

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Annual Lorn Show preview

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3250

Two cheat death as light plane crashes near Oban

LOUISE GLEN
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TWO GERMAN pilots escaped near-certain death when their light aircraft crashed into a hillside near the edge of Loch Linnhe and only minutes from the village of Benderloch, where hundreds of people live.

The pilots were part of a larger group of eight aircraft which make an annual trip to the west coast of Scotland and are understood to have known the area 'fairly' well.

After a mayday call from a passing yachtsman who saw the plane in difficulty, a search and rescue operation got under way. Emergency services quickly located the plane - a Breezer B600 - and helped the pilots.

A man was taken by air ambulance to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow with serious leg injuries and a woman was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley with chest injuries.

Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Emergency services attended the scene and have made the crash site secure.

A joint investigation between Police Scotland and the Air Accident Investigation Branch is ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding the crash. One of the German group, who did not want to be named, said: 'I am glad our friends are recovering well. This could have been a terrible disaster and it was down to the good training of our pilots that it ended this way. We would like to thank



The wrecked aircraft lies upside down at Lochnell but the others with which it was flying made it safely to Oban Airport.

everyone for their support.' The aircraft crashed onto a field by the edge of cliffs on the Lochnell peninsula at Fionnaird near Lochnell House at 10.45am on Tuesday. It is believed the pilots activated a parachute on the plane to slow it down prior to making a crash landing.

The velocity of the aircraft was such that it rolled over on the ground coming to a full standstill with the pilots aboard.

Witnesses at the scene said the duo survived the crash, calling it 'a miracle'.

The craft had taken off from Mull and was making its way towards Oban Airport, before heading to Barra.

Eyewitnesses said it looked as though the aircraft had got into difficulties over Loch Linnhe and the pilots had launched their own parachute, slowing the plane down and

bringing the aircraft to a slow stop. Seven other aircraft in the fleet made their way to Oban Airport, where the German pilots were interviewed by police officers before spending the night in the area.

Elaine Buchanan, who lives on the neighbouring croft, said she hoped everyone involved in the incident will recover. She said the first she knew of the incident was when the emer-

gency services and helicopters started coming down her rural single-track road.

Eyewitness William Barnet, who lives near Benderloch, said he wondered if 'Argyll was under attack' when ambulances, police cars, fire engines and other emergency services vehicles began to race along the quiet rural road right outside his home. 'One minute I was on the beach and there was

perfect silence. I walked up to the roadside and all hell was breaking loose. I am glad to hear everyone is safe. Only a few more yards and there could have been numerous fatalities.'

The annual trip to the west coast by the German group previously caused controversy in 2010 when they landed on The White Stand of the Monks near Iona, a designated site for the breeding of corncrakes.

TIMESLINE

Inveraray band is Scotland's best

MORE than 25,000 people made their way to Levensgrove Park in Dumbarrow to witness Inveraray and District Pipe Band win the Grade 1 title at this year's Scottish Championships.

Pipe Major Stuart Liddell led the band to its second title of the season, after winning the British Championships in May.

Inveraray wasn't the only Argyll and Bute band to achieve success last week as Kintyre Schools Pipe Band was crowned winner in the Scottish Novice B category.

Lifeboat crew's bravery awards

THE COXSWAIN and crew of the Islay lifeboat have been honoured for their bravery in rescuing a Russian yachtsman earlier this year.

The Islay boat responded to an emergency call-out in the early hours of the morning in February during appalling weather and sea conditions as they went to the aid of the vessel which was drifting in heavy seas during a galeforce storm.

To read the full story, turn to page eight.

Roads in Argyll are 'most dangerous'

TWO ROADS through Argyll are among the most dangerous in Scotland.

Figures released from the Scottish Government show that the A85 and the A82 are among the five most dangerous roads in the country.

To read the full story, turn to page three.



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Search for body comes to an end

POLICE Scotland have confirmed that its search for the body of murder victim Suzanne Pilley has been called off until new information comes to light.

But officers made a plea for any information not yet given to them 'however unimportant it might seem' in order to bring peace to Ms Pilley's family.

David Gilroy was convicted of 38-year-old Ms Pilley's murder in 2012. Police officers have long been convinced that Ms Pilley's body is buried in Argyll after Gilroy, 53, an engineer, made an impromptu visit to Lochgilphead, taking



Suzanne Pilley's body has never been found.

in the Rest and Be Thankful, Oban and Crianlarich on the

day of her death. A police spokeswoman told *The Oban Times*: 'We would really like to find Miss Pilley's remains and bring peace to her elderly family. From time to time we get information and we always act upon it. One day someone will give us the missing piece of information that we need. Any information about disturbed earth, or unusual activity around the time of the incident - or unusual sightings now - should be passed on, however unimportant it might seem. This is a jigsaw and we need the final piece.'

Police had previously fo-

cusied their inquiries on the Ardgarten area. Last week police officers were training in the area leading to questions about the re-opening of the case. However, a spokesman for Police Scotland confirmed: 'At this time there has been no update on the search for Suzanne Pilley. Any activity we carry out is now based on new information from the public. Her body has not been recovered.'

Gilroy continues to plead his innocence and has made two appeals. He was given a life sentence and ordered to spend 18 years behind bars.

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Piping

Tug O' War - Fun Races
- Heritage Tent - Trade Stands & Food Stands

Artie Tarte formally of the Singing Kettle will be performing his new show Artie's Tartan Tales. He will be telling stories getting our younger audience to join in and might even sing a few songs too.

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN

Wednesday 24th August 2016
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition
Senior Piobaireachd LIGHT MUSIC:
March, Strathspey & Reel (former winners)

TIMESLINE



Children in Malawi queue for their daily meal.

New campaign to help children

DALMALLY-BASED charity Mary's Meals has launched a new campaign to help children in Malawi.

The *Crisis in Malawi* campaign aims to ensure that the hundreds of thousands of children who receive school meals continue to do so and to reach others desperately needing help.

Malawi, where the charity's work began, is currently facing a state of national emergency with severe food shortages caused by droughts and flooding.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the founder and chief executive of Mary's Meals, recently visited Malawi.

He said: 'I am appalled at the suffering of the people at the centre of this deepening crisis. There is real desperation in many rural areas but I also heard repeatedly that Mary's Meals was their one certainty.'

For more information about Mary's Meals and to donate, visit www.marysmeals.org.

Nominate your top local business

ARGYLL and Bute's MP is hoping to see establishments from his area win at this year's Scottish Rural Awards.

Nominations for the awards, which recognise innovation, dedication and community spirit in Scottish rural communities, opened on August 1.

Brendan O'Hara said: 'Throughout the length and breadth of Argyll and Bute I have seen many extraordinary examples of excellence.'

'I would like to see Argyll and Bute sweep the board for its commitment and innovation.'

To nominate a rural business that deserves recognition, visit www.scottishruralawards.org.

Oban Sheriff Court case clarification

LAST week we incorrectly reported that Calum MacLellan, of 62 Pulpit Road, Oban, had pleaded guilty to dangerous driving on the A85 near Pennyfuir Farm on April 5 and, as a consequence had lost his licence.

Mr MacLellan had admitted a lesser charge of careless driving at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 19.

Sheriff John Herald imposed a fine of £450 and added six penalty points to his driving licence, which did not take Mr MacLellan over the limit for disqualification. Our apologies for this inaccuracy.

New faces join the crowds flocking to Tìree for popular fèis



MORE than 80 adults and children took part in this year's Fèis Thiriodh at Tìree High School.

Since its inception 26 years ago, the event has been attracting people to the island, with new faces appearing each year.

Tìree's own Eilidh 'the ceilidh' Mac-

Fadyen was in charge of accordion this year and lived up to her name providing plenty of music and craic throughout the week. Fellow Dùn Mòr band members Mairi Innes, teaching drums, and Micheal Steele on flute and whistle, joined her at the event.

Robert Robertson was this year's gui-

tar tutor, Alastair Currie from Islay led the Gaelic singing, Craig Espie taught fiddle, Tara Rankin led the keyboard classes and Gordon Rowan taught piping and chanter.

Iain MacKinnon led a Gaelic conversation class, Iona Cairns was teaching Highland dancing and John Angus

MacKinnon and Ishi MacLean led drama and filmmaking classes.

The workshops were complemented with a variety of evening events, which were open to the public.

Plans are already in place for Fèis Thiriodh 2017 which will be held from July 3 to 7.



Fine tuning: drums tutor Mairi Innes, top, with some of the children she taught; above left, Robert Robertson and his yellow Sponge Bob guitar and some of the youngsters he taught; centre, Gordon Rowan led the piping and chanter classes; and Micheal Steele was in charge of flute and whistle.



Research shows property market surging in Argyll

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THE HOUSING market in Argyll and Bute is buoyant with a significant rise in the number of properties changing hands.

According to new research from the Registers of Scotland (RoS), there was a jump of 24.5 per cent in the volume of sales in the area for April to June this year, the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year,

compared to the same period in 2015.

The figures show that 462 properties changed hands in the quarter, compared with 371 for the same time last year. The number also represented a 37.1 per cent surge over the January to March period this year, when 337 homes were sold.

According to the RoS data, the average price of a property in Argyll and Bute between April and June this year was

£151,658, a slight dip of 0.2 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2015 but 2.9 per cent up on the £147,365 registered for January to March.

The RoS research also showed the average price of different house types in Argyll and Bute. From April to June 2016, a detached home fetched, on average, £213,808, a semi-detached £129,028, a terraced home £124,675 and a flat £104,630.

The total value of properties

traded was up 24.3 per cent to £70,065,820 for the latest quarter, way ahead of the £56,353,776 total for the corresponding 2015 figure and 41.1 per cent up on the £49,661,991 for January to March.

The statistics were welcomed by Katie Lamont, director of property at Oban-based estate agency MacPhee and Partners, who said: 'These figures are very encouraging and I'm pleased we have also seen an increase in

the volume of property sales for the first quarter of 2016.

'I had concerns that with the new Additional Dwelling Supplement, the market would slow down. However, the surge which we witnessed prior to April 1 2016 continues for the time being.

'Unlike the RoS report, our figures from the average house sale price have increased from our first quarter this time last year.'

Work due to start on housing

WORK to build more affordable homes in Ulva Ferry is scheduled to start in August.

After four years of fundraising, Ulva Ferry Housing Project is now fully funded and the houses are scheduled to be completed by March 2017.

The joint venture between Ulva School Community Association and Mull and Iona Community Trust has been funded through grants from Argyll and Bute Council, the Quaker Housing Trust, the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, USCA and the Scottish Government's new Rural Housing Fund, along with more than £20,000 raised from local donations.

Helen MacDonald, housing project manager, said: 'We are delighted to be starting work on site this summer.'

'Thanks go to everyone who has supported this project over the years; £22,500 in donations is testament to the importance of these houses to so many people and the difference they will make to the Ulva Ferry community.'

The three-bedroom homes are being built next to Ulva Primary School and will be offered for long-term let to local families for £443 per calendar month.

Anyone interested in renting one of the family homes should contact Helen MacDonald on 01688 500056 or hmacdonald@mict.co.uk.

Two pubs in running for award

TWO OBAN pubs, the Lorne Bar and Markie Dans, are among 12 finalists in the Sunday Mail's Pub of the Year competition.

To reach this stage, bars had to be nominated and voted for by their customers.

In the next stage, the finalists will be visited anonymously and judged by independent experts.

Markie Dans, located in the basement of Corran House guesthouse on the Esplanade, is named after a local fisherman who enjoyed a dram and a good blether.

In his honour, the pub stocks one of the largest malt whisky collections in Argyll. It is also popular for its outdoor seating area.

The Lorne Bar, a traditional pub on Stevenson Street, was recently taken over by the long-term manager, who has turned it into a thriving venue with weekly quiz nights and DJs.

The competition winner will be announced at the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards - incorporating the DRAM Awards - at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on August 16.

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Scottish textile design studio Juniper and Jane is based in West Kilbride, Ayrshire. Much of their time is spent roaming Scotland's wild places from which they draw inspiration for their printed patterns.

Textile Artist, Jane Hunter and designer, Sam Kilday venture off the beaten track in a bid to find those quiet, remote locations in which to absorb the natural surroundings. Travels take the pair from craggy coastlines, hearing only the sound of inquisitive seals to lonely mountain corries in the hidden north, long since abandoned by ice and man.

Juniper and Jane's textile patterns evoke the true character of Scotland's wilderness in a contemporary, illustrative style.

The mountain bothy cushion on offer is printed on 100% natural, unbleached cotton and comes complete with a plump feather pad.

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MULL lines

Golden anniversary day for happy couple

Left to right: Mary-Jean Devon, Eilidh and John Wilshire.

A MULL couple who have lived all their married life in Tobermory celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last month.

John and Eilidh Wilshire married 50 years ago on June 24 1966 at the Parish Church in Tobermory.

RNLI shop volunteer Eilidh, nee Johnstone, was born and bred in the town but John, who looked after Tobermory's lifeboat, is still 'a relative incomer' having been a resident for 'only 54 years'.

For 35 of those years John, a former fisherman and forester, served as green keeper at Tobermory Golf Club, while Eilidh ran their home, Ivy Bank on Argyll Terrace, as a B&B for more than 30 years. They have two sons, Gordon and Iain, and three grandchildren, Stewart, Alice and Lewis.

Family and friends joined the couple for an anniversary dinner at the Tobermory Hotel after a night in a five-star hotel on the island, paid for by their sons.

Celebrations continue later this year when the 73-year-old 'rockers' visit the Glasgow Hydro for Status Quo and Rod Stewart concerts and Anglesey for a holiday. 'It's quite scary the way all the time has gone,' reflected John. 'As you get older, the quicker it goes.'

To mark the couple's happy day, Councillor Mary-Jean Devon presented flowers on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

ble through the trust's social media, its website and posters. The evening events are not just an opportunity to absorb knowledge but a great way to socialise, with complimentary glasses of wine.

Ella Potts, visitor centre assistant, said: 'Wildlife and wine have proved to be exactly what Tobermory ordered.'

'Our science talks have been heaving with guests since their launch in June.

'Subjects have varied from whales, dolphins, eagles, otters, coastal invertebrates and more.'

Whale centre hosts scientific talks

A SERIES of talks is to take place at the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Centre in Tobermory.

The centre, opened by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust earlier this year, will host a different guest speaker every Thursday in the coming months.

Details of the talks will be availa-

The series of weekly science talks at Tobermory's Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Centre have been a success.

Two of Scotland's five most dangerous roads are in Argyll

DAVID MCPHEE
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THE FIVE most dangerous trunk roads in Scotland include the A85 and A82.

Figures obtained by the Scottish Liberal Democrats revealed that the most dangerous trunk roads are the A90, the A9, the A96, A82 and the A85.

The A85, which runs from Oban to Perth, has been the subject of a petition that has received more than 1,700 signatures.

Dunbeg Community Council set up the petition after a series of accidents on the road between Oban and Dunbeg.

Sean MacIntyre, chairman of Dunbeg Community Council, said: 'In my

opinion Argyll and Bute has some of the worst road surfaces in the country, so I don't find it astonishing we've had the amount of accidents we have had on that small section of road.'

'I know it [the A85] runs to Perth, but so many accidents happen near Oban.'

'Something as small as paint on the road could help sort that and stop people overtaking.'

'And the speed limit needs to be addressed, especially at Pennyfuir. It's unsafe.'

The A82, which runs from Glasgow to Inverness and passes through Argyll and Fort William, also made the list. It was revealed as being the fourth most dangerous trunk road in the country.

North-east Scotland MSP Mike

Rumbles, who obtained the figures, said: 'Most families rely on their cars to get around and we need to ensure that we do what we can to make our roads as safe as possible.'

'These figures demonstrate clearly that the Scottish Government still has a huge amount of work to do to boost safety on the trunk roads directly under their control.'

'Since 2013 we have seen year-on-year increases in the number of serious or fatal accidents on trunk roads under the management of the Scottish Government.'

'Our emergency services do fantastic, life-saving work responding to accidents as they happen but they need the government back them up.'

Superintendent Fraser Candlish from Police Scotland said: 'The A85

and the A82 are priority routes for the Road Policing Division and we deploy a number of resources, including high-profile marked cars, unmarked cars and motorcycles on these roads every day.'

'We always welcome any initiatives and ideas from local community groups on road safety. Driving too fast for the conditions is the most common cause of crashes on country roads.'

'Country roads aren't just about obeying the speed limit, they're also about driving at a speed which is appropriate to the conditions.'

'The question that all drivers on country roads needs to ask themselves is 'Can I stop in the distance I can see to be clear ahead of me?'. If the answer to this is no, then you need to slow down.'

■ Meanwhile, an Oban man who lives at Lerags contacted *The Oban Times* to complain about the number of potentially serious near misses he has experienced on the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road.

The man said he had almost been involved in several accidents on the three-mile stretch of road going out of Oban in a matter of a few days, principally because of dangerous driving by other motorists, including lorry drivers.

■ Which roads or stretches of road in Oban and Argyll are the most dangerous? And what should be done about them? Tell us what you think. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to The Editor, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Estate Oban, PA34 4HB.

What do you think? Which are the area's worst or most dangerous roads?



David Macvicar, 28, from Oban, said: 'It doesn't really surprise me that the A85 is the fifth most dangerous road in Scotland because there are idiots on the road. You could make it safer if you made it a 50mph road with no overtaking.'



Ian Den Heijer, 41, Oban, said: 'It might help if there was no overtaking and a speed limit between the cemetery to Dunbeg and beyond. I was overtaken recently at the corner just before the Halfway House then the car went into the filling station. People putting everyone in danger.'



Lorraine Campbell, from Soroba, said: 'The road and the drivers are shocking. I only just passed my test in February but I have been up and down that road since my test and some people won't even wait for me to pull into a passing place. People overtake at the most ridiculous places.'



Lorna Kirkpatrick from Oban said: 'I can believe it. It's not a bad road, but people drive too fast on it. What's the point in overtaking? It's better to be five minutes late in this world than to be five minutes early in the next. Something has to be done. I don't know how they could police it.'



David Gilroy from Easdale said: 'Locals need to learn how to drive properly. If there's a bicycle on the road you should not cross the white line. I have just done 4,200 miles through Europe and it's embarrassing when you come back and get to Loch Lomond as it's potholes and floods.'

Accident closes A816 as lorry sheds its cargo of logs



The drivers had lucky escapes when two cars were involved in an accident with a log lorry.

A CRASH that caused a logging lorry to overturn at Kilmartin on the A816 resulted in the road being closed for around seven hours on Tuesday.

The incident, involving a lorry and two cars, occurred just after 8am on Tuesday morning and there were no serious injuries.

However, the accident caused the lorry to shed its cargo of logs and the A816, which links Oban with Lochgilphead, had to be closed in both directions for vehicle recovery to take place.

A Police Scotland spokesman confirmed the closure, saying: 'We were called to a road traffic crash at Kilmartin on the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road at 8.07am. The road is closed.'

A series of diversions were put in place until the road re-opened at just after 2pm.

Motorists travelling to Inveraray had to drive via the A83, those heading to Dalmally had to use the A819 and the A85 was used to get to Oban.



Work has started on the Oban Inn.

Popular Oban pub to re-open

WORK has started to refurbish a well-known Oban establishment that has been closed since 2008.

Scaffolding surrounds the popular Oban Inn, which had to shut up shop after its parent company went in to administration.

Sean MacIntyre, who first laid eyes on his would-be wife in the Oban Inn, said: 'I first met Tracy in the Oban Inn and I also asked her to marry me in there.'

He jokingly added: 'Although I don't remember it.'

'It's good for the town,' he said. 'It's good to see that corner being done up instead of being left to rot. And there's no doubt I'm not the only person with fond stories.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'It's more good news for Oban that the Oban Inn is re-opening. This completes the excellent work the council has done and it completes streets of vibrant businesses in that patch of town. In my opinion the Oban Inn is as much as an iconic building as McCaig's Tower. I'm absolutely delighted with this news.'

Now for summits completely different

ARGYLL-BASED seafood producer Loch Fyne Oysters is set to scale new heights.

Next Friday, August 12, the Loch Fyne Oysters challenge team will take on the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in the national Three Peaks Challenge.

In 24 hours, and without any sleep, the team will climb Mount Snowdon in Wales (1,085m), Scafell Pike, in England (978m) and Ben

Nevis (1,345m) to raise funds for The Pink Ladies Day, Argyll. The group will have to complete Ben Nevis in five hours, Scafell Pike in four hours and Snowdon in four hours, allowing for 11 hours driving time.

The Pink Ladies Day is about women in the west coast of Scotland who have or have had breast cancer. It's a day of fun, pampering, food and drink along with

the opportunity to develop friendships.

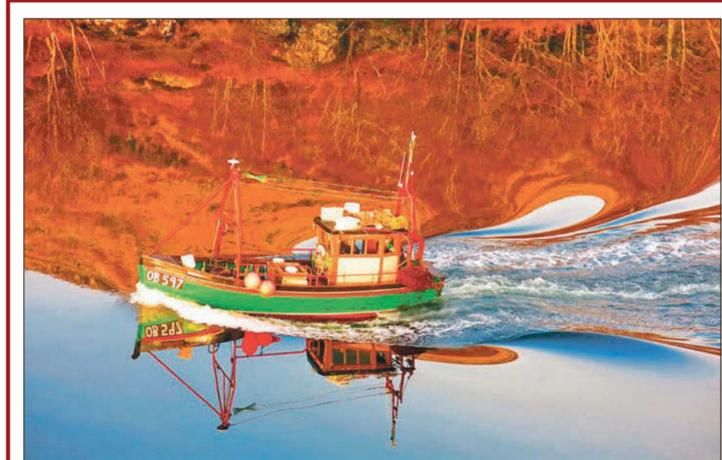
Martyn Paterson, a director at Loch Fyne Oysters, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be making such a positive contribution to our local community through fundraising for these inspirational women.'

'The Loch Fyne team has been in training for several months and are looking forward to the challenge.'

Founder and organiser of the Pink Ladies Day Nicky Murphy added: 'We have been blown away by this amazing gesture from the team at Loch Fyne Oysters.'

'It is incredible to think so many people are putting in this level of time and effort to make this happen.'

Go to: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/LochFyneOystersNationalThreePeaksChallengeTeam>.



Fishing boat is picture perfect

A PICTURE of a fishing boat snapped on an evening cycle ride in Argyll has won the top prize in a new competition for photographers of the Scottish landscape.

The Audrey, Loch Creran, taken by Hugh Nicol, an estates manager from Appin, has been chosen as the winner of the Jolomo Colours of Scotland Photography Competition launched last year by the top Scottish

artist John Lowrie Morrison, who lives in Tayvallich.

Hugh said he was 'absolutely delighted' and added: 'When you have somewhere as beautiful as Appin to work with, taking the picture was easy.'

Runner-up was Mairead MacLennan, from North Uist, for *Old School, Loch Portain, North Uist*.

New app focuses on Highlands

HIKING website Walkhighlands has deployed Google technology to encourage more people to visit Scotland's beautiful landscapes.

The views from some of Scotland's finest walks are set to become more accessible thanks to its latest project in partnership with Google. Walkhighlands is capturing 360-degree imagery using the futuristic Google Trekker technology.

The device has 15 lenses and a GPS and snaps a series of photos every 2.5 seconds. Paul and Helen Webster from Walkhighlands took turns carrying the 44lb backpack but the resulting imagery will form part of Google Street View, as well as being part of Walkhighlands' online route guides. Helen said: 'We hope the footage we are capturing will enable more people to experience these magical places.'

TIMESLINE

New evidence could free Billy

A CONNELL man who is serving time in an Indian prison could be freed after new evidence surfaced.

Pirate hunter Billy Irving and his crewmates were jailed after their vessel drifted in to Indian waters carrying 'illegal' weapons.

The Foreign Office has now released the weapons licences that were on board the ship and Billy's family hope this new evidence will be enough to have him released.

The documents were uploaded to a social media page run by Billy's family entitled 'Bring Billy Back' alongside a statement.

It said: 'They [the licences] have been handed into the Indian courts.'

'If they are again dismissed it could not be clearer now that the men are being held there illegally. We are clinging on to every single bit of hope that the Indian police can admit they made a mistake, free our boys and allow us all to move on from this nightmare.'

Consultation on Gaelic education

BORD na Gàidhlig launched a formal consultation on the statutory guidance on Gaelic education on Monday.

The Gaelic authority want to find out if the statutory obligations that currently exist meet the needs of those who want to learn.

The consultation will run until November 1, with individuals and organisations nationally being encouraged to respond.

The consultation can be accessed by visiting the Bòrd's website with responses being invited either online or by post.

Project aims to attract carers

AN INNOVATIVE project in Appin will get under way this year with the aim of attracting home carers to the area.

A social enterprise will be set up, which will see carers being paid the living wage and work within set boundaries.

At the Oban and Lorn Health and Care Forum this week, a member of the public said: 'If they don't have to pay their staff to travel, they would be able to pay their staff more, which is a good thing for the community.'

Interviews for a co-ordinator will take place later this month and it's hoped the project will be up and running in September.

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TIMESLINE

Nominations for award wanted

TIME is running out for Argyll and Bute volunteers to enter the second annual Scottish Heritage Angel Awards.

Entries close on Friday August 12 for volunteers or 'angels' who contribute to Scotland's historic environment.

The free-to-enter awards scheme – funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation – recognises the efforts of volunteers in helping to better understand, protect and value Scotland's heritage and history.

Entries are welcomed in five categories: investigating and recording, caring and protecting, sharing and celebrating, young heritage angel and lifetime contribution to the historic environment.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms on Tuesday October 18.

To enter or to nominate someone, go to www.scottishheritage-angelawards.org.uk.

Child safety film comes to Oban

A CLIP from a child safety animation made by the creators of *Wallace and Gromit* has been screened in Oban Phoenix Cinema.

The production, which features talking dinosaurs, aims to help parents talk to children about sexual abuse.

The film features the 'voice of the X Factor' Peter Dinklage and it shows dinosaurs explaining how to stay safe from abuse. The full version of Aardman's *Pantosaurus* is available at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

Rugby club to host family fun day

A FAMILY fun day will take place at Oban Rugby Club from midday on Saturday August 13.

All proceeds raised from the event, organised by Oban Commercial Lodge, will go to charity.

There will be a five-a-side football tournament, beat the goalie, tug of war, coconut shy, a bouncy castle, a barbecue and stalls and games for all the family.

Hairdresser in line for national award

AN OBAN hairdresser is in the running to be named **Scottish Hairdresser of the Year 2016**. Ian Bruce-Low of Bruce-Low Hair is in one of six finalists for this accolade at the *Hairdressers Journal International's* British Hairdressing Awards.

The winner will be announced during the award ceremony in London on Monday November 28.



Fiona Hyslop MSP, third right, with the team behind the Rockfield Centre.

Culture secretary visits Oban to open new exhibition

SCOTLAND'S culture and tourism secretary visited Oban last week to officially launch the Prospect North exhibition at the Rockfield Centre.

As part of Oban's Festival of Architecture, Fiona Hyslop MSP unveiled the display for the first time in the UK.

The project, which will be open

to the public until August 21 in the Rockfield Centre, was first shown at the Venice Biennale and features a topographical of Scotland made up of wooden stakes.

Using virtual technology, it allows audiences to be transported to Scotland.

The exhibition displays information and facts about commu-

nity-based initiatives throughout Scotland, where design and architecture have made a difference.

Mrs Hyslop spoke of the work the Rockfield Centre has carried out and said it was exactly how it should be done.

Speaking about the Prospect North exhibition, she said: 'Scotland's architecture policy recognises

the links between good design and participation and how community input, vision and leadership in Scotland has delivered real benefits.

'Lateral North and Dualches are adopting a truly innovative and illuminating approach to how architecture can be at the heart of improving outcomes for communities in Scotland.'

Woman's bins were not emptied for SIX weeks

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

A DUNBEG resident was left with four bins full of rubbish for six weeks because inconsiderate drivers blocked the way of the refuse lorry trying to collect it.

Those living in the cul-de-sac at the corner of Lorn Road have had to wait for their bins to be uplifted because the lorry isn't able to turn because of cars parked on the corner.

Elizabeth McDougall's house has been bypassed on multiple occasions and she has had to wait for up to six weeks in the past. A smaller lorry had to be used recently for her bins to be emptied.

Ms McDougall said: 'I have lived here for a year-and-a-half and there have been a couple of occasions when they [the bins] have not been emptied for five to six weeks and

they can get a bit stinky. It's no one's fault as such. It's not the same person every week, but if someone parks their car on the corner, the bin lorry can't reverse out of the cul-de-sac.'

'The one time it wasn't emptied for five to six weeks, the bin men came out every day to try and eventually came out in the smaller lorry, like they did last week. It's a pain for them. It's extra hours and extra work.'

'It's just a badly designed village and there are too many cars. Obviously when the village was built, there weren't many cars.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There is an ongoing issue where irresponsibly parked vehicles prohibit the safe access of our bin lorry. We don't have the manpower, resources or time for our staff to walk up the road and bring the bins down.'

'To clear the backlog, we used a smaller lorry to specially service the bins on Saturday but this won't be possible in the long term.'

'We will be writing to residents to keep the area clear or to bring their bins to the end of the street if it is blocked. It should also be noted that, if the road is blocked, it would also prohibit access for emergency vehicles.'

Sean MacIntyre, chairman of Dunbeg Community Council, said: 'In a time of austerity, when the council is trying to save money, how can it find the time and money to spend on overtime and on sending out another bin lorry, but doesn't have the resources or time for staff to walk up the road?'

'It's going to get worse when the bins are moved to being uplifted every three weeks. The street is already tight during the day. How are they going to get down at 7pm?'

Iain Maclean, Oban North and Lorn councillor, said: 'The short-term solution would be to place a couple of bollards on the corner on a Wednesday evening or even a sign.'

'A more structured solution would be to have yellow lines, but as far as I'm aware it's only a problem on a Thursday morning.'

Julie McKenzie, Oban North and Lorn councillor, added: 'Following a complaint from the chairman of Dunbeg Community Council last Friday morning, I contacted senior officers in the amenity services department and I'm pleased to say the problem was quickly resolved by front-line council staff on Saturday morning.'

'From what I understand, the issue at Lorn Road is due to inconsiderate parking and I appeal to anyone parking in the area to do the right thing and not cause an obstruction on the public road.'

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Dun Naomhaig Castle's fascinating history

ONE OF the noted landmarks on the east coast of the island is the now ruined Dun Naomhaig Castle, once a stronghold of the Clan Donald, the Lords of the Isles.

It sits on a rocky promontory overlooking Lagavulin Bay where the MacDonalDs anchored their galleys and it is from the Gaelic word for these very ships that the castle's name is derived.

The original fort or dun may have been established by the Vikings before passing into Clan Donald ownership in the 12th century. Forfeited in 1493, the castle came into the possession of the MacLans of Ardnamurchan who then leased it to the MacDonalDs.

It was then handed over to the Clan Campbell before being returned to the MacDonalDs.

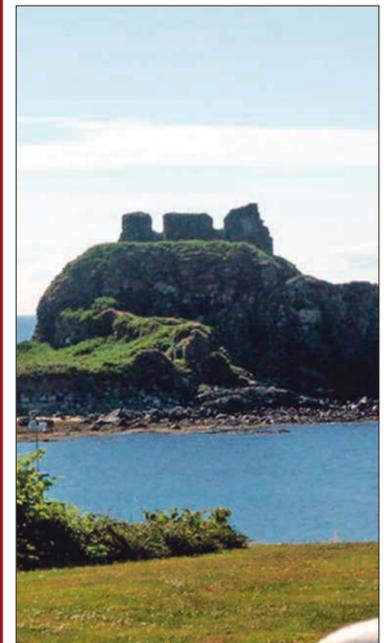
The castle was the scene of much intrigue, treachery, betrayal and bloodshed and was no stranger to siege during the 17th century. After a chequered history Dun Naomhaig came into the possession of Sir John Campbell of Calder in 1615.

A further siege in 1647 saw the castle being taken over by the Covenanters, led by Sir David Lindsay. This was a particularly gruesome onslaught as the castle's occupant Alasdair MacDonalD was hanged from the ramparts.

Ownership of the castle then passes to the Campbells of Cawdor who were to play an important role in the island's history. They held on to Dun Naomhaig until around 1677 when Sir Hugh Campbell pulled large sections of it down before taking up residence in his new and much more comfortable residence at Islay House, Bridgend.

Today, all that remains at Dun Naomhaig are the remains of the 16th century castle along with traces of a 13th century courtyard and a 15th century keep.

In 1998, Lagavulin Distillery carried out essential repairs to the site with grant aid from Historic Scotland.



The ruins of Dun Naomhaig Castle.

Post Office changes as new owner takes over

BOWMORE Post Office, at the top of the village's main street, is under new ownership.

Postmistress Catherine MacTaggart, who has been in harness for the past 14 years, handed over the reins last week to Alyson MacGillivray, a member of a well-known local farming family.

Both Catherine and staff member Sheena MacMillan will stay on to help in the transfer and the training of new staff.

Under the new regime the post office will provide longer opening hours and the Thursday and Saturday half day early closure will be discontinued.

The new owner will continue to operate the shop premises in the building and a retail outfit, currently operating at the Islay House Square shopping development, is also being transferred to the Bowmore premises. Everyone wishes Catherine and Sheena a long and happy retirement and the community's good wishes go to Alyson in her new venture.

Half-marathon athletes are ready for the run

UP TO 200 runners are expected to take part in the island's annual half-marathon which takes place on Saturday August 6.

The race begins at Bowmore village square at 10.45am and follows a looped course via the island airport before the runners head back to the starting point where the prize giving ceremony will take place.

The event is now in its 30th year and continues to enjoy sponsorship from Ardbeg Distillery as well as encouraging support from home and overseas competitors.

Those immune to calloused soles and muscle strain can continue to keep up the pace at the post marathon Saturday night jig in the village hall.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658

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Villagers blast planned change to boundaries

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SEIL and Easdale Community Council is urging the Scottish Government not to implement 'damaging and undemocratic' boundary changes.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has recommended changing ward boundaries and reducing the number of Argyll and Bute councillors by three to 33 in time for local government elections in May 2017.

It proposes transferring Luig, Seil, Kilniver and Kilmelford, and Avich and Kilchrenan community councils, plus the east of Lochaweside section of Glenorchy and Innishail, from Oban North and Lorn ward to the Mid Argyll ward centred in Lochgilphead.

The plans were submitted to Scottish ministers for approval in May, but affected community councils have joined Argyll and Bute councillors and Argyll MSP Mike Russell in objecting,

before a final round of consultation ended on July 7.

Last month Seil and Easdale Community Council expressed 'dismay' that its concerns, submitted in the first round of consultations last year, had been 'largely ignored', alongside others from 'all' the region's community councils.

'The change to keep Dalmally and Glenorchy within Oban North and Lorn does nothing to address the concerns we raised,' the letter stated. New convener Dr John Gordon OBE argued it would be 'undemocratic, disruptive to local ties, have no financial benefit and could potentially lead to damaging future alignment of administrative boundaries affecting, for example, education and health provision'.

Former chairman Seumas Anderson explained in the council's previous letter in October 2015 about 'considerable concern that, historically, school catchment and health boundaries have followed ward

boundaries. Changing ward boundaries would have massive implications for residents.

'We would be but one small part of an enormous ward stretching from Lochgilphead to beyond Bridge of Orchy. It would be unreasonable and, in some cases, downright dangerous to expect councillors to cover the area effectively.

'This arbitrary move would sever our natural links with Oban, diminish our voice in such a vast area and leave us with no representation in our natural regional centre.

'Seil, Easdale, Luig and Kilmelford are part of Oban, Lorn and the Isles and that cannot be changed by arbitrarily drawing a line on a map in a notion of electoral parity.

'Our community, this community council, all our neighbouring community councils and Argyll and Bute Council request that this disruptive proposal be abandoned and the status quo maintained.'



George Berry celebrates winning the preservation cup.

George fulfils burning ambition

HARD work and determination have paid off for an Oban man with a passion for preservation.

When George Berry bought a 'clapped out' former fire and rescue vehicle and set about restoring it to its former glory, many people said it could never be done.

But four years on he was 'overwhelmed' to be presented with the Fire and Rescue Preservation Society trophy at the Truck and Fire Festival in Ingliston, Edinburgh, last weekend.

Presenting the award, festival organiser John Fenton said: 'The cup that George has won is a special prize dedicated to the preservation

of fire appliances on show. The preservation work and dedication put in to the vehicle was fantastic.

'I saw it for myself at 9am when I spotted George kneeling on the ground painting his nuts and bolts. That's real dedication for you.'

