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£1m community broadband scheme for Mull 'in jeopardy'

SANDY NEIL
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MULL'S 'groundbreaking' project to bring superfast broadband to 1,600 homes in Argyll's remote blackspots has descended into an 'impossible mess' after its contractor went bust, wasting four years of work and £1 million of taxpayers' money.

Directors of the community-run GigaPlus Argyll say the organisation is now in an 'absurd' situation where it is burdened with eight masts it cannot use, which will probably have to be removed at further public cost, after only two houses were ever connected.

BT is contracted to provide superfast broadband to 95 per cent of the UK, leaving the remotest five per cent uncovered, and in 2012 GigaMull was born to reach the parts BT could not.

The community-funded and -run service expanded into GigaPlus Argyll (GPA) to bring superfast broadband to Mull, Iona, Lismore, Colonsay, Luig, Islay, Jura and the Craignish peninsula.

Some £988,000 of government funding was granted towards the network's staged roll-out by Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), a Scottish Government initiative led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Contractors were invited to tender and GPA appointed Lincoln-based AB Internet Ltd, which also supplied the CBS-supported project Loch Tay Internet, to construct a network of masts and operate the system.

However, GPA director Tim Dawson told *The Oban Times*: 'After considerable delays in the

Atlantis celebrates landmark anniversary in style



It was all go at Atlantis Leisure as the centre celebrated its 25th birthday and the opening of the new under-fives playpark, complete with pirate ship Salty-Dog. Along for the fun were Friends of Oban Playpark, Oban Sea Cadets and sponsor Scottish Sea Farms. Picture special – page eight. 15_T40_Atlantis Leisure's 25th birthday party_07

construction programme, the contractor revealed in April 2017 that it was in financial difficulty and in May it entered voluntary administration.

'GPA had made all payments under the contract at the appropriate times and is a completely innocent victim of the contractor's failure.'

'The contractor left just eight masts constructed on Mull, with a link back to Oban. Official expenditure up to this point was £700,000, but taking into account other administrative

costs is likely to have exceeded £1 million of taxpayer money.'

Only two houses were connected before AB Internet went into voluntary administration and the contract was terminated.

The infrastructure nominally belongs to GPA under the terms of the contract, but Mr Dawson said: 'GPA is not allowed to use the existing masts for any community scheme it may try to set up because they were constructed under state aid regulations.'

'This ruling is likely to make it impractical for GPA to set up

a community scheme to salvage something from the mess.'

Mr Dawson continued: 'It appears the only solution for the masts is to dismantle them and make good the ground, at further public cost.'

'Since May, GPA has been struggling to find a way forward. The official attitude of government agencies could be summarised as: "Tough, go to the back of the queue".'

GPA's chairman Moray Finch added: 'AB Internet's failure leaves the 1,600 properties that

were covered by the project with no prospect of a superfast broadband service in the timescale of the contract – and the contract was already around 12 months late when it was terminated.'

Mr Finch said the board of volunteers faced an 'impossible dilemma' exploring the options ahead, and he was not optimistic a solution would be found at their meeting with CBS and HIE at Craignure on Wednesday, adding: 'It appears every common-sense suggestion we have put forward for a community-led

solution is prohibited by the advice from CBS and Broadband Development UK. Meanwhile, time moves on and our remote communities continue to be depopulated, in part due to the poor and, in some cases, non-existent broadband provision.'

'We feel strongly that public funding should be made available, free of restrictions, to resolve the situation allowing us to deliver our community's – and indeed the Scottish Government's – aspirations for Next Generation Broadband.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Islands plan

THE Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (OHCPP) has published its key strategic priorities for the Western Isles for the next 10 to 20 years.

Full story – page two.

Driver charged

THE driver of a lorry has been charged following the closure of the A85 for several hours last week as a result of a detergent leak.

Full story – page three.

Rockport closes

THE Rockport Hotel in Oban has closed with the loss of five full-time jobs. The business, known locally as the Woody, is on the market.

Full story – page four.

Off the air

A PLEDGE to broadcast council meetings live has been 'kicked into touch' by the ruling coalition, according to opposition councillors.

Full story – page five.

Atlantis parties

THE Atlantis Leisure Centre celebrated its 25th birthday at the weekend – and what a party it turned out to be.

Picture special – page eight.

Shinty special

NEWTONMORE won shinty's coveted Camanachd Cup for the 32nd time and Lochside Rovers clinched the Marine Harvest South Division 1.

Full story – pages 30 and 31.



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New road issue at Catalina Avenue

A 25FT ROCK face in the middle of a residential area in Oban is causing more concern, with boulders being thrown onto the road below, writes David McPhee.

Previously *The Oban Times* reported that children were using the exposed drop, which is situated behind Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, below Catalina Avenue, as a shortcut.

However, over the weekend a concerned resident took to a public group on social media to report a number of boulders that had been rolled onto the road.

He said: 'It seems to be the new pastime for a small group of kids to roll the rocks off the hillside

onto the road. Caught three kids rolling them down onto the road tonight, only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured up there. It's about time MacLeod Construction Ltd and Argyll and Bute Council got their heads together before there is an accident.'

The road is currently maintained by developer MacLeod Construction, which is in the process of having a fence built.

A one-metre-high fence will be positioned at the bottom of the rock face and another at the bus turning circle to deter members of the public from using the route.

This will be done as soon as the

fencing contractor is available to do so. As it stands, the firm is busy finishing off houses at Glenshellach.

Councillor Jim Lynch, for Oban South and the Isles, said: 'It seems to be the children are going up to the top and throwing rocks.'

Councillor Lynch raised a number of questions, saying: 'I am not an expert, but can we stop the children going up there? The last thing you want is someone driving and a rock comes down. Can we take these rocks away? Are they going to put something at the bottom? Has that bit been risk assessed?'

'I don't want to blame anyone,

but it's something we need to do together and figure out an answer to.'

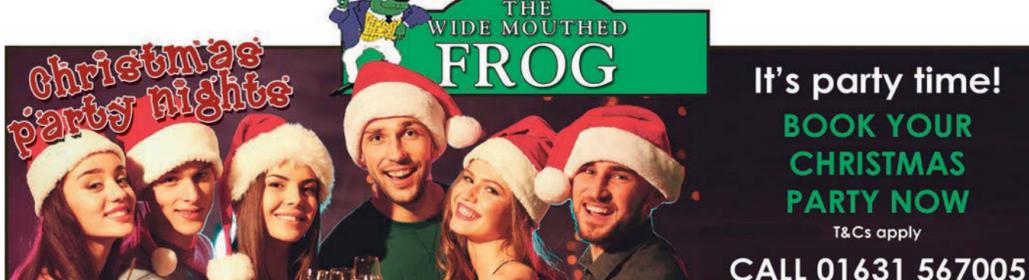
A Glenshellach resident said: 'It's only by luck that some poor little kid has not fallen down that and smashed into the rocks below.'

'The fence is a possible remedy, but the children will climb over it. What should have been done is a re-contour so there was not such a sheer rock face.'

'This is a beautiful area, but tourists won't come back because what they see is what looks like a coal face. The place is ugly.'

The resident added: 'We want to be part of a solution.'

Christmas party nights

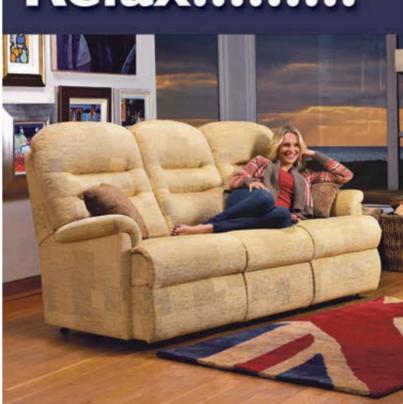


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OT

Priorities published for islands

MARTIN LAING

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THE Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (OHCPP) has published its key strategic priorities for the Western Isles for the next 10 to 20 years.

The OHCPP has also published a draft locality plan online for Benbecula and North Uist.

The OHCPP is the group that brings together agencies from across the Outer Hebrides with the common purpose of improving the lives of people and communities of the islands as set out in the Community Empowerment Scotland Act of 2015.

The OHCPP's vision is to promote and realise the full potential of the Outer Hebrides as a prosperous, well-educated and

healthy community, enjoying a good quality of life and fully realising the benefits of their natural environment and cultural values.

The key strategic priorities are:

- The Outer Hebrides retain and attract people to ensure a sustainable population;
- The Outer Hebrides have sustainable economic growth and people have access to appropriate employment opportunities;
- The Outer Hebrides offer attractive opportunities that improve the quality of life, well-being and health.

The strategic priorities were agreed by the OHCPP in May and provide a focus and reflect the areas where the partnership is striving to make maximum impact and improve outcomes in the face of the key challenges over the next 10 years.

OHCPP chairman Norman A MacDonald said: 'Community engagement and analysis through the How Good Is Our Place survey enabled residents in the islands to identify their priorities and areas where they thought things could be better. Responding to this work, the OHCPP has proposed priorities which focus on improvement and these are presented in this Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

'Involving people in the decisions that have an impact on their lives and empowering communities to help themselves is vital and, while the LOIP is for the whole of the islands, we have identified two areas – Benbecula and North Uist, and Stornoway West – where additional focused effort is required to improve outcomes.

'This is really building on the Outer Hebrides' traditional strengths of community, local engagement and partnership and is a commitment to empower our communities in delivering the services and aspirations they deserve.'

Rachel Mackenzie, area manager for Highland and Islands Enterprise, said: 'HIE is delighted to be chairing the Sustainable Economic Growth priority group and we look forward to working closely with our partners towards achieving greater sustainable economic growth within the Outer Hebrides.'

Both Benbecula and North Uist, and Stornoway West areas are experiencing poorer outcomes and less improvement in outcomes than other areas within the Outer Hebrides.

The OHCPP will be engaging further with the community in Stornoway about the extent of the area to be covered by that plan. The locality plan for Stornoway West is being developed and will be issued later.

Dr Maggie Watts, director of public health, NHS Western Isles, said: 'When we look at eight key features of small areas, including fuel poverty, child poverty and early deaths, which can be compared across Scotland and apply them to the Outer Hebrides, we see Benbecula and North Uist is identified as the second most vulnerable area within the Outer Hebrides after Stornoway West.'

'Earlier this year we asked people to complete a survey about How Good is our Place. We have used the consultation responses and the discussions in community

meetings held in North Uist and Benbecula aided by third sector colleagues to identify priorities for action for North Uist and Benbecula.'

The priority areas for North Uist and Benbecula have been identified as:

- Housing for families and small and medium enterprise ideas in North Uist;
- Care and maintenance – Balivanich;
- Actions supported by the Uist Economic Forum;
- Working in partnership with the community to find solutions.

Residents of Balivanich and North Uist are being asked to comment by October 31 to info@ohcpp.org.uk.

The full documents can be accessed here: <http://www.ohcpp.org.uk/>

CalMac selects its new board

CALMAC has named its new independent community board. The creation of the 12-member board was a key element of the company's winning bid for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract last year.

The board was shortlisted by CalMac but it promises to be 'a strong community voice on strategic ferry issues, completely independent from the company' with 'no CalMac representative'. CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, Brian Fulton, said: 'Listening to our communities and acting on their wishes has always been central to how we organise our services.'

'The knowledge this group brings will add tremendous value to our long-term strategic decision-making process, and we are looking forward to hearing their views on the role transport can play in helping develop our communities in the future.'

Membership will be for an 18-month period in the first instance, with the option of an extension for 18 months.

The new board's chairman will be Lewis-based businessman and ex-leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Angus Campbell. Board members are geographically spread to ensure every community CalMac serves is represented. They are: Angus Campbell (chairman), Rob Ware, Jim Porteous, Iain MacFarlan, Eoin MacNeil, Camille Dressler, Neal Goldsmith, Jane Howard, Stewart MacLennan, Bill Calderwood, Eddie MacKenzie and Angus Campbell.

£420,000 boost from festival

MUSIC fans from home and abroad helped generate £420,000 for the Uist and Benbecula economy and safeguarded eight tourism-related jobs, a study has revealed.

In only its second year, the Eilean Dorcha Festival (EDF) on the Isle of Benbecula attracted a sell-out crowd of 3,000 over two days, a 141 per cent increase on year one.

The independent economic impact study calculated that the public subsidy of £33,500 secured to back the festival generated a visitor spend of around £420,000.

The survey found that more than half of festival goers came from outwith the Hebrides, with 28 per cent staying on the islands for more than a week. The festival ran from July 28-29.

Mull company takes up ownership of new vessel

MULL-BASED Inverlussa Marine Services, has taken delivery of a second new vessel, the Kiera Fiona, this year from Norway.

The first vessel, the Gina Mary, was delivered in May this year.

These aquaculture support vessels, costing just under £8 million, designed by Macduff Ship Design in Aberdeenshire and built by Hayward Ship Technology in Norway, increase the Inverlussa Marine Services fleet to 11 vessels.

Following years of experience operating in this area, each ship was uniquely designed for the aquaculture market to meet the ever-changing technology within the sector and to anticipate future demand.

Both these vessels will be operating on contracts for Marine Harvest Scotland, supporting the 49 sites owned and worked by the world's largest producer of farmed salmon. Their main duties will be to assist with fish treatments and general site work activities.

Ben Wilson, managing director, said: 'When we made the significant investment in these ships, we had no contracts for them to fulfil. However, it was an important time for us to invest in a growing sector and shows our confidence in fish farming in Scotland. We are delighted to be working with Marine Harvest.'

'Fish farming continues to be a success story in Scotland, but there are a number of challenges in modern fish farming. As providers of services in this sector, we need to keep pushing ahead otherwise we will be left behind.'

'Being a family business, we have always been focused heavily in re-investing, whether in our crew or the vessels.'

These two new ships will enable us to steer through any future changes and developments in this sector.'

This is the first time that Inverlussa Marine Service has used shipbuilders outside Scotland.



The Kiera Fiona is now working off the West Coast.

Barra and Vatersay health and care hub plan is unveiled

KAYLEY CORNELIUS

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PLANS have been revealed for a new £18.2 million health and social care hub in Barra and Vatersay to replace St Brendan's Hospital and Care Home.

The Scottish Government Capital Investment Group is considering the plan sent earlier

this month by NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. A response is expected in October and, if approved, a 'very detailed full business case will be submitted'.

The hub will house three individual single inpatient rooms, resuscitation bays, consulting rooms, GP services, the Scottish Ambulance Service, community

nursing, dental services and social care services in one central location. Also included will be 10 extra care units, comprising eight static and two flexible single-person units to help residents 'feel secure and supported, while maintaining their independence and receiving help in the comfort of their own home'.

Neil Galbraith, chairman of

NHS Western Isles, said: 'This is a huge step forward for Barra and a substantial proposal for the Outer Hebrides.'

'Through previous consultation, the community made their views clear there was a need for a new hospital and the proposed hub will provide a modern fit-for-purpose facility that will improve the health

and social care user experience for patients and their families while enabling safe ways of working for our staff and partner organisations.'

Gordon Jamieson, NHS Western Isles chief executive, said: 'The comhairle and ourselves recognise the unique nature of this hub and the potential to deliver on our objectives to

care for individuals where at all possible in their own homes and their own community.'

'Everyone has worked extremely hard and we have been very fortunate that six members of the Barra and Vatersay community, clinical and social care staff have represented their islands throughout the consultation and planning process.'

Advertorial

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

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

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

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time. Home renewables systems like biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

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

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

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

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

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

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

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

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

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

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Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

The stuff of legend

CONGRATULATIONS to island GP Dr Kate Pickering who has taken top place in the Pulse magazine's list of the most influential GPs in their 'local heroes' category.

She has been honoured by the publication's as a GP Community Champion and was described as 'truly a legend'.

The citation points out that when she took over the island practice five years ago its three-handed practices were largely dependent on the services of locum doctors.

This situation was exacerbated by the fact that adverts for newcomers regularly failed to attract a single applicant.

When Dr Pickering, who previously served as a locum on the island, took over the principal post she achieved great things for the medical services on both Islay and neighbouring Jura.

These achievements saw the recruitment of a new team for the islands, reduced the need for a large number of patients to travel to the mainland for medical treatment, and saw a reduction in the number of air ambulance call-outs.

There has also been a favourable and encouraging response to staff recruitment. The island GP, who is also an honorary senior lecturer in Remote and Rural Medicine in Glasgow University, was also responsible for federating the island's three medical practices into one provider, the Umbrella Model, resulting in patients' records being available across the involved practices.

Well done Dr Kate – a local hero indeed.

First grandchild

CONGRATULATIONS go to my friend in Japan Takeshi Mogi and his wife Masami, who have become grandparents for the first time following the safe arrival in Tokyo's Yonehama

Maternity Hospital of their 7lbs plus grandson Noah on September 13.

Noah's proud parents are Canami, the Mogis' only daughter, and son-in-law Shogo Izumi, who both tied the knot in Japan and had their marriage blessed at a ceremony in Bowmore's Round Church in August, 2014.

Takeshi, a Gaelic-speaking, bagpipe-playing pharmacist, has visited Islay on a number of occasions and Noah's mum spent some time here when she worked at the Suntory-owned Bowmore Distillery.

Piping and drumming

FLEDGLING pipers and drummers will be well tutored at the newly-established Islay Pipe and Drum Club whose meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm at Kilarow House, the former manse on the outskirts of Bowmore.

The club is being run by Ieagh Neil Mactaggart who has returned to his native isle after a 40-year absence.

More details can be obtained by contacting neilmactaggart@gmail.com or by phoning 07876 334540.

Baton bearers

TWO Bowmore stalwarts who have 80 years of football coaching and match arranging experience between them were rightly honoured by being among those locally nominated to be baton bearers during the Queen's Baton Relay team's recent visit to the island.

Neil Bonar, known to all as 'the Duke,' spent close on four decades coaching the Islay Boys' FC, while his cousin Iain (Bruno) Brown was at the helm of the Bowmore Village FC as well as being responsible for the Islay Football League and the island Easter Tournament.

Didn't they do well?
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay A43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810 658

Major repairs set for the A82

DAVID MCPHEE
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MAJOR repairs are set to take place on the A82 along Loch Lomond costing £885,000 and BEAR Scotland is asking the public when it should happen.

A public drop-in session will take place in Crianlarich Village Hall on October 23 between 3.30pm and 7.30pm.

The repairs include a section of crash barriers which were heavily damaged earlier this year when an HGV went through the barrier, before ending up on the loch edge.

Temporary traffic lights have been in place since May for safety reasons, as the accident resulted in an exposed section.

In an effort to make the most of the required closure, BEAR Scotland is proposing to carry out a number of additional repairs. This would see around 40 workers operating on the road.

The repairs would include up to four kilometres of resurfacing, and major drainage works being carried out between Tarbet and Inveruglas, stretching over 3.5 kilometres, to address issues of flooding on the route. It would also see the installation

of 1,300 new safety barrier reflectors and verge marker posts to increase visibility and safety at bends.

And it would involve road sign replacement and repairs, landscaping cut-back works, 26 kilometres of road markings, as well as other minor repairs on the road.

The proposed time to carry out the work is on Monday November 6 until Tuesday November 21 from 8am to 7pm – with work during the day only.

Emergency services, public buses and local access would be maintained throughout the

closure points, with all other traffic diverted via the A83, A819, A85 and A82 during working hours.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, said: 'We welcome all feedback on these proposals to carry out the repairs to the barrier near Loch Lomond Holiday Park which would finally see the temporary traffic lights lifted from the A82 at the same time as a further £885,000 investment in the route to help ensure it continues to function safely for road users.

'We only ever close roads

when it is essential. In this case the barrier that needs to be replaced is so close to the loch and is in such a restricted space that it is unsafe for our teams to work there with heavy machinery at night. This means daytime working is the only option.

'We've taken steps to avoid working over the summer and October holidays, when traffic flows are generally busier.

'The dates proposed will mean the temporary traffic lights are removed and the works to be completed before the winter weather really sets in.

'We're also putting forward the opportunity to take full advantage of any daytime road closures by using multiple teams of more than 40 road workers to carry out as many schemes as we can in one go.

'This would result in better value overall for the public, as well as increased safety for our road maintenance crews.'

Those who cannot make the public consultation can still have their say by emailing A82SouthConsultation@bear-scotland.co.uk.

To view the plans visit www.bearsco.com.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

ABOUT 8.40pm on Thursday September 28 in High Street, Oban, a man aged 24 was arrested for allegedly assaulting another man.

When arrested, the man resisted police and assaulted two officers. The man was charged with the offences and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

ABOUT 2pm on Friday September 29, a car was stopped by police for a routine check on McCaig Road, Oban.

Subsequent checks revealed that there was no insurance in force for the vehicle and the driver, a 30-year-old woman, was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

ABOUT 12.30am on Saturday September 30, in Victoria Crescent, Oban, a woman was allegedly assaulted by another woman. Police investigated and on Sunday October 1 a woman, aged 21, was arrested and charged with the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

ABOUT 1.40am on Saturday September 30, in Craighard Road, Oban, a woman aged 55 was arrested for alleged disorderly conduct and refusing to leave a licensed premises.

The woman was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

Gordon goes wild for new calendar

TOP wildlife photographer Gordon Buchanan has praised a charity calendar that was created to give something back to the Macmillan Day Care Unit in Oban's hospital.

Gordon commended the 'Ootmyhoosewindae' calendar when he gave a presentation at the Corran Halls in Oban last Wednesday in front of a packed audience.

Ootmyhoosewindae was created by Robert Cruikshanks and Janice Alexander.

Robert is a keen amateur photographer and regularly photographs wildlife at his home in Glencruitten.

'It was my photographs, but it was all Janice,' Robert said. 'She came up with the idea to give something back. It's all about her. It's all designed and focused on Janice giving something back for the excellent care and attention she has received over the years.'

'Gordon Buchanan was really good. He plugged away for us and gave us his support.'

Speaking after his Animal Family and Me talk, Gordon said: 'It's a great charity. It's local people doing something to help other people. I'm really impressed by the standard of photography. It's a perfect example of paying attention to the things on your doorstep.'

Gordon is quoted on the back of the calendar saying: 'Robert Cruikshanks looks out of his house window near Oban every day. The local wildlife he observes and captures on his camera is truly amazing. It just shows you what's on your own doorstep.'

More than 100 charity calendars were sold during the event. A total of 500 were made, with each one selling for £10 and a donation.

Robert said: 'We have incredible wildlife around us, but I could not get close to woodpeckers and some birds, so I was taking photographs out of my window and when someone asked where did you get these pictures, my answer was "oot my hoose windae". I think it works.'

As well as creating the calendars, Robert runs a pine marten workshop, where a couple of people can sit and watch the creatures in their natural habitat.

He said, 'all I ask is that if people have enjoyed their visit, they give a donation.'

'People say it's very calming but it's also very intense. If someone has wanted to see one for years and you put one in front of them – it takes their breath away.'

Gordon Buchanan said: 'It's great. It's quite funny being here. I feel like a bit of a fraud doing something like this on my home turf, because of the people who know me.'

Anyone who would like to purchase a calendar can do so from Hannah's, Roxy's, Annie's Burger Van, Oban Veterinary Surgeons, Munro's Garage, Ross Electrics, Dunbeg Stores, Poppies Garden Centre, as well as Connel and Dalmally Post Offices.

Alternatively, calendars can be purchased online at www.ootmyhoosewindae.weebly.com.



Gordon Buchanan, left, praised Robert Cruikshanks for his charity wildlife calendar.

Driver charged after detergent leak causes traffic chaos on A85

A 25-YEAR-OLD lorry driver has been charged with allegedly having an insecure load after the A85 near the Halfway House filling station was closed due to a chemical spillage.

The road was closed in both directions for more than six hours after a 'quantity of detergent' leaked from a container within a Menzies Distribution vehicle.

The incident occurred at 8.35am on Wednesday September 27 and the road remained closed until 3pm, when police opened one lane. The road was then fully re-opened at around 4.30pm.

A spokesman for Police Scotland said: 'Police and the fire service attended and the road was closed for safety reasons.'

Examination and clean-up operations took place and one lane was re-opened with traffic being led through under police escort at 3pm.

'A man aged 25 was charged with allegedly having an insecure load and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal. It was confirmed that the chemical involved was not a danger to the public or property.'

A spokesperson from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said: 'A



The A85 was closed for hours by the spill.

lorry was carrying a number of intermediate bulk containers of chemicals and one of them suffered damage.

'A quantity of a detergent leaked from one of the containers and onto the roadway.'

'Emergency crews closed the trunk road to traffic in both directions and cordoned off the vehicle until the chemical was identified.'

'A specialist chemical unit from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and BEAR Scotland contained the remaining spillage and oversaw the clean-up operation at which time the road was re-opened to traffic.'

'A SEPA officer was on site

to liaise with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service scientific advisers and there was no risk of pollution to the environment or harm to human health as a result of the spillage.'

A spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'A total of two appliances and a specialist chemical unit were immediately mobilised and firefighters worked to contain the spillage alongside a scientific adviser.'

'There were no casualties and crews left the scene after ensuring the area was made safe.'

At the time of going to print, Menzies Distribution was unavailable for comment.

Asbestos fears are found to be without foundation

THE new owners of the Isle of Seil's Highland Arts Centre have been given the all-clear after concerns were raised that asbestos may have been released in the village.

The Ellenabeich business was bought by Tony Hill, who owns the wildlife boat operator Seafari Adventures next door and plans to turn the building into a boat storage facility.

However, following complaints that work on the roof was allegedly scattering asbestos debris along the roadside, health and safety agencies began investigating and work on the site was suspended.

This week Mr Hill received notification from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) that he had no case to answer.

Its unit manager for Argyll, Jim Frame, said: 'With respect to the disposal of asbestos cement roofing sheets from the former Highland Arts premises at Ellenabeich, SEPA is satisfied that the material has been correctly consigned for disposal to the authorised facility at Avondale Quarry, Falkirk.'

'We are not aware of any other activities at this premises which require further regulatory action by SEPA.'

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) also investigated the concerns and again told the businessman: 'Thank you for the providing the information regarding the removal of asbestos at Seafari Adventures.'

'I confirmed that matters relating to you as a client are now closed.'

Following confirmation by both SEPA and the Health and Safety Executive that Seafari had done nothing wrong, owner Tony Hill told *The Oban Times* that he was concerned about the number of regular complaints against his business, saying: 'Seafari followed due procedure. Again, Seafari questions the cost to the public purse – including the police time on the day.'

LiveArgyll launched to deliver leisure and library services

THE new trust that will deliver leisure and library services in Argyll and Bute was launched yesterday (Tuesday).

LiveArgyll will from today be responsible for services including libraries, leisure facilities, Active Schools, archives, museums, sport development, halls, community centres and community lets.

The transfer to the charitable trust helps make sure the services continue to be available to residents and visitors.

To celebrate the launch of LiveArgyll, people are invited to events in facilities across Argyll and Bute this Saturday, with free programmes, teas and coffees, and cupcakes.

Policy lead for communities, Councillor Robin Currie, said:

'We are handing over services to LiveArgyll as, being a charitable trust, it offers many financial and commercial benefits that can help sustain the future of services at a time when there is growing pressure on public spending.'

'The aim of the trust is clear in its name – LiveArgyll. It is the perfect name as it is here to deliver services that help young and old live healthy, happy lives.'

'LiveArgyll will no doubt become a household name and a valued source of support, benefit and enjoyment for people across Argyll and Bute.'

'As today is such an important day, marking a new era for the fantastic services the trust will now provide, I'm

delighted we have been joined by two Olympic athletes, Vicki Adams and Lauren Gray, who have represented their country with great success, to help get LiveArgyll off to a flying start.

'I look forward to seeing LiveArgyll flourish. I also hope people will be able to celebrate with us this Saturday.'

Vicki and Lauren are part of the Team GB women's curling team and are set to compete at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February next year. They won bronze at Sochi in 2014 and also at the 2016/17 World and European Championships.

Information on where events to mark the launch of LiveArgyll will be held is on the website at www.liveargyll.co.uk.

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Below the surface: news from SAMS

AS THE student body at SAMS UHI grows, we welcome students from a host of different countries.

This is no more evident than in the make-up of an EU-funded aquaculture programme we run in partnership with the universities of Crete and Nantes.

The Aquaculture, Environment and Society (ACES) joint Masters degree works closely with industry to help produce international leaders in aquaculture research and is aimed at international students.

As a result, the two-year Masters course currently has 42 students across two cohorts, representing 24 nations. While the previous year's intake has moved onto Nantes, the newest cohort – 17 students from 12 countries – began studies at SAMS last month and will be here until late February.

THIS month we will welcome another cohort of Masters students on a programme run jointly with St Andrews University.

The Ecosystem-Based Management of Marine Systems MSc is designed to train the next generation of managers and marine scientists needed to deliver integrated coastal zone management around the world.

Previous graduates have gone on to work in marine energy and food sectors, government agencies and academia.

A GROUP of UK scientists has published extensive research following a large-scale health check on the UK's seabed.

The research group, which included Dr Natalie Hicks of SAMS, looked into how industry and environmental change are affecting our seafloors and concluded more work must be done to safeguard



The newest intake of ACES students arrived in September and will be based at Dunstaffnage for six months.

these complex ecosystems and the benefits they provide.

As part of a large research consortium involving eight UK institutions and organisations, an intensive sampling campaign included three scientific cruises in just six months to examine areas of ocean located on the UK continental shelf. This helped scientists understand the sensitivity of these systems to human activities.

SAMS marine ecologist Dr Steven Benjamins spoke about his latest project at a public meeting held in Oban's Corran Halls last Thursday, hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland.

The meeting outlined work by SAMS to identify individual skate in a West Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA). SAMS is working with sea anglers who fish in the MPA, which runs from Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura, in an effort to build a photographic 'catalogue' of common, or



Paul Murton with SAMS scientist Dr Natalie Hicks filming on Loch Etive.

flapper skate, in order to gauge numbers.

The species has suffered large population declines in recent decades, yet it is estimated sea anglers spend around £23 million a year in the Argyll and Lochaber region alone.

SAMS scientist Dr Natalie Hicks was featured on the first episode of BBC1 Scotland's Grand Tours of Scotland's

Lochs, hosted by adventurer Paul Murton. Dr Hicks explained how the loch is home to a unique community of copepods called *Calanus finmarchicus*, tiny creatures that support life in the loch. Episode one of *Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs* is still available on BBC iPlayer.

A METEOROLOGICAL station that has provided local data at SAMS since 1972 has evidence that the weather is generally warmer and wetter.

Prof Stuart Cunningham has been plotting data that shows a trend of a warming local climate – over 1°C since 1972. No long-term trend in rainfall is evident, but generally it has been a bit wetter than drier over the past five years.

The average annual rainfall at Dunstaffnage is about 1.7 metres total. May is the sunniest and driest month and July and August tie as the warmest months. December and January average barely one sunshine hour per day.

Five jobs go as Rockport shuts and is put up for sale

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S Rockport Hotel has closed with the loss of five jobs.

The blue, three-storey townhouse on Tweeddale Street, formerly called the Woodside Hotel or 'The Woody', was reopened by owner Gerry Ritchie in 2015 after a six-month refurbishment.

Legendary ex-Scotland, Liverpool and Rangers star Graeme Souness even dropped in to Oban to see Gerry, his old pal, at its official opening.

The establishment, comprising eight en-suite bedrooms, the Boathouse Restaurant and the popular Woody Bar, employed five full-time staff.

The Rockport's former manager, Collette Lafferty, said the owner called her and the other staff to a meeting on Saturday September 23 to give them all their wages and tell them he was 'calling it a day'.

'Its really, really sad,' she said. 'It is part of Oban. It goes back years and years. My father used to drink in it. The craic was good. It was a great venue for a party. Hopefully, someone will buy it and open it again.'

'I was very sad. I loved my wee job there. I have worked all my life in bars and hotels. The others have all got jobs but I am finding it difficult because I have children. You are paying a child minder the same as wage as you. It is really hard.'

Cornerstone Business Agents advertised the Rockport for sale on its Facebook page on September 20, offered for a £30,000 leasehold or £350,000 freehold, and later that week the hotel was registered as permanently closed on its own Facebook page on September 24.

Cornerstone Business Agents states on its website: 'The current owner has now owned the property for approximately three years and carried out a full re-fit during his first year of ownership.'

'However, he has been unable to dedicate the amount of time required to push the business and take advantage of its wonderful location and facilities on offer.'



The Rockport is on the market at £350,000 freehold.

Age is no barrier to creativity at Rockfield

THE Rockfield Centre is gearing up to host a weekend of creative events as part of Luminare, Scotland's festival of creative ageing.

Events will be taking place around Scotland throughout October for this year's Luminare festival, and the Rockfield Centre volunteers are putting Oban on the map.

Volunteer Sheila Quillan approached the centre with some ideas and, after a quick blether over a cup of tea, plans were under way.

Sheila is a regular performer at Let's Make a Scene, the centre's monthly open mic night for new music and spoken word, and this month she's staging a takeover for older artists on Friday October 27. She's also temporarily renaming the night Let's Make a Scene – a wink at the stereotypes about older people the night hopes to turn on their head. Performers and audience members of all ages are welcome.

The following afternoon will see more writers and performers gather at the centre, this time for a rehearsed reading of dramatic sketches and works in progress on the theme of time. The aim with this event is to provide a space for more new dramatic writing to be shared and performed in Oban. There is currently a call for writing on the Rockfield Centre's website and Facebook page, and new writers are very much encouraged.

Sheila intends to write something new for the events and urges people of any age with an interest in writing to give it a try.

She said: 'I started coming to the Rockfield Centre songwriting sessions last year and that really gave me the confidence to get going. I never thought I'd be doing this, getting up and performing my writing every month, but here I am. It's good to get creative and express yourself – we should do it more.'

The centre's Under The Skin camera club will also be hosting a photography exhibition as part of the Luminare weekend, which will address themes of generations, time and ageing. Camera club members Martyn Harvey and Ewen Munro have come up with an idea for a self-portrait studio which will be set up at the Rockfield Centre earlier in the month and will be open to anyone who wants to take part.

They have also launched a call for submissions and are asking photographers of all ages to submit images of people and portraits for inclusion in the exhibition.

Rhona Dougall, arts co-ordinator at the Rockfield Centre, said: 'We're so delighted to be putting on this weekend of events for Luminare. We in Oban now have the space in the Rockfield Centre to try out new creative ideas, so it's fantastic that folk are coming forward with suggestions for activity. If anyone else, like Sheila, Martyn and Ewen, has something that they'd like to put on or see happen, we'd love to hear from you.'

Events will run October 27-29. Details of all the events and calls for participation can be found at www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/news, or on the Oban Communities Trust Facebook page.

Drivers reminded of disruption in Soroba

OBAN residents are being reminded that traffic will be disrupted next week by 'vital' roadworks in Soroba.

The programme will be see patching work, drainage repairs and kerb replacement in Soroba Road. Argyll and Bute Council will start the roadworks on Monday (October 9) and they are expected to take five days.

Along with the patching work, the drainage channel systems either side of Miller Road will be replaced, along with a gully outside Lorn Resource Centre and a manhole cover in the centre lane. The kerbs at Mathieson House will also be replaced.

During the works there will be single-lane traffic along Soroba Road, controlled by traffic lights, which will be in place on

the stretch of road between the Lynn Road and Sinclair Drive junctions on Soroba Road.

No access or exit will be available at Miller Road, which will be closed at the junction with Soroba to the Mathieson House entrance, with diversions via Sinclair Drive and Quarry Road. There will be no exit at Lynn Road. Lynn will be closed from Soroba Road to the entrance to Dunlonan/Buildbase.

All traffic in Lochavullin and Mill Lane will access Soroba Road via Lochside Street and Market Street. The southbound bus route from Soroba Lane bus stop will also follow this diversion. At Market Street, the restriction of right turns will be suspended to allow traffic to turn left or right under 'give way'.



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Thousands of pounds raised for Macmillan

PEOPLE in Oban, Lorn and the Isles have raised – and probably put on – thousands of pounds from coffee mornings in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Staff at *The Oban Times* were spoiled for choice after a banquet of food that would test anyone's sweet tooth was brought in.

After posting a photograph of our spread onto social media, news flooded in of organisations and individuals who also took part.

Betty Mackenzie informed us that staff at Oban High School raised a total of £772, adding: 'cakes were amazing,' and also said the First Connel Rainbows raised £288.

Jane Traynor said more than £700 was raised in Tobermory, while Donna Mackenzie said staff at Lorn and the Isles Hos-



Margaret and Katy along with their helpers.

pital collected a total of £620. Mhari Gibb wrote that Tesco Oban raised £400, and Rachael Turnbull said Soroba Young Family Group raised a total of £301 through a coffee morning along with The Great Soroba Bake Off.

Kathleen Cole said: 'My daughter Keira, who has just turned 13, held one yesterday and did all the homemaking herself. She raised £46 - very proud of her.'

