2015, aged 83 years, beloved wife of late Angus and much loved daughter of late Duncan and Mary Lagavulin and dearly loved sister of Christie and late Duncan, Janet, Willie, James, John, Donnie, Alice, Angus and Dougie. Also much loved aunt to all nieces and nephews. Funeral service held in St John's, Port Ellen and interred in Kilmacduff, Islay on Thursday October 1, 2015. Greatly missed by all family and friends.

MACDONALD - Suddenly on September 25, 2015, Angus (Ogg), in his 57th year, Okehampton, much loved partner to Dawn, dad to Kerri-Anne, daddy Angus to Lisa, son to Donald and Margaret and brother to William, Alistair and Fiona. Funeral will take place in Okehampton, followed by a memorial service and scattering of Angus' ashes on a date to be arranged in Fort William. At peace now.

MACINTYRE - Suddenly, at the Belford Hospital on Saturday, 26th September 2015, Mary Keddie Macintyre, aged 85 years. Much loved wife of Hugh and beloved mother of Rosemary and James, mother-in-law, grandmother and sister. Funeral Service will be held

on Saturday, 3rd October 2015 at 12 noon in Kilmallie Parish Church. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Tweeddale Medical Practice and Kilmallie Parish Church can be given at the Church door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William PH33 6JB.

MACINTOSH - Peacefully in Islay Hospital on September 26, 2015, Flora MacDougall MacIntosh (Florie), aged 73 years. Beloved daughter of late Alex and Katie and much loved sister of Alexander and late Sarah. Funeral service in the Baptist Church, Port Ellen, Islay on Friday, October 2 at 11.30 am. Dearly missed by all family and friends.

MACLEAN - Suddenly on September 24, 2015, Kathryn, much loved wife of Donald, and mother of Julie and Mark. Sadly missed and always in our hearts. Funeral service will take place at Archattan Kirk on Friday, October 2 at 1 pm. No flowers please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - (nee Boyle). Michelle and Peter (Snr) and grandson Stephen wish to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of mum. Many thanks to Father James McNeil for the requiem mass and to D and A Munn for their kind care and the funeral arrangements, and the Rowantree Hotel for their excellent catering. Would also like to thank all the people who attended the church and graveside and also thank those who donated to the ABCD charity, we raised £368.00.

MEMORIALS

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear cousin Niall, who left us so suddenly on September 29, 2014. - Ishbel, Iain, Rhoda, Kirsty and Jonathon.

MACDONALD - Jimmy Drumfry / Tirindish. It's hard to believe it's three years since you slipped away without a fuss and broke the hearts of all of us. - Love Hazel and family x

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008. Will miss you forever. - Julie and Roddy.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our dear sister, Ruth Mary, who died in Aberdeen on October 3, 2014. Safe in God's Embrace. - Barbara, Carol and all the family.

MACFADYEN - In loving memory of my dear husband Johnnie, dad and seaman who died October 1, 2012. We think about you often And talk about you too And always have our memories But wish we still had you. - Love Johan and family.

MACINNES - Tragically taken from us on September 28, 2010. I have only your memory Roddy To remember my whole life through But the sweetness will linger forever As I treasure the image of you. - From your loving mum

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my beloved fiancé John (Ian), who died on October 1, 2014. Loved and remembered every day. - Jessie.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of John, our son, brother and uncle, who died on

September 27, 1992. We will love and miss you always and hold memories of you forever in our hearts.

- Mum, David, Agnes, Marina and all your nephews and nieces xx MACKENZIE - Treasured memories of our beloved son and brother Jamie, died October 1, 2000, aged 24. Time won't heal the heartache Nor stop a silent tear Nor dim the treasured memories Of one we held so dear.

- Mum, Dad, Andrew and family. MACKENZIE - In loving memory of my dear grandson Jamie, who died October 1, 2000.

We watched you getting tired A cure was not to be God put his arms around you And whispered come to me. - Granny Henderson

MACLEAN - Fondest memories of our dear mum Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007. Also our dear dad Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Loved and remembered every day. Always in our thoughts.

- Teen, Angela, and Alexander. NICHOLSON - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993. Twenty two years have passed Since I saw you last I shared with you such happy days I miss you in so many ways You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Every loving husband Bryan.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of our beloved mum and gran, who died October 4, 1993. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day. Sadly missed. - Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and grandchildren.

McGRATH - In loving memory of our dear dad and grampa Joseph, who died on October 2, 1979. Some day I hope to meet you Some day I know not when To clasp you hand in another land Never to part again. - Your loving children and grandchildren

SCOTT - Treasured and loving memories of Jean, October 1, 2000, mum and granny and Eddie, September 27, 2013, dad and papa. - Pamela, Edmund, Gordon and families xxxx

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mum Ann, granny and great granny, who died October 5, 2006. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you're always there. Loved and remembered every day. Sadly missed. - Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

WALKER - In loving memory of our dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990. Loved and remembered every day. - Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay

WALKER - In loving memory of Marybell, our mother and grandmother, who passed away October 4, 1990. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead

WALKER - In loving memory of my dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990. Sadly missed - Inserted by her loving son Archie

Obituary - Chris Evans BSc, BVetMed, MRCVS. May 25th, 1945 - September 6th, 2015



SADLY MISSED: Chris Evans

CHRIS was born on May 25 1945 in Ruabon, North Wales, less than three weeks after the end of the Second World War.

On being demobbed from the RAF, his father took over a working farm with a licence to sell beer. Chris and his brother Peter grew up on the farm but before his father could realise his ambition to transform the quaint but primitive spot into a successful pub, he took ill and died at the age of 48. Chris was only 15 and a pupil at the local grammar school. Chris left school shortly after to help his mother run the pub. He had no qualifications.

Chris was interested in veterinary work from an early age and used to help neighbouring farmers at lambing time.

He served his apprenticeship as a barman and later secured a position as a silver service waiter in the Marine

Hotel in Troon. He was then asked to go to the Grant Arms Hotel in Grantown on Spey where he was the licence holder. It was during this time that he began to develop his affection for Scotland.

Whilst he had been introduced to the hospitality industry by his parents, and it was this that had taken him to Scotland, Chris began to realise this wasn't where his heart lay. He wanted to be a vet.

He had no A levels and in a bid to secure the qualifications he needed to study veterinary medicine he went to Grimes College in Manchester. He worked hard and got the grades he needed to study animal science at Wye College in Kent. Three years of study there gained him an upper second class honours degree which allowed him automatic entry to an accelerated course at the Royal Veterinary College in

London. All the time he was studying Chris worked hard as a lorry driver to support himself. He graduated from the Royal College with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1974. He started practice with Chris Jolley of the MacLennan & Riggs practice in Inverness and it was not long before he heard that Michael Carmichael, the vet in Fort William, was thinking of retiring. By this time Chris had met and married his wife Fiona in Inverness. They came to meet the Carmichaels and were approved as suitable successors. Chris and Fiona moved to Fort William in 1977 and Chris was Michael's assistant for the next three years.

Chris set up his own practice at Callart Cottage, Victoria Road, Fort William, in 1980. He was a very hard working vet who covered the whole of the West Highlands and the Small Isles for more than 30 years. Chris put his

clients and their animals before himself. He would turn out at any time and go anywhere.

He was excellent at small animal surgery, caring to his patients, meticulous in carrying out the surgery and very tidy at stitching. He took great pride in doing the job properly.

Chris was a character who lived life the way he wanted to and no-one would change him. Being a true professional he always wore a collar and tie even when cutting the grass!

Chris was dedicated to his profession. He had no hobbies and he found it hard to adapt after his retirement.

The whole community was shocked by his sudden death and our sincere sympathy goes to his wife Fiona and family, Mary, Jenny, Douglas, Neil and Lindsay.

Obituary written by Isabel Campbell.

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Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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LIFE lines Let them make mistakes A VISIT from an old friend should be something to look forward to, not something to dread. My old friend has turned into the mother that 'can do it better than everyone else'. I watched as she stopped her little girl doing many of the things that I encourage my two girls to do. While I want my girls to climb, explore and seek adventure, I won't let them climb up a set of ladders. But if the chair isn't too high I will allow them to climb onto it and fall off it. I think you need to let your kids fall over. They have to fall off that chair. You need to let them make mistakes, put their trousers on inside out, their jumpers on back to front. If you don't let them how will they learn? Studies have shown that children with over anxious parents with too much involvement in their lives are more likely to become adults that suffer from anxiety disorders and lack trust in their own decision making. Dare I say that I know a few mums that already 'know' what their toddlers are going to study at university... I'll be happy if mine make it through today at nursery. I don't correct them constantly in front of people. If my daughter visits someone's house and announces at the dinner table that she doesn't like the macaroni then this was an innocent and honest statement with no intention to offend. I will have a chat with her after dinner, without embarrassing her. I wait until they ask for help without pouncing in and doing everything for them. This way they will learn how to sweep and mop the kitchen floor so I don't have to. They'll dress themselves in the morning so I can lie in. I mean, it turned out alright for Cinderella in the end didn't it? So there you go. Am I raising over-confident children that no one will like? No, I'm trying to raise confident and independent women who say what they mean and mean what they say. Come back and see me in 20 years and maybe I'll be telling you how not to do it! Mrs MacLeod

Thought for the week I wonder how many folk are aware that today 1st October is International Day For Older Persons? Note carefully 'older' not 'old' which would be much more contentious. It all depends where you are on the spectrum. But the facts are not in question - 11million people in the UK over 65, 14 million grandparents, 1 in 5 will live to celebrate their 100th birthday. It's often said that as you get older the years seem to pass ever more quickly in contrast to those earlier experiences of seemingly never-ending school periods! The Biblical writers consistently recognise the uncertainty and brevity of human life. Moses who didn't take on his great leadership role until his 80s, reflects on this theme in Psalm 90. It leads him to pray - "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom". The human life span he speaks of, the 70 or 80 years, is still pretty accurate despite all the advances in health and medical care. From a Christian perspective life is a gift from God and we need the humility to recognise we are not as self-sufficient and independent as we might sometimes imagine. Not only are we dependent on our Creator we are also bound together in family and community. We need each other - both the vitality and enthusiasm of youth and the wisdom and experience of the older members can greatly benefit both family and community life. Whichever age bracket we come into may we value each and every one and treat one another with respect. James Beaton

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WEDDINGS MELLOR - ROBERTSON Miss Charlotte Mellor married Mr Jamie Robertson, from Yorkshire, on May 23, 2015 at Kilniver Parish Church. The service was taken by the Rev. Nicola Moll.

