

Youngsters use internet to find new head teachers



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Easdale ferry crew praised for rescuing two kayakers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The Easdale ferry crew have been praised for saving two kayakers in a weekend rescue.

Easdale ferry ML Fladda and a crew of three braved a four-foot swell and treacherous conditions of 20 to 25 knots to reach the mum and son who were in danger in the Sound of Insh.

The drama began at about 12.30pm on Sunday. One kayak had capsized, with the mum – an experienced kayaker who lives in the area – holding on for dear life to the second kayak with her shocked son still in it. She had lost her kayak.

The pair were only spotted by luck when off-duty ferryman Alan McFadyen picked up his binoculars by chance and looked out the front window of his home on Easdale.

He ran down to the ferry and raised the alarm, joining skipper David Monro and other crew member Seamus Morrison in the search. Eventually the kayakers were

found around a mile north of Easdale, desperately trying to battle their way through the swell towards the coastline.

Mr Monro said: 'They'd been carried out north by strong winds and tidal conditions. They were experienced kayakers and were well equipped, but things had not gone to plan. When we got to them they were cold and the son was shaken at the huge responsibility of his mum being in the water and hanging on to his kayak but they were okay. She was very calm. We got them and their kayaks back. Neither was hurt and they went off for a cup of tea, probably the best they'd ever tasted!'

'They'd been trying to get back to the shore, looking for a safe landing spot but there weren't any. It's very rocky there and it would have been hazardous. It's just as well we were at hand and Alan had picked up his binoculars. Even if they had made it themselves, it would have been a remote spot and a long walk back.'

The rescue prompted a warning from Argyll and Bute Council for people to 'take care and play close attention' to sea conditions.

The mum, who lives locally, has already written a thank you letter to the council.

She said: 'The crew were all stars. I knew my son would get us to shore somehow but we were so glad to see the ferry. We were just coming back to Ellenabeich from Easdale when a freak squall blew up and took us out. I capsized and lost my kayak, all I could do was hang on to my son's. It was a huge responsibility for him. It hasn't put us off but from now on I think I'll be a fairweather kayaker.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Congratulations go to the ferry crew, who did a fantastic job. It's a reminder that although our waters can be beautiful they can also be treacherous.'

Advice on safe kayaking is available at rnli.org/safety/choose-your-activity/kayaking-and-canoeing.

Sea eagle chick finds its wings

Lucky Isle of Mull visitor Brian Redpath got the surprise of his life when the elusive sea eagle chick at Mull Eagle Watch – only days out of the nest – put on quite a show for him. For the full story, turn to page 13.



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OT

LochWatch under fire from users

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A co-founder of the Loch Awe LochWatch has defended the charity he helped to set up following a barrage of criticism on the group's Facebook page last week.

Iain MacKinnon, Oban Coastguard station officer, formed the volunteer group, along with Murray Humphries, in response to a tragedy in which four men died on the loch in 2009.

The group were awarded registered charity status in 2013 and purchased a patrol boat which in 2014 was fitted out with a radar, with state-of-the-art night vision and a body heat sourcing device also purchased thanks to funding and charitable donations.

Over the summer, however, loch users have become increasingly concerned over the lack of sightings of the patrol boat and, on further investigation, it has been discovered that the group has failed to provide information on its finances to the Scottish Charities Register (OSCR) within the stipulated nine

months of its financial year-end date.

Steve Tapley, chairman of Pike Anglers' Alliance Scotland, said: 'There have been many concerns voiced by loch users relating to the Loch Awe LochWatch charity and nobody feels they are getting straight answers.

'Most just want to know why the patrol boat isn't on the water patrolling. This is a charity funded by members of the public, loch users and the families of the men who died there in 2009. The longer the LochWatch remains silent, the worse it will get.

'We, the loch users, want to help but we don't seem to be getting any response from the people who are supposed to be running it.'

Mr MacKinnon admitted he has 'taken my eye off the ball a bit', but said the group is working with the relevant people to get back on track.

He said: 'Concerns raised regarding our charity number are currently being addressed and the matter is being dealt with by our accountants,' he said. 'We have been in touch with OSCR since last May

and a report to the AGM in February will include audited accounts.

'I am as passionate about LochWatch as I have ever been. The charity is run by volunteers who give their time freely. We currently have around 100 volunteers, many of whom carry out roles of LochWatch spotters and live in close proximity to Loch Awe. Anyone who wants to volunteer with us can get in touch through our Facebook page.'

Mr MacKinnon added that 'significant changes' within the emergency services over the past year have resulted in the introduction of a water rescue unit at Oban fire station which can be launched anywhere on the loch and can be deployed quicker than the patrol boat.

'Our boat is run by volunteers and the current crew all live and work in and around Oban,' he added.

'This has been the case for a while as there was no one more local to the loch available.

'However, in the past few weeks, two people who live near the loch have come forward to volunteer as crew.'



From the left are Hope Kitchen volunteers Ollie Debroas Blavec, Catriona Petit, Carol MacPhee, David Walker and Mhairi Carr.

Open day hopes to attract new volunteers

New Hope Kitchen is inviting members of the community to join its team in their many activities next week (Wednesday September 11) and find out more about volunteering for the charity.

The Oban-based group is holding a taster day next Wednesday, from 10am to 6pm, when current volunteers and staff will be available to share their experiences and members of the public can find out more about the busy organisation.

Activities and Green Shoots coordinator Catriona Petit said: 'Volunteers are what makes Hope Kitchen such an amazing place and although they currently have a fantastic group of dedicated people giving their time, they need more to make sure that they can continue to offer the

service they do for the people of Oban.'

Hope Kitchen is a charity which provides an essential support, food, shelter and companionship to vulnerable and marginalised people.

'It is a space to meet together, have homemade lunches and dinners, access help from a variety of different agencies, enjoy the benefits of helping in the Green Shoots garden, use the only food bank in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, and take part in the many different activities based in New Hope,' added Catriona.

Activities will be ongoing throughout the day, starting at 10am when anyone interested in volunteering at the beach clean can meet at New Hope's Soroba Road venue before heading down to the beach to give it a try.

At noon, people who would like to find out more about volunteering at Green Shoots will be picked up from New Hope to spend an hour in the garden.

From 1-4pm, you can drop into New Hope itself and have a go at volunteering. For people only available in the evenings, you can drop in between 4pm and 6pm to help serve the evening meal.

All ages are welcome, though under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

'Even if you can only offer a couple of hours a week, that would be a real help,' said Catriona. 'People who are not available on the day can contact Hope Kitchen and we can arrange a time.'

For more information call 01631 565730 or 'like' the Facebook page Hope Kitchen.

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Trusted friend found guilty of sex crimes

A man guilty of historic sex crimes against two young Oban brothers when he was a teenager has been warned jail is 'very likely'.

Colin Carnie, 50, of Flat 3-2, 43 Gorget Avenue, Glasgow, was put on the sex offenders' register and allowed bail at the end of a two-day trial last week for a criminal justice social services report to be prepared. He will be back at Oban Sheriff Court on September 24 to face sentencing.

Jurors found Carnie guilty of two charges of using lewd, indecent and libinous practices and behaviour towards the brothers in their bedroom back in the 1980s.

When Carnie was interviewed by police last March, more than three decades after the offences, he said he did not know the brothers or their mother, had never been to or entered their house and denied any sexual activity with the boys. He told police: 'I know



Oban Sheriff Court.

nothing about it.' And he told the court last week: 'I don't recognise them at all.'

But the court heard from both the complainers and their mother how Carnie, although eight years older than the youngest boy, had been a trusted friend who was made welcome at their family home, frequently visiting and staying for meals and sleep-overs.

'The last thing on my mind 30 years ago was that someone was hurting my young child,' said the mother, telling the court she was devastated at not being able to protect him at the time. The younger brother,

now in his 40s, said he had been 'pointed at' and sworn to secrecy by Carnie every time he was abused by him.

He described how his life had spiralled downwards and how he turned to drugs to self-medicate before eventually getting counselling help a few years ago to tackle what had triggered his difficulties.

Jurors also heard from the older complainer who said he too had been subjected to Carnie's behaviour but would leave the bedroom when it happened a lot, leaving Carnie and his little brother alone.

He told the court: 'I feel extremely guilty. I just remember being disgusted because I knew it was wrong. I refused and he got my brother to do it instead.'

Carnie's solicitor Graham Bryson suggested he was just trying to back up his brother's story and the younger one had 'over the years' convinced himself something had happened,

without ever being contradicted by police or counsellors.

'I have memories ingrained that I will have to live with for life. I can tell you with 100 per cent certainty this happened and nothing will change that.'

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The brothers have not made it up. This is something they have been waiting to shout from the rooftops for 30 years.'

Sheriff Simon Fraser was handed a record of Carnie's previous convictions that post-dated the offences heard last week. The sheriff said they were 'serious' and were of 'the same character' of the offences he had just been convicted of.

Sheriff Fraser told Carnie to 'be under no illusion' because the charges against the brothers were historical.

'These were committed against very young children. A custodial sentence might not be inevitable but it's very likely,' he said.

Man jailed for frauds in Oban

A man has been jailed for six months for fraud after using someone else's debit card to book accommodation in Oban.

Harvesh Bhundoy, of no fixed abode, was given three six-month sentences, which will run concurrently, when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court this week, on Tuesday, August 27.

He admitted to using the card on August 12 to book into a hotel in Oban under a different name and using the room to the value of £125.

On August 13, he then booked into a guest house in Oban for six nights, to the value of £416.50.

He also owned up to telling police his last name was Bhundun, as well as giving an altered date of birth.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that the victim used his card in Oban before returning to Singapore.

Some days later, the owner of the card viewed his

transactions and contacted the hotel and guest house in Oban and stated he did not authorise the payments.

The guest house owner then contacted the police in relation to possible fraud.

On August 19, police entered the guest house and the male and a female were still there.

Sheriff Fraser said he was left with no alternative but custody

After fingerprinting Bhundoy, police unearthed his true identity.

Bhundoy's solicitor told the court that he wanted to repay the money but, given his record, Sheriff Simon Fraser said he was left with no alternative but a custodial sentence.

Sheriff Fraser gave Bhundoy a six-month sentence for each charge to run concurrently.

POLICE FILES Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Between August 17 and 25 a building at the old Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, was broken into and a yellow/black Diall torch was stolen.

About 10.20pm on Tuesday August 27, in Ardconnel Terrace, Oban, a woman (17) was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of cannabis. The woman was issued with a recorded police warning.

Between 9.50am and 10.55am on Monday August 26 within the car park at Aldi Stores, Lynn Road, Oban, a blue Volkswagen Touran was damaged.

About 7pm on Wednesday August 28 on George Street, Oban, a man (18) was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of cannabis. The man was issued with a recorded police warning.

About 7.40pm on Wednesday August 28, on Ardconnel Road, Oban, a man (18) was stopped and searched and allegedly obstructed police in the course of their duty. The man was found in possession of cannabis and an open alcoholic container

in contravention of local bylaws. The man was arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 03.45am on Thursday August 29, in Marine Court, Dunbeg, police attended reports of a disturbance. A woman (20) was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a man (20). The woman was arrested, charged and held in custody for court.

About 11.45pm on Thursday August 29, near Ganavan Sands, Oban, a man (20) was stopped and searched and found in possession of cannabis. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

About 5.20pm on Friday August 30, on Shore Street, Oban, a woman (45) was arrested for abusive behaviour and failing to desist. The woman was arrested and held in custody for court.

About 2.45pm on Saturday August 31 on Corran Esplanade, Oban, a man (44) was arrested for abusive behaviour. He was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

About 4.50pm on

Saturday August 31, on McCaig Road, Oban, a man (27) was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of cocaine. A cash sum was also seized. The man was arrested, charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

About 2.35am on Sunday September 1, on Glen-cruitten Road, Oban, a man (26) was arrested for allegedly driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged and released to appear at court.

About 7.15pm on Sunday September 1, in a hotel bar in Main Street, Tobermory, Mull, a man allegedly assaulted another man. Police attended and a 26-year-old male was arrested and later charged. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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



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OT

More dogs suffer due to discarded hooks

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Anglers are again being reminded to dispose of their fishing hooks responsibly.

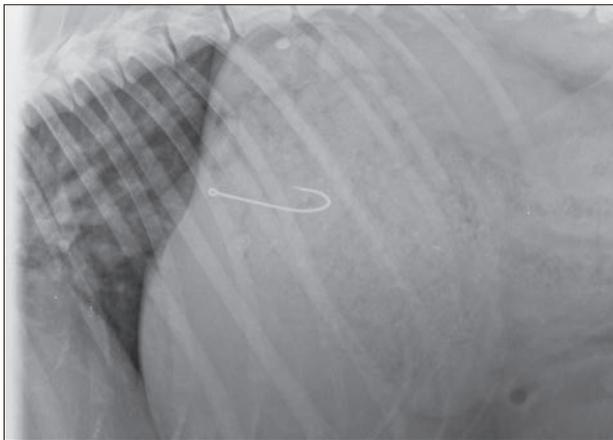
This comes after two incidents where a dog swallowed hooks, while another got tangled in tackle.

Sheila MacIntyre from Oban was out walking with her Hungarian Puli in the town.

Taking to social media to highlight the issue, she said: 'I wish folk would take their rubbish home after fishing. Had to cut this line, float and hook from Dougal's back leg. Luckily, his cords protected him; others might not be so lucky.'

She added: 'There was a lot of fry in the bay this week we noticed on our walks and a lot of folk out fishing for mackerel.'

'We went for a walk to the



An X-ray reveals a discarded fishing hook which was swallowed last summer by John Howe's dog, Juno.

people about fish hooks putting animals in danger.

Last summer, John Howe got in touch with The Oban Times after his dog Juno needed emergency surgery to remove a baited hook from her stomach, leading Oban vet John Blomfield to say the problem is so frequent he keeps a set of metal cutters in the Tweedale Street practice.

'We might see two to three cases per month during the summer,' he added.

If an animal does swallow a hook, owners are advised not to pull on the line hanging from the dog's mouth but to cut the line hanging out and get immediate help from a vet.

The RSPCA says fishing litter causes injury and deaths to thousands of wild animals every year.

Old fishing line and spools can be donated to recycling points or posted to the Anglers' National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS).

The charity advises anglers to be aware of surrounding trees, as line caught in foliage can entangle wildlife.

The RSCPA added: 'Don't leave baited tackle unattended - remove bait from the hook and put the tackle in a safe place; use a bait box; help keep your local river, canal or coastline litter-free. Dispose safely of any rubbish you see, even if it is not your own.'

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

LiveArgyll publishes annual report

A ladies-only gym, an increased number of swimming lessons and libraries being used more by their communities are all on the agenda for the trust which runs Argyll and Bute's leisure centres.

LiveArgyll has just published its annual report for 2018/19, outlining its successes during the financial year and its plans for the future. The report will be considered by Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee today, Thursday September 5.

Mr Anderson said: 'Across all of our programmes, from Active Schools through to archives and local studies, we aim to be a progressive and inclusive organisation.'

'We will continue to provide an accessible, affordable, attractive and safe environment and services for all. There is no doubt that leisure and library services can play an important role in improving the quality of life in local communities.'

lifeboat pier and the tide was unusually high and perhaps the hook got washed up on the path to the boat behind the lifeboat building.

'We noticed it caught around his leg, but thankfully it didn't do any damage as he was protected by his dreadlocks, other

dogs wouldn't have been so lucky.'

A few days earlier another pet owner took to social media highlighting that their dog had swallowed a fishing hook, which was placed within rubbish near their house.

This is not the first time The Oban Times has warned

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Health and social care on Islay is focus for Conversation Cafe

People on Islay will be able to chat to members of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) about support services on the island at a new Conversation Cafe later this month.

The cafe has been arranged for Wednesday September 25 from noon to 2pm in The Ideas Building, Killarow.

Under discussion will be reablement. The reablement service provides free support services to people with a wide range of needs and long-term conditions. This service is usually provided to people for up to eight weeks to encourage them to achieve their goals and to live independently for as long as possible. Reablement health care professionals include occupational therapists and physiotherapists. They also provide falls management, prevention and screening support as well as carrying out regular client reviews.

Referrals are made to the team through local health and social care professionals or by contacting the single point of

access telephone number. A spokesperson for NHS Highlands said: 'The HSCP is committed to a person-centred approach where services are built around the people who use them. Person-centred services take account of individuals' needs, priorities and strengths.'

'Of course, to support this approach, we have to talk to people, engage with our communities, and learn what people need. The Community Conversation Cafés are one of the ways to open up discussions about health and social care. By making our discussions less formal, we can help people to take part.'

A service manager related to the topic will be invited to attend the cafés. This manager will provide some information about the topic, can take questions and comments about the service they run and take responsibility for information and actions arising from the session.

For more information please email nhs.abhscp@nhs.net.

Playpark co meaning 0

Further delays to the ground works and drainage at Oban community playpark are expected as contractors George McNaughton and Son have not yet been given a contract to sign.

Work on the beleaguered site had been due to start in the middle of August with a view to having the big playpark open for the children to enjoy again during the October holiday.

Now into September, there has been no sign of any activity and, on contacting Mr MacNaughton this week, The Oban Times were told: 'We can't start the work because we haven't had a contract to sign yet.'

The company director said that he had been told that his Lochgilphead-based business had won the contract but he had yet to receive any of the required documents.

'I had workers laid aside a fortnight ago ready to start but we can't begin the work without that bit of paper,' he added.

Youngsters use power of internet to help schools find new head teachers

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Two schools in Argyll and the Isles are using innovative approaches to help find new head teachers.

Lochnell Primary School, which has around 120 pupils, is using the power of the internet to fill the role, which comes with a salary of £56,571.

Pupils, guided by Oban-based digital video production company Stripey Straws Production, created an online video advertising the position that highlights all that is good within the school, as well as revealing qualities they would like in a head teacher.

The children said: 'Everyone in Lochnell school would really like a great, kind head teacher, who listens to their pupils and can keep the school going.'

'We want a head teacher



who is kind, helpful, and also listens to their pupils.'

However, it was not just he pupils who had their say.

Katie Baker, teacher and former pupil, said: 'I have always found the school to be very warm and welcoming. The teachers have a really nice relationship with the pupils. They genuinely care about them.'

Shirley Livingston, teacher,

said: 'It is certainly a very caring ethos, very holistic, and we are not paperwork heavy in this school so that our main focus is the children's education and their wellbeing.'

'We have a very good relationship with the parents, partly through the way we do our homework, which is through our planning for progress and we meet with

Pupils from Lochnell Primary have created a video to help them attract a new head teacher.

the parents three times per year.

Another teacher, Alison McCrindle, said: 'It's a lovely friendly place to work. The children seem very happy at the school; it's a place where they want to be. They are very kind towards each other. We get on very well as a team and we are very happy to ask each other for advice, which I feel is a strength of the school.'

One of the pupils added: 'Lochnell has made me feel responsible, safe, and most importantly it has made me feel like I belong.'

Kilchattan Primary School on Colonsay is also seeking a new head teacher to oversee the seven pupils at the school.

The community is using Facebook and Instagram to

promote the 'dream job' in a 'dream school' on a 'dream island'.

To help entice the potential head teacher, Argyll and Bute Council is offering a £51,249 salary and a relocation package, which consists of a four-bedroom house.

Writing on the Facebook page entitled '7 children seek a head teacher on a remote Scottish island', the admin says: 'Colonsay is a fantastic place to bring up children - they are such important members of the community and everyone makes time for them. They grow up being really confident talking to adults, speaking up and contributing as members of our community.'

'The community of permanent residents on Colonsay may be small (125) but we are an active bunch. The island has a range of community groups working to make this

a wonderful place to live and visit.

'The pupils of Kilchattan primary are involved in all aspects of community life and enjoy learning from their surroundings.'

Keills and Small Isles Primary Schools, based on Islay and Jura respectively, are also looking for a joint head teacher. Applications for the role close tomorrow (Friday September 6).

To apply, go to: www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/argyll-bute-council/jobs/joint-head-teacher-keills-and-small-isles-165004

To find out more about the roles, visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/argyll-bute-council/jobs/head-teacher-165269 for Lochnell or <https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/argyll-bute-council/jobs/head-teacher-165495> for Kilchattan.

Contractor yet to sign contract October reopening is delayed



The community playpark has been closed since a safety inspection in March 2018.

Argyll and Bute Council came to an agreement with Wicksteed Playgrounds in regards to the funding of the essential repair work in March, with the contractors being selected following a 'quick quote' process, via the Scottish Government's Public Contracts Scotland portal at the end of April.

A statement from the council at the end of July confirmed that MacNaughton had been appointed as the contractor and that they,

the council, expected the park to be open again for the October school holidays.

Apologise

Following an inquiry from The Oban Times this week, however, an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We had hoped to have the playpark open in time for the October school holidays.'

'However, this will now not be the case and we apologise for this delay.'

'We are working hard behind the scenes to sched-

ule this work and we will provide an update as soon as we can.

'Once again, we'd like to thank the community for their patience and to reassure them everything possible is being done to get the playpark open just as soon as possible.'

The park for five- to 15-year-olds has been closed since March 2018 after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

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OT

Cyclists raise funds in memory of friend John

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Cyclists weathered battering rain and wind to ride 110 miles from Glasgow to Lismore in memory of a close friend who lived on the island.

Graham Waddell and a team of three others took on the challenge to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity, smashing their £2,000 target by raising £6,500.

They planned to start and finish the route through mighty Glencoe all in one day and made it in eight hours and 25 minutes – despite lashings of rain making it even tougher going.

Undeterred on Friday, Graham and his hardy teammates, including his son Euan and friends John Grewar and Ross Robertson, fought on and refused to give up.

The ride had to be postponed



Arrival at Appin ferry for the last leg on their cycle challenge from Glasgow to Lismore.

from earlier this year after Graham broke his collarbone.

John MacCormick, a well-known Lismore farmer whose wife Hazel and children Rachel, 13, and Donald, 11, still live on the island, was just 49 when he was diagnosed

with the most aggressive kind of brain tumour called glioblastoma.

Over the next 15 months, Mr MacCormick endured various treatments and clinical trials but passed away on May 16 last year.

Hazel said: "The cycle challenge means a lot to our family. It's lovely they've done this for John. They wanted to do something to make a difference so others might not have to go through what we did."

The cyclists were welcomed

on to Lismore for a well-earned feast at a barbecue at the MacCormicks' shed and for an overnight stay.

Graham said: "We had quite an emotional welcome as we came over the hill on Lismore as there were about 30 or more people waiting for us, even a piper. It was really rather special. We're just delighted we did it and hope our efforts will help others in John's memory."

To make a donation go to justgiving.com/fundraising/graham-waddell

Hazel is still making and selling lavender-scented Gift of Love candles to raise awareness of the support and care that Marie Curie gives across Oban and Argyll.

The special candles were snapped up at Appin show and the recent Oban produce market, and will be available to buy soon at the heritage centre on Lismore and in the Appin shop.

Tower lights up for organ donations

McCaig's Tower in Oban is being lit up green this week to encourage families and friends to have discussions about organ donation.

This year's Organ Donation Week takes place between September 2 and 8.

At least one person on average dies every day in need of an organ transplant, often because families have not discussed the subject and made their wishes clear.

This is the week when individuals and organisations across the UK are encouraged to help raise awareness of organ and tissue donation.

There have been significant increases in donation and transplantation over the past decade.

Legislation to introduce an opt-out system of organ and tissue donation for transplantation was passed by the Scottish Parliament on June 11.

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When the world comes to Oban

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



It's that time of year again when we lose many of our young people to colleges and universities in the cities as they go to pursue their education while, on the other hand, we also welcome students from all over the world to Oban to study at Argyll College UHI, SAMS and Ballet West.

I'm delighted to say that each year our welcome to them is growing and this year included a freshers' event held in The View, where they were able to engage with lots of groups, businesses and people who can help them settle into their new home and integrate with the community.

It really adds to the thriving community we have here that it contains people from so many different places who all add their experiences, languages and cultures to create a town that's hospitable and welcoming to everyone. It's certainly something to encourage and be proud of in the times we're in at the moment.

Speaking of languages

and experiences, I went to see Frankie Boyle in the Corran Halls last week, not quite sure what I was letting myself in for and I'm delighted to say it was a fantastic evening and really well attended.

The Corran Halls has so much going on just now that I can't go to everything I would like to. It's fantastic to see the variety of entertainment being offered this year. There's really something for everyone, from children's shows to comedians, live bands, tribute acts, opera and ballet.

Between the Corran Halls, Oban Phoenix Cinema and all the live music and

quizzes around the town, I could quite happily be out every night of the week but my stamina isn't quite up to that any more so I have to pick and choose – not an easy task.

Do remember to add any events to Oban Town Diary to let everyone know what's happening in Oban.

The photograph last week was of the memorial plaque on Stafford Street and this week's is also very centrally located, if you keep your eyes open.

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DJ, Jamie, and Amy Barr, met the Ice Queen at the end of last year's trail at Glencruitten Woods.

17_T48_Winter Festiva Saturday10



Your chance to win winter woods tickets

Tickets for this year's illuminated winter woods experience are up for grabs at a fundraising bingo night in Oban tomorrow, Friday September 6.

The View in George Street is hosting the evening in aid of November's week-long Oban Winter Festival and it includes a raffle.

One of the festival organisers, Pamela Lockhart, said:

'Last year all the tickets for the winter woods trail at Glencruitten sold out in just half an hour so this is a good way of getting yours before anyone else. Good luck in the raffle!

'We hope as many people as possible will come along tomorrow night to The View and give us their support.

'The dates are set and we're busy behind the scenes

planning yet another packed festival week for everyone.'

This year's festival run from Friday to Sunday, November 15 to 24.

GETINTOUCH
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telephone 01631 568000

Jetskiers in Oban were in danger

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Onlookers were horrified when they spotted three jetskiers chasing a ferry and fishing boat in Oban Bay at the weekend.

The jetskis were reportedly seen to get dangerously close to a Mull ferry, speeding round it then using warning buoys to nip in and out and between before doing the same again with a fishing vessel.

No one was hurt but the skiers were putting themselves and others at risk, said a spokesperson for CalMac.

'For the safety of all water users, we would urge jetskis to keep a safe distance from the ferry at all times. If the ship's master believes there is a likelihood of a hazard to navigation, they will sound five short blasts on the horn. If skiers hear this they are potentially putting themselves and others at risk and should move away.'

Oban's harbour office added: 'It's open waters so there are no regulations but we are looking in the future to getting a wider authority in Oban Bay where we might be able to bring in legislation.'

'We get a couple of occasions every summer season where jetskiers are irresponsible but it has been no more of a problem this year. We are doing a lot to reach out to jetskiers and small leisure craft users and we do have a code of practice we hope people will take heed of.'

The website obanharbour.scot provides practical up-to-date information to all bay stakeholders and users, as well as provide a procedure for reporting incidents and near misses.

The code of practice includes two cautions that small vessels should avoid the channel that runs through the centre of the north entrance to the bay and keep clear of the CalMac pier area when ferries are moving.

Iain MacKinnon, of Oban Coastguard, said: 'The bay is so busy now that people really do have to take every care. Those jetskiers who were seen chasing the boats were putting themselves and others clearly at risk. The big boats can't stop or turn quickly and people should respect that.'

'There's space for everyone in the water but people need to show respect for each other and stay safe.'

The jetskis were chasing vessels.

Photograph: Les Hazelgrave



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OT

Work starts on new council depot at Jackson's Quarry

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Work has started on the £1.4million redevelopment of Oban's council depot, freeing up land at Millpark for new business opportunities.

The work on Jackson's Quarry roads depot means all essential operational services for Oban, Lorn and the Isles will be delivered from the one site, creating 'some much-needed development land for Oban which will help local businesses grow and succeed and bring much-needed jobs to Argyll and Bute', says Councillor Ellen Morton, deputy policy lead for roads and amenity services.

Work on the depot is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year and Luddon Construction Ltd, which is the main contractor, will be using local sub-contractors throughout the project.

Those behind the scheme say accommodation providers in the town will receive a boost from workers staying

in the town during the development and there will also be a job created for one unemployed person from the area during the contract.

A four-week work experience placement will be offered to two school pupils interested in a career in construction and a class visit will be organised once the project is finished.

Bin lorries

The depot will have a new four-bay fleet workshop to keep the council's bin lorries, roads equipment and gritters on the road.

There will also be a modern office and meeting room and the site will be expanded, with new hard-standing and drainage to make a parking area for all vehicles.

The contract value for the new depot development is covered by the council's insurance following the fire at Millpark.

Pulling together all the council's operations into one site means the Millpark depot site will be available for development.

During construction at Jackson's Quarry, the Millpark site will be used for storage and vehicle parking. Once that is complete, the council will explore how best to develop Millpark as a site for business and industry.

Councillor Morton added: 'It takes a lot of time and planning to get to this stage and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work.

'Bringing all our teams together in one place will help us deliver our services more efficiently and more effectively.'

Jordan Keatings, divisional manager of Luddon Construction Ltd, said as work gets under way, and throughout the construction period, they will make every effort to avoid or minimise disruption to the community as well as keeping people up to date.

Contractors

He added: 'We intend to engage with local labour, contractors and suppliers for much of the resource requirements of the project.'

Soroba fire thunders over a

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A former fire fighter is calling on an emergency vehicle access point to be installed at Soroba to prevent threat to human lives should a fire break out on the estate again.

George Berry was addressing Oban Community Council at its recent meeting having been an eyewitness to the blaze that broke out on the Oban estate on Sunday August 25.

Danica Fleming's family lost everything in the fire which gutted her second floor home at 6 Colonsay Terrace. Ms Fleming and her young son were not home at the time of the blaze, which was reported around 8pm, but her partner, who was in the flat, required medical assistance at the scene. Mr



Berry described the blaze as an 'inferno' and said he was even more horrified when he saw the aerial rescue platform and the ambulance could not get to the burning building because of cars parked on either side of the street.

'Had that fire happened at 2am or 3am and there had

been people in their beds it would have been an absolute disaster,' he said.

Mr Berry has since been invited to several meetings where he can show what happened on the night of the fire and highlight the issues with a model he has made himself. 'By the time the aerial res-



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rows up access

George Berry with the model he created to highlight the problem and possible solution.

cue truck arrived there were already two fire engines on the road working at putting out the fire.

'A police vehicle was there also,' explained Mr Berry who praised the fire service and ambulance staff who were there on the night for arriving quickly and managing the situation.

Mr Berry now wants to put forward a proposal to move a children's play park, sited in front of his home at 7 Colonsay Terrace, to a wasteland around the corner, and put an emergency vehicle-only box in its place.

'Even if the aerial platform could have got through, it

would have struggled to reach number six or number seven because of the angles,' he added.

'With the playpark and rubbish bins being there, it just doesn't leave the space.

'It would make sense to move both a few metres around the block and allow the emergency vehicles better access.

'Every flat up to number five is accessible by the car park so they just need to extend it a bit to cover number six and seven.

'There shouldn't need to be any great debate on this. It's a matter of life or death and should be treated as a priority.'

Mr Berry has been asked to give a presentation to local councillors and Argyll Community Housing Association in the next few weeks.



Swimmers getting ready to set off across Loch Awe at Saturday's charity event, left, and above, kayakers helped out with safety cover.

Sunshine is stroke of luck for charity swim

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

More than 20 brave swimmers in skins and wetsuits took a sponsored dip in Loch Awe at the weekend.

Lucky for organisers and the hardy swimmers taking part, the rain held off for most of Saturday's event, with the sun putting in an appreciated appearance.

Some swam one-way from the Portsonachan side back to the Taychreggan Hotel crossing just under one mile with others, even more dar-

ing, making it a double-dip by swimming both ways.

The event was organised by Kilchrenan, Inverinan and Dalavich (KID) Coastal Rowing Club to help it buy junior oars to get younger members out on the water.

Organisers are still totting up the final amount but it looks on target to make more than £800.

Four lightweight oars are already being made in Arran, says KID founder Gordon Leveratt, who says there might be a repeat swim next year.

Kayakers and boats were out in force to give safety cover before a celebratory barbecue marked the end of the challenge.

As well as raising money for KID, swimmers also had the option of giving sponsorship to charities of their choice.

Swimmers included KID member Ricky Donachie, Taychreggan man Ivan Herd, who was first home on the single swim, and a team of nine Tayvallich open water swimmers. This Sunday also saw the launch of KID's second skiff named Cruachan.

The skiff got funding from a lottery bid and from The Carraig Gheal board of trustees.

The coastal rowing club will be competing with two teams in this September's Castle to Crane 14-mile race up the Clyde involving 100 skiffs.

A ladies team will be putting the new Cruachan through its paces with a men's team rowing the club's other boat called Mingulay.

To find out more about supporting or joining KID's coastal rowing club, email gordonleveratt@uwclub.net

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OT

Two swims down, two to go

Now halfway through his 4 Rivers Challenge, Oban's George Gray and his Volkswagen work colleagues are warming up for their next cold water adventure on the River Taff in Wales, writes Fiona Scott.

And with weather conditions turning decidedly chillier, things are not getting any easier for the quartet who are swimming 4 Rivers, in 4 Capitals, in 4 Seasons, 4 Mental Health.

Despite the lowering temperatures, however, George and his colleagues – Lisa Kirkbright, Alex Rose and Luke Ayres – remain determined to raise awareness



George, below left, and his colleagues during the first challenge.

about mental health through George's own personal story of losing a son through suicide, promoting the benefits of open water swimming and

raising funds for the valuable work of Mind, SAMH and Inspire.

The challenge kicked off in Edinburgh in May with the

first swim in the river Forth from the Queensferry crossing to the Forth bridge.

The team were joined by one local swimmer who was thankful for the chance to undertake a swim not often done and to share their personal experience in relation to how mental health had touched their family.

Before they knew it, the four were in Belfast in August for the second swim in the Lagan.

Team member Lisa Kirkbright, who was inspired to join the challenge to show her support for a friend who had lost their son to suicide, was joined by that friend.

'This really helped make the team realise that this challenge is making a difference,' said George.

'The team enjoyed having this support along with another work colleague and the local Inspire team.

'It spurred us on through the rain – not really an issue if you are swimming – and when we were joined by another guest swimmer in the form of a rat.'

George and the team are thankful to the people who have helped them on the way, including safety cover in Edinburgh from work colleague Phillip Stewart and, in Belfast, the team were

thankful to Isaac Agnes, Volkswagen, for the loan of a car, and Charles Eves, a friend of George, for safety cover.

George added: 'The team are enjoying the whole challenge and feel that they are helping to make a difference.'

Sights are now firmly set on Cardiff and the river Taff on October 12, which coincides with World Mental Health Day on October 10.

The team are grateful for all support and donations, and they are keen for people to like and share their Facebook page, 4 Rivers Challenge and will appreciate any donations to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GeorgeGray5.