Margaret MacDougall from Margaret's Childcare and Katy Pollock from Katy's Kids held a joint coffee morning.

'Four of the older children in our care helped out asking guests if they'd like tea or coffee, and cake,' Katy said. 'With grateful thanks to everyone who baked and donated we managed to raise an amazing £190.00.'

Vote for BID4Oban to help maintain town's prosperity

THIS is a very important time for BID4Oban as tomorrow is the day we discover if our BID has been successful, writes *Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald*.

I can't imagine Oban without a BID (Business Improvement District) and I really hope I don't have to find out what it would be like. I think it would be a poorer place.

On a more positive note, I have had the best job in the world for the past five years,

not least because of the people I've met and had the chance to speak to, local and visitor alike, the events I've been able to be part of and the fantastic colleagues I've had the experience of working with.

Not many jobs mean you can be out and about in one of the most beautiful places in the world and get to share your love and enthusiasm for what you do.

If you are a business owner and realise that you haven't cast your vote, then you have one

last chance to make a difference. Take your envelope to the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street by 3pm and it will be hand-delivered to Argyll and Bute Council in time for it to be counted.

It's a vital decision for Oban and one which could change what Oban is and what it becomes.

Last week's photo was taken at the clock tower in Station Square and this week's is a memento of old Oban.

WHERE IS THIS?



Live broadcasting of council meetings 'kicked into touch'

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A PLEDGE to broadcast council meetings live has been 'kicked into touch indefinitely' by the ruling coalition, according to opposition SNP councillors.

The SNP group made the claim after losing a vote in Kilmory council chamber last Thursday.

However, Argyll and Bute Council stated an amendment, which passed 18 votes to 11, 'agreed to explore the possibility of live broadcasting council meetings, with the next step being to report the costs involved to a future meeting'.

The original motion, moved by SNP councillors Julie McKenzie and Gordon Blair before the full council meeting on September 28, argued the region's geography can prohibit residents attending council meetings, and that 'live broadcasting of meetings would open the council's decision-making process to improved transparency and democratic scrutiny, while making it accessible for many more residents'.

It cited a 'petition calling for the live broadcasting of all council and committee meetings signed by 1,117 members of the public and 15 of Argyll and Bute's elected members', and added that 'the

IT infrastructure required to facilitate webcasting from the council chamber was installed at Kilmory in 2013'.

The council agreed to cost and facilitate the broadcasting of all full council and committee meetings at Kilmory, with a financial report due in November, and of area committees, with an assessment due by March 31, 2018.

An amendment, moved by councillors Kieron Green (Ind) and Ellen Morton (LD), noted agreement 'to investigate how to make the workings of the council more transparent through improved communication at all levels', but added officers 'should bring back to a

future meeting of the council confirmation of the capital and revenue costs involved in live broadcasting meetings held in the chamber, and expanding this functionality to all venues used by area committees'. The amendment received 18 votes, overturning the motion's 11 votes.

The opposition SNP group accused Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Independent councillors of voting 'to quash any chance of this initiative being taken forward by putting forward an amendment with no plan or timeframe'.

Councillor McKenzie accused them of kicking the proposal 'into touch for an indefinite

period of time', and other councillors of an 'inexplicable U-turn' after they campaigned on that pledge.

Councillor Blair added: 'There was absolutely no need to present an amendment. The opportunity for live broadcasting from the chamber has been possible since 2013.'

'Following the behaviour we witnessed in the chamber, it's quite clear why they are so desperate to prohibit live cameras. The concerted bleating about budgetary restraints ensures this issue will disappear without trace.'

Councillor Green responded: 'I'm certainly not questioning the right of people to hear what

happens at meetings but broadcasting costs must be balanced against the provision of council services.'

'I would rather be able to keep a school open, be able to provide care packages and fix potholes than know we have failed to deliver something because significant resources were required for broadcasting and they were used there instead.'

'Officers need time to investigate this fully to make sure we have the right solution, that it can work for committees across the whole of Argyll and be accessible to everyone.'

'I would rather that than a bodge which doesn't meet people's expectations.'

Police buildings to be sold

A NUMBER of disused police stations in Argyll will be sold, if plans for a mass disposal of property are given the green light.

Police Scotland is to seek permission from the Scottish Police Authority this week to begin a three-month public engagement exercise over the future of 53 properties across Scotland.

Four police station buildings in Argyll are on the list - Inveraray, Tarbert, Strachur and Taynuilt.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Cowie said: 'Police Scotland inherited a large estate which was based on legacy arrangements.'

'This estate was developed over a significant period of time when demands on policing were very different from current and anticipated future demands. There are a large number of properties currently empty, or soon to become empty. However, they still have associated running costs.'

'Such a position does not provide best value or help achieve financial sustainability.'

Plans are in place for a consultation period before final decisions are taken.

ACC Cowie continued: 'While we are recommending these properties be disposed of, no decision will be made on the future of any of our police stations until we have carried out this engagement process.'

'This will also allow us to further raise awareness of the Community Empowerment Act and may provide opportunities for viable community groups.'

Fiddle club's new season

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club gets under way for another season in the Inveraray Inn on Wednesday October 11.

Making a welcome return to the club is accordion ace from South Shields, Leonard Brown, along with Malcolm Ross on drums, as part of their Scottish tour.

Supporting players are most welcome to come along for a tune - the club needs you.

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BoW fest draws 6,000 visitors to Inveraray

LAST month's Best of the West Festival of music, art, crafts, food and drink held in the grounds of the magnificent Inveraray Castle attracted more than 6,000 visitors - 89 per cent from outwith Argyll and Bute - and generated more than £2 million into the local economy, making it the biggest and best to date.

A celebration of music that shines a light on Argyll as a prominent and world-class dining, drinking and travel destination, this year saw Best of the West expand its offering with the introduction of a Friday night programme.

And with a survey of visitors revealing that more than 98 per cent said they'd recommend it to a friend, Best of the West Festival 2017 has been hailed by organisers as a resounding success.

Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll, Best of the West Festival founder and chairperson, said: 'The introduction of our Friday night programme proved hugely popular, with around 1,500 fans

flocking to hear Skipinnish surpass themselves.'

'On the Saturday, our kitchen demo tent was by far the biggest to date - and still was bursting at the seams. And Skerryvore headlined to a massive crowd, while the Bidwells Stand of the Festival award was won by Argyll and the Isles Tourism and its Wild About Argyll tent.'

'Eddi Reader delivered a fitting finale on the Sunday, when another highlight that day was Professional MasterChef winner Gary Maclean demonstrating his skills on the kitchen stage.'

'Among other highlights were the Business Gateway craft tent; West Beers' popular stand of the finest artisan lagers and wheat beers in the UK; free children's entertainment; the Food From Argyll tent; the Loch Fyne Whisky marquee and, of course, Bruce the Beaver and Bonnie the Seal.'

EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's events directorate, supported Best of the West Festival through its national funding programme.

Trad nominees wanted

NOMINATIONS for this year's MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards are now open.

The winners will be crowned at a glittering ceremony held at The Lagoon Centre, Paisley on

Saturday December 2, as Paisley bids for UK City of Culture 2021.

The public have until Friday October 13 to vote at www.scotstradmusicawards.com.

Help for businesses to tender

ARGYLL and Bute Council is committed to keeping local businesses informed of opportunities available to them when tendering for contracts for council services and is encouraging them to attend a local procurement surgery.

The surgeries provide an opportunity to meet procurement officers, learn about the council's procurement procedures and find out more about forthcoming contract opportunities and the support available through the Supplier Development Programme.

Contracts vary in cost and size, and include re-roofing, fire alarm installations and upgrades and replacements of heating systems, refurbishment of buildings, electrical works, bridge strengthening, parking machines and traffic management works.

Procurement surgeries take place between 10.30am and 1.30pm and will be held in:

- Argyll House, Dunoon, on Tuesday October 31.
- Kilmory, Lochgilphead, on Wednesday November 1.
- Aqualibrium, Campbeltown, on Wednesday November 8.
- Eaglesham House, Rothesay, on Tuesday November 21.
- Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre on Wednesday November 29.
- Lorn House, Oban, on Wednesday December 6.

Book an appointment in advance by getting in touch with Gillian Allenby by Friday October 13 by emailing procurement@argyll-bute.gov.uk or calling 01700 501358.

Oban advocacy event focuses on self-management



Staff and volunteers from the Advocacy Service with Marianne Brennan from ALLIANCE Scotland.

PEOPLE living with long-term health conditions joined health and social care professionals and voluntary sector representatives at a recent focus event in Oban hosted by Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service (LAAS).

The event, in Glencruitten Church Hall, which was described as an opportunity to learn from 'the voice of experience' was attended by more than 40 people, half of whom are living with one or more long-term health conditions.

The advocacy service operates a long-established project which supports adults with learning disabilities and those

experiencing mental ill health but recently secured funding to extend it work to all adults in Argyll and Bute living with a long-term health condition which impacts significantly on their ability to lead an independent life. The new funding, which comes from the Scottish Government, is administered by the Health and Social Care ALLIANCE Scotland.

Marianne Brennan, from ALLIANCE, was at the event and congratulated the LAAS on the impressive progress made since the new project was launched this year.

The new project began accepting referrals in February and has already supported

more than 70 individuals living with a long-term condition across Argyll and Bute.

The focus event also heard from Linda Currie of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, who recognised the crucial role that independent advocacy can play in contributing to the partnership's aim of supporting people to live happier, healthier and more independent lives.

Ailsa McCrae, advocacy team leader, said LAAS was committed to partnership working and keen to involve people who use the service, and those who support them.'

For more call 01546 606056 or visit the website at www.laas.org.uk.

Debate on bid to protect Loch Awe

A BID to have Loch Awe designated as a National Scenic Area (NSA) has been discussed in the Scottish Parliament.

The debate followed the John Muir Trust backing a petition lodged by Christine Metcalfe, on behalf of Avich and Kilchrean Community Council, calling for a review of the process for designation of NSAs and consideration of the potential for more NSAs to protect the natural landscape and support the tourism sector.

As a result of the petition, Scotland's NSAs and whether there should be more of them was debated last week by MSPs on the Public Petitions Committee.

Earlier this year the John Muir Trust had encouraged members to add their name to the petition lodged by Ms Metcalfe.

There are 40 National Scenic Areas (NSAs) in Scotland, covering 13 per cent of country's land mass. According to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) they represent Scotland's finest landscapes - mountain areas such as the

Skye Cuillins, Ben Nevis and Glencoe, and dramatic island landscapes like the Hebrides. The purpose of the NSA designation is to identify Scotland's finest scenery and to ensure it is protected.

In the evidence session before the committee, Ms Metcalfe was accompanied by Alan Mitchell, also of Avich and Kilchrean Community Council, and by Douglas Wynn, a trustee of the John Muir Trust.

Ms Metcalfe highlighted to the committee how the founding document of NSAs suggested that landscape conservation should be open to revision but that, to date, this has not happened, and the 40 NSAs remain as originally mapped in 1978.

She noted how a previous petition in 2015 had called for NSA status for Loch Ness and the Great Glen but the Scottish Government had said it had no plans to designate any further NSAs, a position restated late in 2016 in answer to a parliamentary question.

The scale and rapid spread of major

developments - largely wind farms - in Scotland's most sensitive scenic areas required, Ms Metcalfe argued, a 'much more dynamic policy response from the Scottish Government than reliance on a four-decade-old mapping of protected landscapes'.

Ms Metcalfe felt that there are a number of potential candidates for new designations, but cited Loch Awe specifically as an example of an increasingly rare, tranquil environment in an unspoiled landscape. Designation, she argued, would be greatly welcomed by the tourism industry, visitors and residents.

Mr Wynn highlighted the dramatic rise in the areas of Scotland from which large industrial structures are visible. The lack of any revision of the NSAs in the light of these changing circumstances and pressure on landscape gives, he argued, strong justification for action.

MSPs agreed to write to the Scottish Government to ask why it is not reviewing the NSAs process. Views will also be sought from SNH and COSLA.

£10,000 to help farmers in Malawi

FIVE churches in Argyll have raised £10,000 to help farmers Malawi produce a more abundant harvest.

The money will be used to fund the the Seed for Life project, which was organised by the Luing, Seil, Kilniver, Kilmelford and Craignish Netherflorn Churches.

The project, which came to be after two people from Malawi visited Scotland, will see the farmers provided with higher quality seeds and fertiliser.

Dave Alsop, of Seed for Life, said: 'Two representatives came here last year, when the church funded the visit, and then after they discussed the way they lived over there and we asked if there was anything we could assist with and they came back with this project.'

'We should help 1,800 individuals,

including the 1,200 children who are going to get an extra meal. It's a pilot project at the moment, so they can buy seeds and fertiliser.'

'They plant in November and harvest in March or April. So by April we should know how successful this has been.'

'They have never really been able to afford a decent seed to plant. We are going for a quality seed. So hopefully they should see the benefit of a much better yield.'

A percentage of the harvest will be paid back to the organising committee in Bemvu to ensure that the fund is self-generating, and an additional percentage will be donated to the local primary school for extra meals during term time.

The group already has a partnership

with 26 villages in Malawi called the Bemvu Mission, which sees them send £1,000 per year to assist 'vulnerable widows'.

Mr Alsop added: 'The situation with food can be critical.'

'This year is not too bad because the harvest was reasonably good, but most years they have no food security at all. They are living with their families in small houses which are basically only used for sleeping in.'

'This is hopefully going to give them food security. They will be running this by themselves, for themselves. It should give the school children at least one meal a day - another meal that they would not have got.'

To find out more, or to donate to the project, visit www.seedforlife.org.uk

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Ardchattan

OPINIONS are being sought by Ardchattan Community Council about what people would like to see happen to the primary school.

The school was mothballed in 2014 and is now used as a polling station and meeting venue.

On Sunday October 1, the public were invited to pop in and talk about what activities they would like to see take place in the school. The buildings are getting into a sorry state of repair, a community council spokesman said. 'Unless action is taken, the school will become unusable for any community events. The school was opened in 1886 and over the years has played a vital role as a community hub. It is the only public building in the locality and in the past has accommodated well-attended Burns Suppers and Christmas parties.'

The suggestion of a community café and a small business park have been posted on social media.

'The open day allowed the community council to assess local interest in taking the project forward.'

Grimsay

GRIMSAY Community Association (GCA) is launching a new campaign to encourage road users to slow down.

The Great Grimsay Slow Down will ask drivers to voluntarily reduce their top speed to 35mph.

GCA is concerned about accidents because of the number of blind corners and summits, the amount of traffic, walkers and livestock.

GCA's Matthew Topsfield said: 'We all lead hectic lives and seem to be rushing around a lot, so there is a temptation for us all to drive too fast, but we can all slow down a little to help keep everyone safe on Grimsay's roads.'

Achaleven

ACHALEVEN Primary School pupils raised more than £127 for Mary's Meals - enough to feed nine children for a full school year.

Earlier this month the children invited the community into the school for an autumn picnic.

The food for the picnic consisted of 'delicious' cake, soup and shortbread.

It was partially made using produce from the school garden, with pupils harvesting apples, brambles and potatoes.

The event was organised because pupils wanted to help the Zero Hunger campaign.

In 2015, the Global Goals for Sustainable Development campaign was launched with agreement from 193 countries to work towards an end to poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030. The second phase aimed to put an end to world hunger.

Primary six pupils wrote and produced a short play about the differences families face in third world countries compared to Britain. They involved all the children, who filmed the play and showed it at the picnic.

'This was a great display of their global citizenship awareness,' a school spokesperson said.

'Thank you to everyone who supported this event. An amazing £127.08 was raised, which is enough to feed nine children for a school year. Well done everyone, the school is very proud of you.'



Achaleven Primary School pupils who helped to raise money for Mary's Meals.

Islay

A PHOTOGRAPH and caption on Thursday September 21 regarding two Islay pupils meeting sporting stars at Hampden Park incorrectly identified the youngsters as Alisha Johnson and Oliver Jorgensen, the names supplied by communications staff at sportscotland. However, their names should have been Alicia Johnson and Oliver Hannett.



Some of the winners of the Taynuilt Horticultural Show.

Talented gardeners of all ages celebrate success in Taynuilt

TALENTED gardeners of all ages celebrated success at the recent Taynuilt Horticultural Society Show.

The event, organised by Taynuilt Horticultural Society, took place in Taynuilt Village Hall.

The society thanked Taynuilt Primary School, which entered vegetables and flowers grown in their poly tunnel. 'Despite this being the first time they entered,' the society said. 'Their produce was of a very high standard and won two trophies.'

The society's challenge cup was won by Hugh MacLeod for most points in the open class vegetables category.

The Taynuilt Hotel cup was lifted by Ian Brown for accumulating the most points in the open flowers category.

Jim McDougall took the Munro Cup for having the best exhibit in Class 30. The Cruachan Cup was won by Dou-

gie McDougall for the most points in the amateur vegetables. Taynuilt Primary School took home the Melville Cup and the Neil Jackson Memorial Cup for having the most points in the amateur vegetables category and having the best exhibit in the amateur horticulture class. The best garden and Nant Cup went to Lawrence Scott, who also won the Society's Cup for the best flower garden, while Ian and Brenda MacLean won the Lodge St Modan Cup for having the best garden in housing scheme. Lawrence also won the Jack Brown Memorial Cup and the Andrew Cameron Cup for the best vegetable garden and most points in the amateur classes 66-68. The Brochroy Cup went to Rosemary Carswell for accumulating the most points in the floral section.

Jessie MacFarlane won the Society's

Cup for the most points in the preserves section.

Gemma Carswell won the Fleming Cup for having the best exhibit in the children's section and Melanie Currie received the Muckairn Cup for gathering the most points for her baking.

The Mrs C Campbell Memorial Cup was shared between Brenda MacLean and Anne Weavind for most points in baking classes 120-124.

The Donald MacGregor memorial Cup for the best exhibit in the novice section went to Wilma MacPhee.

Additional special prizes were handed out to Hugh Macleod for the best set of leeks, Dougie McDougall for best vase of dahlias, and to the winner of each children's section: under fives Theo Action and to Gemma Carswell for the six to 12 years and children's baking categories.

Loch Fyne oysters leads the world

THE FIRST company in the world to receive a prestigious aquaculture certificate for farming blue mussels hails from Loch Fyne in Argyll.

Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd has received the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Bivalve Standard Certification for responsible farming of Blue Mussels.

The company has been growing the mussels on ropes in Loch Road on the Isle of Lewis for the past 20 years.

To receive the ASC certificate, a company must ensure it is committed to responsible aquaculture, and that its farming does not have an adverse impact on the environment.

Loch Fyne Oysters Limited's

managing director Cameron Brown said: 'We are very proud to be the first blue mussel farmer in the world to receive this certification from ASC, which is recognition of Loch Fyne Oysters dedication and hard work to provide ethically grown and environmentally friendly mussels to our customers around the globe.'

Esther Luiten, ASC's commercial director, said: 'I would like to congratulate Loch Fyne Oysters for their achievement to become ASC certified.'

'It is great to now have blue mussels in the programme and it shows the response to a growing market interest in responsibly farmed seafood.'



Some of Loch Fyne Oysters Limited's staff.

Dalmally and Inveraray pupils and residents discover area's local history at school event

DALMALLY and Inveraray pupils had the chance to discover their area's local history, along with interested people in Argyll.

An event in Inveraray Primary School showcased old notebooks, photographs and tape recordings, dating back to the 1950s.

The collection belonged to the late Eric Cregeen, 1921-1983, who devoted his life to documenting the highland people and their way of life.

Among those recorded in Argyll was an old drover, born in 1869, who was one of the last people to walk cattle to Falkirk.

The event started with an illustrated talk by folklorist Margaret Bennett followed by a workshop on how to record local history and heritage.

The project, which took place last Wednesday, was sponsored by Heritage Lottery Fund and Crofting Connections.



One of the pictures used in the presentation.

At Random

Threat to tourism

CONCERNS were raised in *The Oban Times* last week about a crisis building over recruitment in the town's hospitality sector.

Allan McKie, an experienced senior figure in the industry locally, voiced his worries about a problem which looks likely to worsen as Brexit gets closer. That is because many of the people working in the sector are EU nationals from different countries. With Brexit looming, their status here will become less certain and many will leave the UK.

There is apparently already a shortage of staff in Oban for many hotels, pubs, restaurants and other outlets.

And with the new 80-bedroom Premier Inn hoping to open next year, it seems the crisis could reach perfect storm proportions.

For an area which relies so heavily on tourism for its economic

well-being, this is a very serious problem. Where our local hospitality sector businesses are to find the number of workers required to staff their operations remains in doubt.

Allan McKie was quite right to flag up the problem at this time. I sincerely hope someone can come up with a solution to make sure the industry is adequately staffed.

Noised up

WHILE I am on the subject of tourism, we also reported the worrying story of a couple from Peebles who cut short a holiday in Oban - their third of the year here - because of the noise coming from the generators supplying power to the new pontoons.

The new transit berths at the North Pier are a cracking addition to the town for the marine market and have been widely welcomed by the vast majority of people.

The location of the pontoons is part of what makes them so valuable a development. Yet it seems it is also what is causing the problem.

Their proximity to a number of hotels and self-catering units is apparently a cause for complaint from visitors.

Admittedly, this is a temporary situation as the generators will only be in place until Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) connects the pontoons to a mains power supply. As mentioned already, given the importance of tourism to Oban, it is vital SSE completes its mains connection as quickly as possible.

Welcome development

I'VE WRITTEN a number of times criticising the British government's Foreign and Common-

wealth Office for its inadequacy in securing the freedom of Connel ex-paratrooper Billy Irving and the other five British men jailed in India.

So it is welcome news, a number of celebrities have joined the campaign to put pressure on the authorities to do something - anything - to have them returned.

The intervention of Simon Gregson, who stars in Coronation Street, and John Bowe, of Emmerdale fame, brings new momentum to the cause, which can only be a good thing. It is not long ago that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson pledged to leave 'no stone unturned' in his efforts to have the men freed. Since then, though, there has been nothing. Our national leaders should hang their heads in shame.

What do you think? Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

MARTIN LAING
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Poetic journeys across the land of Duncan Bàn

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW book grounds the poems of the Glen Orchy bard Duncan Bàn MacIntyre in Argyll's Gaelic landscape.

Literature of the Gaelic Landscape, written by Edinburgh University's former director of landscape architecture John Murray, 'travels to the Breadalbane and Argyll of Duncan Bàn MacIntyre, the Skye and Raasay of Sorley Maclean, and the Caithness and Sutherland of Neil M Gunn'.

'For those who wish to brave the weather, the insects, the sheer drops, the morasses and the vast spaces, the book can be used as a field guide taking the same walks followed by the author,' the publisher continues.

'Through the eyes of Duncan Bàn MacIntyre see Ben Dòbhrain and the journey of the deer to the holy spring, from the vantage point of Patrick's stone. On Dùn Cana sit at the centre of the swirl of place-names in Sorley Maclean's Hallaig. Journey around the north and east coasts of Caithness and Sutherland in the wake of the White Heather and the Seafoam, in the Silver Darlings.'

Duncan Bàn MacIntyre (Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir), a contemporary of Robert Burns, was a leading Gaelic poet famed in his lifetime as Donnchadh Bàn nan Òrain or 'Fair Duncan of the Songs', whose granite monument dominates Glen Orchy and Loch Awe.

From his birthplace, Druimliart in Glen Orchy, Duncan Bàn could see the subject of his most famous song *Praise of Ben Doran, Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain*, grooved with its many dobhàran or streams, the origin of the mountain's name.

It is a song of high praise to a special place and the life it



Meall a' Bhùiridh – Hill of the Bellowing, Blackmount, Argyll.

embraced, the author writes, giving an 'extraordinary fertility of description' of a deer hunt, 550 lines long organised in eight movements inspired by classical pipe music or ceòl mòr – great music.

The author relates a story where Duncan Bàn was asked by a man he met on a speaking tour in the north of Scotland: 'Are you the man who made Beinn Dòbhrain?' Donnchadh replied: 'It is God who made her. I am the man who praised her.'

'Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain was composed in the mid 18th century. When Donnchadh Bàn returned to the scene at the beginning of the 19th century,

he found the place changed indeed, and was moved to compose his *Cead Deireannach nam Beann – Final Farewell to the Bens*.

'His earthly paradise and its abundant natural life had vanished. All he had known had been replaced by sheep; literally in Gaelic, under sheep.'

'Tradition tells that Donncha composed his *Last Farewell* while sitting on a stone opposite the ruined chapel and graveyard at Annat. He was so agitated that the song had to be completed by his brother Malcolm.'

'*Cead Deireannach nam Beann* represents a turning point in Gaelic poetry and song. Poets in the 19th century ceased to be in-

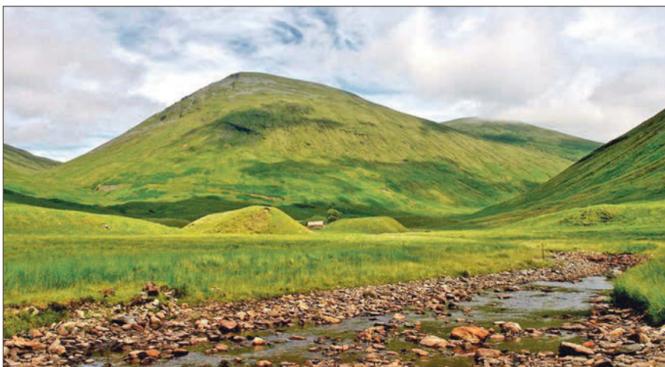
terested in the great landscapes of the 18th century. Narrower, personal and emotional sketches came into fashion owing to the social upheavals caused by the clearances. The notion of homesickness or cianalas developed by MacIntyre in his farewell becomes widespread in Gaelic poetry.'

The book also places Duncan Bàn's *Song to a Gun Named Nic Coiseam (Òran do Ghunna dh' an Ainn Nic Còiseim)* which kept him company as a gamekeeper in Argyll, as well as his *Song on a Hunting Fiasco (Òran Seachran Seilge)* when a Spanish gun kept letting him down in Glen Lochay.

His *Song to the Foxes (Òran*

nam Balgairian, literally *Song of the Thieves*) tells of a fine ewe he bought called Susie, who was a paragon of her kind providing the best wool, healthy lambs, plentiful milk and even fishing flies, until a fox killed her, forcing Duncan Bàn to go asking or 'thigging' for wool from his neighbours in Glen Etive. Local people still delight in quoting his *Song of the Foxes*:

*'My blessing with the foxes dwell
For that they hunt the sheep so well.
Ill fa' the sheep, a greyfaced nation
That swept our hills with desolation.'*



Ais an t-Sithein – Back Meadow of the Fairy Hill, Gleann Achadhinnis Chailein, Bridge of Orchy, Argyll. Beinn a' Chùirn and Beinn Mhanach in the background.



Loch of the Boar and Ben Gulabin – Beinn Ghulbainn in the background, at Glen Shee, Perthshire.

MORVERN lines

The Rifle

THE RIFLE was a 15-ton, private steam yacht which sailed up and down Loch Arkaig in West Lochaber from 1861 until 1939.

She belonged to the Camerons of Lochiel, who owned Achnacarry Estate, and was used all the year round in the days before there was a road along the north side of the loch.

Her captain for many years was Angus Kennedy (1829-1907), the Achnacarry blacksmith. Angus was formerly head lock keeper and smith to the Caledonian Canal Commissioners at Corpach.

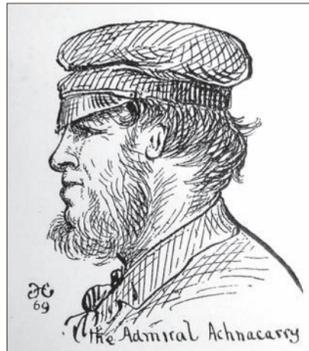
When Donald Cameron of Lochiel bought the Rifle in 1861, he engaged Angus to transfer her through the canal to Loch Lochy and then into the land-locked Loch Arkaig. This operation involved hauling the 40ft vessel out of the water at Clunes Bay, placing it on large wooden rollers, and pulling it with men and horses up the Dark Mile – a distance of just over two miles. So successfully did Angus Kennedy accomplish this difficult task that Lochiel offered him a job, simply saying: 'You will suit me, Angus.' That's how it was done in those days.

For 40 years Angus commanded the Rifle during which time he conveyed many famous stalking tenants and visitors up and down Loch Arkaig. The most notable was Queen Victoria, who came to Achnacarry in 1873, as a guest of Lochiel, while she was staying at Inverloch Castle.

Mr Kennedy used to relate that, much to Lochiel's annoyance, John Brown, the Queen's personal attendant, gave orders to turn just at the point on the loch when the finest scenery was open-



The Rifle alongside the old pier at Kinlocharkaig. Photograph courtesy of Alex MacDonald, Achnacarry. Angus Kennedy, from a sketch drawn in 1869 by General Henry Crealock.



was Lochiel," as he said, "whose great-grand-uncle had been the real moving cause of the rising of 1745 – for without him Prince Charles would not have made the attempt – showing your majesty (whose great-great-grandfather he had striven to dethrone) the scenes made historical by Prince Charlie's

wanderings. It was a scene one could not look on unmoved".

The Rifle was a handsome little steel schooner built in Greenock for a Mr A Chaplin, who must have sold it to Lochiel almost immediately. Not only was it used for transporting stalking guests during the season but it also delivered mail and provisions throughout the year to the various houses along both sides of the loch and to the 10 or more families living at Kinlocharkaig and Glendessary.

In the early days the Rifle, known affectionately as 'the yacht', would often anchor overnight in the upper reaches of the loch in order that the stalking party could sleep aboard to avoid wasting time steaming to and from Achnacarry. However, this came to an end after some years when the internal arrangements were rearranged to allow more cargo to be carried. Stalking parties were landed in a small boat. When they returned from the hill and wanted to be collected, they lit a fire on the beach to attract Angus's attention.

Around 1933, when the road to Glendessary was upgraded to take motor vehicles, the Rifle was made redundant. She lay alongside the Achnacarry pier until she was partly scrapped and scuttled in shallow water.

Later, during the Second World War, when the commandos wanted to use the pier for training exercises, they pulled her into deeper water where she lay until 1986 when she was raised and transported to the Scottish Maritime Museum in Ayrshire where she awaits restoration.

Iain Thornber
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OT



Children performed a surprise synchronised dance. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_04



A swimming pool cake by Daniel, nine, and Riona, seven, Maclnnes of Rockfield's Gaelic Unit won best tasting in the family section. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_10

Happy birthday to Atlantis Leisure



Aimee Didcock shares a joke with mascots Alf and Leo, whose name she chose. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_02

OBAN'S Atlantis Leisure centre celebrated its 25th birthday with a huge party on Saturday.

Among the highlights were 30 birthday cakes and a Salty Dog in the newly opened under-fives playpark.

Hundreds joined the fun, and tasted the array of sporty cakes in the shape of rugby pitches, tennis courts and swimming pools, complete with blue jelly for water, marzipan bathers and flumes, judged by Heinz Bossard, Brenda Macleod, Paul Lopez and Helen MacKechnie.

'I am feeling a bit sick but it was worth it,' Helen said, paying tribute to everyone's 'amazing' effort.

In a crowded hall, Atlantis Leisure's retiring mascot Alf handed over to the new face of the Oban's leisure centre, Leo the Lion, whose name stands for Let's Exercise Oban, designed in a competition by Aimee Didcock of Rockfield Primary School.

Atlantis Leisure's chairman

Neil Matheson introduced a surprise dance by local children, and encouraged donations to help renovate the centre's dated changing rooms. Mr Matheson praised the efforts of Friends of Oban Community Playpark, which has raised over £334,000 to build the two all-inclusive playparks and a magical garden. 'It just shows what a community like Oban can do,' he said.

Before the grand opening of the new under-fives playpark, the name of the boat was unveiled as the Salty-Dog, suggested by Caley D'Arcy and chosen by public vote. Runners-up were Lucy Danks, Alexander MacCuish and Emily Mackintosh.

Friends' delighted treasurer Kathleen Lafferty said: 'The great thing is to see children back out playing. The old playpark got condemned in 2014 so it has been a long time coming.'

Chairwoman Lyndsay Elliott added: 'Some of the children on the under-fives playpark were

not even born when we started fundraising.'

Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund co-funded both the Salty-Dog and the Scallywag boat in the over-fives playpark to the tune of £30,068, saying: 'It has been a pleasure to work with such a committed group that has shown such tenacity and entrepreneurial spirit, resulting in a project that has brought a community together and a leaving a legacy that can be enjoyed for many years.'

Praising the 'dedication, professionalism and drive' of Atlantis' staff over the quarter century, its first chairman Hugh McLean, reflected: 'The building was our vision and the people who have taken it on have done a wonderful job, looking after the building but also developing the facilities, which are such an asset to the community, not just to locals but to also to tourists. It brings a lump to the throat.'



Three-year-old Kyra MacIntyre of Dunbeg Primary School nursery poses with Atlantis Leisure's winter mascot Coolio. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_03



Revealing the name of the wee ship in the new under-fives playpark - Salty-Dog. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_05



In a competitive field, Jermilene Villasenor won the prize for best tasting cake in the adult section. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_09



Atlantis Leisure's first and current chairmen Hugh McLean and Neil Matheson celebrated its success with a painted cake. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_08



Jenny and Paul Finnigan of Fin Falconry, Glencruitten, brought Khalita the Barbary falcon and Stanley the great horned owl. 15_T40_Atlanis Leisure's 25th birthday party_06

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Oban is starting point for new 'bikepacking' route

FIONA RUSSELL
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OBAN is the official start and finish of a new long-distance trail for cyclists.

The 207-mile (330-km) West Island Trail is a multi-day 'bikepacking' route that visits three islands - Arran, Islay and Mull. It includes six ferry journeys and several overnight stays at SYHA hostels.

Capitalising on the rise in popularity of 'bikepacking', the trail is a partnership project of SYHA Hostelling Scotland and Bikepacking Scotland.

Bikepacking is a lightweight and flexible style of cycling that utilises made-for-purpose bikepacks.

The packs, or bags, attach directly to the bike's frame, fork, handlebars and seat post and allow cyclists to carry food and equipment. There is no need for the panniers attached to a rack of traditional cycle touring.

Bikepackers usually ride mountain bikes or cyclocross bikes and explore off-road trails.

Markus Stitz, who is famous for cycling around the world



The packs fit to different parts of the bicycle.

on a single-speed bicycle, is the founder of Bikepacking Scotland. He said: 'Bikepacking is a lightweight form of exploring countryside trails - and some roads - on your bike.

'Bikepackers are fully self-sufficient and usually enjoy longer distance routes.

'The idea is to spend nights outside or staying in hostels so you can explore further and for longer.'

The West Island Trail is the

brainchild of Stitz, who is based in Edinburgh. The route starts at Oban Youth Hostel and visits Lochranza Youth Hostel on Arran, Port Charlotte Youth Hostel on Islay and Mull's Tobermory Youth Hostel before returning to Oban.

The ride is on a mix of surfaces, ranging from single-track to road and even includes a very short section of sand on Islay.

The islands are linked by six ferry trips run by CalMac,

with free transport for bikes. The West Island Trail is suitable for intermediate to experienced cyclists on mountain bikes, with sections that require good bike handling and competent navigation skills and wider tyres.

Stitz said: 'Cyclists on the West Island Trail can enjoy an achievable bikepacking route amid great scenery and with the ease of overnight stays in cosy youth hostels.

'At 330km, it is a great week on the bike for less experienced riders and the ideal extended weekend for experienced bikepackers.'

There is no pressure to complete the route in a specific time and some bikepackers might like to stay additional nights at any of the youth hostels so they can further explore the islands.

'It's not about riding distance in a specified time, it's much more about the enjoying the experience of the journey,' said Stitz, adding: 'The most important advice for bikepacking is to only carry the essentials you really need, so you should aim to pack light and think twice.'

The West Island Trail is best suited to mountain bikes, gravel

bikes or a cyclocross bikes.

Specialist bikepacks rather than panniers are recommended. A dynamo hub on the front of the bike enables riders to charge electronic devices during the day and power lights for longer rides. An alternative is to carry a lightweight portable phone charger.

A GPS device for navigation but you are advised to carry a paper OS map, too.

A satellite tracker, such as the SPOT Gen3, lets family and friends know where you are in remote places and where there is no mobile phone reception. Many bikepackers carry cooking and camping equipment for overnights in the outdoors but for the West Island Trail the accommodation is in hostels.

There are downloadable maps for each section of the trail at www.bikepackingScotland.com/routes/westislandtrail/

To find out more check out the following websites:

- SYHA at www.syha.org.uk
- Bikepacking Scotland at www.bikepackingScotland.com
- CalMac at www.calmac.co.uk
- Markus Stitz at www.markusstitz.com



The video highlights outdoors activities.

Monster campaign to target overseas visitors

A VISITBRITAIN campaign using the legend of the Loch Ness Monster is returning to entice international visitors to visit and Inverness and Loch Ness outside the summer season.