George said he was 'overwhelmed' with the award. He said: 'When you phone 999 in all major towns, you get a state of the art Scania or Volvo. In rural areas of Scotland, this kind of vehicle is still the first fire engine at incidents.'

George thanked Willie Bonniwell for the support his team have given over the years.

TIMESLINE

Oban eateries on cloud nine

NINE Oban establishments have been shortlisted for prestigious national awards.

Food Awards Scotland 2016 aim to recognise the hard work and efforts of the Scottish food industry.

The Waterfront Fishouse Restaurant and Hawthorn Restaurant, Benderloch, were shortlisted for Restaurant of the Year.

Abbie's Café, Oban Chocolate Company and The Little Potting Shed are all in the running to become cafe/bistro of the year.

Oban Fish and Chip Shop was nominated for takeaway of the year and the Barn Bar was nominated for gastro pub of the year.

The Manor House could be the hotel restaurant of the year and JM Breckenridge was shortlisted in the fresh produce provider of the year category.

Model ships on show at hotel

AN AWARD-WINNING hotel will be all at sea for two days when it stages a nostalgic exhibition of model ships.

The four vessels, including two Clyde steamers which featured at Glasgow's famous Riverside Museum last year, were hand-built by John McNulty senior, father of the chef-patron of the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant.

The 1:24 scale models – the largest of them 12 feet long – can be viewed at the hotel on Saturday and Sunday August 6 and 7 from noon to 7pm. Admission is free.

The steamers, a trading schooner and a model puffer, will be on show alongside a photographic and digital display.

John McNulty junior said: 'It's a rare chance to see fine examples of precision work carried out to preserve the memory of the days of doon the watter.'

Heather takes top prize in Rockfield raffle

HEATHER Kirkpatrick of Torosay Court, Oban, won the top prize of £300 in the Rockfield Centre raffle organised by Oban Communities Trust (OCT).

OCT chairman Gordon McNab presented Heather with the cheque at Torosay and she was delighted with her win.

She said: 'It was a great surprise to hear the news.' Heather

would not be drawn on what she would use the money for but said: 'It will be something nice.'

Gordon McNab said: 'We are so pleased to award the cheque to Heather and very grateful to everyone who bought raffle tickets to support the Rockfield Centre.'

'The funds raised will be used for community events at the huts over the summer.'

The raffle raised more than £2,000.

Up and coming events include workshops for children and adults as well as Festival of Architecture displays.

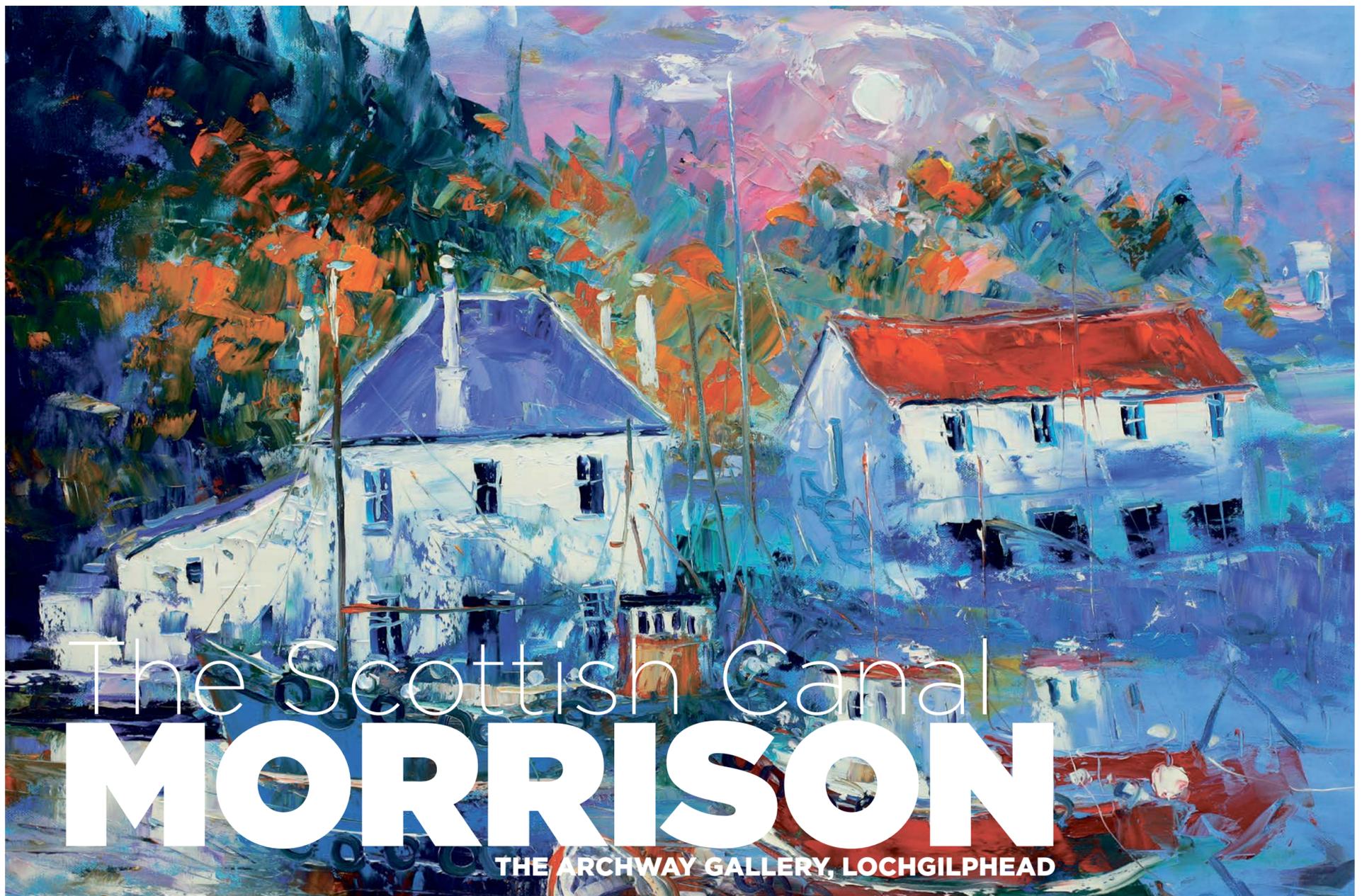
There will also be a beginners' pottery workshop led by Michaela Goan of Seatree and Pauline Beautyman of Sea Drift Argyll and Create a Crate in August.

Rhona Dougall, arts co-ordinator for the Rockfield Centre, who is organising the workshops, said: 'This is a fabulous opportunity to learn basic skills for fabric printing, pottery and crafty storage solutions and to take home what you make.'

For more details see upcoming events at www.obancommunitiestrust.org.



Gordon McNab presents Heather Kirkpatrick with her cheque as Kirsten Anderson, Heather's support worker, looks on.



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Lochaber

LOCHABER road safety week begins on Monday August 29.

There will be 999 services demonstrations and activities taking place in local community fire stations in the evenings throughout the week, starting with Kinlochleven and Lochaline on the Monday; Fort William, Mallaig and Strontian on Tuesday 30; Acharacle on Wednesday 31; and Kilchoan on Thursday September 1.

The week will come to a close with a first-time event at Lochaber High School on Saturday September 3. This will feature even more demonstrations and simulations of road traffic accidents and as well as a young car driver experience zone (14- to 17-year-olds) and first aid information.

The event has been organised by Lochaber Road Safety Group, a collaboration between private, public and voluntary sectors, and supported by Lochaber District Partnership.

Western Isles

THE WESTERN Isles Poverty Action Group is calling on Prime Minister Theresa May to address an ongoing issue with energy tariffs on the islands.

It has come to the attention of the group that Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) has a monopoly on Total Heating Total Control (THTC) tariffs.

Action group chairman Angus McCormack claims this means that those on THTC tariffs can't switch to cheaper deals, costing them hundreds of pounds each year.

He said: 'The government, Ofgem, the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) and SSE insist the market allows people to obtain lower tariffs by switching, but not if you are on THTC. One hundred and ten thousand SSE customers in the north of Scotland are consequently unable to switch to cheaper tariffs. No wonder the fuel poverty level in the Western Isles stands at 71 per cent.'

He added the CMA is aware of this situation but has no plans to address it, at least before the end of the current year.

Mr McCormack feels something must be done sooner. He said: 'It means SSE customers on THTC will be obliged to pay hundreds of pounds more than they should. This is profoundly unfair and demonstrates that yet again the people of the Western Isles are penalised by SSE.'

Skye



Brighde Chaimbeul has been winning music awards since the age of 10.

AN AWARD-WINNING piper from Skye will return to showcase her skills at the Highland Military Tattoo.

Brighde Chaimbeul took the top prize at this year's BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award at the Royal Albert Hall in London in April.

The 17-year-old was also the lone piper at last year's tattoo and, despite being inundated with requests for festival and gig performances since her win, will return to the stage at Fort George to repeat her role.

Brighde who also plays the small pipes, whistles and piano, is the youngest ever winner of a junior piobaireachd prize at the prestigious Northern Meeting and won the overall under-18 trophy in 2014 and again in 2015.

Seymour Monro, who helps direct the tattoo, said: 'We were thrilled, but not surprised, to hear of Brighde's thoroughly well-deserved win at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. We knew that she would have an extremely busy year of performances ahead of her so we are absolutely delighted that she is joining us again at Fort George in September.'



Inner Wheel club boosts guides

Oban Inner Wheel Club presented a cheque for £2,057.64 to Girlguiding, Oban District, at the town's Guide Hall. The Girl Guides' district commissioner for Oban, Stella McIver, said: 'A big thank you to the Inner Wheel for thinking of us as its chosen charity. The money will go towards upgrading the hall for future generations.' Inner Wheel members raised the money through a whist drive, a haggis night and a sponsored 10km run in June in Glasgow. Former branch president Ursula Parry, who ran the race, explained: 'The Inner Wheel is a women's organisation and the Girl Guides is a girls' organisation. This money will help keep the Guide Hall in a healthy state for future generations.'



THROUGHOUT the summer, St Oran's Parish Church, Connel, is hosting lunches every Thursday from noon until 2pm.

The last lunch, on September 8, will be in aid of the charity Mary's Meals.

The lunches, open to everyone, promote fellow-

Connel

ship and raise funds for church repairs. A faithful team has cooked and served soup, tea, coffee and cake, cleaned the tablecloths and washed the dishes for a quarter of a century.

Anne Campbell, one of

the first three volunteers, is still in the kitchen, stirring the soup and 'making sure it is perfect', said a more recent volunteer, Maureen Nicol, of 12 years' standing.

There are also plants, marmalade and Christmas

cards including a 12-recipe cook book for sale.

The Reverend George Cringles, minister of the Parish of Coll with Connel, St Oran's and Dunbeg, has played and recorded a CD of organ music, which is also for sale in aid of funds.

Partnership sees improved services on Uist

THE HIGHLAND Council and Jobcentre Plus have united to improve services.

The partnership follows the opening of a Jobcentre outreach point at

the Balivanich council office in Uist. Carol Dutch, manager of Jobcentre Plus for the area, said: 'I am committed to maintaining a high standard of service across our local commu-

nities and welcome the opportunity to move services to Benbecula. This provides a 'one-stop shop' where customers can access our services alongside those of our partners.'

Lochaline

A LOCHALINE restaurant has been named regional winner for Scotland in the Waitrose Good Food Guide Local Restaurant of the Year Awards.

The Whitehouse Restaurant was nominated by its customers to be the top local choice.

Owned by Sarah Jones and Jane Stuart-Smith, The Whitehouse prides itself on cooking with locally-sourced ingredients, including vegetables grown in the restaurant garden and Isle of Mull lobsters.

It was the wide variety of locally available ingredients that attracted head chef Mike Burgoyne to The Whitehouse five years ago.

The Good Food Awards are marking their tenth year with a strong focus on local eateries.

Speaking about The Whitehouse, Waitrose Good Food Guide editor Elizabeth Carter said: 'Mike Burgoyne is a skilled chef using fabulous ingredients,

serving them beautifully but with bags of enthusiasm and fun.

'He knows how to write a menu too, with Highland this and Scottish that, so you end up wanting to eat everything. And the blackboard menu gets rewritten on the spot as new produce comes in. Why aren't there more places like this?'

Sarah Jones said: 'The Whitehouse team are totally blown away by the news. This is so huge for such a small, locally-run restaurant on the west coast.

'We have always prided ourselves on showcasing Morvern, Lochaber and Scotland, so to be recognised for this is immense.

'The fact it has been through customer recommendation that we have received this award makes it even more special to us.

'A heartfelt thanks to everyone who has endorsed, supplied and eaten with us - not forgetting the community of Lochaline for their continued support.'

Port Appin

AN ARGYLL hotel has been chosen as one of the top 200 restaurants in the UK in the Tatler Restaurant Guide for 2016.

The Airds Hotel and Restaurant in Port Appin, near Oban, is the only establishment in Argyll to be named in the annual guide and one of only 50 restaurants situated outside London.

The restaurant prides itself on using local produce and head chef Chris Stanley was recommended in the Michelin Guide in 2016.

Airds Hotel and Restaurant owner Shaun McKivragan said: 'We are over the moon to have been included in the prestigious Tatler Restaurant Guide 2016.

'It is a real testament to head chef Chris

Stanley and general manager Graham Steven that they have achieved this.'

Regional director for Visit Scotland David Adams McGilp said: 'My congratulations go to the team at the Airds Hotel and Restaurant on achieving this status.

'It is accolades such as these that help to boost the growing reputation of restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs in Argyll and the Isles.

'Food and drink are an integral part of the outstanding tourism experience the region offers so it's important we promote the fantastic quality of our local produce and the superb standard of catering on offer here so that we inspire more visitors to explore the region.'

MORVERN
lines

Fuel in them thar hills

LAST week I was lamenting the loss of many of our favourite moorland and coastal birds.

I wish I could say the same about bracken. I have never seen it so prolific in Argyll, and Morvern is no exception.

The decline in cattle grazing on the hill in the past century, combined with an increase in the sheep population and the almost discontinuation of traditional muirburn, has been largely responsible.

Bracken is on the march; a single study shows that in one five-year period it had taken more than 10,000 acres - that's more than a good-sized estate or farm. Bracken is poisonous to cattle and horses and harbours ticks which carry the life-threatening Lyme disease.

More worrying, it is the source of ptaquiloside, a cancer-inducing toxin that ends up in drinking water, much of which comes from areas surrounded by the plant.

Because of the proven health issues, walkers, ramblers and local residents are calling for the millions of pounds currently being channelled by the Scottish Government into rhododendron clearance and new sitka spruce plantings in the Highlands to be put aside in favour of bracken control.

There is good anecdotal evidence to suggest that until the early 1900s, bracken was almost rare in Morvern as it was often imported by boat from Ardnamurchan to Drimmin as winter bedding for cattle - an unwitting act which is no doubt why it is so prolific in Morvern today.

The spread of bracken is a direct result of hill-sheep farming practice and occurring on steep slopes inaccessible to machine and uneconomic to cut manually.

Help, however, could be at hand and what is clearly a problem, may become a lucrative resource. A feasibility study carried out in mid-Wales by Oakland Biofuels, a southern English-based company, is looking to produce cellulosic ethanol - an alternative fuel - using bracken. The facility will be the first of its kind in Europe.

Jeremy Oakley, project director of Oakland Biofuels, says the company has been looking for alternative uses for bracken for a long time, with the main focus being on renewable energy. He said: 'Bracken has been the scourge of most hill and upland farmers for many years and is rapidly becoming out of control as its growing area increases year on year.'

Oakland Biofuels solved the problem of harvesting the bracken, which often grows on difficult and hard-to-reach terrain, by sourcing lightweight machines from Europe. These machines do not damage the environment as tractors do, can operate in wet and damp environments and may, Oakley hopes, help improve the sustainability of upland farming. The pioneering equipment has proved 90 per cent effective in being able to cut stands of more than six feet high on slopes up to 60 degrees. It can also be controlled remotely, for added operator safety.

Last year Oakland Biofuels organised working demonstrations throughout the UK not only to promote the technology but to show what opportunities could be created for younger people in rural areas to become contract bracken cutters for the benefit of their communities or neighbours and for smaller energy projects such as biomass pellet production.

Oakley said: 'With access to specialist equipment, it might also be possible to provide employment in the bio-pharmaceuticals and bio-composites industries. Another avenue could be bio-butanol, which is a direct replacement for petrol and is currently being researched as jet fuel in the USA.'

Dry bracken can have a higher calorific value than hardwood. Being able to manage and control it and other soft biomass throughout the UK could bring many benefits to Argyll. It is surely not beyond the wit of man these days to produce machines which can be used to crop this fern on steep, rocky crofts and small holdings as well as large sweeping hill slopes.



Bracken contains cancer inducing toxins.

Dangerous re-wilding

I WAS amazed to hear the much talked about scheme to reintroduce wild animals that are no longer naturally found in the Highlands and islands is still being considered by Scottish Natural Heritage and other conservation groups. High on the list are lynx.

Are none of the organisations behind this fringe scheme aware of the expense and worry that a lynx, which escaped from Dartmouth zoo a few weeks ago, is creating in the south of England?

Last week it was reported in the national press that a police helicopter, a thermal imaging drone and several dozen marksmen armed with tranquilliser guns, were searching for it.

Children at a nearby nursery school were kept indoors after the lynx escaped and locals were warned not to approach the predator if they saw it.

If one of these big cats is released into the Argyll countryside, regardless of its perceived remoteness, what will the effect be on our remaining wildlife such as young red and roe, blackgame, woodcock and the rare Scottish wildcat, of which there are supposed to be fewer than 20 in existence? Calves, sheep, lambs, ducks and hens and many other species would also be at risk.

It is high time common sense prevailed and the re-wilding scheme abandoned. MPs and MSPs take note.

Iain Thornber
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Call for more action at road crash blackspot

MONICA GIBSON

RESURFACING work on a 'notorious' stretch of road in Lochaber is being welcomed, but locals want more done.

Concern regarding the road between Onich and Fort William has intensified in the past week after three cars came off the road within 24 hours.

Mags Stewart from Fort William was involved in one of the incidents and, while she wasn't seriously injured, she took to social media to warn others of the dangers of the road.

Following a second crash at the same spot, she questioned whether BEAR Scotland, which is in charge of trunk road maintenance, could say the accidents were all down to driver error and pleaded for something to be done.

A BEAR Scotland spokeswoman said it takes trunk road safety extremely seriously.

She said: 'After being made aware of the incidents on Wednesday last week (July 27) between Onich and Corran Ferry, a team was on site within hours assessing the area for any obvious problems. Although no visible evidence was found of the possible cause of the incidents, such as an oil spill, slippery road signs were erected and we immediately programmed a grip-testing survey of the area for the next day. Following the outcomes of the survey and discussion with



Mags Stewart's car after incident between Onich and Corran Ferry on July 27.

Transport Scotland, we will re-texture the road's surface to improve grip on the bend concerned and have arranged for the work to be done on Wednesday this week.'

Stewart MacLean from the A82 Partnership said: 'We are happy with this update but we are still very unhappy with the state of the road.'

With regards to reports suggesting the A82 between Glasgow and Fort William was the fourth most dangerous stretch of road in Scotland, he said: 'I'm not surprised. It works out about an accident every 19 days.'

Transport Scotland published a Road Safety Framework review in 2016. They also confirmed a total of 17 fatalities on the A82 and 54 seriously injured between 2013 and 2015. A spokeswoman from the company said: 'Any suggestion of ranking roads in Scotland according to headline accident numbers is inappropriate and ill-informed as these figures take no account of the differing road lengths

or the volumes of traffic using each route. We work closely with Police Scotland and our operating companies both to minimise the extent of any delay and ensure diversion routes are well sign-posted.'

Mr MacLean said the two main stretches the partnership is concerned with are from Tarbert to Inverarnan and Onich to Fort William.

He added: 'There were three accidents in just one day so it's clear something had to be done. There has to be responsibility from drivers too.'

Road users and members of the A82 Roadwatch page on Facebook were divided on where the main responsibility lies. Some commented that they had also had 'close calls' on that stretch of road.

However, Jean Graham said: 'Roads are not dangerous. It's the idiots on them that have no patience and go too fast.'

Davie Kerr wrote: 'I agree with the comments which say the problem is not with the roads: the problem is with the drivers who drive badly on them. While I agree there are some stretches of the A82 that do need improving - Tarbet to Inverarnan immediately comes to mind - simply because they haven't been modernised so keep up with the bigger and faster vehicles that now use them, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the A82 that slowing down a bit wouldn't cure.'



David in action at Arisaig Games.

David's winning ways at Arisaig games

FORT William's David Hart came out on top at the 80th Arisaig Highland Games and Clan Ranald Gathering, taking home a number of first prizes and three trophies.

David won the 22lb shotput competition, throwing weight for distance, the hammer throw, the caber toss and weight over the bar. He fought off stiff competition in the open

events to take home the Arisaig Games, Allan MacDonald and Creag Mhor Caber trophies. David also took home the Whitehead trophy after winning all the local heavyweight events.

The sun came out for the afternoon events and more than 2,000 visitors from all over the world turned out to watch the games last Wednesday, July 27.

TIMESLINE

Estate buyout plan meetings

MEETINGS to discuss the potential buyout of the Rio Tinto estate will take place next week.

Hosted by East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust, the first meeting will take place in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church Hall on Monday August 8, then Kinlochleven High School Theatre on Tuesday, Caol Community Centre on Wednesday and Kilmallie Community Centre on Thursday. All meetings start at 7pm.

Work starts on affordable homes

WORK has started on a £1.6 million project to transform a former medical centre in Fort William into rented homes.

The Highland Council has teamed up with Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) to provide 13 new affordable houses on the site of the former Belhaven Ward.

Five wheelchair-accessible bungalows will be rented to tenants by the Highland Council, while LHA will rent out eight flats.

Government post for former pupil

NEW PRIME Minister Theresa May has appointed former Lochaber High School pupil John Godfrey as director of policy. Other former pupils who have served in parliament are the late Charles Kennedy, former leader of the Lib-Dems, and Fiona O'Donnell, who went on to become a Labour MP for Lothian.



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Advertorial

Surviving Exam Results

Senior school pupils all over Argyll will be receiving the results of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams on 9th August. The culmination of at least a year's work and a summer of waiting, finally getting your results can be extremely stressful for young people and their families. We've put together our top tips of how to cope on the day.

- 1. Be honest.** If you're feeling stressed because of other people's expectations of you, be honest and let them know how you're feeling - we often exaggerate the expectations of others, so talking about this will help keep things in perspective.
- 2. Don't bottle your feelings up.** If you're nervous or anxious, talk about it. Tell your family or friends, or if you don't think you can, you might want to check out www.childline.org.uk: they have some great advice about coping with exam stress and, if you're aged 19 or under, you can contact one of their counsellors for free and talk to them about anything - no problem is too big or too small to them.
- 3. Don't compare your results to other people's.** Exam results are personal to you, so it's important to focus on your own expectations and ambitions.
- 4. If you didn't get the exam results you were hoping for** don't panic. There's plenty of help and advice around: Skills Development Scotland offer callers' access to information on UCAS course vacancies at college and universities across the UK, Confirmation and Clearing, advice about Modern Apprenticeships, employment and training opportunities. The helpline number is 0808 100 8000.
- 5. If you don't understand your SQA certificate,** or if you think something is missing or wrong, contact your school or college immediately and ask for help. If there is a problem, your school or college will contact SQA to sort it out.
- 6. For help or advice about the content or layout of your certificate** you can contact **SQA's Candidate Advice Line**. This will be available from Tuesday 9 August to Friday 12 August. The advice line number can be found on the letter that accompanies your certificate.
- 7. For information about remaining college course spaces in Argyll** you can contact Argyll College UHI on 0845 2309969 and ask to be put through to your local centre. Your local centre staff will also be able to give you advice on funding and bursaries.
- 8. If you got the exam results you wanted** Hoorah! Massive well done to you and make sure you celebrate your tremendous achievement, but be aware that others around you may not have had such happy news - you might want to take it easy on social media until you know that there's no one nearby who's upset by their results.
- 9. Be kind to yourself.** Celebrate good results, but don't be hard on yourself if you haven't done as well as you'd hoped.
- 10. The important thing** to remember is that, even if things don't go your way, there are always options open to you. Sometimes, the best opportunities come out of life's unexpected twists and turns.

Lifeboat coxswain and crew honoured for gallantry at sea

THE COXSWAIN of Islay lifeboat and his volunteer crew have been recognised for their part in saving a sailor's life during a severe gale.

Coxswain David MacLellan, 45, is to be awarded the RNLI Bronze Medal for Gallantry – one of the charity's highest accolades – for his display of great skill and seamanship in an extremely arduous service.

His four crew members will also be recognised for their part in the rescue, an operation which lasted 18 hours.

Mechanic David McArthur, 41, navigator Thomas Coope, 30, and crew members Duncan MacGillivray, 31, and Peter Thomson, 37, will receive framed letters of thanks from the RNLI chairman.

Captain Martin Porter, of the Deep Energy pipe-laying vessel, will also receive a framed letter of thanks from the RNLI chairman and the owners of Deep Energy will be sent a letter from the RNLI chief executive.

Letters of thanks will be sent from the charity's operations director to the pilot and crew of the rescue helicopter R100 and to Gavin Hyne, a crew member of Deep Energy. He is also a volunteer mechanic at RNLI Buckie station.

The Islay lifeboat crew had to contend with extremely challenging weather that included winds of nearly 60 knots, driving sleet and treacherous sea conditions as they helped a yacht that



David MacLellan, inset, and the crew of the *Helmut Schroder* of *Dunlossit II*, main picture, rescued a Russian yachtsman.

had struck rocks at Skerryvore Reef, 46 miles north-west of Islay, and then started drifting.

The volunteer crew tried several times to make the Russian yachtsman tie the tow rope to his boat but attempts floundered in the face of appalling

weather and the yachtsman's difficulty in understanding what was required.

Eventually the yachtsman left the drifting yacht and climbed aboard *Deep Energy*, from where he was airlifted to safety. The Islay lifeboat *Helmut*

Schroder of *Dunlossit II* had left station at 12.45am on February 16 this year and returned at 6.20pm.

David MacLellan is judged to have displayed 'exemplary situational awareness' throughout the incident and his crew all

acted courageously with determination and selflessness.

The RNLI said that the official thanks for the emergency services and the pipe-laying vessel highlight the support given during very challenging conditions. Captain Porter did a

'remarkable job' in positioning his 15m vessel alongside the 15m yacht while Mr Hyne used his skill and training as an RNLI volunteer to assist with the transfer of the yachtsman from the ship's deck to a coast-guard helicopter.

Mr MacLellan said: 'Everything was being thrown at us that night and day; the crew were fighting fatigue, the conditions and the fact the yachtsman did not seem to understand what to do. The crew were absolutely fit and dealt with such a demanding job on the deck.'

'You don't think of medals when you are bouncing up and down in the waves but it is good to have recognition for the station. We are not the busiest station but when something really nasty comes along, the lifeboat is there to make a difference.'

George Rawlinson, RNLI operations director, said: 'This was an extremely arduous service for the coxswain and crew of the Islay all-weather lifeboat. It involved considerable risk and the coxswain displayed great skill and seamanship to ensure its successful conclusion.'

'His determination, leadership and judgement ensured his crew remained safe while giving the best possible chance of survival for the sole occupant of the yacht.'

'The master of the *PLSA Deep Energy* was instrumental in finally effecting the safe evacuation of the sailor from his stricken vessel.'

App for Dunbeg centre

SCOTTISH software company Planys Mobile is developing a web application to help the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) carry out surveys related to the use of and attitudes towards marine environments.

These surveys include collecting data from sea divers and anglers to guide the establishment of marine protected areas

They can also be employed to gauge public opinion on matters such as formation of new nature conservation facilities.

Planys Mobile co-founder Joe Henry said: 'As a company we are keen to create strategic apps that are for societal benefit. This work for SAMS fits in with that objective; gathering better and faster data for SAMS will help manage and protect the marine environment.'

Dr Jasper Kenter, principal investigator at SAMS, said: 'An important aspect of SAMS' research is to understand different views about how we manage the coastal and marine environment.'

'EU funding has allowed us to contract Planys to develop software to help manage complex and social research questions, such as which particular places are important to people, and why.'

'This will help us in understanding how developments such as wind farms or aquaculture can be managed in a way that respects the coastal environment and those using it.'

Court hearing deferred

A PENSIONER who was asked his name in court on Tuesday morning was unable to answer, and therefore the sheriff deemed him unable to stand trial accused of a sexual offence until he had a hearing test.

The unusual course of events came about after the defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, answered, 'What?' when Sheriff John Herald, at the Oban court, asked his name.

When the man was further asked to confirm that he could hear his own defence agent when he spoke into a microphone, he said: 'Eh? I can't hear you.'

When asked if he would take a hearing test, he told his defence agent that he did not need one.

Sheriff Herald said: 'I am not sure you are fit to stand trial. I would like a medical assessment from your GP to tell the court he believes you understand what is going on in court and that you can hear what is happening.'

The man answered the sheriff by asking what he had said to him and asking the court to confirm the date of his next court appearance.

'Disappointment' at number of preventable drownings

FIGURES released last Friday reveal that 321 people lost their lives in accidental drownings in the UK last year – almost one in 10 of them in the Highlands and islands.

The figures, published by the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF), also show the majority of those who died did not intend to be in the water, with 82 people having drowned

while walking or running and 29 deaths while taking part in a commercial activity.

The number also includes 30 people who died from suspected natural causes while or after being in the water.

LochWatch founder member Iain MacKinnon, a member of the NWSF, said he was disappointed that in this day and age there continued

to be 'preventable deaths in the water'.

NWSF's water incident database compiles drowning statistics from across the UK and breaks these down into deaths by activity, age, geographical location and location type.

The majority of deaths occurred at the coast/beach/shore (95) and in rivers (86). As in previous years, males are

most susceptible to drowning, with 232 men and boys being recorded as having drowned, compared to 43 women and girls. There was a higher number of deaths for males than females recorded in every age bracket.

Children and youths aged up to 19 represent 10 per cent of those killed, with 32 dying in 2015, with 23 of those being in the 15-19

aged bracket. July represented the highest number of deaths (46, up from 34 in June and 35 in August), while many people also drowned in January (40).

In England, 231 people died in drownings that were accidental or related to suspected natural causes, with 50 in Scotland, 33 in Wales, and three in Northern Ireland.

Mr MacKinnon, Argyll and

Bute representative to the NWSF, said: 'The forum, through its partner organisations such as LochWatch, is determined to tackle drowning so that the families and loved ones of these tragedies may be comforted in the knowledge that we're all working together to reduce incidents around our coast and inland waters and protect future generations.'



Bookshop's midnight opening is sheer magic

DOZENS of people lined up in Oban's Waterstone's just before midnight on Saturday to get their hands on the latest Harry Potter novel.

The crowd gathered to buy a copy of the latest book *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is set 19 years in the franchise's future.

The bookshop opened at 11.30pm and eager fans were entertained by a Hogwarts-themed quiz and riddles positioned around the store.

Ewan Soutar, shop manager, said: 'Our last midnight release was in 2007 and that was for the previous Harry Potter book.'

'We are never quite sure how many people will turn up, but it's been good. It's exciting. There's been a lot of buzz around it. It's probably the biggest book to be released in the past few years.'

Rhona McIntyre and Ali Hamilton, of Oban, pictured right, who bought the book at midnight, said that it was worth coming. 'We've read the whole series,' they said. 'We're going to go home and read it until it's finished. This is our childhood. We're the same age as the characters and we have grown up with them.'



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Success for Lomond School pupils

ADVERTORIAL

A number of Lomond School pupils – along with parents and staff – attended the Palace of Holyroodhouse on July 7 to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.

The prestigious awards are presented to young people who complete all sections of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh programme, which includes an expedition and five-day residential trip. The award is recognised and highly regarded by universities and employers.



Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, presents the award to the school's principal, Johanna Urquhart, centre, with teacher Mrs Nicola Harwood.



The school was also recognised for its participation in the awards over the years.

Johanna Urquhart, principal, said: 'Lomond School's location means that there is a particular emphasis on outdoor pursuits. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is, without doubt, a significant feature and we have enjoyed great success carrying out expeditions both locally and abroad.'



Eye to eye
with John Wallace

ADVERTORIAL

When and how often?

Two of the most frequent questions I am asked are 'When should I start having my child's eyes examined?' and 'How often should my child's eyes be checked?'

There are no prescribed limits to when your child should start having eye examinations. Obviously it is difficult to measure how well your child can see. Many optometrists now have computerised eye charts that give the child a choice of reading letters or of recognising shapes.

With very young children, it is still possible to measure their visual acuity using special charts designed to be visually interesting to the very young. Perhaps the best answer is, if you think your child is not seeing well or they have an obvious squint, age is irrelevant and you should take them to your optometrist. If you simply want reassurance, and your child is not having any obvious visual problems, regular examinations starting from three years of age are

recommended.

How often you should have your child's eyes examined again depends on how well they are seeing and how well their eyes work together. Assuming everything is normal, an annual eye examination from age three would be appropriate. If your child has a problem with their vision, your optometrist may recommend more frequent examinations. This is more likely when your child is growing fast in early adolescence.

Recent research has found children are becoming myopic (short-sighted) at an earlier age. It used to start around age 12 to 13 and is now starting from age 10. Your optometrist will want to see your child every six months if they are showing signs of becoming short-sighted.

Myopia in childhood is not inevitable and can be controlled and you should seek advice on prevention from an optometrist specialising in myopia control.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
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Sammy Cameron, who had a heart attack 24 years ago, is taking on a cycle challenge this weekend.

Cyclists put their hearts into challenge

HEART attack survivors are cycling from Oban to Fort William to raise awareness of the condition and help fund a local support group.

Members and friends of HeartSmart Lochaber will face the challenge this Sunday, August 7.

The group was founded by the late Dr Gavin Brown, who came to the Belford Hospital in Fort William in 1983.

Today, HeartSmart Lochaber is still going strong but as a self-help, non-funded group which relies solely on fundraising and donations.

To boost funds, several of the group's members, most of whom have or have had heart problems will take on the 44-mile cycle.

Sammy Cameron, group chairman, said: 'I had a heart attack 24 years ago and I am hoping to complete the cycle.'

'Any donations will be very welcome and will go towards the cost of hall rent, exercise equipment and other essentials.'

'Donations can be given to any member of HeartSmart or can be handed in to Sammy's Chip Shop in Caol.'

'We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Caol Community Centre and we welcome anyone who has or has had a heart-related condition.'

Newsdesks

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Late father's gift makes wedding extra special

A FATHER who died just months before his daughter's wedding was still 'there in spirit' on the big day - thanks to a special gift.

Mary Ellen Campbell, from Stronaba, married Piers, (known as Joe) Campbell in Roy Bridge last month. After the service, Mary Ellen presented her new husband with one of two crooks made by her father.

He had given the crooks to her years earlier and had told her this particular pair was special.

Mary Ellen said: 'If you look at the crooks closely, you can see certain markings on both of them. I remember my dad giving them to me years before I was even thinking about getting married. He said they were unusual because they came from the same sheep - it

would have been a blackfaced one - so he wanted me to have them and I was to give one to my husband.'

Sadly, Mr Campbell died in May, aged 86.

Mary Ellen added: 'I wanted to have them with me because I wanted my dad to be with me on the day. He was there in spirit. Even though I had beautiful shoes on for the ceremony I took them off and put on my leather wellies afterwards. I meant to change them but I got waylaid meeting everyone and they were comfy so that was me in my dress and wellies for the rest of the night.'

'My husband and his dad like to work with wood so there were handmade bowls on the tables. I loved it and I'm sure my dad would have done as well.'



Mary Ellen and Piers with the special crooks which played a big part in their wedding day.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Rail call centre 'completely incompetent', says woman

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

A CORPACH woman has been left outraged after ScotRail's 'complete incompetence' meant her husband was late for a get-together with friends in Glasgow.

Janice Strachan's husband was heading to Glasgow for a long weekend last Friday, July 29, to meet friends he hadn't seen for more than six months.

Mr Strachan had booked a ticket for the 11.21am train from Corpach to Glasgow Queen Street. Following recent train strikes, his wife examined ScotRail's website around 10.55am to double check the train was still on schedule.

Mrs Strachan told *The Oban Times*: 'I checked online because ScotRail had advised to check during the strikes. The train he was meant to be getting wasn't showing up on the website.'

Concerned the train wasn't running, she called ScotRail. 'The first number I called

“ He would have been better off cycling to Glasgow ”

Janice Strachan

was from ScotRail's website and I was transferred to three different departments. I was first told it had been cancelled because of staff shortages and then someone else told me the train was running but that it was only going from Fort William station, not Corpach.