Forces and veterans charities get sale boost

Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion has raised £1,700 at its annual sale on Seil.

'This is an excellent result

and our thanks go out to all the community and visitors who attended and supported the day.

'The event was opened by the president of Royal British Legion Scotland, General Sir Alistair Irwin, who gave an excellent encouraging speech to everyone. All the money raised will go to

forces and veterans charities,' said branch secretary Jean Alexander.

'Four of the branch members are now octogenarians and are still helping the good cause,' she added.

Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion at the weekend fundraiser.



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Salmon farm samples delivered to Holyrood

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Samples from public waters around fish farms near Oban were due to be delivered to Scottish ministers this week following a weekend of protests.

Campaigners, who circled various farmed salmon sites, took the samples to highlight concerns of potentially toxic pollution being cast into the sea. They planned to give the samples to Scottish rural economy minister Fergus Ewing and cabinet environment secretary Roseanna Cunningham.

Don Staniford, director of the campaign group Scottish Salmon Watch, joined the protests with his wife Elena Edwards and their two young children.

On Sunday they set out from Balvicar boatyard with mem-



Don Staniford with his wife and children.

bers of the Oban Extinction Rebellion group, heading for salmon farm sites owned by Norwegian group Mowi.

Mr Staniford said Mowi made it clear they were not welcome: 'They were trying to keep me away from the site. I got to about one metre away to take a sample but they were manoeuvring their boats to block me. They clearly didn't want us there,' he said.

The Oban Times contacted Mowi, but the company said it did not wish to comment.

Saturday saw a group of about 12 protesters head out to Scottish Sea Farms sites at Shuna near Appin. Campaigners with placards lined up on a nearby road at Loch Linnhe.

When the water-bound protesters got to the Shuna site, there were no fish, only the workers on watch, said Mr Staniford.

Health and Safety Manager for Scottish Sea Farms Gerry McCormick said: 'Our overriding priority was that

anyone participating should remain safe. To help ensure this, we had teams on standby to assist in case anyone got into difficulty while in the water. Only a small handful of adults and their children turned up on the day, but what matters is that each returned home safe and well - that, for us, was key.'

Campaigners are calling for greater scrutiny of the Scottish salmon farming industry.

Mr Staniford said: 'There are no unannounced inspections by the authorities which gives them time to clean up their act when inspectors do turn up. On-the-spot checks are what we are calling for but, until then, citizens will do the job.'

Protesters hope handing in samples taken this week will support their appeal for random checks.

Hands-on careers day held at St Conan's Kirk

Young people are being invited to get hands on with conservation work at historic St Conan's Kirk.

Later this month the church, on the shores of Loch Awe, will be hosting its first careers day. Invites have been sent out to students at Oban and Lochgilphead High Schools, as well as Argyll College.

It was the idea of Friends of St Conan's in a bid to get more young people involved in preserving the church for future generations to enjoy.

Experts from architects to graphic designers and stonemasons to sculpture repairers will be there on Friday September 20 to tell their own stories of how they got into that kind of work, from qualifications to apprenticeships and placements, and they will talk about their role in helping conserve the historic building.

There will be lots of demonstrations and the chance for students to get hands-on.

With plenty of time for questions and answers, there will be about eight different stations for students to visit during the day, covering

everything from monument restoration to specialist stone cleaning, masonry restoration and pointing, and the need for graphic design in advertising and information materials.

It means students taking part will be able to say they have helped conserve St Conan's - some of the hands-on opportunities are hoped to include cleaning stonework in the church's two side chapels working with granite, sandstone and marble.

Organisers hope students interested in getting jobs in creative and construction industries will take up the offer and get involved.

The initiative is part of a commitment made by St Conan's to Historic Environment Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund in return for their support.

Friends of St Conan's chairman Peter Hennessey said: 'This day's experience will encounter the central themes of Curriculum for Excellence and creative and construction industries and will give an insight into the wider world of conservation.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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On August 21, the world said farewell to one of the finest sportsmen Scotland has ever produced, when he was laid to rest in his native Aberdeenshire.

Bill Anderson was without dispute the greatest Highland games athlete of the past century, having had a career in which he dominated the sport for more than 30 years.

Dating from the mid-1800s, in the lineage of the great stand-out heavies of their time - Donald Dinnie, A A Cameron, George Clark - it was Bill Anderson who from the late 1950s until into the 1980s was undoubtedly the top competitor in this field.

Remarkably, at the age of 49, in his final year of competition, he won his last Scottish Championship at the Crieff Highland Gathering of 1987. The championship at Crieff was, and still is, regarded as the premier prize in the Highland games circuit, holding more prestige than British or World Championships. To win it at that age was an incredible way to bring closure on an unmatched career.

It was on Saturday July 21, 1956, at the Alford Annual

Show that Bill Anderson at the age of 18 first competed and from then until he retired he threw at home and throughout the world, dedicating his sporting life to Highland games.

A familiar presence at the Argyllshire Gathering, at the Mull Highland Games, at Arisaig and others, he was well known on the West Coast, as well as on his home territory on the east and abroad.

It is a well-known and often talked about aspect of Bill's career that he was universally liked and respected wherever he competed.

In an amusing anecdote that shows a humorous side to his otherwise stern and determined character, after returning from the Tobermory games on a particularly rough ferry crossing, someone was gently mocking him because he had been badly seasick.

'Aye,' said Bill, 'and I was throwing it further than anyone else!'

In addition to Highland games heavy events, Bill also competed successfully as a wrestler and as a strongman.

In 1978, he came second to Geoff Capes in the Britain's

Strongest Man competition and, although he went on to compete in the World's Strongest Man final in the USA, he had to withdraw early due to injury. There is footage available on YouTube of him competing well in the first few events of this competition.

His brief career in strongman, considering his age at the time - over 40 - and his lack of experience in the discipline shows clearly the Herculean strength he had, as well as the speed, power and coordination required for his main forte of Highland games.

I first became a fan of Bill Anderson when I read his biography, Highland Fling, written by Jack Davidson and published in 2009. The book gives a fascinating insight into Bill's career, his character and to Highland games generally.

Over the past few weeks I've spoken to many athletes who competed against or were judged by Bill Anderson, and their adulation and respect for him was consistent and in every case was immense.

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OT

Leading provider dives in at Fort William

Diver training is to restart at Fort William, almost a year after The Underwater Centre closed with the loss of nearly 50 jobs, writes Fiona Scott.

World leading underwater capability provider JFD – part of James Fisher and Sons plc – last week announced it had acquired the closed bell saturation diving system and associated assets formally owned by the centre.

The purchase includes the centre's saturation training vessel and the lease of the pier in Loch Linnhe, from where the new training courses will be run.

The company says there is scope once it starts running training courses, depending on demand, hopefully to re-employ many of those who lost their jobs when the Fort William centre closed and capitalise on their expertise in the underwater training industry.

JFD, which has its registered headquarters on the outskirts of Aberdeen, serves the commercial and defence diving markets, and the acquisition will enable

JFD to re-establish the leading global closed bell diver training programme – also known as sat diver training.

Steve Ham is the former Underwater Centre commercial director who is now with JFD as business development manager and he says he is delighted with the move.

'I've always really strongly believed there was a market for such courses and training and that Fort William was the perfect place to deliver these courses,' he said.

'Now we can get back to doing what we should never have stopped doing.'

On the issue of jobs and former staff being hired, Mr Ham added: 'It's really hard to say how many jobs could be created but it will be a low number of permanent positions involved.'

'However, we will be running courses and, according to the level of need, we would absolutely be looking to bring in local people for such courses and capitalise on the expertise of staff who worked there before.'

Kyle RNLI to host its Maritime Day

Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI is hosting its annual Maritime Day on Saturday September 7, with the events kicking off at noon.

Aiming to build on the success of last year's day, this year's event will be the biggest yet, with demonstrations from Kyle, Mallaig and Portree lifeboats, as well as the Coastguard helicopter. Local Coastguard teams, the police and fire brigade will also be there throughout the day, as will the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band.

Andrew MacDonald, Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI crew member and volunteer press officer, said: 'Weather permitting, we will have the local kayaking club enabling people to get out on the water, while onshore you can have a free safety check of any lifejackets you bring along.'

'The day will begin with



Left: Stormy Stan, the RNLI mascot, is sure to put in an appearance at this year's event. Last year he helped the volunteers re-enact an emergency situation to show visitors to the Maritime Day what they do.

Right, tractor-pulling event will return on Saturday.



the annual Kyleakin to Kyle swim, which sees competitors swimming between the two slipways.

'Then, later in the afternoon, the tractor pulling competition is making a welcome return, where teams of six

people see how fast they can pull our launching tractor over a set distance – it's a lot harder than it looks!

'The day will be rounded off with the annual Kyle fire brigade raft race. This year's race will be a little different as

the teams will all be supplied with the same materials and will have to build their rafts before they can take to the water.'

The event takes place at Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI, Fishery Pier, Kyle of Lochalsh.

MGM

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Sea eagle chick takes flight

Lucky Isle of Mull visitor Brian Redpath, 52, from Northern Ireland got the surprise of his life when the elusive sea eagle chick at Mull Eagle Watch this year put on quite a show for him.

Only days out of the nest at Craignure Golf Club, the chick had barely flown at all, preferring to walk everywhere.

But Brian was in the right place at the right time when the Mull Eagle Watch sea eagle chick finally took to the skies over the Craignure golf course.

RSPB Scotland's Mull officer David Sexton sent the photographs saying: 'After last year's sad failure we've been worrying day and night about this chick, so to see him taking his first flight and looking so strong and confident is just the best possible news.'

'We can sleep a little more soundly now knowing he's on his way. Brian did an amazing job capturing these

From scruffy chick to stunning fledgling, the Mull Eagle Watch sea eagle chick finally took to the wing. More photographs at www.obantimes.co.uk

Photographs: Justin Grant (chick in nest), all others Brian Redpath.

shots and we're so grateful to him for sending them to us. The chick and adult eagles are now showing very well on a daily basis for our visitors.'

Brian said: 'It was just a case of being in the right place at the right time as the eaglet finally spread his wings and took to the skies for the first time.'

Trips to see the eaglet and his parents run until September 20.

Mull Eagle Watch is run by the Mull and Iona Community Trust, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry and Land Scotland, and Police Scotland.



The Tobermory crew will feature in the third programme in Saving Lives at Sea.

Mull lifeboat to feature in TV documentary

The volunteer crew of Tobermory RNLI will take to the small screen next week, on Tuesday September 10, when they feature in the third episode of the BBC TV series, Saving Lives at Sea.

Now in its fourth season, the documentary series, which showcases the lifesaving work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), will be aired on BBC Two on Tuesdays at 8pm, as well as being available on the BBC iPlayer following broadcast.

The new 10-part series features real rescues carried out by the charity's volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards around the UK and Ireland - including Tobermory.

Each programme gives a unique insight into the lives

and work of the charity's lifesavers who are needed more than ever before, rescuing thousands of people and saving hundreds of lives around our coastline and on inland waterways every year.

As well as featuring more dramatic real-life rescue footage, the new series will include emotive testimonials from the volunteer crews, lifeguards and the people they rescue and their families.

Tuesday's episode sees Tobermory RNLI go to the aid of a yacht in a midsummer storm, alongside rescue stories from their colleagues at other stations and beaches around our coasts.

Tobermory RNLI coxswain David McHaffie said: 'It's great to see the work we do on TV like this. We're

always grateful for the support we get from the public as we rely on donations to do what we do, so we're pleased that all our supporters now get to see, from the comfort and safety of their own front rooms, exactly how they help us save lives.'

Filming took place over the past year, with lifeboat crews and lifeguards carrying special cameras and welcoming film-makers into their day-to-day lives.

Rescues from the RNLI's archives are also revisited and viewers get a glimpse into the everyday lives of the thousands of men and women who give up their time to save lives.

Last year alone, RNLI lifeboat crews around the UK and Ireland rescued 9,412 people, saving 211 lives.

A HUGE thank you...

We would like to thank our team for their loyalty and hard work throughout another amazing summer season and to our valued customers for their company, support and wonderful reviews.

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Mull celebrates 110th trials

Last Thursday (August 29) saw the latest outing for Mull Sheepdog Trial, with the event marking the trial's 110th anniversary.

However, weather and tide are no respecters of special occasions, and the running was on packets of four Blackface hogs on a wild and wet day, with entries down due to issues with the ferries.

Hugh Munro, of Tomatin, judged 28 dogs on the day.

Ahead of the event, Jeff Moore wrote to tell us why the event is so special.

He said: 'Mull Sheepdog Trial was founded in 1909, when the Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society formed a sub-committee with a brief "to encourage the breeding of a better type of sheepdog in the district and the more efficient handling of such dogs by farmers and shepherds, and thus indirectly, to raise the standard of sheep farming in general".

'It must be remembered that at that time there would have been in excess of 100 sheep farmers and employed



shepherds working on the island. The Mull trial was one of the earliest to be held on the west coast of Scotland and the trial has been held annually in August ever since, apart from during the war years.

'The early records were lost during the Second World War and the above information was found when searching records of the Agricultural Society, which are held at the museum in Tobermory.

'For many years, the entrants were confined to farmers and shepherds living and working full-time in the Mull and Morvern area, Coll, Tiree and the Small Isles.

'In 1926, Miss Lithgow of Glengorm presented a fine silver trophy for the winner. This was won for next two years by Kenneth MacAskill of Lettermore, with his dog Chance. He was also a keen horse man and showed a Highland mare, bought from Calgary, at the Royal Highland Show in 1927.

'The MacAskill family loved Mull but in 1928, the newly formed Forestry Commission bought all the hill ground at Lettermore for trees, rendering the farm unviable as a hill sheep farm and with regret they had to leave.

'After the war years, the trial

was set at £100, which was a lot of money in those days. 'With fewer shepherds employed, the number of competitors dropped. As a result, it was decided in 1960 to open the trial to the whole county of Argyll.

'For some years now, the trial has become open to anyone willing to travel, although there are still trophies for the best local entrant and the highest pointed working shepherd. Entries are now received from as far north as Shetland and as far south as Yorkshire. The trial attracts many of Scotland's top sheepdog handlers including international champion Stuart Davidson from Dunoon and Scottish champion John MacKillop. Spectators are made welcome and the trial is well supported by both visitors and locals. Catering is provided on the field and there is a raffle with many fabulous prizes, which make it a great day out.'

This year, as part of the 110th anniversary celebrations, the organisers had doubled the

prize money. Jeff continued:

'We had hope to attract more competitors. There have been very few local entries in recent years, despite the fact that there are still plenty of island farmers working with very good dogs every working day. There was also a special confined class with trophy and prize money for those entering for the first time.'

Results:

■ 1. Brendan Smith, Shetland, Chip, 97 of 100; 2. Stuart Davidson, Sandbank, Dunoon, Queen, 93; 3. Michael MacNally, Invergarry, Ash, 91; 4. Stuart Davidson, Maid, 90; 5. John MacKillop, Fort Augustus, Ben, 89; 6. Brendan Smith, Lass, 86.
■ Outrun, lift and fetch: Alastair Cameron, Callander, Jess.
■ Best pen, John MacLachlan, Spean Bridge, Mirk.
■ Shepherd's Cup: John MacKillop.
■ Two-dog aggregate: Brendan Smith.
■ Local: 1. James Shanks, Lochaline, Joe, 85; 2. Enid Moore, Gruline, 82; 3. James Shanks, Kim, 76; two-dog aggregate, James Shanks.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Inveraray hotel scoops double win at industry Oscars

Inveraray's George Hotel won the coveted Pub of the Year accolade and Hotel Bar of the Year at the 24th annual Scottish Bar and Pub Awards.

The event is the longest-established awards of its kind in Scotland.

Pub of the Year was in recognition of the George being the crème de la crème of all the award-winners on the night, while in the Hotel Bar of the Year category, the George beat off stiff competition from Dakota Hotel Glasgow, the Raeburn in Edinburgh and East Kilbride's Torrance Hotel.

The George has been in the Clark family for 158 years and Chris Clark picked up the awards on the night – including a handsome mirror inscribed with the pub's name.

Organiser and DRAM publisher Susan Young said: 'Pubs and bars in Scotland have an international reputation and it is easy to see why. This year's honours went to pubs and bars that were voted for by customers and people in the trade, with a record number of nominations received.'

More than 500 of the industry's movers and shakers attended the awards ceremony at Glasgow's five-star Hilton Hotel.

Ms Young continued: 'The latest industry data shows that pubs in Scotland directly employ 52,000 people and support another 15,000. Financially, it contributes more than £1.5 billion to the Scottish economy overall. The industry is very much at the heart of the Scottish economy and those who are embracing excellence and service deserve to be applauded.'



World's first tourist chatbot is launched

This week the Isle of Skye has become the first region to offer an artificial intelligence information service for tourists.

Using world-leading technology, Calum MacDonald has created a 24/7 live information service to answer any questions visitors to the isle might have.

The Tourist Chatbot, called Donald, which has been in development for the past year, uses artificial intelligence to respond to tourists in real time and is accessed via Donaldfromskye.com.

Calum explains: 'I created the Donald from Skye platform in response to a backlash we were experiencing on the Isle of Skye around tourism. It has taken me the best part of a year to be able to bring to life my vision with the Tourist Chatbot, but I couldn't be happier with the results. The bot is pretty good at understanding people – just don't swear at him or ask him where his troosers are!'

The potential for the Tourist Chatbot is huge, providing valuable insights over time that can inform the tourism strategy on Skye.

Donaldfromskye.com has been designed with the functionality to show where the 'hot spots' are in real-time. All people need to do is download the Explore Skye app. From the GPS map to the live chat facility, visitors can be directed to other attractions to avoid congestion.

Calum is calling on all tourism businesses on Skye and VisitScotland to get behind Donald from Skye and the Tourist Chatbot, saying: 'Skye is the first place to have this and people should be very proud and promote him.'

'The uses for this technology are incredible. I'm hoping it's going to get the right backing from VisitScotland and other regional destination management organisations (DMO) because that's what this is – a complete DMO interactive communications platform.'

'I am in discussions with other DMOs around the world who are keen to create their version of Donald from Skye.'

'This model is a no brainer to me: every place should have one – it is local knowledge programmed by local people. The information

Say hello to my little friend



The Tourist Chatbot, called Donald, uses artificial intelligence to respond to tourists in real time.

is unbiased and represents all businesses and facilities on the island.'

Since launching, Donald from Skye has been translated into Mandarin – reflecting a growing popularity of the Isle of Skye with the Chinese – and the first GPS enabled map for the island was also introduced to the platform.

A list of topics programmed into the bot so far are: hello/greetings; weather; trains;

buses; ferries; taxis; car hire; public toilets; boat trips; tour guides; banking; cash; fuel/petrol/diesel; electric charging points; police; accident; emergency; Coastguard; mountain rescue; doctors; hospitals; car breakdowns; flat tyres; swimming; play pool; accommodation; hotels; B&Bs; eating; church; Fergie/tractors; golf; where's yer troosers; abusive language, wifi.

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MP opens feed plant at Kyleakin, Skye

The new pier facilities at Kyleakin Feed Plant were officially opened by Lochaber MP Ian Blackford.

The newly refurbished and extended pier means both ingredients and the final feed product can be transported by sea, keeping road haulage to a minimum.

Its opening marks a major milestone in the journey towards final completion of the feed plant, which is currently undergoing testing as part of its commissioning phase.

Fifty-five people now work on the site, with more than 60 per cent recruited from the local area.

Mick Watts, Mowi's project director and global engineer, who has overseen the project from its inception, said: 'We've been delighted at the warm reception we've received from the community and would like to thank them for their patience over the past few years.'



Ian Blackford MP (right) is pictured with Mick Watts, Mowi's project director and global engineer.

'It's also been great to build such a strong team here on site and we're particularly pleased we have been able to provide employment for so many local people.'

'This is a big step forward for us as the pier facilities are an integral part of the company's

investment on this site. We're also hopeful the plant will be finished in the coming months.'

Mr Blackford congratulated Mowi on completion of the pier facilities, saying: 'We should never underestimate the importance of the salmon farming industry to this part

of the world. We are passionate about creating opportunities for young people and their families to live here and the salmon industry is playing an important role in that. Food and drink are an important part of Scotland's economy going forward and salmon is now our largest food export.'

The plant will produce fish feed to supply Mowi's salmon farms across the western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as well as Ireland, Norway and the Faroe Islands.

It will provide for a range of salmon diets, including organic feed for Ireland and Scotland, as well as specialist brood stock and freshwater feeds. The plant has the capacity to produce 170,000 tonnes of feed pellets a year.

Mowi built its first feed plant in Norway and hopes to build a third in Canada to support its salmon farming operation there.

Lochaber firms invited to innovation workshop

Businesses in Lochaber are being invited to attend a free workshop on how they can benefit from innovation.

The workshop will be held in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, between 10.30am and 1pm on September 12, and is being run by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

It forms part of the Co-Innovate programme, launched in 2017 to encourage research and innovation among small to medium enterprises in some of the most fragile areas of western Scotland.

Vicki Hazley, Co-Innovate programme manager at HIE, said: 'The workshop will explain how the Co-Innovate programme can benefit businesses in Lochaber. Innovation means different things to different sectors and businesses and goes well beyond technology development.'

'Co-Innovate specifically addresses the challenges of growing a business through innovation in remote and rural areas. Consultancy, research and development funding and support for input from cross border academic institutions are some of the ways Co-Innovate can help.'

Anyone interested should contact vicki.hazley@hient.co.uk.

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Project offers a lasting chance to remember

Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil (UCBA), the Bragar and Arnol Community Trust, on the west side of Lewis, has introduced a fundraising initiative which will also ensure a lasting memorial to people with a connection to the area.

The trust was formed in 2012 and is redeveloping Grinneabhat, the former Bragar School, to provide enhanced community facilities along with a hostel, àite cèilidh café and a laundrette.

O' Mac Construction Limited are main contractors for the project, with Tighean Innshe Gall as project managers on behalf of UCBA.

Work on the development is on track and completion is expected in early summer 2020.

As part of its fundraising for Grinneabhat, UCBA has invited supporters at home and abroad to sponsor 100 tiles.

Each supporter will supply a photograph of the person/people they wish to commemorate, and text detailing their sloinneadh/name, which will

then be fired on to a tile. The tiles will be a prominent, permanent feature in Grinneabhat when the building reopens. Each tile will be handmade and unique, and costs £100.

Catriona Campbell, chairwoman of UCBA, said: 'Like other community organisations, we need to be look at different ways of raising funds, particularly now with this major redevelopment ongoing. As well as being a fitting way to commemorate people from the community, the tiles will an eye-catching artwork in their own right.

'I will certainly be buying one with a picture of my late parents, who both went to Bragar School.'

To order a tile, or for more information, please phone 01851 710210 or email info@bragararnol.org



One of the tiles.

A cave man for four

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

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'You're mad!' was the general opinion of most of my friends when they heard that a boyhood ambition to holiday on the uninhabited west coast of Jura was about to become a reality.

The trip was to chart a course through the Corryvreckan whirlpool, Europe's most dangerous tide-race, in order to spend a long weekend living in a cave among wild goats and spiders on an adder-infested island.

I had my reservations, but was not going to be deterred. As a boy, I had been influenced by an islander's thrilling legends of giants, whirlpools, caves, Fingalian warriors and of the supposed treasures of Beinn an Oir, the Mountain of Gold. The Viking invaders called the island Deura – deer island – after the wild herds that roamed over it.

Years later, I had heard from Ian and Cubby Mackinnon from Jura that some of the large caves along the island's west coast were used as shelters by funeral parties conveying the bodies of friends, and relatives to the sacred burial-grounds of Oronsay and Craignish.

More recently, I had come across a little-known local tradition that Robert the Bruce and his henchman Angus Og MacDonald had hidden in one of the Jura caves after their skirmish with the MacDougalls at the Pass of Brander in 1308. And that it was here and not on Rathlin Island, off Ulster, that Bruce supposedly encountered the spider that inspired him to keep on trying to overthrow English rule.

The prospect of exploring this piece of Jura in mid-May, with no bracken or midges, was enhanced by having a companion, Brian Wilson, author and conservationist, who had passed this way before on a solo canoe journey around Scotland. Moreover, I discovered from his book, Blazing Paddles, that he was a survival instructor. His presence was reassuring.

The main purpose of our visit was to explore the many caves for signs of early occupation. The early inhabitants of Jura probably did not live only in caves, but some of these primitive refuges had yielded archaeological finds, including some 9,000-year-old bone and flint implements. Few of the caves on the northern section of coastline had been thoroughly investigated.



I was keen to go, yet bothered particularly by one thing: adders, Scotland's only poisonous snakes. Tales of 'huge serpents' crawling into the caves at night for warmth had an unsettling effect and the advice from the Mackinnon brothers that they were likely to be less frisky in May than in June determined the date but did little to assuage my concerns.

Where to linger and which cave to choose? It was preferably to be free of dead goats in varying stages of decay. An hour's search and we settled on one near the head of Glentrosdale Bay, with a 20ft high entrance, fully twice that deep and half as broad, where there was not only fresh running water, but a plentiful supply of driftwood thrown up on the nearby beach.

For sheer desolation and raw landscape, the north coast of Jura is unique. The crumbling cliff which extends more or less the entire

length of the west coast is punctuated by a few shingle beaches and deep streams. Raised beaches, relics of the Ice Age, are now high above the level of the sea but still have shoreline birds nesting on them whose eggs are a welcome treat for hungry adders, and provide a feeling of uncharted territory, much akin to an Arctic wilderness. We had visitors that first night.

In the gloaming, a herd of wild goats, keen to gorge themselves on the tangle of succulent kelp stems left behind by the most recent high tide, descended from the high ground. An hour later 30 of them stood at the entrance to our cave snorting, head-shaking and hoof-stamping, clearly annoyed by having their lodgings taken over. More driftwood was put on the fire to deter them and they ambled off seeking shelter elsewhere.

They belonged to the largest herd of feral

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days on Jura



Jura's wild and rugged north-west coastline and caves and, inset, Glegarrisdale, the scene of a battle between the Maclaines and the Campbells.

Photographs: Iain Thornber

the boiling-point of water at sea level and high elevations. However, the remains of sheep-shears, brass cartridges and empty whisky bottles were less to do with past research and more with recent times.

Caves are more numerous further south along this inhospitable coast. They are graveyards for livestock, especially the young goats and deer born in January and February. We found the remains of a kid and a yearling deer calf lying side by side. They must have lain together for warmth, only to be overcome by cold and hunger. It was a pathetic sight.

Near Glegarrisdale, there is a cave shown on the Ordnance Survey map as Maclean's Skull Cave. Allegedly, the skull belonged to a Maclaine of Lochbuie who had been killed on the field in front of the old house, which is now looked after by the Scottish Mountain Bothy Association, in a fight with the Campbells in 1647.

We could find no trace of the skull or its rock-shelter, but we did have our share of excitement when we discovered a large and very much alive stag sheltering from the scorching heat in another cave nearby as it rushed out. I was knocked to the ground and, when I struggled to my feet, realised that I was wrapped in a spider's web that was thick with huge wefts of ancient-looking gossamer.

Later that day, beyond Glegarrisdale, I discovered more of these webs and saw the large, grey and white spiders which make them.

All too quickly our time had come to an end but before departing we took the opportunity to visit Breacan's Cave where this Scandinavian prince is said to be buried. Close by its entrance, we found the smooth side-slabs of a prehistoric stone cist or coffin. It had been robbed many years ago and nothing now remained to suggest this had been a royal tomb.

We may not have made any startling historic finds, but at least we could confirm that there are sufficient caves on the west coast of Jura to hide an army – and that some of them contained spiders.

A return to this fascinating coastline to discover more was planned, as what could be more in the tradition of Robert the Bruce than to try, try and try again?

goats in Britain. Robert the Bruce had held them in esteem when they discouraged his pursuers above Loch Lomond from entering a cave in which he was hiding. Consequently, he issued a decree that goats should never be molested. Gaelic lore has references to these creatures killing adders and, subsequently, giving me some peace of mind!

Our plan was to investigate as many of the 40 or so caves shown on Ordnance Survey maps between the Gulf of Corryvreckan and Loch Tarbert. Soon, however, we discovered caves by the hundred. One, though, was distinctive in being a bothy used by shepherds and stalkers not that long ago. It had stone benches and had been wood-lined.

We wondered whether this was the place in which the Edinburgh scientist Dr John Walker might have worked during his classic experiments conducted on Jura in 1812, concerning

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Our archive this week produces a photograph from the summer of 1997 but has no other information. If you know who is in the snapshot or what the occasion was, please email editor@obantimes.co.uk



From the Roamer archive comes this photograph, which declares: 'Homecoming of Lochiel and Lady Hermione Cameron'.

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LETTERS

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Please try to offer support to Oban's New Hope Kitchen

We at The Oban Times have long been admirers of Hope Kitchen, the splendid and award-winning charity that helps vulnerable and marginalised members of our community.

Indeed, we have sung the praises of the team at the Soroba Road headquarters on many occasions in these pages, and make no apology for doing so here once again.

As we report this week, New Hope Kitchen is making an appeal for more people to step forward as volunteers to help with the charity's work.

As coordinator Catriona Petit said: 'Volunteers are what makes Hope Kitchen such a amazing place and although they currently have a fantastic group of dedicated people giving their time, they need more to make sure that they can continue to offer the service they do for the people of Oban.'

New Hope Kitchen is hosting an open day to let people see its work, and we would encourage anyone who can to go along.

Jetskis posed a threat to users of Oban Bay

The actions of three jetskiers in Oban Bay are foolhardy at best and downright dangerous at worst.

Chasing a ferry and fishing vessel and weaving between the marker buoys that are there as a safety measure for all demonstrated a degree of stupidity that is difficult to describe.

The Coastguard, CalMac and Oban's harbour office were all quick to condemn the behaviour and rightly so.

Safety for all users in the bay is of paramount importance and there is a valuable code of practice drawn up for precisely that reason. These jetskiers should be ashamed of themselves.

Call for readers to join charity's walk of hope

I work for Brain Tumour Research and I'm hoping your readers can help me.

On September 28, we will be taking part in a series of walks around the UK to raise money and awareness of our cause.

In Scotland, we're going to climb the Cobbler, one of the Southern Highlands' most iconic hill walks. And we would love if any of your readers wanted to join us.

The route is a challenging seven miles and has a fairly steep ascent. We estimate it will take between four and six hours to complete, and at the peak there should be magnificent views of Loch Lomond and beyond. Pray for clear skies!

The walk starts in Arrochar near the head of Loch Long. We've teamed up with the Slanj pub in Tarbet again, which is kindly providing us with free parking and, for just £5, walkers can enjoy a bacon roll before we start at 10am and there will be a bowl of hearty soup and roll to come back to.

You can find more information and register via the link: www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/take-on-a-challenge/event/2019/09/29/take-on-the-challenge/the-cobbler-walk-of-hope-ben-arthur-scotland

We hope to see you there!

Joe Woollcott, Brain Tumour Research.

Wild camping concerns see Taynuilt pierwatch launched

It was heartening to read the article in last weeks Oban Times about calls to address the increasing concerns regarding wild camping and its effects on the environment.

It was very timely to the villagers in Taynuilt who have seen a year of increase in campervans and wild camping at the piers leading to serious concerns about traffic and parking safety (both at the piers and in lanes where there are no pavements), human waste, substance abuse concerns and litter. The land is privately owned so therefore requires permission to camp there and to light fires. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code is only relevant to pedestrians and not motor vehicles and the site should not be considered as a campsite.

However, there is a cost to our wildlife which is also becoming very evident from surveys and observations by those locals who follow

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, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial

our wildlife. We have a precious diversity of wildlife at the piers which have this year begun to change their behaviours owing to the high number of people, vehicles, dogs, noise and litter.

The number of people who have started parking on the beach and at the grass at Flounders pond have influenced the night rest of geese and the movement of otters which have protection over their holts and movements raising cubs, for example, by Scottish

Natural Heritage. There may be unintentional business around the area, but wildlife crime does not only include intentional actions.

Signs should alert the public of potential wildlife crime and raise awareness of the delicate balance that the wildlife has a right to expect. There have been many issues with fishing line caught around swans' legs, hooks left where children play, fire scarring in many places, a calf who was eating and choking on a black bag, plus beer cans, toilet paper




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Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph of McKay's Pond at Glencruitten was sent in by Maurice Wilkins, from Oban.

area they live in and feel safe when going to the piers. Your article cites the expectations of Mountaineering Scotland that calls for greater responsibility by government agencies, councils and national organisations to develop local management plans. While volunteer groups are admirable, they hold no strategic or legal potential and in order to protect volunteers and effect long-term management, we would welcome an overarching body of support. There is much concern but also much willingness to make change.

Rosie Robinson, Taynuilt.

Himalayan balsam needs removed to save biodiversity

I've just returned from a lovely holiday in the Oban area. It's such a beautiful part of the world, but I was really alarmed to see the proliferation of the highly invasive plant Himalayan balsam all along the A828 from Oban up to Fort William.

Where I live in North Wales, it has become a massive problem – it out-competes our native plants and grows so densely that after several years you find nothing else growing beneath it. This is a problem both for our native biodiversity but also for farmers and grazers – sheep in particular won't touch it and their pasture is much reduced where it invades.

The good news is that it is really easy to eradicate, it just takes time (and clearly the more plants there are, the more time it will take).

The plant is very easily pulled up and if it is well crushed under foot it won't regrow. Alternatively, where there are large patches they can be strimmed – but it is crucial that this is as low to the ground as possible and definitely below the first node or it will regrow, bush out and produce even more seeds.

Time really is of the essence. The patches along the A828 are easily dealt with at the moment, but in a year or two they will be so big it will be much more difficult – Himalayan balsam can spread up to seven metres a year.

Get your friends and neighbours out, form balsam bashing groups and go and pull it up.

The seed bank for Himalayan balsam only lasts two to three years, so folk only need to work on it for those few years and then the problem should be resolved – though obviously vigilance is needed to ensure that new plants don't re-infest the area.

**Tamsin Fretwell,
Tregarth, Gwynedd.**

and many other undesirable items just left on the grass. There has also been an increase in damage to trees at the beach where people have cut off live wood for fires with some using chainsaws.

Last week a group of villagers launched a pierwatch group to look at how we can help make inroads with litter and then to increase liaison with other agencies in order to raise the profile of residents (including wildlife residents) so that people can again enjoy the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Togaidh an obair an fhianais! Seanfhacal Gàidhlig eile a tha gun teagamh fìor, ach an tug sibh riamh an aire dha fear a' buntainn ri cluaineas? Ma tha feadhainn ann cha deach agamsa air an lorg. Thog sin ceist an robh leithid de rud ri cluaineas ann am feallsanachd, gun fhìachaibh air eòlas-beatha, ar sinnsearan?