The six-week digital and social media campaign got under way last week in France and Germany, two of Britain's largest and most valuable inbound visitor markets, and the Netherlands.

VisitBritain's 'Come hunting for Nessie, stay for the experience' campaign promotes the diversity of experiences and outdoor activities on offer across the Loch Ness area, inspiring visitors to stay longer.

VisitBritain director of marketing Clare Mullin said: 'The legend of Nessie is a fantastic springboard to promote the breathtaking scenery, activities and experiences that you can only have on a trip to Inverness and Loch Ness.

'We want to inspire visitors to book a trip right now to come and explore this stunning part of the Highlands, spreading the economic benefits of tourism outside the peak holiday periods.'

VisitInvernessLochNess chief executive Graeme Ambrose said: 'From majestic mountains to monster-hunting on Loch Ness, from friendly locals, fantastic food, cosy inns and spectacular accommodation in stunning locations, Inverness and Loch Ness offer amazing experiences all year round.'

'Come hunting for Nessie, stay for the experience' is part of a longer-term campaign to grow inbound tourism to the area outwith the traditionally busy summer period. It follows VisitBritain's digital and social media 'Tips for Monster Hunters' campaign which ran last year in overseas markets.

Loch Ness and Inverness is also promoted globally through visits by international media and travel buyers and with local businesses and destination partners attending international trade events.

Latest figures from VisitBritain show that there were 340,000 international visits to Inverness in 2016, up eight per cent on the previous year. Overseas visitors to Inverness spent £115 million in 2016, up 46 per cent on 2015.

Highlands and islands feature in first Geoheritage Festival

SCOTLAND'S incredible geological heritage is celebrated this month with the first national Geoheritage Festival running until October 31 with events taking place throughout the country.

Scotland has experienced explosive volcanic eruptions, vast desert expanses, the disappearance of oceans and even our very own dinosaurs.

It's no coincidence that Scotland is where the science of geology was born as people began to tease evidence of these fascinating stories from the rocks and landscapes around them.

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Geodiversity Forum has been working on 'Revealing the stories in the rocks: raising awareness of Scotland's outstanding geoheritage' - a project to highlight and promote the 51 best places to see Scotland's geology as part of the Visit

Scotland Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. The Geoheritage Festival is a culmination of this project, taking in many of our most famous and unique geological sites, as well as hidden gems.

The events on offer throughout the month are as diverse as the geology, with something for everyone.

Edinburgh and Glasgow are well served, with guided tours of Fossil Grove and Linn Park in Glasgow, 'pavement palaeontology', earth-caching and a volcano fun day in Edinburgh, not to mention the official launch of the 51 best places at Dynamic Earth on Saturday October 14.

Chairman of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum Angus Miller said: 'Scotland's geology is world class and our project is a celebration of that. Members of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum have been aware of this potential for a long time

and we are very excited to be launching the very first Scotland-wide geoheritage festival to help people enjoy Scotland's rocks and landscapes in new ways.

'Most events are organised by enthusiastic volunteers whose extensive knowledge of Scotland's geology is equalled by their passion and enthusiasm for sharing it with others.'

There will be chances to explore areas of great natural beauty across the country, including walks in Eigg, Faraid and Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, and canoeing on Loch Lurgainn. There will be a guided walk to Siccar Point, arguably the most important geological site in the world, which inspired James Hutton with the concept of deep time.

There will be evidence of 'snowball earth' in Islay, and 'Scotland's Rock Story' at Aberdeen Science Centre. Find out

more about the relationship we have with rocks, like the limestone of Charlestown and the granite of Kemnay or discover more about how we study rocks and minerals in Lochaber Geopark.

The three Scottish geoparks, are well represented, with a geology course in Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark, Reiff Climbing Festival in North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark and visits to Glencoe and Glen Roy in Lochaber Geopark.

Following the launch of the 51 best places to see Scotland's geology on October 14, resources will be available online and in leaflet form so that people can get out and explore further for themselves.

More information about the festival, along with the full programme can be found at <http://www.scottishgeology.com/geoheritage-festival/>

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy.

Participants can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Thursday October 5
Aonach air Chrith and Maol Chinn-dearg, Glen Shiel

An interesting route that

includes some easy scrambling and tops out at the summit of the highest peak on the South Glen Shiel Ridge.

Start at the lay-by on A87 at NH044114. Cross the road, follow stalkers' path to the foot of Druim Coire nan Eirecheanach, then turn SE to reach the Allt Coire nan Eirecheanach at about 300m alt.

Cross the burn and, heading E, traverse the slope to reach a slabby tongue of rock at the foot of the NW ridge of A' Chioch, 400m alt, NH061101. Scramble up the ridge to its summit, 830m.

Descend slightly SW to a col then up to the right avoiding scree to reach the crest of Druim

na Ciche, which forms the N ridge of Aonach air Chrith. Follow it to the summit, 1021m. Head W along the main South Glen Shiel Ridge for about 2km to the summit of Maol Chinn-dearg, 981m.

Turn NE and descend Druim Coire nan Eirecheanach, eventually picking up the stalkers' path back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 998m; Map(s): LR33, EX414. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.15am. Start of walk at 9.30. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

Sunday October 8
Camas nan Geall High Route, Ardnamurchan

A high level circuit above Camas nan Geall, a clearance village, a high viewpoint and a coastal walk.

Start from Camas nan Geall CPEX, NM562616. Walk back SE along the B8007 for ½km and head N up a grassy track beside the woods. Cross the stream, go through a gate and contour W around the hillside to a sheepfold at the head of an escarpment, NM563622. Follow a grassy track NW high above the B8007, to reach a burn tumbling W down the escarpment, NM559630.

Descend to the road and head for the junction with a track at NM553629. Head SW down the

track, then across rough grassland to reach the ruins of the old clearance village of Bourblaige. Climb W up by the waterfalls to a small hill at 240m, NM540623.

Descend SE at first to avoid a rocky escarpment then, curving SW, descend to the shore at Port a' Chamais. Follow the coast W by a sheep track across the hillside to Maclean's Nose, before returning E along the shingle bays to Camas nan Geall.

Grade: M+; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 580m; Map(s): LR47, EX390. Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 8.50am sailing. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

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

Saturday October 7
Sgurr Mor, Sgurr an Fhuarain, Loch Arkaig

This hill is situated in very remote country. From the car park near Strachan, take the track to Glendessary and then go north on the path to the high point. The path goes NE, so leave the path to go north into Glen Kingie and cross the river (not always).

Join the path on the north side of the river and take it west and then NNE on to the SW ridge of Sgurr Beag. Continue over Sgurr Beag, then down steeply to the col and up steeply to the summit of Sgurr Mor. To return, continue east on the path and then SE to the col below Sgurr an Fhuarain, which may be climbed from here. Descend steeply on grassy slopes to cross the river Kingie and rejoin the outward route.

Distance: 21-23km; Height to climb: 1200-1400m.

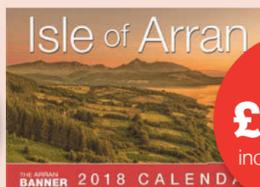
Suggested by Anne Scouler and John Burton; coordinated by Chris Tracey.

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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The news we report this week that the Rockport Hotel in Oban has closed with the loss of five full-time jobs is disappointing, to say the least.

It is also somewhat surprising.

Oban has seen a booming tourist sector in recent times, with demand for accommodation soaring and providers reporting record levels of room occupation. Restaurants and bars have also been saying they have enjoyed a very busy season.

That is why it is puzzling that such a well-positioned hospitality sector business – it is right in the heart of

the town centre in Tweedale Street – apparently cannot turn a suitable profit.

With demand at such a high level, every room available is needed to cater for the number of visitors to the town. So why has the Rockport, formerly known as the Woodside (or Woody), closed?

We may never know the reason behind owner Gerry Ritchie's decision to shut down.

Now the business is on the market. We must hope that there is considerable interest and that it is open again soon – for the sake of the jobs lost and local economy.



Days gone by – 1997

Tobermory Primary School Choir is the focus of days gone by this week. The youngsters and their teacher paused between Mòd competitions to pose for a photograph back in 1997.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I CAN assure readers that when I wrote last week's piece about Malcolm Jones I had no idea of the announcement that was coming the next day, but as it turned out the sentiments of it were more pertinent than I expected.

As most will now know, on August 18, 2018, Runrig will bring their 45-year reign as the unmatched kings of Celtic music to an end with a final concert underneath the majesty of Stirling Castle.

All the energies, attributes, fortune, favour, character and creed that created this powerful entity that is now nearing the end of its rich voyage could not be given justice in a whole edition of *The Oban Times*, far less a 500-word article.

So in extension to my piece of last week, here are some short verses on Runrig. Thanks and credit to my mother, Flora, for the last verse.

Runrig

They conquered the world in the ways of the wise
On a wavelength in tune with their past;
Without brash ambition to grab for the prize
No dash to be flash or be fast.

But steadfast and steady they furrowed the field
With a plough that their people passed down.

By the gifts of their skill,
unmatched was the yield
Healed land, by their hand, is their crown.

And conquer they have, but with nobody beaten
They have won but no-one has lost.
On the power of their poem, a race starved and has now eaten
And a cliff from abyss has been crossed.

They have led with the beam of a lighthouse at sea
And guided a ship from the reef.
If the ship of the Gael continues to be
Nod then to their pen and belief.

Pioneers of a path to share wide their song
They showed the way first for us all,
And all who come after in debt will belong
For their grit to commit to their call.

Through blood to the Brothers the gifts of the bards
Then a well of deep riches combine
For working the well are god-given guards
Turning thought and the water to wine.

Humble the ways of true leaders of men

With grace and humility's hand
When asked 'What is Runrig?',
time and again
To this day they will say, 'Just a band.'

But 'just a band' they are not, and never have been
From inception, through change and transition
From the seed to the sapling, their song evergreen
With a key to the tree of tradition.

What they've done for their people cannot be repaid
Giving confidence back to the young,
Past members and present all built what was made.
To our side now the tide they have swung.

And now from their stage they have planned their last bow
In the way they have lived for their goal –
With dignity, wisdom and guiding the prow
All done, while at one with their soul.

Fir ghasda, fir ghaisgeil,
stèidh'chte daingeann san tìr
Le sùil gheur air cuireachd 's air buain;
Le feamainn an dualchais chuir iad toadh air fonn.
Le gach tonn dhùin iad 'Cearcall a' Chuain'.



Social media

Traffic congestion in Oban remains a hot topic, with renewed calls for a bypass being made on our Facebook page.

Sarah Clarke posted: 'Yes !! Been discussed for so long - now with the volume of traffic increasing, it's been desperately needed!'

Scott Gibson agreed: 'Yes, but perhaps a good start would be to provide some decent car parking (small multi storey?) and possibly some better retailing on the north side of the town so as to stop some of the traffic from having to go directly through the town to get to the retail offer on the south side.'

Karen MacPherson offered: 'Yes! Park and ride would help too.'

Lilian Kermode remembered: 'this was proposed at least 25 years ago time something got done about it, and I don't mean discussions.'

John Mather cautioned: 'Be careful what you wish for, bypasses do bring less traffic to the road but also bring less traffic & footfall to local businesses. When shops & business start closing leaving empty units its an irreversible cycle.'

John Michael Gallacher wrote: 'According to recent comments, Argyll and Bute council doesn't have a magic

money tree. But yes it's badly needed.'

Lewis MacLachlan urged: 'Yes and build it now!'

Stewart McIver said: 'Yes about 20 years ago.'

Graeme Livingstone warned: 'Don't do it! Fort William has never recovered since it took traffic away from the Main Street.'

Bob Young suggested: 'Oban also needs a car park. Very badly.'

Rosemary Hunter concurred: 'I think you have hit the nail on the head...how many of those cars are tourists looking for a parking space.'

Davie Gibson said: 'Definitely.'

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Plans for Kingshouse are all about money

Sir,
I lived at Kingshouse for 16 years, working at White Corries Ski Centre.

Before the introduction of outside lights on the hotel, Kingshouse was on par with some of the darkest places in the UK for night skies, the aurora borealis being particularly spectacular.

The Kingshouse Hotel has long been associated with climbing and walking. The bar and bunkhouse were particularly busy at the weekends as it was where people from all over met and where dogs were welcome. The coming of the West Highland Way saw a huge change, with hundreds of walkers passing by and many using it to stay.

Living there allowed me to see wildlife up close and I still have a photograph of a red deer at my front window. Walking to work in the mornings I passed grouse, hares, capercaillies and red deer.

We all know that progress brings change and we all move on, but there are some things and places that should be kept precious, Kingshouse and Rannoch Moor among them.

I note that the expansion at White Corries Ski Centre is encroaching on the remoteness of an area that not so long ago was described as one of the last wilderness spaces left in northern Europe.

George Goldsmith's vision for Kingshouse is purely a money-making one, advertised as closed but with bunkhouse open, at £20 per night, the hotel at present has only a bar open, called the Way Inn with no dogs allowed.

The existing extension was built by Robin Fleming and Philip Rankin, one the landowner and the other the ski centre owner. It was built to house the influx of skiers expected and, in the first year of opening, included a resident alpine ski instructor. There was also a curling rink.

The extension bears the brunt of the westerly weather and in the mid-eighties suffered severe damage during a gale that destroyed buildings at the ski centre.

Perhaps the time has come to modernise the building and bring it into the 21st century but at least it should be done in keeping with the character and the past of the original building.

The decision will ultimately lie with the planners but they must listen to the wider community and the people who have known and used and appreciated the uniqueness of the area for a long time.

The Kingshouse and its surrounding area are precious in a time when 'modern' is synonymous with destruction, and I feel that the modernising of Kingshouse is all about making money.

Cyril Bonnett,
Maccoll Terrace, Ballachulish.

Wonderful treatment from Oban hospital

Sir,
While on holiday in Oban last week I was admitted to Lorn and Islands hospital for three days and wish to comment on the wonderful treatment I received there.

We read so many negative comments in the papers regarding the National

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



AIR TAOBH EILE Loch Dhùn Bheagain, ma choinneimh bhaile Chaileaboist agus an cois tuath a' Chlaiginn, tha tràigh bhreagha gheal a tha na h-annas anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

Ged a tha an Claigeann mu trì mìle tuath air Dùn Bheagain, chan eil rathad lùbach, cumhang; dìth aitean-parcaidh- chàraichean; neo còrr air mìle de choisachd chun na tràghad a' bacadh mhiltean de luchd-turais bho Thràigh a' Choraill mar a theirear ri the anns a' Bheurla. Ach air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, 's mi thall an Caileabost 's gann a' b'urrainn dhomh an sealladh a chreidsinn is cladach a' Chlaiginn a' dèarrsadh le solais a' lasadh na slighe eadar an rathad agus an tràigh.

Mun àm a nochd na solais ann am beul na h-oidhe, bha mi air tuigsinn gun robh film ga chlàradh nar nàbachd. Mu mheadhan feasgair air latha ghas foghair le sgal gaoithe bhon ear dheas ghlac fuaim heileacoptair m'aire agus chithinn i a' sgèith os cionn Dhùn Bheagain. 'S dòcha mu

Health Service, but from the porters, kitchen staff, nursing staff and consultants I have enormous thanks regarding my treatment.

I must also comment on the cleanliness of this hospital and again my sincere thanks to all.

David Phillips,
Brynawel White Hart, Cardiff.

Decision is political correctness gone mad

Sir,
I would like to join the numerous councillors that have quite rightly criticised a decision to ask our heroic Royal Marines to leave their unloaded weapons outside a school when they were delivering a classroom presentation.

Shockingly, our marines who were invited to talk to pupils at primary schools in Oban and Dunbeg were given a last-minute instruction not to bring the tools of their trade inside.

I have received a deluge of emails and phone calls from people across Argyll and Bute who share my outrage at this slap in the face for our armed forces.

It seems that all it takes to ruin an armed forces school visit is a complaint from one councillor and the woolly-minded bureaucracy of some in the council.

This is clearly political correctness gone mad.

I hope that all future attempts to undo what has become a tradition in Dunbeg, in memory of one of their brave sons who died in the Falklands, will be ignored.

It is high time we all stopped listening so much to a vocal minority who do not speak for the majority in Scotland.

As a country we are hugely proud of our military tradition and, despite the hysterical objections from an easily triggered minority, that pride our country has will not be erased.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Islands transport needs to be addressed

Sir,
Once again there are murmurs of an extra ferry for Stornoway. Why?

Do we not earnestly require two ferries to replace the 30-year-old problematic boats presently serving Lochboisdale and Castlebay? Of course we do. It is what islanders wish first and foremost.

Roads engineers and others associated with transport promotion would do well to get the two-lane track finished from the Butt to Barra, which began more than 35 years ago. To do the roads would also show us islanders that they were taking care of people's priorities.

All well-read folk will understand the continuation of the madness of last summer needs addressed.

If you continue with the blinkers on not serving us islanders as noted, the island's image in the world, along with the environment being ruined, are going to be your reward.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearraidh na Monaigh,
Uibhist a Deas.

Council should not be asked to intervene

Sir,
I am astonished that a Dalmally charity should expect Argyll and Bute Council to carry out expensive improvements to a remote coastal track and build a cycle path on Mull in order for them to have a stress-free walk to Iona, during the present financial crisis ('Mull walking route is blasted as an accident waiting to happen', Oban Times, September 28).

It must be a lovely walk but no-one is asking them to do it. I wonder how the pilgrims of old, clad in cassocks and sandals with only sticks to defend themselves from the pagans and wild beasts, managed?

When will people realise that the world is not covered in cotton wool and that there are places they should not go?

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Where is CalMac's sense of humanity?

Sir,
I recently had a cataract operation in Glasgow. All was going well until the fourth day when I developed a relatively urgent situation whereby the eye pressure was building up and I needed to get back to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley within a few hours.

CalMac would not fit my car on to the next ferry as there was no room. I explained that it was a medical emergency and I needed to go right then.

I understand that if it was life-threatening, I could have got an air ambulance to Glasgow. However, it was not life-threatening, but I could have lost an eye.

Luckily, we managed to get off the island on the Lochaline ferry and made it to Glasgow in time.

Is CalMac so motivated by all this money it is earning lately that it has lost sight of the humanitarian needs of its passengers?

Hazel Morris,
Arle Lodge, Aros, Isle of Mull.

Praise for young man who helped couple

Sir,
I wonder if it's possible to thank a young man who came to our aid on Friday September 15, when our tyre burst near Ardnamurchan point.

Unfortunately, we didn't get the young man's name. However, he lives on Mull and was delivering animal feed, we think to the shop at the point and was accompanied by his grandmother.

He would not accept any payment and said that he was just passing and was pleased to help. This young man is a credit to Mull and his country and has restored our faith in human nature.

I perhaps should mention that another, older, 'gentleman' motorist had said, while I was attempting to jack up the car, that I should move the car out of his way, even though the tyre was completely flat and it could have damaged the wheel.

Brian and Cath Jameson,
Llandysul, Wales.

Ailean Caimbeul

uair a thìde an dèidh sin thug mi an aire gun robh còig bàtaichean de chaochladh sheòrsa a' seòladh a-mach an locha, agus bha e follaiseach gun robh an heileacoptair ga chleachdadh airson dealbhan a thogail. Le prosaig chithinn gun robh dà bhirleinn ann measg nan soithichean, tè nas lugha fo sheòl air toiseach agus te nas motha às a dèidh. Coltas sgeulachd a dh' fhaodadh a bhith glè inntinneach, agus feumaidh mi an tiotal aice a' lorg gus a faicinn nuair a bhios i deiseil.

Thàinig e nam inntinn as ùr, is mi ag amharc na bha a' tachairt, mar a tha eachdraidh ionadail an cunnart a dh'ol a cuimhne, agus theagamh nas miosa buileach eachdraidh nach eil fìor ga chruthachadh. Tha sin gu cinnteach a' tachairt a thaobh ainmean àite far an cluinnear mar eisimpleir, anns an sgìre agam fhìn, daoine a' gabhail "green hillocks" air seann làrach Airigh an t-Sluic. Cha mhòtha na sin a tha mòran air fhàgail aig am bheil sgeul air làrach Aird a' Chòmhraig ann an Caileabost far an deach, a-rèir aithris mo sheanar, dioghaltas bhàsmhor air sgioba de

chreachadairean a bha a' teicheadh an dèidh creach a dhèanamh an Uibhist. Chuir gaoth agus seòl-mara a-staigh gu ruige Loch Dhùn Bheagain iad agus rug na h-Uibhistich a bha às an dèidh orra ris a' chladach ann an Caileabost, agus lean an t-ainn ris an làrach san deach am marbhadh. Nach tàmailteach ann an dòigh gun biodh film uirsgeulach ga chlàradh an cois làrach san bheil leithid de dh'eachdraidh, agus tha e cho cudromach gun tèid ainmean àiteichean agus làraich, agus an cuid eachdraidh, a ghleidheadh. Tha Ainmean Àite Alba a' dèanamh obair ionmholta san t-seadh sin mar a chì sibh air an làrach-lìn ainmean-aite.scot

MANY PLACE NAMES bear witness to the geography and history of their locality, as well as its cultural heritage. The Gaelic place-names project Ainmean Àite, Alba's new online database, is a valuable and fascinating resource.

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

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Beatson's Mull Motor Sports Fest recaptures 'The Spirit of 88'

Motor sport magic on the traditional Mull Rally weekend, October 13-15, with the Beatson's Targa Rally and Mornish Rally Time Trial

MULL Rally weekend has a special place in Scotland's motor sport calendar and in the hearts of competitors, spectators and islanders. Following the unfortunate and unavoidable cancellation of this year's Mull Rally, the organisers worked hard to provide an alternative event to whet the appetites of would-be Mull Rally competitors. The result is the Beatson's Targa Rally and Rally Time Trial and the competitors have turned out in force to take part. The weekend of October 13-15 promises to be special, like the year of 1988 was, hence this year's 'Spirit of 88' theme. It was then, at very short notice, Mull Car Club Ltd put on the 'Mull Extra', a short two-leg stage rally that passed into the pages of Scottish motor sport history. The Guardians of the Mull Rally came together after the 2300 Club decided to pull out of organising the event in 2010, to keep one of the main events on the island going. The Guardians, with the

help of many other people along the way, have managed to make it bigger and better every year. But this year they were given the news there was an insurance issue which a lawyer picked out of the Act of Parliament relating to the fatal accident at the Jim Clark Rally, which runs on a similar closed-road format as Mull. The Guardians and everyone associated with the Mull Rally want to thank Beatson's Building Supplies for their continued support this year for the Motor Sports Fest.

Beatson's Targa Road Rally and Historic Road Rally, Friday October 13

A Targa road rally is restricted to road cars and road tyres and competitive sections have a maximum average speed of 30 mph, making it suitable for newcomers and families. Once on the public roads, the cars travel with the general traffic flow.

The driver needs to be 17 years or older with a full

driving licence and the navigator must be over 12. The competitive sections form either Special Tests comprising tight and twisty routes, where the competitor endeavours to set their fastest time or Regularity Tests, where the competitor attempts to maintain a specified average speed. The event begins at 10am and competitive sections are planned to take place on various private properties across the island. Check www.mullrally.org and its facebook page for further information and see signs and notice boards on the day for spectator advice. 'We have a good field with some very interesting cars and crews. We hope they all enjoy the competition and the Hebridean welcome,' said Donald Brown, who chairs the Guardians of Mull Rally. The entries include a 1961 Ford Anglia 105E; a 1966 Austin Mini Cooper, a 1963 Ford Consul Lotus Cortina and plenty of Ford Escort action. 'Ford Escorts have a strong heritage on Mull,' said Donald.

Beatson's Mornish Rally Time Trial Saturday October 14

Beatson's Building Supplies Mornish Rally Time Trial is a unique, gravel rally time trial with co-drivers. The never-before-used 3.1 mile forest-stage course, has outstanding views of the Outer Hebrides to the west. This is a sprint competition open to stage-prepared rally cars as you would see on the Mull Rally. There are two spectator areas on the stage with plenty of parking at both ends. Cars will have a driver and co-driver and a car can be used by more than one crew. The event will have a low-speed recce run for familiarisation and then have timed runs, nominally four but perhaps six if time allows. The best time of the day wins. The cars return to the paddock at low-speed along the public road. A rally time trial is particularly good for spectators, who will be able to see each car four to six times without having to move.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

- ☞ Respect the marshals and follow their instructions
- ☞ Observe the colour-coded tape and all signage
- ☞ Use the natural environment to protect yourself
- ☞ Don't walk on the rally stage
- ☞ Stay standing and remain alert
- ☞ Follow the signs on the day
- ☞ Ask one of the many marshals on duty for advice

SOCIAL

Mull is always buzzing during the rally weekend with a fantastic atmosphere. The marquee on Tobermory car park is the place to be on Friday for a race night, doors open at 7.30pm and on Saturday for the prize-giving and a ceilidh with Ireland's Sharon Shannon band and Beinn Lee band. Tickets £10, everyone welcome.



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(closed 1-2 for lunch) Wed 9-1
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The only community pharmacy on the island
Best of luck to all competitors in this year's Mull Targa Rally Stay Safe

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RALLY BOOST FOR MULL'S ECONOMY

In 2016 the rally attracted a record-equalling 150 crews and generated around £1 million for the local economy.

'The island and its businesses work hard to welcome the competitors, volunteers and spectators each year to the island in October,' Donald Brown said.

A UK LEADER

Mull Car Club Ltd is one of the leading UK motor clubs.

It provides senior officials, stage commanders, radio controllers and marshals to all rounds of the Scottish Rally Championship (SRC) as well as many other events across the UK. Club members include many experienced timekeepers, a radio group of 32 including four controllers, four clerks of

the course and a fully-qualified scrutineer, who is resident on the island.

WE'LL BE BACK!

'Be assured that the Mull Car Club and many others are also working hard behind the scenes to bring the rally back to the public roads, in a form as big and as spectacular as we have all become used to,' said a spokesman.

TARGA CLASSES

Targa classes: 1 Novice crews in any vehicle; 2 Targa cars 1600cc and under; 3 Targa cars between 1601cc and 2000cc; 4 Targa Cars 2001cc and over; 5 Historic Cars manufactured on or before December 31, 1974 (Category 1 & 2); 6 Historic Cars manufactured between January 1, 1975-December 31, 1985 (Category 3 & 4).

HOW COOL IS THIS?

The Targa rally has the ultimate in accessories, its own unique branded OS Landranger map covering the Targa Rally route area, from Nicolson Digital in Largs. The alternative is buying three standard OS Landranger maps, which is more expensive and not nearly as cool.

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Arena

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

Islay Book Festival

Island event is small but perfectly formed



One of the 'Islay Voices' local history walks to The Oa and American Monument.
Photograph: Kent Rawlinson



Argyll-based author Alan Windram entertains primary school children with his event at Islay Book Festival.



Poet Pauline Prior-Pitt shares some of her work about islands and women.
Photograph: Isla Rosser Owen



Ryan Van Winkle entertains poetry-lovers at Jura Care Centre.
Photograph: Isla Rosser Owen



Colin MacIntyre spent time with pupils on the island.

SCIENCE, strong women and storytelling in poetry and song – with a bit of puppetry thrown in – combined to make this year's Islay Book Festival a weekend not to be missed.

Now in its 11th year, the festival was on the move with events being held across the island for the first time, not just in Port Ellen, giving locals and visitors alike a taste of all the island has to offer.

And it did not disappoint. Thursday kicked off with a day of school events, with authors Barbara Henderson, Argyll-based Alan Windram, poet Ryan Van Winkle and Mull author and musician Colin MacIntyre visiting youngsters on Islay and Jura, entertaining and inspiring youngsters in both the secondary and primary schools. Events for

the youngsters included poetry, Gaelic sessions as well as Bookbug for toddlers. On Friday evening Colin MacIntyre talked about how Mull and his music with Mull Historical Society inspired his novel *The Letters of Ivor Punch*. And making it a family affair, Colin brought his uncle Eric with him, who read two poems by his father – and Colin's grandfather – Angus MacIntyre, a well known Mull bank manager and bard. Saturday was the busiest day, with various children's events, guided walks by Islay Voices' Jenni Minto and Les Wilson, bookbinding and writing workshops, and author events. Lord George Robertson opened Saturday's adult events, before author and former research physicist and bio-engineer Helen Sedgewick

read from her two novels *The Comet Seekers* and *The Growing Season*. The hour went far too quickly, with Helen expertly weaving her experience as a scientist with fictional characters, resulting not only in two fantastic reads, but plenty of deep discussion points for any book club to get their teeth into. Space was a recurring theme for children and adults, with youngsters enjoying Alan Windram's event around his new book about a robot, *One Button Benny*, and Inveraray author Ken MacTaggart exploring everything space related, from the history of space flight to the future of space tourism. A book festival on the whisky isle would not have been complete without a whisky-related

event, and Jura-based photographer Konrad Borkowski discussed his photographs in his book *Whisky Island*, announcing the winner of this year's 'Spirit of Islay' photography competition who was Katie Anderson, who took the picture of the Kilnave chapel window. In the afternoon, author Sara Sheridan spoke about the lack of memorials to great women and why she was inspired to write her latest book, *On Starlit Seas*, about travel writer Maria Graham, who lived in the 1800s. In the evening, Bowmore was the venue for a criminally good conversation between Sara Sheridan and fellow historical crime writer ES Thomson, who chatted about their historical crime fiction series and why each had been inspired to create strong female lead characters –

Sheridan's Mirabelle Bevan and ES Thomson's Jem Flockhart. On Sunday, Uist-based award-winning poet Pauline Prior-Pitt rounded off the weekend reading from her poems on island life and growing older, including her recently published anthology *Be An Angel*. She also revealed her Islay Poetry Challenge poem, where Pauline had to create a poem using words contributed by festival-goers throughout the weekend. While a stalwart of the literary festival calendar, the IBF team had taken a fresh look at the format and it worked a treat. The event was inspiring, entertaining, informative, and great fun. So roll the 2018 Islay book festival. I for one can't wait!

Jura music fest has the island jumping

THE 24TH JURA Music Festival was hailed as another great success by organisers, with a weekend of music and entertainment for all ages. Taking place on September 30 and October 1, the popular local concert kicked off proceedings. Saturday evening was ably hosted by Norrie Melver and Archie McAllister, a fantastic double-act. They were followed onto the stage by a line-up of some of the best of young Scottish musicians, with The Young Trads and Talisk ensuring the crowd had a fantastic time. Heron Valley topped off the evening and had everyone up on their feet for a cracking ceilidh. Sunday evening in the Coopage brought the festival to a close with HoRo getting the crowd up on their feet with some brilliant tunes, followed by Tide Lines who had the place jumping – a perfect end to a great weekend.



Heron Valley topped off the Saturday evening's entertainment.



HoRo get Sunday evening off to a cracking start.



Everyone is up on their feet for a good dance.



Robert Robertson was in fine voice with his band Tide Lines on Sunday evening.



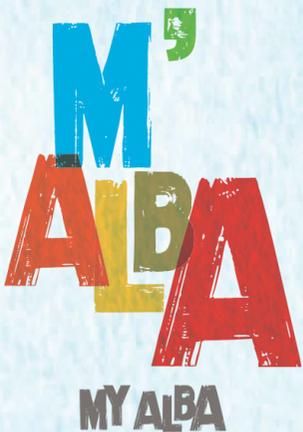
The Young Trads.



Norrie MacIver and Archie McAllister were the able hosts for Saturday evening.



Talisk are well kent faces on the traditional music scene.



Listings for Thursday 5 October – Thursday 12 October 2017

DIARDAOIN 05 DÀMHAIR
THURSDAY 05 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.05 Bailtean Alba – Looking at the history of Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.25 Binneas – Cuirim @ Celtic: Chicago – Rura (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Air an Rathad
22.00 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Bombskare (rpt)
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Lana Turner
23.20 Dhan Uisge – Loch Lomond (rpt)
23.30 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)

DIHAOINE 06 DÀMHAIR
FRIDAY 06 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair – Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
19.30 Pro 14 Live Rugby – Cheetas v Glasgow
21.25 Binneas – Barbara Dickson (rpt)
21.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
22.00 Seirm (rpt)
23.00 Frank Sinatra – tribute to one of the 20th century's greatest idols (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge – Easdale (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 07 DÀMHAIR
SATURDAY 07 OCTOBER
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.05 SPFL Challenge Cup – Live coverage of Dundee v Linfield
19.15 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
19.30 Machair – Gaelic soap based on the Isle of Lewis (rpt)

19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.00 Na Ceiltich/Celtic History (rpt)
20.25 Binneas – Barbara Dickson (rpt)
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich – Heather Dewar visits the Bays of Harris (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Seirm – Music from Celtic Connections 2017
22.00 Bliadhna Kerry (Kerry's Year) – following Kerry's journey to the commonwealth games (rpt)
23.00 Juan Carlos – King of Spain/ Rìgh na Spainne (rpt)
24.30 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)

DIDÒMHAINE 08 DÀMHAIR
SUNDAY 08 OCTOBER
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's Programming
18.30 Seachd La/News Review
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
20.00 Highland Midwives (rpt)
20.30 Prosaig (rpt)
21.00 Chi mi anns a' Bhothan Thu (rpt)

22.00 Seirm (rpt)
23.00 Frank Sinatra (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge – Easdale (rpt)

DILUAIN 09 DÀMHAIR
MONDAY 09 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Sruth gu Sàl – series looking at the waterways of Scotland (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Puirt-adhair
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh – Tormod – Na Bheachd Fhein
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Bannan
22.25 Talamh gu Truinnshear (rpt)
23.25 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Keston Cobblers Club (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 10 DÀMHAIR
TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 **UR | NEW:** An Ataireachd Bhuan – Stories from Fishermen's

working lives at sea
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Talla Sheorais – New comedy where we meet the hapless Seòras
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Scotland's Game Changers – Women changing the face of Scottish football
22.00 Trusadh – Tormod – Na Bheachd Fhein (rpt)
23.00 Togaidh sinn Fonn – selection of Scotland's best musicians (rpt)
23.25 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 11 DÀMHAIR
WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Sruth gu Sàl – series looking at the waterways of Scotland (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Prosaig

21.00 Agus a' nochd (Na h-Entertainers) (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live!
22.30 Bannan (rpt)
23.00 Air an Rathad – Prestige (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 12 DÀMHAIR
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan – Stories from Fishermen's working lives at sea (rpt)
19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Bailtean Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Air an Rathad - Adrenaline
22.00 Belladrum 2015 Highlights: Cridhe Tartan – Prides (rpt)
22.40 Marilyn Munroe (rpt)
23.30 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)



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Nominations sought for the trad music awards

HANDS Up for Trad today invited nominations for this year's MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards.

The winners will be crowned at a glittering ceremony held at The Lagoon Centre, Paisley, on Saturday December 2, as Paisley bids for UK City of Culture 2021.

The public have until Friday October 13 to cast their votes for who they want nominated in each category, including PRS Composer of the Year, Event of the Year, Instrumentalist of the Year and Gaelic Singer of the Year.

Among the list of nominees is the top 20 longest for Scots Trad Album of the Year 2017. Determined by a panel of industry experts, the standout category is arguably one of the most sought-after awards and competition is tough this year, with the award being contested by Mac Ile by The Islay Sessioners - the music of the late Fraser Shaw, Cross the Line by Fara and Room with a View by Old Blind Dogs, just to name a few.

Winners will be unveiled at the

“We are absolutely thrilled to bring the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards to Paisley”

Simon Thoumire

most prestigious date in Scotland's cultural calendar, the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Award ceremony. For tickets go to www.paisley2021.co.uk/events.

This year's ceremony will see some of the biggest names in Scottish traditional music perform, including Elephant Sessions, The Shee Big Band and Siobhan Miller.

Event founder and promoter Simon Thoumire said: 'We are absolutely thrilled to bring the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards to Paisley. There is a real buzz around the town as they strive towards their bid for UK City of Culture 2021, and we're delighted to be part of it. 'A huge thanks to MG ALBA for their continued support - we've had a tremendous partnership with them over the years, and we will carry on promoting Scotland's tremendous talent and bring traditional music in all its forms into the spotlight.'

To vote, go to www.scotstradmusicawards.com.



Elephant Sessions.



Room with a View by Old Blind Dogs.



Cross the Line by Fara.



Mac Ile - the music of the late Fraser Shaw.

Bookends Festival draws to a close

The final few days of the Bookends Festival in Benderloch were filled with excitement and just a little competitive fever.

Wednesday night saw theatre from the Tobermory Mainstreet Players with their production of *A World Beyond Man*. This production was a real eye-opener for the audience and a great help for some local children who attended and went away with lots more understanding of life in the Arctic for their current school topic. The performance raised £150 for Lorn Home-Start, their chosen charity.