'I was pushed from pillar to post for more than 45 minutes so it was too late to try to get into Fort William to get it.'

'My husband is absolutely gutted - his weekend was ruined. He took two days off work - Friday July 29 and

Monday August 1 - to go and meet his friends.'

Mrs Strachan said her husband had chosen to travel by train as he was taking an expensive bike with him to Glasgow and did not want to put it in the hold of a bus in case it was damaged.

She continued: 'We were then told he could have got the train to Crianlarich and then a bus from there, but if he wanted to get a bus, he would have booked a bus. He got the train for his bike and they didn't even tell us at the time of the booking that he would have to get a bus from Crianlarich.'

'They then told me he could get the train to Crianlarich, get off and press the help button to see what would happen.'

'Why would anyone travel all that way to just see what happens?'

'He would have been better off cycling to Glasgow.'

'They are totally unreliable. It is through their complete incompetence that my husband missed the train. If they

had told me the correct information to begin with, he would have never missed it.'

Mrs Strachan expressed her frustration at ScotRail's refusal to take responsibility for the missed train: 'No one at ScotRail is accepting responsibility and no one was willing to help me.'

'They could have offered to arrange alternative transport for him - they should have organised a taxi from Corpach to Glasgow for him. We want compensation.'

A ScotRail spokesman said: 'The 10.10 Mallaig to Glasgow Queen Street service on Friday July 29 had to be terminated at Crianlarich because of a shortage of train crew.'

'The misinformation the customer was provided with came from a call made to national rail inquiries which advised that the service was cancelled, not partially cancelled from Crianlarich onward with alternative transport being provided.'

'The customer then contacted ScotRail's customer relations

department to complain about the cancellation, which is when she was advised of the correct information regarding the train running.'

'We're always concerned to hear that a customer's plans have been disrupted due to a cancellation. We do everything possible to alert travellers as soon as we know of any chance to the service. We did so on this occasion through our website, journey check and our mobile app.'

Talking to *The Oban Times* on Monday, Mrs Strachan said: 'I ended up talking to someone from ScotRail on Facebook and we found out that his ticket would be valid for the later train just after 5pm. So he got the train in the end. However, the booking for his bike was not valid on that service so he had to take a gamble on whether it would get on and luckily it did.'

'They need to sort their call centre out. If someone from the company tells you the train is cancelled, you're going to believe them.'

POLICE FILES

SOMETIME between Friday July 15 and Sunday July 24 thieves broke into a bunkhouse in Glen Etive and stole tools. Anyone with any information should contact police on 101.

ON MONDAY July 25, a men's Trek Remedy 8 mountain bike was stolen from Lochaber Leisure Centre.

The theft follows reports of other high value cycles being taken in Oban and Crianlarich. Police are investigating whether these are linked and appeal to cyclists to ensure their bikes are secured when not in use.

POLICE Scotland are urging the public to be vigilant after skimming devices were found on cash machines in Mallaig.

Anyone who finds a suspicious device or has any information regarding suspicious activity around cash machines should contact Police Scotland on 101 or speak to any officer.

IN THE early hours of Sunday July 31, Kilmallie Community Centre was broken into and items stolen.

MEMBERS of the public are being warned to be aware of bogus callers, especially those offering tarring services.

ANYONE with information regarding any of the above is urged to contact police on 101.

Hot showers at remote hostel

FOR THE first time in 85 years, a remote Highland youth hostel can provide hot showers.

Loch Ossian Youth Hostel, on Rannoch Moor, has connected to a hydro scheme and upgraded its services. The hostel now has a fridge, electric heaters and full laundry services meaning all bed linen is now provided by SYHA.

One of Scotland's most remote hostels, it's only accessible by catching a train to Corrour Station, the highest mainline railway in the UK.

Jan Robinson, Loch Ossian manager, said: 'We are excited to be connected to hydro power generated locally on the Corrour Estate. We are as 'green' as ever. We have been able to upgrade our facilities, offering our guests much more comfort, especially hot showers.'



VAL manager Flora McKee presents members of Kilmallie Community Centre Committee with their Keystone Award. Left to right: secretary Norma MacLellan, director Ellen Smith, director James Smith, Flora and treasurer Sarah Kennedy. 21_F32_KCCaward01

Kilmallie centre volunteers celebrate achieving prestigious quality award

THE COMMITTEE of Kilmallie Community Centre has been celebrating achieving a Keystone award.

Flora McKee, manager of Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL), presented the committee with the award on Friday July 29.

Keystone is a quality award and management toolkit for people who manage community buildings and Kilmallie Community Centre is one of the first halls in the Highlands to achieve it.

To achieve the award, the committee built up a portfolio of documentation that they follow the correct policies across six key areas: governance, managing people, managing money, managing resources, working with users and legislation and regulation.

Mrs McKee said: 'I'm delighted to present this award to Kilmallie Community Centre committee. It reflects the hard work and commitment of the volunteers who run this centre for the benefit of their community. They should be rightly proud of their achievements.'

James Smith, director of Kilmallie Community Centre, received the award on behalf of the

centre. He said: 'We are very happy to receive this award. We are very grateful for the support from Voluntary Action Lochaber, in particular Margaret Boyd, for all her help.'

Committee treasurer Sarah Kennedy added: 'After a lot of hard work and liaising with VAL, we are delighted to receive this Keystone award.'

She told *The Oban Times* this involved keeping accurate records of meetings, having clear aims, maintaining the building and managing staff and volunteers effectively. Mrs Kennedy added: 'I'm pleased so many people showed up to see us receive the award.'

Margaret Boyd accompanied Mrs McKee at the celebration event. She said: 'Congratulations to the committee. They have shown they manage the centre well for the benefit of the whole community.'

The centre currently has 62 members but they are looking for more people to help out, particularly with the community garden which has become overgrown. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the centre on 01397 712663 or any committee members.

Nevis Range staff say bye to Willie

STAFF at Nevis Range have said goodbye to one of their longest-serving members of staff.

Willie Anderson, 68, closed the door on a big chapter of his life on Thursday July 28 after working at Nevis Range for more than 27 years.

Mr Anderson moved to Fort William around 1969/1970 and became a mountain rescue volunteer, something he did for 45 years. He said: 'I'm a climber myself, so it was good to help people who were stuck up the mountains.'

One of the original employees at Nevis Range, Mr Anderson dug the first hole for the pylons which now carry the gondolas up the mountain. He said: 'I am a painter and decorator by trade and that's what I was employed as when I started. But I began doing maintenance work and engineering - I dug the first hole for the pylons that carry the gondolas. I used to be up the towers there too. It was one of those jobs where you did a bit of everything.'

Mr Anderson has four children, two boys and two girls, and eight grandchildren. He lives in Caol with his partner Jane. 'I always said I would retire before I was 69, and my birthday is next week, so I just made it.' His plans for retirement are to stay active and keep busy. 'Apart from doing the housework, I'll be gardening, fishing and hopefully climbing. I just got myself two new knees, so I will be trying to do some easy routes.'

Mr Anderson thanked everyone at Nevis Range who gave him a great farewell. 'Nevis Range is a great place to work. I got a great send-off. I was given glasses and lovely cards, so a huge thanks to all the staff there.'



Willie Anderson, right, receives gifts from Peter MacFarlane, managing director of Nevis Range, on his retirement from Nevis Range after more than 27 years' service. Mr Anderson was also well known for his work with the Lochaber Mountain Rescue team.

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Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IT WILL come as little surprise to anyone in Oban and Argyll that our two principal trunk roads - the A85 and A82 - are listed among the worst five routes in the country.

Motorists are all too regularly subjected to lengthy delays as a result of accidents. There is a tendency to blame the roads themselves but the truth, of course, is that accidents are caused by bad driving. However, there

are actions that can be taken to reduce the frequency and severity of disruptions, including new speed limits and double white lines at key stretches.

But more consideration from drivers of slow vehicles - including caravans and campervans - by pulling over to allow cars to pass would do much to help alleviate the frustration some drivers feel and which can lead to dangerous manoeuvres.



Days gone by – a fine basket of finnock

This week's flashback photo was submitted by regular contributor Iain Thornber of Morvern. It shows delighted fishermen with a fine basket of finnock from the Sea Pool on the River Shiel, Moidart, in 1901. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Maggie MacDonald

I WAS one of many people in Glasgow last week who heard with profound sadness of the passing of Maggie MacDonald, a fine Gaelic singer and winner of the An Comunn Gaidhealach Mòd Gold Medal in 1994.

The unique richness and warmth of Maggie's voice reflected her character.

She was, as is evident from the tributes to her flooding in on Facebook, a deeply warm and affectionate person whose smile would infect any company.

Maggie was born in Glasgow, but belonged to the famous Campbells of Greepe - with whom she recorded two albums and contributed to the biography *Fonn*.

She was a member of the Glasgow Skye Association and had recently sung at its 150th anniversary tour of Skye in April.

At the age of 17, she sang in Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. So, although living in Inverness, she was a treasured part of the Glasgow community.

I never managed to spend a great deal of time in Maggie's company, but she was someone whom one felt one knew very well after only the briefest of blethers.

In any discourse I ever had with her, at moods or at cèilidhs, I always found her to be friendly and good craic with a matchless zest for life.

When I was a youngster, one of my most listened to albums was by Clair, the band in which Maggie sang alongside Arthur Cormack, Ingrid Henderson, Bruce MacGregor, Blair Douglas, Chaz Stewart and her cousin Mary Ann Kennedy.

On this album, Maggie's rendition of *Gràdh an Tig Thu* is stunning.

My thoughts are with her husband John, her children Shona and Fraser and her grandchildren.

With Maggie MacDonald's passing, the Gàidhealtachd has lost one of its most talented performers and loveliest people.



Maggie MacDonald, who died last Tuesday, aged 63.

Book launch success

THE LAUNCH of *Le Mùirn* (*With Affection*), which I wrote about last week, seems to have been a great success.

Le Mùirn is a book, accompanied by an art exhibition, which documents the friendship of Margaret MacLeod of Gaelic folk trio Na h-Òganaich and Gaelic poet Murdo Macfarlane - a creative relationship that was so influential to Gaelic music. The launch took place in The Briggait, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow, where the exhibition is now open until Sunday August 7 as part of the Merchant City Festival.

I have seen photographs of the

window on the street in which a mannequin stands in a MacLeod of Lewis tartan skirt - the famous outfit worn by Margaret MacLeod - and the display looks great. Hopefully it will entice many people in to visit because the exhibition is appropriate for Gaelic speakers and non-Gaelic speakers.

It looks like a great exhibition and I hope to visit it this weekend.

Pub scene

Islay Inn
Friday August 5: Black Velvet.
Saturday August 6: Crooked Reel.
Wednesday August 10: quiz night.

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Protection of Oban hospital services vital

Sir,
Of all the services enjoyed in the Oban area, surely our hospital has to be the most important.

It is an appalling prospect that the hard-working and dedicated hospital staff are going to be further depleted, putting even greater strain on those who remain.

My recent experience as a patient vividly demonstrated the high level of care and professionalism shown by everyone I came in contact with.

To even contemplate reducing staff is totally unacceptable.

There must be many other less useful, indeed even wasteful, areas of public expenditure that should come before the removal of even one person currently working in the hospital.

Oban is rightly proud of its position as the gateway to the isles and as a hub for both tourists and residents from outlying areas and the hospital is a vital part of the town's infrastructure.

Sending patients on a six-hour round trip to Glasgow for even the simplest of procedures is an unacceptable alternative to keeping our hospital fully staffed, equipped and operational.

Etonelle Christlieb, Melfort Pier and Harbour, Kilmelford.

Community buyouts a proven success

Sir,
Iain Thornber's letter published in *The Oban Times* of July 28 refers to the proposed community buyout of the Rio Tinto Alcan's land-holding in Lochaber.

He wrongly highlights the model of community land ownership as being an 'untried alternative'.

Communities throughout Scotland already own approximately 600,000 acres of land and have created jobs, reversed population decline, developed vibrant businesses and social enterprises and increased community confidence in their areas immeasurably.

Community Land Scotland is the representative body for community landowners in Scotland and has 69 members, including major landowners such as the Stornoway Trust, Stòras Uibhist, Galson Estate Trust and North Harris Trust, who all manage substantial land holdings successfully.

With the new Community Empowerment and Land Reform acts, the concept which has become the way of life in the islands will become much more common in urban areas.

This has nothing to do with political parties but gives local people control over their own area.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust is now building membership and, through an extensive consultation exercise in the coming weeks, will be seeking the views of those living in the adjacent

communities on its plans. It will be for the people of these communities to decide whether they would like to explore this idea further.

If they do, then a detailed feasibility study and business plan will be prepared to check the commercial viability and sustainability of any proposal which may be taken forward.

No one is encouraging any community to take forward a proposal which is 'dangerous and risky'.

Community land ownership involves commitment and serious hard work on the part of everyone involved.

However, the benefits and positive results which can accrue to those communities which follow this route can be uplifting and empowering, and provide a legacy for future generations.

Lorne MacLeod, chairman, Community Land Scotland, Oban.

Single ferry service must be upgraded

Sir,
Islay residents and visitors have been enduring an appalling level of service from CalMac.

We have had delays, cancellations, a severe lack of ferries and it always seems to be Islay that goes without.

It's by no means the fault of the hard-working front-line staff of CalMac but certainly the management needs to get its act together and sort out these mounting problems.

This is the time of year when we on Islay need our ferries the most yet CalMac, with its monopoly and large taxpayer-funded subsidy, seems to be more than willing to let this single ferry service continue.

On Islay, more than anywhere else, our ferries are not just an important means of transport for locals and visitors but an essential piece of infrastructure for our massive industrial output from our distilleries, farms, fisheries and estates.

I know of a number of tourists who have not visited Islay this year because of our ferry troubles.

Islay's economy is being damaged by the management of CalMac's not-fit-for-purpose ferry service.

Alastair Redman, Islay.

The route to a just and peaceful society

Sir,
The Oban Times' letters page has recently carried correspondence suggesting the Brexit vote is somehow concurrent with the will of God.

My suggestion is that the writers are actually expressing their own political opinions and then dressing them up as theology.

They should be more aware of this easy temptation.

The reality is that many sincere Christians hold differing opinions on the issue of EU membership. And, while the Church of Scotland

recognises this, it has argued for continued membership of the EU as this institution may well further mutual responsibility and co-operation between nations.

The point is for people to find the best way to govern themselves in peace, with justice, environmental responsibility and prosperity shared generously.

This kingdom of God's vision will challenge and test all political systems and forms of government.

The time may come when the people of Scotland will have to choose through another independence referendum whether a just and peaceful society is best achieved within the EU or UK.

Sincere and prayerful Christians will be on both sides.

God, however, is not neutral but biased towards the poor, the ostracised, the bullied and the refugee. Prayerfully, we are to use our God-given intelligence to work out the route to a better society.

It certainly will not be a theocracy.

Rev Dugald Cameron, Kilmore and Oban Parish Church.

Disappearance of moorland birds

Sir,
Could it be that the answer to the mysterious disappearance of the golden plover and other moorland birds that Iain Thornber laments (*Morvern Lines, The Oban Times, July 28*) is due to climate change and an excess of predators?

On a local estate where, in the first half of the 19th century, they shot thousands of grouse, this had declined by the end of the century to where no grouse were shot. Winters had become milder and so a huge increase in tick numbers.

The estate reintroduced sheep as 'tick mops' and within 10 years the ticks had reduced from 70 on undipped sheep to practically zero. Two thousand grouse were shot with an increase in other moorland birds such as curlew, redshank and golden plover.

On a recent visit to Iceland, I again marvelled at the number of moorland birds - redshanks, ptarmigan, golden plover, whimbrel (their curlew) - and how tame they were. The answer? Virtually no predators and harsher winters.

In Iceland they have thousands of horses (don't call them ponies) grazing over the hills and moors as we used to have cattle. The cattle kept the herbage sweet and palatable for the sheep, who benefited the grouse by keeping the heather short and providing dung and thus flies for the young chicks.

In Strathspey, there is an old saying: 'When a hill is white with sheep it is black with grouse.'

The recent craze for wild land will only result in a further reduction in moorland birds.

Campbell Slimon, Laggan, Newtonmore.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MUN ÀM A BHIOS cuid agaibh a' leughadh seo bidh fothal nach beag a' gabhail àite sa Bhàrlach Dhubh aig an 179mh Fèill Àiteachais an Eilean Duibh.

Thuir rùnaire na Fèille gun robh dùil ri tachartas soirbheachail eile am-bliadhna le 360 beathach cruaidh agus còrr air mìle caora gam foill-seachadh, a bharrachd air a liuthad taisbeanadh agus stàilichean bhuidhnean gnìomhachas àiteachais.

Am-bliadhna cuideachd tha taisbeanadh nàiseanta Alba de chrochd Simmental a' gabhail àite le faisg air ceithir uimhir den bhriod seach an àbhaist rim faicinn.

Ach a dh'aindeoin misneachd a' bhrath-naidheachd, bha faireachadh beagan an-fhoiseil na lùib cuideachd.

Cha robh taisbeanadh each an lùib na Fèille am-bliadhna, agus chan eil daoine air cothrom a ghabhail gus tiogaidean a cheannach ro-làimh air an eadar-lìon. An e frinn na cùise gum bheil latha fhèillean àiteachais mhòra agus bheaga a' tighinn gu crìch?

Disathairne seo chaidh bha mi aig Fèill Àiteachais Sgìre Dhiùranais ann an Dùn Bheagain, agus mo

bheannachd aig a' chomataidh a rinn spàirn ga dheasachadh.

Chan eil cuimhne agam cuin a fhuair 'Show Dhùn Bheagain' latha grianaich mu dheireadh, agus thòisich cùisean fliuch am-bliadhna a-rithist! Ach thog an latha air agus bha deagh fheasgar aca agus cha robh gainne air sluaigh.

Chan fhaca mi riamh leithid a choltas charbadan sa bhaile, cha robh òirleach àite-parcaidh ri fhaotainn eadar a dhà cheann.

Saoidh mi mar sin gur e tachartas soirbheachail a bh' aca ach aig an aon àm, agus mar a chithear feadh na Gàidhealtachd, bha taisbeanadh àiteachais air crìonadh seach mar a b' àbhaist agus bha rudan eile a' lìonadh prògram an latha. Chan e cronachadh a tha sin air chor sam bith ach lèirsinn air mar a tha cùisean ag atharrachadh ann an saoghal croitearachd.

Bha mòran tàmailteach mu cho beag de lusan is glasraich 's a nochd ann am farpais na Fèille agus nuair a dh'fhaighnich mi an e droch aimsir a bu chòireach, chaidh innse dhomh nach b' e ach gun robh aon neach air a bhith a' buannachadh fad bhli-

adhnachan agus gun robh càch air misneachd a chall. Nuair a sguir an neach sin am-bliadhna, dh'fhàg sin beàrn mhòr san taisbeanadh!

Chan eil teagamh nach e co-obrachadh eadar bhuih nan coimhearsnachdan fear de na prìomh bhuanachdan an lùib croitearachd, agus far am bheil sin a' lagachadh ri linn dhaoine bhith a' fàs agus a' sgur a dh'obraichadh na talmhainn neo air sgàth adhbharan eile, saoidh mise gum bheil bunaitean croitearachd an cunnart.

'S e mo bheachd gum bheil feum aig croitearachd air taic is misneachadh agus nach eil an Coimisean poblach is còir sin a thoirt dhaibh ga dhèanamh!

AGRICULTURAL shows mirror the health of crofting and farming, and it is sadly not surprising to find that acres of bracken and rush-infested croft land, and un-grazed moor are reflected in diminished exhibits.

When the foundations of a way of life are in jeopardy, crofting needs motivation rather than heavy-handed bureaucracy.

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

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

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

Sports shop returns to Fort William

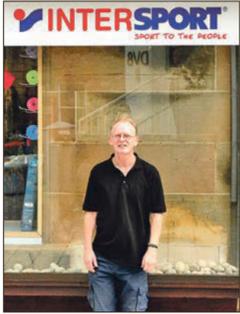
INTERSPORT has returned to Fort William with the opening of a new store in Cameron Square.

Billy Thomson, who lives in Oban, worked in the original Intersport sports shop in Fort William's High Street and now owns and runs the one in Oban. He had been looking for some time to re-open a store in Fort William.

He said: 'We got a lot of Fort William customers coming to the shop in Oban and I knew from the experience of working there that the town is comparable to Oban in size and population. There's also as much, if not more, sport going on than in Oban so I knew there was definitely a need for a sports shop in Fort William.'

Mike Brown was the manager of the first Fort William Intersport shop and he has come back to manage the new store.

He said: 'We have received nothing but great feedback from the Fort William public who are glad to see the shop return.'



Manager Mike Brown outside the new Intersport sports shop in Cameron Square.

Lochaber group's vital role supporting women

ELLIE FORBES

eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

'WE LISTEN, we support and we understand,' says Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Women's Aid, who has been telling *The Oban Times* what the organisation is doing to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Lochaber.

One of only four groups in the Highlands, Lochaber Women's Aid is the only specialised service in the area and covers all of Lochaber from Appin to Fort Augustus and all the small isles.

Lorraine said: 'With only four groups in the Highlands it is extremely important that these services are available. For Lochaber, this service is vital because we are the only specialised service in the area.'

Ms Revitt spoke of how the charity is continually striving to raise awareness of domestic abuse: 'We have been very active recently, putting stickers on pub doors and going round places to make sure there is an awareness of the service.'

'We also run small workshops with other organisations, including community councils and employers, to let them know what we do and to let them know what the signs and symptoms of abuse are.'

Award-winning journalist and leading figure in the campaign to end domestic violence Anni Donaldson told *The Oban Times*: 'The problem for women in rural areas is they can become quite isolated if they are far away from help. Fear of stigma and trying to keep anonymity can also be

Domestic abuse is not an urban issue

Anni Donaldson
journalist and campaigner

problems. But domestic abuse is not an urban issue. It affects everyone across the board.'

Ms Revitt added: 'I don't think you can say any area would have more or less of a problem. Domestic abuse happens everywhere. It happens across all sorts of social standings, jobs and age. There is no typical person who becomes a victim of domestic abuse.'

'I think there are difficulties living in close-knit communities which does effect people coming forward at times, but it all depends on the individual. Some people are happy to come for support as soon as they think they are in an unsafe or unhealthy relationship, but others won't come forward for years. It might be years after it's happened they reach a point they can't keep it to themselves any longer. Everyone is very different in how they deal with it. But the importance of having a confidential service is crucial to women. They have to be reassured that when they come to talk to us that we believe them and support their choices.'



Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Women's Aid.

Lochaber Women's Aid is a discreet charity because of the nature of the work involved.

'Women who engage with us want to keep that confidential,' said Lorraine. 'We want to keep a low profile, while still letting people know the organisation is there for them.'

'Women can be with the service for a few days, a few weeks or even years - it's up to them. All their support is directed by them. We

don't tell women what to do, because that would just be another form of control. We want to empower women and give them confidence to make their own choices. It might not always be choices we agree with or would advise, but it's their choice and that's what is important.'

'We would never judge or make comment on any woman's decision. We are always here to offer support and

help when they need it, but it's all about their choice and that is fundamental. If you are coming from a controlled relationship, the last thing you want is to come here and have someone else control what you're now going to do.'

The organisation also offers support for children who may have been affected by abuse or who have witnessed it at home. Ms Revitt said: 'Children can be referred by their mums or teachers or they can come along themselves. Their mum doesn't need to be on the service. They can come along completely independently. We support children to understand what is a healthy relationship and how to keep within the home and in relationships in general.'

MP for Skye, Ross and Lochaber Ian Blackford said: 'I met with the team from Lochaber Women's Aid just before the election and was very impressed by what they do and their forward planning to both help local women and children in threatening and difficult relationships and to raise the levels of awareness of these issues.'

The organisation arranges fundraising events to generate money for activities and days out for the women and children who use the service.

On Tuesday October 25 it is hosting an event at the railway club in Inverloch when Naomi Breeze will be performing a thought-provoking act about domestic abuse and how it effects women.

Entitled *Kaleidoscope*, the event is based on real-life experiences of women living in the Highlands.

TIMESLINE

Children's author in Ardnamurchan

AUTHOR Jenny Chapman will be at Ardnamurchan lighthouse visitor centre from noon till 4pm on Sunday August 7 signing copies of her latest books *Tales from the Adventures of Algy* and *The Tree with a Golden Heart*.

The stories all take place on the Ardnamurchan peninsula and feature Algy, a unique, charming fluffy bird who is washed up on a beach having travelled far across the ocean on a raft. The illustrated books are for children aged seven to 10, but are enjoyed by everyone with the youngest known Algy fan aged four and the eldest aged 89.

Taste of success for smokehouse

A MALLAIG smokehouse has won a Great Taste award.

Family run business J Lawrie & Sons, also known as Jaffys, was commended for its kippers, described by judges as 'meaty, moist and plump with woody, smoky and nutty notes, balanced by a lovely sweetness.'

Some 194 Scottish producers were recognised this year.

Jaffys runs a fish and chip shop in Mallaig but also sells its own smoked fish, cured to a family recipe and smoked over sherry cask chips.

Pool's new name and website

MALLAIG and District Swimming Pool has changed its title to Mallaig Pool and Leisure.

It also has a new website with full details of swimming lessons and fitness classes.

For more information, visit www.mallaigleisure.org.uk.

Scotland's Marine Protected Areas

Drop-in session

Come along and find out more about the wonderful birds that use Scotland's seas and the proposed Special Protection Areas that will help safeguard their future.

Coll
An Cridhe
17 August, 2-8pm

Tiree
An Talla Community Hall
18 August, 2-8pm

www.snh.gov.uk/marinebirdsSPAs



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
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Arena

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



MacPhail's
MUSIC

A great weekend filled with history, connections and power of positivity

As days of relaxation, pleasure and good music go, last Sunday shone brightly. We arrived on Iona just after midnight on Saturday and were immediately welcomed by Davy Kirkpatrick, who jumped aboard like an agile teenager from his own boat, *The Iolaire of Iona*, as we lay off waiting to get into the slip. A brief overview of the following 24 hours in the format of the young would be as follows. #Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, #Andrew Stevenson, #mini-beasts #Fingal's Cave, #Staffa, #Lunga, #Puffins, #Stepto, #Gordon Grant, #Martyr's Bay, #tunes on deck, #Robert

Robertson, #Kyle Orr, #Ross Wilson, #where was Anda?

The highlight was spending time with Davy and Carol Kirkpatrick. Iona holds an aura of spirituality and thousands of people travel weekly from across the world to experience it. I don't doubt that the island itself does have a certain magic about it but, for me, the positive association of Iona is centred on these two very special people. As I sat in the wheelhouse listening to Davy talk of history, connections and the power of positivity, as the boys played tunes, sang and talked out on

deck it was a great reminder that sometimes life is incredibly enjoyable.

The following is a poem I wrote in 2007 for Davy's 60th birthday. Boats are more than just planks of wood and beams. They are strong symbols of the people who own them. Davy's boat and others built by John Gaff, who served his time with Nobles of Girvan, are some of the most beautiful craft ever created - *The Dawn Treader* and *The Jacobite* in Tobermory are two other examples both of this hull type and of the calibre of the men who own them.

The Iolaire of Iona

Of all the ships who've sailed the sea and crossed the oceans blue
The Argonaut, The Cutty Sark, the graceful QE2,
The Vital Spark or Noah's Ark, there's none that can compare
There's none with line so strong and fine as Iona's Iolaire.

1990 was the year that first she surface broke
Forty five by sixteen feet of larch on solid oak
A ship as grand from John Gaff's hand as any ship could be
From stern to stem a varnished gem of beauty on the sea.

From Girvan where her planks were laid she sailed north, homeward bound.
With pride the skipper steamed her up Iona's bonny Sound.
She joined the fine Kirkpat-

rick fleet beside the Silver Spray.
From then till now her stately prow has graced St Ronan's Bay.

In '92 still fine and new came change in her command
Passed from Uncle David to his nephew's steady hand
A fisherman of great regard, a man of high renown
And now for 15 years has Davy worn the skipper's crown.

Tramping back and forth to Staffa's wild majestic coast
The finest ship on which to sail with yet a finer host.
On days the sea makes others flee, tie up with ease she will
With powerful Perkins Sabres and with Davy's careful skill.

When weather's poor and form's bad and wind has blown
And you're steaming round

the corner and approaching Fingal's Cave
There's not a sound to bring you round or sight so welcome there
As Davy on the VHF and seeing the Iolaire.

Or seeing her ride at anchor when she's moored up in the sound.
A symbol of the welcome and the friendship to be found.
In the house with yellow window-sills that lights this Sacred Isle
That's filled with Davy's mischief and with Carol's magic smile.

This boat has led a life as rich as any boat's could be.
Knows both the hardships and the bounties borne by the sea.
So world wide let's show our pride, raise glasses in the air
And drink a toast to Davy and the noble Iolaire.

South Uist Games 2016 results

Piping: Chanter Competition: Novice: 1st Ruairidh Drennan 2. Innes Scullion Open: 1st Angus MacIntyre Novice Piping: 1st Laura Robertson 2nd Eosaph Nicolson 3rd Alana Beaton 4th Catherine MacCormick Under 15 Piping March: 1st Findlay Cameron 2nd Christopher Happs 3rd Eilidh MacLeod 4th Calum MacDonald 5th Kevin Beaton Strathspey & Reel: 1st Findlay Cameron 2nd Christopher Happs 3rd Eilidh MacLeod 4th Eilidh MacPhee 5th Marion MacCorquodale 6/8 March: 1st Findlay Cameron 2nd Christopher Happs 3rd Eilidh MacLeod 4th Calum MacDonald 5th Kevin Beaton Jig: 1st Findlay Cameron 2nd Christopher Happs 3rd Eilidh MacLeod 4th Eilidh MacPhee 5th Calum MacDonald Under 18's Piping March, Strathspey & Reel: 1st Archie Drennan 2nd Calum Craib 3rd Chloe Steele 4th Katy MacDonald 5th Sine Peteranna 6/8 March: 1st Calum Craib 2nd Katy MacDonald 3rd Angus MacPhee 4th Sine Peteranna 5th Hamish Drennan Junior Piping Trophies: Trophy - Kelly Cup (Open Chanter): Angus MacIntyre Trophy - Archie Lindsay Memorial Trophy (under 15): Findlay Cameron Trophy - Roddy Morrison Memorial Cup (under 15): Findlay Cameron Trophy - John Steel Memorial Cup (overall under 18): Calum Craib Trophy - Pipe Major RJ Gillies Memorial Trophy (under 18 local): Calum Craib ADULT PIPING Piobaireachd 1st Cameron Drummond 2nd Greg Canning 3rd Jonathon Simpson 4th Decker Forrest 5th James MacPhee Marches 1st Alastair Henderson 2nd Greg Canning 3rd Decker Forrest 4th Cameron Drummond 5th James MacPhee Strathspey & Reel 1st Cameron Drummond 2nd Andrew MacIsaac 3rd Decker Forrest 4th James MacPhee 5th Jonathon Simpson Jigs 1st Alastair Henderson 2nd Decker Forrest 3rd Greg Canning 4th Fiona MacLean 5th Brighde Campbell Trophies: Fincastle Star awarded to Local Winner of Jigs: Fiona MacLean The John Campbell (New Zealand) Challenge Cup awarded to the Piper with most points in the Open Piping Competitions: Cameron Drummond R MacIntyre Memorial Cup (Open Piobaireachd): Cameron Drummond The Archie MacDonal Memorial Shield plus £10 will be awarded to the Piper with the most points in competitions 4, 5 and 6: Alastair Henderson & Decker Forrest George MacKinnon Memorial Shield (Open March): Alastair Henderson Finlay MacDonal Ormulate Cup (Open Strathspey & Reel): Cameron Drummond

John MacDonal Memorial trophy: Andrew MacIsaac Adam Scott Memorial Cup: Andrew MacIsaac Dancing Competition Dances A. 16 Pas-de-Basque G Strathspey - Half Tullock B Pas-de-Basque - High Cuts H Flora MacDonal C Highland Fling I Scottish Lilt D Sword Dance J Hielan Laddie/Barracks Johnnie E Seann Triubhas K Sailors Hornpipe F Half Tullock L Irish Jig Primary 5 and Under Dances A,B Dance A 1st Poppy Mac Nab 2nd Ruby Fraser Dance B 1st Ruby Fraser 2nd Poppy MacNab Section Winner: Poppy MacNab and Ruby Fraser 1st equal Primary aged 6 yrs Dances A,B,C,D Dance A 1st Mairead MacNeil 2nd Emma MacNab Dance B 1st Emma MacNab 2nd Mairead MacNeil Dance C 1st Mairead MacNeil 2nd Emma MacNab 3rd Mairead MacNeil Section Winner: Mairead MacNeil and Emma MacNab 1st equal Beginners aged 7yrs Under Dances C,D,E,F,H,I Dance C 1st Eilish Fraser 2nd Emma Campbell 3rd Keira Louise Grey Dance D 1st Emma Campbell 2nd Keira Louise Grey 3rd Eilidh Farr Dance E 1st Keira Louise Grey 2nd Eilish Fraser 3rd No award Dance F 1st No award 2nd No award 3rd No award Dance H 1st Keira Louise Grey 2nd 3rd Dance I 1st Keira Louise Grey 2nd 3rd Section Winner: Keira Louise Grey Beginners Aged 8, 9 Dance C 1st Neela Rose Mutch 2nd Eilidh Docherty 3rd Meabh MacKenzie Dance D 1st Cat O'Carroll 2nd Eilidh MacDonal 3rd Meabh MacKenzie Dance E 1st Meabh MacKenzie 2nd Cat O'Carroll 3rd Grace Morrison Dance F 1st Meabh MacKenzie 2nd Grace Morrison 3rd Cat O'Carroll Dance H 1st Cat O'Carroll 2nd Cat O'Carroll Section Winner: Cat O'Carroll Beginners Aged 10-12 Yrs Dance C 1st Charlotte O'Carroll 2nd Kerry Stewart 3rd Sadie MacDonal Dance D 1st Kerry Stewart 2nd Charlotte O'Carroll 3rd Caitlin Bain Dance E 1st Charlotte O'Carroll 2nd Kerry Stewart 3rd Caitlin Bain Dance F 1st Charlotte O'Carroll 2nd Caitlin Bain 3rd Kerry Stewart Dance H 1st Charlotte O'Carroll 2nd Kerry Stewart 3rd Caitlin Bain Dance I 1st Charlotte O'Carroll 2nd Kerry Stewart 3rd Caitlin Bain Section Winner: Charlotte O'Carroll Novice Dances C,D,E,F,H,I Dance C 1st Erin Gillies 2nd Aimee Grey 3rd Ella Marie MacPherson Dance D 1st Aimee Grey 2nd Erin Gillies 3rd Ella Marie MacPherson Dance E 1st Erin Gillies 2nd Ella Marie MacPherson 3rd Jennifer MacKinnon Dance F 1st Erin Gillies 2nd Aimee Grey 3rd Ella Marie MacPherson Section Winner: Erin Gillies Intermediate Dances C,D,E,G,J,K,L Dance C 1st Mollaidh Nicholson 2nd Maria Monk 3rd Rebecca MacIntosh Dance D 1st Maria Monk 2nd Rebecca MacIntosh 3rd Claire Montgomery Dance E 1st Maria Monk 2nd Mollaidh Nicholson 3rd Claire Montgomery Dance G 1st Rebecca MacIntosh 2nd Maria Monk 3rd Mollaidh Nicholson Dance J 1st Claire Montgomery 2nd Mollaidh Nicholson 3rd Maria Monk Dance K 1st Maria Monk 2nd Mollaidh Nicholson 3rd Rebecca MacIntosh Dance L 1st Mollaidh Nicholson 2nd Maria Monk 3rd Rebecca MacIntosh Section Winner: Maria Monk Premier aged 11yrs and over Dances C,D,E,G,J,K,L Dance C 1st Lexy-Anna MacLeod 2nd Rianna