Fad linntean bha daoine cho bochd 's nach robh gan cumail beò ach na thrusadh neo na bhuaineadh iad agus nan sguireadh iad bhàsaicheadh iad le acras. Sin a dh'adhbharaich cleachdadh gum biodh ball de theaghlach a' dèanamh dachaigh cuide ri pàrantan gus aire agus taic a thoirt dhaibh nan seann aois.

Gu dearbh tha gu leòr a tha ris an aon chleachdadh fhathast ged a tha taic peinnein agus sochair eile ann a-nise nach robh aig ginealaichean a chaidh romhainn. Ged a bha taic airgid pheinneanean beaga ga chumail ri cuid an siud 's an seo thar nam bliadhnaichean, theagamh airson leithid obair-airm dha ceann-cinnidh, 's fhiach cuimhneachadh gur e sochair gu math ùr a th' anns a' pheinnean-stàite a th' againn a-nise agus a tha na chuideachadh cho

cudromach. Ach mur eil aig seann neach sam bith ach an teachd-a-steach sin tha an cuid sporan gu math tana agus tha sinn a' faicinn agus a' cluinntinn sgeulachdan duilich cha mhòr gach latha mu chuid a dh'fheumas acras fhulang gus ruigheachd air an dachaigh a bhlàthachadh.

Tha an ìre leasachaidh air peinnean-stàite a thogadh na daoine sin à bochdainn, agus a bheireadh dhaibh cofhurtachd agus fèin-spèis, doirbh fhaicinn ann an suidheachadh sam bheil ionmhas poblach fo leithid de theannachadh leantainneach agus tha taic charthannais agus bhancaichean-bidh gu bhith cudromach fad ùine romhainn.

Mar a bhios fios aig co-dhiù cuid agaibh tha an "treas-roinn" air a bhith a' fàs fad ùine mhòr agus tha barrachd uallaich airson taicean coimhearsnachd de gach seòrsa a' tuiteam air carthannais mhòra, agus bheaga, mar a tha maoin sheirbheisean poblach ga shìor fhàsgadh.

'S e rud a tha draghail gum bheil na carthannais an eisimeil taic airgid bho bhuidhnean poblach cuideachd agus tha na gearraidhean ann am maoin poblach a-nise

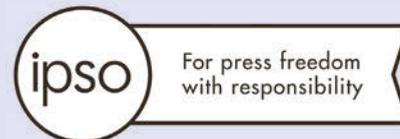
a' toirt droch bhuaidh air obair mhòran dhiubh, aig àm sam bheil còrr air ochdad sa cheud aca den bheachd gum bheil iarrtas taice bhuapa a' fàs. Chan iongnadh dragh a bhith air mòran de na buidhnean sin, agus nach b' iomchaidh luach às ùr a chur air na mìltean a tha a' togail fianais le obair saor-thoileach a' cur taic ri beatha uimhir feadh na dùthcha.

Nuair a dh'fhaighnich cuideigin dha ceannard a bha os mo chionn uair dè a' Ghàidhlig a bh' air "volunteer", fhreagair esan "amadan". Nach math gum bheil uimhir de "dh'amadain" mar sin ann!

Charitable and voluntary work is a sign of a civilised society, but it is worrying to note that as demand on the third sector is growing, so, too, is its capability being diminished by reductions in its public sector support.

Ailean Caimbeul
(Allan Campbell)
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Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gaidhealach and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



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OT

DISTRICT NEWS

OBAN



A yacht crewed by a special group of people passed through the Crinan Canal – and they were having the time of their lives.

Organised by the Autism on the Water charity, founded by Oban man Murray MacDonald, below, the crew was made up of young people with autism on a trip to gain experience of being on a sailing boat while enjoying the freedom of the water.

Sister paper the Argyllshire Advertiser caught up with the group at Cairnbaan, where Murray explained: 'All the young people are from Argyll and Bute. We hope to give them an introduction to boating, try the ropes and try the locks on the canal. They are all loving it.'

They travelled against the wind from Oban on August 23 before staying overnight at Crinan and negotiating the canal to Ardrishaig the following day. It was then on to Portavadie and Inverkip, before the boat's next outing the following week.

After the photographs were taken one of the youngsters joked: 'Right, back to rest and relaxation now!'



A group of five youngsters were the most recent class to complete a lifeguard training course at Atlantis Leisure. Archie Malloch, Hugh Glen, David Simpson, Anna Logan and Juliette Main recently completed the RLSS Rookie Lifeguard Level Gold 3 award. This level consists of a 400-metre swim, learning numerous recognised rescue positions and tows. Alongside this, the children have completed the Rookie Life Support Award, which includes CPR, the recovery position and methods to deal with choking. The group's instructors were Sophie MacInnes and Shannon McCuish.

Hot shots are on target to raise charity cash

A charity clay pigeon shoot has raised more than £400 for the Friends of Kilbride Kirk, a group specifically set up to help preserve the iconic site and two other great causes.

Sixteen prospective hot shots travelled to Ardmaddy Estate with both beginners and more experienced contenders taking part.

The turnout was lower than expected due to the international rugby, sheep sales and other commitments on the day, but the weather was glorious and a fresh breeze from the south-east made the clays behave in a pattern that was challenging in the four different sporting flights. The trophy for the main event was won by Mark Wakefield of Barnacarry.



After an excellent barbecue organised by Liam Griffin of Friends of Kilbride, Kirk, the main beneficiary of the charity, a team event was held between three teams of three shooting a pheasant flush of 25 birds. The winners scored 15 in a most competitive challenge.

Organisers would like to thank Charlie Boyd, the majordomo of

Mark Wakefield receives his trophy from Liam Griffin.

the day, and his excellent team of assistants without whose help the event could not take place.

A total of £442 was raised and after deductions of basic costs which will be distributed to Friends of Kilbride, Motor Neurone Scotland and the RNLI.

The event is hosted annually by Charles Struthers at Ardmaddy Estate near Oban. Half of the funds raised will go to the Friends of Kilbride while the remaining 50 per cent will be split equally between the other two charities.

Friends of Kilbride take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the event.



Oban Lorne RFC captain Iwan Roberts presented Mary's Meals volunteers Mary MacInnes, left, and Eleanor Sheppard with a cheque for £553 raised at the end of last season when the men's first team held a charity shop challenge social day. Players bought and dressed up in clothes from the Stevenson Street shop before collecting funds on their night out.

UIST

UistWind has launched an online Community Benefit Survey to scope the community's ideas on how to distribute the community benefit funds generated from the UistWind turbines in the long term.

Though the community benefit fund will not be generated immediately, it is considered important to have a plan ready for when funds become available in future years – so that investment can be targeted in line with the wishes of the community.

UistWind is a community project by North Uist Development Company (Trading), constructing two 900kW turbines in North Uist, at Criongrabhal near Clachan-na-Luib.

The project is due to be operational by October, and currently has both turbines in place with one of them fully commissioned and generating power. It aims to generate more than £2 million over the project's lifetime of 22 years – with profits going back to the community via NUDC's charitable activities.

The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WVJKMCP> and closes on Tuesday September 10.

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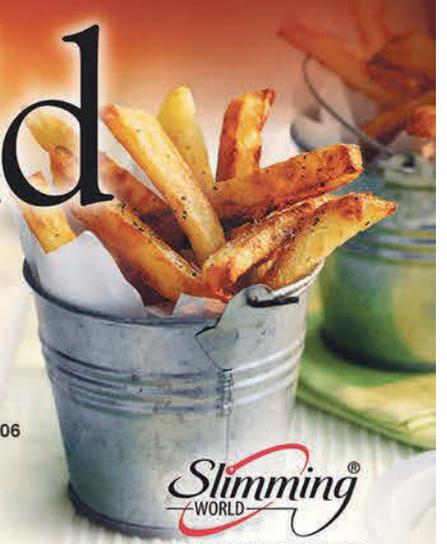
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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Community hero

I know he will be embarrassed but I want to sing the praises of one Oban businessman.

Paddy Lafferty, who runs D&K Lafferty, the Oban-based firm of contractors, is ever affable when I meet him and good company.

However, for those who don't know him, he is also a major supporter financially of many causes in the area, though he will probably be horrified I am flagging this up.

Among the principal beneficiaries are Oban Saints FC, who Paddy has sponsored for a long time and at many levels, including sponsoring of the annual D&K Lafferty Cup, the pre-season tournament which draws professional team to Mossfield.

Some of you out there will also be aware that Paddy's firm pays for all new S1 pupils at Oban High School to receive reusable water bottles.

Among his other admirers is Nick Wesley from Oban's Atlantis Leisure. Nick recently wrote in The Oban Times: 'We're so grateful to D&K Lafferty who have created a wonderful new pavement for us. Lafferty continue to be a fantastic support to the centre and it was great to work with them on another project here - thanks as ever to Paddy and Co.'

Paddy is rooted in this community and gives a great deal to its benefit. He's a real community hero, though he will hate me for saying so.

In the pink

We carried a report last week on the sponsored walk in aid of Pink Ladies Day, an annual pampering event for Argyll women who have experienced breast cancer.

More than 40 ladies - and a dog - turned up to join a sponsored four-mile Twilight Walk from the Victory Hall in Benderloch on Friday August 16.

Organiser Nicky Murphy said the walk had brought in more than £1,000 to go towards the £5,000 cost of the day.

Cancer touches so many of us and this excellent event is worthy of support. For more information on the charity email pinkladiesday@outlook.com or to donate use the go fund me link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pink-ladies-day-2019>

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.

'Life-changing' broadband rolled in Outer Hebrides

Two of the UK's most westerly island communities are now some of the best connected, as new full fibre broadband networks go live in the Outer Hebrides/Nah-Eileanan an Iar.

Grimsay, a tiny island roughly three miles long, and Great Bernera now have 100 per cent access to future-proof, full fibre networks.

Built by engineers from Openreach through the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project using 90KM of new fibre cables, it is capable of carrying services at 1Gbps - around 18.5 times faster than the UK's current average of 54 Mbps2.

Until now, the communities have been connected to the outside world by a wireless connection over an independent radio network, with a top download speed of around 2Mbps.

Joe FitzPatrick, Scottish Government Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, is visited Grimsay last Wednesday to see the effect high-speed technology is having on the lives of local people, where 65 per cent of households have already signed



Launching full fibre network on Grimsay are DI MacDonal, Rob Thorburn and Kevin Murphy, all Openreach, and Andrea Rutherford, head of telecoms policy, Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

up for the service. He said: 'Many people living here are engaged in traditional industries, with the island renowned for the quality of the seafood caught off its shores. Full fibre not only enables local industries to engage fully online, but future-proofs the island for economic development and growth. In a world where technology is a main driver, good connectivity levels the playing

field, creating new opportunities and stemming depopulation'

Robin Spratt, who runs a candle making business in Grimsay, said: 'Before the arrival of full fibre, we had a satellite broadband system with very limited data. Now when people visit the workshop and want to buy, we can process electronic payments on site.

'It's great for business but it also has a big impact on our personal

life as now we can access online services like catch-up TV and stay in close contact with our grown-up family.

'There is much discussion in the islands about how to overcome the issue of depopulation, but good connectivity makes life in a remote location much more viable. Sort out the broadband and mobile connectivity and the problem solves itself.'

Rotary funds adventure for girls

The Rotary Club of Oban handed over £250 to Oban Brownies to help fund an adventure to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre.

Ciorsti Baxter has taken over the 5th Oban Brownies, part of the Girl Guiding movement in Argyll, from long-serving former Brown Owl Caroline McInnes.

Oban Brownies has 25 young girls between the ages of seven and 10, who all come along to meetings every Friday during the school term.

To develop the girls' experiences further, Ciorsti is very keen to arrange a weekend adventure for them, which will allow them to develop leadership and team-working skills in an outdoor environment, encouraging the girls to face challenges and build their confidence.

The Rotary Club said it was 'extremely pleased to support our Brownies and provide funds. Further funding is coming from Glensanda Quarries.'



Pictured accepting a cheque is Brown Owl Ciorsti Baxter with Rotary senior vice-president Kees van Rein and ex-president Ken Oxland.



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OUTDOORS

Local food is the future

Stephen McDonach, environmental development officer for Lochaber Environmental Group, explains the best way to reduce the destructive impacts of the global food system

In these environmentally troubled times, it can be difficult to find a good news story. But consider the ecologically sound ways local businesses are producing food and the way in which these have sprung up from the grassroots.

The use of traditional practices, permaculture, organic principles and other methods are demonstrating that we can dramatically reduce the global food system's impacts on biodiversity loss, energy depletion, toxic pollution, food insecurity and carbon emissions.

Inspiring stories are also beginning to emerge in Lochaber – testaments to creativity where individuals are pushing back against the global food system of industrial-scale production. These examples are characterised as small-scale and as such are well adapted to local conditions, and they depend more on human labour than on energy and technology.

Importantly, they represent an antithesis to today's huge farms that grow just one crop requiring excessive use of pesticides, herbicides and fertiliser, and offering what we have come to expect from the supermarkets.

These small-scale, micro-initiatives urgently need to proliferate. For this to happen, we need to focus not just on how food is produced, but also on how it is marketed and distributed. Our current food system often runs parallel with an economic environment that is fundamentally counter to the kinds of changes that are needed.

Lochaber Environmental Group's initiative Food Lochaber is a collective of local small-scale food producers that has emanated from within the community. Through mutual support and collective marketing, the group aims to provide a working system of local food production and distribution, as we all face a climate and ecological emergency. Produce is available now at www.foodlochaber.org.

Whales, whales, whales

Notes from a windy island

STEPHANIE COPE
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It's a uniquely awful position, being beset by whales. I didn't have these enigmatic creatures pinned as troublemakers but, like iron filings to a magnet, Tiree Ranger Service attracts unconventional problems. And the problems caused by cetaceans are proportionate to their size.

In three years, I have been called to take tissue samples from (and otherwise 'do something about') 23 deceased porpoises, dolphins and whales.

Porpoises and dolphins don't swell much. However, in the elastic throat of my first minke, a chilling protuberance nestled. The island's RSPB officer John was busy photographing the carcass and jotting down external measurements. This whale was a casualty of bycatch. Its tail stock had been severed to remove the flukes: an action likely required to free the already-drowned animal from active fishing gear.

With my knife poised above the taut skin (and eyes firmly fixed on the bulge), I wished that John had done the tissue sampling course too. Not least because he lacks a sense of smell, and things were a bit high for my taste.

I gulped, pressing the blade into the flesh. An ominous and foetid fizzing started, like the slow uncapping of a cola bottle. Noxious brown fluid bubbled out under the gaseous pressure – dribbling down the side of the whale and onto my wellington boots. Turning to grimace at John, I was more than a little irritated to see him nodding anxious encouragement from circa 15 meters away. In a man who smells nothing, I had hoped for a bit more brass.

Most dearly-departed sea creatures have the good grace to fester on some anonymous stretch of coast. To these considerate beasts, I am indebted. Those with the temerity to arrive at a more public location are announced by a frenzied dinging of text messages, an inbox-melting surge of typed correspondence, an energetic bleeping of the office telephone and crazily wafting arms sticking out of moving vehicles.

Collecting tissue samples was one thing. But



Minke whales are particularly prone to entanglement. The fishing community works closely with researchers to reduce interactions between marine life and fishing gear.

this whale had chosen a final resting place almost equidistant between two of Tiree's more vigorous community members. It was a closely patrolled beach and the whale did not have leave to remain.

I surveyed it bleakly. My new friend weighed around three tonnes and stank. I'd done my best to make myself scarce but, in the darkest recesses of my heart, I knew the whale was destined to become my problem. Back at the office, colleagues peeped over their laptops with horrified resignation as I wrapped small cubes of whale blubber in kitchen foil and prodded them sulkily into sample pots.

Twenty-four hours later, the whale was holding court. It had become something of an attraction now: curious streams of children were trickling down from the nearby school. My hopes for the big overnight tide had been dashed. But how to get rid of it? The carcass continued to swell and Tiree's youths unwittingly courted higher-level crowd participation. Calls had to be made.

In the event, the whale split the scene with a certain style; being popped, dropped onto a flatbed truck and driven in stately fashion to the site of its committal. On the way, it enjoyed

a brief sojourn outside the local shop, as the whale chauffeur called in for a bacon roll. Some alarm was caused when, stepping out of the store with my own lunch, I found myself unexpectedly confronted by my nemesis. Still more alarm followed as the whale advanced through a set of chicanes; the slight swerving motion causing it to loll and flop in an utterly terrifying fashion. No, I wasn't sorry to see it go. My step was lighter as I closed the office door behind me.

Hours passed before the next doom-laden email arrived. A second whale was incoming: still offshore and bobbing unhappily along the coast of West Hynish. Lesions on its flukes suggested entanglement. I skipped through the pictures, confident in the knowledge that, if ever there was a desirable location for a festering whale to deposit itself, the ruggedly remote Hynish coastline fitted the bill. No further action required.

I heard nothing more for three days. That was how long it took whale number two to voyage halfway around the circumference of Tiree, in a grotesque (and frankly insensitive) final act: to wash up within meters of its predecessor.

The telephone started to ring.

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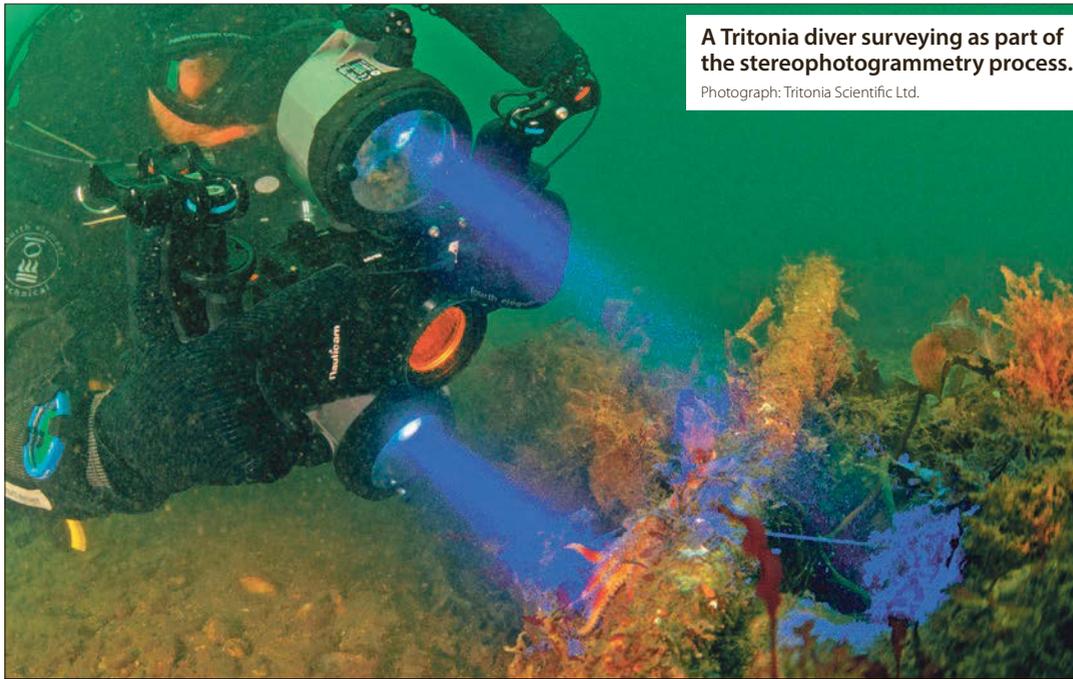


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This week's walks



A Tritonia diver surveying as part of the stereophotogrammetry process.
Photograph: Tritonia Scientific Ltd.

Oban firm expands expertise in 3-D modelling

A young Oban-based firm is applying advanced technology to expand its underwater survey and mapping expertise.

Tritonia Scientific Ltd is part of the growing cluster of marine-focused businesses at the European Marine Science Park at Dunstaffnage.

With the help of a £24,000 investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the company has expanded its core scientific and commercial diving business to include stereophotogrammetry.

This innovative new technology uses photographs and videos taken by underwater drones along with diver photography to generate highly detailed 3-D models of marine structures and natural features. The models are then used as an easy and accurate way to measure structures, such as oil rigs, pipelines, bridges and piers that are situated in difficult-to-access locations.

Tritonia recently conducted underwater structural surveys at piers on the islands of Gigha and Lismore in Argyll, and Uig on the Isle of Skye, using new stereophotogrammetrical techniques to give an accurate picture of entire pier structures, above and below the water. The technique can also be used in fish and shellfish farming. Reefs below the water and the exact contours of the seabed can be easily mapped, even when visibility levels in the sea are low. Fish cages and other floating structures can be examined for invasive species in biosecurity surveys, which is invaluable for the aquaculture industry and environmental monitoring projects.

Stereophotogrammetry is expected to help Tritonia to expand its international reach. Earlier this year employees spent a month in the Indian Ocean using the technology to monitor the health of impacted

coral reefs. Over the next three years, the firm expects to create more than three well-paid skilled jobs as a result of the investment.

Gary Haldane, account manager in HIE's Argyll business growth team, said: "Tritonia has only been a standalone business at the park for just over a year and already enjoys a growing reputation for excellence in underwater research and development. Supporting the company with this new initiative adds to the expertise available in Argyll. It brings more opportunities for skilled workers and reinforces the message that Oban is a great place to live, learn and work."

Martin Sayer, scientific diving specialist and founder of Tritonia, said: "This investment has enabled us to expand into this new area of expertise and explore new opportunities in different sectors, including the strategically important area of renewable energy."

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday September 8, Kerrera South Circuit, Oban.
A walk around the south end of Kerrera, taking in the ruined Gylen Castle. Views across the Firth of Lorn to Mull and beyond. Mostly on tracks or grassy paths.

From the ferry slip take the track to Balliemore. Turn W at the junction NM 822288 and head to Barnabuck where track ends and grass path begins. Between here and Ardmore there are bays to explore. From Ardmore join track and follow it to Upper Glen. Go south to visit the ruins of Gylen Castle then return to track – there is a coffee shop at Gylen Farm.

Follow track on east side of the island back to the ferry for the 1400 or 1600 sailing.

Grade: L. Distance: 12km. Height to climb: 460m. Maps LR45 EX359

Meet at: Kerrera Ferry Slip NM834282 for 1035 sailing. Leader: Alison Wilson.

Thursday September 12, Dun da Ghaoithe, Mull.

Mull's only Corbett following the demolition of Ben Talaidh.

Start at CalMac Pier, Craignure NM718372. Take A849 S past the turning to Torosay Castle, then take track on right 250m further at NM725350. Follow track W past Upper Achnacroish farm then northwest uphill to TV masts at Maol nan Uan, 431m. Take right fork past more masts on to ridge heading SW, then west to the summit of Mainnir nam Fiadh, 754m. Follow ridge NW to large cairn and a further 1km to summit of Dun da Ghaoithe, 766m. Great views of mainland and islands.

Return by outward route or alternatively descend steeply down the east ridge to reach Scallastle Forest Walk leading to A849 and then back to ferry terminal. Cars can be taken on Lochaline-Fishnish Ferry to join up with rest of party at Craignure.

Grade: M+. Distance: 15km. Height to climb: 840m. Map(s): LR 49, EX 375.

Meet at: Corran ferry slip NN021635 for 0815 sailing. Lochaline ferry slip NM679446 for 0940. CalMac Terminal, Oban NM854298 at 0930. Start of walk NM718372 at 1045. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

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 September 7, Beinn an Dothaidh, Beinn Dorain, Bridge of Orchy.

These two well-known Munros are the centre-piece of the view from the A82 north of Tyndrum. Climb either one of them, or both together for a fine expedition. This route traverses both of them before descending into an impressive corrie.

Start from the CP on the estate road to Achallader Farm at NN314438.

Follow a footpath E across moorland for about 900m to reach a farm track S of the farm buildings. Turn S and follow the track across the railway.

Continue S up the grassy slopes of a spur. The ground steepens at the nose and the spur narrows to a fine ridge that curves E up around the headwall of the northern corrie of Beinn an Dothaidh. Pass over the W Top, 1000m and on to the summit, 1004m. Return to the W Top and descend its S ridge to the col at the head of Coire an Dothaidh, 744m.

*/**Continue S up the long ridge to the summit of Beinn Dorain, 1076m. A footpath may be found. Return to the col and descend W on the path in Coire an Dothaidh to the Bridge of Orchy Hotel. Transport required at the CP S of the Hotel at NN296395, 5 mins from start.

*For Beinn an Dothaidh only, descend W from the col at the head of Coire an Dothaidh, 744m.

**For Beinn Dorain only, start from Bridge of Orchy Stn and climb E up the path to the col at the head of Coire an Dothaidh, 744m. Turn S and climb to the summit, then return by the same route.

15km, 1200m ascent/*10km, 830m ascent/**9km, 892m ascent

Suggested by Andrew Gilbert, coordinated by Christina Tracey.



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Choosing an independent school



Would this big decision help your child thrive?

How has your child settled back into the new school year?

Are they glad to be back and thriving on school life or do you think your child is not being stretched enough to realise their full potential? Perhaps there are areas where they need extra help.

Remember that every child is unique and so are their needs. No matter how good their state school is, there will always be an element of 'one-size-fits-all' in some aspects of school life. If, for some reason, your son or daughter is the one who is finding it hard to make that fit, you cannot help but wonder if they would be better off in the independent sector.

It is a big decision to make and one which has implications for all aspects of family life and finances.

But the extra-curricular activities and enhanced pastoral care of the independent sector can look like money well spent in providing for your child's future, when you consider the pressures that state education is under.

Class sizes can be a key point for children from remote or rural areas like the West Highlands and islands who have attended state primary schools with smaller classes, who may find themselves overwhelmed by the size of secondary schools.

More than 70 independent schools in Scotland, of which 19 are boarding schools, educate 4.1 per cent of pupils nationwide; 52 are mainstream, 21 offer additional support.

Independent education is one of the most important decisions you will make for your family and to help inform that decision you can visit the website of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools: www.scis.org.uk. The Scottish Council of Independent Schools is an educational charity which represents and promotes the interests of the independent schools across the country. Between them, they have more than 29,000 pupils.

Independent education IS affordable

One of the biggest mistakes people make about private education is that they cannot afford it and never consider the idea.

Good financial advice, prudence and parents and grandparents working together over savings and inheritance all make independent education achievable; some people look at using money from pensions or remortgaging property, others look at paying school fees as a way of working within inheritance tax legislation.

There are many ways to make it work and one of the best things to do is consult an expert financial planner.

School fees are paid from post-tax income and one way to help finance an independent education is via a school fee plan.

This is a convenient and manageable way for parents to pay for independent school fees and extras such as music tuition and trips, splitting the costs into regular monthly direct debits, like any other household bill.

At least £349 million has been given annually in fee assistance in the independent education sector in Scotland, with just under 27 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance.

Lomond School

Situated in the coastal town of Helensburgh, on the edge of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Lomond School offers a unique setting for girls and boys from nursery to senior 6 to learn and grow. A culture of hard work exists throughout the school and excellent academic achievement is supported by small class sizes, dedicated teaching staff, superb facilities and a significant emphasis on pupil happiness, health and wellbeing. As the only boarding school in the west of Scotland, Lomond School provides a number of options to suit families living in the West Highlands. Boarding is available from age eight and families can choose to take up flexi, weekly and full boarding, supported by a new travel service on Sunday and Friday evenings which can stop at a range of destinations along the Helensburgh to Oban route, travelling via both Lochgilphead and Crianlarich.

Within the boarding house, Burnbrae, the school provides a warm and secure environment with a distinct family feel. Like home, young people can meet with friends after school or at weekends and, as pupils mature, they can experience more freedom and prepare for life beyond school.

Academically, the school punches above its weight. Even though it operates an open presentation policy and is a non-selective school, Lomond is celebrating another outstanding SQA performance, with pass rates far exceeding the national average. Two new records were set this year with a 96% pass rate at National 5, and with almost 90% of all National 5 passes at A or B grade. Furthermore, 20% of leavers this year have been accepted to study dentistry, law, medicine or veterinary medicine. The school offers a wide range of subjects across all levels including economics,

business management, health & food technology and drama. Pupils can keep their options open by choosing a broad range of subjects with eight National 5s studied over two years and up to six Highers in S5 and four Advanced Highers in S6.

A recent HM Inspection commended Lomond as a 'vibrant, welcoming and very well-resourced school'.

The report stated: 'At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences.'

Whether pupils join in sixth form or complete their whole education at the school, Lomond's young people leave with a strong sense of achievement and a real appetite for lifelong learning.



 **Lomond School**
Helensburgh

Open Morning

Saturday 28 September 2019

10am - 1pm

Find out how we achieve excellent academic results and help every child to achieve their full potential.

Bursaries and scholarships available.

To confirm your attendance, please contact us:

T: +44 (0)1436 672476

E: admissions@lomondschool.com

NEW TRAVEL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR WEEKLY BOARDERS

The Scottish Council of Independent Schools' role is to provide parents with impartial information, advice and guidance, as well as keeping independent schools abreast of educational developments, training opportunities and legislative change, enabling the independent schools sector to make a worthwhile contribution to the development of education in Scotland.

- to advance education via curriculum development and the training of teachers
- to communicate and negotiate with the Scottish Parliament, the government, and public and private bodies on behalf of the independent sector
- to provide impartial information, advice and guidance to parents
- to advise member schools and their governing bodies on educational developments and legislation affecting independent schools (eg, education, taxation, welfare, health and safety).



Re-think your ideas about boarding

'We are now in a new era of boarding that can be as flexible as families need it to be, with schools offering flexi, weekly and full boarding.

'Flexi boarding is increasingly popular and could involve the child staying for just one or two nights a week, providing a good introduction to boarding for younger students.

'Even just staying for a couple of nights a week gives students extra time for activities and clubs, while being fully supported doing their homework in the evenings too.

'Having this extra time to carry out schoolwork means that when children do go home, they can enjoy pure family time without the stress of taking schoolwork home.

'This quality time is especially valuable for working families – they can dedicate their down time to having fun, instead of having to pester their children to do their homework!' – **Aileen Kane**, chief operating officer at the Boarding Schools' Association.



Statically speaking

- there are **29,495 pupils in 74 independent schools** – 4.1 per cent of pupils in Scotland
- there are **19 mainstream boarding schools with 2,772 pupils** – 35 per cent of boarders are from overseas
- **SCIS schools provide at least £51 million annually in fee assistance, with 24.1 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance**
- **3.3 per cent of senior school pupils receive 100 per cent fee assistance**
- **the independent sector employs over 3,689 teaching staff**
- **there is one teacher for every eight pupils in SCIS schools**

(Information 2018 census of independent schools carried out by SCIS)

'Go make the world a better place'

'We work in partnership for the good of children and the wider community.

'I am inspired by the consistent commitment that I see from independent schools. From our ancient foundations to our modern aspirations, we are dismantling the ivory tower cliché and working with our partners to build a new future where we are more appropriately seen working shoulder to shoulder with our partners.

'I know that independent schools care deeply about all children, wherever they are educated.

'It comes with the territory of being a teacher – to make a difference, to help children. We commission our students, as they leave our schools, to go and make the world a better place. We must do the same' – **Shaun Fenton**, who chairs the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, speaking at the organisation's spring conference this year.



Strathallan School

At Strathallan School, our mission is to provide an outstanding education that gives opportunities for all pupils to perform to the very best of their abilities. Each individual, no matter their passion or interest, is supported and inspired to shine during their time at school. Our pupils excel academically, compete in sports at national and international levels, succeed in scholastic championships and play as part of nationwide orchestras and ensembles. In the 2018-19 academic year, 60 of our pupils played as part of a national sporting team and we became British and Scottish Champions across six sports.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We strive for excellence in everything we do, and academically our focus is on preparing pupils for higher education and beyond. Our flexible curriculum and innovative teaching means we can support every pupil, whatever their ambitions

and style of learning. In 2019, Strathallan students achieved their best A Level results in almost a decade, with a quarter of all A Level students awarded straight A* or A grades. Our leavers go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, international study, work placements, the armed forces and professional sporting careers.

GLOBAL CITIZENS

We make the most of our self-contained, rural location every day, but at our core, we are a truly international community with pupils and alumni around the globe. This diversity of community and experience means Strathallians leave our school with the maturity and cultural intelligence to succeed, wherever they go.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TO EXCEL

Our pupils find confidence in themselves at Strathallan. They have the freedom and space to develop their own skills in

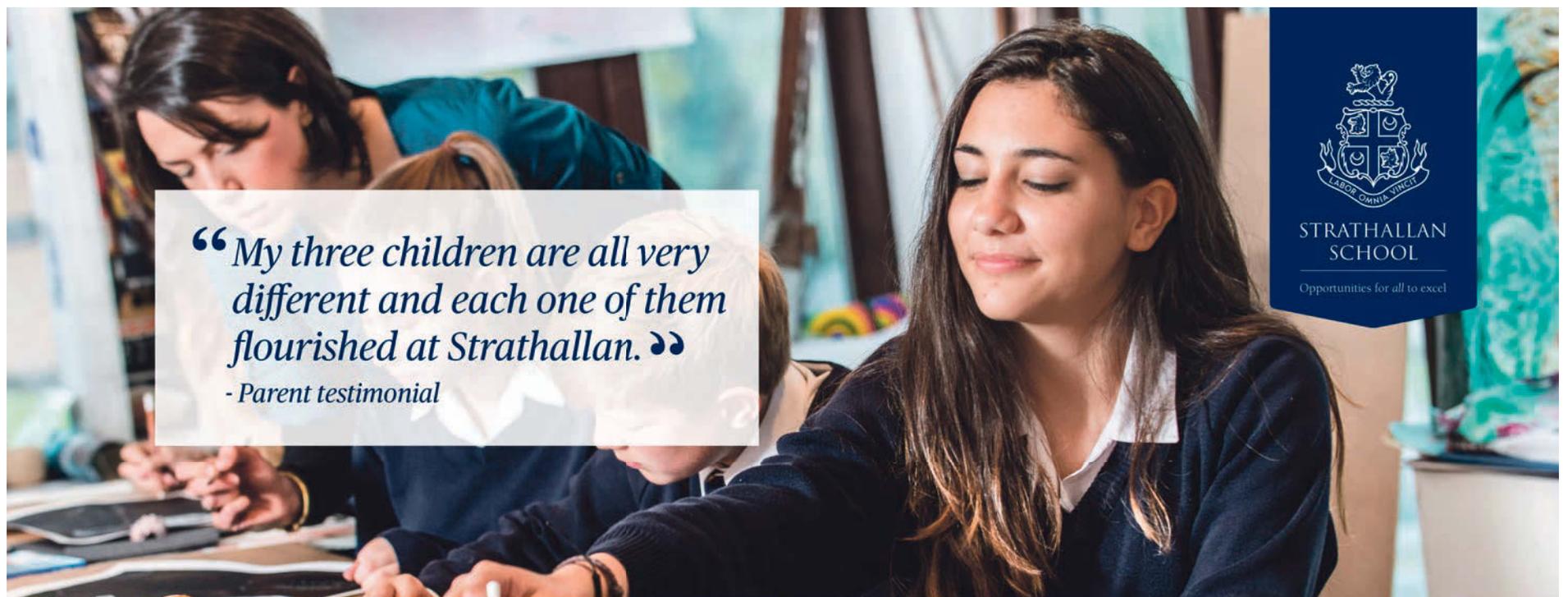
an idyllic environment with the support of a close, caring community.