Thursday night brought the artists in the area to the Reading Room to create lino-cut bookmarks and on Friday there was a hard-fought quiz night with quizmaster Craig Munro at the helm. A packed Reading Room had questions ranging from music and food to films and trains! The winning team Los Ramblos received a World Famous Pink Shop goodie bag. Oban Phoenix also provided



The festival's youngest visitor, 10-week-old Innes Cruikshank, was given an early reading lesson by organiser Joy Cameron.

cinema tickets as a prize, this time won by The Pink Ladies.

As if the quiz hadn't caused enough excitement, Lindsay Campbell read from her book *Ane Compact of Villany* on Saturday afternoon and scared the audience witless with a short reading from her next book as the story she

told was of a murder committed some 400 years ago and only 400 yards from the spot in which they sat.

On Saturday evening a large and expectant audience gathered to hear Graeme Pagan talk about the stories gathered in his book *Once Bitten, Twice Fined*. In a Parkinson-

style interview Campbell Cameron, one of the Bookends organisers, quizzed Graeme about events during his long and varied career in law. Before long the audience was filled with peals of laughter, not only at the miscreants' exploits but at Graeme in full flow as an accomplished raconteur.

Campbell said: 'Graeme told us some wonderful stories of his time as procurator fiscal and honorary sheriff in Oban. An illuminating insight into his first book.'

Graeme was then joined by Allison Pringle with whom he co-wrote *Don't Mention The Coal Scuttle*, a book about bereavement and its aftermath. Many in the audience were unsure of how 'entertaining' this part of the night might be but after an initial introduction by Allison, who had the audience in the palm of her hand within minutes, the stories, reminiscences and anecdotes began to warm the gathered crowd and more heartwarming stories were shared.

One audience member said: 'I wasn't really sure how I'd feel about listening to a conversation about the death of a loved one but following tonight, when I've laughed hard and loud with others, I'm definitely buying this book.'

As the night and Book-

ends drew to a close the authors waived their fees and the audience added to the donation box, a further £150 was added to the collection for Lorn Home-Start.

Bookends 2017 was declared a success by all who visited the Reading Room and Joy Cameron, organiser, tells us she has already booked many of next year's visiting authors and performers.

During this week Fringe events have been running in the Reading Room. Today (Thursday) there will be two screenings of *DEMAIN* winner of the equivalent of the French Oscars for a documentary. The film highlights projects, ideas and positive moves undertaken by small and large communities across the world to improve the plight of the planet and shows us how we can take part in the movement to heal the Earth. Showings are at 10.30 am and 7pm and are part of The Awakening In Benderloch project. This is the first showing of *DEMAIN* in

Scotland and is brought to Bookends fringe by Mairi Stones.

Tomorrow night *Grumpy Old Men: The Campbells are Coming* closes the fringe at 7.30pm. The grumpy old men, Campbell Munro local Pict and retail supreme, Campbell Cameron, Oban FM and retired councillor, and Russell Campbell, author and cartoonist let rip at anything that bothers them. They'll regale you with stories of past century, when life was good, and why it's all gone wrong since then. Audience participation is expected and encouraged. The bar opens 7pm. For details of all of these events go to www.bookends.scot

Organisers would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended Bookends over the two weeks, authors and performers, Bookends ambassadors, the many sponsors and supporters and everyone who came to share in the fun at the Reading Room. Look out for pop-up Bookends events over the next year.

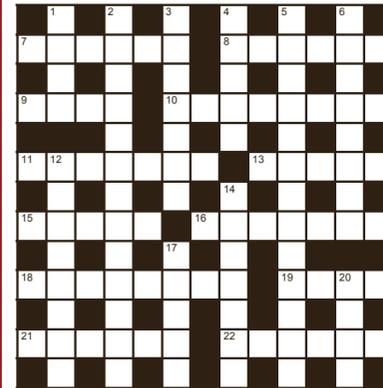
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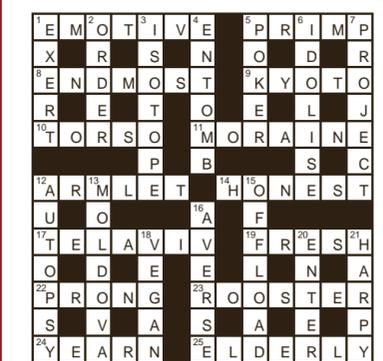
MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2
TUESDAY: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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Cloud of interstellaria gas (6)
 - 8 Sailor (3,3)
 - 9 Wise men (4)
 - 10 Weaken (8)
 - 11 Scored, but not at the right end (3,4)
 - 13 Undercover operation (5)
 - 15 Living in a city (5)
 - 16 Prepared for a position (7)
 - 18 Place in a house to clean (8)
 - 19 Close assistant (4)
 - 21 Worth a look (6)
 - 22 Confine (6)
- Down**
- 1 Salad cheese (4)
 - 2 Used to compute (6,7)
 - 3 He was at home in the stone age (4,3)
 - 4 Poly's compound? (5)
 - 5 Founded by William Booth (9,4)
 - 6 Advance (8)
 - 12 Movement round a fire before combat (3,5)
 - 14 Citadel of Moscow (7)
 - 17 Might (5)
 - 20 Communal sleeping quarters (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

Cancer Research Committee
Oban Branch
50th Anniversary Celebration Ceilidh Dance
Royal Hotel, Argyll Square
Saturday 14th October 2017
8.00pm
Music by Drums Allowed Raffle
Tickets £10 from Oban Music, Argyll Square

Inveraray & District
Accordion & Fiddle Club
Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 11th October
at 8.00pm
Guest Artists
From South Shields
Leonard Brown & Malcolm Ross
Supporting players most welcome

Oban Parish Church Guild
Coffee Morning
Church Centre
Saturday 7th October 2017
10am - 12 noon
All welcome
Entry by donation

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain
Taynuilt Pre-Mod Ceilidh
A Programme of singers and choirs competing at the Royal National Mod
Taynuilt Village Hall
Saturday 7th October 7pm*
*Please note earlier ceilidh start time
Tickets - £4 Tea and Raffle
A warm welcome is extended to all


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Arena

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

Search for young composer with the piping X factor

A COMPETITION to find Scotland's next superstar young composer and an iconic new tune for our national instrument has launched this week: Piping Hit 2018. Youngsters across Scotland are being asked whether they think they have the X factor and to compose a hit tune suitable for the Great Highland Bagpipe.

The competition is open to every school pupil in Scotland. Music charity organisers, the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT), want to showcase some of Scotland's young musical talent while also helping to create some great new Scottish tunes.

Entrants must make a recording of the tune played on the pipes, but composers don't have to be able to play the pipes themselves. The tune must be an original piece of work and can be as traditional as *Scotland the Brave* or more contemporary.

Kenny Forsyth, chairman of the judging panel and SSPDT trustee, said: 'We have some fantastic young musical talent and we are looking forward to hearing what they compose. The pipes are used in so many different types of music now and we want to encourage all pupils to get involved, whether they play the pipes or not. The tune doesn't have to be what is considered a typical traditional Scottish melody, it could be as modern as Ed Sheeran or Katy Perry – it's up to the composer. The judges will be looking out for tunes that have the power to connect with an audience.'

'The winner of Piping Hit 2018 will receive £250 as well as £1,000 for their school's music department. The winning tune will also be performed at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in March 2018 – the world's largest competition of its type.'

Lorne MacDougall, piper, composer and one of the judging panel, added: 'I started playing the pipes when I was at school and I am very lucky that it is now my full-time career. Composing is not only great for getting the creative juices flowing, it's also very therapeutic and a good way to express yourself. It can also lead to lots of exciting prospects, including travelling around the world, so there is the potential to make a good career from it. I've written and performed music for TV and film including *Doctor Who*, *Brave* and *How to Train Your Dragon* and it all started with getting involved with piping when I was at school.'

The deadline for entries is January 19, 2018, and full competition rules and entry details can be found on www.sspdt.org.uk.

Skipinnish rock the Barrowland



Skipinnish rock the Barrowland to rave reviews.

HAVING come storming back from the edge of existence when they lost their former lead singer in 2016, Highland band Skipinnish are powering through their biggest year yet.

In the 18-year history of the band, their current popularity is unprecedented and is growing at an accelerating rate.

Having started the year with their hit single *Alive* which they followed with the album, *The Seventh Wave*, the magic of this band's music and self-penned songs are enchanting more and more people from Scotland and across the world all the time.

At their recent gig, they stormed a full house of fans from across the world at the iconic Barrowland Ballroom in Glasgow. The gig sold out in record time back in May with the first 600 early-bird tickets selling in less than 10 minutes of release.

Supporting Skipinnish were Leo and Anto, a duo comprising of Leo Moran of the Saw Doctors and Anthony Thistlethwaite of the Waterboys. Also joining the band were long-time collaborators Rachel

Walker and Archie McAlister, as well as surprise guest Malcolm Jones of Runrig, who's appearance sent the crowd even wilder than they were already.

As well as headlining some of the UK's biggest festivals, Skipinnish have sold out every single venue they have appeared at in 2017 including Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh, the Lemon Tree in Aberdeen, the Albert Halls in Stirling and many others in all areas of the country from Stornoway, in the Western Isles, Strathay in the far north and Biggar in the south.

Already all the early-bird tickets for the band's busy Christmas tour are sold out and anticipation is running high for their Oban gig in the Corran Halls on Friday December 22.

Skipinnish are on the crest of wave that is growing bigger and more powerful with every performance. How far the band's popularity will continue to grow is difficult to predict, but if the Barrowland performance is anything to go by, their wave is on the way to great heights.

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM
Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
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OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 November 2017. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

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FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What is the lighting sculpture in the Atrium Lounge called?

Voucher valid 9th December 2017 until 6th January 2018. Blackout dates apply, subject to availability, other terms and conditions apply and will feature on the voucher.

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

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Hoots mon and help ma boab! Take the high road (or the low road) and get roamin in the gloamin for Funbox's brand new show. Join Anya, Kevin and Gary as they take a trip to the Highlands of Scotland to battle midgies, become monarchs of the glen and hear the skirl of the bagpipes in their latest singalong adventure. There's silliness galore and songs to sing in this crazy new show for 2017. You'll need to help us get the Funbox open – which contains everything you need to sing a song or have an adventure – but which of our special keys should we use? You may even be lucky enough to help the gang on stage!

Packed with family favourites like 'Ally Bally', 'Did You Ever See A Lassie?' and 'Jelly Belly', as well as brand new songs, HIGHLAND FLING is the perfect treat for kids of all ages – from nought to ninety

For your chance to win a family ticket to the Funbox show at the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday, October 21st, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, FUNBOX Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 16 October 2017.

QUESTION: What is the name of Funbox's show this year?

FUNBOX Competition

Answer

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Address

Telephone

Email

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 16 October 2017. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

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Poetry of the clearances Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Poetry of the clearances.

ONE of Scotland's most eminent historians travels to the Ross of Mull this month to deliver a talk on the poetry of the clearances, just as a local project is bringing a ruined township back to life.

Sir Tom Devine, emeritus professor of Scottish History and Palaeography at the University of Edinburgh, will comment on two poems, the *Lament for Factor Mòr* by Eugene Ross and the *Satire on Patrick Sellar* by Donald Baillie, read by Eleanor MacDougall, at Bunessan Hall on Tuesday October 17 at 7.30pm.

Jan Sutch Pickard of the Ross of Mull Historical Centre said: 'We are really pleased because it fits so well with our current project on the ruined township of Ardchiavaig.' Ardchiavaig is such a cleared settlement of more than 20 roofed and unroofed buildings (including a school), and 14 enclosures, on a beautiful but apparently empty corner of Mull near Uisken.

A walkover archaeology survey by Dr Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology in July, funded by the

Heritage Lottery Fund, has produced a detailed report, now being studied by volunteers at the Ross of Mull Historical Centre, which commissioned it.

You can view a video of the archaeological investigation online via You Tube, titled *Sùil Air Ardchiavaig - Ross Of Mull Historical Centre*.

The centre's winter programme will include showings of several films, and reminiscence sessions, sharing information about the story of Ardchiavaig and its people.

Prof Devine has written or edited more than three dozen books on Scottish history, the Scottish diaspora, Irish-Scottish studies, and recently *Clanship to Crofters War: Social Transformation of the Scottish Highlands*.

Eleanor MacDougall is a silversmith and Gaelic teacher, living and working on the Isle of Mull. She has recently completed a PhD in Gaelic Studies at Aberdeen University, and her research subject was 19th century paintings of the Gàidhealtachd.

Traditional Music Hall of Fame inductees

THIS year's MG Alba Scots Trad Awards are to be held in the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley.

Every year, Hands Up for Trad selects musicians and tradition-bearers to induct into the Traditional Music Hall of Fame. This year's list is particularly impressive.

Dr Kenna Campbell MBE is to be honoured for services to Gaelic. Kenna deserves every honour that comes her way - and there have been a few of late.

Another inductee, Barra's Cathy Ann MacPhee, joked on Facebook in her own inimitable way that (because fellow inductee Billy Connolly has his own mural on the block of flats in Anderston near where he was born) perhaps she should now have a mural on Kisimul's Castle.

I, for one, would be fully in favour of that.

Other notable inductees are Christine Primrose, Blair Douglas, Rab Noakes, Bobby Crowe and Kenneth MacKellar.

The Big Yin, Sir Billy Connolly, I suppose, to many, will be the 'headline' induction. Connolly's humour, for me, epitomises everything Glasgow is about - but (while he is world famous for his unique style of comedy) he is also a talented writer of folk songs.

I have always loved his song *I wish I was in Glasgow* - a nostalgic account of the changing face of the city since the glory days of the shipbuilding industry. It was written, as he has explained in concert himself, before the city underwent some successful redevelopment projects.

I thought a verse or two of it would be appropriate for inclusion in the Glasgow Letter:

Oh I wish I was in Glasgow
With some good old friends of mine;
Some good old rough companions,
And some good old smooth red wine
We could talk about the old days,
And the ships down by the Clyde
And drink to the boys on the road.



Dr Kenna Campbell was honoured by the Queen.

What's on

- Friday October 6:** Mòd Ghlaschu 2019 fundraising cèilidh with Gunna Sound, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Berkeley Street, 7pm-midnight.
- Friday October 13:** Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.
- Friday October 27:** Coll Association quiz night at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Hall.
- Friday October 27:** Helensburgh and District Association dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.
- Friday October 27:** The second annual Eriskey Gathering dance in Glasgow University Union at 9pm.

- Saturday October 28:** Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.
- Pub scene**
- Islay Inn**
Friday October 6: Crooked Reel.
Saturday October 7: The Keelies.
Sunday October 8: Calum MacPhail Duo.
- Park Bar**
Friday October 6: Scott Harvey.
Saturday October 7: Gunna Sound.

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Pet Idol is open to all pets belonging to households across Argyll and Lochaber. Just take a snap of your pet and enter online at www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol. Photographs must have been taken on or after September 1, 2017 (we don't want pictures of cute kittens that are now the size of Mufasa!)

The Oban Times Pet Idol Supplement

After you enter your pet, look out for our fantastic Pet Idol supplement on 2 and 3 November. This will give you the chance to boast to your friends that your little fur-ball really is the cutest thing in Argyll and the West Highlands!

Vote for your favourite!

Readers will have the important job of voting for their favourite pets in the supplement. We will then break it down to further rounds of top 50, 30, 20 and finally top 10. From the top 10, the pet with the most votes will be crowned our Pet Idol Champion early in 2018. **Good luck!**

The closing date for entries is midnight, Sunday, October 22, 2017.

ENTER ONLINE

www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol

First Year intake 2017

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

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

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

Oban Corran Halls Programme Saturday 7th October

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

For further information contact the Corran Halls
Tel: 01631 567333

Oban Library Programme Saturday 7th October

Coffee, tea and cakes session	10am - 1pm
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For further information contact Oban Library
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Saturday 7th October Launch of liveArgyll

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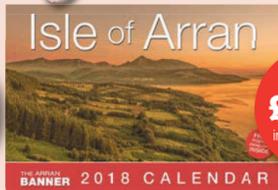
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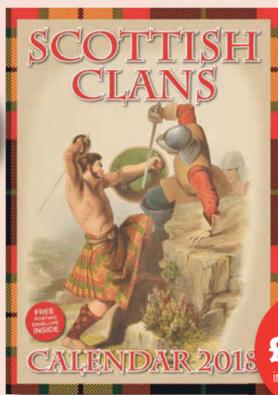
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HIGHLAND CATTLE SHOW & SALE

Sunday 8th & Monday 9th October 2017



For farming enthusiasts, Oban is home of the most prestigious Highland cattle sales in Scotland.

Each year, under the auspices of the Highland Cattle Society, Oban Livestock Centre hosts a spring bull sale with buyers flying in from all over Europe to bid for top quality Highland cattle to improve their own folds, followed by a great female show and sale in October, which also brings buyers from all over Europe.

The 120th annual Highland Cattle Autumn Show will take place at Oban Livestock Centre, Upper Soroba, on Sunday October 8, followed by the sale on Monday October 9, with both events starting at 10am.

Trophies, prizes and awards will be judged by Mr Matt Auld of the Pollok Fold, and Mr Angus MacGillivray will judge the best young handler.

The breed has a long and distinguished ancestry in Argyll and some of the best examples of the breed are from Argyll and the Islands. Animals are regularly sold at well over 2,000 guineas each.

According to the Highland Cattle Society, the breed has changed little over the years and there are written records dating back to the 18th century. The Highland Cattle Herd Book, which lists pedigrees, was first published in 1885 and new folds (as herds of Highlanders are known) are added to the society's database each year of British Highlanders. The breed standard was first set down in 1885 and has been used ever since.

New folds 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 – and there are also Highlanders in



Kate Cameron, daughter of John and Wilma Cameron who run the Dunach fold of Highland cattle, gives her calf Abernethy of Dunach a hug at the 2016 show and sale.

Milking a Highland cash cow



Scotland's Highland cattle are famed for their beauty and beef, but now one enterprising Barcaldine farmer has turned her hill farm into an ice cream factory, to harvest the breed's butter-fat rich milk.

Jane Isaacson, launched Highland Fold Ice Cream in August at the 60th Appin Agricultural Show, milked from her fold of Highland cattle named Daisy, Sileas, Heather and Banarach ('milkmaid' in Gaelic) at Achinreir Farm.

Jane, the sustainability and development manager at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, was offered the farm on a long-term basis in 2014. 'It was a totally out-of-the-blue chance,' she explained. 'I did not know how to make a living off the farm. I had to decide what I was going to do with it. I wanted to make the farm sustainable. It all came together in an epiphany.'

Hardy Highland cattle are an ancient breed known to have survived the poor land and harsh conditions presented by the hills, glens and islands of the Scottish Highlands since the sixth century. Highland cattle provided meat and milk to subsistence crofters, who even used the hair to spin yarn.

Jane said: 'They are so good at converting our scrappy grassland into high quality milk, which is why they can grow these huge calves on virtually nothing in the Highlands.'

'What inspired me was the milk, cheeses and butter taken from the Highland cattle in the sheelings. There are lots of references in history. The yield is much smaller and the milk is much richer.'

The butter-fat in the milk of the Highland can be as high as nine to 10 per cent, much higher

than conventional milking breeds which tends to be between three and five per cent, her website states. 'Maybe you could make ice cream from Highland cattle because of the high fat content?' she wondered. 'I thought it must work.'

But at first many were not so sure. 'They looked at me as if I was off my trolley,' she said. 'There were lots of comments that you cannot milk a Highlander.'

Jane secured funding from the Scottish Government, leased the 'hideously expensive equipment', travelled far for dairying and ice cream making courses, and converted her old tin shed into a milking parlour, the old stable into an ice cream kitchen and a horse trailer into its travelling shop.

'It took two and a half years to plan the business,' she said. 'I nearly gave up on a number of occasions, when it seemed too difficult for me. The vision of it kept me going. I just wanted it to work so much. The hard work is done and now I have to make it pay for itself.'

Helped by her children, John and Sophie, Jane's ice cream business is now up and scooping, serving a pure Highland milk flavour ice cream, using toppings made by local artisans. 'I wanted all the toppings to be either made by local people or gathered locally,' she said.

Highland Fold Ice Cream's next outing will be at the Highland Cattle Society show and sale at Oban Auction Mart on October 8, having sold out early at the Dalmailly Show, and she is already planning to make bespoke ice creams for venues.

'I did not expect people to take it seriously,' she said. 'That's what inspired me: that people thought it would not work. I hope it will.'

MARKET PRICES

Islay

United Auctions held a sale of 4,976 sheep and lambs of all classes at Islay Auction Mart. Trade obtained on the day, though back slightly on the year, compared favorably to levels currently being obtained at mainland centres.

The following are the lamb averages: Suffolk Crosses £50.55. Texel Crosses £51.66. Cheviot Cross £55.56. Mule Cross £49.24 and Blackface £35.62.

A good show of quality bred lambs was presented to a good following of mainland buyers. A show of rams and ram lambs was also held when the judging of the various classes was ably placed by Mr Eion Brown, Cruach, who made the following awards.

Crossing rams – 1 Sheena Woodrow – Texel ram lamb; 2 James Bignal – Suffolk ram lamb; 3 Miss Brooke Woodrow – Texel ram lamb. Blackface: 1 Allan Orr – shearing; 2 Gordon Currie – shearing; 3 Alasdair Currie – shearing. Champion and Tarff Valley Trophy – Sheena Woodrow. Reserve. James Bignal. Also held on this date was the annual sale of all classes of breeding sheep which sold at current levels.

Principal lots and prices
Suffolk Cross: Islay Estate – £63.50; Carrabus Farm – £62; Conisby – £61; Islay Estate – £60.50; Duich Farm, Carrabus, Sannaigmore – £59.50
Texel Cross: Blackrock – £64.50;

Carrabus Farm – £62.50; Tallant – £62; Carrabus Farm – £59.50; 44 Stanalane – £59 Cheviot Cross: Aoradh – £62.50, £62 & £59; Duich Farm £56.50; Corraray – £56
Mule Cross: Ardnave – £62; Carrabus Farm – £58.50; Duich Farm – £58; Knocklearach – £57.50; Carrabus Farm & Smaladh – £56.50; Islay Estate – £56
Blackface: Rockside – £48.50; Strathlaggan – £47; Uiskenbuie – £44; Ceannacroic – £43; Lower Craggabus – £42.50; Islay Estate – £41

Rams and ram lambs: Suffolk: Smaladh (James Bignal) – £650, £580, £550 (2), £520 (2), £450
Blueface: £550 – Balachlaven; Coille – £500
Texel: 16 West End (S Woodrow) – £700
Cross: Coille – £480, £450 & £400
Blackface: Dailnamarra (A Orr) – £320
Gimmers: Texel Cross: Claddach – £88
Mule: Knocklearach – £118; Claddach – £100; Wedders: Keppols – £48; Finlaggan – £47; Ceannacroic – £44
Cast ewes: Suffolk: Smaladh – £68
Texel: Islay Estate – £82.50; Carrabus Farm – £80
Cheviot Cross: 16 West End – £63
Lambs: Ardnave – £60
BF warranted ewes: Kelsay – £58; Kilchiaran – £56; Lossit – £50; Craigens – £44; Lower Craggabus – £42
Mule correct ewes: Balachlaven – £52

Mule ewe lambs: Balachlaven – £86; Island Farm – £82; Smaladh – £78; Upper Craggabus – £78; Island Farm – £72; Corraray Farm – £70

Lochmaddy

LOCHMADDY, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on September 25 sold 2,523 store sheep of all classes.

Lambs (1,645) sold to £78 per head for Blackface's from 18 Lochport, Lochmaddy. Ewes (310) sold to £76 per head for Texel crosses from 3 Claddach Kirkibost, Lochmaddy. Gimmers (72) sold to £89 per head for Blackface's from 34 Linciate, Creagorry. Breeding ram (1) sold to £320 for a Texel ram from 8 West Gerinish, Lochboisdale. Feeding sheep (491) sold to £70 per head for a Texel Cross ewe from 25 Balemore, North Uist. Other leading prices per head Store lambs: TexX – 8 West Gerinish, £73, £65, & £62; Chev – 7 Balranald, Lochmaddy, £72, 11 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £68, 6 Rushgarry, Berneray, £65; Cross – 7 Malaglate, Lochmaddy, £69, 20 Knockintoran, Bayhead, £63, 6 Rushgarry, £60; BF – 7 Claddach, Carinish, £67, Sidinish, Lochport, £60, 3 Lochportain, Lochmaddy, £56; SuffX – 2 Claddach Kirkibost, Lochmaddy, £65, 5 Peninerine, Lochboisdale, £56.50, 7 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £54.50; Mule – 32 Linciate, Isle of Benbecula, £50, 34 Linciate, £48.

Ewes: Chev – 17A Linciate, Isle of Benbecula, £66, 15 Genitote, Sollas, £64, 5 Balemartin, Lochmaddy, 3 Creagorry, Benbecula & 7 Paiblesgarry, Lochmaddy, £57; SuffX – 17 Hougharry, Isle of North Uist, £65; Cross – 7 Paiblesgarry, £65, 15 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £61, 20 Balemore, Bayhead, £59. Gimmers: BF – 34 Linciate, £85 (twice), 32 Linciate, £82, 291 Kilpheder, Lochboisdale, £77; Mule – 32 Linciate, £85; Chev – 2 Newton, Lochmaddy & Blashaval Cottage, £79, £72, 7 Paiblesgarry, £71; TexX – 3 Claddach Kirkibost, £67, £60. Feeding sheep: Chev wdr – 7 Malaglate, £63, 4 Paiblesgarry, £62, 8 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, £58; Suff ram – 3 Claddach Kirkibost, £59; Cross ewe – Seaview, Knockline, £57; Cross wdr – 6 Rushgarry, £55.50; Cross ram – 13 Knockintoran, £55; TexX ewe – 3 & 4 Balmartin, Tigharry, £50; Chev wdr – 2/3 Stumore, Lochmaddy, £54.

United Auctions held a breeding sheep sale at Oban Livestock Centre when they were favoured with an entry of 5056 head of all classes. In keeping with other mainland centres, character lots were easily sold to advantage. Plainer types proved less favourable to the buyers around the ringside. Principal lots and prices: Gimmers BLUE LEICESTER CROSS: Dalvore £102
TEXEL CROSS: Tyree £135 (D MacDonald, Jr.); Croft 2 Fanmore £100
CHEVIOT: Balliemackillchan

Oban

United Auctions held a breeding sheep sale at Oban Livestock Centre when they were favoured with an entry of 5056 head of all classes. In keeping with other mainland centres, character lots were easily sold to advantage. Plainer types proved less favourable to the buyers around the ringside. Principal lots and prices: Gimmers BLUE LEICESTER CROSS: Dalvore £102
TEXEL CROSS: Tyree £135 (D MacDonald, Jr.); Croft 2 Fanmore £100
CHEVIOT: Balliemackillchan

£105; Tiraghoil £100.
MULE: Fiart (N Carmichael) £125; Inneshewan Farms £108; Upper Largie £108; 4 Ballygrundle £108.
BLACKFACE: Sealladnamara £160 & £140; Acharonich £90; Upper Largie £62 & £60; Sealladnamara £86; Glengorm £86
Ewes
SUFFOLK: Auchnashul £50
TEXEL: Auchnashul £50
MULE: Cailaich £80 & £58; Sealladnamara £70 & £62
MULE: Balliemackillchan £68 & £66; Upper Largie £62 & £60; BLACKFACE: Sealladnamara £260, £102, £78, £72 & £70; Kengharair £62; Turnault £58; Achalic £56; Sealladnamara £55; Creag-a-Mhadaidh £52; Achnaba £50
Ewe lambs
SUFFOLK: Ardentraive £40
BELTEX: Slaterich £40
TEXEL: Tyree (D MacDonald Jr.) £82
CHEVIOT: Tyree (D MacDonald Jr.) £68; Cailaich £66 & £56; Balure Farm £55; Slaterich £50
MULE: Tyree £88; Saulmore £82; Tyree (D MacDonald Jr.) £78; Saulmore £78; Fiart £78; Tyree £78; Fiart £76 & £75; Stronacrobh £72; Tyree £70; Upper Largie £70
CHEVIOT/MULE: Caddleton Farms £88 & £80
BLACKFACE: Blarchourin Estate £63; Scammadale £56; Croft No1 Fanmore £55; Saulmore £55 & £54; Invernahyle £52; Fiart £50; Turnault £50; Slaterich £50; Glenfeochan Estate £50

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PICTURES FROM HIGHLAND CATTLE SHOW & SALE 2016



Raineach of Eilean Mor, owned by Michael and Karen MacGregor, Ardnamurchan, was reserve champion three-year-old heifer.



Sophie Brydso, 10, from Denmark and Emily Armstrong, 11, of Tiree, helping out stockman Stuart Campbell from the Cladich fold. Picture: Kevin McGlynn



Stockman Alan Bosomworth with Susan 20th of Ormsary owned by Sir William J Lithgow Bt, a three-year-old heifer out of Callum the 2nd of Goldenberry and dam Susan 11th of Ormsary at the 119th autumn sale by the Highland Cattle Society at Oban Livestock Centre. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Faroe Islands.

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Beth Noble, winner of the young handler prize, with Wayne Eaton-Jones from Barclays who presented the prize for the Highland Cattle Society. Picture: Kevin McGlynn



Champion two-year-old heifer and reserve female champion Newmندا 4th of Knockendon with stockman Angus MacGillivray at last year's show. Picture: Kevin McGlynn



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Wayne Eaton-Jones from Barclays hands over the prize for female champion to stockman Alan Bosomworth at the livestock centre in Oban. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

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120th AUTUMN SHOW & SALE OF HIGHLAND CATTLE

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 Autumn Show, Oban Livestock Centre - Sun 8th Oct 2017 at 10.00am
 Trophy Presentation, Dinner, Ceilidh, Lottery Draw - The Royal Hotel Sun 8th Oct 2017 at 7.30pm - tickets are available from the HCS Office

120th Autumn Sale run by United Auctions to include a special auction lot in memory of the late Angus MacColl all proceeds will go to Beatson Cancer Centre Monday 9th October 2017 at 10.00am

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11 VW Polo SEL TSi 1.2, 5Dr, Red, 34,000 Miles **£7,150**

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Argyll and Bute Council
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, OBAN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2017

On Monday 2nd October 2017, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for a temporary period for any person to wait, drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle on the roads, in a manner contravening the restrictions as detailed in the schedules below.

This Order which is required to permit road works to be carried out will be effective when indicated by signs from 0001 hours on Monday 9th October 2017 to 2359 hours on Friday 20th October 2017, or until the works are complete, whichever is the earliest.

SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1 Miller Road	From its junction with Soroba Road (A816), to the access road to Mathieson House, a distance of 25 metres or thereby.
2 Lynn Road (Eastbound Traffic)	From its junction with Soroba Road (A816), to the access road to Dunlonan/Buildbase, a distance of 50 metres or thereby.

SCHEDULE 2 – NO WAITING AT ANY TIME/NO LOADING AT ANY TIME/PARKING BAY SUSPENSION 0800 HOURS TO 1800 HOURS MONDAY TO FRIDAY

1 Sinclair Drive	The entire length.
2 Quarry Road	Between its junction with Miller Road and its junction with Sinclair Drive.
3 Combie Street	The entire length.

REVOCAION OF NO RIGHT TURN

Item 5 of Schedule 16 in "The Strathclyde Regional Council (Oban Town Centre) (Traffic Management) Order 1995" will be temporarily revoked to permit traffic to turn right and left into Combie Street from Market Street.

Alternative routes will be via adjacent streets and signed in an appropriate manner.

If a vehicle is parked without complying with the provisions of this order, then a contravention will have occurred. A penalty charge notice may then be issued by a parking attendant and a penalty charge will be payable.

A copy of the Traffic Order may be inspected online at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/our-roads-regulations-and-limits>

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall
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12:00 Monday 13th November | 12:00 Friday 15th December

Caol Community Centre
14:00 Friday 13th October

Please phone 01349 863888 or email Kate.Forbes.MSP@parliament.scot to make an appointment



CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

G Reid
3 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckairn 0.116 ha – Existing house site 83531

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 02/11/17. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 6th October 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm – 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email – Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on Friday 13th October 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email – Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893.

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 27th October 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email – Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853.

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 20th October 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email – Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444.

Keil Grazings, Benderloch

A meeting of shareholders for the above common grazings will be held in the Victory Hall, Benderloch on Monday October 9 at 7pm for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee.

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 online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/04459/FUL	Land 15M North of 19A1, Mallaig Industrial Estate, Mallaig	Erect storage building
17/04415/PIP	Plot 1, Land 160M South of Lavinia Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of house and formation of access
17/04414/PIP	Land 190M SE of Lavinia Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of a house and formation of access
17/04364/FUL	4-5 Drimarben, Fort William	Demolition of house and outbuilding, erection of replacement house and garage/store (amendment to 14/00504/FUL)
17/04407/FUL	The Oaks, Perth Place, Upper Achintore, Fort William	Installation of pod to form residential annex
17/04374/FUL	Land 95M South of Canna Primary School, Sanday, Isle of Canna	Formation of new track (alongside improvement of existing track)
17/04416/PIP	Plot 3, Land 260M SE of Lavinia Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of house and formation of access
17/04151/FUL	70-71 Camaghael, Fort William	Proposed change of use to form letting unit
17/04314/FUL	Land 110M SW of Achintee Farm, Guest House, Achintee, Fort William	Erection of Garden Tearoom (Renewal 14/03268/FUL)
17/04340/FUL	Site 150M North of Lochan Cottage, Lochyside, Fort William	Erection of 30 houses
17/04273/FUL	65 High Street, Fort William	Change of use from Class 1 Retail to Hot Food Takeaway

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

SCHEDULE 4, Regulation 10 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2015 NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER REGULATION 6, 7 OR 8

An application for continuation of hazardous substances consent where there has been a change in the person in control of part of the land, together with plans and other documents has been submitted by Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd for Amendment of site boundary and ownership details for storage of Cryolite at Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd, North Road Fort William PH33 6TH. Plans are available online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> under ref: 17/03891/HSC

Written representations (including comments or questions which must include the application reference number) may be submitted to ePlanning, ePlanning Centre, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX or epc@highland.gov.uk by 26 October 2017. The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

LAND AT UPPER SONACHAN FOREST, NEAR PORTSONACHAN, ARDBRECKNISH AND CLADICH SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF UPPER SONACHAN WIND FARM NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND HEARING SESSIONS TO BE HELD AS PART OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

Scottish Ministers have appointed Mr Alasdair Edwards MA(Hons) MRTPI to consider and submit a report to them on an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the proposed Upper Sonachan Wind Farm at Land at Upper Sonachan Forest, near Portsonachan, Ardbrecknish and Cladich.

The Reporter will hold a public inquiry to obtain more information on certain matters before he reports to Scottish Ministers on the case. The matters to be considered during the oral sessions of the public inquiry are:

- Economic benefits/dis-benefits (Hearing session)
- Noise (Hearing session)
- Landscape and visual impact (Inquiry session)
- Conditions and legal agreements (Hearing session)

Sessions will progress in the order provided above. No other matters relevant to this case will be considered at the inquiry and hearing sessions.

The sessions will be held in public and will begin at 16:00 on Monday 13 November 2017 within the hall at Dalmally Community Centre, Dalmally, PA33 1AX. The starting time for the remaining sessions will be confirmed by the reporter on the first day. The public inquiry is estimated to run for 5 days.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the sessions. Attendees and/or participants may wish to note that this meeting may be broadcast live to the internet as part of DPEA's webcasting service. Generally the public seating areas will not be directly filmed however by entering the meeting venue and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in them for webcasting and training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. You can view the webcast recordings at: <http://dpea.public-tv.co.uk/core/portal/home>

All hearing and inquiry documents, statements and recognitions may also be viewed at Oban Planning Office, Development and Infrastructure Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW until the start of the sessions.

All key documents relating to the appeal can also be viewed on our website: <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk>

DAVID HENDERSON
Planning and Environmental Appeals Division,
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park,
Callendar Road, FALKIRK, FK1 1XR
Our ref: WIN-130-2

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 –13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02266/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Fishnish House Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/02470/LIB	Installation of external stairs	Commissioners Of Northern Lighthouses Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office
17/02402/PP	Installation of oil tank	The Old Police House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/02397/LIB	External and internal alterations to existing storage area to form single dwellinghouse	Kilchoman House Kilchoman Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UY	Sub Post Office Bridgend
17/02078/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and formation of vehicular access	The Lodge Lussagiven Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XJ	Sub Post Office Craighoura Isle of Jura
17/02451/PP	Erection of canopy over accessible entrance	Iona Abbey Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SQ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
17/02438/PP	Erection of recreational hut (part retrospective)	Land Approx 830 Metres North East Of Atlantic Bridge Clachan Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QZ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
17/02012/PP	Erection of garden store/garden room (retrospective).	Inveraray Chalet Portsonachan Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BJ	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02477/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/02767/PP (Erection of a dwellinghouse, formation of a vehicular access and the installation of a septic tank)	Land To North Of Seabank Farmhouse Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SB	Sub Post Office Ledaig
17/02473/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/01324/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of new access, installation of septic tank and LPG tank.)	Land North East Of Kyle Rhea Port Ramsay Isle Of Lismore Argyll And Bute PA34 5UN	Sub Post Office Lismore
17/02265/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Knockalla Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



KILMARTIN MUSEUM

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Craftsperson (514359)

Isle of Mull
Full-time (permanent)

We are recruiting for a Craftsperson to join our team based on the Isle of Mull. This role covers a wide span of projects and networks, and allows you to get involved in all aspects of work on our overhead line and underground cable network.