Nicholson 3rd Amie Ringstead Dance D 1st Rianna Nicholson 2nd Beth Campbell 3rd Amie Ringstead Dance E 1st Rianna Nicholson 2nd Ruby Sheils 3rd Lexy-Anna MacLeod Dance G 1st Ruby Sheils 2nd Grace Anne MacLeod 3rd Rianna Nicholson Dance J 1st Lexy-Anna MacLeod 2nd Rianna Nicholson 3rd Beth Campbell Dance K 1st Lexy-Anna MacLeod 2nd Rianna Nicholson 3rd Amie Ringstead Dance L 1st Rianna Nicholson 2nd Lexy-Anna MacLeod 3rd Beth Campbell Section Winner: Rianna Nicholson Premier Aged 15 and Under Dances C,D,E,G,J,K,L, Dance C 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Elisa Morrison 3rd Alice MacMallair Dance D 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Elisa Morrison 3rd Caitlin MacDonal Dance E 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Caitlin MacDonal 3rd Elisa Morrison Dance G 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Elisa Morrison 3rd Caitlin MacDonal Dance J 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Caitlin MacDonal 3rd Anna MacKellaig Dance K 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Elisa Morrison 3rd Caitlin MacDonal Dance L 1st Jodie MacMillan 2nd Elisa Morrison 3rd Caitlin MacDonal Section Winner: Jodie MacMillan Premier Aged 16 and Over Dances C,D,E,G,J,K,L Dance C 1st Morgan Stevenson 2nd Danielle Law 3rd Claire MacLellan Dance D 1st Danielle Law 2nd Claire MacLellan 3rd Morgan Stevenson Dance E 1st Morgan Stevenson 2nd Danielle Law 3rd Claire MacLellan Dance G 1st Danielle Law 2nd Morgan Stevenson 3rd Kathryn Beaton Dance J 1st Danielle Law 2nd Morgan Stevenson 3rd Claire MacLellan Dance K 1st Danielle Law 2nd Morgan Stevenson 3rd Nicola MacAulay Dance L 1st Danielle Law 2nd Morgan Stevenson 3rd Mairi MacIntosh Section Winner: Danielle Law Dancing Trophies: A P Walker Memorial Cup: Jodie MacMillan D MacRury Memorial Cup: Maria Monk Margaret Moir Memorial Cup: Danielle Law Archie Lindsay Memorial Trophy: Charlotte O'Carroll Norman MacDonal Memorial Trophy: Rihanna Nicholson Athletics Open Throwing the Heavy Hammer (22lb) 1. Randal Fraser 2. Brad Goldsmith 3. Gregor Anderson Flat Race (100 yards) 1. Jordan MacPherson 2. Donald MacPherson 3. Donald Steele Putting the Heavy Stone (22lb) 1. Randal Fraser 2. Gregor Anderson 3. Brad Goldsmith Flat Race (220 yards) 1. Joseph Pedrana 2. Jordan MacPherson 3. Donald MacPherson Light Hammer: 1. Randal Fraser 2. Brad Goldsmith 3. Gregor Anderson Flat Race 440 yds: 1. Joseph Pedrana 2. Donald MacPherson 3. Jordan MacPherson Putting the Light Stone (16 lb) 1. Brad Goldsmith 2. Randal Fraser 3. Gregor Anderson High Jump 1. Jordan MacPherson 2. Duncan Allan Steele 3. Donald Steele Long Jump 1. Jordan MacPherson 2. Donald MacPherson 3. Duncan Allan Steele Throwing Weight for Distance (28 lb) 1. Randal Fraser 2. Brad Goldsmith 3. Gregor Anderson Hop, Step and Leap 1. Jordan MacPherson 2. Duncan Allan Steele 3. Ruaidh Steele Throwing Weight Over Bar (56 lb) 1. Brad Goldsmith 2. Gregor Anderson 3. Randal Fraser Flat Race 880 yds: 1. Dave Hardman 2. Jordan MacPherson 3. Donald MacPherson Flat Race 1 mile: 1. Dave Hardman 2. Jordan MacPherson Wrestling 1. Dylan MacPhee 2. Willie Morrison Trophies: David MacBrayne Trophy: Jordan MacPherson Angus John Morrison Memorial Trophy: Gregor Anderson Finlay MacDonal Memorial Challenge Trophy: Jordan MacPherson South Uist Games Trophy: Randal Fraser Donald Mac Donald "Empire Cup": Dave Hardman D.J. MacKinnon Memorial Trophy: Dylan MacPhee Junior Section - Amateur Under 5 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Donald MacQuarrie 2. Calum MacNeil 3. Peter MacGilveray Under 8 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. Craig MacNeil 3. Bailey Anderson Under 10 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Calum Anderson 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Noah Currie Under 11 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Calum Bagley Under 12 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Ryan MacIntyre 2. Ross Walker 3. Jaimie MacInnes Under 5 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Mairead MacNeil 2. Sarah MacDonal 3. Anna Scott Under 8 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Erin Steele 3. Millie MacQuarrie Under 10 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Katie MacDonal 2. Grace Steele 3. Isabel Beaton Under 11 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Emily Steele 2. Karis MacKay 3. Robin Bagley Under 6 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Donald MacQuarrie 2. Craig MacNeil 3. Zac MacNeil Under 8 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. John Scott 3. Alasdair Boa Under 9 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Calum Anderson 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Oliver Campbell Under 12 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Aiden Mathews Under 9 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Erin Steele 2. Millie MacQuarrie 3. Anna MacDonal; Kimi Steele Under 9 Flat Race Girls 220 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Katie MacDonal 3. Grace Steele Under 10 Flat Race Girls 220 yards 1. Leah MacIntyre 2. Grace Barr 3. Emma Scott Under 8 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Craig MacNeil 2. Jack MacIntyre 3. Ruairidh Bain Under 10 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Oliver Campbell Under 12 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Aiden Mathews Under 9 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Morven Bagley 3. Anna MacDonal Under 10 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Leah MacIntyre; Grace Barr 2. Grace Steele Under 13 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Carys MacKay 2. Marion Anderson Wheelbarrow Race Girls under 7: 1. Millie Steele; Erin Steele 2. Catriona Beaton; Anna MacDonal 3. Kimi Steele; Anna Scott Wheelbarrow Race Girls under 14: 1. Katie MacDonal; Marion Anderson 2. Isla Beaton; Isobel Beaton 3. Emily Steele; Carys Mackay/Emma Scott; Leah MacIntyre Wheelbarrow Race Boys under 12: 1. John Scott; Alastair MacPhee 2. Jonathon Beaton; Craig MacNeil 3. Noah Currie; Ruairidh Bain Wheelbarrow Race Boys under 7: 1. Calum Bagley; 2. Thomas MacAskill; Oliver Campbell 3. Noah Currie; Cameron MacIsaac/ Ryan MacIntyre; Ross Walker

1. Dave Hardman 2. Jordan MacPherson Wrestling 1. Dylan MacPhee 2. Willie Morrison Trophies: David MacBrayne Trophy: Jordan MacPherson Angus John Morrison Memorial Trophy: Gregor Anderson Finlay MacDonal Memorial Challenge Trophy: Jordan MacPherson South Uist Games Trophy: Randal Fraser Donald Mac Donald "Empire Cup": Dave Hardman D.J. MacKinnon Memorial Trophy: Dylan MacPhee Junior Section - Amateur Under 5 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Donald MacQuarrie 2. Calum MacNeil 3. Peter MacGilveray Under 8 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. Craig MacNeil 3. Bailey Anderson Under 10 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Calum Anderson 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Noah Currie Under 11 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Calum Bagley Under 12 Flat Race Boys 100 yards 1. Ryan MacIntyre 2. Ross Walker 3. Jaimie MacInnes Under 5 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Mairead MacNeil 2. Sarah MacDonal 3. Anna Scott Under 8 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Erin Steele 3. Millie MacQuarrie Under 10 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Katie MacDonal 2. Grace Steele 3. Isabel Beaton Under 11 Flat Race Girls 100 yards 1. Emily Steele 2. Karis MacKay 3. Robin Bagley Under 6 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Donald MacQuarrie 2. Craig MacNeil 3. Zac MacNeil Under 8 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. John Scott 3. Alasdair Boa Under 9 Flat Race Boys 220 yards 1. Calum Anderson 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Oliver Campbell Under 12 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Aiden Mathews Under 9 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Erin Steele 2. Millie MacQuarrie 3. Anna MacDonal; Kimi Steele Under 9 Flat Race Girls 220 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Katie MacDonal 3. Grace Steele Under 10 Flat Race Girls 220 yards 1. Leah MacIntyre 2. Grace Barr 3. Emma Scott Under 8 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Craig MacNeil 2. Jack MacIntyre 3. Ruairidh Bain Under 10 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Jonathon Beaton 2. Alastair MacPhee 3. Oliver Campbell Under 12 Flat Race Boys 440 yards 1. Kevin Beaton 2. Thomas MacAskill 3. Aiden Mathews Under 9 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Isla Beaton 2. Morven Bagley 3. Anna MacDonal Under 10 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Leah MacIntyre; Grace Barr 2. Grace Steele Under 13 Flat Race Girls 440 yards 1. Carys MacKay 2. Marion Anderson Wheelbarrow Race Girls under 7: 1. Millie Steele; Erin Steele 2. Catriona Beaton; Anna MacDonal 3. Kimi Steele; Anna Scott Wheelbarrow Race Girls under 14: 1. Katie MacDonal; Marion Anderson 2. Isla Beaton; Isobel Beaton 3. Emily Steele; Carys Mackay/Emma Scott; Leah MacIntyre Wheelbarrow Race Boys under 12: 1. John Scott; Alastair MacPhee 2. Jonathon Beaton; Craig MacNeil 3. Noah Currie; Ruairidh Bain Wheelbarrow Race Boys under 7: 1. Calum Bagley; 2. Thomas MacAskill; Oliver Campbell 3. Noah Currie; Cameron MacIsaac/ Ryan MacIntyre; Ross Walker

WIN TWO GIN CONNOISSEUR TOURS AT THE EDINBURGH GIN DISTILLERY AND THREE BOTTLES OF THEIR GIN



From the modern-day capital of the gin renaissance, Edinburgh Gin presents a distinguished family of premium Scottish gins. Their classic juniper-forward Original Gin, marine botanicals infused Seaside Gin and navy-strength Cannonball Gin form the core range of London Dry style gins. These are joined by three luscious gin liqueurs.

To celebrate the return of The Edinburgh Gin Garden to St Andrew Square, we're offering our readers a true taste of summer. One lucky winner will win a trio of the core range of gins, perfect for G&Ts and a range of refreshing cocktails.

The juniper experience doesn't stop there; this prize also includes a Gin Connoisseur Tour at their highly-rated Edinburgh Gin distillery in Edinburgh's West End. Experience the history of gin, followed by an unforgettable tutored tasting. What are you waiting for? Raise a glass to summer with Edinburgh Gin.



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: How many gins make up Edinburgh Gin's core range?

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is August 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. The prize includes one 70cl bottle each of Original Gin, Cannonball Gin, Seaside Gin and two tickets for the Edinburgh Gin Connoisseur Tour at their distillery at 1A Rutland Place, Edinburgh. Dates for the tour subject to availability. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

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- Across
- "High" time (4)
 - Well proportioned (8)
 - Titivate (7)
 - Accommodate (5)
 - Smell (5)
 - Debonair (6)
 - Make up (6)
 - Christmas drink (6)
 - Causing vomiting (6)
 - Unit of weight (5)
 - Catastrophic exploder (1-4)
 - Gradual absorption (7)
 - Good to look at (3,5)
 - Donations for the needy (4)
- Down
- Drug (8)
 - Best (5)
 - Cleave (6)
 - One way to be taken! (5)
 - Song with French lyrics (7)
 - Couple going out together (4)
 - Move from one place to another quickly and usually for a good cause (3,3)
 - Exits (8)
 - Decamp (7)
 - Depressing (6)
 - Agreement (6)
 - Leg bone (5)
 - Twangy voice (5)
 - It's on the other foot! (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	D	A	T	E	8	C	L	O	S	6	S	E	T	
2	O	U	B	O	Q	H								
3	W	E	T	S	U	I	T	10	N	O	O	S	E	
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5	T	R	I	G	G	14	R	G	A	P	P	Y		
6	O													
7	W	O	E	16	A	W	A	N	E	D	18	T	W	O
8	N	A	R	A	R	C	D							
9	G	R	E	A	T	H	E	A	R	14	T	E	D	
10	C	L	L											
11	H	O	H	A	22	B	U	C	K	L	E	U		
12	I	B	R	E	E									
13	C	R	E	A	M	T	E	A	24	L	E	V	Y	

Youngsters star as fine weather blesses regatta

WEST Ardnamurchan regatta was held in fine weather last week as more youngsters than ever competed in this year's races.

The 33rd event saw sailing races taking place on Thursday July 28 and inshore races on Friday July 29.

While light winds tested the yachtsmen's skills, conditions were perfect for the inshore events.

Regatta chairman Alastair MacColl said: 'Sea conditions here can be tough which might put off some of the more inexperienced young people but this year they turned out in force and showed some fine skills.'

The youngest competitor was Niven Peterson, eight, who took part in the boys' doubles canoes and junior mixed doubles canoes and was awarded the Cameron Cup for his efforts.

Other notable achievers included Emma MacLachlan, 11, who won the girls' singles rowing and took part in the junior mixed doubles rowing, Emma's cousin, Stuart MacLachlan, also 11, whom she partnered in the mixed doubles. Stuart, with Ewan MacPhail, also won the boys' doubles rowing.

Mr MacColl added: 'Our regatta goes back many years and is very precious to us, so we are anxious to ensure that its traditions carry on into

the future – and, if this is going to happen, we need to encourage young people to take part. That we had so many performing so well this year is heartening, and a tribute to those parents who are taking their children out onto the waters and teaching them safe boating skills.'

The good weather brought out crowds of spectators who, between watching the races, had more stalls than ever to enjoy in the marquee, including guess the weight of the lobster, a raffle for a hamper, and jewellery, woodwork, cushions, lamps, candles and paintings.

Following the presentation of prizes, Mr MacColl thanked all those who had worked so hard to make the very enjoyable day such a success. Competitors and spectators gathered again in the evening for the annual regatta dance, to the music of the Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band.

Once incidental expenses are covered, the money raised goes to the RNLI, the Red Cross, and to the West Ardnamurchan Jetty Association which maintains the Kilchoan jetty and the moorings available for visiting boats.

Next year's regatta is on Thursday August 3 and Friday August 4.



Emma and Stuart MacLachlan competing in the regatta.



Niven and Iona Peterson (in left boat).

Endurance star Mark conquers wilds of Argyll

HAVING already conquered the Paps of Jura and the iconic Cobbler, it's fair to say that Mark Beaumont has been the man on top of Argyll, as he continues on his Wild About Argyll challenge.

Over the past seven days of the adventure, which have been masterminded by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), Mark has rowed a longship with Vikings, cycled the 87-mile Mull Sportive route, kayaked 30km along the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and galloped along Carradale

beach on horseback.

The adventure continued this week as Mark bagged all of Colonsay's 22 MacPhies, and gave a talk to a packed audience in Oban's Corran Halls last night (Wednesday).

The challenge, which started on Sunday July 24 in Dalmally, has seen Mark travel to Tiree and Coll, where as well as taking on the Tiree half-marathon, he spent an afternoon cliff-diving. He's covered Mull by bike and conquered kayaking, running and mountain biking



challenges from Oban to Kintyre and over to Helensburgh.

All this against a background of outstanding natural beauty and some of Argyll's best known landmarks including Dunadd Fort, the Crinan Canal, Helensburgh's Hill House as well as many of the castles across the Argyll and the Isles region.

Mark's route has taken him by bike, through Hell's Glen and down the Rest and Be Thankful, by quadbike through the hills of

Cowal and by foot across the long-distance routes of the Kintyre Way, Three Lochs Way and West Island Way. He's even found time to go on stage and make an appearance at ButeFest.

If you've missed any of Mark's Wild About Argyll adventure you can catch up, with AITC's daily blogs at <http://www.exploreargyll.co.uk/things-to-do.php?cat=283>.

For more information on AITC visit its website at www.exploreargyll.co.uk or email info@exploreargyll.co.uk.

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MOVIE TIME

Mull & Argyll Tour!

15 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
19 July - Tarbert Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 820310/comar.co.uk
20 July - Carradale Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
21 July - Gigha Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
23 Aug - Scalasaig Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
26 July - Ballachulish Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
27 July - North Connel Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
28 July - Iona Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
29 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk

1 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
12 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
15 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
16 Aug - Bunessan Hall 8pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
17 Aug - Astley Hall, Arisaig 8pm, Tickets from Post Office/01687 450263
18 Aug - Muck Hall, Isle of Muck, 7.30pm Tickets on the door
22 Aug - Atlantic Islands Centre, Luing, 7.45pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
23 Aug - Appin Village Hall, 8pm, from 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
24 Aug - Sunart Centre, Strontian, 8pm, 01397 709228/sunartcentre.org
25 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
26 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Scottish Wildlife Trust
Summer Fair
at Dunollie Castle & Grounds
PA34 5TU
Saturday 6th August 10 - 4
Railway rides (childrens activities)
Arts and Crafts, Lunches and Refreshments
Admission includes entry to Castle and Museum
£6 Children £3
Families £15, under 5's Free

The Great Oban Bay Raft Race
Saturday 13th August
Starting from George Street beach
with registration of teams from 12 noon
Judging of rafts from 1.30pm
Race starts between 2.00pm & 2.30pm
When the tide is right!
Event sponsored by The George Street Fish Restaurant and organised by Oban & Lorn Lions Club
For more details Tel: 07880 535550

AnComunn Gàidhealach
CRUACHAN BRANCH SUMMER CEILIDH
Thursday 4th August
7.30 p.m.
Taynuilt Village Hall
Admission £4,
Members £3,
Children (5-16 yrs) £2

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Friday 5 - Thursday 11 August
BÉATRICE ET BÉNÉDICT | 140 MIN
Tue: 18:30

By Berlioz. Closing our 2016 cinema season is a rarely performed sparkling gem. Inspired by Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, Béatrice Et Bénédicet is an impassioned love letter to the Bard. It makes a perfect addition to 2016's Shakespeare400 celebrations, marking 400 years since the playwright's death. This is the first ever fully staged version of the opera at Glyndebourne, as it has only previously been performed as a concert piece.

FINDING DORY | U | 123 MIN
Fri: 12:00, 17:20, Sat: 12:00, 18:45, Sun: 12:00, 16:45, Mon: 12:00, 17:15, Tue: 11:00, 18:45, Wed: 13:30, 17:15, Thu: 12:00, 17:15

3D: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Thu: 17:15, Tue: 16:10, Wed: 18:45
Parent & Baby Screening. Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available.
Disney•Pixar's "Finding Dory" reunites everyone's favourite forgetful blue tang, Dory, with her friends Nemo and Marlin on a search for answers about her past.

GHOSTBUSTERS (2016) | 12A | 136 MIN
Fri: 19:45, Sat: 21:00, Sun: 19:00, Mon: 19:45, Wed: 21:00, Thu: 19:30

30 years after Ghostbusters took the world by storm, the beloved franchise makes its long-awaited return. Director Paul Feig brings his fresh take to the supernatural comedy, joined by some of the funniest actors working today.

KIDS CLUB: E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL | U | 124 MIN
Sat: 11:30

Childrens Classic: A troubled child summons the courage to help a friendly alien escape Earth and return to his home-world.

NOW YOU SEE ME 2 | 12A | 150 MIN
Fri: 19:30, Sat, Sun: 19:45, Mon: 19:30, Tue: 21:00, Wed: 19:30, Thu: 19:45

One year after outwitting the FBI and winning the public's adulation with their Robin Hood-style magic spectacles, The Four Horsemen resurface for a comeback performance in hopes of exposing the unethical practices of a tech magnate. The man behind their vanishing act is none other than Walter Mabry, a tech prodigy who threatens the Horsemen into pulling off their most impossible heist yet. Their only hope is to perform one last unprecedented stunt to clear their names and reveal the mastermind behind it all.

SILVER SCREENING - MAGGIE'S PLAN | 15 | 120 MIN
Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Tea and cake £1.50
Sun: 14:30

Maggie's plan to have a baby on her own is derailed when she falls in love with John, a married man, destroying his volatile marriage to the brilliant and impossible Georgette. But one daughter and three years later, Maggie is out of love and in a quandary: what do you do when you suspect your man and his ex wife are actually perfect for each other?

THE BFG | PG | 137 MIN
Fri: 12:30, 14:30, Sat: 14:30, 16:15, Sun: 12:00, 14:30, Mon: 12:30, 14:30, Tue: 13:30, 14:00, Wed: 12:30, 16:00, Thu: 12:30, 14:30

A girl named Sophie encounters the Big Friendly Giant who, despite his intimidating appearance, turns out to be a kindhearted soul who is considered an outcast by the other giants because unlike his peers refuses to eat boys and girls. Based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Film directed by Steven Spielberg. Stars Mark Rylance, Rebecca Hall, Bill Hader.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 120 MIN
Fri: 15:00, Sat: 14:00, Mon: 15:00, Tue: 16:30, Wed, Thu: 15:00

Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favorite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke. They have to put their quarrels behind when they find out that an adorable white bunny named Snowball is building an army of abandoned pets determined to take revenge on all happy-owned pets and their owners.

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TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin
SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

Canal is a historic link to past

THE news that Scottish Canals are undertaking a pricing consultation is receiving a mixed reaction. Most customers are under the impression it means price increases for residential moorings, leisure moorings, transits and navigations. Some of them will be right, but there is a very real possibility that prices for some canal customers will actually fall.

Scottish Canals commissioned independent consultants to create a single strategy for pricing that covers all of Scotland's canals, based on a matrix of location type and facilities. People who keep their boats on the canals network will fall into a particular category, based on where the boat is moored and what suite of facilities is immediately available. The matrix will define a particular mooring location type and allocate a fee based on the length of the boat, and will do away with different pricing structures for different canals and independently negotiated deals with individual customers.

The consultation element is about customers agreeing with the description and price category of a particular mooring location – and differences of opinion are inevitable. The fundamental purpose of the

exercise is to make sure that Scottish Canals generate enough income to cover their operating costs. Some observers are asking if that is even a possibility, considering public ownership and a long history of uncertain financial viability.

The Crinan Canal Company was formed in May 1793 and was empowered to raise a maximum capital of £150,000. Construction began in 1794, the final route and dimensions being decided by chief engineer John Rennie the following year.

Inadequate finances delayed completion of the waterway, which opened to traffic in 1801, even though it was in a quite unfinished state. Flood damage in 1805 necessitated cutting a new line; the canal was reopened to navigation in 1806 and finally declared complete in August 1809. More flood damage occurred in 1811 and the canal was closed for a year. Two years later, engineering superstar Thomas Telford reported the canal to be in "a very imperfect condition" and repairs estimated at £18,250 were executed under his supervision between 1816 and 1817. The canal was again reopened in 1817.

The maintenance of the

canal has involved a continual need to repair and upgrade the 15 locks along its route, especially the sea-locks at each end; to deepen the eastern approaches at Airdrishaig and to provide an adequate and properly controlled water supply. The hardness of local schist and softness of peat moss contributed to difficulties of construction. In her authoritative *Canals of Scotland*, Jean Lindsay records that blasting operations on the south shore of Loch Crinan left rocky projections that sank 11 steamers between 1885 and 1921.

The funds of the original company – already burdened with public debts – were exhausted by 1812. The Commissioners of the Caledonian Canal effectively managed the waterway from 1817 and formally from 1844, transferring responsibility to the Ministry of Transport in 1919. The British Waterways Board was established in 1962 and took over a year later.

Alternative revenue development for the Crinan Canal has been on the proprietors' agenda since 1956, when income from 1790 passage vessels reached just £10,298 against an operating expenditure of £25,915. Since the early 1990s, British Waterways



Scotland has sold six former lock-keepers' cottages and the original canal manager's house to stem operational losses and meet ever-increasing maintenance costs. Thinking changed in the new millennium, and a number of significant improvements have been made over and above large-scale civil engineering projects to stabilise the banks, preserve the workings and protect the water supply. Toilets and showers have been introduced at key points along its route, affording customers modern conveniences expected by today's leisure market. There are laundry facilities too and a basic marina, at Bellanoch near Crinan, has grown to accommodate increasing numbers of leisure berth holders.

The towpath has been upgraded and there are useful

information panels every mile or so along its nine miles.

Paddle sport enthusiasts are positively encouraged to use the waterway, and a number of special access platforms have been introduced to jetties and pontoons. A few keen rowers can be seen when the canal is quiet, and significant numbers of walkers and cyclists of all ages can be seen on the towpath every day. Optimistic anglers fish from pontoons, piers and bridges, and the everyday movements of people going about their business punctuate the stunningly beautiful surroundings.

The money for all of this has to come from somewhere. If Scottish Canals are prepared to consult their customers, the organisation must be prepared to accommodate sensible suggestions and



uphold fairness. I don't think many customers will object to modest and justifiable price increases if the money is reinvested to their advantage and the preservation of some of the world's finest transport monuments. The consultation is open until October 21.

Summer dining Lochaber

The Loch Leven Hotel is all about hospitality

Their menus offer the flexibility of dining from an evening dinner menu or from the informal bar menu. No matter which one you choose, the Loch Leven have selected the best local suppliers for their outstanding produce.

Brand new head chef, Jacob Cotton, has created imaginative menus with distinctive flair for everyone to enjoy.

The Loch Leven's new menu was launched last week and details can be found on their website. All items on the menu are available in the main restaurant as well as in the bar dining area.

Titled the Best Bar and Best Bar Dining in the Highlands by Scottish Hotel Awards 2016, the Old Ferry Bar at the Loch Leven Hotel welcomes its patrons with an enviable drinks list and mouth watering menu in unique and historic surroundings

The well-stocked bar currently serves over 60 malt whiskies and a wide selection of draught & bottled beers, with some local craft ales also available. Not to mention their carefully selected cocktail list.

The bar currently stocks more than 50 types of gin, but when owners, Craig Innes and wife Noru, discovered no where in the area produced local gin, they decided to make their own.

The couple are now embarking on a new venture to distil their own gin, bottling, labelling and marketing the products themselves.

Why not enjoy your bar meal or drink al-fresco on the loch view sundeck? Perched above the hotel's mature and vibrant gardens and overlooking the loch, relax and watch as yachts sail by and herons dip and dive in the loch.

Relax and enjoy the jovial atmosphere with staff and locals alike and cosy up by the open fire on colder days.

Children of all ages are welcome, as are well behaving dogs which are welcome in the bar and games room where you can also find a television, a pool table and some old school Nintendo games!

Lunch is served from 12pm until 3pm and dinner is served from 6pm until 9pm.



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Abstract landscapes go on show at Highland gallery

AN EXHIBITION of abstract Hebridean landscapes by the late US expressionist Jon Schueler, who moved to Mallaig in 1970 to paint Scotland's turbulent skies, is going on display next month in a remote Highland gallery to mark the artist's centenary.

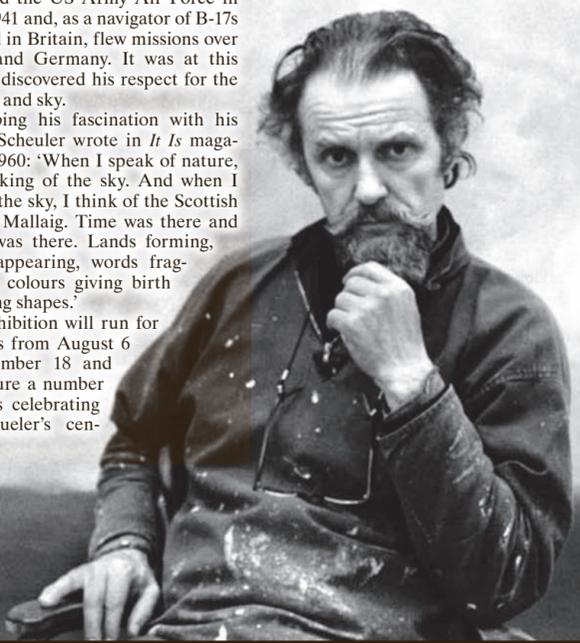
Resipole Studios, a contemporary art gallery on the shores of Loch Sunart near Strontian, is hosting the series of artworks entitled *Sea To Sky: Jon Schueler*. A spokeswoman said: 'This is the first time we have hosted an exhibition celebrating the life and work of an artist as revered and respected as the late, abstract-expressionist Jon Schueler. Resipole Studios is incredibly honoured.'

Schueler's paintings can fetch up to \$100,000 at auction. *Sea to Sky* presents a collection of 38 works central to Schueler's time spent on the west coast, where he lived from 1970 to 1975. It is just one of a group of exhibitions in the US and in the UK to mark the centennial of his birth.

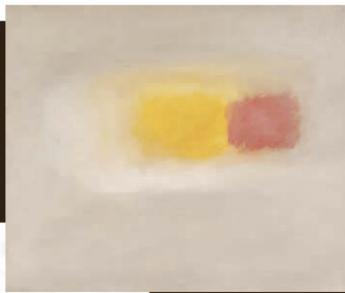
Jon Schueler, born in 1916 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was an acclaimed member of the New York School. He joined the US Army Air Force in winter 1941 and, as a navigator of B-17s stationed in Britain, flew missions over France and Germany. It was at this point he discovered his respect for the elements and sky.

Describing his fascination with his subject, Schueler wrote in *It Is* magazine in 1960: 'When I speak of nature, I'm speaking of the sky. And when I think of the sky, I think of the Scottish sky over Mallaig. Time was there and motion was there. Lands forming, seas disappearing, words fragmenting, colours giving birth to burning shapes.'

The exhibition will run for six weeks from August 6 to September 18 and will feature a number of events celebrating Jon Schueler's centennial.



Jon Schueler in his studio in Mallaig.



Eigg - Shadow and Sun



Storm Near Knoydart



Red Sky Over the Sound of Sleat

Curtain up on romantic comedy set in Glasgow picture palace

THE PLAY *Movie Time* is touring Mull, Muck, Luing, Appin and Sunart this month.

The show is described as a bitersweet, light romantic comedy of love and loss set in the projection booth of a Glasgow picture palace during the Second World War. The action takes place in the projection room of the Roxy Cinema in early 1942.

Alan MacKenzie plays Willie, a middle class lad from a good background who is chief projectionist and somehow still hasn't

had his call up papers. Young Margaret, or 'Mog', played by Shona Brodie Hill, is sent in to shadow him, just in case. 'He is quiet and unassuming, very buttoned up; she is brash and forthright and just loves a good time at the dancing,' explained Mull's arts organisation Comar: 'She annoys him like crazy, but to her he is just so boring. So different in almost every way, it's in their dreams that they really connect. They live for, and through, the films they

show. But can their lives live up to their dreams?'

Movie Time was first produced at Mull Little Theatre in 1986 and now returns to Mull Theatre, Druimfin, near Tobermory, on August 12, 15, 25 and 26, as well as touring Bunessan Hall on August 16, Arisaig on August 17, Muck Hall on August 18, Luing on August 22, Appin on August 23 and the Sunart Centre on August 25. Information and tickets are available from the Comar website.



Tobermory welcomes 'fantastic' singer-songwriter to An Tobar

AN TOBAR welcomes singer-songwriter and guitarist Elliott Morris to Tobermory on Tuesday August 9 as part of his nine-show Lakes, Highlands and Islands' tour, ahead of his debut album release.

BBC arts editor Will Gompertz has described the folk and blues musician as 'fantastic... really high quality stuff', while comedian Dave Gorman of the TV show *Modern Life Is Goodish* said 'his guitar playing

is intricate and skilful and his voice is strong and honest ... heartfelt folk pop'.

Joining Elliott on the tour will be friend and filmmaker Chris 'Bing' Bingham, known on YouTube as Slomozovo, who will be documenting the journey for fundraising fans. The album will be supported by the crowd-funding platform PledgeMusic, which allows fans to become a part of the music making experience, gaining access to exclusive content and seeing pledger-only updates that provide insight into the music.

'This tour is a really exciting

one for me,' said Morris, who averages 120 live shows a year.

'Using PledgeMusic lets me offer my audience far more than if I were to release by myself through a label.

'With the advance support of my listeners, I can offer not just physical CDs, but I can release the album on vinyl and provide really special extras such as signed artwork prints, handwritten lyric sheets and bonus discs. I can also send exclusive updates from the road and the studio directly to pledgers.' For more information visit his website or Facebook page.

Summer dining



Argyll & the islands

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Asknish Bay restaurant (evenings) or the more informal Chartroom II Bistro (open all day for refreshments and drinks, as well as lunch and dinner service). Both have direct sea views and you won't fail to be taken in by the amazing scenery, looking out over the Sound of Jura and the Inner Hebrides beyond.

Loch Melfort is passionate about good food

and fine wine and this is reflected in a menu that makes the most of Argyll produce and foraged summer ingredients.

The Chartroom II Bistro is a relaxed bar and restaurant with an emphasis on fresh local seafood, although meat lovers also get plenty of choice. It boasts a strong wine list and some excellent local ales and draught beers. The home-made ice-creams

and baking make it an excellent choice for families with a play area next to the terrace and our friendly local residents - the hens and Highland cows.

Asknish Bay Restaurant offers a wonderful dining experience in comfortable but more formal surroundings. The seasonal menu delivers options that combine traditional dishes using modern techniques, with a

range of locally foraged ingredients from the woods and the sea, that will surely delight food lovers from home and abroad. Choosing from the a la carte or table d'hôte menu and with a beautiful wine list, a meal here is a lovely experience you won't forget in a hurry.

Loch Melfort looks forward to welcoming you this summer.

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Highland dancer Aimee Sneddon, 16, from Mallaig, who won all the local dancing competitions and the Keith Eddie cup. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_Aimee Sneddon 01



Aimee Sneddon, 16, and Lindsey Jones, 35, compete in the adult Highland dancing competitions. Lindsey won the Robert Cuthbertson shield for the category. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_highland dancing 01



Dancers perform the highland fling in the junior category for up to 16-years. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_highland dancing 02



The 11 and under sword dance was popular with onlookers at the games. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_highland dancing 03



David Hart, from Fort William, who won the Arisaig Games, Allan Macdonald and Creag Mhor Caber trophies. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_shotput 02



Heavy weight events got under way with the shotput competition. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_shotput 01



ARISAIG

highLAND GAMES

THERE were celebrations in Arisaig last week as more than 2,000 people from all over the world gathered to watch the 80th Highland games and Clan Ranald gathering.

Despite getting off to a wet and windy start, the afternoon picked up and everyone enjoyed some sunshine at the village's Traigh Farm on Wednesday July 27.

The day featured a variety of events, from heavyweight contests to children's races, piping competitions and Highland dancing, as well as craft, food and clothing stalls for visitors to enjoy.

Opening the games, younger

of the Clan Ranald, Ranald Macdonald, spoke of the history of both his family and the games. His father has been chief of the clan for more than 60 years.

He said: 'We are gathered on a perfect piece of land with people who want to show off their skills. We are in the heart of Clan Ranald country.'

Chairman of the games Allan MacDonald said: 'We are very lucky at the games. We have a pool of about 30 volunteers who are extremely enthusiastic. We have been gathering in this field for about 30 years. It usually takes us about four or five days to set it all up.

'We have been very fortunate because we get great sponsorship from Ardnamurchan Distillery, which has enabled us to improve and add to the atmosphere and attraction of the games.'

Committee treasurer Fraser MacDougall said: 'I have been treasurer for seven years now and I love it. We have a young committee who always want to push forward.'

Ardnamurchan Distillery chairman Keith Falconer added: 'We have put a lot into this venture the past three years because we are the local distillery and it's a great way to work with the community, local

people and encourage tourists to the area.'

Highland dancers kicked off the afternoon, with local competitor Aimee Sneddon, 16, from Mallaig taking home the Keith Eddie cup.

Fort William local David Hart had a successful day winning the Arisaig Games, Allan Macdonald and Creag Mhor caber trophies.

Rounding off the day was a ceilidh in Astley village hall, where local band Skipinnish performed.

The committee is planning to hold a ceilidh in September to celebrate the 80th birthday of the games.



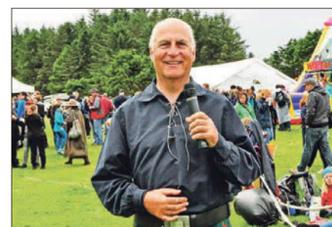
Paul Macdonald, originally from Glenuige, led a sword demonstration as part of the Highland Challenge in which 12 people from America took part. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_sword demo 01



Chairman of Ardnamurchan distillery Keith Falconer, second left, with his team. The distillery sponsored the games. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_distillery sponsors 01



Chairman of the games, Allan MacDonald, with piping brothers Sandy and Finlay Cameron from Spean Bridge. Finlay received the Cameron-Head cup for junior piping. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_chairman of the games 01



Games announcer William MacLennan who did a fantastic job presenting the games. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_announcer 01



Younger of Clan Ranald, Ranald Macdonald, whose father is the 24th chief of the clan and has been for 60 years. Ranald opened the 80th Arisaig games. 21_F32 Arisaig Games_Ranald Macdonald 01

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Brexit vote 'puts new housing targets at risk' - new CIH Scotland survey

Housing professionals in Scotland fear the UK's recent Brexit vote could put the Scottish Government's affordable housing targets out of reach - according to a new survey by the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland. Nearly 70 per cent who took part in the survey were concerned about the prospects of meeting the Scottish Government's target to build 10,000 affordable homes a year following the UK vote to leave the European Union on the June 23. Meanwhile, more than half were concerned that the Brexit decision would have a negative impact on their organisation's own development plans. CIH Scotland is the representative body for housing professionals in Scotland and has a membership of around 2,300 across the country.

