

Chess star Sam heads to World Championship in India



Motorfest gets Oban in gear for good day out



COMING SOON
Don't miss next week's Oban Times for your 2019 primary ones intake supplement

Man admits embezzling £6,000 from shinty club

A 49-year-old man has admitted embezzling £6,000 from an Oban shinty club.

David Martin, of 30 Nant Drive, Soroba, Oban, pleaded guilty to spending the club's money between September 2016 and March 2019.

Offences included a number of cash withdrawals, and buying items from Amazon, Wish, as well as Netflix, takeaways and groceries.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that Martin was the treasurer of the club, which was set up in 2015, and one of the two signatories for its bank account.

'It appears in 2016, the accused applied for a debit card that was linked to the account,' Mr McGinty added.

The procurator fiscal explained that in 2017, Martin took a step back from the club and at the end of that year, the senior team disbanded. The under-14 branch continued until October 2018, before suffering the same fate.

Subsequently, a ladies shinty team was established and it was agreed all the assets would

be transferred to the new club. After a delay in the accused notifying the bank about the changes, the other signatory contacted the bank and failed the security questions when he was asked about the most recent transactions.

At that point, he was asked to attend his local branch. He said

'The court will consider all options, including custody'

129 of the 506 transactions on the account were questionable.

The committee members met on April 25 2019 and concluded the matter needed to be reported to the police.

Martin was then arrested and interviewed by the police.

'During the course of that, police put to the accused a number of personal items that allegedly he had purchased from using that card,' Mr McGinty said. 'His initial position was that he himself, at the end of the shinty club, had set up a business from his

home where he supplied shinty equipment. His position was that he simply overlapped the funds by mistake.'

However, when it was put to him that many of the purchases were personal transactions at service stations, cash withdrawals and Netflix, for example, he accepted that 'there came a point where he began to use the funds as his own personal funds'.

Mr McGinty added: 'It was noted that the accused's actions had a negative impact on the adult team and the female team had also been impacted.'

'The officers said the accused has shown remorse and wished to pay back the money to the shinty club.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This is a serious matter and a serious breach of trust and it is one where the court will consider all sentencing options, including custody.'

Sheriff Hughes deferred sentencing until October 9, when Martin's defence will be presented, in order for the court to obtain reports, including for a restriction of liberty order.



Five Spreadbury sisters from Oban were among the talented youngsters taking part in Mull's 81st mòd on Friday, making hearts swell with tradition and pride. Macy, six, Eve, four, Aimee, eight, Lucie, seven, and Alyssa, nine, are pupils at Rockfield Primary School. Entries for last week's two-day event in Tobermory attracted more than 1,600 entries, beating the past two years' figures. Adult choirs had their competition day on Saturday. Turn to pages 12 and 13 for more.

Harris Tweed furniture in Oban



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OT

Move to halt ban on Oban A-boards

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Councillors are recommending that a policy to remove A-frame signs from Oban's streets is halted to make way for more consultation with traders.

An urgent motion on the town's street sign saga was brought up by Councillor Julie McKenzie at an Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting and was agreed.

Councillor McKenzie said Argyll and Bute Council had a responsibility to encourage footfall in the town centre and to help businesses thrive, calling for a moratorium on the council's current enforcement procedure.

The motion was unanimously supported and will now go to the council's licensing and enforcement committee.

In March this year, without



Julie McKenzie.

warning, council officers removed unauthorised advertisement boards without notifying the owners.

The council apologised for taking them without notice and owners were able to collect them from the council yard but a warning followed that it would be stepping up enforcement of its A-board policy with letters being sent out to

businesses advising them to apply for permission.

Reminders were set to be issued early this month and any signs that did not have permission were to be removed, keeping access open for pedestrians and streets attractive to visitors.

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

Councillor McKenzie said she had received representations from businesses in the town centre which believed their trade was being adversely impacted by the anti-A-frame policy.

She said one business which got in touch had 'hit the wall' and cited the removal of its A-board to blame.

'This is not what we should be doing as a council. We have a responsibility to work with businesses to enable them to

trade and that's why I would like to move an urgent motion. It's key that we do it now rather than leave the potential for further damage,' she added.

Money earmarked from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund, including an additional investment from BID4Oban, will see new interpretation signs being installed, as well as upgraded noticeboards.

The noticeboards, managed by BID4Oban, will be to the same specification as the street furniture installed during the Oban town centre improvements some years ago and businesses on side streets will have priority for advertising on the boards, which will also include maps. But those signs, although welcomed by traders, will not make up for trade lost through A-boards being removed, according to Councillor McKenzie.



Sam Coates will represent Scotland Under 18s in chess.

17_T37_ObanChess01

Chess star heads for India

A teenage chess player from Oban will be representing his country in India next month in the World Youth Chess Championship.

Sam Coates, 17, who started playing the game in 2016, will compete in Mumbai from October 1-13 in the under-18 category.

Sam was selected for his consistent performances in tournaments this year, which saw him break into the top 10 in Scotland.

Speaking about what he hopes to achieve, he said: 'It is just to gain the experience from it and play the best chess I can and do the Oban club proud, do Oban proud and do my country proud.'

His first match in the tournament will mark three years to the day since he started playing chess.

He started after his brother asked him for a game, which Sam lost.

'I didn't think anything of it

and he asked me for another game and he beat me again.'

After that, Sam decided to practise just to beat him and it was not long before he was doing exactly that.

The 17-year-old taught himself to play by watching videos online and reading books. He also plays in Oban every Wednesday night.

