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52 PAGES

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Man faces murder charge after incident at Dunollie

by David McPhee
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A suspect has been charged with the murder of a 73-year-old man in Oban, named yesterday as Martyn Smith.

Oskars Rancevs appeared in Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Tuesday where he made no plea.

The 32-year-old was remanded in custody and his case has been continued for further examination.

At around 9.40am on Monday October 1, police were called to a report of an elderly man being assaulted in Columba Court at Dunollie. The man was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A 75-year-old man was also found dead in Columba Court at around 8pm on Monday. It is thought that he may have suffered a heart attack.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'At around 8pm on Monday October 1, a body of a 75-year-old man was found within a flat in Columba Court. His death is



Police have named the victim, inset, as Martyn Smith.

being treated as unexplained. A post-mortem examination will be carried out to establish a cause of death. Inquiries are ongoing.'

When asked if the two deaths were connected, a police spokesman said that was one line of inquiry.

A woman, who lives nearby but did not want to be named, said: 'I was off work on Monday when I saw an ambulance.'

'A lot of elderly people live there, so I didn't think much of it. Then I saw police come. They had shields. I just thought

it was a drugs raid. People are gobsmacked. This sort of stuff doesn't happen round here.'

Police Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'I am aware people in Oban are shocked and concerned by what has happened.'

'I would like to reassure people that this is an isolated incident and a man has been arrested and charged in connection with the crime.'

'I can also advise that additional officers have been deployed within the local community and will be on patrol.'

She's in the money!



Susan Campbell, a 74-year-old retired nurse, won a cheque for £2,550 in The Oban Times's Spot the Shinty Ball competition, presented by editor Susan Windram. Susan and her husband, Eddie, who have been playing the guessing game for years but never won before, also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the same week. When the jackpot reached £5,000, the decision was made to split it. Last month Tracey Campbell from Oban scooped the first half.

Wheel comes off minibus taking children to Oban

Oban Saints under-13s made it through to the third round of the Scottish Cup on Saturday but the team almost did not make it home.

While travelling back from their match in Glasgow, a wheel fell off their minibus.

Luckily, the driver felt something was not quite right and began to pull over before it came off completely just as the bus approached Achnacloch Bridge, near Connel, on the A85. Alternative transport had to be arranged for the team to complete the final stage of their journey home.

The yellow minibus is operated by Argyll and Bute Council.

A spokesperson for Oban Saints Amateur Football Club said: 'The safety of the children is our main priority. We are lucky the minibus wasn't on a motorway or travelling
Continued on page two.

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Laura Campbell with members of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and pupils from Oban High at the Laura's Appeal event in the school. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Hundreds sign up to be donors for Laura's Appeal

A 'fantastic' total of 106 potential lifesavers joined the Anthony Nolan stem cell donor register at Oban High School on Monday, two years to the day since former pupil Laura Campbell received her transplant.

John Sweeney, watch manager at Oban Community Fire Station, explained: 'Laura, who is now 18, has suffered from leukaemia three times since she was a

child, and in 2016 received a stem cell transplant to treat her condition.

'While waiting for her transplant, she was determined to help others in the same position, and launched a recruitment drive which not only promoted people joining in Oban, but also raised awareness nationally, through a huge social media campaign.

'Laura approached [the

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service] several weeks ago regarding running an Anthony Nolan recruitment event at Oban High School. It is exactly two years since we assisted her with the very successful Laura's Appeal in Oban, when 212 people joined the Anthony Nolan register. Two years down the line, Laura is now at college in Oban and living a normal lifestyle and was determined

to continue to help others.'

Laura said: 'After the success of the previous campaign, I have been determined to build on this, and have helped at a number of events across Argyll and Lochaber. The stem cell register is extremely important to the treatment of a number of types of blood cancer, and my aim is to promote the joining of the register by explaining my own story.'

Wheel comes off bus taking children home

From page one.

at speed when it occurred and that nothing serious happened as a result.'

The news of the wheel falling off shocked some Oban councillors.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'This is really concerning because I would hope these buses are checked on a regular basis. I will be expecting a full inquiry into why this happened. I am only thankful that no one was seriously hurt.'

Fellow councillor Jim Lynch said: 'I am shocked that it has happened.'

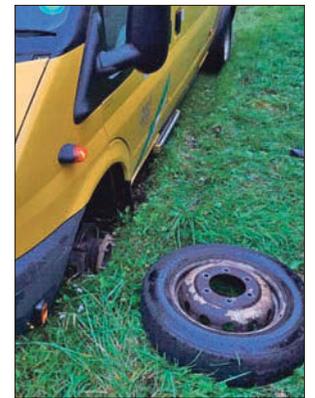
'I think we need to go back and have a look at it and see if checks are being carried out as regularly as they should be. We need to make sure it does not happen again.'

'Thankfully, no one has been injured.'

'I have run football teams for years and it has never happened to me.'

'We need to find out how it happened and if it's been sorted.'

'The parents need an



The wheel came off the minibus completely.

apology, and we are sorry. It must have been scary for the driver. Well done to the guys calming the kids down.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'This is clearly something of concern and we are looking into it as a matter of urgency.'

Oban Saints YFC 2006s defeated Pirie Park FC 5-4 in a match that 'had everything'.

A last-minute penalty, which had to be retaken, saw the young Oban footballers into the third round.

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Island gets funding to buy school

by Kathie Griffiths
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Islanders on Kerrera are celebrating securing £119,167 in funding to help them buy a disused school and turn it into a community hub.

The Scottish Land Fund has awarded the money to the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust so it can purchase the former school from Argyll and Bute Council, with enough left over to employ a part-time project worker for a year.

The rugged island with a reputation for its stunning landscape, abundant wildlife and the striking ruin of Gylen Castle, brings 15,000 visitors a year over the short ferry ride from Oban.

Kerrera is also home to a vibrant full-time community

of 64, but until now it has had no shop or village hall, only a seasonal tearoom. The school shut in 1999.

Chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust Martin Shields said it had long been an ambition of residents to bring the old school building back into community use.

Accessing social, recreational or learning opportunities on the mainland can be tricky with the regular ferry service ending at 6pm, leaving no place for islanders to get together.

With a booming population of 16 children and some residents heading into retirement, the community feels a place to meet is more important than ever, said Mr Shields.

He added: 'We are abso-

lutely over the moon. Taking the school into community ownership will be a genuine game changer for our island and provide us with a place to gather for the first time in living memory.

'I'd like to thank our local councillors and the Lorn Islands Partnership for supporting our bid to purchase the school and we look forward to working in partnership with the council and other local organisations. Now the hard work of fundraising for the renovation begins. We can't wait to get the building back into use,' he added.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, on behalf of the Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, said the community ownership project was 'great news for all concerned'.

Happy ending for this year's Bookends fest

by Kathie Griffiths
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Bookends fringe comes to a close tomorrow night (Friday October 5) with ballads and a humorous Room 101-style rant from grumpy old women.

Singer-songwriter Chris Bennett will be in the Reading Room at Benderloch's Victory Hall from 7pm before a panel of grumpy old women take over, inviting the audience to join them in a mass venting of spleen and frustration.

The bar opens at 6.30pm and the evening will end with the 'always unpredictable post-fringe surprise' says Bookends founder Joy Cameron.

Today (Thursday) Bob Toynton will be in the Reading Room giving a talk at 2pm about getting poetic works published and at 7pm there is a film showing



Volunteers and helpers from the Victory Hall team who were on hand to help at the bar.

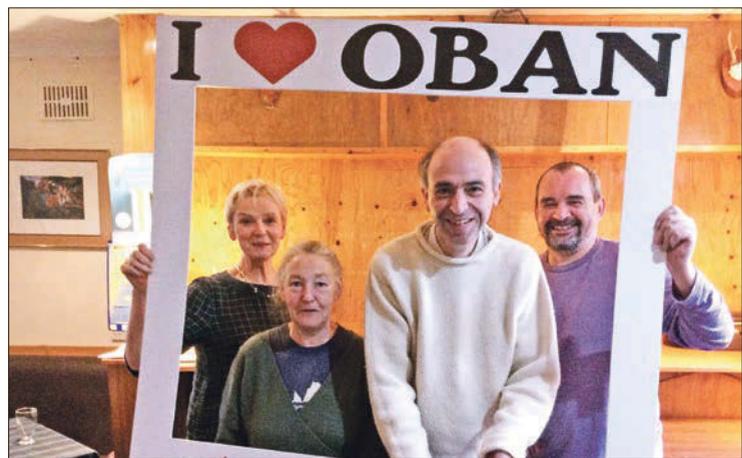
of In Our Hands, hosted by Awakening in Argyll, a documentary about small-scale agro-ecological producers.

The week-long fringe followed a successful festival packed with visiting authors, music, theatre and workshops.

Seil-based poet and author Kenneth Steven met local writers to offer supportive criticism, Bookbug was a huge hit with toddlers and young-

sters from Lochnell primary and nursery, and Tobermory Mainstreet Players, who brought a wonderful collection of seasonal poetry and song to embrace autumn, collected £100 in donations in aid of Home-Start Lorn.

Fiona Anderson's workshop on Bookbinding and Gold Tooling sold out so quickly there are plans to run a second one next year.



Breege Smyth, Sheila Quillan and Marc Headley submitted their writings to author Kenneth Steven to read and comment on as part of this year's Bookends Festival opportunities. The Oban Times was one of the festival's media partners.

POLICE FILES

At about 7.30pm on Wednesday September 26, a car was stopped by police in Stevenson Street, Oban. Checks revealed that there was no insurance in force for the vehicle and the driver, a 27-year-old man, was charged with the offence and the vehicle was seized. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 2.50pm on Thursday September 27, at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, a man aged 28 behaved in an abusive

manner. He was arrested, charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

At about 2.10am on Thursday September 27 in Ganavan Road, Oban, a car was stopped and the 33-year-old man driving was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 11.10pm on Friday September 28 in McKelvie Road, Oban, a car was

stopped and the 32-year-old man driving was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged, held for court and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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



Teenie Wilson and her sister Linda Lawrie prepare to fly to Islay. 15_T4-My Argyll winner_04

Competition winner Teenie takes off

An amateur photographer from Lismore flew to Islay on Tuesday morning after winning the #myargyll competition.

Teenie Wilson's stunning image of the sun setting over Glensanda quarry landed her a trip for two to the island, following a night at the Falls of Lora Hotel.

Teenie, who runs the Lismore post office and shop with her husband David,

brought her sister, Linda Lawrie, who persuaded her to enter, and has never been to Islay before. 'Watch out, Islay, here we come,' Teenie said.

The competition, run in association with Wyvex Media and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, sought to recognise why people think the region is

such a fantastic place to live, work and visit through photography, video and prose.

Thanks to her winning photograph, Teenie won the autumn break for two on Islay, featuring an overnight stay at the Machrie Hotel, dinner and B&B in Bowmore's Harbour Inn, a tour of Islay's newest distillery, Ardnahoe, a boat trip with Islay Sea Adventures, travel via Hebridean Airways, based at Oban Airport, a night at the Falls of Lora Hotel in Connel, and an Oban walking tour.



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Oban Live's £1.4m boost to economy

Oban Live injected more than £1.4 million into the local economy this year, according to a recent economic impact survey.

The positive figure shows a three per cent rise in impact from last year, bringing significant investment for the town over a non-holiday weekend.

The 2018 event, in its third year, was hailed a success, entertaining just over 8,000 attendees with a seven per cent increase in ticket sales compared to last year.

Thousands flocked to Oban's Mossfield Stadium, which is transformed into a concert arena for the event, to catch a mixture of highly acclaimed trad, pop and rock stars, including Skerryvore, Skipinnish, Tide Lines, Hermitage Green and Peatbog Faeries.

The event has been short-listed for Best Cultural Event at this year's Highland and Islands Tourism Awards in

November. Winners from each category at the awards ceremony will automatically be put forward as a regional finalist in the National Scottish Thistle Awards scheme.

A rise in visitors from elsewhere in Scotland shows that people are increasingly travelling to Oban Live from further afield. Some 63 per cent were visiting the event from outwith the local area, and 99 per cent of survey respondents said they were in the area as a direct result of the event. Eight per cent were visiting Oban for the first time. More than 18 per cent stayed for four or more nights. Visitors each spent on average £333 on accommodation, food and drink while in Oban, with spending in the town at its highest in bars, restaurants and cafés.

A fringe partner programme was introduced for the Oban Live 2018 event which encouraged local

businesses to hold events or special offers over the week-end. The 2018 fringe programme, in association with BID4Oban and The Oban Times, was packed with live music events across the town before and after Oban Live, with special offers including money off tourist activities, meals and shop items.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'BID4Oban is delighted with the latest economic impact figures that have recently been released. They are testament to how our organisation can work closely with the organisers of Oban Live.'

'A huge amount of work goes on in the background with both organisations to ensure an excellent experience for both festival goers and the business community. We want to see this event go from strength to strength and in particular grow the fringe opportunities throughout the

event. BID4Oban is looking forward to supporting Oban Live during 2019.'

Naomi Hoolahan, event director for Oban Live, said: 'Since day one of Oban Live, our main aim has always been to bring positive economic benefits to the town, so the news of a rise in visitor spend is very encouraging.'

'Hosting thousands of visitors and building Oban Live to the highest standard is a costly and time-consuming job that can't be done without the continued support from our partners, sponsors, local businesses and the local community. A massive thank you to all those involved and we look forward to working with you on Oban Live 2019.'

Plans for the 2019 event, which takes place at Mossfield Stadium on June 7 and 8, have begun and ticket announcements are expected to be made in the coming weeks. Visit www.obanlive.com.



The Oban outlet has now closed.

Purdie's shuts up shop in Oban town centre

Family-run skincare and candles company Purdie's of Argyll has shut its Oban shop.

The George Street business closed for good last week based on 'a purely financial decision'.

However, Purdie's will keep open the purpose-built production site at Glenshellach Business Park.

Purdie's second shop, in Main Street West, Inveraray, will also stay open. The toiletries company formed in 2004.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'We are sad to see a shop go from the town. However, we believe

there is a business ready to take over the lease and also believe there is someone ready to take over the lease of the former Kitchen Garden deli and who is due to start refitting the shop in January.'

Mr Spence added: 'The positive thing is that we are seeing a turnover in shops being taken and people moving into the town.'

BID4Oban will be promoting its Love Oban gift vouchers in a special week from October 11 to 20, with a shop local day on November 17.

'Shop local is our message,' said Mr Spence.

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Woman hurt in accident on Railway Pier

A woman has been airlifted to hospital after being hit by a blue van at the Railway Pier in Oban. CCTV cameras show the incident happened at about 7.19am yesterday (Wednesday). Police Inspector Gillian Gardner has put out an appeal for witnesses. Anyone with information should contact Oban police on 101. The condition of the woman is not known. She was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital, but transferred to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, by coastguard helicopter. The van was surrounded by police. The driver, who was unhurt, is being questioned by police. The woman was believed to have been heading towards the ferry when it happened.



Barra bank branch saved after review

by Sandy Neil
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Two of 10 Royal Bank of Scotland branches threatened with closure have been saved following a review.

Castlebay in Barra and Biggar in South Lanarkshire will remain open, but branches in Inveraray, Kyle, Comrie, Beauly, Douglas, Gretna, Tongue and Melrose are to be shut on or around January 11, 2019.

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) said: 'Branch closures are always difficult and that is especially true in some smaller communities.'

'We had a lot of feedback around 10 branches in particular, mainly those that were the last bank in a town and more than nine miles from the next nearest Royal Bank branch.'

'The bank commissioned Johnston Carmichael to

review our decisions – and make a clear recommendation one way or the other about keeping them open or closing them.

'In their judgement, they have recommended that we keep open two of the 10 branches – Biggar and Barra. We accept this recommendation and these branches are no longer scheduled for closure. The remaining eight branches will be closed as planned.'

Barra MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said: 'This is indeed very good news for the Isle of Barra and a victory for common sense.'

'I am pleased that the Johnston Carmichael review agreed that there are exceptional circumstances in Barra which means that this branch should remain open and that the RBS has accepted this recommendation.'

'I am delighted for RBS customers and the staff in

Barra who provide such a valuable service. A cloud has been lifted from the island economy and now visitors and locals will keep proper bank services on Barra.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan added: 'This is a fantastic victory for the people of Barra. The proposal to shut the only bank on the island, leaving the nearest bank a ferry journey away, was always ill-thought-out, and provoked a reaction in the community and in parliament.'

'RBS would not have been forced into reversing its decision were it not for local campaigners very successfully highlighting the obvious injustice of what was being proposed.'

'The fact that 12,000 people – 10 times the population of Barra – signed a petition demanding that RBS keep the branch open underlines this point.'

Leaking roof closes cinema's screen two

Oban's Phoenix Cinema has renewed its appeal for funds after a leaking roof caused it to close the smaller of its two screens.

The cinema posted on its Facebook page: 'It is with great regret that we have had to close screen two once more. All showings in screen two have been cancelled and taken off sale.'

'We have tried our best to manage the water dripping through, but with the recent

downpours it has become increasingly worse. We are waiting for the contractor to seal the roof. Once that is done, we can start repairing the wall and replace the carpet and get bums back on our comfy seats.'

'The best way you can support your local cinema is to attend one of our many films we screen each week. There are also donation boxes in-store if you would like to donate.'

Learn to be a whale and dolphin surveyor

Cetacean lovers have the chance to train as a marine mammal surveyor with whale and dolphin protection organisation ORCA.

ORCA is running a one-day course at SAMS at Dunstaffnage on Saturday October 13 from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

During the session people will learn how to identify and

record whales, dolphins and porpoises during offshore surveys and how to interpret their behaviour.

There will also be the opportunity to find out about the species that may be encountered in European waters. The course is open to over-16s and costs £79. Visit orcaweb.org.uk to find out more.

Shellfish farmers to descend on Oban for two-day conference

Scotland's mussel and oyster farmers will descend on Oban next week to take part in the annual Best Scottish Shellfish competition, hosted by the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) and sponsored by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The results of this competition will be announced at the annual dinner at the Waterfront Fishhouse Restaurant, and the winners presented with specially designed plates from Richard Bramble.

The competition is judged by shellfish farmer and industry journalist Nicki Holmyard and her team – local seafood entrepreneur John Ogden, editor of Fish Farmer Jenny Hjul, and head of food and drink policy for HIE Elaine Jamieson.

The competition kicks off a two-day conference, which this year will be opened by Roseanna Cunningham, cabinet secretary for environment, climate change and land reform.

Ms Cunningham will be welcomed by Nick Lake, ASSG executive director, and will be speaking about the importance of protecting and



Roseanna Cunningham.

enhancing Scotland's marine environment and new permitted development rights for shellfish farms.

She will be followed by a session covering the social and environmental perspectives of shellfish farming, with Baukje de Roos from the Rowett Institute, Aberdeen, talking about the role shellfish can play in the health of the nation, and Morven Robertson from the Blue Marine Foundation explaining the environmental benefits of oyster production.

Several international speakers also grace the stage on the first day, with Asa Strand from Gothenberg University talking about Swedish mussel production and seed supply,

Martina Ferriera Novio from the National Association of Manufacturers of Canned Fish and Shellfish (ANFACO) in Vigo, speaking about the Spanish mussel industry, and Australian Col Bridges looking at oyster developments and technology.

Day two opens with Amanda Bryan, chairwoman of Crown Estate Scotland, talking about the organisation's role as landlord in the development of marine industries.

A session on environment and stewardship follows, with Adam Hughes from the SAMS/UHI talking about the wider natural capital benefits of shellfish production.

The final conference session covers developments in the industry, with Richard Slaski, executive director of the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) talking about shellfish research and the outlook for future funding, Michael Tate from the Stepping Stone hatchery project in Shetland outlining the constraints and opportunities for mussel seed, and Eleanor Adamson from the Fishmongers' Company looking at how targeted philanthropy can help engagement.

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Pupils enjoy their lunch, above, and pose for a group photo before heading for home.



More than 70 pupils from islands' schools take part in Iona pilgrimage

The Iona Abbey Library Project celebrated two years of working with schools on Mull and Iona with a visit to Iona of all the school groups that had been involved with the project.

Pupils from Ulva, Lochdon, Tobermory, Salen and Bunnassan were all picked up by West Coast Motors' 'big bus', the double-decker, on a school run that began in

the early hours of Monday September 24, with the bus racing to make the 10.30am ferry at Fionnphort.

With seconds to spare and a heart-stopping wait for project manager Sue Clutterbuck, the bus sped down to the water's edge where 74 children and teachers piled onto the boat.

Then, like pilgrims of times past, the children journeyed

over the water to the ancient isle, where they were greeted by Iona primary and a long crocodile of pilgrims made their way up to the abbey, stopping at Maclean's Cross as a way station to mark their safe arrival.

At the abbey, the children all visited the museum, standing crosses and cloisters and the abbey church and library, which has been

newly refurbished by the Iona Cathedral Trust to house their new heritage collection. They also learned about how the early pilgrims would have visited the relics of St Columba and all the standing crosses around the island, which marked special events in the saint's life.

Then it was all into the chapter house and cloisters, where everyone could share their

pilgrim experiences and enjoy crisps and their packed lunch.

Then it was back down to the jetty to wait for the ferry and homeward on the big bus, with a final pose in front of their pilgrims' transport for the day. Each pilgrim took with them a photo card of the abbey, with a special library stamp and a stamp from Historic Environment Scotland on it, just as early

pilgrims would have collected badges from each place they journeyed to.

Special thanks were made to the Iona Community for use of the chapter house, Historic Environment Scotland for the tours at the abbey, the Fionnphort ferry crew, West Coast Motors for helping the pilgrims to make their journey and all the teachers too.



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Council rejects cap on 800% hike in parking

A bid to stop the council turning a car park by the Arrochar Alps into one of the most expensive in Scotland has been rejected by councillors by a vote of 18 to 12.

Argyll and Bute Council has plans to impose an 800 per cent increase in day rate at the car parks at Glen Loin – an increase from £1 to £9 a day.

The car park at Succoth is used by walkers heading for the Cobbler. The price hike has been met with a major public backlash, with an online petition gaining more than 4,000 signatures.

At a meeting of the council on Thursday September 27, the SNP group presented a motion proposing a capped rate of £3 per day. They claim it will bring charges more in line with Ben Nevis at £4 per day and Ben Lomond at £3 per day, while both these car parks, unlike Arrochar, also offer toilets and other facilities.

Councillor Iain S Paterson

(Lomond North) proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Lorna Douglas, to cap the 'punitive' £9 per day at £1 an hour for up to three hours, and then £3 per day thereafter.

He said: 'It is an outrageous leverage they are trying to impose. To go from £1 to £9 per day has caused major consternation among my constituents and beyond.'

'People are not against charges per se, but they are against the level of the charges. A charge of £1 an hour is acceptable with a cap of £3 a day. This would be in line with other car parks in the area.'

'We know the council has to make money and that it has budget deficits, but these are punitive charges and I hope I can persuade the council to make a change.'

The amendment, proposed by the Liberal Democrat-Conservative administration, declared: 'Eighty per cent of

council funding comes directly from the Scottish Government; over the past five years funding to local authorities across Scotland has decreased by almost £750 million.

'Argyll and Bute Council has had the largest drop in funding of any mainland local authority, with funding down by 11.4 per cent, compared to a Scottish-wide funding drop of 5.7 per cent.'

'The council's in-year financial position is a £2.8 million overspend in 2018/19. The mid-range estimate of further savings required by the council over the next three years is £22 million. Difficult decisions have been made by this council over a number of years now to maintain a balanced budget, as is legally required.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara hit back at the rejection of the SNP motion. Mr O'Hara said: 'The council administration had the opportunity to reverse an ill-conceived policy.'

Watersay and Barra remember Annie Jane

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A special memorial service was held in the Outer Hebrides on Sunday to mark the 165th anniversary of one of the UK's worst maritime disasters.

The Annie Jane was carrying about 450 emigrants from Liverpool to Montreal in Canada when it ran onto rocks off the island of Watersay in a fierce storm and broke up.

A total of 350 men, women and children fleeing poverty and famine died. Their bodies were said to have been 'packed like herrings in a barrel' and dumped into two unmarked, mass graves in the dunes behind a beach.

The death toll may have been even higher because the names of children in the doomed ship's manifest were not recorded in those days.

The disaster on September



The service was held in Vatersay Hall. Photo: Mary Bishop-Hunt

28, 1853, marked later by a simple granite obelisk overlooking Watersay west beach, led to survivors demanding for what was the first ever public inquiry into a major incident.

Rev Dr Lindsay Schluter, minister of Barra and South Uist Church of Scotland congregations, and Barra Roman Catholic priest, Father John

Paul Mackinnon, led the community-focused ceremony on the machair in Vatersay.

'Circumstances at the time of the disaster meant that the deceased were not afforded the dignity of a funeral service and formal committal,' said Dr Schluter.

'The recent publication of a book on this disaster has

brought awareness of this to people's minds and there is a desire to do now what was not done then.'

The Annie Jane, a three-masted wooden merchant ship carrying an overheavy cargo of iron, made an earlier attempt to cross the Atlantic but turned back because of bad weather and was on her second attempt when she ran into severe difficulty.

Passengers included emigrants from Ireland and Scotland, London school boys, French-speaking Swiss missionaries and skilled workers from Glasgow hired to help build railways in Canada.

Helpless in a powerful Atlantic storm, the captain of the Annie Jane decided to try to bring the ship into Vatersay Bay where she ran onto rocks and was swept ashore in three parts on the island.

There were around 100 survivors who were fed and looked

after in a place with few trees from which to fashion coffins and only one proper dwelling house.

Dr Schluter said: 'The shipwreck of the Annie Jane overwhelmed the tiny island of Watersay, which only a few years earlier had been cleared of its people to make way for cattle grazing so only a handful lived on the island at the time.'

'The neighbouring island of Barra was impacted by clearances also and struggling with such levels of destitution and poverty which meant that its people, too, were overwhelmed with the consequences of the tragedy, caring for survivors and burying the dead.'

Dr Schluter added: 'The service was a poignant and moving event taking place at the memorial on Vatersay machair. Local people were joined by others from Lewis, Glasgow and Switzerland - one of the countries affected.'

Burial fees waived for under-18s

From October, Argyll and Bute Council will no longer charge burial and cremation fees for children and young people aged under 18.

This puts in place national guidance agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA and will provide consistency across Scotland as to when the charges for adult burials are levied.

Previously, Argyll and Bute does not charge burial and cremation fees to children under the age of 16.

Gravestone policy to be publicised

Calls have been made for Argyll and Bute Council to let cemetery lair holders know their responsibilities for maintaining gravestones.

At a meeting of the authority's environment, development and infrastructure committee, Councillor Ellen Morton said it was vital that the council's new policy on gravestones be made well-known. Stones deemed to be dangerous will be laid flat, with attempts to contact the lair holder.

Argyll pupils asked to enter photo competition

Pupils in Argyll and Bute with an eye for a good picture are being invited to enter the council's October holiday photo competition.

Prizes will be awarded to the best three pictures taken by children over the October break, with Councillor Yvonne McNeilly judging the entries.

As part of the council's drive to attract more people to live, work and invest in Argyll and Bute, the theme of the competition is simply #abplace2b - meaning pupils are encouraged to take photos of scenery, places, wildlife

or whatever else they think shows the area at its best.

The rules of the competition are: entries must be taken by pupils who attend school in Argyll and Bute; photos should be taken in Argyll and Bute over the October break; entries must be emailed to workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk by Friday October 26, with the subject line 'October Photo Competition'; entrants are also encouraged to share their pictures on social media using #abplace2b. The council may share images on its own social media and online

platforms. Pupils should ask their parents or teachers to email in their entries if they don't have an email address of their own. Emails should include the pupil's name and the name of their school.

The prizes available are: 1. framed presentation of the winning picture and £50 cash, 2. £30 cash, 3. £20 cash.

Councillor McNeilly added: 'Pictures of Argyll and Bute help to showcase the area to people in Scotland and the UK, and further afield. For example, the council's Instagram page is very popular with people far and wide.'

Plastics could be used to repair island roads

Plastic waste could be reused in future as part of the roads' network in the Western Isles.

SNP Councillor John A Maciver (Loch a Tuath) has asked Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to research the possibility of a plastic roads scheme in a bid to re-use waste and cut costs.

At last week's meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Maciver asked a question about the comhairle's position on the scheme. He was told that this would be looked into for the future.

Speaking after the meeting he said: 'I am delighted that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to look into the viability of using recycled plastic to replace bitumen in road construction.'

'This could deliver a huge saving on two fronts. It is believed to last much longer than conventional methods in road maintenance and also means that we shall cut down on landfill charges.'

The use of plastic-based materials in road construction is being investigated by many councils and has already been put into practice in some areas.

The product has been created by the firm MacRebur after the founder Toby McCartney visited southern India with a charity helping people who work on rubbish dumps and he saw there how plastic litter was used to repair roads.

The premise is that by reducing the use of bitumen in asphalt, the carbon footprint associated with road construction can be reduced. The process involves making plastic pellets from bottles and bags that would otherwise be destined for landfill sites.

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OT

Argyll MP welcomes recycling improvement

Last year saw another increase in the percentage of household waste recycled in Argyll and Bute.

Statistics released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) show that recycling rates in Argyll and Bute increased from 33.9 per cent in 2016 to 38.7 per cent in 2017, although landfill waste continued to exceed recycled waste.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said: 'It is great to learn that Argyll and Bute is making progress with recycling. However, there is

still work to be done in our communities to ensure our recycled waste exceeds waste sent to landfill.

'We all have a stake in protecting and preserving our planet and, all too often, we can see the blight of plastic bottles and containers. During recycling week, I would urge everyone to continue to be mindful about recycling.'

The SEPA figures show the amount of household waste generated in Scotland was 2.46 million tonnes in 2017 – a decrease of 38,153 tonnes.

Councillor calls for new ferries to boost CalMac

The chairman of Western Isles Council's transportation and infrastructure committee has called on Transport Scotland to build two new ferries to improve capacity on west coast routes.

The call comes following a meeting with Minister for

Energy, Connectivity and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'This was a good meeting and I believe the government and its officials are genuinely trying to find a solution to what is clearly an under capacity in CalMac's fleet.'

Willie notches up

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A CalMac stalwart was surprised with an original painting of the MV Isle of Mull to mark his 70th birthday and 50 years of service.

Oban's Willie Howe is a quartermaster on the Mull or 'Old Daisy', as he calls her, where he has worked for 30 of his 50 years' service.

To celebrate his birthday and to thank him for his service, CalMac commissioned a special painting of the ferry to give to Willie.

Willie had no idea about the ceremony and was working as normal before being called into the bar, where he was met by his children, Peter and Susan Howe, and his colleagues. Speaking about his five decades at the company, Willie said: 'It's

been a ball. I have quite a few good memories.'

Craig Mullarkey, the Isle of Mull master, also gifted Willie with a hamper and watch from his colleagues aboard 'Old Daisy'.

He added: 'The people of Mull adore him because of his patter. They always ask for him when he isn't there.'

David Gibson, CalMac's service delivery director, was in charge of commissioning the painting.

Before he handed it over, he said: 'I am delighted

to be here today to recognise the significant achievements of one of our longest serving seafarers, Willie Howe – 30 years here, 50 years with the company and 70 years on the planet.

'Willie has seen many exciting things in his time with us. He was a member of the crew on the Seaforth when the vessel hit a rock

'He was a member of the crew on the Seaforth when the vessel hit a rock in Gunna Sound'



Willie Howe received a special painting to mark his birthday and

in Gunna Sound. She had to make for Tiree pier, where she effectively sank, as much as you can in our shallow Hebridean waters.

'The ship was evacuated and the crew returned the

following day to survey the damage, only to find a drunken Irishman was still on board and had apparently spent the night.'

Willie previously worked as a skipper on some of

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Busy week continues for Islay lifeboat with double call-out

After a call-out on September 25, Islay's Severn-class lifeboat was launched again at 9.07pm on Thursday September 27 to a stranded sailing yacht.

The 36ft yacht, with a crew of four, had run aground on the south end of Cara island off Gigha with rock shelving all around it.

Belfast Coastguard had asked both Islay and Campbeltown lifeboats to launch and also called out the rescue helicopter from Prestwick.

The helicopter was first to arrive on the scene and established that there were no casualties and no apparent damage to the yacht. A winch man was put on board for safety reasons and remained on board throughout the rescue.

Due to the very shallow conditions and a swell running, it was necessary to launch the Y boat to transfer the tow rope from the bow of the lifeboat to the yacht.

Despite the falling tide, the difficulties of the shallowness of the water and the presence of rocks and much kelp, the yacht was towed to deeper water.

After checking that she was not taking in water and that engine and rudder were func-



The Islay lifeboat. Photograph: Graham Paterson

tioning the yacht made her way to Ardmish Bay at Gigha.

Relief coxswain Alastair Cameron said: 'It was a tricky operation due to the darkness, the falling tide and the yacht's position but thanks to the excellent teamwork of the crew, all went well.'

In the previous call-out, Islay's volunteer lifeboat crew went to find and help a motor cruiser that appeared to be unable to navigate and was lost in bad weather.

On Tuesday September 25, the lifeboat was paged at 2.43pm by Belfast Coastguard, which had been notified that a 40ft motor cruiser, with four crew and a dog, was somewhere off the west coast of Islay

and had a navigational system failure. Subsequently, it was discovered that she was in fact off the south east coast of Jura.

Although conditions in the Sound of Islay were reasonably calm at the time, it was very stormy in the open water south of Islay and Jura and the cruiser was taking on some water.

By the time the Helmut Schroder of Dunlossit II had located her, she was safely alongside the pontoons in Craighouse Bay with the local Coastguard in attendance.

Having ascertained that the cruiser was no longer in danger, the lifeboat was able to return to the station and was made ready for service again at 4.40pm.

50 years



50 years at CalMac. 15_T40_CalMac01

CalMac's smaller ferries, such as the Oban to Lismore vessel. Mr Gibson added: 'It is a remarkable fact that Willie has spent the past 30 years of his working life on board this vessel, the Isle of Mull.

'His role takes a great deal of concentration, which I am told he has in abundance.'

Willie also received a bespoke CalMac birthday cake which was baked by Iain Rodgers.



Scotland's International Development Minister Ben Macpherson stirs a pot of likuni phala.

Scots minister backs Dalmally-based charity

Scotland's international development minister enjoyed a mug of hot porridge in Malawi last week as he met children whose young lives are being transformed by the Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals.

Ben Macpherson was welcomed to Mpangweni Primary School in Dowra by children, staff and the community volunteers who cook and serve the likuni phala (vitamin-enriched maize and soya porridge) to hungry children every school day.

Mary's Meals attracts children to the classroom, enabling them to access an education and look forward with hope towards a life free of poverty.

Mr Macpherson said: 'I've just seen the remarkable difference Mary's Meals is making here in Malawi, feeding more than a million children thanks to contributions from across Scotland.

'It's been wonderful to see the difference that a nutritious daily meal in school, provided by Mary's Meals, is making towards helping young people in Malawi to get the best from their education and make the most of their potential.

'It's been a real privilege to see the work of Mary's Meals, supported by individuals and organisations across Scotland, making such a difference here in Malawi.'

Scottish Parliament commits to national Gaelic plan

The Scottish Parliament has published its new Gaelic language plan, which sets out how it will promote and support the language over the next five years.

Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh said the plan demonstrated the value and respect Holyrood had for the Gaelic language.

Mr Macintosh said: 'For more than a decade, Scots law

has recognised the cultural and historic significance of Gaelic, and the vital part it plays in our nation's age-old story and identity.

'As someone born in the Highlands and the son of a native Gaelic speaker, I was proud to be one of those who voted to pass the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

'Over the past 10 years, our

plans have ensured that people see and hear Gaelic being used in our parliament. Despite the prominence of the language at Holyrood, Gaelic remains vulnerable and we cannot afford to be complacent.

'In this third language plan, our focus is on public services and activities in Gaelic that provide a clear offer to the public, staff and MSPs alike.'

Meanwhile, Western Isles

MSP Alasdair Allan has called on the BBC to 'deliver more for Gaelic broadcasting with better parity of resources between the UK nations'.

Dr Allan said BBC Alba's Bafta-winning current affairs programme Eòrpa attracted both Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking audiences - demonstrating the success the channel has had in delivering for the whole of Scotland.

