

FREE INSIDE
Argyll in Business
PART 2
Your guide to the West Highlands and Islands' top businesses

Games photo specials



- Taynuilt Highland Games
- Mull Highland Games
- Inveraray Games
- Lismore Show

HSCP says sorry for missed 'Have your Say' meeting

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



No-show health and social care bosses have apologised for failing to turn up at a meeting to discuss changes to Oban's Lorne Resource Centre.

More than 20 centre users, relatives, advocates and staff were left feeling snubbed when officials from Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care partnership (HSCP) did not show.

The meeting on Thursday July 18 was one of three drop-in events organised by the HSCP, inviting people who could be affected by the potential changes to go along and have their say.

Maureen Townsley, who uses the centre twice a week, said she and others who had wanted to be heard at the meeting felt the HSCP 'could not be bothered'.

She continued: 'There were about 20 of us waiting but they never turned up. It wasn't fair - our centre manager had to apologise for them when it wasn't her fault.

It made us feel they were not going to listen to us anyway. They didn't send an apology until the next day.

'People were already feeling angry. They want to take half of the centre away, they are robbing us blind.'

In a letter sent to service users and their families, the HSCP said it had been advised by the Care Inspectorate that it could provide the same or better facilities on a smaller footprint of the building.

Rooms that could disappear with the changes include the art and music area, the project room, computer room, an office and store room.

Kerry McInnes, who has used the centre for nearly 20 years, said: 'I rely on it. There are a lot of us who do. If they take away our space for activities, then a lot of us will become isolated.'

Lynnside Day Centre, connected to the Lorne Resource Centre site, is also facing changes and losing some of its space.

A spokesperson for the Care Inspectorate said to date it had not offered any advice on

the suitability or otherwise of any changes.

A spokeswoman for the Health and Social Care Partnership insisted it was a priority to involve those who use the centres in making changes that will work for them.

'Regrettably, unexpected family circumstances prevented our representative from attending last Thursday's meeting as planned. We are extremely sorry about this and apologise to all affected,' she said.

The changes ahead are due to an early years childcare centre being created at Willowview Community Care site, which is currently being used for social work. Costs of providing a new building for displaced staff are too high so they will move into the LRC and Lynnside instead.

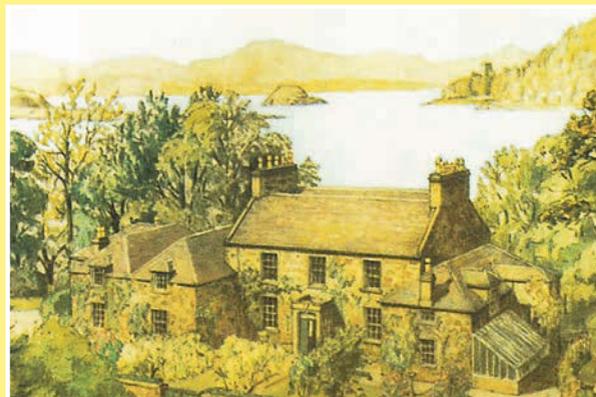
At a second meeting on Monday, attended by Sandy Wilkie from the HSCP, it was agreed a think-tank should be formed to help find a way

Turn to page four

Lismore Show was 'mega'



Lismore Show steward Harry Morton was on megaphone duty on Saturday, hailing - loudly - that the event was a huge success. Numbers in the sheep and cattle classes were up and sunshine brought out the crowds. For a full report and more photographs, turn to pages 14 and 15. 16-T30_lismoreshow08-tannoyduty



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OT

Soroba mother sells bags to fund scooter

by David McPhee
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A Soroba mum who feels like she is missing out on family events due to ill-health is raising money for a mobility scooter by selling bags, beads and bangles.

Sheila Brown, who picked up the skills to create the items from community education classes, suffers with a bad back, as well as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

After renting a mobility scooter so she could take part in the recent independence parade, Sheila said it was great to be able to join in and looked into purchasing one.

Websites were suggesting applying for grants or doing a crowdfunding campaign.

'I thought about going for grants and things,' she told The Oban Times, 'but there are lots of people about who need the same as I do, but they don't



Sheila Brown is making bags, beads and bangles to help fund a mobility scooter. 15_t30_MobilityScooterFund01

have the skills to at least raise some of [the funds].

'So if I was to ask for a grant, then maybe I am taking away

from someone who cannot do what I can do. I don't like asking for things.'

She added: 'I would never be

able to afford £1,700 at once without doing something like this.'

Sheila made her first bag for her granddaughter, after which her son Murdo encouraged her to sell them and asked her to create a bespoke bag out of his children's kilt that he wore to his mum's wedding.

So far, she has raised around £220, but will need to make at least £1,700 to fund a light and foldable scooter.

When asked what kind of impact the scooter would have on her life, she said: 'It will make a big difference – a fortnight ago my kids and their families went to a big forest park. I couldn't go because there is a lot of walking involved. I would not be going on the rides and stuff, but you can go and enjoy watching them.'

'I am missing out on all that with the grandchildren because I can't walk very far.'

Sheila, who also lives with

depression and anxiety, is a big supporter of the adult community education classes.

'Things like that are a god-send if you have mental health problems,' she said.

'The classes are informal – that has been my social life for the past year. It is not just the creative side, it is the getting together with other people. It is a reason to go and talk to people.'

Sheila said that learning the skills and selling her own products has made her feel like she is 'not totally worthless'.

She said at times when you are unable to work, you feel like you are not contributing: 'But if I can do this and fund a mobility scooter for myself, then yeah me!' she said.

She was also grateful to her family, who have provided support and encouragement.

To view Sheila's work, search Bags Beads & Bangles on Facebook.

POLICE FILES

■ Between Friday July 12 and Monday July 15, at Glenmore Road, Oban, an ultrasonic animal repelling device was stolen from a fence.

■ Between 11.40am and 11.50am on Tuesday July 16, in the car park at Farmfoods, Dunollie Road, Oban, a blue VW Golf car was damaged by having the passenger's side bodywork dented and scratched by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the collision.

■ Between 6.15am and 7.15pm on Thursday July 18, at Craigard Road, Oban, a black Volkswagen Touareg car was damaged – the driver's door was scratched.

■ At about 1.15am on Saturday July 20, at Stevenson Street, Oban, a man aged 20 and a man aged 49 allegedly behaved in an abusive manner and were fighting with each other. Police arrested and charged the men.

■ At about 1.05am on Sunday July 21, in George Street, Oban, a man aged 51 was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner. He was charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 7.30pm on Friday July 19, at Crossapol, Tiree, a man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner towards a woman. On Sunday July 21, a man aged 55 was arrested. **If anyone has information, they can contact police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

Clan's worldwide gathering prepares to come to Dunollie

More than 250 MacDougalls are heading to Dunollie Museum and Castle this month.

Clan members are travelling from all over the world to be at the international

gathering. Celebrations from Tuesday July 30 to Sunday August 4 will include a programme of 70 events both on Dunollie grounds as well as in Oban and the surrounding areas.

Businesses who are hosting partnership activities include Coastal Connections, Friends of Kilbride, Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre, Oban Distillery and Oban Walking Tours.

As well as clan-based activities for attendees to enjoy, there is also a lot for the community to get involved with, from children's workshops to a living history day, heritage talks and a musical

performance from Rachel Walker based on the Brooch of Lorn.

To find out more and book tickets for any of the events, visit dunollie.org or call 01631 570550.



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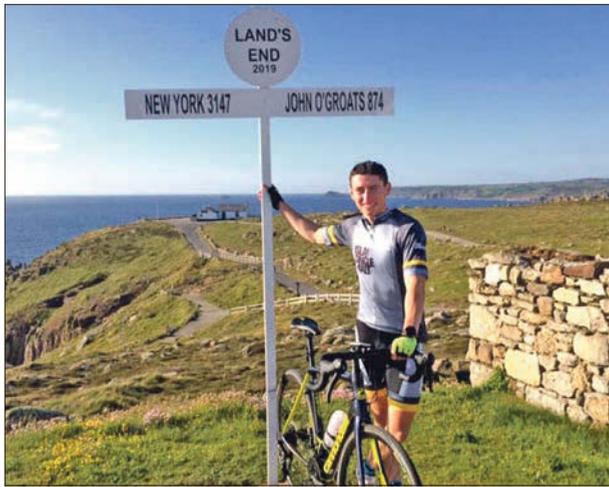
by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islay student Josh Wood got on his bike and has crowd-funded more than £12,000 so far for the Brain Tumour Charity in memory of his nana.

The 22-year-old, who has just completed his first year studying accountancy at Stirling University, had only taken up cycling one year before he took on the challenge covering 1,012.3 miles, spending 72 hours in the saddle, travelling through three countries, 20 counties and climbing 37,703 feet over nine days.

Josh's John O'Groats to Land's End cycle was in memory of his nana who passed away last year and was also inspired by his uncle, Chris Hunter, who was first diagnosed with a brain tumour 19 years ago. Mr Hunter had surgery and radiotherapy in 2006 and has been



Josh Wood arrives at Land's End from John O'Groats.

having regular scans since. In all, he has fought the condition three times.

Josh's dad Neil said: 'At the moment, he has finished his latest chemotherapy and is in good health. The tumour never goes away but treat-

ment can make it inactive.' During the cycle challenge Josh came up against strong headwinds, many steep climbs, flooding, potholes and even fallen trees, seeing only four hours of sunshine.

His mum and dad, Neil and

Rosemary hired a camper van and travelled the length of Britain, along with the family's pet labrador Maisie, as his support crew.

Josh told The Oban Times the second and seventh days of his challenge were the most gruelling.

'The second day saw me cycling through the Cairngorms from Dingwall to Pitlochry in some of the most atrocious summer weather I've ever experienced - close to freezing point, torrential rain and 40-plus mph winds over the Drumochter Pass.

'The seventh day was the longest - 135 miles from Leebotwood in Shropshire to Cheddar. I cycled through south Wales on what must have been some of the worst back roads in the British Isles. Narrow, potholes, mud, loose gravel, 10ft hedgerows, blind corners, floods, ridiculously steep sharp hills, and fallen

trees blocking the entire road. It was like traversing through a maze filled with booby traps.'

Mum Rosemary was impressed by their son's 'sheer grit and determination' and added: 'There were lots of ups and downs but never a day without laughs.'

Josh's young sister Katie, also a student at Stirling University, said she was 'super proud' of her brother.

So far Josh has raised more than £12,000, which he says is amazing from such a small island as Islay, which has a population of just 3,000 people.

'I'm totally and truly touched by everyone's kindness and generosity,' added Josh.

Josh was dux of Islay High School and took a year out working at Islay's Bruichladdich Distillery before going to university.

To make a donation go to justgiving.com/fundraising/josh-wood12

Flexible visiting at Oban hospital

NHS Highland is opening up hospital visiting times to give patients' families and friends more flexibility for when they can visit.

Rather than having set hours, the health board's Welcome Initiative will see patients being able to ask friends, relatives and carers to visit at times that are better for everyone involved.

The board will roll out the initiative, which is part of a national strategy by NHS Scotland to provide person-centred care, across all its hospitals in the Highlands and Argyll and Bute today, Thursday July 25.

Kate Patience-Quate, the interim deputy director of nursing and the Welcome Initiative lead, hopes the new open visiting hours will get rid of all the 'confusion' around visiting loved ones in hospital.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



Fran and Anna, aka Ali Martin and Mairi Fleck, will be selling leaflets at summer shows.

It's showtime for Fran and Anna

Fundraisers for North Argyll Carers Centre are using a touch of nostalgia to help them sell lucky leaflets at this year's summer shows.

Ali Martin and Mairi Fleck will be dressing up as twin sisters Fran and Anna from Thingummyjig - one of STV's most-watched music shows in the 1970s and 1980s.

The pair got such attention when they dressed up as the ginger duo at a kiltwalk last year that they decided to don the wigs and tartan again.

Generous businesses have been donating great prizes to be won at each of the shows Fran and Anna will be attending, starting off with

Bunessan Show in Mull on Friday August 2.

Prizes include bed and breakfast and afternoon tea at Barcaldine Castle; dinner, bed and breakfast at Tobermory's Western Isles Hotel; afternoon teas at the Loch Melfort Hotel and Airds Hotel at Port Appin, then a two-night stay in a luxury yurt at Ardtun on Mull.

The other shows the ladies will be attending are the Lorn Show on Saturday August 3, Salen Show on Mull on Thursday August 8 and Appin Show on Saturday August 17.

Prize-winners will be

announced at the end of each show.

North Argyll Carers Centre in Albany Street, Oban, supports carers from age eight upwards across Oban, Lorn and the Isles offering a wide range of emotional support, practical support and care.

Help includes one-to-one support, information, adult carer support plans, a carers' learning and activities programme, regular groups, respite opportunities, stress therapies and counselling.

Anyone who helps look after someone who cannot manage without their help can call into the centre or telephone 01631 564422.

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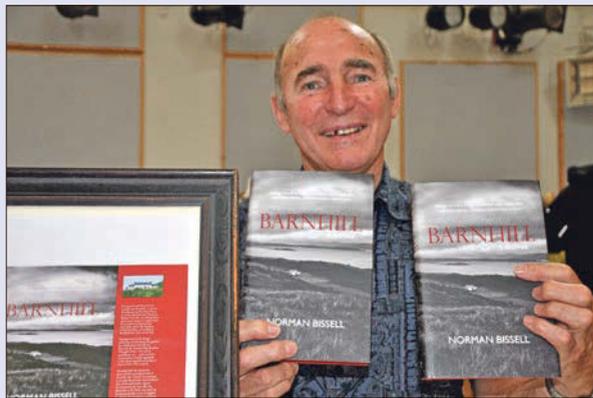
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SCOTTISH GOLF FEDERATION TOP 100 GOLF COURSE IN SCOTLAND 2019 SOUTH WORTH Europe

OT



Luing author Norman Bissell with his new book Barnhill.

16-T30_NorrieBissel

Discussion on Orwell's wildlife connection only natural

Luing author Norman Bissell will be giving a talk about George Orwell and his love of wildlife at the next meeting of Lorn Natural History Group in Seil Island Hall on Tuesday August 13 at 7.30pm, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Mr Bissell has just published his new book Barnhill, bringing to life Orwell's desperate struggle to finish writing Nineteen Eighty-Four on the Isle of Jura.

The book reveals Orwell's passion for self-sufficiency and living close to nature in such a remote spot.

Mr Bissell will also be appearing at Edinburgh's Scotlandsfest on August 23 and will be taking his Orwell story back to Jura on Thursday August 29 at 2pm in the Jura Care Centre in Craighouse as part of the Islay Book Festival, before moving onto the Lismore's Taproot Arts Festival on September 20.

Drug deaths on the rise in Argyll

Health bosses say support is available

There were nine drug-related deaths in Argyll and Bute last year, Scottish Government figures have revealed.

The report showed that the number of drug-related deaths in Scotland rose by 27 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

Argyll and Bute's total for 2018 of nine was one more than the previous year, with one being linked to an ecstasy-type substance.

It is not known which parts of Argyll and Bute the deaths occurred in but most were linked to heroin or morphine.

The number of drug deaths per year in Argyll and Bute has more than doubled since 2008, a year when four peo-

ple died as a result of drug use.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership recognised 'the tragedy of each and every drug-related death and the long-term impact this has on families and communities'.

The spokesperson added: 'Anyone living in Argyll and Bute who is concerned about their own or another's drug or alcohol use or wishes to get some information, guidance or support, please contact Addaction's freephone helpline on 0800 206 1460 or visit the Argyll and Bute ADP website at argyllandbuteadp.info.'

Argyll and Bute MP

Brendan O'Hara said: 'Any drug-related death is one too many. We all have a part to play in preventing tragedies like this.'

'We know the older, traditional ways have been shown not to work and I therefore support the Scottish Government initiative to introduce safe drug consumption rooms as part of a range of measures.'

'It is absolutely vital that the UK Government gets behind our efforts before yet more lives are lost needlessly.'

Michael Russell MSP added: 'One drug death is one too many and is a heart-breaking tragedy for the families and loved ones.'

'Drugs are clearly still a

scourge for too many individuals and communities, and the increasing number of those dying and affected in Argyll and Bute is very worrying.'

'I hope that the drugs summit which my Scottish Government colleague Joe Fitzpatrick is calling will consider the issues in the small towns and rural areas as well as in the cities.'

Mr Russell said we need to treat this as something which concerns us all, including educating young people about the dangers of drugs of any sort.

Highland Council suffered a 50 per cent rise in drug-related deaths, going from 24 in 2017 to 36 in 2018.



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HSCP says sorry over misseco

Continued from page one

forward. A letter will now be sent from the HSCP inviting people's involvement.

The HSCP spokeswoman added: 'We very much welcome the positive progress achieved on Monday with everyone present. This is all

about finding ways to make change work for everyone who uses the centre. Our communication around this issue hasn't been as clear as it should have, and we would like to reassure service users that they will still be able to access support at Lorne Resource Centre.'

Monday's meeting heard protests that the HSCP had 'put the cart before the horse' by not consulting the centres' clients and staff earlier.

There were also concerns that staff had not been given information earlier so they could help answer clients'

Anxious wait for would-be guardian father

Dad Ian Johnstone, who claimed GPs at Connel Surgery let down his adoptive son, is waiting to hear if his bid for guardianship has been successfully lodged, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A private GP made the journey from Glasgow on Sunday to conduct a capacity assessment with Daniel because the 18-year-old's doctors at Connel felt unable to do it.

Mr Johnstone said the assessment 'took all of 10 minutes'.

He told The Oban Times last week that the assess-

ment of his son, who has learning difficulties as well as Asperger's, autism and epilepsy, was necessary so he could apply for guardianship as Daniel's conditions mean the teenager needs one-to-one care and support, and is unable to survive by himself.

Last week time was running out for the GP assessment to be conducted, putting at risk two assessments and reports already completed by a clinical psychologist and mental health officer.

Due to all three reports having to be completed within a 30-day period, without

the GP assessment it meant the other two assessments and reports would have to be repeated, costing the NHS more money.

If the deadline passed without the application being lodged, the legal process of getting guardianship would go back to square one.

Mr Johnstone said he was now waiting to hear from his lawyer if the three reports were submitted in time or if the legal process will have to start from scratch again.

He added that he had had 'no contact from Connel surgery yet'.

Duck race is quacking good fun



Oban Rotary Club's annual duck race went swimmingly on Saturday, raising more than £2,000 for good causes, writes Kathie Griffiths.

There were 500 little ducks let loose from the bridge

at Combie Street into the Black Lynn to see which one could make it to the sea first.

Maureen Drummond's number 17 blue duck was the winner, rewarding her with a £50 prize.

In second place, red number 55 won its joint owners Ruth Ross and Kirsty White £25 each. Third was green 11, winning Finlay Strang, Murray Sim and Ryan Conway £15 each.

Two Oban officers receive top award

Two Oban police officers who saved a woman's life have been awarded top national honours.

PCs Daniel McBeth, 47, and Lisa Neish, 36, are to receive Royal Humane Society certificates of commendation for their quick thinking which helped save a vulnerable woman's life.

The two officers, who are based at Oban Police Station, went to the woman's home after a call from a support agency saying the woman had contacted them expressing suicidal thoughts.

When they arrived at the house it was unlocked and they did a room by room search but could not find her. However, the loft hatch was open and, when they looked in, they could hear faint noises and spotted the woman lying among the loft insulation.

She did not respond to their

shouts, so PC McBeth hauled himself into the cramped loft space and managed to reach her. She was having extreme difficulty breathing having attempted to commit suicide but PC McBeth managed to free her airways with the help of PC Neish.

PC McBeth stayed in the loft with her waiting for the emergency services

Although now able to breathe, the woman remained unresponsive. PC McBeth stayed in the loft with her while the ambulance and fire service rushed to the scene and ultimately they were able to get her out of the loft and to Oban hospital. PC Neish, who by then had managed to establish a rapport with her, remained with her for

several hours until she had been assessed. In addition to the awards they are to receive, PCs McBeth and Neish have also won the personal praise of Andrew Chapman, secretary of the Royal Humane Society.

Speaking at the awards in London, he said: 'This was truly a life and death situation - time was of the essence. If the two officers had not found the woman when they did, she would almost certainly have died.'

'Thankfully, they arrived in the nick of time to save her. They did a magnificent job in cramped and harrowing circumstances, and richly deserve the awards they are to receive.'

The Royal Humane Society is the premier national body for honouring bravery in the saving of human life. The society was founded in 1774.

'Have your Say' meeting

questions and try to reassure them.

Although most people agreed that LRC numbers are currently quite low, it is thought that with school leavers and Dunbeg housing on the increase that could change quickly.

And it was voiced that

social workers had been housed in the LRC until August 2018 and it had been disruptive to the day-to-day running of the centre.

Robin Marshall from Dalmally, whose son uses the centre, said the plans had 'not been well thought out', adding: 'They should

have consulted us first before drawing up proposals.'

He said he was struggling 'to hold on to hope' that the new think tank would be able to help claw back space now.

A third drop-in meeting was due to be held at LRC and Lynnside yesterday.

Official notice given on town's A-board removal

Businesses in and around Oban using unauthorised free-standing advertising boards (A-boards) or signs have been given 28 days, from July 16, to obtain advertisement consent, road authority consent or risk having them removed, writes Fiona Scott.

Argyll and Bute Council planning enforcement officer Jamie Torrance sent a letter to affected businesses last Wednesday.

It urged anyone who has not yet done so to seek to obtain advertisement consent or road authority approval - for any premises fronting onto a



The A85 through Oban.

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

Businesses not granted permission will have priority on the new, raised notice boards,

managed by BID4Oban, that come courtesy of a £44,000 grant from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund.

The notice boards 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.

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



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OT

Charity takes the reins at open day



Nicola MacCallum leads Ruaridh MacMillan, two, on Norman the donkey.



Volunteers Betty Alsop and Deirdre MacFarlane.

Visitors headed to stables at Glencruitten for a special ride out on Friday.

Achnalarig Farm opened its gates to the public to help raise much-needed funds for the Oban and Lorn group of the Riding for the Disabled Association.

The group has been based

at the farm for about 20 years and costs around £2,500 a month to run. Costs include wages for two instructors, as well as electricity bills and insurance cover.

More volunteers are also needed to help with the safe running of the RDA sessions.

Tasks include leading a

pony, side walking with a rider or helping out an instructor during a session. Every volunteer receives training.

Betty Alcorn is one of the group's longest serving volunteers and says the big reward for her is seeing riders' faces light up. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is invit-

ed to go along to the cabin at the stables on Thursdays or Fridays at 9.30am.

Information is also available by emailing karenstead29@hotmail.co.uk

The group has about 30 to 40 regular riders of different ages and needs who look forward to their visits.



Quinn patiently poses for The Oban Times camera with Karen MacIntyre and her daughters Holly, two, and Grace, five.

New average speed cameras for A82/A85

Average speed cameras are to be installed on a 16-mile stretch of the A82 and A85 roads between Tyndrum and Lix Toll, near Killin.

Despite mobile cameras at three sites on the A82 and A85 between Tyndrum and Lix Toll, there have been 21 reported collisions in the most recently assessed three-year period. This has resulted in nine slight injury collisions, 11 serious injury collisions and one fatal collision. In addition, on some stretches of this route, one in three vehicles are speeding.

It is anticipated the average speed camera system, costing £250,000, will be in place later this summer.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson said: 'Installing average speed cameras on the A82 and A85 roads between Tyndrum and Lix Toll will help make the road safer for everyone.'

'We already know from our experience with average speed cameras deployed elsewhere that they encourage improved levels of driver behaviour, with a 60 per cent reduction in the number of killed or seriously injured casualties on similar rural single carriageway sections of road.'

East Safety Camera Unit manager Andy Jones said: 'The East Safety Camera Unit currently deploys mobile safety camera vans along this route and motorists are complying with the speed limit when the vans are present. However, there is a significant number of vehicles travelling above the limit outwith enforcement periods, as well as collisions caused by inappropriate speed. We welcome the introduction of an average speed camera system as a more permanent means of encouraging improved driver behaviour.'



Friends Dannin MacDonald, five, and Nieve Campbell, four, get the giggles.

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Never a dull moment in Oban

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

It's much easier on dry days when even a picnic in the garden is fun, never mind a visit to Ganavan or Tralee with a bucket and spade or a kite.

We're lucky to be surrounded by beautiful places to walk and a wee trip over the water to Kerrera is like a different world. It's lovely for us grown-ups as well to be reminded how fascinating something as simple as learning to skim stones can be and how many hours can be happily spent beside the water collecting shells and stones to take home and paint or stick together.

You could always consider joining Hope Kitchen on one of its Wednesday beach cleans on the beach opposite The View at 10.30am. It's really good fun while teaching something positive about

WHERE IS THIS?



being part of the community. Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is also offering entertainment for the holidays.

The next three weeks will fly by, especially so enjoy them while you can.

Last week's photograph was really easy, I hope everyone identified the Oban Times slip. This week even I can't remember where this is, so if you spot me wandering about looking up, that's what I'm trying to find.



Christina McKelvie, centre, with 1000 Voices project manager Kirsten Johnston, left, and regular Soup Group attendee Mary Turnbull.

Minister pops into Oban for soup and a chat

Oban senior citizens had the chance to talk to the Scottish Government's Minister for Older People and Equalities last week.

As part of her summer recess tour, Christina McKelvie dropped in at the Guide Hall last Wednesday, where members of the 1000 Voices Soup Group were enjoying their weekly blether over lunch.

Miss McKelvie, SNP representative for Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse, said: 'It was a joy to visit the 1000 Voices

group to see first-hand their amazing community spirit and togetherness in combating social isolation.

'Community, caring-based projects like 1000 Voices are a vital lifeline for many of my constituents. The parliamentary summer recess gives me time to get around the country and see the wonderful work being done by organisations, as well as speak to some of the people who attend the many different events.'

Travelodge wants to be by the sea

Travelodge is still looking to open a hotel in Oban as part of its £165 million expansion into seaside and coastal towns, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The budget hotel chain says the Oban venture would create 25 new jobs and represent an investment of £6 million.

Travelodge bosses have written to Argyll and Bute Council to kickstart their search for authority-owned surplus land to build on.

The hotel brand says it selected Oban because the town is a tourism magnet for attracting visitors from all corners of the globe.

It also claims the town has a shortage of good quality, low cost branded accommodation. Premier Inn opened its new hotel in Shore Street in February.

This summer, Travelodge marks 20 years of trading at UK seaside resorts and last week announced it wanted to

expand in a further 26 seaside and coastal town locations. Its latest and 36th hotel opened recently at Rhyl beach.

Travelodge hotels in this latest programme are being built on surplus local authority land, with the funding provided either through the Local Authorities internal resource or via low-cost funding from the Public Works Loan Board or third party resources.

Upon completion of the hotel development, local authorities have the choice of either retaining ownership of the hotel and receiving an annual rent into the council's revenue budget or selling the hotel with Travelodge as its operator.

Tony O' Brien, Travelodge UK Development Director, said: 'Oban is a key tourism magnet and is enjoying year-on-year growth. The town's £17 million tourism industry

has great potential for further growth and we want to be a part of this and help attract new more visitors to the area. Therefore we are starting our search now and looking for a hotel site in Oban.

'This expansion would represent an investment of £6 million for third party investors and create 25 new jobs. It will also support the local economy as our research shows on average our customers spend double their room rate with local businesses which annually results in a multi-million pound boost for the local economy.'

Mr O'Brien added: 'To kick start our search for the ideal site in Oban we are writing to Argyll and Bute Council to see if we can play a pivotal role in their regeneration programmes like we have done in Rhyl.'

The Oban Times previously reported Argyll and Bute

Council was looking to team up with a business partner to redevelop one or more of its current car parks to 'maximise economic return' on the land.

Three identified locations were the car park on Oban Esplanade, adjacent to the Corran House Hotel and Westbay Apartments; the car park adjacent to Albany Street and the car park in Tweeddale Street.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Tourism is important for our economy and we're always keen to support demand from the hotel sector for accommodation. Three car parks in Oban were advertised as potential development opportunities and the council is working with a number of developers to determine if more bed spaces can be delivered on these sites, while maintaining car parking levels in the town.'

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email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Man's body recovered near Mull

A search for a missing kayaker was called off last Wednesday after a man's body was found in water near Mull.

The man is thought to have been a visitor to the Island of Erraid.

A search was launched after a red kayak was spotted in the Sound of Iona near to Fidden campsite by a member of the public at about 10.20pm on Tuesday. HM Coastguard and the Oban RNLI located and recovered the body at about 11.50am on Wednesday.

Police Scotland were informed and inquiries are ongoing. It is believed the man's family has

been traced and formal identification was due to take place last Thursday.

A police spokesman said: 'Around 11.52am on Wednesday, the body of a man was recovered from the water following a search by the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter and Oban RNLI. A post-mortem has yet to take place, but at the current time the death is thought to have been accidental.'

Coastguard teams from Ross of Mull, Craignure and Tobermory, as well as the Tobermory RNLI all-weather lifeboat joined the search, which lasted through the night.

Youngsters get shirty on reading challenge

Children throughout Argyll are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing as part of the Summer Reading Challenge 2019.

Space Chase is the theme of this year's event, which launched on June 22 and runs until Tuesday August 13.

Live Argyll libraries are hosting creative workshops in all the major towns and children who sign up, and read at least six library books of their own choice, will receive stickers and other rewards.

This week, children in Oban were creating their own



Space Chase t-shirts, with Liam, Callen, Abi, Eden and Eva, photographed, coming

up with 'out of this world' designs. For more information, contact a Live Argyll library.



CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

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Nominate a friend, family member or your own business!

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OT

Thousands attend special Taynuilt Highland Games

by David McPhee
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



A 'brilliant' day was had by the thousands of people who attended this year's special Taynuilt Highland Games.

The event celebrated its 150th games in glorious sunshine, which came as a relief to the organisers. There were rides and races for the youngsters and races and refreshments for the adults.

Spectators enjoyed the more serious events, with Alasdair Campbell from Luining being a stand-out competitor, winning the hill race followed by a comfortable victory in 'the mile', while Dan Carlin took home the overall heavy trophy.

Attendees were also treated to some fun events such as the three-legged race,



Local overall winner, Ross Anderson, with overall heavy champion Dan Carlin and caber toss winner Neil Elliott. 17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames26

the tug-of-war and, a new addition this year, the barrel race, which provided a barrel of laughs. Taynuilt Highland

Games has been on the go since at least 1859, which was the first recorded event. However, according to the

committee, it is believed the games were held even earlier and are perhaps among the oldest in the Highlands.

Taking a break throughout the war years, and again in 1961 until 1977 due to a lack of venue, this year marked the event's 150th.

Chairman of the Taynuilt Highland Games committee, Andrew Servant, said: 'It has just been a brilliant day. The weather was also brilliant, especially after last night, and it looks like it has been fairly busy.'

Discussing his favourite moments of the day, Mr Servant said he really enjoyed the barrel race.

This year's chieftain was Jessie Servant. Speaking to the crowd on Saturday, she said: 'It is my honour to welcome you all. I would like to thank all the committee members, all the helpers, and stall holders. I hope you all enjoy the games. It is very

much an honour to be asked to be chieftain this year.'

Mrs Servant informed the crowd of the photography display tent that featured information and images from games gone by. She said the photography tent brought back a lot of memories for her.

She was not the only person who had fond memories. Stewart Fraser, originally from Hawick, who won the 100-metre sprint, and his two friends attended the event after a break of 12 years.

The trio, who now live in London, America and Australia respectively, had such fond memories from more than a decade ago that they decided to make a trip to Taynuilt for their reunion.

For more photographs, visit www.obantimes.co.uk.



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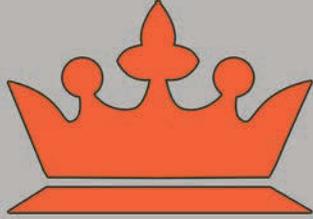
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Clockwise from top left: The Taynuilt Highland Games committee during the parade on Saturday [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames07](#); Andrew Servant and his mother Jessie after she opened the games [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames08](#); Marco MacGregor from Oban was the best junior heavyweight, winning the Leslie Servant Cup [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames01](#); Alasdair Campbell has enough left in the tank after winning the hill race to also take home the mile race title [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames21](#); the winner of the heavy caber toss, Neil Elliott. [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames18](#); the winners of the barrel race were Ewan MacCallum and Johnathon MacKenzie. [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames20](#); the various tug-of-war were hotly contested [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames25](#); Arran Green, Stirling, won the 12 and under chanter competition, with Archie and Logie Johnson finishing second and third respectively [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames11](#); Shaun Reynolds and Yomira Barton were third in the three-legged race [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames16](#).



Right, Oban Pipe Band entertained the crowd. [17_t30_TaynuiltHighlandGames14](#)



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OT

Mull enjoys record-bre

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Records were broken at Mull Highland Games.

Competitors from as far away as America, including California's Karina Benish, took part in the heavyweight contest on the day, all out to beat their personal bests.

Anthony Daffurn was among the record-breakers last Thursday, beating his own long jump Scottish Highland Games Association (SGHA) record of 25ft 1in, set back in 2018 with a new distance of 25ft 3ins. He also won the Kenny MacIntyre memorial cup which is presented each year to the winner of the open triple jump. His winning jump was 48ft 1in.

Vlad Tulacek was making his debut at the Mull games and threw a 56lb weight 16ft 7ins over the bar, breaking a previous record set in 2013.

Games committee member Douglas MacNeilage celebrated his 70th games this year, while the youngest at the games was the event secretary Florence Kirsop's granddaughter Arianne, who is just seven weeks old.

Florence said: 'We had good numbers of heavies and dancers. The weather didn't seem to put too many people off. We had records broken on the day and it was good to see Karina Benish come for the first time. She competed against the men - good on her. She's not the first woman heavy we've had at the games but certainly the first for a while.'

Commentator Craig Dunbar kept the crowd entertained and informed on the day. In 2023, the games will celebrate their centenary. Plans are already in the pipeline. However, before then, volunteers are



needed for next year's event. Florence said: 'There's a lot of work in setting up and preparing the games. The committee isn't getting any younger, so we need some of the younger generation to help us keep it going.'

Anyone interested should email f.kirsop@gmail.com.



Clockwise from top left: Andrew Kain, president of the Mull Highland Games, giving the award for the SHGA jumps championship, currently hosted by MHG, to Anthony Daffurn; Karina Denish was the only female in the heavy events; Mull and Iona Pipe Band; the dancing was popular, as was the Mad Kiltie Dash and the

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Breaking Highland games



Irish jig; Anthony Daffurn in action; Vlad Tulacek throws a 56lb weight in the distance contest; Douglas MacNeilage with seven-week-old Arianne, granddaughter of games secretary Florence Kirso; Evie Kellet takes the girls' long jump in her stride; another heavy contender.

Photographs: Sarah Darling.



MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The voyage of last week's column continued on the sunny Saturday morning from the island town of Tobermory.

After fuelling up and loading the boat with Andrew's supplies – which as usual, would have sufficed for an Arctic expedition with a good ceilidh every night – we headed by Rubha nan Gall light, across Bloody Bay, out the Sound of Mull, past Ardmore then Cailleach Point and set our course for Scarinish, Tiree.

Leaving the confines of the Caledonian Canal, Loch Linnhe, the Firth of Lorne and the Sound of Mull to reach the open sea brought a progressive and powerful feeling of freedom.

Connection with the sea is common among those brought up in or living in coastal communities. Having been raised next to the sea, on an island of seafarers, with a father who was in the Merchant Navy and then a fisherman, an uncle who was a fisherman, two others who were in the Merchant Navy, a grandfather who was a Master Mariner, having a brother who is a fisherman, and having made wholly or part of my own living on the

sea for more than 10 years, it is inevitably deeply ingrained in my psyche.

The prevalence of reference, symbolism and language of the sea present in my song-writing occurs subconsciously and even when I try to lessen the "sea content" it somehow seeps in like the tide against King Canute!

It is difficult to describe the feeling of being back on the sea under your own control to those not familiar with it, but as the Tiree Passage opened ahead of us to the Westward, there was nowhere else on the face of the earth I would have preferred to be. The familiar sight of Ben Hynish and Ben Hough on the horizon gave the customary prelude to the emergence of the "Land Below the Waves" and thoughts of home.

We had planned to stay on Tiree for TMF on Saturday night, but a very good friend from Benbecula whom we hadn't seen for a long time sent word that he was able to get to Barra to meet us that night.

So after a quick visit home to be fed, we headed through the Gunna Sound and set our course for Castlebay with the intention of returning to

Tiree the following night to catch the climax of the 10th TMF.

Barra played a very important part in the early days of Skipinnish as much of the summer of '99 was spent there when Andrew and I first got together to form a band. It was before we even had a name and we have some amazing memories of that summer!

Coming in past Muldoanich and turning to starboard as Castlebay opens to the North still fills me with excitement borne from that first summer spent playing in the Craigard Hotel.

The people of Barra and Vatersay have a strength of character and identity that is more pronounced as a population than any other geographically defined group of people I have encountered. Among their many attributes is a unique ability to welcome and to celebrate.