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Full Entry List

Interview with Mikko Hironen and why safety is so important at rallies.

Various outlets around the island will have the event programme for sale from Tuesday 6th October.

Visit www.mullrally.org for full details on where to get your copy.
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Mull Rally welcomes new sp

The 46th edition of the Mull Rally kicks off October 9 through 11. The route for the this year's rally-the first all-tarmac event to be held on closed public roads in the UK- offers eighteen special stages and 160 competitive miles over the well-known timetable of two nights and an afternoon of action. There are fewer stages than last year, but there is more stage mileage on offer to ensure the challenge of the rally is as great as ever.

returns to Salen for the restart before the crews, in a change from tradition tackle The Long One as the first stage of the night and in reverse direction from the last few years. The 21.89 miles starts at Dervaig, around Calgary Bay, before the fast finish at Torloisk. The other major change is the finish of the last stage will, for this year, be at Tobermory when the Glen Aros and Mishnish Lochs stages are combined to make a 15-mile last test.



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Subaru's newest UK dealer, Helensburgh Subaru are delighted to be sponsoring local entrant James MacGillivray and Ian Fraser in this year's Mull Rally - known as the 'Best Rally in the World'.

Both drivers, James and co-driver, Ian are resident on the Isle of Mull and will be familiar faces in Argyll and within the rally community.

Every October, Mull becomes a hive of activity and the 46th edition of this rally is no exception. Rally crews from all over the UK and abroad will be testing their driving skills to the limits on the island's tough roads.

Helensburgh Subaru Director Ernie Cowan said: "I caught up with James and Ian recently and they are delighted with this new sponsorship from an Argyll company and I am sure that his Subaru Impreza WRX will be ideally suited for the narrow twisty roads on Mull".

James MacGillivray said: "The Subaru Impreza is well suited for Mull with its breathtaking performance of the boxer engine combined with the stability of its symmetrical all-wheel drive system. With the support of Helensburgh Subaru, Ian and I are looking forward to the challenge of the Rally with its 160 miles of competitive driving. Getting to the finish of the Mull Rally is a result in itself, but hopefully come Sunday we will be standing on the top step at the finishing ramp".



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Sponsor and course changes

Marshall, who previously raced in Legends at both National and Scottish level, contested last year's Mull Rally in his Ford Escort Mk1, finishing 23rd in the 130-car field, which included entries from all over the world. The entry list for the 2014 event, the 45th running of the Mull Rally, also included Ross's father, fellow company director John Marshall in his Escort.

"Mull's such a fantastic place as an island, and the rally ensures it becomes a mecca for international rally drivers for one week every year. To be directly associated with it as a company is a privilege, and we look forward to helping the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally become even bigger and more successful in the coming years."

and who is responsible for organising the event and ensuring safety is paramount.

"It is great news that Beatson's Building Supplies has entered into a five-year agreement with The Guardians of Mull Rally," Ian admitted. "This gives us the financial backing to secure the future of the event right through to the 50th anniversary rally in 2019. The Mull Rally cannot run without the support of the local residents, and it is this kind of support from our sponsors that will help in maintaining that relationship."

Photos courtesy of Lindsay Photosport

Beatson's commitment to the Mull Rally though has been welcomed by Ian Campbell, Clerk of the Course,



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Lorne lose out to the Accies

Glasgow Accies	28
Oban Lorne	13
BT West Division One	

OBAN LORNE suffered their first competitive defeat on Saturday since April with a 28-13 defeat to an impressive Glasgow Accies side at New Anniesland.

The Green Machine are still missing Lorne MacLachlan and Jack Baxter due to injury while brothers Cammy and Struan Smith missed out due to work commitments.

Coach, Corrie Louw, was forced to field a few players carrying injury in what was to be the biggest test of the season so far.

Oban made a positive start to the game and had the majority of possession and territory within the first 15 minutes. A powerful scrum and some good direct running from the pack gave Finlay Carmichael and the Oban backline a solid platform to attack from. Accies managed to hold off the early onslaught as their quick backline players raced clear of the danger zone.

Accies missed the first opportunity for points after 20 minutes with a penalty attempt going narrowly wide. Shortly after, the home side had a try ruled out on the left-hand side with the try scorer going into touch before touching the ball down.

Oban player/coach Corrie Louw was sinbinned on 30 minutes as Oban conceded too many penalties as the home side were attacking the tryline.

Accies made their numerical advantage count as they raced into a 14-0 lead with two tries in quick succession.

Oban hit back shortly before half-time with a Carmichael penalty, the result of a fantastic break from within the Accies half by Oban captain Craig Wright.

A couple of half-time changes were made. Injured Richard MacKay left the field replaced by Dom Ma who slotted in at scrum half and Graham MacEachan moving to full back. Oban also made a change in the forwards with Mathias El Saez coming off the bench to play in the back row.

Oban made a bright start to the second half and reduced the deficit to 14-6 with another Carmichael penalty.

Accies however were impressive with some good passages of play in the backline stretching a tiring Oban defence. The hosts scored their third try of the afternoon 10 minutes into the half to extend their lead to 21-6.

Oban hit back with a try from Airidas Savickas who broke free in the 22 to give Oban some hope of a late come-back. Accies, however, had other ideas as they wrapped up the bonus point with their fourth try of the day to put the result beyond doubt.

The men in green rallied late on with some ambitious attacks but could not cross the home tryline. Despite the result, Oban knew they had come up against a side who will be likely league winners by the end of the season.

Positives for Oban was the performance of 17 year old Rufus Stones who made his first start on the wing along with fellow winger, Plato Moisiadis, who played well on his return from injury.

Oban Lorne are at home to

Rugby

Kilmarnock this Saturday with a kick off at 1pm due to world cup fixtures.

Oban will be hoping to get back to winning ways against a side who have lost their opening two league fixtures.

The clubhouse will be open for all Saturday's Rugby World Cup games including Scotland's vital clash with South Africa. All welcome

Argyll and Bute go down to late tries from Mull

Isle of Mull	22
Argyll and Bute	3
BT West Division Four	

ARGYLL and Bute's first league game of the season came to a disappointing end on Saturday as they faced neighbours, Isle of Mull in West Division 4.

Having some influential players back in the squad gave a huge boost to an Argyll team who haven't played since their cup exit to Birkmyre two weeks ago. Argyll and Bute always knew they had a hard game on their hands against a strong Mull side.

Argyll were in the game for 60 minutes with the score standing at 10-3. A late onslaught from the Mull attack took the final score to 22-3.

Next up for Argyll and Bute is a home game this Saturday against Hyndland. Kick off 1pm.



John McPhee in action in Aragon Photo Bonnie Lane

Seventeenth place finish for John McPhee in Aragon

CONNEL'S John McPhee fought a hard race at Aragon last weekend, just missing out on the points – a result that doesn't reflect the effort and racecraft put in by the young Scot.

Having started from 14th on the grid, John was initially shuffled back to 17th, although he soon regained ground and moved up into the front of the second pack – swapping places from everywhere between 12th and 15th.

Sadly, he was bumped in the last lap, and lost ground again. So even though it may have been disappointing in some ways, it nonetheless

showed John in good battling form nearer the front than his Honda has tended to allow. Good pace and good racing, which will set John in good stead for the forthcoming flyaway rounds.

Good battle

John said: 'It was a good battle during the race and I felt good on the bike. In the last lap I was unlucky. Somebody hit me from behind and pulled me off the track so it was difficult for me to come back in only half a lap. I am not happy with the result, but this is racing. I learned a lot and now I'm focusing on Japan.'

Tiree win annual golf match against Coll

THE 31st annual golf match between the Coll and Tiree Associations took place recently at Lochmaben golf club. Both teams were competing for the Oban Times Cup which was generously donated by the newspaper in 2001.

A total of fourteen golfers played in 2 x 4 ball and 2 x 3 ball matches on the day, with both Coll and Tiree represented in all matches. The weather was kind and an excellent day was had by all involved.

The top six stapleford scores from each team were added to arrive at the final team scores.

The winners of this year's match were the Tiree team who won by eight points. Alistair Water accepted the Oban Times Cup and the Coll-Tiree Plaque on behalf of the Tiree team.

The overall winner on the day was Austin Black of the Coll team with a score of 38 points. Austin was presented with the David and Sadie Moore Quaich by Margaret Thorburn.

Thanks go David Allan, Roy Thorburn and Niall MacLeod for

arranging the match and teams from both associations.

The 2016 Coll v Tiree golf match is likely to be held at Lochmaben Golf Club on Saturday September 3 2016.

Both the Coll and Tiree Asso-

Golf

ciations would be keen to hear from any members who would be interested in playing in next year's match!



UP FOR THE CUP: The Oban high school under 16 football squad pictured before leaving for their Scottish cup tie against Paisley Grammar School last week. The Oban boys won 4-2 thanks to two goals apiece from Lewis Buchanan and Stewart McAllister. The team is coached by PE teachers and Oban Saints players, David McArthur and Thomas McCulloch



Alistair Water was presented with The Oban Times Cup and Coll-Tiree Plaque by Margaret Thorburn

Testing conditions for Oban Dinghy Regatta

STRONG winds featured in this year's Oban Sailing Club dinghy regatta held recently.

The six race series started with the Saturday afternoon seeing the toughest of the conditions as winds gusted up to 30mph. It was to prove too windy for some competitors who retired or chose to wait out the worst of the weather before deciding to take to the water.

In the Slow class, Freddie White was the sole finisher in his Topper in both races while in the Fast class, the two Lasers of John Forbes and Andrew Chapman took to the water, with Andrew edging out John to take the win in both races.

The Sunday saw slightly lower and now consistent wind speeds,

with the numbers, bolstered by the ideal conditions, increasing to fifteen boats spread between the two classes.