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OT

Islay trust to offer funding for projects

Islay Energy Trust (IET) is calling for expressions of interest from groups or individuals who would like to receive funding towards the cost of a heating or cooling system which uses the earth's natural energy to serve homes, community buildings or business premises.

The venture is part of the GeoAtlantic project, which sees a range of organisations from countries bordering the Atlantic working together to look at the potential for using geothermal energy and heat pumps as an alternative to traditional, less efficient systems.

Providing a practical, working example of how the technology can be used is key to the project, as Kirsten Gow, project development officer for Islay Energy Trust, explained.

She said: 'It's great to have the technical expertise and support of our international partners but, with such a diverse range of landscapes and climates, it's important that we're able to make the findings as useful to communities on the west coast of Scotland as possible, and the best way to do that is to set up a demonstration project here.'

'To this end, we are looking for local projects which can act as a model for others who might be interested in using geothermal energy or heat pumps. In return, we can offer a range of support including a substantial contribution to the costs of designing and constructing the system and wider project support including help to identify additional funding if required.'

New builds and retro-fitted

systems are eligible for consideration for the programme and preference will be given to projects which involve either ground source heat systems serving multiple properties as part of a district heating system, or any system which requires a borehole to access geothermal energy.

Projects which include an aspect of ongoing community benefit are especially welcome and preference will be given to projects located on Islay, Jura or Colonsay. In terms of location, second preference will be given to projects in Argyll.

Download expression of interest forms from the Islay Energy Trust website. All forms must be returned by October 22. The GeoAtlantic project is co-financed by the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme.

Let us all do our bit for community

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Last week I was lucky enough to give a talk about community groups to primary three in Rockfield school.

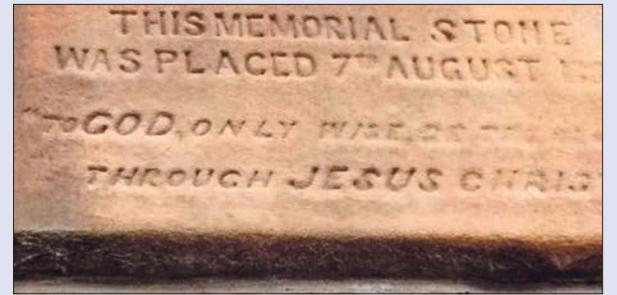
I've visited before to talk about my work as a town ambassador and it really is a joy to do. I'm so impressed by the behaviour of the children; their manners are a credit to their parents and the school. The quality of the questions they had prepared was fantastic and really had me thinking on my feet.

This visit was no different: their behaviour was impeccable and they had obviously put thought into the questions they had for me but what impressed me most was how much they already knew about the community groups in the town and understood what the groups were trying to achieve.

I was even asked if children could join Oban and Lorn Lions, which is a great idea.

It did make me think though about what happens between being a child and becoming an adult; where does all the

WHERE IS THIS?



enthusiasm go?

There are so many valuable groups in Oban all striving to do good work to benefit people in the community, with many of them struggling to find volunteers to help and I struggle to understand why.

Throughout our lives we benefit from various groups, from attending things as children or young adults to taking our children to things such as Toy Cupboard or visiting Santa or Charities Day courtesy of the Lions. We all benefit and then we have all the groups who help when things aren't going quite as well in our lives, such as the Dove Centre and North Argyll Carers Centre.

Personally, I've benefited from many of the groups in

the town and feel that it is only right to help out where I can in return. For some of the groups, even two hours once a month would make all the difference and that's not too much to ask when we as a town are so much better off thanks to these groups.

I would encourage everyone to have a wee think about it. What groups have added to your life and what could you do in return?

The children are a fantastic example to us, so keen to be involved and help; for once we should be learning from them.

Last week's photo was of a wee window in Airds Crescent above Wallace Optometrist and this week's photo is an oldie.

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Decision opens door to crofters' wind farm

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A Crofting Commission decision last week on the right of three Isle of Lewis townships to develop their own community-owned wind farms is being hailed as a major step forward for their campaign, despite the fact the commission rejected their applications.

Campaigners have pointed out that the ruling by the commission has confirmed the principle they were fighting for – that crofting communities have the power to develop wind farms on their common grazings land without the landowner's consent.

They say the grounds on which the commission turned down their applications was not on this key question of principle but on a separate argument as to whether their wind farms would be 'to the detriment' of the landowner, a point which the crofters dis-



Crofting communities have the power to develop wind farms on their common grazings.

pute because they have offered to pay the same rent as any private developer.

Rhoda Mackenzie, a township representative, said: 'This commission decision, while disappointing in its final conclusion, is a major breakthrough for the rights of crofting communities and leaves us much further ahead than we thought we would be at this stage.'

'This is such a revolutionary use of the law that we always

knew it would have to be confirmed in the land court at the end of the day but at least we now have the commission's endorsement on all the substantive points of principle.

'Our outstanding disagreements with the commission are on a point of fact and of procedure which we are happy to let the land court decide.'

Section 50B of the 1993 Crofting Act was passed into law in 2007 by the last Labour administration in Holyrood

with the intended aim of allowing crofting communities to use their common grazings for new activities – expected to be in the areas of horticulture, recreation and growing winter feed.

Most significantly, the clause stated that the consent of landowners was not required, the only caveat being that the proposed use should not be detrimental to the landowner.

However, it was never used and was languishing forgotten about on the statute books, until the three Lewis townships decided to use it in a bid to develop community wind farms on their own common grazings.

The townships' 50B applications were submitted to the Crofting Commission in September 2016 and the landowner responded with a six-page objection, having been given leave to make its objection a year late.

In its decision last week,

the commission rejected the landlord's objections to the principle of using 50B on the basis that there was no 'express restriction in the uses to which the part of the common grazings can be put, other than that the use must not be detrimental to the interests of the owner'.

The Lewis townships therefore feel that the commission has opened the door for crofting communities to make use of their common grazings for an unprecedented range of economic activity where they will no longer need the consent of landowners to do so, provided it is not detrimental to their interests.

The townships are now preparing their appeal to the Scottish Land Court, to overturn the decision that their developments would be detrimental to the landowner and also on the grounds that the landowner's objection was submitted a year late.

Council will continue to play Scrooge

Argyll and Bute Council must play Scrooge to communities which cannot afford their Christmas lights from next year, elected members have warned.

Pleas for the authority to keep some money aside after its festive funding ends this year fell on deaf ears at a meeting of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee last week.

The council decided in 2016 that it would withdraw all funding for festive lights after the end of 2018, but Councillor Gordon Blair requested last week that some money be kept aside.

He said: 'It is up to us as a council to have back-up funding available. I would like us to keep a few bob up our sleeve.'

But Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'We don't have a few bob up our sleeve to help. The Scottish Government has cut our budget by millions already.'

'We agreed as a council that roads and education are priorities.'



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OT



It was all smiles among the people attending the event.
15_T40_Susie-Wolff-evening-for-Atlantis_07



Staff from Atlantis Leisure enjoyed the evening.
15_T40_Susie-Wolff-evening-for-Atlantis_09

Sports stars repay



People from across Oban and Lorn came together at the Argyllshire Gathering to support Atlantis Leisure's evening.

Stunning new portrait sculpture of Susie goes on show in Edinburgh

Oban racing driver Susie Wolff MBE has been captured in a striking new portrait, which is now on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Susie, who retired from F1 driving in 2015 and is currently team principal of Venturi Formula E racing team in Monaco, is also the founder of Dare to be Different, a high-profile initiative that helps to inspire and develop women who work in, or want to work in, the motor sport arena.



The helmet sculpture.

This highly unusual portrait sculpture, which has been created by Scottish artist Angela Palmer, recreates in crystal

glass one of the personalised racing helmets worn by Susie during her career in F1.

Formula 1 race helmets are tailor-made to exacting design specifications to provide the maximum physical protection for individual drivers. To create the portrait, Palmer worked with a team of glass-blowers in Stourbridge near Birmingham, who made a mould of Susie's helmet in brass.

Molten lead crystal glass, at a temperature of 1,400°C,

was then mouth-blown into the mould, forcing the crystal into every detailed crevice. The final stage in the process revealed a beautiful and delicate object whose fragility reflects the vulnerability (and bravery) of drivers like Susie, as they take extraordinary risks in pursuit of ever-faster speeds.

Susie's achievements in motor racing, together with her significant initiative to drive female talent in sport and beyond, are an inspiration for today's generation of

young women. She was born in Oban in 1982, and grew up in the town, where her parents owned a motorcycle dealership.

From a young age Susie raced karts, and in 2001 she began her professional motor racing career in the Formula Renault UK Championship, where she gained three podium finishes and was twice nominated for British Young Driver of the Year Award.

After a brief spell in Formula 3, she made her name with

the Mercedes-Benz DTM Team (the German Touring Car Championship) between 2006 and 2012. In 2012, she moved into Formula 1, having been signed by Williams. She entered as a team development driver, holding the position for two seasons before being promoted to a test driver for the 2015 season.

At the 2014 British Grand Prix, she made history by becoming the first woman to take part in an F1 race weekend in 22 years.

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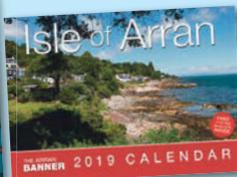
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Atlantis' support

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Oban-born racing driver Susie Wolff MBE said everyone could be proud of the town's Atlantis Leisure Centre at a gala fundraising for its 25th birthday, making £15,000 in one night.

The Evening With Susie Wolff and Friends featured the former Formula 1 team development driver, Oban's Scottish women's rugby international Abi Evans and motorcycle road racing driver Robert Wilson.

Chairman Neil Matheson told guests packing the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday that 16,000 people, twice the population of the town, used Atlantis Leisure every month, and the figure was going up month on month.

'The story of Atlantis is the story of real community spirit in action,' explained an appeal leaflet to guests. 'It's a story of a community pulling

together to raise millions to give the town of Oban a sports centre it could be proud of.

'A group of 10 dedicated individuals devoted themselves to getting the Atlantis Leisure project up and running back in 1992. Following negotiations with the council, the company took over the swimming pool on October 1.

'In 1998, a new six-court sports hall, café, gym and health suite opened its doors. Further building upgrades have included an all-weather five-a-side pitch, three-level soft play and climb cube, pool plant upgrade, biomass boiler and airsource heat pump. The front of the building has been regenerated with new tennis courts and two playparks.

'However, the time has come to upgrade the facilities. Our toilets, changing rooms and corridors all turn 20 this year and are in desperate need of attention.

'October 2017 signified the beginning of our 25th year of Atlantis Leisure, and over the past year there have been many celebrations and fundraising events, including Muddy Atlantis Day, Hallowe'en parties, a dance show, dodgeball competition, Kerrera swim, cricket and badminton "come and try", a 25th birthday party, and an Evening with Susie Wolff and Friends.'

Scotland international rugby player Abi Evans, who took up the sport at Oban High School, said: 'Rugby happened quite late in my career. To start with, I was a swimmer. I just wanted to do every sport going.

'I was practically living in Atlantis Leisure doing new sports. I think that is fundamental: do as many sports as you can as long as you can before specialising. Atlantis Leisure has supported me the whole way.'

Robert Wilson from Taynuilt, who competes in

motorcycle road racing, gave the crowd an insight into the Isle of Man TT, one of the world's most dangerous events, where the average speed is 135mph, and the fastest lap was completed in 16 minutes. 'It is like going from Lochgilphead to Oban in under 17 minutes,' he said. Becoming a member of Atlantis' elite athlete programme helped him get fit for these races.

'We can all be proud of it,' Susie told The Oban Times. 'The centre featured heavily in my childhood and I'm very grateful to have been able to train there and develop my sporting abilities. Sport is so vital for children growing up in Oban.'

Following her retirement in 2015, she has focused on a new project, Dare To Be Different, which aims to inspire and help women working in, or who want to launch a career in, motorsport. She received the MBE last year for services to women in sport.



Susie Wolff, Neil Matheson and Abi Evans at the fundraising gala. 15_T40_Susie-Wolff-evening-for-Atlantis_13



Members of Oban High School Pipe Band piped in the top table. 15_T40_Susie Wolff evening for Atlantis_04

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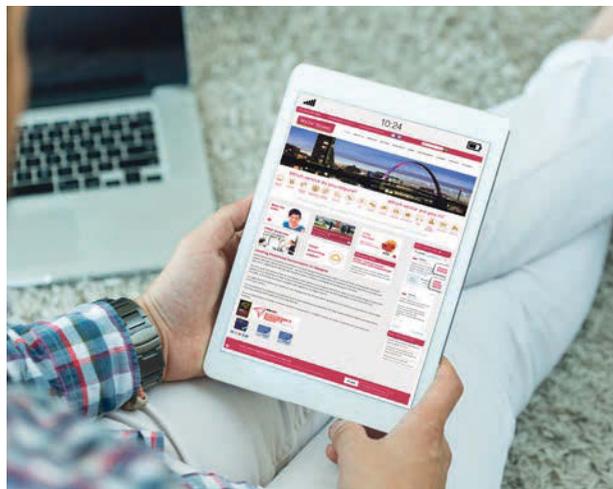
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University honours Dee

More than 90 graduating students and their guests assembled in the spectacular setting of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban last Friday for Argyll College UHI's annual graduation ceremony.

Also attending the event was the president of Scottish Rugby Dee Bradbury from Oban, who received an honorary doctorate from the University of the Highlands and Islands in recognition of her leadership work in sport at a local, national and international level.

In August this year Ms Bradbury became the first female president of the Scottish Rugby Union, and is also the first female leader of any tier one rugby nation in the world.

She has been Scottish Rugby's representative to Rugby Europe and is also on the Women's Committee for Rugby Europe. An accomplished athlete, Dee has represented Scotland and GB in athletics at junior and masters level, and has previously managed Scotland Women U18.

She has spent her working life since 1984 based in Oban, where she has championed and encouraged women and girls to play sport, as well as leading and administering sporting activities for everyone.

She was a police officer with Strathclyde Police and latterly



Helen McGuigan.

Police Scotland and is now retired. A founding member of the women's section at Oban Lorne RFC, Dee went on to occupy several committee roles within the club and is now honorary president of the club.

She has previously held the



Dee Bradbury accepts her honorary doctorate.

positions of chairwoman within Oban Netball Club, Oban Athletics Club and the Lorne Highland Games.

On receiving the award, Dee said: 'I feel exceptionally honoured to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of the Highland and Islands,

and even more so to have my family to witness the ceremony.

'Sport has been a major part of my life for many years and I am truly blessed by some of the friendships and experiences I have had as a result of my involvement. Little did



Patrick MacBeth.

I think when I took up rugby at the age of 38 that I would receive this accolade.

'The fact that we live in relatively rural locations should not preclude us from success or personal development.

'The calibre of all the graduates today is evidence of this.

Many have co-ordinated their studies with challenges such as geography, family responsibilities and professional demands. I feel humbled to have been part of this wonderful occasion. Thank you so very much.'

Andrew Campbell, chairman of the board of governors of Argyll College UHI, added: 'We are delighted that Dee has been able to join us today to receive this honorary award. Dee's achievements would have been remarkable had she been based in the central belt but she has reached the top of Scottish rugby from a small, remote rural club and in doing so has encouraged many other small clubs to aim high.'

More than 90 students graduated at the ceremony and the event was attended by more than 200 guests. Oban student Helen McGuigan was awarded Higher Education Student of the Year.

Nominated by no fewer than three members of staff, Helen has consistently achieved excellent academic results and will now progress to the third year of BA Business degree course with the University of the Highlands.

Modern apprentice Patrick MacBeth received the Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing and former Oban High School pupil Meggie Pick received the Argyll Skills for Work student of the year.

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No MV Balmoral sailings to the Hebrides

The historic ferry MV Balmoral has stopped sailing because the preservation charity which owns it needs £3,000,000.

The MV Balmoral, built in 1949 and able to carry up to 800 passengers, operated on routes around England's south coast, venturing up to Oban and the isles annually.

But the MV Balmoral Fund, the charity which owns the ship, announced last week: 'MV Balmoral remains tied up in Bristol until funds are raised to undertake major upgrade work likely to cost around £3 million - an amount well beyond the funds available to the charity.'

'The response over the next few months will determine whether it is realistic to aim for an operational future for this unique vessel, so she can once again play an active part in providing pleasure to thousands of passengers around the British coastline. If such support is not forthcoming then a decision will be needed whether she could have a future as a static, educational and heritage resource.'



The MV Balmoral anchored off Iona.

A85 to close at night for vital resurfacing

Work to resurface the A85 through Lochawe has started.

The improvements, costing £280,000, will be split into two phases.

Phase one began on Monday October 1 and is expected to take five days to complete. This phase will be carried out between 7am and 7pm each day.

The road will remain open, but temporary traffic lights

and a traffic convoy will be in place to ensure the safety of road workers and motorists.

The second phase of resurfacing starts on Sunday October 14 and is expected to take five nights, finishing on the morning of Friday October 19.

The work will be carried out between 7pm and 7am each night. There will be a diversion route in place via

the A828 and A82. However, this diversion is subject to a height restriction of 13'9" (4.2m) at Connel Bridge and vehicles higher than this are encouraged to plan an alternative route during the overnight works.

Alternatively, all vehicles will be held at the work site until short amnesty periods at approximately 8.30pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am.

Eddie Ross, from BEAR Scotland, said: 'Traffic management arrangements are necessary to keep everyone safe during the improvements. However, we've arranged for the project to be split into two phases so we can keep the road open wherever possible.'

'Our teams will do all they can to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible.'

'We thank motorists for their patience in advance and would also encourage them to plan ahead by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information.'

'These road improvements are part of a wider £24 million programme of surfacing improvements across more than 200 locations on the north west trunk road network for 2018.'

Writer's marathon cycle raises awareness of disabilities

David Reilly is celebrating cycling the 237-mile Caledonia Way to raise awareness for those with disabilities.

David, who was born with cerebral palsy, said: 'As a disability sports writer, I work to improve opportunities for disabled people to take part in outdoor sports.'

The 10-day expedition was supported by the charity Sustrans Scotland.

As part of the ride, David stopped in Oban and met with Niall Shannon, a representative from Oban Disability Access Panel, and Sustrans Scotland network engagement manager Tom

Bishop to discuss the challenges faced in making the route accessible and inclusive.

Tom said: 'We are really proud of David and what he has achieved by cycling all 237 miles of the Caledonia Way, especially with all the challenges he has faced, from the weather to the difficulty of some of the sections of the route.'

David's ride comes at the end of an 18-month review of many UK cycle routes. Results will be posted in November and will give the public an insight into what needs to change to make these routes more accessible.



David Reilly celebrates completing his cycle at Inverness Castle. Photograph: Trevor Martin.



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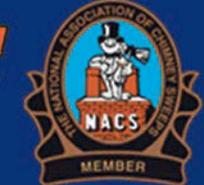
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CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES

Oban's glittering occasion

More than 200 people from Oban and surrounding areas came together at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for Oban's first charity Glitter Ball.

The event was raising funds for the SMA Trust and Oban Hope Kitchen.

Everybody at the ball had a fantastic night and enjoyed an amazing comedy cabaret from Sassy Stryker as well as music from Sutherland Groove and The Lush Puppies.

The highlight of the evening for many may have been the Butlers in the Buff, who were on hand posing for pictures and serving drinks.

The event was hosted by Crystal, a local drag performer who also organised and managed the event as well as hosting and providing music for a disco.

Everyone attending the ball looked amazing in their posh glittering frocks and their smart

suits. Tinks Faces and Balloons were there to make sure anyone who wanted some extra sparkle could get some bling.

Crystal would like to thank Spruce for helping sell all the tickets and for all their assistance.

A big thank you also went to all the performers, Amanda and her team at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Lorraine at Hope Kitchen for her help, Twilight Photographer for capturing the evening, and everyone else who helped bring the event together. And a huge thank you went to all the companies and people who donated prizes to help raise funds.

The final amount raised is yet to be announced but it will be published on the Glitter Ball Facebook page, Oban Glitter Ball. The organisers are now looking forward to bringing the Glitter Ball back to Oban in 2019.



Revellers dance the night away at Oban's first Glitter Ball, at which Crystal and, inset, the Butlers in the Buff kept everyone entertained and served with drinks. Photographs: Twilight

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Multi-agency operation saves skipper

Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew responded to a mayday call off the west coast of Mull on Sunday afternoon, September 30.

The lifeboat launched at 1.45pm into a north-westerly wind blowing force five to six.

The initial information from Stornoway Coastguard was that a vessel with one person on board was taking on water somewhere between Tobermory and Staffa.

Tobermory's Severn-class lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, was joined in the search by a number of other vessels, including the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry MV Loch Tarbert and MV Voe Jarl as well as the UK



Coastguard's search and rescue helicopter based at Prestwick.

Tobermory and Craignure Coastguard Rescue Teams were also involved.

Having seen a flare, the volunteer RNLI crew located the 8.5m RIB by Caliach Point but, due to the location and the conditions, the lifeboat's daughter craft, the Y Boat,

was unable to get in and so the skipper was winched aboard the Coastguard helicopter.

Tobermory RNLI's lifeboat returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready for service shortly after 3pm.

Tobermory RNLI mechanic Paul 'Gunny' Gunn said: 'We had very little information to go on when we launched so we were very grateful for the assistance of the Voe Jarl and CalMac's ferry Loch Tarbert. 'CalMac's ferry Isle of Lewis also offered their help.

'This was very much a team effort and we're pleased that our colleagues from the UK Coastguard were able to get the skipper to safety.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Although I'll not be joining the thousands of those who are going Sober for October, the frequency of wild partying has reduced somewhat for me over the past few years.

Our relationship with alcohol is a strange anomaly of self-damage and self-gratification combined. If the aliens are looking in on us, they will no doubt be wondering why on earth we do such things to ourselves as fill our bodies with poison, do silly things because of it, wake up feeling physically awful and mentally remorseful, having spent a fortune on the exercise, and then do it all again. And again!

It really is ridiculous and I tend to agree with the logic of the friends I have who are non-drinkers. However, logic has yet to be enough to lure me away from the enjoyment I get from having a good dram even if it's only an occasional one nowadays.

Having operated a nightclub for 10 years, I have certainly seen the worst aspects of what alcohol can amplify in human

behaviour, and in my younger days my own behaviour was not always angelic.

There is no doubt that alcohol is bad for our health, bad for society, bad for our bank balance and even worse for the wider economy but, my goodness, it can be good fun when taken in the right circumstances with the right people.

My love of whisky and my at times over-enthusiastic consumption of it has led to some of the most ridiculously bad and wonderfully good situations I've found myself in and many of my lasting friendships have been forged over the roaring fire of a good spree.

A good spree was exactly what we enjoyed last Friday and Saturday as the stag weekend of Alasdair Murray was celebrated. Ally, who has worked with us and played in Skipinnish since 2011, is a connoisseur of good whisky and the crack team of accompanying celebrants was the perfect combination to set Ally off on his road to a great Highland wedding in

November. Those present were a good representation of the many varying approaches to alcohol consumption. Some were not drinking much at all, some were going for it with gusto and some went just slightly over the score.

Most importantly, all were having a great time together and none felt any pressure to conform to the consumption rate or expectations of others.

Some great food, good tunes and songs, fine company, meeting new people, seeing new places, an enjoyably bumpy crossing to Ballycastle and Rathlin Island and an over-arching feeling of friendship, celebration and excitement for Ally's future were all very significant parts of the weekend's magic. All would have been enjoyed regardless of any drams taken but were better for the addition of a few and that is how a good party should be.

A big thanks to Flora and her team at the Ardsheel Hotel in Campbeltown for making us feel so welcome, looking after us all and showing truly warm hospitality to us all.

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BUSINESS NEWS

New scalloper launched for Islay company

A new scallop boat for Islay has just been launched. Built by Parkol Marine Engineering of Whitby, the 20m Atlantic Dawn is the first vessel to be completed at the company's new Middlesbrough yard.

She will be delivered to Islay Crab Exports, which is a family-run fishing business supplying high quality shellfish to European markets.

The company, which was established in 1985, operates a fleet of scallopers and crabbers which fish off the Outer Hebrides, the west coast and sometimes as far out as the Donegal coast in Ireland.

The catches are collected by a fleet of specially-equipped, aerated and refrigerated vehicles, and delivered to well established markets in France, Italy and Spain. The Atlantic Dawn (CN-25) will join the company's other scalloper, the smaller Crystal Dawn.



The Campbeltown-registered Atlantic Dawn. Photograph: Parkol.

Carloway Mill shows Harris Tweed in Venice

The boss of the Carloway Mill has returned from a major craftsmanship exhibition in Venice after being invited to exhibit.

Mill director Annie Macdonald made the trip to the inaugural Europe-wide Homo Faber craftsmanship event. She was invited to represent the Carloway Mill after a film crew from the Michelangelo Foundation visited this year and captured the history and workings of the Harris Tweed traditional mill.

The Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship is an international non-profit organisation based in Geneva that celebrates and preserves master craftsmanship and strengthens its connection to the world of design.

The foundation has worked with the mill for the past two years and Annie said its support is because it considers the mill workers at Carloway to be true craftspeople.

Homo Faber is an expression that was first coined during the Renaissance and is said to capture and celebrate the creativity of human beings. The foundation says it provides a panoramic view of European fine craftsmanship but nevertheless has a singular undercurrent: what humans can do better than machines.

Barbara Geary Truan, secretary general of the Michelangelo Foundation, said: 'Visitors were extremely touched by the story of Carloway Mill, of the connection it has to its stunning territory and to its faithfulness in making sure its traditions stay vibrant and relevant.'

'The film brought tears to most eyes and the Michelangelo Foundation hopes that it will



Annie Macdonald with tweeds at Carloway Mill, left, and Donna Macmillan, quality control. Photographs: SandiePhotos.com

help generate business and spark renewal for the mill and the talented people who are a part of it.'

Annie said the mill was considered unique because of the way it processes Harris Tweed by hand and the old machinery it still uses and because, she admits, the firm is so traditional in its ways. Annie explained: 'The guarantee has run out on most of our equipment but it is still running. The milling machine dates from 1892 and our washing machine was built in 1902. Our carding machines are from 1956 and 1964. Our newest machine is from

1992. We are not what you would call modern yet we still produce some of the finest Harris Tweed there is.'

Annie said that the Venetians and their guests from around Europe learned the Hebrides was a great place to live and that 'we adhere to our own culture, language and heritage' and, she said, that 'we are an exceptional people'.

Describing the exhibition as a shop window for the old way of making Harris Tweed, she said it was important to promote what they did, adding: 'I am just a custodian of the mill and I hope to leave it in a better place than when I found it.'

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Project asks students to boost Highlands tourism

The Highlands and islands may be a tourism magnet at present but how does it attract the next generation of visitors to the area?

A new project launched by the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) aims to find new and innovative methods to market the region in a way that appeals to younger people.

In partnership with Inverness College UHI, HITA has challenged Visual Design and Communication students to produce a strategy specifically aimed at inspiring future travellers.

The contest, being held as part of the Year of Young People, is looking for creative ideas and attractions for a target audience aged between eight and 26.

Students will be asked to make the designs and branding transferable across social media, digital, print and broadcast platforms, as well as new ways to engage with future visitors.

The top three entries will present their ideas to the judging



Highland and Islands Tourism Awards chairman Craig Ewan and Rachel Burgess, a lecturer on the Visual Communication and Design BA honours degree at Inverness College UHI.

panel and the winner will have their campaign showcased at the prestigious HITA awards ceremony, to be held this year on November 2 at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness.

In addition, a student from Inverness College UHI's drama department will be chosen to host the awards ceremony – the annual tourism 'Oscars' for the

area – alongside a professional presenter in a first for the event.

Drama students shortlisted by the department will submit a video to HITA demonstrating their presenting skills and the lucky winner will jointly comper the awards evening in front of more than 320 leading industry professionals from across the Highlands and Islands and beyond.

HITA chairman Craig Ewan said: 'This is an exciting challenge for the students and one that will give the industry fresh ideas for engaging with tomorrow's visitors.'

'We want innovative designs that are transferable across all traditional media platforms, as

well as other ways we can market the area. They must be relevant and inspiring to the next generation of visitors and its theme, style and messaging should all reflect the Highlands and Islands.

'We are also looking for young, talented individual to co-present the awards ceremony. Who knows? This could be a platform for a new career for someone.'

Rachel Burgess, who is a lecturer on the Visual Communication and Design BA honours degree at Inverness College UHI, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, added: 'Our links with the community and partnerships with industry are key to the student experience at Inverness College UHI.'

'This is a fantastic project for our students to be involved in and an amazing opportunity to showcase their talents and make a real difference to the tourism sector in the Highlands.'

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New exhibition tells story of lolaire tragedy

by Martin Laing
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



An exhibition commemorating the centenary of the loss of lolaire on 1 January 1, 1919, has opened at Museum nan Eilean Lewis Castle.

The lolaire was carrying hundreds of Royal Naval Reserve members who had been granted leave to visit their loved ones on Lewis, Harris and Berneray when it foundered on rocks close to Stornoway harbour resulting in the deaths of 201 of the 280 men aboard.

The new exhibition, An lolaire – The lolaire, examines the circumstances of the disaster, its immediate impact and the long-term effects on the people of the Outer Hebrides.

Objects on show include a life preserver belonging to the youngest survivor, Donald Maciver of North Tolsta, medals awarded to John Finlay Macleod of Ness, whose bravery in carrying a heaving line ashore saved dozens of lives, and a panel from the Great Tapestry of Scotland commemorating those lost.

Documents from the Tasglann nan Eilean collections relating to the lolaire Disaster Fund will also be displayed, showing the donations which came in from around the world and how they were disbursed.

Nick Smith, heritage manager for Western Isles Council, said: 'As we approach the centenary of the tragic loss of so many lives, it is appropriate that Museum nan Eilean has worked with people here and further afield to bring together an exhibition which tells the story of the lolaire.'

'We hope the exhibition will discover more about a period in the history of the Outer Hebrides that continues to have a deep impact on lives to this day.'

The exhibition is open until March 31 next year.

Meanwhile, Harris Tweed Hebrides, based in Shawbost, is commemorating the centenary with the production of a special tweed in partnership with the lolaire Working Group.

The tweed was designed by Maggie Smith and woven by Derek Macleod and Calum Iain Macleod.

Mystery of who ow

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

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'Who owns the land?' is a question that has been on many lips for centuries.

Dozens of books have appeared on the subject but, as most of them have been published to promote a political agenda, they do not offer much hope or help.

Someone has to own the land; establishing who and exactly what remains a mystery. Confusion reigns supreme.

Some years ago the Highland Council's solicitor asked me if I could throw light on the ownership of some ground in Lochaline on which Lochaber District Council had built a number of houses in the 1960s. A tenant wanted to buy but, according to the title deeds, the ground under the sitting room was owned by three different parties.

Of course in all this chaos it is the lawyers and solicitors who benefit. When Inverness was expanding the town provided a good living for 40 of them who were jocularly known as the 'Forty Thieves'.

A similar story was told of two brothers who inherited a farm near Anstruther which was to be divided equally but they fell out over the boundary. One of them consulted a firm of notable Edinburgh lawyers. His brother followed and by coincidence ended up with the same partner, who, rightly, said that he could not act for both.

Recommending another lawyer, apparently an expert in conveyancing, he wrote out an introductory note. On the way the client forgot the street number. Hoping to find it in the letter, he opened the envelope to read: 'Two old birds down from Anstruther, you pluck the one and I'll pluck the other.'

An apocryphal tale I'm sure.

The General Register of Sasines Scotland, is the oldest national land register and consists of a chronological list of deeds with written descriptions of properties but is gradually being replaced by a map-based one. Without local knowledge, these registers are a nightmare to untangle and require the searcher to have the patience of a hungry rock-bound heron and the pockets of a Euro Lottery winner.

The island of Mull proves a difficult subject for anyone trying to work out the pattern of landownership through the ages which the following stab at the subject in 1904 well illustrates:

'**Duart:** Campbell of Possil, subsequently sold to Arbuthnot Charles Guthrie, merchant, London, 1865. Succeeded by Walter Murray Guthrie, MP.

'**Glenforsa:** General L Macquarrie bought Killiechronan, Oskamull, etc, from the Duke of Argyll; Gruline, Salen, Calachally, Bentalla, Ishriff, etc, from Maclaine of Lochbuie and was succeeded about 1834, by his son Captain Lachlan MacQuarrie, Scots Greys, who purchased about 1835. The lands of Pennygowan, Leiter, Rhoail, and Ben Bharnach acquired from the trustees of his uncle, Colonel MacQuarrie, who had bought them some years previously from Maclaine of Lochbuie. Captain MacQuarrie called the whole estate Glenforsa. He left the estate in 1845 to the Hon W Drummond, afterwards Viscount Strathallan, who, in 1860 sold it to David Greenhill (afterwards Greenhill Gardyne). The last named sold Killiechronan to Captain Parr, son of a banker in Warrington (the bank is now Parr's Banking Company).

'**Gruline:** another portion of Glenforsa, was sold by Colonel Gardyne to a MacDonald, son of MacDonald of the firm of Stewart and MacDonald, merchants in Glasgow. MacDonald's trustees sold to J W Melles, of Melles, Reid and Co, London. Glenforsa proper is still the property of Colonel Gardyne.

'**Achadashenaig:** sold in 1851 by John Stewart to a Campbell, who was succeeded by his niece, Miss MacNab, who sold it to D Fletcher, merchant in China, and is still owned by the widow, the modern name being Glenaros.

'**Drumfin:** The Duke of Argyll sold to Maclean of Coll, who sold to Crawford. From him it passed to Farquhard Campbell; then Bryce Allan, whose son, Alexander, sold a portion, called Aros to William Lang of Groatholm, Ayr. Lang's trustees sold to D C Maclachlan, Tartan Warehouse, Oban; F W Caldwell bought a portion.

'**Mishnish:** bought by F W Caldwell from Col Campbell, Knock, before 1850; he was succeeded by his son, Col Caldwell, who left it in 1903 to his sister, Mrs Sandeman.

'**Quinish:** Sold to James Forsyth (as above) by Maclean of Coll, about the year 1857, who was succeeded by his son, the present owner, late 82nd Regiment.

'**Sorn, now Glengorm:** Sold by John Stewart of Achadashenaig, before 1850, to James Forsyth, West India merchant, who was succeeded by his son J N Forsyth who sold to William Lang (Drumfin) who, in due course, sold also. At auction the estate fell to the nod of a Nicol Skinner in



Glenforsa Estate, main picture, and Lochbuie House, home of the Maclaine chiefs (photographs: Iain Thorne), and Pennyghael from a painting circa 1820 (Mrs Janet Glaisher)

Glasgow but the 'bode' not being implemented, the next bidder acquired Glengorm, viz, James Cowan, paper manufacturer, whose trustees sold to Frederick Moran, solicitor, London, the present proprietor.

'**Morinish:** Bought by John Munro Mackenzie from Captain MacKay of Bighouse, was succeeded by his son John Hugh Munro-Mackenzie, the present owner.

'**Torloisk:** Has not been sold but the Marquis of Northampton's grandfather acquired it by marriage, and it remains in the family.

'**Penmore:** Was bought by Archibald MacNab from Maclean of Coll in 1857. Succeeded by his son Dr Robert MacNab, Bury St Edmunds, present owner.

'**Ulva:** Was bought from MacQuarrie of Ulva, by F C W Clark about the year 1855. Succeeded by his grandson.

'**Kilpatrick:** Bought by Clark of Ulva from Campbell of Inverneil in 1865.

'**Gometra:** Bought from Dugald Campbell, by Messrs Peter and John Maclean. Sold by



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their trustees to Roderick [Maclean] wholesale merchant in Glasgow.

West Ardow: Owned by Kenneth Campbell. Succeeded by his niece, Miss Forrest.

East Ardow: Owned by David Watson whose trustees sold to Hugh C Dickie in 1902.

Treshnish: Bought from Mrs MacKay of Bighouse by Donald McLellan, a prosperous retired farmer from Uist who left it to John Lothian, a nephew.

Burg: Belonging to Lochbuie, was sold to Nicol MacIntyre, and then to Thomas Lawson. Another statement says that 'until Martinmas 1903, Burg belonged to John Duncan MacIntyre, insurance broker. At that date it seems to have passed into the hands of John H Turner of Burg'.

Tiroran: Sold to Henry Pitcairn, then later, to Colonel Cheape, late 11th Hussars. The owner is now Mrs Cheape, the widow.