We ensure there is something for every one of our pupils, and any parent choosing Strathallan will quickly realise that their child will be known here for who they are, for their individual abilities and for their potential.

Young people leave Strathallan with the skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen career, and the confidence to make their mark on the world.

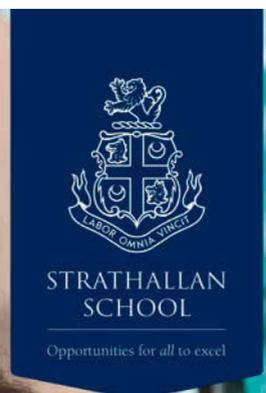
'I look back at my time at Strathallan with fondness. The quality of education in the classroom, in the creative arts and on the sports field was of the highest possible level. With Strathallan on my CV there are no doors that are not open to me' – Former pupil

Open morning, Saturday October 12, 2019. Register online at www.strathallan.co.uk/open-days.



“My three children are all very different and each one of them flourished at Strathallan.”

- Parent testimonial



2019 A Levels: 45% A*/A and 79% A*-B grades

One in four students achieved straight A*/A grades at A Level, with three fifths of students overall achieving at least one top A*/A grade, significantly above the UK national average

Open Morning: Saturday 12th October 2019

www.strathallan.co.uk/open-days

Advertorial

Stuart Herd's life and art

A life full of work, travel and experience which has informed the vision and style of his art and won admirers world-wide

Highland coos, Argyll creelers, lonely phone boxes and yachts in full-sail all look down from walls around the world, a testimony to the talent of Tarbert-based artist, Stuart Herd.

His work has found its way into so many collections; visitors to the West Highlands and islands cannot get enough of Stuart's vision of the Highlands and his take on life here. Local people love his work because it reminds us all that, yes, we do live in a breath-takingly beautiful part of the world that we forget to stop and appreciate as we rush through our daily lives.

Stuart can take an old boat, left to rot on the shore, a shabby shelter on a seafront or an old phone box and turn it into a thing of beauty. Or a Highland cow, standing getting soaked in the rain into something joyous.

Perhaps it is his earlier training and work as a photographer that gives him the ability to find the perfect angle for his landscapes.

After photography college he worked for commercial studios, paid his dues as a press photographer and onboard cruise ships and also travelled the world on solo adventures staying in Jamaica working as an art auctioneer; it all conspired to be the perfect apprenticeship that helped him develop his unique style.



Born in Scotland and growing up in the south of England, with grandparents in Lochgilphead, Argyll was a place Stuart, aged 48, knew and loved and he chose to return here, and began working on his art while also earning a living framing pictures.

He still works from his studio in one of the old net

stores in Tarbert but also has a gallery in the village and has also opened one in Ullapool.

Stuart also met and married his wife here and they now have a son and the family lives in Tarbert.

As well as his own galleries and creating jobs in both, Stuart also exhibits in other leading galleries around Scotland and is

regularly in demand for commissions.

A visit to his studio finds paintings in progress and other paintings packaged, waiting to be shipped to clients all over the world.

Stuart also triumphed over a chance-in-a-million accident eight years ago which saw him injure and eventually, after operations, lose an eye; which

prompted his decision to establish a gallery business along side his art.

Some collectors choose one of his themes, be it landscapes, seascapes, winter, telephone or post boxes, fishing boats, yachts or more; others like to curate a portfolio from them all.

But one thing many of these landscape painting collectors might not know

that Stuart is also one of the world's leading, and sought after, stadium artists. He has drawn in pen and ink, with meticulous detail, sporting stadiums all across the UK, Ireland and Europe. Each is a scene during a match and the limited edition prints mounted in club colours are collected by sports fans from far and wide.



LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Oban ladies on song with Gary for shinty charity

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Ladies from the Oban Lorne Ladies' Shinty Club (OLLSC) have joined forces with Highland-born accordionist, broadcaster and ex-Scotland international Gary Innes for a new charity single to raise funds for women's shinty.

Feel the Power will be released this Friday, September 6, the day before The Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup final – the blue riband event for women's shinty that is broadcast live on BBC Alba.

All proceeds from the single will be donated to the Women's Camanachd Association to help with equipment and the general development of the game.

Recorded in GloWorm



Recording Studios in Glasgow, women from the local club, alongside a player from the Glasgow Mid Argyll team, joined some of Scotland's top musicians in the studio to contribute their vocals and clapping prowess to the track. Singing for Oban

were Annmarie Maclean, Caroline Smith, Shelley MacCuish, Pamela MacNab and Claire Douglas.

Alongside the choir of female shinty players, other musicians appearing on the track include Mischa Macpherson on lead vocals

From left, Annmarie Maclean, Caroline Smith, Shelley MacCuish (all OLLSC), Orla MacCarthy (Glasgow Mid Argyll GMA Shinty Club), Gary Innes, Siobhan Miller (backing vocals), Kim Carnie (backing vocals), Mischa Macpherson (lead vocals), Pamela MacNab (OLLSC) and Claire Douglas (OLLSC).

with Oban's Kim Carnie and Siobhan Miller on harmonies as well as Mark Scobbie (Mànran) on drums, James Lindsay (Breabach) on bass, Innes White on guitars and Rory Matheson on keys.

At the start of this year, Gary was asked to be the Women's Camanachd Association's first official

ambassador and he wanted to mark this accolade in a meaningful way.

Having released his single The Caman Man to huge critical acclaim in January 2017, Gary felt it was time to give the women's shinty community an anthem, too, and ensure that proceeds would help advance the sport he loves.

'Women's shinty has gone from strength to strength over the past few years, both on the field in terms of the talent and discipline and off the field in the area of sport development,' he said.

'I have always felt that the growth and longevity of women's shinty is incredibly important but now I have a potential budding female shinty player in my life in

the form of my little baby girl Gracie, it's even more important to me that the sport is still going strong and accessible to her if she'd like to take it up in later years.

'I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the musicians who gave up their time for free to come and record on the single and also the girls from Oban and GMA who came along to be a part of it, too – they certainly got into the spirit of it once the nerves wore off. I think the red wine did help a little!'

Born in Spean Bridge, Gary is one of the founding members of award-winning Scottish supergroup Mànran, as well as the presenter for BBC Radio Scotland's longest running radio show, Take the Floor.



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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World

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

Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen, 12:30pm

Creative Writing Group

New Hope Kitchen, 2:30pm - 4:00pm

An Evening of Highland Entertainment

McCraig's Tower, Oban, 7:00pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Reminiscence Group

Oban Library, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Hope Kitchen Music Group

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

Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen, 2:00pm

Fundraising Bingo Night

In aid of Oban Winter Festival

The View, 7:00pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Danny Mooney

Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Hill Walk

Bridge of Orchy, Invergarry, All day

Hill Walk

Braemar, Braemar, All day

Reminiscence Group

Oban Library, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Ceol An Aire, Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

Hill Walk

Braemar, Braemar, All day

Entertainment @ Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Hill Walk

Braemar, Braemar, All day

Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen, 2:00pm

Slimming World

Lochgillhead, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Drumming and Music Making

Taynuilt Sports Pavilion

6:30pm - 7:30pm



Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

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

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Hill Walk

Braemar, Braemar, All day

Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre

10:30am - 12:00pm

Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen, 2:00pm

Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

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

WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Hill Walk

Braemar, Braemar, All day

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street

10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day

Greenshoots Garden

10:30am - 3:30pm

Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen

2:00pm

Seil recital-goers call for music scheme encore

Seil residents are hoping for an encore after a successful recital from the Scottish Ensemble.

The lunchtime performance in Seil Hall on Friday was packed, with organisers having to put out extra seats to fit all 120 people who turned up for the free concert, with donations going to the new Netherlorn Music Scheme (NeMS).

The recital was the scheme's inaugural concert - it will be offering top classical musicians week-long residencies, with them boarding with islanders in return for sharing their skills with the community and ending with a public performance.

Among those in Friday's audience were music students from Oban High School. Strings instructor Hazel Clark congratulated organisers and said the recital left them 'happy, enthused and inspired'.

She added: 'They were delighted to meet the musicians and to have a front-row seat at the concert. We really enjoyed the afternoon and appreciate the effort involved in making it happen. Congratulations

on a successful inaugural concert.'

Chris Bennett on Seil sent us this review.

'From the first bar, we knew we were in for something special. The resonance of the eight string instruments vibrated their way through the full house audience. Each instrument easily picked out for their individual parts, aided by the studio effect acoustic panels on the hall's walls and ceilings, which made for a rare musical treat.

'During the four pieces, my breath was taken away. I was not alone; jaws dropped in awe as we were transported to another realm. Swept along by melodious changes and tempo, the audience was stunned into absolute silence. We were gripped - at the tight finish of each piece you could have heard a pin drop before we were brought back to this world to applaud loudly. We were profoundly moved and were left hoping it won't be too long before NeMS return with an encore.'

To give support or find out more about NeMS, email: nems2019@btinternet.com

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Trip to the Barras

Having lived in Glasgow for eight years now, I still love nothing more than experiencing a moment which is quintessentially Glaswegian and wouldn't happen in any other city in the world.

There are so many unique aspects of Glasgow that this happens quite often. I recently visited the Barrowland for an STV interview ahead of our Tide Lines gig there on November 2. I found there are few better places to experience true Glasgow.

We entered through the part of the Barras market which lies underneath the famous ballroom. All the stalls were closed and the place was silent but I could still sense a dormant energy in the air - as if it was lying ready to burst into life as soon as it opened its doors.

Eventually, we navigated the maze to find the office. On arrival, we were introduced to a true Glasgow

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

WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS SEPTEMBER

FRI
SEP
20



JIM SMITH - BACK TO THE TEUCHTER

Doors 7:30pm

Tickets: Adult £16, Concession £14 + £1 Booking fee.

Perthshire Beef and Sheep Farmer, Stand Up Comedian & Comedy Writer. OVER 16'S ONLY

SAT
SEP
21



FUN BOX: SPACE RACE

Doors 1.30pm

Tickets: £11.00 Family: £40.00 Group 10+: £10 each
Babies in arms (up to 12mths): Free
Space...the final fun-tier. The countdown is on to blast off into the unknown in FUNBOX's brand new singalong adventure.

Come dressed for adventure - come as an alien, a space princess or an astronaut - and remember, in space everyone can hear you sing!

FRI
SEP
27



MAC FLOYD: BEST OF THE WALL

Doors 7:00pm

Tickets: £17+ £1 Booking fee.

Over 14's only

Celebrating 40 years of the classic Pink Floyd album.

SAT
SEP
28



SCOTTISH OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

Doors: 7:00pm

Tickets: £15.00 Under 26's £5.00

Each year, Opera Highlights takes four singers out and about around Scotland, travelling the highways and byways by land, air and sea, to bring a musical mix of operatic treasures to venues the length and breadth of the country.

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

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



WHAT'S ON | INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CINEMA *FILM FESTIVAL WEEK!*
AT OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

WWW.OBANPHOENIX.COM | 01631 562905 | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
The Run | TBC 12:00 FESTIVAL FILM
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 16:00
Uglydolls | U 16:15
All At Sea | 12A 18:15
The Bikes of Wrath | TBC 18:30 FESTIVAL FILM
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood | 18 20:15
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:45

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
Playmobil: The Movie | U 11:30★
Uglydolls | U 13:45/16:15
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 16:00
All At Sea | 12A 18:15
Of Fish & Foe | 12A 18:30 FESTIVAL FILM
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood | 18 20:15
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:45

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
Against The Tides | 12A 11:30 FESTIVAL FILM
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 13:00/16:00
Uglydolls | U 13:45/15:15
All At Sea | 12A 17:15
The Biggest Little Farm | PG 18:15 FESTIVAL FILM
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood | 18 19:30
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:30

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER
The Bikes of Wrath | TBC 12:00 FESTIVAL FILM
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 16:00
Uglydolls | U 16:15
All At Sea | 12A 18:15
The Run | TBC 18:15 FESTIVAL FILM
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood | 18 20:15
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:30

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 12:00★
Uglydolls | U 16:15
Against The Tides | 12A 17:15 FESTIVAL FILM
All At Sea | 12A 18:15
Margaret Atwood Live In Cinemas | 12A 19:30
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:15

WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
The Biggest Little Farm | PG 12:00 FESTIVAL FILM
Dora & The Lost City of Gold | PG 16:00
Uglydolls | U 16:00
All At Sea | 12A 18:15
Of Fish & Foe | 12A 18:15★ FESTIVAL FILM
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood | 18 20:15
Angel Has Fallen | 15 20:30

THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
Angel Has Fallen | 15 12:00★
Blinded By The Light | 12A 14:30
The Bikes of Wrath | TBC 17:00 FESTIVAL FILM
Uglydolls | U 17:00
All At Sea | 12A 19:00
NT Live: Fleabag | 15 19:30

MONTHLY MUSICAL
OKLAHOMA!
sunday 29th at 5pm

ONCE UPON A TIME IN... HOLLYWOOD
HAS BEEN RATED 18 BY THE BBFC. THIS MEANS NO-ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MAY SEE THE FILM. IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 25, YOU MAY BE ASKED FOR PROOF OF AGE. THIS CAN INCLUDE YOUNG SCOT CARD, DRIVERS LICENCE, PASSPORT, OR ANYTHING WITH THE PASS MARK. FOR MORE ABOUT RATINGS VISIT WWW.BBFC.CO.UK

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Bookends 2019 programme makes a rollicking good read

Benderloch's Victory Hall is creating even more reading room as the 2019 Bookends Festival enters its fourth chapter, writes Fiona Scott.

Starting on Friday September 20 with preview night, a packed programme of authors, workshops and storytelling sessions will take place throughout the week, ending on Saturday September 28 with an evening with award-winning poet, novelist, journalist, broadcaster and actor Angus Peter Campbell. And, if that's not enough to whet the appetite of most, the Bookends Fringe takes place the following week, Monday September 30 to Friday October 4.

This year's festival line-up makes a really good read in itself. From the first men on the moon to artificial intelligence and historical adventure, festival founder Joy Cameron says there will be something for everyone to get stuck into.

'The idea of Bookends was to make sure there is something for everyone and I think that

we've achieved that again,' she said. 'Bookends really is the community-run book festival with a difference and, as well as enjoying our busy programme of events, everyone is welcome to come along and visit us in our cosy reading room at the Victory Hall from 11am daily.'

Featured authors at this year's event include broadcaster Lesley Riddoch, Haynes Manual for Astronauts writer Ken MacTaggart, historical novelist Liz MacRae Shaw and Bookends storyteller Alison Clark.

Kenneth Steven is the poet in residence. He will be giving a poetry talk plus Q and A, as well as his one-to-one online dialogues, while Angus Peter Campbell will read from Memory and Straw.

Last year, poet Jamie Livingstone took his performance art onto Oban FM with two incisive poems and this year he will host at WURDPLAY on Tuesday September 24 when he will entertain, question and in-

spire with his thoughts on the world.

Oban Times reporter Kathie Griffiths will talk about her journey as a journalist from Yorkshire to the Highlands in A Tale of Two Tabloids, while performance poet Stuart A Paterson will also be on hand.

The festival launches with singer/songwriter Adrian Nation, and Oban Phoenix Cinema is also getting involved this year with a screening of Lesley Riddoch's Nation Films: Iceland and Norway, on Monday September 23. Visit obanphoenix.com or call 01631 562905 for screening and price details.

Bookends Festival 2019 is sponsored by Aggregate Industries; Glensanda Quarry. Organisers are grateful to the Scottish Book Trust, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Argyll and Bute Council and media partners The Oban Times, Oban FM and Oban Phoenix Cinema.

More details and the full programme can be found on the Bookends Facebook page.

eilean eisdeal CREATIVE LAND SCOTLAND ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Scottish Dance Theatre

Meet up close **Scottish Dance Theatre**, Scotland's leading contemporary dance company, in their first appearance on **Easdale Island!** Join us for an immersive evening of dance featuring unplugged extracts from their hit works **RITUALIA** and **Looping: Scotland Overdub**, as well as intimate short works. Hosted by the company's Artistic Director **Joan Clevillé**, hear first-hand about the company's life in the dance studio and on stages the world over. All ages welcome!

Easdale Island Community Hall

Saturday 14th September

Doors/Bar open 7.30pm Curtain up 8.30pm
Late return ferry 10pm

Entry £12/10 conc Tickets available online or on the door

More Info & Booking www.easdaleislandhall.org

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As usual we will be tasting 6 drams really looking forwards to this one as it is sure to be a memorable night.

£20.00 per ticket. 7pm - 9pm, Ardshiel Hotel.

Tickets available here:
tickets.ardshiel.co.uk

Drink Whisky!



FRIDAY DRAM CLUB

Save the date!
Friday
6 Sept

CALL TO BOOK
01586 552133
VISIT US ardshiel.co.uk



Curtain set to rise on Hebrides International Film Festival

The Hebrides International Film Festival is back for 2019 and will take place at venues throughout the Outer Hebrides, from the Butt to Barra, from September 12-14, writes Mark Entwistle.

There will be around 78 screenings at 12 venues over the three days, from the Thursday to Saturday, with final arrangements now being made for the event.

Full information on the festival will be available online at www.hebfilmfestival.org/hiff-2019, with the programme due to go live on the website any day now.

The festival grew out of a programme started by Regional Screen Scotland six years ago, where a number of remote and rural film festivals were given three-year funding and mentorship. It was also a natural successor to the Hebrides Coastal Film Festival.

Programmer and director Muriel Ann Macleod,

director of Rural Nations Community Interest Company, has chosen films 'that have an impact on the big screen' and said the film festival would be 'as accessible as possible'.

All screenings in the Pocket Cinema are free and general ticket prices have been held as low as possible.

'It's a really varied programme. I was trying to find films that would connect with our communities and give a big international perspective and change how we think about the environment and how we deal with our environment and climate change because that's what it's about,' Ms Macleod explained.

It's not just a few environmental films made in the back of beyond. These are high-quality films that



promote the issues or high-level drama that just happens to be about the theme.'

Island venues taking part in the festival are the An Lanntair auditorium and Pocket Cinema, Taigh Dhonnachaidh, Ionad Na Seann Sgoil Shawbost, Bernera Community Centre, Talla na Mara, Scalpay Hall, Taigh Chearsabhagh, Stoneybridge Hall, Carinish Hall and Castlebay Hall.

Taigh Chearsabhagh is hosting a pop-up cinema and there will also be a pop-up enviro cinema in Stornoway although the exact location is to be confirmed.

The Hebrides International Film Festival - supported by Screen Scotland, HIE and other agencies - shows only films made within the past

three years and fit within the festival's broad theme of 'islands, environmental issues and indigenous peoples', with a particular focus this year on sustainable fishing.

Each screening will include a feature film and an accompanying short. The films are a mix of English language features and foreign films with full English subtitles.

Tickets for the rural venues can be bought through the website, but tickets for the An Lanntair films must be bought through the art centre's own website, at lanntair.com.

In general, tickets can also be bought at venue doors, although it is advisable to book in advance for the smaller venues, where space is more limited.

There will also be special daytime screenings for school groups and a number of masterclasses, lectures and other special events.

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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, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.

THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

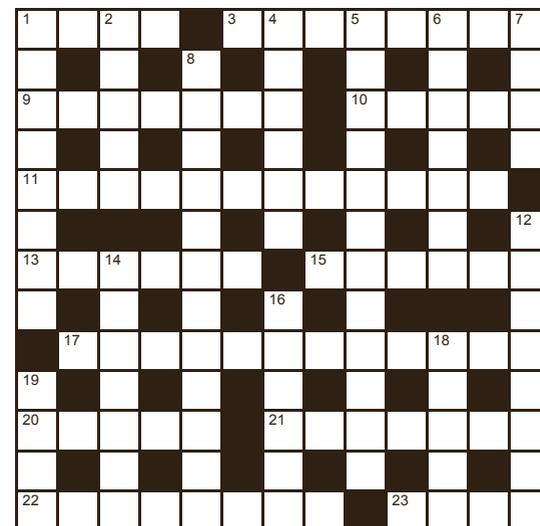
Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.

FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.

SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee, 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Short document? (4)
- 3 Unreal (8)
- 9 Underwater bloodsucker (7)
- 10 Walk this before union (5)
- 11 Eventually (2,3,4,3)
- 13 Pretty bird seen near the sea (6)
- 15 Ravel classic (6)
- 17 Crucial point (8,4)
- 20 Rouse (5)
- 21 Humourless (2-5)
- 22 Desist (8)
- 23 Agitate (4)

Down

- 1 Steam organ (8)
- 2 Send (5)
- 4 Haphazardly (6)
- 5 Menopause (6,2,4)
- 6 Crack (7)
- 7 Wanton look (4)
- 8 Antecedence, lived before (12)
- 12 Bear in mind (8)
- 14 Always (7)
- 16 Extent of outlook (6)
- 18 Necktie (5)
- 19 Offering (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO FUNBOX



Space...the final fun-tier. The countdown is on to blast off into the unknown in FUNBOX's brand new interstellar singalong adventure.

Join Anya, Kevin, Gary and Bonzo (formerly of The Singing Kettle) as part of the crew of the 'Starship FUNBOX' as they take a space odyssey across the universe to explore strange new worlds and dimensions on their galaxy-hopping quest to find their keys. Find out if there really is a man in the moon? What is the stinkiest planet? Where are the friendliest aliens? Packed with classics like 'Apples and Bananas' and 'Aiken Drum', FUNBOX favourites and brand new songs, SPACE RACE is out of this world singalong fun for all the family.

Come dressed for adventure - come as an alien, a space princess or an astronaut - and remember in space everyone can hear you sing!

For your chance to win a family ticket to the FUNBOX show at The Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday 21st September at 2.00pm - plus a FUNBOX Goody Bag, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to: The Oban Times, Funbox Competition, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Monday 16th September 2019.
QUESTION: What is the name of FUNBOX's naughty dog?

Answer..... Name.....
Address.....
Telephone..... Email.....

T&Cs apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.

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Scottish Country Dancing
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(free)
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Centre, Oban
7.45pm-9:45pm
Men, women, teenagers
all welcome
Contact Sue 07753593668
Joan 01631 770254
RSCDS Lorn (Argyll) Branch
Charity SC025326



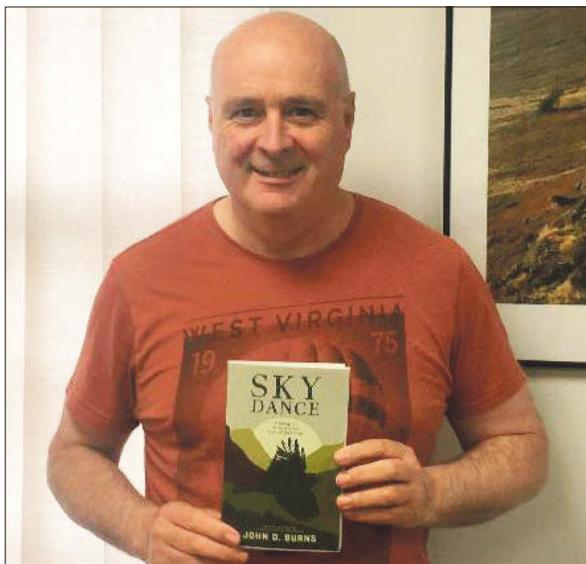
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Author to launch latest and 'controversial' book

An Inverness-based author will be launching his latest – and 'most controversial' book at the Highland Bookshop in Fort William tonight (Thursday September 5) at 7pm.

Award-winning outdoors writer John D Burns will launch *Sky Dance*, a comic novel set in the Highlands that challenges much of the traditional ways of managing land in the north of Scotland. *Sky Dance* is a work of fiction but it puts the case for rewilding and the end of traditional sporting practices.

Set in a fictionalised estate on the Isle of Morvan, which is based on the Morvern peninsula, *Sky Dance* follows the adventures of two hillwalkers who witness the illegal killing of a bird of prey, a hen harrier, and are



so incensed they take the law into their own hands and begin to do their own version of rewilding, much to the annoyance of local

landowner, who sets out to thwart the walkers plans with hilarious consequences.

Burns said: '*Sky Dance* is my first novel. My first two

books – *Bothy Tales* and *The Last Hillwalker*, both of which became best-sellers – were a combination of reminiscences from my life in the mountains and short stories set in the hills and bothies of the Highlands. *Sky Dance* is very different. It's my first full work of fiction but it also tackles very important questions about the way we manage the wild places of Scotland.

'I wanted to write a book that would begin to make the average hillwalker aware of what is happening in the wild places of Scotland. I've tried to do that in an engaging way.

'I love exploring the wild and remote parts of the

Highlands but have become increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of sporting activities and the effects of over-grazing. When I first wandered the hills, I saw a wild landscape untouched by the hand of man but now I see hills scarred by deforestation and over-grazing whose wildlife is slowly being destroyed. We have to think about what sort of landscape we want to pass on to future generations.

'The hillwalking community is not blameless. While we approach our wild places with lists in our hands of hills to be ticked off, we will never learn to treasure them and protect them as we should. The mountains are living, breathing places that we should not exploit for sport.'

Despite its serious message Burns puts a lot of humour into his books.

He continued: 'My readers like the comedy in my books so there's plenty of funny stories in *Sky Dance*. I love poking fun at the establishment and the outdoor community, which takes itself far too seriously. I remember when climbing hills was fun. A lot of folk seem to have forgotten that as the outdoor industry has taken over.'

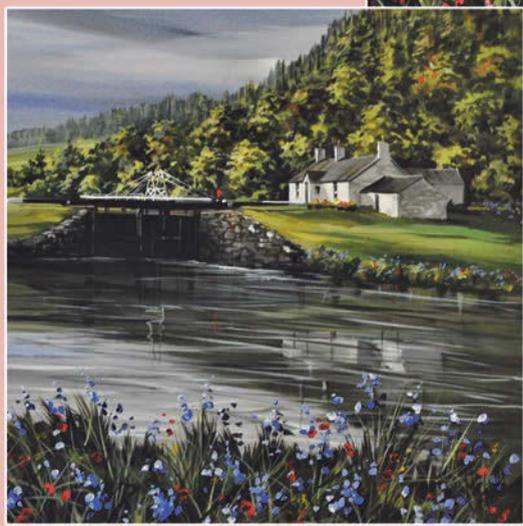
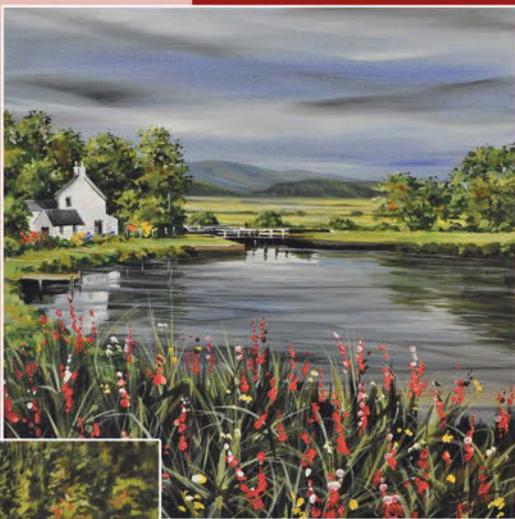
Burns has spent more than 40 years exploring Britain's mountains. He is a past member of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team and has walked and climbed in the American and Canadian Rockies, Kenya, the Alps and the Pyrenees.

Burns is published by Sheffield-based Vertebrate Publishers.

Spotlight on the Crinan Canal

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2019

Introduction

This September we have brought together a selection of excellent documentary films, with the common theme of the outdoors, screening at a special discounted rate, for one week only!

From environmentally-friendly farming, to the troubled waters of Scottish salmon fishing, while swimming, cycling and running our way between the two, there really is something to interest almost everyone.

At a time when the importance of looking after our planet has been brought sharply into focus, these films showcase how special our Earth is and how we can really appreciate it.



THE RUN

Anupam Sharma's *The Run* documents Australian politician Pat Farmer's 2016 Spirit Of India run - a 4,647km endurance challenge which saw him run the equivalent of two marathons a day for two months.

Screenings: Friday 6th at 12:00, Monday 9th at 18:15



THE BIKES OF WRATH

A story of adventure and humanity in the American heartland, *The Bikes of Wrath* follows five Australian friends as they attempt to cycle 2,600 kilometres, on a small budget, from Oklahoma to California in honour of John Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Screenings: Friday 6th at 18:30, Monday 9th at 12:00



OF FISH AND FOE

Drama explodes on the Scottish high seas as the last fishing family using traditional salmon nets battles animal activists Sea Shepherd and Hunt Saboteurs. Intrepid cameras capture the fight as an even greater enemy emerges to confront them both.

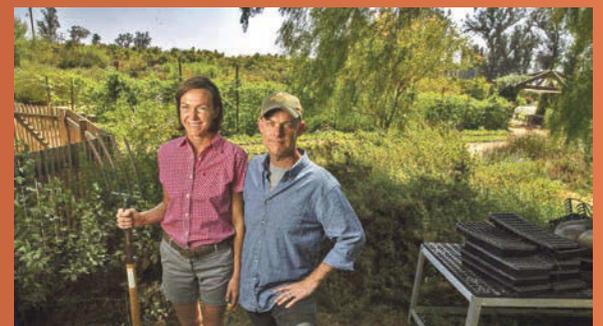
Screenings: Saturday 7th at 18:30, Wednesday 11th at 18:15 (subtitled)



AGAINST THE TIDES

Beth French, sets out to conquer Oceans Seven, a challenge consisting of the seven most dangerous sea-channels in the world. For extreme swimmers, it's the ultimate test; the equivalent to the seven peaks in mountaineering. Only a handful of people have ever completed it, but Beth aims to become the first person ever to swim all seven in one year.

Screenings: Sunday 8th at 11:30, Tuesday 10th at 17:15



THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM

A testament to the immense complexity of nature, *The Biggest Little Farm* follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land.

Screenings: Sunday 8th at 18:15, Wednesday 11th at 12:00

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Charity wants to be top class

A countryside initiative bringing farms into classrooms is up and running across Argyll and the Islands with the formal backing of a rural charity, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A public meeting last week saw the formal creation of a new branch of the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET).

Ardmaddy farmer Euan Warrock is one of the organisers and says the new branch has attracted more than 50 expressions of interest from people keen to get involved already – from farmers to school teachers and families.

Mr Warrock said: 'Many farmers and crofters across Argyll have been working closely with schools for many years, getting children involved with the countryside and farming, but what we're doing with the new branch is providing them with professional support to keep doing that and do more of it.'

'It's helping make sure that things are being done professionally and with proper



Families hitch a ride to stockjudging at Ardmaddy estate to raise funds for the Argyll and Islands RHET branch.

diligence when it comes to hygiene and health and safety. Everyone involved in visits will have been checked for working with children and other vulnerable groups.

'We're not stopping or changing what's being done, we're just making it even better.'

He added: 'We will be building up more relationships with schools and with other partners organising visits, whether it's them coming to us or farmers going into schools.'

'It's a two-way thing. It's best to get the children out to farms but it's quite expensive to organise, what with buses and transport, so what's likely to happen more is farmers going into schools making regular visits, helping them grow their own vegetables or fruit and using it to cook with.'

'Our focus will be to get them thinking about the food that's on their plates and about agriculture – also about the clothes they wear and where the materials

come from – the wool in their jumpers and the leather in their shoes!'

The new branch will be set up as a standalone local charity but be heavily supported and financially supported by the national RHET charity.

The branch's inaugural public meeting will be at the Inveraray Inn on October 28 at 7.30pm, when everyone is welcome to go along and find out more.

Last month Mr Warrock of Auchnasaul Farm near Oban and Ardmaddy Estate teamed up to open the farm gates for a tour and stock-judging competition with barbecue and children's activities that raised £1,000 for the new RHET venture. More than 150 people turned up on the day.

'We had a great turnout. There were farming families and families who had no links to farms whatsoever but had heard about the day and came along to enjoy it,' said Mr Warrock.

Contact Mr Warrock on 01631 567036.

Dalmally Show will go on but bring your wellies, say officials

Following a spell of weather watching and a midweek inspection, Dalmally Agriculture Show has been declared good to go on Saturday, September 7.

Questions over whether or not the highly popular event would take place this year arose following three days of more or less persistent rain at the beginning of the week.

Organisers made the decision to go ahead on Tuesday, however, following a visit to the showground and a lot of discussion.

'There was a lot of debate as it was pretty wet, but with the trade stands arriving on Wednesday a decision had to be made and we decided to go ahead,' said Dalmally Show president Marjorie Walker.

'We would advise anyone coming along to bring their wellies though.'

Billed as a celebration of the rural community, Dalmally Show is always well attended, with visitors given the opportunity to enjoy a variety of attractions, view exceptional exhibits, and sample wonderful Highland produce in

a spectacular setting. At the show's heart are the agricultural events on which it was founded, including the judging of Highland and commercial beef cattle, Blackface sheep, poultry, baking, preserves, horticulture, painting, and much more.

There are also competitions for dogs so people are invited to bring along their four-legged friends also.

The show ground centres on the village shinty field, where entertainment includes pipe band music and a keenly contested junior shinty tournament.

Mrs Walker continued: 'Dalmally Show is run by a dedicated group of local volunteers, who agonise, persevere, beg, borrow and encourage throughout the year, bringing the community together for this highlight in the Argyll calendar.'

'It's a great little show which continues to go from strength to strength. We look forward to greeting old and new friends alike.'

The show is open to the public from 10am onwards.

Around the markets – Oban and Dalmally

Oban – United Auctions held their third sale of all classes' lambs and sheep at Oban Livestock Centre when 4266 head was sold. This was an increased entry of 1042 head.

