

**Rockfield Centre awarded £90,000**



**West Highland Tennis success**



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# Anger after anglers dump dead trout and rubbish

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Seafood supplier Dawnfresh has waded in to help clear up the mess left by visiting fishermen eager to make the most of the recent rainbow trout escape from its Loch Etive facility.

Last weekend dead fish and debris blighted the banks of the River Awe as anglers from all over the country descend en-masse to catch the fugitive fish.

An estimated 33,000 trout escaped from the Dawnfresh facility on Friday June 13, causing outrage among environmental campaigners.

The story hit the national press last week with an emphasis on clearing the loch and subsidiary River Awe of the alien species in order that the native brown trout and salmon could flourish.

Since news got out, however, hundreds of fisherman have been swarming in from all over the country and, according to residents, the area has become a dumping ground for rotting fish and rubbish.

A local angler told The Oban Times: 'Unfortunately, there is an element of the angling community who appear from who knows where and think this is acceptable.

'A group of us went up at the weekend and caught 37 fish but we took them away with us.

'As well as the fish the area is strewn with rubbish, including glass bottles and empty beer cans. It's like Sauchiehall Street on a Saturday night down there.

'What we want to know now is who will ultimately be left to clear up this mess? While it is a few individuals responsible, the situation would not have arisen had the escape not happened.'

However, no sooner had a post appeared on the Tainuilt What's Happening Facebook page to highlight the problem, Dawnfresh workers came forward to help out.

A spokesperson for the company said: 'The Dawnfresh team at Loch Etive are an integral part of the community and most of our staff grew up and live in the local areas so

**Continued on page seven**

## Climb aboard Seil's Scarecrow Bus



Bus driver David Sheritt could 'bear'ly believe his eyes this week when Paddington jumped aboard at Ellenabeich.

The world-famous bear, complete with red wellies and marmalade sandwich, is just one of 45 straw-

stuffed characters signed up so far for Seil's first Scarecrow Festival starting on Saturday July 27.

West Coast Motors will be changing the name of its Easdale service to the Scarecrow Bus during the week-long festival and Paddington

wanted to be its first passenger. Organisers are hoping the Scarecrow Bus will encourage even more daytrippers, especially those without their own wheels, to come and join in the festival fun.

Turn to page 49 to read more.



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OT

# Family look forward to celebration games

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



For more than 150 years, generations of families and thousands of visitors have enjoyed the grand occasion that is Taynuilt Highland Games.

And with the sesquicentennial celebrations fast approaching, the Servant family have more to celebrate than most this year.

Matriarch of the clan Jessie Servant will signal the official start of this year's 150th event in her role as chieftain of the games. Supported by her daughter Lorna, son Andrew, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Jessie is looking forward to this year's extra special event despite being slightly apprehensive to start with.

'I can't actually remember saying yes when I was asked,' she said. 'I must have done, though, because here I am, and it's a great honour to be doing it.'

Lorna and Andrew, who are both on the games committee, were so convinced their mum would turn down the offer that the pair of them dodged out of asking her.

'I was convinced she would say no,' said Lorna, a payroll and HR worker with Argyll College.

'We're glad she didn't



Lorna, Jessie and Andrew Servant will wear their Macfarlane clan tartan with pride at the 150th Taynuilt Anniversary Games. 15\_T28TaynuiltHighlandGames\_ServantFamily

though. The whole family have been involved in the games in some way or other since we were small.

'Our late dad, Leslie, was involved in the games for more than 40 years and held the positions of treasurer and chairman during that time.

'We have so many happy memories of the event so it is lovely that mum will be starting it this year.'

Deer stalker Andrew, a multiple past winner of the local heavy trophy, added:

'Our family, along with many others, have enjoyed the games for many, many years and we hope future generations will too.'

'They have everything that makes a good day out and the committee has gone the extra mile this year to make sure our 150th anniversary is something special.'

This year's games will take place on Saturday July 20 and, as well as featuring the traditional heavyweight events, foot racing, Highland

dancing and pipe band competitions, will include a primary school athletics league competition for the first time.

Around 2,000 people are expected to descend on the village for the anniversary games to experience the fun and culture that has kept the games so popular for more than 150 years.

Turn to the sports section for a preview of the 2019 junior games circuit athletics events.

## Fighting fund set up to challenge parking 'tax'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Campaigners raising money to legally challenge parking charges on Mull have just 18 days left to reach their £6,000 target.

The crowdfunding page at [crowdfunder.co.uk/island-parking-tax-fighting-fund](http://crowdfunder.co.uk/island-parking-tax-fighting-fund) will give all pledges made by July 29 at 1.12pm to the appeal.

By Monday it still had £5,700 to achieve its goal.

Argyll and Bute Council says it is in the process of 'finalising procurement for parking ticket machines'.

'Once these are in place, we will advertise the implementation date of the order,' said a council spokesperson.

The community councils of Mull and Iona are collaborating to launch a legal challenge and have secured legal representation on a no-win, no-fee basis but say there are some costs they will still have to bear, recognising a risk that ultimately they could lose the fight.

'Given the complete failure of democracy and process that has led to the imposition of these parking charges, we now have no option but to challenge them in the courts,' says the crowdfunder page.

Any money left over from legal expenses and other campaigning work would be distributed at the end to good causes on Mull and Iona.

Moray Finch, from Mull and

Iona Community Trust, said a large dossier of information had been sent to a solicitor advocate who is assessing the prospect of a legal challenge against the TRO for campaigners to take the step of challenging the order in the Court of Session.

'In the meantime, we understand that the date for making the order has not yet been decided upon by the council,' he said.

The decision to introduce parking charges at three of Mull's car parks was passed by a majority vote of councillors on June 12, despite strong opposition from the island communities affected.

A petition on parking charges at lifeline ferry ports went to the Scottish Parliament at the end of June where it received support from island MSPs both in person and writing.

In the case of Tobermory, vehicles will be displaced to the congested and dangerous Main Street, they claim. And they say the 'ill-conceived' scheme amounts to 'an unavoidable tax on island residents', who have no option but to use the long-term car parks at Craignure and Fionnphort.

There are also concerns the charges will both discourage visitors and penalise employees, threatening to destabilise the islands' fragile tourist economy. Campaigners say the council's consultation was 'woefully flawed' and that Iona was not consulted at all.



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## Three projects celebrate grant of cash from town centre regeneration fund

### Rockfield awarded £90,000

The Rockfield Centre got confirmation of a £90,000 grant just 24 hours after The Oban Times broke news the funding had been put on hold.

Oban Communities Trust (OCT) was delighted to be celebrating the official announcement this week.

Last week's front page headline reported the Scottish Government's Town Centre funding earmarked for Rockfield had been put on hold after Oban Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area committee members asked council officers to investigate the financial viability of the project. OLI area committee members had asked for an extension to discuss using part of the council's £1.2 million share of the town centre regeneration funding to be used to upgrade Mossfield Stadium.

But Argyll and Bute Council has since confirmed that The Rockfield Centre will now



Gordon McNab was 'delighted' to have The Rockfield Centre funding confirmed.

be allocated £90,000, while £44,000 will be put towards Oban town centre interpretation signs.

OCT chairman Gordon McNab told The Oban Times: 'We are delighted to have the confirmed allocation of £90,000 from the town centre regeneration fund. This confirmation happened only 24 hours after the front page headline of last week's Oban Times.

'OCT would like to thank

all its supporters for yet again rallying behind the project, as was evidenced by the positive comments received. As can be seen by the work on site, the project is moving from strength to strength.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, said: 'We have considered fully how best to use this funding for the OLI area and all members of the area committee have

agreed that these three projects should be awarded the funds that they need.

'This is great news for the OLI area and I look forward to seeing the work come to fruition. Going forward, we will look to identify other potential sources of funding for enhancements to Oban's Mossfield Stadium.'

The Rockfield Centre plans to use its share of the money to kit out the interior of the building.

### Good tidings for Tobermory plans

Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) is feeling on top of the world at the moment, or top of the pile may be more precise, according to chairman Brian Swinbanks.

One of the leading lights of the THA, Mr Swinbanks was commenting on the confirmation from Argyll and Bute Council that phase one (refurbishment of the harbour railings) of the Tobermory Harbour and public realm enhancements would benefit from a share of £1.2 million from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund.

'I am delighted with the news,' said Mr Swinbanks. 'We really welcome any investment that will benefit our town and the wider community and at

last we feel like we have reached the top of the pile.'

The announcement that the project would receive £150,000 came following the recent meeting of the full council at which 10 other projects across Argyll and Bute were also allocated a share of the fund.

THA is planning a meeting with Fergus Murray, the council's head of economic development, to look at a way forward for the project.

The town centre funding comes on the back of the announcement that THA is also moving ahead with plans to purchase the Solum of Ledaig car park and boat park within Tobermory, having received £22,040 from the Scottish Land Fund.



## New street signs in Oban are given the green light

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



The battle over Oban's A-boards could soon be solved thanks to a £44,000 grant earmarked for town centre signs.

The money from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund, including an additional investment from BID4Oban, will see new interpretation signs being installed, as well as upgraded notice boards.

The notice boards, managed by BID4Oban, will be to the same specification as the street furniture installed during the Oban town centre improvements some years ago.

Businesses on side streets will have priority over advertising on the boards, which will also include maps.

This comes after council officers, without warning, left businesses baffled in March by removing unauthorised advertisement boards without notifying the owners.

The council apologised for taking them without notice

and owners were able to collect them from the council yard.

Argyll and Bute Council and BID4Oban hope this will help de-clutter the pavements of A-frames.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'It is essential that we have a clean and tidy, well-maintained town centre, and provide information to any visitors to the town.

'There will be advertising on noticeboards and those that are in the side streets or off the main town centre streets will have priority to advertise on these.

'It is essential that once the process starts that businesses apply for permission for any A-frames or additional signs.

'There is a clear policy that is available on both BID4Oban and Argyll and Bute websites.'

Jim Tolmie, of Oban and District Access Panel, said: 'It is important for all pedestrians, particularly those with

mobility and visual issues, to be able to use public footways which are free from unnecessary illegal obstructions.'

Councillor David Kinniburgh, policy lead for planning and regulatory services, added: 'We understand that businesses feel they need additional advertising in these difficult times.

'However, we have to strike a balance between supporting retailers and making our town centres accessible for pedestrians, and attractive to visitors.'

In the meantime, the council will be taking steps to enforce its A-board policy.

Letters will be sent this month to businesses affected, advising them to apply for permission.

Reminders will be issued in mid-August and then in late-August/early-September, and any signs that do not have permission will be removed.

The policy for street signs can be found on the council website: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/board-signs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/board-signs)

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OT

# Litter blight from overflowing bins

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk

Gulls have been ransacking overflowing bins in Soroba again and leaving rubbish strewn across pavements.

Residents have been voicing their concerns about overflowing rubbish in Soroba's communal bins since three-weekly collections were introduced.

Last year, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Argyll and Bute Council teamed up to provide 12 extra bins for the Oban area. However, even that does not seem to be helping.

After being contacted by residents, Soroba Community Centre went out to investigate the mess first hand.

The centre posted online: 'We were appalled to have a walk round our scheme this evening and see the vast amount of rub-



**Soroba residents have been voicing their concerns about rubbish since three-weekly collections were introduced.**

bish strewn all over the area. Gulls were having a field day ripping open bags of rubbish left on the pavement and filling our pavements and roads with unsanitary waste.

'Our recycling was uplifted this morning, but we found many bins filled with recyclable material - plastic bottles, tins, cardboard, milk cartons, glass bottles etc.

'There are bins in places they

should not be, not enough bins in certain areas, too many recycling bins in other areas that are being misused with household waste and therefore not emptied, mattresses left on pavements, and carpet ends in communal bins that should be disposed of by the owner.

'The council have to be approached on how to rectify this awful situation, but residents have also to take

responsibility for using the bins appropriately.'

After being shown photographs of the mess, an Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'Much of the waste visible in the photo provided is recyclable.

'We have increased the number of recycling and general waste bins in Soroba. If people were to make full use of what is available, and support our recycling efforts, as so many of our residents do, there would be enough capacity.

'Our teams work hard to keep our communities free of waste but everyone needs to play a part. Like all councils, we have had to change the way we do things because of financial challenges. We need to cut the amount of waste that goes to landfill because it costs over £70 in tax for every tonne. We also have Scottish Government targets to meet for our recycling rates.'

## Popular pet Parsley shines at book launch

Oban's most famous feline was the star of the show at Scotland's Animal Superstars book launch in the town on Saturday.

Parsley the cat, who now has more than 8,000 followers online, features in the book alongside the country's most famous pets, including a sheep, penguin, tortoise and a dolphin that speaks two languages.

Author Kimberlie Hamilton held a talk and book signing at Waterstones, Oban, and was joined by the popular pet.

Parsley's owner, Fiona Ferris, said the recognition had been a 'long time coming'.

'He is delighted to be in the same company as such esteemed animals,' Fiona said. 'And to be representing his country is a dream come true.'

'He knows he is important,' she added.

Fiona's husband, Tam, made a bespoke bed for the four-year-old Maine Coon in the shape of McCaig's Tower, and Beth Campbell from Hope



**Author Kimberlie Hamilton with Parsley.**

Kitchen made cat-shaped shortbread.

Kimberlie moved to Scotland from Los Angeles two years ago and said there could not have been a better introduction than travelling the country learning about the different animals.

'Non-fiction, I just love it,' she added. 'You cannot make this stuff up. It is better than fiction sometimes.'

The book is being published by Cranachan and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the SSPCA.

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# Warning after dog deaths

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Vets in Argyll are warning pet owners to beware of lethal toxins in lochs following the deaths of two young dogs during the recent hot spell.

Having enjoyed a visit to the area three years ago, William and Frederica Aitkenhead from West Sussex decided to return at the end of June this year with their two-year-old Boston terrier Lulu.

As first-time dog owners, a trip to Scotland with their little dog was something to relish. Their intention was to enjoy a three-day visit to Loch Awe before heading down to the Borders. That trip turned into a nightmare.

'It was to be a special short break here,' said William. 'Wednesday June 26 was a gorgeous day with horizon to horizon blue sky and around 20 degrees.

'We were staying in a hotel near Kilchrenan with

grounds that border the loch and at around 3.30pm we went for a wander.

'Little Lulu went for a paddle just on the edge. The loch water appeared clear and we saw her take a couple of sips, nothing more.'

After a 15-minute walk around the grounds, the couple returned to their hotel but on the way to their room Lulu seemed to stumble.

William continued: 'We thought she might have picked up a burr or tick or something but nothing obvious.

'Back in the room, she went to her bed, but she didn't seem right and about 10 minutes later she started convulsing.'

William picked Lulu up and ran to the hotel reception to call a vet but it was too late. Lulu died in his arms.

The couple made the 35-minute trip to Oban Veterinary Surgeons but their much-loved pet had gone.

'It was there that the vets passed comment about Loch



Lulu enjoying herself on the shores of Loch Awe but half an hour later she was dead.

Awe not being safe,' added William. 'We just did not know. For us, like any dog owner losing their beloved pet, it was shattering, so quick and so unexplained. We made the 600-mile, 11-hour journey back home that night, without her.'

Oban vets have since done an autopsy but were unable to give a definite cause of death with no evidence of algae or any damage inside.

The only conclusion was

that Lulu's death was caused by toxins released by the algae that attacked her nervous system leaving no trace. The speed and nature of her death was consistent with this.

Despite still suffering greatly over his loss, William contacted The Oban Times last week in an attempt to warn others of this sometimes invisible killer.

'Had we known of the risk, even the slightest hint of one, we would never have taken

her anywhere near the loch,' he added. 'We had no advice or warning of this potential threat. While I understand there may be signs in certain locations, the loch is a big one and by its nature probably almost impossible to sign everywhere.

'Many people would think blue-green algae has to be seen like a scum on the water, but all I can say is we didn't see anything so even if the water is clear, don't take a chance.'

Just a day after Lulu's death another young dog died after swimming at Jubilee Point, on Loch Eck.

With permission from the dog's owners, Bute and Cowal Vets posted the following warning on their Facebook page: 'We would advise owners against letting their dogs swim in Loch Eck or other areas of slow moving water.

'Although not confirmed at this stage, the symptoms were consistent with blue-green algae poisoning.

'The owners noticed something was wrong as the dog was coming out of the water. Her legs seemed weak, with poor coordination. They contacted the Dunoon practice immediately, and were on the road within minutes.

'Despite the battle to save her, she didn't survive, and our thoughts are with her shocked and devastated family tonight.'

Local authorities and SEPA have been alerted to both situations and, in the meantime, Oban vets and Bute and Cowal Vets are asking owners to take precautions when exercising dogs.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'When we are made aware of possible blue-green algae blooms, investigations are carried out and, where blooms are found to be present, warning signs are placed at the scene.

'It is not possible to tell which algae do or do not produce toxins simply by their appearance.'

## Argyll's scenic lochs harbour sinister side

### What is blue-green algae and what does it look like?

Blue-green algae is a term used to describe a group of bacteria, called cyanobacteria.

They are not actually algae, but the organisms got this name because they often give the appearance of algae when they clump together in bodies of water.

Blue-green algae may not always be harmful but you can't tell simply by looking, so it's best not to let your dog near the water.

The bacteria cannot be seen with the naked eye unless they clump together. When this happens, blue-green algae can look like green flakes, greenish bundles or brown dots in a pond, loch or stream.

When the algae blooms, it can look like a blue-green scum has appeared on the surface of the water. It sometimes looks a bit like pea soup.

It is most common in non-flowing fresh water such as lochs and ponds during hot weather when there is less rainfall, but can also occur at other times of the year.

You may notice dead fish in ponds or lochs with a high concentration of the toxic bacteria. Don't let your dog



Blue-green algae.

drink from water containing dead animals.

The algae may be present in a harmful form even if you cannot see it, so take note of any warning signs in the area.

### Why is blue-green algae dangerous to dogs?

Blooms of blue-green algae can produce harmful toxins which stop a dog's liver from functioning properly. However, not all types of blue-green algae are dangerous.

Sadly, exposure to toxic blue-green algae is often fatal, and can also cause long-term health problems in dogs that survive after drinking or swimming in algae-contaminated water. Some types of blue-green algae can kill a dog just 15

minutes to an hour after drinking.

Dogs who have been swimming in water can get the algae caught in their fur, and can ingest it while cleaning themselves later on.

### What are the symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning?

If your dog shows any of the following signs after drinking from, or swimming in or paddling in contaminated water, contact a vet immediately and tell them you are concerned about blue-green algae poisoning: vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures/fitting, weakness/unconsciousness, disorientation/confusion, drooling and breathing difficulties

There is no antidote for the toxins produced by the bacteria, but if caught early enough, your vet will likely try to make your dog sick and attempt to flush the toxins from the body before they take hold.

These symptoms are commonly seen with other illnesses too, which are often less serious, but you should always call your vet if you are worried your pet is sick.

If you think you have spotted blue-green algae in water and cannot see any signs, report it to SEPA on 0800 80 70 60 which can investigate.

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OT

# Council apologises as bin lorry squirts oil

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Argyll and Bute Council has apologised to a Dunbeg resident after a pipe burst on a bin lorry during a collection this week, shooting hydraulic oil 15ft in the air.

The oil spilled across parts of Meadow Road and Camus Road as well as a pavement, high hedges and into a garden.

The greasy substance was left dripping from plants and the windows and wall of a nearby house and conservatory.

Council workers were on site less than an hour after it happened to neutralise the oil with an eco-friendly detergent but it was the next day before an official visited the affected property to reassure its concerned owner.

The householder, who did not want to be named, rang the council soon after it happened to complain but was told to



The spilled substance coated plants and the surface of Camus Road.

wait five days for a response. Unhappy with that, she later called the council's environmental team.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said the lorry involved was just six months

old and the rain had helped with the clean-up.

'We were unaware at the time the spill had affected a property and as soon as our operations team was aware of the problem, the resident was

contacted. She has now been visited, given reassurance and offered support moving forward. We have also apologised that she was not put in contact with the appropriate team in the first instance.'

The council spokesperson said both parties involved in the incident were 'happy' the matter had been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Council lorries are given four-weekly inspections and a daily visual check.

The resident, whose porch roof has gone brown with the spilled oil, said the council has promised to send round a window cleaner.

'Apart from that, nothing's been done. I wanted assurances that my plants will flourish after this but they couldn't give me that. They said it shouldn't be harmful. I'll just have to wait and see.'

'The fault was they didn't put me in touch with the right person when I first called. I wanted to know what the oil contained and if it was harmful. I shouldn't have had to wait. The smell was so strong outside and in my house. I got a headache. I was worried.'

## POLICE FILES

### Assault

At about 11.20pm on Thursday July 4, in George Street, Oban, a man aged 50 was arrested for allegedly assaulting another man. He was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

### Drugs found

At about 1.50pm on Friday July 5, in Stevenson Street, Oban, a man, 25, allegedly obstructed police searching him and was found to be in possession of a quantity of controlled drug tablets. The man will be the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

### Vehicle damaged

Between 10pm on Saturday July 6 and noon on Sunday July 7, in Corran Esplanade, Oban, a red Volvo XC90 car was damaged by having the passenger side rear door panel scratched. Police are investigating and have appealed for information.

### Break-ins arrest

Following police inquiries into several recent break-ins to premises in Oban, on Saturday July 6, a man aged 25 was arrested and charged. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Drugs possession

At about 12.35am on Saturday July 6, at Breadalbane Street, Oban, a 24-year-old man was stopped and searched and found to be in possession of cannabis. He was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

### Abusive behaviour

At about 1.50am on Saturday July 6, in Corran Esplanade, Oban, men aged 41 and 48 were fighting with each other. Both were arrested, charged and issued with recorded police warnings.

### Woman detained

Between Friday July 5 and Saturday July 6, a shop in George Street, Oban, was broken into and cash stolen. A woman aged 32 was arrested and charged in relation to the offence. Inquiries continue to trace a man in relation to the same offence and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**■ If anyone has information in relation to any incident, they can contact police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

## Councillors' expenses down for third year

The amount claimed in expenses by councillors in Argyll and Bute has fallen for the third year in a row, according to newly-published figures.

A spreadsheet released by Argyll and Bute Council shows that its 36 members claimed a total of £116,892 over 2018-19, compared to £129,772 the year before.

When added to salaries, councillors were paid a total of £817,138 in 2018-19, compared to £820,748 the previous financial year.

These figures do not include each councillor's telephone/ICT expenditure, which is met directly by the council.

The total figure for expenses has fallen every year since 2015/16.

A statement from the council by executive director of customer services Douglas Hendry said: 'The amounts shown [in the spreadsheet] are not the amounts actually received by councillors.'

'First, the remuneration payments shown are gross figures, which are then subject to tax and national insurance deductions.'

'Secondly, other expense payments relate solely to the

reimbursement of actual expenditure incurred by the councillor, and are all backed up with receipts.'

'Thirdly, the council decided that it would be more effective to provide a broadband connection for each councillor for council business related communication and telephone calls. No reimbursement has been made to councillors in respect of such costs. These are all paid for directly by the council on behalf of councillors. These are included in the table this year, reflecting revised guidance issued on such costs.'

With telephone/ICT expenses deducted from the total figures shown in the spreadsheet, Councillor Robin Currie [Kintyre and the Islands] was the largest claimant, with a total of £19,560.

His fellow Kintyre and the Islands councillor, Islay-based Alastair Redman, who is also on the PPSL committee, claimed just over £12,400, the second highest of any councillor.

Andrew Vennard [Oban North and Lorn] claimed the least with just £7.20 for travel.

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# 'Effect could last years' after farm trout escape

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An investigation has been launched after 33,000 rainbow trout escaped from a fish farm into Loch Etive – raising new concerns for the wild salmon stock.

In what experts say is the biggest escape in more than 10 years in the area, trout managed to get through a hole in one of the nets at a Dawnfresh farm on Friday June 14.

This recent incident is the second mass escape from this farm in 10 months. The escape only came to light when non-native farmed rainbow trout started being caught both by anglers in the River Awe, at the Awe barrage and by fisheries scientists during sampling of wild sea trout in Airds Bay, Loch Etive.

Dr Jonathan Anglesea, acting president of Oban and Lorn Angling Club, told The



The Inverawe (Etive 2) fish-farm run by Dawnfresh.

Oban Times that the club is very concerned about this escape, adding: 'Such a massive number of what are an alien predatory species, introduced to the Orchy/Awe/Etive catchment, could do enormous harm to the wild fish in this environment.'

'The escaped fish will be a direct threat to young brown trout, sea trout and salmon because rainbow trout will readily eat small fish.'

'The large trout that escaped

from Dawnfresh will also affect other fish and even insects, birds and bats by eating invertebrates which would otherwise be available as food to the native species.'

'The effects of this event could last for many years and see unpredictable changes to the ecology in our waters.'

'It is many years since Oban and Lorn Angling Club did any stocking of our waters as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

does not give consent even to limited introductions of fish from elsewhere. To have this happen to the fisheries that so many members have worked hard to protect and enhance is a tragedy which has saddened us all.'

Marine Scotland Science is investigating the matter and agrees rainbow trout can pose a threat to wild fish through this direct competition for resources and also through the transfer of disease.

Commenting on the incident last week, Alison Hutchins, farming director for Dawnfresh, said fish health and welfare were among the company's top concerns: 'We have well-trained professional teams at all of our sites so we take these incidents very seriously and are always looking at ways to improve in the future.'

'Marine Scotland investigators visited the site on Thursday (June 27) to conduct

their own investigation into what happened.

'We have already put in place measures to prevent this situation from happening again and increased the frequency of net inspections using the remotely operated vehicle.'

Campaign group Friends of Loch Etive has written to Marine Scotland, part of the Scottish Government, asking it use its position as regulator to urgently consider relocation of the Etive farms.

In the meantime, anglers from all over the country have been flocking to the area as proprietors, land owners and the authorities temporarily waived permit regulations.

Also benefiting from the fleeing fishes are the local otter and osprey population, not to mention the numerous fishing tackle outlets in the region.

For further clarification on fishing permits, visit [www.riverawefishing.com](http://www.riverawefishing.com)

## Survey to look at impact of RET on islands

Transport Scotland has commissioned research evaluating the impact of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) on the islands and peninsula communities served by the routes where this was introduced in October 2015.

Areas include Berneray-Leverburgh (Sound of Harris); Colintrave-Rhubodach; Eriskay-Ardmor (Sound of Barra); Fionnphort-Iona; Largs-Cumbræ; Lochaline-Fishnish; Kilchoan-Tobermory; Mallaig-Armadale; Mallaig-Small Isles; Oban-Craignure; Oban-Lismore; Sconser-Raasay; Tarbert (Loch Fyne)-Portavadie; and Wemyss Bay-Rothesay.

Residents and businesses affected by RET in 2015 are invited to complete online surveys, which can be accessed at: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RET-CHFS-ResidentsSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RET-CHFS-ResidentsSurvey) or [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RET-CHFS-BusinessSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RET-CHFS-BusinessSurvey).

## Fishermen discard rubbish and dead fish after bonanza

Continued from page one were aware of concerns about debris on the shore, as well as rubbish from visitors in the area.

'When one of our team saw the posts on the Taynuilt Facebook page, we immediately met with the person who runs the page who very kindly took a member of our team around the areas affected.'

'Two members of the Dawnfresh team went to the affected areas and cleared up broken glass and fish from around the bank and bushes, with another team visiting in the afternoon to do the same.'

'We will be checking those areas at least twice a day to ensure they remain clear.'

Dawnfresh insists that it will continue to help out in the community whenever it can.

'There are still a lot of anglers in the area who have been very helpful and we have been in touch with Inverawe Power Station to alert us to anything their team might see and clear anything they might find,' added the spokesperson.

'Dawnfresh has a long history of helping people in the local community and our neighbours on Loch Etive, be that in clearing fly-tipping,



Bags of litter and the rotting carcasses of dead fish were left abandoned by the anglers.



rescuing yachts or checking moorings, so if anyone has any concerns or sees anything they are worried about, then I would urge them to get in

touch and we will do what we can to help.'

Signs have now been put up to encourage visitors to clear up after themselves.

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OT

# What is delaying sale of Ardchattan church?

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Almost six months after Ardchattan Kirk closed its doors, its congregations are still waiting for the building to go on sale.

The parish church on the shores of Loch Etive closed on January 27 this year after a final communion and special service but a For Sale sign has still to be put up.

The Church of Scotland says it should be on the market 'soon'.

Parishioners have been hoping that after 182 years of worship, there is still a chance the building could be saved as a hub of sorts for the community, but that has been delayed by the lengthy process of getting approvals from various church committees, although that stage is now complete.

The church at Achnaba had to close because of its straitened financial circumstances after a review by The Church



of Scotland. Its congregation have been travelling instead to St Modan's Church in Benderloch.

There has been talk of securing enough funds to keep the building in the community, but that would rely on fundraising and setting up a special group. Another group is already looking at buying out the old Bonawe school for the community.

And it was hoped there might still be a way – if another church bought it – that the community could still use

it for family services such as christenings, funerals and weddings.

Church elder John Campbell said since the doors closed there had been a number of deaths and families, including his own, would like to have had the funerals there. He said: 'In my view, I can see the church being on the market for a long time. If it sells quickly, I'll be surprised. It's listed on the inside and the outside. It's only the footprint of the building that would be the buyer's. There's

**Despite closing its doors in January, Ardchattan Kirk is still waiting to be put on the market.**

no car parking or drains. It's going to be very difficult.

'St Modan's only takes half the capacity of Ardchattan. If that had been the one up for sale it would have sold like hot-cakes and we could have used the money to restore Ardchattan.'

The community has also been trying to find a nearby site for a new memorial remembering those who fought in the First and Second World Wars. The current brass plaque and framed paper memorials are locked inside the church.

The selling price is still unknown for the kirk, which is surrounded by a graveyard. A Church of Scotland spokesperson said selling the kirk had been agreed but there were 'still some details being worked out'. The spokesperson said 'it should be listed soon'.

## Make the most of your money with CAB's help

Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has launched a new campaign to help people in Argyll and Bute take control of their finances.

For Your Benefit will focus on three key areas:

- Helping people maximise their incomes;

- Raising awareness of the danger of scams;

- Tackling and destigmatising debt.

As part of the campaign, the CAB is running a financial health check service, funded by the Scottish Government, to ensure people are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to, paying the lowest possible bills for items such as gas and electricity, and getting access to further advice on unmanageable debt.

New figures released by Citizens Advice Scotland show an almost 40 per cent increase in people across Scotland visiting a CAB to check their eligibility for benefits in comparison to the last two quarters of the previous financial year.

Gillian McInnes, Argyll and

Bute Citizens Advice Bureau manager, said: 'We help thousands of people every year, and what we have seen in recent months is more and more people turning to us to check what social security payments they are entitled to.'

'That's a sign of how the cost of living crisis is squeezing people's incomes, but it should also be seen as a positive step in terms of them being willing to check what they are entitled to. In some cases we have been able to identify thousands of pounds per year that people are missing out on.'

'No-one should feel embarrassed about claiming benefits they are due. That's how the social security system works: we all pay in when we can and get support when we need it.'

'I hope people feel they can come and get all the help they need in taking control of their financial situation. Our advice is always free, confidential and independent. We don't judge or criticise anyone – we're just here to help. People can call 01546 605550 or email info@abc.org.uk.'

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The specially-commissioned whisky is available to pre-order now, ahead of the festival this weekend.

## Festival toasts 10 years with bespoke whisky

Tiree Music Festival (TMF) has teamed up with Tiree Whisky Company to produce a specially-commissioned small batch Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky to commemorate 10 years of the stunning, remote island festival, writes Fiona Scott.

Put into cask at around the same time the plans for the first TMF were starting to take shape, the exclusive 43 per cent whisky is limited to around just 380 bottles. It is now available to pre-order ahead of its bottling at the 10th Tiree Music Festival at the weekend.

Like the festival it was named after, the dram has spent the last decade matur-

ing. Tiree Music Festival has flourished from a capacity crowd of 600 in 2010 to an event which welcomes more than 2,000 people each year – three times the population of Tiree.

A smooth dram that's easy on the palate, TMF10 Whisky does not feature any peat and is best served with good music and sunshine on Tiree.

Ian Smith, director of Tiree Whisky Company Ltd, said: 'Both Tiree Music Festival and Tiree Whisky Company wanted to celebrate TMF's 10th anniversary with something special. A tasting panel consisting of the TMF and Tiree Whisky Company

directors, as well as some friends of the festival, sampled drams from seven different casks before a final decision was made on this particular whisky to mark the occasion. It's the perfect tribute to a Tiree treasure.'

Stewart MacLennan, director of Tiree Music Festival, said: 'It's been 10 years since we dreamed up an island festival on Tiree and it's amazing to see how its grown in the time since.'

'2019 is an important milestone for everyone involved in the festival so it seems only fitting to mark it with this special commission that captures the unique beauty and spirit of the island.'

# Changes are ahead for resource centre

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Health and social care bosses are planning changes to buildings where they have staff in Oban.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) says to improve communication and work together for its patients and clients, it needs to have teams working closely together and being based on one site.

But The Oban Times understands the changes mean the removal of the art and music rooms at the town's Lorne Resource Centre (LRC).

Letters have now been sent out to service users and their families who have links with both LRC and Lynnside Day Centre in Soroba Road.

The letter says Argyll and Bute Council will be establishing an early years childcare centre at the same time to serve the Oban community and has



All change at Oban's Lorne Resource Centre.

earmarked the Willowview Community Care site, also in Soroba Road, for that project. The building is currently used for social work.

That means about 120 HSCP staff will now need to be moved. 'However, land in Oban is in short supply, the costs of providing a new building are too high,' says the letter.

LRC and Lynnside's Soroba Road site could have the potential to take around 30 HSCP staff leaving Willowview or being displaced from Lorn and Islands Hospital.

'We have sought advice from the Care Inspectorate which has advised that we can provide the same or better facilities to the users of LRC

and Lynnside within a smaller footprint,' said the letter.

The building will be remodelled internally to create separate clinical and office space for additional teams of HSCP workers.

HSCP has told service users and their families it has some options for how the LRC and Lynnside would look inside a remodelled complex. To help choose the best layout and make the best use of space, it is inviting them to open events.