You should have previous experience working on electricity networks, and working within this type of role. You will ideally hold SAP status, or be working towards gaining it.

We are looking for enthusiastic and driven people with a flexible approach to work and the ability to adapt to changing business and project priorities.

For more information and to apply please visit: www.sse.com/careers - search job reference: 514359.



Kyles Medical Centre, Tighnabruaich PRACTICE MANAGER VACANCY

Due to retirement, the partners are looking for a dynamic person to help lead our friendly, rural general practice team. This unique role would best suit an enthusiastic person who welcomes challenges and has vision, willingness and drive to adapt to the constant changes within the NHS.

This is a full time position (approx 35 hours negotiable). Salary is dependent on experience. The post will commence in January 2018 with an initial training period of three months with our current practice manager.

The practice is busy. The job is diverse and this role is pivotal within our forward thinking team. Is this you?

Send your CV and covering letter to: Ailie Moss, Practice Manager, Kyles Medical Centre, Tighnabruaich, PA21 2BE.
e-mail: ailie.moss@nhs.net
Informal enquiries are welcome.

Closing date for applications: 20/10/2017
Interviews will be held on: 07/11/2017



NORTH ARGYLL CARERS CENTRE LTD

North Argyll Carers Centre supports those who provide unpaid care to a family member of any age who needs help to manage a long term medical condition, illness or disability. The organisation is seeking to recruit the following team members:

Young Carers Support Worker

Hours up to 20 per week - £10.20

Young Carers Support Worker

(Sessional hours) - £10.20

These posts require highly motivated individuals with an understanding of issues affecting young people, to help facilitate individual support and group work for young carers and young adult carers aged 8-25. Successful applicants will be required to join the PVG scheme and have a driving licence with access to a vehicle.

For an application pack or further information, please call 01631 564422 or email info@northargyllcarers.org.uk.

CLOSING DATE:

MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2017

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to equal opportunities is reflected in our recruitment process.

Office Administrative Assistant

Full Time, Oban Based



& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
We are looking for a full time administrative assistant to ensure the day-to-day smooth running of the advertising sales office here in Oban.

You will deal with a range of important tasks including booking adverts onto our system, sending out customer proofs and dealing with associated administration. It is essential that you have excellent computer, grammar and communication skills, strong attention to detail and the ability to work well under pressure.

In addition to salary we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A full current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please send your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



REGISTERED CARE MANAGER

(Competitive Salary Package)

DEPUTY MANAGER

(£26,950-£28,450 DOE)

SENIOR RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKERS

(£22,392-£26,760 DOE) Inistrynich, Dalmally

New Reflexions are a childcare organisation working with young people who have experienced trauma in their lives resulting in emotional behavioural difficulties and requiring a high level of intervention. We are currently looking to recruit a Registered Manager, Deputy Manager and Senior Residential Care Workers.

You will be a confident and non-judgemental person with the drive to make a difference to the lives of others and be dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of children. Following an in-depth induction, you will be placed within one of our homes which are rated either 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. As this service is outdoor based, we are looking for individuals who have experience of delivering outdoor education. Holding outdoor qualifications such as SPA, ML and BCU awards would also be highly desirable. Applicants will need to meet the qualification requirements as set out by the Scottish Social Services Council.

Our staff members are supported and valued; as an organisation we are committed to the continued learning and development of all our employees which will enable you to develop your skills and offers opportunities to progress within the company.

In return for your dedication and commitment you will also receive a highly competitive pay and benefits package. Due to the location of our homes a full manual driving licence and access to transport is required. Successful candidates will also be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring check.

For further details on the above positions and an application pack please email Emily Roberts, HR Assistant, Emily.roberts@newreflexions.co.uk or call 01939 210040.



Donald Cameron MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Highlands and Islands Region

We are looking for a hard-working and enthusiastic Caseworker to work in our Oban regional office.

Hours: Part-time (12 hours a week based on 37 FTE)

Salary: £20,725 pro rata

Closing date: 5pm on Friday 13th October 2017

Applicants must send a CV of no more than two pages and a covering letter of no more than one page to Averil.Wilson@parliament.scot

For more information about the requirements of the job, please visit www.mspjobs.scot

The cost of this publication has been met from parliamentary allowances.

North Argyll Eventide Home

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

We have vacancies for:

Domestic Laundry Assistant, part-time permanent post, 30 hrs per week, £7.65 per hour

For an application form contact manager Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org

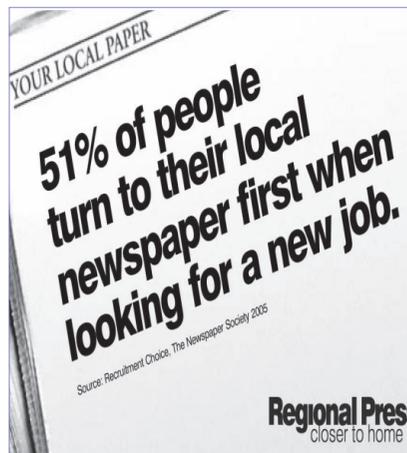


The British Red Cross are looking for an experienced driver to join our team in Oban.

Position: Patient Transport Driver
Location: Oban
Contract type: Casual
Hourly Rate: £7.50 per hour

Please apply for this position online at bit.ly/obandriver or call our recruitment team on 0300 004 0554.

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CHANGES AHEAD FOR SCOTTISH RESIDENTIAL TENANCY LAW



months or, after that, 12 weeks' notice to evict.

Evictions:

If the tenant disputes the ground of eviction, the landlord will have to seek eviction through the new First Tier Tribunal ("FTT") which has been set up to adjudicate on disputes.

Specific Grounds:

The landlord must now have grounds (a reason) for evicting the tenant. You will need to familiarise yourself with the grounds to know, if you needed to evict your tenant, which Grounds would apply to your situation.

Restrictions on Rent Increases:

Landlords can seek an increase annually.

Finally, here's the big one... Withdrawal of the right terminate on a set date:

Landlords can no longer terminate the tenancy at a specific end date. Now the tenancy can continue until either the tenant terminates the tenancy or the landlord is able to recover possession under one of the 18 specific grounds outlined in the Act.

At West, our team are up to speed with ALL the new changes. We know it can be a bit disconcerting having a change this big and that's why we are here to offer advice on how it will affect you. Would you like to talk to a property professional? Call us TODAY.

No Fixed Term:

There will not be a fixed minimum term under the PRT. So no more 6-month minimum terms.

Model Tenancy Agreements:

A Model Tenancy Agreement (MTA) is expected next month.

Notice Periods:

A tenant will be able to bring a PRT to an end on 28 days' notice AT ANY TIME. The landlord must give 4 weeks' notice to evict if the tenancy is within its first 6

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET



TARBAT HOUSE, BUNESSAN



- Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Far reaching views
- Established Holiday Let
- Low maintenance garden
- EPC Rating - D68

OIRO £210,000

A spacious 1 1/2 storey 4 bedroom detached house with far reaching views near the village of Bunessan. Built 12 years ago by the current owners, the property is currently run as a holiday let averaging 25 weeks per year. The ground floor accommodation comprises a small porch, hall, modern kitchen diner complete with gas hob, a bright lounge with patio doors to the garden, utility room and two double bedrooms (1 en-suite) both with built in storage. Upstairs there are two large bedrooms with large Velux windows where far reaching views can be enjoyed towards the sea and Ardmearach peninsula.

BRAESIDE HOUSE, TOBERMORY



- Detached House
- 5 bedrooms/4 bathrooms/ 1 shower room/ 1 WC
- Walk-in condition
- Fantastic holiday let or large family home
- EPC Rating - D66

OIRO £350,000

Braeside House is a spectacular two-storey property, unique in that it's accommodation is elegantly arranged over four landings. On entering the property, there is a small entrance vestibule and the right is the handy utility room where you can find a large store cupboard and a WC. To the left, is the ground floor double bedroom and en-suite shower. All the bedrooms offer plentiful space for a double bed and storage, and the upstairs four bedrooms all feature en-suite bathrooms complete with showers over the bath. Continuing into the hallway, you will find the first staircase leading you up to the two double bedrooms.

ALBANY APARTMENTS, OBAN



- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D(63)
- LL Reg: 149590/130/06310

PCM £540

Ground Floor, 2 bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. The property is unfurnished and comprises 2 double bedrooms (with integrated storage), family bathroom, lounge & kitchen. The flat is situated in a well managed development close to Oban town centre with on street permit parking nearby. Deposit and full references required. Available now.

GLENSPEAN PARK, ROY BRIDGE



- Detached Bungalow
- 3 En-suite Bedrooms
- Furnished
- Available for Long Let
- EPC Rating - D-62
- LL REG 531702/2701/17051

PCM £875

Detached, fully furnished, three bedroom bungalow, in Roy Bridge, outside Fort William. Newly renovated to a very high standard with modern décor throughout. This beautiful detached house is located in Roy Bridge, just outside of Fort William. The accommodation comprises 3 en-suite bedrooms, lounge, dining area and fully fitted kitchen with utility room. Deposit and full references required. Available now.

ROWAN HOUSE, OBAN



- Detached House
- 5 bedrooms/4 bathrooms/ 1 shower room/ 1 WC
- Walk-in condition
- Fantastic holiday let or large family home
- EPC Rating - D66

OIRO £350,000

Rowan House is a real treasure, nestled in a secluded spot on the shores of Loch Etive, enjoying far reaching views across the loch and Ben Cruachan. The property has been a much-loved family home, with five double bedrooms and plentiful reception space. Upon entering the house from the large parking area to the rear, the generous tiled porch leads in to a light and welcoming hallway. The spacious Pronorm kitchen with Corian worktop is perfect for the busy family home, with plentiful floor and wall units and large AGA. The bright living room and dining room extends along much of the length of the house.

KONADISH BLACKCROFTS, OBAN



- Spacious Detached B&B
- 6 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Lovely family home
- Popular location
- Bed & Breakfast potential
- EPC Rating - B(84)

OIRO £340,000

Konadish would make the ideal family home or potential B&B. The property is situated in North Crannog, along side Loch Etive in a small residential area. The central entrance hall leads to a bright living room which is connected to the dining room. Across the hall is a double bedroom that could be easily used for Air B&B or as a snug/study with a separate downstairs WC. At the end of the hallway is a large family kitchen with plentiful wall and floor units with built in appliances. Patio doors from the kitchen open on to a decking area that look over fields with views of Ben Cruachan.

APARTMENT 4, STEVENSON ST, OBAN



- First Floor Flat
- 1 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - B(84)
- LL Reg: 342259/130/31461

PCM £470

1 bed studio apartment in Oban town centre located just a few minutes walk to the main street and supermarket. The property has generously sized kitchen/living area, double bedroom and modern bathroom with shower. The property is unfurnished with built in hob and oven and fridge-freezer only. This apartment is available from the last week in October.

APARTMENT 10, STEVENSON ST, OBAN



- 1 bed/1 bath
- Second Floor Flat
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - B(84)
- LL Reg: 342259/130/31461

PCM £460

One bedroom flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom. The property comes unfurnished. Deposit and full references required. The property is unfurnished with built in hob and oven and fridge-freezer only. This apartment is available from the middle of October.

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Apprentice Mechanic (4 Year Apprenticeship, Full-Time)
 £13,176 - £13,967
 Lochgilphead
 ☎ 01546 604334
 Ref: DVR00773

Driver/Pupil Escort (Casual/Relief)
 £16,167 - £17,112 (pro-rata)
 Oban, Lorn and the Isle of Mull
 ☎ 01546 604334
 Closing date: Friday 13 October 2017
 Ref: CTF00914

Home Carer (x2) (Permanent, Part-Time)
 £17,652 - £19,234 (Pro-Rata)
 Campbeltown
 ☎ 01546 604334
 Closing date: Friday 6 October 2017
 Ref: HAW00525

To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Classroom Assistant (Part-Time, Temporary)
 £15,293 - £16,187
 Isle of Lismore Ref: CME36542
 Living Wage of £8.45 per hour applies to this post
 ☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 20 October 2017.
 To apply visit our website

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Senior Ranger – Canna
 Full time/Permanent
 £27,508

This job exists in order to ensure that the operational day-to-day duties of Canna and Sanday are undertaken in accordance with NTS policies and guidance and the current Canna Management objectives. The Senior Ranger, like all staff in the Natural Heritage Division will play a key role in:

- Conservation: Protect the landscapes in our care and associated marine habitats as part of ecologically healthy habitat networks where natural processes predominate.
- Work with communities living on or close to our land or with an interest in our land so that they collaborate with us.
- Protect the built and archaeological heritage in our care and use them to help us explain the "conservation" outcome and achieve the "visitors & learning" outcome.
- Visitors & Learning: Enable more people to experience more heritage more often, get more out of it & put more back into it.
- Finances: Realise efficiencies & income to enable more investment in our charitable business so that natural, built & archaeological heritage is protected in the long-term.

Interested applicants should forward a completed application form to People Services Department (Applications), The National Trust for Scotland, Hermiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road, Edinburgh, EH11 4DF, by mail or by email via workforus@nts.org.uk, by first post (i.e. 10.00am) on 13th October 2017. Interviews are likely to be held at Balnain House, Inverness in mid-late October 2017. For full job details and information about how to apply, go to <http://www.nts.org.uk/About/vacancies>. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
RECRUITMENT HIJOBS

Dunollie
 Museum • Castle • Grounds

Dunollie House, Oban, PA34 5TT
Housekeeper/Caretaker Wanted

Approx 17 hours per week on a flexible basis.
 Working with Mrs Morag MacDougall of MacDougall to carry out security, cleaning, and occasional hospitality and catering duties for the private wing of Dunollie House.

fiona@dunollie.org / 01631 570550 for further information

THE ETHICAL SHELLFISH COMPANY

The Ethical Shellfish Company seeks a part-time driver for its weekly dispatches of shellfish from the Isle of Mull to the Central Belt. Approx 25 hours weekly with potential to increase. Personable, reliable and positive individual required, clean driving license essential.
Contact 0845 116 2248
info@ethicalshellfishcompany.co.uk

OBAN YOUTH CAFE
 is recruiting sessional staff to work after-school, evenings and weekends.
 Pay £9.25 - £10.25 depending on qualifications and experience.
 Opportunity to study diploma in youth work.
 Please see our website for further details
www.obanyouthcafe.co.uk
Closing date: 25th October 2017

HIJOBS announce new app launch

HIJOBS, one of Scotland's fast emerging technology start-ups has announced the launch of its new recruitment app. The app, which is available for both IOS and Android devices marks the next stage in HIJOBS' remarkable rise to become one of the leading providers of recruitment solutions in Scotland.

Founders Christopher Snelgrove and Laura Saunders are justifiably proud of their achievements so far. Says Christopher "our new app was just the logical next step in our quest to provide candidates and recruiters with the best technological solution to either finding a job or finding the perfect candidate" Laura adds "We don't think anyone in the recruitment markets can come close to our technology, it is simple, intuitive and delivers results, the development of the app had to match the ease of use of our website and seamlessly integrate with social media - we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved"

Founded in Lochaber in 2015 HIJOBS specialises in matching candidates and recruiters in Scotland's more rural locations. Christopher is passionate about helping people find jobs outside the central belt. He says "I live in Lochaber and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. We developed our technology to allow people to search for vacancies in the smallest towns and villages in Scotland. The gradual roll out of 4G in places like Oban and Fort William means that the time is now right to give people a really smart, easy to use app"

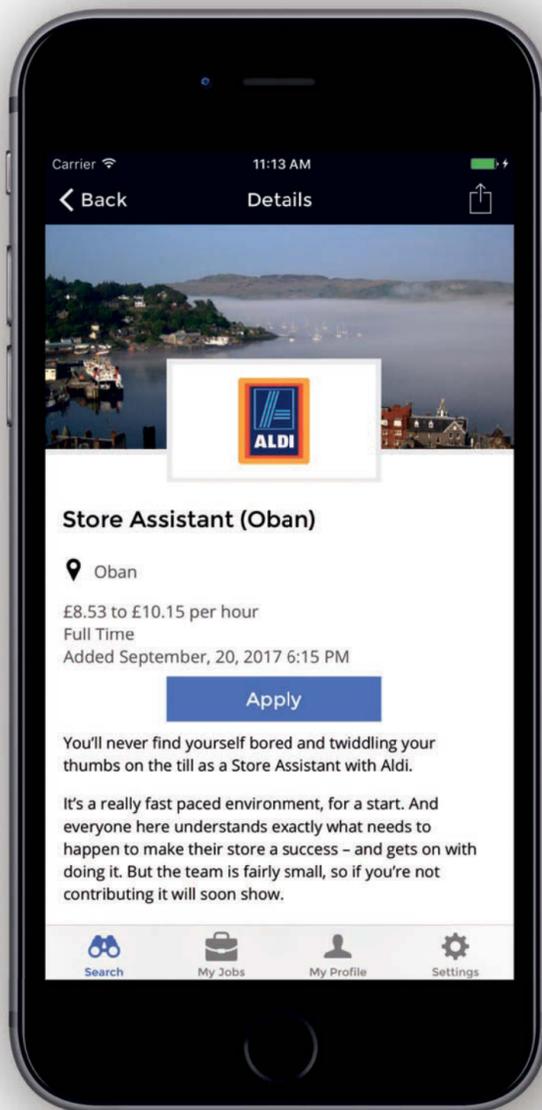
As well as investing in the app, the company has also undertaken a significant digital marketing campaign that sees HIJOBS appear high up on the first page of Google's rankings, outperforming most of the big national brands. Traffic to their site is growing exponentially and candidates registering on the site will soon pass 50,000. Laura says "2017, by whatever measure you choose, has been an exceptional year so far. The app launch is the cherry on the cake. We want people to have the choice of working in any part of Scotland they choose, not be forced to move to one of the big cities. Our app has just helped make that choice a whole lot easier"

HIJOBS app is available to download for free in the App store or via Google Play. Visit the HIJOBS website at hijobs.net



Christopher and Laura along with fellow director Keith McIntyre

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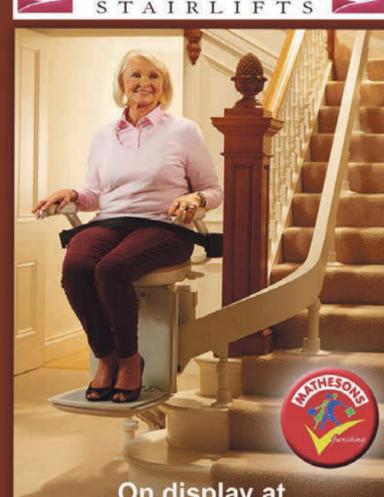
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PERSONAL NOTICE

A THANK YOU

Elma and Derek Fraser want to thank everyone who sent cards and gave gifts to us when we celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. 6 Lundy Road, Inverlochty.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for flowers, cards, gifts, baking and cake on the occasion of my 80th birthday. Maude MacColl

DEATH

CHICK - On Tuesday September 26, 2017, Elizabeth Chick (née Maclean) quietly passed away aged 100 years. A Native of Mull she spent her early years as a lieutenant in the Queen Alexander Imperial Military Nursing Service. During WW2 she was in North Africa nursing sick and injured soldiers from both sides. The rest of her working life was spent as a nursing sister and matron. Cremation at Worthing Crematorium on October 16.

CROSSAN - (née Menzies), Maureen. Peacefully and surrounded by her family at Benderloch, after a long illness borne with spirit and dignity, on Sunday, October 1, 2017, Maureen, 79, late of Lismore and formerly of Glasgow, beloved wife of the late John, loving mother of Jonathan, David, Helen, Andy, Katy, dearest Granny to Rachel, Kirsty, Liam, Maria, Shona, cherished mother-in-law to Rose, Francesca, Gordon and Kirsten. Funeral at Lismore Parish Church, Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 1.00 pm. Colourful attire is welcome, especially green and purple. Donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MACLEOD - Peacefully at home with his family, on September 29, aged 80, John Alexander (Alasdair). Loving husband to Alice, dad to Alasdair and Lorna, father-in-law to Janet, loving Papa to Lora and John. Funeral service will be held at Oban Parish Church on Friday October 6 at 1pm.

MCDUGALL - Coll. Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban, on the morning of September 23, 2017. Remembered with love and affection by his very wide circle of friends in Scotland and around the world. Sincere thanks to the staff of Torosay Court, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Eadar Glinn Care Home for their dedicated care and concern.

PELLING - Suddenly but peacefully at home on Colonsay on September 28, 2017, Sheena née MacNeill, aged 94, much loved by her sons Iain and Philip and her large extended family and many friends. Funeral on Colonsay at 11am on Thursday October 12, 2017, family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie, or Macmillan Cancer Support.

WATT - Robert (Bobby). Peacefully on Friday September 29, 2017, after a two year illness stoically endured. Beloved husband of Catriona (née MacPhail) and proud dad of Kirsteen, Calum and Alasdair. Much loved brother of Sandra Marshall (Australia) and the late Nan Lawrence (East Kilbride). He will be sorely missed. Funeral service at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill on Tuesday October 10 at 2.15pm. All welcome to attend. Interment of his ashes will be in Three at a later date.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BARNES - Dawn would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to her following her recent sad loss of Davy. Special thanks to Dr. Calder and the staff at Ballachulish Surgery for their care and to all the Macmillan Nurses and Carers for the excellent care during the last few months. Grateful thanks to Mr. Alan Smurthwaite for making the ceremony so fitting and perfect, a very special thanks to Linnie, Scott and Billy of John McLellans for their professionalism and for making the funeral arrangements so easy with helpful and sensitive suggestions. Finally, thanks to all those who paid their last respects to Davy at the ceremony and to those who gave generously, raising £442.60 for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

GREENHAW - Edward, Gillian, Catherine and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support extended to them personally by way of cards, flowers and telephone calls following their sad loss of Margaret. Special thanks to all the staff in Abbeyfield Nursing Home for their care and attention. Grateful thanks to Mr. Alan Smurthwaite for his comforting ceremony. Finally, thanks to Billy Stott of John McLellans for his funeral guidance.

JOHNSTONE - Arthur would like to thank all friends, neighbours and relatives for the support shown to him at this extremely sad time, following the sad loss of Mary. Special thanks to the Lochaber Night Owls for the care and support given to them both. Heartfelt thanks to Craig and Rhona Gardiner for their care and support, thanks also to Billy, John and Linnie of John McLellans for their compassionate guidance with the funeral arrangements. Finally, thank you to all who attended the Church and Crematorium, a generous amount of £242 was collected for The British Heart Foundation.

LAPPIN - Joan would like to convey her sincerest thanks to all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to her following the recent sad loss of her beloved husband Neil. Special thanks to Mr. Alan Smurthwaite for his uplifting and comforting ceremony. Grateful thanks to the excellent team at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their sensitivity and support with the funeral arrangements and to the staff at Glen Nevis Restaurant for the catering. Finally, thanks to those who came to pay their last respects and generously gave over £100 in aid of the Lochaber Community Nurses.

MACDONALD - Ronnie and family would like to extend a very special thank you to all neighbours, friends and relatives for the many kind expressions of sympathy following the heartbreaking loss of Elizabeth (Bessie). Special thanks to Fr Roddy McAuley for his comforting Mass and to all the staff at The Bridge Café for the refreshments and excellent service. Grateful and heartfelt thanks to Billy, John and Linnie at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their guidance and support at this difficult time. Finally, thank you to all who came to pay their respects at the Church and the graveyard, a generous amount of £456.63 was collected on behalf of chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

MACDONALD - Roni, Gavin, Chris and all the family of the late Isobel would like to thank everyone most sincerely for all the cards, letters, telephone calls, flowers and messages of support following the devastating loss of Isobel. A special thank you to Christopher MacRae for conducting the service and to those who took part. Finally thank you to all who made a donation to Breast Cancer Research a total of £1903.12 was collected.

MACIVER - The family of the late Mary MacIver would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all staff of Invernevis House for their care and attention.

Grateful thanks to Rev David Kirk for his personal service and to John McLellans for their professional handling of the funeral arrangements. Finally, thanks to those who came to pay their last respects at the Church and graveside and to those who generously donated £229.69 in aid of the Invernevis Residents Fund.

MACKINNON - Peter and family of the late Edith MacKinnon (née MacPherson) would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls and baking received following their recent sad loss of a loving wife, mother, mother-in-law and granny. Special thanks to Dr McElroy from Connel Surgery and district nurses especially Lorna Paterson. Very special thanks to all at the Macmillan Day Bed Unit and staff of Ward A at Oban Hospital. Heartfelt thanks to Claire and Louise without whose help we wouldn't have been able to nurse Edith at home. To Rev J McCormick for his fitting and comforting service both at St Modan's Church and Cardross Crematorium, to the Falls of Lora Hotel for the excellent buffet and to Ian MacInnes from D&A Munn's for sensitive and efficient funeral arrangements, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation. Finally to all who paid their last respects to Edith at the church and the crematorium and gave so generously, we thank you all. We have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and have taken comfort that Edith made such an impression on so many people.

MACPHERSON - The family of the late Margaret Ann would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for the endless support and care shown after her sudden passing. Grateful thanks to Fr Stanislaw Pamula for his comforting Mass. Special thanks to Linnie, Billy and John at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their guidance and support. Thank you to the West Highland Hotel for refreshments. Finally, thank you to those who came to the Church to pay their last respects and giving so generously, raising £463 for St. Patrick's R.C. Church.

MCUISSH - Tony's loved ones would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers and who attended his funeral. Special thanks to all his carers, Mike McFall and staff for funeral arrangements and Railway Club for catering. The sum of £371 was raised for British Heart Foundation.

TUTTY - The family of the late Margaret would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy by way of cards, home baking and flowers received during their recent loss. Special and grateful thanks to all her carers from Care at Home for their great care they gave to Margaret. Thanks also to Rev Dr Richard Corbett for his comforting service and all who paid their respects at Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach who generously donated £500 to Lochaber Action on Disability (LAD). Special thanks also to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their kindness and professional guidance and also to Caol Community Centre for the much appreciated refreshments.

WALKER - In loving memory of our mother Marybell, who died on October 4, 1990. Forever in our thoughts - 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 Blanefield.

MEMORIALS

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear husband, father, father-in-law, grandpa and great grandpa Donald, who died October 5, 2010. Loved and remembered always. - Norah and family, Caol, Corpach and Lewis.

MACLEAN - Fondest memories of our loving mum Bella, who passed away

October 3, 2007. Ten years since that sad day you passed away without a fuss And broke the hearts of all of us. Also remembering our dear dad Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Always in our thoughts - Teen, Angela and Alexander.

McGRATH - In loving memory of our dear dad and grampa Joseph, who died October 2, 1979. May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear

McTAGGART - Treasured memories of our dad Ian, who passed away on October 10, 1995. - Love Ian William and Gwen, Glencoe.

MILLS - Precious memories of Billy, dearly loved husband of Helen, dad, father-in-law and grandpa who sadly passed away October 6, 2008. A million times I've needed you A million times I've cried If loved could have saved you You would have never died Miss you so much Your loving wife Helen xxx Your life was a blessing Your memory a treasure You are loved beyond words And missed beyond measure - Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jr and Paul xx

NICHOLSON - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia who passed away October 4, 1993. Twenty four 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 granny 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.

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mum Ann, granny and great granny, who died October 5, 2006. Thank you for the years we shared The love you gave The way you cared In our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day. - Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

WALKER - In loving memory of our mother Marybell, who died on October 4, 1990. Forever in our thoughts - 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 Blanefield.

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There are prizes to be won in Hope2Oban treasure hunt

OBAN youth organisation Hope2Oban is calling for people living in the Oban High School catchment area to get hunting following the launch of its golden leaf treasure hunt last month.

Organised by fine artist Lucy Gray and Hope2Oban, the idea behind the hunt is to raise the profile of the Christian organisation and its work in Oban High School.

Some 200 leaves have been pressed, gilded, laminated and then hidden throughout the school catchment area to be found by the public. Once found, the leaves can be exchanged for prizes at Atlantis Leisure.

The leaf hunt has been running throughout September, with many people sharing pictures of their find on Facebook and Instagram.

There are still 116 leaves to be found as part of the hunt, so what are you waiting for? Join in the fun. To find out more visit #h2ogoldenleafhunt or @hope2oban



Thought for the week

'Drink deep of God's pure kindness, then you will grow up mature and whole in God' - 1 Peter 2 v2

MANY aspects of autumn are evident as we move into October. Trees take on a bronze glow, cooler mornings are often sparkling with dew and the colours of evening are displayed earlier.

It is the season of ripeness, full growth, maturity and

potential in the light of his love and encouragement.

We can thank God of the harvest and ask for his help to avoid becoming stunted or self-satisfied, rather to keep on growing into the people he wants us to be.

Rev Carol Leech

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Lochnell football festival proves to be a big success



The Lochnell Leopards' winger evades the challenge of an Oban Rovers defender in the 2010 section.

LOCHNELL Football Club held their annual festival on Saturday at the North Connel pitch and, with almost 300 young footballers in attendance, it was a busy day for the North Lorn organisation. Teams from Paisley, Glasgow, Arran, Dumbarton and Fort William joined sides from all round Argyll for a series of friendly but nevertheless keenly contested small-sided games. Wet conditions in the morning did nothing to dampen the spirits of players and spectators as the 2010 and 2011 age group teams took to the field for the Fun Fours, while blue sky

Youth football

greeted the afternoon participants in the 2008 and 2009 sections, playing seven- and five-a-side games respectively. Lochnell FC would like to thank the 35 visiting teams for joining the hosts for the day together with the many volunteers, including referees John Scott, Davy Paterson and Martin Rae for making the festival another resounding success. The club also acknowledge the generous donation of fruit and water for every player from Aldi, Lidl and Tesco stores in Oban.



The festival was played against the magnificent backdrop of Ben Lora – here Lochnell 2008s take on Dumbarton Riverside.



St Peters FC from Paisley presented Lochnell FC 2009s with a friendship pennant.

Scottish Cup defeat for Lorne Ladies

Glasgow University	22
Oban Lorne Ladies	5
Sarah Beaney Scottish Cup	

OBAN Lorne Ladies travelled to face Glasgow University in the first round of the Sarah Beaney Scottish Cup with a healthy squad of 19 players looking for a win after last weekend's impressive 65-0 away success at Ardrossan.

The game got off to a very wet start due to the conditions causing dropped balls from both sides trying to secure passes. Oban conceded three penalties in the opening exchanges having to fend off some strong attacks from Glasgow Uni.

Big tackles made by Ailsa McLachlan and Camilla Leslie managed to slow Glasgow down but Oban on their own five-metre line couldn't keep Glasgow at bay and they found their way through getting the first score of the game with an unsuccessful conversion 5-0.

The next 20 minutes proved to be exciting with Oban fighting back, putting pressure on Glasgow with breaks from Ellie MacNiven, Kirsty Sinclair and Erika Skofca making their way up field.

Oban could not seem to keep the ball in hand, losing it forward. The ladies in green gave away another penalty which Glasgow used to their advantage charging towards the

Oban try line. Oban held off with big tackles from Rachael MacDonald, Rebecca Weeks and Selina Keppie although Glasgow powered over the line to bring the score to 10-0 failing to convert the kick for the second time.

After 30 minutes, Lucy Stewart came into the game for Oban, adding some tactical kicking to the play, with a chip which was to end with a knock-on for a frustrated Oban team. A penalty to Oban on Glasgow's 10 resulted in a strong run from captain Laura McCormick and Ellen Barlow to allow Camilla Leslie to maul over the Glasgow try line but the ball was held up.

After some good scrummaging Oban got some quick ball out to Leslie and short offload to number 10 Lucy Stewart who scored Oban's only try of the day. A missed conversion resulted in a half-time score of 10-5 to the hosts.

The weather cleared up for the start of the second half and Oban looked to add to their score from the previous half by applying pressure to Glasgow with another quick break up the line by winger Rachael MacDonald who was tackled into touch.

Oban kept the pressure on with big tackles again from Ailsa McLachlan. The home side, however, stole the ball and kicked down the field

Women's rugby

leaving Oban scrambling but an excellent chase down by Claire MacFarlane kept Oban in the game. Oban were dealt a blow when Ailsa MacLachlan left the pitch with an injury to her ankle.

The game resumed and some good play from Kirsty Sinclair and Erika Skofca in the centre line added pressure yet again. A great steal from Ellie MacNiven and quick ball out to Hannah Cringles took Oban closer but Glasgow stole the ball and put pressure on the Oban side for the last 10 minutes of the game.

Glasgow powered over the line once again to take the score to 17-5.

A quick restart and some strong defence from Oban held Glasgow off but eventually they managed to find a way through in the last minute of the game with a final try and conversion ending the game 22-5 to Glasgow Uni.

Player of the match was Ailsa MacLachlan, Lucy Stewart and Kirsty Sinclair voted by Glasgow University's players.

Oban have their next league game at home next Sunday 2pm at the rugby club and all supporters are welcome. Ladies train Tuesday and Thursday 6pm at the rugby club. All welcome.



Westerton United from Glasgow had a great contest against Oban Saints Ajax in the 2009 section.



Paul Campbell, vice-chairman of Helensburgh FC, presents Don McAllister, football co-ordinator of Lochnell FC and founder member of the Helensburgh club, with a souvenir strip.



A Tarbert forward gets a shot on goal against St Peters FC 2009s.



A surging run during the Lochnell 2008 v Lochgilphead Red Star game.



Fort William 2008s on the move against Oban Saints Warriors.



Oban Saints 2004s in their new training tops kindly sponsored by Stuart Livingstone Joinery. Mr Livingstone is pictured with the team and coaches Neil Macsween and Stewart Duncan.



Oban Madrid celebrating winning the Fair Play award at Blairgowrie Football Festival last Saturday. The award was voted for by the festival referees based on all the games played on the day. The boys played well against a high standard of opposition.



Oban Saints unveiled their new playing kit before last Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup tie against Plains. The kit was kindly sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors. The club is very grateful for the generous sponsorship from the company over the years. Match report and photos: Derek Black



Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre turns professional

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre has made the leap from amateur to professional and will make his debut in the MENA Tour.

The 21-year-old is set to play in the Jordan Golf Championship, which tees off today (Thursday).

MacIntyre, who is fresh from an impressive display in the Walker Cup, will then spend time practicing in Dubai, before playing the Sahara Kuwait Championship from October 16-18.

MacIntyre told his sponsor Bounce Sport: 'You've got to start somewhere when you turn pro and I don't mind at all going from the top of the amateur game to working my way up through the professional ranks.'

'It's about building things up again and I think the biggest challenge when you go from amateur to pro is getting the right mindset.'

'My family are delighted about this development, as are the members at my club - Glencruitten. They are excited to see where my future lies. It's about learning the ropes in the professional game. It's about learning how to live out on the road and that excites me.'



Robert MacIntyre.

Glencruitten

IN THE last competition of the season, the winners of the Bothy Open held at Glencruitten on Saturday were Donald McGill, Jamie Forgive, Duncan Forgive and Greg Waddell with a score of 93 points.

Runners-up were Alan Garret, Ian Harris, Peter Bain and Stuart Cameron with 89 points and in third place were John Plunkett, Kenny Devine, David Fraser and Brian Blue with 85 points.

In the individual Stableford on Sunday Alan Jamieson was the winner with 30 points, George MacKenzie was runner-up with 29 points.

Plain sailing as Saints net six

Oban Saints	6
Plains	0
Scottish Amateur Cup - second round	

RESPLENDENT in their new red, white and navy blue kit kindly sponsored by D&K Lafferty Contractors, to whom the club are grateful for their continued support, Oban Saints eased into the third round of the Scottish Amateur Cup with an ultimately comfortable win over Plains at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

Saints manager Alex Craik made just one change to the starting eleven which put nine past Cambusnethan Talbot in their last outing with Donald Campbell starting in favour of Shaun MacIver, who was away for the weekend. Paul Carmichael also returned from injury to take a place on the substitutes bench alongside Daniel Croarkin, Steven MacLeod, Craig MacMillan and David Smith.

Plains were first to threaten in the third minute when Johnny Mitchell was given time and space in the middle of the park to pick out Stephen McGowan cutting in from the left wing. Taking one touch to control the ball, McGowan's left-foot effort fizzed wide of the right hand post of Graham 'Sugar' Douglas in the Saints goal.