Principal lots and prices.
Lambs
SUFFx: £57.50 – Mid Farm : £57.00 – Kilbride : £55.00 – Annat.
TEXx: £64.50 – Bonawe Home Farm : £63.50 – Auchnasaul : £62.00 – 123 Craigston (Barra) : £61.00 – Balligarve : £59.00 – Dalvuie : £58.50 – Balvicar Farm : £57.50 – Balnagown : £56.50 – 2 Baligrundle : £55.00 – 123 Craigston (Barra).
CHEV £55.00 – Park Farm : £53.50 – Rhulios (Barra) : £53.50 – 17 St Brendan Rd (Barra) : £53.00 – Ballard (Coll).
CROSS £45.00 – Mid Farm : £45.00 – Lamlash.
MULE £45.00 – Frackersaig.
HAMPx: £46.00 and £41.00 – Lochview (Mull).
BF £39.00 – Lamlash.
Ewes
TEXx: £60 – Bonawe Home Farm.
CHEV £47.50 and £45.00 – Ballard (Coll) : £42.00 – Treshnish Farm : £41.50 – 2 Allasdale (Barra) : £40.50 – Rhulios (Barra) : £40.00 – Dunmor.
CROSS £48.00 – Aird Farm.
MULE £51.00 – 2 Baligrundle.
BF £37.00 – Bonawe Home Farm.

Dalmally – United Auctions held their second sale of 3804 lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. All classes met with a slower trade on the week with averages levelling out at £44.08.
Principal lots and prices.
Top prices per head.
Lambs
SUFFx: £54.00 – Glenbrooke : £44.50 – 6 Leanish (Barra) : £44.00 – Maam Farm.
BELTx: £54.50 – Blarghour Farm.
TEXx: £75.00 – Tiretigan Farm : £61.50 – Ormsary Farmers : £61.00 – Clachan Farms (Kilninver) : £58.50 – Ormsary Farmers : £58.50 – Barguilean : £58.00 – Tiretigan Farm : £57.50 – Innischoeroch : £57.50 – Stonefield Farms.
CHEV £55.00 – Glenbrooke : £49.00 – Braefoot : £46.00 – Curacao : £45.00 – Bragleenbeg : £45.00 – 83 Borve (Barra).
CROSS £55.50 – Feorline : £55.50 – Keilbeg : £53.50 – Ricruin.
MULE £63.50 – Ormsary Farmers : £54.50 – Stonefield Farm : £53.50 – 83 Borve (Barra) : £53.00 – Glenshellach.
HAMPx: £47.50 – Glenbrooke
BF £54.00 – Feorline : £44.00 – Innischoeroch : £43.00 – Maam : £40.00 – 83 Borve (Barra).
Ewes
TEXx: £53.00 – 83 Borve (Barra):

£49.00 – Tombuie.
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CHEV 161p – Blackmount : 155p – Bragleenbeg : 153p – Blackmount.
CROSS 160p – Ricruin : 157p – Caddleton Farms : 156p – 56 Tangasdale (Barra).
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Repair and maintenance of housing falls by £451 million in Scotland as housing stock increases to 2.6 million

Repair and maintenance of public and private housing in Scotland has fallen by £451 million since 1997. At the same time, the number of homes in Scotland has increased by 341,650, meaning there has been a real-term per property decrease in repair and maintenance work of £313 since 1997.

The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) was introduced in February 2014. It requires social housing landlords to make sure their homes are energy efficient, safe and secure, not seriously damaged and have kitchens and bathrooms that are in good condition. Despite the consultations and introduction of standards – 34 per cent of Scottish homes failed to meet the Living Homes Standard last year, which was developed by the public across the UK to define what a good home should provide.

Mark Robinson, Scape Group chief executive, com-

mented: ‘There is a clear connection between the quality of housing and the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of the people that live there. A home shouldn’t negatively affect your health or hold back your opportunity to succeed in life. We are not doing enough to bring our homes up to a decent standard. £755 per property is totally inadequate. A new boiler, either combi, system or heat only, costs between £500 and £2,000, before taking into consideration installation costs.

‘New windows cost from £3,500 to £7,000 on a typical three-bedroom semi and damp proofing internal walls is estimated at £70 per metre or £280 per wall. It looks as though this is down to two key factors. First is the growth of the private rented sector in Scotland. Landlords are spending less on their properties than owner-occupiers. Secondly, despite the strides made building more social

homes in Scotland, there is not enough funding to repair and maintain existing stock.’

The number of people living in private rented homes in Scotland has increased rapidly since 2000, with most recent data estimating that there are 360,000 private rented homes in Scotland. Although the Scottish Government did consult on the safety and condition of private rented housing in 2017, the policy outcomes are yet to be implemented.

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Model shown is Hilux Invincible X 3.2t 2.4D 150 DIN hp MY18.5 Automatic at £37,750 including optional Metallic paint at £545. Prices correct at time of being published. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 28.8 (9.8) - 30.0 (9.3). Combined CO₂ 183 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.

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67	Renault Twingo 1M SCE,	White	8,700	£6,950	64	Dacia Duster LAU DCI 4x4,	Black	51,000	£7,950
66	Dacia Sandero Laureate DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,450	14	Nissan Micra Acenta,	Black	21,400	£5,950
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16	Vauxhall Corsa Design, 1.4 5dr,	Red	36,000	£6,500	62	Peugeot Active 1.7 Auto,	Grey,	64,000	£3,250
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Field Engineer

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Net Support Manager

Nevis Support Vessel

Loch Nevis, Mallaig

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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.

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Proposed Let of a Croft
Mr Donald James MacDougall is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft known as Oban Seil Croft, Isle of Seil, By Oban to Mr Donald Joseph MacDougall of Oban Seil Croft, Isle of Seil, By Oban, Argyll, PA34 4TN. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 – 13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

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
19/01778/LIB	Removal of existing aluminium lean-to greenhouse and gates, erection of replacement timber lean-to greenhouse and installation of replacement garage doors	Old Clachan Farmhouse, Clachan Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RH
19/01752/PP	Demolition of rear extensions and erection of replacement one and a half storey rear extension, installation of rooflights and roof mounted solar panels	10 Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6PE
19/01264/PP	Removal of condition 6 (croft management plan) relative to planning permission 17/01402/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank and soakaway)	Land North Of Yum Yum, Caolis, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/01626/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 20 metre high mast and associated works	Proposed Mast 407M West Of Duntanachan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/01729/PP	Rehabilitation works to dwellinghouse, erection of extension and installation of air source heat pump	2 Port Ramsay, Isle Of Lismore, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5UN
19/01737/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, outbuilding and installation of septic tank	Land North Of Penmore Mill, Penmore, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01623/PP	Change of use of detached garage to form residential annexe	The Kyles, Glenegeale, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7AS

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.

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Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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
19/03764/FUL	Mowi Scotland Ltd Loch Lochy Fish Farm, Gairloch	Proposed erection of food storage building
19/03731/FUL	Land 60M NW Of Achnasol House Achnabobane, Spean Bridge	Erection of house (retrospective amendment to planning permission 17/05834/FUL)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER HIGH SCHOOL, CAMAGHAEL, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7ND) (REVOCATION ORDER) 2019

TAKE NOTICE that The Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland ("The Council") have made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to revoke Planning Permission 19/00414/FUL for the installation of 250kW PV array at Lochaber High School, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7ND.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and occupier of the land that they do not object to the Order. The Council is of the opinion that no other person will be affected by the Order.

If you wish to have an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than the Third day of October Two Thousand and Nineteen.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Council shall confirm the Order upon the expiry of fourteen days from Third October Two Thousand and Nineteen and, upon the date of confirmation, the Order shall take effect.

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Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN)
(SPECIAL EVENT) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (NO. 2) ORDER 2019

On Monday 2nd September 2019, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16(B)(6)(b) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of a Motor-fest on or near those roads. The restrictions, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 0800 hours and 1800 hours on Sunday 15th September 2019.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.
Roads and Infrastructure Services,
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 ("the 2009 Act") AND
THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES, POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE AREAS AND LOCAL PLAN DISTRICTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2010 ("the 2010 Regulations")**
CAOL AND LOCHYSIDE FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2018

Notice is hereby given in terms of paragraph 10 of schedule 2 of the 2009 Act that on 15 August 2019 The Highland Council confirmed the Caol and Lochyside Flood Protection Scheme 2018 without modifications ("the Scheme"). The final decision was made in accordance with section 60 and paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act and Parts II, III & IV of the 2010 Regulations.

In accordance with paragraph 11 of Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act, the Scheme will become operative six weeks after notice of its confirmation is first published in a locally circulating newspaper, unless an appeal in accordance with paragraph 12 of schedule 2 of the 2009 Act is made against the Scheme before the expiry of the six week period (i.e. before 17 October 2019).

An appeal may be made by any person affected by the Scheme and is to be made by way of summary application to the Sheriff of the Sheriffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands: Sheriff Court House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EE. The grounds on which a decision to confirm the Scheme can be appealed are: (a) that the confirmed scheme breaches the restriction in section 61 (3) or does not comply with the requirement in section 61 (4) of the 2009 Act; (b) that, in reaching the decision, the local authority erred in law; or (c) that there was a failure to comply with a procedural requirement contained in Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act or the 2010 Regulations.

Stewart D. Fraser, Head of Corporate Governance, The Highland Council

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



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Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-Occupier Crofter

Dr Abigail Beasall is applying to divide the owner-occupier croft at Keills, Isle of Jura into 2 new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

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Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Lynch will be holding surgeries during the month of **SEPTEMBER 2019** as follows:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday 13th September	Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 17th September	Soroba Community Centre, 8A Scalpay Terrace, Soroba	6.00pm - 8.00pm

He can be contacted by email – Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893.

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on **Friday 27th September 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from 10.00am – 12 Noon.

He can be contacted by email – Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853.

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on **Friday 20th September 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

He can be contacted by email – Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562 444

Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on **Friday 27th September 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban** from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email – Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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PERSONAL NOTICE

THANK YOU!

On behalf of James, Kendal and all of the Tangney family we wish to say a sincere thank you to all of the Fort William community.

We have been overwhelmed with kindness, support and generosity since James' accident. A very special thanks to Bryan, Craig, Darren and Ross for the Three Peaks Challenge and everybody who contributed so generously to the JustGiving fund. Also the very successful Race Night in the shinty club. We feel very privileged to live in such a caring community. Thank you all very much for your support which is greatly appreciated by all of us.

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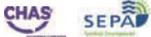
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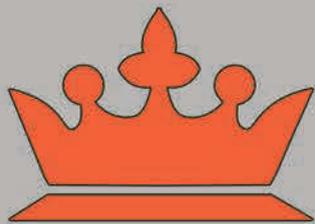
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DEATHS

CLEAVE - Peter died suddenly on September 1, 2019 at Lorn and Islands Hospital, age 86. Dear beloved husband of Joan for 64 years. A dear father to Andrew and Valerie and grandfather to Ciaran and Albin. Very sadly missed by all of the family.

GALBRAITH - Peacefully at A.R.I after a short illness on August 25, 2019 on her 99th birthday, Betty (Crawford) Galbraith, Kiloran, Isle of Colonsay. Beloved wife of the late Hugh (Shepherd), dear mother to Hugh, Calum, Henry and Mamie and a much loved mother-in-law, granny and great-granny. A lovely lady who will be sadly missed.

HOBHOUSE - On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, aged 66, Georgina Dehra Catherine Hobhouse. Peacefully in Oban Hospital, after a short illness and many years of struggling with MS. A huge loss to her family, the Colonsay island community and her large and diverse network of friends across the world. She will be lovingly remembered for a long time, by a lot of people. Funeral to be held in Colonsay on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 11 - all welcome.

KNEPIL - Peacefully in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban after a long illness in her 79th year, Krysten. Funeral Service to take place at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 10.00am. A private cremation will follow.

MACLURG - Niall Iain Maclurg, aged 56, suddenly at his home in Tarves on August 26, 2019. Youngest son of the late Margaret (Meg) and John (Jack) Maclurg, formerly Dalmally. In accordance with his wishes, Niall has been cremated with no service. He will be remembered fondly by many, just remember the good times.

McARTHUR - On Wednesday August 28, 2019, in his 87th year, John McDonald McAllister McArthur, a dear brother and uncle. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Esplanade, Oban on Wednesday, August 11 at 10.00 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

McARTHUR - Matilda Avril Jane McAulay McArthur. Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on August 26, 2019, (Matilda) Avril, of 47 MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, loving wife of the late Neil McArthur, cherished mother to Jean, Caroline, Catherine, Neil and Fiona, elder sister of Mary, Elizabeth and Ben, and a sorely missed grand-

mother and mother-in-law. Dear aunt to all the family. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Monday, September 2, 2019, followed by interment at Achabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

MILLICAN - Charles William. Peacefully at home on Sunday, August 25, 2019, Charles, beloved husband of Ruth and much loved Dad of Donald, Kirsty and Calum. Burial at Rutherglen cemetery on Friday, September 6 at 11am followed by a service in Queen's Park Baptist Church, Balvicar Drive, Glasgow at 12 noon. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research.

SIM - Elizabeth (Betty). Suddenly at home, on September 1, 2019, Betty, aged 86, much loved wife of the late Ian Sim, mother of Robert, Alexander and Philip and Granny of Jamie, Katie, Jennifer, Michael and Lindsey. Funeral at Falkirk Crematorium on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 12.15pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACLUGASH - Ernie. The family would like to thank all who attended the funeral or sent cards or flowers and expressed sympathy, or gave us support. Thank you to Carol and Brian Fallows for being so helpful to us by enabling our arrangements for Ernie's funeral service in Fort William Baptist Church. Thanks also to Alan Smillie for conducting the service and Frances Sedgewick for playing music for the hymns. Thanks to John Flannigan of McLellan Undertakers for his helpfulness. Thank you Dr Tregaskis and the paramedics at Belford hospital. Thank you Pulmonary Nurse Michelle Duffy of Raigmore Hospital. Very special thanks to Glen Mor surgery staff, who treated Ernie with such kindness and expertise during his long illness and when he died suddenly, but peacefully at home. Thanks to all who generously donated towards the total £558.65p for Glen Mor Surgery (Equipment Fund).

O'DONNELL - The O'Donnell family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, words of support, flowers and cards during our sad loss of Danny; a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A special thank you to Dr John Wallace for always going above and beyond in his care and to his colleagues at Craig Nevis Surgery. Thank you to Craig Gardiner and the Community Nurses for their professionalism and compassion. We would also

like to thank Fr Roddy, Fr David and Fr Emmanuel for their words of comfort, McDonald Bros for their lovely flower arrangements, Caol Community Centre for the funeral tea and McFall Funeral Directors for their professionalism. Finally, many thanks to all who came to pay their last respects to Danny and generously donated £1061.67 to the community nurses.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Kenny, dearly beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle who passed away on September 9, 2018 also remembering with love my dad Donald, who died 30 years ago on July 30, 1989. Remembering you is easy, we do it every day

Missing you is the heartache that never goes away.
- Ian, Alyson and family.

CAMPBELL - Cherished memories of Colin, a loving husband, dad, gramps, and great-gramps, who died September 5, 2015.

Greatly missed by us all.
- Lorna and family.

CRAVEN - In memory of our brother Billy, who passed away on September 3, 2009. Always remembered, never forgotten.

- Marleen and Allan.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Angus, very deeply loved and so sadly missed, 3/9/2017, also Donnie, forever in our thoughts, 1/8/2017.
- The MacColl family.

MOYES - In loving memory of Ted, a dear dad and grandpa who died September 9, 2014.

Nothing can ever take away the love a heart holds dear. Fond memories linger every day remembrance keeps him near.

- Anne, Caroline, Ted and families.

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The Big Sing comes to Tarbert



The event will be held at Tarbert Parish Church.

Members of South Argyll Guilds Together (SAGT) are inviting those who love to sing to join them at their Wee Big Sing in Tarbert.

The Big Sing is a national event held at the Church of Scotland's General Assembly, bringing together almost 1,000 guild members and friends from across the world in celebration of congregational singing.

A SAGT spokeswoman said: 'It is always oversubscribed and held far from here so, undaunted, we are holding our own, smaller version - hence the title.

'We will sing our favourite

hymns, chosen by the guilds of the area.

'It will be our own Songs of Praise.'

The spokeswoman stressed that although the event is organised by the guild, it is not just for the guild: 'If, like us, you feel congregational singing is one of the glories of the Presbyterian tradition, then come along and sing to the glory of God. Male voices would be especially welcome.'

The Wee Big Sing will be held at Tarbert Parish Church on Saturday, September 7, at 2pm, followed by tea and biscuits in the church hall.

Generous CalMac grant sees Mull school pipe band able to expand

The skirl of the pipes will soon be heard even louder on Mull, after Tobermory High School Pipe Band successfully bid for a grant to help them expand.

The band was given £2,000 from ferry operator CalMac's Community Fund to help them buy equipment for new members. An expanded band will create more opportunities for a wider range of children and allow for sustainable music tuition to be taught in schools across Mull and Iona.

Pipe Major Calum Maclean said: 'The CalMac Community Fund has helped our youth pipe band grow so we are more able to represent our community at local and national events.'

CalMac's Community Fund is open to non-profit organisations involved in activities that will benefit young people aged 26 and under from island or coastal communities the company supports. So far the fund has supported 24 projects and invested £43,435 in west coast communities.



Delighted Tobermory Pipe Band members with their CalMac cheque.

'The response since we made the first round of awards earlier in the year has been fantastic. I'm delighted we are now helping to bring the joy of piping to more young people on Mull and Iona,' said CalMac's Director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement Brian Fulton.

Each application was judged by a screening panel of young people recruited from across the company's network, in partnership with Young Scot.

Other grants awarded in the Inner Hebrides and Oban included £2,000 for Craignure Recreational Activity Facility Team in support of

their Craignure Playpark; £2,000 to Family Mediation Argyll and Bute to help fund their Tiree School Peer Mediation project; £2,000 to North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd for their We Care project and £2,000 to Oban Otters Amateur Swimming Club to support their CalMac Swim Challenge 2019.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Faith is good for you - if that faith confirms the love of God for every last one of us upon this earth, including in Argyll.

For we operate at our best for ourselves, for others and this planet when we do so from the firm base of love. And God gifts humanity love so we can be God's co-workers sharing this same love.

St Paul wrote to a wee church in Colossae saying: 'For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him.'

So many of us in our pressurised 21st-century seem to have lives unfulfilled, lacking fullness. Hence the desire to change who we are, how we are, what we look like, what we own. And such high standards are

set for the perfect life. The strange thing is that as the church has relaxed about so much, and has found itself more on the margins - and able to do the right thing in God-surprising ways in our weakness, the world in which we live has become more puritan. You have to say and think the right thing or you are not respected. You have to be fit - no place for excess carbs; eat a perfect diet - lots of salad. You are to have perfect children and take perfect holidays and have a home that looks like a show-house.

And all the time you are to be happy. And should you sag, then Botox will fit you with a permanent grin.

You could say that the puritans are taking over.

May the church be the place of acceptance, forgiveness and understanding - and a spirituality of deep faith - where the fullness of our true selves are found in God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

Rev Dugald Cameron,
Kilmore and Oban.

Oban Rotary Pairs Bowling Competition

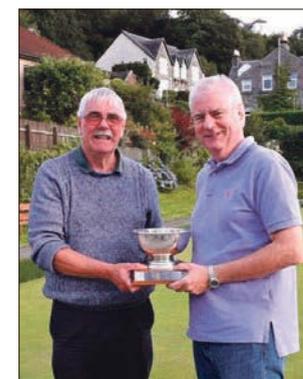
The final of the 2019 Rotary Pairs Bowling Competition took place at Oban Bowling Club on August 27 with Lachie Beaton and Tommy McQuade taking on Graham Innes and Alan Hoar.

The final was a closely contested match with the two novices, Tommy and Alan, playing particularly well as leads, with Tommy proving adept at hitting and dragging the jack.

The lead changed hands at almost every end and at the start of the final end Lachie and Tommy were leading by a single shot.

Once again Tommy dragged the jack to a tricky position at the edge of the rink with his touching bowl lying shot in the ditch. Graham and Lachie then attempted to get their bowls closer to the jack and managed to do so with three of their bowls.

These bowls were subsequently measured resulting in Graham and Alan scoring



Graham Innes, left, and Allan Hoar.

two shots and winning the match 11-10 and with it the Millennium Bowl presented by the late Dennis Cathro.

Thanks go to Oban Bowling Club for hosting the event and making the visiting Rotarians so welcome.

Special thanks go to senior Oban bowler Alex Carmichael for his commentary on the final and his pinpoint gems of advice to the four finalists.

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Shinty's greatest prize, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, is up for grabs when Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore meet in the final at An Aird on Saturday September 14.

This is a repeat of the 2016 final which was played at the same venue. It was a close affair which Newtonmore won 1-0 courtesy of a Glen MacKintosh goal but the feeling from within the Oban Camanachd camp is that they didn't do them-

selves justice that day.

The sides have yet to meet this season, as was the case ahead on the 2016 final.

Newtonmore, chasing a fourth successive final success, have had a tough route to this year's final. It began with a 1-1 home

draw with Lovat when it took an Iain Robinson goal just 10 minutes from time to earn a replay which 'More won 3-0 at Balgate with Ewen Fraser scoring twice and Fraser MacKintosh getting the other.

Skye were edged out

2-1 in the quarter-final, with Glen MacKintosh and Iain Robinson on target, and Steven Macdonald despatched two penalties in an epic 7-5 semi-final victory over Caberfeidh.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh has concerns surrounding

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Glen MacKintosh, who is an injury doubt for this year's clash, while teammate Michael Russell is working his way back to fitness.

Oban Camanachd started this year's campaign with a 2-1 victory against Glenurquhart with Andrew MacCuish and Daniel MacVicar getting the goals. Andrew MacCuish made the difference as Kinlochshiel were eliminated 2-1 in the quarter-final while Daniel Cameron's brace, and another goal from Andrew MacCuish, secured a 3-0 semi-final triumph over Kyles Athletic.

Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss will miss the influential Scott Mac-

Millan in midfield as he is suspended. However, youngster Daniel Sloss, who has proved to be such a key player this term, has recovered from a knock sustained in the team's last outing at Caberfeidh.

Speaking ahead of the final, Oban Camanachd manager Steven Sloss said: 'We have the Celtic Society Cup in the bag, we lost out in the Macaulay final and are doing fine in the league, with a number of games still to play, so 2019 will always go down as a good season. However, the fact is that it will go down as a fantastic season which will be talked about for years to come if we can win the Camanachd Cup.'

It really is a night and day difference.

'We are training every night ahead of the final and we'll have a game against Lochside coming up to help with our preparations.'

'Following last Saturday's postponement against Kinlochshiel, we will now be three weeks without a game as we're not able to play on the Saturday before the final because of the South v North U21 game. That's far from ideal, and something that should be looked at, but at least it is the same for Newtonmore.'

'These opportunities don't come around all that often and some great shinty players have never

played in a Camanachd Cup final. A Camanachd Cup win would be a monkey off the back for our younger players while it might be a last chance of Scottish success for some of the more experienced guys.'

For those who can't make the game, the final will be televised live. Throw-up is at 2pm and Robert Baxter, who also refereed the 2016 final, is the match official. He will be assisted by Fort William goal judges Iain Kennedy and John Wood while Des McNulty, Tina Marshall, Andy MacLean and Steven MacLachlan will run the lines. Skye's John Angus Gillies is the fourth official.

The gates at An Aird open at 10 am – and the Kids' Zone will open right through from then. The MacMaster Under-14 Cup final will be played at 11am before the Camanachd final begins at 2.15pm.



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Weather plays havoc with

Mowi Premiership

**Kinlochshiel P
Newtonmore P**

Champions Newtonmore missed out on the chance to lead the Mowi Premiership for the first time this season when their noon throw-up against Kinlochshiel was postponed.

Kinlochshiel's new Reraig pitch failed a Saturday morning inspection following persistent overnight rain.

Kinlochshiel now have three matches remaining. They host Oban Camanachd on Saturday September 21 and travel to Kingussie on Saturday October 5. The date for the re-scheduled meeting with Newtonmore has still to be confirmed.

Newtonmore remain in second place in shinty's top flight with 20 points and five matches remaining. Their next league fixture is at Kyles Athletic on Saturday September 21 before home matches against Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic the following two Saturdays. Newtonmore then travel to face Oban Camanachd on Saturday October 19, with the visit to Kinlochshiel still to be re-scheduled.

Newtonmore can still finish the season on 30 points.

The trip to Kinlochshiel was Newtonmore's final match ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final against Oban Camanachd at An Aird on Saturday September 14.

Their second team fixture against Aberdeen University this weekend allows Michael Russell and Glen MacKintosh the chance to prove their fitness following injury and stake a place in the cup final squad.

**Kingussie P
Caberfeidh P**

The 3pm throw-up between Artemis Macaulay Cup winners Kingussie and Caberfeidh at the Dell was called off on Saturday morning.

Kingussie stay third on 19 points with six matches remaining. Arguably, they have the more straight-forward run-in. Their next fixture is at home to Inveraray on Saturday September 21. Their final matches take place on successive Saturdays and are Caberfeidh, away, Kinlochshiel, home, Kyles Athletic, away, and Kilmallie, away, with the meeting with Caberfeidh at the Dell

still to be re-scheduled. Kingussie can still finish the season on 31 points.

Seventh-placed Caberfeidh have 12 points with four fixtures remaining. They are already ahead of last year's total of 10 points which earned eighth spot.

Caberfeidh still have visits to Lovat and Kyles Athletic, either side of a home meeting with Kingussie with the away clash with Kingussie still to be confirmed.

**Lochaber P
Oban Camanachd P**

Wet weather claimed another casualty as the clash between Lochaber and Oban Camanachd at Spean Bridge was postponed on Saturday morning.

Relegation-threatened Lochaber are on seven points with two matches left to save their season. They have a noon meeting with Kyles Athletic at Spean Bridge scheduled for Saturday September 14, whilst the Oban Camanachd clash is still to be re-scheduled.

This was Oban Camanachd's final fixture ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final against Newtonmore at An Aird on Saturday September 14.

Thereafter, Oban Camanachd's remaining six league fixtures sees them travel to Kinlochshiel on Saturday September 21 and, on successive Saturdays thereafter, they play Newtonmore, away, Inveraray, home, Lovat, away, and Newtonmore, home, with the trip to Lochaber still to be re-scheduled.

Oban Camanachd can finish the season on 28 points.

**Kyles Athletic P
Kilmallie P**

The clash between Kyles Athletic and Kilmallie at Tighnabraich was postponed as the Kilmallie club attended the funeral of former youth player Matthew Duncan.

Kyles Athletic still have six games left. They travel to Lochaber on Saturday September 14 with a trip to Newtonmore the week after. Kyles visit Newtonmore on Saturday October 5 with home matches on consecutive Saturdays thereafter against Kingussie, Caberfeidh and Kilmallie.

Kilmallie are on nine points,



In one of only four matches to beat the weather Boleskine took on Lewis Camanachd. Our photograph shows Boleskine's Rory Campbell and Paddy Sinclair, Lewis Camanachd, in a race for the ball. Photographs: Neil Paterson

two points ahead of Inveraray and Lochaber in their battle to beat the drop.

Kilmallie have a wait to play their final two games which are at home to Kingussie on Saturday October 19, with a trip to Kyles the week after.

Inveraray will have finished their season by then having made trips to Kingussie and Oban Camanachd.

Mowi National Division

**Skye Camanachd P
Glasgow Mid Argyll P**

Skye Camanachd's clash with Glasgow Mid Argyll was postponed on Friday afternoon as Paic nan Laoch was waterlogged.

Glasgow Mid Argyll can finish the season on 23 points and, with four matches remaining, they are still favourites to secure second spot and promotion to the Mowi Premiership. However, they still have to do.

GMA host Strathglass on Saturday September 14 and finish the season with away matches the following three Saturdays at Fort William, Strathglass and Skye.

Skye can still reach 19 points but their promotion hopes rest on beating Glenurquhart at Paic nan Laoch on Saturday September 21 and GMA at the same venue a fortnight later in their two remaining games whilst also hoping GMA slip up.

**Oban Celtic P
Strathglass P**

The wet weather through Friday night into Saturday morning led to the postponement of the match between Oban Celtic and Strathglass at Ganavan.

This encounter has been re-sched-

uled for Saturday September 21, with Oban Celtic's final match at home to Glenurquhart a week later. Strathglass finish with September matches at GMA and Oban Celtic and a home clash with GMA.

**Bute P
Glenurquhart P**

Bute's 2pm throw-up with promotion hopefuls Glenurquhart at the Meadows was called off on Saturday morning as heavy rain meant the pitch on Rothesay was mainly under water. Bute will finish their season with matches at Beaulay and at home to Glenurquhart.

Glenurquhart have three matches to go and can finish the season on 20 points.

Their promotion hopes rest on winning at Skye on Saturday September 21 and at Oban Celtic and Bute on the two Saturdays thereafter, whilst also hoping GMA slip up.

Strathdearn Cup Final

**Newtonmore P
Fort William P**

There was disappointment for the Newtonmore colts and the Fort William colts as the Strathdearn Cup Final, a 4pm throw-up at Bught Park, Inverness, had to be postponed as there was water lying on the pitch.

Newtonmore's Calum Stewart would have missed the final as he started a two-match suspension following his sending off against the Kingussie seconds a week earlier.

Instead, he will begin his ban in a re-scheduled Mowi North Division 1 noon throw-up against Aberdeen University at the Eilan this Saturday, September 7.

Cameron McNiven will also miss

that game as he begins a two-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

The journey to the Eilan will be a fourth consecutive away match for the students who haven't played at Balgownie since early July. However, only two of their remaining six games are at home as they struggle to move off the bottom of the table.

Mowi North Division 1

Glenarry P

Skye Camanachd P

Mowi North Division 1 league leaders Glenarry's match against the Skye Camanachd second team at Craigard was postponed.

The early indications on Saturday morning were that the game could go ahead, but heavy rain left the pitch unplayable.

**Lovat P
Inverness P**

The Lovat reserves match against the Inverness first team was called off on Saturday morning when Balgate was ruled unplayable.

**Caberfeidh P
Glenurquhart P**

The game between Caberfeidh reserves and the Glenurquhart reserves was postponed on Saturday morning.

A pitch inspection found several large pools of water on the Castle Leod pitch, with no let-up in the rain.

**Kingussie P
Aberdeen University P**

The noon throw-up between the Kingussie seconds and Aberdeen University was postponed when it was deemed the Dell could not host two matches.

Mowi South Division 1

**Tayforth 3
Lochside Rovers 2**

Tayforth came from two goals down to beat Lochside Rovers 3-2 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Peffermill.

It has been a good season for Tayforth who went into the game in second place in the table, a significant improvement on last season's second bottom finish. Although they had a couple of absentees, Tayforth listed a strong squad for their final match of the season.

Lochside's impressive 14 match winning run ended the previous weekend when they lost out in a title showdown with Aberdour.

With George Easton and Gareth Evans unavailable, Andrew Pearson took sole charge of the Oban side and he travelled with just 13 players. Lochside were missing their entire defence with Gavin Stobart, Chrissie MacMillan, skipper Jordan Kerr and the suspended Scott Robertson all out. Michael MacQueen, Jamie MacGillivray and Brian MacCallum were amongst the

Fixtures

Saturday 7 September
Mowi North Division 1

Newtonmore v Aberdeen Uni
Iain Kennedy - noon

Caol Cup - Under 21
Representative Match

South v North
Des McNulty - 2pm -
at Taynuilt.



Women's Camanachd Association

Marine Harvest

Challenge Cup Final

Lovat v Inverness
Lucy McNulty - 1.45pm -
at The Dell, Kingussie.

Valerie Fraser
Camanachd Cup final

Skye v Badenoch
Ross Brown - 4pm -
at The Dell, Kingussie.

fixtures



Results

Saturday August 31 Strathdearn Cup Final

Newtonmore P v P Fort William

Mowi Premiership

Kingussie P v P Caberfeidh
Kinlochshiel P v P Newtonmore
Kyles Athletic P - P Kilmallie
Lochaber P v P Oban Camanachd

Mowi National Division

Bute P v P Glenurquhart
Oban Celtic P v P Strathglass
Skye P v P Glasgow Mid Argyll

Mowi North Division 1

Caberfeidh P v P Glenurquhart
Glengarry P v P Skye
Kingussie P v P Aberdeen Uni
Lovat P v P Inverness

Mowi South Division 1

Glasgow MA 3 v 0 Col Glen
Kyles Athletic P v P Ballachulish
Tayforth 3 v 2 Lochside Rovers

Mowi North Division 2

Boleskine 5 v 0 Lewis
Kilmallie P - P Strathspey

Mowi South Division 1

Ardnamurchan 7 v 0 Bute

others unable to travel. There was a debut in attack for 13-year-old Callum MacMillan, whilst his father, David MacMillan, came out of retirement to feature in a revamped defence.

A second father and son combination saw Johnny Campbell up front with his son Ross Campbell at the back.

Kieran Pearson featured again and his 13-year-old brother Daniel Pearson was on the bench, coming on late in the game.

With Oban Camanachd's trip to Lochaber called off, Blair MacFarlane was added to the Lochside squad and he featured on the wing, whilst David Lafferty travelled from Glasgow to play at full centre.

This was a game of two halves with Lochside having a strong wind in their favour in the first period. Despite the elements, the pitch was in immaculate condition.

David Lafferty did his chances of catching the eye of Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss ahead of the Camanachd Cup Final no harm when he put Lochside ahead on 20 minutes. The goal came from a corner which was cleared to about 25 yards out where David Lafferty sent a drive into the top left-hand corner of the net.

Evan MacLellan, playing his first match since picking up an injury in the HIS Sutherland Cup Final, made it 2-0 on 36 minutes. This

goal came from a free-hit played out wide before Evan MacLellan took a shot from just outside the box which went into the bottom left-hand corner of the goal.

Such was the strength of the wind, Tayforth struggled to get up the pitch during the first 45 minutes but they managed to create a couple of dangerous attacks.

Lochside led 2-0 at half-time but Tayforth now had the elements and they went on to dominate the remainder of the game.

It took good goal-keeping from Lochside custodian Dougie MacDonald to keep his side in front and, despite their pressure, it didn't look as if it would be Tayforth's day.

Lochside remained 2-0 in front until 16 minutes from time but former Lochcarron player Finlay Stark made his mark on the match as he pulled a goal back when he hit a low drive into the far bottom corner of the net following a well-worked free-hit to make it 2-1.

The goal gave Tayforth belief and they continued to push on with Lochside tiring.

They hosts equalised with 10 minutes remaining when a well-struck Donnie Forbes shot went into the roof of the net from around the penalty spot to make it 2-2.

A second goal from Finlay Stark with five minutes remaining proved to be the winner. Stark's effort was another low drive that took a bounce

Continued on page 60



Lewis keeper Willie MacLeod saves from Boleskine's James Anderson.

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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

J Stevenson
Stewarton
J Macmillan
Barcaldine

Continued from page 59.

just in front of the keeper, enough to evade him, and the ball ended up in the back of the net to make it 3-2.

The win completes Tayforth's season and they currently sit in second place, three points ahead of third-placed Lochside who still have four games to play.