Such was the way of our time there that the St Olave remained tied to the pontoon in Castlebay until Monday afternoon when we eventually managed to escape to make it back to Tiree just in time to catch the TMF after-party that night!

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OT

Thousands soak up the sun at Inveraray Games

More than 4,000 people soaked up the atmosphere at Inveraray Highland Games on a sunny Tuesday.

So, too, did the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland, special guests at the games for 2019.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band led the traditional march through the royal burgh to the games field at the Winterton, the march headed by His Grace the Duke of Argyll.

For the first time Archie, Marquess of Lorne, now aged 15, helped the Duchess present prizes.

As usual, the games attracted visitors from across the world; some to compete in the track and field, heavy athletics, solo piping and the dancing, others just to watch the fun.

Clan Campbell Society of Germany members once again hosted their own tent at the

games. Inveraray games is also the home of the World Caber Championships, sponsored by the town's George Hotel, and won this year by Lukaz Wenta of Poland, who now lives in Scotland. The Smithsonian Channel filmed the event. Details of the programme and the date it will be broadcast have yet to be announced.

■ For more photographs and full results from the day, visit www.obantimes.co.uk.

Donald Clark, owner of the George Hotel in Inveraray and sponsor of the World Caber Championships, presents Lukaz Wenta with the gold medal for winning the caber tossing event.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Piping convener James Beaton, who is originally from Inveraray and a former pupil of Lochgilphead and Oban high schools.

J529INVGAMES18



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Piping brothers Archie and Logie Johnston of Mull. Archie is with Mull and Iona Pipe Band and Logie is now playing with Oban High School Pipe Band. JS29INVGAMES19



Inveraray and District Pipe Band, led for the day by Pipe Major Alastair Henderson, heads up the parade on the way to the Winterton to officially open the games.



Piping stewards Niall Iain MacLean, Torquil Telfer, Colin Stevenson and Iain Hurst. JS29INVGAMES17



Young musicians from Fèis Latharna who are playing at venues across the area throughout July and August. They are: Sheena Peteranna, whistle and piano; Daren Brown, drums and guitar; Calum Garvin, accordion and vocals; Emma Hill, whistle and small pipes; and Donal Bremner, whistle, border pipes and Highland pipes. JS29INVGAMES27



Her Grace the Duchess of Argyll presents the prizes to the pre-premier winners in the dance competitions. JS29INVGAMES20



Two-year-old Maryjane Reid tucks into a huge bowl of candyfloss. JS29INVGAMES31



Heavyweight judge Stephen King makes his way back with ice creams to help his fellow judges cool down. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



A new trophy was presented to the games this year – the Niall Iain MacLean Cup for overall winner of the grade B piping competition. An honorary vice-president of the games, Niall Iain and his wife Inez presented the cup to its first winner, John Dew, 21, from Crieff. John has studied with Willie McCallum of Campbeltown. JS29INVGAMES36

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OT



Baby Charlotte Allan was at the show with four generations of her family. Granny Caroline Henderson, great-granny Rosemary MacCormick, great-seanair Gregor MacCormick and mum Jennifer Henderson. 16_T30lismoreshow12



Three-week-old Harrison Mulgrew was the show's youngest visitor this year. He is with his granny Gill Kirkwood, mum Naomi Kennedy, dad Jordan Mulgrew, papa Dennis Mulgrew and great-papa George Corrigan. 16_T30lismoreshow11

Lismore livestock to legendary reputation

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Livestock numbers were up at this year's Lismore Show.

Sheep and cattle from farms and hills across the island impressed judges and the crowd who made the most of the sunshine.

John Carmichael's short horn cow was declared overall show champion.

Best sheep went to Donald (Fat) MacColl. The parents of the winner are a homebred yew and an Essie tup.

Karen Willis's nine-month-old Border Collie Tam took home the champion dog prize, while young Kristian MacGillivray got a first place rosette for his pet lamb.

At 82, the oldest farmer competing on Saturday was Donny MacCormick, while the youngest visitors to the



Right: John Carmichael with his Short Horn, Lismore Show's overall champion 2019. 16_T30_lismoreshow01

Left: Kara Willis with champion dog Tam. 16_T30lismoreshow03

show were three-week-old Harrison Mulgrew and seven-week-old Charlotte Allan, each there with four generations of their families.

Robert Smith from Explore Lismore Taxis & Tours was also at the show, giving visitors lifts to the field and back from the ferry.

Sheep judge Raymond Kennedy said: "There's been a tremendous turnout, es-

pecially the sheep. These are some of the biggest classes in local shows, as many as 18 and 15 in some of them. It's a great island for stock. They're great quality."

Show organiser Neil Carmichael said: "Everyone had a good day. We'll be back next year, hoping for sunshine again. Livestock entries were up, but it would be nice to see more handicrafts."



Above: John Carmichael's Short Horn, overall winner of Lismore Show.

Right: Show organiser Neil Carmichael with Gregor MacCormick.

Below: Keeping an eye on rosettes and results were Iris MacColl, Caitlin MacColl and Anne Livingstone.



Finley and Kristian MacGillivray with best pet lamb.



Shona Wright and Norma Black admire flowers in the handicraft and produce tent at Lismore Show.





CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

Nominations are now open for the Scottish Rural Awards 2020

Nominate a friend, family member or your own business!
Which award will you win?

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... lives up ...tation



Pimms anyone? Ann Morton on drinks duty.

'These are some of the biggest classes in local shows, as many as 18 and 15 in some of them. It's a great island for stock.'



Anne MacCormick got first prize for her jam.



Enjoying cocktails were Kristine Monaghan and Bethany James.



Donald MacColl with his champion sheep.



Eve Lawrie's wildlife photography impressed judges at Lismore Show.



Sarah Forgiveve's Cocker Spaniel Alfie won a prize for looking most like his owner.



Best pet lamb owners catch them if they can.

For more photographs from Lismore Show visit www.obantimes.co.uk

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BUSINESS NEWS

New apprentices will be based at Cruachan station

Drax Group is recruiting five new apprentices at three of its Scottish sites.

Five placements will be introduced this year across the Galloway Hydro scheme, Cruachan Power Station and the Daldowie Treatment Works – locations which were acquired by Drax in January 2019.

Part of Drax's commitment to developing the next generation of talent in the sector, the four-year training schemes will be the first to be introduced at the Scottish sites since they became part of group and will see successful applicants join in August.

The move is the latest bid to encourage young people into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers.

Andy Koss, CEO generation at Drax Group, said: 'We have always regarded apprentices as key to the success of our business. The launch of our apprenticeship training programme in Scotland will allow us to tap into the pool of talent across Scotland.'

'We want to help young people from all backgrounds achieve their aspirations and develop the skills they need to go far in this sector. Working for Drax, they will be with a company which is leading the way in developing innovative technologies to help the UK achieve its net zero target and enable a zero carbon, lower cost energy future.'

Successful applicants for the Scottish apprenticeships will be based at the East Kilbride Group Training Association for the first year. The apprentices will then spend the next three years working at Galloway, Cruachan or Daldowie.

All five will have the chance to qualify at an SVQ Level 3 and a Higher Certificate in either of mechanical, electrical or multi-disciplined engineering.

For more information on the apprenticeship scheme, visit www.drax.com/careers/apprenticeships

Business is sweet for chocolate company



Finlay MacDonald established Chocolates of Glenshiel Ltd last year. Photograph: Tim Winterburn/HIE

A young west coast firm is embarking on a £64,000 expansion to increase its productivity and employ more people.

Chocolates of Glenshiel Limited was established in 2018 by local teenager Finlay MacDonald. The company is based in Ratagan on the shores of Loch Duich in Lochalsh.

It has secured a £32,000 investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) towards the cost of the expansion project, which includes upgrading its premises and installing larger scale equipment.

The investment is expected to bring about an increase of more than £200,000 in company

turnover and create three new jobs. Confirming the HIE investment, development manager Caroline Forsyth, said: 'We have been very impressed with the ambition of Chocolates of Glenshiel, which is providing valuable employment in a very rural location.'

'This young company sits within the growing food and drink sector, but is also closely aligned with tourism, another growth industry.'

'It is in an excellent position to take the next step in its growth journey, and we are delighted to be able to support this investment.'

Chocolates of Glenshiel prides itself on using local and Scottish ingredients such as Skye

salt, Scottish gins and whiskies to flavour its chocolate products.

Finlay said: 'Following our expansion and the launch of our range of chocolate bars, we are looking to discover a range of delis, gift shops and farm shops where we can showcase and sell our products.'

'This is a really exciting turning point in our business.'

He added: 'With our increased capacity, a growing team of chocolatiers and a gorgeous new look to our products, we are ready to reach out to Scotland and beyond with our delicious chocolate.'




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Inverlussa completes wind farm inspections

Inverlussa Marine Services's multi-role vessel Helen Mary has just completed a three-month contract for SkySpecs, providing a modern support vessel for its fully autonomous drone operations in the German and Dutch North Sea sectors.

The Helen Mary was particularly suitable for this project, as she was built to BV Unrestricted Navigation Class, specifically for operation on wind farms further offshore, with accommodation for additional crew and passengers and a large aft deck.

The vessel was used as a platform to allow SkySpecs' drones to perform inspections of the wind turbines and blades, to produce reports and highlight any defects on the units.

Over the period, the Skyspecs team successfully inspected five sites for three different clients.

Mull-based Inverlussa was working alongside Offshore Turbine Services (OTS), which assisted in the operational



The Helen Mary at work in the North Sea.

management of the project. Carlos Martinez Rodriguez, operations project manager for SkySpecs Europe, said: 'We would like to thank Inverlussa and OTS team and crew

members for their tremendous support during this campaign. 'Skyspecs performed autonomous offshore inspections for an unprecedented 1400MW of aggregated power. The Helen

Mary allowed us to deliver outstanding expediency due to its efficient fuel consumption and spacious accommodations, allowing the team to remain at sea for weeks at a time.'

Rural businesses remain upbeat

Nearly three-quarters of rural businesses in Scotland say they had a good operating environment in 2018, despite facing a number of challenges, including staff recruitment and retention issues.

This is according to a new survey of more than 1,200 businesses, which was published on Friday July 19.

Commissioned by the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise and conducted by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the Rural Report 2018/19 showed only three per cent rated their operating environment as 'poor' or 'very poor'.

This contrasted with 47 per cent who rated it as 'good' and 27 per cent as 'very good'.

The survey also showed that the country's wider rural business population faced a similar challenge to the agricultural industry in terms of an ageing workforce.

Over a third of those surveyed were over the age of 60, with 72 per cent being 50 or older while only nine per cent were under 40.

The authors of the report said it demonstrated the remarkable resilience of Scotland's rural economies.

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Charity renovates byre to fund its work in Afghanistan

The parents of aid worker Linda Norgrove have found a novel way of raising funds for the charity they established in their daughter's memory.

Having spent years transforming a derelict byre into an upmarket holiday cottage for rent, they plan to use the income to cover the running costs of the Linda Norgrove Foundation, ensuring all money donated by supporters goes to projects in Afghanistan.

After creating some quirky budget accommodation on their croft, the couple decided to renovate the Timsgarry byre. The building had been unused for many years. They were encouraged by the support they received in recent years from people using the bothy and wheelhouse who read about the charity and its work when they visited.

John Norgrove said: 'We thought this would be a great way of covering the overhead costs of the foundation.'

'But we thought by using the holiday rental income to cover those costs people can be reassured their money is going directly to help women and young people in Afghanistan. And maybe some of our visitors will be inspired to help the cause in other ways.'

Linda Norgrove, originally from Uig on the Isle of Lewis, was kidnapped while working for a charity in Afghanistan where she was overseeing development projects. She died in a failed rescue attempt by US forces on October 8, 2010.

Since the foundation was set up in 2010, it has distributed more than £1m.



Rental income from Timsgarry Byre will fund projects in Linda's memory.

Scotland's youngest clan

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Argyll has a long tradition and history of Highland games and clan gatherings which people attend at this time of the year to hear the bagpipes and to watch kilted supermen throw things up and down fields under the eye of eagle-feathered and bonneted clan chiefs.

Clan gatherings are relics of a bygone era. Some see them today as no more than colourful marketing clichés for whisky, mothballs and damp tartan, while others liken them to the Resurrection as they meet people there they thought had died long ago.

Chiefs came about when family groups gathered to work the land and live on the food they grew. One among them would emerge as leader to whom they would give their allegiance in return for his protection.

The word 'clan' means children. But in Scotland young people show little interest and do not seem to have much time for them now. Most clans have chiefs where sons follow fathers but, where there are no children, the line often jumps to distant cousins.

Trying to find a legitimate heir is seldom easy and generally a slow process. To be a chief, you must have a deep interest in Highland history and a belief in tradition, but this has to be tempered with an acceptance that the clan system is not as it was at the time of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

A chief needs the skill of a tightrope walker. You can fall off by taking yourself too seriously, imagining that the position is what it used to be. Or, you can fall by saying that it is all tartan buffoonery and throwing away what matters to a surprising number of people.

The MacGillivrays are a clan that has been without a chief for 77 years but is making all the right moves to find one – and a young hopeful at that.

The MacGillivrays followed the MacDonalds, Lord of the Isles in the 14th century, and were rewarded with land in Mull and Morvern. After the lordship collapsed in 1493, they escaped into Lochaber where they were forced to accept Clan Chattan and the Mackintoshes as their overlords, and eventually settled in Strathnairn near Inverness. Their last chief, John Farquhar MacGillivray, who lived in Toronto, died in 1942.



In 2015, a group led by the Clan MacGillivray International Association began a process to appoint a commander, which is the first step on a long road to the possibility of becoming full chief. The regulations set out by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, who controls such matters, are strict and a family convention was required.

Nominations were called for and a historic vote took place on April 15, 2016, at Culloden. There were four candidates and members of active clan societies in Australia, Scotland, USA, Canada and the Netherlands were able to cast their votes, along with leading members in the UK.

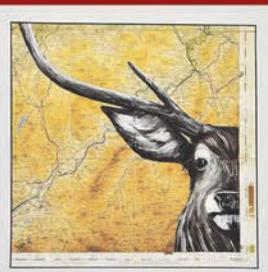
The only Scottish candidate, Iain Donald MacGillivray, who was born in Inverness in 1987, won the vote and was subsequently recommended to the Lord Lyon, who appointed him as commander making him one of the youngest to hold the title in modern times.

At the presentation of his commission by the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh in August 2016, Iain pledged to be an enthusiastic ambassador for the clan and said: 'I am very proud of my Clan MacGillivray roots and their worldwide associations, and will endeavour to foster and grow them.'

When Iain was nominated at the family convention, he said he hadn't expected his appointment to cause such a stir. But in the past three years the kilted Highlander has been invited to clan gatherings across the globe, visited the tomb of Prince Charles Edward Stuart in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican city state, and was asked to appear on Big Brother and Outlander – the highly popular drama television series, by author Diana Gabaldon. He also had a BBC Alba film crew shadow him for months which resulted in an hour-long film.

Iain, now 32, said: 'I didn't expect to be chosen but I think the fact I had youth on

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an commander



Iain MacGillivray, chief in waiting to the Clan MacGillivray, is a passionate piper, fiddler, a fluent Gaelic speaker and a highly competitive athlete. Photograph: Iain Thornber, and, inset, at work on the family farm near Tain, Ross-shire. Photograph: Peter Jolly

to attend Highland games and other public events. They have to speak up for the clan and be articulate, amiable, amicable and approachable, but also capable of providing strong leadership and guidance.

Iain MacGillivray, who already displays leadership and has exceptional people skills, is well suited for the job which he will hold until 2021, when he can apply to the Lord Lyon to become chief.

He was raised on the family farm of Calrossie near Tain, famous in agricultural circles for its sheep and shorthorn cattle, which is where he still lives and works.

Iain's grandfather, Donald MacGillivray, won the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal for piping at the Northern Meeting in 1948. He was a prolific prize-winner during the 1940s and 1950s, particularly in piobaireachd. His son, Duncan, Iain's father, emulated his father's competitive success by winning the Northern Meeting Gold Medal in 1997. Duncan, who is Piper to the Clan, was a member of the renowned Battlefield Band and one of the first pipers to put bagpipes into traditional Scottish music. With that background, it is hardly surprising Iain's standard of playing is high.

Gaelic, too, is important to Iain. He immersed himself in it through Gaelic-medium education in Craighill Primary School and Tain Royal Academy. He continued to study it and Scottish music at Lews Castle College, Benbecula, and Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye, where he developed a passion for the language and its revival. He studied in the United States at the College of St Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, graduating with a BA in International Studies, Business Management and Spanish.

Not since before 1609, when heads of clans were forced by the government to send their sons to be educated in English-speaking Protestant schools outside the Highlands, can a candidate for chief be as well prepared as Iain MacGillivray to represent the heritage and culture of his clansfolk on the world stage.

my side helped tick a few boxes in my favour.' Over the past year and a half, he has been on a mission to do all he can to promote Clan MacGillivray, which has more than 500 association members. He has attended clan gatherings in Melbourne, the Netherlands, Thunder Bay in Ontario and Ohio, with a visit to Nova Scotia planned in October. On top of all that, he is playing a part in the organisation of the clan gathering to take place next year in Inverness, where it is hoped those attending will be able to pay a visit to the family farm.

There is no job description for a clan commander other than he or she should live fairly locally to the clan lands so that they can be on hand if there are members of the clan visiting the area and need information on what is of interest locally. A commander has to be well-versed in the clan's history, knowledgeable of the places and buildings associated with it, and have the time, energy and enthusiasm

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Our archives this week turn up with a summer scene but with little information other than the two girls are named Morag Steele and Lorna Wylie. As usual, if anyone has more details, please email them to editor@obantimes.co.uk



Gordon Square and pier, Fort William. Photograph courtesy of the Roamer Archive.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBSelfless volunteers
deserve thanks
from all of us

It has been a week or so to remember in the Oban, Argyll and the Isles area.

All across the region people have been coming together to celebrate what makes the area so special, with a host of events including agricultural shows, Highland games and music festival.

Visitors among us have been given a real treat, but these many events are memorable for the sense of community they generate.

In this week's bumper 80-page Oban Times, we cover all the events, including the 150th anniversary Taynuilt games, the Inveraray and Mull gatherings, and the Tiree and Lismore agricultural shows.

It goes without saying that none of these fantastic events would take place without the enormous efforts from the many volunteers who give of their time to selflessly. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment.

Marathon cycle effort is
deserved cause of pride

It took a marathon effort on the part of Josh Wood to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End to raise money for the Brain Tumour Charity.

However, it was worth the Islay student's exhaustion as he has now generated more than £12,000 for the cause.

His mum and dad, Neil and Rosemary, were also part of the adventure, following along in a hired a motorhome to lend their backing in the support vehicle.

Josh is quite right to sing the praises of the many generous people who have donated to his appeal.

And his sister Katie is also quite right when she said she was 'super proud' of her brother.

The whole family, but especially Josh, deserve to be proud of themselves.

Jacob's Ladder in Oban is a
mess and blighted by litter

As a regular descender and ascender of Jacob's Ladder in Oban, I find myself also a regular letter writer on the subject of litter and damage. It is hard to be positive when I walk down the steps and see more broken glass, more bottles and cans, and other rubbish thrown over the fence and more young drinkers blocking the route and causing dismay to passers-by.

It has been suggested that this mess is caused by tourists, but I find this hard to believe.

So I was not too delighted last week to find that a considerable amount of garden rubbish has now joined the tree prunings and unwanted clothing just beyond the fence in front of the top seat. I can be fairly certain that tourists are not involved in this activity.

I feel sorry for the hardy visitors who have toiled up the steps en route to McCaig's Tower as this will not improve their view over the town. Instead of hauling grass cuttings and prunings along the road and down the steps and then throwing them over the fence, it might be easier and better for the gardener to start a compost heap – now that really is something positive.

On another positive note, I'm pleased to see that several residents take time to clean up the steps and many other places in Oban – not a pleasant job at any time.

Of course, it shouldn't have to be this way. We must find a way of encouraging residents to be more proud of their town. I wrote to the relevant department at Argyll and Bute Council last April pointing out the problems on Jacob's Ladder and making some suggestions and am really disappointed to have received no acknowledgement of or reply to my letter.

I suspect that there is probably little point in continuing to write on this subject, but I live in hope that something might come of it, that somebody might come up with an idea that will help to Keep Oban Beautiful.

I see from Facebook that The Scotsman has published a list of the 10 most desirable Scottish seaside towns to live in. Sadly, Oban is not one of them.

Maurice Wilkins, Keep Oban Beautiful.

Pennyfuir cemetery is very
overgrown and untidy

With reference to Stephen Jones's letter (The

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

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.

Oban Times, July 4), I would disagree with his opinion that Pennyfuir is one of the best kept cemeteries in the West Highlands for if this is the case I dread to think what the other cemeteries look like.

A cemetery that was once the pride and joy of Oban is now very overgrown with long grass and weeds, and flower beds that used to be in full bloom most of the year are now non-existent.

This is a very sad state of affairs for a once pristine cemetery. Indeed, I spent this morning weeding and tidying up around my in-laws' and parents' grave.

Caroline Macinnes, by email.

Fines should be imposed for
escapes from fish farms

Following the latest escape of 33,000 rainbow

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This week's photograph was sent in by Paul Caldwell, who said: 'We were sailing to Oban when we spotted a series of funnel clouds looking very much like tornadoes over Mull.'

totally ineffective recovery plans to mitigate the escapes.

In this escape, Dawnfresh has not expressed regret, let alone offered an apology for this ecological vandalism. It just repeats the usual lame excuses and offers to do better in the future. This is no longer acceptable.

If Dawnfresh insists on continuing with open net cages on Loch Etive then we believe it is time that fines are introduced for every escape. A fine of £10 for each escaped fish, with the money being donated to the local community, would focus minds and tighten procedures.

Keith Macmillan,
For the Trustees of Friends of Loch Etive.

Fort William needs sports ground developed

It is noteworthy that Fort William Shinty Club had the finance and co-operation to develop and swallowed up the old football pitch by Lidl.

I don't know how the club plan to use that land, but at the same time the poor sports relation, Fort William FC, which shares their ground with other Lochaber sports organisations, still has a dilapidated enclosure full of weeds and now trees growing in it.

This town has had to develop at such a rate in recent years to accommodate the tourism and outdoor activities such as bicycle, motorbike and running events that the marketing of Fort William as the Outdoor Capital of the UK attracts, it makes the Fort William FC enclosure looks really out of place in its dilapidated state.

Surely some big property developer in the region benefiting from cheap land sales could put something back into the community by cooperating with the football club and find the means to renovate that community asset to let it be used by local football fans and athletic groups.

Why doesn't the college use the enclosure as a practical assignment for students studying construction at UHI?

I think it is about time the rhetoric used by many that Lochaber is a shinty area was challenged for the greater good of all sports developments in Lochaber.

I am a Kilmallie shinty club supporter when not involved with Fort William FC. I have no axe to grind against any particular sport in the region. Many people do and as was pointed out to me once, it wasn't the local shinty players who caused the problem.

Danny Aitken, by email.

trout from the Dawnfresh farms on Loch Etive and the environmental damage it will do, it is now time that the fish farms were brought on shore. This is now a viable financial option.

Can you imagine the furore if 33,000 non-native animals escaped from an intensive land-based farm and devastated the local wildlife? It would be a national outrage. Fish escapes often go unnoticed and unreported by the farm operators, who then rely on

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Tha e na iongnadh leam nach eil dad a chuimhne agam càite an robh mi na dè bha mi dèanamh caogad bliadhna air ais bho Dhisathairne seo chaidh, nuair a ghabh mac an duine a' chiad cheum air aghaidh na gealaich. Ach abair tachartas eachdraidheil, agus gun teagamh sam bith bha e gu tur iomchaidh gun robhas a' comharrachadh na caogad ceann-bliadhna air an deireadh seachdain a chaidh. Bidh mi tric a' cuimhneachadh air sgeul a dh'innis mo charaid Dòmhnall Eàirdsidh Dòmhnallach nach maireann dhomh mun latha sin. Bha e fhèin 's a bhean air saor-làithean an Uibhist agus às aonais telebhisean san taigh san robh iad a' fuireach, chaidh iad gu taigh nàbaidh gus na seallaidhean iongantach fhaicinn. Shuidh Dòmhnall Eàirdsidh air gàirdean na cathrach anns an robh seanmhair an teaghlaich ri taobh an teine. Nuair a labhair Armstrong na faclan ainmeil mun cheum mhòr dhan chinne-daonna thionndaidh Dòmhnall chun tè a bha còrr air naochad agus thuirt e rithe gur iongantach na bha i air fhaicinn na beatha. "Na can rium," fhreagair a' chailleach, " gum bheil

feair a fhuair foghlam mar thusa a' creidsinn na tha thu a' faicinn air a' bhogsa sin!" Thuirt Dòmhnall gun do thòisich e air beachdachadh air a' chomas a bh' aig teicneòlas air an car a thoirt às a' mhòr-shluagh.

Caogad bliadhna air adhart tha comas an teicneòlais sin aig ìre a bhiodh do-chreidsinneach an uairsin, agus dearbhadh e nach b' e breug a bh' anns na chunnacas air an latha ud ann an 1969. Thug uallaichean eile aire air falbh bho shiubhal fànais thar nam bliadhnaichean ach chan iongnadh sam bith gum bheil an ceann-bliadhna sònraichte seo air miann a dhùsgadh chun an ath cheum. 'S e sin, a rèir choltais, ionad a thogail air a' ghealaich agus an uair a bhios sin stèidhichte gun tèid annas air turus bhon ghealaich gu ruige Mars! Tha eòlaichean a' fàidheadaireachd gun tachair ionad na gealaich taobh a-staigh deich bliadhna agus gum faodadh turas Mhars leantainn ann an ùine nach biodh fada bho sin.

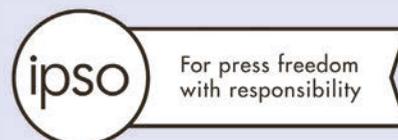
Ann an dà mhìle seasgaid 's a naodh nuair a bhios an saoghal a' comharrachadh ceud bliadhna bho sheas daoine air a' ghealaich airson a' chiad turas, saoil

dè na h-atharraichean eile bhios air tachairt. Mar eisimpleir dè an ìre neart a bhios aig a' Ghàidhlig, neo am bi i idir ann mar chànan coimhearsnachd? Bidh òigridh an latha an-diugh a' beachdachadh air an dileab a tha iadsan gu bhith fàgail aig an ath ghinealach, agus theagamh a' smaoinachadh air na dh'fhàg sinne acasan. Nach bu mhath gum biodh iad moiteil à dualchas thuca, agus bhuapa!

What sort of world will exist when the centenary of man's first walk on the moon will be marked in 2069? Assuming world leaders have managed to avoid war, today's youth might be contemplating the cultural legacy they inherited from us and what they will bequeath to the next generation. Let's hope we will have earned their admiration!

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

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



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DISTRICT NEWS

ARDNAMURCHAN

West Ardnamurchan Regatta will be held on Friday July 26 starting at 9.30am until about 4pm.

Held at the jetty, Kilchoan, opposite Kilchoan Shop, the event offers family fun for all ages, on and off the water.

Rowing, canoeing, raft race, sailing and power boat races are just a few of the aquatic attractions.

Everyone is welcome to go along and take part in any of the events or just to spectate, meet old friends and make some new ones, or wander around the stalls in the marquee.

The first sailing races are held on Thursday July 25, with rowing/canoeing/power boat race and family raft race on the Friday.

Registration for regatta events can be made on the day.

A barbecue will also be in operation all day on Friday, as well as a licensed bar. There will be a raffle after the prize-giving – with the star prize a luxury hamper, plus many more, so look out for tickets being sold in the area.

The event will be rounded off with a ceilidh dance in the Kilchoan Community Centre. It starts early and is family friendly. All welcome, tickets at the door.

ULVA

As part of Community Land Week, Ulva School Community Association and Mull and Iona Community Trust are inviting everyone to help them celebrate community ownership of land at Oskamull, Ulva Ferry, for affordable housing on Friday August 16.

There will be a celebration event at Oskamull plot, Ulva Ferry, at 5pm before a family ceilidh, featuring local musicians, barbecue and raffle at Ulva Primary School at 6.30pm.

Entry is by donation and organisers ask anyone who wants to go along to take a plate of food to share or something for the barbecue, dancing feet and their own drinks.

Ulva Ferry Community Transport is available, please call 07775 531301 or email info@ufcb.org.uk



Inner Wheel ladies give boost to hospice

Members of the Oban Inner Wheel recently handed over a cheque for £800 to the Friends of Oban Hospice, during a visit to the Oban Hospice Dove Centre. Pictured, along with members of the Inner Wheel and the Friends of Oban Hospice are Liz Mudie, president of Oban Inner Wheel, and Karen Campbell, treasure of the Friends of Oban Hospice. All donations to and money

raised by the Friends of Oban Hospice stay locally supporting the running of the Dove Centre and community services. The Dove Centre is also looking to refresh its magazine stocks. Anyone who has finished reading a magazine and was thinking of putting it out in the recycling can drop them off at the Stevenson Street centre Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

KILCREGGAN

Council chiefs have given the go-ahead for a new house to be built in Kilcreggan, despite three objections.

Plans for the property in the garden ground at Fionn Dun, on Argyll Road, were rubber-stamped by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department on Tuesday July 16.

Concerns were raised by neighbouring residents about the plans by Jeffrey Eaglestone, including drainage issues and impact on the

landscape. But Mr Eaglestone's proposals, drawn up by MH Planning Associates and described as a two-storey dwellinghouse with associated parking provision, were given planning permission.

MH Planning Associates said in their supporting statement: 'The proposed access arrangement would be similar to that of the existing dwellinghouse, allowing an approximate seven metres length of access that would allow vehicles to enter the site, manoeuvre and park, and

also exit the site in a forward gear. The site is located within an identified Key Rural Settlement, which encourages small-scale sustainable forms of development.'

'As the proposal is for a single detached dwelling, this would be considered as small-scale and as such would meet policy requirements.'

Meanwhile, Stephen Dawes submitted an objection on behalf of both the residents of nearby properties Aomach Gorm on Argyll Road, and Craiggarran on Shore

Road. He said: 'The submission of a planning in principle application is quite inappropriate and does not provide a sufficient level of detail for the proposed new dwelling.'

BARRA

As a result of the continuing support of the Western Isles Lottery from residents in Barra and Vatersay, volunteers from Northbay Gardens were delighted to receive a cheque for £1,000 to help them continue their work.

Gàradh a' Bhàgh a' Tuath is a horticultural-based project offering a range of facilities to the community of the beautiful Island of Barra and its neighbouring Islands.

Volunteers grow and sell local produce while helping people with additional support needs and reducing the carbon footprint of the area. They love working on projects that improve the environment and health of the area through a range of activities including community gardening and conservation.

Angie Foster, a trustee of the charity said: 'The award was for planting areas in Barra with seasonal colour at the school, churches and community halls. We also provide floral displays for events such as the recent fishermen's mass. These expenses would normally have to be covered at a cost to the charity, so the funding from the Western Isles Lottery was very gratefully received.'

The proceeds from every lottery ticket purchased by residents of Barra are returned to their own area – and the pot soon mounts up. Any voluntary group in the area is welcomed to apply for funding and folk can join the lottery at www.westernisleslottery.co.uk



Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery gave cash to Northbay Gardens.

Krisp Cards

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Brilliant Bob

Wasn't it a thrill to watch Bob MacIntyre playing at The Open Championship last week?

There was such a buzz of excitement in our office on Thursday morning when news filtered through that the Oban player was leading the competition at four-under-par after four holes. It wasn't to stay that way, of course, but it has been an outstanding rookie year for the Glencruitten player.

Even the non-sporting members of our staff – let alone non-golfers – were making the talented left-hander the talk of the steamie.

I know that many of Bob's admirers from Oban were at North Berwick to follow him as he played with Rory McIlroy and Rickie Fowler in this year's Scottish Open. I wish I could have been among them.

One of the world's very top players, Tommy Fleetwood, has said Bob is better than he was at the same age – high praise indeed.

Seeing young Bob striding the fairways among the world's elite is simply brilliant. I'm convinced he has a stellar future ahead of him and I look forward with keen anticipation to see just how high he can soar.

Plastic blight

We reported last week the story of a message in a plastic bottle that was discovered on a beach in North Uist after having been thrown into the sea from the coast of the United States 22 years ago.

Back in 1997, of course, people were unconcerned about the impact of plastics in our oceans and natural environment, so the bottle was tossed into the Atlantic in all innocence by the then 12-year-old Matt Rhoades.

While there is obviously a good deal of interest in the Bolam family from Dumfries and Galloway finding the bottle and being able to contact Matt on social media, there is also a stark warning here about the indestructibility of these bottles.

Given the attention given to littering these days in general and plastics in particular, it hardly needs me to urge you all to dispose of your rubbish with care.

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.



Mary Schmoller talking about placenames during the Eriskay placenames book launch.

Record numbers flock to annual summer school

A record number of students flocked to South Uist for a week earlier this month to advance their Gaelic music, dance and language skills.

The island community welcomed 181 attendees of the 23rd annual Ceòlas summer school from across the world, shattering the previous highest attendance registered at last year's school.

Over the past decade, the week-long event has witnessed growth of around 80 per cent, in line with the targets set within the Cnoc Soilleir business case.

Gaelic language courses, which have grown to represent the largest student segment, have more than doubled in size, with



Ceòlas summer school's welcome cèilidh was packed.

new Gaelic-medium and fluent classes experiencing high-levels of interest. According to data collected during feedback, the

total student spend provided a boost of more than £210,000 to the local economy, which is increased further through the spend of additional family and friends who also journeyed to Uist for the week.

Ceòlas would like to thank all those who made the school possible, from the voluntary board and committee, the canteen staff, those who donated raffle prizes, to those who hosted house cèilidhs and helped with the running of the week.

Ceòlas would also like to thank its funders, including Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Creative Scotland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

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OUTDOORS

Mull and Bute events get tourism funding boost

Two events in Argyll and the Isles have been given a boost after receiving a share of £147,576 funding from EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate.

The Scottish National Sheepdog Trials and Country Fair, taking place on Bute, and the Mull Rally have received the funding from EventScotland's National Programme Fund.

Mull Rally will be celebrating its 50th anniversary from October 11-13 as drivers from around the UK descend on the island to tame the challenge of the 150 competitive miles on the dramatic roads. An award of £12,000 has been made by EventScotland for event promotion and the creation of a spectator hub and an internet radio service.

Iain Campbell, director of the Mull Rally, said: 'The continued support from EventScotland means two things to this October's Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally. It allows us to restart the event at a high level after a two-year sabbatical and it enables the event to celebrate its 50th anniversary in fine style. It is fitting that it is returning to the island where it all started and EventScotland's support is invaluable to us and the island.'



The Mull Rally routes for this year.

Study into impact of plastics on birds

A ground-breaking website has been launched to gather information about the interaction between birds and debris such as plastics.

Members of the public are being asked to upload details and photographs of birds which have become entangled in debris or which have incorporated it into their nests to www.birdsanddebris.com

Researchers will use the information to provide insights into the scale of the problem, specifically the species of birds which are most at risk from debris and the areas of our planet which are most affected by the issue.

The website has been launched by researchers from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Dr Neil James, a research fellow based at the Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI, is leading the project.

He said: 'While there is a lot of anecdotal evidence about the impact debris such as plastics have on birds, there have been very few studies on entanglement and nest incorporation.'

'We hope that enlisting the help of the public through citizen science will help us to build up a picture about the scale and geographical spread of this issue. We can then use this information to inform policy and future monitoring initiatives.'

'People from around the globe are encouraged to help us collect information. While users can upload photos of nests to the site, they are asked not to disturb any birds and to take images of nests from a suitable vantage point. Users are also reminded that injured birds can be reported to a local vet, animal welfare charity or independent rescue centre.'

An estimated eight million metric tonnes of plastics enters our oceans every year with more than five trillion pieces currently floating at sea. Marine debris, much of it plastics, has affected 36 per cent of all seabird species through entanglement – either at sea or at the nest.

The problem is not confined to our seas, with



These European shags have incorporated human debris into their nest. Below, campaigners in Oban have been trying to reduce use of plastics.



concern also being raised over freshwater and land birds, with 118 species reported to have become entangled in plastics or incorporated it into their nest.

The birds and debris website was designed and developed by Connect, a Liverpool-based digital agency, and has been created as part of the EU project, Blue Circular Economy. Funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, the project aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises to develop goods and services which help to recycle marine waste such as fishing gear.

Dr Alex Bond, senior curator in charge of birds at The Natural History Museum, added: 'With the production of plastics increasing exponentially and an ever-increasing societal awareness of its problems, our ability to pull together information on how it affects wildlife has never been more urgent or more possible.'

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This week's walks



Feis Rois. Photograph: Christian Gamauf

Ceilidhs to come to nature reserves

Scotland's National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are special places to visit at any time of the year. However, this summer there is an extra attraction.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is excited to partner with Fèis Rois to provide live music performances among the incredible sights and sounds of our natural world.