Kilfinichen and Killimore: Sold by Maclean of Kinlochaline, to Ewan MacLachlan, Laudale, whose son, Dugald, sold, in 1852, to C

MacDiarmid, Killin. Sold to Professor Skene, Glasgow, then to Campbell of Sonachan who presented it to the Duke of Argyll.

Kinloch [Scridain]: Sold with Carsaig to Alexander Maclean of Pennycross and D Maclean, jointly. General Maclean, 13th Hussars, then bought Carsaig and his daughter sold to Archibald Maclean. Archibald Maclean subsequently sold to Cheape.

Kinloch: (another seemingly) was re-bought by Lochbuie, who left it to his younger son, Anthony, who sold it to Peter James Mitchell. Mitchell's representatives sold to Robb, spirit merchants in Glasgow.

Pennyghael: Sold by Maclean of Pennycross to Campbell of Breachacha, or to John Auldjo first, who then sold to Campbell. It now belongs to Sheriff Robertson, Campbell's grandson.

Tenga: Was a part of the Aros Estate, retained by Farquhard Campbell, when he sold to Allan; it was afterwards sold by his successor, Campbell of Ballinaby, to Dugald MacKechnie, Sheriff of Argyll.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We go back this week to June 1997 and the Oban High School Young Enterprise Team winners. They were, back row left to right, David Fraser, Alison Macleod, Jill Petrie, Alexander Thompson and Douglas Wright; front row, Lisa Anderson, Catriona Currie, Kathryn McPhail, Lorna Martin and Hamish MacIntyre. Regarding the photograph published here on September 20, Christina Bryson was in touch to say: 'It was Carbst Drama Club, Isle of Skye. I cannot tell you the names of all the cast, but I recognise Jane Hickman and Isobel Campbell.'



The autumn round-up at the Great Glen cattle ranch. Picture from Roamer archive.

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OT

LETTERS

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Oban remains a safe place for residents

There has been a palpable sense of shock across Oban following the death of an elderly man in the Dunollie area of the town, allegedly after an altercation with a neighbour.

That was compounded by the death from a heart attack of a second man in the area. People have commented on social media about how rare such incidents are and have voiced very clearly a sense of disbelief.

Police have moved quickly to reassure local people that Oban remains a safe place to live and work, and that is a sentiment we would like to echo.

This is a town with a strong sense of community and we are confident that people will pull together in this period of concern about public safety.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area and the sympathy of everyone at The Oban Times is extended to the families and friends of the men who have died.

Benefits of Oban Live are obvious

As we report this week, the annual Oban Live music festival brings an economic bonanza to the town and wider region that is estimated at £1.4 million.

The two-day celebration of Celtic and trad music has grown steadily during its first three years of existence, with attendance figures this year topping 8,000.

The figures also show the demographics of those who go to the event, with a steadily increasing number of people from outwith Argyll. Indeed, the research has indicated that fans travel from across the world.

The breakdown of the financial benefits to Oban suggest, unsurprisingly, that the hospitality sector enjoys the most substantial boost, particularly since the festival is out of season. It is proof, if any were needed, of the value to the town of Oban Live. Long may it continue.

Obsession with history threatens future of shinty

Many shinty followers must be despairing that the Camanachd Association appears intent on promoting its history as a box-office attraction while turning a blind eye to the steady decline in both playing standards and public interest in the sport.

It is no more than three years since an exhibition of shinty history was held at the Hampden Football Museum. The blurb advertising the latest, a conference open to the general public, on Wednesday October 10, which appeared on both shinty.com and the Highland Folk Museum websites (where the conference is being held), refers to the conference 'celebrating the past, present and future of shinty'.

Shinty participants may at first be enthused at the prospect of an opportunity to voice concerns and share views on the sport with other participants. That is until they check out the HFM website and learn the conference is a midweek, non-participatory event; not one item on the conference programme relates to present day issues or the future of the sport – and they will be charged £30 to attend.

The keynote speaker, shinty historian Hugh Dan MacLennan, who also organised the Hampden exhibition, produced a very comprehensive history of organised shinty to mark the 1993 centenary of the Camanachd Association.

In his summing up in the final section, Dr MacLennan made the perceptive comments that 'the dilemma facing shinty is whether to promote a modern game or preserve an aspect of Highland culture' and 'for life-force and continuing success, the game must aspire to skill and spectacle at the highest level'.

There is no evidence that the CA ever made any conscious decision to address MacLennan's comments and its focus remained where it had been for the previous 100 years: on the administration of fixture schedules.

The inevitable consequence of failing to recognise and address the effect on playing standards of societal changes that provide young people with a whole spectrum of pastime activities where previously shinty was top priority for many, effectively entered the sport into a spiral of declining standards.

Later, the decline accelerated with the choice of shinty/hurling as the platform for developing the cream of young players. Those selected

YOUR PICTURES



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

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

for elite squads are now encouraged to develop playing styles that treat the ball as a hot potato, whereas, in shinty's halcyon days of the sixties, seventies and eighties, large crowds of spectators were frequently entertained by a possession/passing playing style.

A sport that has existed in organised form for 125 years and is now, in numerical and qualitative terms, only marginally further forward than when it first started, seems to me to have little cause for celebration. How much more relevant and productive it would be for the CA, as a first step, to hold a select gathering of knowledgeable people, together with its

board members, to identify first crucial steps to begin arresting and reversing the decline before it becomes too late.

Iain Cameron,
former vice-president CA and international team manager,
Birnam Avenue, Bishopbriggs.

Poetic recollection: the old Oban High School

As October 4 is National Poetry Day, perhaps you might like to publish the following poem.

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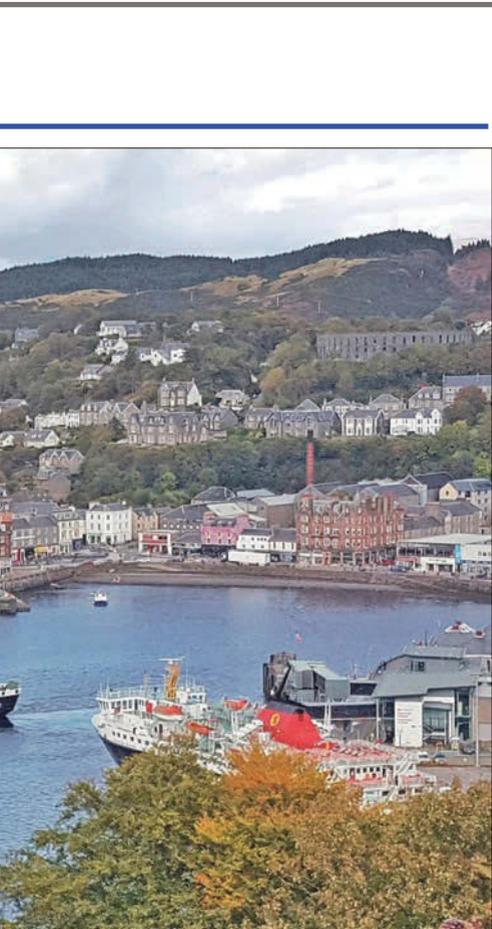
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(Argyll and the Islands)

Martin Boyle

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(Jura, Islay & Colonsay)



Fort William. This week's photograph is sent to us by Fiona McCuish, who said: 'I was visiting Oban and took a few photos with my mobile phone at Pulpit Hill looking down on the town.'

Now and Then: OHS Remembered
So many days have now flown by
Since first I cast a wondering eye
On that old school — grey seat of learning.
Now, lost to youth, my heart is yearning
To turn the clock and once again
To join that throng that flocked back then
To enter through your stately portals:
Young Titans all, and no mere mortals.
But age has burdened; the back has bent;
Now, most are gone whom once I kent.
To books and learning raise a toast:
—Ambition lost is missed the most!
William Clark, by email.

Thanks for Luìng war memorial's restoration

It has taken eight years altogether, but Isle of Luìng war memorial is now fully restored.

Thank you to all those who donated to the appeal and helped to raise funds, the Isle of Luìng community, Argyll Community Housing Association, West Highland Housing Association, many individuals and Argyll and Bute Council, which removed the old damaged steps and grassed the embankment, providing the new paved surround, railings and gate, and re-concreting of the base.

Thanks also to Oban Memorials which did all the work of sanding, polishing and re-engraving the memorial.

A path to the memorial was also laid and donated by Shane Cadzow of Luìng.

Thanks also to Councillor Elaine Robertson, who has been very helpful.

We are so pleased this work has been completed ready for the Remembrance Day service on November 11.

Jean Alexander,
Secretary Royal British Legion
Easdale branch.

Footpath must not be built across rugby pitch

I have been meeting my constituents and putting my latest survey in Caol Ila, Keills, Newton, Bowmore and Port Ellen on Islay and West Loch in Tarbert.

The biggest issue I have been hearing about on Islay is McLeod Homes making a new footpath across the Bowmore rugby pitch, which is also used for some of the youngsters' football.

While a new all-weather football pitch and footpath are more than welcome and much needed, Bowmore must also retain its rugby pitch.

I would implore McLeod Homes to reposition this path and, if that cannot be done, then the rugby pitch must be extended.

There is little doubt in my mind that the many users of the rugby pitch and many other local residents were not properly consulted.

In future our planning department, McLeod Homes and we as a council must ensure something like this does not happen again.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S neònach mur eil mòran agaibh air tachartas sònraichte a chomharrachadh le dinnear ann an taigh-bìdh spaideil. Thar nam bliadhnaichean tha farpais air fàs am measg nan ionadan sin airson sàr inbhe a chosnadh a tharraingeads daoine gan ionnsaigh, agus ged a tha sin a' ciallachadh gum bheil am biadh aca sa bhithiantas air leth blasta, tha prìsean a rèir sin.

'S i Rionnag Mhichelin tè de na comharran as bitheanta agus as cliùitiche agus saoilidh mòran gum bheil iomadh àite a' meas na duaise sin mar leisgeul gus prìsean àrdachadh chun na h-ìre is nach ruig a' mhòr-shluagh orra. Aig an aon àm feumar aideachadh gum bheil sinn uile deònach subhachas a dhèanamh uaireigin gach bliadhna agus tha leithid sin a' cumail iomadh àite-ithe daor a' dol.

Ach ged a tha e inntinneach gu leòr na h-annlain annasach aig còcairean chliùiteach fheuchainn, tha e fìor a ràdh gum bheil, aig amannan, cus faoinis anns an dòigh sam bheil biadh air a dheasachadh is air a riarachadh. Ann am beachd mhòran bhiodh e pailt cho math agus cho

blasta air a chòcaireachd nas simplidhe, agus dh'fhaodadh e bhith mòran nas saoire a cheannach cuideachd!

Ach mar is tric a thachras ann an saoghal telebhisein nuair a thig cuideigin air deagh bheachd eadar-dhealichte airson prògram agus a shoirbhicheas sin tha gach seanail a th' ann a' feuchainn air dreach den aon rud, agus gu cinnteach tha sin fìor a thaobh phrògraman còcaireachd! Gun teagamh tha cuid aca glè mhath an coimhead agus faodaidh sinn uile innleachdan leomach ùra ionnsachadh le biadh.

Leithid 's dòcha quenelle de bhuntàta a chur air an truinnsear seach an cnap àbhaisteach.

Chuala mi còcaire ainmeil ag ràdh turas gur e fichead not an t-aon eadar-dhealachadh eadar na dhà!

Ach tha ceannach gu math daor aig na còcairean air inbhe na rionnaige, oir 's ann acasan a tha sin is chan ann aig an taigh-bìdh, oir feumaidh iad an ìre deasachaidh a ghleidheadh latha an dèidh latha le fios gum faod neach-measaidh tadhal gun fhiosa, agus tha an obair sin doirbh.

Chan iongnadh ma-thà

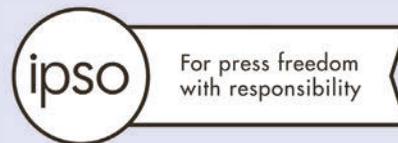
gum bheil cuid de chòcairean thaighean-bìdh ainmeil a' cur cùl ri inbhe Rionnagan Mhichelin is iad a' roghnachadh saoghal nas socraiche, ach fhathast a' riarachadh deagh bhìadh aig prìsean nas reusanta! Mo bheannachd orra, agus saoil an e gluasad a tha seo a dh'fhàsas? Am bheil còcaireachd sònraichte dùbhlànach nuair a smaoinicheas tu air a liuthad neach eile a ghleidheas duais agus nach fheum an inbhe sin a dhearbhadh gach latha?

Most of us might enjoy fine dining from time to time but many feel that Michelin-starred restaurants are increasingly beyond the budget of average punters.

Unlike winners of many other awards, Michelin chefs must maintain the standard daily in order to retain their status, and that can be seriously exacting.

Congratulations therefore to some who are opting out of this 'star club' to serve good food at more manageable prices and stress levels.

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



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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DISTRICT NEWS

MULL

A week-long community dig at Lephin on the Glengorm Estate, Mull, has unearthed some fascinating discoveries

Stone walls, pottery, graves and the remains of a barn were among the uncovered artefacts.

Hylde Marsh of Mull Museum said: 'The pottery recovered from the interior of an enclosed structure indicates that the building may date to the 13th century AD, as very similar dotted and fingernail decorated pottery was recovered from our 2012 dig at Baliscate, just outside Tobermory and which has the same floor plan as Lephin.'

The structure had wide stone walls



with a narrow tapered entrance designed to keep the worst of the Argyll weather out.

Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology said: 'The floor within the building was pretty dirty with trampled-in hearth ash and fragments of hand-made local pottery.'

But this is no ordinary medieval structure, it is thought that the dwelling was once a chapel with burial grounds. A barn was built, probably hundreds of years later, over the collapsed enclosure wall.

It is hoped that further funding can be found to carry out a second season of excavation in which the interior of the chapel would be explored.

The dig was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Mull Museum, Mull and Iona Community Trust and Mull Historical and Archaeological Society.



Brendan O'Hara MP with students at Tiree High School.

MP makes port of call at Tiree High School

Argyll MP Brendan O'Hara visited Tiree High School last week, before staff and pupils took part in an eight-mile sponsored walk.

Tiree Community Development Trust also updated Mr O'Hara, and Oban councillors Jim Lynch and Roddy McCuish, on its plans to buy two island harbours and buildings at Hynish.

The trust has secured funding to upgrade Scarinish and Milton harbours, and hopes to take up community ownership soon, under a subsidiary called Tiree Community Maritime Assets Limited.

Thanks to a £200,000 grant from Marine Scotland, urgent repairs to

Scarinish harbour were completed earlier this year, which rebuilt and stabilised the pier with reinforced concrete, resurfaced the deck and added timber buffers and five new ladders.

The tenders are now out in the £1.2 million project to regenerate Milton harbour, which currently houses six full-time fishing boats.

The development works will consist of raising the height of the structure by one metre to prevent waves overtopping, extending the pier to allow for two additional berths, creating a 'dogleg' to provide some shelter and constructing a catch sorting and packing shed.

Funding was sought from Marine

Scotland and Highlands and Highlands Enterprise and the remaining £232,455 will come from the Tiree Windfall Fund.

The trust explained on its website: 'The advancement of this project will come as a huge relief to our local fishermen who have been working with dangerous and inadequate facilities for many years now.'

'It is hoped that work will start in spring of 2019 and take around six months to complete.'

Trustees also raised concerns about where funding for such projects, currently provided by the European Union, will come from after Brexit.

parade at 8.30pm. Sandy MacAulay will be performing on the night.

The event is run by the parent council and all proceeds will go towards the school.

There will be a raffle, refreshments and home baking. Entry to the event costs £1.

OBAN

The Oban branch of the Pain Association Scotland holds its monthly group meeting for people living with chronic pain on Monday October 29 from 1pm to 3pm in the Oban Bay Hotel on Corran Esplanade.

OUTER HEBRIDES

Around 50 people from all over the world visited the Outer Hebrides last month.

The event was part of the Social Enterprise World Forum 2018, which was held in Edinburgh during September, and took place at An Lanntair on Monday September 17 and Talla na Mara on the following day.

Organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the two-day rural symposium enabled practitioners and policy-makers to focus on rural social enterprise development.

Delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada and Scotland discussed the challenges and opportunities of building social enterprises in a range of environments across the globe.

Social enterprises operate like most other businesses but have a social and/or environmental purpose at their core; they reinvest all their profits in the pursuit of that purpose.

A range of topics relevant to the Outer Hebrides were discussed and delegates engaged with social enterprises from the islands including Urras nan Tursachan, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn and West Harris Trust to gain an insight into the unique role they have in these communities.

TAYNUILT

The community of Taynuilt raised £128 for Taynuilt Brownies last Friday night by organising a whist night.

The next whist drive will take place on October 26 and will be in aid of the Taynuilt Village Hall fund.

APPIN

The Rough Edges band will be performing at the Creagan Inn on Saturday October 13.

The music, which consists of country rock and pop classics, will commence at 8.30pm and go on until late.

SALEN

There will be a Salen Hallowe'en Party on Saturday October 27 in Salen Primary School.

The event will start at 6.30pm, with the children's parade taking place at 7pm.

This will be followed by the adults'

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MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Fish farm conundrum

We published last week a highly erudite letter from Andy Grant of Achnamara arguing very cogently against a proposal to site a fish farm off the west coast of the isle of Jura.

In his correspondence, Mr Grant has the sentence: 'Here we are again - the economy versus the environment.'

Indeed.

While I would not dispute Mr Grant's arguments for this particular proposal, it raised in my mind the broader and ongoing conundrum he highlighted: the environment versus the economy, and the fish farming sector's importance to both.

This is thrown into especially sharp relief in this area, renowned as it is for its stunning scenery and pristine coastline and islands. Yet there is no disputing the fact that fish farming plays a vital role in our local economy and is responsible for many jobs.

There are many highly successful fish farming companies in Argyll and the Isles providing excellent employment for a large number of people. I am sure their perspective would be at odds with the opinions of some others.

This is a tricky balancing act: we need to produce farmed fish to meet demand and economic realities, yet we must protect the marine environment.

I do not envy those whose responsibility it is to decide on this application. I suspect they are in a no-win situation.

Lifeboat heroes

It is no coincidence that we have reported numerous call-outs in recent weeks for the RNLI volunteer crews across our area.

Oban, Tobermory, Islay and others have all been busy racing to the aid of various vessels in trouble off the west coast and its many islands.

Those 'shouts' have also included launching during storm Ali and other atrocious weather. The volunteers and the handful of full-time crew put to sea regardless of the conditions and with no hesitation.

I am in awe of their selfless dedication and bravery.

What do you think?

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



Nurse Judy Campbell from Islay receives flowers from colleagues at Connel medical practice, where she has worked for 21 years.

Retiring nurse Judy is looking forward to travelling

Staff at Connel Medical Practice held a leaving tea for their colleague and friend nurse Judy Campbell, before she retired on Friday after 21

years at the clinic, and 40 years with the NHS.

The 58-year-old mum of three, who hails from Islay and lives in

Oban, has no idea what she'll do on Monday, but she does plan to travel more with her husband Dougie, who is also retired.

Mrs Campbell said: 'It was a lovely place to work and I met many wonderful and interesting people. I will miss them all.'

Poppy Scotland looking for new volunteers to help in Arrochar

Scotland's leading armed forces charity is searching for a new volunteer Scottish Poppy Appeal area organiser to lead the fundraising push in Arrochar this year and beyond.

Poppyscotland's head of fundraising Gordon Michie explained: 'We're looking for individuals, businesses, groups of friends or community organisations that have good organisational skills to step forward to lead this year's appeal in Arrochar.'

'Last year, hundreds of pounds were raised in the area, but, without your help, we will struggle

to collect even a fraction of that amount and this will have a profoundly detrimental impact on our beneficiaries.

'By volunteering for Poppyscotland, you will be helping us transform the lives of veterans in Scotland, those currently serving and their families who are in need.'

'The money raised from the annual poppy appeal enables us to provide life-changing support to those affected by many issues including poverty, mental health problems and disability.'

'Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, and,

without their vital support, we simply wouldn't be able to run the Scottish Poppy Appeal.'

Area organisers form a 420-strong team covering every city, town and village in Scotland.

They help the charity to pin more than five million poppies on to Scotland's coats, jackets and jumpers.

The Scottish Poppy Appeal raised more than £3 million last year thanks to the support of the public and the dedication of 10,000 volunteers.

One person who is keen to highlight the benefits of the role

is Richard Cameron, who has been a Poppyscotland area organiser since 2008. Richard said: 'I've been an area organiser in Campbeltown for eight years and really enjoy the interaction with the general public at poppy appeal time. Just do it - no thought needed! You'll be amazed by the support you receive - the businesses and public are lovely and I'd encourage anyone to get out there and meet them.'

For more information contact Sally McNaught on 0131 550 1559 or 07941 851 589, or email volunteer@poppyscotland.org.uk.

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EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

OUTDOORS

Rare leopard cubs caught on camera

Footage has revealed that two of the rarest cats in the world have been born at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Highland Wildlife Park, increasing options for the first reintroduction of the Amur leopard to the wild.

The charity announced in July that its Amur leopard Arina had given birth. However, with human presence being kept to a minimum, the number of cubs born was unknown.

Motion-sensitive cameras have now shown that two cubs have emerged from their den deep within underground, at least one of which may be released into the wild in Russia in future.

Douglas Richardson, head of living collections at the park, at Kincaig, near Kingussie, said: 'We are delighted that Arina has two cubs, with both appearing to be strong and healthy.'

'Our Amur leopard habitat is the only one within the zoo community which has been designed to breed these extremely rare cats with the aim of producing cubs that are eligible for reintroduction to the wild.'

'While this would be incredibly complex, it would also be a world first and a huge step forward in the conservation of this critically endangered cat.'



One of the leopard cubs is caught on camera in its den.

Waders are losers in climate change

Climate change could be a factor in the decline of Scotland's wading birds, including redshank, golden plover and lapwing, according to new figures published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The Abundance of Wintering Waterbirds report shows that since counts began in the winter of 1975/76: wader numbers (14 species) have declined since 1996/97 and in 2015/16 are 21 per cent lower than in 1975/76, the lowest levels on record; goose numbers, including barnacle geese, have increased to 287 per cent; and 16 species of ducks and swans numbers increased to 14 per cent.

Simon Foster, from SNH, said: 'Scotland is on the migration route known as the East Atlantic Flyway and many wildfowl and wader species breed in the Arctic and fly here to winter at one of 50 Scottish sites of international importance.'

'While climate change and food availability are likely causes for the decline, there are some species where other factors may be at play. More research is needed to better understand these, and develop ways to help improve numbers of waders, including purple sandpipers and turnstone.'

'Changes in the Arctic need to be better understood, especially for long-distance migratory waders as well as what is happening on their wintering areas. We are working together with international researchers and volunteers to help our wintering waders.'

'Geese, particularly barnacle geese, have shown the greatest increases - with legal protection and changes to agriculture helping to boost numbers. However, barnacle geese numbers are now reaching levels that can cause challenges for some crop growers, and we are working with farmers to help address understandable concerns on how to manage this conflict.'

SNH is working to help wintering waders through several projects, such as Working for Waders, which will help support breeding



Redshanks and lapwings, below, are suffering a decline in numbers, as a result of climate change.

waders in Scotland through a variety of measures such as improving breeding habitats.

The Abundance of Wintering Waterbirds is one of several biodiversity indicators that SNH regularly publishes, designed to monitor changes in Scotland's nature and landscapes. They help SNH to better understand trends with the natural heritage, so it can develop appropriate ways to protect it, and they provide evidence of progress towards targets in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.



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This week's walks



Interns Hannah, Liam and Scott with Dougie from Nevis Cycles.

Volunteers work to get old bikes back on the road

Reusing and repairing used items is becoming more popular as people are looking to save money, reduce their carbon footprint and find unique items.

This year Lochaber Environmental Group started a new project, funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund, refurbishing old bikes to get them back on the road.

From June to September, three community bike interns – Hannah, Liam and Scott – have been refurbishing donated bikes.

The interns learned advanced

bike mechanics skills through a Park Tool School course delivered by Dougie from Nevis Cycles.

Using their new skills, the interns hosted a Dr Bike stall at the vegan fair back in July, giving bikes free health checks.

Intern Hannah Richardson is a fourth-year student in adventure performance and coaching at the West Highland College. She said: 'I have gained a lot of experience through the internship. I now feel a lot more knowledgeable when it comes to fixing bikes and I am also more confident teaching

basic bike maintenance skills to others.

'I hope to use the skills that I have gained in the future when leading others mountain biking.'

The response from the community has been fantastic with more than 50 bikes donated. A limited number of bikes are available for rehoming this year. If anyone does not own a bike, they can apply to the scheme for one. If anyone has an old bike they no longer use, the group is still accepting donations.

Call Christine on 01397 700090 or email info@lochaberenviron.org.uk.

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday October 7:

Lismore North

An interesting visit by passenger ferry from Port Appin to this well-known island in Loch Linnhe.

12th century castle ruins, the much earlier Trefour Broch and many other antiquities.

Start from the ferry slip at the N end of Lismore, NM894461. Head SW along the coast at first, following the B8045 for 3km to a junction at NM871441. Turn S on to a minor road, past Baileouchdarach and divert SW on to a short path to visit the well and chapel ruins of Tobar na Slainte, NM871433. Return to the road and continue SW for 700m. Leave the road again, heading SE to the Broch site at Trefour Castle, NM867429.

Follow the coast SW over rough ground to reach a minor road at Balnagown, then follow it N to regain the B8045. Follow this NE for 800m to Clach and look for the remains of St Moluag's Cathedral at NM860435, just W of Lismore Parish Church. Return SW along the B8045 for 150m to find a track leading W then N to the NW coast of the island and Castle Coeffin. Follow the coast NE over rough ground and below the crags of Creag Sgeanach to Port na Moralachd. Disused lime kilns may be found here. When past the steep ground, turn E inland, curving NE to reach a track at Fennachrochan. Follow the track to Port Ramsay, then the coast around the NE tip of the island to the ferry slip.

Grade: L; distance: 14km; height to climb: 200m; map(s): LR49, EX376. Meet at Longsdale CP, Oban, at 9.15am, N Ballachulish school at 9.15am, Port Appin pier for 10am sailing. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

Thursday October 11:

Ben Challum, Tyndrum

A Munro with superb views which will be undertaken at a moderate pace for those not used to walking on the

hillier hills. Expect it to take 6-7 hours with lots of stops to catch your breath.

Start from the layby on the west side of the A82 at NN356280, opposite the turning for Kirkton Farm. Cross the road and follow the track to the farm, joining the WHW and turning left in front of the buildings. Go through a gate, leave the WHW and head N up a track to cross the railway at a level crossing. Turn NE and follow the edge of the forested area, over a style into the plantation then over another style to emerge on to the open hillside.

Continue NE up to the S top at 997m LR alt. A line of fence posts may be followed for much of the way. Descend steeply W at first to gain the true crest of the ridge at the head of a narrow defile. Follow the ridge down N to the col and continue N up to the summit of Beinn Challuim, 1025m. Return by outward route.

Grade: S; distance: 12km; Height to climb: 910m; map(s): LR50, EX377. Meet at: Longsdale CP, Oban, at 8.30am, Glencoe village car park at 8.45am, for start of walk: 9.30am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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 6:

Chno Dearg, Stob Coire Sgriodain, Corrou

Train from Fort William departs 7.44am, arrives Corrou 8.32am.

Follow path on W side of railway to bridge at NN342681. Head up NNW onto ridge of Sron na Garbh-bheinne. Continue NE up broad ridge over summit of Garbh-bheinn and on to summit of Meall Garbh. Head N then NE to summit of Chno Dearg. Return to last col. Now head WSW to lower col before heading WNW over 924m and 958m summits before turning N to summit of Stob Coire Sgriodain. Head roughly N back towards Fersit. Go over second crag named Sron na Garbh-bheinne with care, or avoid by dropping E into corrie and follow Allt Chaorach Beag. Descend to track through Fersit to cars left near road edge at NN358758.

(17km, 1500m ascent) Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.



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YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Hollow Mountain play to full house in Benderloch

A full house at the Victory Hall, Benderloch, was treated to the Hollow Mountain String Band experience on Friday night.

Opening the final weekend at Bookends Book Festival and heralding a week of fringe events, the Oban-based band played two fulsome and energetic sets.

A little too energetic and enthusiastic for singer John McMahon, who assaulted his nose in a change of guitars between tunes.

John, always the trouper,

was not going to let a wee bit of blood and a swollen nose slow him down and his rumbustious vocals seemed unaffected by the guitar assault.

Lead singers MacMahon and Rab Woods have been busy over the past few months and their own compositions impressed the audience with their ability to seamlessly blend in with some Americana classics from Woodie Guthrie and Steve Earle.

A new album is promised

and the five-piece will be embarking on studio sessions over the winter.

There can be little doubt this band is evolving and growing in equal proportions with greater confidence evident in its style of play.

The trio of guitar, mandolin and fiddle out front with Ann Barlow augments, nay balances, Woods' and McMahon's energy on the firing line.

In the shadows, the back row of Nigel Frydman and Michelle McAnally Woods



Ann Barlow and John McMahon in flight for the Hollow Mountain String Band.

on bass and drums work tirelessly to keep the band honest and on track. Next at the Benderloch Palladium is folk legend Rab Noakes in concert with the velvet tones

of Jill Jackson. The duo play the Victory Hall on Saturday October 20.

On the same night in Craignish Hall, Ardfern, the Hollow Mountain String

Band take the stage at MOJO – a celebration of Argyll's original musicians featuring a stellar line-up of local favourites.

Campbell Cameron.

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The Wilders fiddler returns to Scotland; Betse & Clarke announce Scotland tour

Folk duo Betse & Clarke, from Kansas City, Missouri, are in Scotland with their engaging musical show.

The Moniaive Michaelmas Bluegrass Festival invited the duo as a feature act, after festival organisers witnessed a performance at Northern Ireland's Red Room, Co Tyrone, in autumn 2016.

In addition, celebrated venues such as Tolbooth, Stirling, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, The Acoustic Music Club, Kirkcaldy, and Watercolour Music, Fort William, are presenting the duo in concert.

Fans of bluegrass and old time country music will remember Betse Ellis, the mesmerizing fiddler from The Wilders, who toured Scotland numerous times from 2006-2011.

Their first appearance in the UK was at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where they performed in the Famous Spiegelent, earning a Herald Angel Award for their presentation.

The Wilders returned to perform the Spiegelent for

two more years and later appeared at Celtic Connections twice, with a concert filmed by BBC and then selling out the Old Fruitmarket venue.

Betse was also co-instigator of a Scottish Arts Council-funded tour, led by Tim Matthew, entitled Going Across the Sea, which celebrated the Scottish roots of American fiddle music and song and its continued connection in today's folk scene.

Glasgow music blogger Paul Kerr reviewed Betse's second solo album, High Moon Order, 2013, Free Dirt Records, commenting: 'A fine beast it is. Her fiddle features alone on the traditional Queen of the Earth and Child of the Skies which has Celtic roots but sounds as if it's roiling out of the mountain mists of the Ozarks.'

Betse met Clarke Wyatt in 2014, two years after The Wilders called a halt to their 16-year run.

Clarke, a lifelong musician, formerly primarily a keyboardist who toured for many years with percussionist Mike

Dillon in the band Hairy Apes BMX, performing at New Orleans Jazz Fest, High Sierra and more, had taken up the banjo, forming a deep connection to the early southern American finger-style banjo approach.

Clarke had the musical deftness to interweave his instrument with Betse's fiddling, making a clear connection to the fiddle-banjo duets of the American south of the 1920s and '30s.

At the same time, the duo's creative spark inspired them to compose new material that sounds both old time and completely fresh. They released a full length album in 2016 and Scott Tichenor of Banjo Café wrote: 'The Banjo Café considers River Still Rise to be one of the very finest releases of 2016 and one that should be a part of every music lover's collection.'

Betse & Clarke have gone on to appear as official showcase artists at Folk Alliance International and at Grand Targhee Bluegrass, The John Hartford Memorial Festival,

Walnut Valley Festival and the Ulster American Folk Park's Bluegrass Festival, among many others. Their performance is suited for festival stages and theatres just as easily as at a house concert; they are comfortable and friendly with each audience and their joyful presentation invites audiences to get involved. Betse will go from singing a traditional Ozark spiritual to belting out a blues-inflected old time country hit, while Clarke drives the rhythm with his mad banjo and guitar skills, weaving melody and harmony with the masterful groove of a veteran musician.

Betse & Clarke's Music from the Ozarks will be staged at Watercolour Music's base at Ardour at 3pm on Sunday October 7.

Anyone wishing to go along should email their booking to nick@watercolourmusic.co.uk or phone 01855-841320.

Payment can be made at the door, but organisers need advance notice to know how many to cater for.



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Barra Mod success

In glorious autumn sunshine, the eighth Barra Local Mod got under way in Castlebay Community School on Saturday September 22 and continued, like the sunshine, to brighten the rest of the day.

Millie Bonniwell and Esme Macleod, pupils of Oban Mod Academy and Rockfield Primary School's Gaelic Unit, came home with prizes.

Millie won solo singing for ages five to seven, while Esme won conversation under 13 years. Both children had a great day and are looking forward to taking part in the Royal National Mod later this month.

One of the event's organisers Jean Campbell said: "Despite a wedding in Castlebay and other activities, entries were up on previous years; an encouraging sign perhaps of the importance of the Gaelic language in the community."

"While it may be unwise to speak of a resurgence, at least there seems to be an increase in interest. But care is needed, and the imposition of a second language on a young person can be counter-productive."

'Attendance at the evening

ceilidh, at which the trophy winners able to attend strutted their stuff and strutted it well, was affected by the nuptials in Castlebay 'city centre', but the quality of the performances we heard was of the highest standard, junior and senior.

'Wonderful songs and tunes from adjudicators Paul MacCallum, Riona White, Chloe Steele and Ailis Sutherland complemented the talents of the trophy-winning competitors and what would we have done without the competence and ready wit of compere Alasdair Allan?'

'We are indebted to the dedication and hard work of all mod committee members and we know that without the willing help of other volunteers - chairpersons, door stewards, office staff, runners and catering personnel - we would not have had such a successful day. Special thanks go to the janitorial staff, whose efforts went over and above the call of duty.'

Junior competitions:
Oral fluent under 13, conversation, storytelling, recitation, reading at sight,

total highest mark: Sorcha MacDougall, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Oral learners under 13, conversation, storytelling, recitation, reading at sight, total highest mark: Danielle MacArthur, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil,

Oral learners 13-18, conversation, storytelling, recitation, reading at Sight, total highest mark: Kirsty MacInnes, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Vocal fluent solo highest mark: Niall MacLellan, Sgoil Lionacleit.

Vocal learners solo highest mark: Doireann Marks, Sgoil Uibhist a' Tuath.

Open solo - traditional song highest mark Eva Lowe, Sgoil Lionacleit.

Choral primary total highest mark: Sgoil Dhalabroig.

Folk group and instrumental group highest mark: Bunsgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil Folk Group.

Fiddle total highest mark: Seonaidh MacLean, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Accordion total highest mark: Martin Sinclair, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Bagpipes under 15 highest local mark: Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trophy, for bagpipes under 15 total highest mark: Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Murchadh Beag MacNeill Memorial Trophy, for bagpipes 15-18 total highest mark: Allana Beaton, Sgoil Lionacleit.

Bagpipes highest mark: Allana Beaton, Sgoil Lionacleit and Martin Sinclair, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Literature highest mark: Rachel Sinclair, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Junior local highest total marks in individual oral, vocal, instrumental and literary competitions: Eosaph Galbraith, Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil.

Senior competitions:
Vocal open solo total highest mark: Abigail Treffry, Benbecula.

Choral, singing in harmony, puirt a beul, total highest mark: Còisir Ghàidhlig Bharraigh.

Waulking group, junior and



Millie Bonniwell and Esme Macleod, pupils of Oban Mod Academy and Rockfield Primary School's Gaelic Unit, came home with prizes from Barra Local Mod. Millie won solo singing for ages five to seven, while Esme won conversation under 13 years. Both children had a great day and are both competing in the Royal National Mod.

senior, highest mark: Clò Na Nighean. Adult local highest total marks in individual oral and vocal competitions total highest mark: Abigail Treffry, Benbecula.