The first event is on Thursday July 18 from 9am until 10am at LRC and from 10.30am to 11.30am at Lynnside. Then on Monday July 22 from 1pm to 2pm at LRC and 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Lynnside, followed by a final session on Wednesday July 24 from 5pm to 6pm at Lynnside and 6.30pm to 7.30pm at LRC.

People going to the sessions will be able to find out more about the plans, walk round the space and give their views.

## Oban's Phoenix Cinema screening turns the tide

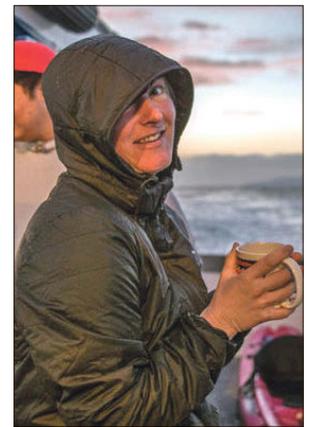
Oban's Phoenix Cinema is screening an inspiring film next week about open water swimmer Beth French.

The feature-length documentary tells how marathon swimmer Beth sets out to take on Oceans Seven, a challenge consisting of the seven hardest, most dangerous sea channels in the world, doing it for her autistic son and despite herself having the chronic fatigue syndrome ME.

The cinema in George Street booked the film, to be shown on Wednesday July 17 at 7.30pm, after Oban Sea and Lochs Swimmers (SEALS) founder Stacey Holloway got in touch.

Once in the water, Beth confronts jellyfish, sharks, hypothermia, wild weather and mind-numbing fatigue, along with demons from her past. Each swim can take up to 20 hours, often through the night. But immersed in the waves, Beth is in her element.

With each swim Beth gets stronger and more determined but as her dramatic



Beth French on her Oceans Seven Catalina Challenge.

Picture by David Leyland.

journey nears its end, her desire to conquer the open sea comes into heart-rending conflict with a mother's dreams for her son in an unpredictable and emotional climax.

Against The Tides was made by the BAFTA-nominated and award-winning film-maker Stefan Stuckert.

To book go to obanphoenix.com.

## Dalavich cafe mapped out on route planner

A cafe in Dalavich is to benefit from a new interactive map for the iconic Caledonia Way cycling route.

VisitScotland and Sustrans have just launched the new route planner to help make it easier for more people to explore one of Scotland's best-known long-distance cycling routes.

The Caledonia Way, which stretches 237 miles from Campbeltown to Inverness, attracts an estimated 2.5 million cycling journeys each year.

The interactive planner suggests a number of multi-day touring itineraries and day-trip ideas, showing how the route can be enjoyed. It also gives cycling tourists options to plan more of their journey by browsing accommodation, visitor attractions, events and food and drink options in advance.

Libby Foy, owner of Dalavich Shop and Wild Rowan Cafe, is just one business looking forward to reaping benefits from the planner.

'This new interactive microsite will enable us to promote our cafe business, and the services we offer, directly to leisure cycling visitors. This area has huge potential to attract all types of cyclists. The itineraries and the



Cyclists Janet Moss and Pete Martin next to the Sustrans signpost at the start of the Caledonia Way.

visitor attractions which are showcased on the microsite will help cyclists plan their visit more effectively and will boost the number of cyclists choosing to come to our region.'

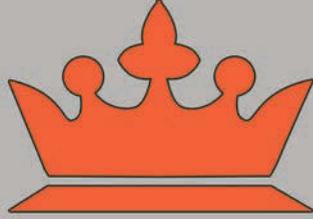
Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, added: 'We are excited to be teaming up with Sustrans to deliver this dynamic tool for cyclists, both experienced and beginners. This new interactive route planner helps people enjoy Scotland in a fun, healthy and sustainable way.'

Tom Bishop, head of network development at Sustrans Scotland, said: 'The Caledonia Way is undoubt-

edly a jewel in the crown of the National Cycle Network, and we believe that this innovative new journey planner will encourage even more people to explore one of Scotland's most breath-taking routes by bike.

'Sustrans firmly believes that high quality leisure cycling routes can be a catalyst for more people to make sustainable transport choices on an everyday basis, and we hope that this fantastic new facility will inspire budding cyclists to explore the National Cycle Network.'

The interactive planner can be found at [visitscotland.com/see-do/active/cycling/national-routes/map/#/](http://visitscotland.com/see-do/active/cycling/national-routes/map/#/)



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# BBC Scotland is looking for Home of Year

Earlier this year BBC Scotland took viewers on a seven-week tour of 21 homes in Scotland, peeking inside everything from a studio flat in Glasgow to a restored castle on the Black Isle.

That journey culminated in a nail-biting and tear-jerking final episode at Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover in Glasgow, where the regional finalists amassed and stunning seaside home The White House was unanimously crowned Scotland's Home of the Year.

Now the judges – architect Michael Angus, interior designer Anna Campbell Jones and lifestyle blogger Kate Spiers – are doing it again, going in search of Scotland's next Home of the Year.

From Cairndow to Campbeltown, Rothesay to Rhubodach, BBC Scotland is looking for proud homeowners to once again open the doors to their homes.

Whether they have a contemporary coastal pad in Lochgilphead, or a fantastic flat in Oban, if there is home that shows individuality, Scotland's Home of the Year wants to know about it.

Jo Street, commissioner for BBC Scotland, said: 'We're delighted to announce a second series of Scotland's Home of the Year.

'It isn't just about showing off million-pound properties – it's about truly celebrating what people have done to turn their house into a home, expressing their individuality

through their design, flair and imagination.

'We saw some cracking houses over the course of series one and there are more gems to uncover for series two.'

Gerard Costello, executive producer for IWC Media, added: 'We are thrilled that Scotland's Home of the Year is returning to BBC Scotland. The first series was a joy to make and we have only scratched the surface of the beautiful and distinctive homes Scotland has to offer. We can't wait to get started.'

To apply, send a brief description with accompanying photos to [scotlandshomes@iwcmedia.co.uk](mailto:scotlandshomes@iwcmedia.co.uk). Filming starts in August, so get applications in now.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



The 10th Tíree Music Festival fires into action this weekend and it will be one to remember.

I hope I don't tempt the weather gods, but the forecast is predicting calm, sunny days and blue skies.

TMF has not been blessed with good conditions in recent years but whatever the weather has thrown at this multi-award-winning event, the music, the atmosphere and the welcome have shone through and conquered the elements.

Back in January, I wrote about the Ten Years of TMF concert at Celtic Connections and, as we approach the actual event itself, the excitement is building and I'm compelled again to feature it here.

Having been born and brought up on Tíree, it is with pride that I have watched the conception, growth and development of the festival and I have been lucky to have played at most of the events since the first in 2010.

Running an event like this in an accessible area of the mainland is a considerable

undertaking, but to do so on a remote island with the added costs and logistical difficulties involved is to be greatly admired.

Having seen the success of Barra Live back in our own early days, I took tentative steps then to look into the possibility of running a similar event on Tíree. When the initial quotes for tents, stages, sound gear and security came in – never mind everything else – I was very quickly put off the idea and took it no further.

Daniel Gillespie, Stewart MacLennan and the TMF team have proved year after year that it can be done and I take my proverbial hat off to them for the way in which they have achieved this.

This small event has been consistently punching way above its weight in terms of its influence on the wider music industry and the awards it has won. The calibre of the bands that over the years have graced TMF has been of a very high standard and the kind of audience it attracts is in perfect balance with the type of family

-friendly atmosphere that an event like this should create.

Because of the Skipinnish 20th anniversary events this summer, we made the decision at the end of last year that we wouldn't do any other gigs or festivals so as not to play too often to potentially the same audiences. There are only so many times that people would want to listen to our racket.

It was the right decision at the time, but with TMF a few days away, I am seriously regretting that move now.

It will be nice to be there as an audience member and just relax and enjoy the party, but I think given the extra special atmosphere of the 10th year celebration, I am going to be wishing we were on stage singing songs about Tíree, on Tíree, to a Tíree audience.

I have a feeling this will be the best TMF to date. The lineup has been built perfectly and the anticipation is running high.

If the weekend is also blessed with sunny days then TMF 2019 will be the talk of generations to come.

# Scotland's Home of the Year is back

Are you proud of your home?

Does it have a distinctive design?

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**Then it could be a candidate for Scotland's Home of the Year**

**Our series is returning to the BBC Scotland channel - and we need your home!**

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We want great homes, whatever their size and whatever their budget level.

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For more information please send your contact details along with a brief description of your home and a few photos letting us know why you love it.

**Please send all applications to [scotlandshomes@iwcmedia.co.uk](mailto:scotlandshomes@iwcmedia.co.uk)**  
Please note the home you're submitting must be your primary residence





Captain Craig Mullarkey welcomes RNLI staff Tom Kennedy, Ally Cerexhe, Leonie Mead and chairman, Mike Robertson aboard the MV Isle of Mull.

## CalMac crews donate £1,000 to Oban RNLI

CalMac crews from MV Isle of Mull and MV Clansman have donated money gifted to them for outstanding service to help support the work of the RNLI.

Crew members on both vessels were each given a voucher by the company to recognise their exceptional response during a recent rescue operation in Sound of Mull. They were nominated for the payment by colleagues through the quarterly staff recognition scheme.

In light of the close relationship they have with the RNLI, the crews decided to pool the vouchers together, convert them to cash and make a £1,000 donation to help with the upkeep of the Oban's lifeboat.

'We work very closely with our colleagues in the RNLI.

'As a regular service operating in these waters we are often called upon to assist other seafarers in distress, so we are all too aware of the hard work that they put in volunteering to keep

people safe,' said Master of the MV Isle of Mull Craig Mullarkey.

'All the crew from both vessels were in full agreement the money would be better spent helping to support the valuable work they do.'

Iain Fulton, deputy launch authority, Oban lifeboat, said: 'We would especially like to thank the crew of the MV Isle of Mull and MV Clansman for making this outstanding contribution to help us continue our essential life-saving work.'

# Appin man is jailed for having guns

A disgraced former Merchant Navy officer with a fascination for guns, who was caught with an arsenal of weapons, has been jailed for four years.

Fifty-year-old Robert Lockhart's home in Appin was raided last November after Border Force officials intercepted a package addressed to him containing a handgun.

Police and the National Crime Agency seized six more handguns, a shotgun and ammunition.

Defence counsel Tony Lenehan said: 'He has a fascination with guns. He would sit on a Saturday watching Westerns with guns at his side, which perhaps is childlike.'

Lockhart, a cruise ship engineer who also served for many years in the Merchant Navy,

pleaded guilty at the High Court in Glasgow to a series of firearms charges.

Judge Lady Stacey said: 'What the police found was the guns, none of which was capable of being fired, but which could be modified, and some ammunition, some blank and some not.'

'These guns were not kept securely. You showed the police the arsenal you had.'

'I have to take a serious view of this. Such weapons unmodified can be used to frighten people and modified they can be used to kill and they may be stolen by other people.'

'Gun control is an important matter and you have blatantly breached it.'

The court heard Border Force seized the package containing

the handgun. Officials later visited Lockhart's cottage. A total of seven handguns were found. Lockhart then admitted he had a 'decommissioned' shotgun in a cabinet.

Prosecutor Allan Nicol said: 'He then led them up into the attic which had been converted into a basic room with shooting targets in open view.'

Police also seized ammunition and flares.

Mr Nicol said: 'He stated he enjoyed shooting from an early age and that he was a collector. He said he held firearms and shotguns legally for 10 years without issue. He went on to say he applied for a shotgun and airgun licence in 2017, but it had been refused.'

Lockhart claimed he had the flares for using on his boat.

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# Made in Ardrishaig – Fergu

by Colin Cameron  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Today the Lochaber-based company employs 200 people, has a turnover of £18 million and has interests in road, rail and sea transport – with plans for further expansion.

But Ferguson Transport and Shipping began with a husband and wife team 60 years ago in Ardrishaig.

'I can remember exactly when the company was started,' explained Anne Ferguson, 'because it was the day Archie and I got married – June 27, 1959.'

As the company celebrates its 60th anniversary, Anne and her son, group managing director Alasdair – better known as Ally – reflected on their Argyll roots.

Senior reporter Colin Cameron took the opportunity to chat to them in Ferguson's impressive head office at Corpach, Fort William, in a boardroom lined with photographs charting the firm's history from Ardrishaig onwards.



Anne and her son Alasdair Ferguson beside one of the company's lorries in its familiar livery. 06\_a24Ferguson-Transport02; and right: A young Archie Ferguson with a lorry belonging to his uncle, Andrew Grinlaw.



The Ferguson family's link with haulage, though, goes well beyond 60 years.

Archie's family was in the hotel trade, but on returning from National Service in 1956 he went to work with his uncle, Andrew Grinlaw, who

had set up his own Ardrishaig haulage business in the 1920s while operating his famous horse-drawn coach tours.

Archie's first depot was the recently-demolished tin shed at Ardrishaig swing bridge, and his lorries would be parked at the pier. 'We had about five or six lorries by the 1970s,' said Alasdair. 'My memories as a kid are of leaving Ardrishaig in the timber lorries early in the morning and heading for the pulp and paper mill. I remember

heating pies up on the engine block, and by the time you reached Glen Coe they were nice and warm.'

He explained: 'After the big storm in 1968, a lot of wind blown timber from Argyll was taken to the new pulp and paper mill at Corpach. After it was cleared by about 1974, the timber work moved north.'

Archie and Anne made the bold decision to up sticks and move north to where the work was, doing that in October 1974.

With five children aged between four and 15 – and the cat and budgie – they set off, as Anne recalled: 'I remember we were going through Glen Coe and there was a bright moon. It was about midnight, and Archie and I just looked at one another and burst out laughing. It was like a moonlight flit.'

Spean Bridge filling station was their destination. While Archie worked seven days a week, Anne was raising their five children in two small caravans while running the

filling station and keeping the books.

Archie sadly died in 1997 as the result of a forestry accident, but his hard work and ingenuity had set the family business on solid foundations.

'If you look back to the family with five kids who moved from Ardrishaig in 1974, it's been quite a phenomenal journey,' said Alasdair.

The company has effectively doubled in size over the past decade.

Now based out of Corpach, specialist road haulage – with around 70 lorries – remains at the heart of the business, but Ferguson Transport and Shipping now incorporates rail and sea transport, with a recent venture regenerating Kishorn dock to supply the oil and gas, as well as aquaculture and offshore renewable, industries.

'We have a simple management structure including myself, my sisters, Leslie and Carol, and brother Jack as directors, with 13 senior managers across the depart-

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# Ferguson's celebrates 60 years



Andrew Grinlaw, owner of the famous 'Ardrihaig Belle' coach and an Ardrihaig haulage contractor.

ments reporting to the board,' explained Alasdair. 'We've got excellent staff, a great management team and

we are very proud to celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. It is important we don't forget where we came from.'

Right, the couple who began it all in 1959 - Anne and Archie Ferguson.



Below, one of Ferguson Transport and Shipping's vessels supplying the world's largest semi-submersible offshore drilling rig, the Ocean GreatWhite, in Kishorn Harbour.



## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE?

### Fish, Slimming World chips and peas



Serves 4  
Syns per serving: 2

#### Ingredients

- 3 slices old bread
- 800g potatoes, peeled and cut into thick chips
- Low calorie cooking spray
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 x 170g skinless and boneless cod fillets
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsps beer
- Fresh parsley, finely chopped, to garnish
- Canned mushy peas
- Lemon wedges, to serve

#### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Line two baking trays with baking paper. Whizz the bread in a food processor until crumbed, then transfer to a plate.
2. Boil the chips in lightly salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, then drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up the chips' edges, then arrange on one of the baking trays in a single layer. Spray with low calorie cooking spray, season and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden.
3. Meanwhile, season the cod. In a shallow bowl, beat together the eggs and beer. Dip the fish in the egg mixture, then coat with the breadcrumbs. Transfer to the second baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fillets and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cooked through and lightly browned.
4. Sprinkle the parsley over the fish and serve with the chips, plenty of mushy peas, plus lemon wedges for squeezing over.

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Ceann latha	Àite	Baile	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Town / Village	Event	Time
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Inveraray Castle	Inveraray	Highland Games	1.00pm
16 <sup>th</sup> July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Family Ceilidh	9.00pm
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Uig Hall	Dunoon	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall	Lochranza	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Carradale Village Hall	Carradale	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Ardrihaig Public Hall	Ardrihaig	Mid Argyll Pipe Band Dance	8.00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Craignish Village Hall	Ardfern	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Port Charlotte Hotel	Port Charlotte	Session	8.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Craighouse Village Hall	Isle of Jura	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Ben Cruachan Inn	Loch Awe	Session	8.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Tayvallich	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> July	The Old Inn	Appin	Session	4.00pm
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Victory Hall	Benderloch	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Atlantic Islands Centre	Isle of Luìng	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> August	An Talla	Isle of Tiree	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	An Crìdhe	Isle of Coll	Coll Show Dance	8.00pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	The View	Oban	Family Ceilidh	7.30pm

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Oban firm makes waves with new seafood product

Oban is fighting the war on plastic with Scottish biotechnology company CuanTec, based at the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology at Dunstaffnage, using langoustine shells to produce compostable food packaging.

Langoustines normally take pride of place on a fish platter in the many seafood restaurants in Oban and across the country, as one of Scotland's premier seafood products.

But now the waste shells can be processed by CuanTec as a natural alternative to the petroleum-based plastics which are polluting seas.

Cait Murray-Green, chief executive of CuanTec, said: 'Our inspiration comes from wanting to find better use for seafood waste. We extract chitin, a naturally-occurring biopolymer, from shellfish waste and we convert this into an alternative to plastic food wrap.'

'The company has been going around two and a half years, and earlier this year we entered into a partnership with Waitrose, which hopes to use our bio-plastic as an alternative to conventional plastic film on some of its fish products.'

# Lochaber MP visits Liberty French smelter

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford last week visited Europe's largest aluminium plant, Aluminium Dunkerque, in the French port of Dunkirk.

The Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP's fact-finding mission allowed him to hear first hand about the desire of the Liberty Group to deliver investment and growth through investing in downstream applications, as well as the opportunity of sharing best practice and collaboration between its operations in Dunkirk and Lochaber.

Speaking following his visit, Mr Blackford said: 'The Dunkirk aluminium plant, together with its downstream operations elsewhere in France, is a shining example of what can be achieved by having a vertically integrated project to create jobs on a sustainable basis.'

'It was a very worthwhile trip. I think what is really important is that any future plans in Lochaber successfully synergise operations with its partners in France.'

'To put it simply, there is a successful blueprint that shows the way forward for the operations in Lochaber.'

'I would like to thank all those at Liberty who made this visit possible. It was an informative and beneficial site visit.'



Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford, right, at the smelter in France last week.

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## Indian millionaire opens hotel in Highlands

A new country hotel has opened in the Highlands following more than £12 million of investment in three properties by the Black Sheep Hotels group, under the ownership of Indian millionaire Sanjay Narang.

Rokeby Manor, located on the outskirts of Invergarry, opened last week following a major refurbishment programme and is soon to be followed by the Cluanie Inn and the Whispering Pine Lodge.

Indian businessman Sanjay Narang and his sister Rachna travelled to the Highlands last year for a hiking holiday. However, despite having a less than favourable stay, they loved the area and from that established the Black Sheep Hotel Group. Mr Narang has also subsequently relocated from India to Glengarry.

Formerly called Craigard Guest House, Rokeby Manor is a Victorian country house built in 1840 and retains many of



Rokeby Manor and, inset, Sanjay Narang.

its original features. The 13-en suite-bedroom property has been fully refurbished and includes the restaurant Emily's Byre, which serves authentic Indian cuisine, allowing travellers to experience affordable luxury in the Highlands.

The Black Sheep Hotels group, which includes Rokeby Manor, the Whispering Pine Lodge

(formerly the Letterfinlay Lodge) at Spean Bridge and the Cluanie Inn at Glenmoriston, cost the siblings £3 million and they have invested another £9 million into the refurbishment programme, with Rachna heading up the design side.

Under the ownership of Mars Enterprise and Hospitality, Black Sheep Hotels is the company's

first venture in Scotland, taking its expertise in hospitality from its hotels and restaurants in Mumbai.

Mars Group has experienced stunning growth over the past 10 years and at its peak owned and operated 37 restaurants, 52 cake shops, five hotels, five air catering units and the luxury Waterstones Club in Mumbai.

Mr Narang said: 'We are delighted to be opening the first of our Black Sheep Hotels at Rokeby Manor, bringing together our considerable experience and expertise in the hospitality sector in order to provide a distinctive and authentic experience for our guests.'

'We fell in love with the Highlands on our first visit and decided to make this considerable investment, ensuring that other visitors can be as impressed as we are with the beauty of the area.'

The two other properties in the profile are due to open later this summer.

## Perle Hotels buys Glencoe House

The Scotland-based Perle Hotels, which has a business in Oban, has purchased the five-star Glencoe House Hotel, regarded as one of the most exclusive and luxurious hotels in the Highlands.

The hotel, which has 14 suites, sits in a commanding position overlooking the sea loch and mountains around Glencoe.

Glencoe House was built by Lord Strathcona in 1896 and became a military hospital during WWII, then served as a maternity hospital before becoming a geriatric hospital in the 1960s. It closed in 2009.

The house was purchased by Roger Niemeyer in 2011 and over the past few years he and Judy Pate have restored and brought the property back to its former grandeur.

It offers the perfect site for those interested in exploring the stunning Highland landscape, getting a taste of walking in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland or tracing their genealogy.

As part of the sale of Glencoe House, all existing employment contracts will be honoured and all staff will continue working for Glencoe House, which will be owned and operated by Perle Hotels.



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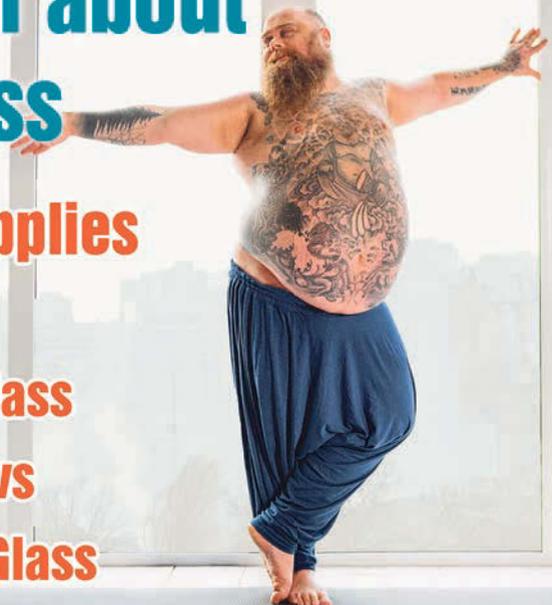
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## Highland tourist route is given a new makeover

A popular tourist route has been given a makeover to help visitors explore its unique landscape and geology.

New road signs have been installed throughout the North West Highlands Unesco Global Geopark to encourage people to slow down and discover the Rock Route.

The interpretative trail guides visitors between Ullapool and Loch Eriboll, with a series of 14 panels giving a flavour of the landscape and geology.

Using the distinctive geopark logo of a Celtic knot, the long-established route is now clearly marked throughout the geopark.

In addition to the new signs, a number of geopods have been installed to give tourist information at Strathcairn and Rhiconnich.

As visitors have increased to the geopark, most recently through the popularity of the North Coast 500 tourist trail, the Rock Route aims to encourage travellers to stop more to enjoy and learn more about the astonishing landscape of the north-west.

Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve manager Sue Agnew said: 'We really want to encourage people to stop a while and explore the surrounding countryside. SNH established the Rock Route through the geopark in 2001, and upgraded and extended it in 2013, but some of the stops were actually quite difficult to find. The sites are now more clearly signposted, making them much more accessible for all to stop and enjoy this unique landscape.'



One of the new geopods.

# By still Shiel Waters

## Morvern lines

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**Charles Dunell Rudd, 'CDR' to his family and close friends, owned Ardnamurchan Estate (55,000 acres) from 1896 until his death in 1916. Here, in our third and final feature in the series, taken from CDR's son Alan Rudd's small book about his father, we read more of his early memories of Shielbridge – a short but personal insight to life in and around Acharacle in the early part of the 20th century. It is published by kind permission of his daughter.**

The First World War was suddenly upon us. Things at Shielbridge didn't change much at first. A lot of young men off the estate joined the Navy. John Roy's son, a piper, joined the

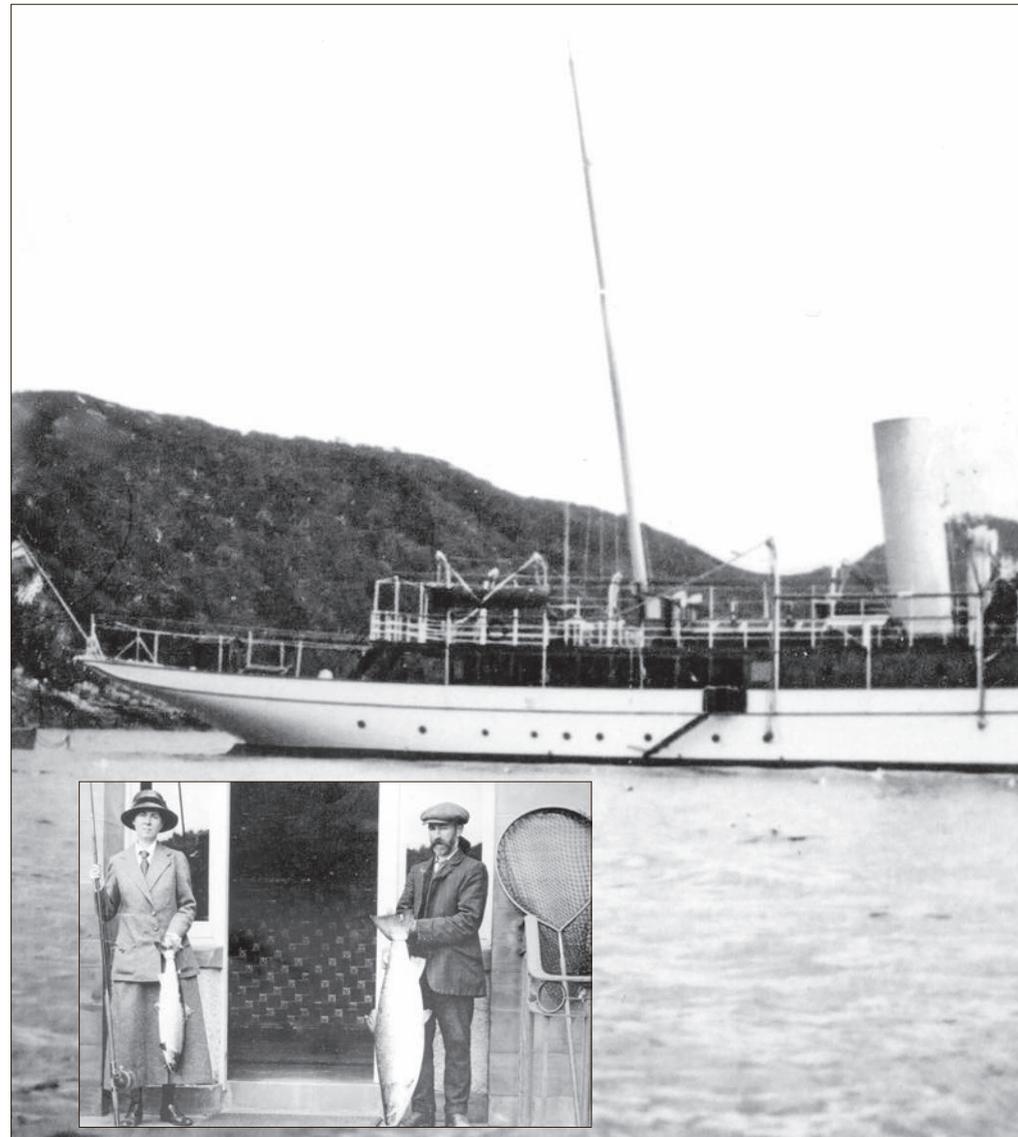
'I wish I had a photograph of George (the footman) holding my mother round the waist, both up to their knees in the water as she unsteadily 'played' a large fish.'

Argylls and it used to be wonderful to hear the pipes down the river at Shielfoot when he was home on leave.

News came almost solely by telegram from Mr Allison, my father's secretary in London, who gave us a daily bulletin. It was hung up in the PO window and a copy went to Lord Howard at Dorlin. Later, after we learnt that the war would not 'be over by Christmas' there were concerts and recruiting drives etc and other activities to help the war effort.

My father always spoke at meetings and I used to go through agonies in case he forgot what he wanted to say. Little did I know in those days of his speeches to the shareholders of Consolidated Goldfields which all the City used to go to hear him – always speaking without notes.

SY Mingary was given to the government for war duty and became a submarine depot ship based on Rosyth. That was the last we saw of her. Mr Galbraith, the chief engineer, served aboard throughout the war.



The yacht Mingary was given to the government for war duty and became a submarine depot ship based on Rosyth. Inset, Alan Rudd's mother was a keen angler.

Photographs supplied by Iain Thornber

At home we collected, sorted, washed, packed and sent off dozens, perhaps hundreds, of bags of sphagnum moss, used for dressings. My father used to spend whole days out on the bogs collecting. The stuff was sorted in the fishing room. These first photographs of Shielbridge in summer and winter gave some idea of the surroundings. We seemed to have much heavier

snow then than now and I well remember the pack ice above the old bridge in hard winters. There were a lot of geese around on the bog in winter but they were very wary and there was no cover so they seldom got shot. I once made a covered 'hide' of peat and spent hours freezing in it while the geese passed over in hundreds but didn't alight.

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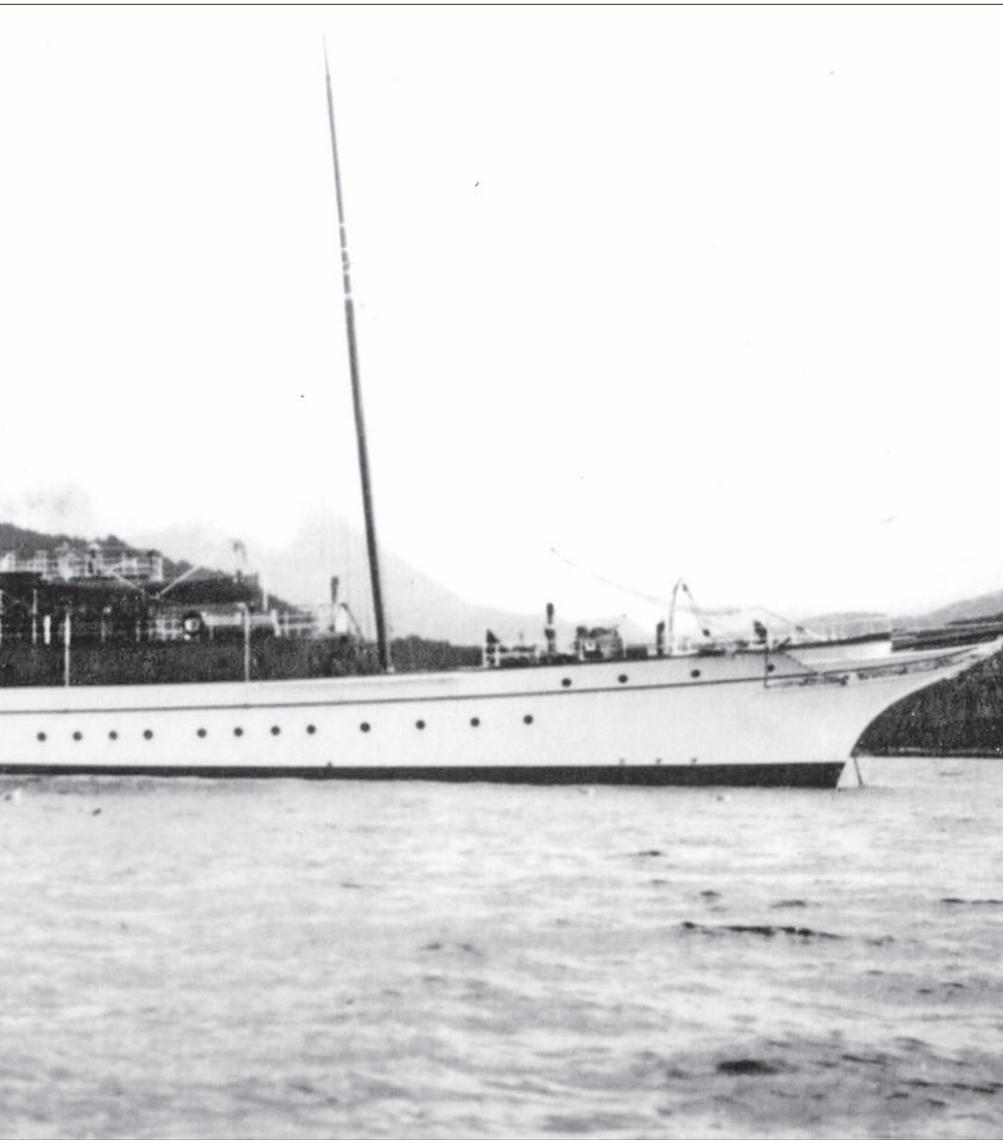
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# (part three)



My mother was a keen fisherman and caught many heavy fish. Those who fished alone always had a pocket hooter and if a big fish was hooked, they blew lustily till someone arrived. Any member of the family or staff, to help with net or gaff.

I wish I had a photograph of George (the footman) holding my mother round the waist, both up to their knees in the water as she unsteadily 'played' a large fish, he telling her, 'It's alright Ma'am, I've got you ma'am, etc'.

The other side of the river was the Dorlin

Estate, belonging to Lord Howard of Glossop and, further north, the Kinlochmoidart, where the Stewarts lived. Over in the stables lived the head gardener, Leuchars, Mr Tarrant, the electrician, and Menzies, the coachman. We had our own electric light plant. The water supply came from far off the hills near Gortan, where there was a small reservoir. Drainage was into the river below the house and the eels we caught where it came out had to be seen to be believed!

Concluded.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Our archives this week produce a great photograph from Rockfield's Red Nose Day back in 1997. But who are the two young men pictured? Let us know by emailing us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Moira Robertson got in touch about last week's photograph from May 1990 to tell us it was a photograph from Lochaber Piping Society Piping Competition, and pictured left to right, back row, Euan MacCrimmon, Alastair Cameron, Susan Menzies, Duncan Nicholson, Diane MacKenzie. On the front Row, she wasn't sure of the two girls on the left, but centre was, Andrew Stevenson, and to his right Diane Falconer and Fiona MacKay.