The results of the new membership survey were revealed at a CIH Scotland event in Edinburgh today (Tuesday, July 26) where a panel of experts gathered to discuss the likely implications of Brexit for Scotland's housing sector. As part of the survey, CIH Scotland members also expressed concerns about the potential future impact of the Brexit vote on community cohesion and, in particular, the ability of minority groups to access housing in the future. There is still a large degree of uncertainty about the process of leaving the EU and Scotland's role and future position as part of those negotiations. Meanwhile, official figures show the completion of new homes by Scotland's social housing sector has declined from a peak of

5,989 units completed in 2009-10 to 3,458 units in 2015-16. CIH Scotland director, Annie Mauger said: 'We cannot predict what the future holds but this survey demonstrates just how much uncertainty there is in Scotland's housing sector. In these times of economic and political uncertainty, we must ensure that we continue to work together to provide the new homes Scotland needs to support its growing population. Just as worrying as the lack of confidence in home-building is the concern members have about the potential impact of the recent referendum vote on our communities. The housing sector has always had a strong role in promoting community cohesion and this must remain a key focus going forward.'

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Who needs an HMO licence?

A house is an HMO if it is the only or principal residence of three or more qualifying persons from three or more families. If you are not sure whether you need an HMO licence for your property, you should contact the local authority for advice. It is a criminal offence to operate an HMO without a licence. The need for a licence does not depend on rent being paid, or on any formal tenancy arrangements being in place. The application for a licence must be made by the owner, even if the property is leased to or managed by another person or organisation.

How do I apply?

You must contact your local authority for a licence application form and information about the procedure, the standards you will

need to meet and the fees. Some parts of the procedure are set out in law, in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. Guidance for local authorities on how to operate the licensing system is also provided by the Scottish Executive, but each authority will have slightly different procedures. The licensing authority has to satisfy itself: that you, and any manager of the HMO, are a fit and proper person to hold a licence and that the property is suitable for use as an HMO, for the proposed number of people.

What are the required standards? The licensing of HMOs seeks to control standards in three main areas: the suitability of a property owner to be an HMO landlord, his management of the premises, and the physical condition and facilities of the accommodation. These things must be checked before a licence is granted; the licence is then usually granted with conditions which require the standards to be maintained through the period of the licence.

For help in navigating your HMO, contact West today!



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Ardconnell Villa, Oban
• Spacious Ground Floor Apartment
• 3 bedrooms & 1 study
• 1 bathroom & 1 additional WC
• Popular Residential Area
• Communal Garden & Private Area
• EPC Rating - D (64)
NEW TO MARKET OIRO £185,000

A deceptively spacious three bedroom ground floor apartment, one of four apartments within a traditional stone villa, located in a popular residential area close to Oban's many amenities and attractions.

Struan Crescent, Tobermory
• Semi detached bungalow
• 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
• Modern property
• Popular residential area
• Large gardens with driveway parking
• EPC Rating - D65
OIRO £155,000

2 Struan Crescent - A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow close to Tobermory town centre. Built 5 years ago, property boasts well proportioned rooms, driveway parking and generous gardens front and accommodation comprises porch area with large storage room, hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom and 2 double bedrooms with built in storage.

Albert Street, Tobermory
• Terraced Cottage Conversion
• 4 Bedrooms / 3 Bathroom / 1 WC
• Mature garden
• Close to Tobermory town centre
• Excellent B&B potential
• EPC Rating - C (74)
REDUCED PRICE OIRO £220,000

Schiehallion is a spacious 4 bedroom terraced cottage conversion located in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This deceptively spacious 3 storey converted cottage offers generous living spaces, self contained holiday rental and garden and is close to all the amenities Tobermory has to offer.

Combie Street, Oban
• Top Floor Flat
• 1 Bedroom / Shower Room
• Central location
• Excellent rental investment
• EPC Rating - F (33)
REDUCED PRICE OIRO £59,000

33 Combie Street - A compact 1 bedroom top floor flat close to Oban town centre. This flat comprises a lounge, small bedroom, kitchen and shower room. The property is decorated in neutral colours and benefits from double glazing throughout. Rental potential, achieving annual rent of £4,200 in recent years. The property is in move in condition.

NOW LETTING IN LOCHABER - NEW LANDLORDS GET IN TOUCH TODAY

Duncraggan Road, Oban
• 3 Bedroom, Unfurnished
• Property on the Sales Market also
• Oban town centre
• Gas Central Heating
• On street parking
• EPC Rating - D (55)
• Council Tax Band D
• Landlord Registration No: 41517/130/01431
AVAILABLE AUGUST £875 PCM

A beautiful detached 3 bedroom Victorian villa with stunning views across Oban Bay. The property retains many of its original features and has been renovated to a high standard by the current owner.

Polfearn House, Taynuilt
• 1 Bedroom
• Parking
• Stunning views over Loch Etive
• Property on the Sales Market also
• Bright & Airy
• Landlord Registration: 338011/130/19581
• EPC C (78)
• AVAILABLE NOW
£400 PCM

A unique rural one bedroom flat with stunning views over Loch Etive. The accommodation is unfurnished throughout and comprises of a double bedroom (with built in wardrobes), hall, lounge, kitchen (inc. Hob, oven & extractor) and bathroom.

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International collaboration is a highlight of early summer activities at SRUC

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

ANOTHER milestone in the farm calendar is now complete, as we finished marking our lambs in the past few weeks.

Lambs in our Kirkton research flock were all blood sampled by our colleagues from Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh, as part of our ongoing 'Targeted Selective Treatment' approach to worming. They are working with us to investigate if there are any genetic markers which can be used to identify whether an individual lamb is more or less resilient to internal parasites.

Lambs from our high hill flock at Auchtertyre were marked a week later. The nature of these extensive flocks means that some lambs don't appear until later gathers, so it's difficult to say at the moment how many lambs in total we will get from that flock. There have, however, been slightly more ewe lambs than tup lambs, which will give us a good amount of choice for our flock replacements.

Let's cross our fingers that the conditions are good for their growth over summer. There were also fewer cases of the photo-sensitisation disease 'plochteach' in lambs this year. The plant suspected of causing the disease, bog asphodel, has not been as obvious this year, probably as a result of the dry spring not suiting this wetland plant.

At the moment we are well through clipping and this trend appears to have continued. We have seen a few new cases, but they seem to be fairly mild.

We hosted a beginners' shearing course earlier in the month at Auchtertyre, run by the British Wool Marketing Board. We had 10 people attending, with two experienced trainers showing them the ropes. It was very successful, with people travelling many miles to take part.

On the cattle front, our new shorthorn bull has completed his stint with the cows and older heifers and is now running with the yearling heifers, which were wintered at Oatridge. We have changed the breed of our bull, because our previous Aberdeen Angus was coming back into his own stock, and also because I felt that some of the calves he was leaving were a bit thin-skinned for being out on our hills.

The shorthorn should provide calves next year with a bit more insulation against the weather up here. All being well, we will be calving again next February.

The cows are now back on the hill as part of a moorland management plan we have under our new Scottish Rural Development Programme agreement with Scottish Government.

This year we are not only making much more use of the grass growth on the hill during spring and summer, but are also paying close attention to grass heights in our in-bye fields, moving stock out or in when the sward stick measurements suggest we need to.

So far this has resulted in our grass this year looking the best it has for a while, with a big proportion of our in-bye fields hopefully destined for a bumper crop of silage.

At the beginning of July, we had visitors from down under at the farms. Dr Cheryl O'Connor, a senior scientist with AgResearch Farm Systems team in New Zealand, and Erica Schellhorst, who is doing a PhD at Melbourne University in Australia, spent the day with my colleagues Davy McCracken and Claire Morgan-Davies talking about the research we are doing on the farms and the challenges facing hill farming in general.

Cheryl's work is focused on animal welfare, with the aim to improve farm performance by understanding the impact of new farm technologies on production and quality outputs. Erica's PhD is looking at adoption of genetic improvement by commercial lamb producers. She also works as a livestock extension officer, facilitating four regional Bestwool Bestlamb sheep producer groups.

It was very interesting to note the many common issues between the Australian and New Zealand hill country farming systems and our own hill farming in Scotland.

As part of another international collaboration, we hosted a US scientist at Kirkton in July. Dr Kathleen Austin, from the University of Wyoming, spent two weeks with us, analysing some of our research data to see whether the precision livestock farming approach that we have adopted is affecting the genetic progress we are making in our sheep breeding programme.

Kathy and my colleague Nicola Lambe will continue to collaborate on this work and hope to be able to find answers to these important questions.

On the last Saturday in June, my colleague John Holland took a group of enthusiasts from the Botanical Society of Scotland and Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland on a field excursion to one of the hills at the far end of the estate called Cam Chreag, where he showed them the rich diversity of alpine plants that can be found there.

We also had a very successful grassland group meeting at Auchtertyre at the end of June, where the group looked at our reseeded fields and discussed our future grassland management plans.

Finally, we have been busy presenting our research to farmers and stakeholders at both the Royal Highland Show at Inverness at the end of June, and at the Scottish Game Fair in Perth the following weekend. Both events were very busy and gave us the opportunities to discuss the benefits of EID for sheep management, as well as challenges facing hill farming and our latest research on wild deer. My colleague Davy McCracken is also going to Lewis for a crofters' meeting to discuss these very same issues.

All in all, these events and interactions with others from near and far have made us think more about how our work fits into a larger picture.



The SRUC stand at this year's Royal Highland Show.

Prosecco sparkles at Cowal blackface show

LAST year's Mid Argyll and Lorn show champion once again came up trumps at the Cowal Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association Show.

The rain held off and the sun made an appearance last Saturday at Clachan, Cairndow, as around 20 blackface sheep breeders from across Argyll and much further afield gathered to show off their best animals.

Judge for the day was Derek Brown, who looks after 1,500 blackies on 3,600 acre Moorfoot Farm near Peebles.

In front of a healthy number of spectators, boosted by the presence of a display of vintage tractors and cars – more on page 14 – Mr Brown selected the proven champion belonging to J & J MacPherson, Balliemanoach, Loch Awe.

Named 'Prosecco', this three-crop ewe is off a £6,000 Connachan sire and out of a Lurg-bred ewe.

Loch Fyne-side farmer Donald McVicar, Lephinchapel, won the confined championships, and the reserve overall, with his sookit gimmer.

The best opposite sex to the champion in both confined and open categories was a shearing

tup from Pole Farm, Lochgoilhead.

The organisers would like to thank Ardkinglas Estate and the Jacksons, Pole, for the use of the show field.

Results

Overall champion: Prosecco, ewe from the MacPherson family at Balliemanoach farm. Sired by a £6,000 Connachan out of a Lurg-bred ewe.

Overall reserve champion: D McVicar, Lephinchapel, with a young ewe bought in lamb from Crossflatt, sired by Shotgun.

Overall male champion: the Jackson family, Pole, Lochgoilhead, with a shearing sire of £18,000 Pole out of a ewe by £10,000 Dyke.

Confined

Old tup: Messrs Mitchell, Killellan, Dunoon.

Shearing: Messrs Jackson, Pole.

Tup lamb: Andrew Campbell, Drimsynie, Lochgoilhead.

Young farmers tup lamb: Angus Campbell, Succothmore, Strachur.

Ewe: Campbell, Drimsynie.

Young ewe: McVicar, Lephinchapel.

Gimmer: McVicar, Lephinchapel.

Ewe lamb: Jackson, Pole.

Young farmers ewe lamb: James Mitchell, Killellan.

Group: McVicar, Lephinchapel.

Confined champion: Young ewe from Donald McVicar, Lephinchapel.

Confined reserve champion: Ewe from Campbell, Drimsynie. Sired by Bolt out of a ewe by Dyke Travis.

Confined male champion: Shearling from Jackson, Pole.

Open

Old tup: Donald Shaw, Innisaig, Ardfern.

Shearing: Jackson, Pole.

Tup lamb: Shaw, Innisaig.

Ewe: MacPherson, Balliemanoach.

Young ewe: McVicar, Lephinchapel.

Gimmer: McVicar, Lephinchapel

Ewe lamb: Jackson, Pole.

Group: McVicar, Lephinchapel.



The winning ewe and reigning Mid Argyll Show champion, Prosecco, from Messrs MacPherson, Balliemanoach. 06_sheepshow11



Tensions rise as the overall champion is selected. 06_sheepshow09



The sun comes out above Glen Fyne as judge Derek Brown casts his eye over the open ewe lamb class. 06_sheepshow06



Colintraive farmer John McNaughton acts as steward for the day. 06_sheepshow01

Limousin bullock is champion at Dalmally show and sale of cattle

IN FRONT of a packed ringside of buyers, United Auctions' annual fair day show and sale of cattle was held at Dalmally Auction Mart.

An increased catalogued entry of 411 top quality cattle were on offer at the sale, held on Friday July 29.

Show judging ahead of the sale was in the hands of Mr S Connon, Skilmaffilly, Auchnagatt, and his awards were as follows:

Charolais bullocks: 1 Messrs McIntyre, Glenahervie; 2 Messrs Ronald, East Laggan; 3 Messrs Ronald, East Laggan.

Limousin bullocks: 1 Messrs Semple, Dippen; 2 Messrs Semple, Dippen; 3 Mr R Currie, Low Dunashery.

Any other breed of bullock: 1 Messrs MacCallum, Strathnafanaig.

Charolais heifer: 1 Messrs MacIntyre; 2 Messrs Semple; 3 Messrs Ronald.

Limousin heifer: 1 Messrs Semple; 2 Mr R Lines, Killoccrow; 3 Mr H Morrison, 9 Killeonan.

Any other breed of heifer: 1 Messrs Ralston, Rhoin; 2 Mr R Lines; 3 Messrs MacCallum.

Best pen of four bullocks and best pen of four heifers: Messrs Semple.

Overall champion: Messrs Semple with a Limousin bullock - 446k £1,200 to Messrs Hamilton, Bee Edge Farm.

Reserve overall: Messrs Semple with a Limousin heifer - 454k £1,150 to Mr S Connon. Overall, the bullocks averaged £953.99 or 231.76p/kg whilst the heifers levelled out at £920.71 or 228.12p/kg.

Principal lots and prices

Top prices per head

Bullocks

AAx: £1,220 Baleggregan; £900 (2) Ardachy. BRBx: £1,060 and £1,050 Strathnafanaig; £1,030 (4) Rhoin; £1,030 Strathnafanaig; £980 Low Dunashery; £970 (2) Killoccrow.

CHARx: £1,210(2) Baleggregan; £1,190 Glenahervie and Dippen (4); £1,180 (3) Baleggregan; £1,160 Glenahervie and Baleggregan (2); £1,140 Strath; £1,130 (2) Glenahervie; £1,110 East Laggan and Glenahervie (4); £1,100 (2) Baleggregan; £1,060 East Laggan (3) and Ballochgar; £1,050 East Laggan; £1,040 East Laggan (4) and Dippen (4); £1,000 Strath (3) and Dippen (4); £980 Saddell; £960 (2) and £950 East Laggan; £950 Strath.

HF: £715 (2) Strath.

LIMx: £1,200 Dippen; £1,180 and £1,150(2) Uigle; £1,150 Killoccrow; £1,140 Achnaba; £1,130 Dippen; £1,110 Uigle and Dippen; £1,080 and £1,070 Killoccrow; £1,070 Cleongart; £1,060 Killoccrow; £1,050 Low Dunashery; £1,040 Killeonan; £1,020 Low Dunashery and Uigle (4); £1,000 Strathnafanaig (2) and 9 Killeonan; £990 Strathnafanaig, Low Dunashery (2) and Achnaba (2); £970 (3) Killoccrow; £960 (2) Dippen; £950 (3) Uigle.

SIMx: £1,140 Strath; £1,100 (2) and £1,070 (4) Baleggregan; £1,040 Ballochgar; £1,020 (2) Baleggregan; £950 (2) Strath.

Heifers

AAx: £1,180 and £1,080 Baleggregan. BRBx: £1,200 (2) Rhoin; £1,110 Strathnafanaig; £1,000 Dippen; £970 Killoccrow.

CHARx: £1,210(3) Baleggregan; £1,180 Dippen; £1,140 Glenahervie; £1,140 (3) and £1,130 (4) Baleggregan; £1,130(2) Dippen; £1,110(3) Baleggregan; £1,100 (2) Glenahervie; £1,000(3) Strath; £950 (3) Dippen.

LIMx: £1,260 Killoccrow; £1,150 Dippen; £1,140 Uigle (3) and Saddell Home Farm (3); £1,110 Cleongart; £1,100 and £1,090 Killoccrow; £1,090 Cleongart; £1,080 Strathnafanaig and East Laggan; £1,070 Achnaba; £1,050(2) Killoccrow; £1,050 Uigle; £1,020 Killoccrow and 9 Killeonan; £1,010 East Laggan; £980 Killoccrow (3) and Achnaba (2).

SIMx: £910 Baleggregan.

Top prices per kilo

Bullocks

AAx: 231p (2) and 230p (3) Ardachy. BRBx: 262p (2) Killoccrow; 251p, 249p and 246p Strathnafanaig; 231p Low Dunashery.

CHARx: 264p (3) Couston Farm; 258p (6) Ardmaleish; 258p (4) and 256p (4) Couston Farm; 256p East Laggan and Saddell Home Farm (2); 255p (4) Dippen; 252p Glenahervie; 250p (4) Dippen; 250p East Laggan; 245p Saddell Home Farm; 244p (2), 243p (4) and 242p East Laggan; 242p Glenahervie; 241p Ballochgar; 239p East Laggan (2) and Ballochgar; 235p (4) Glenahervie; 234p (4) Dippen; 230p and 225p Strath; 224p(2) Glenahervie.

LIMx: 262p (3) Killoccrow; 260p Lochuisge; 259p Ardachy; 258p Dippen; 254p Marchfield; 254p and 253p Killoccrow; 253p (2) Strathnafanaig; 252p Dippen; 251p (2) Ardachy; 251p (2) Dippen; 250p Couston Farm; 249p Uigle and Achnaba; 248p Killoccrow and Low Dunashery; 247p Ardachy (4), High Balantyre, Achnaba (2) and Low Dunashery (3); 246p (2) Low Dunashery; 246p Marchfield; 245p Uigle and Low Dunashery; 242p and 241p (2) Killoccrow; 240p (2) East Laggan; 238p Low Dunashery; 237p (2) Couston Farm; 237p East Laggan; 236p Tombuie & Achnaba.

SIMx: 233p (2) Ballochgar; 230p (2) Strath; 230p (2) Killervan.

Heifers

BRBx: 263p Strathnafanaig; 258p Dippen; 238p and 236p Killoccrow; 232p Dippen.

CHARx: 267p (9) Couston Farm; 253p Low Tiffergus; 240p (4) Dippen; 235p (2) East Laggan; 233p (2) and 232p (3) Dippen; 231p (2) Saddell Home Farm.

LIMx: 278p Achnaba; 271p Strathnafanaig; 266p Achnaba; 265p Uigle; 261p (2) Killoccrow; 260p and 259p Achnaba; 258p 1 Knockvologan; 257p Achnaba; 255p Ardachy; 255p 9 Killeonan; 253p Dippen; 252p Killoccrow; 250p 9 Killeonan; 249p (2) Low Dunashery; 248p Killoccrow; 247p Achnaba; 245p (2) Ardachy; 245p (3) Strathnafanaig; 245p Killoccrow; 245p (2) Ardachy; 243p (2) Uigle; 242p 9 Killeonan and Achnacremore; 241p (3) Uigle; 241p (2) Killoccrow; 240p Achnaba and Dippen; 239p Aird and Lochuisge; 238p Couston Farm (2) East Laggan (2).

SIMx: 233p (4) Duallin; 232p Achnacremore.

Breeding cattle

Cow and calf: £1,010 Scoor Farm, Bunesan.

Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 13th August 2016
Stronian Showfield
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, Forging
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Adults: £ 5, Child: £2
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So much to see and do at annual Lorn Show

THE Lorn Agricultural Show at Benderloch promises a great family day out this weekend, at Tralee Beach on Keil Common, near Oban.

The traditional agricultural show, which was founded in 1920, will feature equestrian events, livestock, trade stands, children's entertainment, dancing, crafts, pipe bands, refreshments and much, much more, crammed in between 10am and 5pm tomorrow (Saturday August 6).

Other attractions throughout the day include music performed by Oban High School Pipe Band, a tug-of-war competition, the ever-popular terrier race, throwing the wellie boot, tossing the sheaf, and the Young Farmers will also be running various contests.

The day begins with livestock judging at 10am, which includes the sheep, cattle and poultry classes.

A highlight of the Lorn Agricultural Show is the Highland dancing competition, when dancers finally have a chance to show off the skills they've spent months practising. Competitors in the primary, beginners and novice classes register at 10am, before dancing commences at 10.30am. Those in the intermediate and premier categories should register at 1.30pm, ahead of the dancing starting at 2pm.

The list of classes include pas de Basques and high cuts, Highland fling, swords, seann truibhas, half reel of Tulloch, Scottish lilt, Flora MacDonald, sailors' hornpipe and the Irish jig. Late entries will be accepted until Friday August 5, and the entry fee is £1.70 per dance.

The judging of the cooking and crafts in the home industry tent starts at 11am, and all home industries exhibits should be in place by

10.45am. The children's fun classes include decorated wellington boots, animals made from raw vegetables, an egg-box dinosaur, footprints on a paper plate, a computer-designed Christmas card, yoghurt loaves, and photographs of flowers and creepy crawlies.

In the adult baking section, contestants will pit against each other their girdle scones, empire biscuits, Turkish delight, jars of sweet and sour sauce, chocolate sponge sandwich, and hen and duck eggs. Eggs exhibited must be in the possession of the exhibitor, and the poultry judge is entitled to break an egg.

Handicraft categories will also include a knitted pram cover, machine-sewn clothes peg bag, a crochet flower, un-mounted photographs titled 'reflections' and 'morning mist', and a table centrepiece using a candle.

The men only classes are squares of tablet, and a jar of rhubarb jam. A 50p entry is to be paid on the day in the adults' section, but children's entry is free.

Another highlight of the day will be the Oban poultry show: entries will be taken on the field, and all poultry should be caged by 10.45am.

The dog judging follows at 12.30pm, with agility taster sessions and a fly ball display.

Organisers were delighted to announce United Auctions, the livestock auctioneers, had become the event's main sponsor for the next three years.

You can get there early when the gates open at 9am, and there is a free car park throughout the day. Show tickets for adults cost £6, while children can enter for £3, or there is a great value family ticket for just £14.



Lorn Agricultural Show Saturday 6th August Tralee, Benderloch



Showfield open to public from 9am
Judging to commence at 10am
Admission charges -
Adult £6, Child £3, Family £14

Sheep and cattle classes
Young farmers running competitions
throughout the day
Dog show starts at 12.30pm
OHS Pipe band
Highland dancing
Trade stands and side shows
Tossing the sheaf



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We wish the Lorn Agricultural Society and all other agricultural Shows held throughout Argyll and the Isles all success, and we look forward to meeting our customers on Show days.
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65/15 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR SERIES 5, CANOPY/LINER, AMAZON GREEN	£21,000 + VAT
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13/13 SHOGUN SG2 4WORK, SWB, COMMERCIAL, MANUAL, SILVER	£13,000 + VAT
09/09 SHOGUN LWB ELEGANCE, AUTO, SILVER,	£12,250
09/59 SHOGUN SWB EQUIPPE, MANUAL, SILVER	£12,000

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Farming and Industry Open Day:
Improving Livestock Health & Performance
Thursday 18th August 2016
SRUC Kirkton & Auchtertyre Farms, near Crianlarich
Tea/coffee from 10.00, Event starts 10.30

SRUC's Open Day on 18th August will focus on "Improving livestock health and welfare" and will involve presentations from farm and research staff based at the farms together with specialists from SAC Consulting's Veterinary Services, Moredun Research Institute and Edinburgh University.

For catering reasons please indicate an intent to attend by contacting SAC Consulting's Oban (01631 563093) or Stirling (01786 450964) offices. Please also provide them with any special dietary needs (vegetarian or gluten free).

Full details at: <https://www.facebook.com/SRUCkirkton>
2 miles north of Crianlarich. Please use the Auchtertyre/"Wigwams" entrance to access parking.

BLACKFACE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
SALE DATES 2016

EWE LAMBS AUGUST 26 Stirling (Cal) 26 Newcastleton	GIMMERS AND EWES SEPTEMBER 15 Ayr 16 Newton Stewart 20 Huntly 20 Forfar 21 Castle Douglas 22 Ayr 23 Newcastleton 23 Dalmally 24 Stirling (UA) 24 Dumfries 24 Loughash Farm 27 Oban 27 Kingussie 27 Lanark - uncrossed 28 Lanark - Crossed 28 Stirling (Cal) 28 Longtown 28 Thainstone 29 Hexham	7 Dingwall 7 Dumfries 11 Longtown 12 Lanark 13 St Boswells 21 Hexham RAMS OCTOBER 3 Ballymena 6 Newton Stewart 7 Dingwall 8 Stirling (UA) 10 Hexham 12 Oban 15 Dalmally 17 Castle Douglas 17 Portree 18 Longtown 20 Lanark - Shearlings 21 Lanark - Lambs	WETHER LAMBS AUGUST Weekly sales of store lambs held at all auctions SEPTEMBER 2 Dumfries Show 5 Stirling (Cal) Show 5 Stirling (UA) Show 6 Oban Show 7 Lanark show OCTOBER 13 St Boswells Show 18 Longtown Show	10 Dalmally show 16 Dingwall Show 20 Forfar Show 23 Fort William show 23 Hexham Show
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The Association is supported by Honda, Chanelle, Watson Seeds, 3R Energy and Border Toyota

For further information on the breed contact Aileen McFadzean Tel: 07768 820405
aileen@scottish-blackface.co.uk

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09 Nissan Qashqai Visia, 1.6, Silver, 67,500 Miles.....£5,950	
58 Citroen Berlingo 1.6, M-SP VTR 90, Silver, 76,250 Miles.....£3,750	
08 Renault Clio Campus, 1.2 5Dr, Silver, 56,000 Miles.....£2,350	
	15 Renault Traffic SL27 Business, DCI, White, 3900 Miles.....£12,500+VAT
	62 Renault Traffic LL29 Sport, DCI, Black, 122,000 Miles.....£7,250+VAT
	11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles.....£4,250+VAT
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Dacia Sandero Stepway = from **£8,395***



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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995.
Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCe 90 from £9,795.
Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995.
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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Model shown is a New 2008 SUV Allure 1.2L PureTech 110 S&S, with Ultimate Red Varnish from £18,360 OTR. On The Road price includes delivery to the Dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55 Government First Registration Fee. Specification featured in advertisement is model dependent. For full specification and pricing details visit peugeot.co.uk or contact your local Peugeot Dealer. Information correct at time of going to press.

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Refusing to go with the flow

Vacancy: Biological Performance Assistant

Details: Full Time, Permanent
Location: Flexible

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland, Cumbria and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together; we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are seeking a production focused, forward thinking, team member, with experience in the aquaculture industry, to take on a demanding role within our business.

Reporting directly to the Biological Controller, the responsibilities will be as follows:

- Analysis of historic fish performance to create optimum 'site specific' feeding plans
- Benchmark performance of sites, stocks and feeds
- Prepare KPI reports to monitor fish performance
- Liaise with site managers on feed plans and feeding strategies
- Ensure Fish Talk system is kept up to date at all times, checking accuracy of fish numbers, sizes, treatments, harvests, etc
- Assist Biological Controller in the below tasks;
 - o Administration of FishTalk
 - o Budget, production and harvest planning using Fish Talk software
 - o Month end reporting to finance department
 - o Training Site Managers on the use of FishTalk software
 - o Preparation of daily/weekly harvest planning.

The successful applicant will require the following:

- It is vital you understand the environment and all complexities that affect the regions in which we operate
- Superior administration and organisational skills
- Good communication skills
- Highly self-motivated
- Excellent attention to detail
- Good team player.

Strong interpersonal, communication and first class planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve are some of the key attributes required for this post. Applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel as required. Training will be provided to the right candidate.

In return for your commitment, hard work and dedication we offer excellent terms and conditions, including; competitive salary, bonus scheme, company pension, salary sacrifice schemes and generous holiday entitlement.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to vicci.laird@cookeaqua.com by 1000 hours on 19 August 2016.

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE

Care Home for the Elderly

Office Administrator

The North Argyll Eventide Home requires a dedicated individual to fill the post of Office Administrator in the Home with financial and some secretarial responsibilities. This is a permanent, flexible post, approximately 20 hours per week and remuneration will be £16,000 - £18,000 depending on experience. Ideally, the individual concerned should have a working knowledge of the SAGE accounting system, can work on their own, without supervision and also to have a close working relationship with the Manager and the Board of the Home.

Applicants for this position should e-mail the home at NAEHLtd@gmail.com with a copy of their CV and a covering letter. The closing date for applications is 8 August 2016.

Senior Care Officer: Full time position, 1 year fixed term contract to cover maternity leave.

Cook and Handyman: Part time temporary posts

For an application form and job description for either of these positions please contact Morag Telfer, manager, on 01631 562168



Rembrand Timber require an enthusiastic, motivated, hard working individual to fulfil the role of **Asst Manager** within their Oban Depot. This role involves a high level of customer service, to develop strong customer relations and deliver sales growth.

Previous merchant experience would be advantageous, but training will be provided. Please apply in writing with CV to Michael Higgins, Branch Manager, Rembrand Timber Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG, Or by email to oban@rembrandtimber.com



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D&J Campbell Limited HAULAGE CONTRACTOR

Office Manager

We are looking to recruit an Office Manager for our family run haulage company. You would cover a wide variety of duties including Sage Accounts, online banking, preparing wages, administration and being involved in the day to day running of the company. Good organisational skills, Sage experience and working in logistics would all be an advantage but not essential. Training would be given to the right person. Contact details; traffic@d-jcampbell.co.uk 01631 710882



Medical Receptionist required (Maternity cover) 16 to 22 hours per week

Taynuilt Medical Practice requires a medical receptionist to cover maternity leave. As the practice has three surgery sites at Connel, Taynuilt and Dalmally - transport is necessary. You will ideally have medical reception experience (although this is not essential) and be a team player. You are expected to have good communication skills and be able to work unsupervised. A good knowledge of IT would be an advantage. Please apply in writing with CV to Janice McGhee, Practice Manager, Connel Surgery, Connel, PA37 1PH or phone 01631 710229 for further information. Closing date 19th August 2016.

Little Learners' Nursery Oban requires the following full time staff:

Senior Practitioner

Salary £18,945.16

to work alongside the Nursery Manager and deputise in her absence. Applicants should be qualified to at least HNC/SVQ3 level in Early Education and Childcare and will be expected to work towards a BA in Childhood Practice.

Nursery Support Worker

salary £16,328.00

Applicants should be qualified to HNC or SVQ2/3 level in Childcare.

All applications must be made on the Argyll College application form, found at www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday 15th August



Due to the award of several long term contracts OES Ltd requires the following personnel:

Apprentice Electricians

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Electricians

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Recirculation Unit - Lochailort Hatchery Technician

Salary - £18,485 to £23,451 plus overtime/alarms payments

Due to the current incumbent moving to another post within the Company, a role now exists for a Hatchery Technician at our Recirculation Unit in Lochailort.

The role is focused upon care of the eggs prior to hatching and also effective fish husbandry of the fry and smolts. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who have some experience in freshwater operations; however this is not essential as full training and support would be provided.

The chosen applicant will be part of a large team so must be self-motivated and have good communication skills. Beyond the nature of the role, the post holder would be expected to undertake overtime as required in order to accommodate the business needs of the Unit and, for the same reason, would be part of the site Alarm Rota which would involve staying in the hatchery accommodation. The unit operates a one week on/off rota working between 10 and 12 hours per day.

A driving license is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 12th August 2016 to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX.

Clerical Assistant (Part-Time, Term-Time)

£14,964 - £15,858 pro-rata Dalmally Primary School Ref: CME00279
21.5 hours per week

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£18,431 - £19,581 Campbeltown Ref: CMC00573
☎ 01546 604334

Closing date for both posts: 19 August 2016. To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Argyll Bakeries, Campbeltown

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to work in a small factory environment. Experience preferred but not essential for anyone willing to train.

Contact Alex Russell on 01586 553635

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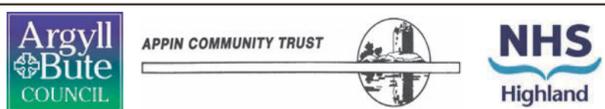
Care Assistants £7.30 - £8.25

Further details on all roles can be found in the careers section of our website www.mckenziecare.com

To apply, contact lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com or call Home Manager Jennifer Foote on 01631 720278.



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Appin and Lismore Community Care Scheme

Appin/Lismore

Community Care posts

Permanent contract, hours negotiable
£10.00 per hour

An exciting opportunity has been made available to develop a 'social enterprise' model of Home care provision for the communities of Appin and Lismore.

If you think you have the skills to provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in the community, we'd like to hear from you. We look after people in their own homes, helping them maintain their dignity and independence. To do this we provide our employees with the skills and training to deliver the best service possible.

The successful candidate will be part of a team delivering the local care at home services to the communities of Appin and Lismore.

Applicants must have excellent communication and caring skills, and have evidence of experience dealing with vulnerable adults, especially older people and in a caring capacity is essential.

Informal enquiries regarding this post can be made to Pamela MacLeod, Local Area Manager. Email: pamela.macleod@argyll-bute.gov.uk Telephone: 01631 789022

Application packs are available from:

Johanna Simpson, HR Assistant, Highland Home Carers Ltd, 3 Stadium Road, Inverness IV1 1FF

Tel: 01463 241196.

Alternatively application forms can be downloaded from our website: www.highland-home-carers.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 29th August 2016

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PIPING (SENIOR) Piobaireachd - 1 Angus J MacColl; 2 Ben Duncan; 3 Andrew Hall. March - 1 Andrew Hall; 2 Ben Duncan; 3 Bruce MacDonald.

PIPING (JUNIOR) March - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Megan Campbell; 3 Ben Fulford. Strathspey & Reel - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Ben Fulford.

HIGHLAND DANCING (OPEN) Adult (16+ Years) Highland Fling - 1 Lindsey Jones; 2 Aimee Sneddon. Sword Dance - 1 Lindsey Jones; 2 Aimee Sneddon.

Junior 2 (Up to 16 Years) Highland Fling - 1 Megan O'Donnell; 2 Anna MacKellaig; 3 Anne Hodges. Sword Dance - 1 Megan O'Donnell; 2 Tia Anderson; 3 Anna MacKellaig.

Local Junior 2 (Up to 16 Years) - Highland Fling - 1 Aimee Sneddon. Sword Dance - 1 Aimee Sneddon. Flora MacDonald's Fancy - 1 Aimee Sneddon.

HEAVY EVENTS (OPEN) Putting 16lb Ball - 1 Mitt Lenton 39'2"; 2 David Hart 37'8"; 3 Ray Siochowitz 32'9". Putting 22lb Ball - 1 David Hart 33'; 2 Mitt Lenton 29'7"; 3 Ray Siochowitz 29'.

Throwing 16lb Hammer - 1 David Hart 102'11"; 2 Ray Siochowitz 81'10"; 3 Donald MacDonald 63'5". Tossing the Caber - 1 David Hart; 2 Ray Siochowitz; 3 Donald MacDonald.

Local - Putting 16lb Ball - 1 David Hart 37'8"; 2 Donald MacDonald 29'2"; 3 Callum MacDonald 24'8". Putting 22lb Ball - 1 David Hart 33'; 2 Donald MacDonald 25'11"; 3 Callum MacDonald 25'.

TRACK AND FIELD (OPEN) - 100 yards - 1 Ross Douglas; 2 Matt Waterston; 3 Dean Whiteford. 200 yards - 1 Ross Douglas; 2 Dean Whiteford; 3 Ali Goodfellow.

CHILDRENS EVENTS - Boys (Under 6 Years) - 1 Donnie MacAskill; 2 Cailean Every; 3 Jase O'Hagan.