Over the coming weeks, the Fèis' Ceilidh Trail will visit seven NNRs to help support the ongoing work of connecting people and nature across Scotland.

These public events are part of a broad range of activities to encourage more visitors to the reserves and, in turn, explore what we can all do to give nature a helping hand.

Head of nature reserves Stuart MacQuarrie said: 'We're hugely

looking forward to welcoming visitors to our NNRs for a celebration of nature and fantastic music.

'We all benefit from nature in many ways – and we all have a role to play in creating a nature-rich future in Scotland. It's not just about conservation – enhancing our nature is also part of the solution to the climate emergency.

'Increasingly, young people are inspirational drivers in the call to tackle the loss of our natural habitats and species. It is great that outstanding young musicians will be using their skills and talents to encourage more people to get involved in helping nature flourish.'

Fiona Dalgetty, chief executive of Fèis Rois, said: 'We are delighted to continue our partnership with SNH for a sixth year.

'There is a strong connection with the Gaelic language, our traditional music and the Scottish landscapes. A number of the melodies our musicians play and the songs they sing reference the natural world.

'The Ceilidh Trail is an innovative cultural tourism project that enables visitors to hear high quality traditional music in unique locations across Scotland.'

The Ceilidh Trail's NNR performances kicked off with a visit to Beinn Eighe on Tuesday July 23, before appearances at St Abb's, Falls of Clyde, Knockan Crag, Forsinard, Cairnsmore of Fleet and Loch Fleet NNRs. These performances are free of charge and open to all. Dates and times can be found of Fèis Rois' website.

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.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday July 28, Ciaran path from Kinlochleven to Blackwater Dam, Kinlochleven.

This walk passes through the old prisoner of war camp and over the inclined plane which was used to get materials up to the pipeline from Loch Eilde Mor to the Blackwater Reservoir

Start at the Ice Factor NN 188619. Take the road east alongside the River Leven and cross the 'black' footbridge. Pass new Hydro Powerhouse walk up track the turn right on to the Ciaran path at NN194619. Follow this SE up the valley of the River Leven until the dam is reached. To return, follow the course of the conduit, which sweeps around Coire na Duibhe to avoid losing height. At NN210613 take a path, marked by a cairn, which leads off to the left and zig zags down to join the Ciaran path.

Turn right and return to Kinlochleven. Grade: M. Distance: 16km. Height to climb: 310m. Maps LR41, EX384. Meet at: Glencoe village CP, NN098587 at 09.30. Start of walk: 10.00.

Thursday August 1: Craignish, near Oban.

A pleasant circular walk mainly on tracks through Lunga Estate on the Craignish Peninsula with views of Lochs Melfort & Craignish and numerous islands, including Scarba and Jura.

Start at CP at Craobh Haven Marina [NR797077] and take road south to Lunga House turning right at stables, then pick up track to west of house leading SW. After track ends at Gemmill continue SW for 2km to Barrackan [NR781037] and then take track west to B8002. Go NW to Ardfervn village turning left at old school following track to Lunga House as far as junction at NR802057, then take right fork through forest to Barrichbeyan and then on to minor road leading to Craobh Haven, returning along road to start.

Grade: L. Distance: 13km. Height to climb: 250m. Map(s): LR55, EX359. Meet at: Longsdale CP, Oban at 8.15am, Ballachulish TIC [NN083584] 08.00. Time at start of walk: 10am

Leader: Graham Innes Tel 01631 562290, 07767 714503.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevis-hillwalking.club. If anyone would like

to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club.
Saturday 27, Beinn Bhan and Sgurr a' Chaorachain, Loch Kishorn.

This approach to Beinn Bhan gives the best views of its famous E-facing sandstone corries, of which Coire na Poite is the most impressive. The traverse to the second Corbett gives more views of splendid corries and ridges, and distant views of Skye and Torridon. Well worth the journey for a day-trip or the logistics of an overnight stay.

Start from the foot of the Applecross Road by the bridge over the River Kishorn estuary, NG834423, where limited parking is available. Head N on the footpath for 2.5km to the Allt Coire na Poite at NG832446. Follow the burn W uphill, passing S of Lochan Coire na Poite, and climb up into the upper corrie. Turn N and climb rocky ground to the col on the spur of A' Phoit. Head E at first for the small summit, 674m, at its E end for the views. Then turn back W and climb the ridge to the summit plateau of Beinn Bhan. Head S along the corrie rim to the trig point, 896m.*

*If content with one Corbett, continue SE along the rims of Coire na Poite, Coire na Feola and Coire Each. Beyond a small summit at 763m, follow the ridge down steeply to reach the Applecross road 1.5km up from the start.

**To reach the second Corbett from the summit of Beinn Bhan, head WSW down to the col at Bealach nan Arr, curving S along the rim of Coire nan An, continuing S up to the summit with a communications mast, 776m. Continue S, curving E around the rim of Coire a' Chaorachain. A rocky ridge leads to an impressive spur overlooking Loch Kishorn, the summit of which is the Corbett, Sgurr a' Chaorachain, 792m. Descend with care SE down to the Applecross road at NG810402. Opposite a footpath leads down to the salmon farm at Russel. Cross the burn on the bridge and head NE on the track, joining the public road back to the start.

***If the direct descent seems daunting, from the summit of Sgurr a' Chaorachain, retrace steps back W and make for the viewpoint CP at the summit of the Bealach na Ba. Transport required, 8km from start.

*12km, 966m ascent

**17km, 1246m ascent

***15km, 1289m ascent

Suggested and coordinated by Andrew Gilbert



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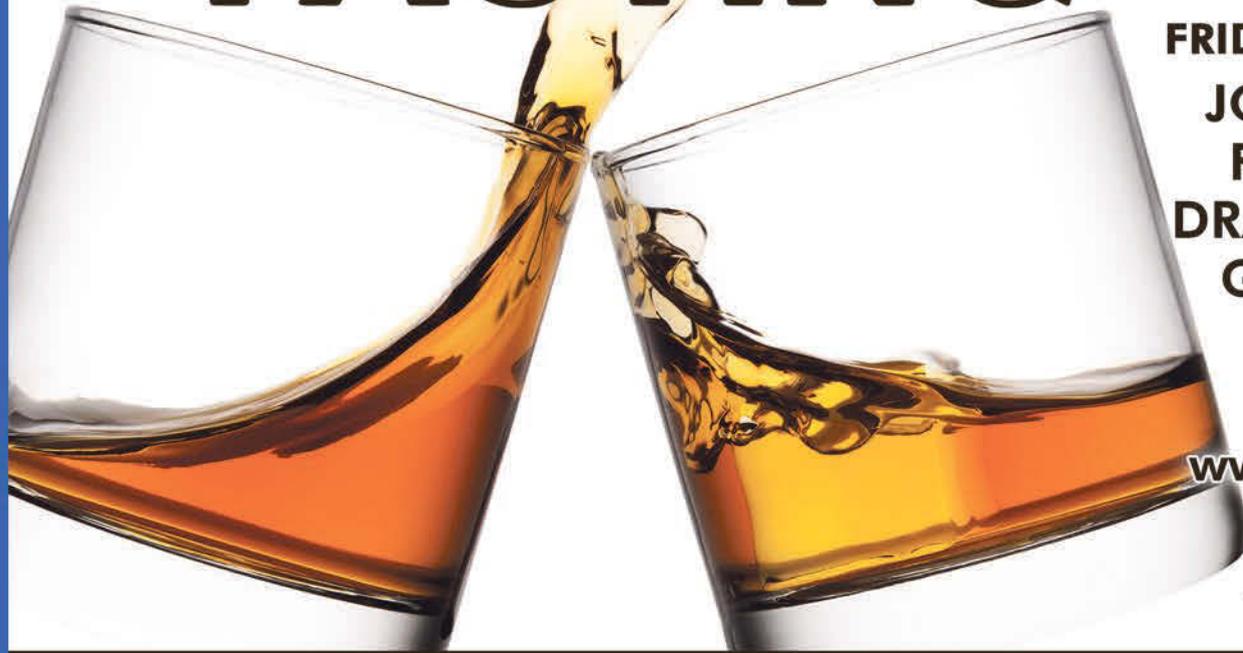
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DIY/REPAIRS

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DOING

There are so many old sayings and proverbs about sunshine; about making hay and fixing the roof – whether you are doing it yourself or bringing in trades people or specialists.

Perhaps the best one for the West Highlands is: do it while it's dry; and for the islands: do it while the ferry is on summer timetable. That way islanders have more delivery windows and crossings for tradesmen and women and more sailings to go to Oban or further afield.

Or perhaps another way of saying it is: do you really want to be doing this in the middle of winter, in a rainstorm?

So get cracking and get it done, whether it is a big job like painting exteriors, repairing or renewing the roof, having a new drive, patio or decking laid or something even bigger like an extension.

Some of the jobs only need you to dial the phone and book a boiler service, chimney sweep, log store delivery and oil tank filling (taking full advantage of summer offers).

PLANNING

Summer is a good time to take a look around at your garden at its finest and decide what you want to change.

Take plenty of photographs around the garden from different angles and set to work drawing your new ideas. It could be as simple as replacing some tired shrubs; it could be a new driveway and decking.

It is a good time for imagining how an extension might sit on your home and be used in summer or the addition of some of the latest styles

of glass doors and decking to your home. Get planning now for a quick autumn job or be thinking ahead to next year.

Also, fill any gaps in borders and add some late summer pops of colour with additional bedding plants from the garden centre.

PRICING

The crazy thing about sales is that during the heat of August the shops will start to fill with autumn colours and clothes and summer stock will be on sale.

So there is still time to grab some incredible summer bargains and get use out of them for the rest of the season as shops hold sales to make way for the new stock. Look out for garden equipment, furniture and barbecues.

Also, even if you are not building or doing major alterations yet, it can be good to start researching pricing to help your budget for a future project.

How to feel smug in summer

Sit on your sun lounger, sipping a glass of something pleasantly alcoholic knowing that you have got all those small 'grot jobs' that need to be done out of the way. They are tedious and fiddly but take no time to do once you have rolled your sleeves up:

- Gutters cleared
- Paving checked for small cracks so winter frosts won't enlarge them
- Garage and exterior door hinges cleaned and oiled
- Insulation checked and topped up.

A wee house on a wee boat



Have you ever bought a house a boat ticket? The Wee House Company on its way to Lismore with one of the lorries carrying sections of the two-bedroom bespoke house designed and built for clients Karen and Tony Currie. The house sections, completed internally and externally, and roof arrive and the house is completed on site.



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WATER WORKS

Water plays a major role in our homes – far more than most people appreciate.

Whether you have a magnificent water feature in the garden, a private water supply or drainage, or you want to add a statement bathroom, water is an important part of your home.

First of all you want to keep it out (see our section on DIY and repairs) and then you want to make sure it is piped in and away properly and, finally, you want to have fun with it!



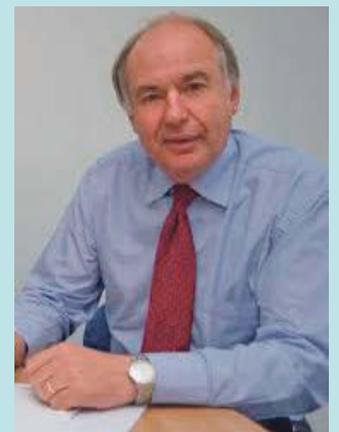
A water feature in a garden does not have to be big to have an impact; there is something magical about running water, whatever the size.



Callum Simpson, Martin Boyle and John Kilpatrick of MBC – Martin Boyle Contracting at this year's Home Building and Renovating Show at Glasgow; the company specialises in drainage and sewage systems, septic tank emptying, cleaning and installation.

Do you know about recent changes to private water supply regulations?

Check out Dr Bob McIntosh CBE on the Scottish Land Commission blog; he is the tenant farming commissioner: "The new regulations apply only to the old "Type A supplies", which are now referred to as "Regulated Supplies" and do not impact on exempt supplies, known as "Type B supplies" in earlier legislation. However, if the water is supplied to any premise used for a commercial or public activity, such as holiday lets, the exemption does not apply."



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between an excellent installation and an unsafe, poorly functioning one. With more than 40 years of hands-on experience serving customers across Argyll, Lochaber and the Islands, Backwoodsman has all the expertise required to ensure you end up with the best results.

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PART 2

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ARGYLL

IN BUSINESS

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The Oban Times

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

The second of our four-part series looking at how Argyll and the West Highlands work today – and an appreciation of the hard work that the community does that also benefits the business life of the area



In our first edition we looked at the uncertainty over Brexit and the political climate and said how we needed to look to, and be reassured by, the strength of our business community across Argyll and the West Highlands.

This article is being written just as the new prime minister was announced and we don't know how long their government will last. As for Brexit? A crystal ball is a good a predictive tool as any.

That is why the tourism industry with its wide range of jobs and skill levels is so vital. It plays, and will continue to, a vital role in our economy.

The Argyll and Bute Council economic strategy 2019-2023 reports that tourism now provides 25 per cent of all private sector jobs in Argyll with visitor numbers increasing by a third since 2008.

This adds up to a value of £479.6 million to the local economy the latest figures show.

It also shows that working together we create a massive and valuable Argyll and West Highlands brand. From the largest luxury hotel to an ice cream or cup of coffee, it all adds up to a bottom line figure that any single, large business would be proud of.

The one thing that is harder to calculate is how much the community does, unpaid and voluntary, to help boost this figure; and if this was added in to the equation the value would be even higher.

Every Highland games, agricultural show, Mod or feis or festival committee member all help contribute to the visitor experience in Argyll and the value of every pipe band performance during the summer. It all adds to the overall

We believe these reports show what defines us right now in 2019 and we can be proud of these achievements. This is not a chart, there is no 'number one'; every single one of these businesses contributes to the whole and they are all valued parts of the economy.

'package' that is Argyll. It also reinforces the need for grants to help these voluntary organisations. These benefit the community and filter back into support for this vital part of our economy.

AGRIMONY: SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Agrimony Ltd is a local Rural Chartered Surveyor business that specialises in providing services to the farming and crofting community throughout the West Highlands. The business is well known within the area with over twenty years of operational experience, operating from their Connel office.

A core part of the business is maintaining live-stock records for clients that ensures all regulatory requirements are satisfied. Regular close contact with clients has built up a strong loyal client base that recognises the value in the services that the business offers in land and estate management. This includes giving advice and guidance to the crofting community, often involving submitting regulatory applications to the Crofting



Commission on their behalf.

The upsurge in interest in renewable energy presented the opportunity for many clients to diversify and increase revenue. Agrimony provided advice and guidance throughout

the development of many hydro schemes for clients. This includes ongoing monitoring and management of the schemes to ensure all regulatory requirements are satisfied and potential revenue is maximised.

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FARMING & AGRICULTURE

Farming forever

Never underestimate the importance of farming in Argyll; it is not only one of the biggest employers today but it has shaped our landscape and communities over the centuries.

Farming, fishing and forestry are what Argyll has always done - they are the historic skills of Argyll . . . along with fighting and hunting.

Though you could argue the most successful businesses in Argyll today are the ones that fight for business and hunt for new clients.

Around 65,000 people are directly employed in agriculture in Scotland.

The Scotland wide average is 3.2 per cent and here in Argyll 8.8 per cent of the work force is employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing making this one of the highest categories of employment.

That is not counting those other jobs servicing the farming economy via transport, feed, marts, and much more.

Best estimates suggest that for every worker employed in agriculture another three workers are employed elsewhere. These jobs are largely in agricultural supply, and in food and drink processing.

NFUS says that around 65,000 people are directly employed in agriculture in Scotland around eight per cent of the rural workforce and that means agriculture is the third largest employer in rural Scotland after the service and public sectors.

The National Farmers Union of Scotland also estimates that a further 250,000 jobs (one in 10 of all Scottish jobs) are dependent on agriculture.

- Some 75 per cent of Scotland's land mass is under agricultural production.
- Produce from Scotland's farmers, crofters and growers is worth around £2.3 billion a year.
- Between them they are responsible for much of Scotland's £400 million food exports and this rises to £2.4 billion if you count the Scottish barley that helped to make whisky exports.
- The agri-food sector is now the UK's largest manufacturing sector.

And in Argyll we have the complete spectrum across the area, from traditional estates to small crofts; high quality dairy herds with pedigrees that stretch back over half a century or more in Kintyre to the finest beef herds and sheep.

Oban hosts the annual general meeting, show and sale of the Highland Cattle Society.

Such a major industry needs high quality workers and Argyll College is making sure of that.

Courses on offer go from SCQF level 5 up to HND, at Oban and other learning centres in Argyll, in a combination of video-conference lectures and tutorials and online study and practical work sessions hosted on a farm in Campbeltown.

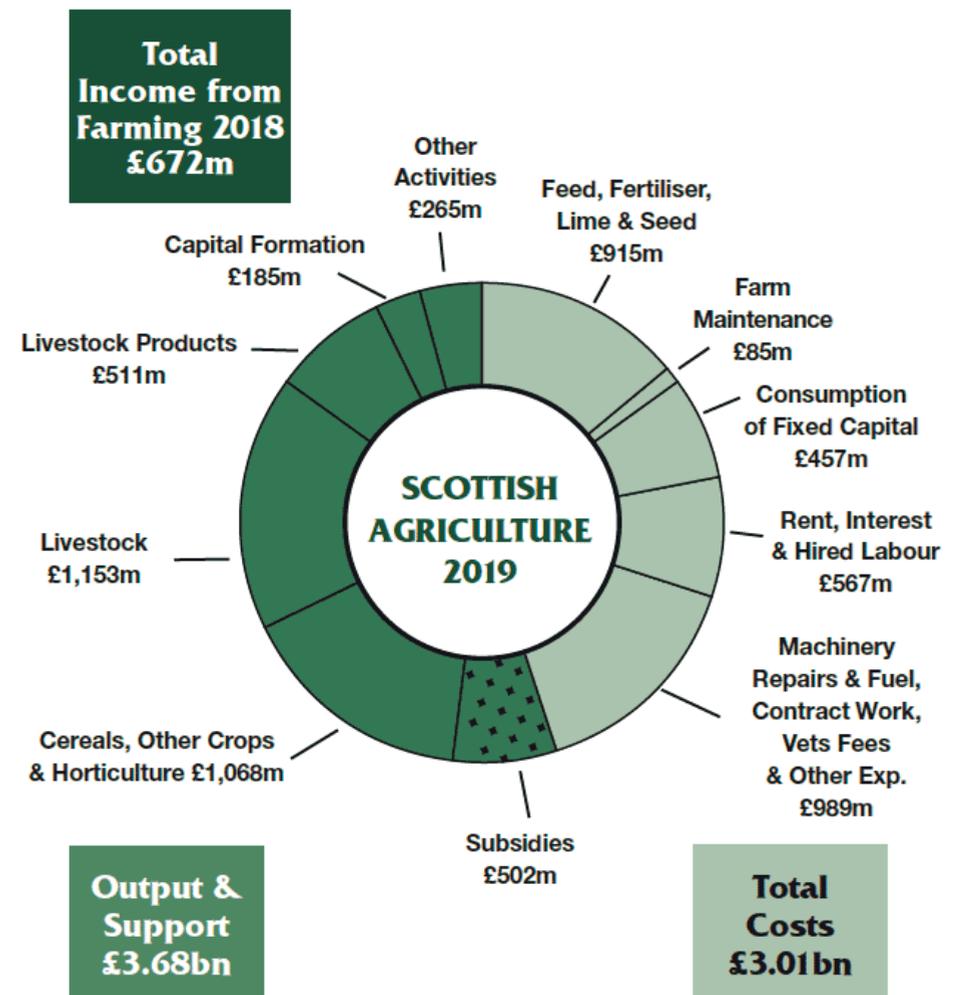
Surprisingly Argyll and Bute is currently the only part of Scotland without a the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET)

group but that is in the process of being put right. There was a meeting held earlier this year at Inveraray to expand the trust's initiatives into Argyll and Bute to bring the working countryside and its practices to life for young people.

RHET provides children with the op-

portunity to visit working farms and hear first-hand how their food is produced and how the countryside is managed.

Where farm visits aren't possible, RHET uses volunteers to visit the classroom, as well as providing a range of teaching resources.



DAVIDSONS ANIMAL FEEDS

Around 50 years ago animal feeds in Scotland were ruled by multi-nationals; then Billy Davidson set up his grain merchants and haulage business.

Today, what began as a small manually-operated production line is now one of the most modern feed manufacturers in Europe and the biggest feed manufacturer in Scotland 'because the company is supported by the most professional workforce in the industry' says the Davidson family.

From the very beginning they have been delivering to Argyll and the islands.

Davidsons go as far north as Banff, across to Inverness and right down to Fort William, Oban, Mull, Kintyre, Bute and Arran and down south as far as Durham, along the A66 and everywhere in between.

The feed trade back in the late 1960s was controlled by global brands and Billy saw an opportunity to offer a more local and personal service. That decision has helped grow this business and it is the same ethos that still powers the company today when the company is in the hands of the second generation.

Drivers have been trained in customer service, health and safety, blowing and tipping techniques, daily inspections

and necessary maintenance. Each has their own dedicated vehicle, and they take great pride in keeping the appearance of their vehicle to a high standard.

During the peak winter delivery period Davidsons calls on a bank of experienced and fully-trained drivers, who adhere to the same high standards.

The logistics are staggering: with travel up to 14,000 miles a day using 9000 litres of fuel, so planning is essential. Davidsons deliver 95 per cent of their products themselves, with the other five per cent delivered by quality assured haulage partners. Fleet maintenance is carried out on site by in-house, fully-trained mechanics.

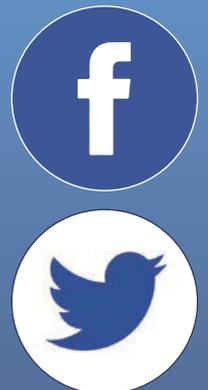
That dedicated fleet of 28 vehicles can deliver up to 1,000 tonnes per day and the company collects most of its raw materials from source.

'We are in complete control to meet customer demand,' says the company.

The same thoroughness of production and delivery goes into all aspects of the business. Sales staff study to qualify in ruminant nutrition through the Feed Advisory register and Harper Adams University. The company also recruits young agricultural graduates for its sales graduates team.



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RSABI supports people from Scottish agriculture emotionally, practically and financially in times of need. The service is available to those previously and currently involved in farming and crofting. If you are finding things a struggle contact us. Our helpline is open from 7am to 11pm 365 days of the year. We can also call you to make sure you are okay.

We can access practical support such as, but not limited to, welfare benefits, business reviews, debt signposting, counselling and mediation services. We are happy to liaise with statutory agencies when required. Our financial support can be monthly payments and/or single grants for essential items including food, heating, counselling, disability



aids, funerals, retraining and items for the home. Business costs will even be considered to help overcome a short term crisis.

One farmer who had help said "RSABI is exactly what farmers need."

Please call. We are here to help.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

Businesses that build Argyll



Some of the most impressive businesses in Argyll are powering the construction industry across Scotland and around the globe.

French trains in the south of the country are speeding over a bed of ballast from Glensanda, delivered by sea from Argyll via Bilbao.

Breedon has extended its operations in Argyll with a new asphalt plant.

But construction is not just about the 'big boys' who have operations here in Argyll, it is about the small family firms which have seized the opportunity, read the market correctly, invested wisely and grown their businesses over the past decades as demand for construction has increased here in Argyll and the West Highlands.

A perfect example is the incredible story of TSL, which you can read in this supplement – beginning as a sandpit on Mull operated by three family members and has now expanded into an incredibly diverse company, employing 150.

Or father and son team Richard and David Ayling who have expanded their surveying service by introducing the use of aerial surveys by investing in drones and specialist training for David.

Glensanda is one of the most valuable exporters in the Scottish economy and has more than 700 million tonnes in reserve.

Elsewhere around Argyll smaller quarries are prospering as housing demand grows in the Highlands and also by supplying specialist stones and finishes.

Construction is not just about the 'big boys' who have operations here in Argyll, it is about the small family firms which have seized the opportunity, read the market correctly, invested wisely and grown their businesses over the past decades

Often quarries form parts of bigger construction operations such as in the case of the two quarries owned by MacLeod Construction.

There is just one thing missing from construction in Argyll and that is slate.

This is sad considering that Argyll is home to historic workings at the Slate Islands of Easdale, Seil, Luing and Belnahua, 'the islands that roofed the world'. Further north at Ballahulish, which was also home to slate quarries, investigations were carried out about a decade ago to see if the workings could reopen.

Slates needed today can be recycled or come all the way from Spain. Will technology or market demand ever make it feasible to reopen slate workings in Argyll again?



RSABI

Supporting People in Scottish Agriculture



RSABI Helpline
0300 111 4166

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN BUSINESS WITH TSL CONTRACTORS

“Constructive thinking at our core”

Mull commercial marine facility

TSL Contractors Ltd commenced trading in 1979 as Torosay Sandpit Limited, at the time a small aggregate supplier on the Isle of Mull, consisting of three employees all members of The Knight family. Today it has transformed into a multi-disciplined construction and haulage company with around 150 employees providing integrated services throughout the West of Scotland to a diverse customer base.

A couple of years ago it became apparent to MD Andy Knight that to maintain progress and achieve additional growth, it was necessary to introduce additional construction management expertise and the search for a suitable individual was implemented. The recruitment process turned out to be a lengthy one, Andy explained; “We decided that we were not going to compromise on this appointment and needed to set out sights on attracting the best person for the job. We felt that since our dramatic expansion in 2015/16 that more structure was essential, someone with suitable experience and credibility in the wider construction industry was required”. The process culminated in the appointment of Iain Lumsden who joined the company as Managing Director in February of this year. Iain has worked Balfour Beatty’s North of Scotland Business for nearly 25 years, latterly as Managing Director, Andy continues to work in the business fulltime as Company Principal and for the time being is concentrating on the renewable energy and civil engineering projects.

RENEWABLES

A significant part of our business over the last eight years has been the delivery of over 20 hydro schemes across West and Central Scotland for public and private sector clients. We are recognised for our expertise and for our exacting standards particularly in relation to the natural environment. Our knowledge and expertise means we often work alongside professionals to assist various project stages, including: feasibility and planning, design and cost assessment, environmental impact, project delivery, associated works such as access, roads and reinstatement. We have the experience, knowledge and resources to deal with challenging projects, and work closely with environmental agencies, ecologists and wildlife protection groups, on what can be sensitive issues.

Quote from ECoW Dr. Phillip Radcliffe in relation to hydro schemes “I am very impressed with the standard of restoration and the attention given to environmental reinstatement by TSL Contractors throughout the project. Thank you for your solid support during the ups and downs. This was very much appreciated and it has been a pleasure to work with you”.

TSL have recently commenced construction of three 2MW hydro schemes on Loch Etive on behalf of SIMEC Green Highland Renewables. This is the most significant cluster of schemes to be built recently and is the culmination of two years involvement in the project.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The design and construction of social housing has played a major part in our growth over the past ten years. We have established a strong team and accumulated a wealth of knowledge and experience both commercially and operationally from our successful delivery of a number of social housing developments which have varied in scale, complexity, geographical and logistical challenges and funding constraints.

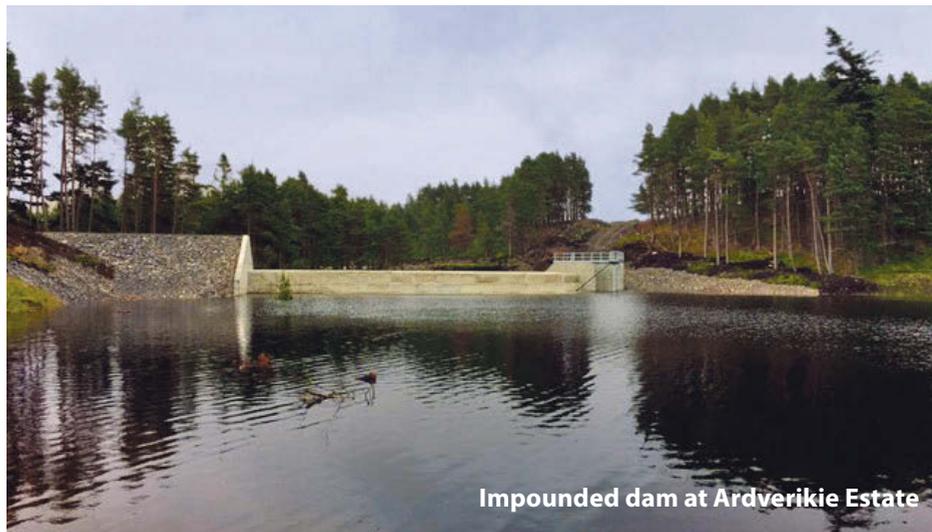
TSL have recently completed a fourteen unit social housing project at Lochdon on the Isle of Mull on behalf of West Highland Housing Association/ LINK. In addition we are nearing completion of a sixty unit development at Lochside in Fort William for Lochaber Housing Association/Highland Council and are in advanced discussion regarding other significant projects.

BESPOKE HOMES

Our construction portfolio includes architect designed bespoke homes, we work closely with clients to deliver their expectations in relation to the construction of some very special upmarket properties, these projects involve considerable attention to detail and require a very high standard of quality from both trades and management. We are currently working on one such property for a longstanding client on the Isle of Mull.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

TSL have undertaken an extremely wide range of commercial construction projects all over the West of Scotland ranging from various Industrial buildings, to facilities buildings on the North Pier, Oban and Caledonian and Crinan canals. Some of the commercial works we are currently involved in are; renovation of Rockfield Community Hub, Oban; ren-



Impounded dam at Ardverikie Estate



Lochdon Social Housing

ovation & modernisation of Iona Abbey and the construction of Tobermory Light Industrial Park.

MOBILE CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

TSL also offer various construction related services which include Mobile Concrete Solutions (MCS) a mobile concrete batching business. This entity combines the expertise of TSL and Breedon Aggregates, both experienced companies in the ready-mixed concrete market to provide a mobile concrete batching service wherever you need it – no matter how remote your project.

THE LANDSCAPING CENTRE

Having formed a relationship with The Landscaping Centre (TLC) over a significant number of years, an agreement was reached for TSL to purchase a majority shareholding with a proportion being retained by owner manager Ruairaidh Neish, who continues to run the business as normal. "The acquisition of The Landscaping Centre further enhances the services that TSL Contractors can offer, supported by the team at TSL we would expect the TLC business to expand and become a leading provider for all landscaping requirements in Argyll and Lochaber "Robert Forbes Operations Manager.

ROAD AND PORT:

During the past 30 years TSL have been active in the road haulage sector. This was initially established for the transportation of in-house construction goods, but has now developed into a national road haulage service encompassing a considerable timber haulage operation moving approximately 75,000 tonnes of timber by road and sea every year. This department/division is headed up by Neil Mackinnon who has been involved with the company for over 30 years. More recently the development of the Mull Commercial Marine Facility, at Ledaig on the sound of Mull has been a positive addition and integrates well with the existing business.

IAIN'S THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE

"This is a really exciting time for our business. We have a secured workload, pending awards and future real prospects that allow us to confidently forecast continued sustainable growth

'This is a really exciting time for our business. We have a secured workload, pending awards and future real prospects that allow us to confidently forecast continued sustainable growth across all of our operational sectors'

*Iain Lumsden
Managing Director
TSL Contractors Ltd*

across all of our operational sectors not only for 2019 and 2020 but well into 2021. Our continued year on year success is founded upon the quality of our people as it requires quality people to create and maintain the quality culture that delivers a quality service to our growing list of valued Customers. Personally I feel privileged to be part of such a hard working and dedicated team and look forward to be finally settling in this beautiful and friendly part of Scotland in August.

Over the next 12 months we shall be seeking to further develop and strengthen our team and in particular our construction team ideally from within the Argyll and Bute and Lochaber areas but also from further afield. We will be seeking skilled tradesmen and operatives, a civil engineering estimator, project managers, and graduate and experienced civil engineers, site managers and quantity surveyors. I strongly believe that we offer by far the strongest opportunities of long term employment and career development within the construction sector in the West of Scotland as well as a fantastic family feel environment to work within".

SKYHOOK HELICOPTERS

Precision flying at its best



Skyhook Helicopters Ltd was established in 2014 when TSL were constructing a Hydro project on the Isle of Mull at Benmore Estate, where it became apparent that there was a gap in the "Aerial lifting" market. Following much consideration Andy along with Steve Graham, and Jock Simpson decided to make the commitment and purchase the most modern and capable lifting aircraft based in Scotland. Skyhook currently located near Balfron, specialise in delivery of difficult loads to inaccessible and remote locations through the UK and Ireland. We are a logistics company with a difference we "Accessing the inaccessible". Our highly skilled Pilots are experienced in longline vertical reference load lifting in a wide variety of environments requiring precision placement of loads. They are supported on the ground by well trained and enthusiastic load masters. For the past 4 years since the appointment of Guy Stevens as Chief Pilot, we have carried out bracken spraying across Scotland and in the North of England. Guy is the most experienced bracken spraying pilot in the UK and we are proud that he is part of our team. We currently have two further pilots in training to maintain consistency for the business.



'Skyhook have always provided an excellent service and they will go the extra mile to make sure the work is completed to a high standard and on time, despite whatever the Yorkshire weather throws at them.'

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

The logistics of
living in Argyll



Argyll is a big place as far as the UK is concerned; one of the largest local authority areas with one of the smallest and widespread populations and the costs of delivering goods, services and people themselves can be higher here than most other places.

The same is true of getting professional and trades services out to islands or remote mainland communities; getting materials in and finished goods out or maintaining infrastructure. The helicopter is a work horse for people like BT and SSE.

Engineers working on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful landslip prevention works today will tell you the same thing as the railway engineers of Victorian days and their modern counterparts at Network Rail - that this landscape and its weather present challenges.

Given what we know now, more than 50 years later the decisions to close the Oban to Ballachulish line and the line from Crianlarich over to Callander under the infamous Beeching cuts look to be a bigger mistake than ever. The tourism revenue alone would be eye-watering and the benefits to the local communities enormous, never mind the eco benefits.

The same steam driven technology that brought the railways also brought improved sea communications - which had historically been Argyll's method of longer distance transport.

The history of Argyll's economy and the Caledonian Steam Packet

The history of Argyll's infrastructure has always included small local deliveries; from yesterday's horse-drawn wagons that met the ferries to today's vans conducting inter-island business and bring goods back and forth from Glasgow.

Highland and island surcharges added by many businesses delivering into Argyll have long been a bone of contention for small traders and producers, pushing up costs.

This is where smaller fleets and, local, one-man-and-his-van operations can identify gaps in the market and go for it; Argyll is beginning to see a number of smaller operations begin to thrive.

Company with its links to railways and MacBrayne's steamers are intertwined. The two companies finally merged in 1973 to form Caledonian MacBrayne a state-owned company. The rest is history and the latest page is being written against the backdrop of an argument over two ferries currently under construction and what happens

next when, or if, we leave the EU in terms of the tendering process and other legislation.

Whatever happens, CalMac will remain at the heart of Argyll infrastructure, a major employer and trainer with its commitment to modern apprenticeships.

And so will what's left of the Victorian railway map. Will dreams or reinstating lost lines ever come true like they did in the Borders? The bigger question to ask is will Scotland's rail network be renationalised?

Never forget the role that Argyll played in Scottish aviation. The first passenger air service in Scotland flew between Glasgow and Campbeltown

with Midland & Scottish Air Ferries when they decided to carry passengers on their newspaper service. The company also operated the first air ambulances.

Islay and Tiree passenger services soon followed and Highlands and Islands Airport Limited own all three.

The decision of Argyll and Bute Council to go into the airfield business was a big one and only time will tell if it pays off financially as it has done socially; Oban Airport and the airfields at Coll and Colonsay can only add to council portfolio of more than 30 harbours, piers and slipways; Glenforsa on Mull is owned by the council but run by Glenforsa Airfield Ltd.



TOURISM & ADVENTURE

Experience tourism in Argyll



Tourism is such a massive part of the Argyll economy that no one's life is untouched by this industry – even if it is only being stuck in Oban town centre traffic in summer.

Mother Nature gave us a head start – who wouldn't want to explore the beauty of Argyll and its incredible coastline, and yes, we all know it is longer than that of France...

She also provided the perfect conditions for excellent food from the sea, hills and fields along with peat, plenty of water and barley to make a drink that the world loves and will pay to come and see being made. It is now unthinkable for any distillery not to have a visitor centre be it making whisky or gin – or a brewery, come to think of it.

But your average tourist also wants to be entertained and enjoy some new experiences; and if it is something or somewhere they can take a selfie, so much the better.

And there is a new and expanding side to this market, that of the exclusive, personally guided tour. People like Rab Black with Argyll Safari will take parties of up to four on luxury, specially-curated tours for a day or longer.

The best things in life – and in parts of Argyll – are free – take McCaig's Tower or the top of Ben Cruachan. Others are backed by government or NGOs, like Historic Environment Scotland and the Forestry Commission, think Dunstaffnage Castle, Bonawe Furnace and any well-made and signed path through the forestry.