Also from 1997, this photograph shows P1 pupils at Lochside Primary in Fort William who took part in a sponsored silence for the National Deaf Children's Association.

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## LETTERS

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## Escape from fish farm could have a serious impact

The mass escape of some 33,000 rainbow trout from a fish farm into Loch Etive is a matter of considerable concern.

The potential damage to the marine environment was flagged up very well by Dr Jonathan Anglesea, acting president of Oban and Lorn Angling Club, who voiced his worry over the impact from 'an alien predatory species'.

Dawnfresh, which operates the fish farm in question, for its part says it has 'put in place measures to prevent this situation from happening again and increased the frequency of net inspections'.

Given the severity of the situation, that is the least we can expect.

It is also galling that such a mess has been left in places around Loch Etive by some of the anglers who flocked to the area to make the most of the fishing bonanza.

## Residents must take some blame for litter

We have been forthright in the past in criticising Argyll and Bute Council for its three-weekly residential bins collection.

The litter problem has been particularly problematic in the Soroba area of Oban, where, as we report again this week, rubbish is strewn across the streets, in large part due to the actions of gulls ripping open bin bags.

However, in this instance, as a council spokesperson said, a part of the problem has come from residents not placing their waste in the correct bins.

Recycling bins have been provided, as well as additional general waste bins, so there should be sufficient capacity.

If residents do not embrace the recycling initiative properly, they must shoulder some of the blame for the mess.

## Oban Live puts residents' health and wellbeing at risk

In the 1950s, tobacco firms were promoting cigarettes as beneficial to health. In recent years, Oban Live organisers have been promoting their product as beneficial to the people of Oban.

At a meeting of health professionals in Oban on July 3, 2019, they agreed that there is a definite link between loud music and deafness. They also agreed that flash photography and strobe lighting causes epileptic fits. These put a great strain on local medical services and, according to the psychiatrist present at the meeting, it also puts a strain on mental health services.

Oban Live has said there would be no concert in Oban in 2020 and it was demanding improvements to Mossfield Stadium before the next concert in 2021.

This is an outrage. Why are Argyll and Bute councillors supporting an event that creates unnecessary disability and ill health? Don't they know that NHS is already under severe financial strain?

It is time councillors put the needs of local residents ahead of the needs of the tourist industry. Why has there never been any public consultation on whether we want these concerts? Will the Oban Live organisers pay compensation to local residents who suffer deafness as a result of the dreadful noise made by them?

If you are resident in Mossfield area or support the right of residents not to suffer greatly increased risk of ill health and disability, perhaps you would like to help me to form a Mossfield Residents' Association to make sure that Oban Live never comes back.

David Gallant,  
Mossfield, Oban.

## Who will pick up the bill if GFG cannot pay?

Is this the reason that Kate Forbes MSP was angry?

The SNP has punted more than £500 million on a company, with its smelter running at a loss, to save 130 jobs, but has made the company GFG more than £1 billion.

Perhaps Ms Forbes thinks she has landed a plum job as Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy or could it be that she has realised that it is indeed a poisoned chalice?

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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

## Extraction of timber by sea should be improved

The logging operations south of Oban and the work to widen the road between Scammadale and Knipoch are evident to anyone travelling along the A816.

What may not be so obvious is the flawed government policy associated with the extrac-



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This week's photograph was sent in by Wiktoria Morawska who said: 'I like going on walks and taking photos. This wee picture I took on June 16 and it shows Oban at its finest.'

tion of timber in Argyll. A-roads in the trunk road network are classified as agreed routes by default for timber extraction. However, the A816 was de-trunked in the 1980s, allowing years of subsequent under-investment in its upkeep by the local authority.

Its widening is now required in order to bring it up to standard as a key timber extraction route. The council no doubt welcomes the extra cash from the Scottish Government to

improve a small section of the A816, though timber lorries will still have to pass through Oban to get to Corpach or negotiate the narrow bridges south of Scammadale on their way to Ardrishaig or the central motorway network.

As if that weren't ironic enough, it is a fascinating insight into the lack of foresight in government transport policy to note that while one official at Buchanan House in Glasgow allocates funding to upgrade roads for timber lorries another one further down the corridor is allocating funding to the Timberlink programme, specifically aimed at taking timber lorries off the roads in favour of extraction by sea.

As the A816 was being widened last week, and numerous 26-ton load timber lorries made their way along the road, a vessel was extracting 900 tons of timber from the west shore of Loch Feochan.

There are several timber dumps along the A816 accessed by lorries which are only hundreds of metres from the sea. If timber can be extracted from Loch Feochan, it can surely be extracted by vessel at other points along the route. Such a policy would remove thousands of lorry movements from the A816 each year.

Fergus Gillanders,  
Craigaol, Kilmelford.

## Seeking information about air death mystery

I am doing some research into the disappearance of Peter Gibbs following a flight on the Isle of Mull from The Glenforsa Hotel on Christmas Eve in 1975.

The body of Mr Gibbs was discovered some four months later, in April 1976, at Pennygowan Farm, not far from the hotel. His plane was never located and many questions about his disappearance and reappearance continue to remain unanswered.

It was a long time ago, but I'm hoping that some of your readers may recall the incident and may have some first-hand knowledge of specific aspects of the event, or have spoken to people who do.

I am particularly interested in locating the shepherd Donald MacKinnon, who came across the body of Mr Gibbs, and people at The Glenforsa Hotel who saw the plane take off.

Your readers can contact me at michael.baldwin.918@gmail.com

Michael Baldwin,  
Lakefield, Ontario, Canada.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



S e pàirt den trioblaid le àilleachd chinn a tuath Alba gum bheil luchd-turais glè thrìc air am beò-ghlacadh leis na seallaidhean chun na h-ìre 's nach eil an aire cho dlùth 's as còir air an rathad-mhòr! Theagamh gum bheil seo aig amannan cuideachd fìor fìu 's dha muinntir an àite, ach tha e gu sònraichte na chunnart dha coigrich bho thall thairis agus à Breatann a tha a' tadhal agus a' siubhal na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan. A' cur ris na dùbhlain sin 's e fìrinn na cùise nach eil ann am mòran de na rathaidean aon-fhillte air am bheil na daoine sin a' siubhal ach seann shlighean-cartach a chaidh a leasachadh le teàrr agus beagan cloiche thar na linntean mar a bha àireamhan agus cuideam charbadan a' dol am meud! Tha sin a' fàgail mòran aca cumhang, lùbach, agus gu tur mì-fhreagarrach airson astar, ach chan eil tòrr de na tha gan siubhal a' tuigsinn sin!

Mar a tha tubaistean a' dearbhadh chan iad coigrich a-mhàin a tha rin coireachadh airson a bhith ri dràibheadh gu mì-chùramach ach 's dòcha gur e ladamh an eòlais air an t-slighe a tha ag adhbharachadh mar a tha a' tachairt ro bhithianta dha muinntir na dùthcha seo fhèin. Aig an aon àm feumar aideachadh gum bheil ceistean mòra gun fhreagairt a thaobh 's mar a tha sgilean agus comasan dhràibhear an ag atharrachadh thar bhliadhnaichean, 's gun sgrùdadh sam bith ga dhèanamh orra fon lagh.

Saoilidh mise gum bheil seo ceàrr agus far am bheil tra-faig a' sior fhàs gach bliadhna, agus cumhachd charbadan cuideachd a' dol am meud, nach bu chòir measadh do-sheachanta a bhith air gach dràibhear càr gach còig bliadhna.

Tha sgrùdadh mar-thà air dràibhear charbadan troma, carson a bhiodh càch eadar-dhealaichte is uidheaman pailt cho cunnartach fon smachd!

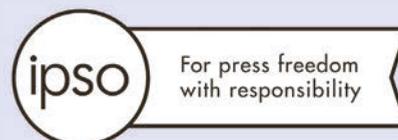
Air ais chun luchd-turais agus na cunnartan a tha romhpa, agus a bhios iad fhèin glè thrìc ag adhbharachadh. Bidh deagh fhios agaibhe a th' air dràibheadh air taobh deas an rathaid is sibh thall thairis cho furasta 's a tha e dìochuimhneachadh sin a dhèanamh agus cho nàdarra 's a tha e gluasad chun na làimhe clì ris am bheil sibh cho cleachdte. Gu deimhinnte

's e dìochuimhn' den t-seòrsa sin as màthair-adhbhar dha iomadach tubaist sgriosail. Mo mhìle beannachd air an iomairt as ùire gus an cunnart seo a chumail fo aire choigreach, agus gu sònraichte ann an carbadan a thèid a ghabhail air mhàl. Ged a tha cuid de na buidhnean a tha a' toirt càraichean air mhàl a' foillseachadh cuimhneachan den t-seòrsa anns a h-uile carbad a th' aca, nach bu chòir sin a bhith mar fhiachaibh orra uile? Cha chosgadh e mòran agus dh'fhaodadh e iomadach beatha a ghleidheadh!

Increased traffic is a downside of tourism and the challenges of driving on the left, single-track road protocols, and passing places, are recipes for frustration and danger. Initiatives to remind all motorists of these disciplines and dangers must be applauded.

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

Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, organisers of the Royal National Mod, and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



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

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## STRATHFILLAN

There were 26 calls made to the police on the Strathfillan patch since the last community council meeting.

While many were duplicate calls, six were road related, five were for mountain rescues, four were regarding information, two for parking issues and there was one call made about an assault and another from someone concerned about a person.

The police officer at the meeting on Monday June 3 said: 'Very busy month with mountain rescues – one only two days ago where a man had fallen on Ben Lui and broken his leg.'

'The others were all on the West Highland way.'

## DALAVICH

Sunday fun day will certainly live up to its name on August 4.

There will be a fun day outside the Dalavich Shop from 1pm until 5pm.

Free face-painting and games for children will be on offer, with every youngster receiving a prize.

And the adults will be able to indulge in frozen cocktails. The event will also feature a variety of food and drink.

The poster reads: 'Come join us, rain or shine, for an entertaining and relaxed Sunday afternoon that is sure to be fun for the entire family. All are welcome.'

## TREE, MULL and IONA

Pupils from a Glasgow conservation school were welcomed aboard by CalMac to visit communities on Tiree, Mull and Iona.

Sunnyside Primary School's Ocean Defenders spent a week delivering presentations and workshops to island schools, as well as finding time for beach cleans.

The focus of their visit was to spread the word of two new campaigns they are working on: #SparkleDebate to highlight the environmental harm glitter can cause and how to



## Rainbow tots sparkle at graduation show

Children from Rainbow Childcare in Oban graduated at the end of last month. The youngsters put on a show for their parents at the Corran Halls on Friday June 28. One parent said: 'The children and staff were amazing and what a performance they put on for family and friends. The next chapter of their lives awaits them and we are sure that they will confidently spread their wings as they leave nursery and move onto primary school.'

make a safe alternative. As well as #DrainCampaign where pupils are encouraged to chalk ocean scenes around drains to remind people where dropped litter can end up.

CalMac first teamed up with Sunnyside two years ago when they signed up for their #NaestrawsAtAw campaign. Since then the company has started looking at other ways of cutting down on single use plastics.

Sunnyside's Ocean Defenders visited Tiree.



## ISLAY

The annual big car boot sale in Bowmore's Mactaggart Leisure Centre will be held on Sunday July 28.

The event will start at 1pm and it will cost £5 for a stall, with holders required to bring their own tables.

The event is weather dependent and if conditions are adverse, it will be rescheduled.

To book a table, call the leisure centre on 01496 810767 or email karent@mactaggartleisurecentre.co.uk.

A summer ceilidh will be held in the Ballygrant Hall on Friday July 12.

The event will start at 1pm and there will be afternoon tea and entertainment.

This will include music and dance from the Spotlight Boogies, Niall Kirkpatrick, Ella Edgar Dancers, I+J Wind Band, Andy McCowan and I+J Pipes and Drums.

Transport will be provided. To book a spot and/or transport, contact Gill on 07469174299 or email gillchasemore@argyllsi.org.uk.

## HELENSBURGH

Helensburgh's only cinema is set to extend its premises after council chiefs gave its plans the green light.

An entrance foyer, bar, auditorium and four function suites are all on the agenda for the two-storey addition at The Tower, on the corner of West King Street and Sinclair Street.

Plans for an outdoor area on the second floor were scrapped due to concerns from neighbours about smokers and a lack of privacy.

But Argyll and Bute Council gave planning permission last Wednesday for the proposals, put together by chartered architects Honeyman, Jack and Robertson.

A report by council planning officer Frazer MacLeod said that the extension would contribute positively to tourism and recreation in Helensburgh town centre.

Mr MacLeod added: 'This regen-

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'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

eration development will also be beneficial to The Tower business and other businesses in the town centre.

'The former church building is currently being used by The Tower as a venue for live events, drama, dance, theatre, cinema, music tuition, film making, photography, digital media as well as being a venue for conferences, small meetings and functions.

'The lesser hall is used as a museum for an X-51 submarine as its centrepiece.

'The extension is a modern modular addition comprising large areas of glazing, flat roofs, glass balustrades and will be viewed from behind both church and lesser hall.

'The new spaces create an entrance foyer, bar, auditorium, four function suites, teaching workshops and toilets.

'External materials are contemporary by using zinc cladding and large areas of frameless glazing creating glass walls on public elevations, render finish is proposed on private areas.'

Two objections were lodged with the council during the planning process, one raising concerns at a lack of privacy resulting from the proposed second floor outdoor area. The other focused on potential lack of parking for residents.

Mr MacLeod said on the first of those concerns: 'These matters were considered material and were put to the applicant who responded by deleting this outside area from the proposal.

'Further to this an additional consultation was made to environmental health, which advised imposing a safeguarding condition regarding noise from any externally mounted plant or equipment which could cause nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.'

On the parking matter, Mr MacLeod added: 'The area roads manager advises that the location of this site is at the edge of the designated town centre, therefore is not part of the zero parking provisions permitted for certain types of development within the town centre zone.'



Ceòlas 2019 has seen a considerable surge in popularity.

## Summer school sees surge in students

This week has seen the busiest summer school to date with more than 160 students in Uist attending Ceòlas 2019.

The growth in interest has meant that additional tutors have been taken on to expand capacity.

Classes in piping, step-dancing, fiddling, Gaelic language, clàrsach and reels and quadrilles have been paired with an eclectic community programme of concerts, cèilidhs, walks and book launches, between July 7-12.

FilmG showcased Gaelic short films from the annual competition, including the Nova Scotian film Slighe Agnais, on Monday July 8, in Sgoil Dhalabroig. Yesterday (Wednesday July 10), SNH, in partnership with Ainmean-àite na h-Alba (Gaelic place-names of Scotland) and Ceòlas, launched the

latest booklet in their series collecting place-names in the Highlands and Islands.

The Isle of Eriskay was the focus for the project which represents the first area surveyed within the Western Isles.

Those interested gathered at the Eriskay Cooperative and walked to the football pitch, before ending at Am Politician for the book launch.

This year's school welcomed tutors Ingrid Henderson (clàrsach), Iain MacFarlane, Fiona MacAskill, Robbie Greig and Shelly Campbell (fiddle) and Seonaidh MacIntyre, Kenneth MacKenzie, Allan MacDonald and Ashley MacDonald (piping).

Step-dance was taught by Harvey Beaton, Mats Melin and Sophie Stephenson, with the class in reels and quadrilles being taken by Mats

Melin. Cathy Ann MacPhee and Mary Jane Lamond joined Alasdair Whyte teaching Gaelic song.

The greatest boost in numbers was experienced in Gaelic language classes, with Catriona MacIntyre, Catriona Black, Alec MacDonald and Gillebride MacMillan. Angus John MacDonald also taught his class in Gaelic on Uist folklore for the second year in a row. Christine Primrose and Rachel MacPherson were taken on to teach during the Gaelic for All classes.

New this year was a rejigged afternoon programme after first and second choice classes.

Students opted into either tutor lecture/recitals, Gaelic community conversations, multi-instrumental sessions called 'Am Fideil', Gaelic poetry workshops or Gaelic drama.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



### A proper ear-bashing

I am leaving the office one evening last week when I am collared by the ever-genial Nigel Evans and given a right and proper ear-bashing ... in his typically good-natured way.

The reason for me being so soundly, if cheerfully, berated?

My failure in this space to give credit to Oban Camanachd for their recent success in defeating Kyles Athletic in the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final, played at Taynuilt.

'When,' demands Nigel, 'are you going to write in your column about Camanachd?'

'You're forever writing about Oban Saints and Oban Lorne RFC, urging local people to go along and support the football and rugby players but never a word about the shinty.'

'Saints and Lorne win nothing while we've just won the Glasgow Celtic Cup and win other things but you don't give us a mention.'

Nigel is, it goes without saying, absolutely correct and is quite right to upbraid me for my oversight. The problem is, as those who know me best will confirm, I have precisely zero understanding of shinty though I can appreciate from the wee bit I've seen what a fiercely contested sport it is and how it is rooted in Highland culture.

Hopefully, Nigel, this will go some way to making amends, though I have to say I think our shinty coverage is second to none, with several pages of reports and photos every week.

### Boom times continue

Oban, it seems to me, has been booming in recent weeks, with the town centre's streets bustling with people.

Take a look at this week's business pages and there is ample evidence of the confidence being shown by the hospitality sector. We have stories of Black Sheep Hotels opening a country house at Invergarry and Perle Hotels buying Glencoe House Hotel.

And I'm told by one hotel manager in the town that occupancy rates are sky-high almost year-round.

Long may it continue.

### What do you think?

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



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# OUTDOORS

## Welcome boost for protecting the bonnie banks

The conservation charity Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs has welcomed the decision by the National Park Authority to refuse planning permission for a complex of six buildings for weddings, functions and overnight accommodation in what they consider to be a particularly sensitive scenic and nature conservation area close to Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve.

James Fraser, chairman of the friends, said: 'We are pleased plans for this major development have at long last been rejected, which means the special high value landscape and nature conservation qualities of the area that sweeps down to the southern shores of Loch Lomond near Gartocharn will be protected from further creeping suburbanisation.'

'The plans for a large functions venue and associated mansion houses and swimming pools were totally inappropriate in this scenic location and right next to the RSPB National Nature Reserve which is home to a rich variety of wildlife and an important staging post for migrating geese.'

The plans were submitted several years ago and have been subject to a series of reviews and impact assessment studies due to the sensitivity of the site. They attracted objections from the local community council, RSPB, Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and residents.



# Walkers urged to step out for cancer

Netflix star Connor Swindells and TV presenter and walking enthusiast Julia Bradbury are encouraging outdoors types across the nation to host their own Walk Together to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK and help fund the charity's services and lifesaving research in Scotland.

Sponsored walks could be a special route in people's local area taking place in September. It is a perfect opportunity to bring people affected by bowel cancer together to show support for those undergoing treatment, remember loved ones and raise funds to help stop people dying from the disease in this country.



Walk Together in Edinburgh last year and, left, Julia Bradbury.

Alternatively, people can take part in a sponsored virtual walk where they can complete five miles in their own time, anytime, during the month of September.

Connor Swindells, whose family has been affected by bowel cancer, said: 'Bowel cancer is

the second biggest cancer killer in Scotland but with your help we can change that. As a patron of Bowel Cancer UK, join me in supporting this wonderful event by organising your own memorable walk to bring everyone affected by the disease together.'

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Scotland. Around 3,700 people are diagnosed with the disease every year in this country.

To sign up to receive a fundraising pack with everything needed to hold a special or virtual walk, visit: [bowelcanceruk.org.uk/walktogether](http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk/walktogether).

## Scotland puts focus on women's sport over summer months

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead has said he is excited about this year's focus on women's sport across the country.

Mr Roughead said: 'It's a big year for women's sport with Scotland providing the perfect stage over the next three months for six key events on the international sporting calendar.'

'We have a proud history of supporting and championing women's sporting events. From

hosting the largest women's annual golf event on the ladies' European Tour to supporting showcase events for national teams, we continue to shine a spotlight on women's sport.'

'We're lucky to be hosting one of these events, the 2019 Solheim Cup, which is the biggest event in women's golf and one of the most prestigious women's sporting events on the planet, at Gleneagles in September. The event is expected to deliver a strong economic

impact with an anticipated attendance in excess of 100,000 spectators.'

The sport kicks off with the UEFA Women's U19 European Championship this month. The country will also host the Women's Eurohockey Championships II, the inaugural Women's Tour of Scotland, the Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies' Scottish Open and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup T20 Global Qualifier during the summer months.

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## This week's walks



Loch Leven from the Glen Coe mountains - inspiration for the mountain writing competition.

## Putting mountains into words

Hillwalkers and climbers who like to express their love for the mountains and mountaineering in words are invited to take part in Mountaineering Scotland's annual literary competition.

The Mountaineering Scotland Writing Competition 2019 is looking for the best in new mountain writing, whether fact or fiction, prose or poetry.

With more and more people taking part in outdoor activities, there should be no shortage of adventurers ready to put their experiences into words and share what makes mountains or mountaineers, or the act of walking or climbing, so special to them.

First prize in both prose and poetry sections is £200. Second and third prize winners in each section will receive £100 and £50 respectively.

As well as the cash prizes, winners will see their entries in print in Scottish Mountaineer, the quarterly Mountaineering Scotland magazine which goes out to its more than 14,000 members.

Winning entries are also published on the Mountaineering Scotland website.

Run since 1987, the competition is open to members and non-members alike and regularly attracts entries from all over the UK, with all contributions

having some connection with mountains and mountaineering, rock or ice climbing, walking or ski-mountaineering.

Prose entries should be a maximum of 2,000 words long. Poetry entries should be a maximum of 200 words.

Entries should be sent by email to the MWC coordinator, Tommy McManmon, by August 31 at the latest, at [article@mountaineering.scot](mailto:article@mountaineering.scot)

Full details and rules of the competition are available on the website at [www.mountaineering.scot/members/members-benefits/scottish-mountaineer-magazine/mountain-writing-competition](http://www.mountaineering.scot/members/members-benefits/scottish-mountaineer-magazine/mountain-writing-competition)

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

#### Sunday July 14, Cnap Cruin, Fersit

This small hill, on the Grahams list, gives a grand perspective on nearby Munros in the Grey Corries and the Easains.

Start at the end of the public road at Fersit, NN349781, where parking is available. Follow the dismantled tramway N then SW to a dam on the Allt Làire. Cross the dam and follow the river upstream on its W bank until past the plantation, then head NW to the summit of Cnap Cruinn\*.

Descend NE to the track, turn right and rejoin the dismantled tramway to return to Fersit.

\*A short extension to the route may be made to Beinn Chlianaig, which adds 1km and 50m of distance and height respectively.

Grade: M. Distance 13km. Height gained 550m. Maps: LR 41 EX 392/393. Meet at: Fort William WM NN112742 at 9.20m for start of walk at 10am.

#### Thursday July 18: Carn Liath and Stob Poite Coire Ardair, Glen Spean

A fine traverse across Munros and tops.

Start at Creag Meagaidh car park NN 482 873. Follow track up to NN 474822 then turn uphill to spot height 623m. Continue up broad ridge to summit of Carn Liath 1,006m. Turn west along crest to Meall an t-Snaim 969m then 963m then Sron Coire a'Chriochairan 991m onto 1,051m before reaching the summit of Stob Poite Coire Ardair 1,053m head south west to bealach NN 425885 (The Window) before turn east down hill to pass Lochan a'Choire on the way back to the start.

Grade: S. Distance: 16km. Height to climb: 1,020m. Map(s): LR42, EX401. Meet at: Fort William WM (NN112742) at 8.45am for start of walk: 9.30am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevis-hillwalking.club](http://www.nevis-hillwalking.club). If anyone would

like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

#### Saturday July 13, Bidein a' Chabair, Sgurr na h-Aide, Glen Dessary

A high ridge flanked by steep rocky slopes sits between two spectacular passes, the northern of which leads to Loch Nevis and the southern to Loch Morar.

Bidein a' Chabair is its highest point, affording grand views of a rugged wilderness.

Start from the Loch Arkaig road end, NM987916 where limited parking is available. Follow the track NW up Glen Dessary. At Upper Glendessary take the footpath forking right and continue up the glen until past the fenced conifer plantation.

At about NM921944, cross SW over the headwaters of the River Dessary, and climb steeply up the rocky nose of Meall na Sroine and continue to its summit, 674m.

Follow the undulating ridge of Druim Coire nan Laogh SW and scramble easily up to the summit of Bidein a' Chabair, 867m. \*Head W to reach Sgurr na h-Aide.

Return along the route of approach\*\* and descend to Glen Dessary. On regaining the path in the glen, the right fork may be taken as an alternative back to the start via Strathan.

\*A shorter day would omit Sgurr na h-Aide.

\*\*An alternative descent from a shallow col at NM899935, 620m alt, leads ESE down into Coire nan Laogh. Continue down on this heading to arrive at the watershed at the head of Gleann an Lochain Eanaiche at NM913931.

Turn NE, make for the path in the forest and follow it to the bridge over the River Dessary, just above its confluence with the Allt Coire nan Uth.

Beyond this a forest track leads past A' Chuil Bothy and back to the start via Strathan.

25km, 1,070m ascent

\*23km, 944m ascent

\*\*26km, 1,020m ascent

Suggested by Andrew Gilbert. Coordinated by Gavin Theobald.



# Inspiration starts here

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# Safer Communities Safer Scotland

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The Oban Times newspapers have teamed up with Neighbourhood Watch and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks to bring you practical information, advice and tips on how to keep you, your family and your community safe.

This feature will run over 12 weeks, from protecting your home and possessions to helping your children enjoy the benefits of the Internet in safety. We hope you find it useful and informative!

## Staying safe when out and about

Here are some tips from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to help you stay safe

- Avoid danger spots like quiet or badly lit alleyways, subways or isolated car parks.
- If you do have to pass danger spots, think about what you would do if you felt threatened. The best idea is to head for a public place where you know there will be other people, for example a garage or shop.
- If you are at all worried, try and walk with a friend or stay near a group of people.
- Avoid passing stationary cars with their engines running and people sitting in them.
- Try to keep both hands free and don't walk with your hands in your pockets.
- Always take the route you know best and try to use well lit, busy streets.
- Keep your mind on your surroundings – remember if you are wearing headphones you will not hear trouble approaching.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic.
- It is a good idea to have a mobile phone, a phonecard, or some spare change with you to enable you to make a phone call.

- Be careful when using cash machines. Make sure nobody is hovering nearby and do not count your money in the middle of the street. If you think you are being followed, trust your instincts and take action. As confidently as you can, cross the road, turning to see who is behind you as you do so. If you are still being followed, keep moving.
- Make for a busy area and tell people what is happening. If necessary, call the police.
- If a vehicle pulls up suddenly alongside you, turn and walk in the other direction - you can turn much faster than a car.
- Never accept a lift with a stranger or someone you don't know very well even if you are wet, tired or running late.
- Try not to keep all your valuables in one place. Instead place valuables such as wallets in an inside pocket or use a money belt.
- One of the safest ways to carry things is in a small bag slung across your body under a jacket or coat. Ensure it sits close to your body.

### Further information

Suzy Lamplugh Trust  
[www.suzylamplugh.org](http://www.suzylamplugh.org)

Personal Safety Advice  
[www.personalsafetyadvice.co.uk](http://www.personalsafetyadvice.co.uk)

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### Register at:

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

**There is no requirement to join or set up a neighbourhood watch** - simply follow the registration instructions. By signing up you control your personal information, contact details and also decide what information providers you want to receive ALERTS from



“Personal safety may seem common sense but it is important that we are aware of the simple steps which we can all take to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

Staying Safe When Out and About, as highlighted from the Safer Communities - Safer Scotland booklet produced by Neighbourhood

Watch Scotland, contains some specific tips from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on personal safety. These tips are aimed at ensuring we adopt good practice relative to our own safety when out and about but which we can also share with friends, colleagues or family. Further useful information can also be found on the following Police Scotland web page [www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/)”

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Community  
Engagement Officer  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Scotland

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Luing gives author a novel idea

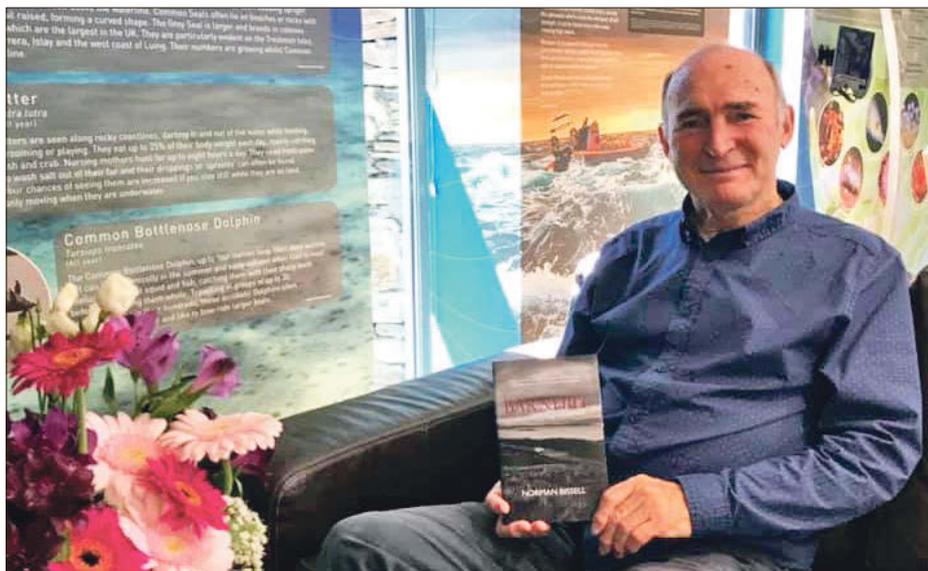
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Luing author Norman Bissell will be at Oban's Waterstones next week for the second launch on his new book Barnhill, a novel bringing to life George Orwell's desperate struggle to finish writing Nineteen Eighty-Four on the Isle of Jura.

Barnhill's first official launch was at Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre on Friday where 50 people turned out to hear Norman read extracts from it and take questions from the packed audience.

He said: 'It was very appropriate that the first launch of Barnhill was at the Atlantic Islands Centre as the novel was written just a few yards away, and I could see a little bit of Jura from the village which inspired me to write Barnhill. It was quite a contrast to be writing about



Orwell's dark themes whilst surrounded by the beauty of Luing.'

The novel was nine years in the making, starting with a commission to write a feature film screenplay,

followed by Norman undertaking research and novel writing workshops funded by Creative Scotland. During this time he was also vice-chairman of the Luing Community Trust which

built the Atlantic Islands Centre.

'I could see a little of Jura behind Scarba from my cottage in Cullipool village on the Isle of Luing, where I came to live in 2007, and I

Author Norman Bissell at the first launch of Barnhill at Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre.

couldn't get the idea out of my head of Orwell writing his novel there. That was why I began to research his life and work.

'Everything I came across fascinated me and I became as obsessed with Orwell as he was with warning the world of the dangers of totalitarian dictatorship.

'The more I read about his life and his desperate struggle to finish writing Nineteen Eighty-Four before his health failed, the more I realised that this could make a great feature film and novel.

'His true-life, tragic love story deserves to be better known — whether or not he

was the most influential writer of all time,' said Norman who also co-runs Luing Stores.

Barnhill is available now, published by Luath Press. After the Oban launch at Waterstones on Thursday July 18 at 7pm, there will be other launches to follow at Blackwell's, South Bridge, Edinburgh on Wednesday July 24 at 6.30pm and at waterstones in Byres Road, Glasgow on Thursday July 25 at 7.30pm. Norman will also be appearing at Edinburgh's Scotlandsfest on August 23.

And he will be taking his Orwell story back to Jura on Thursday, August 29 in the Jura Care Centre at 2pm in Craighouse as part of the Islay Book Festival before moving on to the Lismore's Taproot Arts Festival of Music and Literature on September 20 at 2pm in the Gaelic Heritage Centre.

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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 11 AN T-IUCHAR THURSDAY 11 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Seamas O' Sullivan (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 Highlands – Scotland's Wild Heart (rpt)  
22.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)  
22.30 UR/NEW: Jesse James  
23.25 Eadar Chluich (rpt)  
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 12 AN T-IUCHAR FRIDAY 12 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Prosbaig (rpt)  
20.00 Horo Gheallaidh (rpt)  
20.30 Dreach Ùr S2 (rpt)  
21.00 Beò/Live: TRNSMT  
22.00 UR/NEW: Black Lake S2  
22.45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan 2018  
Highlights (rpt)  
23.00 Opryan luir (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 13 AN T-IUCHAR SATURDAY 13 JULY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt)  
18.15 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)  
19.15 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Eideadh (rpt)  
19.30 Prosbaig (rpt)  
20.00 Machair (rpt)

20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)  
21.00 Beò/Live: TRNSMT  
22.00 Jesse James (rpt)  
22.50 Eadar Chluich (rpt)  
22.55 Tatù Rìoghail Dhùn Èideann 2017 (rpt)  
24.30 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan 2018  
Highlights (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 14 AN T-IUCHAR SUNDAY 14 JULY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.15 An Là – News  
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review  
18.30 Alleluia! (rpt)  
20.00 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
20.30 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
21.00 Uisge ar Beatha (rpt)  
22.00 Opryan luir (rpt)  
23.00 Black Lake S2 (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan 2018  
Highlights (rpt)

### DILUAIN 15 AN T-IUCHAR MONDAY 15 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)  
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlain (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh – A Ghealach (rpt)  
22.00 Port – Siorrachd Chorcaigh (rpt)  
22.30 Gruth is Uachdar (rpt)  
23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 16 AN T-IUCHAR TUESDAY 16 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads – The Shee (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
21.00 Craobhan na h-Alba (rpt)  
22.00 Trusadh – A Ghealach (rpt)  
23.00 Horo Gheallaidh (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 17 AN T-IUCHAR WEDNESDAY 17 JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)  
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Lori Watson (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)  
21.00 Gruth is Uachdar (rpt)  
22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)  
22.30 Port – Siorrachd Chorcaigh (rpt)  
23.00 Highlands – Scotland's Wild Heart (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 18 AN T-IUCHAR THURSDAY 18 JUNE

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – The Shee (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 Highlands – Scotland's Wild Heart (rpt)  
22.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)  
22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)  
23.20 Eadar Chluich (rpt)  
23.25 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan Highlights 2018 (rpt)  
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)



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# Left Bank blondes come to Loch Awe

The Rive Gauche, the Left Bank (of the Seine in Paris) came to Loch Awe recently, with the arrival of Les Trois Blondes, pictured right.