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See you soon!
Kathryn, Brian & Danny

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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

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Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club
The Royal Hotel, Oban
7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Tim McMillan & Rachel Snow
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Ceol an Aire
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban
9.30am

Hill Walk
Corrour, Fort William
All Day

The Jimmy Shand Story
Corran Halls, Oban
7.30pm - 10.15pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Sandra Macbeth
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

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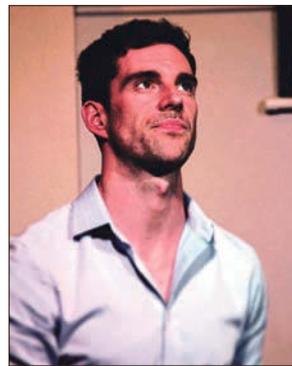
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WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER
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Inveraray Inn
8.00pm

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Alasdair Whyte.



Murdo L.

Free cèilidh kick starts new Mòdrun festival

A new festival marrying the modern Gaelic songs, poetry and drama with the traditional arts of the national Mòd, called Mòdrun, begins this weekend.

Organiser Helen MacInnes, from South Uist, said the pilot project aimed to expand the performance base of Gaels and musicians living in Glasgow. 'It is with an eye on the 2019 Glasgow Mòd that we hope to establish Mòdrun as a Mòd fringe event,' she said.

The festival starts on Saturday October 6 at 2pm

with a free cèilidh in the foyer of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery featuring the Robert Nairn Ceilidh Band and performances by Na Boireannich Eile Quartet, Gaelic bard Alasdair Whyte from Mull, Murdo L, Darren Maclean, Gillebride MacIle Mhaoil, Mairi Nicille Mhaoil, and Muidheann Bun-Sgoil Beinn Chamshroin.

Sunday runs into a series of music sessions, starting at 3pm, in traditional Gaelic pubs in the West End such as the Islay Inn, Snaffle Bit and Park Bar, where singers and



Above: Mòdrun features Gaelic singer Kim Carnie from Oban, a finalist in BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2017.

musicians will play through the afternoon led by some of Glasgow's finest.

The line-up includes Seonaidh McIntyre, Padruig Morrison, Laura Wilkie, Robbie Greig and Gaelic singer Kim Carnie from Oban, a finalist in BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2017. Musicians and singers are encouraged to join the sessions.

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.
To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see www.obanphoenix.com for more details



If we are able to get screen 2 up and running by Friday there will extra films that people can find on the website - www.obanphoenix.com

FRIDAY 5 14:00 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 16:00 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 18:15 VENOM 15 20:45 VENOM 15	18:00 VENOM 15 20:30 VENOM 15
SATURDAY 6 11:30 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 13:30 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 15:45 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG 18:15 VENOM 15 20:45 VENOM 15	TUESDAY 9 11:15 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 13:15 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG 15:45 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 18:00 VENOM 15 20:30 VENOM 15
SUNDAY 7 (Silver Screen £3 for OAPS - 3pm) 12:00 EARLY MAN PG 15:00 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG 17:30 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 19:45 VENOM 15	WEDNESDAY 10 11:15 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 13:15 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 15:30 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG 18:00 VENOM 15 20:30 VENOM 15
MONDAY 8 11:15 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 13:15 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 15:30 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG	THURSDAY 11 11:15 MAYA THE BEE - THE HONEY GAMES U 13:15 MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (SING-A-LONG) PG 15:45 THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS 12A 18:00 VENOM 15 20:30 VENOM 15

Come and enjoy lunch or dinner with fabulous views!
Super new bar menu at the **MUTHU ALEXANDRA HOTEL**

STARTERS Soup of the Day • Buttermilk Squid • Crispy Fried Chicken Strips Pulled Pork Nachos • Nachos	SANDWICHES AND PANINI Club Sandwich with Roast Chicken, Bacon, Tomato, Lettuce & Boiled Egg • Smoked Salmon and Peppercorn Cream Cheese • Egg Mayonnaise Tuna Mayonnaise • Tomato, Mozzarella Cheese and Tuna
SALAD CORNER King Prawn Cocktail with Marie Rose Sauce and Avocado Traditional Caesar with Chicken or Prawn	MAINS Beer Battered Cod • Bangers and Mash • Chicken or Beef Tikka Homemade Lasagne Macaroni Cheese Steak Pie a Selection of amazing burgers!
ALEXANDRA GARDEN BAR SALAD Seasonal Leaves, Watercress, Goat Cheese Curd, Walnuts, Carrot Shavings, Compressed Apple, Chestnut Mushrooms, Radish and Pumpkin Seeds	<i>Finish off with a delicious dessert</i>

What are you waiting for – come on down!
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East Lothian special

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Haunted History... Jamie Dey's East Lothian coast... Meet Tony Singh... Life of a deer stalker... Magical world of JK Rowling... Jack the Ripper in Dundee...



Na Boireannaich Eile Quartet.



Robbie Greig.

bride MacIlle Mhaoil.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 04 AN DÀMHAIR / THURSDAY 04 OCTOBER

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

DIHAIONE 05 AN DÀMHAIR / FRIDAY 05 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Cearcall (rpt)
20.00 Taghadh bho Na Trads (rpt)
20.30 Fuine S5 (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Trapped 2 (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Morlich) (rpt)
23.00 Port S4 (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 06 AN DÀMHAIR / SATURDAY 06 OCTOBER

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

22.00 Fo Ghlas (rpt)
22.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Ross Ainslie (rpt)
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Motherwell v Livingston (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 07 AN DÀMHAIR / SUNDAY 07 OCTOBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.15 An Là – news
18.30 Seachd Là – News review
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
20.00 Dreach Ùr (rpt)
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlain (rpt)
21.00 Iùl a' Chiùil (rpt)
22.00 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
22.30 Func (rpt)
23.00 Trapped 2 (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Morlich) (rpt)

DILUAIN 08 AN DÀMHAIR / MONDAY 08 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Ross Ainslie (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Fuine S5
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Bannan S5
21.30 Trusadh – Am Bonn Oir (rpt)
22.30 Bliadhna na Sgoile (rpt)
23.25 Func (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 09 AN DÀMHAIR / TUESDAY 09 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** An t-Eilean
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Gaol is Call
22.00 Trusadh – Am Bonn Oir (rpt)
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 10 AN DÀMHAIR / WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Solus Buan (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Ross Ainslie (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlain (rpt)
21.00 Chi mi anns a' Bhothan Thu (rpt)
22.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)
22.25 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)
22.55 Call air Cladach Ile (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 11 AN DÀMHAIR / THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dreach Ùr
21.00 Air Toir Manachainn Dheir (rpt)
22.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
22.20 Dhan Uisge (Loch Mhisteam) (rpt)
22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)
23.00 **UR | NEW:** Fo Ghlas
23.50 Cuirm@Celtic – Moving Hearts (rpt)

live
Argyll



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Wedding Fair at The Corran Halls

Sunday 21st October, 12pm-3pm (set up from 11am)

Don't miss your chance to promote your business and services at our forthcoming **Wedding Fair**. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase what you have to offer to **over 200 attendees**. To book one of our last remaining stalls, please contact Sharon McCuish on 01631 567333.

T: 01631 567333 E: corranhalls@liveargyll.co.uk

W: liveargyll.co.uk/halls/corran-halls/weddings

The Corran Halls, 54 The Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AB



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31st December 2018

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Show 9:30pm - 1:00am

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

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory
Strontian

Wed 3 - Fri 5 Oct
Saturday 6 Oct

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (PG) 114 mins
"All I could say was Gimme, Gimme, Gimme" The Guardian
04/10 at 5.30pm, 05/10 at 2pm, 06/10 at 5.30pm

Mission: Impossible - Fallout (12A) 147 mins
"It has become everything that recent Bond films have failed to be: fun but not dumb, serious but not glum, frantic yet always lucid, and with an array of dynamic roles for women"

New Statesmen 04/10 at 8.30pm

Incredibles 2 (PG) 125 mins

"It's a blast!" Playlist

05/10 at 5.30pm, 06/10 at 5.30pm

The Children Act (12A) 105 mins

"Tremendous central performance from Emma Thomson"

The Telegraph 05/10 at 8.30pm

Before *Mamma Mia* we will screen a free photo presentation of work called *Brian Griffin: POP* which has been produced in collaboration with Street Level Photoworks Glasgow. Please arrive promptly to be sure of catching it.

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.



Countdown to first Pride parade in Outer Hebrides

Final preparations are under way for the first LGBT Pride parade to be held in the Outer Hebrides this Saturday.

Hebridean Pride takes place in Stornoway on Saturday October 6 – the same day as the Proud Ness parade, the first one to take place in Inverness for 15 years.

Stornoway resident Susanne Erbida, a member of the organising committee along with Era owner Carl Easton and others, said the group had thought it was 'time for the Western Isles to show support for the local LGBT+ community, especially in light of recent events'.

Last month a minister of Stornoway Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), was reported to have described the event as 'sad and shameful', pointing young people in the 'wrong direction'.

Rev Graeme Craig is quoted as saying: "The sooner soci-

ety returns to recognising basic biology and promoting faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage, the more content people will be. Following our Maker's instructions is always the wise thing to do.'

However, Susanne Erbida said the Pride parade 'should be a celebration of acceptance and tolerance, a happy, peaceful and positive event. Everyone is welcome to our march, young and old'.

'We want to show that it is okay to be different, that LGBT+ people do not have to be afraid to go public with their sexuality. That there is nothing wrong with being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and anything in between.'

Another organiser, Steve Ferguson, said: 'I have seen too much hatred and objection aimed towards LGBT groups and individuals, es-

pecially in the Highlands and Islands. Equality is something everyone deserves regardless of sexuality. Although I am straight, I have gay and bisexual family and friends. This event will not only celebrate them, it will celebrate tolerance, acceptance and love.'

The Pride march will begin at noon from the forecourt outside An Lanntair.

The walk will follow a route through the Narrows, to North Beach, around the Town Hall and to the Carlton, where there will be light refreshments and a performance from drag queen The Duchess. There will be stalls on mental health and sexual health, crafts and baking.

In the evening, Era Nightclub will be holding an LGBT party night, from 10pm till late.

Organisers say they have received a lot of support from organisations including NHS

Western Isles, Stonewall, the Equality Network and An Lanntair. Funds will be raised on the day for the local branch of the Penumbra mental health charity.

Maree Todd, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, expressed her support for the event in Stornoway. 'I am absolutely delighted to see this happen,' she said. 'This will provide a much-needed space to bring people together to experience unity and strength. To me, these events in Stornoway and Inverness are about freedom of expression, being proud of your identity and telling everyone you are welcome here in the Highlands and Islands.'

Elly Fletcher, An Lanntair chief executive, said: 'It's a chance for us all to come together to raise awareness and celebrate LGBT+ people and diversity across our communities.'

Phill Dexter joined Slimming World in June 2017 and lost 4st 8lb

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OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,
Glencruitten Road
Wednesday 9.30am, 11.30am,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational Lodge
St John Street
Tuesdays 1pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
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SUNDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2018

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Glasgow Letter

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



A fine day at the Clydesdale club

Last Sunday, September 30, I made my third visit to the Clydesdale Accordion and Fiddle Club in St Mary's Club Rooms, 70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark.

I had been along twice before as a punter to hear Ian Smith and Gordon Pattullo but this time I had the honour of being the guest artist backed by Ross Wilson on keyboard, Fraser MacInnes on drums and Graham MacKenzie on fiddle.

This is only the second time we have performed together as a four-piece – loosely titled the Robert Robertson Scottish Dance Band – the first being a nerve-racking live broadcast for the Celtic Connections edition of BBC Radio Scotland's Take the Floor in January.

We are a band who place more emphasis on live performance than rehearsal. Graham has a remarkable ability to follow the melody line note for note with very little preparation – which is lucky for us considering we had our only run through the tunes in the kitchen of the church hall about five minutes before going on while the tea ladies prepared for the break.

The Clydesdale club, as I have written before, is well worth a visit. There is always a wonderful turnout of players and Sunday was no different.

In the second half, we only had to play for about 20 minutes because there was such a wealth of talented players. To list them all here would be a fruitless endeavour because The Oban Times would have to produce an extra supplement to fit in all the names.

I highly recommend a visit. Their next meeting is at 2pm on Sunday November 4 and the guest act is the Craigowil Scottish Dance Band.



A lovely gig on Sunday in Lanark with, left to right, Graham MacKenzie, Ross Wilson, and Frazer MacInnes.

Glasgow Uist and Barra piping

Glasgow Uist and Barra Association held its annual piping competition last Saturday, September 29, with the overall winner Niall Stewart.

Results: Piobaireachd: 1 Iain Speirs; 2 William McCallum; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Jamie Forrester; 5 Stuart Liddell. March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 Craig Sutherland; 2 Niall Stewart 3 Stuart Liddell; 4 Alasdair Henderson; 5 William McCallum. Hornpipe and Jig: 1 Niall Stewart; 2 Alasdair Henderson; 3 Iain

Speirs; 4 William McCallum; 5 Gordon McCready.

Clydebank's first ceilidh of season

Clydebank Highland Association held its first ceilidh of the new session earlier in the month and the audience was treated to music of the highest calibre.

Neil Murray was his usual amiable self as chairman, telling stories and introducing the artistes. Calum and Fiona Ross and Frank McCamley were the Gaelic singers and Jackie Gibson, making her first visit to Clydebank, was the

Scots singer. Ryan Young was the fiddler, Robert Wood was the piper and the accompanist was Kirsteen Grant.

What's On section will return

I apologise for the temporary absence of my What's On section in recent weeks.

It will return as soon as An Lòchran, the Gaelic arts body which usually supplies me with most of my information about local events, appoints a new development officer.

I am sure it will be a busy winter season in Glasgow as usual.

Your local radio listings
Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com



For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

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

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

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

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

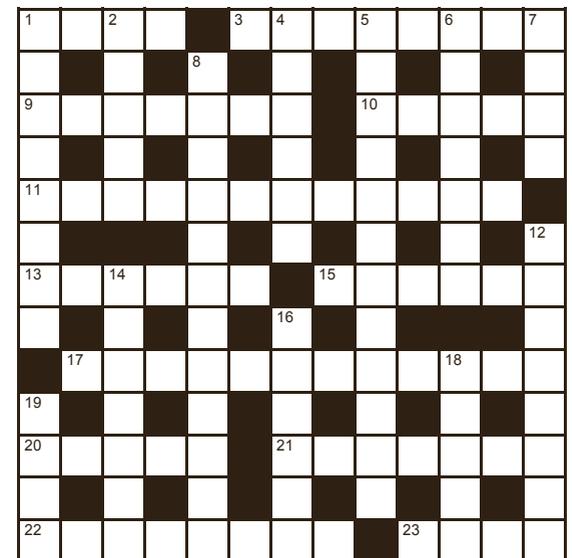
McPhee, 19.00 Christies Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

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

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

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

Crossword



Across

- 1 Young one (4)
- 3 Fracas (8)
- 9 Chorus (7)
- 10 Polite (5)
- 11 Male in authority (6,6)
- 13 Exaggerate (6)
- 15 Concede (4,2)
- 17 Street performer wearing bells (6,6)
- 20 Wed (5)
- 21 Unlawful (7)
- 22 Discount given by money lending institution (4,4)
- 23 Lucre (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Without shoes (8)
- 2 Suit (5)
- 4 Self defence (4,2)
- 5 Identifiable (12)
- 6 The direct opposite (7)
- 7 Sacred (4)
- 8 From New Years Day to Hogmannay (8,4)
- 12 Drinks before dinner (8)
- 14 Causes lessening of the shoreline (7)
- 16 Casual wear (1-5)
- 18 Ride (5)
- 19 Unfeeling (4)



THE NORTH ARGYLL EVENTIDE HOME was opened by the people of Oban, in 1955, to provide a caring environment for the elderly of the area.

North Argyll Home is run by a local, independent, not-for-profit, charity and we rely on the generosity of local people, trusts, grant-making bodies and legacies to help ensure that we are able to continue our vital work.

If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

North Argyll Eventide Home Association Ltd.

North Argyll House, Connel Rd, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

An Comunn Gàidhealach

Meur Chruachain - (Cruachan Branch)

Taynuilt Pre-Mòd Ceilidh

A programme of children and adults competing at The Royal National Mòd in Dunoon
*CONNEL VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 6th October. *7:00pm
Admission £4 Children £2
*Please note change of time and venue
Come and support our local entrants
A warm welcome is extended to all

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club

Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 10th October
At 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
From Dundee
Luke Brady Trio
Supporting players most welcome
Admission £5.00

Tim McMillan & Rachel Snow

Acoustic Guitar & Violin,
Celtic to Rock
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Friday, 5th Oct, 7.30pm
Refreshments
£10 (£8 Friends) on Door

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The Highlanders are coming

The Highlanders are heading to Oban this weekend for their 121st autumn show and sale

The action will be at the United Auctions Oban Livestock Centre with the autumn show on Sunday October 7 and the sale on Monday October 8.

New for this year at the event, under the auspices of the Highland Cattle Society, will be a commercial Highlander sale of unaltered, non-pedigree Highlanders after Monday's pedigree sale.

Promoters say the 2018 event is not to be missed. Some of the top UK breeders will be there. Both days start at 10am. David Soutar will be the show judge with Jimmy Laing taking on

the role of chief steward. Trophies, prizes and awards will be presented to the winners at the society's ceilidh dinner and dance at Oban's Royal Hotel on the Sunday evening.

As part of this weekend's event, Queenie Strickland is holding an open day for the Cladich Fold at Cladich Farm, Dalmally, on Saturday October 6 from noon to 5pm. Refreshments will be provided. All members and visitors are welcome.

Highland cattle are instantly recognisable throughout the world with their long horns and flowing coats.

In the British Isles, herds of Highlanders, known as folds, are found from one end to the other from the slopes of the Sussex Downs to East Anglia's Fenlands and the windswept machars of the Outer Hebrides.

Highland cattle societies have also been started abroad in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, France, Switzerland and Norway.

There are also Highlanders in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Estonia, USA, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Faroe Islands. Highland cattle can even be found

foraging 10,000 feet up in the Andes.

Breeders, experienced and new, who have travelled from all over the world to buy new stock, will be invited by Raymond Kennedy of United Auctions to put in bids.

A post on the Highland Cattle Society's Facebook page said: 'All visitors are welcome, buyers and enthusiastic spectators. With helpful staff and hundreds of knowledgeable members of the Highland Cattle Society in attendance, there is no better place to discover all you need to know about this iconic breed.'



Kate Cameron, 10, from Dunach gives her calf Nighean Ruadh 2nd of Dunach a wee kiss as she won best in her class and reserve champion heifer calf at last year's autumn show. Overall, Kate's dad John runs the Dunach fold of Highland cattle for Lord and Lady Denholm.

Picture: Kevin McGlynn



121st Autumn Show & Sale

www.highlandcattlesociety.com



7th & 8th of October
Sunday Show, Monday Sale

***NEW* Commercial Highlander Sale**
will follow the Monday Pedigree Sale

Venue: United Auctions, Oban Livestock Centre, PA34 4SD

Society: 01786 446866 UA: 01786 473055 info@highlandcattlesociety.com

Zetor Proxima 120HS 4WD, Brand New, c/w ZX3.1P Loader, 120HP	£41,495
Zetor Major 80CL 4WD, Brand New, c/w ZL26 loader, 60HP, 30K.....	£32,995
Massey Ferguson 5445 4WD, 2010, c/w MF loader, 40k, 95HP	£28,995
Claas Axos 340 CX 4WD, 2011, c/w Quicke Q40 loader	£24,995
Zetor Major 80 4WD, 2015, c/w Trima X21 loader, Only 844 hours	£24,495
Claas Celtis 446 RX, 4WD, 2008, c/w Quicke Q41 6ft bucket	£22,995
Case JX1090U 4WD, 2007, c/w Quicke Q45 loader / bucket.....	£21,495
Massey Ferguson 5455, 4WD, 2004, 95HP, air con, 80% tyres.....	£18,495
Renault Celtis 446, 4WD, 2004, c/w Mailleux MX80 loader, 90HP	£19,995
Kubota ME8200 4wd, 2007, c/w Kubota LA1251 loader	£18,995
Kubota ME5700 4WD, 2008, c/w Kubota loader/bucket, hyd shuttle	£18,495
Kubota ME5700 4WD, 2008, only 2700 recorded hours	£18,495
Renault Ceres 335 X 4WD, 2002, c/w Mailleux MX75 loader	£16,495
JCB Load all 530/70 Farm special, 2002, c/w pallet forks	£14,995
Case 4230 4WD, 1996, 1 owner from new	£11,995
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GORDON AGRIC
TRACTORS, MACHINERY & ATV SALES

MARKET REPORTS

Islay – United Auctions held their annual show and sale of breeding sheep and rams, also sale of lambs and feeding sheep at Islay Auction Mart. In total, 4987 head of all classes were sold. The breeding rams and ram lambs was judged by Charlie McMillan, Ardtalla Estate and the following are his awards: Blackface: 1st and reserve overall – John Campbell, 9 Cnoc-Na-Faire, £420; 2nd Allan Orr, 13 Dailnamarra, £500; 3rd John Campbell, £280. Crossing Rams: 1st and overall champion, Elliott Bowman, 40 Texa Crescent – Texel ram lamb, £520; 2nd Miss Brooke Woodrow, 16 West End, Texel shearing, £450; 3rd Mrs S Woodrow, 16 West End, Texel shearing, £400. Lambs sold to sellers' advantage averaging as follows: Suffolk £61.58 (+ £11.03); Texel £64.69 (+ £13.03); Cheviot cross £57.02 (+ £1.46); Mule £56.38 (+ 82 pence); Blackface £38.04 (+ £2.62). Breeding sheep sold in keeping with current market trends. A feature of the sale was a pen of 16 Texel cross lambs consigned by Donald McCormick, Blackrock, weighing 35.5 kilo and sold for £110 per head to D Low, Pittenkerrie. This pen of lambs was the last lot to be auctioned by Donald Morrison, who has stepped down from the rostrum after 45 years. Upon selling this pen, Donald announced that there shall be a donation made to Parkinson's UK for £560. Principal lots and prices. Breeding sheep
Ewe lambs
TEXx: £64 – Paicr A Chlassan. MULE: £80 – Ballachlaven : £80 – Smaladh : £75 – Bola Na Traigh : £72 – Kindrochaid. BF: £44 – Kinnabus : £43 – Ceanacroic : £42 – No 1 Foreland : £41 – Portantruan. Gimmers
TEXx: £95 – Claddach. MULE: £125 – Lorgba : £92 – Claddach.

BF: £65 and £61 – Kinnabus : £60 – Carn.
Correct ewes
TEXx: £64 and £51 – Viewfield. MULE: £60 – Charlotte Street. BF: £61 – Kinnabus : £58 – Lossit : £51 and £50 – Kinnabus.
Rams
SUFF: £550 – 7 Claddach : £550 and £500 – Eorrabus. BFL: £850 – Ballachlaven : £500 – Coille : £420 – Ballachlaven : £420 and £400 – Coille. TEX: £520 – Upper Craggabus (E Bowman) : £450, £400(3) – 16 West End. CROSS: £420 and £320 – Island : £320 and £300 – Coille. BF: £500(2) – Upper Craggabus(A Orr) : £420 – Cnoc Na Faire.
Feeding sheep
Lambs
SUFF: £68 – Paicr A Chlassan : £67.50 – Lossit and Octofad : £67 – Ardbeg and Ballimartin : £66.50 – Duich , Kilchiaran and Claggan : £66.00 – Islay Estates : £65.00 – Starchmill and Ardbeg : £64.50 – 16 West End and Octofad : £64.00 – Octofad and Ballachlaven : £63.00 – Islay Estates : £62.50 – Ardtalla Estate and Achnaclach. TEXx: £110 – Blackrock : £71.50 – Paicr A Chlassan : £67.00 – Tallant : £66.00 – Islay Estates and Ardbeg : £65.50 – Paicr A Chlassan : £65.00 – Kinnabus : £63.50 – Ardbeg and Achnaclach : £62.50 – Starchmill : £62.00 – Ardbeg, 16 West End and Kinnabus : £61.50 – Paicr A Chlassan : £61.00 – Blackrock : £60.50 – Carrabus. CHEV: £66.00 and £60.00 – Aoradh : £58.50 – Duich and Aoradh. CROSS: £64.50 – Lossit : £64.00 – 16 West End : £62.50 – Carrabus. MULE: £63.00 – Starchmill : £61.50 – Rockside : £60.50 – Knocklearach and Islay Estates. BF: £61.50 and £60.50 – Coille :

£53.50 – Rockside.
Ewes
SUFF: £57.50 – Bayview. TEXx: £78.50 – Blackrock : £74.50 – Claggan and Viewfield : £72.50 and £68.50 – Bayview : £67.50 – Carrabus : £60.00 – 16 West End. CHEV: £70.00 – Cruach : £66.50 – Aoradh : £58.00 – Cruach. CROSS: £56.50 – Grulinbeg and Achnaclach. MULE: £60.50 – Starchmill : £54.50 – Ballachlaven. BF: £34.50 – Carrabus : £31.50 – Ballachlaven. Top prices per kilo
SUFF: 191p – Ardtalla Estate : 191p and 189p – Octofad : 186p – Kilbride : 181p and 178p – Octofad. TEXx: 301p and 185p – Blackrock : 183p – Carrabus : 181p – Achnaclach : 176p – Islay Estates : 171p – Blackrock. CHEV: 178p – Aoradh : 173p – Kilbride. CROSS: 176p – Islay Estates : 174p – Ardtalla Estate : 171p – Kindrochaid. MULE: 184p – Kindrochaid : 168p – Scarrabus : 165p – Glenegeale Lotts : 162p – Smaladh and Rockside. BF: 176p – Islay Estates : 162p – Rockside.

Oban – United Auctions on Tuesday September 25 sold 3037 all classes breeding sheep at Oban Livestock Centre. A good show of quality bred sheep were on offer to a busy ringside of buyers. The sale was topped by a pen of Texel gimmers from Croft 2 Fanmore selling for £160. Cheviot gimmers sold to £100 from Tiraghoil and averaged £73.40. Mule gimmers averaged £86.29 and sold to £118 from Fiart. Blackface gimmers sold to £80 from Balnagown and averaged £45.37. Cheviot warranted ewes from Caileach sold to £65 and averaged £54.13. Mule ewes levelled out at £51.97 and sold to £65 from Torbhlaire. Blackface

Ewes sold to £68 from Teanga Bhuidhe and averaged £39.58. Cheviot cross ewe lambs from Tyree (D MacDonald Jnr) fetched £72 averaging £45.04. M/s Carmichael, Fiart led the Mule ewe lambs at £80 and the section averaged £62.73. Blackface ewe lambs from Scammadale sold to £59 and levelled out £40.18. As has been evident at earlier breeding sales, buyers are being selective and willing to pay premium prices on quality stock. Principal lots and prices.
Ewe lambs
MULE: £80 – Fiart : £72 – Saulmore : £70 – Garraron and Melfort Farms : £70 – Lochside, Tiree : £70 – Fiart. CHEV MULE: £78 – Keppochan : £72 – Tyree : £62 – Caddleton Farms : £60 – Keppochan. BF: £59 – Scammadale : £58 – Saulmore : £47 – Lagnaha : £46 – Fidden : £46 – Dunlossit Estate. TEXx: £78 and £64 – Lochside, Tiree. CHEV: £70 – Balure : £65 – Caddleton Farms : £62 and £60 – Slaterich. Gimmers
MULE: £118 – Fiart : £102 – 4 Ballygrundle : £100 – Torbhlaire : £100 – 4 Ballygrundle. CHEV: £100 – Tiraghoil : £88 –

Caddleton Farms : £88 – West Drimvore.
TEXx: £160 – Fanmore : £102 – Newfield.
BF: £80 – Balnagown : £62 – Achnashul.
Ewes
SUFF: £56 and £50 – Bridgend.
TEXx: £55 – Antuim.
CHEV: £65 – Cailaich : £60 –

Slaterich : £58 – Antuim : £58 – Cailaich : £58 – Sgriob-Ruadh. CROSS: £50 – Achnashul : £40 – Slaterich. MULE: £65 – Torbhlaire : £55 – Cuan Croft : £54 – Torbhlaire. BF: £68 – Teanga Bhuidhe : £58 – Glengorm : £50 – Ensay : £50 – Achnaba : £50 – Croft 1 Fanmore : £48 – Ensay : £48 – Slaterich : £45 – Kengharair.

New Entrants to Farming Planning for the Future



National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Date	Venue
Tuesday 9 th October 2018	Tarbert Hotel, Harbour Street, Tarbert, PA29 6UB
Wednesday 10 th October 2018	Kingarth Hotel, Isle of Bute, PA20 9LU

Time for all events: 10.30am – 2.30pm (lunch included)

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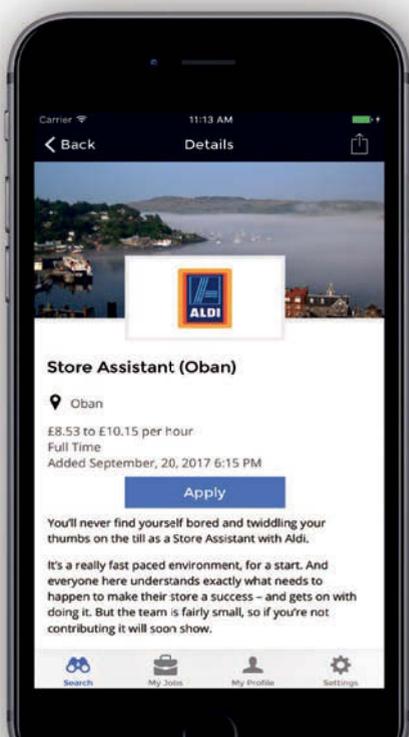
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HIJOBS  

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATERENVIRONMENT(CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011”
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION CAR/L/1170801 - MHEURAN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE**

CAR/L/1170802 - CEITLEIN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE
CAR/L/1170803 - CHAORAINN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE
CAR/L/1170804 - GAOIREAN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE
CAR/L/1170805 - FHAOLAIN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE
CAR/L/1170806 - CHARNAN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE
CAR/L/1170807 - BHIORAIN HYDRO, GLEN ETIVE

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by the applicants below for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the sites below, namely:

Mheuran Hydro Limited - Mheuran Hydro, Glen Etive
Ceitlein Hydro Limited - Ceitlein Hydro, Glen Etive
Chaorainn Hydro Limited - Chaorainn Hydro, Glen Etive
Gaoirean Hydro Limited - Gaoirean Hydro, Glen Etive
Fhaolain Hydro Limited - Fhaolain Hydro, Glen Etive
Charnan Hydro Limited - Charnan Hydro, Glen Etive
Bhiorain Hydro Limited - Bhiorain Hydro, Glen Etive

MheuranHydro - CAR/L/1170801	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.57m in height	AlltMeirleach	NN 1383 4494
Abstraction of 39,225 m3 per day of water	AlltMeirleach	NN 1383 4494
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.0m in height	AlltMheuran	NN 1417 4466
Abstraction of 51,840 m3 per day of water	AlltMheuran	NN 1417 4466
Return of abstracted water	AlltMheuran	NN 1352 4605

CeitleinHydro - CAR/L/1170802	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.4m in height	AlltCeitlein	NN 1623 4730
Abstraction 101,088 m3 per day of water	AlltCeitlein	NN 1623 4730
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of AlltCeitlein	NN 1592 4747
Abstraction 8,035 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of AlltCeitlein	NN 1592 4747
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of AlltCeitlein	NN 1630 4710
Abstraction 9,849 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of AlltCeitlein	NN 1630 4710
Return of abstracted water	AlltCeitlein	NN 1477 4775

Chaorainn Hydro - CAR/L/1170803	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 3.07m in height	Allta' Chaorainn	NN 1982 4996
Abstraction 158,976 m3 per day of water	Allta' Chaorainn	NN 1982 4996
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.87m in height	AlltnaGhuibhasan	NN 1994 5001
Abstraction 62,985 m3 per day of water	AlltnaGhuibhasan	NN 1994 5001
Return of abstracted water	Allta' Chaorainn	NN 1954 5102

Gaoirean Hydro - CAR/L/1170804	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.57m in height	Allt nan Gaoirean	NN 1204 4852
Abstraction 62,985 m3 per day of water	Allt nan Gaoirean	NN 1204 4852
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of the Allt nan Gaoirean	NN 1218 4839
Abstraction 7,257 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of the Allt nan Gaoirean	NN 1218 4839
Return of abstracted water	Allt nan Gaoirean	NN 1401 4746

FhaolainHydro - CAR/L/1170805	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 3.9m in height	AlltFhaolain	NN 1540 5155
Abstraction 79,142 m3 per day of water	AlltFhaolain	NN 1540 5155
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of the AlltFhaolain	NN 1541 5149
Abstraction 1,296 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of the AlltFhaolain	NN 1541 5149
Return of abstracted water	AlltFhaolain	NN 1576 5071

CharnanHydro - CAR/L/1170806	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.57m in height	AlltCharnan	NN 1352 4946
Abstraction 99,100 m3 per day of water	AlltCharnan	NN 1352 4946
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of the AlltCharnan	NN 1349 4942
Abstraction 900 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of the AlltCharnan	NN 1349 4942
Return of abstracted water	AlltCharnan	NN 1436 4841

Bhiorain Hydro - CAR/L/1170807	Waters affected	National grid reference
Description of controlled activity		
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.7m in height	Allta Bhiorain	NN 1066 4669
Abstraction 69,206 m3 per day of water	Allta Bhiorain	NN 1066 4669
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1m in height	Un-named tributary of the Allt a Bhiorain	NN 1073 4674
Abstraction 4,752 m3 per day of water	Un-named tributary of the Allt a Bhiorain	NN 1073 4674
Return of abstracted water	Allta Bhiorain	NN 1129 4578

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk or to the following address, quoting reference number as detailed above.

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use;
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

**VARIATION TO EXISTING FINFISH FARM,
FISHNISH B, SOUND OF MULL**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Sea Farms Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a variation to an existing finfish farm at:

Cost	£500,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Fishnish B, Sound of Mull	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Moorings Area	56° 31.219'N	005° 49.355'W
	56° 31.141'N	005° 48.800'W
	56° 30.988'N	005° 48.871'W
	56° 31.066'N	005° 49.426'W
Boat Moorings	56° 31.000'N	005° 49.180'W
	56° 30.970'N	005° 49.060'W
	56° 30.970'N	005° 49.110'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Craignure Post Office & Stores, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference:04140V and Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01847/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Ella Lane Tobermory Argyll And Bute
18/01835/PP	Alteration and extension of car park, erection of building and installation of biodisc	Kilninian Torloisk Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA74 6NH
18/02019/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse to facilitate self contained owner's accommodation	Glenforsa Hotel (Rosemary Cottage) Glenforsa Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JN
18/02067/PP	Change of use of land to form car park (part retrospective)	Land South East Of MacKenzie Welding Workshop Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JE
18/01597/PP	Erection of agricultural shed	Croft 15 (formerly 1) Kilvaree Connal Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01526/PP	Erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land North West Of Arizona Toberonochy Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UG

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 Council's 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



The Port of Oban Cruise Group

AGM
23rd October
2018, 1.30pm
North Pier
Harbour Masters
Office

First Registration of a Croft

Grant and Laura MacGregor have registered their croft 1, 2 & 3 Anaheilt, Anaheilt, Ardnamurchan on parish Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 13th June 2019.

Details of registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5399.

First Registration of a Croft

Grant MacLean has registered their croft "12 Tighphuirst, Braehead, Tighphuirst, Lismore & Appin" on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by May 10th 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3429.



**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING
APPLICATIONS**

D Cameron
T Cameron
161 Kentra, Ardnamurchan
& Sunart
0.088 ha –Existing house
site
92202

P Knight
25 Auchinard, Kilfinichen &
Kilvickoeon
0.252 ha –Existing house
site
92227

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 02/11/18. Crofting Com-
mission, Great Glen House,
Leachkin Road, Inverness
IV3 8NW, info@crofting.
gov.scot

The Crofting Commission
takes the protection of your
privacy seriously. To safe-
guard your personal data
and make sure that it is ac-
curate, we only collect and/
or store the data necessary
to carry out our functions
as a regulatory body. You
can find a copy of our Pri-
vacy Notice at
www.crofting.scotland.gov.
uk/openness-and-custom-
er-care.

**DECROFTING
DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

B Roberts
M Roberts
5 & 6 Upper Inveroy, Kil-
monivaig
86199
0.055 ha
Reason – Improved access
and garden ground
Condition – With fencing
conditions.