But our tourism industry provides more

Your average tourist also wants to be entertained and enjoy some new experiences; and if it is something or somewhere they can take a selfie, so much the better.

and along the way, creates plenty of jobs at all entry levels and the best bit is we get to enjoy all these things too.

Wet weather attractions such as Inveraray Castle, the town's jail and Argyll Adventure can cater for tourists whatever the weather.

So too can Atlantis Leisure, Mid Argyll Pool and Aqualibrium in Campbeltown and our cinemas.

Venues like Corran Halls are also on booking circuits for the entertainment industry but we are good at making our own entertainment. Any well-run pub, hotel or bar in Argyll will have music and it is safe to say the quality is always high.

That is because of all those events run by volunteers, feis, mods, music festivals, school and town pipe bands.

Has anyone ever been able to calculate the true financial benefit to the tourism industry of all this volunteer work? Yes, it is done for our own, and our children's benefit, but the add-on value of work within the community to the tourism industry is almost incalculable.



ARGYLL ADVENTURE

So much to do

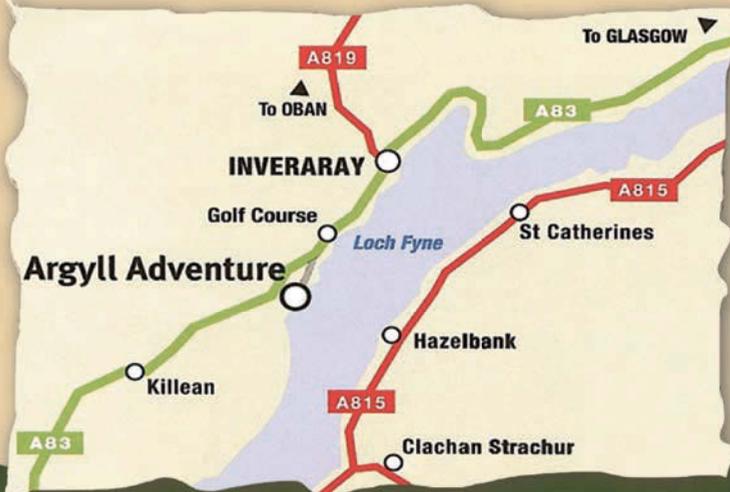


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Inveraray couple grow business with both tourist and local numbers on the increase

It has been a good year for young couple, Andy Cameron and Annika Keppie in Inveraray; they have just reached the first anniversary of becoming the new owners of Argyll Adventure.

And they want to thank the business community and customers old and new across Argyll for their support.

'Yes, we are a tourist destination but the local customer base also has grown incredibly,' said Andy.

Argyll Adventure is based at Dalchenna Farm offering trekking, pony rides, lessons, livery and Pony Club. With other activities that include Paintball, Paintball range, a crossbow range and laser tag.

The business is also what Andy jokingly calls 'Argyll proof' with the only covered riding arena in Argyll plus an indoor range for the other activities, making sure that rain does not stop the fun.

Annika came to Argyll Adventure as a child and grew up through pony club, now with over 14 years of riding experience combined with teaching

techniques gained from years learning under multiple experienced coaches, Annika holds many equine qualifications, she is a qualified senior ride leader with TRSS, recently completing national qualifications in equine care and management, and is studying towards the British Horse Societies level 4, Annika is amongst one of the highest qualified equestrians in the area.

'Argyll Adventure for many years has been highly commended by the BHS also has approvals from the TRSS and Pony Club. We are the only Pony Club-registered centre in Argyll where riders can gain their Pony Club qualifications, riding our horses if they do not have their own,' she said.

'We have doubled the pony club attendance since taking over, with young riders coming from as far afield as Arrochar, Oban and Dunoon,' she added.

'We are also becoming well-known as a birthday party destination, local families are bringing their kids here instead of Glasgow' said Andy.

The other activity side of the business is growing rapidly; it offers great action fun for holiday makers and has

become one of the favourite spots for stag and hen parties with visitors and locals alike. Paintballing takes place in the centre's own woodlands; the crossbow range is undercover and laser tag takes place indoors with lights and smoke providing the special effects.

'We have a high level of reciprocation with other businesses in the area; many people recommend us to their guests and we in turn direct parties visiting us to them for accommodation and food,' said Andy.

'I am extremely proud of Annika and our team of students who have helped continue the success of the centre, we have customers travelling 2 hour round trips every week for our services, and gaining new clients regularly due to our different approach' added Andy.

Argyll Adventure is a Visit Scotland five star activity centre, Number 1 thing to do in Inveraray according to Trip Advisor and is home to a variety of attractions. Where else could you get a Zombie kill of the week competition alongside riding through stunning Highland scenery?

With the only covered riding arena in Argyll plus an indoor range for the other activities, not even the rain can stop the fun at Argyll Adventure



ARGYLL SAFARIS

Bespoke guided tours

After an army career helping to run the service's physical fitness and adventurous training Robert Duncan Black has returned home to Argyll and launched a bespoke guided tour service.

A pupil at Appin Primary and Oban High; a former soldier with Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders with the majority of his career in the Royal Army Physical Training Corps, Rab retired from the army as a Major.

He is a keen skier and mountaineer but you can relax – you will be seeing Argyll and farther afield at a leisurely pace from a luxury Land Rover Discovery with complimentary whisky and snacks.

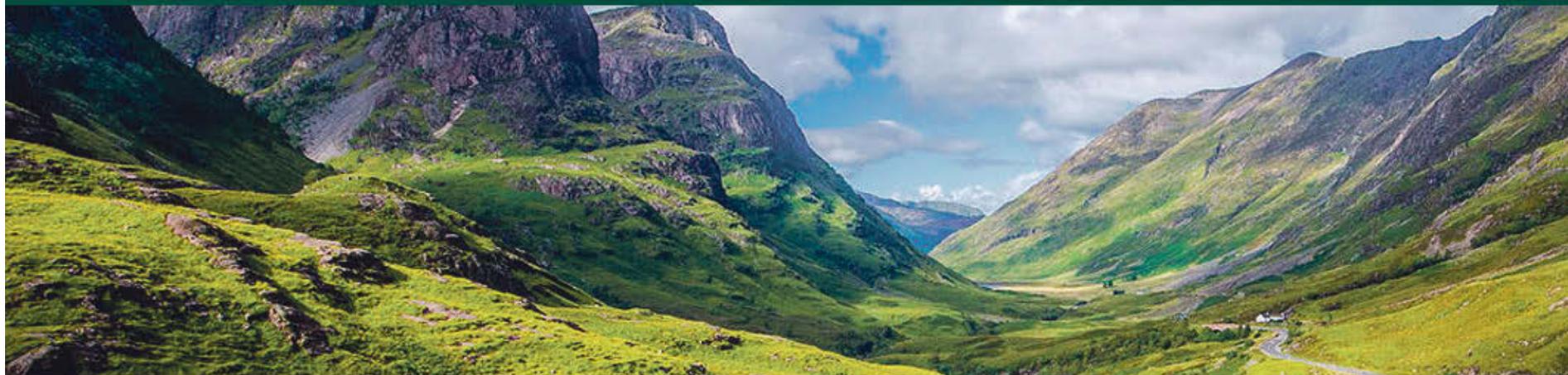
The exclusive guided tours feature a number of routes and themes around Argyll or longer breaks as far away as the Outer Hebrides and Skye; or whisky tasting on Islay and Jura. All can be planned according to client needs, taking in their clan history or special interests.

Argyll born and bred, Rab is passionate about the place he calls home and has a wealth of history and stories he loves to share and make his tours memorable.



ARGYLL SAFARIS

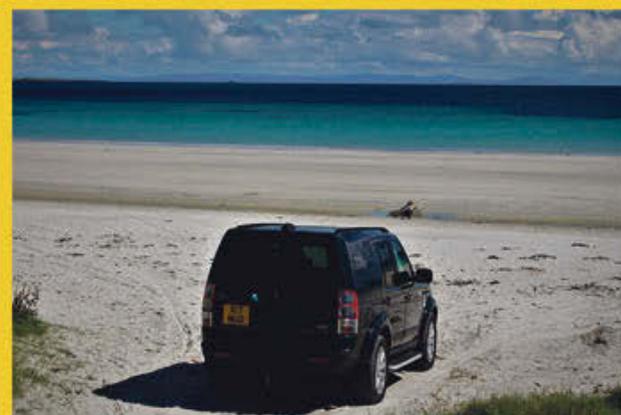
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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Argyll designers to showcase at festival

Tighnabruach textile designer Eve Campbell has been selected for the Craft Scotland Summer Show 2019.

She will be joined by Helensburgh jeweller Caitlin Hegney at the seventh annual event, which is taking place in Edinburgh next month.

The event will welcome 41 of the country's most exciting craft talent, with jewellery, contemporary ceramics, innovative furniture and vibrant textiles just some of the work on show.

Running from Friday August to Sunday August 25, the second floor of White Stuff in Edinburgh's George Street will be transformed into a haven for craft and design lovers. On show will be a huge range of precious metal and mixed media jewellery, woven cushions and rugs, quilted and printed textiles, hand-thrown ceramics, vibrant glass, forged steel vessels and wooden homeware. With more than 6,000 visitors, the show is a magnet for craft and design enthusiasts seeking out a different kind of creative talent during the Edinburgh Festival.

Eve is one of 18 new makers to have been invited to exhibit her work at the show.



Having graduated from Glasgow School of Art in Textile Design last year, she was selected for a Texselect mentorship, to select, mentor and promote the UK's most talented newly graduated textile designers, which aims to provide graduates with an opportunity for realistic development, and a vital bridge between higher education and the real, commercial world.

Eve's interest in natural environments on the brink of survival, particularly the delicate lichens and

mosses growing between the shore and the land on the West Coast of Scotland, have inspired her textiles. She responds to these hinterlands through her drawings, stencils and prints, creating large-scale prints for textiles, ceramics and concrete pieces. For Eve, print is an extension of her sketchbook and her abstract patterns are created through her spontaneous paper stencilling and colour mixing.

Visualising herself as collector of information and materials, Caitlin's

Eve Campbell is one of only 41 designers chosen for the showcase in Edinburgh.

new collection explores thoughts and observations about ancient culture in her metal and wooden jewellery. In previous work, the Helensburgh artist has been fascinated with the history of the colour blue, experimenting with dyes and the technique of crushing Lapis Lazuli to create pigment.

Caitlin also graduated from the Glasgow School of Art last year in silversmithing and jewellery and was awarded the Craft Scotland Graduate Award.

New for 2019 are a programme of young maker workshops for 12- to 16-year-olds.

On Sunday August 11, Lucy Roscoe will guide participants through traditional bookbinding skills to create three book forms, and on Saturday August 17 Kim Gunn will show participants how to create colour, patterns and textures on fabric in her Heat Transfer Printing Workshop.

Speaking ahead of this year's

Craft Scotland Summer Show, Craft Scotland director Irene Kernan said: 'At Craft Scotland we are incredibly privileged to be surrounded by beautiful craft and engage with talented makers on a daily basis. Knowing the wealth of amazing work being made in Scotland, we're excited to be able to share so much of that at this year's show. For craft and design enthusiasts the Craft Scotland Summer Show is an affordable way to begin or continue a love affair with Scottish craft. With the largest number of makers ever taking part this year, the Summer Show is the best place to see what's fresh and new in contemporary craft and the best place to discover new talent who are exploring interesting materials and themes.'

'Many of these makers start their journey with Craft Scotland's Summer Show and other shows we do and use this platform to develop great craft careers increasing their profile, securing prestigious stockists and dedicated commissions.'

'In this regard, it's particularly encouraging to see so many makers who will show their work with us for the first time.'

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M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 25 AN T-IUCHAR THURSDAY 25th JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Air an Rathad – Railidh na Trealaich (rpt)
22.00 FUNC (rpt)
22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)
23.20 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
23.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

DIHAOINE 26 AN T-IUCHAR FRIDAY 26th JULY

17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
20.00 Horo Gheallaidh (rpt)
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlán (rpt)
21.00 ÙR/NEW: TRNSMT Highlights 2019
23.00 ÙR/NEW: Black Lake S2
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 27 AN T-IUCHAR SATURDAY 27th JULY

16.00 BÈO/LIVE: Camanachd Cup Semi-Final – Newtonmore v Caberfeidh
18.00 An Là – News
18.15 Wallace & Gromit Mallachd an Fhìr-rabaidhe (rpt)
19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)

21.00 Opry an Luir (rpt)
22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)
22.45 Pìobairean Bhoirnis (rpt)
23.00 Camanachd Cup Semi-Final – Newtonmore v Caberfeidh (rpt)
**DIDÒMHNACH 28 AN T-IUCHAR
SUNDAY 28th JULY**
16.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review
19.00 ÙR/NEW: Geamannan nan Eilean 2019
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
20.00 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
20.30 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
21.00 Stèornabhadh gu Serbia – Smaladh an Teine (rpt)
22.00 Opry an Luir (rpt)
23.00 Black Lake S2 (rpt)
23.45 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
23.50 Pìobairean Bhoirnis (rpt)

DILUAIN 29 AN T-IUCHAR MONDAY 29th JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)
19.25 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 DIY le Donnie – An Dùbhlán (rpt)
21.00 Trusadh – Toradh na Mara (rpt)
22.00 Port – Dun nan Gall (rpt)
22.30 Gruth is Uachdar (rpt)
23.30 FUNC (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 30 AN T-IUCHAR TUESDAY 30th JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News

20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)
21.00 Colin Macleod – When it Kicks In (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Toradh na Mara (rpt)
23.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)
23.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DICIADAIN 31 AN T-IUCHAR WEDNESDAY 31st JULY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)
19.25 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
21.00 Bha mi Latha Samhraidh (rpt)
22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)
22.30 Port – Dun nan Gall (rpt)
22.55 Air an Rathad – Railidh na Trealaich (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 01 AN LÙNASTAL THURSDAY 01st AUGUST

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Na Dròbhairean (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.50 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Còisir Eurovision 2019
21.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Bwani Junction (rpt)
21.30 BÈO/LIVE: Belladrum 2019
23.00 FUNC (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA



The Alistair McCulloch Trio will play Benderloch on Saturday.

Dynamic trio come to Benderloch Palladium

The Alistair McCulloch Trio annual summer Scottish tour has become a firm fixture on the folk music calendar.

And on Saturday July 27, the band, which includes Taynuilt's Marc Duff, will pay a rare visit to Argyll when they perform the fifth leg of their tour at Benderloch's Victory Hall.

Featuring champion fiddler McCulloch, alongside past Scottish folk musician of the year Aaron Jones, of Old Blind Dogs and the Kate Rusby Band on bouzouki, guitar and vocals, and former Capercaillie member Duff, the trio has gained a formidable reputation for its dynamic concert performances.

Speaking to The Oban Times last week, McCulloch

said: 'We have been touring in the Highlands in the summer for nearly 20 years but have done comparatively few gigs in Argyll – in fact, this may be the first one in the Oban area.'

'We are all looking forward to the concert.'

Collectively, Alistair, Marc and Aaron have appeared on dozens of albums over the years and after many requests they have finally recorded a studio album as a trio.

From driving reels and jigs to tender airs and expressive songs, Off the Hook perfectly encapsulates the feel of their live shows.

Blending traditional, contemporary and self-penned material, the album showcases the combined talents

of three of Scotland's most respected and established traditional musicians.

The Alistair McCulloch Trio will perform at the Benderloch Palladium on Saturday July 27 at 8pm.

Event organiser Campbell Cameron said: 'We are looking forward to this real blend of Scottish musicians.'

'Marc and Aaron we know from previous visits to the Victory Hall with the Iain Thomson band and Old Blind Dogs respectively, so we are looking forward to meeting Alistair and hearing the trio in action on the 27th.'

Door and bar open 7.30pm, with the concert at 8pm.

Call 01631 720247 or email campbell_cameron@msn.com to book your tickets.

Round up of music, books and art at Strontian

Martin Taylor concert

The Sunart Centre hosted a concert by world-renowned jazz guitarist Martin Taylor MBE on Friday July 19, playing a very special gig in aid of Ewen's Room.

Playing two sets, Taylor captivated the audience with his beautiful playing. There were Taylor's own interpretations of a variety of songs, instantly recognisable despite his claim – 'I'm a jazz musician, if you recognise the original song I'm not doing my job properly!' – but also several of Taylor's own compositions, including a beautiful song, One Day, a tribute to his late son.

Multi-award-winning and critically acclaimed musician Taylor, who tours the world but is based here in Scotland, has ties to Strontian thanks to local instrument maker Mike Vanden.

Taylor told his enraptured audience: 'I was only too happy to come and play this evening and support Ewen's Room.'

The Sunart Centre has a programme of events throughout the summer with films and music with the Donald Black band appearing on August 2 and FRAS on August 23, regular monthly cinema screenings and a film week from August 5.

Rob Fairley book

Resipole art gallery held the

official book launch of Rob Fairley's book, Prinaka – a day sketching in Dhaka, on Sunday.

Signed copies of the book were available, a chance to meet Fairley himself and see some of the original artwork from the book.

The book is selling well and getting rave reviews. Fairley remains hopeful that maybe Prinaka herself may even hear about it and get in touch.

The launch was very well attended, with the summer exhibitions on display featuring several new artists.

There are various events including live music hosted at the studio over the summer.

Nic Goddard

bowling ● soft play ● events ● music ● sports

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Bowling 12pm - 10pm

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Oban to host 2019 Big Quiz

Oban Baptist Church will be again hosting The Big Quiz in the Corran Halls in November.

Last year the local community filled the halls to take part in the fundraiser, with friends, families, church and businesses all helping to make the event a huge success, raising £1,500 for Tearfund, which helps some of the world's poorest people.

Mary Black, who is again organising the event said: 'We are very much looking forward to this year's event on November 16 after the wonderful support we received last year.'

'We had 156 people taking part, with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.'

'Full details of the event will be available from next month, but for further information please get in touch with me on 01631 564472.'

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Entertaining football

It has been a whirlwind footballing year for Scotland since the last West Coast World Cup.

The men's team have had two managers, the woman's team reached a world cup only to lose two games and surrender a three-goal lead in unfortunate circumstances in the third, and Kilmarnock's first European campaign in 18 years didn't even take them out of the UK.

Among all this madness, Donald MacLeod provides his usual humorous report on a high quality and high scoring West Coast World Cup: 21 of the finest and most available footballers in the west battled in scorching heat to take home the trophy in the fifth edition of the tournament.

Planning so horrendous it made UEFA look competent saw the tournament scheduled at the same time as HebCelt plus shows in Uist, Tiree and Kilchoan, and a late cancella-



The 'Rest of the West' team from last week's West Coast World Cup, featuring footballing talent from Lewis, Tiree and Tain.

tion didn't help, but the four teams that made it oozed quality: Lewis and Harris, Uist and Barra, Rest of the West, and current champions Skye and Lochalsh.

Each of the teams had won the cup once before, so the competition was guaranteed its first two-time champs. The scores were generally high and defences were definitely not on top in the final group match, as Skye and Lochalsh squeaked past Rest of the West 25-23.

Lewis and Harris eventually claimed the prize in a hard-fought final against Skye and Lochalsh, which finished 7-4.

Congratulations to Angus 'Fungi' Macdonald, who becomes the first player to win the trophy twice and, therefore, stakes his claim as the finest fives player ever from the West Coast. Congratulations also to Andrew Rennie, who becomes the first winner as both player and manager. Didier Deschamps watch your back!

Many thanks to everyone who came along and played the games in great spirit. Same time next year (but not HebCelt weekend!).

Kim Carnie to play

Mòd Ghlaschu 2019 fundraising continues next month with an exciting concert featuring Oban's Kim Carnie and special guests in the Òran Mòr on Friday August 16.

Kim and her band have been performing all over the place for the past couple of years

and she is also well known for her presenting slots on BBC Alba.

Rumours abound that album number one is in the pipeline too – so it's well worth going to hear her at this concert.

Tickets, £12, are available on www.ticketweb.co.uk and only for over-14s. Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

'Peatlemania'

In a phenomenon now known as 'peatlemania', Lewis's local heroes Peat and Diesel are coming to play in Glasgow next year, on Saturday January 25, after one of the most rapid rises to popularity the West Coast has seen.

They originally booked the Òran Mòr as the venue for their first venture to Glasgow but tickets have sold so quickly that they have been forced to upgrade the venue to the Barrowland – allowing for the band to coin the phrase: from the barrow to the Barrowland!

Tickets on sale from www.beyondpresents.com



WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS

SAT
AUG
24

MAIDEN SCOTLAND AND MACTALLICA

Doors: 7pm Start: 7.30pm
Tickets: £15 (advanced)
£18 (on the door)
Over 14's only.



WED
SEP
4

EVA CASSIDY: THE STORY

Doors: 7pm Start: 7.30pm
Tickets: £14 + £1 booking fee
Elsa Jean McTaggart presents a brand-new show.



SAT
SEP
21

FUNBOX - SPACE RACE

Doors: 1.30pm Start: 2pm
Tickets: £11 Family: £40
Group 10+: £10 each
Babies in arms: Free
Their brand new singalong adventure.



FRI
SEP
27

MAC FLOYD - BEST OF THE WALL

Doors: 7pm Start: 7.30pm
Tickets: £17 + £1 booking fee
Celebrating 40 years of the classic Pink Floyd album



SAT
SEP
28

SCOTTISH OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

Doors: 7pm Start: 7.30pm
Tickets: £15/£5 (u26s)
Packed with operatic classics and must-hear rarities.



SAT
NOV
2

YOU CHOOSE – EVERY SHOW IS UNIQUE!

Doors: 1.30pm Start: 2pm
Tickets Adults £10/Concession £8/Family £32
Brand new interactive musical show for all the family. But in this show – YOU CHOOSE what happens!



SAT
NOV
9

TIDE LINES

Doors: 7.30pm Start: 8pm
All Tickets £18 + £1 booking fee
Tide Lines with Robert Robertson on guitar and vocals, Ross Wilson on keyboards, Ali Turner on guitar, and Gus Munro on drums



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 (free of charge) at the Halls.

PLEASE NOTE ONLY A PHOTOGRAPHIC DRIVING LICENCE OR VALID PASSPORT ID WILL BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF AGE AT OUR BAR.



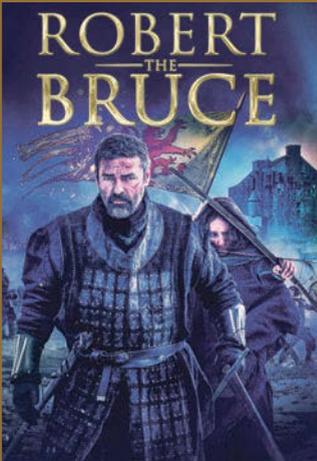
WHAT'S ON

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NEW
FILMS
EVERY
FRIDAY



ROBERT THE BRUCE

FRIDAY 26TH JULY

The Lion King PG	12:00 ^{sd} /14:45/17:30
Toy Story 4 U	12:30/14:45
Yesterday 12A	17:00
Gloria Bell 15	19:45
Robert The Bruce 15	20:15

SATURDAY 27TH JULY

The Lion King PG	11:00/13:30/16:15 ^{sd}
Spy Cat U	11:30★
Toy Story 4 U	13:45
Yesterday 12A	16:00
Robert The Bruce 15	18:30
André Rieu: Shall We Dance? 2019 concert	19:00

SUNDAY 28TH JULY

The Lion King PG	11:45 ^{sd} /14:30/16:45
Toy Story 4 U	12:00
Yesterday 12A	14:15
Monthly Musical: South Pacific U	17:00
Gloria Bell 15	19:30
Robert The Bruce 15	20:00



SPIDER-MAN: Far From Home

2ND AUGUST
TICKETS ON SALE NOW



WE THE ANIMALS

MONDAY 5TH AUG 19:30

A screening of **WE THE ANIMALS** with guest speaker: Rebecca Harrison is Lecturer in Film and Television Studies at the University of Glasgow, as well as a film critic and broadcaster. She is the founder of the Glasgow Feminist Arts Festival and works to improve gender, LGBT+ and race representation in the film industry.

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EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT £3 A TICKET

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WEEKLY SCREENINGS FOR AUTISM, SPECTRUM OR OTHER. LIGHTS DIMMED, AND SOFTER VOLUME.

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ENGLISH SUBTITLES FOR THE HARD OF HEARING

★SILVER SCREEN
EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT £3 A TICKET

MONDAY 29TH JULY

The Lion King PG	12:00/14:45 ^{sd} /17:30
Toy Story 4 U	12:30/14:45
The Isle 15	17:00
Gloria Bell 15	19:15
Robert The Bruce 15	20:15

TUESDAY 30TH JULY

The Lion King PG	12:00★/14:45/17:30 ^{sd}
Toy Story 4 U	12:30/14:45
Yesterday 12A	17:00
Gloria Bell 15	19:30
Robert The Bruce 15	20:15

WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY

Toy Story 4 U	12:30/14:45
The Lion King PG	13:30★/16:15 ^{sd}
Yesterday 12A	17:00
RSC Live: Measure For Measure TBC	19:00
Gloria Bell 15	19:30

THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST

The Lion King PG	12:00 ^{sd} /14:45/17:30
Toy Story 4 U	12:15
Sometimes Always Never 12A	14:30★
Yesterday 12A	16:45
Gloria Bell 15	19:15
Robert The Bruce 15	20:15

Countdown to Seil's ready for Scarecrow Festival

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Tattie bogle fans will be heading to Seil this weekend for its first Scarecrow Festival.

Around 70 of the fun folk and creatures will be mapped out on trails for visitors to spot from Saturday July 27 until Saturday August 3.

From Paddington Bear to a lab worker, boatswain to a mermaid – islanders have been having fun coming up with whacky ideas to entertain the crowds they hope will make their way over the Atlantic Bridge.

Actress Juliet Cadzow of River City and Balamory fame, who has family links with nearby Luing, will officially open the start of the week-long festival on Saturday at 2.30pm at the Tigh an Truish next to the

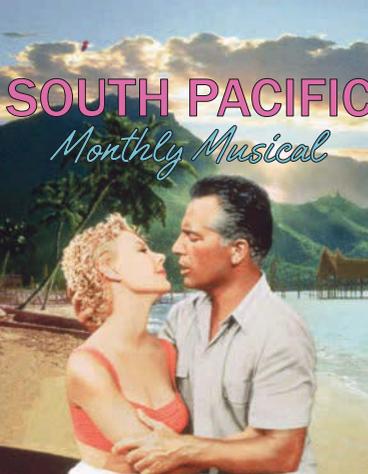
Sue Fenton and Seumas Anderson get ready for Seil's first Scarecrow Festival, in aid of the island hall development; and right, Karen McCoss with her yoga scarecrow.

bridge. The festival's Ron Hetherington says there will be fun and games for everyone. 'We hope people will come and join us at the official opening for fun and games right at the start of our wonderful Scarecrow



ANDRÉ RIEU
Shall we dance?

SOUTH PACIFIC
Monthly Musical



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Tayvallich Weekend 2019
26th - 27th - 28th July
FRIDAY 26TH JULY

BBQ and LIVE MUSIC @ TAYVALLICH INN 6.30 pm

SATURDAY 27TH JULY from 10.30 am
FUN, FUN, FUN AT TAYVALLICH VILLAGE HALL
GAMES ~ SPORTS ~ STALLS ~ BOUNCY CASTLE
TEA, COFFEE AND DELICIOUS HOMEBAKING
BBQ & PAELLA FROM 12.00 pm... and @ 2.00 pm
THE FABULOUS FAMILY DOG SHOW

SATURDAY EVENING, DOORS OPEN 7.15 pm
FAMILY CEILIDH
LIVE BAND: ARGYLL CEILIDH TRAIL
BYOB ~ TUCK SHOP ~ SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE
GRAND AND CHILDREN'S RAFFLES
MUSIC AND DANCING 'TIL LATE!

SUNDAY 28TH JULY 11.30 am
"WORLD" CRAB-FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS
REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY THE JETTY



A warm welcome and spectacular views await

Food will finish at 2:30pm on Friday and we will not be serving breakfast on Saturday morning. Food will be served from 12pm.

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL www.tayvallichinn.com

For reservations contact us on 01546 870282



begins as Seil gets scarecrow Festival



Festival week. We've got more than 70 scarecrows for people to find. We've had a brilliant response from the community who have got into the spirit,' he said. Programmes are out and trail quiz sheets are available for 50p from the Tigh an Truish and Balvicar Stores, with prizes to be won – the winner of the adult quiz gets a bottle of malt whisky.

Money made during the week will all go towards the Seil Island Hall funds, helping its facilities grow to fit the community's needs.

A pop-up cafe, nature and heritage walks, sea trips, friendly football matches, a tug-of-war, a yoga class on Monday July 29 at 9.30am, and musical drama workshop are among events lined up. Sunday July 28 will see a special scarecrow church

service in the island hall starting from 11.45am.

Lyden and Dawn Singleton will be hosting a special scarecrow pub quiz at the Oyster Bar on Friday August 2 at 8.30pm, with John and Eileen Coulson taking on the roles of quiz masters. And there will be a pot luck supper, tickets £5, at the island hall on Wednesday July 31.

A Tattie Bogle Highland Fair will be held on the final festival day on Saturday August 3 at the hall and in the evening it will be hosting a scarecrow dance from 7pm to midnight featuring The Scott Harvey Band, a licensed bar and raffle.

To find out more about any of the festival events or book tickets for the dance, call Ron Hetherington on 01852 300246.

Songs of love and war come to Oban

Alex MacDonald and his band will play Oban on Saturday August 3.

Calum Macdonald of Runrig describes Alex's music as 'good real music of heart and substance and message', and broadcaster and journalist Tom Morton says 'it all has both charm and soul ... a great gift for storytelling'.

The concert, which will see the band play Oban for the first time, will include songs from Alex's latest album, *Into the Light*, along with a selection from his previous albums. He will also be singing a couple of new songs: a tribute to his good friend, the late Kenny MacDonald (father of Alison who went missing in India in 1981); and a song about the Iolaire trag-



Alex MacDonald and his band will play Oban next month.

edy in Lewis on New Year's Day 1919.

Alex is delighted to have a special guest performing with them in Oban – Olivia Ross from the band The Shee on fiddle and backing vocals.

The other members of the band are Rob MacDonald on drums and Phil Onslow on bass.

The songs are all written by Alex and are generally in a Scottish folk-rock style.

Many of the songs sung in Oban will be looking at love and war from a Christian perspective – some reflecting on the horrors of the First World War, some telling the stories of people whose lives were transformed by love.

One of Alex's songs tells the story of Lochaber man Douglas MacMillan, from Ardnamurchan, who in his youth was a renowned hammer-thrower at Highland Games and went on to become one of the best loved preachers of the 20th century.

The concert will take place at Oban Baptist Church on Saturday August 3 at 7.30pm.

Entry to the concert is by donation, with all profits going to the Christian international aid charity Tearfund.

Your local radio listings

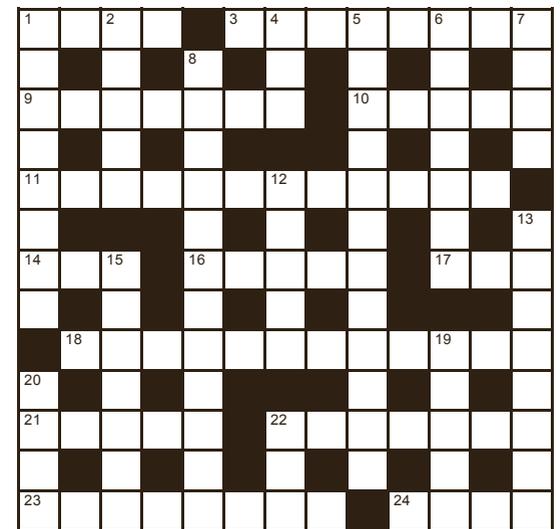
Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.com or on the Tuneln app. For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk



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.
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 Support (4)
- 3 Type of North American squirrel (8)
- 9 Departing building (7)
- 10 Union table? (5)
- 11 Deafening (12)
- 14 Twosome (3)
- 16 Waste conduit (5)
- 17 Twisted (3)
- 18 Atonement (12)
- 21 Japanese-American (5)
- 22 Lockjaw (7)
- 23 Spirit (8)
- 24 Eye part (4)

Down

- 1 In desperate financial straits (4-4)
- 2 One who looks after another (5)
- 4 Shed (3)
- 5 Sculptures (7,5)
- 6 Until this point (2,2,3)
- 7 Edge of the pavement (4)
- 8 Direction (7,5)
- 12 One from a central American state (5)
- 13 The art of putting one in a trance (8)
- 15 Marsupial (7)
- 19 Word with ear or peace (5)
- 20 Unforeseen difficulty (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Aberdeen Vocal Ensemble sing through the centuries!

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Wed 7th Aug, 7.30pm
£10 (£8 Friends) on door
Under 16s free
Sandwiches & cake to follow

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

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Regional Press
closer to home

WHAT'S ON



In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 25TH JULY

Slimming World

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

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church
10:00am - 12:00pm

Create a clay character

Oban Library
10:30am - 11:30am

Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen
12:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 26TH JULY

Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen
2:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Alan Frew
Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 27TH JULY

Cearcall Còmhradh (Gaelic Conversation Group)

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

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Jono
Open till 2am

SUNDAY 28TH JULY

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 29TH JULY

Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Create a Clay Character

Lochgilphead Library
2:30pm - 3:30pm

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilphead
5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Drumming and Music Making

Taynuilt Sports Pavilion
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Martyn's Monday Club

New Hope Kitchen
7:00pm - 9:00pm

TUESDAY 30TH 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
7:00pm - 9:00pm

WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street, Oban
10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day

Greenshoots Garden
10.30am-3.30pm

Slimming World

Glenruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803



The clarsach was a popular choice among the young musicians.

Fèis for the Rough Bounds hits right note

Fèis nan Garbh Chriochan (FnGC) proved to be a huge hit among those attending the 29th annual event, with the final participants' concert on Friday afternoon presenting to a virtually full house, writes Joanne Matheson.

Sixty youngsters aged from pre-school to 17 immersed themselves in a week of Gaelic activities at Acharacle, led by enthusiastic tutors and supervisors, many of whom return year after year.

Music forms a large part of the Fèis (meaning festival) as the local Fèisean network offers ongoing musical tuition through schools and other locations year-round, at discounted rates and including the loan of instruments.

The Fèis in Acharacle is one of 47 regular tuition activities and has proved to be a popular summer activity for children from near and far.

FnGC committee chairwoman Sarah-Jayne Shankland is herself an accomplished fiddle tutor and she led the team last week in a mix of musical and other activities, evening events and a celebratory dance at the end of the week.

Participants were able to choose tuition in three subjects, including fiddle, keyboard, drums and percussion, chanter and pipes, shinty, clarsach, tin whistle,



Gaelic song was one of the subjects being tutored.

guitar, accordion, step dance, Gaelic drama and Gaelic song. Advanced learners could also choose group work sessions, honing their skills and collaborating on songs and arrangements.

Some amazing talent is clearly in the making, which is no surprise considering that tutors included Aonghas Grant, Eilidh Shaw, Ross Martin, Ingrid Henderson, Iain MacMaster, Hugh MacCallum, Angus Binnie, Kirsten MacLeod, Murdo Cameron, Iain Beggs, Chris Shankland, David Foley, Kate Bradley, Ciorstaidh Beaton, Lauren Tait Moir, Robin Cameron and Mike Bryan.

Evening activities included art sessions, a family ceilidh

and the ever-popular tutors' concert.

Very young participants had their own events to join in. Fèis Beag Biodach for nursery ages and Fèis Bheag for primary one to three youngsters included two hours of art, tin whistle, Gaelic song, dancing and games each morning in Acharacle village hall.

There was a good level of attendance at FnGC, and mums, dads, friends and neighbours all packed Acharacle Primary School on Friday afternoon to see the progress made, and hear about the fun that was had during the week.

Lochaber Ceilidh Trail entertained Fèis participants and locals at the popular village tearoom Cafe Tioram on Thursday evening, as part of their own ongoing tour of the wider area.

This was followed by a tutors' session, during which some of the Fèis tutors were joined by a few participants and local residents in a jam session which lasted well into the early hours.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped, supported, contributed to, or joined in with this year's Fèis, and looks forward to starting to organise next year's event – once the sore feet have recovered.

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

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.

OBAN

Glenruitten Church Hall,
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Union Street/ Argyll Street
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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!

Antisocial behaviour

What is antisocial behaviour?

Antisocial Behaviour is defined in the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act of 2004 as "Where someone acts in a manner or pursues a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress to at least one person who is not in the same household as the perpetrator."

Be aware, however, that it can mean different thing to different people. Behaving in an antisocial manner covers a range of behaviours.

Here are some examples:

- Excessive Noise.
- Littering, fly tipping and dog fouling.
- Vandalism and damaging property.
- Disorderly behaviour from groups intimidating to the local community.
- Riding motorcycles on footpaths and in parks.
- Serious and persistent bullying of children out of school.
- Threatening and abusive behaviour.
- Rubbish thrown into gardens or pushed through letterboxes.
- Persistent troublesome behaviour by a small group of individuals in a local area who may try to dominate others and use minor damage to property, (sometimes at unsociable hours) as a means to intimidate other people.
- Persistent verbal abuse and intimidation towards neighbours causing them fear or distress.