Despite the name, suggesting three fair-haired mademoiselles, the performers took their name from the more literal translation – three pints of lager – la biere blond!

The trio, comprising John Burns (lead accordion), George Burns, his brother (second accordion) and Fergus Wood (drums and compere) specialise in the 'bal musette', the traditional café music of Paris.

Originating in the Auvergne in the Massif Central, it found its home in Paris between the first and second world wars. Originally played on traditional French pipes, the accordion took over with the arrival of Italian immigrants to Paris in the 1930s.

Les Trois Blondes played a varied set of waltzes, polkas and foxtrots, the Burns brothers each demonstrating their virtuosity on the box. Among the highlights was their version of C'est Si Bon! – It's So Good, made famous in the '50s by Maurice Chevalier. This cried out for a chanteur to accompany the musicians, but even without, the audience hummed and swayed along.

Fergus Wood, the drummer, gave a witty, but very

helpful explanation and history of the musical form, and introduced each number with an anecdote which helped the audience put the piece in context.

Other highlights of the set included Sous le Ciel de Paris – Under the Parisian Sky, straight out of Maigret, and the mysterious Le Triste Sourire – The Sad Smile, not as sad as the title suggested. The Blondes also included their rendition of Hazel's Musette, with its origins not

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# ides Awe

in France, but a work from accordionist David Halcrow from Lerwick in Shetland.

The set concluded with Les Blondes reverting to their day jobs as a Scottish Ceilidh Band with a selection of jigs and reels that almost, but not quite, brought the audience to the dance floor.

Most of the audience, like this reviewer, would have loved to dance but perhaps found the surroundings a tad too Presbyterian for comfort.

After the performance, the audience were treated to a delicious cream tea, which rounded off a perfect summer afternoon.

As ever St Conan's Kirk served as a stunning backdrop to the performance. The Friends of St Conan's are to be congratulated for establishing it as a cultural centre in the heart of Loch Awe. For details of future events, visit [www.stconanskirk.org.uk](http://www.stconanskirk.org.uk)

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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



### The Final Fling!

The committee for Mòd Ghlaschu 2019 have announced details of The Final Fling – the final dance of Mòd week.

Skerryvore, Trail West, and special guests will take to the stage of the iconic Barrowland Ballroom on Friday October 18 to finish off the week in style. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are now on sale online and only available to over-18s.

It is going to be quite a night to finish off a huge week for Glasgow. The advertising campaign for Mòd Ghlaschu events is well under way and you can even catch a Mòd Ghlaschu taxi if you're lucky.

### TMF here we come

The usual Highland haunts of Glasgow might feel slightly quieter this weekend as many of their usual inhabitants head to the island of Tiree for the 10th Tiree Music Festival.

A fine weekend is in prospect with the weather looking good and a great line-up of bands – many of whom will



be making the journey from Glasgow.

No such luck for Tide Lines – we are playing a festival in Cambridgeshire on Friday night so will instead be embarking on a mammoth journey through the night to get the afternoon ferry on the Saturday. It's going to be a great festival – with many people sure to return to Glasgow the following week with some great stories to tell.

### An Lòchran

An Lòchran, the Gaelic development body based in An Leanag on Mansfield Square, Partick, has updated its website.

Very soon it will be updating the online calendar of Gaelic events in the city which, of course, will be a great help to me as I put together my Glasgow Letter each week; but, for the time being, it has

The advertising campaign for this year's National Mòd is well under way – you can even catch a Mòd Ghlaschu taxi.

'Glasgow and Gaelic are inextricably linked. Place-names in the city, such as Gartnavel 'enclosed settlement of the apple-trees', Yoker 'border-land on the river' and Cathkin 'common grazing', prove that Gaelic was spoken here at least as early as the 12th century.

'Today, the city is home to almost 10,000 Gaelic-speakers. It continues to pioneer Gaelic-medium education, has a vibrant Gaelic arts scene and is home to several public bodies striving for progress in Gaelic development.

'Glasgow has become established as one of the most important areas in modern Scotland for Gaelic development. Since 1999, An Lòchran has been striving to celebrate and develop our rich cultural traditions and bring Gaelic culture within reach of a wider population. We welcome contact from anyone with an interest in Gaelic and Gaelic arts.'

An Lochran can be contacted via its website: [anlochran.com](http://anlochran.com)

Advertorial

## Scottish Chamber Orchestra Tour Around Argyll & Bute this July!

This July, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) will tour throughout Argyll and Bute, returning first to Oban where the SCO Strings gave an exhilarating concert last summer. The Orchestra also makes a long-awaited return to Dunoon, and will perform in Campbeltown and Bowmore, Islay for the first time in more than 20 years.



Joining them on the road is New Zealand-born conductor Holly Mathieson. Mathieson takes the baton for an exquisite programme including Mendelssohn's much-loved and technically challenging Violin Concerto. Soloist Benjamin Marquise Gilmore is certain to embrace



this major piece of Romantic music with panache. The programme opens with a rarity: Saint-Saëns' Orchestral Suite, and to close the night, Beethoven's monumental Symphony No 2: a superb evening of music not to be missed!

Talking about the Orchestra's summer tours, SCO Sub-Principal Bass, Adrian Borne commented: "this is one of the happiest moments of music making in our yearly calendar as we explore a beautiful country and revisit familiar places and audiences. As a national company the SCO takes pleasure and pride in visiting the length, breadth and

width of Scotland, not only performing but receiving the friendship and enthusiasm of our audiences in places small and large."

The SCO is passionate about sharing the experience of exceptional live orchestral music-making and inspiring new generations of classical music lovers. The summer tour supports this mission by making concerts as accessible as possible to younger audiences by offering free tickets to Under 18s and £6 tickets to Under 26s, students and the unemployed.

Tickets for all summer tour dates are on sale now. Visit [sco.org.uk](http://sco.org.uk) for further information.

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**FRIDAY 12TH JULY**

Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45/17:00
Spy Cat   U	12:30
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	14:30
MIB: International   12A	17:15
Late Night   15	19:15
Sometimes Always Never   12A	20:00

**SATURDAY 13TH JULY**

Aladdin   PG	11:30 ★
Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45
Spy Cat   U	14:15
MIB: International   12A	16:30
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	17:15
Late Night   15	19:00
Sometimes Always Never   12A	20:00

**SUNDAY 14TH JULY**

Aladdin   PG	12:00
Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	14:45
MIB: International   12A	17:00
Glyndebourne: The Barber of Seville   U	17:30
The Life Aquatic   15	19:30

**MONDAY 15TH JULY**

Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45/17:00
Spy Cat   U	12:30
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	14:30
MIB: International   12A	17:15
Late Night   15	19:15
Sometimes Always Never   12A	20:00

**TUESDAY 16TH JULY**

Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45 ★/17:00
Spy Cat   U	12:30
MIB: International   12A	14:30
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	17:15
Late Night   15	19:15
Sometimes Always Never   12A	20:00

**WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY**

Toy Story 4   U	12:15/14:45/17:00
Spy Cat   U	12:30
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	14:30
MIB: International   12A	17:00 ★
Late Night   15	19:15
Against The Tides   12A	19:30

**THURSDAY 18TH JULY**

Against The Tides   12A	12:00 ★
Toy Story 4   U	12:30/15:00/16:00
Spy Cat   U	14:00
X-Men: Dark Phoenix   12A	17:30
MIB: International   12A	18:15
Sometimes Always Never   12A	20:15
Late Night   15	20:45

**COMING SOON**

NEXT WEEK SHOWING FROM THE 19TH JULY:

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14TH JULY**

**THE LIFE AQUATIC  
14TH JULY**

**AGAINST THE TIDES  
17/18TH JULY**

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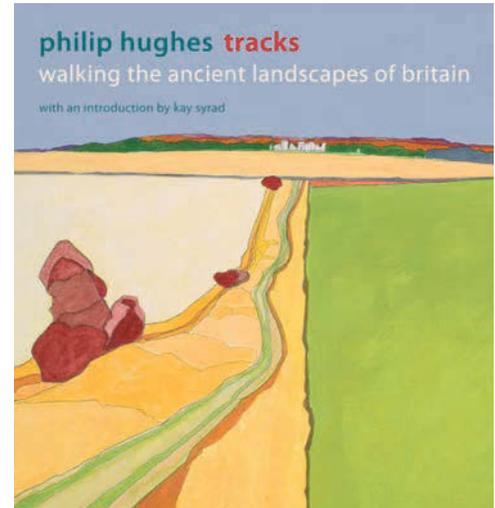
# Tracks: walking the ancient landscapes

Through 140 paintings and drawings Philip Hughes recorded a contemporary interpretation of 11 ancient walks across Britain – including Scotland – and now his celebrated book has been released in paperback.

Tracks: walking the ancient landscapes of Britain, showcases the reproduced works by the renowned artist, including a number from Assynt, Rannoch Moor and the Isle of Islay.

Hughes' work is widely exhibited, and is represented in a number of public collections, including The British Museum and the Library of Congress in America.

Inspired and informed by maps, aerial photographs and electronic survey techniques, Hughes' clean, spacious artworks, with their arresting blocks of colour, make contemporary some of the most ancient and formidable



The book will resonate with walkers, artists and those who share a love on ancient sites in the landscape.

landmarks of the British Isles.

The book also includes written notes, archaeological scans and contour maps, as well as important heritage sites and vivid extracts from Hughes' diaries to help evoke the mood and atmosphere of the awe-inspiring landscapes.

Complete with an introduction by novelist and poet Kay Syrad, and a short preface to each section by Hughes himself, this beautiful, reflective work will resonate with artists, walkers and anyone who shares a love of ancient sites in the landscape.

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For reservations contact us on **01546 870282**

# Benderloch gig not to be sniffed at

The Benderloch Palladium continues its summer of sizzling events on Saturday (July 13) when Glasgow acoustic trio Snuffbox make their debut.

Mixing Traditional tunes with contemporary flair, as well as quirky, original material, Snuffbox melds old and new to create entirely their own sound.

A review in The Times said of the band: 'Music with a great sense of spontaneity in its superbly varied dynamics, easy interchanging of melodic, harmonic and percussive roles, its often raw emotions and sheer character.'

Having released an album in 2016, Snuffbox have since enjoyed playing a wide variety of venues, with recent highlights including performances at BOWfest 2018, the Scots Fiddle Festival and the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

Snuffbox cellist Ruffus



The trio mix traditional tunes with a contemporary flair.

Huggan said: 'There is formidable precedent for music at Victory Halls and we are delighted to be included alongside the wonderful bands that have performed there before.'

'It's also a new venue for us, so we're excited to play some new music to match.'

'Hopefully we will have time before we leave for some of the local seafood too.'

Based in Glasgow, the trio comprise Charlie on fiddle; Rufus Huggan on cello; and 2018 Young Traditional Musician of the Year finalist, Luc McNally on guitar and vocals.

The doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets are £15 on the door and £12 in advance by calling 01631 720247, or email: [campbell\\_cameron@msn.com](mailto:campbell_cameron@msn.com) Snuffbox are also performing in Drimnin Chapel on July 15 as part of the Morvern Games and Gala Week.

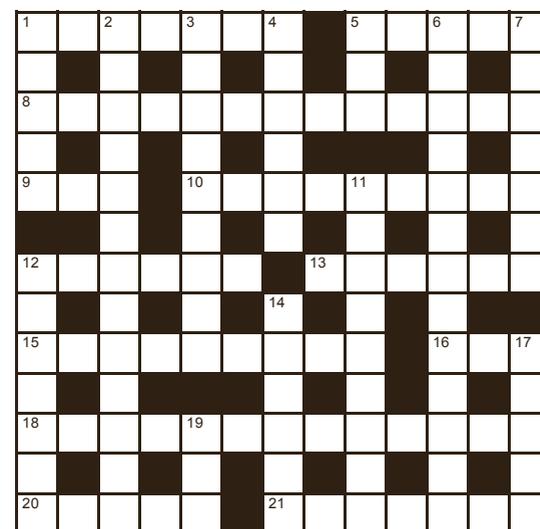
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For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk)



**MONDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 22.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.  
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.  
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

## Crossword



Across

- 1 Puts up again (7)
- 5 Oar propelled boat (5)
- 8 Moving intricately on ice (6,7)
- 9 Uncooked (3)
- 10 Lively (9)
- 12 Country's song (6)
- 13 Discordant (6)
- 15 Not heavy (4,5)
- 16 Winter coating, but it isn't warm! (3)
- 18 Politicians in waiting... (6,7)
- 20 Combed (5)
- 21 The 'King's' surname (7)

Down

- 1 Direct the attention of (5)
- 2 Height of the tide (4-5,4)
- 3 Neuron (5,4)
- 4 Logical order (6)
- 5 It surrounds an island (3)
- 6 Not meant (13)
- 7 Sound (7)
- 11 Easily obtained (3-2,4)
- 12 One who guides (7)
- 14 Holder for a breakfast item (6)
- 17 Way in (5)
- 19 Unusual (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Appin  
**Art**  
Group  
**EXHIBITION**  
July  
17th-27th  
Excluding Sunday  
10.30am-6.00pm  
4pm close last day  
Port Appin Hall  
Free Admission

Twelve years of  
digital archives  
Available to  
Digital subscribers

The Oban Times  
LOCHABER TIMES

**Screen Machine**  
Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Bunessan Sat 13 - Sun 14 July  
Kilchoan Mon 15 - Tue 16 July  
Tobermory Wed 17 - Fri 20 July

**The Secret Life of Pets 2** (U) 86 mins  
13/07 at 5.30pm, 16/07 at 2pm

**Avengers: Endgame** (12A) 181 mins  
13/07 at 8pm, 15/07 at 8.30pm, 17th at 8.30pm

**Rory's Way** (12A) 107 mins  
Brian Cox stars as a Hebridean man who seeks medical treatment in US - a chance to build bridges with his son.  
14/07 at 5.30pm, 16/07 at 5.30pm, 17/07 at 5.30pm

**Rocketman** (15) 121 mins  
14/07 at 8.30pm, 16/07 at 8.30pm, 18/07 at 5.30pm, 20/07 at 8.30pm

**Wild Rose** (15) 100 mins  
Fresh out of jail, Rose-Lynn just wants to leave Glasgow and become a country singer in Nashville.  
15/07 at 5.30pm, 19/07 at 8.30pm

**Diego Maradona** (12A) 127 mins  
Documentary about the legendary footballer. 18/07 at 8.30pm

**Toy Story 4** (U) 100 mins  
"An amusing and charming gem." The Guardian  
19/07 at 5.30pm, 20/07 at 2pm

**Films We Love: Old Boys (£5/£3)** (12A) 93 mins  
"Completely absorbing and charming." Screen Machine team  
20/07 at 5.30pm

Before **Wild Rose** we will screen a free photo presentation of work by Arpita Shah, produced in collaboration with Streetlevel Photography, Glasgow. Before **Rory's Way** on 14/07 and 17/07, we will screen an award-winning short film called **Sundown**. The director will introduce it - there's no extra charge for this.

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.

# WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [BID4oban.co.uk](http://BID4oban.co.uk)



## THURSDAY 11TH JULY

### Slimming World

Salvation Army Hall, Fort William  
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm  
& 7:00pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

### Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen  
12.30pm

### Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church  
10am-12pm

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 12TH JULY

### Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall  
1pm-4pm

### Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen. 2pm

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

Tartan Paint. Open till 2am

## SATURDAY 13TH JULY

### Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)

Furan Gaelic Centre, Oban  
12noon- 1:30pm

### GinFall Gin Festival

Corran Halls. 12noon

### Alan Bissett Moira Monologues

Easdale Island Community Hall  
7:30pm

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

Creel. Open till 2am

## SUNDAY 14TH JULY

### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 15TH JULY

### Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen. 2pm

### Martyn's Monday Club

New Hope Kitchen

7pm-9pm

### Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,

Lochgilphead

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

## Create a Clay Character

Lochgilphead Library

2.30pm - 3.30pm

## Drumming and Music Making

Taynuilt Sports Pavilion

6:30pm - 7:30pm

## TUESDAY 16TH JULY

### Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre, Oban

10:30am-12pm

### Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen. 2pm

### Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen

7pm - 9pm

## WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY

### Hope Kitchen Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street

10:30am-12pm

### Open Day

Greenshoots Garden

10.30am-3.30pm

### Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

## Mànran launch new single

Scots Trad-rock band Mànran have launched their new single Thugainn (pronounced Hook-in).

Translating to English as Come Along With Me, the single launch on July 5 coincided with the Discover Scotland: North Coast 500 documentary by Sean Grieve that was previewed at the XPO North Film Showcase last Thursday (July 4).

Mànran were commissioned by Skye-born director Grieve to provide a back catalogue of their music to soundtrack the 90-minute documentary. To help promote this new body of work the six-piece have released this new single, written and sung by founding member Ewen Henderson.

Ewen said: 'Thugainn is a summer-infused love song in which the earth is promised to the object of the singer's affections if they'll "Come Along With Me". The lyrics and music feel very much like the soundtrack to a classic romantic road movie, so the opportunity to pair Thugainn with Sean's North Coast 500 film felt like a perfect match.'

# Callum Beattie Tiree Music Festival Special opening party planned

Scottish singer-songwriter sensation Callum Beattie has been announced as the final headline act at this year's Tiree Music Festival.

He will make the journey west to Tiree this week to join the event's 10th anniversary celebrations, which will also see the addition of an extra night of entertainment on Thursday (July 11).

The festival will host an opening party for festival-goers arriving on the island early, while the 10th year of the festival also sees the arrival of official TMF mascot, Fergie.

A former finalist of the TMF Unsigned competition eight years ago, it is fitting that Callum Beattie makes his long-awaited TMF debut headlining the ELEVATE stage, which is programmed specifically to promote Scotland's rising stars.

Callum's musical journey in the past eight years has seen him perform at the likes of Glastonbury, support The Kooks on their headline European tour along with Blossoms, and air the world premiere of his latest single on BBC Radio 2.

After Tiree, he will travel to London to support Robbie Williams in Hyde Park.

Callum said: 'I can't wait to play Tiree Music Festival and be part of such a unique, friendly festival in a beautiful part of Scotland. To be headlining the ELEVATE stage and playing alongside so many great young Scottish acts will be a real joy. Fingers crossed the sun will be shining and we can have a right good knees-up in Scotland's answer to Hawaii!'

Launched last year and funded by Creative Scotland,

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

# Time to refuel?

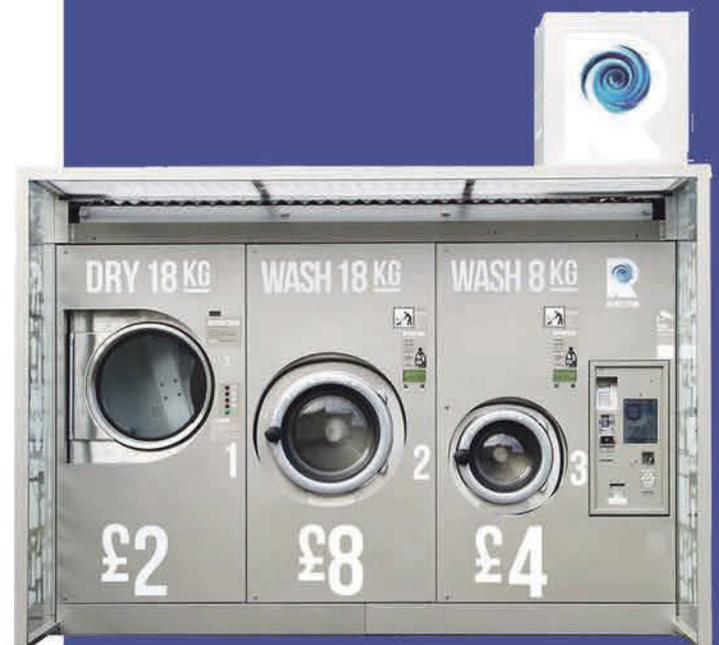


- Breakfast Rolls
- Toasties
- Daily Lunch Specials
- Homemade Soup
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Saturday: 6.30am - 2pm

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# Beattie will headline Tiree Music Festival anniversary planned for 10th birthday

the outdoor ELEVATE Stage showcases the best talent on the Scottish music scene with its line-up focusing on up-and-coming Scottish artists.

Tiree Music Festival prides itself on being a family friendly festival and this year, the new official mascot – fun-loving Highland cow Fergie – designed by Tiree schoolboy Rhys, will be on hand to encourage children and families to get moo-ing and join in with all the action over the weekend.

Daniel Gillespie, artistic director for Tiree Music Festival, said: 'We can't wait to welcome Callum Beattie to the Tiree stage eight years after he was a finalist in our TMF Unsigned competition. We have followed his career since and he is a true example of the sensational musical talent we have in Scotland.'

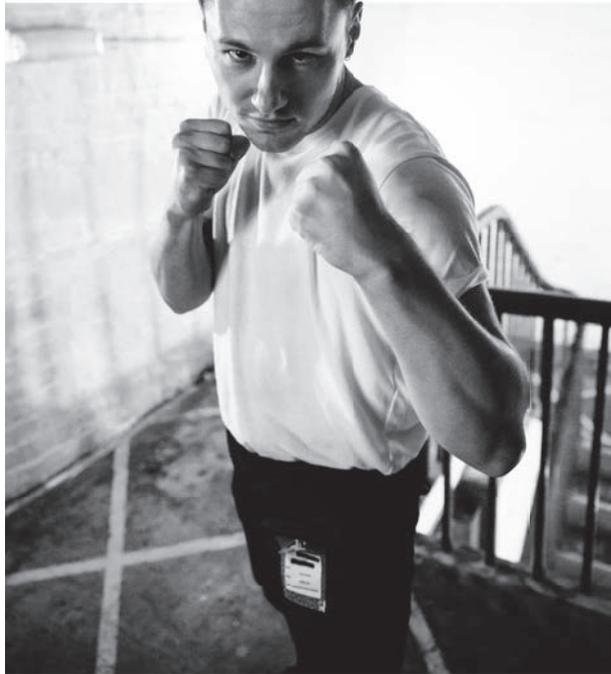
'2019 is a year of celebrations for TMF as we toast our 10th birthday and to make it the biggest and best TMF yet we are delighted to open the weekend with a special party on Thursday night.

'We're also excited to unveil our official Highland cow mascot Fergie, who will be roaming around the festival all weekend long.'

A unique collaboration will also take place at TMF 10.

Waiting on a Sunny Day: TMF's Tribute to The Boss will be a collective performance from some artists on the Scottish folk scene who have been inspired by the one and only Bruce Springsteen.

The title is also a nod to the unpredictable weather the festival has had over the past few years, with TMF using the hashtag #waitingonasunnyday for this year's festival.



Callum Beattie will play the ELEVATE stage this year.

## Novel makes waves in YA crime fiction

A young adult fiction novel set in a Scottish west coast fishing community is bringing a new twist to the Tartan Noir genre.

Launched last Wednesday (July 3), *Sea Change* is the debut novel of former teacher and Scottish Book Trust Children's Fiction New Writer awardee Sylvia Hehir.

In this page-turning thriller, a small Highland community becomes the setting for a serious crime.

But unlike much of popular crime fiction, the cast of characters in *Sea Change* centres around the struggles of teenager Alex, who is trying to keep his family afloat and negotiate the challenges of teenage relationships, including coming to terms with his own sexuality.

Aimed at young adult readers, all of the main characters are teenagers, including the perpetrator of the crime, the victim and the investigators.

On another level, the story explores how a friendship can survive when secrets lead to disastrous consequences.



Sylvia Hehir.

Author Sylvia lives in Strontian and loves being near the sea.

Having worked as a secondary school teacher, she is aware of how young people's futures can be frustrated by obstacles not of their own making.

She said: 'In *Sea Change*, I wanted to create a young adult crime novel that doesn't sidestep tricky issues. My aim was to capture those identity-defining moments when we are pushed right to the very edge.'

*Sea Change* is in the running for the 2019 McIlvanney Debut Crime Fiction prize at this year's Bloody Scotland festival in Stirling.

# MGM

MUTHU HOTELS



TRADITIONAL

## AFTERNOON

# TEA

SERVED ALL YEAR ROUND

### MENU 1

#### CREAM TEA

2 warm fruit scones served with Tiptree preserves & Devonshire clotted cream.

Freshly brewed tea/coffee.

£8.50  
per  
person

### MENU 2

#### POSITIVI-TEA

A selection of freshly cut assorted sandwiches.

Warm fruit scone served with Tiptree preserves & Devonshire clotted cream.

A selection of pastries/cakes. Freshly brewed tea/coffee.

£14.95  
per  
person

### MENU 3

#### TEA-RIFFIC SUMMER

A glass of Pimm's iced tea. A selection of freshly cut assorted sandwiches.

warm fruit scone served with Tiptree preserves & Devonshire clotted cream.

A bowl of fresh strawberries. Chocolate dipping sauce.

£16.95  
per  
person

### MENU 4

#### TEA-LEBERATION

A glass of Prosecco.

A selection of freshly cut assorted sandwiches.

Warm fruit scone served with Tiptree preserves & Devonshire clotted cream.

A selection of pastries/cakes. Freshly brewed tea/coffee.

£18.95  
per  
person

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## Trad bands lined up for Mòd final fling

The local organising committee for The Royal National Mod in Glasgow are delighted to announce they have secured two fantastic bands to play at the final gig.

Skerryvore and Trail West are at the height of their careers and in huge demand – so organisers say it is a real coup to have secured them for the October 18 finale, playing Glasgow's most iconic venue – the Barrowland Ballroom.

A spokesman said: 'We are sure this will be a night to remember and will live long in the memory of those who attend. They will be joined by some special guests on the night.'

Not only will the Final Fling be a chance to celebrate the end of a hugely successful week of competitions and events, but it will also signify 29 years since the Mòd was last held in the city.

D-I Brown, convenor of the local organising committee said: 'It's a real delight to have secured Skerryvore

and Trail West for the final fling of the Mod. It's doubly pleasing that it is two incredibly successful and talented T'ree bands that are playing out the Mòd in Glasgow for us.'

Daniel Gillespie, Skerryvore, said: 'We are delighted to be playing in our adopted home town and to be performing at the Mòd after a long absence. As a band, we love performing in the city and playing at the Barrowlands is particularly special. We're very much looking forward to the gig.'

Ian Smith, Trail West, said: 'We've been involved in many performances throughout the years at various Royal National Mòds but to be joining our good friends Skerryvore at one of our favourite venues will be up there as one of the highlights.'

Tickets for the Final Fling are available now. For more information and updates, check social media @ ModGhlaschu2019

# Book review: Our Uninvited Guests

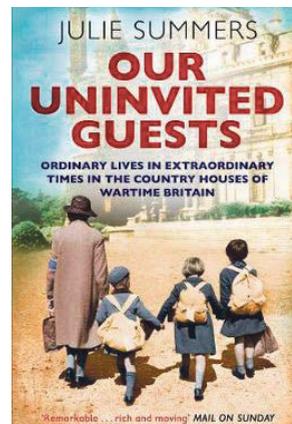
In April 1940 Frances Cameron-Head was informed that her home, Inverailort Castle between Fort William and Mallaig, had been taken over by the military for urgent wartime use.

She was not alone among country house and castle owners in receiving this unwelcome news and the stories of how the acquisitions played out are told in great detail in this excellent and comprehensive study by Julie Summers.

The houses and grounds were required for military accommodation and training, secret services, housing children at risk and the sick and the elderly.

This well-researched book ranges from smaller houses right up to Blenheim Palace and the many and varied uses to which they were put during these years of crisis.

For readers of this newspaper



the chapter aptly titled Gorillas in the Mist! will be both fascinating and entertaining, as it covers those Highland properties taken over for outdoor training, field craft and sabotage. It was an ideal environment and one in which the author praises the additional benefit of the 'discretion' of the locals. Indeed, over large

areas of the West Highlands, a ring of steel was put in place and residents had to produce permits to move about. Apart from Inverailort, other Highland homes taken over included Achnacarry Castle and Arisaig House.

The most extreme and most dangerous training took place at Arisaig House under the direction of the Special Operations Executive, where agents were put through rigorous exercises before being dropped behind enemy lines.

Neither the instructors nor the men and women trainees knew about the other's background, but this calm must have been impossible to maintain after the charismatic Captain Gavin Maxwell arrived there as an instructor in 1941. An excellent shot and expert in outdoor survival and extreme animal cooking, Maxwell exhibited

such strange behaviour as to be called by a colleague a 'creative psychopath'. When the operation was closed down in 1944, he threw his personal collection of German training guns into the sea and headed off on his boat, later to write his famous book, Ring of Bright Water. Other celebrated characters in the book include Lord Lovat, David Stirling of the SAS, and Uilleamena MacRae, proprietor of the Inverailort Inn.

Mrs Cameron-Head never again saw Inverailort Castle as she died before her son Francis had it returned from the military, receiving £6,500 in compensation for damage caused.

Julie Summers has done a splendid job in recounting the stories of such houses and the vital part they played in the ultimate victory in 1945.

Eric Macintyre

## WHAT'S ON JULY @ CORRAN HALLS

WED  
JUL  
24

### SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Doors 7pm Start 7:30pm

Tickets: full price Adults £16, Concessions £14.

U26's/Student/Unemployed £6, U18's/Carers FREE.

SAINT-SAËNS, Suite op 49, MENDELSSOHN, Violin Concerto, BEETHOVEN, Symphony No 2.



SAT  
JUL  
13

### Ginfall

Session 1: 12:00 - 16:00 // Session 2: 17:30 - 21:30  
Standard Tickets: £15

With the perfect mix of Gins, Live Music, Food and Cocktails, GinFall has firmly established itself as the leading Gin Festival in Scotland and 2019 is set to be BIG & BETTER with more Gins to sample, food to taste, specially created cocktails to savour and new rooms added.

As well as the opportunity to try a huge variety of gins from all over the world, (including exclusive gins you won't see anywhere else) there will be live music, great food and a premium Gin Cocktail Bar, plus an exclusive range of gin liqueurs from around the globe - new for 2019. Every Ginfall event will also entitle the ticket holder to a free gin cocktail on arrival - conjured up by our team of expert mixologists.

Visit The Tiki Rum Room. Sample Rums from around the World & meet Distillers.



**TICKET INFORMATION** To avoid disappointment, please buy your tickets in advance. Tickets can be purchased at reception, in person or over the phone. Tickets purchased over the phone can be collected, in person, at the Halls.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY PHOTOGRAPHIC DRIVING LICENCES OR PASSPORT ID WILL BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF AGE AT OUR BAR



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Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

# NFUS welcomes pledge for farmers

Comments made by Conservative leadership front-runner Boris Johnson over the weekend with regard to future farm subsidies for Scotland after Brexit prompted a cautious welcome from NFU Scotland. NFUS president Andrew McCornick said: 'While we seek greater clarity on how such a support pledge could be funded among competing demands on HM Treasury, this statement is cautiously welcomed by NFU Scotland. 'Since the decision was taken in 2013 to distribute additional Common Agricultural Policy funding among the four nations of the UK, NFU Scotland

has consistently campaigned to redress the funding shortfall suffered by Scottish farmers and crofters. 'With a review into intra-UK allocations of funding now finally under way, NFU Scotland has fed in its strong view that this injustice must be redressed due to Scotland's below average area payment rates. 'Looking ahead after Brexit, NFU Scotland is calling on the UK government to commit to a ring-fenced funding arrangement for agriculture that delivers at least the same quantum of funding to agricultural businesses allowing them to

improve their productivity, profitability and their environmental delivery. 'Our key demands on Brexit remains unchanged. We must avoid a no deal. If we were to shift to tariffs under the UK government's proposed no deal tariff schedule, severe damage would be inflicted upon the whole agri-food industry, impacting not just our important export trade with Europe and the rest of the world, but also potentially opening up the UK market to imported produce that has been produced to lesser standards. 'The new prime minister must recognise that in such

an event, the market support required by industry from government will be significant and will far surpass £25 million, which will be a drop in the ocean compared to the financial damage that could be inflicted on industry. 'With Mr Johnson and Jeremy Hunt visiting Scotland last week, NFU Scotland wrote to both candidates setting out in detail our concerns and priorities from any future Brexit deal. We would also welcome any opportunity to hear directly from Mr Johnson on how this commitment could be fulfilled should he become prime minister.'

## Around the markets

**Caledonian Marts, Stirling, Monday July 8:**  
Caledonian Marts Ltd had forward 142 store cattle at its fortnightly sale. **Bullocks** averaged 194ppkg selling to 208p for a Charolais from J and J Kinloch, Walton, Cardross and to £1,100 again from the same home for Limousins. **Heifers** averaged 188ppkg selling to 216p for a Limousin from W J Nisbet, Bogside, Langbank and to £1,120 for a Limousin from A and J Orr, Hill O Harthill, Harthill. **Black and whites** sold to 149p from A H S Drummond, Glenside, Stranraer and to £720 from the same home. **Bulls** sold to 183p for Limousins from G Andrew, West Mitchelton, Lochwin-

noch and to £920 from the same home. **Other leading prices:**  
**Bullocks** per head: £1,080 Ardgate and Hill O Harthill; £1,060 Glenside (Drummond); £1,050 Merslaugh (Drummond) and Ardgate; £1,040 and £1,010 Ardgate. **Heifers** per head: £1,000 Reivoch; £970 (twice) Hill O Harthill; £960 and £930 Hill O Harthill. **Bullocks** per kg: 206p Bogside; 204p Glenside (Drummond); 197p Merslaugh (Drummond). **Heifers** per kg: 196p Hill O Harthill; 193p Walton; 192p Hill O Harthill. **Breeding cattle:** Sold to £1,420 for an Aberdeen Angus cow with calf at foot from A Cuthbertson, Wester Balgair, Balfron.



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Vehicles shown: XV 2.0i SE Premium Lineartronic OTR price of £29,075, Forester 2.0i XE Lineartronic OTR price £30,565 & Outback 2.5i SE Premium Lineartronic OTR price £33,576. Prices include optional special paint finish (£550).

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Model shown is a Levorg 2.0i GT Lineartronic with optional special paint finish (£550). OTR price of £31,545.