A McEachern
9 Portnahaven, Kilchoman
86843
0.157 ha
Reason – Existing croft
house site & garden
ground

Full details at www.crofting.
scotland.gov.uk

**KILFINICHEN FARMS PARTNERSHIP
MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED)**

Notice is hereby given that Kilfinichen Farms Partnership, registered at Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull, PA69 6ER have applied to the Scottish Ministers for a marine licence under section 20 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to construct for the pier development at Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull. Co-ordinates below (WGS84):

Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
56° 22.834 'N	006° 03.217 'W	56° 22.765 'N	006° 03.142 'W
56° 22.832 'N	006° 03.213 'W	56° 22.783 'N	006° 03.094 'W
56° 22.829 'N	006° 03.214 'W	56° 22.776 'N	006° 03.079 'W
56° 22.801 'N	006° 03.159 'W	56° 22.773 'N	006° 03.083 'W
56° 22.799 'N	006° 03.192 'W	56° 22.768 'N	006° 03.072 'W
56° 22.797 'N	006° 03.192 'W	56° 22.778 'N	006° 03.057 'W
56° 22.799 'N	006° 03.158 'W	56° 22.783 'N	006° 03.068 'W
56° 22.794 'N	006° 03.149 'W	56° 22.780 'N	006° 03.073 'W
56° 22.784 'N	006° 03.164 'W	56° 22.787 'N	006° 03.088 'W
56° 22.783 'N	006° 03.161 'W	56° 22.793 'N	006° 03.085 'W
56° 22.793 'N	006° 03.146 'W	56° 22.799 'N	006° 03.089 'W
56° 22.790 'N	006° 03.140 'W	56° 22.836 'N	006° 03.182 'W
56° 22.780 'N	006° 03.163 'W	56° 22.839 'N	006° 03.194 'W
56° 22.774 'N	006° 03.168 'W	56° 22.840 'N	006° 03.198 'W
56° 22.770 'N	006° 03.166 'W	56° 22.837 'N	006° 03.207 'W
56° 22.765 'N	006° 03.160 'W	56° 22.835 'N	006° 03.216 'W
56° 22.764 'N	006° 03.152 'W		

The proposed works are subject to an environmental impact assessment under The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017(as amended) ("the EIA Regulations").

Copies of the application(s) including plan(s) showing the location, together with a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report ("EIA report") discussing Kilfinichen Farms proposed works in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge at: The Old Post Office, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull, PA69 6ER from 9.00 am – 5.00 pm daily.

The EIA Report can also be viewed online at <http://marine.gov.scot/ml/kilfinichen-pier-development-isle-mullandwww.kilfinichen.com>. Copies of the EIA report may also be obtained from Kilfinichen Farms (tel: 020 7977 8234) at a charge of £150.00 hard copy and £5.00 on CD (including post and packaging). Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations should be made in writing to the consenting authority by email to: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or by post to The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB, identifying the proposed works and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than 03 November 2018. The Scottish Ministers may consider representations received after this date. Representations should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and the full return email or postal address of those making the representation.

Subsequent submission by Kilfinichen Farms of additional information to the Scottish Ministers will be publicised in a similar manner to the current application including publication on the above websites. Representations relative to additional information should be made on the same basis as detailed above.

Having considered an application for a marine licence under section 20 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the EIA Regulations the Scottish Ministers may:-

- grant a marine licence/s with or without conditions attached; or
- refuse the application/s.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team ("MS-LOT") processes applications under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. During the consultation process written representations can be sent to the Scottish Ministers.

Should the Scottish Ministers call a Public Local Inquiry ("PLI") copies of representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by the Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the planning authority, the applicant, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled, contact MS-LOT by email at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or by post to The Scottish Government, MS-LOT, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

Argyll and Bute Council

**Councillor Roddy McCuish
(E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**

Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on **Friday 5th October 2018** 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 12th October 2018** 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 Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on **Friday 26th October 2018** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from **10.00am – 12 Noon**.
Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email – Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor
(E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**

Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on **Friday 26th October 2018** 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 **Monday 22nd October 2018** 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 562 444

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE

Duncan Boyd trading as DAB Groundworks Ltd of 8 Blaich, Fort William PH33 7AN is applying for licence to use 8 Blaich, Fort William PH33 7AN as a Standard National operating centre for four goods vehicles and 3 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use of enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/04288/DEM	Dun Eistein, Glenborrodale Acharacle	Demolition of house
18/04260/FUL	Mallaig Swimming Pool Mallaig	Alterations, refurbishment and extension to pool and leisure facilities
18/03865/FUL	Oak Bank, Lochailort	Siting of caravan for holiday use
18/04284/FUL	Land 30M SW Of Oakrange, Spean Bridge	Erection of house
18/04424/FUL	Layby Off A82 600M North Of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge	Continued siting of snack van in large lay-by
18/04462/FUL	Plot 5 Land 720M South East Of Moss Of Keppoch, Arisaig	Temporary siting of caravan and associated septic tank and soak aways
18/04402/LBC	St Andrew's House Fassifern Road Fort William	Removal of two stone chimneys, replace with 2 no stainless steel black powder coated flues, rebuilding of 3rd chimney to a reduced height
17/01675/FUL	Land 3100M NW Of Sallachan, Ardgour	Construction of a hydropower scheme to include an earth dam and reservoir
18/04398/FUL	76 High Street, Fort William	Alterations and change of use of building from Class 1 to Class 11

Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 days for 18/04402

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017
CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDROPOWER SCHEME TO INCLUDE AN EARTH DAM AND
RESERVOIR AT LAND 3100M NW OF SALLACHAN ARDGOUR**

The Council has received an application from Corrigan Contractors Ltd on land at Land 3100M NW Of Sallachan, Ardgour. The application is development falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The application reference number is (17/01675/FUL).

The application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report are available for public inspection by appointment between the hours of 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location –

**The Highland Council Service Point
The Charles Kennedy Building
Achtore Road
Fort William, PH33 6RQ**

They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using application number 17/01675/FUL)

Printed copies of the complete Environmental Impact Assessment Report can be purchased from Adrian Laycock Ltd, Per: Angela Henderson 2 Malin House European Marine Science Park, Kirk Road, Dunbeg, PA37 1SZ at a cost of £100.00 & £10 for DVD copy. The Non Technical Summary can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

**Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure**

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MARRIAGES

McCULLOCH - KOHNKE - On September 15, 2018 in Kelowna, B.C., Canada, Iain, younger son of Bob and Ann McCulloch, Oban, to Leanna, daughter of Rick Kohnke, Penticton, B.C., and Sonia Waller, Summerland, B.C.

DEATHS

ELDER - (Inverness). Peacefully at the Highland Hospice, Inverness on September 30, 2018, surrounded by his family, Alasdair John Elder, aged 58 years, RIP, Boarstone Place, Inverness. For service details please contact the Funeral Directors; John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, tel 01463 233366.

KERR - Peacefully at home, on Thursday, September 27, 2018, Ian, aged 72. Beloved husband of Sarah. Dad to Andrew, Jennifer and daughter-in-law Lesley. Dear Papa to Cameron and Ruby. Funeral service will be held at Kilmore and Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road Oban on Friday, October 5 at 1p.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only.

MACINTYRE - Very peacefully, surrounded by his family on Saturday, September 29, 2018, Iain Neil MacIntyre, aged 87 years. Devoted husband, dad and grandad. Funeral service will be held on Monday, October 8, 2018 at 11a.m. in Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach; thereafter to Beoraid Cemetery, Morar for approx 3p.m. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Mossspark Residents' Fund can be given at the service or forwarded to McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

MACLEOD - Peacefully, with his family by his side on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, David Alexander MacLeod of Glen Gloy Farms and formerly of DML computers. A loving husband and friend to Vivien Veitch and to Kirsty MacFarlane, devoted father to Jane and Kirsty Anna. A funeral service will take place at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh, on Friday, October 12 at 1pm. Family flowers only, please. Collection for the Combined Assessment Unit of the Belford Hospital, Fort William.

McMILLAN - Peacefully at Palm Court, Isle of Bute on September 25, 2018, Pearl McMillan née McCreadie in her 89th year, widow of Donald (Donnie) McMillan, much loved mum of Alistair, Ishbel, Gavin, Neil and the late Gordon, a loving granny to Keir, Rowan, Robin, Douglas, Thomas, Abigail, Lewis, Holly and great-granddaughter Ishbel. Funeral service will be held in United Church of Bute, Isle of Bute on Friday, October 5 at 1pm. All welcome.

REFFIN - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on September 30, 2018 after a short illness, Peter, beloved husband of the late Annie, dearly loved dad of Margaret, Peter and Brian,

dear father-in-law of Iain and Charlotte and much loved Grandpa of Ailsa, Laura, Joshua and Megan. Sorely missed. Funeral service will be held at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on Monday, October 8 at 1pm. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLAIR - The family of the late John Blair MBE (Kinlochleven) would like to thank everyone for the kindness and words of sympathy shown following the sad loss of their dad. A special thanks to all staff at the Belford Hospital and Raigmore Hospital HDU wards, the ambulance crews and Kinlochleven medical practice. Thanks to John McLellan Funeral Directors to the Church of Scotland Kinlochleven and the staff of the Highland Getaway for the catering. Thanks to all who attended the service and the graveside. The sum of £492.30 was collected for Save the Children.

BRIDGES - June-Anne, Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie wish to thank family and friends for the many cards, flowers and home baking given to us on the sad loss of David. Special thanks to Scott and Linnie and all the staff of John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their comfort and outstanding service. Rev Richard Baxter for his heartfelt service, the piper at the graveside, Charlie and Alan for all their help and visits, the staff of Bridge Cafe in Spean Bridge and Shiona at McDonald Bros for beautiful flowers.

JOHNSTONE - Andrew, James, Iain and Duncan would like to thank everyone for all the lovely cards flowers and personal messages received following the recent passing of their beloved father John Johnstone. We would especially like to thank all the staff at Raigmore hospital in Inverness who looked after him so well through his final days. We would also like to thank all at John McLellan's Funeral Directors for all their help, really can't speak highly enough of the service we received

MACINTYRE - Donald, Catriona, Kenny and the family of the late Betty wish to thank most sincerely all the relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy and flowers during their recent sad loss. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Wallace of Craig Nevis Medical Practice, all staff at Belford Hospital and Crossroad carers who looked after Betty so well. Grateful thanks to Rev. Alexander Guinness and Elaine for their friendship and comforting service. Special thanks to St. Andrew's choir and Liz Loudon for playing the organ. Thanks also to Nikki Robertson for her beautiful flowers. Special thanks to Scott, Linnie and John for their care and help with the funeral arrangements. Finally, thank you to those who donated so generously the sum of £885.82 towards Belford Hospital and St. Andrew's Fabric Fund.

MEMORIALS

GRANT - Donald Robertson. Treasured memories of a much loved brother, father, grand father and uncle who passed away so sadly on October 3, 2017. Always in our thoughts. - Margaret, Neil and families xx.

KIRSOP - Joanna, three years have passed since we last saw your beautiful smile and heard that infectious laugh. Love and miss you every day. - Mum, Dad and Thomas.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear mother Julia, who passed away on September 30, 2008. Will miss you forever. - Julie and Roddy.

MACLEAN - Fond memories of our dear mum Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007. Also our dear dad Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. No longer in our lives to share, loved and remembered every day. - Teen, Angela and Alexander.

McGRATH - In loving memory of our dear dad and grandpa Joseph, who died October 2, 1979. Some day we hope to meet again Some day we know not when To clasp your hand in a better land Never to part again. - Love always your loving children and grandchildren.

MILLS - 10th anniversary. Cherished memories of Billy, a loving husband, father, father-in-law and granda, who passed away on October 6, 2008.

Thank you for the years we shared The love you gave, the way you cared Deep in my heart your memory is kept

Too dearly loved to ever forget. Love and miss you always. - Your loving wife Helen xxx Loving and kind in all his ways Upright and just to the end of his days Sincere and true in his heart and mind Beautiful memories he left behind. Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jnr and Paul xx

MORTON - In loving memory of my son Thomas, died October 7, 2017. Always in my thoughts. - Mum

NICHOLSON - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia who passed away October 4, 1993. Twenty five 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 families.

WALKER - In memory of our mother Marybell, died October 4, 1990.

Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

WALKER - In loving memory of my dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by her loving son Archie.

WALKER - In loving memory of Marybell, our mother and grandmother, who passed away October 4, 1990.

Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

THOUGHT for the week

Harvest Time

The seasonal journey brings us to autumn, the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as Keats describes it.

This year especially, we are aware of abundant growth and 'fruitfulness' in the bounty of brambles, apples, hedgerow fruits, garden flowers and produce, and early crops.

Harvest time is here again, an opportunity to reflect and be thankful for all that we have, including the things that we take for granted, such as clean water and the vast choice and availability of foods. We can also appreciate the extent of God's provision through the support, kindness and help from friends, family and community groups.

Harvest is a gathering together of goodness and nourishment for body, mind and spirit from God's ceaseless care for each one of us. If the letters of HARVEST are rearranged into STARVE, HAVE, and SHARE, we are then reminded of underlying attitudes and actions that are integral to the theme of Harvest.

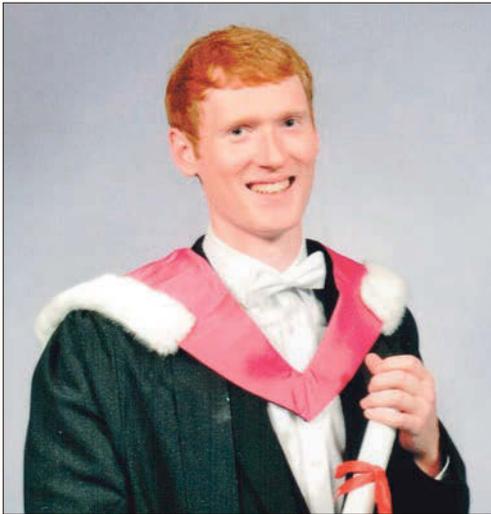
We can think of situations of failed crops due to drought or disease, be concerned for lives devastated by disaster, by hunger and poverty in other nations and in ours. We can pray for and give to local agencies working to alleviate suffering, meeting need and helping to yield a better future. We can also be grateful for changes that encourage reduced food waste and ensure that we truly value the food that we have, using only what we need and, through sharing what we can, live out our thankfulness for all God's 'good gifts around us'.

Reverend Carol Leech



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GRADUATIONS



ANGUS SINCLAIR
Graduated MBChB (Medicine) from the University of Edinburgh. Angus, from Kilmore, is the son of Duncan and Frances Sinclair and brother of Finlay. A former pupil of St. Columba's Primary School and Oban High School, Angus has taken up a post at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

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8 - 12 October 2018



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- Recent research has shown that the majority of people use a solicitor to draw up their will, to ensure that they get it right!

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SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Celebrations as 'More and silverware

It was celebration day as both Newtonmore and Kilmallie were presented with their league trophies following the shinty action on Saturday September 29.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kyles Athletic 1
Newtonmore 3**

Champions Newtonmore completed their league campaign with a 3-1 victory over Kyles Athletic in their 3pm throw up at Tighnabruaich.

John Whyte returned in goals for Kyles after missing the win over Oban Camanachd a fortnight earlier whilst Roddy MacDonald was also back in the side. Grant Irvine was missing.

This was Newtonmore's final match of a treble-winning season. It was due to be the final senior outing after an illustrious career for 'More full back Norman Campbell.

However, an accidental hand injury suffered in the previous week's game against Oban Camanachd at the Eilan left him with broken knuckles.

Fraser MacKintosh remained out with a broken collar bone whilst injury also ruled out Evan Menzies and Neil Stewart. Steven Macdonald began a suspension penalty which will carry forward into the start of next season. Jamie Robinson, who was feeling a tight hamstring, took a place on the bench.

Ewen Fraser gave Newtonmore a two-goal interval cushion with strikes on 29 and 36 minutes. He took both goals well with both executed within 15 yards' range. The first was a looping shot and the second a low, bouncing drive.

Newtonmore's third goal was well constructed from the centre line through the team with the ball eventually cut back to Glen MacKintosh on the D and he put it away to make it 3-0.

Robbie MacLeod pulled a goal back on 66 minutes to make it 3-1. Newtonmore brought young

reserve keeper Calum Grover on for Kenny Ross with 15 minutes remaining with 15-year-old Sorley Thomson also getting a run out.

Keeper Grover won't forget his appearance as referee Robert Baxter awarded Kyles a penalty. Roddy MacDonald took it but Grover made the save and the match finished 3-1.

Newtonmore demonstrated the depth of their squad, travelling to a difficult venue with a number of absentees and still getting the win.

Kyles's remaining fixtures are away to Lochaber and at home to Glenurquhart over the next two Saturdays.

The win brings to a close a very successful Newtonmore season with the players taking pride in their achievements. They extend their unbeaten run to 19 matches which dates back to mid-May and includes only two draws.

After the final whistle, with Camanachd Association chief-tain Jock Turner in attendance, Newtonmore skipper Andy MacKintosh was presented with the Marine Harvest Premiership trophy by sponsors Marine Harvest.

Kinlochshiel 2 Lovat 1

A Duncan Matheson double helped Kinlochshiel beat Lovat 2-1 at a wet Kirkton.

Both sides are locked in a battle with Kyles Athletic for a second place finish and this was Lovat's final game of the season whilst 'Shiel and Kyles both still have two more games to play.

With referee Martin MacLean held up by the road works at the Stromeferry by-pass, throw up was delayed by half an hour for a second successive Saturday.

Keith MacRae and Fraser MacVicar were still out for 'Shiel whilst defenders Mark MacDonald and David Falconer (back injury) were also both unavailable. Attacker Scott MacLean was also missing. Donald Nixon and Duncan 'WD' MacRae both started in a revamped 'Shiel defence. John MacRae con-



The Newtonmore team photographed with their haul of trophies for the season, from left, the Marine Harvest Premiership Trophy, the cottages.com MacTavish Cup, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the Sir Tommy Macpherson Memorial Trophy. Photo: Neil Paterson

tinued at full centre whilst Paul MacRae came back into the starting line-up at full forward. Andrew MacKenzie and Duncan MacMillan were the only home substitutes.

Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher had a number of absentees and he listed himself as a substitute along with Rory Gallacher. Marc MacLachlan was still out after suffering a dislocated knee in the Camanachd Cup final and an imminent doctor's appointment will determine whether he can recover in time for the Lovat Cup or whether the start of the 2019 season is a more realistic target. Lewis Tawse had still to return from his honeymoon whilst Lorne MacKay and Callum Cruden were both banned. Martin Mainland and long-term absentees Scott MacKenzie and Mark Kelly were also missing. Ryan Ferguson started for the senior side for the first time this season in the buckshee forward position.

Kinlochshiel opened playing down the slope and they survived a penalty scare after seven minutes when full back Finlay MacRae appeared to be holding Greg Matheson's stick as the players jostled for possession inside the D but the referee waved away the Lovat claims.

Play quickly switched to the other end where Jordan Fraser shot wide of goal.

Lovat went back on the attack and Graeme MacMillan went close

and, moments later, Greg Matheson broke through on goal but he was just unable to take the ball with him and the chance was gone.

A Greg Matheson snap-shot then went over the top following a Duncan Davidson hit-in from the left.

John MacRae played an 18-minute free-hit from the right of midfield inside to Donald Nixon who lofted the ball in on goal where Stuart MacDonald had to watch carefully as he made the save.

Nixon then showed his defensive qualities on 28 minutes as he thwarted Graeme MacMillan on the Lovat left and Danny Kelly shot by Scott Kennedy's left post just after.

The opening goal came seconds later but at the other end. Finlay MacRae took the resultant goal-hit which was played on by John MacRae. Paul MacRae did well to swivel and send a shoulder-high acrobatic effort on goal. Stuart MacDonald saved the dropping ball with his feet but 17 year old Duncan Matheson was quickly in to flick the rebound into the net to make it 1-0 with 29 minutes gone.

Stuart MacDonald saved well from Oliver MacRae just seconds after the goal after the buckshee forward had cut in from the right.

'Shiel continued to attack but Lovat stayed firm with Chris Johnston doing well at wing-back.

There was a late chance for Lovat

on 39 minutes when Thomas Fraser played the ball in from the right. Greg Matheson ran into the D and he stretched to get the ball but could only guide it into the side-netting.

Greg Matheson then played the ball off to Thomas Fraser who struck a good shot but Scott Kennedy made a fine stop with his hand before clearing the danger.

'Shiel lost wing centre Ally Nixon through injury late in the half and youngster Andrew MacKenzie came on in his place.

Lovat started the second half with a flurry and they had another penalty claim when the goal judge signalled for a kick but referee Martin MacLean ruled it was accidental.

Danny Kelly went close when a Lovat corner from the left reached him at the back post but his effort was deflected just wide for another corner.

A ball over the top to the right found Greg Matheson and he hit the ball well but Scott Kennedy made another crucial save.

This was now good pressure from Lovat and Greg Matheson, who always seemed their best chance of a goal, sent an effort over the top.

With the Lovat defence finding it difficult to keep their feet, Paul MacRae shot wide of target as 'Shiel fought back.

Lovat went back on the hunt for an equaliser and, following a free-hit, Graeme MacMillan's shot would

Marine Harvest Premiership

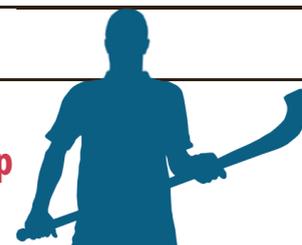
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	15	1	2	62	16	36
Lovat	18	11	3	4	44	26	25
Kyles Athletic	16	9	4	3	44	18	22
Kinlochshiel	16	9	4	3	40	25	22
Oban Camanachd	17	7	5	5	42	26	19
Kingussie	17	7	3	7	33	30	17
Lochaber	17	5	2	10	38	71	12
Caberfeidh	17	4	2	11	35	57	10
Skye	17	3	2	12	24	61	8
Glenurquhart	17	0	4	13	15	17	4

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup**

**MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup**

**Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



Kilmallie pick up their



goalie Scott Kennedy ended up in the back of his own net following a goalmouth scramble. Kennedy produced heroics to get his leg to Duncan Davidson's effort, getting the ball away before it went over the line. But Thomas Fraser collided with Kennedy, who eventually had to leave the field with what looked like a back injury. Duncan MacMillan came on and forward Jordan Fraser took over in goal. Lovat sensed the chance to test the stand-in keeper but, try as they may, they found the 'Shiel defence too tough to breach for the remaining three minutes of regulation time and the three added minutes of injury time.

'Shiel were delighted with the win given the key players they were without.

Lovat were disappointed not to get anything out of the game but they must have been more than happy with the performance given their squad was so short.

The constant rain made for difficult conditions and the players on both sides deserve credit for serving up an entertaining 90 minutes.

This was Lovat's final match of the season and they are currently in second place.

Kinlochshiel are three points behind Lovat and they are away to Kingussie and at home to Caberfeidh over the next two Saturdays.

Caberfeidh 3 Skye Camanachd 4

Skye Camanachd kept their slim survival chances alive when they came from two goals down to beat Caberfeidh 4-3 in their relegation battle at Castle Leod.

With Glenurquhart already consigned to life in the Marine Harvest National Division next season, Caberfeidh went into the match four points ahead of Skye with both teams having two matches remaining. However, Caberfeidh's goal difference was such that it would take a huge goal difference swing from

this game and Caberfeidh's visit to Kinlochshiel and Skye's trip to Oban Camanachd in their final matches of the season, to give the islanders any hope of beating the drop.

Caberfeidh's Liam Symonds was suspended whilst Ally MacLennan and Martin MacDonald were also missing. Scott MacLachlan started with Jack Pilcher recovering from injury to start on the bench.

Skye keeper Iain MacLeod remained unavailable so Ryan Morrison continued to deputise. Iain Nicolson and Jordan Murchison were also missing and Iain MacLellan and Daniel Morrison started on the bench.

Skye made a good start to the game and home goalie Ewan Pilcher had to be on his toes to keep the match goalless.

Skye had to make an early change as Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod came off with a chest muscle injury with Iain MacLellan taking over.

Caberfeidh settled though and they came more into the match with Kevin Bartlett having a couple of chances before giving the hosts a 25-minute lead with a fierce drive from wide on the right.

There was more cheer for the home support when Ruaraidh MacLeman added a second just a couple of minutes later. Skye goalie Ryan Morrison blocked an initial shot but MacLeman was in the right place to turn the rebound home from close in.

Skye, perhaps crucially, pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time. Ewan Pilcher made a diving save to keep out Ruaraidh MacLeod's effort and James Pringle held off Ben MacDonald and flicked the rebound into the net to make it 2-1 at the break.

Skye went on to turn the match on its head with three goals in a devastating eight-minute spell early in the second half. The goal came from a Skye hit-in. James Pringle took a blow to the ankle as he held off his

marker which allowed Will Cowie to take a touch. Cowie's ball broke out to Ruaraidh MacLeod around 20 yards out and he hammered the ball home on the half-volley to make it 2-2 with 51 minutes gone.

Skye took the lead for the first time on 54 minutes. Kenny Campbell played the ball down the wing and Daniel Morrison, who had come on for Martin Pringle at half-time, found Will Cowie with a reverse pass and Cowie had time to send a bouncing shot by the keeper to make it 3-2.

It was pretty much the final act for Skye's Daniel Morrison who was forced off with a suspected broken thumb.

Will Cowie was again involved in Skye's fourth goal on 59 minutes as he played the ball down on the keeper, triggering a goalmouth scramble, and James Pringle stayed calm to slot the ball home to make it 4-2.

Skye looked rampant and Ewan Pilcher prevented them adding to their tally.

Kevin Bartlett gave Cabers hope with his second goal on 64 minutes, turning the ball home to make it 4-3.

Cabers were given a chance to draw level when referee Graham Cameron pointed to the penalty spot after a Skye player fell on the ground

during a scramble inside the D.

Kevin Bartlett took responsibility but the Skye keeper saved his spot-hit, parrying the ball just above his head with his caman.

However, a retake was ordered after goal judge Willie Cameron ruled the keeper had stepped off his line early, before Bartlett had struck the ball.

Bartlett's second attempt went in pretty much in the same direction but Morrison was again equal, saving above his head. The ball bounced out to Blair Morrison but the Skye keeper got his foot to his name-sake's strike, down near the bottom corner of the goal, before sending the ball out for a Caberfeidh hit-in.

Caberfeidh manager Jodi Gorski saw his side make a terrific start to the season and although they have only picked up three league points since the end of June, their superior goal difference - 15 better off than Skye - will surely see them over the line.

Caberfeidh's final fixture is at Kinlochshiel in a fortnight whilst Skye finish their season against Oban Camanachd at Mossfield on Saturday.

Continued on page 50

have gone inside keeper Kennedy's right post but the goalie moved smartly across the line to keep the ball out with his feet.

Lovat got the equaliser they deserved on 70 minutes. Craig Mainland's beautifully flighted free-hit from inside his own half dropped outside the D, just left of centre, and Greg Matheson darted onto the ball and his shot gave the keeper no chance.

A swerving Thomas Fraser strike from 25 yards out went just outside the top corner of the net as Lovat continued to turn the screw.

A low Jordan Fraser shot went past the post and Greg Matheson shot over at the other end as the contest remained finely poised at a goal piece.

'Shiel reshuffled their pack to try and gain an advantage and John MacRae went to buckshee forward, Paul MacRae to centre and Oliver MacRae to right wing centre

The switch paid dividends with just 6 minutes remaining. Paul MacRae and Andrew MacKenzie worked the ball up the 'Shiel right and Jordan Fraser's pass found Duncan Matheson just outside the D on the left and he steered a waste-high shot past the keeper to make it 2-1.

Lovat launched an immediate response and Graeme MacMillan held off his marker but couldn't hit the target.

Lovat's Greg Matheson had the ball in the net shortly after but play was brought back for a Lovat free-hit as the whistle had already gone.

There was late drama as 'Shiel



Skye No. 9 James Pringle gets a vital goal back just before half time, despite the efforts of Caber's keeper Ewan Pilcher. Photo: Neil Paterson

Fixtures

Saturday October 6

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie v Kinlochshiel
Archie Ritchie
Lochaber v Kyles Athletic
Alex MacVicar
Oban Camanachd v Skye
Ross Brown

National Division

Beaulieu v Inveraray
Steven MacLachlan

North Division One

Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Iain Kennedy

South Division One

Aberdour v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter
Bute v Kyles Athletic
Deek Cameron
Tayforth v Inveraray
Graham Fisher

North Division Two

Inverness v Lochcarron
Calum Girvan
Kilmallie v Beaulieu
Des McNulty
Strathspey v Lochaber
John Wood - 1.30pm

(All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

Results

Saturday September 29

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh 3 v 4 Skye
Kinlochshiel 2 v 1 Lovat
Kyles Athletic 1 v 3 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest National Division

Glasgow MA 3 v 1 Strathglass
Kilmallie 5 v 1 Beaulieu

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni 0 v 2 Kingussie
Skye 0 v 5 Fort William

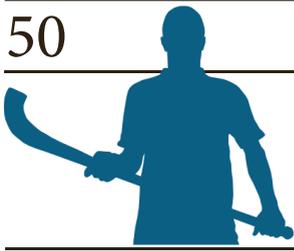
Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute 4 v 1 Ballachulish
Inveraray 7 v 1 Taynult
Kyles Athletic 4 v 1 Col Glen
Kilmory P v P Lochside Rovers
Kilmory unable to field a team
points to Lochside

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Beaulieu 3 v Strathspey
Boleskine 6 v 1 Lochcarron
Lochaber 4 v 1 Lovat

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SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Continued from page 49

Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie 5
Beaully 1

It was title party day at the Canal Parks where Marine Harvest National Division champions Kilmallie beat Beaully 5-1 in their 1pm throw up.

Kilmallie had players back after last week's heavy defeat at Inveraray with Aaron Sandison featuring. Calum MacDougall was delayed on his journey up the road so he started on the bench. They were, however, still six players short with Liam Cameron and Craig MacIsaac amongst their absentees.

Beaully hadn't played for three weeks and they agreed to Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson's request for an earlier throw up.

Two quick-fire goals gave Kilmallie an early advantage. Beaully keeper Josh Grant made a number of fine saves during the game and he did well to keep out a Liam MacDonald shot but Michael Rodger ran in to tuck the rebound past the keeper to make it 1-0 with 15 minutes played.

Just two minutes later, Michael Rodger got his second as he sent a great shot screaming into the net.

Beaully showed they weren't going to lie down when Sean Stewart fired a waist-high rocket-shot through a group of players past an unsighted Shane Gillies in the home goal.

Kilmallie took a grip of the match and Daniel Stewart reacted first to turn home another rebound on 36 minutes.

Kilmallie scored the goal of the game just four minutes later when they worked the ball up the park from Robbie MacFadyen to Innes Blackhall and to Michael Rodger who knocked the ball through to Liam MacDonald and he touched the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Michael Rodger completed his hat-trick on 75 minutes with what was the only goal of the second half and they end the season with at least a three-point gap at the top of the table.

Beaully's final match is at home to Inveraray this Saturday and it is of huge significance as an Inveraray draw or win will mean that they pip Fort William for the second promotion place to shinty's top flight.

Kilmallie captain Liam MacDonald was presented with the league trophy by Tony Boyd from sponsors Marine Harvest with Charles Young representing the



Kilmallie were presented with the Marine Harvest National Division championship trophy last Saturday. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Camanachd Association.

It was a final match in charge for Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson who steps down after four years, leading the side this term to a league title, Balliemore Cup success as well as a Camanachd Cup semi-final in which they only lost out to eventual winners Newtonmore on penalties.

MacPherson said: 'It was good to finish with a win and whoever takes over will inherit a good squad and you only have to look at how we did against Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore to prove that.'

'I feel that I have taken the team to where I can take it and it's now time for someone new to come in with a different message for the players. If someone wants to be successful at Kilmallie then the time is now. It also gets the players out of their comfort zone as they will have to show a new manager what they can do.'

'The club is going well but, to take it to the next level, commitment needs to improve. The players' attitude is great but commitment is key as there's no point going to places like the Eilan, Tighnabruaich or Balgait when you are six or seven players short. And you don't just raise your game for one or two matches; you need to do so on a regular basis.'

Peter Jackson stands down too and MacPherson is full of praise for his contribution. 'Peter has been great for me as running a shinty team is more than the equivalent of a part-time job. Linda Campbell is another Kilmallie legend in her own right. I'm on the phone to her every day and she makes the club tick. Ann

and Alan MacDougall are amongst the others who also deserve a mention for the work they do organising things behind the scenes.'

MacPherson won't be lost to Kilmallie though and he added: 'I hope to be around the youth training where Lachie Innes does such a good job and maybe I can offer some help when needed there.'

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Strathglass 1

Glasgow Mid Argyll scored twice late in the game to beat Strathglass 3-1 at Yoker.

GMA took the lead in the opening minute as Calum Mclay gathered the ball following an Iain Luke shot and he found the net, beating the keeper on his left side.

Strathglass took the chance to level on 20 minutes when referee Neil MacDonald awarded them a penalty and Ally MacAdams converted from the spot. And that's the way it stayed until 15 minutes from time when Calum Mclay took a pass from Neil Fraser before firing the ball into the bottom right corner of the goal.

Calum Mclay signaled a good day for GMA and a fine individual performance when he completed his hat-trick with just six minutes remaining. The ball was played through by Neil Fraser and Mclay put it past the keeper to make it 3-1.

This was both teams' final game of the season and GMA finish fourth with Strathglass ending the season in seventh spot.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Skye Camanachd 0
Fort William 3

The Fort William seconds confirmed their second place finish with a 3-0 win over the Skye Camanachd seconds at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

The Fort got off to a great start as Connor MacRae strode forward before unleashing a great drive on just two minutes to give the visitors the lead.

Lewis Morrison added a second on 17 minutes when he punished slackness in the Skye defence.

Skye lost full back Iain Murray shortly after half-time with a foot injury so their only substitute David Grant came on. Iain Murray went to full back with a later switch seeing him replacing Chris Rose at buckshee back as Rose switched up front with David Grant taking over at full back.

Skye player/manager Kenny MacLeod had to come off with a back injury with 20 minutes remaining so Skye played the remainder of the match with just 11 players.

Fort William showed good movement up front and Lewis Morrison got his second on 71 minutes to round off the 3-0 win.

Skye keeper Murphy Henderson made some good saves throughout the game to prevent Fort William increasing their advantage.

The Fort finish the season in second position; six points behind winners Newtonmore seconds and two points ahead of third placed Glengarry.

The Skye colts end the season in fifth spot.

Aberdeen 0 Kingussie 2

Russell Menzies scored twice as the Kingussie colts beat Aberdeen University 2-0 at Balgownie.

A double-booking at Balgownie meant this clash was delayed to a 4pm throw up and two Kingussie goals late in the first half, on 35 and 45 minutes, gave the Kings the points.

For the first goal, the ball was played down the line where Menzies took it past his marker and hit a shot into the top right corner of the net.

The second, 10 minutes later, came following a scramble in the Aberdeen defence. The ball came out to Menzies near the penalty spot and he took it on his back-hand, sending the ball into the middle-right of goal.

The win means Kingussie finish fourth in the division, a point be-

hind third placed Glengarry.

Aberdeen University have now completed their season and they are a point ahead of the Glenurquhart seconds who are at the bottom of the table. The students can now only wait as the Glen seconds travel to face the Kinlochshiel seconds at Kirkton this coming Saturday with Glen needing to win to beat the drop.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kyles Athletic 4
Col Glen 1

The Kyles Athletic second team continued their title bid with a 4-1 victory over Col Glen in their noon throw up at Strachurmore.

The match was originally scheduled for Tighnabruaich but with the Kyles and Newtonmore meeting there later in the afternoon, it was ruled that the playing fields couldn't host two games. Kyles took the lead on 18 minutes with Luke Thornton scoring.

Martin MacFadyen made it 2-0 a minute before the break with Luke Thornton getting his second on 53 minutes to make it 3-0.

Col Glen's Tom Irbhinn pulled a goal back a minute later but Martin MacFadyen got his second on 59 minutes to seal the 4-1 win.

Col Glen battled hard throughout but the Kyles seconds stay a point clear at the top of the table.

Bute 4 Ballachulish 1

Bute remain hot on Kyles Athletic's heels after they beat Ballachulish 4-1 at the Meadows.

Iain McDonald gave Bute the lead on nine minutes after referee Alex MacVicar had awarded the hosts a penalty.