What isn't antisocial behaviour?

It is important to note that there can be behaviour that some people may find annoying or irritating that would not be classed as antisocial behaviour e.g.

- Noise from children playing.
- Walking on laminate floors.
- Messy gardens.
- Parking and boundary disputes.

Behaviour which is acceptable to some may be seen as antisocial and unacceptable to others

Antisocial behaviour is not behaviour that is just different, or the result of a religion, age, medical or developmental condition or mental disorder. Tolerance and awareness of others' needs is an important part of tackling antisocial behaviour.

Who should I contact if I'm a victim of antisocial behaviour?

- Try talking to your neighbour but if that fails, your local authority can often assist (see www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/asb/ReportingASB). They are best placed to provide local solutions to tackling antisocial behaviour. However, there are other options available for dealing with ASB.
- Most also have specialist teams to deal with antisocial behaviour noise who can either deal with the noise or provide advice on other possible solutions.
- If you are a housing association tenant, you can contact your housing officer for advice and assistance.
- If the behaviour is of a criminal nature, call Police Scotland on 101.

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Community/Neighbour mediation is one way of resolving disputes between those who live in the same locality or neighbourhood.

Trained mediators, who do not take sides, help both parties to come to an agreement about the problem in hand: For a service in your area see www.scottishmediation.org.uk/find-a-mediator.

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Sun shines on Tiree show

Sunshine brought out crowds of visitors and islanders for Tiree's agricultural show.

The calibre of entries to the individual sections were high with lots of participation from all generations.

Alastair and Iain MacInnes of Ruaig Farm, swept the boards in the cattle sections, before their British Blue Heifer Calf, Ruaig Noell (ET) was awarded with the Supreme Championship.

The all black, November born British Blue Heifer calf sired by Forouk and out of Pendle Knock Em out, also took home Champion Pure Bred Cattle, Overall Cattle Champion and, finally, the strongly contested Supreme Champion Of Champions of all livestock sections.

The MacInnes' also took home the rosette for Reserve Champion Pure Bred with Ruaig Northern Star (ET) by Pendle Knock Em Out and sired by Tenace.

Sheep judges Archie MacColl from Lismore and David Ralston from Campbeltown awarded Ettie MacDonald from Roadside the Supreme Sheep title for



Cup and trophy winners at Tiree Show 2019. Photographs: Anne Stanley

his three Shear Bluefaced Leicester tup, who was purchased as a tup lamb from the Turners at Kildalloig, Campbeltown. The tup also went on to stand Reserve Overall in the Champion Of Champions.

The Crofters Shield was won by Sandra Brown from Balevullin, and Ruairidh MacDonald from Roadside, cleared the trophy shelf in the Young stockperson category again this year.

For the fourth year, Jan Paterson's impressive 13-year-

old Friesian mare Tallina Fan 'T Sudein took the supreme title in the horse and pony section.

Ross MacLennan took home the MacPhail Shield for Champion Tractor at the show, with his Pre 1960's machine.

And in the pet section, Jenna MacArthur and Max took home the MacDonald Langley Quaich for the best Golden Oldie Dog, while The Hadley Shield for the Champion Pet at Show was won by Poppy Cox and her dog Aspen.

Numbers were up in the Poultry Section, with the Main Road Farm Cup for Poultry Champion being awarded to Fiona MacKinnon of Kirkapoll.

Sheila Neill took home a handful of trophies in the home industries sections, including The Tiree Agricultural Society Cup for Most Points in Handy Craft section, a special prize for best exhibit in Handy Craft Section and The Lady Peggy Hoare Salver.

In the children's section, Sorley Wright was awarded



Iain MacInnes of Ruaig Farm with British Blue heifer calf, Ruaig Noell (ET) awarded with the Supreme Championship at Tiree Show.

the Tiree Agricultural Society Cup for Most Points for Pre-School Children, while Kerris Colthart won the five- to seven-year group. Kirsten MacKinnon, Anya Wright and Aiden Hynes, won jointly the Tiree Agricultural Society Cup for the most points for children aged 8-11, and Abby MacDowell took home the MacDonald Memorial Cup for her age group.

After prize giving, the Omand Motors Shield was awarded to Gavin Omand for Tossing the Sheaf.

Zorb balls were a new fun attraction for this year's show, with the return of Tiree Pipe band and Roni's Chainsaw Art. Roni donated the pieces he created on the day to the Agricultural Society's auction.

The tea tent was run by Curam Thiriodh, with volunteers working tirelessly all day to provide baking and rolls filled with local produce, raising more than £1,500.

For a full list of judges, winners and to see more photographs visit tireseshow.co.uk

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Responding to the Scottish Government's consultation on a new regulatory framework for short-term lets, CIH Scotland welcomed the proposals for a flexible system that would balance the needs of local residents and visitors. However, concerns were raised about how a new system would be monitored and enforced.

The rise of online platforms such as Airbnb in recent years has led to a significant increase in the number of short term lets across Scotland. Edinburgh is the most popular place in Scotland for Airbnb guests but rural areas are also seeing a significant increase in the number of visitors.

Analysis carried out for CIH showed that there is

now one Airbnb letting for every 10 homes on the Isle of Skye.

The increasing volume of short-term lets has been linked to numerous issues. As homes are converted from residential accommodation to holiday lets, local residents will have less choice if they need to move and prices can be forced up.

Neighbours of short-

term lets have reported problems with noise and antisocial behaviour and lack of security as multiple guests are given keys to communal entranceways.

Ashley Campbell, Policy and Practice Manager at CIH Scotland said: 'Platforms such as Airbnb have undoubtedly brought benefits by allowing people to earn a

bit more money by letting out a room in their home and providing tourists with more choice.

'However, we cannot ignore the impact that increasing numbers of homes being permanently converted into unregulated holiday accommodation is having on communities across Scotland.

'The problems of noise and antisocial behaviour caused by 'party flats' has been well documented, but we are also concerned about the fact that these homes are not subject to the same safety standards as a privately rented home.

'We think that all homes being let out, whether just for a few days or on a more permanent basis, should be subject to minimum safety standards.'

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WHAT IS A HYBRID CAR, AND HOW DOES IT WORK?



Self-charging hybrid vehicles have both an electric motor and a combustion engine. By using both power sources hybrids reduce CO₂, NO_x and particulate emissions, and make driving more efficient by using less fuel.

e-BOXER, the self-charging hybrid range from Subaru, features a self-charging battery-powered electric motor and an e-BOXER petrol engine in combination. Working together, the engine and motor automatically adjust the hybrid power to achieve the most efficient driving mode depending on your speed and the driving conditions.

Automatically-optimised e-BOXER power

Sometimes just the electric motor powers the car in Electric Vehicle (EV) mode; sometimes the petrol engine alone takes over; and sometimes both the electric motor and the petrol engine deliver power together. Whenever the petrol engine is running, and whenever the car decelerates or brakes, energy is recovered and is used to recharge the battery making it a self-charging hybrid vehicle.

Mild vs. Full vs. Plug-in hybrids
Subaru's e-BOXER has mild-hybrid technology which automatically controls when the car uses the electric motor alone. This allows the high-voltage battery to remain compact and light.

Full hybrid vehicles work in the same way, but also let the driver manually select electric-only drive (called Electric Vehicle – EV mode) if they wish.

Whilst full-hybrid vehicles can travel a limited number of miles using electricity alone, creating no emissions, they also need a larger capacity, heavier battery to do so. For this reason, some self-charging full-hybrids can also use a mains lead from a charging point to charge the battery. These are called Plug-in hybrids.

Simply self-charging

Welcome to Subaru's first e-BOXER mild-hybrid, self-charging SUVs.

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Thanks to a battery-powered electric motor assisting a new efficient e-BOXER petrol engine,

Subaru's mild-hybrids make every bit of energy count.

Automatically-optimised power

When pulling away, or in slow traffic, the electric motor alone does all the heavy lifting. When cruising, the e-BOXER petrol engine drives the car – but also recharges the battery. When accelerating or under load, both the engine and the motor provide power together. The electric motor power assistance – Motor Assist – is completely automatic. It works seamlessly with the

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Helensburgh Toyota



Model shown is Yaris Icon Tech Petrol 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 45.0 (6.3) - 48.7 (5.8). Combined CO₂ 107 g/km. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption and CO₂ produced varies significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP), which replaces the New European Driving Cycle test procedure (NEDC). All CO₂ figures quoted are NEDC equivalent. This means the CO₂ figures are based on the new WLTP test procedure but calculated (using a standard European calculation method) to allow comparison with the NEDC test procedure and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. All mpg figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp

Model shown is Yaris Icon Tech Petrol 1.0 VVT-i Manual at £16,085 including optional Metallic paint at £515. Additional charges may apply on selected paint colours and finishes. Prices correct at time of being published. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply. *0% APR Representative and £1,250 Finance Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of Yaris Conventional (excluding Active grade) between 1st April 2019 and 30th June 2019 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September 2019 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) contract with £2,753.50 customer deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Participating Toyota Centres. Affordable finance through AccessToyota (PCP). Terms and conditions apply.

www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

101-103 E Clyde St, Helensburgh G84 7PJ

01436 672779

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**



MUNRO'S OF OBAN
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Tel: 01631 564463
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Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN

2006, 1800cc, diesel, 70k miles,
MOT Feb 2020, tow bar.

£550

Tel: 07960 504683

CARS WANTED

Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.

Tel: 07759 054754

WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

Tel: 07546 788945

WANTED

All types of 4x4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4x4 pickups. Older models and non runners/ MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Tel 07546 788945

16' ORKNEY LONGLINER



with 9.9HP Mercury 4 stroke outboard. Full cockpit cover, oars, and various ropes. Good Snipe trailer with new axle, bearings hubs and wheels and tyres (2019). All in good condition. Can be seen Largs area.

£3000

Tel 01475 568756

17FT 'HARDY' 2 BERTH CABIN CRUISER



with 50hp Honda outboard and auxiliary outboard. On pontoon in Dunstaffnage with pontoon fees paid to end of September 2019. Complete with all equipment, ship to shore radio, GPS map, Garmin fish/depth finder, manual and electric pumps and all fishing gear.

£5,250

Telephone 07775 441367

HONDA CRV SE I-VTEC



Petrol 2.0 litre. Silver Blue. Mileage 73500 miles. FWD Towbar, spare wheel. Reg July 2007 - MOT 27.07.2020. Excellent runner, one owner, annual service.

£3900 ono

Tel 01631 720339

ORKNEY TYPE MCKAY OF AYR DESIGN



6'6" beam. Newly painted and varnished. Comes with 15 HP Mercury engine 2 stroke. Also sturdy trailer with new wheels, bearings, tyres, and mudguards. Package in good condition. Approx. 20 years old. Can be seen Largs area.

£3000

Tel 01475 568756

66 PLATE MITSUBISHI ASX5



32300 miles. Leather heated seats. Four new tyres. One service remaining on service plan. Full service history. Diesel. Four wheel drive option. Sat nav. Reversing camera. Panoramic roof. Boot liner. Fully valeted.

£13,000

Tel 07543 088962 after 7pm.

2011 FORD KUGA



Titanium 2WD 2.0TDCI, 46000 miles.

£7,500 ONO

Tel: 07500 006514

WANTED

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc... We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

**Tel: 01250 884306 or
M: 07885 203020**

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of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

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closer to home

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
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01292 880080/880440



VACANCIES FOR ACHA TENANT BOARD MEMBERS

ACHA are looking to recruit voluntary Tenant Board Members who can help lead our organisation in offering high quality services to customers and help us to enhance the Argyll and Bute communities where we live and work.

Currently the Board of Management are under represented by young people and women and would particularly welcome applications from these under-represented groups.

What are we looking for?

Tenants with:

- Enthusiasm and an interest in housing and community led regeneration
- Ability to develop solutions to meet housing need
- A commitment to team working
- An interest in the services and responsibilities of the Board

What can we offer you in return?

- Support, training and development, out of pocket expenses
- The satisfaction of giving something back to the community
- Approximately 1.5 days a month supporting Association business

PLEASE NOTE: WE GENERALLY HOLD OUR BOARD MEETINGS ON A THURSDAY MORNING IN INVERARAY USUALLY ON A SIX WEEKLY CYCLE

Please contact Lesley Lindsay, PA to the Board of Management by telephone on 01546 605971 or by email at lesley.lindsay@acha.co.uk if you require any further information or would like an informal chat about the vacancies.

Anchor Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne

DUTY MANAGER

Duty Manager required for a
3 Star boutique hotel in Tarbert, Loch Fyne

This role is a very hands on position which will involve you overseeing the day to day running of our Reception, Bar and Restaurant reporting into the Operation's Manager.

This would suit someone who is currently in a supervisory role or someone with a passion for hospitality who would like to take their first step into management. Full training will be given on all our systems.

The hotel is a delightful 3 Star hotel in the lovely village of Tarbert. Live-in will be available with an excellent salary.

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF

The hotel also requires housekeeping staff. The Anchor Hotel and Barge has 16 bedrooms shifts will be straight shifts from 9am till 2pm working 5 days over 7days. Excellent rate of pay.

If you are interested in taking the next step in your career then please send your CV with a covering letter stating which position you are applying for to gmanchorhotel@hotmail.com

Oban Communities Trust -

Financial Analyst



OCT is seeking an AAT level 4 qualified (or equivalent) individual for the key role of Financial Analyst to join the small staff team at a pivotal stage in the development of The Rockfield Centre.

This post (16 hours per week) is initially offered as an 8 month fixed term contract but is subject to a possible extension to March 2021.

The successful candidate will be an experienced, forward thinking and highly motivated team player. You will be an ambitious, enthusiastic and conscientious individual with a positive and proactive approach to change.

The candidate should demonstrate proven accounting skills and have excellent IT skills (particularly Microsoft Excel and Sage accounting systems). The candidate should have the ability to analyse complex data and transform it into meaningful information that can be understood by non-finance Board members.

Rate of pay (dependent on experience) £16 - 20 per hour.

Job description available from www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk

Applicants are asked to submit a covering letter and CV to admin@therockfieldcentre.org.uk

Closing Date - 15th August 2019

Interviews - Monday 26th August

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

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.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment



Cook Required

Reliable and enthusiastic cook required to assist in our Oban Centre canteen. This role is part-time (22 hours) Monday-Friday, during term time only, and the rate of pay is £11.86 / hr.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 7th August.

For a full job description and to apply visit www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies

Roadworker 2 (Semi Skilled)

£18,810 - £20,507

(Temporary) Lochgilphead Ref: ARB05195

Isle of Islay Ref: ARB05194

Lochgilphead Ref: ARB05193

Lochgilphead Ref: ARB05191

Closing date unless otherwise

stated: 6 August 2019.

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be

paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

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Regional Press
closer to home

RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit hijobs.net

WYVEX MEDIA

Production Assistant

Wyvex Media are looking for a production assistant to help in the day to day production of their newspapers and magazine titles.

Previous experience is not essential but candidates should be comfortable in the use of PCs.

A good eye for detail and the ability to work neatly and consistently under pressure are essential. Good spelling and use of English is also a desirable quality.

This is a full time position - 35 hours, Monday through Friday with good career advancement opportunities. Based in our Oban office.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training and an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter to: Fiona Bennett, abruce@obantimes.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA

Accounts Assistant

A position has arisen in our Oban office for an Accounts Assistant for our busy accounts department.

Experience of working in an accounts department will be advantageous, as will the ability to work on your own initiative. Computer literacy and careful attention to detail will be crucial for this role.

This role will involve extensive customer care with outbound contact with our customer base and a pleasant telephone manner will also be important. This role is full time but flexible part time may be considered.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan and life insurance.

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and covering letter to George Graham, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ggraham@wyvexmedia.co.uk

MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE

MAGAZINES AND TOURISM PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Arran Banner, Wyvex Media publishes a plethora of high quality publications. Titles include lifestyle magazines, tourist maps, holiday publications and business directories covering the west of Scotland and beyond.

We are looking for our next shining star and will offer flexible working patterns and working location for the right person. A hardworking, committed work ethic is essential, along with the desire to develop long term relationships with existing and new clients.

£ Excellent basic + Bonus + Benefits

You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please submit a CV and covering letter to nmurphy@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA



Live-in Couple (Care Takers) for a Highland Estate

We are looking for an energetic couple to live and work on the inner Hebridean island of Eilean Shona. The island is a remote natural paradise that would suit two people who love the outdoors and have an intrepid spirit. You must above all else be practical, flexible and have good people skills. The work is broad ranging - from tree felling to domestic work. You will need to be self-motivated and independent but capable of working as part of a team. Experience with boat handling, general estate work and cottage/house let changeovers would be beneficial. For more information about the island, the main house and cottages, please see our website www.eileanshona.com.

If you are interested please send an email to contact@eileanshona.com for our application form.

Career opportunities



- BRICKLAYERS
- ROOFERS
- TELEHANDLER OPERATIVE
- ELECTRICIAN
- TIMBER FACTORY JOINER
- SITE MANAGERS

Full time/Permanent positions

Please send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989 for further info.



The Campbeltown Courier has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team.

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence. As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels. In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to Susan Windram: swindram@obantimes.co.uk

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MOWI

VACANCIES

Mowi is the world's leading seafood company and the largest producer of salmon. Every day, our 13 233 employees in 24 countries produce 6.2 million healthy and delicious meals, served to customers across the globe.

Mowi covers the whole value and production chain, from feed to plate, and through our vision of leading the "Blue Revolution" we are dedicated to farming the ocean in a responsible and efficient way. Mowi is headquartered in Bergen, Norway, and is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange.

We are currently looking to fill the following vacancies:

- Farm Technician, Kingairloch
- Skippers, Beinn Mowi
- Deckhands, Beinn Mowi

We welcome enquiries from everyone and value diversity in our workforce. We are willing to consider flexible working arrangements and are an Equal Opportunities employer. In return we offer an attractive salary, bonus, pension, Occupation Health Support and training/development opportunities. To apply for these vacancies, you must be eligible to work in the UK.

If you wish to apply for any of these vacancies then please visit our website www.mowi.com.

www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; 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

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
19/03173/FUL	Rowanlea, Strontian Acharacle	Erection of extension to house and siting of two holiday letting units
19/03169/FUL	Ardrho House Onich, Fort William	Alterations and extension and change of use from residential house (Class 9) to guesthouse (Class 7) with ancillary sauna/treatment room facilities (Class 2) (Amended design to planning permission 19/01357/FUL)
19/03083/FUL	Inverlochys Mains North Road Fort William	Alterations (involving demolition and new build) to create production area with ancillary shop and cafe, associated access, parking, infrastructure and landscaping
19/02774/FUL	Traigh Beach Public Toilets Arisaig	Demolition of toilet block and erection of 2 composting toilets (amended design to planning permission 18/03879/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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.

**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
19/01351/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land South East Of Elderslie, Oban, Argyll and Bute
19/01452/PP	Change of wall position to that approved under application reference 18/00355/PP	The Old Coach House, Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4RQ
19/00468/LIB	Internal and external alterations to include; re-rendering and painting of exterior, replace windows and doors to match existing, including formation of new back door and window opening	Bothy, 17 Easdale Island, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4TB
19/01232/PP	New Wastewater treatment works 580 metres west of the existing works including new access track and mounded landscaping. Existing works - Removal of plant and installation of underground tanks, control kiosk and outfall pipe. Proposed works - Installation of underground plant, 2 control kiosks, administration building and perimeter fence	Sewage Works And Land West Of Existing Works, Clachan Seil, Isle Of Seil, Argyll and Bute
19/01419/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and erection of shed	The Light Houses, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, Argyll and Bute, PA60 7XZ
19/00862/PP	Use of land for the siting of self catering unit	Mo Dhachaidh, The Oa, Isle Of Islay, Argyll and Bute, PA42 7AZ

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
Donald Robert MacNeil trading as D.MacNeil Haulage Ltd of 6 Kenmore Cottages, Bonawe, Oban, PA37 1RJ is applying for a licence to use MacQueen Bros Ltd, Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicle and 2 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Annabel E MacInnes has registered their croft Ruanaich, Kilfinichen and Kilvickean 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 March 17, 2020. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6143

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTACHD APPLICATION

JR Dinnes
EM Dinnes
140 Kilmory,
Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.315 ha - Amenity ground
96276

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 23/08/19. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - info@crofting.gov.scot

west highland housing

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD will hold their AGM on

THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST 2019 at 7.00pm

WHHA OFFICE, CRANNOG LANE, OBAN (FIRST FLOOR, BOARDROOM)

01631 566 451 | Freephone 0300 323 1170
mail@westhighlandha.co.uk | www.westhighlandha.co.uk

LINKGROUP INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Gold INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE GOOD PRACTICE AWARD SILVER Investors in People Health & Wellbeing Award

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Regional Press CLOSER TO HOME

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN THE TOWN OF OBAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 23rd August 2019.

Car Parks	Existing Charges (Until 22nd August 2019)	Revised Charges (From 23rd August 2019)
North Pier, Albany Street, Tweeddale Street, Market Street, Corran Halls	3 monthly charge £135.00	3 monthly charge £139.00
No. 2 Esplanade, Ganavan, Longsdale Car Park, Lochavullin Car Park	6 monthly charge £250.00	6 monthly charge £258.00
Corran Halls No. 1	9 monthly charge £360.00	9 monthly charge £371.00
Staff Permits Albany Street & North Pier Car Park	Annual charge £475.00	Annual charge £489.00
	Seasonal Charge £105.00	Seasonal Charge £108.00
	Annual charge £95.00	Annual charge £98.00

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN MULL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 23rd August 2019.

Car Parks	Existing Charges (Until 22nd August 2019)	Revised Charges (From 23rd August 2019)
Iona Ferry No 1 and Iona Ferry No 2, Fionnphort	3 monthly charge £135.00	3 monthly charge £139.00
Toilets, Craignure	6 monthly charge £250.00	6 monthly charge £258.00
	9 monthly charge £360.00	9 monthly charge £371.00
	Annual charge £475.00	Annual charge £489.00

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
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Summer SIZZLER

Included in your one month subscription:

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- full access to our website
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All this for 95p!

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

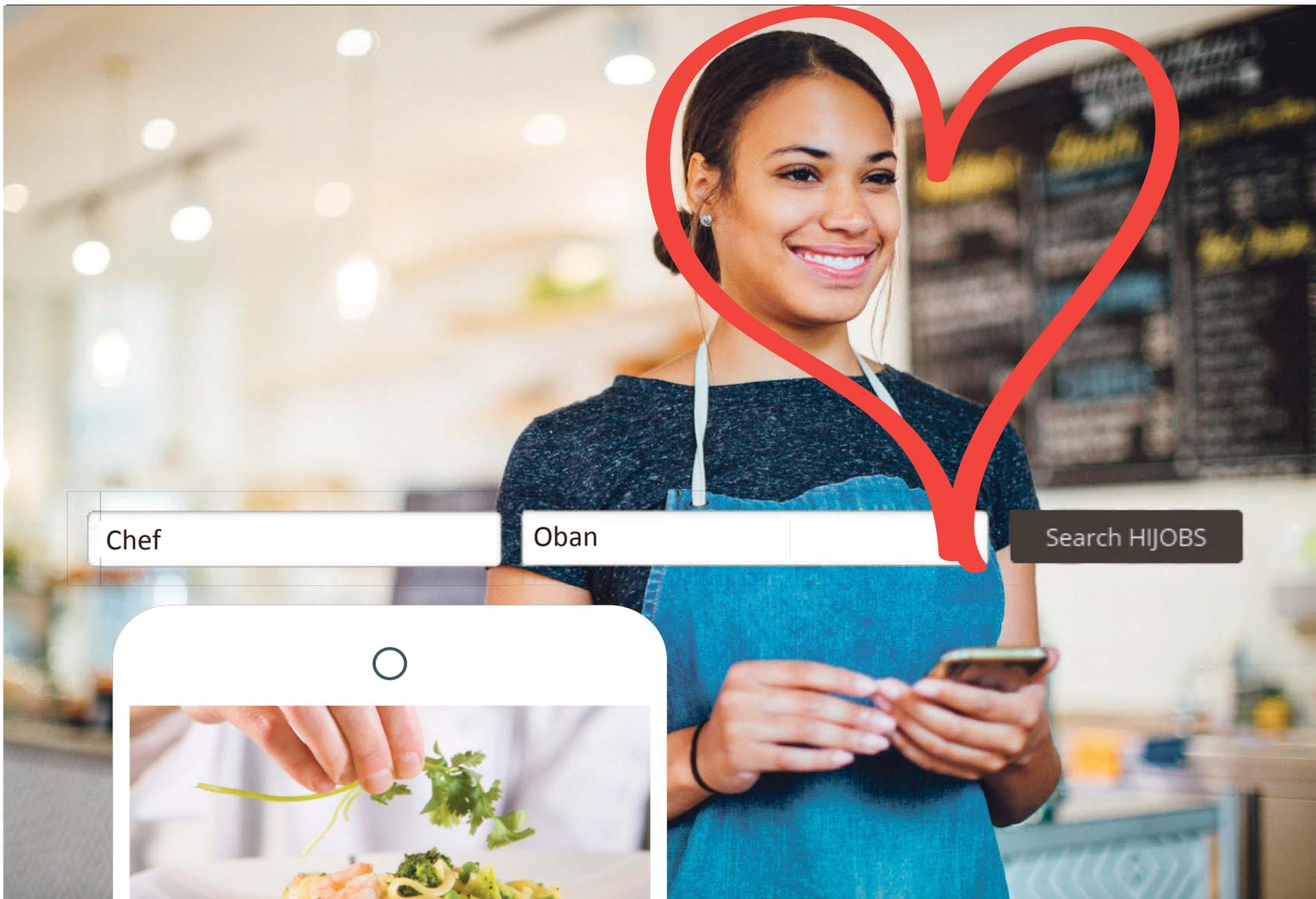
Our privacy notice is available at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy or on request.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

CJ Langthorne
A Langthorne
6 Eorabus (Apportionment), Kilfinichen & Kilvickean 98020
0.00603 ha
Reason - Regularising existing amenity ground
Condition - No Conditions

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES



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£8.53 to £10.15 per hour

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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank You!
Rugby Coaching in Africa

I would like to thank everyone that made it possible for me to spend 5 months rugby coaching in Africa, organised by the charity Bhubesi Pride Foundation. I want to thank every organisation/business who sponsored me including Gordon Shearer, Oban Lorne Mini's, Oban Rotary Club, Bill McLaren Foundation, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Oban Sports Shop, Glensanda Quarry and Scottish Rugby. I also want to thank those who donated money to me, no matter how big or small, or bought a raffle ticket or donated a prize. Thank you to my mum, dad, sisters and my wider family for helping me to organise and run my fundraising events and to all my friends and family that came along and supported me all the way. I really couldn't have done it without the generosity and support from everyone. I'm so thankful for being able to experience this journey at such a young age and be able to make a dream come true.

Lucy Stewart xxx

GRAHAM - Ross & Lianne (née Fisher) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their 3rd child, Neve, at the R.A.H on June 28, 2019. A little sister for Emily & Ruairi, ninth grandchild for Dougie & Allison Graham, Oban & seventh grandchild for James & Ali Fisher, Bunessan.

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BIRTHS

CRAWFORD - Patrick and Jennifer (Wilson) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Abbie, on July 13, 2019, at 09.44am. First granddaughter for Andrew and Gail Wilson, Kilmichael and Kerry Crawford, Oban. Niece to Leyla Williams and great-granddaughter to John Milliken, Oban. Special thanks to all the midwives.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CAMPBELL - **MACDOUGALL** - Graham to Ann, on July 26, 1969 in Kilbrandon Church, Isle of Seil, service conducted by Rev. G Kydd. Present address: Strongorm Farm, Balvicar.

DEATHS

ABERNETHY - Gwynyth Margaret, (née Alexander), at home, on July 17, 2019, wife to Ken, mother to Sarah and Douglas, and grandmother to Anna and Finlay. An inspirational teacher and friend, who touched many people's lives. Funeral service at St Brendan's Church, Skipness, on Monday, July 29, 2019 at 11.00am, and thereafter to Cardross Crematorium, at 3.15pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

BROWN - Hugh D M, peacefully, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on July 18, 2019, dearly loved husband of Catherine, née MacKinnon, of Garden Cottage, Carse. Hugh was formerly of Toberonochy, Isle of Luing, and was a devoted uncle to all his nieces and nephews. Funeral service to be held at Kilcalmonell Parish Church,

Clachan, on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 1.00pm, to which all are respectfully invited. Flowers are welcome, donations if desired to Diabetes UK.

GARLAND - David, aged 76 years, died peacefully on Thursday, July 18, 2019, after a long illness. Beloved husband of Susana, and friend to many. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday, July 26 at 1.00pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MACCOLL - Mary Henderson (née MacIntyre). Peacefully at Mugdock House Care Home on Thursday, July 18, 2019, in her 101st year. Mary, dearly loved wife of the late Donald, cherished mother of Margaret, worshipped gran to Valerie, Eric, Amani, Roslyn, Dave and dearest great-gran to Ailsa and Euan. A beloved auntie and friend. Funeral service at Dunbeg Church, Oban on Tuesday, July 30, at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery, arriving approximately 2pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

MACKINNON - Peacefully at Uist and Barra Hospital on July 6, 2019, Anne F. MacKinnon, West Kilbride, South Uist. Dearly beloved sister and aunt of the family.

WATT - Peacefully at home with her family, aged 84 years, Aggie a beloved mum, granny and gaga. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

WHYTE - Peacefully at home in Kilmore with his family, following a short illness, on July 17, 2019, aged 70 years, David (Dave), much loved husband of Kate and dad of Douglas

and Sheila. He will be sadly missed by his extended family and friends. A celebration of David's life will be held at Perth Crematorium, Crieff Road, Perth PH1 2PE at 2.00pm on July 30. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAWRIE - Helen and family would like to express their sincere thanks to friends, relatives and neighbours who attended Ian's thanksgiving service and interment, and for the overwhelming support and kindness shown to them daily. The sum of £2075 was raised from the church collection and donations received, for Robin House Children's Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Many thanks to all.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands on July 8, 2019 surrounded by her loving family, Ruth MacDonald (née Hill), aged 70 years. John MacDonald and his daughters Frances and Marie would like to thank everyone for attending Ruth's service on July 17, all the kind words at this sad time. We would also like to thank all at Ward B, also Catriona Hoey and Son, Rev Dugald Cameron and the staff at the Royal Hotel. Loved and remembered always xxx

MACIVER - Flora would like to thank family, friends and neighbours who helped and supported her in so many ways following the recent sad loss of Angus. Thank you also to Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear, Nether Lochaber Parish Church and McFall Funeral Directors. £761.81 was collected for the British Heart Foundation.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Anne F. MacKinnon would like to thank medical staff at Uist and Barra Hospital, Dr Bird, South Uist Medical Practice, friends, relatives and neighbours, Rev J. Petrie, Neil MacIntyre undertaker, D McCormick, D. A. Currie and R. Currie for their help and support, organist, gravediggers and carers. Special thanks to Agnes, Mairi's Flowers, Borrodale Hotel for catering and to all who came to pay their last respects.

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NICOL - John and Avril would like to thank relatives and friends for all the cards, phone calls, kindness and support in recent months. A special thanks to all the staff at Oban Hospital and the dedicated care of the doctors, district nurses and staff at Easdale Medical Practice, to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his understanding, guidance and attention to detail and to Petals for the beautiful flowers. An extra special thanks to the minister Donald MacKinnon, Xandra Gray and Alex Hamilton for the very moving tribute to Avril's life and the massive support shown at the Connel Church and at the Olive Garden. Thanks to all who gave so generously; £1,316.65 was raised for Cancer Research UK.

MEMORIALS

ARCHIBALD - In loving memory of Michelle, died July 25, 2002.

When we lose the one we love
The hurt is hard to hide
But when we lost you Michelle
The hurt is deep inside
We think about you all the time
We talk about you too
We have lots of lovely memories
But we wish we still had you.
- Mam, dad, Lisa, uncle Angus and Mila.xx

DONALDSON - Treasured memories of a dear mum, mother-in-law and nan, Lexy, who died July 27, 1989. We never part from those we love
No distance can divide
For every day down memory

lane
We still walk side by side.

- Morven, DJ and family xx

DONALDSON - In loving memory of our Mum, Lexy, who passed away on July 27, 1989.

It's been 30 years since you were taken away

We miss you more than words can say.

- Iain and Maria.

KERR - Special memories of our dear mother, mother-in-law and granny Flora, who died July 26, 2004.
- Love John, Morag and family x

MACCOLL - Ronald Graham (Ronnie), who passed away 10 years ago at Kilmore, July 30, 2009.

In memory of a dear dad, grandpa and friend.

Thinking of you and missing you every day, happy in the knowledge that you will always be in sight of the "hills of home".

- Duncan, Rose, Charlotte, Alexander and families.

MACDONALD - Beloved and treasured memories of my darling daughter and our sister Kayla, taken away too soon on July 23, 2017.

If I could have a lifetime wish
And one dream that could come true

I would pray to God with all my heart

Just to see and speak to you
A thousand words won't bring you back

I know because I've tried
And neither will a million tears
I know because I've cried

You have left behind my broken heart

And precious memories too
But I have never wanted memories

I have only wanted you.

- Inserted by her sorrowing Dad and brothers Ruaridh and Ronnie.

Your lifetime a beautiful memory

Your absence a silent grief
Our beautiful and beloved granddaughter.

- Pappa and Granny, Tiree.

Always in our thoughts

Forever in our hearts.

- Magga, Tearlach, Sandra and Lachie, Tiree.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of our much loved dad, grampa and great-grampa, Iain who passed away July 29, 2012.

A beautiful memory dearer than gold,

Of a man whose worth can never be told.

There's a place in our hearts no one can fill,

We miss you Dad and always will.

- Angus, Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda and Alastair.

MADEJ - Thinking of you 24/7.

Love you always til we meet again.

- From your loving husband.

McCOMBIE - In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law and granny Cathie who died July 27, 1990 and also our dear nephew and cousin Iain MacIntyre (Slippers), who died July 22, 2014.

Always in our thoughts.

- John, Teenie, Peter and family.

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All set for lifeboat day

Preparations are well under way for Tobermory Lifeboat Day on Sunday August 11 in Tobermory Harbour and Ledaig car park from noon to 4pm.

This year's Tobermory Lifeboat Day theme is Harry Potter! Come along and enjoy a great day out.

Visitors on the day can look forward to:

- Tour the Severn-class lifeboat
- Meet some of Hedwig's pals with Kintail Birds of Prey
- Free lifejacket clinic and safety advice
- Barbecue
- Loch Fyne Oysters
- Music from local band Flora
- Raffle with amazing prizes

(tickets can be bought on the day or in advance from the RNLI shop, Seafare and at the Salen Show)

■ Lots of games to play and stalls to browse.

The day will kick off at noon with a display from the Seahawks Cheerleading Academy.

There will be a fancy dress parade for all ages at 1pm, judged by a special guest from Hogwarts.

The raft race will take place at 3.30pm. Please register at the clock tower at 3.15pm. Lifejackets must be worn but no water balloons please as they contribute towards plastic pollution in the bay.



The Tobermory lifeboat at last year's lifeboat day.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The other day I was standing at the manse window watching the birds – blackbirds, gulls, tits – as they sat on the fence and on the telegraph wire that crosses the manse garden.

This is a good time of year to be observing bird life especially near the coast. It is amazing how these little creatures balance so neatly and securely. They easily exceed the skill of an acrobat.

Their ability to do so is not just from their small body weight, or from their strong grip, but from the functioning of the inner ear, always important in balance, and to the bones and muscles of the pelvic cavity. Their heavenly Maker with such incredible precision created them.

God says: 'I know all the birds of the mountain.' And Jesus said: 'Not one of the birds falls without the Father knowing it.'

Few of us could balance on a tightrope, and some of us feel insecure on a ladder. But there is another sense in which we achieve balance – a balance of work and play, a balance of responsibilities and leisure, a balance of the spiritual and the material, a balance of commitment to church and family.

In the gospel passage for the sixth Sunday after Pentecost, we have Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Martha has become agitated that she is left to finish preparing and serving the meal, while her sister Mary sits at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus declines to criticise Mary, who has chosen the better part. May we balance our commitment to practical tasks with the commitment of faith, and sit at the feet of the Master.

**Rev Malcolm Kinnear,
Church of Scotland,
Kinlochleven and Nether
Lochaber.**

Rotarians boost Oban Gaelic Choir

As reported in last week's Oban Times, the Oban Gaelic Choir participates in the world-renowned choral festival held in Tallinn, Estonia, every five years.

This year's visit was a very successful trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all 35 members who took pride in promoting Gaelic culture and music.

Oban Rotary, in line with its tradition of supporting such initiatives, donated £500 to the cost of the trip and the choir's treasurer, Margaret Farmer, is seen here accepting the cheque from Rotary president Douglas Small.