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# ALL-NEW RENAULT CAPTUR: GREATER STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION FOR RENAULT'S SMALL SUV

## At a glance

- Totally refreshed exterior styling combines with revolutionary interior design
- Innovative infotainment system and advanced driver assistance technologies
- E-TECH plug-in powertrain from 2020
- Second Renault to be built on new CMF-B platform
- Lighter, stronger and safer than its predecessor
- Highway & Traffic Jam Companion brings advanced driver assistance to the class
- LED headlights standard across the range
- EasyLife product strategy will be at Captur's core
- All-New optional 'Smart Cockpit' with 9.3-inch portrait infotainment screen
- 10-inch TFT instrument cluster available as an option
- Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility
- More interior and boot space
- Sliding rear bench for enhanced versatility
- Enhanced customisation options
- Petrol and diesel engines with choice of manual or EDC seven-speed gearboxes



The compact SUV leader reinvents itself as it seeks to cement its position Europe's favourite

A pioneer of the small SUV market, the Captur has sold 1.2 million units since its launch in 2013, rapidly becoming the best selling model in its class across Europe.

In a sector that has become extremely competitive, the All-New Captur has reinvented itself without losing the unique identity that made the original such a success.

Featuring athletic and dynamic new looks, an even more welcoming and practical interior and setting new technology standard, the New Captur is more grown-up and upmarket than ever.

The All-New Captur is one of the key models in Renault's Drive the Future (2017-2022) strategic plan, thanks in no small part to its status as a truly global product. Not only is it sold on every continent, the All-New Captur will be also be manufactured in China, a key

market for Renault.

Furthermore, the All-New Captur is important technologically, as it meets the three pillars of the mobility of the future as presented in the strategic plan, which are as follows:

- Electric-powered: by the end of the plan, Renault will have 12 electric models in its range, and the All-New Captur will be the first Renault model to benefit from the E-TECH Plug-in hybrid engine.

- Connected: at the end of the plan, 100 percent of vehicles in the company's key markets will feature connected systems. The All-New Captur perfectly illustrates this dynamic with its new connected multimedia system and the Renault EASY CONNECT platform.

- Autonomy: by 2022 Renault will be marketing 15 models equipped with some form of autonomous driving technology. The All-New Captur will be one of the pioneers,

joining All-New Clio in delivering autonomous driving technologies to B-segment models.

The All-New Captur is at the heart of the group strategy in so much as it is underpinned by the CMF-B platform, which forms the basis of the All-New Clio. Designed from the outset to accommodate an electric powertrain and the latest electronic architecture it offers the possibility to integrate new technologies that meet the market's needs

## NEW RENAULT MÉGANE R.S. TROPHY-R: A RECORD-BREAKING RETURN

Patrice RATTI, Renault Sport Cars General Manager:

"New Mégane R.S. Trophy-R completes the Mégane R.S. range with a more extreme version. It is very similar to a racing car, but is certified for the public highway. We know there are customers looking for this type of car, and not every driver should be put behind the wheel of such a car. For the engineers it's an opportunity to concentrate their know-how to produce the fastest car possible. The Nürburgring record is a demonstration of that performance."

### AT A GLANCE

- Dramatic reduction in weight, with 130kg saved over standard Mégane R.S. Trophy
- Fastest ever front-wheel drive production car lap of the Nurburgring at 7 mins 40.1 seconds
- Totally redesigned suspension featuring lighter, motorsport-inspired components
- More negative camber for the front axle and standard Ohlins adjustable dampers all round
- Renault Sport developed

Bridgestone S007 tyres optimised for fast road and track use

- Aerodynamic improvements with underbody fairing and carbon rear diffuser
- Powerful 300PS turbocharged 1.8-litre engine mated to six-speed manual gearbox
- Torsen limited slip differential for ultimate traction and control
- Optional carbon ceramic front brakes and carbon wheels - a first in this sector
- Larger Brembo four piston front brake calipers as standard

- Standard carbon composite bonnet with NACA duct
- Lightweight titanium Akrapovič exhaust exclusive to Trophy-R
- Sabelt composite front seats with optional six-point racing harness
- Six-speed manual only as gearbox is lighter than the dual-clutch EDC
- Limited to just 500 examples, with 30 right-hand drive models coming to the UK
- Prices will be announced, and ordering will be open in August with UK deliveries expecting to begin in October

Loïc FEUVRAY, Trophy-R Renault Sport Cars program manager: "New Mégane R.S. Trophy-R will interest expert customers looking for pure performance with no compromises - ready to treat themselves to something exceptional. Only 500 cars will be made, 30 of which will be fitted with the optional Carbon-Ceramic pack offering features that are ground-breaking in this segment. The high level of performance is also in the management of this project. From the beginning the product specifications are centred on clear objectives, a minimal "racing" team, agile management where decisions are taken imme-

diately to eliminate any barriers preventing technical deployment. In the end the objectives are reached, the schedule is respected, and the result is an exceptional and profitable product."

Over the last 15 years, the Mégane-based Renault Sport versions have set the hot hatch standard for ultimate performance and driving thrills. In that time the most radical versions of the MÉGANE R.S. have successively beaten the front-wheel drive production car lap record for the hugely challenging Nürburgring, a circuit that's recognised around the world as the ultimate proving ground for a car's performance.

The New MÉGANE R.S.

TROPHY-R is no exception, setting a new record of 7 minutes 40.1 seconds around the tortuous track famously known as the 'Green Hell'. Yet unlike competitors that simply focus on delivering ever higher power outputs, the engineers at Renault Sport have concentrated on three distinct performance pillars: weight reduction, the maximisation of aerodynamic efficiency and more radical suspension systems. This approach is a Renault Sport trademark, an approach that prioritises speed through the corners rather than outright performance in a straight line. To find out more, please contact W.D. Semple on 01499 302150

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16	Renault Scenic Nav DCi	Grey	25,000	£9,950	13	Renault Megane Dyn DCi Estate	Black	75,000	£4,950
66	Dacia Sandero Laureate DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,950	63	Renault Clio EXP 1.2	White	5,000	£6,250
66	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav	White	14,000	£9,750	63	Dacia Logan EST DCI	Blue	25,000	£5,650
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£10,250	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£7,950
66	Fiat Punto Palour Plus	White	8,500	£6,950	62	Nissan Juke, Acenta, DCI	Red	78,000	£5,250
65	Dacia Stepway LAU DCi	White	14,500	£8,500	15	Renault Kangoo DCi Van	White	65,000	£6,250
15	Peugeot 3008 HDi Allure	Blue	41,000	£9,250	11	Skoda Octavia EST	Blue	83,000	£4,500
15	Dacia Duster LAU Prime DCi 4x2	Blue	41,000	£8,650	60	Citroen Picasso HDi	Blue	80,000	£3,500
64	Renault Clio + Exp	Red	25,000	£7,500	19	Dacia Stepway Essential, Petrol,	Blue	10	£9,975
64	Renault Clio Dyn TCe	Red	16,000	£7,500	16	Vauxhall Corsa Design, 1.4 5dr,	Red	36,000	£6,500
64	Renault Megan Coupe DCi	Black	36,500	£5,500	64	Vauxhall Corsa SE 1.2, 5dr,	Blue	39,000	£5,650
14	Renault Megan Coupe 1.5 DCi	Blue,	27,000	£6,950					

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## OFFERS & competitions

### WIN

ONE OF SIX FAMILY PASSES TO GALLOWAY COUNTRY FAIR 2019



Galloway Country Fair returns to the picturesque Drumlanrig Castle and Country Estate in the heart of Dumfries and Galloway on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August 2019.

An impressive array of acts will take to the main ring, with quad bike stunt man Paul Hannam secured as the headline act. Attendees on both days will see him in his element, performing breathtaking tricks and jumps as well as precision riding.

There are lots of fair favourites on the line-up – from the comical and educational sheep show and horse whisperer Grant Basin, to Buccleuch's very own David Lisett and Lee Hartis conducting the gun dog display. Other activities across the weekend include Elite Falconry displays, Borderlines fishing demos, Stars Dog Agility and Terrier Racing as well as a free kids' activity zone from Team Challenge and countless craft, food and drink trade stalls.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**Who is headlining the main ring at Galloway Country Fair 2019?**

A family pass entitles one family of four (two adults and two children) entry to the Fair on either 17 or 18 August. Six winners will each receive a family pass worth £52 redeemable on either day of the event.

### WIN

A TWO NIGHT BREAK FOR FOUR PEOPLE IN NORTH BERWICK WITH A CATAMARAN CRUISE AND ENTRY TO THE SCOTTISH SEABIRD CENTRE



Enjoy great days out at the seaside with the five-star Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick. Control interactive live cameras, experience 3D films, book a seasonal guided boat trip and enjoy lunch with a view in the newly refurbished café.

Over the summer, the islands in the Firth of Forth are home to internationally important breeding colonies of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, terns and eiders. Marvel at the 150,000 thousand gannets on the Bass Rock, the world's largest colony of Northern gannets, and speak to their expert staff about the seasonal wildlife on the surrounding islands.

This fabulous prize for four people includes entry to the Scottish Seabird Centre, a Catamaran Cruise around the Bass Rock and Craighleith and two nights stay at Gilsland Park, in a luxury two bedroom holiday home with decking and fantastic views.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**How many gannets can be seen on the Bass Rock each year?**

Prize must be taken between 01 and 30 September 2019. Bookings must be made in advance and are subject to availability. Scottish Seabird Centre boat trips are subject to suitable weather conditions. See [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org) for full boat trips terms and conditions.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No cash alternative or alternative prize is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition – your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information, we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

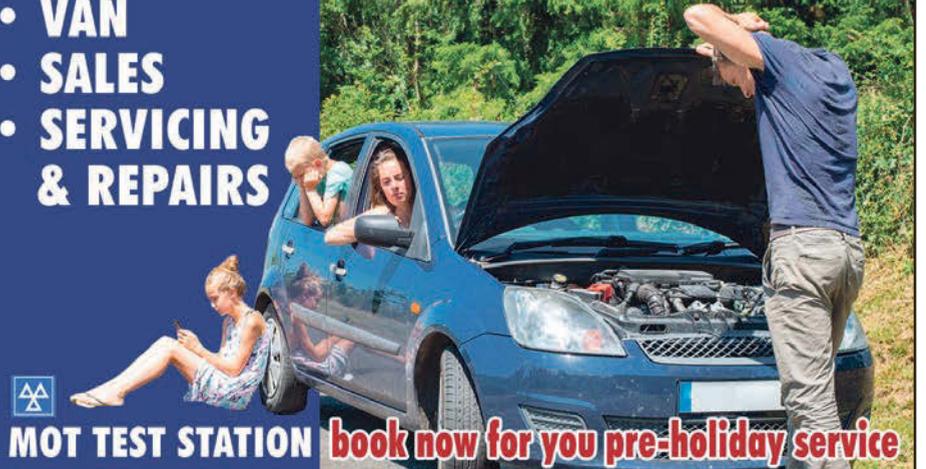
To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 July 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

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## Privately owned public space: does it matter who owns it?

Many of our cities' public spaces are privately owned these days – and their numbers are rising. But are the suspicion and hostility they're often met with justified, asks architecture and design writer Claire Dowdy?

Privately owned public spaces (POPS) have a terrible image. The press and social media love to highlight the sometimes bizarre rules of behaviour and heavy-handed security that the public can be subject to. In 2017, the Guardian described "the insidious creep of pseudo-public space in London". Oh, for the good old days – the story goes – when citizens could roam freely over publicly owned parts of the city.

Where does this anathema come from? As Matthew Carmona, professor of planning and urban design at the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London (UCL), explains, the feeling is that public spaces in cities are becoming commercialised, privatised, securitised, homogenised and exclusionary, because they are shaped by the narrow interests of the few (the developers) instead of the many (society as a whole).

"These arguments even extend to

those public spaces that are owned by the public sector, on the basis that they are subject to similar pressures because of the way their management is increasingly contracted out or unduly influenced by the private sector," says Carmona.

But are POPS – from the atrium of Trump Tower in New York City, to More London on the UK capital's south bank – un-civic or just misunderstood? The story of POPS is not that simple.

Debunking the myths

Several myths have risen up, some of which are ripe for debunking. Private or partially private ownership of parts of the public realm is not a recent phenomenon; there are rules of conduct for virtually everywhere the public can go. Some POPS have been created out of neglected, inaccessible land, some are created because municipalities no longer have the funds to make and (more importantly) maintain public spaces. All of which suggests that a better understanding of the complexities of POPS would benefit everyone.

"If you go back in time, pretty much everything was either privately owned, such as garden squares with keys, or public – such

as squares run by the council. That was straightforward," says past RICS president John Hughes FRICS, partner at Hemson Consulting in Toronto.

Having originated in the US, POPS have gone global. They arrived in the UK in the 1980s, with London's Canary Wharf and Broadgate Centre among the first large, secure, privately controlled public places. Since then, space has been reduced in cities across the world.

"As you get denser cities, the ability to create new public space is difficult," says Hughes. And this is where POPS can come into their own. "You can squeeze a POPS into a smaller development area rather than a public park. It's a little easier to find the space for that."

Couple that with squeezed municipal budgets around the world, and it's easy to see why there's more awareness of new POPS than new publicly owned spaces. Hughes cites two projects in Toronto that illustrate funding differences: CIBC Square and Rail Deck Park. "CIBC Square is a fine example of an extremely valuable and needed piece of public space being created and paid for by a developer as part of a

big office development," he says.

Joint-led by developers Ivanhoe Cambridge and Hines, CIBC Square comprises a pair of office towers on a 3m ft<sup>2</sup> (278,709 m<sup>2</sup>) downtown campus, with an elevated park connecting them to Greater Toronto. With its slopes and hills, horticulture, gardens, shade groves, balconies and viewing points, the park "will provide a space to convene and refresh, and for corporate tenants to host memorable events", according to the development partners.

Meanwhile, Rail Deck Park is a proposal endorsed by the city council to cover over a rail corridor in the centre of the city with 21 acres (8.5 ha) of parkland. The council states the intention is for the park to "transform this unused air space into Toronto's next great gathering space for recreation, culture and celebration".

"It's an ambitious plan to create a public park, but it faces funding challenges," Hughes says of Rail Deck Park. The current estimated development cost is C\$1.66bn (£989.5m). "It's a work in progress without a clear future, because of the challenge of capital acquisition and operating funds."

Funding public space

It's vital to recognise the difference between the cost of funding a park and then spending more on maintaining space over the years, warns Hughes. "Unfortunately, you can end up with nicely designed and finished parks, but after 10 years the paving breaks down, and you end up with a patch of asphalt. That's city-owned facilities. However, a very successful office development won't want to see deterioration of the land, so they would want to retain control and look after it."

The POPS with obvious civic credentials are those built on previously inaccessible land. Carmona cites London's Canary Wharf and Greenwich Peninsular. "Those places were never public spaces; they were ex-industrial areas that didn't have public access."

Likewise, the new district of Barangaroo is being built on a disused stretch of Sydney's dockyards. At 54 acres (22 ha), it's the city's largest urban renewal project since the 2000 Olympic Games. When completed, more than half the site will be open public space, and the whole 2.2km foreshore walk will be accessible to the public.

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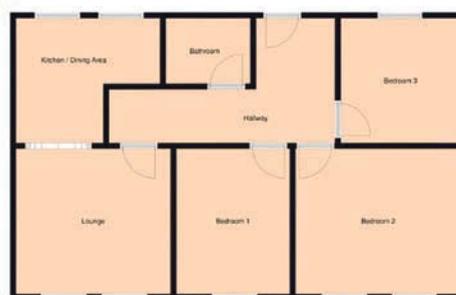
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**Please apply in writing for an application form and full job description to Andrew Ashton, Managing Director, Ardfarn Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardfarn, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN, or via email to [andrew@ardfernyacht.co.uk](mailto:andrew@ardfernyacht.co.uk) before the closing date of Monday 22nd July. Interviews will be held at Ardfarn w/c 5th August.**

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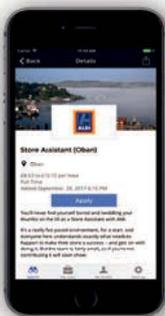
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

**THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (INVERARAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2019**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with the entrance to The Avenue Car Park, Inveraray in a generally northerly direction in Main Street South, Main Street West, Main Street East then in a north westerly direction in Front Street East and Front Street West to its junction with the entrance leading to Inveraray Castle, a distance of 575 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Inveraray Highland Games Parade, 2019 and to enable members of the public to watch this event, will be in operation from 16th July to 17th July 2019. Restrictions on the trunk road will only be in operation for approximately 30 minutes during these times.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or vehicles being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

**CAMERON GAIR**

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

**THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (ARDRISHAIG) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2019**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from a point 250 metres or thereby northeast of its junction with Brae Road, Ardrishaig, in a generally northerly direction to its northernmost junction with East Bank Road, Ardrishaig, a distance of 500 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Ardrishaig Gala Parade 2019 and to enable members of the public to watch this event will be in operation from 20th July until 21st July 2019. It is anticipated the closure will be in force for a short period of no more than approximately 15 minutes but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

Alternative routes are not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

**CAMERON GAIR**

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,  
Glasgow G4 0HF



Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/01341/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/01325/PPP (Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of new access)	Thorondor, Salen, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA72 6JB
19/01217/PP	Erection of detached garage	Land East Of Loch Na Beithe Cottage, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01110/PP	Formation of vehicular access and repositioning of gate	29 Balephetrish (Heylipol Farm), Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UY
19/01197/PP	Refurbishment of existing play park	Recreation Ground Old Pierhead, Burnside Cottages, Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01326/PP	Erection of two open fronted canopy extensions to existing workshop	Workshop Mill Lodge, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1HY
19/01296/PP	Construction of secondary intake on the Allt na Bob Baine, including a buried pipeline to convey the water to the Allt Cloiche Finne (to facilitate Glenkinglas Lodge hydro scheme relative to planning permission 18/01259/PP)	Land North And East Of Glenkinglas Lodge, Glenkinglas, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/01293/MFF	Modification of salmon farm comprising the addition of two x 100 metre circumference cages and increase of biomass from 2091 tonnes to 2500 tonnes	Fish Farm Site, Geasgill, Loch Na Keal, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01135/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Plot 1, Land North Of Glenmachrie, Glenegedale, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7AQ

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

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1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

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4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the

event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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**First Registration of a Croft**

Archibald MacConnell has registered his croft, Colnatarun, in the Parish of Colonsay 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 14 March 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6122.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mr Angus John Cameron has registered his croft known as 48 Ormsaigbeg, Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 28th March 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6128.

**Sunday Common Grazing Meeting on 30th July at 8pm.**

Shearing shed, Isle of Canna

To elect a new Grazing Committee

Contact G MacKinnon  
01687 462829

**First Registration of a Croft**

Helen Kennedy has registered their croft 12 Mallaig, Mallaig, Glenelg, 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 24th March 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6109.

**NEVIS FOREST: PRE-APPLICATION EXHIBITION EVENT  
CREATION OF NEW ECO CABIN LOCATION, INCLUDING 50 NO. TIMBER CABINS, A CENTRAL RETREAT, CYCLE STORE, MANAGERS ACCOMMODATION, MAINTENANCE AREA, NEW TRACKS, PARKING AND SERVICES.  
LAND WEST OF NEVIS RANGE MOUNTAIN RESORT, LEANACHAN FOREST, TORLUNDY, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6SW**

Forestry and Land Scotland and Forest Holidays invite the public to attend an exhibition regarding proposals for a new eco cabin location, as part of the 'Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort' Masterplan. The event will take place at two venues:

The Alexandra Hotel, Parade, Fort William PH33 6AZ – Tuesday 16th July 3 – 7 pm

Lochaber Rural Education Trust, An Clachan, Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SQ – Wednesday 17th July 10 – 12 am

The Forest Holidays proposal comprises: Creation of a new holiday cabin site, including 50 No. timber cabins, a central retreat, cycle store, manager's accommodation, maintenance area, new tracks, parking and services.

Members of the project team from Forest Holidays and Forestry and Land Scotland will be in attendance and available to answer questions. Anyone wishing to discuss the application following this event should contact:

Concept Town Planning Ltd, 7 Scotland Street, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0DG

Email: [mail@concepttownplanning.com](mailto:mail@concepttownplanning.com)

It is requested that comments following the exhibition be lodged to the above address by 16th August 2019. Please note that comments made in relation to the exhibition are not representations to the planning authority. They will be used to inform the draft proposals, as they are finalised prior to a formal planning application being submitted. There will be the opportunity to make formal comment on the application once submitted to The Highland Council.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011  
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION  
MARINE PEN FISH FARM, MACLEAN'S NOSE, LOCH SUNART, KILCHOAN, ARDNAMURCHAN, BY ACHARACHLE, ARGYLL**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by MOWI Scotland Ltd. to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1002965 authorising the carrying on of controlled activity at, near or in connection with a Marine Pen Fish Farm at Maclean's Nose, Loch Sunart, as follows:

Increased production of Salmon at an existing Marine Pen Fish Farm	Loch Sunart, Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan, By Acharachle, Argyll	NGR: NM 5253 6180
--	--	-------------------

SEPA considers that the above change to a controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1002965.

**Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
  - assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
  - consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
  - consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
  - assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
  - assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use'; and
  - apply and have regard to relevant legislation.
- SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

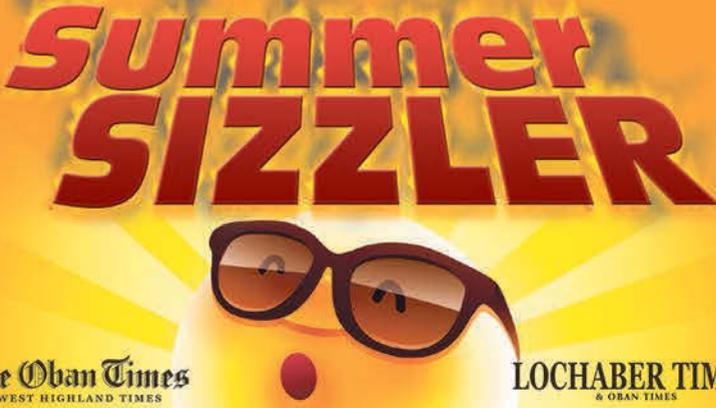
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/02926/FUL	55M North West Of Unit 9 Annat Point Industrial Estate Corpach	Partial change of use of land from Class 6, to allow the temporary siting of modular accommodation units
19/02863/FUL	Allt-Na-Bruaich Kinlocheil, Fort William	Siting of holiday letting accommodation pod
19/02935/FUL	Invergarry Primary School Invergarry	Installation of new Multi Use Games Area within existing school premises
19/02900/FUL	Land 1400M SE Of Fasdale Lodge, Achateny, Acharacle	Erection of house

**Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 days for 19/02935/FUL**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenuqhahart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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## BIRTHS

**ARTHUR** - Paul and Nicola are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Orla Niamh at St. John's Hospital, Livingston on June 10, 2019. Wee sister for Mia, fourth grandchild for Caroline and Iain and ninth grandchild for Eamonn and Maureen.



### BROWN - MACKINNON

Lorne and Lisa have much pleasure in announcing the birth of their beautiful son Alfie Neil, born June 16, 2019 in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Grandparents Iain and Lynn Brown (Glencoe) and David and Eileen MacKinnon (Bunree) are all delighted.

## DEATHS

**DAVIS** - At his home on Monday July 8, 2019, aged 72 years, after a long fight bravely fought, Stewart Davis, devoted husband of the late Betty Black. He will be sadly missed by his extended family. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday, July 15 at 1.00 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**INGRAM** - (Forres). Peacefully, at Meadowlark Care Home, Forres on Sunday, July 7, 2019. Robert Ingram, formerly of Islay and Milnongair, aged 91 years, beloved husband of the late Christina, a much loved father of John and George, a dear father-in-law of Elizabeth and Ann, a devoted grandfather of Julie and Lynne, great-grandfather of Aimee, Abi and Arran, and a sadly missed brother of Jimmy. Funeral service at Tom Ross & Sons' Chapel, Forres on Friday, July 12 at 11.00am thereafter to Clovenside Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired may be given at the service to Cameron Court Residents' Fund.

**MACCALMAN** - Islay. Peacefully, at Redmill Care Home, East Whitburn, on Thursday, June 27, 2019, Kenny, aged 74 years, a beloved husband of the late Evelyn, a much loved daddy of Lorna and the late Mhari and a devoted granpa of Kelsey. Funeral service to be held at Holytown Crematorium on Friday, July 12 at 12.30pm.

**ROUGH** - Peacefully at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on July 2, 2019 after a long illness patiently borne, Violet (née Welsh) formerly of Annat, Caol and Fort William. Beloved wife of the late Willie Rough and adored mum of Billy, a much loved aunt and a dear friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**McDOUGALL** - Ian and the family of the late Mary McDougall wish to express our appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for kind words, cards and floral tributes received, following the passing of very much loved Mary. Thanks to family doctors, district nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapist and all carers for their loving care and attention. Special thanks to Mr Douglas Allan, Reader, for a very personal and moving service and D McKellar Funeral Directors for guidance and assistance.

## MEMORIAMS

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear mum Mary, who passed away on July 6, 1998.

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For what it meant to lose you  
mum

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- Your loving daughter Kay.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dearly missed gran.

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- Your loving grandchildren Duncan and Caroline.

**SMITH** - In loving memory of our dear parents, Morag who died on July 14, 2007 and Jimmy, who died on August 1, 2012. Loved and remembered every day.

R.I.P.  
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# Praise be! Church gets new stand-in minister

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Parishioners of the five Netherlorn churches who said farewell to their much-loved minister Ken Ross earlier this year might have found themselves an unusual stand-in.

This scarecrow reverend has taken up post, quite literally, on Seil.

The smiley minister, with arms held high in praise, is one of more than 45 scarecrows already promised by islanders for Seil's first scarecrow festival starting on Saturday July 27.

Events will fill the whole week, including a special community praise and thanksgiving service in Seil Island Hall at noon on Sunday July 28, with a pop-up cafe opening for refreshments from 11.30am.



**Bless! This scarecrow minister will be one of more than 45 fun figures on display across Seil later this month.**

Everyone is welcome at the celebration service from all faiths or none, say organisers, and there will also be a mini-scarecrow-making workshop for children.

The scarecrow festival is capturing islanders' imaginations. Anyone wanting to join in with their own creation – any shape or size will do – needs to contact George MacKenzie on 01852 300507 or email him at georgepmackenzie@gmail.com to be added to the trail.

The event also has its own Facebook page at facebook.com/Seil-Island-Scarecrow-Festival-2341963642683840/

Actress Juliet Cadzow, of River City and Balamory fame, will officially open the festival week at 2.30pm at the Tigh an Truish next to the Bridge over the Atlantic on July 27 with music, games, sideshows and barbecue starting at noon.

The festival is one of a number of events being planned to help fund improvements at Seil's community hall.

Other events planned during

the festival week include a pot-luck supper, a football tournament, yoga class, drama and dance workshop for six- to 16-year-olds with Oban Dance Academy, wild-flower walks, history tours, a pop-up cafe in the community hall, a tug-of-war contest, Seafari boat trips round Easdale and a pub quiz at the Oyster Bar in Ellenabeich.

The big finale will be on Saturday August 3 at the community hall with a Tattie Bogle Highland Fair from 11am to 4pm and a scarecrow dance from 7pm to midnight.

Ron Hetherington, who came up with the scarecrow idea, said: 'We've already got 45 scarecrows promised with more to come. It's a population boom on Seil! We're looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far that week. Hope you can join us.'

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Happy St Drostan's Day, July 11.

'Who?' I hear you ask. Well, he was reputed to be a nephew of St Columba though his name is of Pictish origin. For reasons lost in the mists of time, Drostan became the patron saint of Glen Urquhart. Tradition tells that he preached the Gospel in Urquhart, and supported himself by cultivating Croit Mo Chrostan — St Drostan's Croft.

The reason this information is being shared with you is that it is important for everyone to know something of the Christian heritage of where we live. For without a basic knowledge of Christian theology, of Biblical stories and of how the Church over time impacted upon the people and the land – for good or ill – future generations will be able to understand significantly less of our culture, geography, sociology, history and politics.

For example, without a knowledge of the Easter story, how can you interpret the crucifixion paintings of the Prado? If a student lacks even a simple understanding of Reformation theology, how can he or she grasp the importance of faith to people in the Covenanting wars?

The study of religion is not the same as bringing someone to faith. Religious education is the job of schools and universities; faith formation is for the Church. Where Church and society overlap is in the observation that people today do not even know what they don't believe in.

Surely, it is in all our interests to promote knowledge of faith and belief. I trust St Drostan would agree.

**Reverend Dugald Cameron, Kilmore and Oban, Church of Scotland.**

## Oban Rotary Club welcomes new president

The Rotary Club of Oban welcomed new president for 2019/20 Douglas Small, who is seen accepting the chain of office from outgoing president Iain MacIntyre. Douglas is married with two children and was sheriff in Oban from 2001 until 2015. Douglas was also sheriff in Fort William from 2001 until 2013. Douglas will preside over the club's 70th anniversary, which occurs this November.



## Oban's Burns Club annual supper is now off the menu

A lack of helpers despite a last-ditch appeal means Oban's 2020 Burns Supper is cancelled.

Oban Burns Club hoped a plea for help in The Oban Times would save the January event but no one has come forward.

The club, which has run for more than 80 years, will continue but a shortage of volunteers to sit on its committee

means next year's Burns Supper is off the event list.

Difficulty in getting speakers to make the toasts at the Burns Supper was also becoming a problem for organisers, said former club chairman John MacLean.

The club, one of Oban's last male bastions, had offered to open up membership to women in the hope they could help save the day.

## GRADUATIONS



**CIARAN BLACK**

Recently graduated from the University of Glasgow (including Bergen) gaining an M.A. with Honours in Geography. Son to proud parents Robert Black, Isle of Bute and Valerie Cleave, Cairnbaan and grandson of Peter and Joan Cleave, North Connell. Ciaran was a pupil of Taynuilt and Kilchrenan Primary Schools, Oban High School and was also home educated.

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# Red and blacks travel on c Kinlochshiel

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – quarter-finals

### Newtonmore 2 Skye Camanachd 1

Holders Newtonmore are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals after coming from behind to beat Skye Camanachd 2-1 in their 3pm throw up at the Eilan.

Newtonmore started brightly and they dominated the early exchanges.

Skye edged into the game and they looked dangerous on the counter-attack. Jordan Murchison came close with a brilliant effort that just skimmed the front of the post.

Skye shocked their hosts when they took the lead on 12 minutes with a neatly worked goal which started from a clearance out of defence and ended with Iain MacLellan's quick turn and blistering low drive that gave 'More keeper Kenny Ross little chance.

Skye kicked on during a sparkling 30-minute spell, with shots from Jordan Murchison, Iain MacLellan, Ross Gordon and Ross MacKinnon all going close.

When Ross Gordon's strike was not dealt with by Kenny Ross, Jordan Murchison looked destined to touch the ball into the net, but it would not fall quick enough and the 'More defence scrambled the ball out for a corner.

A rocket shot from Ian Robinson was heading for the top corner of the net but Skye keeper Ryan Morrison

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final draw

The draw for the semi-finals for the 2019 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup was made on Monday.

The draw is as follows:

**Tie 1: Newtonmore v Caberfeidh** – to be played on July 27 at Bught Park, Inverness.

**Tie 2: Kyles Athletic / Kingussie v Kinlochshiel / Oban Camanachd** – to be played on August 10 venue to be confirmed.

Both matches will be televised live by BBC ALBA, with throw up at 4pm. BBC Scotland will televise the final.

produced a fantastic save to keep his side in front.

The Islanders knew any lapse in concentration would be punished and their defence, with Ally MacDonald excellent as he played only his second 90 minutes over the last year, saw out the remainder of the half.

Newtonmore brought Andy MacKintosh into the centre line at the break and they started the second half well without threatening the Skye goal.

The key battles were in the middle off the park and the Skye defence was closing out the Newtonmore attack.

However Skye weren't finding the same fluency as in the first half and two half-chances in a minute proved their undoing as 'More pulled the rug from under their feet.

The first came on 56 minutes when a ball from out on the left came into the D and Ian Robinson finished nicely, slotting the ball under the on-rushing Ryan Morrison.

Just a minute later, a ball from deep landed just outside the D and an instinctive first-time low shot from Glen MacKintosh went through a packed goal area, beating keeper Morrison who saw the shot late with no time to react.

Skye picked themselves up and went looking for an equaliser but Newtonmore are masters at protecting a lead and Marcus Scott's shot from distance was one of Skye's few attempts at goal.

The game ended in controversy when a Newtonmore goal-hit was won in midfield by Skye with the ball played forward to an unmarked Jordan Murchison 20 yards from goal. Murchison raised his stick to shoot but referee Graham Cameron blew for full-time, much to Skye's frustration as they claimed there were still a couple of minutes remaining.

### Kingussie 1 Kyles Athletic 1

Savio Genini's goal a couple of minutes from time earned Kingussie a replay from their tie against Kyles Athletic at the Dell.

Kingussie had most of the play in the first half when Kyles Athletic keeper John Whyte made a number of good saves.

Ross MacRae had a chance through on goal before Colin MacDonald gave Kyles the lead just three minutes into the second half.

Colin MacDonald could have had a second, spurning a gilt-edged chance from the edge of the D.

Kyles had most of the second half although it took a great John Whyte save; tipping a well-struck Savio Genini penalty over the bar, after Roddy MacDonald had kicked the ball inside the D, to keep his side in front.

It looked as Colin MacDonald's goal might just be enough to send Kyles through until Savio Genini levelled with just two minutes from time. Genini ran onto Ruaridh Anderson's free-hit and, from the edge of the box, he hit the ball on his back-hand with his effort taking a deflection off a defender on its way past the keeper.

The sides will replay at



No quarter asked or given as Caberfeidh's Ali MacLennan and Lochaber's Lachlan Campbell battle for the ball during their Camanachd Cup match last weekend. Photograph: Neil Paterson

Tighnabruaich this coming Saturday.

### Caberfeidh 7 Lochaber 4

Caberfeidh reached the semi-finals for the first time since 1963 when they beat Lochaber 7-4 at Castle Leod. Robbie Brindle gave Cabers a five-minute lead but Findlay Macdonald levelled on 24 minutes.