Lewis Bryson drew Balla' level on 12 minutes but a Craig Fisher goal on 28 minutes ensured Bute took a 2-1 lead into the break.

Iain McDonald got his second to make it 3-1 on 58 minutes. This goal also came from the penalty spot and

Marine Harvest National Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	14	11	1	2	48	25	23
Fort William	14	9	1	4	33	11	19
Inveraray	13	8	2	3	35	17	18
Glasgow Mid Argyll	14	6	4	4	42	23	16
Oban Celtic	14	5	2	7	39	38	12
Beaully	13	3	3	7	18	35	9
Strathglass	14	3	2	9	18	35	8
Inverness	14	2	1	11	16	56	5

McDonald went on to complete his hat-trick when he made it 4-1 with only nine minutes remaining.

**Inveraray 7
Taynuilt 1**

The Inveraray seconds recorded a fine 7-1 win over Taynuilt at the Winterton.

Inveraray fielded a mixture of youth and experience. Their defenders were all under aged 18 whilst and 15-year-old Campbell Watt linked-up well in attack with veteran Garry MacPherson.

There was again a place in the Taynuilt side for Billy Irving following his Indian jail nightmare.

Garry MacPherson took his first goal really well with a fine strike which sent the ball high into the net on 12 minutes.

Taynuilt equalised through Billy Irving on 22 minutes, his second goal in successive matches, as he punished the Inveraray defence for failing to clear their lines.

Inveraray went straight up the park and John Mackenzie scored a couple of minutes later to make it 2-1.

The Taynuilt defence was under constant pressure for the remainder of the half and Inveraray captain John MacKenzie helped himself to a first-half hat trick with further strikes on 28 and 40 minutes to make it 4-1 half-time.

Inveraray started the second half brightly and scored just three minutes after the restart when a well-worked free-hit was finished off sweetly by Craig Taylor.

Taynuilt had a chance to get themselves back into the match when referee Graham Fisher pointed to the penalty spot after a Taynuilt forward was fouled inside the box. However, the spot-hit attempt went high and wide of target.

Inveraray scored a sixth on 65 minutes when David MacPherson sent a low angled drive into the bottom corner of the net after playing a neat one-two with Garry MacPherson.

Garry MacPherson got his second to make it 7-1 from inside the D after good play from all four Inveraray forwards. The winning margin could have been greater had it not been for some fine saves from Brian Logan in the Taynuilt goals.

**Kilmory P
Lochside Rovers P**

The game between Lochside Rovers and Kilmory at MacRae Park was postponed as Kilmory could not raise a team.

A two-point deduction drops Kilmory to the bottom of the table.

Indeed there are doubts as to whether Kilmory will be able to complete the season. Kilmory recognise the seriousness of the situation and recently hosted an emergency meeting with the Camanachd Association to discuss the future sustainability of the senior, juvenile and primary school set ups for shinty in their area with everyone in shinty hoping for a positive outcome.

Should Kilmory be unable to continue, it is unclear how their results and remaining fixtures will be counted with the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title race, relegation and Artemis MacAulay Cup qualification still to be decided.

The weekend results mean the

three-way Marine Harvest South Division 1 title race continues. The Kyles Athletic second team maintain their one point advantage over Bute at the top of the table. Kyles Athletic's final two matches could hardly be tougher as there is a potential title decider against Bute at the Meadows on Saturday with a trip to Oban to face fellow challengers Lochside Rovers a week later.

After the Kyles clash, Bute will finish their season at Taynuilt.

Reigning champions Lochside Rovers remain third with Gareth Evans' side finely poised to take advantage of any slip-up. They are currently six points off the top but, as well as the Kilmory fixture, they have three other matches remaining – away to Aberdour on Saturday before Kyles' visit a week later. A fixture at the Inveraray seconds is still to be scheduled.

**Marine Harvest North
Division 2**

**Lochaber 4
Lovat 1**

The Lochaber seconds were 4-1 victors against champions Lovat seconds at Spean Bridge.

With the Lovat first team short of a number of players, this had a knock-on effect on the second string and Lachlan Campbell, Findlay MacDonald twice and youngster Cameron Whyte took advantage to get the Lochaber goals.

Raymond Rennie was credited with the Lovat strike as the league winners complete their season and they can look forward to promotion to Marine Harvest North Division 1.

**Boleskine 6
Lochcarron 1**

Third placed Boleskine were 6-1 winners against fourth placed Lochcarron at Smith Park.

Neil Hope broke the deadlock on just six minutes to give Boleskine the lead.

Stuart MacRae struck twice on 35 and 40 minutes, either side of a second goal from Neil Hope on 39 minutes, to make it 4-0.

Lochcarron's Rannal Finlayson pulled a goal back a couple of minutes before the break.

William MacKinnon on 55 minutes and Steve Bone on 75 minutes sealed the 6-1 win.

**Beaully 3
Strathspey Camanachd 6**

Strathspey Camanachd came from two goals down to eventually beat the Beaully reserves 6-3 at Braeview Park.

Kyle MacDonald on 16 minutes and youngster Euan Maccormick a minute later had Beaully 2-0 ahead.

Bruce Grant halved the deficit on 23 minutes but a Ross Forbes goal a minute before the break gave Beaully a 3-1 half-time advantage.

Strathspey scored four times in the final quarter of the match to confirm a 6-3 win.

Matthew Davis netted on 68 minutes whilst Mack Gordon on 71 minutes and Liam Tinney on 77 minutes gave the visitors a 4-3 lead.

Two late quick-fire Connor Aubrey strikes on 79 and 80 minutes completed Strathspey's 6-3 win.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £550

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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.

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Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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.

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Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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OT

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering season starts with Tralee event



Orienteering club EckO held the first of its autumn/winter series of events at a blustery Tralee on September 16 with a good turnout enjoying a range of courses for all ages and abilities.

While the younger orienteers were finding Barnacle Bill's treasure on the beach, the maze and three colour-coded courses kept the older competitors busy in the surrounding woodland.

The event was rounded off with a barbecue and the presentation of prizes for the 2017-18 season.

The prize-winners were: Best junior performance – Tom Lines; Best senior performance – Susannah MacMillan; Most improved junior – Gregor Mailer; Services to the club – Jan Kersel; Wooden compass – Ross Lilley.

Receiving certificates for the inaugural club league were: Yellow courses – Ailsa Owens; M/W14 and under 1: Rona Shearer; 2: Finlay Cottier; 3: Ruari

Cottier. M/W18 and under - 1: Louis MacMillan; 2: Ewan Shearer; 3: Logan Mailer; W20 and over - 1: Carol Burnapp; 2: Leigh Murray; 3: Lucy Shearer. M 20 and over 1: John McLuckie; 2: Andy Dale; 3: Jim Mailer.

The club is grateful to Tralee Bay Holidays for the use of the area, its facilities and its oven gloves.

Prior to EckO's next event at Dunstaffnage on October 21, Tom Lines will be representing Great Britain at the Junior European Cup in Switzerland and a number of club members will be competing at Scottish Orienteering League events in Badenoch and Tay Forest Park.

Loch Eck Orienteers (EckO) is the orienteering club for Argyll and welcomes newcomers of all ages and abilities to go along to any of the events held throughout autumn, winter and spring.

HALF MARATHON

Ruaridh runs for cancer charity



Oban Saints player Ruaridh Horne made the most of a free weekend by running the Glasgow Half Marathon in aid of Marie Curie Cancer. The young defender completed the race in 1.46.47 raising more than £300 for the cancer charity.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Motherwell Thistle 4, Dunoon 0; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Castlemilk 3; Claremont 0, Lochgilhead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two - Tarbert 1, Port Glasgow OBU 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, 2nd round - Oban Saints v St Johns; Campbeltown Pupils v Opponents TBC; Premier Division - Dunoon v Inverclyde; Premier Division One - Neilston v Lochgilhead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Carlton YM.



St Peter's Football Club from Paisley are always welcome visitors, pictured here after their game against Lochnell Tralee 2008s.

Lochnell football festival

Lochnell Football Club held its third football festival on Saturday, with teams from far and wide joining local sides to provide spectators with an entertaining day of games.

With five age groups as well as a dedicated girls' section for the first time, the Lora

View pitch at North Connel proved to be a sea of activity with no less than 350 primary-aged children playing across the day.

Joining the hosts were visiting clubs Dumbarton Riverside, St Peter's FC from Paisley, Westerton United and Fort William

FC, while Argyll was well represented by teams from Campbeltown Pupils, Oban Saints, Helensburgh, Lochgilhead Red Star and Tarbert Soccer Centre.

Despite the mixed weather conditions, each and every player gave their absolute all throughout and thoroughly

YOUTH FOOTBALL

deserved their commemorative medals at the end of play.

The club would like to thank Tesco, Bookers and The Sports Shop Oban for their donations towards the running of the event.



Action from the girls' section featuring Lochnell and Lochgilhead Red Star.



Lochnell Etive 2008s played a closely-fought game with Tarbert Soccer Centre.



Oban Saints Ajax 2009s step up to receive their commemorative medals.



A Lochnell player escapes the attention of a Fort William defender in the 2010 section.

Saints on Scottish Cup duty

Oban Saints
St Johns

Scottish Cup, 2nd round

After last weekend's enforced layoff Oban Saints return to action this Saturday afternoon with a tough home Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie against Perthshire Amateur Football Association Division One high fliers St Johns.

Based in Perth's North Inch district, St Johns currently lie in second place in Perthshire's top flight, level on points with

reigning champions Letham but with a slightly inferior goal difference.

Under the guidance of new manager Jimmy Carle, the long-established St Johns club which, like Oban Saints is in its 59th year, has enjoyed a major upturn in fortune and look very capable of breaking the strangle hold of perennial champions Letham and providing a credible challenge to domination of its local rivals which are aiming for a sixth successive league title success.

In a major signing coup

Carle was joined at St Johns by brother Billy.

In his final season at Letham, Scottish Amateur International striker Billy scored a phenomenal 120-plus goals to cement his place as a Perthshire football legend.

Oban Saints fans will recall Billy for his two goals in the sensational Scottish Amateur Cup seventh round replay at Glencruitten in March 2017 where Saints recovered from a 3-1 deficit to record a 4-3 win over the previously undefeated Letham.

Significantly, but not known at the time, that day also marked the final appearance in a Saints shirt of Paul Kerr whose serious knee injury, sustained just after he had capped a typically inspirational performance by scoring the winning goal, forced an end to his career.

In his first season in charge at St Johns Carle led his charges to runners-up spot in the league and also bagged two pieces of silverware. A thumping 7-0 victory over Balmoral under the floodlights at Seven Acres, just a stone's throw from St Johnstone's McDiarmid Park, brought St Johns the Perthshire Amateur Football Association League Cup. Even more impressively, in their penultimate match of



Craig MacEwan, No 9, gives Saints the lead against Gartcosh in the last round.

Match preview and photo: Derek Black

the season, the North Inch men secured their first ever Perthshire Cup success with a thrilling 3-1 win over the mighty Letham.

Spurred on by their successes last season, St Johns have made a blistering start to the 2018-19 campaign slamming home an incredible 79 goals in 12 matches.

The only black mark on an otherwise perfect record is a 3-1 home league defeat to leaders Letham which hands the early initiative to the Seven Acres men in what is already shaping up to be a very tight two-horse title race.

St Johns received a bye in the first round North of Tay regional section draw for this season's Scottish Amateur Cup while in the West region

Oban Saints were handed a major test with an away tie at Central Scottish Amateur Football League Gartcosh United.

On an immaculately prepared Eastgate surface Saints came from a goal behind to run out eventual 3-2 winners to seal a place in the 'all in' second round draw which saw them paired with St Johns.

There is a tie up between the teams as former Saints' striker Jimmy McPhee played for St Johns when he worked in Perth after leaving Oban.

Cup fever returns to Oban this Saturday and the Glencruitten faithful look set to be in line for a cracking Scottish Amateur cup tie as Oban Saints pit their 100 per cent record so far this season

FOOTBALL

against the free scoring men from the Fair City.

Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football the Scottish Amateur Cup includes replays, therefore a re-match will follow at North Inch, Perth in seven days' time if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

In charge of proceedings is experienced referee Raymond Patterson of the Central Scottish Amateur Football League. Kick-off is 2pm.

Saints co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell will be hoping to have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture.



The Scottish Amateur Football Cup.

Tiree Wave Classic celebrates a new era of windsurfing in the UK

Wild Diamond, Tiree's original and unique water sports centre, is hosting the Tiree Wave Classic again for 2018. The event takes place from October 13 to 19.

Wild Diamond has operated on Tiree for more than 20 years and been involved with the event in many shapes and forms throughout that period.

The event is again supported primarily by Event Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council,

Caledonian MacBrayne, Tiree Community Development Trust, and the primary private sector sponsor again is Morayshire-based real ales brewery - Windswept.

A record number of competitors have signed up this year, with healthy numbers across all fleets, and a record number of female entrants.

William Maclean, event host and manager, said: 'Tiree Wave Classic 2018 is set to be the biggest and best event in

WIND SURFING

the last 10 years. We already have nearly 80 competitors registered (71 last year) with a range of nationalities across all men's fleets and the largest ladies' fleet in the event's history this year with nine entrants so far.'

Also at the event will be a surf cafe and surf shop at An Talla (Tiree Community Hall); a new Youth Wave Camp initiative run by Wild Diamond supported by the BWA and The Mailing Room; sports coaching running all week through Wild Diamond; evening social events running throughout the week including 'Meet the Pros'; TWC/Ceabhar curry night and the TWC closing ceremony feast and party; TV coverage and film production by Red Handed TV; and locally-produced food and drink available all week from several hospitality outlets.



Spectacular action from a recent Tiree Wave Classic

Etive Vikings host festival

Etive Vikings RFC hosted the third Mini Rugby Dalriada Festival of the season at Taynuilt Sports Field on Sunday.

Teams participated from Mid Argyll, Oban Lorne, Lochaber, Isle of Mull along with hosts Etive Vikings with all turning out in encouraging numbers building on previous festivals held in Mid Argyll and over on Mull.

This season mini rugby teams have been trialing Scottish Rugby's new age grade law variations that aim to enhance the skill level and development of young players while creating a faster and more enjoyable game.

The new laws have complemented the play in the Dalriada season so far with some fantastic running rugby on display.

Scores from the P4/5 festival on Sunday were - Oban Lorne 6-1 Oban Lorne B; Etive Vikings 6-2 Mid Argyll; Oban Lorne 5-5 Lochaber; Oban Lorne B 3-6 Mid Argyll; Etive Vikings 4-5 Lochaber; Mid Argyll 4-5



Action from the Etive Vikings v Oban Lorne P6/7 match.

Photo: Steevie Day

Oban Lorne; Oban Lorne B 0-5 Etive Vikings; Mid Argyll 3-7 Lochaber; Oban Lorne 7-5 Etive Vikings; Lochaber 5-0 Mid Argyll.

Scores from the P6/7 Festival were - Lochaber 5-0 Oban Lorne B; Oban Lorne A 1-5 Etive Vikings; Mid Argyll 5-3 Lochaber; Oban Lorne B 0-5 Etive Vikings; Etive Vikings 5-0 Lochaber; Oban Lorne B 2-6 Mid Argyll; Oban Lorne 4-3 Lochaber; Etive Vikings 5-0

YOUTH RUGBY

Mid Argyll; Oban Lorne 5-0 Oban Lorne B.

As usual Etive Vikings RFC were fantastic hosts and provided some great hospitality for the visiting teams as well as the perfect playing conditions at Taynuilt Sports Field.

The Dalriada season takes a break for the October school holidays before further festivals at Kintyre on October 27 and Oban Lorne on November 3.

OT

GOLF



Graeme MacKechnie.



Terry Macnair.

Dalmally club championship

With the season drawing to a close, Sunday saw a great turn out of Dalmally gents for the final round of the club championship.

This year the club championship was combined with the seniors' championship. The seniors has been streamlined from a two-round competition to one. With an impressive nett 65, Terry Macnair scooped both the club handicap championship and the seniors' championship. Graeme MacKechnie retained his lead in the first three rounds of the club championship to retain the scratch championship position.

This week coming sees the third round of the autumn Stableford league (eclectic) and Sunday, the annual Ben Lui and Kilchurn Charity Invitational. The invitational, with all local clubs being invited, is a combined individual and team event, with the Ben Lui trophy going to the lowest nett score and the Kilchurn trophy going to the lowest aggregate team (of three) score.

Members from local clubs wishing an invitation can contact Tony Graham, Dalmally Gents Match Secretary on 0789 991 4429 or at dalmallygentsgolf@outlook.com

Results from Glencruitten

Winners of the Bothy Day Scramble at Glencruitten at the weekend were Graham McColl, Robert MacIntyre, Alistair MacLean Jnr and Dugald MacLean with a score of 49 - 1 = 48. In second place were J Davidson, Sean Dunstaffnage, Cameron Milne and Robert Johnston with a score of 53 - 3 = 50. In third place were Scott Jordan, Donald MacLean, Dale Robertson and Martin Rae with a score of 54 - 3 = 51.

Scott Jordan won the Stableford on Sunday with a score of 34 points. Steven McCuish was second with 32 points.

Kevin wins medal final at Taynuilt

Result of the medal final played at Taynuilt on September 23: 1 Kevin Mills 77-13=62; 2 Mark Henricksen 70-07=63; 3 Donald MacVicar 69-06=63.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL



A jubilant Saints squad celebrate their Scottish Cup win over Pirie Park at Drumoyne Sports Centre.

Scottish Cup win for Under 13s

Oban Saints U13s won their second round Scottish Cup game 5-4 away to Pirie Park in Glasgow last Saturday.

It was quite a game for the Oban youngsters with the winning goal coming from a last minute penalty which the referee made them retake for encroachment but Gabriel Tidser made no mistake slamming his second attempt home to make the final score 5-4.

Saints' scorers were Aidan MacDonald, Gabriel Tidser (3) and an OG.

The Saints youth teams have no game now for a fortnight, due to the October school holidays.

Double up for Oban Lorne youngsters

Marr	17
Oban Lorne	26
T4 West U18 League	

Oban Lorne U18s recorded an impressive win away to Marr RFC in Troon on Saturday.

The squad travelled with a healthy complement of 18 players including four players from Lochaber RFC who have been contributing

to the team this season.

With the score standing at 19-17 in the closing stages, Oban held out a strong Marr attack before scoring in the last play of the game sealing a fantastic win.

The result lifts Oban up to fourth in the league with a game in hand over the teams above them. Strathaven RFC are the next opponents for the U18s on Saturday October 27.

Oban Lorne	53
Ardrossan	38
T4 West U16 League	

Oban Lorne's U16 side continued their strong start to the season with a high scoring 53-38 win over Ardrossan Accies.

As with the U18s, the Oban 16s team was bolstered with players from both Isle of Mull RFC and Lochaber RFC.

YOUTH RUGBY

Despite the high scoring game, Oban had only try scorers on the day with Kenni Gray and Mull's Bailey Wild sharing nine scores between them. Mull's Sam Scarlett also impressed with the boot knocking over five conversions. The U16s are back in action on Sunday October 28 away to Strathaven.



Oban Lorne Under 18s pictured with coaches Gordon Shearer, Murray MacCaskill and Stevie McAleer

Narrow defeat for Oban Lorne

Oban Lorne	10
Dalziel	19
Tennents Regional Shield	

Oban welcomed Dalziel to Glencruitten on Saturday in the quarter final of the West Shield. This was the first competitive meeting between the clubs at 1st XV level

Oban were looking to keep the winning ways going after an unbeaten start to the season in Division 2, while Dalziel were looking to get their season back on track after a faltering start to their league campaign has seen them win only one of their four Division 1 games since dropping from the National Leagues at the end of last season

The Oban coaching team were under no illusions of how tricky this tie could be and were forced into a number of changes in personnel for various reasons. Missing for Oban Lorne on Saturday were prop Andy MacDougall, captain Iwan Rhys Roberts along with long-term injured backs Graham MacEachan and David McLaughlin.

Before the game started a minute's silence was recognised as players and family

paid their respect to Ian Kerr who had been instrumental in establishing a junior rugby section through Oban High School and the club. The thoughts of everyone at Oban Lorne are with the Kerr family at this time.

The game started brightly enough for Oban with a good period of sustained pressure in the visitors' half. The Dalziel team were very well drilled at the breakdown and managed to constantly slow down the Oban ball.

The first breakthrough came from a Dalziel kick out of defence which was fielded by hooker Radi Maksimov, who ran the ball back hard at the defence. A great offload to Lorne MacLachlan and another to No8 Owen McDonald saw the big doctor surge clear from the halfway line, out-pacing the cover defence to score another excellent try, adding to his haul for the season.

This was successfully converted by stand-off Finlay Carmichael to maintain his 100 per cent strike rate from the tee in the last three games.

Dalziel's main source of good ball was from their lineout and after a number of driving mauls had been

successfully repelled by the Oban forwards the defence finally cracked and the well-organised driving maul took them over the Oban line.

This was duly converted and quickly followed by another penalty for offside inside the 22 to give Dalziel a 10-7 lead at the break.

Oban's indiscipline led to two further penalties for Dalziel as they stretched their lead to 16-7.

Oban were then to exert a massive amount of pressure on the Dalziel line with a series of brutal drives at the line resulting in Oban being held up over the line or knocked back by illegal tactics. There were a number of infringements by the Dalziel team which escaped further sanction from the referee especially as these were being done so close to the line.

Oban failed to capitalise fully on this period with only a further penalty from Carmichael to boost the Oban scoreboard to 16-10.

With Oban within a converted try of winning the game, the boys dug deep to try and create the space to release their dangerous runners out wide but the well organised defence managed

RUGBY

to keep the Oban backs in check for the first time this season.

With Oban pushing the game and trying to run the ball out from deep in their 22 a mistake under the posts allowed Dalziel to turn the ball over. The Dalziel scrum half seized his chance and dropped a goal from literally five yards out to stretch the lead to 19-10.

With 90 seconds or so remaining and one last charge upheld from the kick off Owen McDonald mistimed his jump and clattered into the giant Dalziel No6 causing him to land heavily on his neck and shoulder.

The referee who had had a good game by letting the game flow deemed it a reckless and dangerous challenge and red-carded the Oban No8. This duly brought an end to very good game of rugby with both sides attempting to play a lot of rugby but with the Lanarkshire time just edging it with there work over the ball.

This week sees Oban back on their travels as they return to league action with another away game against Lenzie.



Both the North and South under-14 squads stand for a minute's silence before their Armistice Memorial Challenge match at Mossfield last Sunday. The squads were called North Commando and South Commando. Lesley Blair Simmonds was there representing Poppyscotland. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

North win Armistice Memorial Challenge

The Women's Camanachd Association North v South U14 and senior Poppyscotland Armistice Memorial Challenge matches took place at Mossfield Stadium on Sunday September 30.

North 5, South 3

The senior meeting between the North and South was a 2.30pm throw up and the North finally ran out 5-3 winners.

Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald scored all three goals for Lisa MacColl's South side but Eoghan Stewart's North came

out on top as Laura Gallacher scored twice with Skye trio Sarah Corrigan, Caitlin MacLean and Lorna MacRae getting the others.

Skye's Sarah Corrigan was named player of the match.

North U14 4, South U14 1

Earlier in the afternoon, the North U14 and South U14 met in a 1pm throw-up and the North won this clash 4-1

Hope Borthwick, Freya Turner and Freya Gault got the North goals with Eilidh Cameron replying for the South.

WOMEN'S SHINTY

Hope Borthwick collected the player-of-the-match accolade.

This was one of the many events Poppyscotland is holding in the run up to commemorate the Armistice 100-year celebration on Sunday November 11.

There were collections for Poppyscotland throughout the day and the Macaulay Association once again sponsored both fixtures.



The winning North Commando senior ladies' squad.



The South Commando senior ladies' squad.



The South Commando under-14 squad.



The winning North Commando under-14 squad.

Oban Hockey Club get off to a flying start

Giffnock	0
Oban	10
West of Scotland Division 3	

Oban played its first game this year in the West of Scotland Men's Hockey League Division 3 on Saturday. The team knew heading into this game that Giffnock were an opponent not to be trifled with from encounters last season ending with a win for each side.

Oban needed a good start; Fraser Campbell on his competitive debut, stepped up in the opening minutes scoring with his first touch of the ball

landing in the Giffnock net. Oban maintained the momentum and at half time were 6-0 ahead. Oban refused to ease off

in the second half and by full time the score was 10-0. Scorers were Andy Hodge 3, Alistair Burton 3, Stuart Head 2, Fraser Campbell, Zeph

HOCKEY

Petit and George Gauley.

Oban's next competition game is against Western Wild Cats this coming weekend.

In addition to the men's competition, Oban are planning mixed friendly games with other west coast teams in the coming year.

New players of both sexes and all abilities are always welcome. The club has spare sticks for those who want to 'come and try' at training sessions held at the Oban High School astro pitch on Thursday evenings between 6.30pm and 8pm.



Oban Hockey Club.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Light rain and a moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

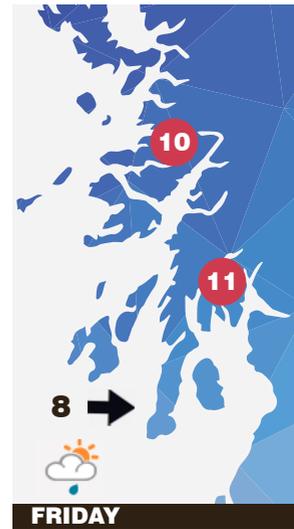
Friday

Sunshine followed by light rain with a gentle breeze from the west
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

Weekend

Outlook

Sunny on Saturday
Rain showers on Sunday moderate breeze from the south south west
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 4, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	01.45	2.9	07.04	1.6
	14.10	3.2	20.18	1.6
Fri	02.59	3.2	08.22	1.4
	15.12	3.5	21.32	1.3
Sat	03.51	3.4	09.26	1.1
	15.57	3.8	22.23	1.0
Sun	04.32	3.7	10.18	0.8
	16.36	4.1	23.05	0.8
Mon	05.07	3.9	11.04	0.5
	17.12	4.2	23.44	0.6
Tues	05.40	4.1	11.47	0.4
	17.47	4.3	***	**
Wed	00.21	0.6	06.12	4.1
	12.28	0.4	18.20	4.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Oban Hockey Club
get off to a flying
start

**NORTH WEST
MARINE**
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

Lorne Ladies turn on the style in first home game

Oban Lorne Ladies 43
Howe of Fife 5
Tennents National League 1

Oban Lorne Ladies took to the field on Sunday for their first home outing of the season against Howe of Fife.

Previous home games this season have been postponed due to opposition teams failing to raise a side. Oban went into Sunday's game with a 100 per cent record in the league so far including an impressive away win to Ayr.

This was set to be a good strong game going on previous seasons' fixtures between the two sides and, with Howe of Fife sitting mid table, they would provide a stern test.

Oban kicked off to start and although not playing their best rugby they managed to attack in the Howe of Fife 22 for the first 15 minutes of the match dominating the majority of possession in the process. The home side were working hard to break down the strong Howe defence who worked hard to halt a barrage of Oban attacks. Howe of Fife were not making life easy for the Oban, contesting strongly in the scrums and at breakdowns.



Oban Lorne Ladies and coaches pictured before their impressive win over Howe of Fife at Glencruitten last Sunday.

Oban finally managed to break down the away side's resilience with Ellen Barlow touching down the first try of the game which was then successfully converted by Lucy Stewart. It was much the same play for the majority of the first half of the match

with the away defence holding strong. The Oban centre pairing of Kirsty Sinclair and Erika Skofca again this weekend caused problems with their powerful runs and great supporting play.

Although Oban were attacking well they were dealt a blow when hooker Hannah Cringles went off injured.

With no substitutes available, Oban played the remainder of the game with only 14 players. This did not affect the Oban ladies and they continued to work hard heading into half time with a score line of 24-0.

During half time coach Corrie Louw spoke to the girls encouraging them to keep on top of the game as Howe of Fife could easily hit back on the scoreboard.

After a good team talk, the Oban Lorne Ladies started the second half playing much better and like the team they have been in their previous matches this season. The home defence was much stronger with big tackles from captain Laura MacCormick and strong turnovers in the rucks from prop Ellie MacNiven. Lucy Stewart in at stand off was connecting well

with her centre pairing of Sinclair and Skofca managing to break through the line of defence to create space for wingers Ellen Barlow and a Rachel MacDonald allowing them to break free and score.

This provided a much faster flow of rugby making the Howe of Fife defences' lives difficult. After a rocky start to the game Oban ladies successfully secured a 43-5 win.

Try scorers were Ellen Barlow 2, Rachel MacDonald 2, Heather Fothergill 1, Kirsty Sinclair 1, Laura MacCormick 1 and Erika Skofca 1. Lucy Stewart converted four

WOMEN'S RUGBY

out of seven. Sunday's win lifts Oban Lorne Ladies six points clear of second-placed Garioch RFC in the league with a maximum of 30 points from the games played so far.

Oban Lorne Ladies are back in action on Sunday October 14, away to Garioch for a repeat of last season's National Bowl Final.



Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Oban Lorne	6	6	0	0	273	23	30
Garioch	5	5	0	0	175	22	24
Ayr	4	3	1	0	179	81	15
Kirkcaldy	5	2	3	0	100	109	11
Greenock	6	2	4	0	92	270	10
Broughton	6	2	4	0	74	135	9
Glasgow Uni	6	1	5	0	99	198	6
Howe of Fife	6	1	5	0	94	251	6

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FREE INSIDE

Your guide to self-build and renovation in Scotland

52 PAGES

Everything you need to know about building and renovating your home – from finance to furnishing

Renewable energy firm gets community warning

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A renewable energy firm has been warned not to 'screw over' the community if it gets the go-ahead from planners to proceed with four hydro power generation schemes in the Fort William, Spean Bridge and Loch Treig areas.

The warning came from a public meeting on Tuesday night in Kilmonivaig Church Hall and attended by representatives of SIMEC GHR (Green Highland Renewables) and Jahama Highland Estates.

Both companies are subsidiaries of GFG Alliance, which owns the Liberty British Aluminium smelter at Fort William and wants the electricity generated by the four schemes to power its planned new alloy wheels factory.

SIMEC GHR's Jayson Drummond told Tuesday night's meeting that the company intended submitting planning applications for the four schemes to Highland Council tomorrow (Friday).

Mr Drummond said a 'huge'

amount of work had been carried out over the past year to try to get through the planning process before the feed-in tariffs come to a finish at the end of March next year.

'Otherwise, something that is commercially ropery becomes impossible,' he said.

The four schemes are proposed for Allt Dam, Allt Coire na Eoin, Allt Leachdach and Allt na Lairige and would see a 37km-long high voltage cable, buried in the ground, connecting the schemes to the smelter and alloy wheels plant.

Spean Bridge resident John Fotheringham asked about the arrangements for construction traffic access as he had heard there had been issues with a particular landowner.

'Because if you are putting in a planning application to Highland Council this week, it is going to want to know if you have secured access agreements. If you haven't, then it makes things a bit on the silly side does it not?' asked Mr Fotheringham.

Mr Drummond replied that he understood negotiations had been taking place on the issue

of certain access routes, as the company was looking to use what already existed to keep disruption to the landscape to a minimum.

Highland councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig) raised the issue of financial community benefit.

Mr Drummond replied that his industry was significantly different to when it constructed hydro schemes on Loch Arkaig as the feed-in tariffs were higher back then.

'It is different now. But we are working through that process to see what would make the project viable,' he said.

But Mr Fotheringham told him: 'All I am hearing is that we are not going to get much. This is extremely important and we don't want Liberty thinking it can screw over a small rural community. You have to tell us what is happening otherwise you will not have the community with you.'

'We do not want a repeat of all the problems people in the Achnacarry and Clunes had to suffer from the construction of the Loch Arkaig schemes.'

Piping dynasty for mum and daughter



For more than a decade Moira Robertson has led Lochaber Pipe Band as pipe major and with daughter, Laura, in its ranks, it has gone from strength to strength. This week Moira looks ahead to the band's plans for the future as Laura readies herself for the 2018 Mòd this month in Dunoon. Full story – page 10. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.



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LT

Still aiming high on peak clean up

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven-based outdoors and mountaineering instructor Rich Pyne was leading a trek on Ben Nevis in 2013 when he decided to pick up some rubbish lying nearby during a stop for lunch.

'Whilst my group were eating lunch, I decided to pick up some rubbish from the summit of Ben Nevis, as it was looking rather sad,' he



A 31-year-old empty peanut packet picked up by the volunteers from Ben Nevis last year proving just how long litter can last.

recounted to the Lochaber Times this week.

Within as many minutes, he had filled two carrier bags with rubbish. Disappointed at the amount of waste strewn about, he vented his sadness about the situation on Facebook.

And when someone posted a response asking him why he did not do something about the rubbish if he was troubled by it, Rich decided to do exactly that.

Rich started the Real3Peaks Challenge (R3P) 2013 which saw teams of volunteers spend a day picking up litter from Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike – the highest mountains in Scotland, Wales and England.

Five years later, the initiative has exploded in popularity and on Saturday October 13 this year, 25 peaks across Scotland and

the UK will be cleaned by volunteers. The aim of the Real3Peaks Challenge is to increase awareness of the 'leave no trace' or 'take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints' ethic when walking in the hills and mountains.

The challenge receives no direct funding. Volunteers give generous amounts of time and resources are donated from other conservation and industry-related organisations.

Rich, who runs Rich Mountain Experiences with wife Monika, added: 'With other keen and committed 'mountain people', I have carried on volunteering time towards R3P. This started as a personal crusade, but now it has become my opportunity to help make a difference and to ultimately help change attitudes towards our 'common

land'. The name, Real3Peaks Challenge, was picked for a specific reason that reflected a particular concern at the time – cleaning up after the three Peaks' season, usually May to September.'

The Three Peaks Challenge is a popular event that challenges walkers to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon within 24 hours. But this summer season also includes general footfall of day walkers and other mountain users, many of who are taking part in organised group walks for personal reasons, charity fundraising or corporate objectives. Or just simple walking with friends and family.

The October date was set to tie in with a deep clean after this summer season had finished, but before the winter snows come, leaving the mountains clear underneath the snow, for the spring thaw.

In the first year of the event in 2013, Rich and his crew of volunteers collected 265kgs of rubbish from the major routes on Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

Last year's event, however, saw 120kgs cleared off Ben



Real3 Peaks Challenge founder Rich Pyne with a bin bag of chewing gum and other rubbish cleared off Ben Nevis last year.



The volunteers who picked up 120kgs of rubbish from Ben Nevis last year.

Nevis alone, including 4kgs of chewing gum.

Volunteers have also found extraordinary items among the countless banana skins and food packaging.

These include part of the hearth from the Victorian summit hotel and observatory; a horseshoe from one of the ponies used to supply the hotel; a porcelain toilet, a pre-1987 peanut packet

and a three foot-high garden gnome. Now in its sixth year, the Real3Peaks Challenge has become more popular within the outdoor and recreational sector and with land managers and organisations, conservation charities, landowners and activity providers.

Rich said: 'Take off the hill, what you bring on...and if you can take a little bit more off, even better.'

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Fort William call centre signs agreement with TSSA union

Management at Abellio's call centre in Fort William have signed a new recognition agreement with the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) union.

Manuel Cortes, general secretary of TSSA, has welcomed the signing which will see the union negotiate certain employment conditions on behalf of employees.

'This is good news for everyone in Fort William,' he said. 'This recognition agreement means our representatives will be negotiating on behalf of the workers in Fort William over pay, hours of work and holidays.'

Mr Cortes met with workers employed by rail operator Abellio at its Fort William call centre in August following news four employees would not have their employment continued.

The workers filling those roles at the Dutch-owned company's premises on the Claggan Industrial Estate were told they would not be given the chance to transfer to Glasgow as their employment was not being extended beyond an initial probationary period.

The news provoked an angry backlash from politicians and the TSSA and now Mr Cortes is pleased to be representing staff at the Fort William centre.

There are now 16 members of TSSA in the



Manuel Cortes, centre, was at the Fort William call centre on Tuesday to sign the new recognition agreement.

Fort William contact centre, making up around 90 per cent of the workforce.

'I want to congratulate workers in Fort William for joining the TSSA,' Mr Cortes continued. 'It is only through their strength

Continued on page 3

Doctor reveals Belford case amid bullying allegations

by Neill Bo Finlayson
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A whistle-blowing doctor has revealed he is aware of 'one serious case' at Belford Hospital following recent allegations of a culture of bullying and intimidation among NHS Highland's senior ranks.