Lochside are back in action on Saturday September 21 when Col Glen visit Oban. They then have trips to Kyles Athletic and Ballachulish before hosting Taynuilt on successive Saturdays.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Col Glen 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team boosted their chances of beating relegation to Mowi South Division 2 when they overcame Col Glen 3-0 at Yoker.

Calum McLay scored on 27 minutes to give the hosts the lead with what proved to be the only goal of the first half.

It was Calum McLay again for GMA, making it 2-0 three



Kieran Macdonald, Lewis, shields the ball from Boleskine's Chris Cameron.

WCA Cup Final Day - preview

Saturday September 7 sees the Women's Camanachd Association's Cup Final day at the Dell, Kingussie.

First up is the Mowi Challenge Cup Final between last year's beaten finalist Inverness and Lovat.

The sides have met twice in the league this season with Mowi North Division 2 leaders Lovat winning both.

Scottish international Laura Gallacher and Fiona Urquhart are a real threat for Lovat going forward, whilst Katie McMillan for Inverness is another who has been amongst the goals this season. Inverness keeper Caitlin Mutch will also be important to her team's chances.

Throw-up is at 1.45pm and Lucy McNulty is the match referee.

The main event is the Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final between 2017 winners Skye Camanachd and holders Badenoch.

This is a repeat of last year's final at the same venue which Kingussie won 4-1. The teams have met twice in the league this term with each team winning on their opponent's ground.

Lorna MacRae, Rhianna Kirk and Caitlin MacLean will be key to Skye's chances, with the more experienced Sarah Corrigan always an influence.

Kirsty Deans, Elizabeth MacGregor, Rona Stewart and Zoe Reid are important to Badenoch's plans.

Balliemore Cup Final referee Ross Brown, who was part of the Scotland Ladies coaching team until last year, takes charge of the match.

This year's final will be broadcast live on BBC ALBA. Throw-up is at 4.05pm.

minutes into the second half.

McLay completed his hat-trick on 79 minutes to seal the 3-0 win.

The youngster's scoring prowess this season has earned him a call-up to the South U21 squad but he is unable to play in this weekend's clash against the North U21 as he attends a wedding.

The win moves GMA off the bottom of the table at the expense of Inveraray reserves.

Kyles Athletic P Ballachulish P

The heavy rain led to the cancellation of the 1pm throw-up between the Kyles Athletic seconds and Ballachulish at Tighnabruaich.

Mowi North

Division 2

Boleskine 5 Lewis Camanachd 0

Boleskine finish fifth in the division after beating Lewis Camanachd 5-0 in their 2pm throw-up at Smith Park.

This was the only match to go ahead in the north and Boleskine, with Sandy Fraser at the back and Rory Campbell in midfield, had plenty of options with David Bowman, Paul Noble, Reece Munro, Stevie Munro and Keith Nicholson making up a five-man bench.

Lewis Camanachd had Daniel Gallagher and Michael MacLeod in defence whilst Scott MacLeod and Innes Lamont were in midfield. Donald Lamont was a substitute alongside Craig MacRitchie and Dylan Murray.

James Anderson gave Boleskine the lead, beat-



Ronan Sinclair, Lewis, battles for the ball with Boleskine's James Anderson. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

ing Lewis keeper Willie MacLeod on five minutes. Ross Anderson made it 2-0 at the break after a goal on 31 minutes.

Neil Hope added a third on 57 minutes, whilst Ross Anderson completed his hat-trick on 68 and 75 minutes.

The teams also competed for the Boleskine Challenge Cup and the match completed the season for both sides.

Kilmallie P Strathspey P

The clash between the Kilmallie seconds and Strathspey Camanachd at Canal Parks was postponed as the Kilmallie club attended the funeral of former youth player Matthew Duncan.

Mowi South

Division 2

Ardnamurchan 7 Bute 0

Ardnamurchan finished their season on a high, recording their first victory of the year, as they defeated the Bute second team 7-0 at Strontian.

Craig MacDonald opened the scoring with a goal on eight minutes.

Neil Mellis made it 2-0 on 27 minutes, with Aaron Mellis adding a third on the half hour mark.

Calum Ritchie made it 4-0 on 35 minutes and a second goal from Neil Mellis four minutes later ensured there would only be one winner.

Calum Ritchie got his second goal of the game a minute after the restart whilst Aaron Mellis did likewise on 71 minutes to crown the 7-0 victory.

WCA round-up

There was a limited Women's Camanachd Association programme as Macaulay association area representative trials were scheduled.

Caol Cup clash - South U21 v North U21 preview

The annual Caol Cup match between South U21s and North U21s takes place at Taynuilt Sports Field on Saturday September 7.

The North were narrow winners in 2016 and 2018 with the fixture not taking place in 2017.

However the South, under the guidance of head coach Kenny Wotherspoon, have been working hard ahead of this one. An initial squad of 30 players was whittled down to a pool of 20 before the final squad was selected.

There are five new caps with Oban Camanachd duo Blair MacFarlane and Craig Easton, Oban Celtic's Lewis McPhee, Kyles Athletic's Conor Kennedy and Bute's Ryan Craig selected for the first time. Glasgow Mid Argyll's Calum McLay would have been involved but is unavailable leaving one place up for grabs which will be confirmed following the midweek friendly at Inveraray.

The players who leave the age group from 2018 are Oban Celtic's Andy MacDonald, Ross Macrae from Kyles Athletic, Ballachulish's Cain MacPhee and Connor Howe who is now at Inveraray.

South head coach Kenny Wotherspoon is looking forward to the game. He said: 'I enjoy the responsibility of leading the South squad. It was close at Invergarry last year and I think we now have a stronger pool of players than 12 months ago.'

'It has been a few years since the South have won this clash, back to when the likes of Malcolm Clark, Gary McKerracher and Daniel Madej featured, so we are due a victory.'

'This match is part of a pathway through to the Scotland senior side so it's something we all take seriously and we'll go all out to win the game.'

'I have Daniel Cameron and Calum Fox with me as assistants and they are a big help. Daniel is a Scotland international and he brings all that experience and the boys look up to him, whilst Calum was Oban Celtic manager in 2015, before me, so he knows exactly what it's all about.'

South U21 from: Cameron Sutherland, Oban Camanachd; Scott MacLachlan, Inveraray; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Michael MacKinnon, Oban Celtic; Ross MacMillan, Oban Celtic; Jonny MacAskill, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Ruairaidh Graham, Inveraray; Conor Kennedy, Kyles Athletic; Blair MacFarlane, Oban Camanachd; Craig Easton, Oban Camanachd; Lewis McPhee, Oban Celtic; Ryan Craig, Bute; Scott MacDonald, Kyles Athletic; Daniel MacCuish, Oban Camanachd; Daniel MacVicar, Oban Camanachd, and Fraser Watt, Inveraray, with a player to be added following the Inveraray match.

The final North squad had yet to be confirmed at the time of going to press but the likes of Newtonmore's Iain Robinson, Lochaber's Findlay MacDonald and Innes Blackhall from Kilmallie are all unavailable.

The North have proved formidable in this encounter so a keenly contested clash is expected.

Throw-up is at 2pm and Des McNulty is the match referee.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



Lewis and Harris Ladies FC won the Highlands and Islands League Cup, defeating Clachnacuddin Ladies 7-0 in the final at the Caledonian Stadium, Inverness.

Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Last call for entries to Oban Bronze badminton event

Top flight club badminton players from all over Scotland will be shuttling into Oban at the end of the month.

Hosted by Oliver Sport UK at Atlantis Leisure, the Oban Bronze Tournament on Sunday September 22 will give gents, ladies and mixed doubles pairings three chances to claim a trophy at the end of an exciting day of competitive badminton.

BID4Oban is throwing its weight behind the event by covering the hall costs, while Oban Badminton Club's Bruce Aitkin is responsible for organising the competition.

Bruce said: 'I just thought it would be good to have an open event in Oban.'

'Members of clubs such as Oban, Lochgilhead and Campbeltown usually have to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh for amateur open competitions so we look forward to welcoming players from other regions to Argyll.'

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID, added: 'We are delighted to be able to help out.'



BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence and Oban badminton aficionado Bruce Aitken are getting behind the 2019 Oban Bronze Tournament.

'We have an excellent sports facility here in Oban and having a tournament of this standard is an excellent showcase for Atlantis and the town.'

Due to the unique tournament three-draw format, every pair is guaranteed a minimum of three full matches and has the chance to progress to a final regard-

less of ability. The format is triple consolation with three draws. Strong players stay in the A draw, while other players drop into the B and C section.

Entries have been flowing in from far and wide but there is still room for a few more. 'Ideally we are looking for 32 pairs in each draw but anywhere close to that

BADMINTON

should be good,' added Bruce. 'The tournament is aimed at intermediate to club players playing fun and competitive matches against others of the same standards, so we should have a good mix of players.'

Entries close on Friday September 6 at 10pm.

MOTO3



John McPhee puts pen to paper.

John McPhee retained by PETRONAS Sprinta Racing

Oban's John McPhee will remain with PETRONAS Sprinta Racing for 2020, extending his time with the team to once again line up in the Moto3 World Championship next year.

The 25-year-old put pen to paper at Silverstone ahead of his recent home race at the British Grand Prix.

A consistent front row qualifier and podium challenger in recent rounds of the championship, finishing third last time out at the Austrian Grand Prix, John has had a dream start to his time with PETRONAS Sprinta Racing. Aiming to use his highly successful first season with the team as a base to build on for 2020, he will start his second year with the squad as one of the sure-fire Moto3 title favourites.

John said: 'It's a fantastic feeling and I'm very grateful to have another great opportunity to work with such a great team. It's an honour to be a part of the family for another year. I have a job to finish between now and the end of the season and my focus will be on that, but I'm also excited for the future.'

'It's the first time in my career that I've had continuity and it's great for the team, for me and for the results. When things work as well as they are right now, it's invaluable. You can't explain how important it is for a rider.'

'To have the chance to start a second season with that feeling already there can only make us stronger.'

Time is of the essence for Otters group

A dozen Oban Otters volunteers, many of them parents of the swimmers, gathered at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday for a timely cause.

George Lawrie from Scottish Swimming travelled to Oban to deliver an accredited timekeeper course and as a result the volunteers are now certified to take their place poolside for club time trials and galas as well as providing their services to cover competitions further afield.

This complements the existing squad of judges, starters, timekeepers and trained officials who regularly contribute to help the club run like clockwork. Despite wide-

SWIMMING

spread automatic officiating equipment now available at many competitions, the traditional 'human' method is still an important part of the sport and essential when it comes to backing up the machinery and ensuring accuracy.

'An additional bonus of the role is that it offers the opportunity to get close to the action and excitement in the water,' added a club spokesperson.

'There is also an opportunity to progress through the training scheme and build on Scottish Swimming



Volunteers from Oban Otters Swimming Club underwent accredited timekeeper training at the weekend.

Officiating Qualifications. Who knows, maybe one day we be taking part in an international event.'

The volunteers may have a chance to put their skills to the test over the coming month when Islay and Jura

Dolphins join the Otters for a Gala on Saturday September 14.

This weekend nine members

of the squad travel to Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow for a regional meet.

OT

FOOTBALL



Oscar MacIntyre ready to sign his pro-youth form for Hibernian watched by his dad Boyd and Hibs coach Gareth Evans.

Oscar signs for the Hibeas

Our picture shows 14-year-old Oscar MacIntyre about to sign pro-youth forms for Hibernian FC in Edinburgh which will see him playing at under-16 level. Also in the picture are Oscar's father Boyd MacIntyre on the left and former player and now Hibernian head youth coach Gareth Evans.

Oscar joins his younger brother Jacob who is already with Hibernian playing for the under-14s. Jacob and Oscar attend Broughton Academy in Edinburgh under an SFA Football scholarship.

Oscar and Jacob are the grandsons of well-known Oban man Iain MacIntyre (Swallie) who was a founder member of Oban Saints FC and for many years a stalwart for the Oban Camanachd club.

The boys have trained with Oban Saints youths when on holiday in Oban.

GOLF

Bob fails to make the cut

Oban's Bob MacIntyre failed to make the cut in the Omega European Masters held at the Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club in Crans Montana, Switzerland, last week.

The Glencruitten left-hander carded a two over par 72 in the first round and a two under par in the second, to finish level par after two rounds but missed the cut by one shot.

Bob now moves on to Hamburg for the Porche European Open where he will be hoping for better luck.

Golf news from Craignure

Captain's Day: August 18 – Alec Cowe and Steve Wilson tied on 16 points (shortened to nine holes in atrocious conditions), with Alec winning on countback. Angus Cowe was third with 15 points.

Par 3 competition: August 25 – won by Pat Wilson with 20 points (nine holes). Pat has only been playing for eight weeks, so we expect even greater things in future!

John Angus Seniors Trophy: September 8 – open to anyone over 50 with a recognised handicap.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Results and fixtures

Sunday's results: Under 13s 1, Lochgilhead Red Star 5. On target for Saints was Kai MacKechnie. Ashfield Juniors v Under 14s, fixture unfulfilled, 3-0 win awarded to Saints. BSC Glasgow 4, Under 15s 3. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper, Lewis Campbell and Ross MacKay. Under 17s 3, Drumchapel Amateurs 1. Saints scorers were John Douglas, Connor Moore and Innes MacDonald.

Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Helensburgh; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Under 17s v Hillwood.

Oban bowlers go into o

With a total of 22 trophies up for grabs, Oban Bowling Club members have been aiming towards the club championship honours since the start of the season.

Fitting in the full-length ties around work, weather, leagues and other bowling commitments, not to mention life outwith the parameters of the green, is an achievement in itself. But, following the completion of the knock-out stages, the various competitions were brought to a conclu-

sion last month when all the finals were played, apart from the Gents' Balloted Triples which took place on Sunday (September 1).

Top class

Retaining his gents' championship title for the third consecutive year was 22-year-old Andrew Forbes who was given a tough time of it in the final by another young crusader, Colin Carmichael, before taking the win. Some top class bowls were delivered by both players.

The ladies' final was equally

as entertaining with Ayr bronze medallist Rosemary Miller launching a late comeback on seasoned campaigner Elizabeth MacGillivray who fought off the challenge to lay claim to her fifth championship title.

Many of this year's finals were closely fought with one or two going into extra ends. One such match was the Gents' Balloted Pairs between Duncan MacAlpine/Paul Mulligan and Malcolm Scott/Pat Murphy at which the players and a loyal band

of supporters required night vision equipment during the last few ends. MacAlpine and Mulligan won, we think!

Club president Iain Boyd commended all the players who had taken part in this year's tournaments as well as club members and interested parties who turned out over the weeks to support the players.

'As usual the weather has thrown up some challenges but everyone has been very accommodating and all the ties were played in great spirit with the standard of bowls exceptional.

Thank

'I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the club tournaments on this our 150th anniversary year, especially Donna MacLean (umpire), Helen MacLean (match secretary) and committee member Lilian Barrie, who took charge of the kitchen during the past month and made sure all our worthy finalists had a very welcome lunch/tea or even supper to come off to.'

Also being brought to a conclusion recently was the Oban BC Friday night triples



Ladies' champion Elizabeth MacGillivray.



Gents' champion Andrew Forbes.

Sure and Stedfast

Stedfast K	1
Oban Saints	4
Central Scottish 1B	

Oban Saints continued their winning start to the Central Scottish Amateur Football League campaign with a 4-1 away victory over Stedfast K at Scotstoun Sports Campus last Saturday afternoon.

A first-minute own goal from Stedfast fullback Robert McIntyre gave Saints an advantage which they never

looked back from before further strikes from Matty Kelly, Craig MacEwan and James Ford consolidated Saints position at the top of the fledgling Division 1B.

Paternity leave

Work, injuries, suspension and paternity leave deprived the Saints management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell of the services of six of the squad which had put nine goals past Clydebank on the previous Saturday.

David Beaton, Lewis

Cameron, Paul Carmichael, Daniel Croarkin, Cammy Hill and new dad Kerr Newbigging all dropped out to be replaced by Myles McAuley, Steven MacLeod, Matt Rippon and youngsters Gavin Forgrieve and Aaron McKay.

The match got off to the best possible start for Saints when Stedfast fullback Robert McIntyre headed past his own keeper inside the first minute.

Saints doubled their advantage after 20 minutes from a patient build-up involving Craig MacEwan, Ross Maitland and Matt Rippon. Getting forward to support the attack, Matty Kelly picked up Rippon's lay off and took full advantage of the space created to clip the ball from the edge of the Stedfast box away from the despairing right hand of George Riddick and into the bottom corner of the net.

After missing the previous week's match against Clydebank, Myles McAuley picked up where he had left off with another excellent performance in front of the Saints back four.

Matty Kelly, who put in an impressive performance in front of the watching Central League select manager, was upended by William Plommer wide on the Saints left in the 29th minute, giving Ross Maitland a chance to show his prowess with the deadball.

Maitland didn't disappoint and sent an excellent ball to the near post which was met perfectly on the run by Craig MacEwan, who bulleted a header into the roof of the net to further stretch Saints' advantage.

No chance

Grant Cathro then pulled one back for the home side. A rare lapse in concentration at the back had the Saints defence struggling and Cathro pounced with a hooked left-footed effort which gave Graham Douglas no chance.

Craig MacEwan and Matt Rippon both came close to adding to the scoring before referee Fox brought the first half to an end with Saints good value for their two-goal advantage.

Saints began the second period where they left off and skipper Dene Cassells



Willie Gemmell and Craig MacEwan congratulate James Ford on his superb goal. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Verdrive for club finals

tournament, also played throughout the season with one named substitute allowed for every team. This year's winners were Tinkerbell and The Lost Boys consisting of Colin Carmichael, Lorna Carmichael, Alec Carmichael and John McLaren.

With all the championship matches consigned to history, club members now have a packed month of more relaxed competition to look forward to.

This weekend it's Ladies' Day, with a triples competition being played, followed by the Ewan Campbell Triples taking place on Sunday.

On Saturday September 14, it's the turn of the Duncan Campbell Pairs (entries to be in by September 11) while the following Saturday, September 21, the Alasdair McNab Trophy will be up for grabs (entries to be in for September 18th).

A date for closing day has still to be confirmed.

2019 Roll of Honour - Ladies' Championship (singles): Winner, Elizabeth MacGillivray; Runner-up, Rosemary Miller. **Ardsheil Trophy (singles):** Winner, E MacGillivray; Runner-up, R Miller; **MacLean Senior Singles:**



Winners of the club championship tournaments 2019.

Winner, E MacGillivray beat Marion Carr. **Morag Skinner Cup (singles):** Winner, Helen MacLean. **Cummings Trophy (singles):** Winner, Fiona Scott; Runner-up, Pam McGuire. **Senior Handicap (singles):** Winner, P McGuire. **Junior Singles:** Winner, Emily Gargan. **Nominated Pairs:** Winner, H MacLean/Donna MacLean; Runner-up, Fiona Scott/Mari Park. **Balloted Pairs:** Winner, Lorna Carmichael/F Scott; Runner-up, Margaret MacAlpine/Kirsty Gargan. **Nominated Triples:** Winner, H MacLean/D MacLean/K Gargan; Runner-up, R. Miller/Sandra Grieve/Lillian Barrie. **Balloted Triples:** Winner, L Carmichael/R Miller/Jillian Webb;

Runner-up, H. MacLean/L.Barrie/ Jane Mulligan.

Gents' Championship (singles): Winner, Andrew Forbes; Runner-up, Colin Carmichael. **MacBrayne Trophy (singles):** Winner, Neil MacDougall; Runner-up, C Carmichael. **MacEwan Trophy (singles):** Winner, Robert Dairon; Runner-up, N MacDougall. **Centenary Handicap (singles):** Winner, C Carmichael; Runner-up, Paul Mulligan. **Senior Singles:** Winner, Neil MacDougall; Runner-up, R Dairon. **Nominated Pairs:** Winner, Duncan MacAlpine/C Carmichael; Runner-up, Iain Weir/Donald MacKinnon. **Balloted Pairs:** Winner, Duncan MacAlpine/P

BOWLS

Mulligan; Runner-up, Malcolm Scott/Patrick Murphy. **Senior Balloted Pairs:** Winner, Richard Baldwin/John Kidd; Runner-up, Neil MacDougall/Graham Innes. **Nominated Triples:** Winner, C Carmichael/Semple Barrie/P Mulligan; Runner-up, Patrick Freytag/Peter MacKinnon. **Balloted Triples:** Winner, Semple Barrie/Malcolm Scott/Roddie MacLeod; Runner-up, Richard Baldwin/David Reid/Luke Mulligan. **Mixed Pairs:** Winner, N MacDougall/Anne MacDougall; Runner-up, A Forbes/D MacLean.



Craig MacEwan takes on the Stedfast defence.

came within a hair's breadth of connecting with a Ross Maitand corner from the left after just three second-half minutes.

The home side's hopes of getting back into the match were dealt a blow when skipper James Harvey received his marching orders from referee Fox after picking up a second yellow card for dissent in the 54th minute.

Sensational

Saints then worked the ball up the left wing where a sensational jinking run into the box by James Ford was rewarded when his dinked finish evaded a last-gasp attempted goal-line clearance to nestle in the back of the net

and restore Saints' three-goal cushion.

Matt Rippon's contribution to a useful first outing of the season ended when his place was taken by 16-year-old Gavin Forgive.

Forgive came close to marking his competitive Saints debut with a goal, but his 70th-minute shot was charged down with James Ford's tap-in of the loose ball being ruled out for offside.

Both sides made changes for the closing 15 minutes with Robin Lim making way for David McLeary for the hosts and Saints withdrawing Ross Maitland in favour of 16-year-old Aaron McKay.

Saints used their numerical



Myles McAuley shows his strength in midfield.

advantage to keep the hosts under pressure and had further efforts from Myles McAuley, Gavin Forgive and Matty Kelly which narrowly failed to hit the target.

Robert McIntyre's late challenge on Gavin Forgive earned the Stedfast full-back a second yellow card which saw him leave the action in the 94th minute.

From the resulting free-kick, George Riddick saved his best until last to push Craig MacEwan's 28-yard dipping effort over the crossbar.

This was the last action of the match with Saints recording a well-deserved 4-1 win.

This Saturday the D & K

FOOTBALL

Lafferty-sponsored side are on their travels again when they take on Bridgewater at the Palace of Arts 4G on Glasgow's Paisley Road West, kick-off 2pm.

Matty Kelly and Lewis Cameron have been picked to play in a trial match for the Central Scottish League Select on Wednesday September 11.

Saints GG team's home game was called off last Saturday after Glenvale were unable to raise a team to make the journey to Oban.

Saints GG travel to East Kilbride on Saturday to take on Duncanrig in the league.



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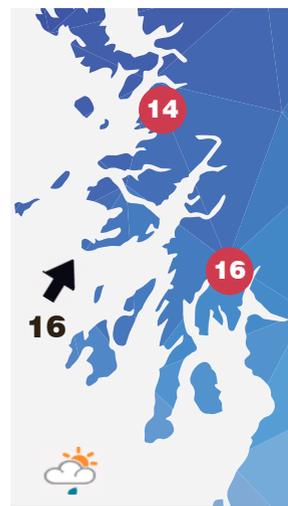


WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
12°C to 14°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Sunday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
10°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 5, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.53	1.1	09.35	3.3
	16.07	1.0	21.48	3.2
Fri	04.46	1.4	10.34	3.0
	17.03	1.4	22.46	2.9
Sat	05.51	1.7	12.18	2.9
	18.10	1.7	***	**
Sun	01.07	2.7	07.17	1.8
	14.05	2.9	19.39	1.8
Mon	03.46	2.8	08.53	1.7
	15.23	3.1	21.23	1.7
Tues	04.32	3.0	09.51	1.5
	15.57	3.3	22.18	1.6
Wed	04.40	3.2	10.34	1.3
	16.27	3.6	22.56	1.4

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.

Oban bowlers go into overdrive for club finals

Oscar signs for the Hibeas

Lorne off to a flying start

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



All roads lead to Glencruitten this Saturday as Oban Lorne RFC celebrate their first home game of the season with a rugby bonanza.

Following a stunning 43-8 victory on the road at Uddingston last weekend, Oban 1st XV welcome Paisley this Saturday for a West League 2 clash and, with the visitors also bringing a 2nd XV, their will be plenty competition for the home squad.

With an U18 fixture on as well, against Newton Stewart, it is going to be a busy day at Glencruitten.

'We have a couple of players who have been unavailable for the past few weeks coming back into the squad so we should be able to field two full teams without too much difficulty,' said Oban Lorne RFC head coach Andrew Johnston.

Finlay Carmichael is hopeful of returning at 10, after picking up a shoulder

injury down at the Moffat 10s in the first pre-season outing, while back row duo Owen McDonald and Lorne Sinclair also come back into contention after missing a few weeks with injury and other commitments.

Looking ahead to the game, Johnston added: 'Paisley will be a tough opposition but with a close to full strength team, Oban will be keen to make another statement about their league ambitions for the season.'

Captain Iwan Roberts is also hoping to build on last week's victory and is looking forward to welcoming Saturday's visitors.

'We want to hit the ground running and continue growing this effective game plan,' he told us.

'We always want Glencruitten to be a ground to which teams dread travelling to play, but look forward to the social side of the game.'

'On the pitch, we will be aiming to put in a big defensive effort to keep the tries



A delighted Oban Lorne squad after their 43-8 win away to Uddingston. Photos: Stephen Lawson

conceded to a minimum at home, as well as build that attacking platform to score some tries in front of the home crowd.

'Off the pitch, we ensure teams and their supporters are welcomed in to the clubhouse for a couple of drinks.

'We are confident we have the ability to beat Paisley, but

our heads will just be on the game plan of building the phases and earning the right to release our flyers on the outside.

'Hopefully, we can get a decent crowd down too, and showcase what we can do.'

Last weekend the Green Machine made the 104-mile journey to Uddingston to kick

off their 2019 West League 2 campaign.

Tries from Calum Maclachlan (3), Daniel Broderick, Craig Wright and Mitchell Smith kept the scoreboard ticking over with a penalty try and four conversions from the boot of Vasil Borisov also counting towards a magnificent vic-

RUGBY

tory. A full report can be found in the sport section of The Oban Times website.

Saturday's games: Oban Lorne U18s v Newton Stewart U18s (1pm); Oban Lorne 2nd XV v Paisley 2nd XV (1.30pm); Oban 1st XV v Paisley 1st XV (3pm).



Oban Lorne's new Australian signing Mitchell Smith dives over for a try.



Craig Wright barges his way through the Uddingston defence.



Calum Maclachlan goes over for one of his three tries.



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2019 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup preview



Oban Camanachd vs Newtonmore

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Parents blame council for damning school report

Archie to scale heights at Scottish championships

Fourteen-year-old Corpach climber and boulderer Archie MacIntyre is hoping for national success at the Scottish Youth Climbing Championships at the Ratho Climbing Centre, Edinburgh, this Saturday.

Archie, ranked second in his North of Scotland age group, narrowly missed representing Scotland at the Rab Climbing Works International Festival competition in Sheffield in March this year due to a thumb injury.

Now fully recovered, he is hoping to build on his credible seventh place finish last year as he pits himself against the best indoor climbers in the country.

Archie is pictured with Ian MacTavish, managing director of his sponsor, Lochaber Engineering and Welding, ahead of this weekend's event. Ian said he is delighted to be sponsoring Archie for a second year.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



by Neill Bo Finlayson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Parents of Duror Primary School pupils say the blame falls 'squarely on the shoulders of Highland Council' after the school received a damning inspection report.

Some parents have even threatened to pull their children out of the school if the council fails to improve the situation.

Last Monday, August 26, the school's parent council held a public meeting with Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes to discuss the report ahead of its publication the next day. To their surprise, 'almost the entire village' turned up to vent their anger at what some see as a 'death by cuts' closure of the school.

Parent Sara McNeill said the situation is down to a lack of staff support and resources. She fears the school is facing a 'slow, excruciatingly painful death' if problems persist.

She said: 'We can't expect chronically underfunded schools to perform well on in-

spection. If Highland Council was a commercial company, it would be unable to function in its current state.'

In the school report, the inspector said learning, teaching and assessment in the school was 'weak' and reported 'unsatisfactory' levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy. In particular, he noted the 'very high turnover in staff' was having a negative impact on teaching quality.

Since the turn of the year, the sole P2 to P7 composite class has been taught by eight different teachers.

The school, which had nine pupils at the time of the inspection, is part of a South Lochaber cluster, along with Glencoe and St Bride's, with one head teacher responsible for all three.

In a public statement, the parent council said the Highland Council imposed changes 'have had a terrible impact' leading to a 'loss of confidence' in its ability to run the school.

The parent council's concerns go beyond those

highlighted in the inspection report.

Transport provision for physical education, which has to be held in Duror Hall as the school is too small, has been cut by the council. Meanwhile, school lunches narrowly escaped the chop thanks to a late intervention from Kate Forbes.

Fears over pupil safety, teaching support and play-time supervision have also manifested since pupil support assistant (PSA) staff and hours were slashed earlier this year.

'Two weeks ago we warned the council that if there was no PSA support at the start of term, there would be no pupils there either,' continued Mrs McNeill. 'And miraculously, the PSA support was there full-time all week.'

Despite repeated attempts to contact council leaders to express their concerns, the parent council has not yet received a response.

Kate Forbes said she is 'very disappointed' in the

Continued on page 5

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Major concerns prompt meeting appeal

Major concerns have prompted the chairman of Lundavra Community Area Group to urge residents to attend a meeting on the future of the area.

Keen to improve amenities and the environment of Upper Achintore, Mark Linfield said the organisation will be forming a residents' group, supported by Karin McKay from the Highland Council.

'There is a lot to be tackled,' said Mr Linfield. 'We are pressing for improvements to the kickabout pitch behind Ross Place and would like a 'green' footpath between Lochview and Lochaber Road. We need to be alert to concerns about peat removal and possible flooding arising from the recently approved 325-house development below Cow Hill, and we also have the council's housing scheme in the school site.'

Mr Linfield continued: 'We have major concerns that the developer's contribution income from the Cow Hill site will be used outwith our area. This is unacceptable. Our community will have the impact of this huge development so it should also have the benefits. We need to urgently improve the physical environment of the existing area - particularly in the 1970s council estate.'

The meeting will be held on Monday, September 9 at 5.45pm in Lundavra Primary School.

Landfill 'stench' still a problem for residents

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The lives of residents living on the opposite side of Loch Eil from the Duisky landfill site are still being 'made a misery' by bad odours, last week's meeting of Kilmallie Community Council was told.

According to some residents, the problem is so bad the smell has made them sick.

Community council secretary Russell Leaper told the

meeting: 'Residents involved met with SEPA [Scottish Environment Protection Agency] in April and there have been a number of additional complaints since then.'

'Some residents claim to have been sick on a number of occasions because of the smell.'

'SEPA did tests in May on the levels of methane being emitted but said these were not outwith the values that would require them to take any action.'

'We've been nagging SEPA

for months and got an update today, but it doesn't seem like they are planning to take action.'

'The residents lives are being made a misery and they don't seem to be planning to do anything about it.'

Mr Leaper said the next thing should be for the community council to ask SEPA what the permitted levels of methane are.

'I don't know if these were just measured on a day when the site is actually emitting this gas and residents are

smelling it because of the wind direction.'

A government ban is due to come into force in 2021, prohibiting household waste being landfilled at sites such as Duisky.

But the Kilmallie meeting heard there were doubts over the implementation of the ban.

Asked to comment, a SEPA spokesperson said: 'Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment.'

'SEPA is aware of an ongoing

issue with nuisance odours at the Duisky Landfill.'

'An action plan is in place with the operators of the site to ensure improvements are put in place which will actively limit the potential for nuisance odours to impact on local residents.'

'SEPA officers will continue to liaise with the operator to monitor the progress of the action plan and encourage residents to report future odour complaints to the Pollution Hotline on 0800 807060.'

Kayaker dies after Loch Lochy capsizes

A man has died following a kayaking incident on Loch Lochy.

Concern was raised for the 28-year-old having entered the water during the afternoon of Monday September 2.

HM Coastguard attended and the man was recovered from the water by a local boat, but was pronounced dead at the scene.

A second man was also recovered from the water and was taken to the Belford

Hospital, Fort William. He has since been released. Police were unable to confirm the names of the men involved but did say they were not from the Fort William area.

There are no suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency said there was also a dog in the canoe which was recovered. The Scottish Ambulance Service was also called to the scene.

Eigg children raise more than £2,700 for cancer charity



Five pupils raised money through community events.

Eigg Primary School pupils received a special visit from a Teenage Cancer Trust representative to honour their fantastic achievement in raising £2,788 for the charity.

The five pupils' efforts resonated with their community and the amount raised went far beyond the original target of £100.

Audrey Murray, regional fundraising manager at Teenage Cancer Trust said: 'Without vital donations from people like the amazing pupils at Eigg Primary School nothing we do as a charity would be possible.'

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The Highland Star Chinese Restaurant on Fort William's High Street is closed following immigration enforcement action. Inset: The sign on the restaurant door. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

High Street restaurant closes after raid by immigration officers

Customers at a Fort William restaurant were shocked last week when immigration enforcement officers raided the kitchen mid service.

Diners were forced to leave halfway through their meal when the remaining staff shut the High Street's Highland Star Chinese restaurant at 6pm on Thursday evening, August 29.

Acting on intelligence, Immigration Enforcement officers escorted six Chinese men from the premises after they were found to be working illegally.

Two of the men, aged 44 and 32, had entered the UK illegally; three, aged 33, 35 and 41, were working in breach of their visitor visas, and one, aged 39, had overstayed

his visa. All the men have been detained pending their removal from the UK.

The restaurant has remained closed and will do so until further notice.

A Home Office spokesperson said: 'Where illegal working is suspected, businesses may be served a notice warning a financial penalty of up to £20,000 per illegal worker may be imposed.'

'The employer will be liable unless they can demonstrate appropriate right to work document checks were carried out, such as seeing a passport or Home Office document confirming permission to work.'

The Lochaber Times was unable to contact the restaurant before going to press.

Woman, 63, dies in car incident

A woman has died following an incident involving a vehicle in Strontian.

The woman, named locally as Linda MacGillivray, was struck by her own car on an unclassified road at Scotstown around 2pm on Sunday September 1.

The 63-year-old Strontian resident, who previously lived on Mull, was pronounced dead at the scene. No other vehicles or people were involved. It is understood she attempted to prevent the

Honda CRV from rolling away on a steep slope while no-one was in the driver's seat.

Mrs MacGillivray was the subject of a BBC Scotland documentary, almost five years ago to the day, which told the story of her remarkable recovery from a kidney transplant.

Road Policing Sergeant David Miller said: 'Our thoughts are with the woman's family and friends at this difficult time. We have spoken to a number of people already in connection with this incident but if you feel you have information which could help please call 101, quoting reference NP2588/19.'