With a mixture of single and double-handed entries, this led to some congested and 'interesting' starts. In the Slow class, Ewan Shearer, sailing a club Laser Pico, made the best of the conditions, taking three firsts and a second, while Freddie White continued his run of good form with one first and three second places, the rest of the fleet battling hard behind with four different competitors taking third place in each of the four races.

In the Fast class, John Forbes made the most of the morning races taking the first two races ahead of Andrew Chapman, fol-

lowed by Jamie Peden and Anja Powell in an RS Feva. Andrew took the next race before John evened the score in the final race of the day.

The variable and testing conditions over the weekend added to the sense of fun and achievement and all joined in for the barbecue lunch and socialising after racing.

Overall, Freddie White took the Regatta Slow Class victory and the OSC Challenge Cup ahead of Ewan Shearer. Behind them the closely-fought battle for third place between Ruby Howard and Liam Orr, both sailing club Laser Picos, ended with Liam ahead by just one point.

In the Fast class, it was nip and tuck all the way between John Forbes and Andrew Chapman,

Sailing

both finishing the series on seven points, with three race wins apiece.

With the tie-breaker being the winner of the final race, John Forbes took the class overall and the Western Ferries Shield, ahead of Andrew Chapman in second, and Jamie Peden and Anja Powell in third.

Results: Novice Endeavour - Archie White

Fast Class - 1 Payback, John Forbes; 2 Zzaapp, Andrew Chapman; 3 Feva 693, Jamie Peden and Anja Powell

Slow Class - 1 Red Rocket, Freddie White; 2 Pico 35, Ewan Shearer; 3 Pico 34, Liam Orr.



Prizewinners at the recent Oban Sailing Club dinghy regatta pictured with their trophies.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1100

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

F Black Creran Gardens Oban

E Gilchrist Garry Crescent Invergarry

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

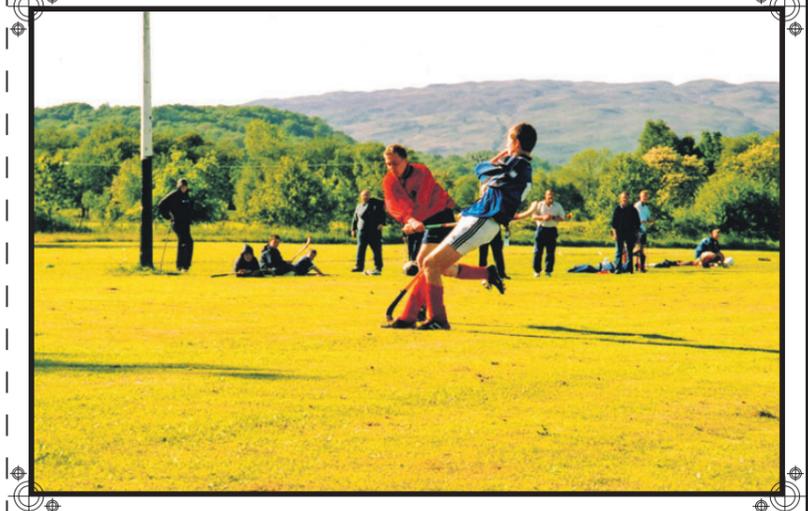
Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Zoe is the first woman to play in a senior men's shinty match

A FORT William shinty player made history at the weekend when she became the first female to play in a senior men's game.

Zoe Smith, who plays for the An Aird ladies team, had no hesitation in picking up a stick when the Premiership side were short of players for their clash with Glenurquhart on Saturday.

The 16-year-old was on the subs bench, along with her father, Victor, who co-manages Fort William, when she was unexpectedly called on early in the first half.

Victor said: 'We were desperate for players because there was a stag do and other boys were working away. Ten minutes into the game, Dean Williamson was injured and I wasn't even changed so Zoe went on.'

Shinty

The hardy Lochaber high school pupil played for 35 minutes in the first half and five in the second, before swapping places with her dad, who scored the Fort's only goal in the 84th minute.

If that wasn't enough, Zoe travelled to Oban to play in the north under 18s team, when she scored a hat-trick. She then came off for a break before returning to the field for the senior game, when she scored her fourth goal of the day.

Victor added: 'There was a lot of excitement in our house this weekend. I wasn't in the good books though, I got a row from my wife because I played then another one for letting Zoe play!'



Fort William's 16 year old Zoe Smith, the first woman to play in a senior men's shinty match, in a race for the ball with Glenurquhart's Michael Brady Photo: Donald Cameron

Premiership

League leaders, **NEWTONMORE**, kept the pressure on nearest rivals Kyles on Saturday, as the Premiership is now a near two-horse race.

Newtonmore took the two points in their game against Kingussie on Saturday, with goals from Glen Mackintosh and Norman Campbell.

The win leaves them three points ahead of Kyles, with each team having five games left to play, including when the sides meet on October 31.

Third-place Glenurquhart are only a point behind Kyles, but have only two fixtures still to fulfil.

Newtonmore travel to face Lovat on Saturday, with a 12 midday throw-up.

LOCHABER continued to climb the table this weekend when a 4-0 home victory over Inveraray saw them overtake Fort William for fourth place.

Goals from Stuart Callison, Kevin Ferguson and a double from Shaun Nicolson ensured there was no coming back for Inveraray.

Ally Ferguson's men have two free weekends before their final game of the season, an away clash with Oban Camanachd on October 17.

OBAN CAMANACHD took two vital points against newly-crowned Camanachd Cup champions, Lovat, on Saturday.

Two goals from Daniel Cameron sealed the win at Mossfield, leaving the Oban side four points ahead of bottom-place Inveraray, but with three games in hand over their Argyll rivals, as the relegation battle continues.

Camanachd travel to Balmacara to take on Kinlochshiel on Saturday, with a 2.30pm throw-up.

It was a day for firsts and lasts for **FORT WILLIAM** on Saturday when they made history by playing a female and said goodbye to a long-serving player.

The An Aird side went down 3-1 in the away game against Glenurquhart, with co-manager, Victor Smith, scoring the team's only goal in the 84th minute.

But the scoreline was the least exciting part of the day for the Fort, as they played 16-year-old Zoe Smith for 40 minutes of the game.

They also waved goodbye to Gordie MacKinnon, who has played for the club for 22 years, including travelling from Glasgow on match days for the last six years.

Smith said: 'We were really short of players so Zoe [daughter] went on for a while and so did I.'

'We had a good send off for Gordie and we would all like to thank him for his hard work over the years and for his commitment to the club.'

The Fort's final game of the season will be away to Newtonmore on October 10.

KYLES ATHLETIC get back in action this weekend after a free

Saturday last weekend and the disappointment of losing the recent Camanachd Cup final.

They will be hoping to get their title hopes back on track on Saturday when they play host to Glenurquhart.

With just three games of their season remaining, **INVERARAY** remain favourites for the drop.

The league's basement side fell further behind second-bottom Oban Camanachd on Saturday after the Oban side defeated Camanachd Cup holders, Lovat, away from home. Inveraray fell to a 4-0 defeat at Spean Bridge against Lochaber, leaving themselves four points behind Oban Camanachd, who have played three games fewer.

A home tie versus Kingussie on Saturday is up next for the Royal Burgh side, and both pride and points will be at stake at the Winterton.

LOVAT made a return trip to Oban on Saturday, a week after their 2-1 win in the Camanachd Cup final against Kyles.

John MacRitchie's men were beaten 2-1 by Oban Camanachd, with a vastly different starting 12 on the pitch compared to the side's cup final win.

Lovat have three tough league games left now this season, playing hosts to Newtonmore on Saturday with a 12midday throw-up, and then a home tie against Kyles and away trip to Newtonmore in their last two games.

GLENURQUHAT recorded a 3-1 home win over a depleted Fort William side at Drumnadrochit last weekend. On target for the red and blacks were Connor Golabek, James MacPherson and Neale Reid. This Saturday they make the long journey to Tighnabruach to take on Kyles Athletic.

KINGUSSIE dropped into the relegation dogfight after going down 2-0 to Badenoch rivals, Newtonmore, last weekend. This Saturday, Kingussie travel to take on bottom of the table, Inveraray, at the Winterton where a win is vital if they are to climb up the table.

KINLOCHSHIEL return to action after a free Saturday last weekend when they entertain Oban Camanachd at Balmacara. The game throws-up at 2.30pm with referee, Deek Cameron, in charge.

National Division

BALLACHULISH ended the season with a sigh of relief on Saturday, with one final defeat at the hands of Kilmallie.

The home side's only goal came from Lorne Brown in the second half, but the Caol side had more to celebrate with goals from Aaron Sandison, John Stewart and four from captain Liam MacDonald. It has been a tough season for the south Lochaber men who didn't win a single game after losing many experienced players last year.

KILMALLIE rounded off their league effort with a comfortable 6-1 win against Ballachulish on Saturday, but could have to wait for more than a month for their promotion play-off.

It's now a waiting game for the Caol side to find out if they face Kingussie or Oban Camanachd for a place in the Premiership.

Manager, Mark MacPherson, said: 'Oban still have six games to play, so it could be November or December. It's hard to keep the team playing and fit for that length of time, but there's not a lot anyone can do. We'll play some friendlies and keep training but it's a waiting game other than that.'

'I think at the moment I would rather play Kingussie than Oban because they're an ageing team. In saying that, they did well against Newtonmore on Saturday. There wasn't a huge goal difference so maybe they're playing better than I thought.'

point leaves Kilmory on three points with two games remaining, while Glenorchy have clawed themselves level with Strachur on five points.

It's the same tie this weekend, reversed, for Kilmory and Glenorchy as the Mid Argyll outfit travels to Dalmally for a league match.

BUTE record a well-deserved 3-0 win over Oban Celtic at the Meadows last weekend with goals from David Whitelaw and a double from Craig MacKay. This Saturday the islanders play host to Taynuilt.

Yet again struggling for numbers after one of their players missed his train from Glasgow, **STRACHUR** travelled to Taynuilt for a league match. The teams left the pitch at half-time level at 1-1, but the home side pulled away in the second half, scoring two further goals to grab maximum points and leapfrog Kyles into sixth spot in the division. For Strachur, the defeat leaves eighth, or third bottom of the league, on five points, and precariously close to the bottom two clubs of Glenorchy and Kilmory.