Girls (Under 6 Years) - 1 Madeif Vandervelde; 2 Sophie MacDonald; 3 Wren Davies. Boys (Under 9 Years) - 1 Abraham Mitchell; 2 Reuben Lewis; 3 Sandy Howard.

JUNIOR HIGHLAND GAMES - (8-12 Years) - Shot (Boys) - 1 Edward Clevee; 2 Charlie Henshall; 3 Josh. Shot (Girls) - 1 Hannah Hurd; 2 Summer; 3 Eva.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997. The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk...

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT Mrs Margaret Campbell Harper has registered the croft Nant Bank Grazings, Glenorchy & Innishail in the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT Wendy E MacGillivray has registered their croft Sheilfoot West, Sheilfoot (East End & West), Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

AMENDED REGISTRATION OF A CROFT Mrs Margaret Campbell Harper has amended the registered boundaries of the croft Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail in the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

west highland housing NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD will hold their AGM ON THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2016, at 6pm WHHA OFFICE, CRANNOG LANE, OBAN (FIRST FLOOR, BOARDROOM)

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORINGS, LOCHALINE, LOCH DRUMBUIE AND DRMININ BAY. Notice is hereby given that Mr Roderick James has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a single mooring at:

BREEDON BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY MONDAY 8TH & TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST BETWEEN 12PM-2PM

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Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot TRANSPORT SCOTLAND THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (FURNACE TO CUMLODDEN) (TEMPORARY 40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2016 THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have made the above Order, under section 88(1)(a) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(a), which will have the effect of imposing a 40mph speed limit on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from a point 1.242 kilometres or thereby south west of the extended centre line of the junction with the C36 Furnace Side Road to a point 130 metres or thereby south west of the point where it meets the extended western gable wall of Number 1 Cumlodden Cottages a distance of 1.558 kilometres or thereby.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll Bute COUNCIL To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid AREA COMMITTEE MEETING A MEETING OF THE OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE CORRAN HALLS, OBAN AT 10:30AM - WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2016

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT Carole Margaret MacDonald has registered her croft, 86 Lochyside, Kilmallie 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 April 22, 2017.

Scottish Field AUGUST ISSUE OUT NOW 100 things to do with the kids this summer. DAVID CAMERON'S SCOTTISH RAGS-TO-RICHES STORY Stunning conversion of an Applecross boat store Recipes from The Three Chimneys Borders belle Phamie Gow TOP 10 SCOTTISH FIELD'S BEST CARS OF THE YEAR WIN EDINBURGH GIN PRIZES PLUS TICKETS TO GALLOWAY COUNTRY FAIR www.scottishfield.co.uk

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HEAVY DUTY MINI BLOCK Splitter cuts standard 100mm x 200mm blocks. Compact with transportation roller, £50 Telephone 07769 717153.

CAR ACCESSORIES

GREEN VALLEY TREK heavy duty roof rack to fit roof rails, brand new, cost over £80 sell, £40 Telephone 07867 861957.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

GENTS DUBARRY KILDARE BOOTS as new, Size 10, £99 Telephone 01631 570998.

LADIES BARBOUR Size 10, lightweight ¾ coat and Barbour bag to match. As new, £70 Telephone 01631 570998.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GRAND REMOSKA (See Lakeland Catalogue) includes large cookery book, £40 Telephone 01546 600071 Lochgilphead.

DOMESTIC PETS

2 BEARDED COLLIE Cross bitch pups, black and white. 8 weeks old, £150 Telephone 01631 710261.

BOXER PUP 7 months old, brindle and white girl, £600 Telephone 07713 161741.

FURNITURE

DINING TABLE round table with four chairs, light wood, good condition, £60 Telephone 01631 570607.

DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS extending dining

table (oak) with 6 chairs. Good condition although seat pads may need recovering, L140cm, W90cm, £99 Telephone 01631 710787.

LEATHER CHAIR & STOOL Ex Mathesons soft leather dark brown swivel recliner with stool. Hardly used. Less than half price. Photo can be provided, £200 Telephone 07873 261056.

METALIC BED metal grey double bed excellent condition, £30 Telephone 01852 300154.

GARDEN

PLANTS FOR SALE large collection of plants, most named, large and small trees, fuchsias, shrubs, tree peony, and more, near Lochgilphead. Telephone 07756 507523.

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GARDEN CULTIVATOR electric, good condition, £20 Telephone 07769 717153.

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ELECTRIC FIRE flame effect electric fire with brass trim, very good condition, £25 Telephone 07920487939.

GAS FIRE Gazco Riva67 log effect "hole in wall" gas fire with remote and instructions, cost £800 new, £99 Telephone 07833 462186.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PATCHWORK & QUILTING good number of patchwork and quilting magazines, excellent conditions, full with patterns and designs, £1 each Telephone 01852 300154.

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue and Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

5.5"TV MONITOR Karaoke System, £60 Telephone 07900 441543.

SONY BRAVIA LCD TV 26" Colour TV, good condition and excellent working order. Including manual and remote control. Approx 6 yrs old, £30 Telephone 01880 821472.

HOME OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DESK excellent condition of large executive desk. 3 drawers right, 1 drawer+ filing drawer left side. Good for home or office, £65 Telephone 01852 300154.

HOUSE CLEARANCES

INDUSTRIAL TUMBLE DRYER Large industrial tumble dryer in full working order, had a new belt fitted recently, £80 Telephone 07899 915430.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

DISHWASHER Pro-Action dishwasher, excellent condition, hardly used. no need. Can deliver to Oban or near it, £99.99 Telephone 01852 300154.

SHOWER DOOR tempered class 2 panel sliding shower screen with etched pattern, size - open 80mm, closed - 45mm, height 125mm, fits left or right, all fittings included and swings through 180%, lovely condition, Dunollie Oban. £25 Telephone 01631 571106.

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PERSONALS

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DEATHS

BRODIE - (née MacDonald). Kathleen Joan suddenly but very peacefully at home on Tuesday July 26, 2016, aged 91 years. Beloved wife of Malcolm, dearly loved mother of Carole and Allan, mother-in-law to Yvonne and sister of Alastair, Marie, David and Robbie and the late Bill and Houston. Funeral Service was held at Killin Parish church on Tuesday August 2, 2016 at 1pm thereafter to Killin cemetery.

MACCALLUM - Suddenly on July 31, 2016. The Very Reverend Norman Donald MacCallum, aged 69 years. Beloved husband of Barbara, dear dad to Malcolm and Mairi, adored grandpa of Eilidh and Campbell. Brother to Archie and the late Anne. Funeral at St. John's Cathedral, Oban at 11am on Friday, August 5, thereafter to St. John's Church, Ballachulish at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Glasgow Children's Hospital (Yorkhill)/St. John's Hospital, Ward 19A, Livingston.

MACLENNAN - Peacefully, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, on Friday, July 29, 2016, after a long illness borne with courage and dignity, Mary, (née Livingstone), aged 54 years, beloved partner of Billy, much loved mum of David and Eilidh, dear sister, aunt, granny and friend to many. Funeral to be held at Ardchattan Kirk, North Connel, on Thursday, (today) August 4 at 1.00 p.m. Family flowers only please.

McKINNON - Isabel. Peacefully on August 1, 2016 at Meamskirk House, Newton Mearns. Isabel Kathleen McKinnon (née Seaton of Cally, Dunkeld), beloved wife of the late Hector of Sandaig, Tisee and much loved mother and grandmother. Will be sadly missed.

SOUTER - Peacefully at Graceland Nursing Home, Kilmarnock, on July 30, 2016, Mary Ann Souter née McBay, formerly of Dunbeg and Newmilns, Ayrshire. A much loved mum, gran, great-granny, friend and neighbour. Interment at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban on Friday, August 5 at 2pm.

WATSON - Iain Uilleam, 86, passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on July 12 at his home in Inverkip. Brother to Mairi Ishbel Reid and uncle to Morven and Shuna. The funeral will be held in Clydebank Dalnottar Crematorium at 11.30am on August 9. Everyone who knew Iain is welcome to come along and say goodbye.

YOUNG - At Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, on July 28, 2016, aged 61 years, Sandra, loving wife to Roddy, much loved mum to Andrena and Frances, a dear sister, aunt and friend to many.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACBRIDE - The family of the late Donald MacBride wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for all their support and kindness shown to them after the loss of Donald. Sincere thanks to Dr MacArthur and nurses from Tweeddale Surgery and the staff of Ward 3B Raigmore Hospital. A special thank you to Derrick McBride, Macmillan Nurse, the Marie Curies Nurses and Night Owl Service. Thanks also to Allan Smurthwaite, Celebrant, Humanist Society Scotland, for delivering an outstanding service and moving tribute to Donald, grateful thanks to Meg Corrigan and staff at the Railway Club, Inverloch for the lovely buffet and McDonald Bros for flowers, also Graham Buchanan piper and to all those who attended the service and kindly donated £407 for Macmillan Cancer Care and Marie Curie Nurses. The family wish to thank Scott Greenlees and John Flannigan and staff at John McLellan for all their care, compassion and kindness.

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - Graham and Kirsty. Such precious memories always held of Graham who passed away August 7, 2006 and Kirsty who passed away December 22, 2012. Together forever. Quietly remembered and so greatly missed.
- Alison, Rhuaidh, Katie and Coll

GUNN - In loving memory of a dear mother Cathie, who died August 5, 2003. Also remembering with much love dad John and brother Calum. Today, tomorrow our whole lives through We will always cherish our memories of you.
- The Gunn family.

MACGREGOR - With loving thoughts and in everlasting memory of Alasdair (Cherry) who died on August 2, 2015. 'Memories are forever'
- Isobel, Alastair and family.

MACGREGOR - In loving memory of our dear dad, papa and great-granpa Alexander (Cherry), who passed away on August 2, 2015. Devoted husband of Rhoda, who died on February 15, 2013. Loved and remembered every day.
- Linda, Kenneth, John and families

MACKENZIE - In memory of my daughter, Caroline, who passed away on July 20, 2015. Resting where no shadows fall.
- Ena and her half brother Giovanni (BSc).

MACLEAN - To my wife Eleanor who died August 6, 2004. If tears could build a stairway And memories a lane I'd go all the way to Heaven To have you back again.
- From Forbes and all the MacLean family.

STEELE - Precious memories of my dear son James who was taken from me so tragically on August 8, 2011.

It broke my heart to lose you But you did not go alone A part of me went with you The day God called you home. Loved and remembered every day
- Mum x

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grandpa, Bill, died August 5, 1999.

Gone but not forgotten.
- Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

GRADUATION



Diarmid MacKinnon
Graduated with BA (Hons) in Communication, Advertising & Public Relations at Edinburgh Napier University. Diarmid is the younger son of Gregor and Heather MacKinnon, Taynuilt and grandson of Ann, Taynuilt (formerly of Oban) and the late Donald Sutherland and also the late Flora and Gregor MacKinnon, Furnace. Diarmid is a former pupil of Taynuilt Primary School and Oban High School.



Mhari Galbraith
Graduated with B.A(Hons) in Finance from the University of Strathclyde. Daughter of Mary and the late Finlay Neil Galbraith, Fairlie. Granddaughter of Margaret and the late John Armour, Campbelltown also Archie and Annie Galbraith, Lochgilphead.



Shaun James Reardon
Graduated from the University of Abertay, Dundee with BSc (Hons) Forensic Science. Son of Caroline Reardon, Pulpit Drive, Oban and grandson of Margaret MacIntyre, Quarry Road, Oban and the late Ian MacIntyre, Dunollie, Oban. Shaun is a former pupil of St Columba's Primary and Oban High School. Shaun is continuing his studies at the University of Dundee in MSc Forensic Archeology and Anthropology.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Football

REGULAR pre-season visitors East Kilbride returned to Oban last Saturday afternoon where they and hosts Saints served up an entertaining goal-less draw in front of a healthy crowd at Glencruitten.

Injuries and holiday commitments forced manager Alex Craik to make five changes to the starting XI that had put five goals past St Anthony's a week earlier. The changes included a first start since the D&K Lafferty Cup tournament for David McArthur who lined up on the right of the back four alongside Willie Gemmell, Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland.

With Paul Kerr arriving late due to work commitments, the gaffer handed a starting role to Matthew Kelly where he joined Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell in the middle of the park.

Dean Smith returned to spearhead the attack, flanked by Fraser MacFarlane and Craig MacEwan. Alex named himself on the substitutes bench for the second week running with Jay Cooper and Paul Kerr making up the outfield options. The goalkeeping duties were once again shared between Thomas McCulloch, who started the match, and Graham Douglas, who would take over for the second half.

Saints were unable to exert the midfield domination they had enjoyed seven days previously with the visitors matching them stride for stride and creating by far the better opportunities to break the deadlock.

In the seventh minute Thomas

McCulloch produced the first of several high quality saves to keep the East Kilbride men at bay.

Craig MacEwan was having an interesting tussle with East Kilbride right back Callum McLean and got the better of the East Kilbride players' player of the year in the 20th minute. Tricking his way into the box, Craig delivered an early cross which was met spectacularly by Fraser MacFarlane whose overhead kick from 14 yards was blocked by the chest of Ryan Duffy before being thumped to safety by the big defender.

Thomas McCulloch was in action again in the 29th minute saving another effort from Matthew Gray, diving full length to his right to deny the East Kilbride midfielder.

Side netting

Saints edged closer to testing Scott Henderson in the East Kilbride goal with a good move on the left involving Scott Maitland and Matthew Kelly. Matthew picked out Fraser MacFarlane on the edge of the box and he beat Callum McLean, Graham Marshall and the right hand of keeper Henderson but only succeeded in finding the side netting of the East Kilbride goal.

Thomas McCulloch remained the busier of the goalkeepers and made the best of his first half saves in the 40th minute.

Saints ended the half on the front foot and won a set piece opportunity on the corner of the East Kilbride box to finally test Henderson in the visitors' goal. Donald Campbell lifted



Dene Cassells comes close with this header during the second half of last Saturday's pre-season friendly with East Kilbride. Photos and match report: Derek Black

the ball over the two-man wall towards the near post with Graham Marshall reacting quickest to head behind for a corner kick.

Fraser MacFarlane flighted a good ball into the six-yard box which Henderson, under pressure from Dean Smith, couldn't gather at the first attempt, eventually smothering the ball on his goal line surrounded by a forest of legs. Unfortunately, the big keeper injured his left knee in the process and limped from the field on Mr Scott's half-time whistle to be replaced by Graeme McMillan.

Saints also changed their goalkeeper for the second half with Douglas taking over from McCulloch.

Paul Kerr also made an appearance, replacing Fraser MacFarlane in a switch which brought about a change to a 4-4-2 formation.

It took fully 20 minutes for Saints to bring East Kilbride replacement keeper McMillan into the action from a long Graham Douglas clearance. Donald Campbell won the flick-on with Craig MacEwan and Paul Kerr combining well for Craig to send a ball into the box where Donald had continued his run. However, Graeme McMillan anticipated the danger and slid out to smother the ball at Donald's feet.

Saints then made their final change when young Jay Cooper came on the replace Dean Smith up front.

Saints' replacement keeper Graham Douglas received his first taste of the action in the 67th minute, turning a shot from Kyle Gatens around his left hand post after the East Kilbride substitute got the better of Willie Gemmell on the edge of the Saints box.



Two former Oban Saints stalwarts Davie MacLeod and Eric Smith cast a critical eye over the game.

Playing more centrally in the second half, Craig MacEwan adjusted well to his new position and in the 74th minute held up a Willie Gemmell pass long enough to release David McArthur on a rampaging run up the right touchline. David fired over a cross looking for Craig's run to the back post but Graeme McMillan intercepted the danger, clawing the ball behind for a corner kick.

Scott Maitland's out-swing from the Saints left found the head of McArthur who couldn't direct his effort on target, sending it two feet over the crossbar.

From McMillan's bye kick, the visitors moved swiftly to the other end where Graham Douglas produced his best moment of the match, springing to his right to finger-tip a Kyle Gatens drive behind for a corner.

Upped

Having looked decidedly flat for long periods of the second half, Saints finally upped their game for the closing 15 minutes.

Having forced a corner on the left, Jay Cooper was on hand to receive the ball short from Scott Maitland and sent over a dangerous cross which Dene



Saints' Scottish international full back Scott Maitland takes on East Kilbride's Callum McLean.

Cassells threw himself at, getting his header on target only to see Ryan Duffy head the ball off the goal line.

Saints rounded off the goal-mouth action with a good run through the inside right channel from Craig MacEwan who sent a low shot fizzing inches past Graeme McMillan's right hand post.

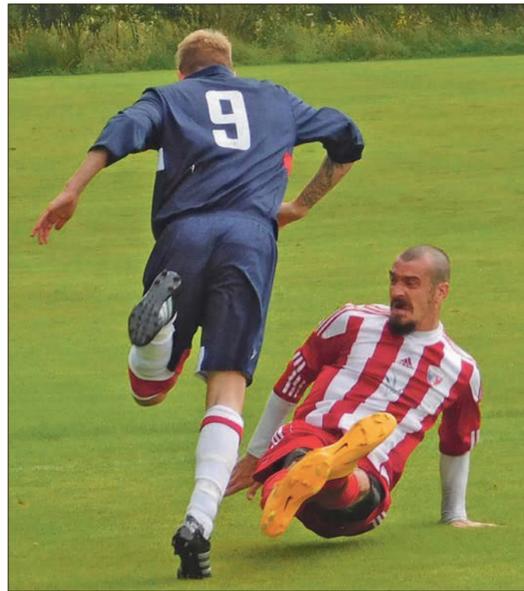
Referee John Scott, who handled proceedings well in his own inimitable style, brought a fairly even contest to an end with the visitors perhaps just shading a good contest for both teams.

Saints conclude their pre-sea-

son preparations on Saturday with a trip to Lochgilphead where they will defend the Argyll and Bute Cup in an eight-team tournament organised and hosted by Lochgilphead Red Star.

Alex Craik was happy with the workout. He said: 'That game was exactly what we needed. East Kilbride are an excellent side and it was a good workout for both teams.'

'We've had to chop and change personnel for all the pre-season games, which is not ideal, but at least it has given me a chance to have a good look at the squad.'



No way through for Saints striker Dean Smith as he is sent sprawling by this meaty challenge from Ryan Duffy.



Iona Trophy winners Pat Murphy, Nick MacLean and Duncan MacCall.

News from Oban Bowling Club

ON SUNDAY August 1, Oban Bowling Club members played for the Iona Trophy, which was won by Pat Murphy, Nick MacLean and Duncan MacCall.

Also this week, three Oban ladies were playing in the Scottish national competition in Ayr and

did very well to reach the semi-finals on Sunday morning and were rewarded with a bronze medal for their efforts.

Donna MacLean, Anne Campbell and Helen MacLean were beaten by the eventual winners of the competition, Muirhead and Birkhall.

Rally duo take on marathon for charity

Rallying

TOBERMORY'S Alasdair Currie and co-driver Steven Brown will run and cycle the stages of the 2016 Mull Rally. Both team members will cycle or run each road used for 'the best rally in the world' to fundraise for local charities. This totals some 53 miles each over the world renowned rally stages around the island, split into sections.

Currie and Brown currently compete in the British Rally Championship National Cup in a Peugeot 106 and hope to become class champions before returning home for the Mull Rally in October.

They have bagged two consecutive class wins this year and hope for greater success on the final two rounds in Ireland and the Isle of Man. As a team, they are determined, motivated and dedicated to make the best out of every plan.

Currie, 18, has a working career at sea and finds the RNLI to be a worthy cause close to his heart, and it's one he would love to help in any way possible. He said: 'The RNLI is a lifeline for anyone at sea and I believe we should do what we can to help. I spend most of my life at sea and thought this was an ideal opportunity to give something back. For someone who doesn't usually run or cycle, it sounds hard enough.'

Brown, 32, works as a GP in Kinlochleven through the week and on Mull some weekends. He said: 'I am aiming to raise funds and awareness for the Marie Curie team on Mull. They provide a key service supporting patients and families living with terminal illness on the island. It is invaluable to know they are there when I am treating the same patients through my work.'

The team welcome any support for either of their chosen charities through their Just Giving pages or by contacting them directly.



Alasdair Currie, right, pictured with Tobermory lifeboat coxwain David McHaffie, will run and cycle the stages of the Mull Rally to raise funds for the RNLI.



The youngsters who attended this year's national player development camp at Strathallan School. Photo: Graeme Hart

Young shinty stars shine at national player development camp

FROM Sunday until Thursday, July 17 to 21, 58 of the country's brightest young shinty prospects descended upon Strathallan School at Forgan-denny, Perthshire, for the 2016 national player development camp. Each player, aged between 14 and 17, had been nominated by their club to take part in the camp, designed to offer the very

best in the technical, tactical, physical and psychological aspects of the game. Throughout the week, the young players received specialist training from Camanachd Association coaches based on all the key skills and tactics of the game. Ex-shinty player and former Hearts footballer Donald Park, currently head

of coach education at the Scottish Football Association, attended one day to deliver a practical session and an inspiring talk to all the players and coaches. Scottish rugby's national under-18s coach and former performance development manager, Andy Henderson, also attended to deliver a fascinating

talk on the psychological side of the game to the budding shinty stars. Shinty development manager Ronald Ross commented: "The national player development camp has once again proved a great success. Since its inception over 19 years ago, the camp has helped hundreds of young players from across the country to improve

Youth shinty

all aspects of their game, from the technical to the physical elements of the sport. The camps are also a great way for the participants to meet other aspiring shinty players, forging ties and friendships throughout the sport."



Glencruitten

DAVID McCuish won the championship at Glencruitten on Saturday for the 18th time with a combined score over four rounds of 254. Cameron Milne was runner-up with a score of 263, and Phillip Murphy was in third place on 265.

James Muir won the George Smith Trophy with a total of 122, Steven Murphy and Alan McKie were second with a score of 123.

On Saturday, the Britannia Cup final takes place along with the Wilson Cup.



David McCuish.

Dalmally

WILLIE Dougal claimed his first silverware of the season with victory in the McLure Cup.

A superb net 57 included the notable feat of birdies at the famous Orchy Splash both times round, which will have the committee scurrying to the record books to see if this has ever been accomplished before.

Sharing second place were Martin O'Keefe and Jim Livingstone.

Other results: gents Strathorchy Trophy round one: 1 Gerry Davies (6) 67; 2 Billy McKay (8) 69; 3 Shaun Squire (8) 70.

Ladies Raglan Decanter (nine-hole net scores): 1 Janet Buchanan 31; 2 June Sutherland 34; 3 Lily McKay 36.

Fifteen three-man teams took part in the open team stableford: 1 Bandits Three, Dalmally Golf Club, 88; 2 Dalmally Rejects, Dalmally Golf Club, 87; 3 Inveraray Two, Inveraray Golf Club, 86.



Bandits Three: Dalmally captain Martin O'Keefe, Angus MacGillivray and Gary Wilson.

Tobermory

MEN'S section: third round of the Centenary Trophy: 1 Tim Gardiner 72-07-65; 2 Ewan MacCrone 74-08-66; 3 Paul Brown 75-07-68

Gents nine-hole stableford: 1 Calum MacLean 18 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone 18 points; 3 Paul Brown 17 points.

Ladies section: Glenys Clegg Trophy: 1 Jennifer Jack 36 points; 2 Olive Brown 22 points; 3 Rosalind Read 20 points.

Bob knocked out in the quarter-finals

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre was defending his Scottish Amateur Championship title last week. However, the 19-year-old from Glencruitten Golf Club was knocked out in the quarter-final.

Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre won the competition last year at Muirfield to become the first left-handed player in history to do so.

Replicate

However, the Glencruitten golfer couldn't replicate the feat at the Royal Aberdeen golf course and was knocked out by Alasdair McDougall from Edlerslie.

Bob won his first two rounds, but they were close-fought games. He then defeated Blair Dalglish in the third round by two holes with one still to play.

His fourth round victory came a little more comfortably as he won by four holes with two to

Rallying

play against Andrew Davidson of Charleton Members Golf Club.

Bob sailed through his fifth round game after building up an early lead against Graeme Robertson. In the end he won by four and three.

His quarter-final match was against Alasdair MacDougall, who almost didn't compete in the competition after he found himself in accident and emergency in Paisley on Friday night because of an abscess.

MacDougall will be glad that he didn't pull out as the Elderslie man maintained his lead throughout and won the game by four and three.

MacDougall then lost his semi-final match to the eventual winner George Duncan of Windyhill Golf Club.



Oban Lorne have been having record numbers at their training sessions.

Lorne take on Garioch in first pre-season fixture

OBAN Lorne will take on BT Caledonia Division 2 side Garioch RFC this Saturday at Glencruitten in the green machine's first pre-season match of 2016.

The visitors from Inverurie, just outside Aberdeen, will provide Oban Lorne with a difficult test ahead of the new season. Garioch, who are coached by former Glasgow Warriors, Doncaster Knights and Rotherham Titans professional player Stuart Corsar, finished third in Caledonia 2 last season and will be looking to challenge for the league title this campaign.

Oban Lorne coach Corrie Louw should have a strong squad to choose from for this week's game. This is despite the likelihood of missing twins Cammy and Struan Smith due to work commitments and Lorne MacLachlan, who suffered a broken hand at last week's training. The second row player is set to miss the first six weeks of the new season.

Confident

The men in green will be in a confident mood on Saturday as training numbers hit an almost record high of 40 players last

Rugby

Thursday evening. This includes 1st XV, Argyll and Bute, ladies and youth players who are all working hard to prepare for their own respective league campaigns.

Kick off time for this Saturday is still to be confirmed.

The club will be launching their new website in the next few days. Please keep an eye on the their Facebook page for more details.

Scotland women's provisional training squad announced

SCOTLAND women's head coach Stuart Reid has announced a provisional 30-player training squad ahead of this year's international.

The Scots will play Dublin in a shinty/camogie clash at the Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday October 22.

With one trial in Newtonmore already under their belt, the preparations continue and they include a North v South meeting at the end of September.

The squad consists of: Elizabeth McGregor, Badenoch and Strathspey; Taryn Neilson, Aberdeen; Sarah Jane Fergusson, Skye Camanachd;

Jeanette McGregor, Badenoch and Strathspey; Rachel McCafferty, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Laura McCafferty, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Alana McGarrie, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Caitlin MacLean, Skye Camanachd; Kirsty Deans, Badenoch and Strathspey; Lorna MacRae, Skye Camanachd; Niamh Donnelly, Aberdeen; Lyndsay Michie, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Laura Gallacher, Lovat; Emma Gordon, Skye Camanachd; Catriona Gibb, Skye Camanachd; Kathleen Cameron, Lochaber; Mairi Duncan, Lochaber; Rona Stewart, Badenoch and

Women's shinty

Strathspey; Christy Docherty, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Christina MacDonald, Skye Camanachd; Katy Smith, Aberdeen; Rhona McIntyre, Badenoch and Strathspey; Rachael Borthwick, Badenoch and Strathspey; Rhianna Kirk, Skye Camanachd; Roma Fraser, Badenoch and Strathspey; Zoe Smith, Fort William; Donna MacKenzie, Strathglass; Kathryn Moultrie, Aberdeen; Hannah Johnstone, Inverness; Katie Booth, Aberdeen.

Two holes-in-one at Taynuilt

Golf

GENTS open 2016, played Sunday July 31. Gross winners: 1 James Muir (Glencruitten GC) 62; 2 Alastair MacVicar (Glencruitten GC) 64; 3 David Howie (Taynuilt GC) 65.

Net winners: 1 Andy Ronald (Taynuilt GC) 55 (11); 2 Neil Mitchell (Taynuilt GC) 56 (22); 3 Mark Bergant (Taynuilt GC) 58 (14).

Two holes-in-one: Jonathan MacMillan (Glencruitten GC) at second hole; James Muir (Glencruitten GC) at 15th hole.

Longest drive at first and 10th: Andy Ronald (Taynuilt GC); nearest the pin at third

and 12th: Jonathan MacMillan (Glencruitten GC); nearest the pin at eighth and 17th: Alastair MacVicar (Glencruitten GC).



Prize-winners from the Taynuilt gents open.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A McGleish
Croft Avenue
Oban

C Duncan
Skeroblin
Campbeltown

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please 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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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Newtonmore win Sutherland Cup

NEWTONMORE'S second team won the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup, Tayforth reached the Bullough Cup Final, Kilmallie went top of Marine Harvest National Division and Oban Celtic enjoyed a derby win over Lochside Rovers following the shinty action on Saturday July 30.

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final

Newtonmore 6 Kingussie 0
Newtonmore's second team retained the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup with a 6-0 win over Kingussie's second team at the Dell on Saturday.

When these derby rivals won through to the final, they asked that rather than playing at a neutral venue, a toss of the coin decide home advantage to save their supporters travelling further afield. Kingussie called correctly and the Dell was in superb condition for junior shinty's showpiece occasion.

Newtonmore fielded a strong mixture of youth and experience. John MacKenzie continued in goal and there was a place for U17 forward Iain Robinson. They also fielded Cameron Binnie who had a fine game.

Kingussie were missing John Gibson so John MacLean started at full centre.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up as a mark of respect to Newtonmore stalwart Johnny Campbell who died during the week.

Kingussie may have been underdogs, but they almost took the lead when a Ruairidh Anderson shot hit the bar in the opening minutes.

Roddy Young also went close when he dragged a shot wide from the edge of the D before Duncan Gorman put Newtonmore ahead on 24 minutes.

A quick-fire Conor Jones brace on 34 and 35 minutes gave Newtonmore a comfortable 3-0 half-time lead.

Newtonmore had a grip of the midfield area, putting the Kingussie defence under constant pressure. Martin Hall made it 4-0 on 64 minutes and Iain Robinson added a fifth on 77 minutes.

Conor Jones, who gave Kingussie full back Rory Fraser a torrid time all afternoon, completed his hat-trick a minute from time.

More captain Cameron McNiven lifted shinty's top junior trophy to the delight of his team's supporters.

Archie Ritchie was the match referee.

Bullough Cup semi final

Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Tayforth 7

Tayforth reached the Bullough Cup Final after they defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds 7-1 at Yoker.

A Brendan Duggan hat-trick, two from Calum Barton and goals from Conor Sweeney and Hamish Anderson all counted for Tayforth with Angus MacInnes countering for GMA.

Ewen MacDonald was the match referee.

Tayforth will now play Kilmory in an all-Marine Harvest South Division 2 Bullough Cup Final on Saturday August 27.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Oban Camanachd 2 Skye Camanachd 2

Oban Camanachd missed the chance to go within a point of league leaders Newtonmore when they drew 2-2 with Skye Camanachd at Mossfield.

The sides drew 2-2 when they met at Pairc nan Laoch earlier in the season and both teams made a bright start in this one, playing at a high tempo on the immaculate Mossfield surface.

Oban took the early initiative with the game's first chance falling to Lorne Dickie, but he shot past the post on three minutes.

The home side went close again before Skye took a 14th minute lead. A shy from near the corner flag went over defender Gary McKerracher. The ball fell for Iain Nicolson in the 'D' and he sent the ball low into the net.

Oban immediately pushed for an equaliser and they were rewarded three minutes later when a ball played across the Skye defence found its way to Andrew McCuish who scored from 15 yards to make it 1-1.

Oban started to get the upper hand in midfield with Scott MacMillan in fine form.

Skye's Danny Morrison saw an effort saved by Gavin Stobbart and Jamie Gannon was called into action on 43 minutes when he made a great save with his stick to deny Lorne Dickie whilst also keeping out a Daniel MacVicar effort.

Skye edged ahead again on 52 minutes when Will Cowie's initial shot, following a good passing move, was saved by Gavin Stobbart but the ever-alert Jordan Murchison steered the rebound into the net from close-range taking a heavy challenge from Gary McKerracher in the process.

Oban pushed the Skye defence back and were rewarded three minutes later when Willie



Champagne flows as Newtonmore celebrate winning the Sutherland Cup. Photos: Neil Paterson

Neilson pounced to tap home a rebound to make it 2-2.

A Jordan Murchison rocket-shot was turned round the post by the stick of Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart.

Steven Morrison was outstanding in the Skye defence and had a great tussle with Scotland U17 forward Daniel MacVicar.

Oban Camanachd looked sure to take the lead for the first time in the match on 78 minutes. Skye keeper Gannon raced off his line to make an initial block from an Andrew McCuish shot.

The ball broke kindly for Oban and, with the goal unattended, substitute Chris MacLennan, on for Ally 'Spod' MacLeod, got back onto the goal line to brilliantly deflect McCuish's attempt from the rebound past the post with his stick.

With just eight minutes remaining, a neat move by the Skye forwards saw Iain Murray find Iain Nicolson on the left but his shot was saved by Gavin Stobbart.

Oban threw everything at the Skye defence late in the game and the islanders had goalie Jamie Gannon to thank for a fantastic save with his feet from what was almost the last hit of the ball.

Second-placed Oban Camanachd now move two points clear of third-placed Kinlochshiel. They are two points off top spot with leaders Newtonmore having two games in hand. This was Skye's seventh draw in ten league matches. They move up to eighth place in the table, ahead of Lochaber on goal difference, with the teams due to meet in in Portree in a fortnight. Next up for Skye is a trip to Blairbeg to play Glenurquhart.

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Newtonmore captain Cameron McNiven with the Sutherland Cup.

make it 2-1. GMA restored parity for a second time with a goal out of nothing on 75 minutes. Brian Slattery, encouraged by his earlier effort, floated a 40-yard shot goalwards which deceived keeper MacLachlan and dipped just under the bar to make it 2-2.

Inveraray had by now introduced Euan McMurdo and he showed he has plenty to offer with some direct shooting.

It looked as if the teams were heading for a share of the points until a minute from time when referee David Mitchell spotted a kick in the Inveraray goalmouth and consulted with the goal judge as to whether it was inside the 'D'.

After a brief discussion, the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Craig Anderson kept his cool to score and give his side both points.

It was a stop-start encounter which lacked fluency but GMA, who battled for everything and played well as a team, did just enough to win. Inveraray were flat in comparison to the team which beat Kyles a week earlier.

Inveraray drop to second place in the league, whilst fourth-placed GMA are just two points off leaders Kilmallie with a game in hand.

Caberfeidh 3 Bute 1

Third-placed Caberfeidh scored three times in the last 13 minutes to win 3-1 in their 3pm throw-up against Bute at Castle Leod.

Former Lovat player Duncan Davidson gave Bute the lead on 25 minutes with what was the only goal of the first half.

It stayed that way until 77 minutes when Gavin MacDonald scored to the relief of the home support.

Craig Morrison on 79 minutes and Blair Morrison on 85 minutes wrapped up the points for 'Cabers' to make it two wins out of two for new boss Jodi Gorski. Caberfeidh are just a point behind the top two in shinty's second tier.

Inverness 5 Ballachulish 2

Inverness recovered from losing two early goals to beat

Ballachulish 5-2 at Bught Park. It was a perfect day for shinty and Inverness, playing away from the town in the first half, attacked from the throw-up.

After the ball was quickly cleared upfield, Balla' full forward Lorne Brown took a touch before beating home keeper Allan MacLeod high to his left with a fine 20-yard strike with just a minute played.

Inverness went back on the offensive but, after eight minutes, Balla' full centre John MacDonald sent a long ball out of defence which caught out the Inverness rear-guard. Malcolm Watson cut in from the left and although his shot was saved with his feet by Allan MacLeod, Lorne Brown raced in to flick the rebound into the net to make it 2-0.

The home side continued to press and James Cameron and Davie Duncan both went close without hitting the target.

There were yellow cards for Inverness forward Charlie MacDonald and Balla' talisman John MacDonald in separate incidents as the visitors continued to do most of the defending. But Inverness lacked composure in front of goal.

Arran MacMaster drifted a 22-yard shot goalwards but Scotland U17 keeper Cameron Sutherland saved with his hand before clearing his lines.

Ballachulish almost went 3-0 ahead when, on the break, Lorne Brown played a perfectly weighted ball to Jack MacLean. But Allan MacLeod came quickly off his line to narrow the angle and the attempt bounced wide of the keeper's left post.

All the Inverness pressure finally paid off on 40 minutes when James Cameron forced home a ball from the right to make it 2-1 at the break.

Charlie MacDonald sent the ball high into the net to make it 2-2 a minute after the restart in a goal remarkably similar to Lorne Brown's opener.

Jack Craig came on for David Glass who was booked and had to leave field after a clash left with him with a cut head.