It took 17 minutes for Saints to muster their first attempt on goal which came from a swift counter-attack when Willie Gemmell found Donald Campbell with a measured pass through the inside right channel. Donald raced towards the box with Jamie Brogan and Anthony Hynds in pursuit and tried to beat Darren Hunter with an early shot from 17 yards.

An excellent 20th-minute take on the left touchline by Craig MacEwan from a Willie Gemmell diagonal pass unfortunately wasn't matched by his cross for Donald Campbell coming in at the back post which was too close to Darren Hunter.

Fraser MacFarlane succeeded where Donald Campbell had earlier failed, beating Hunter at his near post to break the deadlock in the 22nd minute after Donald and Craig MacEwan

had linked up to send Fraser in behind the Plains back three.

Donald Campbell worked the ball quickly from right to left in the 26th minute from a Matthew Kelly throw-in. Craig MacEwan picked out Scott Maitland's overlapping run with the Saints left back passing up a good shooting opportunity and electing instead to look for Donald Campbell at the back post but sending his cross tamely into the grateful arms of Darren Hunter.



Fraser MacFarlane celebrates after opening the scoring.

An ongoing war of words between Craig MacEwan and Anthony Hynds eventually snapped the patience of referee Kerr in the 33rd minute who issued yellow cards to both, with Donald Campbell and the impressive Plains midfielder Anthony Traynor also spoken to as tempers briefly threatened to boil over.

Unable to find a way through the solid-looking Saints back four of Matthew Kelly, David McPhee, Craig Campbell and Scott Maitland, Plains continued to try their luck from distance.

The Saints front three linked up perfectly from a 38th minute Scott Maitland throw-in on the left. Fraser MacFarlane controlled well and sent Craig MacEwan racing into the box from where Craig held off the challenge of Anthony Hynds to

pick out Donald Campbell in the middle. Donald's first touch took him past Paul Deighan and Jordan Dobbie and left him one-on-one with Darren Hunter, whom he beat easily low down to his left from eight yards to double the advantage.

Donald Campbell was through again 60 seconds later only for Mr Kerr to stop him in his tracks with an extremely tight offside decision in favour of the visitors.

There was no suggestion of offside in the 43rd minute when Willie Gemmell sent Donald through the inside left channel. With only the keeper to beat, Donald tried for a chip into the postage-stamp corner which he miscued badly, sending his effort well wide of target.

There was chances at both ends in the opening minutes of the second half. From the restart Daniel Fitzpatrick was allowed to drive into the Saints box where only a perfectly timed sliding interception from Willie Gemmell denied the Plains right-sided midfielder a sight of goal.

Any chance that Plains had of forcing their way back into contention was extinguished in the 48th minute when Jamie Brogan received a straight red card for a high and dangerous challenge on Fraser MacFarlane on the half-way line. Clearly struggling after the heavy challenge, Fraser made way for Paul Carmichael in the 56th minute.

Two minutes after joining the action, Paul added his name to the scoresheet from a Donald Campbell assist. Saints carved open the Plains defence on the left once again with Campbell unselfishly squaring to Carmichael for a simple tap-in from six yards.

A momentary lapse in concentration almost cost the Saints defence their clean sheet on the hour mark. From a throw-in level with their own 18-yard line Matthew Kelly and Graham Douglas got in a fankle on the corner of the box with Sugar thankfully managing to stick out a leg to send the ball away from Daniel Fitzpatrick and behind for a corner kick.



Donald Campbell finds the bottom corner of the net for the first of his three goals.

Donald Campbell and Paul Carmichael almost combined again in the 62nd minute when Donald's cross from the left was taken off Paul's head by Darren Hunter at his near post.

This was to prove just a brief stay of execution as two minutes later Scott Maitland added a fourth with an excellent individual effort. Picking up the ball inside his own half, Scott cut through the heart of the Plains defence and buried a low right foot shot past Darren Hunter's right hand to make the score 3-0.

Saints manager Alex Craik made a double substitution with 20 minutes remaining replacing injured pair Craig MacEwan and Keith Millar with David Smith and Craig MacMillan. Young Craig slotted in at left-back with Scott Maitland moving into midfield where he was joined by Smith.

In the 73rd minute, Donald Campbell came within inches of finding the net direct from the corner flag. Paul Deighan headed a Paul Carmichael cross from the right behind for a corner kick on the Saints left. Donald's in-swinging delivery cleared the heads of David Smith and Mark Fitzpatrick landing just in front of the goal line and bouncing inches wide of Darren Hunter's left hand post.

The gaffer made his final changes. Willie Gemmell and David McPhee were withdrawn in favour of Daniel Croarkin and Steven MacLeod. Steven

was a straight replacement for David alongside Craig Campbell in the middle of the back four while Daniel took up the right-back berth with Matthew Kelly moving into midfield.

Saints notched their fifth goal with 10 minutes remaining when Donald Campbell latched onto a Matthew Kelly through ball to slot past Darren Hunter from 10 yards.

To their credit the visitors kept plugging away and were almost through after the restart when second-half substitute David Burns got the better of Daniel Croarkin on the left only for the Saints youngster



Scott Maitland made a fine jinking run through the Plains defence before slamming home Saints' third goal.

Football

to make an excellent recovery tackle inside the Saints box at the expense of a corner kick.

Jordan Dobbie produced an equally vital interception at the other end, stooping to head the ball off Donald Campbell's toe after a dazzling run from Scott Maitland and right wing cross from Matthew Kelly.

Donald Campbell rounded off the scoring in the 89th minute. Scott Maitland's running from midfield created the opening which Donald eagerly gobbled up, lifting the ball from 12 yards over the head of the stranded Darren Hunter to claim his second successive hat-trick since returning from injury. There was barely any time left on the referee's watch with Mr Kerr, who handled proceedings well, blowing for full-time shortly after the restart sending Saints through to Tuesday's third round draw.

Although his team scored six goals, manager Craik was critical of the performance. He said: 'We didn't work hard enough and the passing was sloppy. It might have proved costly against a better team although Plains made us fight all the way. However, we're through and looking forward see who we get next.'

Saints have no fixture on Saturday but will hit the road on Saturday October 14 for their West of Scotland Amateur Cup third round tie against Braehead in Renfrew.

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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.



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Newtonmore win Camanachd Cup

NEWTONMORE won shinty's coveted Camanachd Cup for the 32nd time and Lochside Rovers secured another point in their bid to clinch the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title on Saturday September 30.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final

**Lovat 2
Newtonmore 3**
Newtonmore put pre-match selection difficulties behind them to take the honours in the 110th Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final, beating Lovat 3-2 at The Bught Park, Inverness.

Lovat's run to this year's final began with a 3-0 replay win over local rivals Glenurquhart at Balgate after the sides had drawn 1-1 at Blairbeg. Kilmallie were defeated 3-1 at Canal Parks in the last eight of the competition with Oban Camanachd edged out 2-1 in the semi-finals at An Aird.

Newtonmore opened with a 3-1 win over Fort William at An Aird. Kyles Athletic were beaten 4-1 at The Eilan in the quarter-finals whilst Newtonmore beat Skye by the same score in the last four of the competition at The Bught.

Both teams are level on 21 points after 16 games in the Marine Harvest Premiership. Newtonmore were early season winners when the sides met in the league at The Eilan, whilst Lovat won the corresponding fixture at Balgate. Their most recent meeting came in July in an Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final tie at Braeview Park and it took extra-time before Newtonmore prevailed 3-0. So a close final was expected.

Lovat were arguably the form team going into shinty's blue riband event, winning their last six matches, whilst Newtonmore's form was mixed with six victories, two draws and two defeats in their last 10 outings.

This was the first time these teams have met in the Camanachd Cup Final but the sides were the competition's two most recent winners.

Lovat have only ever tasted success twice in shinty's most famous tournament, whilst Newtonmore had won the Camanachd Cup on a record-breaking 31 occasions.

Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher opted to leave Marc MacLachlan, who scored the winning goal in the 2-1 semi-final victory over Oban Camanachd, on the bench. Scott MacKenzie was also listed as a substitute, despite missing recent matches with a broken arm.

Most of the pre-match interest surrounded how Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh would set up his five defensive players.

Captain Rory Kennedy hadn't played since suffering ankle ligament damage in a league match against Glasgow Mid Argyll seven weeks earlier but a period of intensive physiotherapy paid

off and he returned to the Newtonmore defence to man-mark Lovat skipper Greg Matheson.

Scottish international Steven MacDonald was suspended, whilst Andy MacKintosh was prepared to interrupt a holiday abroad to play before being ruled out through injury.

Newtonmore keeper Norman Campbell was given a run out in his former position of full back in the previous week's league win over Kilmallie, whilst Paul MacArthur started that match as a make-shift keeper. Both players stayed in these positions for this most important of meetings.

Michael Russell dropped back into defence, David MacLean and Craig Ritchie flanked Jamie Robinson in midfield and Neil Stewart and Drew MacDonald started in attack over Fraser MacKintosh and Iain Robinson.

A huge crowd watched as the players were led onto the field by Lochalsh Pipe Band. Both squads and the match officials were then introduced to eight-time Camanachd Cup winner George Fraser from sponsors Tulloch Homes, Scottish Government Minister for Public Health and Sport Aileen Campbell and Camanachd Association president Jim Barr ahead of throw-up.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to mark the passing of Catriona Ralph, wife of Sandy Ralph who was a mem-



Newtonmore's Craig Ritchie and Lovat's Calum MacAulay during the final. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

ber of the 1967 Newtonmore Camanachd Cup winning team. Newtonmore won the toss and opted to open with the wind in their favour.

There was something about Newtonmore's start to the game, from Glen MacKintosh shooting wide within seconds of the throw-up to the revamped defence winning their early challenges, that made you sense they had taken the field with a point to prove.

There was early action for



The victorious Newtonmore team celebrate their Camanachd Cup win. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Newtonmore stand-in keeper Paul MacArthur as he came off his line to clear a long Greg Matheson ball with Lewis Tawse looking to capitalise on any slip-up.

As play switched back to the other end, Stuart MacDonald just about dealt with a long ball

When Glen MacKintosh wriggled free of Drew Howie's attentions on the Newtonmore right on 15 minutes, Lovat goalie Stuart MacDonald evoked memories of his 2015 Camanachd Cup Final man of the match performance when he dived to his right to make a brilliant save, turning the ball away with his camanachd high to his right at the expense of a corner.

A minute later, Neil Stewart, a surprise choice in attack, repaid his manager's faith by running across the goal towards a low Glen MacKintosh cross from the right. Stewart took a touch on the run before beating keeper MacDonald to his left with a fierce shot which only rose a foot off the ground to make it 1-0 with 16 minutes played. It was an excellent goal and just reward for a player who has come back from two serious knee injuries in recent seasons. Michael Russell deserves mention for a terrific reverse pass from midfield which allowed Glen MacKintosh to stretch the Lovat defence before picking out scorer Stewart.

Newtonmore doubled their lead a couple of minutes later. Jamie Robinson pushed forward from midfield to collect a low Evan Menzies ball from the right. Robinson was initially cliqued by Craig Mainland, but was given a second shooting chance and this time he fired low into the net with the keeper getting his right foot to the ball.

The Newtonmore supporters were in raptures and another attack ended when Glen MacKintosh's shot from the left flashed across goal.

Lovat were on the ropes but spurned a great chance to reduce the deficit on 22 minutes. Danny Kelly found Lewis Tawse in space, but Paul MacArthur saved from Tawse with his legs before clearing the danger ahead of the on-rushing Kelly.

Newtonmore returned on the offensive and David MacLean had a goal disallowed on 23 minutes. Referee Lachie Wood had blown his whistle in the lead up to MacLean's strike from the right of the 'D' with Glen MacKintosh more than unfortunate to be penalised as he fought for possession with Drew Howie and Callum Cruden. However, Drew MacDonald did foul Daniel Grieve ahead of the tussle so justice was probably done.

There was a moment of controversy when Martin Mainland wiped out Evan Menzies who was bearing down on goal, wide-right of the 'D'. Mainland escaped a booking and Lovat defended the free-hit well but, with the ball deflected away, the game threatened to boil over as Callum Cruden and Glen MacKintosh clashed by the corner flag on the Newtonmore right and the Lovat man earned

the game's first yellow card. Cruden then needed treatment after being caught across the legs by Evan Menzies following the resultant free-hit.

Lovat were struggling to clear their lines and Newtonmore looked the more dangerous. Glen MacKintosh hit the side-netting on 39 minutes following a David MacLean corner on the right.

With their full centre Jamie Robinson dominating a hard-fought first 45 minutes, Newtonmore took their two-goal advantage into the half-time interval.

Lovat now had the wind and the sun at their backs but it was Newtonmore who went close within a minute of the re-start when Evan Menzies took a Neil Stewart ball down and shot narrowly past.

Neil Stewart then sent a low shot from distance narrowly by the right post.

Lovat made the first change of the final five minutes after the re-start when Marc MacLachlan replaced Calum MacAulay.

A dropping Greg Matheson volley was confidently cleared first time by Paul MacArthur who now looked to be enjoying himself in goals.

Ackie MacRae had to show a good turn of pace to clear a delightful Marc MacLachlan flick forward away to safety.

A nice pass from Ryan Ferguson found Lorne MacKay on the Lovat left, but his effort went wide of the keeper's right post.

Newtonmore threatened from a couple of set-pieces without getting a shot on target.

Newtonmore's first change came on the hour mark when Craig Ritchie was withdrawn. Drew MacDonald came back to wing centre with Iain Robinson coming off the bench to join the attack.

Paul MacArthur palmed a bouncing Greg Matheson ball into the 'D' away for a corner after the Lovat captain had exchanged passes with Marc MacLachlan.

Lovat needed to score next and they got themselves back into the game on 64 minutes. Daniel Grieve won possession and found Craig Mainland who, from wide on the right, sent the ball dropping over the Newtonmore defence who were drawn to the ball. Marc MacLachlan ghosted in behind the cluster of players, anticipating the ball would be missed, and steered the ball low past the keeper from inside the 'D' to make it 2-1.

It was 2-2 a couple of minutes later as Lorne MacKay took a Ryan Ferguson pass and lofted a ball from distance on goal. Keeper MacArthur, with the sun in his eyes, lost the flight of the ball and it ended up in the net.



Newtonmore captain Rory Kennedy with the Camanachd Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Michael Russell was booked for a reckless swing on Lorne MacKay immediately following the re-start.

Evan Menzies sent a shot from the right across the face of the goal with 20 minutes remaining.

At the other end, Paul MacArthur used his chest to block a Greg Matheson shot and it was now anyone's game.

Newtonmore, for all their injuries, had a strong bench and Fraser MacKintosh took over from goalscorer Neil Stewart on 73 minutes. The change almost paid immediate dividends as MacKintosh bustled through the Lovat defence, but he shot wide.

Newtonmore may have missed out on an eighth successive league title, but having only won the Camanachd Cup three times since 1986, they knew victory in this final would make 2017 one of their most successful seasons in recent times.

The game's defining moment came with 14 minutes remaining. Glen MacKintosh controlled a pass forward from David MacLean before picking out Evan Menzies, who had lost his marker, and Menzies struck the ball low into the net from just inside the penalty spot to put his side back in front.

Iain Robinson's low shot was saved by Stuart MacDonald and the pendulum had swung Newtonmore's way once more.

Drew MacDonald ran at the Lovat defence but the Balgate men scrambled the ball away for a corner with Newtonmore claiming a penalty for a 'kick' by Martin Mainland but the officials ruled the 'kick' wasn't intentional.

Newtonmore went for the kill and David MacLean, who impressed throughout, was just

inches away with a spectacular effort on his back-hand with 10 minutes to go.

Lovat's Calum MacAulay came back on to replace Lewis Tawse.

Stuart MacDonald did well to tip away an Iain Robinson effort and Drew Howie blocked from Glen MacKintosh on the re-bound.

Evan Menzies was booked on 82 minutes for a swing at Callum Cruden after the Newtonmore man had initially been fouled. Glen MacKintosh forced another Stuart MacDonald save with Newtonmore having to settle for a corner.

Newtonmore were now pinning Lovat back with the final moving into the last five minutes.

Conor Jones took over from Evan Menzies with four minutes remaining but his appearance was short-lived.

The game finally boiled over when Callum Cruden and Conor Jones tangled on 89 minutes. Cruden's caman caught Jones on the forehead and the Newtonmore substitute reacted angrily. Both players were sent off by referee Wood.

Jamie Robinson was booked for a late lunge on Daniel Grieve with the final now in stoppage time.

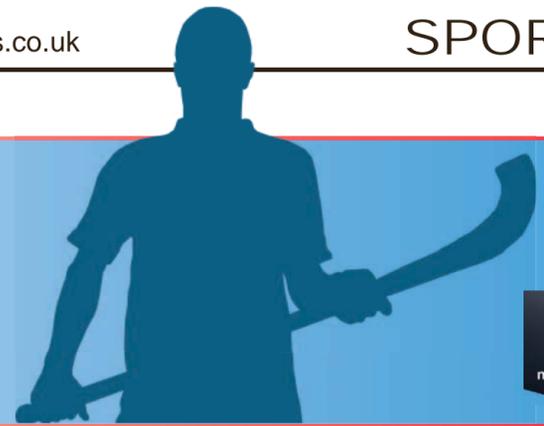
And after three added minutes, referee Lachie Wood gave a shrill of the whistle for the last time in the final and the Newtonmore celebrations began.

Lovat didn't do themselves justice on the day, whilst Newtonmore didn't have a failure.

For Norman Campbell to play most of a season in goal and then turn in such an accomplished performance at full back just adds another chapter to his volume in Newtonmore folk-lore. Also included amongst the



Newtonmore's Fraser MacKintosh gets the ball away despite a block from Lovat's Martin Mainland. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

Newtonmore heroes was Paul MacArthur who showed great courage to step in between the sticks on such a big occasion.

Michael Russell rarely lost a challenge, Jamie Robinson had a terrific game, especially in the first half, whilst Rory Kennedy did a great job marking Greg Matheson.

Match-winner Evan Menzies and his strike partner Glen MacKintosh were also excellent but the Albert Smith Memorial Medal for man of the match went to Newtonmore's Drew MacDonald who starred first in attack and then midfield.

Zoe Smith, an accomplished player for Fort William, took over presentation duties from her grandmother Rene Smith and made an excellent job of handing over the coveted trophy. A manager's role can go unnoticed but Paul John MacKintosh made best use of his resources and called the big decisions correctly.

After the match, the Newtonmore boss said: 'A lot went against us in the lead up to the final. We were three Scotland defenders short earlier in the week and thankfully Rory made it as he was absolutely outstanding in the game. To a man, everyone put in a superb shift and I'm absolutely delighted.'

'This is our target every year as it means so much to the players, their families and the community. I thought we were outstanding. We started really, really well and moved the ball really quickly and opened their up.'

'We caught them on their heels and we were on our toes. Two-nil didn't flatter us and we could have been three ahead quite easily. We knew Lovat would have their spell. Every team has a 20 minute spell in a game, no matter who you play.'

'We knew Lovat would come back at us and they got it back to 2-2. It was then a question of who wanted it most and I was just delighted to see Evan hit the back of the net.'

Newtonmore, who no doubt celebrated their Camanachd Cup success in the traditional manner, are due at Spean Bridge this Saturday to play relegation-threatened Lochaber.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kilmallie P
Oban Camanachd P
The only scheduled Marine Harvest Premiership fixture of the day was the noon meeting between Kilmallie and Oban Camanachd at Canal Parks.

The game was postponed tough because of an unplayable pitch.

Next up for Kilmallie is a home meeting with beaten Marine Harvest Camanachd Cup finalists Lovat this Saturday, throw-up 3pm.

Oban Camanachd play title-hopefuls Kinlochshiel at Mossfield this Saturday.

Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay is on holiday so Fraser Inglis and Chris Eccleston will look after the side.

Kinlochshiel need a point from the match to finish ahead of Kyles Athletic, who host Glasgow Mid Argyll in a 3pm throw-up,

and clinch their first Marine Harvest Premiership title.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 2
Taynuilt 2
Lochside Rovers collected another point in the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title race when they drew 2-2 with Taynuilt in their noon throw-up at Mossfield.

Lochside were without Craig MacDougall and Lennon Campbell, so Ross Campbell was given his first start. Lochside had the chance to take the lead after three minutes when referee Alex MacVicar spotted a push inside the 'D' and awarded the hosts a penalty. The normally reliable Michael MacQueen drove the spot-hit down the middle but the ball rose over the crossbar.

Lochside went close on eight minutes when Ruairaidh Horn's looping shot from 15 yards out came bar off the bar.

Iain MacMillan was the best player on show throughout the match and opened the scoring on 24 minutes.

MacMillan ran forward, beating a couple of players along the way, and his head-height shot made it 1-0.

The speedy Robbie Brown equalised on 35 minutes when he collected the ball in a wide position and evaded a challenge before unleashing a rocket 40 yard shot on the angle which beat the keeper at the far post.

Lochside regained the lead four minutes before half time. Michael MacQueen took a Ruairaidh Horn ball out of the air and had time to hit a low, hard shot into the net to make it 2-1.

Taynuilt keeper Steven Parr made a brilliant save to prevent Lewis Buchanan extending Lochside's lead. Michael MacQueen was involved in the build-up and Parr was at his best to keep out the youngster's volley.

Lochside had enough pressure up front to see the game off but the Taynuilt defence, in which Ryan Gillies was outstanding, stood firm and the visitors got their reward with eight minutes remaining.

Steven Campbell broke forward with the ball from midfield and, with the Lochside defence backing off, Campbell played the ball to David Campbell who shot low into the net to make it 2-2. Lochside Rovers can now seal the league championship if they take something from their match against Kilmory at MacRae Park this Saturday.

'We weren't at our best,' said Lochside boss Gareth Evans after the game. 'Taynuilt were hungrier than us and we'll need to play better if we are to take anything from our match away to Kilmory this Saturday.'

Ballachulish P
Kilmory P

The noon throw-up between Ballachulish and Kilmory was postponed on Saturday morning as Jubilee Park was ruled unplayable.

Kyles Athletic P
Glenorchy P

The noon throw-up between the Kyles Athletic colts and



The North and South Under 14 teams before their game at An Aird. Photos: Stephen Lawson



The North and South Under 17s teams.

Glenorchy was postponed on Friday as Tighnabruach is unplayable and there were no alternative venues.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute P
Strachur P
The noon meeting between the Bute second team and Strachur was reversed to Strachurmore when The Meadows failed a pitch inspection.

However, Strachurmore was also ruled unplayable so the fixture will be re-scheduled.

WCA round-up

Skye Camanachd are in a strong position at the top of Marine Harvest National Division 1 following the Women's Camanachd Association shinty action on Sunday October 1.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Lochaber 0
Skye Camanachd 5

Reigning champions Skye Camanachd collected what could prove to be two crucial league points when they overcame Lochaber 5-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Doubles from Sarah Corrigan and Lorna MacRae and a Jenna Beaton goal gave Skye the win.

Aberdour W/O
v Lovat

Aberdour were awarded the points as Lovat were unable to raise a team for their meeting at Silversands.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P
Fort William P

Fort William were unable to

raise a team for their match against Glasgow Mid Argyll at Yoker so the game will be rescheduled for a later date.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry 4
Strathglass 2
Glengarry defeated Strathglass 4-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Craigard.

An Elaine Cameron brace, Leona Falconer and Joanne Gillanders gave Glengarry the win, cancelling out a Cassie Dorins' double for Strathglass.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Ardnamurchan W/O
v Glasgow Mid Argyll
The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team were unable to raise a side for their journey north to face league champions Ardnamurchan, so the league champions were awarded the points.

Cowal & Bute P
Dunadd P

The meeting between Cowal & Bute and Dunadd was postponed because of an unplayable pitch.

Lorne Ladies P
Oban Lorn P

The 1.30pm throw-up between Lorne Ladies and Oban Camanachd was postponed as Ganavan was unplayable.

WCA introduce U14 representative match

The Women's Camanachd Association has introduced a new category of U14 match in the hope of providing a better pathway for younger players.

This representative match will take place as the curtain raiser ahead of the shinty/hurling international between Scotland and Ireland at The Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday October 21. Throw-up will be 10.30am.

Youth fixtures

Kenneth MacMaster Cup Final

Lochaber U14 4
Kingussie U14 6

The 2017 Camanachd Cup Final was preceded by the Kenneth MacMaster Cup Final between Lochaber U14s and Kingussie U14s.

Kingussie went into this 11am throw-up as pre-match favour-

ites but they had to fight all the way to win the contest 6-4.

Kingussie enjoyed the early pressure and Ewan Baker put them ahead when he closed down a clearance to score from the right of the 'D'. Michael Slimon made it 2-0 when he nudged a re-bound off Lochaber keeper Ryan Ferguson into the net. Lochaber captain Max Campbell pulled a goal back from the penalty spot to make it 2-1 at the break.

Lochaber's Max Campbell then broke down the right to score his second and level the match.

Ally Douglas put Kingussie back in front after Lochaber goalie Ryan Ferguson had stopped a fierce Ewan Baker drive.

Dillon Brockie dribbled through the heart of the Lochaber defence to score a great solo goal to make it 3-3.

Lochaber took the lead for the first time in the final when Robbie Rydings netted after good play from Max Campbell.

Michael Slimon turned and notched his second from the right of the 'D' to make it 4-4. A minute later, Iain Lynch drove the ball high into the goal area and Ewan Baker deflected it into the net to put Kingussie back in front.

This time there was to be no comeback and a ball forward from Iain Lynch was controlled by Ewan Baker who scored to complete his hat-trick and make the final score 6-4.

Kingussie captain Cameron Leiper was presented with the MacMaster Cup by David MacMaster.



Oban Camanachd's Lewis Buchanan, in red, and Kingussie's Alexander Michie during the North v South Under 17 match. Photograph: Stephen Lawson



Fixtures

Saturday October 7

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kilmallie v Lovat
Calum Girvan - 3pm
Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA
Innes Wood - 3pm
Lochaber v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron
Oban Caman v Kinlochshiel
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William v Skye
Martin MacLean - 3pm
Oban Celtic v Beauly
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Aberdeen Uni
John Angus Gillies - noon
Beauly v Kingussie
Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute v Aberdour
Robert Baxter - 3pm
Glenorchy v Ballachulish
Iain Kennedy
Kilmory v Lochside Rovers
Dyes McNulty
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth
Ross Brown - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh v Lochaber
Willie MacDonald
Kilmallie v Glengarry
Scott McNeil - noon
Lochcarron v Strathspey
John Matheson
Strathglass v Lovat
Brian MacKay

Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Aberdour v Oban Lorn
Graham Fisher
Bute v Dunoon
Neil MacDonald - noon
Inveraray v Glasgow MA
Ronnie Campbell

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.



Results

Saturday September 30

**Tulloch Homes
Camanachd Cup Final**
Lovat 2 v 3 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kilmallie P v P Oban Caman
Unplayable field

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**
Ballachulish P v P Kilmory
Unplayable field
Kyles Athletic P v P Glenorchy
Unplayable field
Lochside Rovers 2 v 2 Taynuilt

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**
Bute P v P Strachur
Unplayable field

**Youth Fixture
MacMaster Cup Final
National U14 competition**
Lochaber 4 v 6 Kingussie



Kingussie Under 14s celebrate after beating Lochaber Under 14s 6-4 in the final of the Kenneth MacMaster Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



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First league win of the season for the Green Machine

Oban Lorne 28
Irvine 12
BT West Division One

OBAN Lorne welcomed fellow league strugglers Irvine RFC to Glencruitten on Saturday in what was a battle of the league's bottom-placed teams after the first three rounds of league fixtures.

The home team have had a tough start to the season since a narrow home loss to Garnock at the start of the campaign being followed by heavy defeats to Kilmarnock and table-topping Allan Glen's. Oban were also dealt a blow last weekend with the club being forced into calling off the away fixture to Annan due to a lack of available front row options.

Head coach Corrie Louw,

along with team manager Darrell Williams, have rallied the troops over the past 10 days or so helping create a more positive outlook on how the season is going which has helped recent training sessions become more enjoyable and productive for all involved.

The Oban squad for Saturday's match was the strongest group available so far this season. Both Jack Baxter and Jack Strachan returned forming the second row pairing, while hooker/winger Radi Maksimov was welcomed into the backline. There was also a notable place on the bench for former club captain Cameron Smith, who has been missing for almost a full season due to a knee injury.

Oban started the game well and attacked with intent against

a heavy and physical Irvine side. With only 10 minutes gone Oban managed to race into a 10-0 lead with a hard worked try from second row Jack Strachan along with a conversion and penalty from scrum-half Finlay Carmichael.

As Oban looked to kick on from their promising start, Irvine brought themselves back into the match with their first score of the day narrowing the deficit to five points.

The first half proved to be a close affair with both teams cancelling each other out at the breakdown area. Oban were struggling to maintain any consistent possession mainly due to a misfiring lineout. Oban did manage to extend their lead before the break with two Carmichael penalties taking

Rugby

the score to 16-5. Reduced to 14 men for 10 minutes due to Andy MacDougall's sin binning for kicking the ball out of the scrum on the Irvine tryline, Oban had to work very hard in defence as the away side looked to make their one-man advantage count.

After seeing out the first half, Oban kicked on in the second 40 minutes and extended their lead again with a try from back row Lorne MacLachlan. MacLachlan crossed the line from a well-worked move, switching to the blindside of the scrum taking the score to 21-5.

Irvine refused to give up and used their direct style of play to great effect in scoring their second try of the day reducing the score to 21-12.

With 20 minutes remaining, Oban welcomed back Cammy Smith onto the pitch at inside centre allowing winger Maksimov to move into the front row for Daniel Kemp. Smith wasted no time in getting back on the scoresheet, bagging a try after a long period of Oban Lorne pressure on the Irvine line. Oban now led 28-12 with another Carmichael conversion.

Oban were comfortable in the remaining 15 minutes or so of the game but never really threatened to score the vital fourth try that would have brought a valuable bonus point. Much credit must go to the hard-working Irvine team who proved extremely hard to break down and provided a huge physical test for the Oban Lorne pack.

In the end, Oban Lorne were delighted with their 28-12 win that will



Determination written all over the face of Steven Povey as he crashes through the Irvine defence.

Photos: Stephen Lawson



Cameron Smith dives over for a try in his first game back for the team this season.

hopefully kickstart the team into some promising results over the next month or so with a winnable run of fixtures upcoming.

Supporters at Glencruitten will be hoping for more of the same this Saturday as the club welcome mid-table East Kilbride. Saturday's result lifts Oban into 11th place but now in touching distance of the majority of teams above.

Saturday's fixture with East Kilbride kicks off 3pm at Glencruitten. All welcome.

Newton Stewart	12
Oban Lorne	12
Under 18 West League	

lost to Kilmarnock and a much improved 21-12 loss at home to Cambuslang.

On Saturday the team made improvements on the field yet again, coming from 12-0 down at half-time to record a very credible 12-12 draw. Coach Gordon Shearer was delighted with the team's second-half effort, with Lorne Sinclair and Andrew Ritchie standing out in particular.

This Saturday Oban U18s welcome Stewart RFC to Glencruitten, kick off 1pm.

Strathaven	0
Oban Lorne	48
Under 16 West League	

OBAN Lorne's U18 team made the long journey to Stranraer on Saturday to take on a combined Newton Stewart and Wigtownshire U18 team. The Oban side have already played two fixtures this season, an 85-19

STRATHAVEN RFC were Sunday's opponents for Oban's U16 team, who have won all games in the league this season. Oban recorded an impressive 48-0 win with man of the match

Tommy MacQuade scoring a haul of five tries.

Oban now sit top of the league with four wins from four matches. The team now have a break for a few weeks due to the school holidays until their next match against Stewartry on November 5.

TW West schools conference

OBAN High School played their latest fixture in the West T4 schools conference last week away to St Andrews Secondary School in Glasgow. Fixtures were played at U13, U14 and U16 age level with Oban running out 50-0 winners in the U16 game and losing out in both the U13 and U14 fixtures.

The T4 conference continues after the school holidays with a further four rounds of fixtures to be played.

Kyokushinkai Karate

ON SATURDAY September 23, 16-year-old Darryl McLaughlin walked on to the mat at the British Open Knockdown Karate Championships. This is a bare-knuckle, full contact event which takes a lot of courage even to attempt, and the majority of karateka never take this step.

Darryl had two very tough fights against strong opponents from Wales and Ireland respectively and eventually finished in third place.

As a testament to his character, Darryl said immediately after his fights: 'I loved that, I can't wait to do it again.'

Darryl topped off his weekend with a training session on the Sunday morning at one of the local IKKU dojos in England. Darryl is now working towards his black belt grading test at the end of the year.

Places are limited at the club and the next intake of students will



Darryl McLaughlin on the podium along with winner Henry Deane from Wales and Cillian Arthur from Ireland in second place. On the left of the picture is 'Hanshi' Steve Arneil, one of only a few 10th dans in the world.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

be in January 2018. This gives the current members a chance to work hard towards their next grading exams.

Anyone requiring more information on this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Kickboxing

The new Kick Fit session on a Monday is proving a hit. This is a cardio session based on circuits and kickboxing pad work, so participants will get all the fun, fitness and stress relief of kickboxing training without fighting.

Friday has a new straight from school junior session, starting at 4.30pm for 90 minutes and seniors from 6pm for 90 to 120 minutes.

This is all in addition to the regular Wednesday session which, from October 11 will have a change of times - juniors will be at 4.30pm and seniors at 6pm.

The junior session on a Sunday remains unchanged at 11am until 1pm, with the last Sunday of each month being a three-hour fun day, where the juniors play games that develop core strength, teamwork, balance, co-ordination and self-belief.

Beginners are always welcome, juniors aged five to 13 and seniors 14 to 114.

For more information, contact Wullie Rodger on: 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com.

BJJ

Oban BJJ is settling into its own premises with classes now five times a week. The new fully-matted hall means students can concentrate on their Jiu Jitsu and MMA in a hall that rivals any in Scotland.

This would not have been possible without the kind donations from Grzegorz Morawski Joiner and Builder, Clan Boss owner Steven MacAuley and Anthony and Renato from Nories Fish and Chips.

Classes are: Monday's at 7pm BJJ
Tuesdays at 7pm MMA
Wednesdays at 7pm BJJ
Thursdays at 8:30pm nogi BJJ
Fridays at 7pm Beginners BJJ

For club info contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Shukokai Karate

Training continues as normal with the clubs working towards the Lochgilphead tournament in early November.

Beginners are always welcome and anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com.



Oban BJJ members in their new fully-matted hall.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, second round - Oban Saints 6, Plains 0; Lochgilphead Red Star 3, Lanarkshire Forrest 2; Helensburgh 2, Dunoon 1; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Duntocher postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Premier Division One - Busby v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Cardross v Tarbert; Lochgilphead Red Star v FC Argyle.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v Kilbowie Union, postponed; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Arden-cle v Under 16s postponed; Scotstoun Athletic v Under 17s postponed.

Due to the October school holidays the youth teams will take a break.

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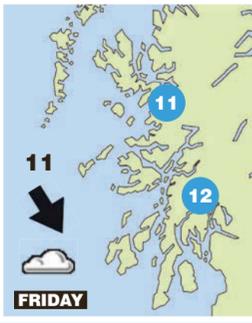
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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and light rain showers Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.
Friday	Cloudy Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.
Weekend Outlook	Light rain on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 5, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	05.19 3.8 11.30 0.8 17.38 4.2 23.50 0.7	Ardershaig -5.35	Mallaig +0.25		
Fri	05.47 4.0 12.03 0.6 18.10 4.3 *** *	Campbeltown -5.30	Portree +0.55		
Sat	00.25 0.5 06.15 4.0 12.40 0.5 18.42 4.2	Crinan -0.47	Tobermory +0.16		
Sun	01.02 0.5 06.48 4.0 13.19 0.6 19.17 4.1	Islay Port Ellen 2.00	Dover +5.30		
Mon	01.41 0.6 07.26 3.9 14.02 0.7 19.57 3.9	Lochboisdale +0.30			
Tues	02.24 0.8 08.08 3.7 14.51 0.9 20.42 3.6	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	03.14 1.0 08.56 3.5 15.50 1.2 21.36 3.2	Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate		
		Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate		
		Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate		

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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Patient's fury as operation is cancelled at last minute

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

DRESSED in a hospital gown, Fort William pensioner George Cromar was pleased the date of the hip replacement operation he had waited 16 months for had finally arrived.

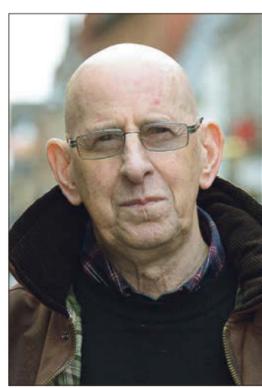
But his experience of what followed at Inverness' Raigmore Hospital on Sunday and Monday has left him outraged and this week's escalating row over the affair is set to involve Scottish health minister Shona Robison.