While **KYLES ATHLETIC'S** second-string had their eyes elsewhere in Glasgow, Taynuilt sneaked in and took their sixth position in the league. Kyles have 13 points from 14 games. Mid-table respectability seems now the only real goal left this season, but face a hard task this weekend in Oban as they play league leaders Lochside Rovers.

The trip to Aberdeen is never an easy one, and this proved true for **INVERARAY'S** second team on Saturday. Two goals down at half-time at the Silversands, things didn't improve much after referee, Robert Baxter, started the second period. The match finished 3-0, meaning that Inveraray's title challenge took a dent as they slipped to third place behind Lochside and Bute.

Inveraray's final game of the season this Saturday is a tough one, as they host Oban Celtic at the Winterton.

TAYNUILT recorded a well-deserved 3-1 home win over Strachur last Saturday thanks to goals from Jamie MacFarlane, Stuart Scott and Willie Neilson. This Saturday they make the journey over the water to take on Bute.

GLENORCHY travelled to take on Kilmory at Lochgilphead last Saturday and came home with a share of the points thanks to two goals from Andrew Smith. This weekend the Dalmally side will have a chance to go one better when they face the same opponents at Mart park

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Fort William under 14s took on Skye in the final of the Ken MacMaster Cup played before the recent Camanachd Cup final at Mossfield. The young Fort side defeated the islanders 3-2 in a thrilling match Photo: Neil Paterson



Fixtures

Saturday October 3
Marine Harvest Premiership
 Inveraray v Kingussie
 Robert Baxter
 Kyles Athletic v Glenurquhart
 Innes Wood
 Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd
 Deek Cameron
 Lovat v Newtonmore
 John Angus Gillies - 12pm

Marine Harvest National Division
 Glasgow MA v Caberfeidh
 David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Newtonmore v Fort William
 Duncan Kelly

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Bute v Taynuilt
 Alex MacVicar
 Lochside Rovers v Kyles Athletic
 Ronnie Campbell
 Inveraray v Oban Celtic
 John Wood
 Glenorchy v Kilmory
 John MacGregor

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Inverness v Skye
 John Matheson
 Kilmallie v Glengarry
 Calum Girvan
 Lochaber v Aberdeen University
 Ron Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Jon Gallagher
 Oban Lorn v Ballachulish
 Scot McNeil

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

Youth Fixtures Saturday October 3
Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1
 Kingussie v Fort William
 Beaully v Skye

League Division 2
 Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh
 Glenurquhart v Inverness

Results

Saturday September 26
Bullough Cup Final
 Tayforth 4 - 2 Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest Premiership
 Glenurquhart 3 - 1 Fort William
 Lochaber 4 - 0 Inveraray
 Oban Camanachd 2 - 1 Lovat
 Newtonmore 2 - 0 Kingussie

Marine Harvest National Division
 Ballachulish 1 - 6 Kilmallie
 Skye 6 - 1 Beaully

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Fort William 7 - 0 Strathglass
 Kinlochshiel 2 - 2 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Aberdeen 3 - 0 Inveraray
 Bute 3 - 0 Oban Celtic
 Kilmory 2 - 2 Glenorchy
 Taynuilt 3 - 1 Strachur

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Aberdeen Uni 4 - 0 Boleskin
 Caberfeidh 1 - 2 Glengarry
 Kilmallie 1 - 0 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute 5 - 0 Oban Lorn
 Walkover to Bute

Youth Results
Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 3
 Newtonmore 2 - 2 Strathglass

Marine Harvest National Under 17 League - London Shield
 Ballachulish 0 - 5 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1
 Fort William P - P Skye
 To be Rearranged
 Kingussie 8 - 2 Beaully

League Division 2
 Kinlochshiel 0 - 3 Glenurquhart
League Division 3
 Strathglass 7 - 0 Lovat

Womens Camanachd Association
Marine Harvest Division 1
 Skye 9 - 0 Glengarry



Kingsussie's Lee Bain and Newtonmore's Fraser Mackintosh in action during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match. Photo: Neil Paterson

wasn't enough to keep a share of the points.

This weekend Glengarry make the short trip to Caol to take on Kilmallie's second team.

Manager, Ewen Cameron, said: 'We were short of players on Saturday so we were delighted to win. We will be short again this weekend.'

'We played Kilmallie in the first game of the season and I haven't seen them since so I'm not sure what we're up against.'

South Division Two

Due to team-raising difficulties, **OBAN LORN** failed to fulfill their away fixture in Bute last Saturday. The islanders were awarded a walkover and a 5-0 win. This weekend the Oban side face Ballachulish at home.

Bullough Cup final

There was no consolation for

Date fixed for Camanachd Association AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of the Camanachd Association will take place on Friday, November 27, in Fort William at a venue still to be decided.

Member clubs and associations are invited to submit proposed amendments to the Memorandum, the Articles of Association or the Rules of Play or any further proposals for consideration by the AGM.

These require to be intimated to the Camanachd Association in writing at least eight weeks before the event and therefore must be received in a form that can be put forward to the meeting and on which a vote can be taken by 5pm on Friday 2nd October.

Kyles following the senior team's defeat to Lovat in the Camanachd Cup Final a week earlier.

The Bullough Cup, a south of Scotland competition contested by second teams and lower league clubs, was won by Perth-based Tayforth at the expense of Kyles' second string, holders of the trophy.

Currently playing their shinty in south division two, Tayforth beat their division one opponents at Yoker.

The east coast club raced into a 4-0 lead in the Glasgow sunshine, thanks to goals from Calum Barton, Ewan Menzies, Finlay Stark and Andy Scot.

In front of a sizeable crowd, Kyles fought back, and two late goals by Rupert Williamson had Tayforth nerves jangling but proved just to be consolation for the Cowal men.

Tayforth held out to secure the club's first silverware for many years.

North ladies take the honours at Mossfield park

THE ANNUAL north vs south women's shinty matches were held at Mossfield Stadium in Oban on Sunday.

In both the under-18 and over-18 matches, the north teams overcame their southern rivals.

Marion Gillies, who is secretary of the Women's Camanachd Association, said: 'There were fantastic games today with two very convincing wins for the north.'

'It's great to see the ladies game thriving and hopefully this will continue. Mossfield has been a fantastic venue and the facilities here in Oban are great. Thanks to the MacAulay Association from the WCA for all their help.'



Oban Saints manager Alex Craik

Saints on Scottish Cup duty

Football

OBAN Saints return to cup action this weekend when Millbeg Villa are the visitors to Glencruitten in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

Manager Alex Craik hopes to have a full squad to chose from for this important fixture.

He said: 'We've had a relatively poor start to the season by our standards, but I saw in the last game against Alba Thistle, which we won 3-1, that the boys were starting to click. Training under the lights at the school re-started last week which makes a big difference to our match preparations. We had 20 players at the session including Chris and Dougal Graham who are both returning from injury which was great to see. The boys are all working really hard at their fitness and the new tactical set-up, so I'm sure the benefits will come as the season goes on.'

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side don't know much about Millbeg, but they will be giving them the utmost respect and hopefully they can hit top form and get their Scottish Cup campaign off to a winning start.

The game kicks off at 2pm at Glencruitten with referee, Kevin Nolan in charge.

Local clubs rally round to help young Oban golfer

Golf

A GOLF tournament is scheduled to take place this Sunday to help raise funds to help young Oban golfer, Robert MacIntyre, progress his career to the next stage.

Robert is currently on a golf scholarship in America. The Glencruitten golfer recently won the Scottish Amateur championship.

The tournament will consist of 45 teams of four with Oban Saints, Oban Camanachd, Oban Celtic and Oban Lorne all getting involved.

The first of the teams will tee off at Glencruitten at 7.30am with the last of four starting off at 3pm. There will also be a fund-raising raffle.

Saints youths' results and fixtures

NO Oban Saints youth teams played last weekend due to the September holiday break.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Dunbeth; Stirling Albion Juniors v Under 14s; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game; Westerton v Under 19s.

Fifty-nine Camanachd Cup finals in a row for Duncan

Duncan remembers Camanachd Cup finals in the early 1960s when an outstanding Oban Celtic featured prominently

DUNCAN Henderson was 17 years old and fresh out of Dunoon Grammar School when he attended his first Camanachd Cup Final.

That was back in 1959, and he hasn't missed a single final tie in shinty's blue riband cup competition since that time. That's 59 finals in a row.

Duncan, now living at Inverawe, Taynuilt, with wife, Cathie, recalled his first trip to the big match: 'We were living in Lochgoilhead, and I remember walking to the top of the Rest to catch the bus for Glasgow, where the game was being played.'

That first final saw Newtonmore trounce Kyles Athletic 7-3, with Kyles legend, Celly Paterson, in goal that day.

Duncan clearly remembers Camanachd finals in the early 1960s, when an outstanding Oban Celtic featured prominently. 'That team could match any of them,' said Duncan. 'I remember the 1960 game, when Oban Celtic played

Newtonmore, who were the holders. Celtic rose to the occasion that day and won the cup.'

No mean shinty player himself, Duncan was a strong defender who played with Strachur, Inveraray, and was a founder member of Taynuilt Shinty Club.

His spectating record includes not just finals, but replays too, and Duncan recalls two finals that ended 3-3 and went to a replay - as the rules dictated at the time.

Kyles won in Oban after a replay in 1968 versus Kingussie, but the Kyles men ended on the losing side seven years later, beaten in a replay by Newtonmore at the Dell, Kingussie.

A career of 33 years' service with the Forestry Commission helped with his remarkable attendance record, as Duncan said: 'I was very fortunate that I was in the kind of job that allowed me to go to finals.'

'Not everyone could get time off to travel away to places like

Shinty

Inverness and Kingussie.'

As for the best game he's witnessed?

'People speak fondly about the old teams, but I honestly think that the final in 2012 between Kyles and Inveraray in Oban would take a bit of beating,' he said.

'The match ended 6-5 to Kyles, but it could have gone either way and it was a really good game.'

The September 19 victory by Lovat over Kyles was Duncan's 59th final since 1959 (including replays) - a record all the more remarkable when you consider that he has seen the majority of the Camanachd Cup Finals ever played. In fact, he's only missed 53 since the competition began back in 1896.