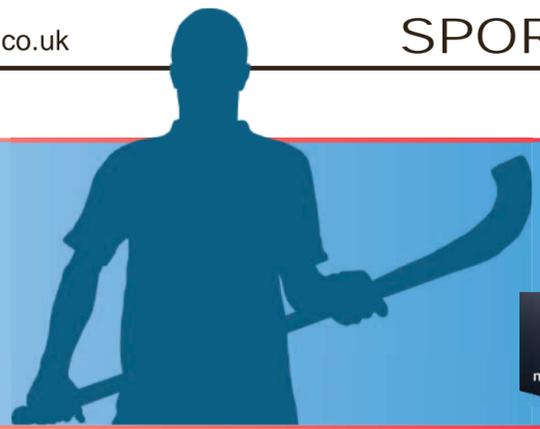
The substitute saw a shot deflected wide just a moment



Sixteen-year-old Ross MacLean, who made his senior debut for Ballachulish last Saturday, beats Daniel Palombo of Inverness to the ball. Photo: Donald Paterson.

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



after his appearance.

Inverness were now creating better chances and Charlie MacDonald found James Cameron, who made half a yard of space, before sending the ball just over the bar.

Inverness went in front for the first time from the penalty spot on 56 minutes. A mazy run from the dangerous Charlie MacDonald saw him cut in from the left. He beat three defenders before being chopped down inside the 'D' and James Cameron gave Cameron Sutherland no chance from the spot.

Referee Martin MacLean awarded the home side another penalty when Charlie MacDonald touched the ball to Chris Johnson who was pushed in the back inside the 'D'. This time, James Cameron's spot hit came back off the keeper's right post.

At the other end, Arran MacMaster played the ball long to Charlie MacDonald but Cameron Sutherland stretched to make a good save with his right foot.

Charlie MacDonald continued to torment the Balla' defence and, when he was tripped by Eoin Fyfe around the penalty spot, the Balla' defender was booked.

The roof fell in on Ballachulish a minute later when Eoin Fyfe was dismissed for a second yellow card following a swing inside the 'D' which caught a home forward. Charlie MacDonald converted the penalty to make it 4-2 with 69 minutes gone.

Inverness attacked from the restart and a super one-touch passing move left Jack Craig with the simplest of chances to roll the ball into an empty net to make it 5-2 with 20 minutes still to go.

With Drew Mcneil now playing as the spare man in defence, Inverness saw out the remainder of the match. The win means they climb above Bute into sixth place in the table although they have played a game more than the islanders. Ballachulish are two points worse off at the bottom of the table.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**

**Fort William 2
Strathglass 4**

League leaders Strathglass got back on their winning ways - following defeat to Newtonmore's second team a week earlier - by beating the Fort William's reserves 4-2 in their noon throw-up at An Aird.

Hamish Myers gave Strathglass a 35th minute lead with the only goal of the first half.

Ryan Boyle pulled Fort William level on 48 minutes but Darren Reid restored the Cannich side's advantage four minutes later.

Ryan Balharry on 75 minutes and Josh Fraser on 78 minutes made it 4-1 and although John MacLeod notched a second for Fort William to make it 4-2 10 minutes from time, Strathglass returned home with both points.

Strathglass extend their lead over the Newtonmore second team at the top of the table to four points. Newtonmore have three games in hand so the title destination is in their hands.

**Skye Camanachd 1
Glenurquhart 2**

The Glenurquhart reserves beat Skye Camanachd reserves 2-1 in their relegation battle at Paire nan Laoch, Portree.

James MacPherson put the Glen ahead after three minutes but Kenny MacLeod levelled on 15 minutes.

Daniel MacKintosh put the visitors back in front on 27 minutes. Skye pressed hard for a leveller in the second half but Glenurquhart took both points.

**Kinlochshiel 9
Lovat 1**

Kinlochshiel's second team overpowered an under-strength Lovat seconds 9-1 at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel won the match in the first half; handing out six of the best to the young,



A delighted Willie Neilson scores the second goal for Oban Camanachd in the 2-2 draw with Skye at Mossfield last Saturday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

less experienced Lovat defence before the break.

Sandy MacDiarmid turned his marker on five minutes and put the ball into the keeper's bottom right corner of the net to make it 1-0.

MacDiarmid got his and 'Shiel's second on nine minutes when he peeled away from his marker before slotting the ball past Ronan MacMillan in the Lovat goal.

Neil Fraser added a third on 14 minutes when he did well to turn James White before scoring with a fierce 20-yard shot, beating the keeper high at his right-hand post.

Steven Isles then ran down the 'Shiel left, getting past a couple of players, before driving the ball low into the corner of the net with 27 minutes played.

There was a touch of fortune to Kinlochshiel's fifth goal on 38 minutes.

The ball was crossed into the 'D' by Steven Isles. James Grieve tried to clear, but deflected the ball into his own goal.

Lovat pulled a goal back on 40 minutes when Martin Bell hit a looping ball over the 'Shiel defence. As the ball dropped into the 'D', Raymond Gillies tried to clear but the ball went under his feet as Cameron MacMillan set up Dylan MacCulloch who tapped the ball over the line.

Kinlochshiel made it 6-1 a minute before the break. Scott MacLean passed the ball to an unmarked Steven Isles, 15 yards from the Lovat goal, and he dispatched the ball high into the roof of the net.

Neil Fraser got his second goal on the hour mark when he fired home from 20 yards.

Fraser completed his hat-trick five minutes later when he went past his marker before flicking the ball beyond Lovat keeper MacMillan.

Kinlochshiel rounded off the 9-1 win when substitute Ross Fraser pounced on a rebound off the keeper to score.

There were good home performances from 'Shiel full centre Fraser MacVicar, Alasdair Nixon on the left wing and WD MacRae who was excellent, first at left back and then half forward.

Lovat captain James Grieve turned in a good performance at buckshee back.

The match was played in good spirits with no paperwork for referee John Angus Gillies.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**

**Oban Celtic 7
Lochside Rovers 1**

Lochside Rovers, Oban Camanachd's reserve side, having topped League Division 1, slip to third place after this heavy loss to local rivals Oban Celtic.

Lochside were without key players Daniel MacVicar and Ross MacMillan, both on first team duty, and long-term injured players Keith and Christopher MacMillan.

Celtic were without Rory Bruce, David Graham, Ewan MacCorquodale, Gerry Kilmurray, Fraser Macmillan, Lewis MacPhee and Alan Mckie. They welcomed John Hill back into defence.

Celtic made the stronger start and surged into a 3-0 lead by midway through the first half. Daniel Madej on three minutes, Neil Carmichael on 11 minutes and Ally McKerracher on 33 minutes did the damage.

Lochside got a goal back on 35 minutes through Michael MacQueen and they looked the better side as half time approached. Some good goal-keeping from Celtic's Stephen Davidson kept the score to 3-1 at half time.

The game was being played at a high pace with referee Lachie Woods applying common sense, although some players can count themselves lucky that he only flashed the yellow card a couple of times as the tempo increased in this feisty encounter. There was no further scoring and the more experienced Celtic were good value for their 3-1 half time lead.

Any thoughts Lochside had of a comeback were dashed when Iain MacKechnie scored in the first minute of the second half to end the game as a contest.

The impressive Daniel Madej completed his hat-trick with goals on 72 minutes and 88 minutes to make the final score 7-1.

For Celtic the prospect of playing in National Division 1 looms and will be a test of how far the team has progressed under team manager Kenny Watherspoon.

With two league games left, one against Aberdour who themselves have National League ambitions, Lochside will continue to give players from their under 17 team the

fitness after missing most of the season so far.

Aberdour started well but it was Inveraray who opened the scoring when a ball out of defence fell for an unmarked Andy Stewart who made it 1-0 after five minutes.

Angus Thorburn finished off a good passing move from the edge of the 'D' to make it 1-1 on 25 minutes.

The visitors went in front on 31 minutes when Angus Thorburn ran at the Inveraray defence before releasing the ball to Roddy MacColl just outside the 'D' and he made no mistake.

Inveraray ensured the sides would go into the interval level when Andy Stewart punished a miss-hit out of defence to make it 2-2 with 40 minutes gone.

Two goals in a hard-fought second half gave Aberdour the win. Angus Thorburn got his second on 65 minutes, whilst Roddy MacColl did like-wise to finally put Aberdour out of reach with five minutes remaining.

Second-placed Aberdour now only trail league leaders Oban Celtic on goal difference with both sides having four league games remaining.

**Col Glen 2
Glenorchy 0**

Two late goals gave Col Glen a 2-0 victory over Glenorchy at Glendrael.

Glenorchy had Duncan Smith free of a four-match suspension. The encounter was still at stalemate with just 15 minutes remaining when a cross from the wing came off a Glenorchy defender's stick and bounced in front of Scott MacVicar who smashed the ball into the back of the net to make it 1-0.

Jamie MacVicar sealed the win five minutes from time when a corner was expertly lobbed in towards him, with Scott MacVicar getting a touch on a visiting defender's caman to allow the ball to fall. Jamie MacVicar stopped the ball with his feet and finished nicely to make it 2-0.

**Kyles Athletic 0
Taynuilt 2**

Taynuilt moved off the bottom of the table when they beat the Kyles Athletic colts 2-0 at Tighnabruaich.

Both the goals came in the second half. Neil Gillies put Taynuilt in the lead on 52 minutes, whilst Neil MacFarlane made it 2-0 on 68 minutes.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**

**Lochcarron 7
Kilmallie 2**

Nick Dalgety inspired Lochcarron to a 7-2 victory over Kilmallie's second team at Battery Park.

Nick Dalgety got Lochcarron off to a good start with a goal after 10 minutes. Ross MacKenzie drew Kilmallie level on 26 minutes but a second from Nick Dalgety a minute later and a Sean MacCuish strike on 39 minutes had Lochcarron 3-1 to the good at the break.

Kilmallie's Donald MacRae took his side within a goal of the hosts with a strike on 63 minutes, only for Sean MacCuish to get his second to restore Lochcarron's two-goal advantage a couple of minutes later.

The rest of the match belonged to Nick Dalgety who took his haul to five goals, becoming the day's top shinty scorer, with efforts on 70, 84 and 89 minutes.

The win means Lochcarron close the gap on league leaders Aberdeen University to four points. Both sides have five league games to play.

**Glengarry 4
Lewis Camanachd 1**

Glengarry defeated Lewis Camanachd 4-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Craigard.

This was a return to his former hunting ground for Lewis Camanachd boss Duncan MacIntyre, a former Glengarry player.

Lewis were without Eoghan Stewart, Seumas Charity, Joseph MacInnes and Calum Ferguson who were all in Galway at Cholmcille 9.

James MacRae gave 'Garry the lead after 13 minutes when he sent a shot from distance high into the net following a corner.

Lewis tried to get back in the game but the home side forced a series of corners and it took some stout defending to stop 'Garry adding to their lead.

Lewis made a good start to the second half and Connor Chalmers and Kenny Murray went close before a goal on the break drew the visitors level. Paddy Sinclair fielded a Glengarry corner up field and Donald Lamont played the ball to Connor Chalmers who set up Kenny Murray to make it 1-1 with just three second half minutes played.

The goal jolted 'Garry and they went back in front a couple of minutes later courtesy of a Steven Cameron snap-shot.

Steven Cameron then surged forward from midfield and found James MacRae who got his second goal of the afternoon on the hour mark.

James MacRae completed his hat-trick on 65 minutes when a shot from just outside the penalty spot went high into the net to make it 4-1.

Glengarry are just a point behind fourth-placed Lochaber seconds but they have played three games more.

**Lochaber W/O v
Strathspey Camanachd**

The Lochaber second team were given a walk-over as Strathspey Camanachd were unable to raise a team for their meeting at Spean Bridge. Lochaber stay fourth in the league.

**Inverness P
Aberdeen University P**

The Inverness second team agreed to title favourites Aberdeen University's request to reschedule their meeting at Bught Park to a later date.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**

**Dunoon Camanachd P
Aberdour P**

The match between Dunoon Camanachd and the Aberdour second team was postponed as the Dunoon Stadium was ruled unplayable.

A report on the Scotland under 17s two-game trip to Ireland will appear in next week's edition.



Lochside goalkeeper Scott Buchanan can't stop this effort from Neil Carmichael hitting the back of the net. 17_132celticlochside03

Fixtures

Friday August 5

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron - 6pm

Saturday August 6

Marine Harvest Premiership
Fort William v Oban Caman
Archie Ritchie
Glenurquhart v Skye
Deek Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel
David Mitchell

**Marine Harvest
National Division**

Kilmallie v Glasgow MA
Robert Baxter

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**

Kingussie v Skye
Ronnie Campbell
Kinlochshiel v Fort William
John Angus Gillies

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**

Aberdour v Col Glen
Ross Brown
Glenorchy v Kyles Athletic
Scott McNeil

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**

Aberdeen Uni v Boleskine
John Matheson
Glengarry v Kilmallie
Callum Duff

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**

Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Alan Harrison
Kilmory v Aberdour
Iain Kennedy
Oban Lorn v Tayforth
John Wood

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated

**Womens Camanachd
Association**

Sunday August 7

**Marine Harvest
North Div 2**
Strathspey v Glengarry
noon throw up

**Marine Harvest
South Div 2**

Dunadd v Glasgow MA 2nds

Results

Saturday July 30

**Aberdeen Consine
Sutherland Cup Final**
Newtonmore 6-0 Kingussie

**Bullough Cup
Semi-Final**

Glasgow MA 1-7 Tayforth

**Marine Harvest
Premiership**

Fort William 1-2 Glenurquhart
Lovat 0-7 Kyles Athletic
Oban Camanachd 2-2 Skye

**Marine Harvest
National Division**

Beaulie 2-6 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 3-1 Bute
Inveraray 2-3 Glasgow MA
Inverness 5-2 Ballachulish

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1**

Skye 1-2 Glenurquhart
Fort William 2-4 Strathglass
Kinlochshiel 9-1 Lovat

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**

Col Glen 2-0 Glenorchy
Inveraray 2-4 Aberdour
Kyles Athletic 0-2 Taynuilt
Oban Celtic 7-1 Lochside

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**

Inverness P-P Aberdeen Uni
To be rescheduled
Glengarry 4-1 Lewis
Lochaber P-P Strathspey
Strathspey unable to field a team. Points to Lochaber
Lochcarron 7-2 Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2**

Dunoon P-P Aberdour
Field unavailable

Tunnock's take the biscuit with class win during yachting week

A WIN in class for West Highland Yachting Week major sponsor Boyd Tunnock CBE made a fitting start to the first day of the points series at this year's West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) that started on Saturday and runs until tomorrow.

His Moody 38 Lemerac revelled in the good 15-knot breeze to win by just five seconds from closest rival Shadowfax, the Beneteau 31.7 of Oban's Steven Forteith. Local boats took up good placings with Peter Watt's BB10 Vailla from Glencoe Boat Club finishing third, returning to WHYW after an absence of 11 years, and Graham Anderson of Oban Sailing Club finishing fourth in his Hanse 371 Lucky Ned Pepper.

The 88-strong WHYW fleet enjoyed good opening breezes with close-quarters competition for the Craobh race circumnavigating the Isle of Shuna in Loch Melfort.

Jack Aitken's First 36.7 Animal took the spoils in the Tunnock's spinnaker fleet Class 1 from Carmen II, with James Hardie of Oban racing his Grand Soleil 40 Taz third.

Danny Sinclair's Oceanis 45 Kalita was a dominant winner in Argyll Fleet restricted sail Class 2 from the Chalmers family on Sunrise. In white sail class 4, Bruce Johnston's Mystic Sun took the honours from the Sigma 33 Mayrise.

Only 10 seconds split the Moody 336's of Craig Anderson and team on Cool Bandit and

Yachting

John Corson's new Salamander XXII in a closely-fought Class 7. And the margin was even tighter in restricted sail Class 6 with two seconds separating Brian Wiseman's Sorr of Appin and Stephen Owen's Oceanis 361 Halcyon. Clyde-based Murray Caldwell secured Class 8 with a massive margin on corrected time with his Trapper 500 Oyster-catcher.

The fleet race from Craobh to Oban on Monday.

Results: Class 1 - 1 Animal; 2 Carmen II; 3 Taz. Class 2 - 1 Kalita; 2 Sunrise; 3 Ionara. Class 4 - 1 Mystic Sun; 2 Mayrise; 3 Valhalla of Ashton. Class 5 - 1 Lemerac; 2 Shadowfax; 3 Vailla. Class 6 - 1 Sorr of Appin; 2 Halcyon; 3 Reeveer. Class 7 - 1 Cool Bandit; 2 Salamander XXII; 3 Piecemaker. Class 9 - 1 Oyster-catcher; 2 Marisca; 3 Circe.

Feeder races

The Craobh to Oban feeder saw variable conditions for the 25-strong fleet through zephyrs to winds up to 15 knots with the faster boats managing to stay on the breeze for most of the 24-mile passage.

Much of the fleet became becalmed off Seil Island and it was a slow and frustrating effort to tack out west to find the wind again.

James Hardie's Grand Soleil 40 Taz of Oban Sailing Club secured the day's win from David Walter's Arcona 430



Boyd Tunnock's Moody 38 Lemerac took the honours on the first day of the points series during West Highland Yachting Week.

Photos: Graeme Cowan. Report: Alison Chadwick

Requiem and Gordon Lawson's J122 Moonstruck Too.

Nicholas Marshall's J92 Satisfaction won the Gigha to Craobh race from Meka II, the Sigma 33 of Jim Shields and Hamish Jackson's Elan 33 Hoo-Ha.

Lack of wind delays racing

COMPETITORS in this year's West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) fleet had to contend with a three-hour delay to racing on day two of the five-day points series that runs until tomorrow (Friday).

After a wait off Craobh for wind, the joint regatta committee took the fleet north to start off Easdale for the Owen Sails-sponsored Craobh to Oban race. The Tunnock's fleet flew kites in the light breeze past the turning mark carrying them right to the leeward mark before a short fetch finish. It was an excellent race for the Contessa 25 Popcorn of the Fyfe family from Lochaber, which took line honours as well as the Class 8 win by four minutes.

Boyd Tunnock CBE made it a double with his Lemerac team when he lifted the silverware in Class 5 from Sea Pie of Cultra and the BB 10 Vailla with only 27 seconds between the three yachts. In Class 1, Beppo Buchanan Smith's Enigma took the win from Jack Aitken's Animal with Carmen II in third.

The Chalmers on their Sigma 400 Sunrise took a strong lead to win Class 2 by nine minutes on corrected time with Alistair Torbet's Spirit of May second. And WHYW stalwart Donald

MacLaren and family took a podium lead in Class 4 on Sigmatic by less than a minute from Busy Beaver, with Oban boat Ajax third.

David Cooper's Dehler 34 Suilven from Glencoe Boat Club and helmed by Twig Olsen won restricted sail Class 6 from Campbeltown's Judy Orr in Eureka.

Class 1: 1 Enigma; 2 Animal; 3 Carmen. Class 2: 1 Sunrise; 2 Spirit of May; 3 Thornoxon. Class 4: 1 Sigmatic; 2 Busy Beaver; 3 Ajax. Class 5: 1 Lemerac; 2 Sea Pie of Cultra; 3 Vailla 1st and third 27 secs.

Class 6: 1 Suilven; 2 Eureka; 3 Reeveer. Class 7: 1 Cool Bandit; 2 Piecemaker; 3 Ce Na Ri.

Class 8: 1 Popcorn; 2 Hot Toddy; 3 Oyster-catcher.

Full results on www.whyw.co.uk. www.facebook.com/WestHighlandYachtingWeek.

West Highland Yachting Week 2016 is sponsored and supported by Tunnock's, Argyll and Bute Council, Tobermory Harbour Association, MalinWaters, Owen Sails, GaelForce Marine Equipment, Dunstaffnage Marina and West Coast Motors.

Brothers to represent Scotland



Finbar and Paddy Dunne will represent Scotland at the Celtic Games in Swansea.

Athletics

SCOTTISH Athletics this week announced their national team for the Celtic Games in Swansea on Saturday.

Brothers Paddy and Finbar Dunne have both been selected to represent their country at this event.

Paddy has been chosen for the men's under-18 javelin competition and Finbar has been selected for the boys' under-16 discus.

Only one athlete per event is chosen and the recent success of both boys this season has earned them a place on the team.

This is a fantastic opportunity and gives all athletes involved the chance to compete at international level in their teens.

For Paddy, this follows on from representing Scotland at the schools international in Kent earlier in July when he won a bronze medal. Both boys also took part in the youth games in Gothenburg at the end of June, with Finbar coming home with a bronze medal.

The boys will be travelling to Swansea this week with the national team, accompanied by Inverness Harriers lead throws coach Duncan Flockhart, who has been appointed throws coach to the national team.



Oban Sailing Club's Shadowfax, owned by Steven Forteith, finished five seconds behind winner Lemerac.

Free Parkrun from Ganavan to Dunbeg

5k event

A FREE weekly 5km 'Parkrun' from Ganavan Sands to Dunbeg will launch on August 20.

Parkrun, an international initiative, delivers parkland runs at around 800 locations in 11 countries every weekend, with more than two million registered runners worldwide. They are co-ordinated by local volunteers, and are open to runners, joggers and walkers of all abilities.

The Ganavan Sands Parkrun will start at 9.30am every Saturday, and be timed so runners can view their results. The aim of the runs, explains event director Doreen Henderson, is to improve health, fitness and wellbeing. 'It's not a race,' she said. 'We want to encourage people from all walks of life to participate in a timed run.'

Ms Henderson thanked sponsors for funding the £3,000 start-up costs, including the charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD), Oban Common Good Fund, West Highland Housing Association and Scottish Sea Farms, as well as Dunstaffnage Estate for letting runners use the path on their land.

Participants can register online on the Parkrun website, via the Ganavan Sands Parkrun page, and will be issued with a bar code, which they will need to bring with them to be timed on the day.

Oban under-14s get ready for tournament

Youth football

OBAN Saints Football Club's youth section are holding their annual under-14 tournament on Sunday and are again grateful to Oban Joinery Services for sponsoring the event which kicks off at Glen 1 and 2 at 10.15am.

Teams taking part are holders Hamilton Accies, St Johnstone, Dumbarton, Queens Park, Fort William and hosts Oban Saints.

This year Ken Macdonald of the local branch of Specsavers has agreed to sponsor the fees for the tournament referees, which is much appreciated by the club.

Argyll and Bute Cup tournament

THE annual Argyll and Bute Cup tournament for senior teams will take place in Lochgilphead on Saturday.

Cup holders Oban Saints have been drawn in section two alongside Glasgow Islay, Dunoon and Tarbert.

Section one comprises host club Lochgilphead Red Star, Rothesay Brandane, Kilchoman Islay and Carradale.

The tournament gets under way at 10am at the Ropework Park and on the 3G pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

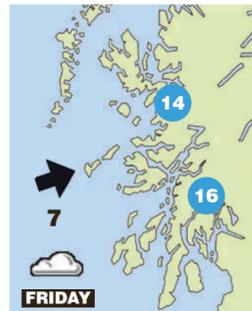
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WEATHER

Thursday	Cloudy with light rain showers Winds moderate north north westerly Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.
Friday	Cloudy with sunny periods Winds light west south westerly Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.
Weekend Outlook	Light rain showers on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate westerly Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 4, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am					pm						
Thur	00.45	0.8	06.37	3.9	12.46	0.6	18.41	4.0	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.24	0.9	07.10	3.8	13.24	0.7	19.16	4.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.02	1.0	07.43	3.8	14.00	0.8	19.49	3.9	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.37	1.1	08.14	3.6	14.35	1.0	20.21	3.7	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.13	1.3	08.46	3.5	15.12	1.2	20.54	3.5	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.50	1.5	09.22	3.3	15.52	1.4	21.29	3.3				
Wed	04.34	1.7	10.04	3.1	16.37	1.7	22.09	3.1				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times

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Thursday 4 August, 2016

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Late father's gift makes wedding extra special

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3250

Call for more action at road crash blackspot

MONICA GIBSON
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Mags Stewart's car after incident between Onich and Corran Ferry on July 27.

RESURFACING work on a 'notorious' stretch of road in Lochaber is being welcomed, but locals want more done.

Concern regarding the road between Onich and Fort William has intensified in the past week after three cars came off the road within 24 hours.

Mags Stewart from Fort William was involved in one of the incidents and, while she wasn't seriously injured, she took to social media to warn others of the dangers of the road.

Following a second crash at the same spot, she questioned whether BEAR Scotland, which is in charge of trunk road maintenance, could say the accidents were all down to driver error and pleaded for something to be done.

A BEAR Scotland spokeswoman said it takes trunk road safety extremely seriously.

She said: 'After being made aware of the incidents on Wednesday last week (July 27) between Onich and Corran Ferry, a team was on site within hours assessing the area for any obvious problems. Although no visible evidence was found of the possible cause of the incidents, such as an oil spill, slippery road signs were erected and we immediately programmed a grip-testing survey of the area for the next day. Following the outcomes of the survey and discussion with

Transport Scotland, we will re-texture the road's surface to improve grip on the bend concerned and have arranged for the work to be done on Wednesday this week.'

Stewart MacLean from the A82 Partnership said: 'We are happy with this update but we are still very unhappy with the state of the road.'

With regards to reports suggesting the A82 between Glasgow and Fort William was the fourth most dangerous stretch of road in Scotland, he said: 'I'm not surprised. It works out about an accident every 19 days.'

Transport Scotland published a Road Safety Framework review in 2016. They also confirmed a total of 17 fatalities on the A82 and 54 seriously injured between 2013 and 2015. A spokeswoman from the company said: 'Any suggestion of ranking roads in Scotland according to headline accident numbers is inappropriate and ill-informed as these figures take no account of the differing road lengths

or the volumes of traffic using each route. We work closely with Police Scotland and our operating companies both to minimise the extent of any delay and ensure diversion routes are well sign-posted.'

Mr MacLean said the two main stretches the partnership is concerned with are from Tarbert to Inverarnan and Onich to Fort William.

He added: 'There were three accidents in just one day so it's clear something had to be done. There has to be responsibility from drivers too.'

Road users and members of the A82 Roadwatch page on Facebook were divided on where the main responsibility lies. Some commented that they had also had 'close calls' on that stretch of road.

However, Jean Graham said: 'Roads are not dangerous. It's the idiots on them that have no patience and go too fast.'

Davie Kerr wrote: 'I agree with the comments which say the problem is not with the roads; the problem is with the drivers who drive badly on them. While I agree there are some stretches of the A82 that do need improving - Tarbet to Inverarnan immediately comes to mind - simply because they haven't been modernised to keep up with the bigger and faster vehicles that now use them, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the A82 that slowing down a bit wouldn't cure.'



David in action at Arisaig Games.

David's winning ways at Arisaig games

FORT William's David Hart came out on top at the 80th Arisaig Highland Games and Clan Ranald Gathering, taking home a number of first prizes and three trophies.

David won the 22lb shotput competition, throwing weight for distance, the hammer throw, the caber toss and weight over the bar. He fought off stiff competition in the open

events to take home the Arisaig Games, Allan MacDonald and Creag Mhor Caber trophies. David also took home the Whitehead trophy after winning all the local heavyweight events.

The sun came out for the afternoon events and more than 2,000 visitors from all over the world turned out to watch the games last Wednesday, July 27.

TIMESLINE

Estate buyout plan meetings

MEETINGS to discuss the potential buyout of the Rio Tinto estate will take place next week.

Hosted by East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust, the first meeting will take place in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church Hall on Monday August 8, then Kinlochleven High School Theatre on Tuesday, Caol Community Centre on Wednesday and Kilmallie Community Centre on Thursday. All meetings start at 7pm.

Work starts on affordable homes

WORK has started on a £1.6 million project to transform a former medical centre in Fort William into rented homes.

The Highland Council has teamed up with Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) to provide 13 new affordable houses on the site of the former Belhaven Ward.

Five wheelchair-accessible bungalows will be rented to tenants by the Highland Council, while LHA will rent out eight flats.

Government post for former pupil

NEW PRIME Minister Theresa May has appointed former Lochaber High School pupil John Godfrey as director of policy. Other former pupils who have served in parliament are the late Charles Kennedy, former leader of the Lib-Dems, and Fiona O'Donnell, who went on to become a Labour MP for Lothian.



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Man accused of attempted murders remanded following Crown appeal

A FORT William man accused of two attempted murders with a chainsaw has been remanded in custody despite being bailed by a sheriff at Inverness court last Thursday. James Macdonald, 48, was granted bail by Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood when he appeared in private on petition in Inverness on Thursday July 28.

Prosecutors appealed the sheriff's decision to free him on bail and he was remanded in custody until the next day when he was due to appear in Edinburgh appeal court.

The Edinburgh court granted the Crown's appeal on Friday July 29 and Macdonald will remain in custody until his next appearance, the date of which is still to be confirmed.

He was represented by Fort William defence lawyer Hamish Melrose.

Macdonald is accused of assaulting Flora MacPherson, 63, and Raymond MacPherson, 73, with a chainsaw on Tuesday July 19, causing severe injury to both.

Mr MacPherson's arm was badly damaged in the incident

at their home, 78 Glenkingie Street, Caol.

In addition to the two charges of attempted murder, Macdonald also faces a breach of the peace charge.

Flora MacPherson was due to appear at Inverness sheriff court on Friday July 29.

MacPherson is facing three charges of embezzlement, fraud and theft.

A further hearing date was set for September 23 in Inverness. Her trial is to be in Fort William sheriff court the week commencing Monday October 17.

Final old time dance weekend

OLD TIME Dancing is to hold its last dance weekend in Kilmallie Community Centre this Friday and Saturday.

On Friday there will be music from the Ian Cruickshank Dance Band from 8pm till midnight and on Saturday from 10am till noon there will be a dance workshop.

The dance weekends have raised thousands of pounds for charity over the years and this year all the money raised will go to Marie Curie.

The weekly class will continue and Old Time Dancing hope to have an occasional one-off dance.

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Artie Trezise formally of the Singing Kettle will be performing his new show Artie's Tartan Tales. He will be telling stories getting our younger audience to join in and might even sing a few songs too.
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Sammy Cameron, who had a heart attack 24 years ago, is taking on a cycle challenge this weekend.

Cyclists put their hearts into challenge

HEART attack survivors are cycling from Oban to Fort William to raise awareness of the condition and help fund a local support group.

Members and friends of HeartSmart Lochaber will face the challenge this Sunday, August 7.

The group was founded by the late Dr Gavin Brown, who came to the Belford Hospital in Fort William in 1983.

Today, HeartSmart Lochaber is still going strong but as a self-help, non-funded group which relies solely on fundraising and donations.

To boost funds, several of the group's members, most of whom have or have had heart problems will take on the 44-mile cycle.

Sammy Cameron, group chairman, said: 'I had a heart attack 24 years ago and I am hoping to complete the cycle.'

'Any donations will be very welcome and will go towards the cost of hall rent, exercise equipment and other essentials.'

'Donations can be given to any member of HeartSmart or can be handed in to Sammy's Chip Shop in Caol.'

'We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Caol Community Centre and we welcome anyone who has or has had a heart-related condition.'

Newsdesks

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Late father's gift makes wedding extra special

A FATHER who died just months before his daughter's wedding was still 'there in spirit' on the big day – thanks to a special gift.

Mary Ellen Campbell, from Stronaba, married Piers, (known as Joe) Campbell in Roy Bridge last month. After the service, Mary Ellen presented her new husband with one of two crooks made by her father.

He had given the crooks to her years earlier and had told her this particular pair was special.

Mary Ellen said: 'If you look at the crooks closely, you can see certain markings on both of them. I remember my dad giving them to me years before I was even thinking about getting married. He said they were unusual because they came from the same sheep – it

would have been a blackfaced one – so he wanted me to have them and I was to give one to my husband.'

Sadly, Mr Campbell died in May, aged 86.

Mary Ellen added: 'I wanted to have them with me because I wanted my dad to be with me on the day. He was there in spirit. Even though I had beautiful shoes on for the ceremony I took them off and put on my leather wellies afterwards. I meant to change them but I got waylaid meeting everyone and they were comfy so that was me in my dress and wellies for the rest of the night.'

'My husband and his dad like to work with wood so there were handmade bowls on the tables. I loved it and I'm sure my dad would have done as well.'



Mary Ellen and Piers with the special crooks which played a big part in their wedding day.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Rail call centre 'completely incompetent', says woman

ELLIE FORBES

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“ He would have been better off cycling to Glasgow ”

Janice Strachan

A CORPACH woman has been left outraged after ScotRail's 'complete incompetence' meant her husband was late for a get-together with friends in Glasgow.

Janice Strachan's husband was heading to Glasgow for a long weekend last Friday, July 29, to meet friends he hadn't seen for more than six months.

Mr Strachan had booked a ticket for the 11.21am train from Corpach to Glasgow Queen Street. Following recent train strikes, his wife examined ScotRail's website around 10.55am to double check the train was still on schedule.

Mrs Strachan told *The Oban Times*: 'I checked online because ScotRail had advised to check during the strikes. The train he was meant to be getting wasn't showing up on the website.'

Concerned the train wasn't running, she called ScotRail. 'The first number I called

was from ScotRail's website and I was transferred to three different departments. I was first told it had been cancelled because of staff shortages and then someone else told me the train was running but that it was only going from Fort William station, not Corpach.

'I was pushed from pillar to post for more than 45 minutes so it was too late to try to get into Fort William to get it.'

'My husband is absolutely gutted – his weekend was been ruined. He took two days off work – Friday July 29 and

Monday August 1 – to go and meet his friends.'

Mrs Strachan said her husband had chosen to travel by train as he was taking an expensive bike with him to Glasgow and did not want to put it in the hold of a bus in case it was damaged.

She continued: 'We were then told he could have got the train to Crianlarich and then a bus from there, but if he wanted to get a bus, he would have booked a bus. He got the train for his bike and they didn't even tell us at the time of the booking that he would have to get a bus from Crianlarich.'

'They then told me he could get the train to Crianlarich, get off and press the help button to see what would happen.'

'Why would anyone travel all that way to just see what happens?'

'He would have been better off cycling to Glasgow.'

'They are totally unreliable. It is through their complete incompetence that my husband missed the train. If they

had told me the correct information to begin with, he would have never missed it.'

Mrs Strachan expressed her frustration at ScotRail's refusal to take responsibility for the missed train: 'No one at ScotRail is accepting responsibility and no one was willing to help me.'

'They could have offered to arrange alternative transport for him – they should have organised a taxi from Corpach to Glasgow for him. We want compensation.'

A ScotRail spokesman said: 'The 10.10 Mallaig to Glasgow Queen Street service on Friday July 29 had to be terminated at Crianlarich because of a shortage of train crew.'

'The misinformation the customer was provided with came from a call made to national rail inquiries which advised that the service was cancelled, not partially cancelled from Crianlarich onward with alternative transport being provided.'

'The customer then contacted ScotRail's customer relations

department to complain about the cancellation, which is when she was advised of the correct information regarding the train running.'

'We're always concerned to hear that a customer's plans have been disrupted due to a cancellation. We do everything possible to alert travellers as soon as we know of any chance to the service. We did so on this occasion through our website, journey check and our mobile app.'

Talking to *The Oban Times* on Monday, Mrs Strachan said: 'I ended up talking to someone from ScotRail on Facebook and we found out that his ticket would be valid for the later train just after 5pm. So he got the train in the end. However, the booking for his bike was not valid on that service so he had to take a gamble on whether it would get on and luckily it did.'

'They need to sort their call centre out. If someone from the company tells you the train is cancelled, you're going to believe them.'

POLICE FILES

SOMETIME between Friday July 15 and Sunday July 24 thieves broke into a bunkhouse in Glen Etive and stole tools.

Anyone with any information should contact police on 101.

ON MONDAY July 25, a men's Trek Remedy 8 mountain bike was stolen from Lochaber Leisure Centre.

The theft follows reports of other high value cycles being taken in Oban and Crianlarich. Police are investigating whether these are linked and appeal to cyclists to ensure their bikes are secured when not in use.

POLICE Scotland are urging the public to be vigilant after skimming devices were found on cash machines in Mallaig.

Anyone who finds a suspicious device or has any information regarding suspicious activity around cash machines should contact Police Scotland on 101 or speak to any officer.

IN THE early hours of Sunday July 31, Kilmallie Community Centre was broken into and items stolen.

MEMBERS of the public are being warned to be aware of bogus callers, especially those offering tarring services.

ANYONE with information regarding any of the above is urged to contact police on 101.

Hot showers at remote hostel

FOR THE first time in 85 years, a remote Highland youth hostel can provide hot showers.

Loch Ossian Youth Hostel, on Rannoch Moor, has connected to a hydro scheme and upgraded its services. The hostel now has a fridge, electric heaters and full laundry services meaning all bed linen is now provided by SYHA.

One of Scotland's most remote hostels, it's only accessible by catching a train to Corroor Station, the highest mainline railway in the UK.