Bid to ease Mallaig parking problems

Council approves introduction of West Bay fees

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Parking problems at West Bay, Mallaig, could be a thing of the past after Highland Council approved the introduction of paid parking.

The 80-bay car park has been free of charge since opening, leading to cars being abandoned, sometimes for months at a time.

Charges will be in operation from March to October because of the high number of vehicles that use it during this time.

Councillor Ben Thompson, who represents Caol and Mallaig, is delighted things may become more civilised.

Free

He said: 'West Bay is constantly full and some people take advantage of it being free and simply leave cars there. This is obviously an issue since the car park is used by tourists for the ferry to Skye and they bring money to the area. The ideal goal is to have 80 per cent occupancy as often as possible. This means the council is generating revenue for future transport developments in the area, but also means local residents can get a space.'

Councillor Denis Rixson has suggested the new charges go some way to acting as the proposed tourist tax.

He said: 'We get inundated with holidaymakers over the summer. We have around 300 people coming off the steam train twice a day in the height of the summer, plus our ordinary trains, day trippers from Fort William and people going on the ferry to Skye and the small isles. Essentially, the world and his wife arrive at Mallaig.'

'Our infrastructure was fine in the 1950s and 1960s, but can't cope with our modern problems.'

The first 30 minutes at the car park will be free followed by charges of £1 for two hours, £3 for four hours and £4 for a full day. A monthly season ticket will cost £10.

Lochaber is projected to have an increase in parking revenue of £72,000 this year and while the area has 16 per cent of the spaces in the Highland Council, they generate about 30 per cent of



New charges at West Bay could create money for more parking to prevent blocking roads. Photograph: Gregor Innes

all revenue. Councillors want this to be reflected in the money allocated for transport development for Lochaber.

Councillor Allan Henderson said: 'There has always been this idea that when new car parks come into the system, of the money generated, a portion will be available for the community

to decide what is done with services around the car park. This could be for car park maintenance, expansion or anything connected with transport services.

'This decision is still to be ratified by the full council and the environment development committee when we next meet in October.'

Mallaig Community Council will discuss car parking at their next meeting and will not comment until then.

The Facebook page, Problem Parking in Mallaig, is a place for frustrated residents to post pictures of dangerous parking in the village.

Over the summer, the 276 members show regular examples of why new parking solutions are desperately needed with campervans and cars abandoned on roadsides and blocking public walkways.

Suggestions for the use of funds by councillors include an extension of West Bay, painting bays in other parking areas, public toilets and chemical waste disposal for campervans.



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Corran Ferry foot passengers to pay

Foot passengers will have to pay to use the Corran Ferry, writes Richard Mason.

The crossing is so short that previously staff have not been able to collect fares from passengers travelling by foot or with a bicycle before the journey ends.

Now the Lochaber Committee of the Highland Council has decided these passengers will have to buy a £1 ticket from machines at either side of the crossing. Those with a bike will pay £1.50.

Committee chairman councillor Andrew Baxter was keen to approve the proposal, saying: 'We have had numerous consultations with community councils and groups who consistently suggested foot passengers be charged.'

Regular users will be able to buy a discount book of 30 tickets at £8 for walk-on passengers and £12 for cyclists. Under 18s and concession card holders can

still use the ferry for free. However, some people are not pleased with the decision, suggesting the council should find other solutions.

Nether Lochaber Community Council chairman Iain Jenner said: 'Quite a lot of people use the ferry to walk their dog or go for a meal at the Ardour Inn. Local people pay their taxes and should not be penalised for wanting to take advantage of living where they do.'

The ferry also connects part of the National Cycle Network and new charges may encourage dangerous cycling.

Mr Jenner continued: 'You now have a situation where cyclists have to go over two paying ferries. The one at Camusnagaul can charge quite a lot and doesn't necessarily provide a service all weekend. If you are a visitor that could mean you go across the Corran ferry and have to cycle an extra two hours. This charge might persuade some cyclists to use the A82.

They are well within their rights to do so, but it is quite hazardous.'

This sentiment was also raised by Councillor Ben Thompson who said it was 'unacceptable' for families to cycle on the A82.

The idea to replace the ferry with a bridge or tunnel has been raised before, but the costs and logistics require further consultation.

A tunnel is the more sustainable approach, according to Iain Jenner, but a third approach could add another use to the crossing.

Mr Jenner said: 'A bridge would have to be enormous if you want to maintain the cruise liner traffic into Fort William. Another possibility is a lock gate system. You could also put in sub-sea turbines to generate energy.'

A fixed link for the Corran Narrows would require government funding but a renewable energy source could push them to meeting their targets in this sector.



The choir braved a downpour to Sing for Water. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Pop-up choir Sing for Water – and get it!

As torrential rain battered Fort William Train Station last Friday, visitors arriving and leaving the town were treated to beautiful singing by a pop-up choir.

A group of 10 Lochaber women, led by organiser Mandy Ketchin, were performing to raise awareness of Water Aid projects.

After attending a national 'Sing for Water' event in Edinburgh in June, Mandy

felt this was something she could bring to Fort William so she got a group together and they practiced throughout the summer.

The group moved from the train station into town to share the message of Water Aid.

On a wet, dismal Lochaber day, the choir brought light entertainment to the town and a stark reminder 785 million people face a daily

struggle to find clean water. Mandy said: 'We raised £255.70 from our collection on the day.'

'We're still totting up all the money each singer raised individually from sponsorship, but we're delighted the fantastic total looks like it's going to be more than £1,000.'

Anyone wishing to donate to the charity should visit www.wateraid.org.uk

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WHAT'S ON

Lochaber Local History Society starts its new season tonight (Thursday September 5) with Jim Sutherland, recently retired head teacher of Lochaber High School, giving a talk entitled 'Kinlochleven - the Early Years - Triumph and Tragedy'. Everyone welcome at the Ben Nevis Hotel for an 8pm start.

Lochaber Sensory Care staff and volunteers will be at the Pines Medical Centre, Acharacle, on Monday September 9 from 10.30am

to 11.45am to service and repair NHS hearing aids and offer support and advice on living with sensory loss.

Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI is hosting its annual Maritime Day on Saturday September 7 at noon in the village.

West Highland Community Rail Partnership is holding its AGM on Saturday September 21 at 12.30pm in Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach. Everyone interested in the rail line between Mallaig and Crianlarich is welcome.

The AGM of Inverloch

Village Hall Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be held on Tuesday September 17 in the Village Hall (The Braxi), Nevis Road, Inverloch, at 7pm. Everyone welcome

Two walks have been arranged by West Highland Museum on Saturday September 28 and Sunday September 29 as part of Highland Archaeology Festival.

The first will be a walk up Cow Hill and the second will be an exploration of Blarmafalach. Places must be booked by phoning 01397 702169 or emailing info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk.

Helping people stay MindFit

The impact of mental health on the community is no longer a taboo subject and there are many national and regional groups supporting those facing mental health challenges, writes Lucy Tedham.

Fort William is now the home of Lochaber MindFit, based in CrossFit, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, with groups for men and women on separate nights.

The groups are based on the model used by Martyn's Monday Club in Oban, which runs peer-to-peer support

groups, creating a safe and confidential place to talk.

The MindFit groups was launched following an open community meeting run by Lochaber Hope earlier this year. Lochaber Hope has now handed the groups over to the community.

One of the organisers, Carrie Starkie, explained: 'There is no pressure to talk but the questions and group involvement help to create an atmosphere where people feel able to. Some people don't want to talk to a friend or GP

but the group is a safe space to share and get support.'

Lochaber MindFit is aware of the impact of depression, anxiety and suicide, either directly or indirectly, on the people of Lochaber and does not promise to fix problems but pledges in their mission statement 'that no one needs to be alone any more and we endeavour to nurture our group to become a safe sanctuary' to those who attend.

The groups can be reached on Facebook or by going along to a meeting.

Parents blame council for damning school report

Continued from page one
way Duror pupils and parents have been treated by Highland Council and has vowed to 'fight their corner'.

Ms Forbes said: 'At the beginning of the summer holiday, they wrote to the council's chief executive pleading for an improvement in the coming year. To date, I do not believe they've had the courtesy of a reply. I have written four times in that time to the chief executive also asking for a reply and I am still to get one.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The Highland Council recognises the strengths of the school and areas identified for development, as noted in the report published by Education Scotland on Duror Primary School.'

'The council has fully supported the school and will continue to do so through the appointment of an experienced head teacher to take forward the recommendations of the report.'

Charity slammed over new bunkhouse name

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

High Life Highland has been accused of cashing in on Harry Potter after naming its newly-refurbished bunkhouse at Kinlocheil Outdoor Centre as 'Glenfinnan Bunkhouse' despite it being six miles away from the village.

The last few years have seen a massive rise in the number of tourists visiting Glenfinnan, with visitors from around the world flocking to the hamlet on the shores of Loch Shiel to view its famous viaduct and steam train, which both featured in the Harry Potter movies. Many people interested in history also visit the Glenfinnan monument to the Jacobite rising of 1745.

At last week's monthly meeting of Kilmallie Community Council - its area of remit

'Glenfinnan' centre six miles away from village

includes Kinlocheil - those attending were bemused at the choice of name for the bunkhouse.

Community council secretary Russell Leaper told the meeting he was aware Glenfinnan Community Council had contacted High Life Highland over the issue.

'The feeling is High Life Highland is cashing in on the popularity of Harry Potter,' said Mr Leaper.

'The bunkhouse is only about a kilometre from Locheilside train station but people won't realise that



The new name has been the subject of controversy.

and will all be getting of at Glenfinnan station.'

Highland Council member Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, said it was 'absolute nonsense' for the property to be called Glenfinnan Bunkhouse: 'It was the former school at Kinlocheil. There's no way it should be called anything else,' he said.

High Life Highland is the

charity set up by Highland Council to manage its sports, cultural and leisure services.

Mr Leaper added: 'They say all their customers [for the bunkhouse] come by car and they are not interested in what form of transport they are using. But that's not an acceptable attitude. It is a worrying attitude if they think people want to go everywhere

by car and that this is going to continue forever.'

A Glenfinnan Community Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times it had passed on what it called a 'public transport concern' to High Life Highland that Glenfinnan is six miles from the bunkhouse and also pointed out the National Trust for Scotland had trademarked the name 'Glenfinnan'.

A spokesperson for High Life Highland said: 'The reason for the change is to raise the profile of the bunkhouse. By association with a well-known geographical area, we hope customers will recognise its proximity to the Road to The Isles, Ardnamurchan, Fort William, Ben Nevis and Aonach Mor. Recent investment in the facility will create employment and increased use will help us protect and maintain it for the future.'

Fort William shoe shop facing uncertain future

Uncertainty surrounds the future of the Footwear Department on Fort William's High Street, writes Richard Mason.

Shoe shop boss Sam Winters told the Lochaber Times last week the store would likely close, but he is in discussions with the landlord about his future in the Highlands.

Mr Winters will be closing his store in Stranraer and the discount centre in Oban. He said: 'Out of all the stores, Fort William is the one I would like to keep.'

'With the previous tenants, DE shoes, shutting all their shops, and all other shoe shops in the high street gone, it shows you what's happening. There is a lack of footfall and retail spending has changed.'

The uncertainty comes as the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is urging the Scottish Government to invest £90 million a year into rural towns.

FSB Highlands and Islands Development Manager David Richardson said: 'Towns across Scotland face



Sam Winters.

immense challenges at the moment, with mounting costs and increased competition from out-of-town shopping and the internet. In some parts of the Highlands, a shortage of skilled staff is also taking its toll, even forcing businesses to restrict their opening hours.'

It is also calling for a commission to be set up to deal with empty high street shops. FSB has identified 414 empty shops since 2016.

Talks are ongoing about the

future of the last dedicated shoe store in Fort William and the three staff who work there.

FSB recognises how crucial these stores can be in their communities and the impact their closing can have. Mr Richardson said: 'This matters at a time when efforts are being made to retain and attract more young people and families to the Highlands to re-balance the population and safeguard the future viability of this region.'

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LT

Police explain serious crash road closures

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Anyone caught in a traffic tailback on a closed trunk road in Lochaber immediately after a serious or fatal road accident should expect to be stuck for at least four or five hours, possibly even longer, while police crash investigators do their job.

That was the warning from Sergeant Nick Hough of Lochaber Police when he attended last week's monthly meeting of Kilmallie Community Council.

Sergeant Hough's comments on road closures following road accidents were in response to resident Roddy Mainland who told how, following one of three serious road accidents on the A830 in August between Fort William and Mallaig, it took him five hours to get home.

Mr Mainland said: 'I ran



The long traffic tailback as a result of a fatal accident on the A830 near Glenfinnan last month. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

into the queue at about 7pm on my way home from Mallaig and did not get home till about midnight.'

Sergeant Hough explained there were now three specialist police crash investigators based at the police station in

Fort William, with the main crash investigation unit and a specialist vehicle and equipment based at Dingwall.

He told the meeting that, while a crash investigator might have to travel from Dingwall to help with an

incident in Lochaber depending on who was on duty and that the specialist vehicle also often had to travel down to Lochaber, this only took around an hour when the police used flashing blue lights.

'What takes the time is the setting up of the investigation, recording all the data, noting all aspects of the debris and taking measurements, including those involving skid patterns to fully establish the circumstances so you can provide some sort of explanation to the loved ones of someone who has been seriously injured or worse, killed, and to ensure you have all the information in case someone is to be charged as a result,' he said.

'The initial moments following a crash are about preserving life and once the ambulance crews have done their work and are away from the scene, the road is generally closed, other than for emergency vehicles.

'Geography is against us here. We are extremely limited when it comes to providing alternative routes to by-pass an accident scene.'

Sergeant Hough said August

had been a particularly bad month in the area for serious road accidents, with two involving fatalities.

'On average, we probably have five serious accidents a year, but they mean the operation of the whole road network being upended.

'You are always going to end up with some sort of situation where travel is disrupted. Remember also that the clean up of debris from the road can take a couple of hours on top of everything else.'

He explained that during the summer 70 per cent of vehicles on the area's roads were non-local.

'So while social media can provide information quickly about accidents and subsequent road closures, non-local drivers often don't have any way of knowing what is happening. If the incident is a fatal or serious accident, you have to figure on an eight or nine-hour window for the road involved to be closed.'

Asked if more specialist crash investigation equipment based locally would help cut down the time involved, Sergeant Hough did not feel it would be an appropriate use of resources.

'You could lobby for that but you're only talking about saving an hour or an hour and a half, plus we can always access more equipment from Dumbarton if need be and that is just an hour and half away as well.

'There's really no way round it. A road is going to be closed for four to five hours, if not longer.

'If you have ever had to speak to someone who has been bereaved by a road traffic accident, it gives you a better perspective on whether sitting in a car for four or five hours listening to music is really that much of an inconvenience.'

Pensioner's phone line fixed 48 hours after public complaint

A Highland pensioner who had been fearing for his life after BT left him without a phone line for two months has had his service restored two days after he went public with his complaint.

Last Thursday, John Sloggie, 80, who also runs one of Scotland's few shinty stick businesses, told the Lochaber Times how since the end of June he had more than 15 visits from engineers to his home near Invergarry, prompting Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes to get involved.

Because Mr Sloggie has had a quadruple bypass and a new heart valve fitted, it is vital he and his wife, Mabel, 80, can ring an ambulance in an emergency. The lack of a phone line also hampered Mr Sloggie's shinty stick business, Munro Camans Limited.

Operators said the fault would not be fixed until the end of the month but within 48 hours of his case going public, his phone line had been restored.

Mr Sloggie said: 'The engineers on the ground are doing their utmost and my wife and I are very happy they are now doing the work. I hope they don't treat any other senior citizen like this.'

Kate Forbes MSP thanked BT for its speedy response.

'I am delighted Mr and Mrs Sloggie have had their line reconnected,' she said. 'It's been almost 12 weeks since Mr Sloggie first raised the issue with BT and it has been a very difficult time for them.'



Kate Forbes MSP visited John and Mabel Sloggie to hear their concerns.

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Police to be issued with mobile phones

Highlands and Islands police officers will start using mobile devices to let them spend as much time as possible out on the beat.

Officers will be able to access police systems while out on duty without returning to a police station to log on to a computer.

It is hoped officers will be able to spend more time working within the commu-

nity, dealing with incidents, engaging with members of the public, supporting victims and focussing on crime prevention.

Chief Superintendent George Macdonald, Highland and Islands divisional commander, said: 'Given the geography of the area, officers incur significant travel time between calls and their stations. The mobile devices will

allow officers to be more visible in the community, spend more time on patrol and hopefully be more accessible within the areas they serve.

'Members of the public will see police officers operating their mobile device in public areas. They are not using their personal telephone, they are working. They will always be available to offer help, advice or assistance.'

Community has its say on Kinlochleven activity centre

Around 70 people attended two drop-in sessions to put forward ideas for an activity centre to be run by Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT).

The old Claymore Boxing Club is being converted to provide a place to bring residents together and offer a range of activities.

Helen Thompson, a director of KCT, wants the centre to be available to any group. She said: 'We are willing to subsidise groups to get them started. Revenue from the shop and cafe would go some way to support this.'

The trust is aiming to complete the centre renovations around the new year. The centre will include a main events area supported by a cafe, crafts room and community shop.

Initial ideas for the events space are for music, drama and dance groups while the community has suggested the smaller rooms could be used for crafts including pottery and sewing groups.

'We hope that as groups get established and more people

attend, we reach a stage where a sensible fee can be arranged, with the vision to employ a centre manager or caretaker further down the line,' Ms Thompson continued.

The trust stressed the new centre will not compete with other community spaces.

'If there was an arts festival in the village, the school might be the venue for live performances, the library for a display and the Leven Centre and our new centre for dance, drama or craft workshops,' said Ms Thompson.

'It's all about these venues working together to provide activities and events for the community.'

The community trust rents buildings in the business park as well as the old aluminium smelting buildings.

Rent is reinvested back into the community.

The conversion of the former boxing club is being funded by the sale of plots of land.

Trust development officer Marion Smith, said: 'We are finalising architect's drawings and tendering for builders.'



Kinlochleven residents came out to voice their ideas for the new activity centre. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Apprenticeship week in nine high schools

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland will launch its inaugural West Highland Apprenticeship Week throughout all nine high schools in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross this month.

In collaboration with partners from Skills Development Scotland and West Highland College, the aim is to have employer-led talks to inspire young people to focus on the 'earn while you learn' route as a credible career path.

A DYW spokesperson said: 'Apprenticeships are key to boosting businesses by bringing in fresh skills and developing a motivated and qualified workforce. As the competition for a skilled workforce in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross increases, apprenticeships allow businesses, large or small, to fill their skill gaps and future

plan. Gone are the days of apprenticeship frameworks reserved for traditional industries such as construction or hairdressing.'

Working with schools, partner agencies, employers, parents, carers and young people, DYW West Highland's goal is to bridge the gap between learning and working to allow each respective group to engage with one another, fostering a culture of collaboration through a variety of opportunities.

Apprenticeship Week runs from Monday September 9 to Friday September 13.

Businesses wishing to get involved in activities in schools should contact the DYW West Highland teams in Fort William, Portree and Wester Ross.

DYW West Highland is backed by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

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Call for Brexit workshops

The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) has said it is interested in holding a workshop in the Outer Hebrides to ensure that seafood businesses are equipped to respond to the changes expected after the UK leaves the European Union on October 31.

Seafish is currently holding events and MP Angus MacNeil contacted Seafish to ask that workshops are held in the Outer Hebrides.

He said: 'I would encourage this sector to contact Seafood directly – questions can be sent to regulation@seafish.co.uk

Cinema progress update afternoon

The team behind Highland Cinema is holding an update afternoon on the site at Cameron Square on Friday September 20 from noon to 2pm. It will feature a viewing platform to show the new cinema taking shape.

Cinema owner Angus MacDonald will be there to answer questions. Everyone welcome.

Rowing club builds on 'milestone' moment

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Coastal Rowing club was formed in 2016 with a plan to build and row a skiff.

Now, after securing funding to buy a kit boat and with advice from teams nearby and from the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association, members have almost finished building the frame.

Members, based in a polytunnel at Claggan football pitch, Fort William, are now looking forward to 'planking' the outside and turning the boat.

Chris Webster, one of the club's founders, explained this was a 'milestone moment in any boat-building project' and as the seats and insides are fitted, people will begin to see a beautiful boat and all the possibilities it holds.

The boat is being built in a shared area used by Lochaber

Environmental Group, the Montrose centre and the Bike Kitchen. Despite being tucked away, the area is a hive of activity.

The club wants to encourage more people to consider getting involved.

Chris said: 'There is something for everyone. If you want to help with the build, the kit is user friendly and produces a great boat.'

'We plan to build more boats when this one is finished and out on the water.'

No prior experience is required and everyone learns together. One club member has been on a course to learn to cox and more courses are planned for the future.

The skiff takes four rowers, with an oar each, and a cox and can be rowed in competitions or simply to enjoy a journey.

The club recently took a Weymss skiff named Edith

'We plan to build more boats when this one is finished and out on the water.'

Chris Webster with the frame of the first boat being built by the club.



out for the first of many planned evening rows, with several open water swimmers joining them. Further activities will be

shared on the Facebook page. Chris continued: 'We have lots of opportunities to get involved. It's not only great physical activity but also

good for mental health.' For more information visit Lochaber Coastal Rowing on Facebook or visit the workshop on Wednesday evenings.



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NHS chief updated on Dail Mhor issues

Issues hampering progress at Dail Mhor respite centre and healthcare hub in Strontian have been put to new NHS Highland (NHS) chief executive Iain Stewart.

Mr Stewart recently visited Dail Mhor following an invitation by Community Councils Working Group made at the NHS annual review in April.

Previously a full-time residential facility, Dail Mhor was closed in August 2017, supposedly for two weeks, to repair plumbing. But the community quickly concluded NHS had no intention of reopening it.

Following sustained action by the community, led by the working group of five affected community councils, Dail Mhor House was reopened a year ago as a respite centre and health-care hub.

It is now being hailed across Highland as an example of community engagement and a potential model for future delivery of services.

Mr Stewart was invited to Dail Mhor to hear from

manager Claire Cameron and other representatives of the working group how issues with NHS purchasing processes, recruitment/HR systems and management have hindered progress.

Mr Stewart authorised the group to begin testing ways to reduce purchasing costs immediately.

The chief executive was also able to explain in detail the changes already made since his arrival in the job, which are designed to tackle these and other problems.

After the meeting, Acharacle Community Council chairwoman Joanne Matheson said: 'We've been very impressed by the support and co-operation we've had from the board of directors throughout this issue, but there were significant problems with NHS systems which hindered our progress.'

'Mr Stewart's pragmatic and objective approach shows every sign of ultimately making the changes necessary to get the Highland service working efficiently again.'

Walk funds boost Lochaber Hope

Lochaber Hope funds have been given a huge boost by employees of an international company who took the community to its heart.

In June, representatives from infrastructure group Balfour Beatty, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) and Terraforma took part in a sponsored walk up Ben Nevis and raised £3,143.75.

Balfour Beatty workers were in Fort William in January 2018 to refurbish the 132kV overhead line between Fort Augustus and Fort William on behalf of SSEN. The team worked closely with the community and wanted to give something back.

Balfour Beatty chose to support Lochaber Hope, a charity which provides a wide range of services to the community.

On August 22, at a company barbecue, a cheque was hand-



Amy Fraser of Balfour Beatty, left, presents the cheque to Hope director Judith James-Davis. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

ed over by those who took part in the walk to Lochaber Hope director Judith James-Davis.

She said: 'Lochaber Hope is delighted to receive this donation from Balfour Beatty. Thanks go to everyone who took part in it and donated.'

'The funds will be used to support Lochaber Hope's new workshop aimed at reducing

social isolation and mental health issues in the community, especially among men, while increasing social and practical skills.'

Lochaber Hope manager Alyson Smith, added: 'This non-profit-making social enterprise will plough profits back into Lochaber Hope to allow us to work towards

being self-sufficient.

'Lochaber Hope has had to rely on grant funding for the past 14 years. With the development of the social enterprise, we can spend less time fundraising and more time delivering this invaluable service.'

Balfour Beatty senior project manager Robert Christie said: 'Our team was proud to offer their time voluntarily to climb Ben Nevis and raise funds for Lochaber Hope.'

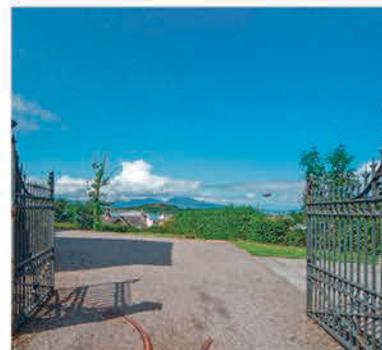
In addition to counselling, mentoring, personal development and help getting a job, Lochaber Hope runs groups including 'Crafternoon', creative writing, peer support for anxiety sufferers and a daily drop-in service. It also supports the new Mindfit suicide intervention groups now running every Monday and Tuesday night in Fort William.

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The Mallaig and Lochaber high school students at the STEM event.

Career opportunities in the spotlight

Senior science students from Mallaig and Lochaber high schools took part in a three-day Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) event designed to show them how they can apply their skills and knowledge to their future careers.

Over three days, students learned about study and career opportunities in Fort William and the surrounding areas, with visits to Ben Nevis Distillery, BSW Timber and

Liberty British Aluminium. The programme was organised by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT), an educational charity that works to engage young people in STEM subjects.

Flora Lewis-Gotts, EDT Partnership Manager, told the Lochaber Times: 'We were initially invited by Lochaber High School as a result of its relationship with Liberty which was keen to involve other businesses and

individuals to give students information about various paths open to them.'

Colleen MacLean, from Developing the Young Workforce Highland, talked about apprenticeships. Students also heard from Lily Cornfield, an ex-Lochaber High School pupil who is now a PhD student. The final day saw the students visit West Highland College for advice on preparing CVs and college applications. Katie McCaig, a

senior Mallaig High School pupil, said: 'It's been good to learn about the variety of jobs in the area for science that we probably wouldn't have known about.'

The event included sessions at the Newton Room. Dr Emma Robertson, from the Science Skills Academy that runs projects at Lochaber's Newton Room, said: 'This is one of the first groups to benefit from a full session at the Newton Room.'

More than 60,000 view Loch Arkaig ospreys

More than 60,000 people tuned in to the live camera at Loch Arkaig this summer to watch ospreys rear their chicks.

The viewers were mainly from the UK but there were some from the USA, Australia, Canada, Norway, France, Italy, Sweden and Finland, according to the Woodland Trust which operates the camera and manages the Loch Arkaig Pine Forest.

Osprey mum Aila and oldest chick Mallie have already departed for their migration to warmer climes. Younger chick Rannoch and dad Louis were expected to have joined them on the long flight south this week.

After a traumatic season in 2018 with a pine marten taking the eggs and numerous technical issues with the equipment, it has been wonderful to have had such a successful year, according to the trust's George Anderson.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'Two new young ospreys sent out into the world and a smooth running livestream



Osprey chicks Mallie and Rannoch on the Loch Arkaig nest earlier this summer. Photograph: Lewis Pate.

from the nest. Massive thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery who make it all possible and to the hardy bunch at Lochielnet who keep the wires humming. There are vast numbers of people enjoying the show across the world thanks to their efforts.

'We did have some early jitters this season when the pair decamped to another tree for a while but thankfully they came back in view of the camera to lay their three eggs.'

'The live camera stream will be back in spring 2020. Fingers crossed Louis and Aila will be back for their fourth season, delighting their thousands of fans.'

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Grandson unmasked as Ballachulish prankster

Ballachulish residents were left wondering if there was a mysterious prankster on the loose after various objects began to appear on a front lawn.

John and Marie McGarry were left stunned as one morning a buoy from a boat was found flying at half mast on the flag pole in their garden.

The next day, large wooden crosses appeared on their front lawn – apparently welcoming the arrival of newly-ordained parish priest Father Ronald Campbell

to the Ballachulish parish. Next, the maritime theme returned as the couple awoke to an orange inflatable dinghy hoisted like a main sail.

The mystery was solved, however, when the couple were tipped off that the prankster was their grandson, Michael Chisholm, who lives nearby.

'At first we were quite confused,' said Marie. 'But when we saw the dinghy, we knew it had to be Michael. He certainly uses his imagination and I think it's very funny really.'

Lifeboat launched after tourist falls off rocks

Kyle lifeboat was called out to rescue a man who had fallen 20 feet from rocks into the water on Sunday while trying to take photographs of Eilean Donan Castle.

The RNLI crew onboard The Spirit of Fred Olsen made best speed towards the world-famous castle and arrived on scene at 10.22am, by which time the casualty had scrambled out of the water and was

stuck on the shoreline at the base of the rocks.

As a result of his injuries, he was unable to move and the decision was taken to transfer the casualty on to the lifeboat to transport him to the slipway at Dornie village hall where he could then be taken into an ambulance.

The UK Coastguard helicopter arrived on scene and landed in a field until it could

be ascertained if the casualty would need to go to hospital by road or be airlifted. After reaching the slipway, the casualty was handed over to paramedics from the Scottish Ambulance Service and the UK Coastguard helicopter, where it was decided he would go to hospital in the ambulance.

A Kyle RNLI spokesperson said: 'While visiting the area

on holiday, the couple had stopped in a layby to take pictures of the castle when the casualty fell off the rocks and landed in the water below. His partner ran about a quarter of a mile to the castle to raise the alarm.

'The currents are extremely strong in that area, however, he managed to get to the shore and hold on until help could arrive.'

Memory bus on a mission in Fort William

Alzheimer Scotland is hitting the road this month to inspire rural communities to increase awareness and change perceptions of dementia.

The Memory Bus will be stopping at Caol Community Centre, Fort William, on Thursday September 12 to deliver two Dementia Friends information sessions and informal discussions.

With stops at 11 rural locations, the charity hopes

to boost the number of Dementia Friends in Scotland to 90,000, one for every person living with the condition.

Anne McWhinnie, Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Friends programme manager, said: 'No one should face dementia alone. Come along and speak to us and learn more about dementia. Together, we can make a real difference.'

The initiative hopes to give

people an insight into the condition and the struggles someone with dementia will face daily and the changes everyone can make in interacting with people suffering with dementia including adapting how you speak to be more clear and simply being patient with people in a queue.

The Fort William Dementia Friends Information Event will take place at Caol

Community Centre with session one from 3pm to 4pm and session two from 7pm to 8pm. Booking is required as spaces are limited. To book your place, visit www.alzscot.org/dementiafriendstour

Not going to be near Fort William? The Memory Bus is making stops across the country.

Find your nearest stop at www.alzscot.org/dementiafriendstour



The dinghy hangs from the flagpole in the garden.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



On August 21, the world said farewell to one of the finest sportsmen Scotland has ever produced, when he was laid to rest in his native Aberdeenshire.

Bill Anderson was without dispute the greatest Highland Games athlete of the last century, having had a career in which he dominated the sport for more than 30 years.

Dating from the mid-1800s, in the lineage of the great stand-out heavies of their time – Donald Dinnie, A.A. Cameron, George Clark – it was Bill Anderson who from the late 1950s until into the 1980s, was undoubtedly the top competitor in this field.

Remarkably, at the age of 49, in his final year of competition, he won his last Scottish Championship at the Crieff Highland Gathering of 1987. The championship at Crieff was, and still is, regarded as the premier prize in the Highland Games circuit, holding more prestige than British or World Championships. To win it at that age was an incredible way to bring closure on an unmatched career.

It was on Saturday July 21, 1956, at the Alford Annual

Show that Bill Anderson at the age of 18 first competed and from then until he retired he threw at home and throughout the world, dedicating his sporting life to Highland Games.

A familiar presence at the Argyllshire Gathering, at the Mull Highland Games, at Arisaig and others, he was well known on the West Coast, as well as on his home territory on the East and abroad.

It is a well-known and often talked-about aspect of Bill's career, that he was universally liked and respected wherever he competed.

In an amusing anecdote that shows a humorous side to his otherwise stern and determined character, after returning from the Tobermory Games on a particularly rough ferry crossing, someone was gently mocking him because he had been badly seasick.

'Aye,' said Bill, 'and I was throwing it further that anyone else!'

In addition to Highland Games Heavy Events, Bill also competed successfully as a wrestler and as a strongman. In 1978 he came second

to Geoff Capes in the Britain's Strongest Man event and although he went on to compete in the World's Strongest Man final in the USA, he had to withdraw early due to injury. There is footage available on YouTube of him competing well in the first few events of this competition.

His brief career in Strongman, considering his age at the time – over 40 – and his lack of experience in the discipline shows clearly the Herculean strength he had, as well as the speed, power and coordination required for his main forte of Highland Games.

I first became a fan of Bill Anderson when I read his biography, Highland Fling, written by Jack Davidson and published in 2009. The book gives a fascinating insight into Bill's career, his character and to Highland Games generally.

Over the last few weeks I've spoken to many athletes who competed against or were judged by Bill Anderson, and their adulation and respect for him was consistent and in every case was immense.

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Lochaber MP saddened by Davidson decision

Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Donald Cameron says he was 'deeply saddened' by the resignation of the party's leader in Scotland, Ruth Davidson, on Thursday August 29.

'Since taking over as leader of our party in 2011, Ruth has taken us from strength to strength,' said Mr Cameron.

'Under her leadership, we have increased the number of elected Scottish Conservatives across the board. From 15 to 31 MSPs, 115 councillors to 276 councillors and from one MP to 13 MPs; that achievement cannot be overstated.

'We have also held the SNP government to account, and under her stewardship we have fought for issues which matter to people in communities across Scotland.

'Most importantly, Ruth was at the forefront of the campaign to save the Union in 2014, and was a critical part of that victory.

'While I am deeply saddened by her decision, I fully respect it. Ruth has brought a real vigour and candour to our party, and her impact will not be forgotten by the thousands of members and supporters who have been inspired by her leadership.

'I wish her, Jen, Finn and all her family the very best for the future.'

New appeal for funding review of rural housing

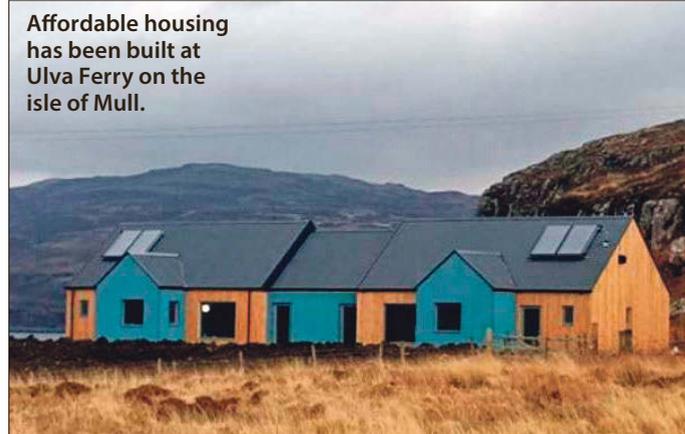
A call has been made for a comprehensive funding review of how rural housing is funded and delivered for the islands.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Joint Consultative Committee on Crofting, called for joined-up thinking from ministers to tackle depopulation and utilise croft land to encourage young people to live and work in rural communities.