But you can bet your shinty boots that if Duncan Henderson was around back in the early years, he would have been there. Here's to final 60 next year.



FIFTY-NINE NOT OUT: Duncan Henderson with the coveted trophy - one that he has seen presented no fewer than 59 times Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

DUE to the September holiday weekend, Tarbet were the only Argyll team to play in the SAFL when they took on Port Glasgow OBU at Cil Andreis in a Premier Division Two match.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup second round - Campbeltown Pupils v Dumbarton Harp Celtic; Oban Saints v Millbeg Villa; Dunoon v Claremont; Lochgilphead Red Star v Old Oak Thistle. Premier Division Two - Shawlands FP 'B' v Tarbet.

Lorne Ladies go down to Broughton

Women's rugby

OBAN Lorne Ladies played host to Broughton Ladies at Glencruitten last Sunday, but despite scoring five tries through Kelly Lamont (2), Rebecca Sims (2) and Julie Campbell, they lost 41-27 to an impressive Broughton Ladies.

The Green Army's next game is against Watsonians at home on Sunday, kick off 2pm.

The ladies train every Wednesday at 6pm at Oban rugby club. New players with or without experience welcome.

Athletic get back to winning ways

Football

OBAN Athletic produced their worst performance of the season in the West of Scotland Amateur Cup recently losing 5-0 away to Ayrshire side, West Kirk Thistle.

However, they bounced back last Saturday away to Cardross in the league winning 2-0.

Goals from Stephan Campbell and a second half strike from Alan Buchanan after 70 minutes settled the game.

This Saturday, Athletic travel to play Drumchapel Amateur Colts in the Scottish Cup

Bellanoch sailor claims World Cup gold in China

Sailing

RISING Laser star, Lorenzo Chiavarini, from Bellanoch, near Lochgilphead, sealed gold for Great Britain at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Qingdao, which drew to a close in the 2008 Olympic sailing city on Sunday, September 20.

The 21-year-old, a member of the British sailing team's 'podium potential' squad, mastered the testing and tidal conditions at the eastern Chinese city over the four opening days of the series to head into the Laser medal race with an impressive 17 point lead.

Sixth in the double-points finale was enough to beat Croatian world number three, Tonci Stipanovic, and Olympic silver medalist, Pavlos Kontides, to the top spot of the podium.

Chiavarini impressed at the Laser world championships in July where he finished tenth. Qingdao victory has earned him an invitation to next month's ISAF Sailing World Cup final in Abu Dhabi and a share of the \$150,000 total prize fund.

'My thoughts on how I did this week - really quite fantastic,' Chiavarini enthused.

'I wasn't expecting such speed and my decision-making was really quite good. For me it was important to keep Tonci around me and not let him get too far away. I was a bit nervous coming into the day, but once I got on the water I started calming down and chatting to the guys who were quite supportive. I'd never been to Qingdao before. The sailing area is really quite impressive, the event's been re-

ally well-organised and the race committee's done a fantastic job.'

Chiavarini's podium potential teammate, Elliot Hanson, finished fourth in the medal race to end his regatta in ninth overall.

James Allan, chief executive of the Royal Yachting Association Scotland, said: 'The RYA Scotland team were delighted to hear about Lorenzo's gold medal in Qingdao. He has been putting in some really great performances over the past few years, so we follow his results with interest.'

'It is encouraging to see someone who has come up through the Scottish performance system perform so well on the world

stage and we very much hope it continues.'

He added: 'Lorenzo joined us at our Scottish club trophy event at Loch Lomond Sailing Club just a few weeks ago. The kids racing there were all under 15, and were blown away to get the chance to speak to him and to hear about how he managed to get from racing at their level up to competing against the best in the world.'

'His results are definitely inspiring our future generation of sailors to train hard and aim high too.'



GOLDEN BOY: Lorenzo Chiavarini sailing to World Cup victory in Qingdao. Photo: ISAF.



IN THE SWIM: Members of Oban Otters swim squad are pictured at the Argyll and Clyde Swimming Championships held in Dunoon recently. Numerous medals and personal bests were achieved. L-R: Daniel Teape, Freya MacKechnie, Ella MacKechnie, Sam Coates, Evie Turner, Emily Hunter, Eilidh Barron and Hannah Teape.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday Cloudy with light rain in the morning
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 1 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm				
Thur	01.33	0.4	07.20	4.0	13.58	0.4	19.48	4.0
Fri	02.16	0.6	07.59	3.8	14.45	0.7	20.29	3.7
Sat	03.01	0.9	08.42	3.5	15.35	1.1	21.15	3.3
Sun	03.52	1.2	09.31	3.3	16.32	1.5	22.13	3.0
Mon	04.50	1.4	10.41	3.0	17.43	1.7	** ** *	**
Tues	00.34	2.8	05.58	1.6	13.01	2.9	19.30	1.9
Wed	02.19	2.8	07.20	1.7	15.03	3.1	21.04	1.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

Port	Low	High
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

Royal National Mòd 2015 **fringe** Your FREE Mòd 2015 entertainment guide

Significant investment in bid to boost jobs

ALMOST £6million is to be invested into the Highlands and islands to get people back to work.

Highland council has received £5,170,000 as part of the European Social Fund and another £770,000 has been given to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to promote sustainable employment and increase opportunities to gain new skills.

Highland council leader, Margaret Davidson, said the money will be mainly spent on young people and those who have been unemployed for a long time. She also confirmed the contribution will be matched 'pound for pound' by the local authority.

She said: 'This is an important milestone towards providing a series of interventions that are aimed at tackling poverty in Highland, by enabling people to enter employment. Highland has a growing economy and it is important we work together to ensure as many people as possible are able to take up available opportunities.'

'The £5,170,000 of European Social Fund will be matched pound for pound by the Highland council as lead partner for this intervention, along with contributions by some of our partners. Together, we are making a very significant upfront investment, in helping people into work and stimulating growth of our economy in the Highlands.'

Roseanna Cunningham, fair work secretary for the Scottish government, welcomed the £43 million Scotland-wide fund: 'While the overall economic picture for Scotland remains positive, particularly when compared to where we were at the peak of the recession, there remains work to be done. We must maintain momentum and ensure every power at our disposal is used to grow the economy, increase employment, lower unemployment and remove barriers to the jobs market.'



Generations chip in with charity cash

A BAKER and chip shop owner in Lochaber came together to raise more than £1,000 for Macmillan cancer support.

Roy Bridge cake maker, Lynne Nairn, sold her wares in her father Sammy's fish and chip shop in Caol on Friday night and, combined with a raffle, made £1,177 with donations still coming in when the Oban Times went to press.

Three generations came together for the good deed as Lynne's daughter, Sophie, helped to sell the cakes and Sammy's freshly-made donuts went down a treat.

Lynne said: 'I'm delighted with what we raised. Last year I raised £969 so this year I wanted to raise over £1,000 and I managed that and more.'

THREE GENERATIONS: Sophie Nairn, mum, Lynne Nairn, and grandfather, Sammy Cameron, raised more than £1,000 for Macmillan cancer support at a bake sale in Sammy's fish and chip shop. 21_f40sammys01

TIMESLINE

Slow progress on fast food outlet

THERE has still been no progress made to build a KFC in Fort William, despite the original aim to open in 2015.

Planning permission for the fast food restaurant was approved in August last year but, when approached this week by the Oban Times about when work would start, a spokesman for the food chain remained tight-lipped.

When planning permission was granted, a spokesman said the restaurant would be open in 2015. A KFC spokesman said: 'There is no update on the start date for construction or expected opening date.'

Police appeal on missing man, 69

POLICE are urging people in Glencoe to look out for a missing pensioner.

Robin Garton, 69, from Wiltshire, was reported missing on Monday after he failed to meet friends in Kinlochewe.

He was last seen checking out of his accommodation near Buachaille Etive Mor at around 8am on Friday, September 25 and is thought to have been hill walking.

Mr Garton is described as 6'2" in height and of slim to medium build. He has fair hair and occasionally wears glasses.

If anyone sees Mr Garton they are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Third age group up and running

A NEW group has been set up for retired or semi-retired people, providing educational, creative and leisure activities.

Lochaber U3A, University of the Third Age, will kick off with a meeting in Lochaber Geopark office, Fort William High Street, from 2pm today (Thursday).



MARINA ASSOCIATION WAITING TO HEAR IF BID FOR GOVERNMENT CASH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL

Group confident of landing cash to build Fort pontoons

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

PONTOONS for cruise ships will 'definitely' be installed in Fort William, according to a campaign group behind the plan.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Association (FWMSA) is waiting to hear if it has been successful in applying for a share of the Scottish government's Town Centre Communities Capital Fund, which could see a landing stage built at the north end of the West End car park by March next year.

Norrie MacLean, a member

of the association, said he is confident they will be given the £150,000 needed, but said even if the application is rejected, it is 'only a matter of time' before the facility is installed.

This comes after 800 holidaymakers on board a cruise liner had to be ferried from Loch Linnhe to dry land on a local seal-spotting boat, Souters Lass, when visiting Fort William in August.

Both crew and passengers gave feedback saying they would be keen to return, reigniting calls for somewhere for ships to berth in the town.

Norrie said: 'There's a definite need for a landing

strip here and we have the backing of Highland council.

'The Souters Lass was great but it wasn't practical for disabled passengers. I've spoken to captains who said they would be keen to return if we had the right facilities.'

'We're meeting captains from Norwegian Line [cruise operators] to discuss the best way to make that happen.'

Norrie also said there is a growing need for a landing stage in Fort William and ideally this could be upgraded to a permanent cruise ship terminal for boats to berth: 'Everyone can see this is what the town is missing. It's

definitely going to happen, it's just a matter of time and funding. If we don't get this funding, we'll find another way, it's only a matter of time.'

'When the Adonia visited last year it had 800 people on board. If we can have that more regularly it will be great for the town and its economy.'

'In the long-term, we would like to have a hammer head terminal so ships can berth. That would mean the crew can also come on shore and would be spending money. But the last quote I had for that was around £12 million so that's a long way away. It's a bit "back to the future" because Fort William

used to be a major port town but it's all very positive and has plenty of backing.'