Also in the picture are choir members, conductor Sileas Sinclair, Mary Catherine MacLean, Rhionna MacCormick, along with Rotarians Iain MacIntyre, Terry Macnair, Ian MacInnes and Kees van Rein.



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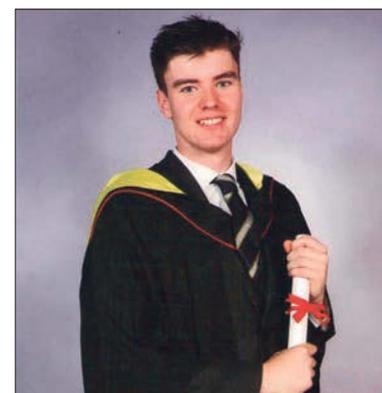


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GRADUATIONS



STUART DUNCAN MACLEOD

Graduated from University of Glasgow with BSc First Class Honours in Accounting and Mathematics – son of Alan and Margaret MacLeod Oban. Grandson of Bruce and Elizabeth MacLeod, Oban and George and Margaret Kirk, Glasgow. Stuart is a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.

Lochside Rovers win Suther

Camanachd and Kingussie reach Macaulay Cup final

HIS Sutherland

Cup final

Lovat 1

Lochside Rovers 2

After extra time

Lochside Rovers lifted the HIS Sutherland Cup for the second time in three years, defeating the Lovat second team 2-1 after extra time in their 4pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

Lochside last won this national trophy in 2017, with Lovat's previous success in 2010.

A good-sized crowd gathered for the final with both clubs well-represented on the touchline.

Lochside thought they had taken the lead midway through the first half when Lewis Buchanan rifled a great shot high into the Lovat net, but goal judge Peter Jackson flagged for a Lochside player being in the 'D' and the 'goal' was chalked off.

Lovat had to make an early change when Cameron MacMillan was forced off after taking a knock, but he returned to midfield mid-way through the second half. James MacKenzie took over before he himself was withdrawn.

Lochside introduced Iain MacMillan midway through the first half which helped them gain control of the centre line.

Daniel Sloss entered the field of play at half-time to further boost Lochside's chances.

Lovat were relying on Tom Collings and James Grieve to hold things

together at the back but Lochside eventually made the breakthrough on 71 minutes. Ross Campbell capitalised on loose marking as he found space around three yards outside the 'D' and sent a shoulder-high shot to Lovat keeper and captain Ronan MacMillan's left and into the net to make it 1-0.

Almost straight from the re-start, Lovat drew level. Raymond Rennie fired a trademark powerful finish through a crowded goal area and although Lochside keeper Gavin Stobbart tried to move to the ball, the speed of the waist-high strike gave him no chance.

There was a fierce battle between Lochside full back Chrissie MacMillan and Lovat dangerman Raymond Rennie, who at one point required stitches to a finger injury, and MacMillan received a yellow card from referee Andy MacLean for bringing down Rennie as he made for goal.

Lovat lost defender James Grieve before the 90 minutes were up as he suffered a back injury after a Michael MacQueen challenge.

Lochside dominated extra time, controlling the centre line. The winning goal came on 97 minutes when a clearance out of the Lovat defence came to Lewis Buchanan and he fired a great shot from distance into the net to make it 2-1.

The closest Lovat came to a leveller was a late James Matheson shot from the left which went across goal but an equaliser would have been harsh



The victorious Lochside Rovers team.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

on Lochside who created more chances and deserved their win over the two hours of shinty.

The only downside for Lochside was Evan MacLellan's bad hand injury. Craig MacDougall came on in his place.

After the final whistle, Lochside skipper Jordan Kerr was presented with the Sutherland Cup by Garry MacKintosh from sponsors HIS with the Camanachd Association president also in attendance.

Lochside Rovers manager Brian MacCallum said: 'We got the result we wanted. We created plenty chances during the game but Lovat were well-organised and quite difficult to break down. If we'd taken our chances, we'd have been fine but frustration started to creep in but we got there.'

'The whole squad did well but Iain 'Scally' MacMillan, Chrissie MacMillan and Ross Campbell were big players for us. Lovat's Laura Gallacher was excellent.'

'That's a trophy each for ourselves and the seniors already this season. We each have another final to look forward to and with plenty more to play for; it is such a positive time for the club right now.'



Lochside's Lewis Buchanan celebrates scoring the winner in the HIS Sutherland Cup final.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Lochside Rovers captain Jordan Kerr lifts the HIS Sutherland Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals

Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Oban Camanachd 4

Oban Camanachd reached their second cup final of the season when they scored four times in the first half to beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 4-1 in their Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd started at a good pace but National Division side GMA showed they weren't there to make up the numbers when Calum McLay's strike went narrowly wide of Cameron Sutherland's far post.

The Oban side started to carve out chances of their own and former Oban Camanachd keeper Robert Dunning, who had a terrific game in goal, did well to keep out Daniel Cameron's effort on the angle following a clever free-hit routine.

The game's opening goal came on 19 minutes. Willie Neilson's snap-shot was saved by keeper Dunning, but Daniel MacVicar was first to react and settled Oban nerves by turning the rebound home.

Six minutes later it was 2-0. Daniel Cameron did well to knock the ball down into the path of Andrew MacCuish who took a touch to his right side before blasting a waist-high shot past the keeper.

Oban Camanachd had one foot in the final on 31 minutes. Andrew MacCuish played in Daniel Cameron with a free-hit. Robert Dunning saved Cameron's low shot but a visiting defender was deemed to have 'kicked' the ball and Andrew

MacCuish did his usual efficient job from the resultant spot-hit, striking it low and hard into the net.

Oban Camanachd continued to pile on the pressure, with Lorne Dickie controlling the midfield, and they had chances before adding a fourth goal a minute before the break. The ball was worked forward from midfield and Daniel MacVicar took a Scott MacMillan ball down before volleying home to make it 4-0.

GMA came more into it in the second half, although they still had to rely on Robert Dunning to make a couple of smart stops with his feet.

Oban Camanachd introduced Gary McKerracher and Keith MacMillan for the final third of the game.

Brian Slattery, who had been switched forward from his midfield role to attack, pulled a goal back with six minutes remaining when he sent a looping shot high into the net to make it 4-1.

Oban Camanachd's winning run now stands at 12 matches and they maintain their tag as shinty's form team.

A second final of the season awaits on Saturday August 17 when Kingussie are Oban Camanachd's opponents in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Mossfield.

Kingussie are also the Oban side's next opponents as they meet in the league at Mossfield this Saturday.

Kingussie 2 Newtonmore 1

Ruaridh Anderson's late strike gave Kingussie a 2-1 win over Badenoch rivals Newtonmore in their semi-fi-



Fixtures

Saturday July 27

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Semi Final

Newtonmore v Caberfeidh
Ross Brown - 4pm
At Bught Park, Inverness

Mowi Premiership

Oban Camanachd v Kingussie
Graham Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel
David Mitchell
Kilmallie v Inveraray
Alex MacVicar - 3pm
Lovat v Lochaber
Calum Girvan - 3pm

Mowi National Division

Beaully v Strathglass
Iain Kennedy
Glenurquhart v Glasgow MA
Des McNulty - 3pm
Oban Celtic v Fort William
Lachie Wood

Mowi North Division 1

Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Steven MacLachlan - noon
Glenurquhart v Glengarry
Des McNulty - noon
Inverness v Kingussie
TBA - noon
Lovat v Newtonmore
Calum Girvan - noon
Skye v Aberdeen University
Deek Cameron

Mowi South Division 1

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Tayforth
Robert Baxter
Taynuilt v Ballachulish
Lucy McNulty
Inveraray v Lochside Rovers
Ewan MacDonald

Mowi North Division 2

Inverness v Beaully
Steven MacLachlan
Lochcarron v Boleskine
TBA
Kilmallie v Strathglass
Alex MacVicar - noon
Lewis v Strathspey
TBA

All throw-ups 2pm unless stated.

Orland Cup



Results

Thursday July 18
Mowi South Division 1
Inveraray 3 v 0 Kyles Athletic

Saturday July 20
Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals
Glasgow MA 1 v 4 Oban Caman
Kingussie 2 v 1 Newtonmore

HIS Sutherland Cup Final
Lovat 1 v 2 Lochside Rovers
After extra time

Mowi Premiership
Caberfeidh 1 v 4 Kyles Athletic
Lochaber 2 v 3 Inveraray

Mowi National Division
Glenurquhart 3 v 3 Skye
Bute 1 v 1 Strathglass

Mowi North Division 1
Fort William 2 v 2 Kinlochshiel
Skye 2 v 0 Glenurquhart
Newtonmore 2 v 0 Inverness
Caberfeidh 4 v 4 Glengarry

Mowi South Division 1
Ballachulish 7 v 2 Tayforth
Glasgow MA 0 v 7 Aberdeen

Mowi North Division 2
Strathglass 0 v 0 Boleskine

Mowi South Division 2
Glenorchy P v P Aberdeen
To be rescheduled
Oban Celtic 6 v 0 Bute

Heb Celt Cup
Lewis 1 v 1 Uist
Lewis won 2-1 on penalties

nal at Braeview Park. Kingussie's James Hutchison was out with a broken finger, whilst Newtonmore missed an entire forward line in Evan Menzies, Michael Russell, Glen MacKintosh and Ewen Fraser.

Newtonmore, opening with the wind advantage, made a strong start as they swarmed all over Kingussie during the first half hour of the tie but all they had to show for their pressure was a Jamie Robinson goal after four minutes.

Kingussie equalised right on half-time. A long Kieran MacPherson ball dropped in front of box. There was a scramble before the ball was eventually cleared out, but it came to Ryan MacWilliam who was standing on the right side, around 25 yards out. MacWilliam stopped the ball before unleashing a really good strike which took a deflection off a raised Newtonmore stick. Newtonmore keeper Kenny Ross just managed to get his finger-tips to the ball, above his head, but couldn't keep it out.

Newtonmore made a change at

the break as Ryan Spinks came on for Craig Ritchie, although Ritchie came back on mid-way through the second half when he went to centre with Steven Macdonald dropping to wing back and Ryan Spinks pushed up to wing forward.

Neil Stewart also came off the Newtonmore bench but later went off injured.

With the wind now in their favour, Kingussie dominated the second half, but Kenny Ross didn't have many serious saves to make. That was largely due to excellent full back play from Newtonmore's Rory Kennedy who held the defence together at times.

Rory MacGregor in the Kingussie goal was the busier of the two keepers.

The winning goal came with 13 minutes remaining and it was a cracker.

Roddy Young had possession out wide on the right and played the ball across, but it took a deflection,

Continued on page 76



Oban Camanachd's 'Papa' MacCuish takes on the Mid Argyll defence during last Saturday's Macaulay Cup semi-final at Mossfield.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S
JACKPOT
£3100

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 Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; 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.....

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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:

- R Shaw**
- Barbreck**
- S Galbraith**
- Carradale**

Continued from page 67

coming out to Ruaraidh Anderson who took a touch before hitting a glorious drive into the roof of the net from 20 yards.

Mowi Premiership Lochaber 2 Inveraray 3

Inveraray saw off a Lochaber come back to win 3-2 in their relegation battle at Spean Bridge.

Inveraray started strongly and took the lead in the opening minute when Lewis MacNicol won the ball in midfield and found Garry MacPherson driving through the middle. He turned Duncan MacKinnon inside-out before flicking an inch-perfect ball to Fraser Watt on the left of the 'D' who slammed the ball high into the middle of the goal from 12 yards to make it 1-0.

Lochaber had their first shot on goal on six minutes when Ben Delaney found space on the left, but his strike went wide of the left-hand post.

Inveraray were showing good movement up front and increased their advantage on nine minutes. The goal came from a corner. Garry MacPherson caught the Lochaber defence napping as he played the ball low from a wide area towards the front post where full centre Lewis MacNicol waltzed into the box and his first-time shot beat the helpless Callum MacDonald to make it 2-0.

Lochaber keeper MacDonald pulled off a great save on 20 minutes as he blocked Garry MacPherson's fine drive from the left with his chest before clearing the ball to safety.

Lochaber's Ben Delaney and Stuart Callison tested Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan, but it was the Winterton side who would add a third goal on 29 minutes. Again the goal came from Lewis MacNicol winning possession, this time deep in Lochaber territory. He found the ever-alert Garry MacPherson whose defence-splitting pass picked out Fraser Watt running in unmarked through the heart of the Lochaber defence and he slotted the ball low past the keeper from close range.

Lochaber were now up against it but, on 41 minutes, Conor Sweeney took a corner from the right, sending the ball into the danger area. Stuart Callison found space to slam the ball goalwards and although Scott MacLachlan saved with his feet, he was unable to get the ball away and Ben Delaney was quick to react as he poked the ball over the line to make it 3-1 at the interval.

Lochaber started the second

period with intent and Scott MacLachlan pulled off a great save to thwart Stuart Callison on 53 minutes.

Lochaber's never-say-die attitude got them back into the match with five minutes remaining. Lachlan Campbell played the ball across from the right and it came perfectly to the on-running Findlay MacDonald and his 16-yard shot from the left flew past the keeper to make it 3-2, setting up a tense finish.

Lochaber had a great chance to snatch a point on 87 minutes when referee John Angus Gillies awarded them a spot-hit, penalising keeper MacLachlan for a 'kick' inside the 'D'. Ben Delaney's well-struck effort went straight down the middle and MacLachlan redeemed himself, saving superbly with his stick before clearing the ball for a corner.

Inveraray saw out the rest of the game to claim two valuable points in what was a cleanly-fought contest with no cards shown.

The win sets Inveraray up for another crucial relegation battle at Kilmallie this Saturday.

Caberfeidh 1 Kyles Athletic 4

Kyles Athletic came from behind to beat Caberfeidh 4-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett missed out due to a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Kyles, who were returning to league action after a run of three cup ties, were without Callum Millar, Scott MacDonald, Grant Irvine, Paul MacArthur and George Thomson. Conor Kennedy was given a start and Donald Irvine was available again.

Caberfeidh have been on a scoring spree of late and took the lead in the opening minute through Craig Morrison.

It didn't take Kyles long to level with Ross MacRae netting on six minutes and Colin MacDonald's effort on 22 minutes meant they went into the break 2-1 ahead.

Ross MacRae got his second on 60 minutes, with Colin MacDonald doing like-wise with 10 minutes remaining.

Mowi National Division Glenurquhart 3 Skye Camanachd 3

Second-placed Glenurquhart came from two goals down to draw 3-3 with third-placed Skye Camanachd at Blairbeg.

The opening goal came at the other end as James Pringle found space to score with a low finish on 11 minutes.

Skye's second was a bit of a gift as the Glenurquhart



Macaulay Cup semi-final (North) man of the match Ruaraidh Anderson of Kingussie receives his medal from Macaulay Association committee man David Hamilton.

keeper Stuart MacKintosh made an initial save, but he pushed the ball out straight to Skye's Ross Gordon who scored from the edge of the 'D' to make it 2-0 with 31 minutes gone.

There was a second half flash-point for referee Graham Cameron to deal with when Connor Golabek got involved in a bit of a wrestling match. He was shown a red card, as was Skye's Marcus Scott who only appeared to be trying to act as peace-maker.

This seemed to reinvigorate Glenurquhart and Neale Reid, who had dropped back to full centre after Michael Fraser was withdrawn, strode forward from the middle of the park. Reid wasn't closed down and he hit the ball with pace to make it 2-1 after 66 minutes.

A nice finish from Ewan Brady on 81 minutes made it 2-2 and a draw seemed likely.

However Skye benefited when, with three minutes remaining, John Barr went for a high ball into the goal area and spectacularly smashed the ball into his own net to put Skye 3-2 ahead with three minutes remaining.

Glenurquhart's James MacPherson had had a frustrating afternoon but, with the game into stoppage time, MacPherson gathered the ball on the wing. There seemed little danger until he bulleted the ball high into the net to earn his side an unlikely point.

Bute 1 Strathglass 1

Bute and Strathglass drew 1-1 in their relegation battle at the Meadows.

Penri Jones put the visitors ahead on 15 minutes, but Iain McDonald, back in the Bute

side after missing their defeat at Skye a week earlier, drew the islanders level 15 minutes from time.

It was a mixed afternoon for former Scottish international McDonald as he was sent off by referee Lachie Wood in the final minute.

Mowi North Division 1 Caberfeidh 4 Glengarry 4

Glengarry came from behind to draw 4-4 with the Caberfeidh second team in their noon throw-up at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh's Martin MacDonald and Glengarry duo Shaun Sloggie and Finlay Nicolson were suspended.

Glengarry took the lead on 19 minutes when Nick Dalgety opened his account for the day.

Colin MacLennan scored on 20 minutes to make it 2-0 and there was a goal glut late in the half.

Colin MacLennan exchanged goals with Ruaraidh MacLeman on 44 minutes to give the hosts a 3-1 lead but Nick Dalgety got his second on 45 minutes to make it 3-2 at the break.

Nick Dalgety completed his hat-trick on 79 minutes to tie the match, whilst Raymond Robertson's goal a minute later put Glengarry ahead for the first time in the match.

Caberfeidh were not to be denied though as Colin MacLennan completed his hat-trick on 82 minutes and the match finished 4-4.

Fort William 2 Kinlochshiel 2

The Fort William reserves and the Kinlochshiel reserves drew 2-2 at An Aird. With no



Les Kinvig of the Macaulay Association hands over the South man of the match award to Oban Camanachd's Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish.

first team match, Kinlochshiel included Scotland U17 player Duncan Matheson who gave his side the lead on 42 minutes.

The match turned Fort William's way with Greig Kelly on the hour and Hamish Shaw a couple minutes later putting the hosts 2-1 ahead.

Kinlochshiel's David MacAskill made it 2-2 with 15 minutes remaining.

Elsewhere in the division, the Newtonmore colts are just two points off the top of the table with three games in hand on leaders Glengarry after they beat the Inverness first team 2-0. Murphy Henderson scored twice as the Skye Camanachd second team beat the Glenurquhart second team 2-0.

Mowi South Division 1 Inveraray 3 Kyles Athletic 0

The Inveraray seconds and the Kyles Athletic seconds met in a match originally rearranged for Thursday July 20

which was put back 24 hours. Kane Kirkhope was playing in a more advanced role for Inveraray and he scored a well-taken goal in eight minutes after impressive forward play.

John MacKenzie was working hard in the middle of the park and set up Inveraray's second goal on 53 minutes. MacKenzie found Campbell Watt who let go a 30-yard strike which gave the Kyles keeper no chance.

Inveraray sealed both points when Campbell Watt continued his good scoring run with his second goal of the game with 10 minutes remaining.

Elsewhere in the division, Ballachulish were 7-2 winners against Tayforth, whilst league leaders Aberdour enjoyed a crushing 7-0 win against the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds.

Mowi North Division 2 Strathglass 0 Boleskine 0

Boleskine and the Strathglass second team battled out a scoreless draw at Cannich, with both keepers on top form.

Mowi South Division 2 Oban Celtic 6 Bute 0

The Oban Celtic colts beat the Bute colts 6-0 at Ganavan.

Bute travelled with just 11 players and fell behind to a Lennon Campbell goal after a couple of minutes.

Alex Galbraith added a brace on 16 and 20 minutes and a second from Lennon Campbell on 26 minutes made it 4-0. Scott Burnett added a fifth with five first half minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic's John Douglas scored the only goal of the second half on 67 minutes.

The win lifts the Oban Celtic colts to third in the table and completes a good league campaign for the squad.



Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan saves from Lochaber's Ben Delaney. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba photos

Sign of The Times for tennis writer Stuart



by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Being rejected for an interview as a journalist at The Oban Times more than 10 years ago sent Stuart Fraser on a journey that eventually landed him a job at the top of his field.

Now the number one tennis correspondent for The Times newspaper, and based in London, the 33-year-old is at the top of his game, but still remembers with great fondness where it all started.

'I can honestly say that not getting an interview for The Oban Times post gave me the kick up the backside I needed,' said Stuart, speaking from Royal Port Rush last week before reporting on the British Open. He sometimes does other sports too.

'They said I didn't have enough writing experience and they were right. I didn't. It was 100 per cent what I

needed to hear at that point.'

Most of Stuart's journalistic experiences prior to that rejection had been with Oban FM where he had volunteered on the sports show on a Saturday night, along with making teas and answering phones.

'I really enjoyed working at Oban FM. Through that I covered shinty and football matches and got to know all the local sports people. It was a great foundation for my future career.

'If I can give any advice to people looking at a career in journalism, it is to start at local level and speak to coaches and players that you are familiar with.

'It will stand you in good stead when you move on to those big interviews. Dream big and look to the future.'

Stuart spent his early years in Bridge of Orchy before moving to Dalmally and eventually Oban where he



Oban tennis writer Stuart Fraser during his recent stint at Wimbledon.

developed an interest in sport from an early age and loved watching all the big events on TV. 'I particularly loved the tennis,' he added, 'I have no idea why.'

As soon as he moved to Oban, Stuart joined the

tennis club and spent many happy years playing there. His involvement in the West Highland Championships meant he met players such as Malcolm Watt and doubles specialist Colin Fleming. Speaking to players of such

high calibre only fuelled Stuart's appetite to become a top class tennis writer and that's exactly what he did.

At the age of 22, following a spell in a supermarket petrol station, rejection from The Oban Times and considering a career in air traffic control, Stuart enrolled in a three-year journalism course at West of Scotland University.

'The course was great for the areas I didn't have a great knowledge in, like writing and law, and I was also able to get out and earn some money doing freelance work,' he added.

TENNIS

'I started covering the ITF (Futures) events working 12 hours a day for £20 a day.'

The experience was priceless though.

Stuart had also noticed a young lad from Dunblane was rising through the Scottish ranks and no-one seemed to be paying much attention.

'I started to travel to the tournaments Andy Murray was playing at,' he continued.

'I got in touch with the Daily Record and they went with it and it eventually paid off for me.'

Stuart moved to London in 2012 to be closer to where all the action was and after four years doing freelance shifts on the sports desk at the Daily Mail, he got a job as the tennis writer at the Times.

Stuart now travels the world reporting on all the major tennis tournaments, as well as some of the other big sporting events.

Last weekend he was reporting from Royal Portrush, and keeping a close eye on another Oban success story.

'I have become accustomed to staying neutral over the past few years or so but I may allow myself a small fist pump if Bob (MacIntyre) does well,' he concluded.

ABCD drives Oban Saints forward



Some of the Oban Saints squad watch on as club secretary David Buchanan accepts a cheque from ABCD committee member Alfie MacKenzie at a recent training session. Also in the photograph is ABCD's secretary Andy Henderson and committee members Iain MacInnes and Stephen Clarke.

Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) has presented Oban Saints Football Club with £2,000 to help with minibus driver training, medical and theory test costs.

ABCD secretary Andy Henderson said: 'There is overwhelming evidence regular exercise and physical activity has a vital role to play in helping to provide good physical and mental health in the increasingly sedentary society we now live in. That is why we are happy to support organisations such as football clubs, the Ganavan Sands parkrun, tennis, badminton and squash clubs, the Sustrans cycle net-

work, play parks in Oban, Lismore and Kintyre, many schools' outdoor events, Oban Otters, Park Primary School gymnastic club, and our own annual 10K and fun run. The list is not exhaustive. We also provide much-needed help to health services in Argyll, by supplying medical equipment, where there are gaps to be filled, to the hospitals, the ambulance service and to the RNLI. We have also brought much-needed cardiac ultrasound services to more remote areas of Argyll. This service has now been adopted by the NHS and is proving invaluable. Our other main source of activity relates to providing

funding for training of health professionals in circumstances where hard pressed NHS funding is not available. We have been doing all of these activities continuously since we first formed in 2000 and, because of the generosity of so many who support us financially, we will continue to be active in the years ahead. To highlight in more detail what we do, we are holding an open day at the Oban hospital on Sunday September 15 from 2-4pm to which everyone is invited. We wish Oban Saints every success in their driver training courses and for the upcoming season.'

SHOOTING

Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club Open Shoot

Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club held the Glenfiddich Challenge Cup on Saturday July 6 in perfect weather conditions.

Thirty-five guns turned out, including the Scottish Clay Target Association's DTL rep Norrie Scott and Sean MacDonough, the Scottish DTL team manager. The club is indebted to Anna Morrison of WM Grant & Sons for her continued sponsorship of this event over the last six years. High gun for the day after a shoot-off was Ian Dawson on 146 with Donnie MacPhail runner up. Third equal on 144 were Kenny McGillivray, Alan Brown and John Jackson with sixth place going to Gordon Griffiths on 143. Ian Dawson also won the Pool Trap shoot after a shoot-off with Stuart McNeil.



Left to right: Alan Brown, Kenny McGillivray, Ian Dawson, Anna Morrison, John Jackson, Donnie MacPhail and Gordon Griffiths.

OT

SHINTY



The photograph is free to use (left to right): Sitekit founder Campbell Grant, Skye players Martin Pringle, Ross Gordon and Jamie Gillies, who are included in the Scotland U17 squad, and Sitekit CEO Elgar Finlay.

New squad and new sponsor for Scotland U17 Ireland tour

The Camanachd Association is pleased to announce the Scotland Under 17-squad and a new sponsor ahead of their 2019 Ireland tour.

The annual tour, which has been taking place for more than 20 years, sees the country's elite shinty players, many of whom played in the previous year's North vs South U17 match, play shinty/hurling challenge matches against their hurling counterparts from Kildare and Dublin.

This year's tour will be sponsored by Sitekit, a technology company headquartered on the Isle of Skye and now with offices in London and Edinburgh servicing the digital health and cyber security markets.

Sitekit founder Campbell Grant, himself a former shinty player with Glasgow University, Aberdeen Camanachd and Skye Camanachd in the 1980s, said: 'Sitekit is proud to sponsor the Scotland U17s tour. We have a long connection with the sport and we wish the team and all those involved every success and a safe trip.'

This year's squad is: Ryan Craig, Bute; Cam Clark, Kilmallie; Cameron MacIntosh, Glenurquhart; Ryan Boyle, Fort William; Jamie Gillies, Skye Camanachd; Calum Grover, Newtonmore; Liam Borthwick, Kingussie; Duncan Matheson, Kinlochshiel; Kieran MacPherson, Kingussie; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Ross Gordon, Skye Camanachd; Conor Kennedy, Kyles Athletic; Alistair MacRae, Fort William; Lewis Clark, Fort William; Martin Pringle, Skye Camanachd; William MacKinnon, Skye Camanachd and Lachie Shaw, Fort William.

The squad travels across to Dublin on Sunday July 28 taking in the All Ireland semi-final at Croke Park, and return on Wednesday July 31.

GOLF

Dalmally ladies at The Open



Eight lady members from Dalmally Golf Club were at The Open at Royal Portrush. The trip was planned three and a half years ago before local golfer Robert MacIntyre was even on the tour. They were delighted to be there to follow and support Robert at his first Open and see him do so well.

Results from Glencruitten

Winner of the Senior Championship at Glencruitten on Saturday was Phillip Murphy with a score of 68, 67, 71 = 206. The George Smith Trophy was won by Kenny MacLean with a score of 60, 62 = 122. Runner-up was Malcolm Cullen with a score of 64, 59 = 123.

On Saturday the Handicap Championship third round and Championship third round take place.

African experience says rugby coach

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Rugby Union coach Lucy Stewart has returned from a five-month rugby coaching expedition in Africa a 'different person'.

Last year the 19-year-old

from Benderloch raised around £5,500 to part fund the trip, which started in January and took her through eight countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa.

During the trip Lucy, a modern apprentice for Scottish

Rugby Union based at Oban High School, visited school fields and dusty backyards in remote communities to pass on her passion for the sport.

She realised once she was there, however, that she had much learning to do herself. 'Our group leaders didn't tell us too much about what to expect out there, preferring us to experience everything first hand,' she said.

'We had everything thrown at us. In some of the townships in Malawi and Kenya children had never even seen a rugby ball, let alone a white woman coming to teach them about it.

'It was difficult trying to get the girls to join in as most of them went home to do chores when they weren't at school while the boys played sports.

'Sometimes it was a bit of a challenge but we did our best and everyone seemed to enjoy playing a version of the game.'

'We tried to get over the inclusive part of the sport and encourage the children to follow our PRIDE values - professionalism, respect,

integrity, discipline and enjoyment.'

Lucy, who coaches at primary schools around Oban as part of her apprenticeship, travelled to Africa with the Bhubesi Pride Foundation.

'I heard a presentation the charity did about their education work and I knew straight away it was something I wanted to do,' she added.

'It far exceeded anything I expected and has made me even more determined to coach rugby at grassroots level in this country.'

Lucy ended her trip in South Africa, one of the top rugby playing nations in the world, where volunteering to coach one of the men's teams took everyone by surprise. 'Someone had told me that there were no women coaches.'

Away from the field of play, Lucy also had some interesting experiences, a late night visit from an off-course hippo and a sugar thieving baboon being two of them.

There was a down side to the trip, however. During her time in South Africa two of



Lucy Stewart was blown away by the response she got while coaching rugby in African townships.

Lack of opponents for Saints' pre-season

Due to Port Glasgow United's withdrawal and the lack of available replacement opposition, Oban Saints management duo of Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell were forced to arrange a full-scale practice match last Saturday morning to keep their pre-season plans on track.

With a number of first team squad members unavailable, Elliot Dougall, youngster Sol Smith and evergreens Alex Craik and Ross Maitland were drafted in at short notice to ensure a full complement for both the pink and yellow bibs in a 9am kick off at Glencruitten.

There was less than 60 seconds on referee Peter MacCallum's watch when James Ford opened the scoring for the yellows, catching the pinks' back four cold before slotting past a helpless Graham Douglas.

Douglas saved with his legs to deny Dean Smith from a James Ford lay-off before the pinks restored parity in the 21st minute. Captain Dene Cassells was left cursing the

lack of an offside call from referee MacCallum as Aaron McKay raced through and gave Ben Pollock no chance with a composed finish.

Ross Maitland and Alex Craik combined to good effect in the 27th minute when Craik beat Dene Cassells in the air to glance a Ross Maitland left-wing cross beyond Ben Pollock and edge the pinks ahead.

Maitland turned from provider to scorer to extend the pinks' lead 20 minutes into the second period. Aaron McKay, who covered every blade of grass in an industrious dis-

play in midfield beat opposite number Gavin Forgive in the air to head an under-hit Ben Pollock clearance into the path of Maitland who sent a thumping right foot finish across Pollock and into the far corner of the net.

The scoring was rounded off in the 86th minute when Keir MacLean prodded home a Scott Maitland cross from the left after a swift counter attack.

Co-manager Willie Gemmell was happy with the effort and performance from both teams in a competitive challenge match well handled

FOOTBALL

by referee Peter MacCallum.

The D&K Lafferty Cup aside, Saints last played a home fixture on April 6 and the action-starved home faithful hoped to be rewarded in style for their forbearance this Saturday when 2018 Scottish Amateur Cup winners Shortlees were due to visit Glencruitten but, unfortunately, the Kilmarnock side have had to pull out of the fixture.

Saints' secretary David Buchanan was not happy at the call-offs. He said: This is the second team that have pulled out of pre-season fixtures against us - Port Glasgow and now Shortlees.

'I know it's a difficult time with players being on holiday but they shouldn't take the fixture if they are not going to fulfil it. Our last pre-season game is up in Inverness on Saturday 3 August against Inverness Athletic.'

On going to press, Saints were in the process of trying to find alternative opposition for Saturday.



James Ford and Scott Maitland in action.

was 'unforgettable'



Away from the field of play Lucy got herself acquainted with the local wildlife.

Lucy's friends were mugged, she witnessed a dead body at the side of the road following an accident and there was a shooting outside a bar she went to for dinner.

'You hear about these things happening but don't really think it will affect you,' she

said. It was pretty scary and I didn't tell my parents until I got home.

'Don't get me wrong - I loved South Africa but seeing and hearing the other side of it was a real eye-opener.

'The trip has definitely changed me.



A browse around the local shops proved to be a popular pastime at weekends.

'I feel like everyone who goes travelling says that but it really has.'

Since returning Lucy has undergone an operation to remove her thymus gland and is now looking forward to picking up her coaching and playing career once she has

RUGBY COACHING

recovered from the operation. She has applied for the post of Argyll and Bute rugby development officer and hopes to return to Oban Lorne Ladies' team next season.

Superb performance from Bob at The Open

Continued from page 80
ing plans, he talked of shinty training on a Tuesday and Thursday evening with Oban Celtic.

'It just gives me that peace of mind,' MacIntyre said. 'I'm away from absolutely

everything out there. It gives me fitness. I lost weight from when I started doing it just after Morocco [the Trophée Hassan II in late April] is when I actually got back doing it. It's not dangerous at all, you know what's going on.'

MacIntyre's efforts also put some extra money in the pockets of the many local punters, who cannily took full advantage of his lengthy odds of 250/1, and there was many a toast, paid for by the winnings, in the pubs on

GOLF

Sunday evening.

He is a credit to the town, and Oban is rightly proud of a young man who is destined for greatness.



Oban journalist Stewart Fraser, who is The Times tennis and golf writer, pictured with Bob at Royal Portrush



Bob in action at The Open.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 17°C to 23°C.

Friday
Sunny with light rain and a moderate 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 18°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)

	05.16	1.8	10.42	3.0
Thur	17.18	1.8	23.24	3.1
Fri	06.17	1.9	11.46	2.9
	18.21	1.9	***	**
Sat	00.55	3.1	07.22	1.8
	13.28	2.9	19.32	1.8
Sun	02.30	3.2	08.25	1.6
	14.50	3.1	20.44	1.6
Mon	03.34	3.3	09.24	1.3
	15.46	3.3	21.53	1.4
Tues	04.24	3.5	10.16	1.1
	16.34	1.6	21.45	3.4
Wed	04.26	1.7	09.54	3.1
	16.26	1.7	22.28	3.2

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

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Dalmally ladies at The Open

Lack of opponents for Saints' pre-season

Bob is Oban's own Open superstar



148TH
ROYAL PORTRUSH

by Stewart Fraser
The Times - tennis and golf writer

As Bob MacIntyre holed a 25ft putt for a birdie to complete a remarkable debut at the Open on Sunday, some of his family and friends by the side of the green were overcome by emotion. It was at this moment that the magnitude of his achievement truly sank in for those of us who had spent the week striding the links of Royal Portrush watching every shot he played.

Here was an Oban boy, whom we can all remember swinging clubs at Glencruitten and shinty sticks at Mossfield, standing on the 18th green at golf's oldest major and receiving the loud acclaim of the many



Bob faces the world's press after his remarkable showing at The Open. Photos: Bounce Sports

hundreds of spectators in the grandstands. Whatever MacIntyre goes on to achieve – and I have no doubt that there is much more to come – he can always say that he

was the clubhouse leader on the final day of his first Open championship.

In the end, the 22-year-old was to finish tied for sixth position overall, a magnificent

GOLF

feat summed up by this statistic: he is the first Scotsman since Andrew Kirkaldy in

1879 to record a top-10 finish when making a debut appearance at the Open. He returned to Oban late on Sunday night £250,000 richer and on the cusp of entering the world's top-100 at number 102. His spot in next year's Open at Royal St George's in Kent is already secured. Book your accommodation now.

'For the first Open, it's been a dream come true,' MacIntyre said. 'The highlight of the week has to be holing a 20-plus-footer on 18. The hair was standing on the back of my neck when that putt went in. That's what you play the game for.'

'As a young kid when you're on the putting green, you're thinking this is to win the Masters or win the Open. Unfortunately, that putt wasn't to win the Open, but it's put me in good position for the future.'

With each passing day, MacIntyre continues to impress, and it is not just the left-hander's versatile golf game. He is as down to earth and homely as they come, always returning to Oban in between tournaments. As he stood in front of the national press on Sunday evening and was asked about his upcoming

Continued on page 79



Bob eyes up another birdie putt.



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Post Office pledges to find solution to Mallaig closure

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Post Office says it is committed to providing services in Mallaig following the news that the port's branch of Spar, from where it currently operates, is set to close.

Spar operator CJ Lang has announced it plans to close its shop in Mallaig in January 2020 – and with it Post Office services.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford says he has this week written to Post Office Ltd regarding the proposed closure.

The news comes against a backdrop of RBS having closed its branch in the area. At the time of the closure, RBS insisted the local Post Office would provide the majority of banking services residents required.

The closure of Post Office services would leave RBS customers in the area relying on the one hour-a-week visit from a mobile banking van.

Mr Blackford is now calling on the Post Office to recognise

its responsibility and reassure residents that alternative arrangements will be sought before the loss of service in January 2020.

Mr Blackford told the Lochaber Times: 'The way residents in Mallaig have been treated by the Post Office and the Royal Bank of Scotland has been shocking.

'There has been an abdication of duty to the community and we have now got to the point that people are genuinely worried about the future of banking services in the area.

'The Post Office now has an obligation to find suitable alternative arrangements well before a loss of service next January. It is their duty and one that I will do all I can to ensure they see through.

'I have written to the Post Office seeking assurances these measures will be put in place and I will keep local representatives up to date with my efforts.'