Mr Cromar, 75, who lives with his wife in sheltered housing in Fort William's Victoria Court, was just one of 30 patients whose operations were cancelled after heavy rain seeped through a flat roof on Sunday, flooding the hospital's basement which

houses vital computer servers. 'I'd gone to the hospital on Sunday for an overnight stay ahead of my operation on the Monday morning,' Mr Cromar said. 'But when I got there, the room was freezing cold, the bed was not made up and there were no sheets or blankets. I had to go and ask for these and was handed a blanket. 'Then when morning came

and I was all ready for my operation, I was told a flood in the basement meant it had been cancelled. 'After I had been waiting since June last year, I was just told it was cancelled and they couldn't tell me when it might be rescheduled. I think it is absolutely outrageous to be treated like that. 'How on earth in this day and

age could they not have had a back-up plan in place for people like me?' said a livid Mr Cromar, a retired engineer who is now a full-time carer for his wife. 'My daughter, who is a health visitor, had to take time off work and reschedule her patient home visits to fit in with my operation so she could help with my transport. That's now all been for nothing.'



George Cromar is furious the hip operation he had waited so long for was cancelled at the last minute. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The White Image.

Mr Cromar has since taken up the matter with local MSP Kate Forbes, who told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I listened to George recount his experience with anger and disbelief; that someone should wait over a year for an operation and then for it to be cancelled at the last minute while waiting in a gown getting colder by the minute. 'It rains all the time in Scotland, so whilst floods happen, NHS Highland should have been better prepared with contingency plans. Whilst one-offs happen, what makes this worse is the systematic failings in NHS Highland of unacceptably long waiting times and inexplicable decision-making. 'At the very least, I expect an apology from NHS Highland and will raise this at the most senior level with the Cabinet Secretary for Health. I am also demanding the operation is rescheduled as soon as possible.' Asked to comment, an NHS Highland spokesperson said decisions to cancel patient operations were not taken lightly, but the board had no option but to shut down the flooded basement computer IT servers because of electrical safety concerns. And he added: 'This impacted

Pupils can tend flower tubs again

SPEAN Bridge school pupils have again got access to flower planters they have been tending after they were controversially fenced off. The village's community council and primary school recently voiced disappointment after an area of land next to the school was sealed off by fencing and padlocked gates without warning. The section of ground in front of Coire Glas guest house has been used by the community for decades by parents dropping off children at the nearby school. Villagers have also used a footpath over it and the local shinty club has used it for extra car parking. Last month, the school asked the community council to look into the situation and councillors discussed the matter at their September meeting. And at the October meeting this week, councillors heard the school children had now been given access to tend the three flower tubs. Council chairman John Fotheringham has been researching ownership of the land in question and has obtained copies of Sasine Register ownership information, from the Registers of Scotland, dating back to 1906. Mr Fotheringham told Tuesday night's meeting: 'It seems the issue of access for the children has now been resolved after one of the grandsons [of the late land owner Alastair Iain Donald Cameron] phoned the school and offered them access.'



May the Force be with you!

Fort William transformed into a hub for fun and fantasy on Saturday when it hosted one of the largest comic and pop culture events in the Highlands. The Nevis Centre was buzzing as a comic-crazed crowd of fantasy fanatics travelled from all over the country to attend Fort Con 2. Full story and photos, page two.



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Nevis Range boss in new appeal for BT action to fix long-standing problems

NEVIS Range chairman Ian Sykes says he is pleading with telecoms companies to sort out problems with phone and broadband links at the famous mountain resort outside Fort William, writes Mark Entwistle.

So serious is the problem, that earlier this year Nevis Range was on the brink of not being able to host a major UCI mountain biking world cup event until another communications firm stepped in with a temporary solution and equipment.

Mr Sykes told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have very poor communications links here and for about the last four years we have been trying to get BT to sort this out. We have got a fibre optic cable into Nevis Range now but there seems to be major issues with the equipment that connects this up to us. It just does not work well. BT has told us it knows there are problems but there seems to be some kind of dispute between BT and Openreach over whose job it is to fix it.'

Mr Sykes says the hosting of major events such as the UCI World Cup requires venues to be able to offer high quality phone and broadband links to teams and the media.

He added: 'They [BT] don't seem to be bothered in the slightest about getting this sorted out. We came very close to losing that world cup mountain bike event and that would've been a massive loss for the town and the whole area.'

Mr Sykes praised local MP Ian Blackford for trying to get the problems resolved, saying: 'Ian's been a great help, putting pressure on in the right places but we seem to have now hit an impasse, but it needs sorted and sorted soon. Four years is surely long enough.'

Asked to comment, a BT spokesman said: 'We've been working with the Nevis Range and a new high-speed link has been installed. We're sorry to hear they're still having problems and we'll investigate and try to resolve this quickly.'

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FW



The Nevis Centre was unrecognisable on Saturday. JP F40 Fort Con 09



Star Wars actor Rony Bridges with his on-screen colleague C3PO. JP F40 Fort Con 01



The West Highland College UHI stall attracted revellers. JP F40 Fort Con 08



Ewan, Brodie and Evie MacKenzie enjoying Fort Con 2 with ghostbuster Garry Morrison, second left. JP F40 Fort Con 06

Highland comic con draws the crowds

FORT WILLIAM played host to one of the biggest comic and pop culture events in the Highlands last Saturday as the Nevis Centre was transformed into a bustling hub of fun and fantasy.

A comic-crazed crowd of fantasy fanatics travelled from all over the country to attend Fort Con 2 – a celebration of all things comics, films and fantasy. With organisers hailing this as the biggest and best convention in Fort William to date, Fort Con 2 lived up to the billing.

This year's star-studded line-up included film and TV personalities, including Star Wars' Gloria Garcia, Brian Wheeler and Rony Bridges; star of cult children's television fantasy adventure series Raven, James MacKenzie, and Outlander's Scott Kyle.

While question and answer sessions were held with the stars, numerous cosplay characters from different fantasy worlds wandered the busy convention hall, making for a surreal experience. Most of the cosplay participants travelled from Manchester or Newcastle just for Fort Con 2, such is the appeal of this Highland gathering.

Ben Belton, event director at Fort Con 2, commented: 'We put on a really good show this year, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were constant queues on the Virtual Reality, gaming machines and Nerf range, and the cosplayers looked amazing.'

'The stage question and answer and panel sessions were top notch, and the atmosphere was fun

for all the family. The photos that have come out of it are amazing. The special guests were thrilled to be part of an event with a location as stunning as the one we have and they all took a little piece of the Highlands back in their hearts with them.'

Looking ahead to next year, event director Ben Belton is already expecting further expansion.

'Fort Con 2 was a stepping stone event to Fort Con 2018. The event still struggles to garner local support and without the likes of Lochaber Showstoppers, West Highland College or Lochaber Cinema Group we would have had less through the door – and that did bring in to question the viability of running one of our events in the Highlands and whether Fort William itself actually wants this type of event.'

'But we have made a decision to progress with big plans for next year. Fort Con will now fall under the banner of Alliance Conventions who run larger events all over the UK, so the intention is to give the event to Scotland and make Fort William the destination.'

Although Ben says that local support in Fort William is sometimes difficult to garner, the 'very good' turnout at this year's convention shows that there's no reason why it can't become a national event.

Ben added: 'There's no reason that the Highlands shouldn't be allowed a full-scale convention and so with our connections and spirit we're going to challenge the bigger events in the central belt.'



Masie Gregg, Reuben Stewart and Angus Dunn get into the comic con spirit. JP F40 Fort Con 07



A question and answer session. JP F40 Fort Con 03



The costumes were colourful at Fort Con 2. JP F40 Fort Con 04

“We put on a really good show this year. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves**”**

Ben Belton
Event director, Fort Con 2



Brothers Connal and Ciaran Morrison as Darth Vader and Chewbacca guard the door to Lochaber Cinema Group's showings of Star Wars. JP F40 Fort Con 02

All photos by Abrightside Photography

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

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All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

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

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

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

WHAT'S ON

THE LOCAL History Society will welcome back Bill Cameron for his talk 'A Run around St Kilda – Past, Present and Future'. An interesting evening is promised with photographs and tales of St Kilda not found in the numerous books written about the island. Everyone welcome tonight, Thursday October 5 at 8pm, in the Ben Nevis Hotel.

ON SATURDAY October 7, Fort William Mountain Festival will host a minifest in association with West Highland College UHI. The film night will showcase some of the best mountain movies around. Tickets and information can be found at mountainfestival.co.uk. Films will be suitable for all ages.

LOCHABER Natural History Society starts its winter series of lectures on Monday October 9 with Ian Strachan's 'Extreme botanising: rare plants on Ben Nevis'. Meet at Alexandra Hotel, 7.30pm, cost £4 or £15 for the season.

WEDNESDAY October 11 sees two blood donor sessions in the Nevis Centre in Fort William. The first runs from 1.30-4pm, with the second from 5-7.15pm.

THE WARREN Smith Ski Academy will be coming to Fort William on Friday October 13 as part of its tour of ski technique lab talks.

Consisting of a lecture and a personal range test assessment, the evening will take place at the Ellis Brigham Mountain Sports shop in Fort William at 7pm. The event will last around two hours. Tickets can be bought through the Ellis Brigham website.

LOCHABER Camanachd Club will hold its annual general meeting in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Friday November 10, at 7.30pm.

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Property firm defends Glencoe hotel plans amid objections

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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A PROPERTY firm has defended plans to extend an historic Glencoe hotel after an 'incredibly disappointing response' to the proposals.

Bidwells, managing agents for the development, claims the £10million project to expand the Kings House Hotel is 'forward thinking' and 'well-conceived', despite outstanding objections to the plans.

A spokesperson for the property firm said: 'We have looked at many options for the redevelopment of the Kings House Hotel. Following a financial review of the previous planning application, the original design was found to be inefficient, insufficient and uneconomically viable.'

'For the development to proceed it must meet the minimum requirements of 60 bedrooms under one roof. The current plans are best suited to deliver a financially viable proposition to our client who, in a philanthropic manner, is investing more than £10m in this development.'

The original 17th-century droving inn, owned by Black Corries Estate, has been closed since November ahead of the proposed refurbishment to build a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on the landmark site in Glencoe.

Four formal objections have been lodged against the planning application, which was submitted to the Highland Council in August. These include objections from leading conservation organisations, The John Muir Trust and the National Trust for

Scotland (NTS), on the grounds the designs are not in-keeping with the surrounding area.

Mountaineering Scotland is the latest national body to condemn the plans, saying the 'industrial-style building' will be 'completely out of character both with the original building and the surrounding landscape which is part of a much-loved National Scenic Area'.

David Gibson, chief executive officer for Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Mountaineering Scotland is not against the appropriate development of the Kings House and would support a well-designed extension as proposed in the 2016 application, but the new proposal is not well-designed or in keeping with its surroundings and we object to it.'

Bidwells say the original 17th-



The proposed plans for a new three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel in Glencoe.

century Kings House building is to be retained and designed in to reduce the visual impact on the landscape.

The new building will be no higher than the trees that surround it and will 'incorporate

sympathetic use of natural materials' such as slate, larch cladding and local drystone granite.

The Bidwells spokesperson continued: 'The objections to the plans are an incredibly

disappointing response to what is a forward-thinking, well-conceived, economically supportive project in the West Highlands. The enhancement of the Kings House Hotel will ensure the building's longevity and be a source of employment for more than 40 people.

'We know how special the Kings House Hotel is to many people and we are focused on delivering the best possible business structure to the benefit of the area.'

Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council voiced its support for the project last week, stating the resultant boost to employment in the area presents a 'golden opportunity for the community'.

The planning application is currently awaiting a decision by the Highland Council.

Police warning on drink driving

POLICE in the Highlands and Islands are urging motorists not to drive under the influence of alcohol after five drivers were found to be over the legal limit or refused to give a breath sample last weekend.

Detections were made across the Highlands from Friday morning until Sunday night and four men and a woman will appear in court in due course.

Chief inspector Iain MacLelland said: 'It is extremely disappointing that despite many warnings, people are still found to be over the limit while driving. We have noticed a slight increase in the number of people caught this year which is very concerning.'

If you are worried about someone behind the wheel contact police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Have your say on polling places

VOTERS are being invited to have their say on a review of polling places throughout the Highland Council area.

The council has launched a consultation over its review of election polling districts and polling places.

Each local authority is required to carry out such a review every four years to ensure every elector has reasonable facilities for voting and at a polling place that is accessible for all electors, including those with a disability, so far as is reasonable and practicable.

Feedback from the consultation and review will help the council to determine the location of polling stations for future elections. Any representations should be made by Wednesday January 31, 2018. More information can be found on the Highland Council website.

Fort car wheels plant could be rolling by 2020 says boss

BOSSSES of the multi-national giant behind plans for an aluminium car wheel factory in Fort William say they see no major obstacles to the plant being up and running by 2020.

That was the message from the first of several public consultation events in Fort William last week.

GFG Alliance wants to build the factory as an expansion of its £330million acquisition last year of the former Rio Tinto smelter at Fort William. The wheels plant would employ 400 people.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Brian King, managing director of GFG Alliance's sub-

sidary Liberty British Aluminium, said he hoped a planning application could be submitted as early as the end of this month.

'Through the pre-application process we have in Scotland, they have given us good guidance on what we have to focus on. We feel confident there are no major obstacles. We have seen nothing to concern us,' said Mr King. 'The challenges ahead are attracting the workforce. It is creating the lifestyle option that will attract people to Fort William. The money is there.'

If a planning application can be submitted by the end of this month, with consent granted in

the first quarter of next year, Mr King said construction would start in the second quarter of next year and commissioning of the plant in the first few months of 2020. Mr King added: 'This is extremely challenging but that is part of the excitement. I am extremely confident we will make it happen. It is a fantastic opportunity for the area. It is bringing lots of jobs - high tech and long term jobs.'

And Mr King is confident the UK car industry, faced with the uncertainties caused by Brexit, will welcome the car wheels plant project.

'Due to the Brexit situation,

car manufacturers have a concern about sourcing overseas components. If we can help fill the void, that is welcomed by the UK car industry,' he said.

If the project gets the green light from planners, the plant will convert liquid aluminium from the smelter into around two million alloy wheels every year.

Last week it was revealed the proposed wheels factory could infringe two historical battlefield sites of national significance and, as a result, GFG Alliance has commissioned an archaeological study to ascertain any potential impact.



Brian King, far right, shows off designs for the proposed new car wheels plant.



Shaun Graham and Marty MacKenna start their ascent of Ben Nevis to raise funds for Gary Campbell. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Firefighters climb Ben for Gary

TWO FORT William firemen donned their full kit and hiked up Ben Nevis last Friday to raise money for their friend's stem cell fund.

Shaun Graham and Marty MacKenna

raised £530 towards the £50,000 needed to send their friend and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) sufferer Gary Campbell to Mexico for stem cell treatment.

Gary, 29, was diagnosed with primary

progressive MS five months ago. His friends and family have since launched a fundraising campaign so he can receive hematopoietic stem cell treatment in the hope of combating the illness.

Parents warned of school holiday absences

LOCHABER High School pupils returned home last week with a letter from the Highland Council's education chief warning parents that pupils should not be taken on holidays outside of the school holidays.

In a letter to children's parents and guardians, head of education at the Highland Council Jim Steven said that although the majority of families plan breaks around the school holiday dates,

pupils are increasingly being taken on holidays during term time.

A Highland Council spokesperson explained: 'This is not the first time such a letter has been sent to all Highland schools. Reminders as such have been issued over the past years by education management.'

'The latest letter to parents was sent at the request of some head teachers in Highland who had noticed an increasing

trend of absences outside of school holidays. The letter was issued to all Highland schools for head teachers to pass on to parents and guardians.'

The letter was issued to Lochaber pupils last week before the start of the October holidays. Highland school holidays total 12 weeks. Commenting on the letter, Mr Steven said: 'It's about working in partnership with parents to minimise the impact on pupils' learning.'

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New film spotlight on Skye's wild places

RELEASED online on Sunday night, 'Cúchullain' is the first episode in a six-part film series entitled Elemental Journeys, exploring the stories of people whose lives are defined by wild spaces and mountain adventures.

The first episode focuses on climber and writer Ian 'Spike' Sykes, whose life has been shaped by the Scottish Highlands and his experiences in the RAF Mountain Rescue team.

Cúchullain was shot in locations across Skye, from the dark walls of Garbh Corrie to the striking pinnacles of the Basteir Tooth. The film features a running sequence interwoven with a nostalgic interview with Spike and a rendition of The Grand Old Masters, a folk song written by the late Tom Patey as homage to his closest climbing friends including Jimmy Marshall and Don Whillans.

On revisiting Loch Coruisk, Ian said the chance to shoot at Loch Coruisk was something he felt strongly about. 'Visiting the hut by boat, it comes as no surprise it hadn't changed much,' he said.

'The first time I had been here was 55 years ago under very different circumstances. At New Year 1962, while I was a young recruit in the RAF, I had been involved in a call-out to retrieve three climbers who had taken a fatal fall on the Dubh's, the beautiful mountain behind the hut. That night it had been a miserable place of sadness for the small party of people waiting here in anguish for news. This time it was different. The hut was spic and span and by the time I arrived the crew had a brew on the boil, sorting out the cameras and preparing their film-making equipment. I had been involved in a number of film shoots over the years but this was a bit different and full of nostalgia.'

To watch this and subsequent episodes, visit www.pertex.com



Elemental Journeys explores the stories of people whose lives are defined by wild spaces and adventures.

Staffin Community Trust to appeal Storr land rejection

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A SKYE community organisation is to request a formal review into its rejected bid to buy land at one of the island's most popular landmarks, the Old Man of Storr.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) believes Highland Council's decision to reject its offer to buy roadside ground at the Storr was flawed and against the spirit of new Scottish Government legislation. Earlier this month, the council refused SCT's Asset Transfer Request (ATR), which was the first in the Highlands under the new Community Empowerment Act. SCT had planned to build a new off-road

car park, public toilets and information points at the site in a major development which, the trust insists, fully meets the criteria of an ATR as set out by the government.

The council had allocated £400,000 for the site in November 2016 and SCT requested money be allocated to the project so it could work to secure the additional match funding required to deliver the £900,000 development.

The council, however, rejected the trust's proposals, taking the view the transfer of £400,000 'would not be prudent' and 'failed to protect the public interest'. The council further stated the plan to separate the car park area from the rest of the land it owned at the Storr,



The current main car park at the popular Highland landmark.

including a native woodland, would 'separate the revenue generating potential of the site from the burden of management and maintenance'.

A trust spokesperson said: 'The SCT refutes the council's claims and has been heartened by the messages of support from the local and wider Skye community and further afield. SCT would be providing a public and community service to the north east of Skye and the rest of the island by improving road safety and toilets at this site.'

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie added: 'This was a short-sighted decision by Highland Council which seems to have ignored community empowerment legislation. SCT had worked closely with its officials for the last three

years to produce a fully-costed development, which would make a huge difference for Staffin and the Skye community and the thousands of visitors to the site.

There was strong support locally and nationally for this community solution to a landmark which is recognised across the world.'

Chairman of the officer-led asset management project board Stuart Black, who is also the council's director of development and infrastructure, also wrote to SCT when rejecting the ATR offering to meet for discussions. SCT has accepted Mr Black's invitation.

The SCT will also separately submit a request that the authority review the ATR decision. If that fails, the trust could appeal to the government.

Trotternish ladies are island's Queen Bees

IT'S 'BUZZINESS' as usual for a group of women in north Skye.

The Trotternish Queen Bees is a new social group for ladies which has risen from the ashes of the Trotternish branch of the Scottish Women's Institute, which closed its doors earlier in the month.

The Queen Bees held its first meeting on September 11 when they set up a constitution and elected three office bearers – Sylvia Porter, chairman; Elizabeth Blair, treasurer; and Claire Irons, secretary - who are currently scheduling events for the year.

Claire explained: 'We all belonged to the Trotternish Women's Institute but our members were finding it increasingly difficult to access courses, quizzes and social events from such a remote part of Scotland.'

'We found we often had to set aside two days to travel to Inverness for events and choirs and, since most of the activity takes

place during the winter, our trips were weather-dependent.'

The group, which meets in Kilmuir Hall from 1.30pm to 3pm on the second Monday of every month, will provide social, educational and cultural opportunities for its members.

Sylvia said: 'The group is for women who live in the north of the island to get together and have a natter over a cup of tea or coffee and do something constructive together. There are very few social groups which are open to all ages in the north of the island and few opportunities to get out and meet like-minded people during the winter.'

The next group meeting takes place at the Kilmuir Hall on Monday October 9 at 1.30pm when everyone will be made welcome.

For more information on joining the group, visit the Trotternish Queen Bees Facebook page or call Claire on 01470 542295.



The Queen Bees.

Comhairle approves library digitisation

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar's communities and housing committee has approved an interim digitisation policy which will increase opportunities to support research, learning and cultural engagement.

The library service looks after a wide collection of local history and Gaelic resources of interest to residents as well as researchers, academics and students from Scotland and around the world. Currently access to most of these collections is limited to those living in or visiting Stornoway.

The issue of access has highlighted the need for the service to develop a way of preserving these often rare and fragile resources, as well as making them available for people to use and enjoy.

Chairman Kenny John Macleod said: 'This is a very positive development which will result in better access to local history and Gaelic resources.'

Newsdesk
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Nation's first festival celebrating Scotland's incredible geological story

SCOTLAND'S first Geoheritage Festival exploring the country's 'incredible' geology begins this month as part of the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Geodiversity Forum has been working on 'Revealing the stories in the rocks: raising awareness of Scotland's outstanding geoheritage' - a project to

highlight and promote the 51 Best Places to see Scotland's Geology, launching at Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth on Saturday October 14. The Geoheritage Festival is a culmination of this project, taking in many of Scotland's famous and unique geological sites, as well as hidden gems.

There will be chances to explore areas of great natural beauty across the country, including a walk to the Sgurr on

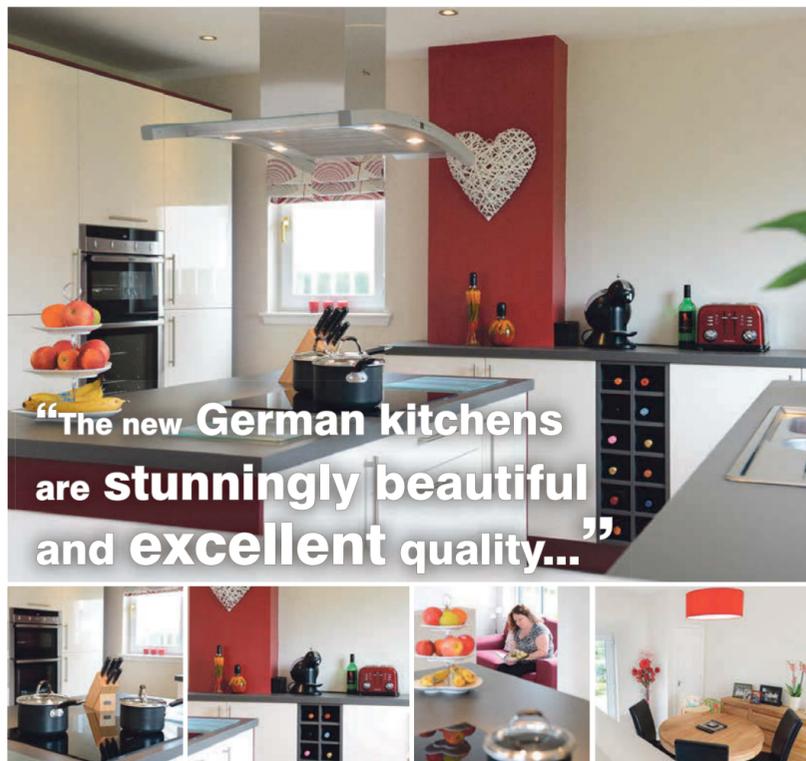
Eigg on October 9, the Parallel Roads of Glenroy on October 7-8, Glencoe on October 9 and 16, Faraid and Muir of Dinnet NNR and canoeing on Loch Lurgainn.

Lochaber is home to an exceptional variety of different types of rock, with a range of ages stretching back three-billion years, and there will be a talk on the area's rocks and minerals at Lochaber

Geopark Visitor Centre on Monday October 16 followed by a children's fun day on Friday October 20.

There will be chance to hunt for fossils in East Lothian, evidence of 'snowball earth' in Islay, and 'Scotland's Rock Story' at Aberdeen Science Centre.

More information about the festival can be found at www.scottishgeology.com/geoheritage-festival/.



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Film studio takes inspiration from Hollywood star

A NEW training scheme being launched by a Skye film studio has taken inspiration from Hollywood actor Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Utah.

Film producer Chris Young's Young Films studio at the Fàs centre in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig already makes the Gaelic TV series Bannan and production is to start soon on a major feature film about the Lockerbie disaster.

Now, in collaboration with the Glasgow and Edinburgh film festivals and the National Film and Television School, Young is creating a residential training scheme, the Young Film Foundation, to encourage new talent, as well as planning an annual forum for directors, writers and producers.

Mr Young said: 'The Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program really inspired us. At its base in Utah, with the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, participants are encouraged to take creative risks and experiment with projects and their voice.'

'Just as the Rockies are a huge feature of Sundance, we believe our place in the Scottish Highlands and Islands is key to attracting applicants and world-class mentors.'

'Eventually, I hope we can make Skye as renowned as

Sundance, as a place for film and TV creatives to come and develop their work and to progress their careers.'

The foundation is looking for six new Scottish writers, directors and producers to come to Skye for a residency programme to work on their feature, TV drama and comedy projects, supported by Film4 and Channel 4's nations and regions.

Sue Bruce-Smith, Film4's head of commercial and brand strategy, said: 'We look forward to helping guide and develop the next generation of Scottish filmmakers in this inspirational setting.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Principal, Professor Boyd Robertson, commented: 'Fostering talent and skills development is part and parcel of what we do at Sabhal Mòr and the Young Films Foundation scheme will extend these opportunities and enable Gaelic speakers to play a fuller part in the film industry.'

This announcement comes at an exciting time for Scotland. Earlier this year BBC Scotland announced plans for a new Scottish channel and at the Edinburgh International TV festival last month, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon revealed the National Film and Television School will be setting up a hub in Scotland.

Application forms for The Young Film Foundation can be



Producer Chris Young watching a scene on the screen. Photograph: Cailleán MacLean.



Old Sleat Road. Photograph: Cailleán MacLean.

downloaded and submitted in English and in Gaelic via the YFF website from October 23 to December 1.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to informal interviews

during the Glasgow Film Festival in February. Following that, the six finalists will be selected and will begin working with mentors in preparation for May residency.

Wave of success as Jessica secures coastal degree first

SANDY NEIL
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JESSICA Leggatt will make history tomorrow (Friday) when she becomes the first West Highland College UHI graduate to complete the University of the Highlands and Islands' Marine and Coastal Tourism degree.

Jessica, who currently lives in Spear Bridge but originally hails from Fortrose on the Black Isle, will receive her award at the college's annual graduation ceremony in the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

During the summer she had a graduate internship at Active Highs, a local provider of outdoor activities.

Her role involved assessing the business and drawing on her studies to produce a report signposting future opportunities. She is currently working with clients and running trials with some of her ideas.

Jessica is also working on setting up her own business, Canù (Gaelic for canoe), as well as working on her new property which will also provide tourist accommodation.

Canù will offer tailor-made adventure days out, courses and multi-day trips. As well as canoeing and river kayaking, Jessica also hopes to offer sea kayaking, hill walking, climbing, ski-ing and biking in the future.

Jessica is also one of a few women

holding high level coaching qualifications in a number of disciplines. Over her four years in Fort William, there have been many opportunities to take to the local waters and build skills and experience.

The School of Adventure Studies at West Highland College UHI offers this unique course in response to the growing opportunities within the marine and coastal tourism sector worldwide.

The BA (Honours) programme prepares graduates for professional careers at all levels, from face to face delivery to national strategy.

Coastal communities are often disadvantaged economically and

infrastructure is tested when large numbers arrive. The question of how to manage this demand, and this resource, sustainably, will be the big challenge in the coming decades. The BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism aims to train the future shapers of this sector.

Alex Williams, programme leader for marine and coastal studies, said: 'Jess was in the first, small intake of students. Since then we have grown and developed and Jess has been a part of that journey. She represents what we aimed for at the outset: motivated, skilled graduates capable of success in this growing sector of the Scottish and UK economy.'



Jessica Leggatt.

Lord Thurso to deliver memorial lecture

VISITSCOTLAND chairman Viscount Thurso will deliver this year's Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture, a major highlight of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's Ideas Week 2017.

The lecture will take place at Lochaber High School on Friday November 17.

Lord Thurso has been involved in hospitality all his working life with a distinguished career working in the luxury tourism industry. He sat in the House of Lords between 1995 and 1999 and was the Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross from 2001 to 2015.

Lord Thurso was appointed chairman of VisitScotland, Scotland's tourism agency, in 2016. There is a perception that through 'living on the edge' he will better understand the challenges faced by tourism businesses operating outwith the busy central belt.

Chris O'Brien, Lochaber's destination manager at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'We are delighted Lord Thurso has agreed to deliver the esteemed Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture, one of the highlights of Lochaber Ideas Week.'

'With his breadth and depth of experience, in particular his knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and tourism industries, together with his numerous high profile and esteemed roles in the world of politics and business, he will undoubtedly give us an entertaining and impassioned speech.'

Lochaber Ideas Week, which runs from Monday November 13 to Friday November 17, celebrates business, education and community through talks, workshops, competitions, discussion and networking.



Lord Thurso.

CalMac's wildlife efforts recognised with award

CALMAC'S efforts to build better environmental partnerships across the West Coast have been recognised by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

The trade body awarded the Crown Estate Scotland Award for Excellence in a Marine Business to the ferry operator for its work in building working relationships with wildlife groups.

CalMac approached Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Marine Scotland last year to see how the company could help capture a range of environmental and scientific observational data. 'With set, year-round routes CalMac was ideally placed as a platform for the monitoring of the marine environment,' said the company's environmental manager Klare Chamberlain. 'We offered our vessels to help with wildlife surveys and both organisations were keen to get involved.'

The partnership developed into a citizen science project using volunteers to gather data on-board.

The project was backed by SNH, Marine Scotland, RSPB, British Trust for Ornithology, Argyll Bird Club, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, ORCA, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation and involved marine bird and mammal surveys carried out from CalMac vessels.

Ms Chamberlain added: 'Our pilot was very successful with more than 390 animals observed by ORCA staff from the bridges of our vessels. We are planning a full survey next year and a marine bird survey later this year. I'm delighted our initial success has been recognised by the SCDI.'

The aim of the project is to help the Scottish Government further understand the status of marine wildlife in Scottish seas.



CalMac's Klare Chamberlain collects the award from comedian Marcus Brigstocke and Deputy First Minister, John Swinney.

'Gutless kayaker' takes on Great Glen for charity

A MAN who only has a fifth of his intestines remaining following serious illness has completed a momentous kayaking trip through the Great Glen in aid of a hospital charity.

Justin Hansen, 57, also known as the 'gutless kayaker', relies on intravenous nutrition being pumped into his body to stay alive. He is normally connected to the pump 12 hours a day but to complete his latest adventure, he was connected to the life support round the clock.

The occupational therapist, who lives in Portsmouth, had to waterproof the pump in his backpack in case he capsize in the loch or canal.

Undeterred by these physical challenges, Justin set off from Fort William and kayaked 60 miles up the Great Glen to Inverness in just six days.

The Ros Crana holiday barge, which operates in the Great Glen, provided a mobile base for Justin during his challenge. Barge skipper Dave Roberts said: 'He calls himself the gutless kayaker but while he may have no intestines, he's certainly got a lot of guts, courage and determination to kayak the Great Glen. It's very difficult to kayak Loch Ness as it's a massive body of water and weather conditions are changeable and challenging.'

As well as support from the barge crew, Justin also relied on Lloyds Home Healthcare delivering a week's worth of his liquid nutrition to Ros Crana.

Justin said: 'Although this is a



Justin Hansen in his trusty kayak.

shorter distance, it's been much more challenging than my previous trips on canals as lochs behave like the open sea. I've really needed the additional calories to get through this trip.'

During this trip and previous expeditions, Justin has so far raised £50,000

for the St Mark's Hospital Foundation.

Justin had to have his intestines removed in 2003 after he was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. In 2009, he contracted a heart infection which led to a stroke and the need for open heart surgery.

Gender inequality and welfare the focus for Lochaber Women's Aid



Left to right: Mihaela Tomescu; Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Women's Aid; Dr Marsha Scott, chief executive officer at Scottish Women's Aid; and Ian Blackford, MP for Lochaber. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

WOMEN and children were the focus of a discussion hosted by Lochaber Women's Aid last Thursday.

Members and supporters of the domestic abuse support charity gathered at Kilmallie Free Church, Caol, for the Welfare Reform and Gender Inequality information event to discuss the adversity faced by women and children as a result of financial abuse and gender inequality.

Guest speakers Dr Marsha Scott, chief executive officer at Scottish Women's Aid, and Ian Blackford, MP for Lochaber, shared their insights and knowledge of these issues and what can be done to alleviate problems with gender inequality and changes to the benefits system.

As part of the event, the group was informed of how changes to the welfare benefit system and the introduction of universal credit may adversely affect women and children. The group also learned how the Women Against State Pension Inequality campaign is working to address inequalities caused by state pension reform.

The evening also focused on how certain barriers to benefits are affecting Eastern European workers, with Mihaela Tomescu sharing her experience.

To find out more about the work of Lochaber Women's Aid, contact 01397 705734 or email lwa@lochaberwomensaid.org.

Ground-breaking move by NHS Highland and UHI

NHS HIGHLAND has agreed to form Scotland's first university health board.

NHS Highland and the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) are working together in a unique partnership which they say underpins their commitment to training and research.

NHS Highland's director of public health, Professor Hugo Van Woerden, said the move shows the health board is committed to ensuring joint work by staff is appropriately recognised.

'In addition, the board has agreed to the working title of 'NHS Highland: A University Health Board' which we feel will enhance the reputation

of NHS Highland and support our expertise in the delivery of integrated health and adult social care,' he added. The remit of the university partnership will be to drive forward and monitor developments across education and training, quality improvement, research and innovation and remote and rural practice and service delivery.

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead added: 'UHI continues to grow rapidly, particularly in the field of health, and has recently consolidated this growth in a school of health, care and well-being. In part, this has been triggered by the transfer of the Inverness-based School of Nursing, which

was part of the University of Stirling, to UHI. There is also support to develop a care academy to take forward the development of a home care workforce. The reason we were keen to go for university health board status, as opposed to a hospital board, is that the vast majority of our care and services are provided outside of hospital settings.'

'It is important to note this partnership will not change the formal name of the health board, nor our logo. The development of this joint venture between NHS Highland and UHI will help to facilitate both teaching and research, and lead to further links between NHS Highland and UHI.'

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The three girls at the festival in Glasgow.

Kinlochleven

THREE Kinlochleven Primary School pupils impressed Google representatives at a schools learning festival last week and have been invited to the world's leading technological education event in London.

Primary seven pupils Kaci Sillars, Emily Duffy and Daisy McGarry were invited to the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow on September 20 and 21 to talk about their digital learning in school.

The school received a Digital Schools Award in February for including digital literacy in the curriculum and using digital technologies in school communication and management.

The girls and head teacher were then invited to speak at the Google stand and share how Google Apps are being used to support and enhance learning in the classroom. As a result, Google have asked the Kinlochleven pupils to the Bett Show in London in January.

Kinlochleven Primary School head teacher Heather Thomson said: 'It was an exciting opportunity and the girls were fantastic, speaking confidently to education professionals.'

'I am extremely proud of these pupils. They are a credit to their parents and the school.'

Fort William

SHIRLEY-ANNE Somerville MSP, minister for further and higher education, visited West Highland College UHI in Fort William to better understand the workings of a small college in the Highlands.

After discussing various topics with the chairman of the board and senior college management, Ms Somerville visited classes and spoke to students.

Ms Somerville said: 'It was a pleasure to visit West Highland College UHI in Fort William. The college plays a vital role in ensuring learners across remote areas have access to quality tertiary education and it was great to see the innovative learning methods being used to achieve that. It was also particularly good to hear more about the way the college is working with schools and employers to address local employment gaps.'

Lydia Rohmer, college principal and chief executive, explained: 'We were delighted to welcome the minister and to have the chance to demonstrate how a small college in a rural environment can offer a tertiary experience.'



Lydia Rohmer, Shirley-Anne Somerville and John C Hutchison, chairman of West Highland College UHI. F40 College Visit 01

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The winners of this year's Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council garden competition.

Top Inverloch and Torlundy gardeners

INVERLOCHY and Torlundy Community Council presented prizes to the community's top gardeners this week.