The deadline for funding applications closed on Tuesday and FWMSA will find out this month if it has been successful.

Brian Murphy, Highland councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, welcomed the plan: 'The feedback we got from the Adonia was very positive and it would be great for the town to see more of the same. I hope the association is successful.'

Highland council and Fort William community council have both confirmed their backing for the plan.

Jail for islander after knife attack

A MAN from Benbecula has been jailed for more than five years for an attack on his partner on the island.

Angus MacDonald stabbed his former girlfriend with a knife at a house in Griminish on January 2 and had originally faced an allegation of attempted murder. But, after a trial at the High Court in

Glasgow, the 49-year-old was found guilty of the reduced charge of assault. The jury ruled he had acted under provocation.

Judge Kenneth MacIver QC remanded MacDonald at the end of the trial and sentenced him last Friday to five and a half years in prison and an extended sentence of a year and a half when he

will be supervised in the community. The court heard how the woman had initially hit MacDonald during a drunken row.

He then grabbed a knife and lashed out at his lover of 12 years. Her wound was described as potentially life-threatening. MacDonald had denied the attack and had lodged a special defence of self-defence.

Lochaber landmark set for makeover

ONE OF Lochaber's oldest landmarks could be set for a makeover if a bid for funding is successful.

The Old Fort, an ancient fortification which gave the town its name, will be re-landscaped to make the area safe for visitors. This comes after volunteer

group Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF) raised concerns that crumbling walls could see children falling 15 feet to rocks and fencing on the shoreline below.

The group has applied to the Town Centre Communities Capital Fund for cash for the project.

Norrie MacLean, chairman of FOOF said: 'I've been worried about safety for a while now so hopefully this will be the boost we need.'

'We've got backing from Historic Scotland and Transport Scotland so hopefully we'll get the money.'

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Bridge work traffic chaos fears

AMANDA CRAWFORD
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THE PROPOSED closure of a swing bridge in Lochaber in the new year will see disruptions to a busy main road once again.

One lane on the A830 at the Banavie swing road will be closed for nine weeks from the middle of January 2016.

The road has already been partially closed twice this year causing drivers lengthy tailbacks and delays.

In April, the bridge was closed for four weeks for road resurfacing and then, later in the summer, the road was closed off while an upgrade to a power cable at Camaghael was under way.

In January the work carried

out will be to repaint the steel bridge. A spokesperson from BEAR Scotland said: 'The steel section of the bridge is showing signs of corrosion therefore repainting is required, which will protect the steelwork for years to come.'

The proposal is in its early stages and will not go to public consultation until November this year when it is expected the details will be finalised.

Kilmallie Community Council member, Christine Hutchison, had been unaware of the pending proposal until the Oban Times contacted her.

Mrs Hutchison said: 'It is a real pity local residents are going to have disruptions, yet again, on their commutes to and from work and schools.'

'There are going to be disrupt-



WORK REQUIRED: Banavie swing bridge (6_f40banaviebridge01)

tions to local and the Mallaig bus services as well, although I am sure the bus companies will have their own timescales for the notice they receive. As long as the community council has more than two months notice, we will have time to consider it, but I don't think we are going to be able to avoid it.

'All we can say is that we advise people to plan ahead of their journeys and allow plenty of time for the delays when the work starts.'

Bill Clark, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, said: 'Any work on roads is going to cause some disruption, however I hope they take into account traffic pressure points on the road and work around those times as best they can. 'BEAR has to take those on

board or we are all in trouble. I won't get to work and half of the population of Lochaber won't get to work.'

The spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland added: 'We anticipate the essential maintenance work will be carried out over nine weeks, Mondays to Fridays and during the day with no work planned at weekends. 'The bridge will not be closed to motorists. However, for the safety of those working on the bridge and road users, a lane closure will be in place under temporary traffic light control. 'We'll be carrying out these works during the winter when the canal is closed to boat traffic and will ensure all steps are taken to minimise disruption to motorists as much as possible during the essential works.'

TIMESLINE

Applications open for local elections

NOMINATIONS are open for community councils across the Highlands.

Anyone interesting in acting as a voice for their town or village can put themselves forward to stand for election.

Elections will take place on Wednesday, November 18, and anyone on the electoral register for their community council area can apply.

Applications must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday, October 6. Forms are available from the council's service centre by calling 01349 886606 or online at www.highland.gov.uk

Strictly debut for Morar girl Carol

LOCHABER-BORN weather girl Carol Kirkwood swapped her umbrella for sequins at the weekend when she made her first appearance on Strictly Come Dancing.

The 53-year-old, whose own name is McKellaig, grew up in Morar and attended the village school, Lady Lovat primary. On Friday night the BBC One presenter debuted in the first episode of the season with dance partner, Pasha Kovalev.

Trust hosts repair cash workshop

A FREE workshop will be held in Fort William this week to explain how to receive funding to repair war memorials.

The War Memorials Trust is hosting the event in the Nevis Centre on Wednesday night (October 7), starting at 7pm.

Allan Henderson, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'There are still grants available from the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund and I would urge anyone who wants to find out more about how to get funding to conserve their local war memorial to go along to their nearest workshop.'

Plantation college workshops win place in finals of national awards

WORK in one of the most deprived areas of Lochaber has earned West Highland College UHI a place in the finals of a national award.

The college provides weekly workshops in the Plantation area of Fort William, recognised as an area of severe economic and social deprivation, to help residents get back into work or further education. Since the project was

launched three years ago, more than 50 people have gained long-term employment and 93 have continued on to courses at West Highland College.

In recognition of this achievement, the Scottish Training Federation has shortlisted the college for its employability of the year award and the results were due to be announced at a ceremony in Crieff last night, (Wednesday).

Nigel Patterson, employment and development team co-ordinator for West Highland College, said: 'At the start, the workshops were seen by the Plantation community as another example of an agency parachuting in and telling the community how to live their lives and then disappearing at the end of the project funding.'

'By establishing trust and being the conduit between the

community and agencies and employers, we are able to support individuals in their chosen journeys.

'Those enrolling on college courses know that support does not stop when they enter the more formal courses available in the college. We are still there to have a chat and a cuppa, which is often all that is needed to help people stay on track and to succeed.'

Crackdown on doorstep crime and bogus callers

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands police division has renewed its crack down on doorstep crime and bogus callers.

Operation Monarda will see public, private and third sector organisations work together to minimise risk and prevent harm to vulnerable and older people from criminals who commit doorstep crime.

The project, in conjunction with Trading Standards, Police Scotland and Crimestoppers, includes work with the general public, as well as enforcement work to target criminals.

Doorstep crime is an issue across Scotland with more than 1,000 incidents and 262 bogus caller crimes recorded

between February 1, 2015 and July 31, 2015.

Around £238,300 was taken from victims during this time - around £100,000 lower than during the previous reporting period. Highland and Islands division is headed by Detective Superintendent Colin Carey.

He said: 'Bogus callers and associated doorstep crime is a vastly under-reported crime so we hope the campaign will encourage members of the public to report incidents. Throughout the campaign police and other organisations will offer advice to people in communities across the Highlands and Islands.'

Police appeal follows thefts and attempted break-in

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about a number of thefts and housebreakings in the area.

Overnight between Monday, September 21, and the following morning two large rock hammers were stolen from a construction site near Glenfinnan.

The plant machinery is heavy,

bulky and expensive and police say a large vehicle would be needed to move them.

On Saturday, September 19, someone tried to break into a bungalow in Glencoe and a window was smashed.

Between Saturday, September 19, and the following day two large garden gnomes were stolen from a garden in the

Upper Achintore area of Fort William. One was later found damaged but the other is still missing.

A private garden in the Camaghael area was broken into some time between September 23 and 26 but nothing was stolen.

Several bikes have both been reported stolen and handed in

to the police station as found property.

Police have asked anyone with information about these incidents to contact them by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

They have also reminded the public to check with the police station if they have lost any property.



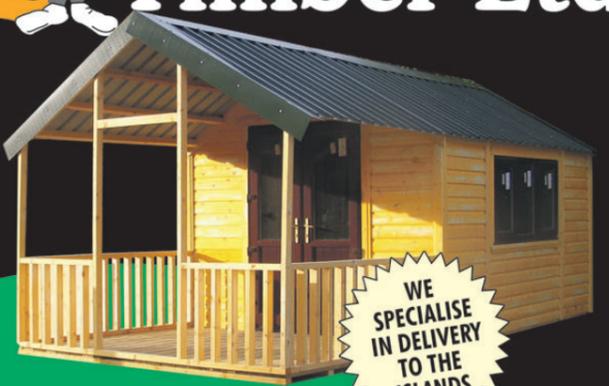
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Russell backs union stance over school teacher figures

BUT COUNCIL REJECTS MSP'S CLAIMS ABOUT CENSUS AND SAYS IT IS FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

CLAIMS by a union that head teachers in Argyll are being pressurised into inflating the number of qualified classroom staff in their schools has been strenuously denied by the council.

Concerns have been growing among senior teachers who said they have been asked to count 'special advisers' or those on weeks-long temporary contracts as part of their school's permanent teaching complement for a council census.

Some educationalists estimate that Argyll and Bute council has a shortage of 40 teachers and, as a consequence, stands to lose £800,000 from the Scottish government.

The Association of Head Teachers and Deputies trade union confirmed that head teachers in Argyll and Bute had contacted them 'to raise concerns'.

A spokesman for the union said: 'It has come to our attention that a minority of local authorities are putting considerable pressure on head teachers to submit misleading census returns - by suggesting central staff are on a



STERN WARNING:
Michael Russell

I am very concerned at the warning from the Association of Head Teachers and Deputies

Michael Russell

returns on your behalf without you having sight of and agreeing with the information, you should query this immediately.

'In short, the advice is that members should always ensure that they understand and agree with any information being submitted before they sign it or consent to it being submitted in their name.'

As many as 15 head teachers have said they felt under pressure from the local authority to deliver 'positive' results. In fact, one head teacher said they thought their job was under threat if they failed to comply with the request.