Asked to comment, a Post Office spokesperson said: 'We can confirm CJ Lang has

given us notice it is leaving the Mallaig premises early next year. We understand and appreciate how much communities rely on our services.

'We are absolutely committed to maintaining a Post Office in the area and we are currently assessing options to ensure these vital services are sustained – from everyday banking to a wide range of postal services. We would encourage any retailer or small business owner interested in running the Post Office and incorporating it into their business to get in contact.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson says the decision threatens to be a major blow to Mallaig.

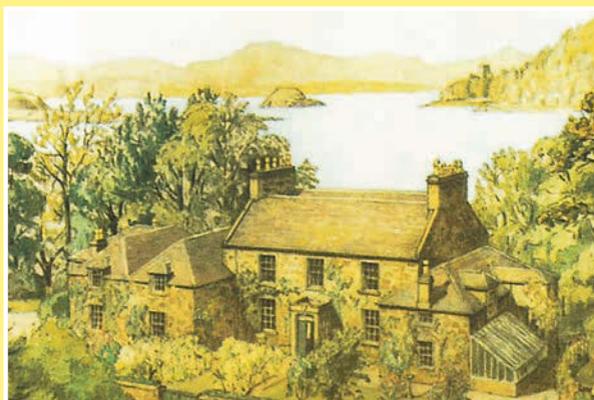
'The Royal Mail sorting office is also based in these premises so that is obviously under threat as well, along with a lot of jobs. This could be a major problem,' he said.

Royal Mail was unable to respond to an inquiry about the fate of the Mallaig sorting office before the Lochaber Times went to press yesterday (Wednesday).

Minister tours new homes sites



Scottish Housing Minister Kevin Stewart MSP, centre, with Alan Maguire of Highland Council, left, and Jamie Duff of MGL Surveyors, at the Blar Mhor new homes site on Tuesday. For the full story, turn to page three.



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Sand mine secrets revealed on tour

As part of Morvern Games and Gala Week, there was a rare opportunity for visitors, including our correspondent Nic Goddard, to explore Lochaline Quartz Sand mine's mysterious depths.

As part of Morvern Games and Gala Week, Lochaline Quartz Sand Limited offered a small group of visitors the chance to tour its plant and mine.

Our group ranged in age from teens to nonagenarians, all eager to learn more about the only underground sand mine in Europe, on the tip of the Morvern peninsula.

Office manager Veronique Walraven explained the history of the site, telling us that Lochaline was first identified as a potential source of silica sand in 1895, with a sample studied by the Edinburgh

Geological Survey in 1923 found to be one of the purest deposits in the world.

The logistics of extracting and transporting the sand at that time were not considered economically viable, but during the Second World War when other sources were closed off and the demand for silica sand was high for producing glass for use in periscope and gun sights, the mine was opened.

In 2008, the mine closed but in 2012 a partnership between Italian mining company Minerali Industriali and Pilkington-owned



Our correspondent Nic Goddard pays a fascinating visit to a sand mine at Lochaline. Photographs: Nic Goddard.

glass manufacturer NSG, re-opened the mine. Veronique showed us photographs of the mine's early operations in the 1950s explaining the principle for the operation is still fairly similar today with holes drilled, explosives planted and sandstone excavated.

The explosives are pushed in with broom handles which the plant order in large numbers. Extraction methods have been modernised though with the sand now taken out of the mine by dumper trucks rather than the horses and later diesel locomotives of days gone by.

We then went into the main mine in use today, the



entrance of which was built in the early 1980s.

A main track, accessible for vehicles to extract the sand, has a network of corridors leading from it. The mine is ventilated partially by the design creating air flow aided by mechanical ventilators.

Geotechnical surveys help map the mine and it is anticipated there is another 40 years' supply of sand still to be mined.

Mine manager Dario Coragliotto explained the room and pillar system operating underground, describing how 90 per cent of the



Without artificial lighting the inside of the mine is pitch dark.

mine roof is self supporting.

The better quality sand is from higher up. The second grade comes from the lower level of the sandstone seam. The sand is used for various end products including glass used in lenses, whisky bottles and windows, but Veronique said: 'We recently supplied sand to film studios so maybe famous movie stars have frolicked in it!'

We completed our time underground with everyone turning off their torches so we could experience the complete darkness of the mine. Despite being in a closely grouped crowd of people there was an eerie sense of being alone.

Returning to daylight, we finished the tour with a walk through the production plant where the sandstone is crushed, washed, screened and graded ready for transport.

The sand sits under purpose-built open sheds, sheltered from the Highland wind and rain, before being sent, mostly shipped by boat, from the pier adjacent to the

works to its destination. The logistics of the operation including staffing, ordering explosives, storing the processed sand and arranging transport can mean large orders are placed a year or more in advance, although small orders of sand can be delivered quickly.

It is a very different place to work in 2019 than it was back in 1952 when Alistair Scoular was an employee.

I fell into step with sprightly Alistair, the oldest participant on the tour at 91 years, on the way back down the fairly steep hill from the mine to talk about what life was like as a worker in the mine nearly 70 years ago.

He said: 'This is the first time I've been in the mine in many years. When I worked here in the 1950s, I was based mostly down at the pier breaking up the stone that had come from the mine. I didn't like being underground but breaking up the stone was no easy task. It was done with a hammer. It was like working on a chain gang.'



Heaps of silica sand.

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Fort wins lion's share of new homes benefit

Fort William will benefit 'more than many other places' from the Holyrood Government's affordable housing programme, according to Scottish Housing Minister Kevin Stewart MSP.

Mr Stewart spoke to the Lochaber Times on Tuesday during a two-day visit to the Highlands, when he toured the development of 12 new flats for affordable rent being built by Highland Council on the site of a former whisky shop in the town's High Street.

A subsidy of £57,000 per unit was awarded to the MacBrayne Apartments project, which is due to be completed in August.

Mr Stewart said: 'This is a cracking development and Fort William should be glad to have it. Whoever moves into these homes will be immensely pleased.

'The views are spectacular and you can already see the quality of the finish of the building and that's hats off to architects and builders and to Highland Council for having faith to build on what is a very tight site.'

Asked how aware Scottish Government was of what

many say is an affordable housing crisis in Fort William, which is being exacerbated by the runaway boom in tourism, Mr Stewart replied: 'I've always said the affordable housing programme should be one for all of Scotland and Fort William is going to benefit more than many other places.

'I'm visiting four sites in Fort William today. The government recognises there is an expansion going on here in Fort William and that is why we are investing so heavily.

'And I am pleased that beyond the affordable housing programme, we've equipped Highland Council with the Evergreen Infrastructure Fund which means we can open up sites which we thought previously were not viable.'

Local councillor Allan Henderson said he was pleased to see the MacBrayne Apartments taking shape on what had been considered a difficult site.

'This project will definitely enhance this end of the High Street,' he added. The minister also viewed ongoing work at the Blar Mhor site

on the outskirts of the town where a major infrastructure project, which attracted £9million from the Scottish Government, will see work start later this year on a first phase involving 117 new affordable homes.

Mr Stewart then visited the former school site at Lochside to view progress being made on a joint project between The Highland Council, Lochaber Housing Association and The Highland Housing Alliance to build 60 houses and flats of which 50 will be for affordable rent, four for shared equity and six for mid-market rent.

Yesterday (Wednesday) Mr Stewart visited council headquarters in Inverness to discuss future housing development opportunities across the Highlands.

Leader of The Highland Council, Councillor Margaret Davidson, said she was particularly pleased the minister's visit had focused on Fort William as meeting the high housing needs is part of wider work going on to bring economic expansion, including private investment, to the town.

Highlanders' Museum rides back in time

Visitors to the Fort George Highlanders' Museum were treated to a recreation of a historic recruitment ride last Thursday.

Riders from Exercise GARRON, who wore uniforms representing the 5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders and Scottish Horse, as well as current service uniform, were re-enacting the 1934 recruitment ride of the Scots Greys from Pitlochry to Kinloss.

The horses were wearing saddles and tack of the era. The original ride was the last major mounted cavalry recruiting march, during which 250 men and 200 horses covered almost 500 miles across Scotland. Visitors also saw original pictures of the ride from stops across the Highlands.

Following their arrival through the stone archway of the main gate, the riders grouped into formation



Major Will MacGill, in historical uniform, of the 5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders and Meg the Mule at the event at Fort George. Photograph: Highlanders' Museum.

for a display on the parade grounds.

This was followed by a question and answer session with the riders, providing a fascinating insight into the history of the Scottish mounted units.

Brazilian driver fined £6,000 for Lochaber head-on smash

A Brazilian lawyer who caused a head-on collision on a Highland road and injured members of a Lochaber family was fined £6,000 at Inverness Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Flavio da Silva, a 40-year-old father of three from Versatile, Salvador, was on the third day of his UK holiday with his wife when he drove on the wrong side of the A86, half a mile east of Spean Bridge, on January 19 this year.

Coming in the opposite direction was 67-year-old James Mackenzie, in his Toyota Hilux, carrying his 88-year-old mother-in-law Annie Henderson and two other passengers in the rear.

As he swerved towards the verge to avoid the impact, da Silva steered his hired BMW towards the same verge and ploughed into the near-side

of the 4x4. Mr Mackenzie was uninjured but his mother-in-law suffered nine rib fractures, a broken sternum and a punctured lung.

The other passengers and the da Silvas suffered minor injuries, including whiplash.

Da Silva travelled to this country at the weekend to admit driving dangerously and take his punishment.

His lawyer, Steve Kennedy, told the court his client had immediately apologised after the incident and enquired about the welfare of Mrs Henderson as soon as he arrived.

Mr Kennedy added: 'He tells me he moved to the other lane to avoid an obstacle on the road and went into automatic mode, driving for some distance along the side of the road he is used to in Brazil.'

Procurator Fiscal Allison

Young said Mrs Henderson had still not fully recovered from her ordeal, which included 11 days in hospital.

She said: 'She still has to have day carers four times a day and aids had to be installed in the house. She has on-going pain relief.'

Sheriff Margaret Neilson warned da Silva she would be imposing 'a significant fine' and that it was unusual for her to go straight to sentencing for this type of offence without a background report.

'But in the circumstances, I have little option,' the sheriff added.

She gave da Silva 24 hours to pay the fine before returning to South America, for which, Mr Kennedy said, his client was prepared.

Da Silva was also banned from driving in the UK for two years.

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Caol drink driver so ashamed he quit job

A 64-year-old Caol driver was so ashamed of himself after he ended up in court on a drink driving charge that the next day he quit the job he had worked at for more than 30 years.

Neil Thomson was fined £600 and banned from driving for 12 months when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week before Sheriff Gary Aitken.

Thomson, of Kilmallie Road, had pleaded guilty to driving a car on the B8004 road at Muirshearlich, Lochaber, on June 15 this year with a breath alcohol level of 100mgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath. The legal limit is 22mgs of alcohol.

Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court Thomson had been reported missing when he drove past a police patrol car before going

off the single track road into a ditch.

'He got out of the ditch and the police followed him and found him to be in a ditch again.'

'The accused had to be helped out of the driver's seat by police and he was taken to the police station.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said married Thomson, who is now 65, had never been in court until appearing from custody in June in relation to this incident.

'He was quite distraught that day and had at first tendered a plea of not guilty but within 48 hours he had indicated he wished to change his plea,' explained Mr Melrose.

'He was very emotional about the whole matter when we spoke and was ashamed of what he had done. This appears to have been completely

out of character. He asked me to apologise to everyone concerned.'

Mr Melrose said Thomson was so ashamed that the day after he appeared in court from custody in June he had resigned from his job as a mobile plant operator at the local sawmill where he had worked since 1985.

'He just could not face up to those at work and felt resigning was the right thing to do,' added Mr Melrose.

Sheriff Aitken told Thomson this was a serious matter: 'Your breath alcohol level was well over the legal level.'

'The fine would have been £900 but because of the timing of your plea I will reduce that to £600.'

'Your driving licence will also be endorsed and you will be banned from driving for 12 months.'

Fort woman fined after struggling with police

A Fort William woman who admitted assaulting a police officer while he was trying to arrest her partner was fined £600 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Jessie Ann Bridges, 19, of Lochaber Road, had previously pleaded guilty, that on December 2 last year in the High Street in Fort William, she had assaulted the officer by seizing him by the body, pulling him, struggling with him and attempting to seize his Pava spray.

Sheriff Gary Aitken heard the incident happened at around 3am after police had stopped to speak to Bridges and her boyfriend.

Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court that while an officer was trying to handcuff Bridges' boyfriend in connection with a separate matter, Bridges tried to intervene by placing herself between the officer and her boyfriend.

'She began to pull the officer's arm while he was trying to put handcuffs on her boyfriend,' said Mrs Eastwood.

'The officer fended her off after she failed to comply with a request to keep back. The accused also pulled at the officer's canister of Pava spray in an attempt to get it off him.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Bridges and her boyfriend had been in the company of an 18-year-old friend at the time of the incident.

The younger man, he said, had come in for abuse from two other people to which Bridges' boyfriend had taken exception.

'He got into a scrap with these two males who had been picking on this young boy and Ms Bridges had then joined in.'

Sentencing Bridges, Sheriff Aitken told her: 'Given your record for analogous offending you would be well advised not to interfere with the police when in the execution of their duty. You need to learn to keep yourself to yourself.'



Colourful creations were produced in Nether Lochaber Hall. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Stitching quilts for needy youngsters

Another 12 hand-made quilts created by members of Nether Lochaber Sewing Group are on their way to Project Linus UK after a special event on Friday.

Project Linus UK is a volunteer organisation which aims to provide security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new home-made patchwork quilts and knitted blankets, and gives volunteers across the UK the opportunity to contribute to their

local community. Jan Hamilton, a member of the Nether Lochaber Sewing Group, said it had been an excellent day: 'We had 10 people present working on quilts and another two making them at home,' she explained.

The group has held an annual quilting event in aid of Project Linus UK for the last six years and Jan says the group would love to see new members.

'We don't need dozens of more people, but a few more would be nice,' she said.



Claire MacLeod busy making a quilt. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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Freshwater blue-green algal bloom on Lewis

Recent samples taken at Loch Ordais, South Bragar on Lewis have indicated the presence of blue-green algae.

Swallowing the water or algal scum can cause stomach upsets or more serious health effects.

Contact with the water or algal scum can cause skin problems in people and animals, so try to avoid contact with the scum and the water close to it.

For further information, contact the environmental health team of Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar on 01851 822694.

As a precautionary measure, warning notices have been posted next to the loch.

YOURSTORY
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Film-maker's hunt for old Ballachulish ferry

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A hunt is on to find the former Ballachulish Ferry, Glen Loy.

Edinburgh based-writer and director Graham Kitchener is working on a documentary film about the last three ferries of Ballachulish and has been trying to track down the Glen Loy.

So far he has uncovered the fate of two of the ferries that last served the route, but the third is proving elusive.

He said: 'The Glenachulish is still working at Glenelg doing the Skye crossing and I found the wreck of the Glen Duror on the shore of Mull, near Ulva, but the last record of the Glen Loy is when she was bought and stripped down to a barge by Helensburgh man William Sutherland.

'She was a turntable ferry at Ballachulish until mid-1975.



The missing ferry, Glen Loy, after it had been stripped down.

Mr Sutherland bought her from a chap in Camusnagaul, who had salvaged her after she had been brought ashore during a January storm outside Fort William in early 1976.'

He continued: 'On June 1 1979, William Sutherland put the Glen Loy up for sale. At this point she is just a flat deck barge-like vessel, having had her turntable car deck and stern wheelhouse removed.

'From what I can deduce, he used it as part of a marine contract on the West Coast which was now finished, hence he was selling it.

'He took on a contract in Saudi in 1980 and the trail

goes dead there. The members of his family I have traced and spoken to are not able to give me any more information about what happened to the Glen Loy or to whom he sold it.

'I need to find out where William kept her and who bought her.

'Failing that, if no one bought her, what happened to her?

'I would be grateful for any information that will help in the hunt.'

It is hoped the finished documentary will be premiered in Ballachulish later this year, so time is running out.

Anyone who can help with information, can contact Mr Kitchener on 07710 530733.

Mr Kitchener is creative director of Film Academy Edinburgh and an award-winning corporate drama-narrative film maker.

Young musicians hit the professional ceilidh trail

Some of Lochaber's best young musicians have been given the chance to take part in a professional tour.

The young people involved will learn the skills required for a career in the music industry as part of Fèisean Lochabair Cèilidh Trail's 2019 summer tour which started last week.

Concerts

The Lochaber musicians, aged between 16 and 19 years, received training in the run-up to the tour as they arranged and rehearsed their sets for gigs, including sessions, concerts and family ceilidhs.

This year's six participants are all students in either sixth year at high school or embarking on music courses with the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The Cèilidh Trail, supported by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, was first organised by Fèis Rois in 1999. Since then it has grown to see Cèilidh Trails supporting young musicians across Scotland, from Ross-shire to Glasgow.

Traditional guitarist Lauren



The Lochaber musicians who will be touring this summer.

Byrne is this year's co-ordinator and was herself given a boost in her then-burgeoning music career in the Lochaber Cèilidh Trails of 2013-2015.

She said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for these young musicians to get a taste for what touring as a professional musician is like.

'There is also a focus on

learning Lochaber tunes and Gaelic songs. The mixture of gigs ensures there's something for everyone to come and enjoy what these fabulous young musicians have to offer.'

For tour venues and dates visit www.facebook.com/Fèisean-Lochabair-Cèilidh-Trail



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More flexible hospital visiting times

NHS Highland is opening up hospital visiting times to give patients' families and friends more flexibility on when they can visit.

Rather than having set hours, the health board's Welcome Initiative will see patients being able to ask friends, relatives and carers to visit at times that are best for everyone involved.

The board is launching the initiative, part of a national strategy by NHS Scotland to provide person-centred care across all its hospitals in Highland and Argyll and Bute, today (Thursday July 25).

Kate Patience-Quate, interim deputy director of nursing and the Welcome Initiative lead, hopes the new visiting hours will get rid of all the 'confusion' around visiting loved ones in hospital.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Camera class places snapped up

People who love taking photographs but feel held back by a lack of technical knowledge are 'snapping up' the chance to learn the controls at a new Master Your Camera class.

During the class, professional photographer Iain Ferguson, of The Write Image and alba.photos, will explain the workings of camera controls thoroughly but simply.

As well as supplying photographs to The Lochaber Times and other media across the country and globally, Iain taught evening classes for more than 15 years and never goes anywhere without a camera.

'I have been taking pictures since the age of nine when for my birthday I chose a Kodak

Brownie 127 camera,' he said. 'Film and processing were so expensive in those days that every picture had to count and with only 12 shots per film, every one was carefully chosen.'

'Even as a working professional photographer for 45 years, I have never stopped taking pictures for my own pleasure and see the world as a series of images wherever I go. I am enthusiastic about all things photographic and love to encourage others to develop an interest.'

After putting a message on social media, Iain was overwhelmed by the number of people getting in touch, keen to learn more. Instruction books are often full of expla-

nations that may not actually mean anything to the camera owner, which can be a bit discouraging.

Iain added: 'I have always found out how things work by using and experimenting with them. From discussing photography with people over the years, many have a great eye for a picture, but feel they are not doing well as they have difficulty understanding the technical side. This is what I will be tackling in my two-week courses with class sizes deliberately kept small to allow time for individual attention. Most things are simple when you know how and I intend to provide the know-how with my Master Your Camera sessions.'



Iain Ferguson with people who attended the first of his Master Your Camera classes in the Kilmallie Shinty Clubhouse. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Scottish Government delivers more than 5,000 affordable homes

New Scottish Government figures that show more than 5,000 affordable homes have been delivered in the Highlands since 2007 have been welcomed by MSP Kate Forbes.

As part of the #MoreHomesScotland

campaign on social media, it was noted 5,419 affordable homes in the north have been delivered under the SNP government – including 3,159 for social rent.

It is hoped providing more affordable homes will help improve communities

through inclusive growth. Ms Forbes said: 'Affordable housing is one of the most pressing needs in the Highlands.'

'That is partly due to the lack of house building over a decade ago and why it is so important that the Government stepped in to build affordable

homes. These impressive figures are all about real here in the Highlands that might not have been here were it not for these affordable homes.'

'A safe, warm, affordable home is the cornerstone of any society and we cannot combat depopulation if

there are not enough houses. There is still work to be done, which is why the Scottish Government has a current target of 50,000 affordable homes by 2021, but it is great to see so much progress in the Highlands in the last decade.'



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MOWI staff celebrate at the summit of Ben Nevis.

MOWI staff scale Ben Nevis for Lochaber Hope

Around 50 staff members from MOWI Scotland took part in their annual hike of Ben Nevis, which this year was to raise funds for Fort William charity Lochaber Hope, writes Kirsteen Bell.

Staff from Fort William, Uist and Rosyth took part in the two-day hike, with times ranging from two hours to 10.

There was an extra challenge added as Shelley MacGillivray and Gideon Pringle raced to the top from Achintee, with Ms MacGillivray winning

what was a very close race. The team raised over £2,000 for the charity.

Lochaber Hope is a community-based organisation that provides support for a wide range of sensitive and personal issues.

Carrie Starkie, project worker at Lochaber Hope, said: 'We are incredibly grateful to everyone at Mowi for choosing us as their charity for this year's fundraising efforts.'

'For Lochaber Hope to receive such a significant

amount of money is just fantastic. We are a local charity working for local people and rely heavily on fundraising efforts.'

'The amount raised by Mowi will contribute hugely to the continuing development of our counselling and mentoring services as well as mental wellbeing and social enterprise projects we have planned for the future; all of which go towards improving the lives of individuals in our community.'

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Feisan Lochabair Ceilidh Trail is playing tomorrow (Friday July 26) at Fort William Railway Club and on Saturday at Ballachulish Hall (bring your own bottle). Both family ceilidhs start at 7.30pm and will have a raffle. Tickets available on the door.

■ National Trust for Scotland in Glencoe is displaying work from Glasgow-based artist Hamish MacDonald during the summer. The artist's work, influenced by the Scottish colourist movement, often evokes the landscape of the Highlands and islands.

The exhibition, at the NTS Glencoe Visitor Centre, begins on Saturday August 3, and is open 10am to 5pm.

■ A charity race night to raise funds for James Tangney is taking place at Fort William Shinty Club on Friday August 9. Doors open at 7pm and the first race is at 7.30pm.

■ There will be an extraordinary general meeting of Fort William Photographic Society on Tuesday August 20 at 7pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how the society can evolve to involve the current membership more and to attract additional members. Members and non-members are being urged to attend as the society needs input and ideas.

Fine for man seen with spear gun in river

A Sussex man who was spotted snorkelling in the sea pool at the mouth of the River Morar wearing a camouflaged wetsuit and carrying a spear gun was fined £300 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Scott Cartlidge, 42, whose address was given as Worthing, West Sussex, had pleaded guilty to an amended charge that, on July 19 last year, he was found in possession of the spear gun and wetsuit in circumstances that gave reasonable grounds to suspect him of committing an offence against the provisions of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) Act (Scotland) 2003.

Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court Cartlidge had been spotted swimming in the pool by a water bailiff.

'The water bailiff did not speak to the accused at the point and drove to the road bridge to see what he was doing,' she said.

'He could see the accused was wearing a camouflaged wetsuit and had a spear in his hand that had a pistol grip.

'He appeared to be looking for salmon or sea trout which are the only species of fish commonly found there.'

Mrs Eastwood described

how the water bailiff had shouted down to Cartlidge, who looked up, at which point the water bailiff identified himself.

'Cartlidge said he was looking for mussels and he did not have the spear gun in his hand at that point. When asked about the spear gun, it then appeared from somewhere. It doesn't make it clear in the report,' said Mrs Eastwood.

Police

The water bailiff told Cartlidge he was going to call the police as he believed Cartlidge was breaking the law. But Cartlidge continued swimming and at this point another water bailiff arrived.

After a further 20 minutes, Cartlidge got out and was not in possession of any fish when he was confronted by the two water bailiffs who explained to Cartlidge they thought he had been breaking the law.

Mrs Eastwood said Cartlidge became 'somewhat aggressive' at this point, then picked up his spear gun and left, getting into a car and driving away.

The water bailiffs subsequently reported the matter to the police.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client was single and lived with his

Fort wins through to war memorial in finals

Fort William has won through to the prestigious national finals of the Royal British Legion Scotland's Best Kept War Memorial Competition.

Legion Scotland chief executive Dr Claire Armstrong said: 'The continued interest in the Best Kept War Memorial Competition and the countless hours dedicated to their upkeep underlines that remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country remains as important and relevant as ever.'

'The commemorations around the centenary of the end of the First World War last year captured the nation's imagination but it is vital we never forget.'

The Fort William War and District War Memorial, along with fellow Highland area finalists from Aviemore, Lossiemouth and Lochalsh, will now progress to the



The Fort William memorial is cared for by dedicated volunteers.

national competition. Judging will take place in August to determine the winners in a variety of categories, followed by the selection of an overall champion of champions.

Winners will be announced in Edinburgh on Friday September 13.

View from the Chamber

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is a membership organisation.

When you join, you become a valuable part of the organisation. Our members are the Chamber and we need your input to guide what we do.

Membership of the Chamber offers a great way to connect with other businesses and people from a wide range of industries and to add your voice to the community of Lochaber businesses.

As a membership organisation, you need to get involved to make the most of it. A good way to think about it is a bit like a gym membership.

You pay your membership fee, but that is not going to get you fit. Your effort is required to make the most of membership.

When you join the Chamber, you will see some



benefits straight away, such as invitations to training events, business advice, monthly newsletters, networking lunches and business site visits.

But to really make the best of your membership, you need to contribute to the organisation by coming along, getting involved and letting us know your news and what matters to you.

Members have lots of opportunities to share their views. We ask for feedback and questions at every net-

working lunch and through regular emails, calls and meetings.

Part of the Chamber's role is to help businesses get their views across to those in power through the lobbying power of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce network.

When you join a Chamber, you become part of that network. If you have an issue you think is important, get in touch with your team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and we will do our best to help.

If you would like to come along to our next networking lunch to find out more about joining, see www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk for details.

We are at Ben Nevis Distillery on the last Thursday of every month from 1-2pm until December. Book online or call us on 01397 705765.



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Banavie actor in new theatre piece

by Niall Bo Finlayson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

This summer, a company of 20 young artists, including a young actor from Fort William, will tour a new production across Scotland which will make us think twice the next time we go online.

Katryn Muir, 18, from Banavie, is starring in Act of Repair, by the Scottish Youth Theatre National Ensemble, this month.

In December last year, Katryn was picked as one of the 20 talented young people to form the 2019 National Ensemble. She applied along with 110 other young hopefuls to join the national company and Act of Repair is the group's first play to tour the country.

The piece began life when the company was tasked



Katryn is now out touring the Ensemble production.

with discussing the subject of Brexit. They initially explored the allegations that the campaign used online technology to influence public opinion.

This led them on a creative journey of investigation, featuring talks by guest-speakers plus plenty of research, including reading The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The

Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power – a ground-breaking book by academic Shoshana Zuboff.

The play is touring Scotland thanks to support from Creative Scotland's Open Project Fund.

The piece is devised and performed by the company and Ensemble member

Katryn explained more about what the audience can expect.

She told the Lochaber Times: 'Nearly everyone has signed up to apps, social media and search engines. They ask us to agree to the terms and conditions – a wee box that most of us tick without even reading the T&Cs. When we discussed this as a group, one company member said – I know that company are using my data – but so what? Act of Repair explores the so what.'

The role of director of Act of Repair has been assumed by Brian Ferguson – a face more familiar to Scottish audiences for his acting career on stage and screen.

Act of Repair opened in Glasgow on July 19 and is now touring the country. For more information visit www.scottishyouththeatre.org.



Christina McKelvie MSP visited the team at Fort William Men's Shed last week.

Minister pays a visit to Fort William Men's Shed

Members of the Fort William Men's Shed welcomed MSP Christina McKelvie to their base at Blar Mor industrial estate last week.

The Scottish Government provides funding to the Scottish Men's Sheds Association (SMSA) and the Minister for Older People and Equalities dropped by the shed to get a tour of the premises and see what the team have been working on lately.

Mrs McKelvie said: 'Our

recently published strategy for tackling social isolation recognises the important role Men's Sheds play across Scotland.

'It is a privilege for me to be able to see for myself what a positive impact Men's Shed makes in Fort William.

'The important work they are doing to provide space for people to meet and for the company and camaraderie they provide is establishing them as a much needed presence with our communities.'



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Duncan retires after 51 years of loyal service

by Niall Bo Finlayson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A builder and slater who has worked for more than 50 years with The Highland Council and its predecessor authorities hung up his hammer recently when he retired on Thursday July 11.

Duncan MacLachlan, who is based at the council's Carr's Corner depot in Lochybridge, Fort William, was the longest serving employee with the council.

He started his employment with Argyll County Council on September 2, 1968, serving with Lochaber District Council and latterly with The Highland Council and retires after almost 51 years of service.

Highland Council chief executive Donna Manson, who attended Duncan's retirement presentation at Carr's Corner



depot, said: 'Duncan is an excellent example of how we want people to be ambitious and to work for the council.'

'Over the years he has passed on his skills and train-

ing to others, helping the council to be sustainable and he is clearly well connected with the local community.'

'I would like to thank Duncan for his long service

Retiring after more than half a century with the various local authorities, Duncan MacLachlan (left) received a long service award, as well as a new bike. He is pictured with Highland Council chief executive Donna Manson and repairs manager Lachie Macdonald.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

to the local communities within which he has worked and wish him a long and happy retirement.'

Repairs manager Lachie Macdonald added: 'Duncan is a Ballachulish man through and through. Having left Kinlochleven High School at the age of 15, he started work with Argyll County Council when he was 16 and learned his craft as a builder and slater as part of a small

squad before being transferred to Lochaber District Council when the boundaries were redrawn and finally to Highland Council when the district council's transitioned to Highland Regional Council.

'Duncan is a well-respected and popular member of the team and out in the communities where he works. Duncan's hard work is evident throughout Lochaber from the fences that he has erected, roofs that he has repaired, fireplaces installed and miles of footpaths that he has laid in almost 51 years of service.'

'I have enjoyed working with Duncan for a good number of those years and on behalf of his colleagues at Highland Council and the residents of Lochaber, I would like to wish Duncan all the very best for his retirement.'

Blackford backs rural 4G boost plan

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford has backed a plan to introduce a Shared Rural Mobile Network in areas where 4G connectivity is considered low.

The Shared Rural Network is a collaborative proposal developed by the UK's four mobile operators, under which they would share infrastructure in rural areas to increase 4G coverage. The operators have been in discussion with the UK Government over several months to secure the necessary support, planning and regulatory reform needed to put mobile connectivity on an equal footing with other essential services.

Mr Blackford has thrown his weight behind the initiative and signed a parliamentary motion in favour of the plan. He said: 'These proposals present a real opportunity to optimise the ability of 4G in our area. I fully support the plan and will do what I can to give it the best chance of success.'

Atlantic Views

JOANNE MATHESON
fort@obantimes.co.uk



It was recently pointed out to me that an MP is elected to represent his/her constituents' interests. Surely it would be a democratic betrayal for an elected MP to vote against the very people who elected him?'

Edmund Burke (MP 1776-1794) is generally quoted as the first person to have outlined the hierarchy of an MP's responsibilities, reiterated by Winston Churchill in the 1950s: 'The first duty of a Member of Parliament is to do what he thinks in his faithful and disinterested judgement is right and necessary for the honour and safety of Great Britain. His second duty is to his constituents, of whom he is the representative but not the delegate.'

Many people seem to be under the impression that an MP's foremost responsibility is to represent the views of their constituents, but as outlined clearly above, this isn't actually the case.

So if, for example, our elected MP genuinely considered the best possible outcome for Great Britain as a whole was for us to leave the EU, then that is the way he would be expected to vote.

Ian Blackford [MP for Ross,

Skye and Lochaber] has made it abundantly clear that he does not support the UK leaving the EU, and there is little doubt that the fact that a majority of voters in Scotland wanted us to remain has added weight to his argument.

But with all due respect to our MP, repeated assertions of 'betraying the will of the Scottish people' merely reinforces the general misunderstanding.

Mr Blackford is constitutionally required to put the interests of the UK (Great Britain) as a whole, over and above the interests of one part of that group, albeit they are the people who elected him.

An MP's first responsibility is not to represent what he considers to be the opinion of his constituents, but to do what he or she thinks is in the best interests of the UK population as a whole.

As an elected MP to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, his obligation is to 66 million, not just the five million in Scotland or his 50,000 constituents.

One could argue that this is wrong and that MPs should put the views of their constituents first, but Edmund

Burke outlined why this is not desirable: 'Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different and hostile interests, which interests each must maintain, as an agent and advocate, against other agents and advocates; but parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole.'

In other words, MPs are expected to work together for the good of the whole, rather than argue with each other to try to get the best possible outcome for their own constituents, at the possible expense of everyone else.

This is clearly simplifying the situation, perhaps overly so. There is a great deal of academic discussion about how MPs undertake their role, and the weight they place on their differing pressures and responsibilities. And there is so much more that could be said on this subject.

We are told that society is more politically aware and engaged than ever before, but I can't help wondering whether a lack of understanding of this critical distinction is in part responsible for our current disillusionment with our politicians.

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LT

Chloe's winning debut at West Ardnamurchan Show



Judging the sheep at West Ardnamurchan Show.

First-time competitor Chloe Cameron made a big impression at this year's West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports at Kilchoan.

She won three major awards in the sheep classes, including the Lord Trent Cup for champion cross breed sheep.

Best in Show and the Alistair MacKenzie Cup went to Hughie MacLachlan for his Blackface sheep. He also took the West Ardnamurchan Show Cup for the crofter with most points in the sheep categories.

Allan Curtis beat off strong competition to win in the junior category. The sheep were judged by Willie McNicol of Dalmally.

There were also plenty outstanding entries in the art, craft and produce competitions, with the children far outdoing the adults in terms of the number of entries. Produce judges, Anne Swift

and Sheila Wood, particularly enjoyed sampling the children's flapjacks.

In the heavy events, James Campbell of Tobermory triumphed once again, while in the local category there was a new winner this year – Darren Ross.

For the second year running, there were also sufficient entries for an exciting women's competition, with Karina Benish taking the women's prize.

The junior heavy events were hotly contested, too, with many younger children taking part for the first time. Overall winners in the older junior category were Stuart MacLachlan and Kirsty MacKay.

A record number of dogs were entered into the pet parade, with Struan the Westie taking first place and a big bag of dog food as his tasty prize.

The children's races, including the sack and egg-and-spoon races, were popular with entrants aged from toddlers to teenagers.

The overall winner on points this year was Gillies Law. Finlay Peterson won the boys junior hill race and Eilidh Cameron was first for the girls.

Tobermory High School Pipe Band and young Highland dancer Connie MacLennan gave outstanding performances, keeping the crowd entertained in breaks between afternoon events.

Local band AHooligan closed the day with storming ceilidh music, which was clearly enjoyed by the crowd, many of whom were last seen doing the conga up and down Kilchoan's playing field.

Sponsors were MOWI, Watson Seeds, Agrimony Consulting, Harbro, Ardnamurchan Estate and

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A selection of delighted trophy winners.

many more companies and individuals, all of whom gave donations of their money, time or raffle prizes.

'Without their continuing support and the hard work of the committee, this annual event would not be possible,' said show secretary Pat Glenday.

Right: Tobermory High School Pipe Band kept the crowd at the show entertained.



Trophy winners

Junior Sports

Overall winner on points for GM MacMillan Quaich - Gillies Law

Cup for Junior Hill Race Boy - Finlay Peterson

Cup for Junior Hill Race Girl - Eilidh Cameron

Glenborrodale Cup for Men's Senior Road Race - not awarded

McConnell Salmon Challenge Cup for Ladies Senior Road Race - Katie Gane

Heavy events:

Championship Cup for Senior Overall Heavy Events Winner - James Campbell

Women's Heavy Events Winner - Karina Benish

Junior Heavy Events

Selkirk Cup for Boys Winner - Stuart MacLachlan

Show Cup for Girls Winner - Kirsty MacKay

Baking and Gardening

Baking Cup for Best Baker - Liz MacLeod/Penny Horner

Angus Henderson Shield for Best Gardener - Corriebeag

Best Crafter - Elaine Stokes

Miscellaneous

Pet Parade - Struan the Westie

Agriculture

Blackface Sheep: Branault

Cup for Home Bred Shearling - Katie Cameron

Portuairk Cup for Ewe Lamb - John Alec Cameron

Mingary Cup for Champion Sheep - Hughie MacLachlan

Plocaig Cup for Reserve Champion - John Alec Cameron

West Ardnamurchan Shield for Best Group of Sheep - Hughie MacLachlan

Under-18 Best Blackface

Junior Cup (Iain and Cathie MacPhail) - Alan Curtis

Cross Breed

JD MacPhail Cup for Ewe in milk - John Alec Cameron

Jimmy the Shepherd Memorial Cup for Ewe Lambs - Chloe Cameron

Bob MacWalters Trophy for Tup Lamb - Chloe Cameron

Lord Trent Cup for Champion Cross Breed - Chloe Cameron

Alan MacLachlan Cup for Reserve Champion - Nan MacLachlan

Overall Sheep

Alistair MacKenzie Cup for Champion Sheep - Hughie MacLachlan

West Ardnamurchan Show Cup for Crofter with most points - Hughie MacLachlan.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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The voyage of last week's column continued on the sunny Saturday morning from the island town of Tobermory.