Last week a group of four senior clinicians at NHS Highland spoke out about what they claimed to be a 'severe bullying culture' at a senior level and that 'a practice of suppressing criticism' has meant staff are too frightened to speak out or raise concerns with senior management.

Dr Iain Kennedy, medical secretary for the Highland Local Medical Committee and one of the doctors who initially spoke out, told the Lochaber Times he had been made aware of one such case at the Belford, which he believes does 'tie in' with complaints reported elsewhere at NHS Highland.

'I don't have much knowledge but I am aware of one serious case within Belford Hospital.'

He continued: 'I'm not



Belford Hospital in Fort William.

aware of any other cases there. In terms of work, I don't have a lot to do with the Belford but this one case has come across my radar.'

Since the initial claims, senior doctors and politicians have called for an independent inquiry into the running of NHS Highland. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also gave assurances the issue would be addressed thoroughly at First Minister's Question Time last Thursday.

David Alston, chairman of NHS Highland, said the health board was keen to understand the concerns which

have been raised and stressed the importance of a meeting between representatives of the board and the four doctors and their representatives, which he sees 'as a matter of urgency'.

He added: 'We also want to support any member of staff who has concerns and would encourage them to contact us directly. All staff were emailed a week ago with this advice. We reiterate our position that we respect the right of any staff member to communicate in the way they feel most appropriate.'

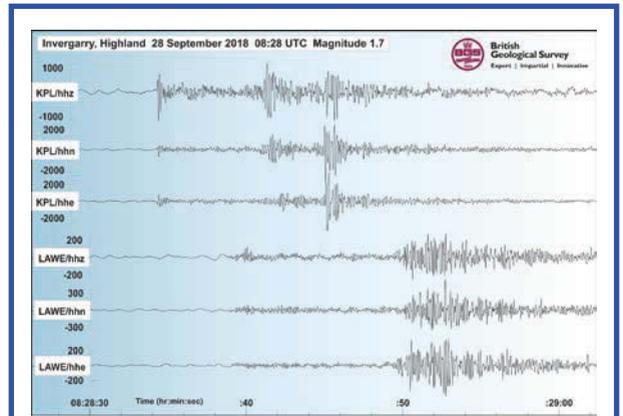
Mr Alston added he had

already met with the director general of NHS Scotland Paul Gray, who offered external, independent support to help 'understand and address the substance of any concerns' raised by the clinicians.

Dr Kennedy says he empathises with members of staff who have had to deal with incidents of bullying and said those affected 'are not alone'.

'I've since been contacted by numerous former and current staff members of staff across the Highland region,' he said. 'I'd encourage them to seek support from their families and work colleagues and approach union officials and look at organisations, resources and policies on bullying and harassment and to speak to their line managers.'

'If they are medical staff they could speak to the British Medical Association or to representatives within the professional administration of the NHS.'



The top three lines of the seismogram show the earthquake as registered at the Plockton station, with the lower three the track at Loch Awe.

Minor earthquake strikes Invergarry and Loch Awe

Seismological equipment operated by the British Geological Survey (BGS) at its stations at Plockton and Loch Awe registered an earthquake centred on Invergarry on Friday.

With a magnitude of 1.7 on the Richter Scale, the earthquake struck at a depth of 14kms just after 8.28am and report-

edly caused no damage or injuries.

One local resident told the Lochaber Times she had not felt anything out of the ordinary.

In an average year the BGS detects about 100 earthquakes around Britain, with only about 20 per cent of these actually felt by people.

Newsdesk 01397 703003

continued from page 2 and determination that we have won this breakthrough in industrial relations.

'But I also want to put Abellio on notice that we are seeking recognition for both their sites in Glasgow.'

'It appears Scotland's biggest subsidy junkie, Abellio, hasn't received or simply ignored Nicola Sturgeon's memo about the Scottish Government valuing the work which trade unions do and wanting employers to work with them.'

'The company's ScotRail contract sees billions of Scottish taxpayers pounds going their way. Is it a lot to ask of Abellio to abide by the wishes of their Scottish paymaster in chief, Nicola Sturgeon, by allowing Abellio staff their right to be represented by a union at their Glasgow sites? Frankly, if they don't the Scottish Government ought to order them to do so.'

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Lochaber MSP cautious over calls for tourist tax

A tax on tourists visiting Lochaber cannot be considered unless the tourism industry is involved from the beginning, according to MSP Kate Forbes.

The SNP politician's comments come after First Minister Nicola Sturgeon ordered a consultation on allowing councils to set a local 'tourist tax' at a Scottish Tourism Alliance meeting this week.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times that although she wants to ensure there is investment in infrastructure in Lochaber, questions remain over the suitability of a tourist tax. 'Surely, we cannot consider additional taxes unless the tourism industry and the hospitality sector are involved from the beginning, not least because hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in Lochaber and the wider Highlands depend on both.'

She continued: 'There are many questions that first

need to be answered about additional discretionary taxes, such as how it would be raised and how we would ensure it was spent in Lochaber.'

In May this year, Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson said she was re-considering the introduction of a levy on tourist accommodation in an attempt to generate extra revenue for the cash-strapped council.

Highland Council convenor Bill Lobban said: 'While the intervention of the First Minister is to be welcomed, any consultation must be wide ranging in its scope and include members of the public and tourism operators.'

Lesley Benfield, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'Although "infrastructure is failing to keep up with the growth in tourism", the Lochaber branch has not yet come to a defined position but has been consulting members on this issue.'



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LT

Fort cinema plans revealed to public

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Ambitious plans to build a new two-screen cinema and café in the heart of Fort William were revealed to the public this week.

Skye-based architectural firm Dualchas Architects is displaying its plans in the former DV8 building on Cameron Square, which will soon be demolished for the new cinema complex.

The man behind the project, Moidart entrepreneur Angus MacDonald, who bought the former Studio Cinemas building in August, is keen to gauge the public reaction to the designs.

'If people have strong views I'd like to know what they are now when it is early enough to change it,' Mr MacDonald told the Lochaber Times.

'I'd also like 'buy-in' from the town to know that it's

'It's important for a Highland town to have something like this happening and for it to be in the middle of the town.'

good for it – so far I haven't had any feedback otherwise.

'The demolition between January and March will be a negative. We are doing our best to minimise that and do it at that time of the year when it's less busy.

'The general reaction so far has been fantastic. People were walking up to me and shaking me by the hand and everyone's thrilled about it.'

Mr MacDonald hopes to offer a wide variety of films to

the 20,000 locals and 440,000 annual visitors, as well as transform the square into 'a beautiful public space'.

When asked about embarking on a two-year demolition and construction project, he said: 'That is really daunting. The bureaucracy alone for it all is mind-boggling.'

The cinema building will comprise two parts: the café and restaurant facing the square will be open and public while the cinema screens and studios will be housed in a building at the rear of the site.

Project architect Rory Flynn said the Dualchas team was 'very enthused' by the cinema plans.

'It's a high profile project and something we've been looking to work on for a number of years. It's very important for a Highland town to have something like this happening and for it to be in

the middle of the town.'

Constructing a building of this scale in a tight town square will be a first for the architectural firm which is renowned for its ground-breaking rural Highland designs.

'That's what excites us most, doing something in the middle of the town and for a building that will have a good civic purpose,' Mr Flynn continued.

'It has challenges to it, especially with the demolition in the middle of the square. We want to do something 'of the place' suiting the ambitious brief we have. We also want it to be fitting for a square like Cameron Square.

'It's important to have an open building that people feel they can come and use and that will be open early to late.'

The cinema complex plans will be on public display until Friday October 5 from 11am to 7pm.



An artist's impression of the proposed development.

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Residents urged to increase recycling

Lochaber residents are being urged to recycle more.

Historically, the public has viewed recycling centres as the 'dump' or the 'tip'.

However times have changed and with the need to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and increase how much is recycled, Highland Council is encouraging householders to take the time to separate their items before they go to a recycling centre.

Councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, chairman of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, says separating items for recycling before people visit a recycling centre will not only save people time, but will also help reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

'Around 83,000 tonnes of household and business waste from the region is sent to landfill at a cost of approximately £11 million

a year, so decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfill is a significant cost saving,' said Mr Henderson this week.

'In an effort to increase recycling at sites across the region, residents may be asked to sort their items for recycling, so try to avoid putting mixed unwanted items into black bags – most sites have separate containers for plastic bottles, cardboard, electrical items, clothes, shoes and bedding.

'We all have things at home we don't want or need such as clothes, books, toys or furniture which can still be used by someone else, so when you are having a clear out remember to pass them on by donating to charity.'

From 2021, Highland Council, like all local authorities in Scotland, will be required to change how it disposes of biodegradable municipal waste.

The landfill ban is one of a number of measures set out in the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan to help stimulate a circular economy and promote more sustainable resource use in Scotland.



The Tyrolean traverse across the lower falls was one of the most popular activities.



Children were kept busy with an array of activities in Glen Nevis.

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Cattle could be set free to roam Plockton again

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The ban preventing cattle from freely roaming the picturesque streets of Plockton expires next month and the local grazings committee says it will not agree to it being extended.

The centuries-old practice that saw cows grazing on public grassed areas, the beach and private gardens was halted 15 years ago in the wake of an E.coli outbreak and followed an agreement between the grazings committee and landowners the National Trust for Scotland.

But a public meeting organised by the grazings committee for the village hall on Monday night will see local residents informed that when the ban expires, cows will be set free from their enclosures.

Grazings committee clerk



Former Plockton Community Council chairman Charlie MacRae says there will be strong opposition to the plan.

Catherine Will says the deal was only for 15 years and that Monday's meeting is simply to inform people it will be ending.

'The ban expires at the end of November and will not be continued. We won't agree to it being extended,' she said.

'The meeting is to explain to people who are unfamiliar

with crofting what it is all about and telling them the facts – and the facts are crofters will again have the right to allow their animals to graze freely.'

However, as well as lingering health worries over a reversal of the ban, there are also concerns about livestock being allowed to mingle with the increasing number of tourist vehicles coming to Plockton, the setting for the hit 1990s' BBC television series Hamish MacBeth.

A former chairman of Plockton Community Council believes there is no way cattle can once again be allowed to roam the village's streets due to the huge increase in traffic.

Plockton native Charlie MacRae told the Lochaber Times this week he believed 90 per cent of village residents opposed the plan.



Scenes like this could be common again in Plockton if a ban on cows being free to roam at will is not extended.

'I was chairman of Plockton and District Community Council 15 years ago when the last public meeting was held as there had been so many complaints,' he said.

'There is very little grazing in the village now and with

the increase in traffic, we can't possibly have the cows back. I reckon it will be a noisy, crowded meeting.'

A representative of the National Trust for Scotland is expected to be in attendance at Monday night's meeting.



A celebration of all things wild

Nevis Landscape Partnership's Celebrating the Wild festival was a great success, despite relentless rain.

In its final year of the Heritage Lottery funded programme, Nevis Landscape Partnership wanted to celebrate everything that has been accomplished over the last four years with the support of partners, volunteers and other members of the community.

A range of activities provided hours of entertainment for children, from clay moulding with John Muir Trust representatives, bat crafts with Highlife Highland countryside rangers, to a treasure trail and stone jewellery making with Friends of Nevis.

Musician Cormac Dolan played some tunes in the afternoon then joined conservation officer Rowan Doff and a couple of previous trainee volunteer rangers for tree planting in an enclosure near Polldubh.

The face painting tent, a staple of any festival, was also a great hit.

Of great excitement to many of all ages was the Tyrolean

traverse run by Mike Pescod of Abacus Mountain Guides and Hannah from Inside Out Climbing Club over the Lower Falls. Children, teenagers and adults enjoyed being roped over the rushing falls in a harness and luckily no one lost their welly boots. Further up the river, the Fisheries Trust ran a water sampling activity, while there was a foraging and wild foods workshop led by Outdoor Environmental educator Roisin Lyle-Collins, run in partnership with Lochaber Environment Group.

The Nevis Landscape Partnership thanked everyone who helped put the event together and everyone who showed up to enjoy everything the Nevis landscape has to offer.

The Nevis Landscape Partnership programme is a culmination of 10 years of community and stakeholder collaborative enterprise driven by the Nevis Partnership and supported by Forestry Commission Scotland, the John Muir Trust, The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.

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Wind farm planning application lodged

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A planning application for SIMEC Energy's Glenshero wind farm near Laggan has been lodged.

The 168-megawatt scheme, comprising 39 turbines, eight kilometres north west of Laggan, is intended to provide 'green power' for Scottish industry and represents a significant boost to parent company GFG Alliance's investments in Scotland.

If approved, the company says the wind farm would trigger up to £158m of capital investment with approximately £23m being spent in the Highlands' economy during construction alone.

The application follows a year of environmental and technical studies and public consultation.

SIMEC Energy, which already operates a hydro power plant linked to the British Liberty Aluminium smelter at Fort William, had



JAHAMA Highland Estates chief executive Duncan Mackison.

to submit its S36 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit because the proposals are for a scheme of more than 50MW. However, Highland Council is a statutory consultee.

The company says the Glenshero project is central to GFG Alliance's vision to further develop the 114,000 acres of Lochaber estate lands which came with the purchase of the smelter for the benefit of the regional economy and communities.

If planners give the Glenshero project the green light, SIMEC Energy says it

intends to develop opportunities for the local community to share in the ownership of the wind farm.

Jay Hambro, chief executive of SIMEC Energy, said developing the wind farm would be a landmark for green energy in Scotland.

'We are proud to bring forward a project that will deliver clean, competitive power to Scottish industry and the wider economy,' he said.

'We look forward to pressing ahead with this exciting scheme.'

Duncan Mackison, chief executive of JAHAMA Highland Estates, the GFG division which manages and develops the estate lands, added: 'If approved, this project will bring significant benefits to the local area and local economy both in the short term, through the construction, and longer term as part of our plans to develop the estate and support local industry and jobs for years to come.'

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Maya Hoole, originally from Lochaber, will be the guest speaker at Lochaber Local History Society's meeting tonight, Thursday October 4, in the Ben Nevis Hotel at 8pm. Maya will talk about the Achavanich Beaker Burial project which she has managed for the past four years. Everyone welcome.

There is still time to attend a special 'open house' event regarding proposals for a new cinema in Fort William. It is being held in the DV8 building in Cameron Square. The last day of the event is on Friday October 5, from 11am -7pm. Designs by Skye-based architects Dualchas will be on show and owner Angus MacDonald will be there to discuss the project and answer questions.

Trail West will be performing at the Railway Club, Fort William, tomorrow night (Friday October 5) in aid of Lochaber Pipe Band. Doors open 7.30pm. Tickets £15.

West Highland Museum is organising Big Bang and Beyond, a fun children's event as part of the Highland Archaeology Festival 2018 on Saturday October 6 from 10am to

1pm. To book a place call 01397 702169 or email info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

Plockton Grazings Committee is holding a public meeting on Monday October 8 in Plockton Hall at 7.30pm when it will tell the village it is going to allow cows to roam in the village for the first time in 15 years. Back then, a public meeting was told by the National Trust for Scotland that because of E.coli they had to stop cows wandering in the village and 90 per cent of the village agreed.

Representatives of Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will visit Ardnamurchan on Monday October 8. Staff and volunteers from the Caol-based charitable organisation will be at Acharacle Medical Centre from 10.30am until 11.30am and at Dail Mhor, Strontian, from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. They will offer help and advice to those with a hearing or sight impairment. The team members will also re-tube and maintain NHS hearing aids and supply NHS batteries. No appointment required and the service is free.

Fort William Photographic Society's next meeting is on Tuesday October 9 at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall. The group will be viewing and discussing winning photos from various international photography competitions. Non members welcome.

Give blood at the Nevis Centre in Fort William next Wednesday October 10. Sessions are being held between 1.30pm and 4pm and from 5.30pm to 7.45pm. To book appointments call 03459 090999. Bookings must be made by 4pm the day before your session.

Lochaber Women's Aid will be hosting its annual general meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday October 10 at Voluntary Action Lochaber offices, An Drochaid.

A race night is being held at Tradewinds, Corpach, to raise funds for Kilmallie Christmas Lights. The evening starts at 8pm on Saturday October 13.

Lochaber Transport Forum will hold its open quarterly meeting and annual general meeting at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William, at 11am on Friday October 26.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

We are gearing up for a fantastic Lochaber Ideas Week from Monday November 12 to Friday November 16 so if you haven't yet booked up for events, now is the time to do it.

Many of the events are free and it is a great way to find out what's going on in our vibrant business community. Plus it's an ideal way to develop your own business ideas through inspirational workshops, lectures and networking.

We all know the benefits of networking in business are enormous but it is all too easy to focus on the essential day-to-day tasks in our business and put off networking as a nice idea for another day.



All it really means is investing a bit of time to make connections that will help you in your work. People do business with people. Talking face-to-face is the best way to connect with other people in business, raise awareness of what you do and find out about opportunities you could easily otherwise have missed.

That's exactly why we created our informal Around Lochaber in 80 Tables event

during Lochaber Ideas Week. This fast-paced and fun speed-networking event is designed to help local businesses get together to promote what they do, find out more about other businesses and spot potential opportunities.

Last year's attendees had great fun hopping from table to table for short 'business dates', getting to know new people and making valuable business connections.

Invest some time in networking - you never know what doors it could open. Give us a call on 01397 705765 to book your table or check out www.lochaberchamber.co.uk for more details. We'd love to see you there.

Kyle Royal Bank of Scotland branch to close following review

The Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Kyle is to close following an independent review into 10 planned closures.

Kate Forbes MSP has voiced her disappointment after the Johnston Carmichael review stated use of the Kyle branch was low. The report also

mentioned it was not the last bank in the town. The Mallaig branch closed during the summer. Ms Forbes said she would be happy to work with the bank to see improvements in both areas, including the creation of pre-arranged collections for businesses

seeking to deposit large amounts of cash.

Ms Forbes said: 'While I recognise branch use has declined, there are still legitimate questions regarding security and disabled access in the alternative banking provision.'

Voluntary closure of Loch Sunart scallop fishing

A voluntary closure on scallop fishing has been implemented in Loch Sunart by the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG).

It is hoped the closure – which came into effect on Monday October 1 and will continue until midnight on Wednesday October 31 – will minimise the risks posed by a potentially large ingress of vessels fishing in Loch Sunart since the loch opens a month earlier than others on the west coast.

Alastair McNeill, WCRIFG chairman, said: 'Loch Sunart opens to scallopers a month earlier than other west coast waters,' he said. 'RIFG members fear this could lead to Loch Sunart being targeted in advance of alternative scallop areas opening in November. Members have retained the option to extend the voluntary closure beyond October 31 and will review the position when the management committee meets on October 30.'

The order is in place to protect common skate. Once common around the entire British coast, common skates are now confined to Scottish west coast waters and Orkney as the result of unsustainable fishing practices in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Voluntary closures by the WCRIFG, since the designation was implemented in 2016, have generally been observed. WCRIFG has requested the Scottish Government amend the opening period of Loch Sunart to November 1 each year consistent with other west coast waters, negating the need for voluntary closure.

Pipe dreams coming true for Robertsons

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

It has been a busy summer for Lochaber Pipe Band and nowhere more so than in the Robertson household in Inverlochty.

With mum Moira as pipe major, dad Iain band secretary and daughter and prize-winning piper Laura also now in the band's ranks, it is fair to say life for the Robertsons revolves round Scotland's most famous musical instrument.

And with the 2018 Royal National Mòd in Dunoon on the horizon, things are certainly busy for the family with Laura, now 13 and in second year at Lochaber High School, hoping to add to the haul of medals and trophies she won at last year's event.

Moira started learning the pipes aged four, following in the footsteps of her older brothers and cousins who were all pipers.

She joined Lochaber Pipe Band in 1996 when it was reformed by two local policemen and has been pipe major for the last 11 years.

'I've really enjoyed being pipe major with the band and am absolutely delighted Laura's a member as well now. It makes it even more enjoyable,' Moira said.

'Laura started when she was really young as well and first competed with the band at Forres in 2016.'

And while Moira is not



Pipe Major Moira Robertson, far left front row, leads Lochaber Pipe Band at the head of the parade of clan flags at this year's Glenfinnan Gathering in August.

JP F34 Glenfinnan gathering 2018

competing at this year's Mòd, Laura is entered in the solo piping competition, three singing competitions, poetry and conversation.

'We were absolutely delighted when Laura showed an interest in piping and very proud when she joined the band. She was always desperate to start playing and has worked hard and practises a lot,' continued Moira.

'When I was Laura's age, I used to travel a lot to compete at weekends. One of my best results was in 1990 when I won a silver medal at the famous Northern Meeting which is prestigious among pipers.'

Moira says piping is still very strong in Lochaber, but while the pipe band now has a complement of 12 pipers

and six drummers, more members are always sought.

Weekly band practise is on Thursdays at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar at Caol when Moira and Pipe Sergeant Sandy MacKenzie

teach juniors from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, followed by the seniors from 7.30pm.

'We are always looking to get more people to join the band and are happy to teach pipers and drummers from scratch,' added Moira.

Future pipe band highlights include supporting the Red Hot Chilli Pipers at their gig in Fort William in December.

'Being invited to play with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers will definitely be great fun and we're all really looking forward to that,' said Moira.

Well-known local band Trail West are also performing tomorrow (Friday) night in the Railway Club.

And next year, Moira says the band's ambition is to compete in more competitions.

'That will require more commitment from our members, but we have the potential to do well,' said Moira.



Laura Robertson, who will be hoping to repeat her piping success from last year's Mòd in Lochaber when the 2018 event takes place later this month in Dunoon.

Hotel expansion plans submitted

A planning application has been lodged for permission to extend the famous Glenfinnan House Hotel.

The project, designed by Oban-based architectural firm Fair Planning & Design, reconfigures the existing back-of-house and adds eight letting bedrooms to the side, along with improvements to the kitchen.

This would increase the total number of letting bedrooms to 23 and the rear of hotel reconfiguration proposal would also see the two existing staff caravans replaced with purpose-built staff accommodation.

If the application for full planning consent is approved by Highland Council, it is anticipated building work will start next year at the historic hotel, parts of which date back as far as 1755.

The property was originally built as an inn by Alexander MacDonald VII of Glenaladale, who was wounded fighting for Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Culloden in 1746.

It later became a farm dwelling before being



The architects' design for the proposed new extension to the hotel.

turned into a mansion house around 1842, by Angus MacDonald XII of Glenaladale.

When the last of this MacDonald line died in 1916, the house and associated lands passed out of the family after more than three centuries.

The house was taken over by the MacFarlane family in 1971, by which time it had fallen into disrepair, and converted into a hotel.

Since 2002, the hotel has been managed by award-winning chef Duncan Gibson and his wife Manja.

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LT

HIE set for 'huge influx' of workers

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is preparing for a huge influx of skilled workers to support the new wheel-hub factory in Fort William, according to the agency's Lochaber programme manager.

Guest speaker at Lochaber Rotary Club's business lunch meeting on September 26 was Alastair Nicolson of HIE and son of past president Angus.

Alastair delivered an upbeat presentation on HIE's plans to make Lochaber a 'fantastic place for people to live, work, visit, study and invest'.

Following the pessimistic forecast of the future of the aluminium smelter announced by Rio Tinto in 2015, a task force was set up under the chairmanship of Fergus Ewing MSP, cabinet secretary for rural economy, to explore the prospects for Lochaber without the smelter.

Fortunately, there was an



Alastair Nicolson, second right, with president Iain Johnston and past presidents Angus Nicolson (Alastair's father) and George Bruce.

almost instant turnaround with the buy-out by Liberty Aluminium in 2016 and its ambitious plans to expand into wheel hub manufactur-

ing with a 400-strong well-paid and skilled workforce. HIE, working in partnership with the Highland Council and other public agencies, is

now leading the task force, re-invented as a delivery group, and is concentrating on delivering five key requirements:

- Skills and talent – including a new centre for science and technology

- Energy – including mains gas, hydro and wind power

- Housing – up to 400 new homes are needed – plus a new hospital on the Blar

- Transport – complete re-appraisal of the road network and cycle routes

- Masterplan for Fort William – an ambitious long-term plan for the town and the wider area

Alastair emphasised delivering these five action points as vital to the long-term prosperity of Fort William and added: 'Community input will be reflected in the final masterplan. This is a bold, ambitious and inclusive vision setting out the future of Lochaber.'

On behalf of the club, past president George Bruce, who was a director of Lochaber Limited, forerunners to HIE, thanked Alastair for a 'great presentation' and club members responded with hearty applause.

Night-time fundraiser lights up Ben Nevis

A bitterly cold night failed to put off hardy walkers who tackled the recent 'Light Up Ben Nevis Walk', which saw the slopes of Britain's highest mountain illuminated in a spectacular fundraiser.

The event was in aid of the Ben Nevis Fund which supports essential environmental work in the area.

Organiser Mike Pescod told the Lochaber Times: 'Nevis at Night is a fundraiser for Nevis Landscape Partnership to help look after Ben Nevis, the biggest and most important icon we have here in the Outdoor Capital of the UK.'

'Not only did we raise funds that will go directly into the management of the Nevis area, we also wanted to shine a light on Ben Nevis being a cause in its own right.'

'It makes a fantastic venue for fundraising events and we want to encourage people to enjoy the mountain but it also needs a lot of looking after and fundraising events, in particular, should contribute to this.'

'The Light Up Ben Nevis walk is the first stage in the Nevis at Night event which we will grow into an annual festival, accessible to everyone, all in support of the essential work carried out by Nevis Landscape Partnership. The event was excellent and everyone did brilliantly on a bitterly cold night and we will be looking for even more people to take part next year.'

'The event would not have been possible without the support of Glen Nevis Holidays, Crannog and John Muir Trust and our thanks go to them.'

Money raised by the walk went into the Ben Nevis Fund which now totals more than £1,200 with five weeks still to go.



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Glenfinnan Commu

Glenfinnan Community Council held its September meeting in Glenfinnan House Hotel.

Among the items discussed were:

Marine Harvest community hut: Plans for the upgrade of the existing building are being drawn up. An application for a change of use is to be completed shortly. The steering group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm, Glenfinnan House Hotel. It will continue to update the community council of any progress.

Roads: Various issues remained outstanding from the last meeting, particularly drainage, deterioration of road surfaces and signs. Councillor Henderson is to contact Pauline Donaldson regarding the current situation.

Tourist parking: On July 10, a snapshot of the current situation was carried out with 20 per cent of the village population turning up to help. This led to significant

press coverage in Scotland, the UK and as far afield as New Zealand. Transport Scotland recently installed cameras and strips along the stretch of A830 from National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and further correspondence from it is awaited once the data has been gathered and analysed. A planning and funding application has been made for a car park and footbridge on the private land next to NTS – now approved.

Litter: The issue of litter was raised at the annual general meeting, particularly near Callop walkway. A tidy-up day was proposed towards the end of the tourist season, the date of which will be set at the next meeting.

Correspondence: A letter had been received from the fire and rescue service asking for further volunteers with personal skills or vehicles that could be used in an emergency to come forward

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The route up Ben Nevis was well lit for the event.

Some of the route illuminated.



Above: The slopes of Britain's highest mountain were illuminated during the recent fund-raising event.

Photographs: Dan Timmis.

Left: The light display was dramatic.



Right: There were good conditions for the ascent.

Community Council meeting

and join the community asset register.

Police update: Sergeant Keith Almond told the community council that since the last meeting there had been 22 incidents reported. Six were related to parking and 10 were road traffic accidents.

Skunk cabbage and ragwort infestation: Alistair Gibson has treated all skunk cabbage that had been identified within the village. Duncan Gibson proposed a village walk round in the springtime to raise further awareness.

The Post Office has been temporarily suspended because of upcoming works at Glenfinnan House Hotel. The Post Office is looking at an alternative site. The possibility of moving the post box from National Trust car park to a more convenient location was discussed.

Glenfinnan House Hotel will be closed from the end of October

for kitchen refurbishment. A planning application has been drawn up for an eight-bed extension and staff accommodation. Community council meetings will still be accommodated each month.

Public entertainment licence: The games committee approached the community council regarding a donation towards the cost of renewal of the licence. The community council agreed to pay £100 as a gesture of goodwill for use of the grounds on bonfire night.

The community council acknowledged the sad passing of Donald John Robertson, a well-regarded and popular member of the community.

Events - Saturday October 27: Hallowe'en party from 7pm for children, 9pm for adults, at Glenfinnan House Hotel.

Date of next meeting: Monday October 15, 8pm, Glenfinnan House Hotel. Everyone welcome.



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Major A82 road work welcomed

The start of resurfacing work on the A82 between Fort William and Inverness has been welcomed by Councillor Allan Henderson.

The Caol and Mallaig Highland Council representative, who is also chairman of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, said: 'I welcome this spend, the continuing improvements and the investment in the A82 which I regularly travel on from my home in Fort William.'

'On behalf of the local communities and road users I have been lobbying for the planned works to be done overnight to keep disruption to a minimum. I really appreciate BEAR Scotland listening and changing this work from a daytime closure, which would have meant drivers having a long detour. Having the work carried out at night will disrupt far fewer people's travel plans.'

Work started on Sunday between Invergarry and Invermoriston. It is due to last five weeks with overnight closures in place Sunday to Thursday nights, 7pm to 6am.



Zach Wishart and Christine Rolin of Lochaber Environmental Group with one of the demonstration electric cars, which had a full diary of potential buyers throughout the day. Photograph: Iain Ferguson alba.photos

Green powered cars showcased in Fort

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) hosted the area's first electric vehicle roadshow last weekend in Fort William.

The environmental charity teamed up with Home Energy Scotland Highlands and Islands to bring a range of cars to Lochaber for people to test drive on Saturday September 29.

A Nissan Leaf, BMW i3 and Tesla model S could be driven.

There was also advice from experts on what electric cars are like to live with and how they can help reduce fuel bills.

The LEG team gave advice on electric car chargers and the £4,500 plug-in vehicle grant and the £35,000 interest-free electric vehicle loan which makes electric motoring affordable for more people.

Nevis Cycles and Off Beat Bikes were also there with trial and e-bikes.



Ten members of staff from the Fort William store made the trek.



Banavie primary seven pupils Freya Fleming and Freya Nicol sold raffle tickets at the school's Macmillan coffee morning.

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The Highland Community Energy Society (HCES) are offering a community stake amounting to £1.89 million in total, in six hydro projects in the Highlands of Scotland.

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Fort M&S staff hold world's highest coffee morning

Fort William M&S staff hosted a coffee morning with a difference in aid of Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning last week.

They held a coffee morning at the summit of Ben Nevis, the UK's highest mountain, on Monday September 24, with the team of 10 setting off just after first light to take on the 1,345-metre climb.

Sam Nugent, store manager at M&S Fort William, said the team had been training for the climb for two months so were delighted to get to the top and hold their coffee morning.

M&S is a long-standing supporter of Macmillan Cancer Support, sponsoring the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, which helps to raise funds for people living with cancer and brings commu-

nities closer together, for the ninth consecutive year.

Sam said: 'As well as our climb, we offered M&S baked goods for Caol Community Centre's coffee morning, which each year sees around 300 members of the local community gather to raise funds for Macmillan.'

Since M&S's partnership with Macmillan started, M&S customers and colleagues have helped to raise more than £13 million, including £3.5m in the last year alone. The money raised helped to fund 65 Macmillan posts in 2018, bringing essential medical, practical and emotional support to cancer sufferers and their families.

M&S cafes are also donating five pence from every coffee, tea, herbal tea and cake they sell.

Ben Nevis wasn't the only venue hosting a Macmillan coffee morning, as people across Lochaber joined in with the country-wide fund-raising effort.

Village halls, community centres, schools and businesses across the region all hosted versions of the event. Dozens of people gathered at Caol Community Centre for a special event, which included performances from Caol Primary School and St Columba's RC School choirs, while Banavie Primary School also hosted an event with the pupils selling raffle tickets and serving teas and coffees. Nevis Range also hosted a coffee morning which, if not for the efforts of the M&S Ben Nevis team, could have qualified as the highest in the country.



The Nevis Range team joined the fundraising effort.



Volunteers serving cakes and coffee at Roy Bridge Village Hall.

Right: A huge team of volunteers helped out at the Caol Community Centre coffee morning.



All photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Caol Primary School choir performing at the coffee morning at Caol Community Centre.

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We are delighted to welcome back Laurence Young from Glencoe Activities as our facilitator for this year's event, which takes place on Tuesday 13th November from 10am - 12pm. Participants are encouraged to bring business information, lots of good humour and a friendly welcome.

At just £40 + VAT per business table, it's a great value way to expand your business contacts in one morning. Tables must be booked in advance through www.lochaberchamber.co.uk

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Decision opens door to crofters' wind farm

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A Crofting Commission decision last week on the right of three Isle of Lewis townships to develop their own community-owned wind farms is being hailed as a major step forward for their campaign, despite the fact the commission rejected their applications.

Campaigners have pointed out that the ruling by the commission has confirmed the principle they were fighting for – that crofting communities have the power to develop wind farms on their common grazings land without the landowner's consent.

They say the grounds on which the commission turned down their applications was

not on this key question of principle but on a separate argument as to whether their wind farms would be 'to the detriment' of the landowner, a point which the crofters dispute because they have offered to pay the same rent as any private developer.

Rhoda Mackenzie, a township representative, said: 'This commission decision, while disappointing in its final conclusion, is a major breakthrough for the rights of crofting communities and leaves us much further ahead than we thought we would be at this stage.'

'This is such a revolutionary use of the law that we always knew it would have to be confirmed in the land court at the end of the day but at least

we now have the commission's endorsement on all the substantive points of principle.

'Our outstanding disagreements with the commission are on a point of fact and of procedure which we are happy to let the land court decide.'

Section 50B of the 1993 Crofting Act was passed into law in 2007 by the last Labour administration in Holyrood with the intended aim of allowing crofting communities to use their common grazings for new activities – expected to be in the areas of horticulture, recreation and growing winter feed.

Most significantly, the clause stated that the consent of landowners was not required, the only caveat being that the proposed use should not be

detrimental to the landowner.

However, it was never used and was languishing forgotten about on the statute books, until the three Lewis townships decided to use it in a bid to develop community wind farms on their own common grazings.

The townships' 50B applications were submitted to the Crofting Commission in September 2016 and the landowner responded with a six-page objection, having been given leave to make its objection a year late.

In its decision last week, the commission rejected the landlord's objections to the principle of using 50B on the basis that there was no 'express restriction in the uses to which the part of the common

grazings can be put, other than that the use must not be detrimental to the interests of the owner'.

The Lewis townships therefore feel that the commission has opened the door for crofting communities to make use of their common grazings for an unprecedented range of economic activity where they will no longer need the consent of landowners to do so, provided it is not detrimental to their interests.

The townships are now preparing their appeal to the Scottish Land Court, to overturn the decision that their developments would be detrimental to the landowner and also on the grounds that the landowner's objection was submitted a year late.

Health secretary accepts Skye invite

The cabinet secretary for health and sport has accepted an invitation from constituency MSP Kate Forbes to visit Skye.

It is expected that Jeane Freeman MSP will visit Portree Hospital, which campaigners from the north of the island, along with Ms Forbes, have been fighting to keep open.

Sir Lewis Ritchie, whose review into healthcare provision categorically stated that the hospital in Skye's biggest population centre must remain open – and have its services enhanced – will be visiting in December to meet the community and NHS Highland officials to discuss progress made on the implementation of his recommendations.

It is understood that the cabinet secretary's visit will take place at some point during 2019.

Ms Forbes commented: 'Sir Lewis Ritchie found that speaking to real people, local residents, campaigners and councillors was critical to ensuring he could recognise the legitimate fears and worries of the people of Skye, and I am confident this will be the case for Jeane Freeman too.'

Study to boost Stornoway as 'electric town'

Stornoway is one of 10 Scottish towns which will benefit from in-depth government support, delivered by the Energy Saving Trust, to a number of local authorities as part of plans for Scotland's electric towns and cities.

The Programme for Government 2018/2019 outlined an ambition to extend the scope of the Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge Fund and deliver 20 electric towns before 2025.

These locations will facilitate

a radical transformation in the uptake of plug-in electric vehicles in Scotland's towns and cities.

Round one of the Challenge Fund was launched in June 2018 and bids are currently being assessed.