The senior teacher said: 'Immense pressure was being put on teachers in order that the local authority did not miss out on £800,000 worth of extra funding from the Scottish government by allowing teacher numbers to fall below the benchmark level.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute and former Cabinet Secretary for Education in the Scottish government, issued a stern warning to the local authority: 'I am very concerned at the warning from the Association of Head Teachers and Deputies, a highly reputable teaching trade union. Their information about attempts to cheat the teaching census in Argyll and Bute or anywhere else must have come directly from their own members in schools.'

A persistent critic of the council, the Holyrood politician continued: 'I shall be asking the Scottish government to be very vigilant with regard to these

returns, due for publication in December.

'They relate to a central issue of vital importance to parents, pupils and Scottish education - the employment of the right number of teachers in classrooms the length and breadth of the country.'

'Councils receive money to support the maintenance of teacher numbers, so submitting false returns would be an act of deliberate financial fraud.'

He also called for tough disciplinary sanctions if 'some types of teachers are being wrongly included or if any other illegitimate technique for boosting numbers is being used.'

Michael Russell also said he would deal with any 'whistle-blowers' sympathetically: 'If a head teacher or education official in Argyll and Bute has been asked or told to submit false or doctored returns, they should feel free to contact me and I will make sure that information is passed to the government in the strictest confidence whilst, of course maintaining their anonymity.'

In some schools, staff from quality improvement teams and

specialist advisers in subjects were said to be added to government returns.

While census returns were due to be collated in the week of September 21 -25, 2015, a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute said: 'The process for undertaking the staff census is not yet complete and therefore we are not able to respond to the figures at this time.'

'We will be submitting these figures in line with Scottish government guidance.'

Census returns in 2014 show that there were 878 teachers in Argyll and Bute.

Sources say the local authority has not replaced teachers with as many as 40 teachers having left the education system.

A Scottish government spokeswoman said: 'This government is committed to ensuring we have the right number of teachers, with the right skills, in the right places to educate our young people.'

'These are national statistics and local authorities are obliged to make sure their returns are correct and they will be subjected to robust checking to confirm the accuracy of the data provided.'

TIMESLINE

Homes plunged in darkness for hours

MORE THAN 690 houses were plunged into darkness by a power cut on Tuesday afternoon in the Oban south area.

The majority of properties were reconnected within an hour of the outage.

Although electricity provider Scottish and Southern Energy said all homes would be reconnected by 11pm that day, around 100 houses still had no power at midnight.

End delay on Mull emergency plans

AFTER almost a year of wrangling, community councillors have given the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) a six-week ultimatum to find a solution for emergency care on Mull.

Community council chairman, Billy MacClymont, said SAS must either set an agreed timetable for delivering a solution or give clear reasons why it has chosen to reject the emergency care plans.

Cancer treatment fails target times

CANCER patients are not being treated quickly enough by NHS Highland, according to statistics.

At least 95 per cent of cancer patients must be treated within 31 days of diagnosis, but NHS Highland treated 94.5 per cent, missing the Scottish government's target 16 times, between April and June this year.

Roof thieves strike again at St Conan's

A FURTHER theft at St Conan's Kirk between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning saw more lead stolen from an ornate roof. Police are appealing for information. Call them on 101.

Ray the groundsman @ Isle of Mull Rugby Club is: #thelawnranger

Lawn ranger Reay admits he's a star without trying

A MULL man has become an unwitting star of the rugby world cup after donning a green hat and looking miserable.

In his defence, Reay Whyte (pictured), a fish farmer from Salen, Mull, says the day the advert for the Rugby Union's Keeping it Real, advertising campaign to promote the world

cup in England was filmed it was 'pouring,' and to top it all 'the grass didn't even need cut.'

The hat now has its own social media hashtag #thelawnranger, and Reay is being recognised in the street, he says 'mainly to ask me for money.'

Reay said: 'My lovely daughter, Megan, gave me the hat to cover

up the tufts of hair I had left after chemotherapy.

'It is a lovely warm hat. The day the PR company came to film at Mull rugby club, the grass didn't need cutting. So I went up and down in the tractor not really doing anything at all.'

'I wouldn't say I was miserable, not really.'

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BEAT DOORSTEP CRIME

Think

- Be on guard for unexpected visitors
- Be aware of distraction methods
- Don't keep large amounts of money at home
- Call the police if you see anything suspicious

Secure

- Use a door chain or bar or check from a window
- Use a security spy-hole if you have one
- Keep other doors and windows secure
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful

Question

- If you answer the door always ask for ID
- Remember - IDs can be faked
- Don't assume a caller wearing a uniform is genuine
- Ask a friend or neighbour for help if you need them
- Tell the caller to come back when someone else is home

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Ian passes with flying colours

OBAN airport has gained an historic first after its first student passed with flying colours.

Ian McConnell, a senior nurse practitioner and member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue team, passed his skill test with a Civil Aviation Authority examiner on Sunday, September 20.

Ian has become the first ever person to gain a civilian pilot licence qualification in the history of the airport.

On landing back at Oban, Ian was presented with a bottle of 'sparkly' wine by the staff at the airport, which he quickly disposed of in 'Grand Prix' style.

Grimming broadly, Ian said: 'This is now my licence to learn about flying'.

Graham Dawson from Border Air Training and Ian's primary instructor, said: 'Learning to fly here is no "Chumley-in-the-Hedges". You really have got to have your wits about you. I am very proud of his achievement.'

Ian was the first to say that he could not have done it without the unstinting support of his wife, Lindsey, and also of the staff at Oban, who have always welcomed and encouraged him.

After his first solo flight (another first in itself) he held up score cards 'ice-skating style' as he taxied back in after the flight.

Still looking to fill dentist role

PLANS to rent out the state-of-the-art dental unit in Oban has made little progress since a meeting almost four weeks ago.

Health representative to Oban community council, Duncan Martin, said while he believed a dentist was still interested in taking over the dental unit at Lorn and Islands hospital, nothing had been signed by either the health board or any potential providers.

Mr Martin, a community councillor, said: 'No public announcement will be made until he (the potential dentist) signs on the dotted line.'

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban community council, asked the question: 'So it could go on for six months?'

Mr Martin agreed that the dental unit may remain unoccupied for six months or more.

Face-saving explanation after confusion over social media blog

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

MEMBERS of Oban community council were upset on Monday night when they thought plans to spend more than £6.9 million were being revealed on Facebook, rather than through the community council - a statutory consultee.

They believed consultant, Helen Ford, whose company was paid more than £80,000 in 2014 by Argyll and Bute council, had heralded plans for the town centre on the social media site.

Her Facebook blog post, which was read out at the

community council, said she was 'pleased to advise' that her former school friend had been appointed to the post of Oban CHORD project manager.

Mrs Ford, who is a sole-trader and has been with the council for more than three years, said on Facebook: 'I am pleased to advise you that Kirsteen Macdonald is the new Oban CHORD Project Manager with responsibility for delivering the North Pier Maritime Quarter, with Andrew Collins leading on the delivery of the Oban CHORD public realm works.'

The blog post continued: 'Bit of a blast from school days past to speak to Kirsteen

and fantastic news that it is actually an Argyll local who's been appointed...in my humble opinion.'

Community council chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'There was a long update from Helen Ford on Facebook, and it would have been nice for her to come to the community council first. We are the ones who have been elected.'

'The former CHORD manager would come to the community council every time and update us.'

'I wish she had come and talked to us before using Facebook.'

Community councillor, Andy

Harper, said: 'Facebook is a poor point of contact.'

Veteran councillor Duncan MacIntyre added: 'It is clear that the workers want to communicate with the community.'

'I think it is time people stopped taking things from Facebook. Let's get the community council up and running with this and I would suggest you get Helen Ford and Fergus Murray to come to this meeting.'

Oban and Islands councillor Mary-Jean Devon added: 'We cannot answer why it appeared on Facebook and why no-one had notified the community council. But we must get the

information out to the community council.'

Oban area council chairman Roddy McCuish agreed, and said: 'We should get information from a reliable source and not from Facebook.'

However, an Argyll and Bute council spokesman said it had been a misunderstanding and the comments attributed to Helen Ford, were not actually made by her.

He said: 'This is not true. What appears to have happened here is that a response was given in good faith to a query by a member of the public and this was subsequently related on Facebook by them.'

Helping hand for town's transplant families

A FUNDRAISING company which raises money for transplant patients has donated £3,000 to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Transplant Life UK is an organisation dedicated to helping those associated with transplant surgery in the UK.

Founders of the company, Patricia and David Pollock, who previously lived in Ayr, were in the Tesco store in Oban on Friday to present the cheque to representatives from the hospital.

David explained: 'When we started Transplant Life UK, three years ago, we felt there was not enough help available for transplant patients and their families.'

'We decided to set up the company and have given more than £100,000 to Yorkhill Children's Hospital alone, since we started.'

Peter Thorpe, clinical lead at the hospital, said: 'I'd like to thank transplant UK for their support.'

'I'm sure the money used will further improve patient experience here in Oban.'



LIFE-CHANGING: Patricia Pollock, front right, with members of staff from both Tesco and the hospital 15_t40tescocheque01

TIMESLINE

Almost £3K seized off Oban supplier

AN OBAN man who admitted supplying cannabis from his home has had more than £2,700 of cash seized by the town's sheriff court.

James Adam Richell, 30, of Lorne Avenue, supplied the class B drug on March 5 this year, the court heard on Monday, September 28.

Procurator fiscal, Eoin McGinty, said that £2,785 had been seized in total at the property by police and asked for it to be confiscated.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, deferred sentence on Richell until October 13 for criminal justice reports, and ordered the money to be forfeited.

The court also heard that Richell had committed the offence while on bail granted at Dumbarton sheriff court on December 2 last year.

Admonished after charity donation

A WOMAN who fraudulently cashed cheques at an Oban town centre bank has been admonished, after donating the stolen sum to charity.

Marlene Elizabeth Armstrong, 58, of Dalinart Drive, Oban, admitted cashing the cheques worth £150 using forged signatures at the Bank of Scotland on Station Road, between May 3 and June 6 last year.

The person who issued the cheques was satisfied that the £150 had been donated to charity. The sheriff admonished Armstrong on Monday at Oban sheriff court.