After fuelling up and loading the boat with Andrew's supplies - which as usual, would have sufficed for an Arctic expedition with a good ceilidh every night - we headed by Rubha nan Gall light, across Bloody Bay, out the Sound of Mull, past Ardmores then Cailleach Point and set our course for Scarinish, Tیره.

Leaving the confines of the Caledonian Canal, Loch Linnhe, the Firth of Lorne and the Sound of Mull to reach the open sea brought a progressive and powerful feeling of freedom.

Connection with the sea is common among those brought up in or living in coastal communities. Having been raised next to the sea, on an island of seafarers, with a father who was in the Merchant Navy and then a fisherman, an uncle who was a fisherman, two others who were in the Merchant Navy, a grandfather who was a Master Mariner, having a brother who is a fisherman, and having made wholly or part of my own living on the

sea for more than 10 years, it is inevitably deeply ingrained in my psyche.

The prevalence of reference, symbolism and language of the sea present in my song-writing occurs subconsciously and even when I try to lessen the "sea content" it somehow seeps in like the tide against King Canute!

It is difficult to describe the feeling of being back on the sea under your own control to those not familiar with it, but as the Tیره Passage opened ahead of us to the Westward, there was nowhere else on the face of the earth I would have preferred to be. The familiar sight of Ben Hynish and Ben Hough on the horizon gave the customary prelude to the emergence of the "Land Below the Waves" and thoughts of home.

We had planned to stay on Tیره for TMF on Saturday night, but a very good friend from Benbecula whom we hadn't seen for a long time sent word that he was able to get to Barra to meet us that night.

So after a quick visit home to be fed, we headed through the Gunna Sound and set our course for Castlebay with the intention of returning to

Tیره the following night to catch the climax of the 10th TMF.

Barra played a very important part in the early days of Skipinnish as much of the summer of '99 was spent there when Andrew and I first got together to form a band. It was before we even had a name and we have some amazing memories of that summer!

Coming in past Muldoanich and turning to starboard as Castlebay opens to the North still fills me with excitement borne from that first summer spent playing in the Craigard Hotel.

The people of Barra and Vatersay have a strength of character and identity that is more pronounced as a population than any other geographically defined group of people I have encountered. Among their many attributes is a unique ability to welcome and to celebrate.

Such was the way of our time there that the St Olave remained tied to the pontoon in Castlebay until Monday afternoon when we eventually managed to escape to make it back to Tیره just in time to catch the TMF after-party that night!

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Stromeferry Bypass roadworks

Several road closures have been announced for the Stromeferry Bypass to allow for maintenance work to be carried out.

Work will begin in the area on September 9 and will continue for eight weeks.

The works will see the road closed overnight to all vehicles from 10pm until 7am from Monday September 9 to Thursday September 12.

From Friday September 13 at 10pm until Monday September 16 at 7am, the road will be fully closed all weekend, with no day or night openings.

Further overnight closures will take place on Monday September 16 until Sunday November 3, with the road closed from 10pm at night until 7am the following morning.

Daytime delays are possible throughout the works.

HAVE YOUR SAY

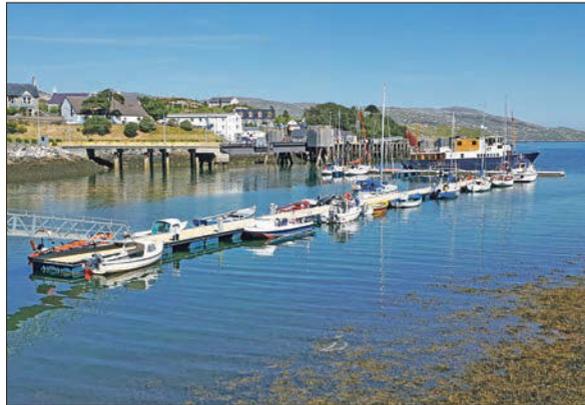
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Scenic Tarbert from the sea

View from the Edge

CATH MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Tarbert, in Harris, has always been seen as a pretty village or township. What has added to its attraction and interests in many ways recently is the Isle of Harris Marina, which has pontoons for visitors, not only in Tarbert, but also in the North Harbour of Scalpay.

At the time when funding was being sought for setting it up, I remember being asked, as a local councillor, to endorse points being made in an application for funding by the project steering group chairman.

When sufficient funding was obtained, the project went ahead and the marina began operations in May 2018.

Then quite recently came the very interesting and exciting news that a Festival

of the Sea was to be held in Harris – Feis Mara Na Hearadh – from July 24-27, 2019.

The pontoons in Tarbert and in Scalpay will be involved this weekend and there is an impressive list of marine activities to take place.

While it is clear that the marina has been very busy from the start, this seems like a big step forward.

I decided to find out more

about it and went looking for the marine manager, Fred Taylor.

Although he is extremely busy at the height of the visitor season, and also with preparation for the Feis, he agreed to meet me.

I met him in the marina just after he had spent that morning on safety sessions. He listed the marina facilities, which include electricity, water, showers, toilets, laundry and good

A sunny day at the Isle of Harris Marina in Tarbert.

wifi connectivity, which is very important.

Gas and fuel are also available. Sailors can also take advantage of car and bicycle hire so they can visit the famed beaches of South Harris.

The Tarbert pontoons are in the heart of the village, in front of the award-winning Isle of Harris distillery, and the Harris Tweed exhibition centre and shop are behind it.

It is well known that all local businesses have benefited – hotels, cafes, local shops and more – from the visits of marine tourists.

Fred said the marina's aim is to provide local facilities and true Harris hospitality.

He spoke of the numbers who had visited, and of the

increase this year in May and June compared to the same time in 2018.

Next year is the Year of Coasts and Waters which means a greater increase can be expected.

The name Taylor was known to me since Fred's father had owned the island of Scalpay.

It was a busy, lively community, fishing being the main industry at the time. Later Mr Taylor gave the island to the community.

Later on, the Scalpay community decided to join in with the North Harris Trust which owns the North Harris land.

I was interested in how Fred had become manager of the Isle of Harris Marina.

He told me his father had bought Scalpay in 1976, and bought a house in Scotsay, an island near Scalpay in East Loch Tarbert. In 1989, he moved to Ardnakille in Scalpay. He died in 1998.



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Island athletes celebrate medal haul from Gibraltar

The 2019 Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) squad were celebrating this week after flying back to Stornoway following a successful and thoroughly enjoyable week of high-level international competition at the NatWest International Island Games XVIII Gibraltar 2019.

They returned with four gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze medals, finishing 12th in the medals table and ahead of the two other Scottish islands for the third games running. Another incredible experience for an immensely proud group of top athletes representing the Western Isles.

A total squad of 43, including coaches, management team and physios accompanied by 16 enthusiastic supporters, represented the Western Isles at the biennial event, with 34 participants competing in five different sports – athletics, badminton, cycling (road), shooting (ABT, OT and Olympic skeet) and swimming. Twenty-one of the participants were under 23 years of age.

For the second games in a row, all eight medals were won by females.

Swimming

Kara Hanlon – 50m breaststroke, gold (games record); 200m breaststroke, gold (games record); 100m breaststroke, gold (games record); 100m individual medley, gold; 200m individual medley, silver. Isla Budge – 400m freestyle, bronze.

Athletics

Mary Macleod – triple jump, silver. Heather Mackinnon – triple jump, bronze.

WIIGA's membership of the



The WIIGA squad were delighted with their results from the international island games.

International Island Games Association (IIGA) provides islands sportspeople with access to one of the biggest international multi-sport events in the world, and is the highest level many of them will have the opportunity to compete at, coming face to face with Olympians, Commonwealth Games athletes, UEFA/FIFA recognised football teams, professional cyclists and more, and they learn that with hard work they have the talent to compete at or near this level.

The team produced many highlights through the week, with the stand-out performance again coming from Kara Hanlon, who won four gold medals, one silver and set three games records.

Among many personal bests and quality displays were Kevin Smith's epic 5km cycle up the Rock at the end of the time trial; 14-year-old Sophie Smith's personal best in the 50m breaststroke in the first day of the swimming competition, which kick-started a fantastic week of PBs and

medals in the pool; Mary Macleod's fantastic set of jumps in the triple jump earning her a well-deserved silver medal; and another sterling effort from shooters in overcoming every form of weather except the gales and rain they are used to.

Another highlight was the overall performance of WIIGA's first badminton team, surpassing expectations and winning 14 games and five matches during a very busy week.

Star of the show was the youngest competitor at the Games, Beth Macphail, who was involved in three match wins, including the first win in a singles match.

Prior to leaving for Gibraltar, WIIGA's main sponsor, The Scottish Salmon Company, presented the WIIGA squad with their official kit and hosted the final team briefing at the Harris and Lewis Smokehouse in Stornoway.

With total costs approaching £150,000, the support of a main sponsor is invaluable and

contributes towards WIIGA's efforts to make attending the games as affordable as possible to the talented island athletes.

Iain GG Campbell, general team manager, said: 'Our partnership with The Scottish

Salmon Company has been invaluable to WIIGA over the past five years and we hope we have been able to positively contribute to the aims of the company.'

Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish

Salmon Company, said: 'A huge congratulations to the Western Isles team on their fantastic achievements at the International Island Games XVIII in Gibraltar. We are very proud to support the squad.'

A spokesperson for WIIGA said: 'As well as the tremendous support from our main sponsor, many of the teams have received financial support from local businesses, organisations and individuals, and our sincere thanks are due to them. To date the following have given support – Lewis Builders; Harris Tweed Hebrides; R Doig (Optometrist); Engebret Ltd; Ishga; MG ALBA; Horshader Community Development; Galson Motors; Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; U&B Sports Council; L&H Sports Council. With sincere apologies for any missed out, your support is truly valued.'

Council to hold consultation on North Uist spaceport plan

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar intends to launch a public consultation on its plans for a spaceport at Scolpaig, North Uist, after receiving a number of responses to its planning application.

The Western Isles entered the race to create the UK's first commercial spaceport last month and the project, led by the comhairle, is separate to bids to build ports in

Sutherland and in Shetland. It has been proposed the Western Isles' Spaceport 1 will be located at Scolpaig on the north-west coast of North Uist and up to 70 jobs could be created at the site, which would be used for small satellite launches.

A comhairle spokesperson, said: 'We have carefully considered the responses received so far on our planning appli-

cation. Further clarification is required on elements of the proposal and therefore an amendment will be issued. We intend to hold public consultation meetings on August 15, 16 and 30 and the amended application will take these consultations into account.

'The deadline for submissions will be extended until after the public consultation meetings.'

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBAfter 51 years,
Duncan earns
his retirement

There must be very few people who can boast of working for the same organisation for more than 50 years but that is precisely what Duncan MacLachlan has achieved.

Duncan retired this month after almost 51 years with the local authority, most recently known as The Highland Council. It has, of course, had a number of transformations during Duncan's time, also having been called Lochaber District Council and, when he first joined as an employee, Argyll County Council.

Unsurprisingly, Duncan was the local authority's longest-serving member of staff before hanging up his tool belt.

There were many words of praise heaped on his shoulders, including from council chief executive, Donna Manson, who attended Duncan's retirement presentation. We wish Duncan a long and happy retirement. He has earned it.

Athletes deserve praise
for games performance

The 2019 Western Isles Island Games Association squad were justifiably celebrating this week after flying back to Stornoway following a successful and thoroughly enjoyable week of high-level international competition at the NatWest International Island Games XVIII Gibraltar 2019.

They returned with four gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze medals, finishing 12th in the medals table and ahead of the two other Scottish Islands for the third games running.

It was a thoroughly impressive performance from all the athletes who punched well above their weight. Very well done to all involved.

Jacob's Ladder in Oban is a
mess and blighted by litter

As a regular descender and ascender of Jacob's Ladder in Oban, I find myself also a regular letter writer on the subject of litter and damage. It is hard to be positive when I walk down the steps and see more broken glass, more bottles and cans, and other rubbish thrown over the fence and more young drinkers blocking the route and causing dismay to passers-by.

It has been suggested that this mess is caused by tourists, but I find this hard to believe.

So I was not too delighted last week to find that a considerable amount of garden rubbish has now joined the tree prunings and unwanted clothing just beyond the fence in front of the top seat. I can be fairly certain that tourists are not involved in this activity.

I feel sorry for the hardy visitors who have toiled up the steps en route to McCaig's Tower as this will not improve their view over the town. Instead of hauling grass cuttings and prunings along the road and down the steps and then throwing them over the fence, it might be easier and better for the gardener to start a compost heap – now that really is something positive.

On another positive note, I'm pleased to see that several residents take time to clean up the steps and many other places in Oban – not a pleasant job at any time.

Of course, it shouldn't have to be this way. We must find a way of encouraging residents to be more proud of their town. I wrote to the relevant department at Argyll and Bute Council last April pointing out the problems on Jacob's Ladder and making some suggestions and am really disappointed to have received no acknowledgement of or reply to my letter.

I suspect that there is probably little point in continuing to write on this subject, but I live in hope that something might come of it, that somebody might come up with an idea that will help to Keep Oban Beautiful.

I see from Facebook that The Scotsman has published a list of the 10 most desirable Scottish seaside towns to live in. Sadly, Oban is not one of them.

Maurice Wilkins, Keep Oban Beautiful.

Pennyfuir cemetery is very
overgrown and untidy

With reference to Stephen Jones's letter (The

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

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.

Oban Times, July 4), I would disagree with his opinion that Pennyfuir is one of the best kept cemeteries in the West Highlands for if this is the case I dread to think what the other cemeteries look like.

A cemetery that was once the pride and joy of Oban is now very overgrown with long grass and weeds, and flower beds that used to be in full bloom most of the year are now non-existent.

This is a very sad state of affairs for a once pristine cemetery. Indeed, I spent this morning weeding and tidying up around my in-laws' and parents' grave.

Caroline Macinnes, by email.

Fines should be imposed for
escapes from fish farms

Following the latest escape of 33,000 rainbow

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DISTRICT NEWS

SPEAN BRIDGE, ROY BRIDGE AND ACHNACARRY

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council held a meeting on Tuesday July 2 at Kilmonivaig Church Hall. The following matters were discussed:

Highland Council

It has been agreed that Highland Council will replace the sign at the top of Altour Road in Spean Bridge requested by a resident, but in this time of austerity consider there is sufficient signage in Altour Gardens. The broken drain cover in Bohenie Road, near to its junction with the A86, has still not been replaced and the CC has requested it is given some priority. Highland Council is offering up to £250 top up to Community Councils that are struggling to meet their costs on a two page form. Last year we dramatically cut our costs across the board but it was agreed to reinstate the honorarium, printing and travel costs for community council business.

BEAR and Transport Scotland

BEAR have agreed to try and develop a workable design to infill part of the culvert at the Leanachan Crossroads to create a space to allow vehicles access when there is stationary traffic attempting to exit the single track. They will liaise with Highland Council, but if unsuccessful will look to place warning signs on the A82. A fence to protect pedestrians will be erected meantime. The chairman has responded to the resident that raised the issue in the first place. The A86 Inverroy Safety Report has still not been released by Transport Scotland. Some drainage work on the A82 in Spean Bridge has been completed and it is anticipated that further work to the north of the village will be undertaken in the near future. Similarly it is intended to replace the Coping Stones on the Telford Bridge as a priority.

Following concerns by a number of residents about the use of recycled tailings and scalplings on access tracks and housing plots BEAR Scotland have confirmed that Core



President Clive Talbot, Dani and past-president Terry Lee. Photograph: Mike MacGruer.

Dani tells Rotary of need for more volunteers

The guest speaker at Lochaber Rotary Club's business lunch meeting on July 17 was Dani Drummon, active citizens development worker with Voluntary Action Lochaber.

In a lively and engaging talk, Dani explained that, essentially, the job involves promoting and coordinating a wide range of volunteering support services within the Lochaber area, including organising the recent 'Voscars' awards event and the Lochaber contribution to the National Volunteers' Week in early June.

She also runs many ongoing projects involving young volunteers between the ages of 12 and 25, as well as a project aimed at over-25s.

Dani, who has been in the post since April, said that volunteering can give youngsters a real sense of self-worth and achievement, and added: 'The benefits of volunteering are endless.

'Whether it involves helping in your local hospital,

litter picking or planting trees, all are worthwhile and fulfilling.'

As examples of the types of volunteering jobs currently available, Dani gave details of three opportunities in Lochaber: Lochaber Credit Union is hoping to recruit a hands-on director, Fort William Town Team is seeking committee members and environmental workers, and Nevis Radio is looking for a Sunday afternoon music show presenter.

Club president Clive Talbot thanked Dani for her informative talk following which past-president and VAL director Terry Lee paid tribute to her very comprehensive presentation which 'covered more ground in 15 minutes than he had learned in five years sitting on the board'. Members responded with warm and appreciative applause.

If you are interested in any of these posts, please contact Dani direct on 01397 706044.

Samples from each section of road to be resurfaced is taken prior to work commencing and that the higher risk coal tar has not been present in any sample removed in our area.

However SEPA has confirmed that both suppliers and users of this recycled waste material are required to abide by certain rules and regulations and they are currently

investigating the circumstances of this complaint.

Pupils Support Assistants

A Public Meeting was held at Spean Bridge Primary School on June 18 with Highland Council representatives to discuss the impact of the Pupil Support Assistants Review.

In the academic year 2019/20 the three current posts will be main-

tained, although their duties may be extended to cover increased nursery provision. Highland Council once again does not appear to be listening to the concern expressed by parents and taxpayers, and intend implementing their cuts.

Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust has confirmed that as part of the restoration of

Loch Arkaig Pine Forest, non-native trees are being removed from the Glen Mallie Forest between 2020 and 2026. In order to transport the timber, the White Bridge over the River Arkaig is being strengthened and the Glen Mallie track is being re-surfaced and upgraded. It is planned to close the White Bridge from next Monday (July 29) to November 15. During this period, there will be no vehicle or pedestrian access across the bridge. The Glen Mallie track will be upgraded between August 12 to November 10. Pedestrian access (including bicycles) along the Glen Mallie track will be maintained during the work; however, there may be times when people will have to wait for short periods.

FORT WILLIAM



Helen Gallon, of Lochaber Women's Aid, at the event.

Lochaber Women's Aid recent fundraiser, Welcome to a Well You, raised £185.23 towards its service delivery.

Special thanks went to guest speakers Sarah and Nancy, of Girls on Hills; Catherine, from Yoga with Catherine; and Laura, of Swimhighlands, for an entertaining and inspiring evening.

Thanks also went to The Highland Bookshop for hosting the event and Lochaber Environmental Group, Highland Hospice and M&Co for their behind the scenes support.

If you have a fundraising idea and/or would like to join Friends of Lochaber Women's Aid fundraising group, then get in touch on 01397 705734 or online at www.lochaber-womensaid.org.

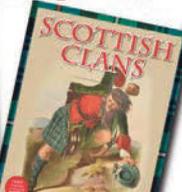


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Kay presented with Rotary Club's Endeavour Award

Youth activities convener Donald Young represented the Rotary Club of Lochaber at Ardnamurchan High School's recent Celebration of Success evening and had the honour of presenting the Endeavour Award to sixth-year pupil Kay Christian. The Endeavour Trophy is awarded to individuals for their personal endeavours.

Kay has just finished S6 and will soon be 18. She lives in Strontian with her family and will be leaving home after the summer to study for an MA degree in Liberal Arts at Dundee University.

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig said: 'Kay received the Rotary award for endeavour this year as she has kept going steadily through all her studies and has demonstrated admirable commitment to her duties as head girl, with the Pupil Council, Eco Schools Project and other groups and events.'

Past-president Mr Young also presented the runners-up trophy for the Rotary Young Chef competition to Katie MacGillivray.



Kay Christian.

Donald enjoyed the event and added: 'It was an excellent evening with an amazing number of wonderfully talented youngsters especially the young musicians.'

'It was a pleasure to have been asked to attend and present the award. Events such as this confirm Rotary's commitment to supporting the youth of Lochaber.'



Members of the St Columba's Primary School Fair Trade Committee at the recent Fair Trade Town exhibition in the Highland Council offices in Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Several local worthies who were watching the Scotland v Ireland shinty-hurling match found an environmentally friendly use for the wheelie bins at An Aird. First, they pressed the bins into service as standing-height bar tables, covering these with well-read local newspapers. Then, when their Coca Cola and Fanta cans (!) were empty, they just lifted the bin lids and dropped them inside. An Aird was not the former town dump for nothing!

Jim MacDougall, former Postman of the Year, was sitting in his car in the Safeway car park. Along came an acquaintance who said to him, 'I see you're on the retired list now, Jim.' Jim queried as to how his friend had come by this intelligence. 'It's on your number plate,' was the reply. Sure enough, unbeknown to Jim, another 'acquaintance' had put a false panel on the front of his VW Golf, overlapping the local registration, and proclaiming 'IM RETIRED'.

Ivy and Bill Ogram, from Full Sutton on Humber, have just returned home after spending a holiday in Banavie. They stayed at Taormina, the B&B run by Kathleen and Duncan MacInnes - for the 35th successive summer! Incidentally, the Ograms reported that the Lochaber weather on this latest visit was the coldest they'd experienced.

A misinterpretation in Woolworths resulted in an American visitor being shown to the raisins fixture instead of the one with razors. Reminds me of when I used to restock the shelves in the Fine Fare supermarket at Swiss Cottage. When you start in that job they give you the beans and peas fixtures to fill. That's because the beans and peas are the heaviest items nearest the checkouts - and farthest away from the loading bay. Then you graduate

to Cornflakes, Puffed Wheat and Rice Krispies - big boxes but they don't weigh too heavily on you. By my third night shift there I knew it all! Until a certain customer came in, saw me down on my hunkers stacking Special K and Coco Pops, tapped me on the shoulder and asked me: 'Where are the peppers?' Says I, still hunkered, 'Over there, sir, beside the salt and vinegar.' He goes. He comes back. 'I asked you where the peppers were, and you sent me to the wrong shelves.' I reiterated: 'You'll find them in the condiments section, along with the salt and vinegar.' Off he went. I got on with the cereals. Next thing, this customer and the supermarket manager were standing over me. The manager was holding a round red thing in one hand, and a round green thing in the other. 'These are peppers, Jock,' he announced. Well, I couldn't help being from Fort William, could I?

In Helensburgh, immaculate in Pringlewear, were members of the Lochy Bar golf section, under the leadership of organiser, bus convener and former Helensburgh Golf Club member, Eric McKenzie. It was the day of the Helensburgh Open. First off the tee was Bill Kelly, aka Mr William Kelly as announced over the club public address system. 'Wallop', and off the tee and out of bounds, went Bill's ball. A somewhat chastened William received an 'action replay' announcement. Happily, this time, he clattered his second drive straight down the middle. Bill strode off, aware that he was going to be 'sent up' for the rest of the day by his loyal Lochy colleagues. He was a hundred yards up the fairway when the speaker cracked again. 'Mr William Kelly. Haven't you forgotten something?' Bill had. His golf bag and clubs were lying at the edge of the first tee.

However, by all accounts, the Likely Lochy Lads (and veterans) acquitted themselves very well. Which was a relief to Eric McKenzie who had put them on their mettle not to embarrass him at his former club. 'We'll be welcomed back to Helensburgh!' Eric told them when they arrived back in Caol. 'But I can't say the same for the licensed premises at Inverranan, Bridge of Orchy and Kingshouse!'

There are so many buskers in the High Street these days - including Sundays, incidentally - I'm hearing that, in the town's dental surgeries, the patients' feet are tapping so much that this causes their injections to take longer to react.

Aye, well, that's the Braveheart crew away. To Ireland. And, as one Glen Nevis village is being razed to the ground, another (centuries older) is taking shape on the slopes above Achriabhach. As the filming of Rob Roy is set to start, it shouldn't be long before a few tales for this column will come filtering through on the theme of 'Extras! Extras! Read all about them'. Meanwhile, a band of 'Local Heroes' are in Ireland, having been detailed to take items of vitally important equipment from the West Highland hills to the Wicklow hills for the continuation of the Braveheart shoot. So, if you passed a posse of local lads between here and Stranraer last weekend, they were our very own 'fillum stars'. Among their gear was, if you please, a mobile toilet. I'm sure all the Irish extras will be pleased with their hillside latrine. Especially as, at the end of July, International Bog Day is being celebrated over there.

'Excuse me,' I overheard this particular question, 'is there McDonald's in Fort William?' Came the local Jimmy-style answer: 'Aye, at the last count there were about 4,000 around here.'

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SHINTY



Left to right are Sitekit founder Campbell Grant, Skye players Martin Pringle, Ross Gordon and Jamie Gillies, who are included in the Scotland U17 squad, and Sitekit CEO Elgar Finlay.

New squad and new sponsor for Scotland U17 Ireland tour

The Camanachd Association is pleased to announce the Scotland Under-17 squad and a new sponsor ahead of their 2019 Ireland tour.

The annual tour, which has been taking place for more than 20 years, sees the country's elite shinty players, many of whom played in the previous year's North vs South U17 match, play shinty/hurling challenge matches against their hurling counterparts from Kildare and Dublin.

This year's tour will be sponsored by Sitekit, a technology company headquartered on the Isle of Skye and now with offices in London and Edinburgh servicing the digital health and cyber security markets.

Sitekit founder Campbell Grant, himself a former shinty player with Glasgow University, Aberdeen Camanachd and Skye Camanachd in the 1980s, said: 'Sitekit is proud to sponsor the Scotland U17s tour. We have a long connection with the sport and we wish the team and all those involved every success and a safe trip.'

This year's squad is: Ryan Craig, Bute; Cam Clark, Kilmallie; Cameron MacIntosh, Glenurquhart; Ryan Boyle, Fort William; Jamie Gillies, Skye Camanachd; Calum Grover, Newtonmore; Liam Borthwick, Kingussie; Duncan Matheson, Kinlochshiel; Kieran MacPherson, Kingussie; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Ross Gordon, Skye Camanachd; Conor Kennedy, Kyles Athletic; Alistair MacRae, Fort William; Lewis Clark, Fort William; Martin Pringle, Skye Camanachd; William MacKinnon, Skye Camanachd; and Lachie Shaw, Fort William.

The squad travels across to Dublin on Sunday July 28 taking in the All Ireland semi-final at Croke Park, and return on Wednesday July 31.

Memories for Helen

In an innovative partnership, Highland Folk Museum (HFM) and Badenoch Shinty Memories Group (BSMG), have created an 18-month full-time post to support the work of the two organisations in what is recognised as a compassionate community stretching from Kincaig to Laggan and Dalwhinnie. Helen Pickles has now been appointed as project officer for the Shinty Memories and Cultural project based at HFM.

Shinty Memory Groups have evolved from the Sports Heritage Scotland (SHS) initiative, involving shinty's governing body, the Camanachd Association, Alzheimer Scotland and five other sports.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 3, 5 and 13. There was one winner of the £400 jackpot last week. The prize for the draw today, Thursday July 25, will be £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 6, 8 and 9. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £800.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers this week were 14, 16 and 20. There were no winners so the prize next week is £200.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration lotto this week were 2, 6 and 7. There were no winners. Next week's prize will be £200.

Bob is Oban's own Open superstar

by Stewart Fraser
The Times tennis and golf writer

As Bob MacIntyre holed a 25ft putt for a birdie to complete a remarkable debut at the Open on Sunday, some of his family and friends by the side of the green were overcome by emotion. It was at this moment that the magnitude of his achievement truly sank in for those of us who had spent the week striding the links of Royal Portrush watching every shot he played.

Loud acclaim

Here was an Oban boy, whom we can all remember swinging clubs at Glencruitten and shinty sticks at Mossfield, standing on the 18th green at golf's oldest major and receiving the loud acclaim of the many hundreds of spectators in the grandstands. Whatever



Bob faces the world's press after his remarkable showing at The Open. Photos: Bounce Sports

MacIntyre goes on to achieve – and I have no doubt that there is much more to come – he can always say that he was the clubhouse leader on

the final day of his first Open championship.

In the end, the 22-year-old was to finish tied for sixth position overall, a magnificent feat summed up by this statistic: he is the first Scotsman since Andrew Kirkaldy in 1879 to record a top-10 finish when making a debut appearance at the Open. He returned to Oban late on Sunday night £250,000 richer and on the cusp of entering the world's top 100 at number 102. His spot in next year's Open at Royal St George's in Kent is already secured. Book your accommodation now.

'For the first Open, it's been a dream come true,' MacIntyre said. 'The highlight of the week has to be holing a 20-plus-footer on 18. The hair was standing on the back of my neck when that putt went in. That's what you

GOLF

play the game for. As a young kid when you're on the putting green, you're thinking this is to win the Masters or win the Open.

'Unfortunately, that putt wasn't to win the Open, but it's put me in good position for the future.'

With each passing day, MacIntyre continues to impress, and it is not just the left-hander's versatile golf game. He is as down to earth and homely as they come, always returning to Oban in between tournaments. As he stood in front of the national press on Sunday evening and was asked about his upcoming plans, he talked of shinty training on a Tuesday and Thursday evening with Oban Celtic.

'It just gives me that peace of mind,' MacIntyre said. 'I'm away from absolutely everything out there. It gives me fitness. I lost weight from when I started doing it just after Morocco [the Trophee Hassan II in late April] is when I actually got back doing it. It's not dangerous at all, you know what's going on.'

MacIntyre's efforts also put some extra money in the pockets of the many local punters, who cannily took full advantage of his lengthy odds of 250/1, and there was many a toast, paid for by the winnings, in the pubs on Sunday evening. He is a credit to the town, and Oban is rightly proud of a young man who is destined for greatness.



Bob eyes up another birdie putt.

John McLellan Trophy



Pete O'Neill of John McLellan Funeral Directors presents the John McLellan Trophy to the winners of the recent nominated pairs competition at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's green at Inverloch, Eddie Downs and Agnes Boyle. The runners-up were Pattie Rodger and Brian Moffat. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Alisdair Young Pairs



The Alisdair Young Pairs bowls competition took place at the Fort William Bowling Club's green at Inverloch recently. In a very close final the winners were Robert Hunter (second left) and Bill Gibbons (right) with runners-up Ian Rodger (left) and Mick Crichton (second right). Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.



Inverloch Primary School won the MacKay Cup earlier this month after beating Newtonmore 5-1.

All-conquering Inverloch lift MacKay Cup

Inverloch Primary School added to their impressive trophy haul this season by winning the MacKay Cup for the first time in over 50 years recently.

Having lost the coin toss to decide the venue, the young team went on to beat Newtonmore 5-1 in the final at the Eilan in Newtonmore in what was an excellent game played in great spirit. The match was a tighter affair than the scoreline suggests and Inverloch went in at half-time just 2-1 up.

Although they eventually ran out 5-1 winners, Newtonmore were still in the game in the last 10 minutes and proved dogged opponents.

Nevertheless, Inverloch held out for

the victory and got their hands on the MacKay Cup, the first time they have done so since 1965.

That victory means that Inverloch have won all but one of the competitions they have entered this year, conceding only 14 goals and scoring more than 130 across all competitions in what has been a dominant year for the youngsters.

They have now added the MacKay to their roll of honours this year, which includes the Kingussie sixes, the Fraser MacPhee sixes, the Lochaber Districts Indoor sixes, the Oban sixes and reaching the semi-finals of the Camanachd Association Cup.

SCHOOL SHINTY

The Fort William side are not finished yet either as they are to appear in the Tulloch Cup final later this year and are planning a match against Kimallie under-12s for a trophy as part of the Ben Nevis Race day at Claggan Park.

Inverloch coach Robert MacMillan said: 'Thanks to Newtonmore for their hosting, opposition and hospitality. I couldn't have asked for any more from this group of 13 kids this year, travelling the length of the country midweek and weekends and grinding out fantastic results.'

Treasure hunters raise funds for Lochaber rugby

RUGBY

Lochaber Rugby Club players of all ages and their families turned out in force for a fundraising treasure hunt last Saturday.

Starting from the Banavie clubhouse, 'hunters' searched far and wide following a series of clues which ultimately brought them back to the start point for an afternoon cream teas and other refreshments.

The club said: 'Thank you to all who attended yesterday's treasure hunt and to Gary Hendrie for organising it all - he did a fantastic job in running us ragged around Lochaber.'

Training for the new season started last week with an invite to present and new players to attend at the club's own Banavie gym on Tuesdays and at Lochaber Leisure Centre on Thursdays, both getting under way at 7pm.



Treasure hunters searched far and wide following a series of clues on Saturday.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 17°C to 23°C.

Friday
Sunny with light rain and a moderate 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 18°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)

Thur	05.16	1.8	10.42	3.0
	17.18	1.8	23.24	3.1
Fri	06.17	1.9	11.46	2.9
	18.21	1.9	***	**
Sat	00.55	3.1	07.22	1.8
	13.28	2.9	19.32	1.8
Sun	02.30	3.2	08.25	1.6
	14.50	3.1	20.44	1.6
Mon	03.34	3.3	09.24	1.3
	15.46	3.3	21.53	1.4
Tues	04.24	3.5	10.16	1.1
	16.34	1.6	21.45	3.4
Wed	04.26	1.7	09.54	3.1
	16.26	1.7	22.28	3.2

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.

All-conquering
Inverlochy lift
MacKay Cup

Treasure hunters
raise funds for
Lochaber rugby

Fort gets set for first Trail Running Festival

by Iain Ferguson

This weekend sees runners from around the world descend on the tracks and trails around Nevis Range for the first ever edition of the Fort William Trail Running Festival.

The event has grown from the popular and well-attended weekly Park Runs, organised by Helen Smith and fellow local athletics enthusiasts who have put together an impressive list of events and speakers for the two-day event.

Billed by a national running magazine as 'the opportu-



Enthusiastic athletes of all ages, abilities and often from across the globe take part in the weekly Park Runs at Nevis Range. Many already have had next Saturday's Festival of Running in their diaries for some time.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



Sixty-nine-year-old Peter Berrie is a regular participant in the weekly Park Runs at Nevis Range and as his T-shirt says, will also be taking part in next week's Festival of Running.

nity to visit one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland', it also highlighted the novel opportunity known as Race the Monkey hill race.

In this competition, runners will attempt to beat the gondola to the top, travelling at the approximate speed of the current Aonach Mor Uphill Race record.

As a true family event, there are also several races for younger runners, who can also attend coaching sessions with UK Athletics-accredited staff and guided trail runs.

The impressive programme also includes a children's fun

run, 10k, half-marathon, full marathon and Aonach Mor hill run in addition to other events created to provide something for everyone.

Lectures

Well known guest speakers from the running world will also feature in a series of lectures.

These include fell running legend Joss Naylor, Charlie Ramsay, founder of the Ramsay Round, fell running coach David Taylor and visually impaired runner Jay Cruz, who is always an inspiration to all.

Helen said: 'I love trail run-

ning and the Fort William area has so much to offer which I want to share with everyone.'

'Some runners would like to know more about navigation, try yoga or get advice from personal trainers and coaches, so taster sessions will be available.'

The weekend's running events will kickstart on Saturday morning at 9.30am with a Park Run, followed by the Leanachan 10k at 11am and the half-marathon around Leanachan at 1pm. The Race the Monkey hill race will start at 6pm. The

ATHLETICS

evening will consist of another pasta/healthy dinner party and guest speakers.

On Sunday, the day starts with a 5k at 9.30am, then the Meet the Wee Minister Marathon! at 11am before the children's fun run at midday. At tea time, the prize-giving will take place in the Pinemarten Cafe, followed by a ceilidh outside with food and drink served in the cafe.

Spectators are also welcome. More information can be found at fortwilliamrunning-festival.com.

Fort score six ahead of season opener

Rosyth	0
Fort William	6
Pre-season friendly	

Fort William finished off their pre-season preparation with an encouraging six-goal victory over Rosyth.

Jordan Andrew and Daryl Taylor each scored a brace, while Greg Miller and Ruaridh MacDonald both netted to round off the day's scoring for the Lochaber side.

The team now look ahead to their opening match of the 2019/20 Highland League season this Saturday, July 27. The Fort will travel north to take on last year's league runners-up, Brora Rangers, in what will be a stern test of the new-look side.

Mallaig continue perfect league form

Mallaig	3
North West Skye	0
William Wilson League	

Mallaig made amends for the recent cup exit at the hand of Sleat and Strath to maintain their 100 per cent league record this season.

The west coasters put in a fantastic performance on Saturday to secure a comfortable 3-0 victory over fourth-placed North West Skye. The victory now means that Mallaig have won 10 out of 10 league matches so far this season and are on course to retain their title. The team are not in action again until Saturday, August 3, when they take on Portree Juniors in Portree.



Summer SIZZLER



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