Additionally, the Switched on Towns and Cities programme is providing support for the 10 feasibility studies in 2018/19 to develop a future pipeline of potential infrastructure developments across the country. Cabinet Secretary

for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson said it was an important step forward in the Scottish Government's commitments within the Programme for Government to introduce 20 electric towns before 2025 and to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032.

The feasibility study will help to stimulate electric vehicle adoption in and around Stornoway, looking at opportunities for battery storage.



The feasibility study will help stimulate electric vehicle adoption in and around Stornoway.

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Global players in energy visit Lewis

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Representatives from renewable energy companies across the globe were on Lewis recently to meet voluntary board members and a range of consultants who work with community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

Dozens of people attended the trust's annual 'away day' at Lews Castle in Stornoway in September, and were given an update on a number of the trust's key projects, funded with the profits from its Beinn Ghrideag wind farm.

These included the Croft Woodlands project, where trees are being planted from the Butt to Barra; the LED community energy scheme, which aims to alleviate fuel poverty in the Point and Sandwick area while also re-



Those attending the 'Away Day' at Lews Castle.

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos

ducing its carbon footprint; and the raft of community projects being supported by consultants Alasdair Nicholson and Tony Robson, who are funded by Point and Sandwick Trust as an outreach team to help community groups make

funding applications and help them address questions of engineering.

Two representatives from global business Engie, the specialists in the transport and storage of gas, were at the event and gave a presentation on the future energy

market and what is expected to happen to prices.

Engie were present because the company is one of Point and Sandwick Trust's partners in the ambitious Hydrogen Ferry development project.

In the second half of the day, the focus moved on to future ideas and possibilities.

Green energy entrepreneur Ian Irvine – who co-founded technical consultancy Sgurr Energy, which has since been sold to Wood Group – gave a fascinating talk on how the Outer Hebrides could harness its renewable energy potential in terms of wind, wave and tidal in the future, to address its problems of fuel poverty and huge expenditure on oil for heating and travel costs.

The business of the day was followed by a dinner and then a board meeting.

MSP in appeal over island social security

The issue of social security assessments in island communities has been raised by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan, pictured, in a sitting of the Scottish Parliament.

The Western Isles MSP was questioning new cabinet secretary for social security Shirley-Anne Somerville last week about how assessments will be delivered in island and other rural areas to meet their distinctive needs.

Certain powers on social security are now devolved to the Scottish Parliament, with legislation being passed earlier this year to set out how 11 benefits, such as Winter Fuel Payments and Personal Independence Payments, will be delivered.

Mr Allan said: 'It is vitally important that Scotland's new social security agency avoids the mistakes of

the UK Government and recognises the challenges that face people in island communities.

'The UK Government's approach to welfare has been truly horrific. It is unfortunate that 85 per cent of social

security payments will still be controlled by Westminster, but I hope Scotland is able to put dignity and respect at the heart of delivering the limited welfare benefits we now have control of.

'I was grateful for the cabinet secretary's reassurance that, no matter where people live, Scotland's social security system will deliver and give people access to the same quality of service. It is also helpful that the requirement for face-to-face assessments will be reduced, and where they are necessary distance and a person's ability to travel will be taken into account.'



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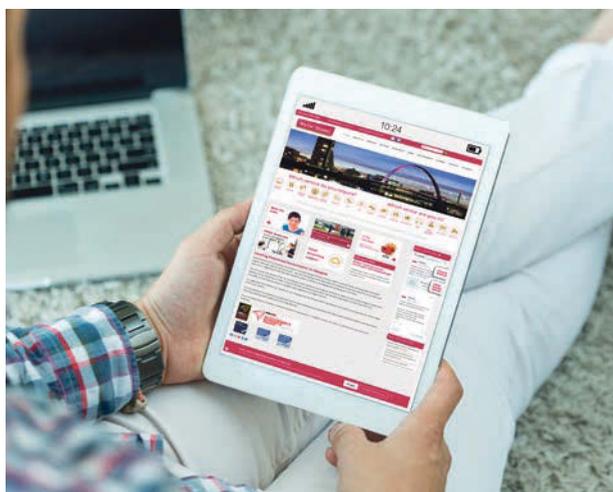
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LETTERS

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

The story we publish this week about the Robertson family and their unwavering commitment to Lochaber Pipe Band is genuinely a heart-warming one.

As we report, the Inverlochy family's life is dominated by the pipe band and its activities, with mum Moira pipe major, dad Iain band secretary and daughter Laura playing in the band.

This commitment is thrown into especially sharp relief at the moment as the Royal National Mòd is imminent, starting as it does later this month in Dunoon.

Young Laura took home an impressive haul of awards from last year's Mòd, held, appropriately, in Fort William and other Lochaber venues.

The effort and time devoted to the band by all the Robertsons is admirable but they are seeking more people to come forward and join the ranks. We would urge anyone with piping links to consider joining in.

Disappointment at
closure of bank

It was widely expected to happen but the closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Kyle is still a blow.

RBS announced months ago that it wanted to shut a number of branches in rural areas and targeted several across the Highlands and Islands.

A review of its operations by the firm Johnston Carmichael apparently found that usage of the Kyle branch was too low to make it sustainable.

It is this kind of slicing at rural infrastructure that makes life in remote and rural communities ever more fragile. At a time when the powers-that-be are trying to repopulate such areas, this is, to say the least, unhelpful.

RBS remains in public ownership, which only serves to deepen the sense of disappointment at this decision.

Obsession with history
threatens future of shinty

Many shinty followers must be despairing that the Camanachd Association appears intent on promoting its history as a box-office attraction while turning a blind eye to the steady decline in both playing standards and public interest in the sport.

It is no more than three years since an exhibition of shinty history was held at the Hampden Football Museum. The blurb advertising the latest, a conference open to the general public, on Wednesday October 10, which appeared on both shinty.com and the Highland Folk Museum websites (where the conference is being held), refers to the conference 'celebrating the past, present and future of shinty'.

Shinty participants may at first be enthused at the prospect of an opportunity to voice concerns and share views on the sport with other participants. That is until they check out the HFM website and learn the conference is a midweek, non-participatory event; not one item on the conference programme relates to present day issues or the future of the sport – and they will be charged £30 to attend.

The keynote speaker, shinty historian Hugh Dan MacLennan, who also organised the Hampden exhibition, produced a very comprehensive history of organised shinty to mark the 1993 centenary of the Camanachd Association.

In his summing up in the final section, Dr MacLennan made the perceptive comments that 'the dilemma facing shinty is whether to promote a modern game or preserve an aspect of Highland culture' and 'for life-force and continuing success, the game must aspire to skill and spectacle at the highest level'.

There is no evidence that the CA ever made any conscious decision to address MacLennan's comments and its focus remained where it had been for the previous 100 years: on the administration of fixture schedules.

The inevitable consequence of failing to recognise and address the effect on playing standards of societal changes that provide young people with a whole spectrum of pastime activities where previously shinty was top priority for many, effectively entered the sport into a spiral of declining standards.

Later, the decline accelerated with the choice of shinty/hurling as the platform for developing the cream of young players. Those selected

YOUR PICTURES



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

for elite squads are now encouraged to develop playing styles that treat the ball as a hot potato, whereas, in shinty's halcyon days of the sixties, seventies and eighties, large crowds of spectators were frequently entertained by a possession/passing playing style.

A sport that has existed in organised form for 125 years and is now, in numerical and qualitative terms, only marginally further forward than when it first started, seems to me to have little cause for celebration. How much more relevant and productive it would be for the CA, as a first step, to hold a select gathering of knowledgeable people, together with its

board members, to identify first crucial steps to begin arresting and reversing the decline before it becomes too late.

Iain Cameron,
former vice-president CA and
international team manager,
Birnam Avenue, Bishopbriggs.

Poetic recollection: the old
Oban High School

As October 4 is National Poetry Day, perhaps you might like to publish the following poem.

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DISTRICT NEWS

LOCHABER

The guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's business lunch meeting on September 20 was retired surgeon from the Belford Hospital David Sedgwick, who spoke about support for surgical training in Palestine, Gaza and, more specifically, in Rwanda.

David gave members an update briefing on progress being made, through the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, in the delivery of its basic surgical skills course (BSS) aimed at training and equipping the local faculty to become trainers themselves.

In April this year, Rwanda marked the 24th anniversary of the genocide in which around 800,000 of its civilians died and this desperately poor nation is now moving beyond these dreadful times. The BSS course is just one small part in helping to achieve national unity and peace.

David explained that the objective was to gradually pass responsibility for teaching on to the Rwandan staff but this needed funding and he expressed his appreciation of the on-going support from the rotary club.

President Iain Johnston thanked David for his deeply interesting talk and, on behalf of the club, past president Ken Johnston said: 'Our club is proud to be associated with the great work you and your colleagues are doing in Rwanda and we will continue to support you.'

Members responded with warm applause.

PLOCKTON

The headmaster's house and the janitor's house beside Plockton High School have been empty for years.

Highland Council planned to turn them into a special needs house for the school but they haven't got the money for the conversion, so it may revert to a council house.

The Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland held a bingo session at Balmacara House on September 19 and raised £226 for branch funds.

In Plockton during August, there



Co-op store managers from across Lochaber joined company colleagues from Tobermory, Tiree and Stornoway recently to climb Ben Nevis in aid of charity. More than £15,000 was raised for mountain rescue teams across Scotland, as well as for Air Ambulance Scotland. The walkers faced very difficult conditions but successfully completed their challenge.

was 4.5 inches of rain, making it the wettest month since February. The warmest day was 18.6°C, even April had 18.7°C. The coldest night was 7°C.

Recent deaths in Lochalsh and Glenshiel have included: Helen Macleod, Inverinate; Mairi Brodie, Dornie; Douglas Gill, Dornie; Willie Grant, Killilan; Annie Mary Rennie, Kyle; Lili Simpson, Plockton; and Donnie MacDonald, Kyle.

Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relatives.

FORT WILLIAM

Highland and Islands Enterprise has officially opened its new office in Fort William.

Alexander Ross House was the former Fort William Primary School.

It was formally opened, along with the adjacent former secondary school, which was renamed the Charles Kennedy Building, by Councillor Andrew Baxter.

The B-listed buildings were refur-

bished and brought back into use in a £1.3m project by The Highland Council with support from HIE and Historic Environment Scotland.

Alexander Ross House is also home to the Lochaber Area Archive and record store, both managed by High Life Highland, and has additional office space, a shared communal reception, meeting room, toilets and staff facilities.

The Charles Kennedy Building houses a range of Highland Council operations, including the new Service Point. It also provides the new hub for the Department for Work and Pensions and JobCentre Plus.

Scott Dingwall, HIE's head of regional development in Lochaber, said: 'This is a great new facility that benefits not just the organisations based here, but the members of the public looking to access the services we provide.'

'There are also wider benefits of having these impressive listed buildings brought back into productive use, and enhancing the appearance of the entrance to the town.'

OUTER HEBRIDES

Around 50 people from all over the world visited the Outer Hebrides last month.

The event was part of the Social Enterprise World Forum 2018, held in Edinburgh last week, and took place at An Lanntair on Monday September 17 and Talla na Mara on the following day.

Organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the two-day rural symposium enabled practitioners and policy-makers to focus on rural social enterprise development.

Delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada and Scotland discussed the challenges and opportunities of building social enterprises in a range of environments across the globe.

Social enterprises operate like most other businesses but have a social and/or environmental purpose at their core; they reinvest all their profits in the pursuit of that purpose.

A range of topics relevant to the

Outer Hebrides were discussed and delegates engaged with social enterprises from the islands including Urras nan Tursachan, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn and West Harris Trust to gain an insight into the unique role they have in these communities.

Speakers included Kent Roberts from the government of Nova Scotia, and Kaye-Maree Dunn from the Maori Women's Development Agency, New Zealand.

Given the location in the Outer Hebrides, the event focused on themes such as understanding the importance of land and facility ownership and how communities can be empowered and transformed using legislation.

Professor Lorne Crerar, chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'Highlands and Islands Enterprise believes passionately in the role played by social enterprises in strengthening communities, providing local services and creating economic opportunities across our region.'

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The pupils of Inverie Primary School and Nursery in Knoydart were recently successful in being awarded a grant of £2,500 from Calor Gas towards the costs of enhancing their playground and purchasing much-needed play equipment.



Ian Blackford, right, with Roger Trussell and Grant Holyroyd of Knoydart Renewables at the hydroelectric plant.

MP hears concerns of Knoydart residents

As part of his week of constituency engagements, Ian Blackford MP visited the Knoydart peninsula a fortnight ago.

The Lochaber MP explained: 'The day started with an advice surgery. I was then keen to investigate the issues that are being experienced with the communities' hydro scheme.

I was accompanied by Roger Trussell and

Grant Holyroyd of the Knoydart Trust, to see first-hand the machinery that powers the area. In the coming weeks and months, I will be working with all shareholders to ensure that we reach the best solution for the people of Knoydart.'

Mr Blackford then continued on to Lochcarron, Kishorn and Raasay.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Isn't the chaos at our 'spaghetti junction' getting pasta joke? Even locals are flummoxed as to how to negotiate the gravelly twists and turns and chicanes outside the Alex and the Belford. As for Fassifern Road? Well, honestly! I bet they didn't have the same hassle when it was constructed 150 years ago. That was during the 'Hungry Forties' to provide work for locals of that era. And the nasty bend at the bottom end was intentional – as there had to be a diversion of the road past the Officers' Gardens prior to it joining up with the main highway. But, of course, in those days and for a century and more afterwards, the traffic didn't have to contend with a spaghetti junction prior to reaching the main road.

■ A couple of wee anecdotes which underline the local interest in Piper Bill Millin's book 'Invasion'. In several sections of the text Bill makes mention of his cousins, Sadie MacPherson and Kate MacKay. On the occasions when Bill had been able to leave Commando training at Achnacarry, he called at Lochy Road in The Village on the way back to borrow Norman MacKay's bike to enable him to cycle along Loch Arkaig-side. The procedure went something like this: 'After a smart "eyes right" to Colonel Vaughan, and a quick march past Achnacarry Post Office, I'd sometimes get the use of a Jeep which I would take into the Fort. But I had to leave it at the police station to be collected.' So Bill detoured first into Inverloch and loaded Norman's bike into the back of the Jeep, ready for the return journey. 'A lot quicker than walking to and from Achnacarry,' said he.

■ At Achnacarry, Bill Millin was asked by an American Ranger, 'What weapons d'you carry into battle, Jock?' Indicating his bagpipes, Bill replied, 'Just these.' The Yank was amazed. 'Gee, piper,' he exclaimed, 'you're sure in for a hot time if the enemy doesn't like bagpipe music!'

■ By coincidence, after reading Invasion, I received the following letter: 'Dear Roamer, I was wondering if anyone else was wakened by the wails and drones of the pipes on Saturday when local newly-weds were escorted back to Caol by Graham, the piper. But, seriously, the tunes were really good. Yours sincerely, A Listener to the Pipes. (I had no choice – they woke me up!)

■ I was walking towards Cameron Square at dinner time on Monday when I, too, heard the 'strains' of the pipes. The tunes were a bit wavery. And there in the Square, the piper, bearded and top-knotted, started to play In An English

Country Garden. It was almost unbelievable. Perhaps he should have gone along to the Belford which stands in the location of what used to be 'an English country garden.'

■ Phil Stevenson is still getting a lot of stick about his performance in the Quarter Ben Race at the beginning of September. Phil managed to reach the first aluminium bridge before pulling out of the event. Now his cynical colleagues in Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team are recommending that Phil gets Bert Bissell to pace him when the Grand Old Man comes up to make his Ben Nevis pilgrimage in November.

■ Tongue in cheek, I advised the Sunday Post newsdesk last week that the referee of the Fort v Forres match on which I was reporting, was WJ Machray of Fort William and Forres. Until recently Bill was manager of the Clydesdale Bank in Fort William. He now works in a similar capacity in Forres. The Post was quite subtle in its handling of his domicile. The paper left his name out altogether.

■ The daily newspapers are full of stories of well-known people claiming Scottish ancestry. Tartan-clad Ronald and Nancy Reagan paid a flying visit to the church in Paisley where the ex-president's great-great-grandparents were wed in 1807. And, of course, it emerged that one of Ronald's colourful ancestors was alleged to have been a bootlegger. Not so for Neil Kinnock. His great grandfather, from Perth, was a boot-MAKER. Incidentally, the family name in those days was Kinnoch – not Kinnock. It seems that the Kinnochs moved south to Bristol, and then to Wales. Nothing, so far, however, to suggest that John Major is of Highland descent.

■ The Fort William and District Pictures Exhibition is on at the library. And the collection of photos of the Fort and its folk over the past 100 years is proving to be a great attraction. The comments from the viewers are priceless: 'Look, there's Archie who used to work in the Co-op.' 'That's never Archie – unless he was standing on a box when the photo was taken.' And then: 'Aye that's Banavie School Choir. And Muriel MacFarlane with the pointer.' Followed by 'Is that not Jimmy whatdycallhim in that group at the Argyll Rovers annual dance in Fraser's Cafe?' That particular query was followed by: 'Well, it certainly looks like the same suit out of Hepworth's he was wearing when I saw him in the street the other day.' 'Look, there's such and such a couple getting the Freedom of the Fort in the Co-Op van before they got married.' 'And there's a picture of the curling match up the Glen, between Fort William Town Council and the Burgh ratepayers. And the ratepayers lost every time...'

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Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.



Countdown to first Pride parade in Outer Hebrides

Final preparations are under way for the first LGBT Pride parade to be held in the Outer Hebrides this Saturday.

Hebridean Pride takes place in Stornoway on Saturday October 6 - the same day as the Proud Ness parade, the first one to take place in Inverness for 15 years.

Stornoway resident Susanne Erbida, a member of the organising committee along with Era owner Carl Easton and others, said the group had thought it was 'time for the Western Isles to show support for the local LGBT+ community, especially in light of recent events'.

Last month a minister of Stornoway Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), was reported to have described the event as 'sad and shameful', pointing young people in the 'wrong direction'.

Rev Graeme Craig is quoted as saying: "The sooner soci-

ety returns to recognising basic biology and promoting faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage, the more content people will be. Following our Maker's instructions is always the wise thing to do.'

However, Susanne Erbida said the Pride parade 'should be a celebration of acceptance and tolerance, a happy, peaceful and positive event. Everyone is welcome to our march, young and old'.

'We want to show that it is okay to be different, that LGBT+ people do not have to be afraid to go public with their sexuality. That there is nothing wrong with being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and anything in between.'

Another organiser, Steve Ferguson, said: 'I have seen too much hatred and objection aimed towards LGBT groups and individuals, es-

pecially in the Highlands and Islands. Equality is something everyone deserves regardless of sexuality. Although I am straight, I have gay and bisexual family and friends. This event will not only celebrate them, it will celebrate tolerance, acceptance and love.'

The Pride march will begin at noon from the forecourt outside An Lanntair.

The walk will follow a route through the Narrows, to North Beach, around the Town Hall and to the Carlton, where there will be light refreshments and a performance from drag queen The Duchess. There will be stalls on mental health and sexual health, crafts and baking.

In the evening, Era Nightclub will be holding an LGBT party night, from 10pm till late.

Organisers say they have received a lot of support from organisations including NHS

Western Isles, Stonewall, the Equality Network and An Lanntair. Funds will be raised on the day for the local branch of the Penumbra mental health charity.

Maree Todd, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, expressed her support for the event in Stornoway. 'I am absolutely delighted to see this happen,' she said. 'This will provide a much-needed space to bring people together to experience unity and strength. To me, these events in Stornoway and Inverness are about freedom of expression, being proud of your identity and telling everyone you are welcome here in the Highlands and Islands.'

Elly Fletcher, An Lanntair chief executive, said: 'It's a chance for us all to come together to raise awareness and celebrate LGBT+ people and diversity across our communities.'

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ORIENTEERING

Orienteering season starts with Tralee event



Orienteering club EckO held the first of its autumn/winter series of events at a blustery Tralee, Benderloch, on September 16 with a good turnout enjoying a range of courses for all ages and abilities.

While the younger orienteers were finding Barnacle Bill's treasure on the beach, the maze and three colour-coded courses kept the older competitors busy in the surrounding woodland.

The event was rounded off with a barbecue and the presentation of prizes for the 2017-18 season.

The prize-winners were: Best junior performance – Tom Lines; Best senior performance – Susannah MacMillan; Most improved junior – Gregor Mailer; Services to the club – Jan Kersel; Wooden compass – Ross Lilley

Receiving certificates for the inaugural club league were: Yellow courses – Ailsa Owens; M/W14 and under 1: Rona Shearer; 2: Finlay Cottier; 3: Ruari

Cottier. M/W18 and under 1: Louis MacMillan; 2: Ewan Shearer; 3: Logan Mailer; W20 and over - 1: Carol Burnapp; 2: Leigh Murray; 3: Lucy Shearer. M 20 and over 1: John McLuckie; 2: Andy Dale; 3: Jim Mailer.

The club is grateful to Tralee Bay Holidays for the use of the area, its facilities and its oven gloves.

Prior to EckO's next event at Dunstaffnage on October 21, Tom Lines will be representing Great Britain at the Junior European Cup in Switzerland and a number of club members will be competing at Scottish Orienteering League events in Badenoch and Tay Forest Park.

Loch Eck Orienteers (EckO) is the orienteering club for Argyll and welcomes newcomers of all ages and abilities to come along to any of the events held throughout autumn, winter and spring.

HALF MARATHON

Ruaridh runs for cancer charity



Oban Saints player Ruaridh Horne makes the most of a free weekend by running the Glasgow Half Marathon in aid of Marie Curie Cancer. The young defender completed the race in 1.46.47 raising more than £300.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Motherwell Thistle 4, Dunoon 0; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Castlemilk 3; Clarendon 0, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two - Tarbert 1, Port Glasgow OBU 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, 2nd round - Oban Saints v St Johns; Campbeltown Pupils v Opponents TBC; Premier Division - Dunoon v Inverclyde; Premier Division One - Neilston v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Carlton YM.



St Peter's Football Club from Paisley are always welcome visitors, pictured here after their game against Lochnell Tralee 2008s.

Lochnell football festival

Lochnell Football Club held its third football festival on Saturday, with teams from far and wide joining local sides to provide spectators with an entertaining day of games.

With five age groups, as well as a dedicated girls' section for the first time, the

Lora View pitch at North Connel proved to be a sea of activity with no less than 350 primary aged children playing across the day.

Joining the hosts were visiting clubs Dumbarton Riverside, St Peter's FC from Paisley, Westerton United and Fort William

FC, while Argyll was well represented by teams from Campbeltown Pupils, Oban Saints, Helensburgh, Lochgilphead Red Star and Tarbert Soccer Centre.

Despite the mixed weather conditions, each and every player gave their absolute all throughout and thoroughly

YOUTH FOOTBALL

deserved their commemorative medals at the end of play.

The club would like to thank Tesco, Bookers and The Sports Shop Oban for their donations towards the running of the event.



Action from the girls' section featuring Lochnell and Lochgilphead Red Star.



Lochnell Etive 2008s played a closely-fought game with Tarbert Soccer Centre.



Oban Saints Ajax 2009s step up to receive their commemorative medals.



A Lochnell player escapes the attention of a Fort William defender in the 2010 section.

South Lochaber secure double over Carradale

Carradale 0
South Lochaber Thistle 6
GGPL Division 2

South Lochaber Thistle secured their second victory over Carradale in as many weeks as they secured a league double over their Division 2 rivals.

League newcomers SLT are

adapting to life in Division 2 very well after securing another thumping victory over their Kintyre opponents, with their six goals this week adding to the nine scored the week previous.

It took 34 minutes for the Jags to open the scoring through Barna Tot before a Sean Noble penalty doubled the visitors' lead just two



Man-of-the-match Sean Noble plays a pass down the



John Ferguson keeps possession for South Lochaber Thistle.

minutes later. After a sluggish first half, SLT ramped up the pressure in the second period and Martin Munro made it 3-0 on the 55-minute mark with a well-placed curling

free kick from the edge of the box.

Noble, who put in a man-of-the-match performance, got his second after 67 minutes, before Paulo Novotony add-

ed a fifth to the team's tally for the day.

Keir Kennedy rounded off the Jags' scoring with a goal in the 81st minute to secure a comfortable victory in

FOOTBALL

Kintyre. The win means SLT are two wins from two and sit third in the table.

Oban outfit on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

Oban Saints
St Johns
Scottish Cup, 2nd round

After last weekend's enforced layoff, Oban Saints return to action this Saturday afternoon with a tough home Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie against Perthshire Amateur Football Association Division One high fliers St Johns.

Based in Perth's North Inch district, St Johns currently lie in second place in Perthshire's top flight, level on points with reigning champions Letham but with a slightly inferior goal difference.

Under the guidance of new manager Jimmy Carle the long-established St Johns club which, like Oban Saints is in its 59th year, has enjoyed a major upturn in fortune and

look very capable of breaking the strangle hold of perennial champions Letham and providing a credible challenge to domination of their local rivals who are aiming for a sixth successive league title success.

In a major signing coup Carle was joined at St Johns by brother Billy. In his final season at Letham, Scottish Amateur International striker Billy scored a phenomenal 120-plus goals to cement his place as a Perthshire football legend.

Oban Saints fans will recall Billy for his two goals in the sensational Scottish Amateur Cup seventh round replay at Glencruitten in March 2017 where Saints recovered from a 3-1 deficit to record a 4-3 win over the previously undefeated Letham.

Significantly, but not known

at the time, that day also marked the final appearance in a Saints shirt of Paul Kerr whose serious knee injury, sustained just after he had capped a typically inspirational performance by scoring the winning goal, forced an end to his career.

In his first season in charge at St Johns, Carle led his charges to runners-up spot in the league and also bagged two pieces of silverware.

A thumping 7-0 victory over Balmoral under the floodlights at Seven Acres, just a stone's throw from St Johnstone's McDiarmid Park, brought St Johns the Perthshire Amateur Football Association League Cup.

Even more impressively, in their penultimate match of the season, the North Inch men secured their first ever Perthshire Cup success with



Craig MacEwan, No 9, gives Saints the lead against Gartcosh in the last round.

Match preview and photo: Derek Black

a thrilling 3-1 win over the mighty Letham.

St Johns received a bye in the first round North of Tay regional section draw for this season's Scottish Amateur Cup while in the West region Oban Saints were handed a major test with an away tie at Central Scottish Amateur Football League Gartcosh United. On an immaculately prepared Eastgate surface Saints came from a goal behind to run out eventual 3-2 winners to seal a place in

the 'all in' second round draw which saw them paired with St Johns.

Cup fever returns to Oban this Saturday and the Glencruitten faithful look set to be in line for a cracking Scottish Amateur cup tie as Oban Saints pit their 100 per cent record so far this season against the free scoring men from the Fair City.

Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football the Scottish Amateur Cup includes replays, there-

fore a re-match will follow at North Inch, Perth in seven days' time if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

In charge of proceedings is experienced referee Raymond Patterson of the Central Scottish Amateur Football League. The game kicks-off at 2pm. Saints co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell will be hoping to have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture.

LT

GOLF



Graeme MacKechnie.

Terry Macnair.

Dalmally club championship

With the season drawing to a close, Sunday saw a great turn out of Dalmally gents for the final round of the club championship.

This year the club championship was combined with the seniors' championship. The seniors has been streamlined from a two-round competition to one. With an impressive nett 65, Terry Macnair scooped both the club handicap championship and the seniors' championship. Graeme MacKechnie retained his lead in the first three rounds of the club championship to retain the scratch championship position.

This week coming sees the third round of the autumn Stableford league (eclectic) and Sunday, the annual Ben Lui and Kilchurn Charity Invitational. The invitational, with all local clubs being invited, is a combined individual and team event, with the Ben Lui trophy going to the lowest nett score and the Kilchurn trophy going to the lowest aggregate team (of three) score.

Members from local clubs wishing an invitation can contact Tony Graham, Dalmally Gents Match Secretary on 0789 991 4429 or at dalmallygentsgolf@outlook.com

Results from Glencruitten

Winners of the Bothy Day Scramble at Glencruitten at the weekend were Graham McColl, Robert MacIntyre, Alistair MacLean Jnr and Dugald MacLean with a score of 49 - 1 = 48. In second place were J Davidson, Sean Dunstaffnage, Cameron Milne and Robert Johnston with a score of 53 - 3 = 50. In third place were Scott Jordan, Donald MacLean, Dale Robertson and Martin Rae with a score of 54 - 3 = 51.

Scott Jordan won the Stableford on Sunday with a score of 34 points. Steven McCuish was second with 32 points.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 8 and 20. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday October 4) will be £200.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 1, 8 and 18. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 3, 10 and 11. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,800.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 3, 18 and 19. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot is £400.

RUGBY

Rugby match postponed

Lochaber Rugby Club's fixture against Police Scotland Glasgow Rugby Club on Saturday was postponed due to the visitors being unable to field a team.

The Banavie side are in action this weekend away to Cowal RFC on Saturday, October 6.

Lochaber remain second in the league after four matches, six points behind leaders Waysiders Drumpellier RFC.

Fort FC receive donation in honour of Kenny Campbell



Kenny Campbell's sons, John, Lee and Lewis and grandsons Liam, Kayden and Jude hand over the cheque to Danny and Graeme from Fort William FC youth development. The cheque was gifted at last Tuesday's training session.

Fort William FC youth development received a poignant cheque presentation last week in honour of the late Kenny Campbell.

A regular spectator at Claggan Park over the years, Mr Campbell was a keen supporter of local football and at his service on Thursday August 23 in St John's Church, a collection took

place for both Fort William FC youth development and the neo-natal unit of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, two organisations close to his heart.

Presented

The children and grandchildren of Mr Campbell, who died on August 10, presented a cheque to the Fort's youth coaches last Tuesday.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Fort William FC would like to thank Marion and the family very much for this very kind and gratefully received donation.

The money will be used to purchase equipment for the benefit of the club.

Fort William lose out to last-gasp goal

Continued from page 56

front again just three minutes later courtesy of a David Majewski strike. Majewski soon came close to doubling the Fort's advantage but his effort was denied by the post.

At half-time the Fort were looking in good shape and coping well with the visitors' forward line.

In the 73rd minute, Lossiemouth would draw level again through midfielder Liam Archibald, who stroked the ball into the bottom corner.

Just two minutes later came a game-changing moment when Fort William midfielder Stephen Lopez was given his marching orders, reducing the home side to 10 men with a little over 10 minutes to play.

Still reeling from the dismissal, the Fort conceded what looked to be the winning goal as Aaron Hamilton made it 3-2 with a free header inside the box.

However, Fort William refused to go down easy and

FOOTBALL

continued to push for an equaliser.

In the 88th minute, defender David McGurk forced the ball into the back of the Lossiemouth net, sparking jubilant celebrations both on and off the field.

The match was far from over, however, and the Fort had to concentrate on their defensive duties for the final few minutes.

Thunder

Lossiemouth dealt a sucker-punch blow just as the clock ticked past the 90-minute mark as Hamilton managed to find some space on the Fort's six-yard line to thunder home a close range late winner to secure a dramatic victory.

The late winner was a crushing blow to Fort William who battled desperately throughout the match, even with a player short.

The loss leaves Fort William on -8 points, due to that nine-



Fort's Andrew Reid has a final shot at goal chased by Connor McCauley. Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

point deduction earlier this season, and without a win so far this season.

Lossie, Fort's nearest rivals, now have three points, just

one behind Clachnacuddin. The Fort are in Highland League action again this weekend away to Nairn County.



Both the North and South under-14 squads stand for a minute's silence before their Armistice Memorial Challenge match at Mossfield last Sunday. The squads were called North Commando and South Commando. Lesley Blair Simmonds was there representing Poppyscotland. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

North win Armistice Memorial Challenge

The Women's Camanachd Association North v South U14 and senior Poppyscotland Armistice Memorial Challenge matches took place at Mossfield Stadium on Sunday September 30.

North 5, South 3

The senior meeting between the North and South was a 2.30pm throw up and the North finally ran out 5-3 winners.

Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald scored all three goals for Lisa MacColl's South side but Eoghan Stewart's North came

out on top as Laura Gallacher scored twice with Skye trio Sarah Corrigan, Caitlin MacLean and Lorna MacRae getting the others.

Skye's Sarah Corrigan was named player of the match.

North U14 4, South U14 1

Earlier in the afternoon, the North U14 and South U14 met in a 1pm throw up and the North won this clash 4-1.

Hope Borthwick, Freya Turner and Freya Gault got the North goals with Eilidh Cameron replying for the South.

WOMEN'S SHINTY

Hope Borthwick collected the player-of-the-match accolade.

This was one of the many events Poppyscotland is holding in the run up to commemorate the Armistice 100-year celebration on Sunday November 11.

There were collections for Poppyscotland throughout the day and the Macaulay Association once again sponsored both fixtures.



The winning North Commando senior ladies' squad.



The South Commando senior ladies' squad.



The South Commando under-14 squad.



The winning North Commando under-14 squad.

Oban Hockey Club get off to a flying start

Giffnock	0
Oban	10
West of Scotland Division 3	

Oban played its first game this year in the West of Scotland Men's Hockey League Division 3 on Saturday. The team knew heading into this game that Giffnock were an opponent not to be trifled with from encounters last season ending with a win for each side.

Oban needed a good start; Fraser Campbell, on his competitive debut, stepped up in the opening minutes scoring with his first touch of the ball

landing in the Giffnock net. Oban maintained the momentum and at half time were 6-0 ahead. Oban refused to ease off

in the second half and by full time the score was 10-0. Scorers were Andy Hodge 3, Alistair Burton 3, Stuart Head 2, Fraser Campbell, Zeph

HOCKEY

Petit and George Gauley.

Oban's next competition game is against Western Wild Cats this coming weekend.

In addition to the men's competition, Oban is planning mixed friendly games with other west coast teams in the coming year.

New players of both sexes and all abilities are always welcome. The club has spare sticks for those who want to 'come and try' at training sessions held at the Oban High School astro pitch on Thursday evenings between 6.30pm and 8pm.



Oban Hockey Club.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Light rain and a moderate breeze from the west south west
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C.

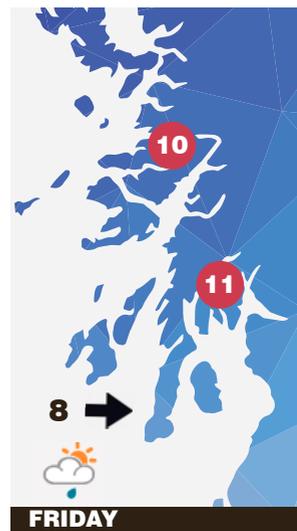
Friday

Sunshine followed by light rain with a gentle breeze from the west
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

Weekend

Outlook

Sunny on Saturday
Rain showers on Sunday moderate breeze from the south south west
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 4, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	01.45	2.9	07.04	1.6
Thur	14.10	3.2	20.18	1.6
Fri	02.59	3.2	08.22	1.4
	15.12	3.5	21.32	1.3
Sat	03.51	3.4	09.26	1.1
	15.57	3.8	22.23	1.0
Sun	04.32	3.7	10.18	0.8
	16.36	4.1	23.05	0.8
Mon	05.07	3.9	11.04	0.5
	17.12	4.2	23.44	0.6
Tues	05.40	4.1	11.47	0.4
	17.47	4.3	***	**
Wed	00.21	0.6	06.12	4.1
	12.28	0.4	18.20	4.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Fort FC receive donation
in honour of Kenny
Campbell

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

Last-gasp winner denies Fort share of the points

Fort William	3
Lossiemouth	4
Highland League	

Fort William were within minutes of securing their second draw of the season before a last-gasp Lossiemouth winner denied them a share of the points in a dramatic match which saw the Fort finish with 10 men.

Two goals and a sending off in the last 10 minutes made for a breathless finish to this bottom-of-the-table clash as Lossiemouth were made to

work hard for their first win of the season.

It was Fort William that started the stronger side at Claggan Park on Saturday and were able to take advantage of the early pressure as Darren Quigg opened the scoring after just nine minutes with a back post header.

Fort William were pegged back through Lossie's Scott Campbell, who equalised on 33 minutes after latching on to the end of a corner. However, the Claggan side showed their resolve and pulled in

Continued on page 54



John Treasurer, Michael Corbett and Aiden Taylor form a formidable defence for Lossie's Scott Campbell.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, alaba.photos

Fort William's Aiden Taylor outpaces Ross Archibald.



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