His comments follow the release of Scottish Government statistics that show that only 18 new houses were built in the Outer Hebrides in financial year 2018/19 through the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme.

At a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Crofting, held on Monday in Stornoway, Councillor Crichton said: 'The 18 new homes built under the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme in the past year are obviously welcome.

'It is disappointing, however, that the total budget for croft



house building has diminished to such a level that only 18 houses were built in one of the main crofting areas.

'Building new homes through the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme is one of the most effective and efficient ways to build new homes in areas such as the Outer Hebrides. I believe it is critical that the scheme is considered more broadly and becomes

more integrated into the Local Housing Strategy and becomes complimentary to the Affordable Housing Programme.

'The Outer Hebrides presently have an unprecedented level of funding being invested through the Affordable Housing Programme, but the links between that programme and the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme appear limited.

'There is little joined-up thinking as to how the two funds could work together to maximise opportunities.

'I believe there is a need for a comprehensive funding review that links local housing strategies with the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme, as well as the Affordable Housing Programme.

'As the Scottish Government looks to design future housing investment programmes, I would urge it to consider these linkages in order to meet the demand for land and provide the best funding package to address housing needs for the wider community and young people in particular.

'This was highlighted by the leader and convener at a recent meeting with the housing minister Kevin Stewart and I understand the minister would welcome more dialogue on how this could be achieved.

'I will be writing to the Scottish Government in those terms and seeking further discussions on this issue.'



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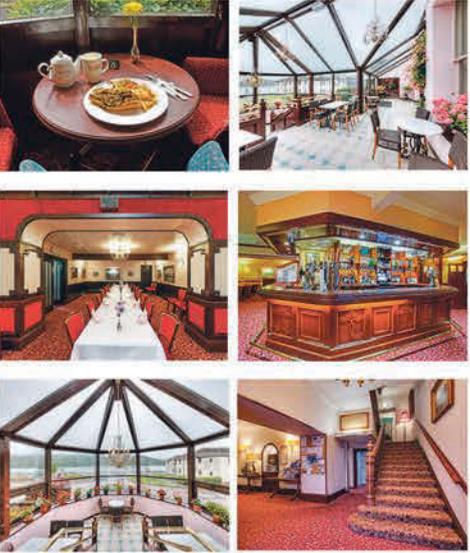
Whilst in the military for many years and being around the world's conflict zones as a soldier he has honed his skills and has an appreciation for the needs of others.

He has worked in every aspect of catering gaining a vast knowledge of international cuisine, but his true calling comes back to traditional Irish and Scottish Cuisine.

He understands what the clients of the British Isles love and makes great effort to give a satisfying experience of Scottish and the Gaelic worlds flavors, making favorites. It's important to Michael that these traditions aren't lost in the ever changing world and that our heritage is honored.

Michael is a bit of a comedian and is regularly seen in the hotel restaurant and foyer talking to guests and having a good laugh with everyone creating a vibrant and entertaining atmosphere.

Michael has created a small but tasty menu for the hotel bar and is always willing to chat to customers about other items that would suit local appetites.



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'Life-changing' broadband rolled out in Hebrides

Two of the UK's most westerly island communities are now among the best connected, as full fibre broadband networks go live in the Outer Hebrides/ Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

Grimsay, a tiny island roughly three miles long, and Great Bernera now have 100 per cent access to future-proof, full fibre networks.

Until now, the communities have been connected to the outside world by a wireless connection over an independent radio network, with a top download speed of around 2Mbps. The new service is around 18.5 times faster than the UK's current average.

Joe FitzPatrick, minister for public health, sport and wellbeing, visited Grimsay last Wednesday to see the effect high-speed technology is having on the lives of local people, where 65 per cent of households have already signed up for the service.

He said: 'Many people living here are engaged in traditional industries. Full fibre not only enables local industries to engage fully online, but future-proofs the island for

economic development and growth. In a world where technology is a main driver, good connectivity levels the playing field, creating new opportunities and stemming depopulation.'

He added: 'It will also undoubtedly be of great benefit for healthcare. Attend Anywhere gives patients the ability to have virtual appointments with healthcare professionals via their laptop, tablet or mobile.'

Robin Spratt, who runs a candle-making business in Grimsay, said: 'Before full fibre, we had a satellite broadband system with very limited data. Now when people visit the workshop and want to buy, we can process electronic payments on site. It's great for business but it also has a big impact on our personal life as now we can access online services like catch-up TV and stay in close contact with our grown-up family.'

'Good connectivity makes life in a remote location much more viable. Sort out the connectivity and the problem solves itself.'

CalMac helps new Gaelic youth club on Skye

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Gaelic-medium primary school pupils in Portree will soon have somewhere to practice their language skills in the evening.

Thanks to ferry operator CalMac's Community Fund, Comann nam Pàrant Port Rìgh (CnPP) has been awarded £2,000 to help with the set up costs of a new Gaelic youth club in the town.

Aimed at primary 5-7 pupils, the club will be a welcome safe space during the evening hours.

The club will initially be for pupils of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh but will be opened up to other Gaelic-medium schools in the north of Skye after an initial six-month pilot.

CnPP committee member Dawn Campbell said: 'Comann nam Pàrant Port



Uig port manager Donald Beaton presents Comann nam Pàrant Port Rìgh with their £2000 cheque.

CalMac for supporting our proposal and we look forward now to getting the club off the ground.'

CalMac's Community Fund is open to non-profit organisations involved in activities that will benefit young people aged 26 and under from island or coastal communities the company supports.

'The response since we made the first round awards earlier in the year has been fantastic. We are already seeing the money put to good use in the Western Isles and I'm delighted that we are able to help set up such a valuable youth resource in Portree,' added CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, Brian Fulton.

Rìgh was at the forefront of a long campaign to establish a Gaelic school in Portree and the group continues to support efforts to ensure Gaelic-medium provision is improved at all levels.

'A key way to augment the work in the Gaelic school is to ensure children have an

opportunity to use the language for longer periods, out of school in social settings.

'We see the establishment of a Gaelic club as one way to do that, engaging young people in activities through which they will widen their vocabulary and language use. 'CnPP is very grateful to



Youngsters have also expressed their views on what the community benefit should be spent on.

UistWind community benefit survey launched

UistWind has launched an online Community Benefit Survey to scope the community's ideas on how to effectively distribute the money generated from the UistWind turbines in the longer term.

Though the community benefit fund will not be generated immediately, it is considered important to have a plan ready for when cash becomes available so that investment can be targeted in line with the wishes of the community.

UistWind is a community project by North Uist Development Company (Trading), constructing two 900kW turbines in North Uist, at Criongrabhal near Clachan-na-Luib.

The project is due to be

operational by October, and currently has both turbines in place with one of them fully commissioned and generating power.

It aims to generate more than £2 million over the project's lifetime of 22 years - with profits going back to the community via NUDC's charitable activities.

The Community Benefit Survey can be accessed via SurveyMonkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WVJKMCP> and closes on Tuesday September 10. The responses will inform the Community Investment Plan and will include all the results. The survey is anonymous and asks for identification only by postcode and age group. It asks how people would

like NUDC to administer the funds, to rank what they most like about living in Uist and what they would most like to improve.

Suggested areas for improvement include business support, job opportunities, care and support, entertainment/activities, housing, learning opportunities/education and transport. People can also make their own suggestions.

UistWind has stressed that due to the financial structure of the project, returns will be minimal for the first few years but will increase further into the project. The Community Investment Plan will be updated in future years and will be made available on www.uistwind.com.

A HUGE thank you...

We would like to thank our team for their loyalty and hard work throughout another amazing summer season and to our valued customers for their company, support and wonderful reviews.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Time to act with urgency to resolve problem of odours

According to Kilmallie Community Council, the problem of unpleasant odours emanating from the Duisy landfill site are so severe that nearby residents have been sick.

To have people's health impacted adversely in this way is, frankly, unacceptable.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) admits it has had an ongoing series of complaints and met residents back in April, since when there have been a number of additional complaints.

SEPA also confirmed to the Lochaber Times that an action plan is in place with the operators of the site, Locheil Logistics Limited, to ensure improvements are put in place.

However, Kilmallie Community Council secretary Russell Leaper told us: 'It doesn't seem like they are planning to take action.'

That is not good enough. SEPA must take action urgently to resolve this noxious problem.

Parking charges at Mallaig are welcome

The introduction of new parking charges anywhere is frequently the cause of much consternation and controversy.

However, in the case of West Bay, Mallaig, there has been a warm welcome after Highland Council approved the introduction of paid parking.

The problem with the hitherto free parking is that too many drivers have abused the privilege, with some leaving vehicles there for months at a time.

The new charges have been very reasonably levied with £10 for a month and £4 for a full day. We will watch with interest to see how it works next year.

Call for readers to join charity's walk of hope

I work for Brain Tumour Research and I'm hoping your readers can help me.

On September 28, we will be taking part in a series of walks around the UK to raise money and awareness of our cause.

In Scotland, we're going to climb the Cobbler, one of the Southern Highlands' most iconic hill walks. And we would love if any of your readers wanted to join us.

The route is a challenging seven miles and has a fairly steep ascent. We estimate it will take between four and six hours to complete, and at the peak there should be magnificent views of Loch Lomond and beyond. Pray for clear skies!

The walk starts in Arrochar near the head of Loch Long. We've teamed up with the Slanj pub in Tarbet again, which is kindly providing us with free parking and, for just £5, walkers can enjoy a bacon roll before we start at 10am and there will be a bowl of hearty soup and roll to come back to.

You can find more information and register via the link: www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/take-on-a-challenge/event/2019/09/29/take-on-the-challenge/the-cobbler-walk-of-hope-ben-arthur-scotland

We hope to see you there!

Joe Woollcott, Brain Tumour Research.

Wild camping concerns see Taynuilt pierwatch launched

It was heartening to read the article in last weeks Oban Times about calls to address the increasing concerns regarding wild camping and its effects on the environment.

It was very timely to the villagers in Taynuilt who have seen a year of increase in campervans and wild camping at the piers leading to serious concerns about traffic and parking safety (both at the piers and in lanes where there are no pavements), human waste, substance abuse concerns and litter. The land is privately owned so therefore requires permission to camp there and to light fires. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code is only relevant to pedestrians and not motor vehicles and the site should not be considered as a campsite.

However, there is a cost to our wildlife which is also becoming very evident from surveys and observations by those locals who follow

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, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial

our wildlife. We have a precious diversity of wildlife at the piers which have this year begun to change their behaviours owing to the high number of people, vehicles, dogs, noise and litter.

The number of people who have started parking on the beach and at the grass at Flounders pond have influenced the night rest of geese and the movement of otters which have protection over their holts and movements raising cubs, for example, by Scottish

Natural Heritage. There may be unintentional business around the area, but wildlife crime does not only include intentional actions.

Signs should alert the public of potential wildlife crime and raise awareness of the delicate balance that the wildlife has a right to expect. There have been many issues with fishing line caught around swans' legs, hooks left where children play, fire scarring in many places, a calf who was eating and choking on a black bag, plus beer cans, toilet paper




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DISTRICT NEWS

SKYE

An £80,000 project will involve teams waterproofing sections of the crossing as well as resurfacing on the Skye Bridge and approach viaduct.

The project follows on from a £600,000 project to replace some of the expansion joints on the structure which was completed in July.

Painting works on other recently refurbished expansion joints will also take place to help ensure they continue to function safely.

The project was scheduled to start on Tuesday September 3 and will last up to three weeks.

To keep road workers as well as motorists safe, temporary traffic lights will be in place 24 hours a day with short periods of a 10mph convoy system in place for protection while surfacing is being carried out.

All traffic management will be removed at the weekend to keep disruption to a minimum.

Safety

For safety, the footpath within the traffic management area will be closed while traffic lights are in operation, with pedestrians diverted to use the other side of the bridge.

Commenting on the project, Eddie Ross, of BEAR Scotland, said: 'This essential maintenance project will help ensure that the A87 Skye crossing continues to function properly and to a safe standard and follows on from our work to replace the expansion joints earlier this year.'

'The traffic management arrangements will help ensure the safety of our teams as well as motorists during the project.'

'We've taken steps to help minimise disruption as much as possible by removing all traffic management over the weekend, and we'll continue to do all we can to limit any impact to road users.'

'We thank motorists for their patience in advance while we complete these works and we encourage road users to plan their journeys in advance by checking Traffic Scotland for up to date journey information.'



Local Rotarians bid a fond farewell to departing member Margaret Boyd, centre.

Margaret bids farewell to Lochaber Rotary Club members

Last week saw Rotarian Margaret Boyd's last attendance at the weekly business lunch meeting of Lochaber Rotary Club.

After a very active and participative five years of membership, she is leaving Lochaber to live nearer to her daughter's family in Castle Douglas in Dumfriesshire.

Her departure will leave a small empty seat at the Rotary table

but very large empty space in the Rotary work team.

Margaret, a community development officer with Voluntary Action Lochaber, joined the club in March 2014, sponsored by past-president Donald Young and inducted by the then president John Rosie.

A native of Glengarry, her career has seen a diverse range of jobs that have included tractor driving and

co-ordinating the UHI Learning Centre Unit.

During her five years with the club, Margaret has put a huge effort into its youth activities work and, in association with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, has introduced a new Young Entrepreneur event and trophy that will be competed for in the coming Rotary year.

She has also been a major pro-

motor and marketer of the club's children's bedtime stories book that has raised more than £3,000 for the club's charity fund.

Margaret thanked her fellow Rotarians for their support, friendship and fun over the past five years and president Clive Talbot responded: 'We're very sorry to lose you and we wish you all the best for your life in Castle Douglas.'

FORT WILLIAM

With the popularity of 'rock hiding' continuing, a new twist to the hiding and finding has come to Fort William.

Look For A Book popped up on Facebook in August and has quickly gained momentum.

Creator and mum-of-three, Leanne MacKay, said: 'It was crazy and within two days the group had 250 members. I saw the group in Newcastle and thought it would be great here. I just want to help encourage kids to get off digital devices and back into books.'

The idea is that books are hidden with a note saying the name and age of the 'hider' and put in a waterproof bag. When found, this is then shared on the Facebook page with the idea to inspire kids to read and share books.

Leanne explained she wants to include all ages in the group, providing a mix of picture books, pre-teen and sketch books. Facebook posts are coming in thick and fast, and so far the furthest a book has travelled is to Edinburgh but it is still early days; like its rock counterpart, this has captured the imagination of children and adults in the area.

LOCHABER

The Lochaber cluster of Catholic Churches – those in Fort William, Caol, Glenfinnan and Mingarry – are getting a new parish priest.

Father David Connor bade farewell to parishioners at St Margaret's Catholic Church in Lochgilphead and then spent August saying goodbyes and hellos as he moved on to his new duties. He is replaced in Lochgilphead by Father Ronald

Campbell. Fr David, who spent eight years in Mid Argyll looking after congregations in Lochgilphead and Inveraray, and had a farewell event held in Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall, said those eight years had been the happiest in his life.

Parishioners and the wider community were sad to see him go, as he had become an important part of many lives.

One parishioner thanked him for his 'kind, compassionate ministry to all, especially those in most need,' adding: 'We will miss you.'

Fr David is from Dunoon, where he ran the post office in Kirn before studying for the priesthood.

He was no stranger to many in Mid Argyll, however, as a member of the Argyll and the Isles diocesan choir. He brought his skills as a musician to the priesthood, frequently multi-tasking as priest and organist.



The farewell party for Father David Connor, pictured cutting a special cake for the occasion, in Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall.

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Appeal to aid restoration of rare Rum orchestrion

Tucked away under the main staircase in Kinloch Castle on Rum is a very rare and special instrument.

It is an Imhof and Mukle orchestrion, bought by Sir George Bullough in 1906 along with nearly 40 rolls of music.

It is one of the biggest ever made and plays the instruments of the orchestra through punched rolls of music.

A truly magnificent beast, it sounds through the castle but is in need of major renovation and restoration. Apart from a lack of maintenance over the years, it has also suffered from wood-worm infestation and general wear and tear.

It needs to be taken off the island to a competent organ builder and careful restoration work will enable it to be played once more.

The cost will be in the region of £60,000, which will include

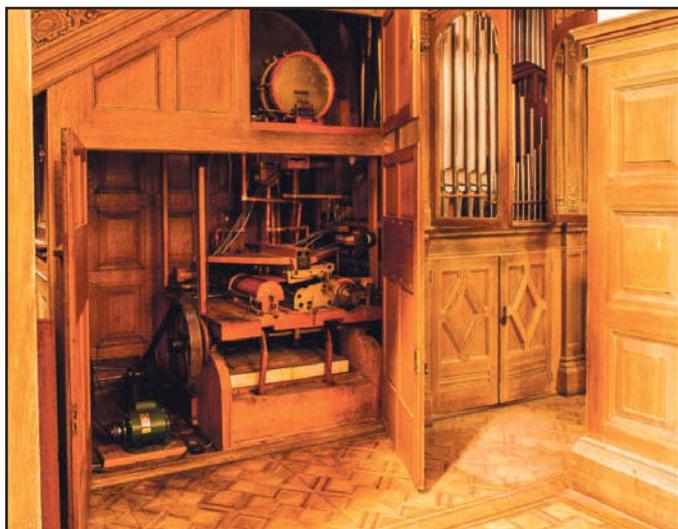
the restoration of the musical rolls as well. Kinloch Castle Friends' Association, which has applied for asset transfer of the castle and is raising money for the restoration of the building are also relaunching a separate appeal for £60,000 to restore the orchestrion.

It is intended that this restoration will take place whether or not asset transfer is granted.

Alison Biden, of the Musical Box Society of Great Britain, is about to travel to the United States to give a talk about the Kinloch Castle orchestrion to a meeting of the Musical Box Society International.

The Kinloch Castle orchestrion is regarded as being of international importance.

To help with this appeal, please check out the KCFA website or search under Kinloch Castle orchestrion for various ways to donate.



The orchestrion at Kinloch Castle.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Here is a special announcement. 'Fort William Community Council is commemorating the West Highland Railway Line Centenary. Ceilidh Train to and from Glasgow, Monday, September 5, 1994. Departs Fort William 08.00; departs Glasgow 18.30. Coffee and biscuits on the outward journey; cold buffet on the return trip. Local artistes in all the coaches for your entertainment. Licensed bar on the train. All inclusive ticket price is £18.50.'

So we bought our tickets, purely in the interests of research, to see how the Ceilidh Train might compare with the rail excursions of yesteryear. And we were not disappointed. So here is the report (considerably expurgated).

'Och, the train won't leave the Fort at 8 o'clock,' was the inevitable local forecast. As far as we were concerned it departed nearly bang on time. At 8.46. The first happening we found ourselves musing about was to ensure we all gave a wave to the good folk of Belhaven, Invernevis (and Armadale). I thought they had put the washing out early at these establishments – till I realised that the "flags" being flown in honour of the Ceilidh Train included the brandishing of several pairs of smalls on the end of brushes and mops!

It was only on settling down as we passed Glenloch Distillery that everyone realised there was no heating on the train. However, an announcement came over the intercom. 'Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Ceilidh Train. The bar is now open in the guard's van – and they're waiting for customers.' John looked up at the Tannoy, and spoke to it loudly, saying: 'No wonder there's nobody in the bar – our bahoochies are frozen

to the seats!' However, then came a rapid thaw as there was plenty of 'central heating' in the guard's van – with all drinks at £1 a shot. So it wasn't long until the 'ice was broken' – along with the seals of a battery of Fort William back-up bottles which were spirited out of shopping bags.

The pipers, accordionists, fiddlers and singers, in Gaelic and English, and although we didn't realise it at the time that they were going to provide much of the entertainment – the dancers were limbering up as we passed Torlundy.

Meanwhile, two Clagganites were vying with each other for the title of the West Highland Pipeman of the Year (in the no smoking category).

Joe was first to get his vocal cords working, between Roy Bridge and Tulloch. 'Anyone got a request?' Joe asked. 'Aye, can you sing Far, Far Away?' came the concerted response. No, but we were regaled with Bonnie Glenfinnan, even though we weren't on the Mallaig Line.

By the time we had given the Morgans a wave at Corroul the ceilidhing was in full swing. By the way, Corroul Station celebrates its centenary on September 14.

We ceilidhed on even after the train pulled in at Queen Street. On with the dance, including a Strip the Willow on the platform, permeated with one or two staggers. Then we all dispersed into the city to amuse ourselves for five and a half hours.

The Glasgow streets were actually quite quiet.

Until, that is, the Lochaber locals converged on them. I'm not sure that Glasgow knows yet what hit it. But hit it was. Marks was mobbed, BHS besieged and C&As chock-a-

block. 'It's busy the day,' the shop assistants mused. 'It must be that Teuchter train in fae Fort William.'

Under the Hielan'man's Umbrella I heard this female yelling 'Evening Times! Extra late final.'

Read all about it! I thought to myself. 'I'd know that voice in Hong Kong!'

Sure enough, on the news stand, selling papers was – Divy! She had even got herself a part-time job in Glesca for a couple of hours.

The Park Bar had its busiest Monday afternoon ever.

Aye, and there were quite a few regulars with Lochaber connections.

It was in there that the shout went up: 'Quick, the ceilidh's started at the station!' When we got there, sure enough, the main concourse had been taken over by the Ceilidh Trainers – much to the amazement and amusement of most of the commuters (though those going on the Edinburgh train didn't look overly impressed).

The next song was a dance, as the pipes, accordions and fiddles played for an eightsome, Gay Gordons and Highland Schottische. Thanks to this impromptu 'take the platform' half-hour, Queen Street didn't look as if it belonged to Glasgow any more.

Tale to be concluded on September 19.

YOURSTORY

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RUGBY



Lochaber RFC.

Lochaber lose out in season opener

Loch Lomond	27
Lochaber	11
West Region Division 3	

Lochaber Rugby Club opened their landmark 50th season as a club with a defeat away to Loch Lomond on Saturday.

It was the first meeting between the teams after Loch Lomond were relegated from Division 2 last year and Lochaber were keen to continue their form from last year which saw them finish fifth in the league.

The Banavie side were forced to field a makeshift squad, however, with several players playing out of position, most notably hooker Rory MacKay who was deployed as a scrum-half. Nevertheless, it was Lochaber who got the scoring under way courtesy of a well-struck penalty from Jonathan McCook to put the first points on the board.

This promising start was followed by some calamitous defending from the visitors on a couple of occasions which

gifted two tries to Loch Lomond to make it 10-3 in their favour.

The home side got another try before Christopher Simpson crashed across the line to score to narrow the margin. McCook scored another three points with a penalty, which turned out to be the last of his side's points that afternoon.

Lochaber had to defend well on their own try line for a large period of the game in the second half. Despite managing to hold up three tries on the line, Loch Lomond were eventually able to cross the line to score another two times, bringing the final score to Loch Lomond 27-11.

Lochaber travel to Shawlands in Glasgow this Saturday in the preliminary round of the West Regional Bowl. The match kicks off at 3pm at Cartha Queens Park Rugby Club.

The team's first home game of the new season will take place at Banavie on the following Saturday.

50th anniversary celebrations

To kick off the club's 50th anniversary celebrations, Lochaber Rugby Club are hosting a ladies' lunch at their first home game on Saturday September 14 against Moffat.

The club would like to invite all players' wives and girlfriends, female members and supporters (over 18) to come along to the special event. Full details can be found on the club's website.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 5, 14 and 15. There was no winner this week. The prize for the draw today, Thursday September 5, will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 2, 9 and 17. There was one lucky winner this week. Next week's jackpot will be £200.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers this week were 3, 13 and 19. There were no winners so the prize next week is £800.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 5, 11 and 17. There was one winner this week, Agnes Fraser, who won the £100 jackpot. Next week's prize will be £100.

Ben Dignan takes second place at youth Super Trial

Roy Bridge trial rider Ben Dignan continued his fine run of form in the recent North Berks MCC Super Trial.

The annual big weekend of trials competitions in Oxfordshire saw Dignan take on familiar foes as some of the UK and Europe's top youth talent were all vying for the title.

Bright sunshine and blistering heat over the weekend brought out a big crowd and made for a fantastic couple of days of action.

The youth boys, Dignan's category, were out first on Saturday morning to blaze the trail. Dignan was unable to overcome Spaniard Pau Martinez, who made the trip especially across the Channel, in the youth category. Martinez took the



Ben Dignan in action at the recent Super Trial.

SUPER TRIAL

victory on 22 marks lost, but was followed by Dignan who finished 18 marks behind him on 40 points in second place.

Dignan said he was pleased with the result, especially considering the European-level of competition.

The 16-year-old has enjoyed a remarkable 2019 season which saw him clinch a podium finish in the European championships, a top finish ten in the world championships and is on the cusp of winning the British championship.

With a commanding 32-point lead going in to the final round in Ayrshire this month, all he needs to do is finish one of the stages to take home the British title.

Registration opens for Corran swim

It has become one of the area's most popular swimming events.

At 380m long, it may not be the longest of wild swims on the local circuit, but with chilly waters and strong tides to contend with, the Corran Narrows swim is certainly not for the faint-hearted. So much so that organisers Highland Open Water Swim have asked novice swimmers not to take part.

After the enormous success of the previous two outings, registration is now open for what will be the event's third edition on October 5. Last year, more than 60 open water swimmers braved the cold and the team behind the event are hoping for similar numbers this year.

All registrations for swims must be done online and before the September 28 deadline.

As a charity, Highland Open Water Swim tries to keep registration fees as low as possible to ensure everybody can attend the events and this year's fee is £10 to cover expenses.

After three years of raising money towards Children

with Cancer UK, organisers have decided that this year the event will be raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity. This has become a charity close to the group's hearts, as Ally Connolly, one of Highland Open Water Swim's trustees, is currently fighting a brain tumour.

Swimmers can swim just one way or both ways over the narrows, a choice which should be made clear to event

organisers upon registration. Crossing one way would suit most swimmers, but the return swim is recommended for more experienced swimmers only as there is a constant undertow current always pulling. Those who decide to swim only one way can return on the ferry as a passenger for free.

There is minimum age for swimmers and participants under 16 must have a parent

SWIMMING

present. The parent does not have to take part in the swim, but needs to be present throughout the event. Swimmers with disabilities are also welcome. More details are available on the Highland Open Water Swim website. Contact Alex on alex@highlandopenwaterswim.com for more information.



A large field of swimmers took to the water at Corran Narrows last year.



South Lochaber Thistle pictured after winning the Greater Glasgow Division Two league championship last season.

Photo: Abrightside Photography.

Jags handed a harsh lesson in season opener

St Patrick's FP	4
South Lochaber Thistle	3
GG Premier Division 1	

by Peter Newman

South Lochaber Thistle were handed a tough lesson in life in the Greater Glasgow First Division on Saturday suffering a last-minute 4-3 defeat away to St Patrick's FP seconds.

The Jags were worthy winners of Division Two last season but headed to Dumbarton with several key players missing for their first competitive game of the campaign. St Pats were no easy team, finishing as holders of both the Spring Cup and the President's League Cup last time out.

And it looked like it was going to be a long afternoon for the Kinlochleven outfit when the robust and physical St Pats forced a throw deep in Thistle territory. The long-searching throw into the box sneaking in to the net to open the scoring after only eight minutes.

SLT were doing well to cope with the larger Pats team and soon began to find their feet. The classic midfield combination of Dave Forbes and Andrew McLean soon started to open spaces for Sean Noble and Danny Mackintosh to try to exploit.

After half an hour, this paid dividends when Rhys Edwards drove into the box and was brought down, earning a penalty. Noble despatched his spot kick with impish glee, only to have to retake it as the referee had not blown the whistle. The flying winger made no mistake the second time either to level the scores.

That was how it remained at half-time and it was the Jags who maintained the momentum as the second half got under way. Cameron Grant in the centre of the park was imperious, snapping into tackles and ensuring that the St Pats midfield never found their rhythm. Edwards was

also working well down his flank and as the hour mark approached, he took full advantage to set up Mackintosh who made no mistake to double the advantage to 2-1.

Thistle now piled on the pressure and it took only two further minutes to add a third. Noble was working to stretch the play and his endeavour on the right allowed the veteran Forbes to plant a sublime finish into the net.

With half an hour to go, SLT looked like they should comfortably see out the game and send a statement to the league about the quality of football in Lochaber.

However, first Macrae was adjudged to have brought

FOOTBALL

down the St Pats striker and their man made no mistake reducing the deficit to 3-2.

Then, as the clock ticked to the 90th minute, an on-rushing centre half was allowed far too much time in the box, chesting down a lumped ball forward and dispatching the volley to level the scores.

Finally, as the embers of the match looked ready to die altogether, the referee awarded a controversial free kick on the half way line which was pitched forward. The header from the St Pats player snatching the points with a stunning injury time turn around for the home side.

Manager Alan Gray said: 'We are obviously disappointed with the result but we've certainly shown that we can compete with the teams in the top division. On another day with all our players available, we could and should have seen the game out for the win. But we win as a team and we lose as a team and we can be proud of the vast majority of our play today.'

'We owe a special thanks to Michael Rodger who stepped up to play out of position in goal at short notice. He is a real team man and I can't thank him enough.'

Man of the match: Cameron Grant.



SLT manager Alan Gray.



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WEATHER

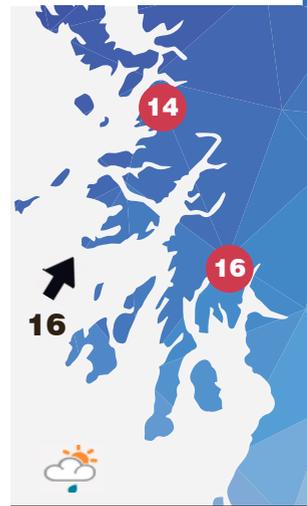
Thursday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
12°C to 14°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze

Sunday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
10°C to 15°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 5, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.53	1.1	09.35	3.3
Thur	16.07	1.0	21.48	3.2
Fri	04.46	1.4	10.34	3.0
	17.03	1.4	22.46	2.9
Sat	05.51	1.7	12.18	2.9
	18.10	1.7	***	**
Sun	01.07	2.7	07.17	1.8
	14.05	2.9	19.39	1.8
Mon	03.46	2.8	08.53	1.7
	15.23	3.1	21.23	1.7
Tues	04.32	3.0	09.51	1.5
	15.57	3.3	22.18	1.6
Wed	04.40	3.2	10.34	1.3
	16.27	3.6	22.56	1.4

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.

Jags handed a harsh lesson in season opener

Lochaber lose out in season opener

Mallaig victory sets up final day title decider

Tight at the top in Wilson League

Mallaig	7
Kyleakin	2
William Wilson League	

by David Buick

Defending league champions Mallaig welcomed Kyleakin to Lochaber on Saturday in their final home league game of the season.

The blues looked to avenge their defeat away to the visitors a week earlier and ensure they would be heading into the final day knowing that a victory would see them retain the title.

The visitors started with their star striker, Gordy McCarrroll, in goal, with usual keeper Craig Wilson leading the line in what could be seen as a bit of gamesmanship from the Skye team. Mallaig, however, were unfazed and came flying out the blocks to take an early lead. A Ryan MacDonald cross was turned in by Matthew Cunningham, who had made his way from left fullback in to the box to put Mallaig in front.

Kyleakin, after going behind, made the inevitable change and switched goalkeepers with Gordy McCarrroll moving to a more natural outfield position and Wilson putting the gloves on after a brief outfield cameo. The change made little difference, however, as minutes later Mallaig doubled their lead

through Andy Cunningham, who did superbly well to lose his marker before hammering the ball low into the net with a left-footed half volley. A brilliant start for the home side.

Mallaig continued to dominate and the lead was extended, firstly through Ryan MacDonald. He got on the end of a low Ross Douglas cross to tap in from inside the six-yard box to get



Andy Cunningham bagged himself two goals.

his name on the scoresheet. David Currie then got in on the act as he mopped up after an Angus MacNaughton shot had been saved initially, allowing Currie to tuck in the

rebound. Cunningham added his second and Mallaig's fifth after a coolly taken one on one finish.

The second half started in the same manner as the first, Mallaig continuing to create chance after chance, with Ross Douglas continually being a threat to the Kyleakin rear guard.

Kyleakin were able to get a goal back as their attacker capitalised on some shaky Mallaig defending to head home. Mallaig got back on the scoring trail, however, as substitute Marius Stoian hit a fierce drive from distance that had too much on it for the Kyleakin goalkeeper and made its way into the far right corner of the net.

Mallaig's seventh and final goal of the afternoon was something special. Sixteen-year-old Andrew Sneddon picked up the ball on the right wing and hit a lovely, curling and dipping shot from range that left the Wilson rooted to the spot as it sailed in to the top left corner of the net.

Kyleakin did salvage a late consolation through a McCarrroll goal marred with controversy and confusion. Mallaig goalkeeper Ally Lamont had come over to the touchline to receive a throw in from his fullback, but much to his surprise the referee had ordered for a free kick to Kyleakin further up the pitch. The Kyleakin strik-



Ryan MacDonald in action.

er shot from just inside his own half into the empty net to complete the afternoon's scoring.

A great result and performance from Mallaig which sets up a massive game away to Sleat and Strath next Saturday in what could effectively become a play-off for the title. Providing

FOOTBALL

Sleat overcome GA United midweek, both teams will be locked on points on 42 points on the final day.

For the second year running, there will be a gripping finale to the Skye and Lochalsh league.

Weather wreaks havoc as Fort learn Scottish Cup opponents

The weather wreaked havoc last weekend as sport fixtures and events across Lochaber fell foul of the heavy rainfall.

Fort William FC's tie with Wick Academy at Claggan Park had to be postponed due to a waterlogged pitch following days of incessant rain.

The club announced: 'Even with all the work that's been done to the park rolling, spiking and sponging over the past couple of days, it's waterlogged. With the rain not due to let up, we've had to call it off.'

The Fort were in action last night in the Pat Munro North of Scotland Cup against Brora Rangers. The match took place after this week's Lochaber Times went to print.

Their match against Formartine this Saturday has been postponed due to their opponents playing in Challenge Cup.

That means focus will turn to next Wednesday evening, September 11, when they take on closest rivals Clachnacuddin at home in what will be a bottom-of-the-league derby.

The Fort have been drawn against Vale of Leithen in the first round of the Scottish Cup. The match is scheduled to take place on Saturday September 21 at 3pm at Claggan Park.

The Vale play their football in the Lowland League. They are currently sitting bottom of the league.





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