However Cabers pulled away late in the half as Kevin Bartlett on 34 minutes, Craig Morrison on 41 minutes and Ally MacLennan a couple of minutes later made it 4-1 at the break.

Two substitutes put Lochaber right back into it as Pat Toal on 58 minutes and Max Campbell on the hour made it 4-3.

Cabers pulled away for a second time as second strikes from Kevin Bartlett on 67 minutes and Robbie Brindle on 70 minutes made it 6-3 before Ally MacLennan scored again to add a seventh 10 minutes later.

Pat Toal got his second four minutes from time to make the final score 7-4.

The remaining Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final tie between Kinlochshiel and Oban Camanachd takes place at Kirkton this coming Saturday.

## Mowi Premiership

### Kilmallie 4 Kinlochshiel 3

Kilmallie saw off a Kinlochshiel fight-back to eventually win 4-3 in their 3pm throw up at the Canal Parks.

Kilmallie got off to a great start with Daniel Stewart's 25-yard rocket flying into the top corner of the net after just 30 seconds.

Stewart got his and Kilmallie's second with a low finish on the edge

of the D after nine minutes. Indeed Stewart could have had a hat-trick but his effort was ruled out by referee Calum Girvan for a foul in the lead up.

The third Kilmallie goal came on 25 minutes, with Liam MacDonald displaying some powerful play before despatching a well-struck low drive from the edge of the D.

MacDonald then had to go off with a knee injury so Calum MacDougall replaced him.

Lewis Birrell, who started well, also had to be replaced, suffering from a suspected broken toe. Iain MacIntyre came on and the match had not yet reached the 30 minute mark.

After Kilmallie's great start, Kinlochshiel came more into the game and they started to eat into the host's 3-0 lead.

Ali Nixon pulled a goal back on 39 minutes, taking advantage following a poor defensive clearance.

'Shiel were pushing hard now and Kilmallie struggled to contain them.

The loss of Liam MacDonald at half forward was allowing Mark MacDonald and Conor Cormack to dominate the game.

The Kilmallie defence was under constant pressure and home keeper Shane Gillies made some outstanding saves.

However their resistance was broken when Jordan Fraser scored on 61 and 63 minutes to make it 3-3.

Fraser's first came when a shot in on the keeper bounced up and he knocked the ball home.

Then, from 35 yards range, Fraser's shot hit a big divot before bouncing into the top corner of the net.

Ryan Stewart replaced Andrew Mcalister at wing centre for Kilmallie for the last 20 minutes and the fresh legs helped the home side reassert themselves.

Liam MacDonald was patched up

## Fixtures

**Saturday 13 July  
Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup  
quarter-final**  
Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd  
Calum Girvan – 3pm

**Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup  
quarter-final replay**  
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie  
Lachie Wood

**Liberty British Aluminium  
Balliemore Cup semi-final**  
Strathglass v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Graham Cameron  
(at Kingussie)  
Fort William v  
Glenurquhart  
Brian MacKay  
(at Spean Bridge)

**Mowi Premiership**  
Caberfeidh v Inveraray  
John Angus Gillies – 3pm  
Newtonmore v Lovat  
Ross Brown

**Mowi National Division**  
Skye v Bute  
Deek Cameron

**Mowi North Division 1**  
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen Uni Steven  
MacLachlan

Caberfeidh v Kingussie  
John MacRitchie – noon  
Fort William v Skye  
Robert Baxter  
Glenurquhart v Lovat  
Jim Innes  
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
John Wood – noon

**Mowi South Division 1**  
Col Glen v Kyles Athletic  
David Mitchell  
Glasgow MA v Lochside Rovers Ewan  
MacDonald – noon  
Inveraray v Aberdour  
Euan Pearson  
Tayforth v Taynuilt  
Graham Fisher

**Mowi North Division 2**  
Beaully v Lochcarron  
Russell Ross  
Boleskine v Strathglass  
Ewan Neilson  
Strathspey v Inverness  
Des McNulty – 1.30pm  
Lewis v Kilmallie  
TBC

**Mowi South Division 2**  
Ardnamurchan v Kilmory  
Alex MacVicar  
(At Ballachulish)

(All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated)

# up duty to



**Mowi National Division**  
Glenurquhart 7 v 0 Beauly  
Oban Celtic 1 v 1 Glasgow MA  
Bute 0 v 6 Fort William

**Mowi North Division 1**  
Aberdeen Uni 2 v 4 Fort William  
Glenurquhart 5 v 3 Caberfeidh  
Lovat 2 v 2 Kingussie  
Newtonmore 2 v 0 Kinlochshiel  
Skye 1 v 1 Inverness

**Mowi South Division 1**  
Ballachulish 4 v 1 Inveraray

**Mowi North Division 2**  
Boleskine 3 v 2 Beauly  
Kilmallie P v P Strathspey  
To be rescheduled  
Lochcarron P v P Inverness  
To be rescheduled

## Results

**Saturday July 6**  
**Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup third round**  
Caberfeidh 7 v 4 Lochaber  
Kingussie 1 v 1 Kyles Athletic  
Newtonmore 2 v 1 Skye

**Bullough Cup semi final**  
Glenorchy 1 v 1 Glasgow MA  
Lochside 6 v 2 Kyles Athletic

**Mowi Premiership**  
Kilmallie 4 v 3 Kinlochshiel  
Lovat 1 v 0 Inveraray

and put on for the last 15 minutes, replacing Craig MacIsaac, to try and win play back at half forward.

This helped Kilmallie hold the ball up, taking some much needed pressure off the home defence.

And it was Liam MacDonald who set up Calum MacDougall with 5 remaining and MacDougall sent an angled, low shot into the bottom corner of the net with what proved to be the winner.

Kilmallie held on to take both points, lifting them above Lochaber again and out of the relegation zone.

### Lovat 1 Inveraray 0

Marc MacLachlan scored on the stroke of half-time as Lovat ended a six-match winless run, defeating bottom side Inveraray 1-0 in their 3pm throw up at Balgate.

After taking 10 minutes to settle into the match, Inveraray showed the more urgency and the closest they came to a goal was on 32 minutes when a Craig Taylor shot smacked off Stuart MacDonald's crossbar.

Lewis MacNicol then saw a shot well-saved by keeper MacDonald with just a couple of first half minutes remaining.

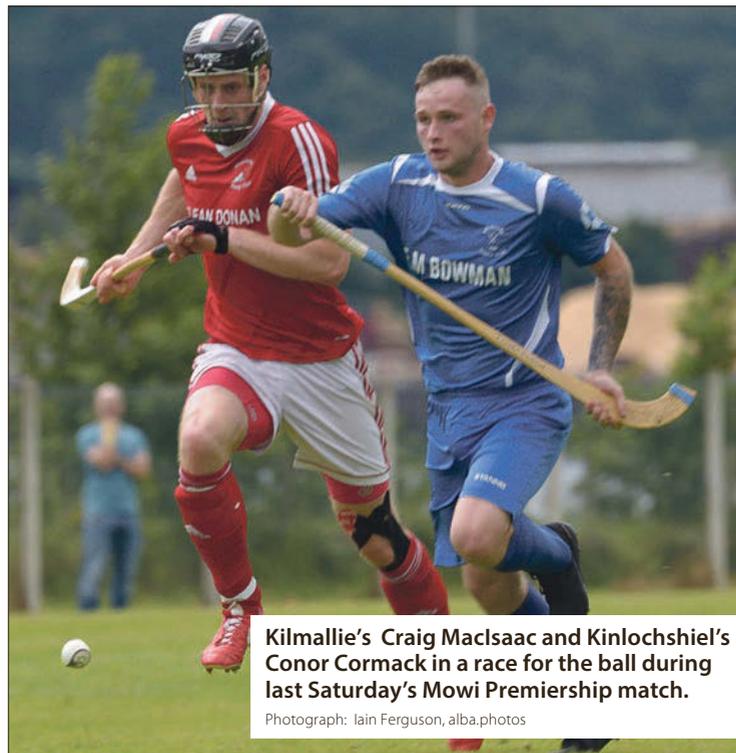
However it was Lovat who went in front following the last action of the first half. Marc MacLachlan pulled the ball down 22 yards out with his back to goal and he spun round before sending a great waist-high shot into the net.

Where-as Inveraray had the better of the first half, Lovat seemed galvanised after the break played at a much higher tempo from the restart, pressuring the visiting goal.

Calum MacAulay set up Greg Matheson on 51 minutes but Inveraray goalie Scott MacLachlan made a good save. The rebound came back out to Matheson and this time he hit the post.

Lovat's Cameron MacMillan took over from Mitchell Leslie with Calum MacAulay going to wing centre and Inveraray player / manager Ruairidh Graham replaced Craig Taylor soon after.

Continued on page 52



Kilmallie's Craig MacIsaac and Kinlochshiel's Conor Cormack in a race for the ball during last Saturday's Mowi Premiership match.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

**Win!**  
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT  
**£3000**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. 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 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran 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

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. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No.....

Please  
tape your  
£1 coin here  
(only if posting)

### RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell** Sept '18 **£2500**
- S Campbell** Sept '18 **£2550**
- L Currie** Nov '18 **£800**
- L Nicolson** Dec '18 **£3900**

### LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- W Park**  
**Campbeltown**
- S Joss**  
**Oban**

Continued from page 51

A good ball from Duncan Davidson found Greg Matheson on 72 minutes. Matheson first went to shoot on his back-hand before striking the ball on his right side but Scott MacLachlan made a great save, turning the ball away for a corner.

Just three minutes later, Matheson tested MacLachlan again with his effort heading inside the post but the keeper turned the ball away with his hand.

Stuart MacDonald threw himself to deny Allan MacDonald a leveller five minutes from time. The ball ran out towards the corner flag where Lewis Montgomery raised his stick on Graeme MacMillan and was then promptly sent off by referee Deek Cameron.

## Mowi National Division

### Oban Celtic 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Ryan Harrison scored just three minutes from time to give Glasgow Mid Argyll a 1-1 draw with Oban Celtic at Mossfield.

GMA lost Nathan Whear to a nasty head knock after around 15 minutes. Whear came in on the blind side as Andy MacDonald swung at the ball and the accidental clash led to a five- to six-minute break in play as Whear was treated before leaving the field.

Ross MacMillan sent two efforts high and wide before GMA keeper Robert Dunning pulling off some top saves as he was tested by Ross MacMillan Lennon Campbell and Daniel MacMillan with MacMillan also hitting the post with a blistering shot.

Oban Celtic took the lead on 51 minutes through Daniel MacMillan. Lewis MacPhee played the ball upfield where Ross MacMillan picked up

possession and although his attempt was saved by the keeper; both Daniel MacMillan and Lennon Campbell ran in on the rebound with Daniel MacMillan flicking the ball past the keeper to score.

Ross MacMillan had a chance to double the lead when Scott Turnbull flicked the ball to him 15 yards out but keeper Dunning made a good save from MacMillan's low shot on the angle.

There was a flashpoint on 72 minutes when Peter Currie and Oliver MacRae challenged. Craig MacMillan stepped in to clear the ball and MacRae took exception to his swing and pulled the Oban man to the ground. Referee Des McNulty stepped in and showed a straight red card to both MacRae and MacMillan with the Oban bench pleading their player's innocence.

This all made for a frantic end to the match and Oban Celtic claimed for a penalty when Dunning missed a ball into the D and Scott Turnbull took two heavy challenges from behind as he shielded the ball but the referee waved away the claims.

When the ball was played out of the danger-area, GMA won a free-hit deep inside their own half which was played up the park and Ryan Harrison, who had been pushed up front, got a couple of yards on his marker before sending a good strike across the keeper into the bottom corner of the net to makethe final score 1-1.

### Bute 0 Fort William 6

Fort William made it 10 wins out of 10 as they maintained their 100 per cent league record, overcoming Bute 6-0 at the Meadows.

Lewis Morrison finished off a well-worked move to fire Fort William a 12-minute lead. Lachie Shaw slipped the ball to Morrison who was unmarked about 12 yards out on the right and his firm



Inveraray's Hamish MacLennan and Lovat's Cammy MacMillan tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Mowi Premiership match. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

strike sent the ball high into the side-netting.

Arran MacPhee opened his account on 38 minutes, collecting the ball on the right wing before dribbling inside towards the penalty spot and shooting on his back-hand, scoring low into the goal.

It was Arran MacPhee again on 42 minutes when he went one-to-one with the keeper and he took the ball around the goalie before knocking it into the open net.

Alexander MacMillan made it 4-0 on 51 minutes when he collected the ball from a corner, in among a clutch of players, and he took a couple of delightful touches before pushing the ball past the goalkeeper.

Arran MacPhee continued his good scoring streak when he completed his hat-trick on the hour – his 20-yard shot went through a crowded goal area, past an unsighted keeper, and into the corner of the goal.

Fort William's sixth came a minute from time when Bute defender Ryan Craig tried to stop a speculative cross-come-shot from Calum Shepherd but ended up deflecting the ball by the keeper to make it 6-0.

### Glenurquhart 7 Beaully 0

James MacPherson scored four goals for the second successive match as Glenurquhart beat Beaully 7-0 in their 3pm throw up at Blairbeg.

### Bullough Cup – semi-finals Lochside Rovers 6 Kyles Athletic 2

Holders Lochside Rovers reached the Bullough Cup Final after defeating the Kyles Athletic second team 6-2 in their semi-final tie at

Ganavan. These teams met in last year's final and Lochside did the damage in the first half.

Ruaraidh Horne gave the Oban side the perfect start with a goal after just two minutes. Horne went on a mazy run before finishing into the top corner of the net.

Michael MacQueen, who was excellent throughout, made it 2-0 on 10 minutes following a goalmouth scramble.

Lewis Buchanan then turned home a half volley following a Jamie MacGillivray corner on 35 minutes.

Michael MacQueen got his second on 41 minutes with a thunderous low drive into the corner of the goal.

Lewis Buchanan got his second a minute before the break, shooting home low to the left to make it 5-0 at half-time.

Lochside saved the best until last as Jamie MacGillivray scored the goal of the match 49 minutes. David Lafferty played the ball on to Ruaraidh Horne and Lewis Buchanan dummied Horne's ball which came to Jamie MacGillivray and he gave the keeper no chance with a shot into the top corner of the goal.

Lochside switched off late on and Luke Thornton punished a defensive slip on 79 minutes, scoring from the edge of the D, before Marcus Keith made it 6-2 just three minutes later. The win means Lochside have clinched a second cup final spot in successive matches having already sealed a place in the Sutherland Cup Final.

### Glenorchy 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

(Mid Argyll won 1-0 on pens) Glenorchy created the better chances before Seb MacMillan, who had gone close just a minute earlier, gathered a corner at the back

post on 23 minutes and his strike deflected off a home defender on its way into the roof of the net.

MacMillan had another effort ruled out for offside before the break and the home side came within a whisker of levelling on the stroke of half-time when John Sartain's shot from distance came back off the post.

Glenorchy's Kieran McKay equalised a couple of minutes into the second half, collecting a long Lennan MacKechnie ball out of defence before blasting a head-height shot home on his left side.

The Glasgow side's chances suffered a blow when Ruaraidh MacLeod was sent off by referee Euan Pearson.

With no further scoring during a thoroughly entertaining 120 minutes of shinty, the tie went to a penalty shoot-out.

Again keepers Andrew Smith and Jonathon Oates were on top form with GMA's Ewan Murray converting the only and decisive spot-hit.

So the GMA seconds will play Lochside in the final with the sides scheduled to meet in the league in Glasgow this coming Saturday.

## Mowi North Division 1

### Aberdeen University 2 Fort William 4

The Fort William second team scored three times in the final 10 minutes to beat Aberdeen University 4-2 at Baggownie.

The Fort, with Davie Duncan free of suspension, took a six-minute lead through Dean Williamson.

Rowan Myers pulled the Students level on 20 minutes and the same player gave the hosts a 2-1 lead a minute after the restart.

And that's the way it stayed until 10 minutes from time when Grant Disher equalised for the Fort. Fort

William player/manager Neil Robertson scored a rare goal a minute later to make it 3-2, and promising youngster Alexander Kennedy added a fourth a minute from time to complete the 4-2 triumph.

Elsewhere in the division, the Lovat seconds and the Kingussie seconds drew 2-2 at the Balgate, the Skye Camanachd colts and Inverness first team drew 1-1 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, the Newtonmore reserves beat the Kinlochshiel reserves 2-0 at the Eilan, and the Glenurquhart seconds scored twice late in the game to beat the Caberfeidh seconds 5-3 at Blairbeg.

## Mowi South Division 1

### Ballachulish 4 Inveraray 1

Ballachulish overcame the Inveraray colts 4-1 at the Jubilee Park to go second in the division.

Lorne Brown gave Balla' a 42-minute lead with the only goal of the first half and he added a second on 48 minutes.

David Grant made it 3-0 on 51 minutes with Dougie Rankin adding a fourth on the hour. David Robertson scored a consolation goal for Inveraray a minute from time.

## Mowi North Division 2

### Boleskine 3 Beaully 2

Boleskine dealt a blow to the Beaully second team's title chances, winning 3-2 at Smith Park.

The Strathglass second team beat Lewis Camanachd 3-1 at Shawbost.

The games between the Kilmallie reserves and Strathspey Camanachd at the Canal Parks, and Lochcarron and the Inverness seconds at Battery Park will be rescheduled.



Kevin Thain, Kingussie battles for the ball with Lovat's Bailey Mackay during their Mowi North Division One game at Kiltarlity. Photograph: Neil Paterson



Oban Celtic scorer Daniel MacMillan in action during the 1-1 draw with Glasgow Mid-Argyll at Mossfield last Saturday. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

# Contrasting conditions for Round Mull yacht race

Contrasting conditions saw this year's Ardferrn Yacht Centre and Owen Sails-sponsored Round Mull Race Round Mull fleet tackle a mix of all weathers, from strong winds to moderate, as well as zephyrs to no wind at stages.

And it was to be the Westerly Storm, Sorr of Appin, sailed by Brian Wiseman and team that lifted first place in class on all three stages and the overall honours for the event.

Mastering the mix of light and strong conditions, Sorr lifted the prized Mishnish Bucket on the first leg and the Bunessan Hall Trophy on the second, winning the class on the third leg to complete the hat trick.

Run by Oban Sailing Club, the circumnavigation of Mull is a 100-mile race over three stages – Oban to Tobermory, Tobermory to Bunessan and Bunessan to Oban.

The first leg of the circumnavigation from Oban to Tobermory saw the fleet enjoy champagne sailing conditions, with tropical sunshine and a light south easterly breeze which gradually built over the course of the day.

Spinnakers were shot early and flown to the finish with Sorr of Appin storming though to take the Class 2 victory and overall best performance of fleet.

Second to Sorr was the Nicholson 43 Sarah, with Colin Crawford's Dehler 34 Nimrod, third. In Class 1 Nick Marshall's J92 Satisfaction won from Graham Anderson's Lucky Ned Pepper and Calum Matheson's Roxanne. Murray Caldwell's Oyster Catcher was the convincing winner in Class 3, with Hot Toddy second and John and Mandy Peden's Hecla third.

In the restricted sail class Anne Campbell's X34 Ajax won from Brian Robertson on Celtic Spirit and the Johnson/Williams partnership Oceanis 40 Mystic Sun was third.

## Tobermory to Bunessan

With no wind in Tobermory Bay on Saturday morning, race officers David Preston and Jim Tolmie took the four-class fleet out of Tobermory to a position off Rubha nan Ghall Lighthouse. Light and variable winds had been fore-



Yachts taking part in the Round Mull race.

cast and light and variable they indeed were, making for frustrating sailing, with the tail end of the fleet racing for nearly 11 hours. A shortened course was set off Gometra and the last boat finished just within the time limit, with the tide helping to stem the dying breeze. A pod of dolphins provided entertainment among the finishing fleet.

Satisfaction sealed another victory in Class 1 from Scott Chalmers and team on Sunrise and Robin Young's J109 Jings.

Sorr of Appin again took the class win and the overall to lift The Bunessan Hall trophy, with Eric and Irena

Chapman's Elixir of Lorn second and Billy Forteith's Shadowfax third.

With Oystercatcher and Fumarole retiring in Class 3, Hot Toddy took the win from the Peden's in Hecla, and Mikara third. Celtic Spirit won restricted sail class, with Mystic Sun second.

## Bunessan to Oban

The final leg from Bunessan to Oban was a roller coaster with strong gusting winds and big seas. Mastering these conditions Brian Wiseman and team on Sorr of Appin completed the hat trick to win once again and seal an overall victory for the event, despite

their spinnaker blowing out at the entrance to Kerrera sound. Chasing his heels with a second in Class 2 was Shadowfax with John MacKenzie's Stoirm Mhor third.

Satisfaction won Class 1 from Sunrise and Roxanne and in Class 3 it was Oystercatcher who pulled out all the stops to win not only this leg but the best overall time in the fleet for Bunessan to Oban and lift the Glencoe Trophy. Second was Hot Toddy, and Hecla third. Celtic Spirit won again in Class 4, with Mystic Sun second.

Steven Forteith one of the

## SAILING

Round Mull Race committee said: 'What a great weekend and fantastic sailing overall. We have to say a huge thanks to sponsors Ardferrn Yacht Centre and Owen Sails, T.Barbour Ltd, Dimension Polyant and Forteith Refrigeration and heat pump solutions Ltd, as well as race team Dave Preston and Jim Tolmie.

Also a massive thank you to Dave Sturrock who provided his time and his boat Unity once again to be committee vessel. Last but not least, thanks to the main organiser Billy Forteith for an amazing event all round.'

Race officer Preston and Tolmie echoed thanks to Dave Sturrock, saying: 'Lying at anchor all day and into the evening to wait for the fleet to finish on Saturday was a big effort, not only for Dave but his faithful dog Jenny who had to keep legs crossed till getting ashore!'

Prizes will be awarded at Oban Sailing Club's prizegiving event on November 9

# Oban Saints youth teams hold awards night

Oban Saints Youth teams held their annual end of season awards night on June 25 at Soroba House to celebrate all of the team achievements during the 2018/19 season.

As well as team presentations, individual awards were presented at each age group for most improved player, top goal scorer, player of the season and players player of the season.

A special presentation was also made to John Scott to

thank him for his service to the club, having filled various positions over a number of years, and latterly having been a referee. John has decided to hang up his whistle at the end of the season.

The club had teams at U13, U14, U15 and U16 age groups all playing in the Glasgow and District leagues in 2018/19, with more than 80 boys regularly training each week and matches being played on a Sunday.

A significant number of miles were travelled in the minibuses this season and the club would like to thank all of the volunteer coaches who give up their time each week to not only take the training sessions but also take the team through to Glasgow for away matches.

A large turnout at the presentation night was welcomed by club chairman Donald Black.

The club are hoping to have teams competing at U13, U14, U15 and U16/17 level for the 2019/20 season which starts back on August 18 in the Glasgow and District YFL league cup group matches.

The club are also looking forward to the start of the new Oban Saints second team for season 2019/20 as this is a positive step in providing a more structured pathway for players between the youth teams and the senior squad – hopefully being able to provide more opportunities for the older

youth players to continue playing competitive football.

Individual award winners on the night were: U16 Most Improved Player – James Beaton; U16 Top Goal Scorer – Connor Moore; U16 Player of the Year – Ellis Hunter; U16 Players Player of the Year – Lennan MacKechnie.

U15 Most Improved Player – Rhys Fairbairn; U15 Top Goal Scorer – Ross Higgins; U15 Player of the Year – John Douglas; U15 Players Player of the Year – Zak Allan.

U14 Most Improved Player – Jack Reid; U14 Top Goal Scorer – Kyle Cooper; U14 Player of the Year – Kyle Cooper; U14 Players Player of the Year – Andrew Barclay. U13 Most Improved Player – Ryan Hill; U13 Top Goal Scorer – Aidan MacDonald; U13 Player of the Year – Preston MacIntyre; U13 Players Player of the Year – James Joss

The club would like to thank all of its supporters for backing the boys throughout the season, both at home

and also at away matches. Also a huge thank you to a number of sponsors across the various age groups whose support has been invaluable.

These includes the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD), Oban Filling Station, Staffa Tours, D&J Campbell NorthConnel, Scottish Sea Farms, JM Boyd, Allwurx Contractors, Stuart Livingstone Joinery, Munros Garage, Strathclyde

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

Scaffolding, Norries Fish and Chip Shop, the Oban Inn, Roddy's Garage and the Halfway House Filling Station. Also a big thanks to Ian Hay and the council ground staff for their assistance throughout the year with Glencruitten, as well as the janitors at the Oban High School for their help when using the pitch there.



Oban Saints under-13s at the awards night



Oban Saints under-14s.

OT

## GOLF



David and Jean MacPherson (left) and tournament sponsor Donald Gordon (right) with James Young and Katy Worsdall of the Dragon's Toth Golf Club.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Military benefits from Dragon's Tooth charity day

Oban-based business Gordon and Strathern raised more than £3,000 for a charity which helps wounded service personnel when they organised a Four-Man Texas Scramble golfing day at the Dragon's Tooth course, Ballachulish.

Trustee of the charity Help Our Wounded Royal Marines and Supporting Arms, Jean MacPherson and her husband, David, also attended to answer questions on the work of the charity and thank everyone for taking part.

The Oban couple originally became involved with the charity in memory of David's brother Gordon, a Royal Marine who lost his life in the Falklands the day before hostilities ended in 1982, and have organised many events to raise money for fellow Marines, their families and others who have served in the military, but now find themselves in need of assistance.

Jean said: 'I would like to thank Donald Gordon for choosing us as his charity this year and for all the effort he put in to organising this event.'

'All money raised for Help Our Wounded goes to those who need it and every penny makes a real difference to their lives.'

'Thanks also to everyone who took part in the tournament and also bought raffle tickets, which added to the total.'

'David and I were also delighted to be invited along and help out on the day, which also gave us the chance to make more people aware of what we do.'

More information can be found on [www.helpourwounded.co.uk](http://www.helpourwounded.co.uk)

The next charity event for Gordon & Strathern Ltd is a sports day in Helenburgh on Sunday July 14.

## Results from Glencruitten

Leading scores in the 2nd round of the George Smith Trophy and Senior Championship on Saturday at Glencruitten were Malcolm Cullen 70 - 11 = 59, Martin Rae 68 - 4 = 64, Alan Jamieson 74 - 9 = 65 and Neil Armour 77 - 12 = 65. Malcolm Cullen leads the George Smith and Phillip Murphy leads the Senior Championship.

On Saturday the Dennis Cathro Pairs takes place.

## MBS Garmony Open

On Sunday July 21, starting at 1pm, Craignure Golf Club is hosting the MBS Garmony open.

This year's event is kindly sponsored by Mull Building Supplies and the format is stroke play with full handicap with one overall winner.

First prize is £100 with second and third prizes of £60 and £40 along with golfing related prizes and a nearest the pin competition. It's open to all with a recognised handicap and the entry fee is just £10.

Please get in touch via the club website or Facebook page if you need any more information.

# Bob's on Open duty

by Fiona Scott  
[fscott@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fscott@obantimes.co.uk)



Oban golfer Bob MacIntyre is heading into what is arguably the biggest two weeks in his professional career.

Today (Thursday July 11) the Glencruitten left-hander competes the 148th Scottish Open at The Renaissance Club, North Berwick.

In the first round Bob has been drawn with two golfing greats - Rory McIlroy and Rickie Fowler.

And, on July 18, Bob will swing into action at the Dunluce Links Course in Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland, to compete against some of the world's best golfers in the Open Championship.

Last week the Glencruitten golfer played in the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open and finished on -3 for joint 41st place with rounds of 66, 69, 72 and 70.

In May MacIntyre was joint runner-up in the 2019 Betfred British Masters, helped by an eagle-birdie finish and two weeks later he was runner-up



Oban's Bob MacIntyre

in the Made in Denmark tournament, a stroke behind Bernd Wiesberger.

Qualifying for the British Open in his debut season on the European Tour, has lifted the spirits of the 22-year-old, who is viewing the Scottish Open at North Berwick with just as much excitement.

'It won't sink in until I'm on the course and seeing guys like Tiger (Woods) and Phil

(Mickleson),' he said of the British.

'I didn't really expect it from the way I had been playing. It was a case of making cuts and going backwards, making cuts and going backwards.'

'I always believed, however, that once I got going and that the momentum was with me that I could go anywhere in the game. Hopefully I can

## GOLF

go to that place over the next month. 'Playing on home ground in front of a home crowd in the Scottish Open is going to be massive.'

If you fancy a flutter, William Hill has given MacIntyre an 80/1 chance of winning the Scottish Open and 125/1 to win the Open Championship.

## John McPhee finishes 6th at the Sachsenring

The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing duo of John McPhee and teammate Ayumu Sasaki go into the Moto3 championship's summer break with two strong results to show for their efforts at the German Grand Prix, taking sixth and ninth respectively in tricky conditions at the Sachsenring.

Overnight rain meant that the track was much-changed from the previous day's conditions, but John was nonetheless able to convert to his 10th place on the grid into a strong start. Involved in the battle for the victory from beginning to end, he never dropped outside the top 10 despite frantic position changes in the leading group.

Chopping and changing positions until the final laps, tyre degradation meant John was not quite able to put up a fight for the podium, but he takes valuable points into the summer break. Finishing sixth in

## MOTO3

the race, he also now sits sixth in the title race.

The next round of the 2019 Moto3 season takes place after their three-week summer break, kicking off again with the Czech Grand Prix at Brno on August 2-4.

John said: 'It was an enjoyable race with a big battle, although the pace was quite slow as track conditions changed after the rain.'

'We went for the hard tyre option for the first time this year and I didn't really know when to expect its performance to drop off, and I struggled a little for speed at the end of the race.'

'I could hold my own and put up a fight, but I just didn't have the pace to stay at the front when it mattered.'

'It was a typical Moto3 battle, and P6 in the race and in the championship is a great way to round off the first half of the season.'



## Skillorama at Lochnell

Lochnell Football Club's final training session of the season took the form of a whole club skills competition entitled Skillorama 2019. More than 80 children split into teams to have a go at challenges, including Buckethead Totem Pole, Crazy Carpet and Bin-anza.

Family and friends watched the fun, which culminated in a club goalkeepers v players penalty challenge, won by a single save by the goalkeepers.

The club, which runs coaching sessions and teams for boys and girls from P1 to P7, resumes training on Wednesday August 21 at North Connel Football Pitch.

Enquiries can be made through the club's Facebook page or by calling 07867 318583.



# Juniors are on track for a mammoth Games season

The Highland Games season will soon be under way in Argyll with Morvern Games at Lochaline this Saturday (July 13).

Next on the programme is Inveraray on Tuesday July 16 followed by Mull Games at Tobermory two days later on Thursday July 18. Taynuilt and Southend in Kintyre (evening event) are both on Saturday July 20 and finally Oban Games on Thursday August 22.

Several junior track and field events are being held to encourage more local young athletes to take part. This applies to the Highland Games in Argyll, which are affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA).

Junior events will be held at Inveraray, Mull, and Oban, with separate events for both boys and girls between the age of 11 and under 16.

The age qualification is under 16 on May 26, 2019 which was the date of the first Games on the SHGA fixture list.

The events are 90 metres, 600 metres, high jump, long jump and shot putt with the two track races being on a handicap basis according to age and ability.

There will be an overall junior championship with points awarded over the series of games and trophies presented to the top boy and girl at Oban Games.

Abbie Cato from Fionnphort was the girls' champion in 2018 and Jake Gillespie from Lochgilphead won the boys



Tony Daffurn leaps 25.1 feet to break the Scottish long jump record at Mull Highland Games in 2017.

overall trophy. Prize money will be an added incentive at all of the Highland Games.

As well as the junior events at the SHGA Games there is a full programme of senior events (16 years and over) in two categories with local events confined to athletes born or resident in Argyll and Open events.

To compete in the Open events athletes will have to register with the Scottish Highland Games Association for the day or for the season.

Junior athletes at both Inveraray and Mull Highland Games should enter on the field between 10am and 10.30am, with the first event likely to start at 10.45am.

For Mull Games competitors from the mainland are advised to travel on the first ferry from Oban at 7.30am.

Further information on the junior events at Inveraray, Mull and Oban can be

obtained by contacting Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

## Scottish Jumps Championship at Mull Games

For the third year Mull Games has been awarded the Scottish Highland Games Association Jumps Championship which is a national competition for most points in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

This championship will attract some of Scotland's top jumpers to compete on a field which is regarded as the best surface for jumping of all the Games in Scotland.

In 2016 at Mull, Allan Hamilton from Edinburgh set new Scottish (SHGA) records in both the long jump and triple jump.

Last year Tony Daffurn from Wishaw, the 2017 SHGA Athlete of the Year, set a new Scottish record in the long jump at Mull with a leap of

## HIGHLAND GAMES

25-foot one inch. Another two younger athletes to look out for are Aidan Quinn, who is Scotland's top under-20 triple jumper, and Ewen Bradley from Inverness, who was SHGA Athlete of the Year in 2018.

Both Tony and Aidan have ambitions of breaking the triple jump record of 50.01ft and Allan Hamilton is likely to be back to attempt to regain his long jump record.

One ground record at Mull Games which has withstood the passage of time is the high jump record of 6ft 3.5in set by the great Jay Scott and has survived since 1955.

Jay set the record using a modified scissors technique and did not have the luxury of landing on crash mats.

Allan Smith, Scotland's Number one high jumper, has indicated he may be at Mull this year.

## Ladies Mile Race at Inveraray Games

A ladies mile race will be held at Inveraray on July 16 and is open to women over 16 years, with no upper age limit.

The race will be handicapped according to age and ability, with starts given to the older and slower runners.

All entries are on the day and the race is likely to be in the early afternoon.

In addition to generous prize money an annual trophy will be awarded to the winner. Any Argyll ladies interested?

# First game for Oban Saints seconds

Campbeltown Pupils	1
Oban Saints GG	1
Pre-season friendly	

With the start of pre-season upcoming for Oban Saints GG, the newly established second team received a call late Thursday for a last minute game against Campbeltown Pupils for the following day. With both teams eager and some assistance from Jimmy Lister the game was able to take place at the neutral ground of the Ropework, Lochgilphead, which was in excellent condition.