The community council held its annual garden competition recently

and judge Donald Young had the unenviable task of deciding who got the top prizes. The competition was high, with Mrs Taylor winning the best overall garden. Results were as follows: Best overall garden, 1 Mrs

B Taylor; 2 Mr M MacKay; 3 Mr P Haggerty. Best flower garden, 1 Mr and Mrs MacRae; 2 Mrs Livingston; 3 Mrs J Drennan. Best ornamental garden, 1 Mr and Mrs Winder; 2 Mrs Murphy; 3 Mr and Mrs Robertson.

Glenfinnan

GLENFINNAN is one of nine Scottish railway stations in the top 100 in Britain, according to a new book.

Simon Jenkins, author and founder of the Railway Heritage Trust, profiles his favourite British stations in his new book 'Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations' and earmarks Glenfinnan as one of the best in the country. Rating the stations on their architecture, ambience and historical significance, Jenkins travelled the length and breadth of the country to narrow down the list from 2,563 to 100 - with the Lochaber station making the cut.

First opened in 1901, Glenfinnan railway station is one of the most picturesque stations in the country, sitting on a hillside overlooking the small village and Loch Shiel. The station, on the Fort William to Mallaig line, is perhaps most famous for its association with the Jacobite steam train and the Glenfinnan viaduct, which have both become synonymous with the Harry Potter films and attract thousands of visitors every year.

Rannoch, Aviemore, Perth and Pitlochry stations were some of the other Scottish stations named on the list.



Andrew Lyall, lead engineer of arc-net, with Alex Bruce, managing director and master blender of Adelphi.

High-tech Ardnamurchan bottles to safeguard whisky against fraud

A DISTILLERY in Ardnamurchan has formed a partnership with a digital technology firm that aims to safeguard the industry against counterfeits and fraud.

With the help of technology company arc-net, every bottle of spirit from the Ardnamurchan Distillery will have its own unique story, with whisky fans able to find out every detail of the bottle of spirit, from the field the barley was farmed in to who bottled it and when.

The information will be stored on a digital platform, accessed by scanning a unique code. Amid growing concerns about counterfeits of rare Scotch, the advance also means whisky importers and collectors can

have absolute certainty in what they are purchasing, heralding a major development in food security, traceability and transparency. Alex Bruce, managing director of Adelphi, which owns and operates Ardnamurchan Distillery, said arc-net's Blockchain innovation would be piloted on their new Ardnamurchan 2017AD spirit.

Mr Bruce said: 'By simply scanning a bottle on their phone, customers will be able to find out unrivalled detail about their spirit.'

'Every detail of each bottle's story will be recorded, from when it was made to where it was exported and more.'

'The full Adelphi and Ardnamurchan story will be there.'



Sunnyside Primary School pupils enjoying their trip to Ullapool.

City pupils enjoy trip to Ullapool

A GLASGOW primary school was invited to Ullapool for an educational visit after fundraising for a marine charity in the area.

Following the mass stranding of pilot whales in Skye in 2015, Sunnyside Primary School decided to support efforts in the Highlands to fund raise for a whale rescue pontoon.

The school sent up money they raised to a local group of British Diver Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) based in Ullapool that covers the north west Highlands.

Local BDMLR co-ordinator Noel Hawkins contacted the school and their teacher Lise Perrie and after seeing how enthusiastic they were the pair invited the children up north. After almost two years' fundraising and planning, Sunnyside finally got to spend a week at Ullapool - visiting

numerous places of geological, marine and community significance. During the visit, the pupils visited the local GeoPark to learn about important geology in the region, took a cruise to the Summer Isles and visited a community-owned island where they cleaned a beach and planted native trees. They also toured the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's research vessel Silurian and Marine Scotland's Scotia and got to see an archaeological dig at Clachtoll Broch.

It is hoped the relationship between the schools will continue. Ullapool pupils are going to Glasgow in March next year to work on urban conservation. The project was supported and funded by Ullapool Harbour Trust, St Martin's Lodge, Metala and Awards for All.

RETRO Roamer

More Roamerisms from the late 1980s

☐ A Caol mum had a pile of washing and ironing to do. Going through the various items, she came across a pair of jeans. Across the backside of them was a great big tear which made the jeans look as if they'd been cut with shears. 'They're not getting washed,' decided mum, and she threw them in the bin. A day or two later the son of the house harangued her. 'Where's my new jeans?' It transpired he had spent £40 on the new, trendy, designer-slashed jeans. 'Well, they're over at Brackletter Dump now, son,' said mum by way of consolation.

☐ It had to happen again. And it did. Breathless 'tourist' in the Cameron Square nerve centre. 'Can you tell me where the Royal Hotel is?' he panted. Blank looks. Tyndrum, maybe. 'No, Fort William, look I've got the brochure.' Pointed to the advertising blurb. Aye, Port William.

☐ It has been a busy week in the council chambers. There's been meetings of the planning committee, environmental health services committee, resources and general purposes committee, leisure and recreation committee and a get together of the full council. Along with the hot air, we've had plenty of sound effects. Like the drilling and hammering outside Lochaber House, as essential maintenance is carried out, effectively drowning out much of the debate. So the public were invited to sit at the hallowed round table, all the better to hear proceedings. Then the curtains were drawn across the public gallery to baffle some of the extraneous clatter. Well, the curtains certainly baffled the late coming members of the local electorate who sat stolidly behind them, straining to listen to the discussions. Then Jean took a look through a chink in the drapes, discovered there were folk sitting there and invited them to join everyone else in the body of the house.

☐ Then there was the court case about the black kitten 'Negrita', smuggled into Scotland from France by its owner named, ironically, Monsieur Blanc. When it was suggested M Blanc forfeited his passport as surety, it transpired he didn't have one! He had travelled over with only his identity card. The Sheriff was on his high horse and said: 'When I go to France I have to have passport, visa, documentation and goodness knows what all. Why do we have all this rigmarole and yet you have just a carte d'identification?'

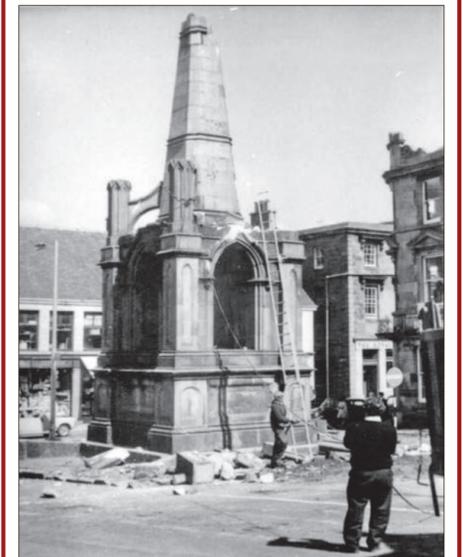
☐ Lochaber's ambassador to Perth, Councillor Charlie King, the only known St Johnstone supporter in the West Highlands, was shopping in Inverness, for a change, on Saturday. But his thoughts were of MacDiarmid Park, in Perth. On the way to 'Inversneckie' he had the car radio on. St Johnstone 1 Aberdeen 0, as they went through Fort Augustus. 2-0 when they reached Invermoriston, 3-0 at Drum. Charlie was 'over the moon' as they say in soccer circles. By Lochend it was 4-0. And, as he parked the car in Inverness, Saints went nap - 5-0. On his reluctant way round the shops with a trolley, Charlie observed to Christine: 'It must be six by now.' Said Christine: 'Don't be silly, it's only 25 to five.'

☐ What do you reckon to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team's middle age spread? I'll rephrase that. It should have read 'middle page spread'. In the Record last weekend, in full colour, Alex Gillespie, who wasn't in the pictures but had taken some of them, reckoned Donald Watt and his eight cohorts had initially been posing for a record album sleeve and not for the Record. Like 'Donald Watt & the Watermen' or 'Donald, Where's Yer Gaiters'? maybe. Or the Ben Nevis Hill-owatts. In any event, it was a superb spread, and well merited, say I. Grovel, Grovel.

☐ A reminder that our postmen are pretty versatile. What's that all about? You may well ask. Well, last week, the local mailmen successfully delivered an item to Lochaber High School which bore the following name and address: 'Private and Confidential. To the Principle, Lochaber High Street, Fort William'. Go to the top of the class lads..

☐ Here's a canny canine tail, sorry, tale. Willie was having a couple of drams in the Lochy with seven mates. Then they all opted to head for town. But Willie had his Collie dog with him. No problem. Willie went on the phone. 'Can I have a taxi for ma Collie to Corpach, please?' Five minutes later a familiar figure appeared in the Lochy. 'Taxi for MacAulay', he yells. On closer inspection he discovered, in the doorway, Willie's Collie. With two £1 notes in his mouth and a piece of paper with the Corpach address. And off went 'taxi for ma Collie', while Willie was en route for the Fort.

☐ Did you hear Jane Franchi on Superscot on Monday night? Asking the contestants if they knew where Ban-AY-vie is. Just down the line from Mal-Laig was the closest answer.



The beginning of the end of The Kennedy Monument in Cameron Square.

FW

£1m community broadband scheme for Mull 'in jeopardy'

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

MULL'S 'groundbreaking' project to bring superfast broadband to 1,600 homes in Argyll's remote blackspots has descended into an 'impossible mess' after its contractor went bust, wasting four years of work and £1 million of taxpayers' money.

Directors of the community-run GigaPlus Argyll say the organisation is now in an 'absurd' situation where it is burdened with eight masts it cannot use, which will probably have to be removed at further public cost, after only two houses were ever connected.

BT is contracted to provide superfast broadband to 95 per cent of the UK, leaving the remotest five per cent uncovered, and in 2012 GigaMull was born to reach the parts BT could not.

The community-funded and -run service expanded into GigaPlus Argyll (GPA) to bring superfast broadband to Mull, Iona, Lismore, Colonsay, Luing, Islay, Jura and the Craignish peninsula.

Some £988,000 of government funding was granted towards the network's staged roll-out by Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), a Scottish Government initiative led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Contractors were invited to tender and GPA appointed Lincoln-based AB Internet Ltd, which also supplied the CBS-supported project Loch Tay Internet, to construct a network of masts and operate the system.

However, GPA director Tim Dawson told *The Oban Times*: 'After considerable delays in the

Atlantis celebrates landmark anniversary in style



It was all go at Atlantis Leisure as the centre celebrated its 25th birthday and the opening of the new under-fives playpark, complete with pirate ship Salty-Dog. Along for the fun were Friends of Oban Playpark, Oban Sea Cadets and sponsor Scottish Sea Farms. Picture special – page eight. 15_T40_Atlantis Leisure's 25th birthday party_07

construction programme, the contractor revealed in April 2017 that it was in financial difficulty and in May it entered voluntary administration.

'GPA had made all payments under the contract at the appropriate times and is a completely innocent victim of the contractor's failure.'

'The contractor left just eight masts constructed on Mull, with a link back to Oban. Official expenditure up to this point was £700,000, but taking into account other administrative

costs is likely to have exceeded £1 million of taxpayer money.'

Only two houses were connected before AB Internet went into voluntary administration and the contract was terminated.

The infrastructure nominally belongs to GPA under the terms of the contract, but Mr Dawson said: 'GPA is not allowed to use the existing masts for any community scheme it may try to set up because they were constructed under state aid regulations.'

'This ruling is likely to make it impractical for GPA to set up

a community scheme to salvage something from the mess.'

Mr Dawson continued: 'It appears the only solution for the masts is to dismantle them and make good the ground, at further public cost.'

'Since May, GPA has been struggling to find a way forward. The official attitude of government agencies could be summarised as: "Tough, go to the back of the queue".'

GPA's chairman Moray Finch added: 'AB Internet's failure leaves the 1,600 properties that

were covered by the project with no prospect of a superfast broadband service in the timescale of the contract – and the contract was already around 12 months late when it was terminated.'

Mr Finch said the board of volunteers faced an 'impossible dilemma' exploring the options ahead, and he was not optimistic a solution would be found at their meeting with CBS and HIE at Craignure on Wednesday, adding: 'It appears every common-sense suggestion we have put forward for a community-led

solution is prohibited by the advice from CBS and Broadband Development UK. Meanwhile, time moves on and our remote communities continue to be depopulated, in part due to the poor and, in some cases, non-existent broadband provision.'

'We feel strongly that public funding should be made available, free of restrictions, to resolve the situation allowing us to deliver our community's – and indeed the Scottish Government's – aspirations for Next Generation Broadband.'

MP hits out at minister over crew shortages

WESTERN Isles MP Angus B MacNeil has voiced disappointment with the response he has received from the Minister of State for Immigration, Brandon Lewis, about the crew shortage crisis in the West Coast fishing industry.

In March, Mr MacNeil hit out at the Home Office for failing to consider reintroducing a scheme which would allow non-European people to work in the industry and in July he wrote to Mr Lewis calling for him to visit the West Coast of Scotland to meet representatives of the fishing industry as they struggle with a shortage of crew.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I invited Mr Lewis to meet with representatives of the West Coast of Scotland fishing industry so as he could see the damage the UK government's rules on migrant workers is having on fishing communities.'

'The response from the minister shows a clear lack of understanding about the crisis in the West Coast of Scotland fishing industry.'

'The minister has informed me that in April his officials met the Scottish White Fish Producers' Association and the Anglo-Northern Irish Fish Producers' Organisation, who were invited to work up some further proposals as to what sort of arrangements might assist in meeting its needs while not undermining the government's policy of restricting the use of non-EEA labour to fill "less skilled" vacancies in the UK.'

'Anyone who is, or has been, fishing would never describe this work as "less skilled".'

'The minister has indicated to me that he thinks it would be best to see what emerges from these proposals before committing to my suggestion of a visit to the West Coast.'

Lochaber Ideas Week

November 13-17, 2017



Sporting legend Gavin Hastings to inspire Lochaber at Ideas Week 2017



Visit Scotland | Alba™

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce An Evening with Gavin Hastings, an inspirational and motivational sports and business focused talk from one of the finest world rugby players of his generation, as part of the Lochaber Ideas Week 2017 (#LIW2017) programme - 13-17 November 2017. This event, presented in partnership with VisitScotland, will be staged at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie, near Fort William on Monday 13 November 2017 at 6pm; and will be followed by a Q&A session with Gavin hosted by Riddell Graham of VisitScotland.

Former Captain of Scotland and The British and Irish Lions, Gavin Hastings, is one of Scotland's best known sports and business speakers, dedicated to encouraging and celebrating the application of the values and leadership quali-

ties of elite sport to business. By providing an uplifting insight into his life as a rugby player, business leader, charity ambassador and sports pundit he will highlight what it takes to

“
We are delighted to have Gavin Hastings join us for Ideas Week 2017 **”**

Chris O'Brien
Lochaber's Destination Manager at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

be a great team player and leader, showing how we can apply the lessons learned on the rugby pitch to a business environment in order to create a road map to success.

Lochaber Ideas Week, now in its fourth successful year, celebrates business, education and community through a gathering of exceptional talks, workshops, competitions, discussion and networking opportunities.

Chris O'Brien, Lochaber's Destination Manager at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: "We are delighted to have Gavin Hastings join us for Ideas Week 2017! Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is eagerly anticipating the

opportunity to hear how Gavin's incredible on pitch achievements and leadership of the national team have translated in to the world of business!"

As an amateur rugby player Gavin Hastings qualified as a Chartered Surveyor working with CB Richard Ellis in London and Glasgow before following his passion and working in sports marketing and setting up his own business on his retirement from International Rugby. He sold the company some 10 years later and is now a Director of two separate businesses that he has started with former work colleagues. Hi Events specialise in Corporate Events and Hospitality. Positive Leadership is a consultancy whose mission is to help business leaders, and those on the path to leadership, excel under pressure.

To find out what else is going on in Lochaber Ideas Week 2017 go to: <http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events/>

For tickets for Lochaber Ideas Week 2017 go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lochaber-ideas-week-2017-an-evening-with-gavin-hastings-tickets-34073287119>



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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

NHS Highlands' decision to cancel a Fort William pensioner's hip operation at Raigmore Hospital on Monday morning due to a flooded basement understandably left the gentleman angry and frustrated.

The forecast was for stormy conditions on Sunday, including heavy rain, so you would think that with the basement area of the hospital having a flat roof and the vital servers being housed there, someone would have kept an eye on things and been alerted to the problem before it became such an issue. How did it get to the point where the room had so much water in it that it was an

electrical risk and other systems also became affected? That was bad enough but, having had to wait over a year for an appointment in the first place, it beggars belief that not only was there not a bed prepared for Mr Cromar when he arrived on the Sunday evening ahead of his scheduled operation but that when he was told about the cancellation staff were unable to say when the operation would be rescheduled.

Hip-replacement patients tend to be in a lot of pain by the time their operation comes round, so to be sent home with no new date will have been extremely distressing.



Days gone by – 1997

Tobermory Primary School Choir is the focus of days gone by this week. The youngsters and their teacher paused between Mòd competitions to pose for a photograph back in 1997.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I CAN assure readers that when I wrote last week's piece about Malcolm Jones I had no idea of the announcement that was coming the next day, but as it turned out the sentiments of it were more pertinent than I expected.

As most will now know, on August 18, 2018, Runrig will bring their 45-year reign as the unmatched kings of Celtic music to an end with a final concert underneath the majesty of Stirling Castle.

All the energies, attributes, fortune, favour, character and creed that created this powerful entity that is now nearing the end of its rich voyage could not be given justice in a whole edition of *The Oban Times*, far less a 500-word article.

So in extension to my piece of last week, here are some short verses on Runrig. Thanks and credit to my mother, Flora, for the last verse.

Runrig

They conquered the world in the ways of the wise
On a wavelength in tune with their past;
Without brash ambition to grab for the prize
No dash to be flash or be fast.

But steadfast and steady they furrowed the field
With a plough that their people passed down.

By the gifts of their skill,
unmatched was the yield
Healed land, by their hand, is their crown.

And conquer they have, but with nobody beaten
They have won but no-one has lost.
On the power of their poem, a race starved and has now eaten
And a cliff from abyss has been crossed.

They have led with the beam of a lighthouse at sea
And guided a ship from the reef.
If the ship of the Gael continues to be
Nod then to their pen and belief.

Pioneers of a path to share wide their song
They showed the way first for us all,
And all who come after in debt will belong
For their grit to commit to their call.

Through blood to the Brothers the gifts of the bards
Then a well of deep riches combine
For working the well are god-given guards
Turning thought and the water to wine.

Humble the ways of true leaders of men

With grace and humility's hand
When asked 'What is Runrig?',
time and again
To this day they will say, 'Just a band.'

But 'just a band' they are not, and never have been
From inception, through change and transition
From the seed to the sapling, their song evergreen
With a key to the tree of tradition.

What they've done for their people cannot be repaid
Giving confidence back to the young,
Past members and present all built what was made.
To our side now the tide they have swung.

And now from their stage they have planned their last bow
In the way they have lived for their goal –
With dignity, wisdom and guiding the prow
All done, while at one with their soul.

Fir ghasda, fir ghaisgeil,
stèidh'chte daingeann san tìr
Le sùil gheur air cuireachd 's air buain;
Le feamainn an dualchais chuir iad toadh air fonn.
Le gach tonn dhùin iad 'Cearcall a' Chuain'.

money tree. But yes it's badly needed.' Lewis MacLachlan urged: 'Yes and build it now!'

Stewart McIver said: Yes about 20 years ago.'

Graeme Livingstone warned: 'Don't do it! Fort William has never recovered since it took traffic away from the Main Street.'

Bob Young suggested: 'Oban also needs a car park. Very badly.'

Rosemary Hunter concurred: 'I think you have hit the nail on the head...how many of those cars are tourists looking for a parking space.'

Dave Gibson said: 'Definitely.'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Plans for Kingshouse are all about money

Sir,
I lived at Kingshouse for 16 years, working at White Corries Ski Centre.

Before the introduction of outside lights on the hotel, Kingshouse was on par with some of the darkest places in the UK for night skies, the aurora borealis being particularly spectacular.

The Kingshouse Hotel has long been associated with climbing and walking. The bar and bunkhouse were particularly busy at the weekends as it was where people from all over met and where dogs were welcome. The coming of the West Highland Way saw a huge change, with hundreds of walkers passing by and many using it to stay.

Living there allowed me to see wildlife up close and I still have a photograph of a red deer at my front window. Walking to work in the mornings I passed grouse, hares, capercaillies and red deer.

We all know that progress brings change and we all move on, but there are some things and places that should be kept precious, Kingshouse and Rannoch Moor among them.

I note that the expansion at White Corries Ski Centre is encroaching on the remoteness of an area that not so long ago was described as one of the last wilderness spaces left in northern Europe.

George Goldsmith's vision for Kingshouse is purely a money-making one, advertised as closed but with bunkhouse open, at £20 per night, the hotel at present has only a bar open, called the Way Inn with no dogs allowed.

The existing extension was built by Robin Fleming and Philip Rankin, one the landowner and the other the ski centre owner. It was built to house the influx of skiers expected and, in the first year of opening, included a resident alpine ski instructor. There was also a curling rink.

The extension bears the brunt of the westerly weather and in the mid-eighties suffered severe damage during a gale that destroyed buildings at the ski centre.

Perhaps the time has come to modernise the building and bring it into the 21st century but at least it should be done in keeping with the character and the past of the original building.

The decision will ultimately lie with the planners but they must listen to the wider community and the people who have known and used and appreciated the uniqueness of the area for a long time.

The Kingshouse and its surrounding area are precious in a time when 'modern' is synonymous with destruction, and I feel that the modernising of Kingshouse is all about making money.

Cyril Bonnett,
Maccoll Terrace, Ballachulish.

Wonderful treatment from Oban hospital

Sir,
While on holiday in Oban last week I was admitted to Lorn and Islands hospital for three days and wish to comment on the wonderful treatment I received there.

We read so many negative comments in the papers regarding the National

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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AIR TAOBH EILE Loch Dhùn Bheagain, ma choinneimh bhaile Chaileaboist agus an cois tuath a' Chlaiginn, tha tràigh bhreagha gheal a tha na h-annas anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

Ged a tha an Claigeann mu trì mìle tuath air Dùn Bheagain, chan eil rathad lùbach, cumhang; dìth aitean-parcaidh- chàraichean; neo còrr air mìle de choisachd chun na tràghad a' bacadh mhiltean de luchd-turais bho Thràigh a' Choraill mar a theirear ri the anns a' Bheurla. Ach air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, 's mi thall an Caileabost 's gann a' b'urrainn dhomh an sealladh a chreidsinn is cladach a' Chlaiginn a' dèarsadh le solais a' lasadh na slighe eadar an rathad agus an tràigh.

Mun àm a nochd na solais ann am beul na h-oidhe, bha mi air tuigsinn gun robh film ga chlàradh nar nàbachd. Mu mheadhan feasgair air latha ghas foghair le sgal gaoithe bhon ear dheas ghlac fuaim heileacoptair m'aire agus chithinn i a' sgèith os cionn Dhùn Bheagain. 'S dòcha mu

Health Service, but from the porters, kitchen staff, nursing staff and consultants I have enormous thanks regarding my treatment.

I must also comment on the cleanliness of this hospital and again my sincere thanks to all.

David Phillips,
Brynawel White Hart, Cardiff.

Decision is political correctness gone mad

Sir,
I would like to join the numerous councillors that have quite rightly criticised a decision to ask our heroic Royal Marines to leave their unloaded weapons outside a school when they were delivering a classroom presentation.

Shockingly, our marines who were invited to talk to pupils at primary schools in Oban and Dunbeg were given a last-minute instruction not to bring the tools of their trade inside.

I have received a deluge of emails and phone calls from people across Argyll and Bute who share my outrage at this slap in the face for our armed forces.

It seems that all it takes to ruin an armed forces school visit is a complaint from one councillor and the woolly-minded bureaucracy of some in the council.

This is clearly political correctness gone mad.

I hope that all future attempts to undo what has become a tradition in Dunbeg, in memory of one of their brave sons who died in the Falklands, will be ignored.

It is high time we all stopped listening so much to a vocal minority who do not speak for the majority in Scotland.

As a country we are hugely proud of our military tradition and, despite the hysterical objections from an easily triggered minority, that pride our country has will not be erased.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Islands transport needs to be addressed

Sir,
Once again there are murmurs of an extra ferry for Stornoway. Why?

Do we not earnestly require two ferries to replace the 30-year-old problematic boats presently serving Lochboisdale and Castlebay? Of course we do. It is what islanders wish first and foremost.

Roads engineers and others associated with transport promotion would do well to get the two-lane track finished from the Butt to Barra, which began more than 35 years ago. To do the roads would also show us islanders that they were taking care of people's priorities.

All well-read folk will understand the continuation of the madness of last summer needs addressed.

If you continue with the blinkers on not serving us islanders as noted, the island's image in the world, along with the environment being ruined, are going to be your reward.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearraidh na Monaigh,
Uibhist a Deas.

Council should not be asked to intervene

Sir,
I am astonished that a Dalmally charity should expect Argyll and Bute Council to carry out expensive improvements to a remote coastal track and build a cycle path on Mull in order for them to have a stress-free walk to Iona, during the present financial crisis ('Mull walking route is blasted as an accident waiting to happen', Oban Times, September 28).

It must be a lovely walk but no-one is asking them to do it. I wonder how the pilgrims of old, clad in cassocks and sandals with only sticks to defend themselves from the pagans and wild beasts, managed?

When will people realise that the world is not covered in cotton wool and that there are places they should not go?

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Where is CalMac's sense of humanity?

Sir,
I recently had a cataract operation in Glasgow. All was going well until the fourth day when I developed a relatively urgent situation whereby the eye pressure was building up and I needed to get back to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley within a few hours.

CalMac would not fit my car on to the next ferry as there was no room. I explained that it was a medical emergency and I needed to go right then.

I understand that if it was life-threatening, I could have got an air ambulance to Glasgow. However, it was not life-threatening, but I could have lost an eye.

Luckily, we managed to get off the island on the Lochaline ferry and made it to Glasgow in time.

Is CalMac so motivated by all this money it is earning lately that it has lost sight of the humanitarian needs of its passengers?

Hazel Morris,
Arle Lodge, Aros, Isle of Mull.

Praise for young man who helped couple

Sir,
I wonder if it's possible to thank a young man who came to our aid on Friday September 15, when our tyre burst near Ardnamurchan point.

Unfortunately, we didn't get the young man's name. However, he lives on Mull and was delivering animal feed, we think to the shop at the point and was accompanied by his grandmother.

He would not accept any payment and said that he was just passing and was pleased to help. This young man is a credit to Mull and his country and has restored our faith in human nature.

I perhaps should mention that another, older, 'gentleman' motorist had said, while I was attempting to jack up the car, that I should move the car out of his way, even though the tyre was completely flat and it could have damaged the wheel.

Brian and Cath Jameson,
Llandysul, Wales.

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

Traffic congestion in Oban remains a hot topic, with renewed calls for a bypass being made on our Facebook page.

Sarah Clarke posted: 'Yes !! Been discussed for so long - now with the volume of traffic increasing, it's been desperately needed!'

Scott Gibson agreed: 'Yes, but perhaps a good start would be to provide some decent car parking (small multi storey?) and possibly some better retailing on the north side of the town so as to stop some of the traffic from having to go directly through the town to get to the retail offer on the south side.'

Karen MacPherson offered: 'Yes! Park and ride would help too.'

Lilian Kermode remembered: 'this was proposed at least 25 years ago time something got done about it, and I dont mean discussions.'

John Mather cautioned: 'Be careful what you wish for, bypasses do bring less traffic to the road but also bring less traffic & footfall to local businesses. When shops & business start closing leaving empty units its an irreversible cycle.'

John Michael Gallacher wrote: 'According to recent comments, Argyll and Bute council doesn't have a magic

Press policy

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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.

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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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.

Former Fort hero helps sink his old club in 5-0 defeat

Football

Buckie Thistle	5
Fort William	0
Highland League	

FORMER Fort William marksman John McLeod put his old club to the sword as the Lochaber outfit continue their struggle for points.

McLeod scored two quickfire second half goals for defending champions Buckie Thistle, helping them record a 5-0 victory over a Fort William side that now has 11 league defeats in 12 matches.

The Fort travelled to Buckie with a squad still stretched with absences and injuries, most notably the captain Iain Foggio.

The visitors were intent on keeping things tight at the back and the defence managed to hold off the Buckie forwards for the first 45 minutes of the match. Keeping them at bay for the full 90 minutes proved to be a much harder task for the Lochaber side.

And it was his former goal hero McLeod who made all the difference. After being substituted on in the second half it didn't take long for McLeod to get his first on the hour mark. This sparked a goalscoring spree for the Jags as an own goal five minutes later doubled their advantage.

McLeod got on the scoresheet once more just two minutes later while Callum Murray continued the Buckie onslaught. The home time were 4-0 up in the space of 12 minutes.

With just five minutes left to play, Steven Ross added Buckie's fifth, adding to the Fort's miserable afternoon.

Super sub John McLeod was rightly named man of the match with a stand-out performance and continues his prolific record in front of goal in the Highland League, much to the annoyance of former employers Fort William.

The win moves Buckie into fourth position while the Fort remain bottom of the table without a win so far this season.

Fort William host Clachnacuddin at Claggan Park in the league next week and will be looking to make amends for that 8-0 defeat last week.

Lochaber club lottery numbers

Lottery

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 14, 16 and 20. There were no winners this week. There will now be £600 in the pot for next week's draw on Thursday, October 5.

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 2, 6 and 17. Fiona MacKinnon was the lucky winner, receiving the £300 jackpot. There will now be a jackpot for £100 for next week's draw.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 6, 13 and 20. There were no winning tickets this week so there is a £1,000 jackpot up for grabs next week.

Lochaber ease past police in league and cup double

Lochaber	13
Police Scotland	8
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER Rugby Club secured a narrow victory over a strong Police Scotland Glasgow side in a tight league and cup double on Saturday.

This fixture was due to be played last weekend but the police would have been unable to field a team due to the Old Firm game in Glasgow.

As the teams were due to play a week later in the West Regional Bowl quarter-final, Lochaber agreed to play a double header meaning that the result of the match counted for both the league and the bowl competition.

Lochaber were looking to remain unbeaten at home after two wins from two so far.

Both teams started well and it was Lochaber who got the first chance of points in the game with a penalty which Jonathan McCook slotted between the posts. It wasn't long until Lochaber had another penalty which McCook scored to double Lochaber's lead.

The game was very close with the big police forwards starting to make their presence felt in the scrums and open play. But



Lochaber's Euan Larter, left, and Jonathan McCook work together to bring down the Police Scotland player. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

Lochaber's defence remained solid and when they got the ball out to their backs they were causing the police some serious problems. The tight first half ended 6-0 to Lochaber.

The second half was no different with both sides putting

on impressive defensive performance, both shutting down any attack made. Lochaber were starting to get the better of the police in the rucks and were able to win the ball back on several occasions.

From a resulting penalty, a

quick tap and go was shipped through the hands to Lochaber captain Callum MacDonald in the centre of the field. A dummy pass opened a space in the defensive line which MacDonald exploited, breaking a tackle to score a try right under the posts.

Rugby

McCook made the easy conversion to make the score 13-0.

As the game was nearing an end, the police got their own try when they scored out on the flank, but failed to convert. The last five minutes saw the Lochaber defence having to withstand a lot of pressure as the police pressed for a second try.

As time was running out for the visitors, Lochaber defended tirelessly to stop the police scoring even though the game was won as they were eight points ahead with 80 minutes on the clock. Eventually the home side's efforts rewarded with the ball being lost forward, ending the game.

Final score in the game was Lochaber 13, Police Scotland Glasgow 8. Tries: Callum MacDonald, Jonathan McCook conversion. Penalties: Jonathan McCook, two.

This victory sees Lochaber move up to third in the league and progress into the semi-finals of the bowl where they will face Glasgow University Medics in Glasgow on October 28. Lochaber's next game is at home to Shawlands on October 7, 3pm kick off.

Ardnamurchan school awarded for sporting commitment National award

ARDNAMURCHAN High School has been recognised with a prestigious national award for innovation and achievement in physical education and extra-curricular sport. The school has achieved the sportsScotland silver School Sport Award for their commitment to getting pupils involved in sporting activity.

As part of the National Lottery-funded programme, the sportsScotland School Sport Award is a national initiative that is designed to encourage schools continuously to improve physical education and sport. The award also encourages sporting links between schools and the communities around them.

Wendy Green, PE teacher at Ardnamurchan High School, commented: 'It's an honour to be awarded the sportsScotland silver School Sport Award. Our staff work incredibly hard to deliver curricular and extra-curricular sports, such as shinty, football, cross country running and much more. We believe that physical education, physical activity and sport are important factors in the school curriculum as they teach skills for life and give pupils the opportunity to develop these skills and in doing so become more confident.'

Runners brave the wild conditions at Glencoe marathon Marathon

DESPITE the wild and wet conditions, a crowd of gritty runners gathered for the Glencoe marathon on Sunday.

A strong field of competitors were undaunted by the conditions, safe in the knowledge that they were well supported by the hill safety teams.

The event is an off-road full marathon, half-marathon and 10k – taking in some of the most dramatic scenery of the UK. The route starts in Glencoe village and ascends a total of 1,608m through the heart of Glencoe and into the foothills of Ben Nevis.

There were many international runners getting their first taste of Scotland at its most dramatic and, although there was plenty of rain, the cloud level was high so the iconic views were visible, if a little dreich.

Ian Porter and Fiona Craft were the fastest male and female to complete the full marathon, while Denis Prikulis and Sarah Balancier recorded the quickest male and female times for the half-marathon. Carolyn McLeod was the first female to win the over-50s category, while Ronald Will finished first in the over-70s category.

Results: marathon – fastest male: Ian Porter, 3:47:00; fastest female: Fiona Craft, 4:11:47; half-marathon – fastest male: Denis Prikulis, 1:34:44; fastest female: Sarah Balancier 1:47:56; over-70s: Ronald Will, 3:32:32; over-50s: Carolyn McLeod, 1:50:38.

Inverlochy take top spot at Lochaber area inter-schools triathlon championships

TWENTY Primary schools from the Lochaber area entered this year's inter-school triathlon event which took place last Monday.

The competition, sponsored by No Fuss Events, is organised by High Life Highland staff at Lochaber Leisure Centre, the Active Schools team and primary PE teachers. Each of the schools sent a team of three participants – one swimmer, one cyclist and one runner – to

start the race at the leisure centre. The race began with a swim in the pool with participants swimming 200m, or eight lengths.

It was Inverlochy swimmer Iona Dignan who was first in this section of the race, swimming the distance in 3.03. Behind Iona came Sean Troy from Banavie Primary in 3.08 and the third place swimmer was Elizabeth Morgan from Lundavra, who swam in 3.17.



Triathlon podium: winners Inverlochy Primary, centre, second-placed Lundavra, left, and third-placed Banavie. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Once all the swimmers had completed their section of the triathlon the event moved to the Braveheart car park where the bikers were ready to take on their four-kilometre ride. The riders were set off according to their team-mate's swim time, with Daniel Parfitt from Inverlochy Primary heading out first. He held onto that lead and completed the route in 9.46. Not far behind him was Robbie Gray from Inverie school who took 9.57 to complete his cycle. In third place on this leg was Finn O'Rourke from Arisaig Primary in 10.02.

After a swift transition of the timing chip between team-mates, the runners are tasked with running up the steep path out of Braveheart, towards the Saltire rock on Cow Hill before dropping back down to the leisure centre.

The pace on this leg was blisteringly fast, with the first four participants all running faster than the winning runner last year.

Sorley Swabey of Spean Bridge primary smashed the result from last year by over a minute – he finished in 9.37. In second place on the run it was

Triathlon

Josh Seymour from Invergarry Primary, who also came in under the 10-minute mark at 9.50. Zacharius Alexander from Ardgor Primary rounded out the top three runners, completing the course in 10.37.

At the end of the race the overall results saw Inverlochy come out on top with a total time of 23.55. Lundavra finished second, completing the course in 25.12 and rounding off the podium in a time of 26.32 was Banavie Primary.

Fort triples team wins the Willie Duff bowling cup



Sandra Cameron, left, presents the Willie Duff triples bowling cup in memory of her father at the Fort William Railway Bowling to the winning team Liz French, Colin MacDonald and Kevin Douglas. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and light rain showers Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.
Friday	Cloudy Winds moderate north westerly Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.
Weekend Outlook	Light rain on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 5, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	05.19 3.8 11.30 0.8 17.38 4.2 23.50 0.7	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.47 4.0 12.03 0.6 18.10 4.3 *** **	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	00.25 0.5 06.15 4.0 12.40 0.5 18.42 4.2	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	01.02 0.5 06.48 4.0 13.19 0.6 19.17 4.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	01.41 0.6 07.26 3.9 14.02 0.7 19.57 3.9	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	02.24 0.8 08.08 3.7 14.51 0.9 20.42 3.6	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	03.14 1.0 08.56 3.5 15.50 1.2 21.36 3.2	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
		Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
		Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)