Cash stolen from church collection

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after money was stolen from a donation box at Achnaba church, North Connel. The money went missing between Sunday, September 20 and Sunday, September 27.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.

MORRISON

Clydebank Museum & Art Gallery - 21st August to 24th October

Strathearn Gallery, Crieff - 12th September to 10th October

Gullane Art Gallery, Gullane - 9th October to 1st November

The Mitchell, Glasgow - 19th November to 26th November

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First ever win for Fort William in Scottish Cup

Preston Athletic	2
Fort William	3
William Hill Scottish Cup	

FORT William Football Club made history at the weekend, when they won a Scottish Cup game for the first time in the club's history.

The Fort beat Preston Athletic 3-2 in Saturday's away game, thanks to a goal from Donald MacPhee and a John MacLeod double. Manager, Ally Ewen, called the game an 'outstanding' performance.

The Claggan side made it to the second round of the cup in 1986 when they received a bye, but this is the first season they have won a

first-round game. They will find out this afternoon (Thursday) who they will face in the second round.

Ewen said: 'We were well chuffed, it was a great result. We started the week with a full squad, but they seemed to be dropping like flies. By the weekend we had seven boys missing so there was a wee doubt in my mind, but I was still quietly confident. The guys went out and fought for it, they were outstanding.'

David MacDonald, vice chairman of the club, added: 'We are absolutely delighted to get our first ever win in the Scottish Cup and it is testament to all the hard work Ally and the boys have put in. Saturday was a massive boost

Football

for everyone involved with the football club, and if we get a favourable draw in the next round, who knows how far we can go.'

This Saturday, the Fort will travel east to take on Fraserburgh. Ewen said: 'Historically, we have conceded a lot of goals to them, but they've lost their star striker, Scott Barber, so they haven't been doing as well recently. They're not far from us on the table so a win isn't out of our reach, I think we can do it.'

The next home game is Wednesday, October 7, against Clachnacuddin, who are ahead of Fort William in the league by a mere two goals.



TRI, TRI AND TRI AGAIN: The Inverlochry primary school won t-shirts and medals for coming first in a Lochaber-wide schools triathlon

Inverlochry primary win triathlon

INVERLOCHY primary school pupils were crowned winners of a Lochaber-wide triathlon. Each of the 20 schools sent a team of three, a swimmer, cyclist and runner, to Lochaber leisure centre last Wednesday.

The race kicked off in the pool with a 200-metre swim and three girls smashed the previous record of three minutes and 24 seconds. Poppy Valentine of Banavie was fastest, covering the distance in three minutes.

Ronnie Fulford was the hero of Spean Bridge when he took first place in the four-kilometre cycle ride, finishing in nine minutes and 33 seconds.

After 'passing the baton' to the third and final leg, the runners set off up Cow Hill and Innes Orr of Inverlochry was first home, bringing his school to pole position for the overall event.

Active Schools co-ordinator, Bridget Thomas,

Triathlon

said: 'A huge shout of congratulations has to go to all of the children who took part in what is a great introduction to multisport events. Massive thanks also go out to No Fuss Events for donating prizes and medals, the Lochaber high school pupils who marshalled the event and, of course, to the organisers.'

Results: Swimming - 1 Poppy Valentine, Banavie; 2 Evie Jay Clark, Inverlochry; 3 Alice Ann MacPherson, Lochside.

Cycling - 1 Ronnie Fulford, Spean Bridge; 2 Lachlan MacKinnon, Lochside; 3 Finlay Fraser, Invergarry.

Running - 1 Innes Orr, Inverlochry; 2 Sam Daynes, Ballachulish; Cameron Fraser, Invergarry.

Returns from Fort William golf club

Golf

THE Medal Final was played on Saturday, September 19.

Section one: 1 Nick Hough 68 (79-11); 2 James Duncan 70 (83-13); 3 Gareth Lee 70 (81-11). Section two, 1 Frank Sweeney 68 (83-15); 2 Willie Hendrie 74 (91-17).

The Senior Medal final, played on Sunday, September 20: 1 Steven Jamieson 65 (70-5); 2 Henry MacDonald 67 (79-12); 3 Graham Hayden 67 (93-26).

The D Gillies Memorial trophy, played on Saturday, September 26: 1 Jason Wallace 42 points; 2 David Laing 40 points; 3 Marc MacDonald 39 points.

Ladies: Medal and eclectic competition, played on Saturday, September 19 - 1 Ann Lovatt 72 (92-25); 2 Iona Cameron 73 (92-19); 3 Rosemary Macintyre 76 (88-12).

The fifth round of the E Howie trophy, played on Tuesday, September 22 - 1 Iona Cameron 74 (93-19); 2 Kathleen Leitch 84 (99-15).

The sixth round of the E Howie trophy, played on Sunday, September 27 - 1 Iona Cameron 76 (95-19); 2 Ann Lovatt 81 (106-25).

Juniors: The September junior medal, played on Saturday September 19 - 1 Scott Lawrie 61 (70-9); 2 Lorne Ross 62 (65-3); 3 Callum Dingwall 69 (96-27).

Isle of Skye

THE ISLE of Skye Golf Club Talisker Scramble, played on Saturday, September 26: 1 Sandy Ross, Willie Cowie, John Finlayson and Phil McCaherty 53.9; 2 George Neill, Donald Bethune, John Allan Macleod and John Marshall 54.1; 3 Alex Munro, Stuart Johnston junior, Lloyd Browett and Stuart Johnston senior 56.0.

Phoenix boxers will put on a show

Boxing

FOURTEEN Lochaber Phoenix boxers are preparing for their latest home show, when they welcome competitors from all over Scotland.

From experienced winners to young debutants, the range of talent in the Nevis Centre next Saturday night (October 10) will be varied.

Tickets are available from the venue or club officials.

Tommy and Allan MacKlean up

Bowls

IT WAS third time lucky for the MacKleaners pairs bowling competition, which was played on Saturday after two cancellations due to bad weather.



WINNERS: Tommy Campbell, left, and Allan MacKlean won the event at the Railway Bowling Club, Inverlochry

Darren appointed new captain



NEW CAPTAIN: Darren Quigg 21_f40captain01

DARREN Quigg has become the latest player to own the Fort William football club captain's band, taking over from Martin Kerr.

The long-serving midfielder has been vice captain this season, but often acted as captain in the absence of Kerr, who hasn't made it on to the field this year, due to work commitments and fitness troubles. The 26-year-old will be helped by Iain MacLellan, who has stepped into the vice-captain role.

Manager, Ally Ewen, said: 'Martin Kerr has had to step down due to work and family commitments. He has also struggled with his fitness this season.

Darren, as vice-captain, has proved a more than able deputy in Marty's absence, and the time is right for him to step up to captain. He always leads by example and always gives his all, no matter where we ask him to play. 'Macey [MacLellan] was an easy choice to be vice-captain. He was stand-in captain a couple of times this season, and the arm band seemed to inspire him.'

Quigg added: 'I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed captain and to accept the responsibility that comes with it. Hopefully we can lead the team to a successful season and to build on the progress we have made in the last 12 months.'

Kilmallie triumph in Aitchison Cup

THE FIRST Ian Aitchison memorial cup was presented to Kilmallie on Saturday, in honour of the shinty stalwart.

Ian played for Ballachulish and

went on to manage Kilmallie and was also secretary of the Caol club for many years before his death last year.

The cup was presented by Ian's

Shinty

sons, sister and widow after Kilmallie won 6-2 against Ballachulish at Jubilee Park.



MEMORIAL CUP: The Aitchison family present Kilmallie captain, Liam MacDonald, with the first Ian Aitchison memorial cup. From left: Ian's sister, Margaret MacPhee, Brian Aitchison, Liam MacDonald, John Aitchison and Ian's wife, Moira Aitchison 21_f40ian01



WELL DONE: Prizewinners at the South Lochaber schools cross country

Sam takes the cross country honours

SAM DAYNES from Ballachulish picked up first prize at this year's South Lochaber schools cross country.

The primary seven pupil completed the course at Glencoe Visitor Centre in 11 minutes and 46 seconds, followed by primary five, Charlie Henshall, of Glencoe in 13 minutes and 30 seconds.

Third was Leon Lawrie, primary six at Ballachulish, who finished in 13 minutes and 50 seconds.

Ailsa Janzen, P6, from Glencoe primary, took the top spot for the girls in 14 minutes and 25 seconds, followed by primary seven, Grace Livingston, of St Brides, in 18 minutes and 40 seconds.

Active Schools co-ordinator Tracey Jeffrey said: 'The pupils

Cross country

put a lot of effort into the race and we had some great results. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped with the training, high school students who marshalled or ran the course and to Glencoe National Trust for Scotland for hosting us and helping with the marshalling.'

Lochaber win Shinty Shop schools sixes

LOCHABER High School won the Shinty Shop Great Glen school's shinty sixes on September 22 defeating hosts Glen Urquhart High School by a golden goal in extra time.

A total of ten teams from across the Highlands and Islands took part in the event, which, this year, celebrated its 20th year.

Following the league stage, the

first semi-final saw Lochaber defeating Kilchuikea 3-0 and in the other semi it took a penalty shoot-out to separate Glen Urquhart High and Kingussie High, with the Glen winning 3-2.

There was some consolation for Kingussie, who defeated Kilchuikea 3-0 in the third place final.

The grand final was a close affair with the teams tied 0-0

at the end of the game. It was Dean Williamson who struck for Lochaber in the second minute of golden goal extra time to seal the win.

Helen MacLennan of sponsors, Shinty Shop, presented the medals and trophies and the player of the tournament award which was given to Seamus Gall of Lochaber High School.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday Cloudy with light rain in the morning
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 1 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	01.33	0.4	07.20	4.0	13.58	0.4
Fri	02.16	0.6	07.59	3.8	14.45	0.7
Sat	03.01	0.9	08.42	3.5	15.35	1.1
Sun	03.52	1.2	09.31	3.3	16.32	1.5
Mon	04.50	1.4	10.41	3.0	17.43	1.7
Tues	00.34	2.8	05.58	1.6	13.01	2.9
Wed	02.19	2.8	07.20	1.7	15.03	3.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-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