With this new team having a strong focus and nucleus of younger players alongside some experienced, the Saints

management team travelled with a 14-man squad, which included nine teenagers along with a couple of first team squad members, including the last-minute inclusion of first team co-manager Donald Campbell on the comeback trail after his end of season injury. He was a welcome sight before the new season in the Central league begins. Also in the squad were experienced duo of Ross Maitland and Alex Craic.

Despite being a pre-season friendly to give some much needed match time to all, it did not take long for either side to show they both wanted the win in typical Argyll derby fashion.

Having travelled with a pre-

made plan in regards to team substitutions in order to give all players the same amount of game time and a chance to have a look at, Saints stuck to this making three changes after 30 minutes with the score standing at 0-0 at half time.

The second half began in much the same fashion, with the challenges and effort from both teams becoming more apparent, which referee Jimmy Lister controlled to the usual high standard before it could boil over.

In the 78th-minute a soft free kick awarded on the left by-line was whipped in by the Pupils and Saints were caught napping as the ball ended up in the back of the net.

This reversal seemed to spur

## FOOTBALL

Saints on, and the coaches were particularly delighted to see the younger players roll up their sleeves up in order to stand up and be counted to get back into the game.

Saints got a well deserved equaliser when a pin point pass to Ross Maitland from Gavin Forgive sent the Saints veteran through on goal and he showed the experience and class to put the ball in the back of the net to make the final score 1-1.

Manager Donald Black said: 'Tonight showed the boys what's in store for the season ahead in regards the jump from youth to senior football.'



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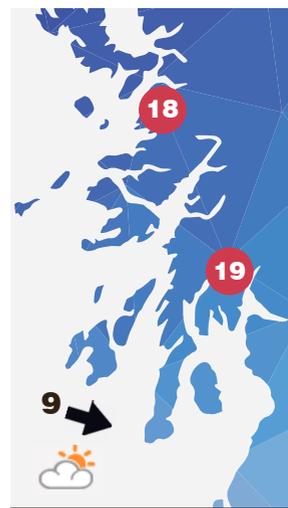


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday July 11, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.31	3.1	07.20	1.4
<b>Thur</b>	13.36	3.0	19.13	1.3
<b>Fri</b>	01.55	3.1	08.32	1.4
	14.42	3.1	20.24	1.3
<b>Sat</b>	03.03	3.2	09.32	1.4
	15.34	3.3	21.30	1.3
<b>Sun</b>	03.57	3.3	10.20	1.3
	16.17	3.4	22.26	1.3
<b>Mon</b>	04.39	3.4	11.02	3.2
	16.56	3.6	23.15	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	05.17	3.5	11.40	1.1
	17.34	3.8	23.58	1.2
<b>Wed</b>	05.52	3.6	12.16	1.0
	18.11	3.9	***	**

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

**Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.**

John McPhee finishes 6th at the Sachsenring

Juniors on track for a mammoth Games season



Prizewinners and competitors at this year's West Highland Tennis Championships competitors. 17\_t28\_Tennis02

# West Highland Tennis Championship success

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Every summer the nation turns their eye to tennis, with Wimbledon taking centre stage – unless you are from Oban.

Here, it is all about the West Highland Tennis Championships, which took place at the week (June 30-July 7) at Atlantis Leisure.

The tournament caters to competitors of all ages and abilities, with local competitions, under-18s, and the championship events.

The competition boasts an international list of players, with a squad travelling from the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in Texas to compete.

The championship has been referred to as 'one of the most welcoming', but the weather

can be a little less hospitable. This year was no exception – in true Oban fashion, competitors experienced a variety of weather. However, unlike Wimbledon, there is not a retractable roof, so players are at the mercy of the elements.

Thankfully, the worse of the weather was confined to Friday and by Saturday and Sunday the sun was shining down on the Atlantis Leisure courts for the championship finals.

Last year's male and female singles winners certainly welcomed another win, with Kirsty Robertson retaining the prestigious ladies championship, and Nicolas Rosenzweig taking home the silverware, winning the singles trophy for the second year on the bounce.

Tournament referee Mary MacLean said: 'It was another successful tournament with a fairly wide range of winners. The USA squad from Texas had a finalist in the ladies singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Nick and Kirsty retained their trophies and with next year being the 50th tournament we are planning something special.'

Nicolas said: 'After Friday's poor weather, it was nice to have a weekend with the sun and no wind so that quality tennis could be on show.'

'I am delighted to win again and hopefully I will be back next year for the 50th. It will be a good one.'

Prizewinners: West Highland Day cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Tuesday – Doubles Day: Winners: Andy Henderson and

Donald Harrison; runners-up: Azra Arshad and John Strettle.

Wednesday – Handicap Singles: Gents: winner Kevin Keen; runner-up: Connor Dott; Ladies winner: Lucie Novoveska; runner-up: Suzie Hutchison.

Junior events: Primary School – 25 Primary aged players took part in a Challenge and Fun event. All participants received a medal. Overall winner: Ruairidh McKechnie. Secondary School: Junior Boys winner: Euan Dowd; runner-up: Rory Dods; Senior Boys' winner: Ross Campbell; runner-up: Adam Munro; Girls' winner: Ellie MacInnes; runner-up: Darcey Miller.

McArthur Legal Gents Singles Winner: Nick Rosenzweig; runner-up: Jordan Gray; Gents Plate winner: Riley O'Conner; runner-up: Carrington B Mauro.

R.A. Clement Associates Ladies Singles winner: Kirsty

Robertson; runner-up: Skylar Minns. T Barbour Ltd, Marine Fuel Supplies Boys' 18 and under winner: Harry Rock; runner-up: Joshua Keen; Boys' 18 and under Plate winner: Russell Dickson; runner-up: Andrew Wilson.

Rotary Club of Oban Girls' 18 and under winner: Kirsty Robertson; runner-up: Lexi Penn; 18 and under girls' Plate winner: Kristina McDermott; runner-up: Audrey Provine Mathesons Furnishings Gents' Doubles winners: Nick Rosenzweig and Joshua Keen; runners-up: Ronnie Terras and Ruairidh Fraser; J & A McAllister Ladies Doubles winners: Kirsty Robertson and Lucie Novoveska; runners-up: Lexi Penn and Halley Romero; Esplanade Court Mixed Doubles winners: Joshua Keen and Jenna Conroy; runners-up: Riley O'Conner and Lexi Penn.

Local events were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oban Sportiv Fund.

## D & K cup tournament on Saturday

### FOOTBALL

The annual D & K Lafferty Cup tournament, organised by Oban Saints Football Club, takes place on Saturday at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten rugby pitch.

Teams taking part are old friends from the Scottish Premier League Hamilton Accies along with Scottish Championship sides Dundee United, who won the tournament last year, and Alloa Athletic.

St Anthony's will represent the junior side of Scottish football, with newly-promoted Greater Glasgow League outfit South Lochaber Thistle, along with hosts Oban Saints flying the flag for the amateurs.

The competition starts at 11am and is a round-robin event, with the teams playing each other in short, sharp 30-minute games to see who will take home the impressive D & K Lafferty Cup.

Organiser David Buchanan said: 'It's a great day of football played in a friendly but competitive manner.'

'There are 15 games on the day so supporters can pick and choose which games they want to watch.'

Hamilton Accies coach Dougie Imrie said: 'It's a great tournament as you can field five different teams on the day if you want and its good for using different tactics and of course ideal for match fitness.'



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THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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## Tenants hit as Fort Airbnb rakes in £3M

by Niall Bo Finlayson  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Families are reportedly being asked to make way for Airbnb guests in Fort William, raising doubts over the long-term viability of the holiday letting service in the area.

Fort William Community Council told The Lochaber Times it is aware of a number of instances where residents have been asked to move out of long-term rentals so the owner can operate the property as an Airbnb holiday let.

This comes after the short-term letting platform announced that Fort William hosts earned a total of £3.1million last year – the fifth highest income in Scotland in 2018, higher than Oban (£2.6m) and Portree (£2.5m).

Fort William Community Council chairman Alex Farquhar said Airbnb hosting might be good for visitors and hosts, but it was bad for the local housing market and economy.

'For workers coming into the area, it's a total disaster,' said Mr Farquhar. 'So many rooms and properties that were let

out on a weekly or monthly basis and within the reach of workers are now impossible to find. We are certain this is having a bad effect in the local economy, job market and many employers are having a very hard time getting workers.'

'We are aware of several families who have been asked to move out of long-term lets as the owners changed them to Airbnb.'

### Economy

According to its recently published figures, guests and hosts on the platform generated more than £693 million for the Scotland economy in 2018. Guest spending in Scottish communities accounted for £531 million, with each spending on average £100 per day on activities and food and drink.

The Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group (FWAMG), which represents B&Bs and guesthouses in the area, said it was 'not surprised' to learn that Fort William had some of the highest earnings in Scotland, with some of its members now seeing fewer bookings than in previous

years. 'This all points to the fact that Airbnb has grown considerably in the area over the past few years with this year showing a huge increase in the number of places available on the site,' said John Jarvis-Jones, vice-chairman of FWAMG.

'As much as I welcome the competition this brings, I am concerned the playing field isn't a level one. The guests could be staying in accommodation which doesn't comply with the regulations that we have to adhere to.'

However, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chairman Frazer Coupland welcomed the revenue generated by Airbnb hosts to the local economy and said that all types of accommodation are reporting 'very healthy' occupancy numbers.

'Airbnb is just one of the new routes to market that accommodation providers use,' he said.

'There is also a real need for local resident accommodation in the area as our economy continues to grow and we are pleased to see plans to build more housing going ahead.'

Proud as punch...



Children from the Little Learners Nursery in Inverlochty are all smiles as they graduate and get ready to move up to primary school after the summer holidays. This week also sees the first of our selection of photographs of Lochaber primary seven classes before they begin their high school careers. Turn to pages seven and eight.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



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# The Bangladeshi girl who inspired Room 13 founder

Our new freelance correspondent on Ardgour, Nic Goddard, went to meet artist and founder of the global Room 13 initiative, Rob Fairley, to find out about his new book, inspired by a chance meeting in Bangladesh.

On my way to meet Rob Fairley, I called in to the Resipole Studios to pick up a copy of the book *Prinaka* – a day sketching in Dhaka.

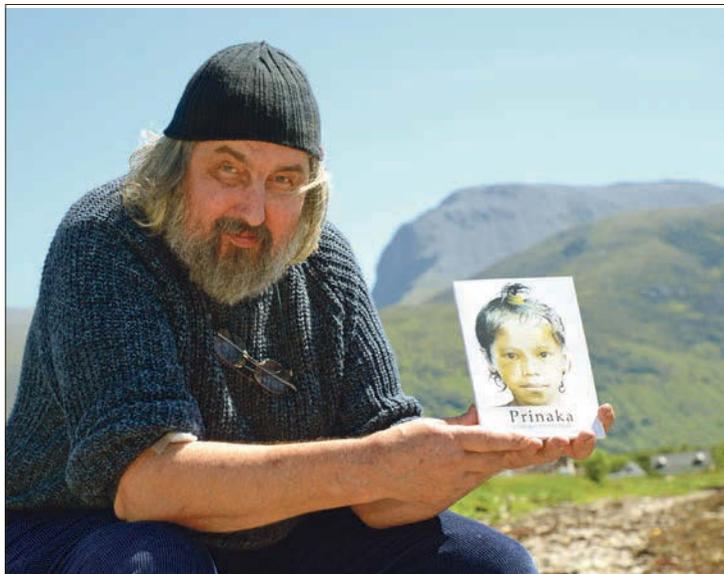
Speaking with gallery owner Andrew Sinclair, he told me the gallery was 'thrilled' to have had the opportunity to publish *Prinaka*.

'Having known Rob for many years, and admired him greatly as an artist, when he first approached me with the story behind the work, I knew it was something that needed to be shared with the wider world,' said Andrew.

I began to read the book aloud to my husband who was driving and we were soon both drawn into that day, 27 years ago, ourselves.

I had not realised that my teenage son and daughter, sitting in the back of the car were also listening until I stopped reading aloud and a voice piped up asking me to carry on.

We had all been taken by the hand and pulled through the streets of Dhaka in much the same way as Rob himself was back in 1992.



I met Rob in his studio, tucked away from the world in an idyllic spot between Loch Ailort and Rois-bheinn. I was greeted by horses, dogs and chickens before Rob himself appeared to welcome me into his work space.

Art materials jostled for space alongside music systems and the walls were lined with years worth of sketch books, giant canvas works in progress, meticulously labelled files and folders, and cameras and lenses crowded the shelves which reached high up into the eaves.

I've been following Rob's current

social media project sharing '50 years of his sketchbooks' in which he posts a photograph of one of his sketches and tells the story behind the sketch, so I was already aware that alongside his artistic talents, Rob has a gift for painting pictures with words too.

*Prinaka* – a day sketching in Dhaka is a perfect marriage of the words and pictures telling a story of a life-changing day.

In a diary-style format, illustrated with pictures, often annotated with Rob's pencilled words, the book documents the day he spent in the company of *Prinaka*, a

Artist Rob Fairley, who founded the international network of Room 13s for young people, holds a copy of his new book.

young girl he crossed paths with when he found himself lost, having wandered from his hotel on a stop-over in Bangladesh.

It was a trip cut short by ill health and Rob was on his way back to the UK via a series of short flights.

Finding himself unable to retrace his steps, he accepted the offer of this young girl to show him home if he accompanied her on her day's work first.

Rob explained how the story that follows is his account of that day; sketches and photographs of the people they encountered and the tales around those people.

Due to language barriers, the dialogue is sparse but the communication and connection is rich and full.

Rob told me: 'I'd never met anyone like her before. I still can't see why she adopted me, but she looked after me and she was so fun to be with. She was hilariously funny.'

'I am not very good at languages but I found myself wanting to be able to speak, to communicate with her.'

Rob told me that his meeting with *Prinaka* made him rethink how he

saw humanity and, in particular, children.

Rob has enjoyed a long and successful career with his art, with exhibitions in galleries across the UK. After his encounter with *Prinaka*, Rob became involved with a group of young people closer to home, in Caol, Fort William.

Inspired by what he learned from one small girl, Rob worked in partnership with these primary school pupils to create something amazing and Room 13 was born.

Now an international community with Room 13s spread across the globe, this network of studios continues to spread the ethos of listening to, respecting and empowering young people.

Rob told me: 'It was meeting *Prinaka* which taught me how to work with the children in Room 13. We had a culture of honesty and openness. We worked together and I learned far more from them than I think I taught them.'

The legacy of Rob's meeting with *Prinaka* continues and now the full story of that day is available as a beautiful book published by Resipole Studios.

There will be an official launch for the book at Resipole Gallery on Sunday, July 21, from 3-5pm, alongside a small exhibition of Rob's work.

Copies of the book are available to buy from the studio.



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# Calls to curb Lochaber cruise liner pollution

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Environmental activists in Lochaber are clamouring for action to tackle the pollution caused by cruise liners of the sort which regularly visit Fort William and the west coast throughout the summer.

The very idea of going on a cruise is rich with echoes from a simpler, less frenetic era, and the gigantic ships can bring lucrative trade to shops and businesses.

But in these days of climate and ecological crisis, the wider environmental impact of large liners, such as the MV Deutschland, right, which moored in Loch Linnhe last week, is coming under closer scrutiny.

These ships typically use heavy fuel oil in their engines, producing exhaust fumes which are, per passenger mile, considerably worse than those from long-haul flights.

What's more, even a modest-sized ship will generate, and can discharge en route, more than 4,000 gallons of sewage daily from around 500 passengers and several hundred crew, as well as grey water and contaminated ballast water.

A spokesperson for the Lochaber branch of the Extinction Rebellion climate activist group (XR) said: 'Boats have been an integral part of life in Lochaber for generations, and whether or not the environmental impact of cruise ships visiting Fort William is a price worth paying for the commercial advantages to Lochaber is a



Photograph: Iain Ferguson

decision first and foremost for the people of Lochaber. But, as with so much that we've all been taking for granted for a long time, what is now critically important is that the bigger environmental picture should be understood whilst making such decisions.'

And the Fort William branch of Greenpeace echoed those concerns. 'The MV Deutschland was in town and its engines kept running all day,' said the group.

## Engines

'Cruise ships keep their engines running while in port to maintain electrical supply to all the onboard services, whether heating, heated swimming pools, casinos - anything that requires power.'

'Walking along the shore-front you could really smell the pollution as the wind was blowing it all to shore. Even though the boat seemed far away, its pollution footprint reached town, and it's very bad for your lungs.'

'Cruise ships are an important part of the local economy, but they shouldn't get a free pass to pollute. Maybe priority could be given to clean cruise liners that take air pollution seriously. That way we get the tourism boost without the unwanted baggage of pollution.'

Asked for her thoughts, Sarah Kennedy, secretary of

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company, which organises official welcomes for cruise liner passengers and crews to the town, concedes it is an emotive subject.

'But however anyone travels to Fort William it will have an impact on the environment. Even yachts have engines on them so they can get about if there's no wind,' she said.

'Some of the cruise ships that have visited recently have been hybrids - diesel and battery. The industry is heavily regulated and controlled with marine law regarding the environment.'

'The cruise ships coming to Fort William often have to keep an engine running so they can make sure she is stable in the loch and can manoeuvre quickly should the weather change.'

'There are strict regulations about the emissions and anything being discharged from the ship.'

'We need to make more use of the loch to reduce the traffic congestion on the A82 and if we can expand the facilities we currently provide with the small marina and ultimately an alongside berth with minimal impact on the environment, then surely this would be even more beneficial to Fort William and Lochaber.'

## MV Deutschland in maiden visit to Fort

The MV Deutschland cruise liner was welcomed to Fort William last week for its maiden visit.

A number of gifts were exchanged, with Highland Council local ward manager Dot Ferguson presenting Captain Schaefer with a commemoration plaque. Sarah Kennedy, from the Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company, presented the captain with a bottle of Ben Nevis whisky and other gifts, while Phyllis Knox and Jean Gow, who were also part of the welcoming committee, presented Captain Schaefer

with soap made in the town. Captain Schaefer reciprocated by giving each a lovely metal plaque of the ship.

Mrs Kennedy told us: 'We also had a great time carrying out entertainment in Cameron Square, which was welcomed by all the passengers who came into the town and all our other visitors and locals too.'

'We would like to mention how clean and tidy the town looks due to the hard work of the Highland Council employees as well as the Fort William Town Team with the lovely hanging baskets and flowers brightening up the town.'



Phyllis Knox, right, and Jean Gow, pictured with Captain Schaefer aboard the liner last week.

## Mallaig flats submitted for planning

Plans to build new flats in Mallaig have been submitted to Highland Council for approval.

The application, submitted by Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) in conjunction with Knoydart Construction Company, outlines proposals to erect eight affordable flats on land south of 16 King's Way in the village.

The houses will be two-storey, four-in-a-block cottage flats with two bedrooms, capable of housing four people.

The site is part-owned by LHA and part-owned by Nevis Estates and funding has been secured for the project.

Development of the land has been anticipated since the earlier phase of building was completed at King's Way around 10 years ago.

Subject to planning approval, work is expected to start as early as autumn 2019, and could be complete within a year.

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Women's Aid is holding a fundraiser entitled Welcome to a Well You tomorrow (Friday July 12) from 7.30-9pm in The Highland Bookshop, Fort William. The £5 entry price includes a drink, with all proceeds going to Lochaber Women's Aid.  
Invernevis House's annual fundraising garden party takes place on Saturday July

13 from noon until 4pm. The event will be opened by the residents' new choir.  
Morvern Highland Games is on Saturday July 13 at Knock Park, Lochaline, followed by the Gala Week, which runs until July 21.  
The rescheduled annual Mike McFall Four-person Texas Scramble golf tournament for 2019, will be played at Fort William Golf

Club on Sunday, July 14.  
The Feis Nan Garbh-Chriochan is running in Acharacle from Monday July 15, to Friday July 22. A range of traditional activities will be held across the Acharacle area, including music tuition, music sessions and cultural events. Please visit Feis Nan Garbh Chriochan's Facebook page for full details.

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Some of the prizewinners, from left, Katie Emma Connolly, Niamh MacLellan and Kay Christian.

## Ardnamurchan High School celebrates pupils' success

Ardnamurchan High School held its annual Celebration of Success last week.

In his presentation, head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig made special mention of the tremendous wider achievement involvement of the school's young people and also highlighted past pupils' successes.

Senior pupils Ben Gregg and Alastair Tait delivered a witty overview of the school year, and the evening was interspersed at various points with excellent music.

In keeping with the school's Gaelic ethos, the evening concluded with one of the school's Film G creations, much to the audience's delight.

Special award winners were Eden Gordon for the school's Best German student; Lochaber Housing Association Cup for Academic Achievement, Kay Christian; Overall School Nomination Winners, Niamh MacLellan; Rural Excellence Award, Fern MacGillivray; Sgeulachd Award for Enterprise, Katie Emma Connolly; Rotary Club of Lochaber Prize for Endeavour, Kay Christian, and Ewen Gillespie Memorial Trophy, Niamh MacLellan.

This year, the Iain Cameron Memorial Community Partnership Award went to the education project from the Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival.

# Safer roads top bill at Kilmallie meeting

## Large-scale developments were also in spotlight

Safer roads in Corpach were top of the bill for the annual chairperson's report at the Kilmallie Community Council annual general meeting, writes Kirsteen Bell.

Projects such as the advisory Twenty's Plenty speed limit at Hillview Drive and the Slower Safer Smilier campaign, including the new Corpach crossing, were lauded as major successes.

Also in the spotlight were the responses given to the proposals for large-scale developments the area has seen in recent months, including the harbour, port and rail expansions and the vetoed waste transfer site proposal.

Chairwoman Christine Hutchison, who is remaining in post for the coming year, highlighted the need to work more closely with other com-

munity councils to support each other on matters of mutual interest. She said the value of consultations with business and community groups was particularly relevant this year as Kilmallie Community Council had engaged with Lochaber Transport Forum and Lochaber Bus Users' Group, as well as the steering group for the new Belford Hospital and the proposed housing and West Highland College UHI Centre for Science and Technology on the Blar Mhor.

Mrs Hutchison praised the communications between the council and the community, but went on to say that the reduction of the annual grant from Highland Council was demotivating and had directly affected the distribution of the newsletter.

She said feedback received showed the newsletter took the community into people's homes, which was invaluable for those who were less active.

Donations from individuals, totalling £580, had allowed the community council to continue to produce the free newsletter. Thanks were given to the sponsors, contributors and delivery teams.

Also thanked were Highland councillors Allan Henderson, Ben Thompson and Denis Rixson for their continual support; PS Ross McCartney, police liaison officer and PS Deborah McCartney, community centre manager Jimmy Milne, and all the individuals and community groups who make Kilmallie a great place to live.

Mrs Hutchison closed her report by highlighting that

new members would be needed to take the community council forward when the current session comes to an end in November.

She said: 'Our aim should be to find folk who can represent the extent of Kilmallie from the high school to Erracht to Kinlocheil. It can be very rewarding to serve on a community council. Help Kilmallie Community Council to help Kilmallie.'

The AGM was followed by the normal meeting for June in which the discussion on the Blar Housing proposals continued.

A member of the public also raised the letting charges that Fèis Lochaber had recently been advised it was to pay for the use of the Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar for follow-on lessons.

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# Wildlife fears raised over fish farm breach

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

An investigation has been launched after 33,000 rainbow trout escaped from a fish farm into Loch Etive – raising new concerns for the wild salmon stock.

In what experts say is the biggest escape in more than 10 years in the area, trout managed to get through a hole in one of the nets at a Dawnfresh farm on Friday June 14.

This recent incident is the second mass escape from this farm in 10 months. The escape only came to light when non-native farmed rainbow trout started being caught both by anglers in the River Awe, at the Awe barrage and by fisheries scientists during sampling of wild sea trout in Airds Bay, Loch Etive.

Dr Jonathan Anglesea,

acting president of Oban and Lorn Angling Club, told The Oban Times that the club was very concerned about this escape.

‘Such a massive number of what are an alien predatory species, introduced to the Orchy/Awe/Etive catchment, could do enormous harm to the wild fish in this environment,’ he added.

‘The escaped fish will be a direct threat to young brown trout, sea trout and salmon because rainbow trout will readily eat small fish.

‘The large trout that escaped from Dawnfresh will also affect other fish and even insects, birds and bats by eating invertebrates which would otherwise be available as food to the native species.

‘The effects of this event could last for many years and see unpredictable changes to the ecology in our waters.

‘It is many years since Oban

and Lorn Angling Club did any stocking of our waters as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) does not give consent even to limited introductions of fish from elsewhere.

‘To have this happen to the fisheries that so many members have worked hard to protect and enhance is a tragedy which has saddened us all.’

Marine Scotland Science is investigating the matter and agrees that rainbow trout can pose a threat to wild fish through this direct competition for resources and also through the transfer of disease.

Commenting last week on the incident, Alison Hutchins, farming director for Dawnfresh, stated that fish health and welfare were among the company’s top concerns, adding: ‘We have well-trained professional

teams at all of our sites so we take these incidents very seriously and are always looking at ways to improve in the future.

‘Marine Scotland investigators visited the site on Thursday (June 27) to conduct their own investigation into what happened.

‘We have already put in place measures to prevent this situation from happening again and increased the frequency of net inspections using the remotely operated vehicle (ROV).’

Campaign group Friends of Loch Etive (FoLE) has written to Marine Scotland, part of the Scottish Government, asking that it use its position as regulator of the industry to ensure consideration is given urgently to relocation of the Etive farms.

In the meantime, anglers from all over the country have been flocking to the

area as proprietors, land owners and the authorities have temporarily waived permit regulations and appear to have accepted that it is better for anglers to catch and remove the escaped trout than to insist they all buy permits.

‘Our club has the fishing on only a single pool of the River Awe and, at this current time, we are not trying to enforce our exclusive right to fish against the large numbers of anglers attracted by this event,’ added Dr Anglesea.

Also benefiting from the fleeing fishes are the local otter and osprey population, not to mention the numerous fishing tackle outlets in the region.

Anyone wishing further clarification on fishing permits can contact Inverawe Fisheries or [www.riverawefishing.com](http://www.riverawefishing.com)

## UHI leads way for global action on micro plastics

The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is leading a global call from 30 island universities to tackle marine micro plastics.

In an open letter to the United Nations, European Union, Scottish Government and the UK Government, the university is calling for urgent action on the threats posed to the world’s islands, in particular, by micro plastics in oceans.

Professor Clive Mulholland, principal and vice-chancellor of UHI and also president of Reseau d’Excellence de Territoires Insulaires (RETI), the worldwide federation of island universities, said there was ‘growing anxiety’ among scientists, and politicians must recognise the scale of the threat.

‘As a federation of island universities which is more affected by the impact of micro plastics on our campus environment, we are already committed to doing all we can through further research and academic collaboration,’ said Mr Mulholland.

## Trust seeks names for osprey chicks

Woodland Trust Scotland is asking the public to help name two Lochaber-born osprey chicks which have braved owl attacks and the threat of pine martens in the first month of their lives.

The two chicks at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest were ringed by a member of the Highland Raptor Study Group last Thursday, with help from the Lochaber Times’ own environment correspondent Holly Gillibrand, and measurements indicate the chicks are both female.

People all over the world have been following their story on a live streaming nest camera supported by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland said: ‘There was a size disparity right away and the second chick took quite a battering in its early days, while the older one hogged most of the fish.

‘The wee one learned to give as good as she got though, and their sizes have gradually equalised. The ringer weighed them each as 1.49kg.

‘We are asking the public to suggest names on our osprey page. Later next week we will pick a few of the best sug-



The two chicks now need names. Photograph: Lewis Pate

gestions and put them to a public vote. It would be great to hear names that reflect the area or the bird’s particular character.

‘The forest has lots of history to draw on with stories of buried Jacobite treasure through to commando training during the Second World War. The sibling rivalry might throw up a few ideas and it would be great to see Gaelic language and culture in the mix too.’

There is no prize for the name game but Woodland Trust Scotland is offering an exclusive wildlife tour of Loch Arkaig in a free-to-enter competition on the osprey page of its website.

Wildlife expert Lewis Pate, who ringed the ospreys, will take the winner on a tour of

the loch, and there is a two-night stay at the Moorings Hotel in Fort William included. Anyone who goes to the website can suggest names for the birds and enter the competition.

Loch Arkaig parent ospreys Louis and Aila are now in their third nesting season. They raised their first chick, Lachlan in 2017.

Last year their clutch of three eggs was taken by a pine marten, then the tree was struck by lightning which broke the camera.

This year has seen better luck but they have come through a turf-war with tawny owls nesting nearby. For some weeks, there were almost nightly owl attacks on the nest – all repelled by Aila.



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# Made in Ardrishaig – Ferg

by Colin Cameron  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Today the Lochaber-based company employs 200 people, has a turnover of £18 million and has interests in road, rail and sea transport – with plans for further expansion.

But Ferguson Transport and Shipping began with a husband and wife team 60 years ago in Ardrishaig.

'I can remember exactly when the company was started,' explained Anne Ferguson, 'because it was the day Archie and I got married – June 27, 1959.'

As the company celebrates its 60th anniversary, Anne and her son, group managing director Alasdair – better known as Ally – reflected on their Argyll roots.

Senior reporter Colin Cameron took the opportunity to chat to them in Ferguson's impressive head office at Corpach, Fort

William, in a boardroom lined with photographs charting the firm's history from Ardrishaig onwards.

The Ferguson family's link with haulage, though, goes well beyond 60 years.

Archie's family was in the hotel trade, but on returning from National Service in 1956 he went to work with his uncle, Andrew Grinlaw, who had set up his own Ardrishaig haulage business in the 1920s while operating his famous horse-drawn coach tours.

Archie's first depot was the recently-demolished tin shed at Ardrishaig swing bridge, and his lorries would be parked at the pier.

'We had about five or six lorries by the 1970s,' said Alasdair. 'My memories as a kid are of leaving Ardrishaig in the timber lorries early in the morning and heading for the pulp and paper mill. I remember heating pies up on the engine block, and by

the time you reached Glen Coe they were nice and warm.'

He explained: 'After the big storm in 1968, a lot of wind blown timber from Argyll was taken to the new pulp and paper mill at Corpach. After it was cleared by about 1974, the timber work moved north.'

Archie and Anne made the bold decision to up sticks and move north to where the work was, doing that in October 1974.

With five children aged between four and 15 – and the cat and budgie – they set off, as Anne recalled: 'I remember we were going through Glen Coe and there was a bright moon. It was about midnight, and Archie and I just looked at one another and burst out laughing. It was like a moonlight flit.'

Spean Bridge filling station was their destination. While Archie worked seven days a week, Anne was raising the



Anne and her son Alasdair Ferguson beside one of the company's lorries in its familiar livery. 06\_a24FergusonTransport02

five children in two small caravans while running the filling station and keeping the books.

Archie sadly died in 1997 as the result of a forestry accident, but his hard work and ingenuity had set the family business on solid foundations.

'If you look back to the family with five kids who moved from Ardrishaig in 1974, it's been quite a phenomenal journey,' said Alasdair.

The company has effectively doubled in size over the past decade.

Now based out of Corpach, specialist road haulage – with around 70 lorries – remains at the heart of the business, but Ferguson Transport and Shipping now incorporates rail and sea transport, with a recent venture regenerating Kishorn dock to supply the oil and gas, as well as aquaculture and offshore renewable, industries.

'We have a simple management structure including myself, my sisters Leslie and Carol, and brother Jack as directors, with 13 senior managers across the



The couple who began it all in 1959 – Anne and Archie Ferguson.

departments reporting to the board,' explained Alasdair. 'We've got excellent staff, a great management team and

we are very proud to celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. It is important we don't forget where we came from.'



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# Ferguson's celebrates 60 years



Above: Andrew Grinlaw, owner of the famous 'Ardrishaig Belle' coach and an Ardrishaig haulage contractor; and below: A young Archie Ferguson with a lorry belonging to his uncle, Andrew Grinlaw.



Right, one of Ferguson Transport and Shipping's vessels supplying the world's largest semi-submersible offshore drilling rig, the Ocean GreatWhite, in Kishorn Harbour.

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# Lochaber youngsters bid fare

Youngsters in primary schools across Lochaber have bid a poignant farewell to their final primary year as their time in P7 classes came to a end on Friday, writes Mark Entwistle.

Schools held special leavers' assemblies for staff and younger pupils to say goodbye to their P7 classes, with the latter doing likewise.

Many parents were on hand to witness what for many was an emotional send-off for the youngsters, who will embark on their secondary school careers after the summer holidays.

Our photographers Johnpaul Peebles and Iain Ferguson were on hand to capture all the area's P7 classes prior to the end of term and over the next three weeks we will be publishing all their fantastic photographs.



P7 pupils at Banavie performed special routines and songs to mark the end of their primary school year.

Photographs: Abrightside Photography and Iain Ferguson.



P7 pupils from St Columba's Primary School.

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P7 pupils from Invergarry Primary School.

# ewell to primary school year



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P7 pupils from Spean Bridge Primary School.



P7 pupils from Kilchumen Primary School.

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# Glengarry Games draws crowds

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Some pleasant summer weather drew a reasonable crowd to the shinty field in Invergarry on Saturday for this year's Glengarry Highland Games.

Despite the disappointing turnout for the heavy events with just three athletes taking part – even though prize money had been increased yet again – there was still plenty of fierce competition on display for the honours.

Star of the 'heavies' yet again was Jamie Gunn, who, despite not breaking any records, scored 18 points to post a clean sweep of all the events including the hammer and weight-for-distance events.

In the athletics events, Isla Mackay was the star of the afternoon, dominating the women's events by winning the 100m, 200m, 400m and hill race.

Mungo Blakey was victo-



Highland Dancing trophy winners at the weekend's Glengarry Highland Games.

rious in the men's 100m and 200m, while Alfie Bentley won the men's hill race in a time just 20 seconds less than the official course record of 23 minutes 20 secs.

In the junior events, Murray Donald took the finishing tape in the boys' hill race just ahead of his brother, Fergus, while Almara Slemco was the girls' hill race victor.

The tug-o-war also saw some intense competition, with eventual winners being

the team from Blacksheep Hotels, which owns the nearby Rokeby Manor hotel.

Staff from the hotel also manned a stall offering a mouth-watering array of foods.

There was also fierce competition on the Highland dancing platform while Lochaber Pipe Band helped entertain the spectators.

Chieftain for the Games this year was Freddie Service and games committee secre-

tary Alison Donald told the Lochaber Times it had been an enjoyable day.