Jan Robinson, Loch Ossian manager, said: 'We are excited to be connected to hydro power generated locally on the Corroor Estate. We are as 'green' as ever. We have been able to upgrade our facilities, offering our guests much more comfort, especially hot showers.'



VAL manager Flora McKee presents members of Kilmallie Community Centre Committee with their Keystone Award. Left to right: secretary Norma MacLellan, director Ellen Smith, director James Smith, Flora and treasurer Sarah Kennedy. 21_F32_KCCaward 01

Kilmallie centre volunteers celebrate achieving prestigious quality award

THE COMMITTEE of Kilmallie Community Centre has been celebrating achieving a Keystone award.

Flora McKee, manager of Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL), presented the committee with the award on Friday July 29.

Keystone is a quality award and management toolkit for people who manage community buildings and Kilmallie Community Centre is one of the first halls in the Highlands to achieve it.

To achieve the award, the committee built up a portfolio of documentation that they follow the correct policies across six key areas: governance, managing people, managing money, managing resources, working with users and legislation and regulation.

Mrs McKee said: 'I'm delighted to present this award to Kilmallie Community Centre committee. It reflects the hard work and commitment of the volunteers who run this centre for the benefit of their community. They should be rightly proud of their achievements.'

James Smith, director of Kilmallie Community Centre, received the award on behalf of the

centre. He said: 'We are very happy to receive this award. We are very grateful for the support from Voluntary Action Lochaber, in particular Margaret Boyd, for all her help.'

Committee treasurer Sarah Kennedy added: 'After a lot of hard work and liaising with VAL, we are delighted to receive this Keystone award.'

She told *The Oban Times* this involved keeping accurate records of meetings, having clear aims, maintaining the building and managing staff and volunteers effectively. Mrs Kennedy added: 'I'm pleased so many people showed up to see us receive the award.'

Margaret Boyd accompanied Mrs McKee at the celebration event. She said: 'Congratulations to the committee. They have shown they manage the centre well for the benefit of the whole community.'

The centre currently has 62 members but they are looking for more people to help out, particularly with the community garden which has become overgrown. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the centre on 01397 712663 or any committee members.

Nevis Range staff say bye to Willie

STAFF at Nevis Range have said goodbye to one of their longest-serving members of staff.

Willie Anderson, 68, closed the door on a big chapter of his life on Thursday July 28 after working at Nevis Range for more than 27 years.

Mr Anderson moved to Fort William around 1969/1970 and became a mountain rescue volunteer, something he did for 45 years. He said: 'I'm a climber myself, so it was good to help people who were stuck up the mountains.'

One of the original employees at Nevis Range, Mr Anderson dug the first hole for the pylons which now carry the gondolas up the mountain. He said: 'I am a painter and decorator by trade and that's what I was employed as when I started. But I began doing maintenance work and engineering – I dug the first hole for the pylons that carry the gondolas. I used to be up the towers there too. It was one of those jobs where you did a bit of everything.'

Mr Anderson has four children, two boys and two girls, and eight grandchildren. He lives in Caol with his partner Jane. 'I always said I would retire before I was 69, and my birthday is next week, so I just made it.' His plans for retirement are to stay active and keep busy. 'Apart from doing the housework, I'll be gardening, fishing and hopefully climbing. I just got myself two new knees, so I will be trying to do some easy routes.'

Mr Anderson thanked everyone at Nevis Range who gave him a great farewell. 'Nevis Range is a great place to work. I got a great send-off. I was given glasses and lovely cards, so a huge thanks to all the staff there.'



Willie Anderson, right, receives gifts from Peter MacFarlane, managing director of Nevis Range, on his retirement from Nevis Range after more than 27 years' service. Mr Anderson was also well known for his work with the Lochaber Mountain Rescue team.



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Sports shop returns to Fort William

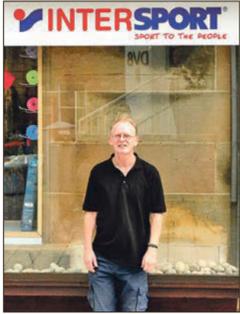
INTERSPORT has returned to Fort William with the opening of a new store in Cameron Square.

Billy Thomson, who lives in Oban, worked in the original Intersport sports shop in Fort William's High Street and now owns and runs the one in Oban. He had been looking for some time to re-open a store in Fort William.

He said: 'We got a lot of Fort William customers coming to the shop in Oban and I knew from the experience of working there that the town is comparable to Oban in size and population. There's also as much, if not more, sport going on than in Oban so I knew there was definitely a need for a sports shop in Fort William.'

Mike Brown was the manager of the first Fort William Intersport shop and he has come back to manage the new store.

He said: 'We have received nothing but great feedback from the Fort William public who are glad to see the shop return.'



Manager Mike Brown outside the new Intersport sports shop in Cameron Square.

Lochaber group's vital role supporting women

ELLIE FORBES

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'WE LISTEN, we support and we understand,' says Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Women's Aid, who has been telling *The Oban Times* what the organisation is doing to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Lochaber.

One of only four groups in the Highlands, Lochaber Women's Aid is the only specialised service in the area and covers all of Lochaber from Appin to Fort Augustus and all the small isles.

Lorraine said: 'With only four groups in the Highlands it is extremely important that these services are available. For Lochaber, this service is vital because we are the only specialised service in the area.'

Ms Revitt spoke of how the charity is continually striving to raise awareness of domestic abuse: 'We have been very active recently, putting stickers on pub doors and going round places to make sure there is an awareness of the service.'

'We also run small workshops with other organisations, including community councils and employers, to let them know what we do and to let them know what the signs and symptoms of abuse are.'

Award-winning journalist and leading figure in the campaign to end domestic violence Anni Donaldson told *The Oban Times*: 'The problem for women in rural areas is they can become quite isolated if they are far away from help. Fear of stigma and trying to keep anonymity can also be

Domestic abuse is not an urban issue

Anni Donaldson
journalist and campaigner

problems. But domestic abuse is not an urban issue. It affects everyone across the board.'

Ms Revitt added: 'I don't think you can say any area would have more or less of a problem. Domestic abuse happens everywhere. It happens across all sorts of social standings, jobs and age. There is no typical person who becomes a victim of domestic abuse.'

'I think there are difficulties living in close-knit communities which does effect people coming forward at times, but it all depends on the individual. Some people are happy to come for support as soon as they think they are in an unsafe or unhealthy relationship, but others won't come forward for years. It might be years after it's happened they reach a point they can't keep it to themselves any longer. Everyone is very different in how they deal with it. But the importance of having a confidential service is crucial to women. They have to be reassured that when they come to talk to us that we believe them and support their choices.'



Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Women's Aid.

Lochaber Women's Aid is a discreet charity because of the nature of the work involved.

'Women who engage with us want to keep that confidential,' said Lorraine. 'We want to keep a low profile, while still letting people know the organisation is there for them.'

'Women can be with the service for a few days, a few weeks or even years - it's up to them. All their support is directed by them. We

don't tell women what to do, because that would just be another form of control. We want to empower women and give them confidence to make their own choices. It might not always be choices we agree with or would advise, but it's their choice and that's what is important.'

'We would never judge or make comment on any woman's decision. We are always here to offer support and

help when they need it, but it's all about their choice and that is fundamental. If you are coming from a controlled relationship, the last thing you want is to come here and have someone else control what you're now going to do.'

The organisation also offers support for children who may have been affected by abuse or who have witnessed it at home. Ms Revitt said: 'Children can be referred by their mums or teachers or they can come along themselves. Their mum doesn't need to be on the service. They can come along completely independently. We support children to understand what is a healthy relationship and how to keep within the home and in relationships in general.'

MP for Skye, Ross and Lochaber Ian Blackford said: 'I met with the team from Lochaber Women's Aid just before the election and was very impressed by what they do and their forward planning to both help local women and children in threatening and difficult relationships and to raise the levels of awareness of these issues.'

The organisation arranges fundraising events to generate money for activities and days out for the women and children who use the service.

On Tuesday October 25 it is hosting an event at the railway club in Inverlochty when Naomi Breeze will be performing a thought-provoking act about domestic abuse and how it effects women.

Entitled *Kaleidoscope*, the event is based on real-life experiences of women living in the Highlands.

TIMESLINE

Children's author in Ardnamurchan

AUTHOR Jenny Chapman will be at Ardnamurchan lighthouse visitor centre from noon till 4pm on Sunday August 7 signing copies of her latest books *Tales from the Adventures of Algy* and *The Tree with a Golden Heart*.

The stories all take place on the Ardnamurchan peninsula and feature Algy, a unique, charming fluffy bird who is washed up on a beach having travelled far across the ocean on a raft. The illustrated books are for children aged seven to 10, but are enjoyed by everyone with the youngest known Algy fan aged four and the eldest aged 89.

Taste of success for smokehouse

A MALLAIG smokehouse has won a Great Taste award.

Family run business J Lawrie & Sons, also known as Jaffys, was commended for its kippers, described by judges as 'meaty, moist and plump with woody, smoky and nutty notes, balanced by a lovely sweetness.'

Some 194 Scottish producers were recognised this year.

Jaffys runs a fish and chip shop in Mallaig but also sells its own smoked fish, cured to a family recipe and smoked over sherry cask chips.

Pool's new name and website

MALLAIG and District Swimming Pool has changed its title to Mallaig Pool and Leisure.

It also has a new website with full details of swimming lessons and fitness classes.

For more information, visit www.mallaigleisure.org.uk.

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Two cheat death as light plane crashes near Oban

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

TWO GERMAN pilots escaped near-certain death when their light aircraft crashed into a hillside near the edge of Loch Linnhe and only minutes from the village of Benderloch, where hundreds of people live.

The pilots were part of a larger group of eight aircraft which make an annual trip to the west coast of Scotland and are understood to have known the area 'fairly' well.

After a mayday call from a passing yachtsman who saw the plane in difficulty, a search and rescue operation got under way. Emergency services quickly located the plane - a Breezer B600 - and helped the pilots.

A man was taken by air ambulance to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow with serious leg injuries and a woman was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley with chest injuries.

Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Emergency services attended the scene and have made the crash site secure.

A joint investigation between Police Scotland and the Air Accident Investigation Branch is ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding the crash. One of the German group, who did not want to be named, said: 'I am glad our friends are recovering well. This could have been a terrible disaster and it was down to the good training of our pilots that it ended this way. We would like to thank



The wrecked aircraft lies upside down at Lochnell but the others with which it was flying made it safely to Oban Airport.

everyone for their support.' The aircraft crashed onto a field by the edge of cliffs on the Lochnell peninsula at Fionnard near Lochnell House at 10.45am on Tuesday. It is believed the pilots activated a parachute on the plane to slow it down prior to making a crash landing.

The velocity of the aircraft was such that it rolled over on the ground coming to a full standstill with the pilots aboard.

Witnesses at the scene said the duo survived the crash, calling it 'a miracle'.

The craft had taken off from Mull and was making its way towards Oban Airport, before heading to Barra.

Eyewitnesses said it looked as though the aircraft had got into difficulties over Loch Linnhe and the pilots had launched their own parachute, slowing the plane down and

bringing the aircraft to a slow stop. Seven other aircraft in the fleet made their way to Oban Airport, where the German pilots were interviewed by police officers before spending the night in the area.

Elaine Buchanan, who lives on the neighbouring croft, said she hoped everyone involved in the incident will recover. She said the first she knew of the incident was when the emer-

gency services and helicopters started coming down her rural single-track road.

Eyewitness William Barnett, who lives near Benderloch, said he wondered if 'Argyll was under attack' when ambulances, police cars, fire engines and other emergency services vehicles began to race along the quiet rural road right outside his home. 'One minute I was on the beach and there was

perfect silence. I walked up to the roadside and all hell was breaking loose. I am glad to hear everyone is safe. Only a few more yards and there could have been numerous fatalities.'

The annual trip to the west coast by the German group previously caused controversy in 2010 when they landed on The White Stand of the Monks near Iona, a designated site for the breeding of corncrakes.

TIMESLINE

Inveraray band is Scotland's best

MORE than 25,000 people made their way to Leven Grove Park in Dumbarton to witness Inveraray and District Pipe Band win the Grade 1 title at this year's Scottish Championships.

Pipe Major Stuart Liddell led the band to its second title of the season, after winning the British Championships in May.

Inveraray wasn't the only Argyll and Bute band to achieve success last week as Kintyre Schools Pipe Band was crowned winner in the Scottish Novice B category.

Lifeboat crew's bravery awards

THE COXSWAIN and crew of the Islay lifeboat have been honoured for their bravery in rescuing a Russian yachtsman earlier this year.

The Islay boat responded to an emergency call-out in the early hours of the morning in February during appalling weather and sea conditions as they went to the aid of the vessel which was drifting in heavy seas during a galeforce storm.

To read the full story, turn to page eight.

Roads in Argyll are 'most dangerous'

TWO ROADS through Argyll are among the most dangerous in Scotland.

Figures released from the Scottish Government show that the A85 and the A82 are among the five most dangerous roads in the country.

To read the full story, turn to page nine.



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Advertorial

Surviving Exam Results

Senior school pupils all over Argyll will be receiving the results of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams on 9th August. The culmination of at least a year's work and a summer of waiting, finally getting your results can be extremely stressful for young people and their families. We've put together our top tips of how to cope on the day.

- 1. Be honest.** If you're feeling stressed because of other people's expectations of you, be honest and let them know how you're feeling - we often exaggerate the expectations of others, so talking about this will help keep things in perspective.
- 2. Don't bottle your feelings up.** If you're nervous or anxious, talk about it. Tell your family or friends, or if you don't think you can, you might want to check out www.childline.org.uk: they have some great advice about coping with exam stress and, if you're aged 19 or under, you can contact one of their counsellors for free and talk to them about anything - no problem is too big or too small to them.
- 3. Don't compare your results to other people's.** Exam results are personal to you, so it's important to focus on your own expectations and ambitions.
- 4. If you didn't get the exam results you were hoping for** don't panic. There's plenty of help and advice around: Skills Development Scotland offer callers' access to information on UCAS course vacancies at college and universities across the UK, Confirmation and Clearing, advice about Modern Apprenticeships, employment and training opportunities. The helpline number is 0808 100 8000.
- 5. If you don't understand your SQA certificate,** or if you think something is missing or wrong, contact your school or college immediately and ask for help. If there is a problem, your school or college will contact SQA to sort it out.
- 6. For help or advice about the content or layout of your certificate** you can contact **SQA's Candidate Advice Line**. This will be available from Tuesday 9 August to Friday 12 August. The advice line number can be found on the letter that accompanies your certificate.
- 7. For information about remaining college course spaces in Argyll** you can contact Argyll College UHI on 0845 2309969 and ask to be put through to your local centre. Your local centre staff will also be able to give you advice on funding and bursaries.
- 8. If you got the exam results you wanted** Hoorah! Massive well done to you and make sure you celebrate your tremendous achievement, but be aware that others around you may not have had such happy news - you might want to take it easy on social media until you know that there's no one nearby who's upset by their results.
- 9. Be kind to yourself.** Celebrate good results, but don't be hard on yourself if you haven't done as well as you'd hoped.
- 10. The important thing** to remember is that, even if things don't go your way, there are always options open to you. Sometimes, the best opportunities come out of life's unexpected twists and turns.

Two of Scotland's five most dangerous roads are in Argyll

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

THE FIVE most dangerous trunk roads in Scotland include the A85 and A82.

Figures obtained by the Scottish Liberal Democrats revealed that the most dangerous trunk roads are the A90, the A9, the A96, A82 and the A85.

The A85, which runs from Oban to Perth, has been the subject of a petition that has received more than 1,700 signatures.

Dunbeg Community Council set up the petition after a series of accidents on the road between Oban and Dunbeg.

Sean MacIntyre, chairman of Dunbeg Community Council, said: 'In my

opinion Argyll and Bute has some of the worst road surfaces in the country, so I don't find it astonishing we've had the amount of accidents we have had on that small section of road.

'I know it [the A85] runs to Perth, but so many accidents happen near Oban.

'Something as small as paint on the road could help sort that and stop people overtaking.

'And the speed limit needs to be addressed, especially at Pennyfuir. It's unsafe.'

The A82, which runs from Glasgow to Inverness and passes through Argyll and Fort William, also made the list. It was revealed as being the fourth most dangerous trunk road in the country.

North-east Scotland MSP Mike

Rumbles, who obtained the figures, said: 'Most families rely on their cars to get around and we need to ensure that we do what we can to make our roads as safe as possible.

'These figures demonstrate clearly that the Scottish Government still has a huge amount of work to do to boost safety on the trunk roads directly under their control.

'Since 2013 we have seen year-on-year increases in the number of serious or fatal accidents on trunk roads under the management of the Scottish Government.

'Our emergency services do fantastic, life-saving work responding to accidents as they happen but they need the government back them up.'

Superintendent Fraser Candlish from Police Scotland said: 'The A85

and the A82 are priority routes for the Road Policing Division and we deploy a number of resources, including high-profile marked cars, unmarked cars and motorcycles on these roads every day.

'We always welcome any initiatives and ideas from local community groups on road safety. Driving too fast for the conditions is the most common cause of crashes on country roads.

'Country roads aren't just about obeying the speed limit, they're also about driving at a speed which is appropriate to the conditions.

'The question that all drivers on country roads needs to ask themselves is 'Can I stop in the distance I can see to be clear ahead of me?'. If the answer to this is no, then you need to slow down.'

■ Meanwhile, an Oban man who lives at Lerags contacted *The Oban Times* to complain about the number of potentially serious near misses he has experienced on the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road.

The man said he had almost been involved in several accidents on the three-mile stretch of road going out of Oban in a matter of a few days, principally because of dangerous driving by other motorists, including lorry drivers.

■ Which roads or stretches of road in Oban and Argyll are the most dangerous? And what should be done about them? Tell us what you think. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to The Editor, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Estate Oban, PA34 4HB.

What do you think? Which are the area's worst or most dangerous roads?



David Macvicar, 28, from Oban, said: 'It doesn't really surprise me that the A85 is the fifth most dangerous road in Scotland because there are idiots on the road. You could make it safer if you made it a 50mph road with no overtaking.'



Ian Den Heijer, 41, Oban, said: 'It might help if there was no overtaking and a speed limit between the cemetery to Dunbeg and beyond. I was overtaken recently at the corner just before the Halfway House then the car went into the filling station. People putting everyone in danger.'



Lorraine Campbell, from Soroba, said: 'The road and the drivers are shocking. I only just passed my test in February but I have been up and down that road since my test and some people won't even wait for me to pull into a passing place. People overtake at the most ridiculous places.'



Lorna Kirkpatrick from Oban said: 'I can believe it. It's not a bad road, but people drive too fast on it. What's the point in overtaking? It's better to be five minutes late in this world than to be five minutes early in the next. Something has to be done. I don't know how they could police it.'



David Gilroy from Easdale said: 'Locals need to learn how to drive properly. If there's a bicycle on the road you should not cross the white line. I have just done 4,200 miles through Europe and it's embarrassing when you come back and get to Loch Lomond as it's potholes and floods.'

Accident closes A816 as lorry sheds its cargo of logs



The drivers had lucky escapes when two cars were involved in an accident with a log lorry.

A CRASH that caused a logging lorry to overturn at Kilmartin on the A816 resulted in the road being closed for around seven hours on Tuesday.

The incident, involving a lorry and two cars, occurred just after 8am on Tuesday morning and there were no serious injuries.

However, the accident caused the lorry to shed its cargo of logs and the A816, which links Oban with Lochgilphead, had to be closed in both directions for vehicle recovery to take place.

A Police Scotland spokesman confirmed the closure, saying: 'We were called to a road traffic crash at Kilmartin on the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road at 8.07am. The road is closed.'

A series of diversions were put in place until the road re-opened at just after 2pm.

Motorists travelling to Inveraray had to drive via the A83, those heading to Dalmally had to use the A819 and the A85 was used to get to Oban.



Work has started on the Oban Inn.

Popular Oban pub to re-open

WORK has started to refurbish a well-known Oban establishment that has been closed since 2008.

Scaffolding surrounds the popular Oban Inn, which had to shut up shop after its parent company went in to administration.

Sean MacIntyre, who first laid eyes on his would-be wife in the Oban Inn, said: 'I first met Tracy in the Oban Inn and I also asked her to marry me in there.'

He jokingly added: 'Although I don't remember it.'

'It's good for the town,' he said. 'It's good to see that corner being done up instead of being left to rot. And there's no doubt I'm not the only person with fond stories.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'It's more good news for Oban that the Oban Inn is re-opening. This completes the excellent work the council has done and it completes streets of vibrant businesses in that patch of town. In my opinion the Oban Inn is as much as an iconic building as McCaig's Tower. I'm absolutely delighted with this news.'

Now for summits completely different

ARGYLL-BASED seafood producer Loch Fyne Oysters is set to scale new heights.

Next Friday, August 12, the Loch Fyne Oysters challenge team will take on the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in the national Three Peaks Challenge.

In 24 hours, and without any sleep, the team will climb Mount Snowdon in Wales (1,085m), Scafell Pike, in England (978m) and Ben

Nevis (1,345m) to raise funds for The Pink Ladies Day, Argyll. The group will have to complete Ben Nevis in five hours, Scafell Pike in four hours and Snowdon in four hours, allowing for 11 hours driving time.

The Pink Ladies Day is about women in the west coast of Scotland who have or have had breast cancer. It's a day of fun, pampering, food and drink along with

the opportunity to develop friendships.

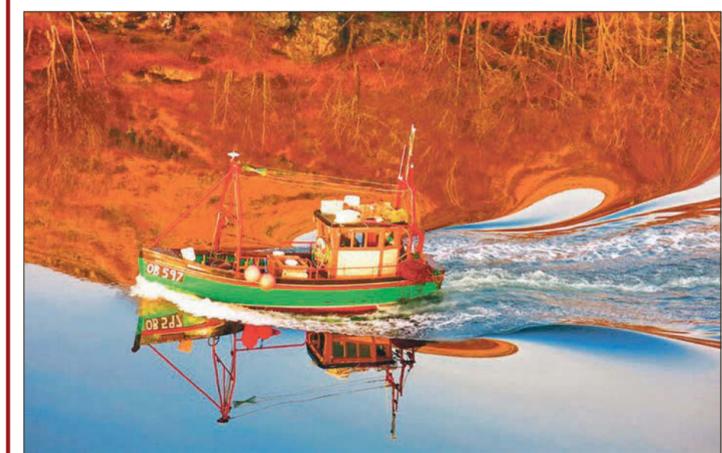
Martyn Paterson, a director at Loch Fyne Oysters, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be making such a positive contribution to our local community through fundraising for these inspirational women.'

'The Loch Fyne team has been in training for several months and are looking forward to the challenge.'

Founder and organiser of the Pink Ladies Day Nicky Murphy added: 'We have been blown away by this amazing gesture from the team at Loch Fyne Oysters.'

'It is incredible to think so many people are putting in this level of time and effort to make this happen.'

Go to: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/LochFyneOystersNationalThreePeaksChallengeTeam>.



Fishing boat is picture perfect

A PICTURE of a fishing boat snapped on an evening cycle ride in Argyll has won the top prize in a new competition for photographers of the Scottish landscape.

The Audrey, Loch Creran, taken by Hugh Nicol, an estates manager from Appin, has been chosen as the winner of the Jolomo Colours of Scotland Photography Competition launched last year by the top Scottish

artist John Lowrie Morrison, who lives in Tayvallich.

Hugh said he was 'absolutely delighted' and added: 'When you have somewhere as beautiful as Appin to work with, taking the picture was easy.'

Runner-up was Mairead MacLennan, from North Uist, for *Old School, Loch Portain, North Uist*.

New app focuses on Highlands

HIKING website Walkhighlands has deployed Google technology to encourage more people to visit Scotland's beautiful landscapes.

The views from some of Scotland's finest walks are set to become more accessible thanks to its latest project in partnership with Google. Walkhighlands is capturing 360-degree imagery using the futuristic Google Trekker technology.

The device has 15 lenses and a GPS and snaps a series of photos every 2.5 seconds. Paul and Helen Webster from Walkhighlands took turns carrying the 44lb backpack but the resulting imagery will form part of Google Street View, as well as being part of Walkhighlands' online route guides. Helen said: 'We hope the footage we are capturing will enable more people to experience these magical places.'

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Villagers blast planned change to boundaries

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SEIL and Easdale Community Council is urging the Scottish Government not to implement 'damaging and undemocratic' boundary changes.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has recommended changing ward boundaries and reducing the number of Argyll and Bute councillors by three to 33 in time for local government elections in May 2017.

It proposes transferring Luig, Seil, Kilniver and Kilmelford, and Avich and Kilchrenan community councils, plus the east of Lochaweside section of Glenorchy and Innishail, from Oban North and Lorn ward to the Mid Argyll ward centred in Lochgilphead.

The plans were submitted to Scottish ministers for approval in May, but affected community councils have joined Argyll and Bute councillors and Argyll MSP Mike Russell in objecting,

before a final round of consultation ended on July 7.

Last month Seil and Easdale Community Council expressed 'dismay' that its concerns, submitted in the first round of consultations last year, had been 'largely ignored', alongside others from 'all' the region's community councils.

'The change to keep Dalmally and Glenorchy within Oban North and Lorn does nothing to address the concerns we raised,' the letter stated. New convener Dr John Gordon OBE argued it would be 'undemocratic, disruptive to local ties, have no financial benefit and could potentially lead to damaging future alignment of administrative boundaries affecting, for example, education and health provision'.

Former chairman Seumas Anderson explained in the council's previous letter in October 2015 about 'considerable concern that, historically, school catchment and health boundaries have followed ward

boundaries. Changing ward boundaries would have massive implications for residents.

'We would be but one small part of an enormous ward stretching from Lochgilphead to beyond Bridge of Orchy. It would be unreasonable and, in some cases, downright dangerous to expect councillors to cover the area effectively.

'This arbitrary move would sever our natural links with Oban, diminish our voice in such a vast area and leave us with no representation in our natural regional centre.

'Seil, Easdale, Luig and Kilmelford are part of Oban, Lorn and the Isles and that cannot be changed by arbitrarily drawing a line on a map in a notion of electoral parity.

'Our community, this community council, all our neighbouring community councils and Argyll and Bute Council request that this disruptive proposal be abandoned and the status quo maintained.'



George Berry celebrates winning the preservation cup.

George fulfils burning ambition

HARD work and determination have paid off for an Oban man with a passion for preservation.

When George Berry bought a 'clapped out' former fire and rescue vehicle and set about restoring it to its former glory, many people said it could never be done.

But four years on he was 'overwhelmed' to be presented with the Fire and Rescue Preservation Society trophy at the Truck and Fire Festival in Ingliston, Edinburgh, last weekend.

Presenting the award, festival organiser John Fenton said: 'The cup that George has won is a special prize dedicated to the preservation

of fire appliances on show. The preservation work and dedication put in to the vehicle was fantastic.

'I saw it for myself at 9am when I spotted George kneeling on the ground painting his nuts and bolts. That's real dedication for you.'

George said he was 'overwhelmed' with the award. He said: 'When you phone 999 in all major towns, you get a state of the art Scania or Volvo. In rural areas of Scotland, this kind of vehicle is still the first fire engine at incidents.'

George thanked Willie Bonniwell for the support his team have given over the years.

TIMESLINE

Oban eateries on cloud nine

NINE Oban establishments have been shortlisted for prestigious national awards.

Food Awards Scotland 2016 aim to recognise the hard work and efforts of the Scottish food industry.

The Waterfront Fishouse Restaurant and Hawthorn Restaurant, Benderloch, were shortlisted for Restaurant of the Year.

Abbie's Café, Oban Chocolate Company and The Little Potting Shed are all in the running to become cafe/bistro of the year.

Oban Fish and Chip Shop was nominated for takeaway of the year and the Barn Bar was nominated for gastro pub of the year.

The Manor House could be the hotel restaurant of the year and JM Breckenridge was shortlisted in the fresh produce provider of the year category.

Model ships on show at hotel

AN AWARD-WINNING hotel will be all at sea for two days when it stages a nostalgic exhibition of model ships.

The four vessels, including two Clyde steamers which featured at Glasgow's famous Riverside Museum last year, were hand-built by John McNulty senior, father of the chef-patron of the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant.

The 1:24 scale models – the largest of them 12 feet long – can be viewed at the hotel on Saturday and Sunday August 6 and 7 from noon to 7pm. Admission is free.

The steamers, a trading schooner and a model puffer, will be on show alongside a photographic and digital display.

John McNulty junior said: 'It's a rare chance to see fine examples of precision work carried out to preserve the memory of the days of doon the watter.'

Heather takes top prize in Rockfield raffle

HEATHER Kirkpatrick of Torosay Court, Oban, won the top prize of £300 in the Rockfield Centre raffle organised by Oban Communities Trust (OCT).

OCT chairman Gordon McNab presented Heather with the cheque at Torosay and she was delighted with her win.

She said: 'It was a great surprise to hear the news.' Heather

would not be drawn on what she would use the money for but said: 'It will be something nice.'

Gordon McNab said: 'We are so pleased to award the cheque to Heather and very grateful to everyone who bought raffle tickets to support the Rockfield Centre.'

'The funds raised will be used for community events at the huts over the summer.'

The raffle raised more than £2,000.

Up and coming events include workshops for children and adults as well as Festival of Architecture displays.

There will also be a beginners' pottery workshop led by Michaela Goan of Seatree and Pauline Beautyman of Sea Drift Argyll and Create a Crate in August.

Rhona Dougall, arts co-ordinator for the Rockfield Centre, who is organising the workshops, said: 'This is a fabulous opportunity to learn basic skills for fabric printing, pottery and crafty storage solutions and to take home what you make.'

For more details see upcoming events at www.obancommunitiestrust.org.



Gordon McNab presents Heather Kirkpatrick with her cheque as Kirsten Anderson, Heather's support worker, looks on.



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Fort lose first game of the season

Iain Foggo is appointed new team captain

Deveronvale	4
Fort William	2
Highland League	

THE FORT travelled to Banff at the weekend to take on Deveronvale looking to be successful on the opening day of the season for the first time in a long time, but unfortunately they couldn't secure the win.

Fort opened the scoring in the 23rd minute, with Scottie Davidson firing home from the penalty spot. But this lead was only to last three minutes, when the referee Alex Shepherd surprised everyone in the



Fort William's new team captain Iain Foggo pictured with manager Ally Ewen.

ground with a penalty decision to the home side which Gary Harris converted.

A quick-fire double from Paul Sutherland saw the home side go 3-1 up at the interval.

The visitors came out fired up for the second half and were back in the game just two minutes after the restart, when new signing Danny Highet scored from close range.

The Fort then had a stonewall penalty claim waved away before Gary Harris got his second of the afternoon to seal the win for the home team.

The Lochaber side's next game is against Fraserburgh at Claggan Park on Saturday with a 3pm kick off.

The club have appointed Iain Foggo as their new team captain.

The 23-year-old local lad, has been involved with the first team since he was 15, and has amassed almost 250 Highland League appearances.

Iain said: 'As a local boy I am delighted and honoured to have been asked to captain my home town team. Hopefully we can all help the club progress and move forward together.'

Manager Ally Ewen said: 'Since I have been at the club, Iain has been a joy to work with. He has been committed, dedicated and has always trained well, and I just felt that the time was now right.'



Some of the runners from Lochaber who took part in the marathon.

New record set at Lochaber Marathon

THE Lochaber Marathon took place last weekend when 383 took part, which was an increase in numbers on last year. It's a big challenge for anyone to take on because it's a fairly hilly course.

Blind runner Paul Watts completed his 303rd marathon in a time of 5:29:55.

The organisers can now sit back and chill out for a while before making a start

on the 2017 race where already a number of people have signed up to.

Prize-winners: male - 1 Olle Dahlberg - 2:43:54 (new course record); 2 Denis Prikulis - 2:49:15; 3 Ewan Crawford - 2:50:27.

Female - 1 Janet Dickson - 3:31:46; 2 Sally Murray - 3:41:55; 3 Fiona Anderson - 3:43:50.

Marathon

Top three locals (Lochaber): male - 1 Denis Prikulis - 2:49:15; 2 Andy Craig - 3:36:52; 3 Alastair Grier - 4:02:45.

Female - 1 Sara Mair Bellshaw - 4:11:38; 2 Aileen Duncan - 4:36:44; 3 Ellen Morrison - 4:37:51.

John wins award at shinty camp

Youth shinty



John Gillies from Skye was awarded the Player of the Camp trophy at the 2016 National Player Developer Camp. Photo by Graeme Hart.

A SKYE teenager won the award for Player of the Camp at the 2016 National Player Development Camp for young shinty players, which was held in Strathallan School in Perthshire recently.

John Gillies scooped the trophy at the camp, where young shinty players aged between 14 and 17 received training from Camanachd Association coaches in the technical, physical and psychological aspects of the game.

John was not the only budding shinty star to receive an award at the end of the camp. David MacDougall of Aberdour received the award for most improved player and Liam Arnott of Lochcarron was awarded for showing outstanding endeavour at the camp.



Winners of the Davie Mathieson Balloted Pairs Bowls competition held at the Railway Bowling Club recently were Bill Clark and Lyn Donald. Also in the picture are runners-up, left to right, Hamish MacPherson, Keith Brannagan, Alan Lawrie, Jim Bell, and Margaret MacPherson.

Bowled over

Right: Scott Greenlees, director of John MacLellan Undertakers, presents the trophy to winners of the pairs competition, Agnes Thain and her husband Wilson. Runners-up were Kenny MacInnes, left, and Lachie Morrison.



Cameron picks up silver medal in Zagreb

LOCHABER teenager Cameron Whyte made sporting history last week when he became the first Scottish schoolboy boxer ever to reach a final at the European Championships.

The 14-year-old from Spean Bridge competed in four bouts over a course of seven days before finally clinching silver in Zagreb, Croatia.

As reported last week, he defeated the German champion in the round of 16 on the Monday before boxing against the Irish champion, Eoghan Quinn, on the Wednesday in the quarter-final. Ireland are one of Europe's strongest countries in the sport of boxing so this was a hard ask for Cameron.

In the opening round of this contest Whyte immediately took the centre of the ring and tried to set a pace that his southpaw opponent couldn't live with. Quinn started to look slightly ragged towards the end of the round as he tried to contain the ball of aggression in his face. Whyte cleverly set some traps that the Irishman fell into to cement the round in his favour.

The next round became slightly messy as Quinn des-

perately tried to force Whyte onto the back foot but was met by an immovable object. As the round drew to a close Whyte showed some nifty footwork to walk Quinn onto a huge left hook which physically shook him to his boots and suddenly Whyte was landing bombs with unnerving accuracy until the bell.

The last round was all the Scottish boxer. Throughout the round Cameron was constantly setting traps and adjusting his footwork to enable him to land cleanly and the unanimous decision in his favour was never in doubt and Cameron had now qualified for the semi-finals.

The final of the most prestigious event in schoolboy boxing was when Cameron faced Russian champion Tamerlan Aiubov. Russia are by far the most powerful nation in European schoolboy boxing so this would prove to be the ultimate test for Cameron.

This final was worthy of the two best boxers in Europe, if not the world. All three rounds were fought at a frenetic pace with an incredible amount of skill. First one, then the other would have success and every

time one boxer looked like he might be getting on top the other would come firing back ferociously and take the play away. Just when it looked like the result of the contest might come down to the proverbial toss of the coin, the referee pulled Cameron up for a perceived breach of the rules and deducted a point.

This was the moment that the winner of the championship was decided as Cameron now needed at least a knockdown to gain back the point lost and had less than 60 seconds to do so. He tore into Aiubov with gusto but the final bell rang before he could find a knockdown blow.

The decision went to the Russian boxer but Cameron

Boxing

can be satisfied that he has made his mark in a big way on the international stage. He has had an outstanding season winning the Northern District title, the Scottish title, the Great Britain title and now a silver at the European Championships.



Cameron Whyte, became the first Scottish schoolboy to reach a European boxing final.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with light rain showers
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

Friday Cloudy with sunny periods
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Weekend Light rain showers on Saturday
Outlook Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 4, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	00.45	0.8	06.37	3.9	12.46	0.6	18.41	4.0
Fri	01.24	0.9	07.10	3.8	13.24	0.7	19.16	4.0
Sat	02.02	1.0	07.43	3.8	14.00	0.8	19.49	3.9
Sun	02.37	1.1	08.14	3.6	14.35	1.0	20.21	3.7
Mon	03.13	1.3	08.46	3.5	15.12	1.2	20.54	3.5
Tues	03.50	1.5	09.22	3.3	15.52	1.4	21.29	3.3
Wed	04.34	1.7	10.04	3.1	16.37	1.7	22.09	3.1

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