'It was disappointing there were not more entrants for the heavy events but this could have been due to other events on the same day elsewhere,' she said.

'That aside, there was a reasonable turnout for the other events and there were plenty of spectators enjoying some pleasant weather without the attention of midges!'

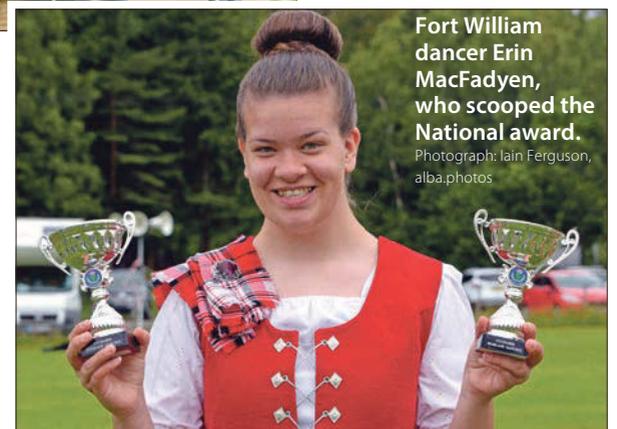
## RESULTS

### Heavy events

Overall winner – Jamie Gunn  
100m ladies – Isla Mackay  
100m men – Mungo Blakey  
200m ladies – Isla Mackay  
200m men – Mungo Blakey  
400m ladies – Isla Mackay

### Hill Race

Ladies – Islay Mackay  
Men – Alfie Bentley  
Juniors, boys – Murray Donald  
Juniors, girls – Almara Slemco



Fort William dancer Erin MacFadyen, who scooped the National award.  
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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# s, but not midges – thankfully!



Clockwise from top left: Harry, winner of the friendliest dog competition, with organiser Ross Lynn and judge Saket Gupta; Heavy athletes William Simmons, left, and David MacDonnell carry the caber to the start point before tossing it in the traditional Highland event; Chieftain of the Games Willie Service, who helped to bring the event to life in the 1970s; Action from the five-year-olds' race; Lochaber Pipe Band entertain the crowds; the team from Blacksheep Hotels was clearly having fun. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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# Medieval Lewis chess piece makes £735,000

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A newly-discovered 'warder' piece from the Lewis Chessmen workshop was recently sold to an anonymous buyer for £735,000 – a new record for a medieval chess piece at auction.

The 12th-century figurine was sold at Sotheby's in London, marking another remarkable milestone in the history of the Lewis Chessmen.

The piece was acquired for £5 in 1964 by an antiques dealer in Edinburgh.

It was stored in his home before being inherited by his daughter, who believed it was special and perhaps imbued with some magical significance. The warder then passed to the next generation of the family, who approached Sotheby's to shed light on what was an important historic artefact.



The chess piece is one of the four warder pieces which were missing from the original discovery in Lewis in 1831.

Photo: Tristan Fewings/Getty Images for Sotheby's.

Alexander Kader, from Sotheby's, began a year-long study of the warder, a process that included detailed research, art historical analysis and careful comparison with the Lewis Chessmen on display in UK public collections. He deduced that the chessman to re-emerge

could be one of the lost pieces of the Lewis group.

Mr Kader said it was 'one of the most exciting' sales of his career.

'It has been such a privilege to bring this piece of history to auction and it has been amazing having him on view at

Sotheby's – he has been a huge hit,' he said.

'When you hold this characterful warder in your hand or see him in the room, he has real presence.'

As the most famous chess pieces to have survived from the medieval world, the Lewis Chessmen secured their place in history when they were found in 1831 on the Isle of Lewis. The hoard comprised 93 objects, the majority carved from walrus ivory, which could make four complete sets of figure pieces, with the exception of one knight and four warders.

In addition to the 59 chessmen, there were 19 pawns and 14 flat, circular games pieces and one belt buckle (the only outsider in the hoard). Of those 93 pieces, 82 are in the British Museum in London and 11 are in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The hoard was discovered on

the Isle of Lewis, though the precise spot remains a mystery.

At some time just before April 1831 the hoard was unearthed, apparently in the sands of Uig Strand, an inlet in the north-west of the island, although a site a little further south on the same coast has been suggested. Later accounts tell of a grazing cow accidentally revealing the chessmen.

Scholars have proposed competing theories on the origins of the Lewis Chessmen. The leading theory is that they are Norwegian, and more precisely probably from Trondheim, the seat of the archbishop of Norway which had the island of Lewis under its authority as part of the kingdom of Norway from early Viking times up to the Treaty of Perth in 1266.

Trondheim seems to have specialised in carving gaming pieces during the 12th and 13th centuries, often from walrus ivory.

## Support call for vulnerable passengers

Highlands MSP Rhoda Grant has asked the Scottish Government to provide support for people with health concerns or mobility issues by allowing them to bring escorts on ferry trips free of charge.

Currently EU regulations stipulate that escorts can be carried free of charge if the ferry provider has requested that they are present, but Ms Grant wants the support to be offered for vulnerable passengers as standard.

Ms Grant said she has a number of constituents, particularly those in the islands, who need to travel to the mainland for medical treatment.

'There are a number of constituents with mobility issues, permanent and temporary, who would feel great relief at being able to travel with an escort whom they trust without having to bear the extra financial burden,' she said. 'I feel strongly that it would provide an invaluable service.'

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## Contract signed for new Broadford community hospital

The modernisation of community and hospital services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross made headway this week as the contract for a new hub in Broadford was secured.

Following the Scottish Government's approval of the joint, full business case in May, the board signed a £40 million contract on Monday July 2 with hub North Scotland Ltd to design and build two new community hospitals in

Broadford and Aviemore. Deborah Jones, NHS Highland's director of strategic commissioning, planning and performance, said that this 'significant milestone' marked the start of construction of a new hospital for the communities of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross.

She said: 'This substantial investment in our estate will act as a springboard to enable the redesign of health and care services in these

localities. I look forward to the construction work getting under way and to see the two new hospitals begin to take shape over the coming months.'

Balfour Beatty has been appointed as the main building contractor. The facilities are designed by architects Oberlanders and Rural Design, mechanical, electrical and plumbing contractor Rybka, and civil and structural engineers Waterman Ltd.

Michael Padzinski, chief executive of hub North Scotland, said: 'A lot of hard work has been carried out by all the stakeholders to reach this crucial stage. We are now looking forward to working together to deliver two top-class health facilities, which will bring huge benefits to these communities.'

Construction is due to start in Broadford in mid-August, with completion scheduled for spring 2021.

## High school graduation

Ardnamurchan High School held its annual graduation dinner recently, organised by S6 student, Niamh MacLellan, at the Ardshealach Lodge, Acharacle.

Staff and young people enjoyed an excellent meal together and head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig shared stories about the pupils' time at the school, which in turn sparked off many more, to much hilarity. He also praised the young people.



## Fèis Eige goes into full swing

Eigg's annual festival of Gaelic music and culture began yesterday (Wednesday) at Eigg Community Hall.

Over the next three days musicians such as Angus Binnie, Kenny Knowles, Gabe McVarish, Andy Thorburn, Murdo Ewen Cameron, Sarah-Jayne Shankland, Leo McCann, Linda McCann and Nan Fee are bringing a range of music tuition and celebration to children on the island for Fèis Eige.

Lessons are available for children aged eight to 18 years in fiddle, whistle, guitar, percussion, button box, chanter, step dancing, keyboards, group work, art and singing.

The programme also includes younger and older generations; there are workshops for the under-eights in art, music and dance, as well as some adult tuition taking place this evening.

The festival of traditional music will culminate in the fèis concert tomorrow (Friday) at 3pm, followed by what promises to be a great ceilidh at 8pm.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE?

### Fish, Slimming World chips and peas



Serves 4  
Syns per serving: 2

#### Ingredients

- 3 slices old bread
- 800g potatoes, peeled and cut into thick chips
- Low calorie cooking spray
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 x 170g skinless and boneless cod fillets
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp beer
- Fresh parsley, finely chopped, to garnish
- Canned mushy peas
- Lemon wedges, to serve

#### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Line two baking trays with baking paper. Whizz the bread in a food processor until crumbed, then transfer to a plate.
2. Boil the chips in lightly salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, then drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up the chips' edges, then arrange on one of the baking trays in a single layer. Spray with low calorie cooking spray, season and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden.
3. Meanwhile, season the cod. In a shallow bowl, beat together the eggs and beer. Dip the fish in the egg mixture, then coat with the breadcrumbs. Transfer to the second baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fillets and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cooked through and lightly browned.
4. Sprinkle the parsley over the fish and serve with the chips, plenty of mushy peas, plus lemon wedges for squeezing over.

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Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
Wednesday 9.30am,  
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
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#### LOCHGILPHEAD

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

#### FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall  
16 Belford Road, Fort William  
Thursday 9.30am, 11.30am,  
3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

#### CAMPBELTOWN

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## Cèilidh air chuairt 2019

### Fèis Latharna Argyll Cèilidh Trail



Ceòl traidiseanta air a chluich le cuid den òigridh as fheàrr aig Fèis Latharna  
Traditional music from some of the best young musicians and singers from Fèis Latharna

Ceann latha	Àite	Baile	Tachartas	Uair
Date	Venue	Town / Village	Event	Time
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Inveraray Castle	Inveraray	Highland Games	1.00pm
16 <sup>th</sup> July	The George Hotel	Inveraray	Session	9.00pm
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Uig Hall	Dunoon	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall	Lochranza	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Carradale Village Hall	Carradale	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Ardrihaig Public Hall	Ardrihaig	Mid Argyll Pipe Band Dance	8.00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Craignish Village Hall	Ardfern	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Port Charlotte Hotel	Port Charlotte	Session	8.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Craighouse Village Hall	Isle of Jura	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Ben Cruachan Inn	Loch Awe	Session	8.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Tayvallich Village Hall	Tayvallich	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> July	The Old Inn	Appin	Session	4.00pm
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Victory Hall	Benderloch	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Atlantic Islands Centre	Isle of Luing	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> August	An Talla	Isle of Tiree	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	An Cridhe	Isle of Coll	Coll Show Dance	8.00pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	The View	Oban	Family Cèilidh	7.30pm

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBAirbnb could be  
having impact on  
Lochaber economy

There is a genuine conundrum in the story we publish this week which shows that demand for Airbnb accommodation is resulting in residents being asked to leave long-term lets.

As Fort William Community Council chairman Alex Farquhar said, Airbnb hosting may be good for visitors and hosts, but it is having an adverse affect on the local housing market and economy.

'For workers coming into the area, it's a total disaster,' said Mr Farquhar. 'So many rooms and properties that were let out on a weekly or monthly basis and within the reach of workers are now impossible to find. We are certain that this is having a bad effect in the local economy, job market and many employers are having a very hard time getting workers.'

However, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce adopts a slightly different view of the situation. Chamber chairman Frazer Coupland welcomed the revenue generated by Airbnb hosts to the local economy.

It may well be that short-term gain will result in long-term pain.

Ferguson anniversary is  
a great success story

From its very humble beginnings, Ferguson Transport and Shipping has grown into a substantial operation and a great success story.

The firm, which now employs 200 people, has a turnover of £18 million and has interests in road, rail and sea transport, is celebrating its 60th anniversary since being started on June 27, 1959.

It is with considerable pleasure that we are able to report this week on the company's historic milestone, and we wish it well for the future.

Oban Live puts residents'  
health and wellbeing at risk

In the 1950s, tobacco firms were promoting cigarettes as beneficial to health. In recent years, Oban Live organisers have been promoting their product as beneficial to the people of Oban.

At a meeting of health professionals in Oban on July 3, 2019, they agreed that there is a definite link between loud music and deafness. They also agreed that flash photography and strobe lighting causes epileptic fits. These put a great strain on local medical services and, according to the psychiatrist present at the meeting, it also puts a strain on mental health services.

Oban Live has said there would be no concert in Oban in 2020 and it was demanding improvements to Mossfield Stadium before the next concert in 2021.

This is an outrage. Why are Argyll and Bute councillors supporting an event that creates unnecessary disability and ill health? Don't they know that NHS is already under severe financial strain?

It is time councillors put the needs of local residents ahead of the needs of the tourist industry. Why has there never been any public consultation on whether we want these concerts? Will the Oban Live organisers pay compensation to local residents who suffer deafness as a result of the dreadful noise made by them?

If you are resident in Mossfield area or support the right of residents not to suffer greatly increased risk of ill health and disability, perhaps you would like to help me to form a Mossfield Residents' Association to make sure that Oban Live never comes back.

David Gallant,  
Mossfield, Oban.

Who will pick up the bill if  
GFG cannot pay?

Is this the reason that Kate Forbes MSP was angry?

The SNP has punted more than £500 million on a company, with its smelter running at a loss, to save 130 jobs, but has made the company GFG more than £1 billion.

Perhaps Ms Forbes thinks she has landed a plum job as Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy or could it be that she has realised that it is indeed a poisoned chalice?

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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

Extraction of timber by sea  
should be improved

The logging operations south of Oban and the work to widen the road between Scammadale and Knipoch are evident to anyone travelling along the A816.

What may not be so obvious is the flawed government policy associated with the extrac-



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Community Council held its June meeting recently. Topics discussed included the following (excerpts from the minutes of the meeting).

■ **Nevis Partnership:** advised that the application to the Highland Projects Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund for £300,000 has been successful. This is to improve public transport access and parking, signs, paths and install toilets at Lower Steall Falls Car Park.

Match funding has to be in place by July 31. A number of applications are still awaiting an outcome, including one for the field centre which will secure its future.

■ **Lochaber Housing Association:** advised that this had been a busy period with many meetings as LHA was working in partnership with the Small Communities Housing Trust and Link Housing on the Upper Achintore developments and other developments within the wider Fort William area.

■ **Belford Hospital Redesign:** advised that at the last meeting of the communications and engagement group the question-and-answer pamphlet was agreed apart from minor adjustments. This should be distributed throughout the community by the end of the month.

■ **Town Centre Fund – Corpach/Banavie/Caol/Fort William:** Allocation for the Lochaber committee area is £198,967. Group looking for ideas/applications for each area.

■ **Highland Council planning applications:** HC South Planning Committee meeting June 11:

19/00897/PIP: Link Group – Upper Achintore. Up to 325 dwellings – approved.

19/00898/FUL: Formation of roads, access, drainage, foundations, ground works and services for all phases of development and erection of 176 houses – approved.

■ The community consultation meeting had been well attended with questions on: peat extraction, housing density, planning procedure and many others which were



## Ardnamurchan High goes Dutch on summer trip

Ardnamurchan High School's recent trip to Holland got off to an unplanned start with two hours spent on the Corran Ferry while its double-decker coach tried its hardest to disembark, eventually aided by Chisholm's pick-up truck.

However, the pupils took this in their stride and watched the unfolding drama in good spirits.

This was the high school's second school trip to Amsterdam and Noordwijk, the latter being a pretty town by the sea.

On the day trips to Amsterdam, the pupils negotiated all the new challenges well, managing to avoid the ever-present cyclists, who didn't seem to need to follow any rules, and the trams.

They also enjoyed seeing the sights from a canal boat,

had a very emotive visit to the Anne Frank House while the rest of the group had a super time at the Ajax football stadium.

Most pupils enjoyed the Amsterdam Dungeons, and some also had privilege of seeing Rembrandt's Night Watch in the wonderful Rijksmuseum.

In Noordwijk, the pupils enjoyed spending time on the beach, exploring the town, and they loved the day at Duinrell theme park and pool with its many flumes. They also enjoyed an evening's bowling.

The last day was spent at the Cheese and Clog farm where two of the pupils tried their hands at clog making, and everyone saw how Gouda is made.

Many souvenirs were purchased in the gift shop at the farm as well as the sampling the cheeses.

answered by the representatives from Link Housing and LHA who were in attendance. It was agreed by all that the meeting had been beneficial.

18/05402/FUL: Site of Former Primary School, Zetland Avenue. Revised layout and design 38 units.

Pods – query to planning service: no present legislation other than applying to SEPA to connect to mains water. But this may change in the future.

■ Scott Dalgarno, of Highland Council planning and development, wants to set up a public event in September, one year on from the original FW2040 event, to update progress and help keep momentum between partners. Keen to seek views of CCs. All agreed to respond.

■ A tree in the grounds of St

Andrew's Church, which is causing problems on the wall and walkway is being cut down. Presently awaiting return of tenders and road closure order.

■ Dead tree at the top of the Rocky Brae which may be dangerous. Report to Highland Council.

■ Complaints about lack of grass cutting on banks and slopes around Upper Achintore area.

■ Query from community on the possible closure of the Nevis Centre due to required repairs.

■ Update: Highland Council is currently working closely with the board of Linnhe Leisure to ensure necessary works are carried out to prevent any forced closure. The council has put in a fairly significant resource in terms of staff time, advice etc and is now moving towards

implementing remedial works.

■ **STEM Centre:** update: Planning consent for the centre has recently been approved. Funding talks with Government ministers and funding council still ongoing.

■ **Next meeting – Tuesday July 16.**

## FORT WILLIAM

Pupils at Lochaber High School achieved four silver and three bronze awards in this year's UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge.

More than 270,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with roughly the top six per cent receiving a gold certificate, the next 13 per cent silver and the next 21 per cent bronze.

Josie Ball (old S1) and Josef

Kocjan-Briggs (old S2) were the joint winners of the Lochaber Housing Association trophy for best in school.

Both received silver certificates as well as a certificate for best in their year and best in the school. Continued thanks and appreciation to Lochaber Housing for sponsoring the trophy and awarding both winners prize money of £50.

A sample question from this year's junior challenge:

On Aoife's 16th birthday, Buster was three times her age. On Aoife's 21st birthday, how old was Buster?

A) 32 B) 48 C) 53 D) 63 E) 64.

## FORT WILLIAM

The Arisaig branch of the Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) held a fundraising lunch at Astley Hall last Thursday in aid of the Feed the Minds charity.

Soup, sandwiches, tea, coffee and home-baking were available for a donation.

The SWI is working in a 12-month partnership with Feed the Minds, which focuses on community-led education as the means by which vulnerable and marginalised people can regain control of their lives.

## Fort to Glastonbury

A team of 12 Scottish Water employees has made it back to work for a rest after an epic 500-mile cycle to Glastonbury Festival to join WaterAid's loo crew and raise money and awareness of those living without clean water and decent toilets. The team, which dubbed their adventure **Blasto to Glasto**, have so far raised more than £6,000 for charities WaterAid and Highland Hospice. They jumped on their bikes on Sunday June 23, at Fort William, cycling 200 miles a day in relay formation to reach Glastonbury three days later.

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Beth MacLeod, right, is presented with her award.

## Mallaig-born accountant is named best in the country

Beth MacLeod, originally from Mallaig, is the Scottish Accountant of the Year, winning the accolade at the recent Scottish Accountancy Financial Technology Awards 2019 in Glasgow.

Beth grew up in Mallaig and began her accounting career keeping the books at a local boatyard. She studied accountancy and finance at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and after graduating she stayed in the

city and went straight into industry.

After nine years and four promotions at CBRE Group, Beth became a manager at the multinational commercial real estate services firm. She was looking for a new challenge when an exciting new role at PG Paper came up which offered all round exposure to all parts of one of the UK's largest paper companies.

Beth said she was 'thrilled' to be recognised nationally at the awards.

## WaterAid charity cycle raises over £6,000



## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

## More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ It was raining as a Braveheart propsman came into the DE Shoe Shop. 'Do you sell wellies?' he asked. The DE certainly did. 'Well, do you have them in sizes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5?' From the other side of the counter came the answer with a broad smile and a piece of mime, with five consecutive nods of the head to indicate the welly availability. 'In that case, can I have four pairs of each, please?' The assistant's consensus was: 'This guy's having us on!' 'Four pairs of each size? You want 20 pairs of wellies. You must have a big family!' The fella from the fillum shoot gave them a big grin and replied 'No, No. They're for the kids working on the set in Glen Nevis.' Thus the 20 pairs of wellies changed hands – or feet. Now the DE staff are awaiting the arrival of Mel when he comes in for his wellies. By all accounts he could be doing with a pair, as word reaches me that he had been unseated by his horse and landed in a muddy part of the glen earlier in the week.

■ Meanwhile, our own local production team members continue to make their mark. Take, for example, Archie 'MacHitchcock' from Caol. Archie's main role, among others is to wield an umbrella over the Glen Nevis monitor camera. One shot was taking ages to be acceptable. Eventually it reached 'take 22'. During the last one Mel Gibson yelled 'Cut! Cut! Cut!' Whereupon Archie peeked out from under the umbrella, the better to provide the benefit of his advice to the megastar-cum-director. 'It looked OK to me, Mel,' said he.

■ Tommy was passing The Braxy. That's where special effects are turning out the figures of fellas in the appropriate Braveheart dress code for the battle scenes. So Tommy took a wander intending to engage one of the crew in conversation.

'They're very lifelike, these,' Tommy hazarded. No reply. Then it dawned on him that he was talking to – a realistic, tailored dummy.

■ Hugh Dan MacLennan was the anchorman for Radio Scotland's Highland news on Friday morning. 'Fish farmers in the north are waiting with bated breath for an announcement on the dumping of Norwegian salmon,' said he.

■ The initiative by Fionan and LEADER in offering subsidised deals in bi-lingual signs for local businesses is taking a trick. We'll all be looking out now for the 'Leabaidh agus Bracaist' signs all the way along the Gold Coast. And watching to see how Tweeddale Surgery translates into the Gaelic. This commercialised-cum touristic promotion could really catch on. You can just picture it, can't you – fish agus chips, local bus destinations in Gaelic. Gaelic signs in the Chinese and Indian restaurants. And Allt nan Ros translated into English. So the 'two spokes' could be about to become part of everyday life in the Gearasdan once again. At Nevis Radio one of its notices – in Gaelic – could read 'English spoken here'. Menus with Brochan, Sgadan, Hama agus Uighean, Ti or Cofaidh. Oh, and a wee dram of Uisge Beatha. I doubt, however, if Lochaber District Council will ever become Gaelicised. At last week's resources committee meeting, a report headed 'Payments to Gaelic Bodies and Financial Implications' was circulated. It stated the following: 'Recommendations – None.' Now, I'm a simple soul. If there's no money in the budget for payments to Gaelic bodies, then why is there any need for a report?

■ However, the subject of Gaelic signs continues to dominate the local news. At the Aonach Mor Liaison

Group sub-committee meeting – a public forum to which every councillor, official and conservation representative in Scotland appear to have been invited (but not the press) – the matter of interpretive signs was raised. Councillor Iain Dhu expressed his opinion that 'Aonach Mor is the proper name to advertise the ski mountain and not, as is now in vogue on the signboards Nevis Range'. This caused Councillor Drew Purdon to comment that the new 'Panhandle Unitary Authority will be expecting the shops and offices in Fort William High Street to install fascia boards and signboards in Gaelic'. Councillor Purdon, the wall of whose own shop premises is sign-written in Gaelic and Latin, considered that the requirement for 'two spokes' signs will soon become a planning edict. Council chairman Neil Clark observed that Councillor Purdon's comments should be noted. 'Bilingually?' queried Councillor Charlie King.

■ A dog ran onto the pitch during last Saturday's juvenile shinty match between Fort William and Glenurquhart. Dog stopped play and made off with the ball. Referee sized up the situation. A new ball was produced, and he gave a free hit for Fort. 'I know that dog – it belongs to a Glenurquhart supporter,' the ref explained. 'So Fort should get the advantage.'

■ Last Saturday's shinty-hurling match at An Aird was highly entertaining – albeit poorly advertised by the sponsor, ScotRail. Fort William beat Good Counsel from Dublin in a game arranged to celebrate the links forged between Western Ireland and the Western Highlands a century ago when '5,000 Irish and Highland navvies dug themselves into the history books by building the unique West Highland Railway Line'.

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## GOLF



David and Jean MacPherson (left) and tournament sponsor Donald Gordon (right) with James Young and Katy Worsdall of the Dragon's Tooth Golf Club.  
Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

## Ballachulish course hosts charity golf tournament

Oban-based business, Gordon & Strathern raised over £3,000 for a charity which helps wounded Service personnel when they organised a Four Man Texas Scramble golfing day at the Dragon's Tooth course, Ballachulish.

Trustee of the charity, 'Help Our Wounded Royal Marines and Supporting Arms', Jean MacPherson and her husband, David also attended to answer questions on the work of the charity and thank everyone for taking part.

## BOWLS

## Millie's bowls competition

The annual Millie's Triple competition took place last week the Fort William Railway Bowling Club Inverloch. The event is sponsored by Rebekah, Cody, and Trisha Williamson.



The winners were back row left to right, Jacky Davidson, Lachie Morrison, Bill Gibbons, with runners up Brian Moffat, Suzanne Williamson, and Peter Black. Front row left to right, family members of Millie, Jax and Rebekah with Jay on the right.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

## Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 12, 16 and 18. There were no winners this week. The prize for the draw today, Thursday July 11, will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 15, 17 and 20. There was one winner this week. Next week's jackpot will be £400.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were 15, 17 and 20. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £400.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 6, 9 and 17. There was no winner. Next week's prize will be £400.



Winners and competitors of the annual Rotary Club of Lochaber Rotary AM AM golf tournament.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

# Golfers shine bright in stormy Rotary AM AM

On a stormy windswept morning on Sunday June 30, 20 hardy teams tee'd off on the Rotary Club of Lochaber's annual AM AM tournament at Fort William Golf Club.

This was the 19th year of the event which, thanks to the generosity of local business sponsorship, brings the total amount raised to date to more than £70,000. The main sponsors this year were the MOWI Group (Marine Harvest) and John McLellan & Co, Funeral Directors.

The overall winner of this year's tournament was the Sunny's Bar team who were awarded the trophy together with a cheque for £200. The Mary Pit Boys were a

close runner-up, with local ladies team winners Rosie MacIntyre, Maureen Leitch and Gina Hough taking the Ladies' Prize.

Rotary President Clive Talbot said: 'As ever, we are grateful to our sponsors and to the Fort William Golf Club for allowing us to use their course for this annual competition. The funds raised are a major boost to our charity programme and enables us to help numerous good causes in Lochaber. I would like to emphasise that, thanks to our own members donating their time and organisational skills, we have no administrative overheads and every single penny is used for local

charities and worthy causes.'

## GOLF

## Results:

Overall Winners: Sunny's Bar; First Ladies: Maureen, Rosie and Gina; Second: The Mary Pit Boys; Third: Torlundy Rules; Yellow Ball: Duncan's Donuts; First Visitors: The Four Amigos; Nearest the pin at third hole: J.Wallace; Nearest the pin at sixth hole: M MacDonald; Nearest the pin at 12th hole: K Barron; Nearest the pin at 16th hole: K Sangster; Longest Drive Ladies: Rosie MacIntyre; Longest Drive Me: B Stewart Jr.

After the prizes had been presented, tournament co-ordinator and past-president,

Donald Young, said: 'I would like to thank our sponsors, the Golf Club itself, and the huge amount of Rotarians and helpers that made the tournament a resounding success.'

'Most importantly, we thank the competitors who support us year on year and make it possible for the Rotary Club to support so many worthwhile local causes.'

He added: 'Our raffle alone raised more than £400 and, taken altogether, we have now raised over £70,000 over the 18 years of the tournament.'

## Bob MacIntyre is on Open duty

Oban golfer Bob MacIntyre is heading into what is arguably the biggest two weeks in his professional career.

Today (Thursday July 11) the Glencruitten left-hander competes the 148th Scottish Open at The Renaissance Club, North Berwick.

And, on July 18, Bob will swing into action at the Dunluce Links Course in Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland, to compete against some of the world's best golfers in the Open Championship.

In May MacIntyre was joint

runner-up in the 2019 Betfred British Masters, helped by an eagle-birdie finish and two weeks later he was runner-up in the Made in Denmark tournament.

Qualifying for the Open in his debut season on the European Tour, has lifted the spirits of the 22-year-old, who is viewing the Scottish Open at North Berwick with just as much excitement.

'Playing on home ground in front of a home crowd in the Scottish Open is going to be massive.'



Oban golfer Bob MacIntyre.

# Moran achieves dream by signing for Caley Thistle

By Peter Newman

As pre-season training gets under way for professional clubs, one young man from Ballachulish will be hoping he can establish himself among the best.

Fifteen-year-old Lewis Moran has signed his first professional contract with Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

The Kinlochleven High School pupil, who recently received an award from the school for being their joint Footballer of the Year, was spotted while attending one of the Championship club's Hot Shots camps in Fort William last summer.

'Several coaches singled him out to me,' said club legend Charlie Christie who is now the director of Youth Development for ICT. 'So we invited him up for a trial of at least four weeks. He's a bit raw but has great pace which is always an asset.'

'He has great athleticism and it's a good opportunity for the boy. Obviously, there's a fair bit of travelling but he's shown a great attitude and commitment.'

'We just hope he progresses and I'm sure he'll feature a bit more in the next few months.'



Lewis Moran in action for Inverness Caledonian Thistle against Ross County.  
Photograph: CaleyJags.com

Jane Moran, Lewis' mother, said she is proud of her son for achieving his dream: 'We are all very proud of Lewis. He has always been incredibly sporty so this is a dream come true for him. It's up to Lewis now to keep fit train hard and enjoy this amazing opportunity he has been given.'

This sentiment was echoed by his father Barry who added: 'Both Jane and myself, along with his younger brother Harris, are very proud of Lewis, this is a great achievement and a great opportunity for him.'

'It is a big commitment for him, at present as it's three

## FOOTBALL

200 mile round trips every week for training and games but he has our full support along with both his sets of grandparents who also help us with out the travel.'

## Cow Hill race tops off annual Triple Hirple

Cow Hill was the venue for the third and final leg of Lochaber Athletic Club's Triple Hirple event as more than 50 runners took on the short, steep course.

Ben Nevis Race legend Finlay Wild cruised to victory on Monday night, finishing almost three minutes faster than his nearest competitor.

The race was the last instalment of the three-race series which took place on the last weekend of June.

In the Half Ben race, Andrew Gilmour took first place as Caroline Marwile was the fastest female finisher.

Lochaber athlete Calum Fraser won the third race of

## ATHLETICS

the event, up Meall an t-Suidhe, while Lisette Walter was the fastest female.

Full results are available on Lochaber Athletic Club's Facebook page and website.

Finlay Wild leads the pack in the final race of Lochaber Athletic Club's 'Triple Hirple' setting off from Fort William High Street to ascend Cow Hill.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos





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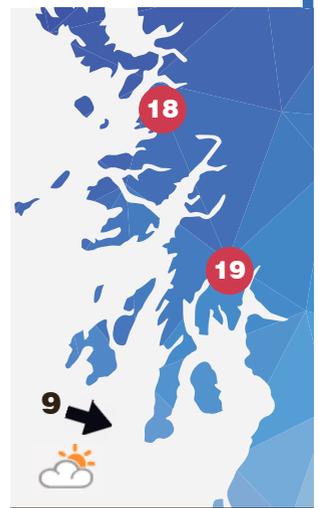


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday July 11, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.31	3.1	07.20	1.4
<b>Thur</b>	13.36	3.0	19.13	1.3
<b>Fri</b>	01.55	3.1	08.32	1.4
	14.42	3.1	20.24	1.3
<b>Sat</b>	03.03	3.2	09.32	1.4
	15.34	3.3	21.30	1.3
<b>Sun</b>	03.57	3.3	10.20	1.3
	16.17	3.4	22.26	1.3
<b>Mon</b>	04.39	3.4	11.02	3.2
	16.56	3.6	23.15	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	05.17	3.5	11.40	1.1
	17.34	3.8	23.58	1.2
<b>Wed</b>	05.52	3.6	12.16	1.0
	18.11	3.9	***	**

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

**Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.**

Moran achieves dream by signing for Caley Thistle

Golfers shine bright in stormy Rotary AM AM

# Fort turn to youth for Campbeltown friendly

Campbeltown Pupils	7
Fort William	1
Pre-season friendly	

A youthful Fort William side were handed a harsh lesson as they suffered a pre-season defeat last Saturday away to amateurs Campbeltown Pupils.

The Highland League side, featuring only a handful of regular starters and travelling with the bare 11 players, were beaten 7-1 by their Scottish Amateur Football League hosts. Jordan Morrison got the Fort's only goal in what was a comfortable victory in the end for the Kintyre men.

However, manager Russell Macmorran remained buoyant after the match and recognised some signs of encouragement for his younger players.

He said: 'We had a very demanding season last year



More than half of the Fort starting line-up were teenagers.



The Fort midfield struggle to get to grips with the Pupils.

and as part of our rebuild for this season we have to look at

youth. That's why more than half of Saturday's team were teenagers. We tested them in a more physical environment and we feel some of the youngsters are ready to step up, while some we'll still need to work with going forward.'

The Claggan Park side will be looking to raise their game against sterner opposition when they host East of Scotland League side Glenrothes this Saturday, July 13.

Macmorran added: 'It will be a very different test to Campbeltown, so more of the senior squad members will be back in contention for the game.'



Fort William captain John Treasurer makes a clearance.

## Mallaig maintain 100 per cent league record

Gairloch/Aultbea Utd	1
Mallaig	3
William Wilson League	

Mallaig continued their winning start to the season as they beat GA United by two goals away from home in the William Wilson League.

Courtesy of goals from David Currie, Jaimie Young and Andy Cunningham, the victory now means that the reigning league champions have won all nine of their opening matches. The Lochaber side are six points clear of Sleat and Strath at the top of the table.

This Saturday, July 13, Mallaig take on their title contenders, Sleat and Strath, in the Ross Cup in Broadford for a 6pm kick-off.

## Oban Saints draw with Pupils

A youthful Oban Saints second team, who will play in the Greater Glasgow League this season, travelled to Lochgilphead's Ropework Park last Friday night to take on a young Campbeltown Pupils outfit in a pre-season friendly. The game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Saints had nine teenagers in their starting line-up in what proved to be a useful fixture for both teams.



# INVERARAY HIGHLAND GAMES

Winterton Park, Castle Grounds. Tuesday 16th July 2019, Local and Open Events from 9.00am

SOLO PIPING (Local and Open), HIGHLAND DANCING (Local and Open),  
HEAVY FIELD & TRACK EVENTS (Local and Open), WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIP, CYCLING, WRESTLING  
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