'Thanks to Duncan and Steven and all the guys at the chess club,' Sam said. 'They have been helping me. On Sundays, we usually go up to The View and we go over famous games and game positions that I am going to get.'

Sam also thanked his friend Liam Richmond, who used to play chess and represented Scotland when he was younger. He used to play against him in school.

'He was someone I could look up to,' Sam said. 'Since he came from Oban, he showed me what you can achieve if you put the hard work in.'

Apple a day keeps the rain away

Brothers Finlay and Wesley Ainscough, aged six and four, had fun at Green Shoots' Apple Day on Saturday in Oban. The youngsters were two of the many visitors who called in at the garden in Glencruitten Woods to make the most of the sunshine and to get a taste of what is happening at the project linked to Hope Kitchen. They also had a go at using an apple crusher to make juice. Green Shoots has at least eight varieties of apples, some of which were established along the garden's walls before the project took root and planted its own trees.





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Retailers left in dark for late-night opening

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



To light or not to light, that is the question being asked by Oban businesses after BID4Oban set the date for the big Christmas switch-on for November 23.

In previous years the festive light-up, and the Reindeer Parade that accompanies it, have been held on the first Saturday of Oban Winter Festival, which this year runs from November 15-24 with an event also taking place on St Andrew's Day, Saturday November 30.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence told The Oban Times that the date had been changed after listening to concerns from members of the public and town businesses that the switch-on was too early.

But Graham Fraser, owner of Alba the Artshop, argued that many retail outlets had



Eve Milarvie and Ruari Cottier switch on the lights last year.

been left in the dark with regards to the change. He added: 'Shopkeepers around the town keep their businesses open later on the Thursday night of the festival (November 19) and the town is usually all lit up.'

'I just found out last week that this year they wouldn't be switched on until the end of the festival and, after speaking to many other shop owners in the area, I found that nobody

had talked to them about it either. My concern is that because there will be no lights or parade until the penultimate day, people coming along to enjoy specific festival events won't walk around the town as much on the late-night opening evening and notice what we all have to offer.'

'Who wants to go shopping when everything is in darkness? The fairy lights add a bit of sparkle to the occasion,

they put everyone in the Christmas spirit and make their festive shopping outing a magical experience. I was really disappointed to learn they won't be on this year.'

Mr Spence defended the position of the organisation tasked with improving Oban as a commercial and tourist destination.

'Over the years, we have had a lot of inquiries from people asking why the switch-on and parade were happening so early,' he said.

'If we had set the date for Saturday November 16, that would have been five and a half weeks before Christmas, which most people we spoke to felt was too soon.'

'It is booked and done for this year and can't be changed but if there is a strong objection, then businesses are welcome to come and talk to us. We always listen to our businesses and take their opinions on board.'

Man jailed for hitting police officer with drink

A 19-year-old man has been jailed for a total of eight months for carrying out a number of offences, including hitting a police officer in the face with a drink.

Leigh Marshall, of no fixed abode, also admitted pushing a shopkeeper and being in possession of cannabis.

He was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday September 11. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Marshall was approached by police on June 22, 2019, as he was 'clearly under the influence'.

'He was told to go on his way, but as he walked away, he raised his middle finger and shouted at the officers,' Mr McGinty added. 'As they approached him, the accused turned and threw a plastic cup, with ice and drink, and hit [the officer] on the face with it.'

The following day, the accused was spotted acting suspiciously in an Oban store before entering a changing room. 'One witness noted security tags lying on the

floor,' Mr McGinty said. 'She opened the curtain and found the accused placing items into a carrier bag. He stood up and shoved her, causing her to fall back into a display stand.'

The accused then left, leaving the items, but was identified by police using CCTV.

When they attended at his address they noted evidence of drug use. They searched the accused and found 6.1 grams of cannabis. After searching his property, a further 28 grams was found.

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton said his client had a serious addiction to Valium, but was now drug free and wished nothing further to do with the drug. He said he dealt the cannabis on a low-key basis to make enough to sustain his Valium addiction.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes sentenced him to two months for throwing a drink at the officer, four months for assaulting the shopkeeper and two months for being in possession of cannabis. The sentences will run consecutively and will be backdated to July 26.

Can you help kit out pet rescuers?



Oban firefighters Alan MacIntyre and Christopher Crawford with Tiggy and the station's pet oxygen mask kit.

Oban firefighters are helping to fundraise to save the lives of family pets caught up in devastating house fires.

The town's station already has one oxygen mask kit for pets and hopes to get another.

Most stations in Argyll now have the kits but four more are needed across the area.

Oban Vets in Tweeddale Street have a collecting tin for donations.

The Oban effort is part of a major drive thanks to a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and not-for-profit organisation Smokey Paws.

Kits have already been delivered to more than 270 fire stations across Scotland. The

move has even received the backing of Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP. The specially designed kits - many donated by animal lovers and big-hearted businesses - are designed to fit an animal's nose and allow enhanced oxygen flow.

They can provide emergency care for ponies, calves and even reptiles, as well as cats and dogs.

Smokey Paws founders Lynn Carberry and Brian Lockyer want to make sure that every one of Scotland's 356 fire stations has a kit.

Oban station manager John Sweeney said: 'We've had our oxygen mask kit for six months. Thankfully, we've not had to use it yet but it's good to know we've got it.'

OT

New group will shape Mossfield

by Kathie Griffiths
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Improvements to Oban's Mossfield Stadium are to be shaped by a new stakeholders' group.

External funding will be needed to pay for work so far estimated at around £58,000 – at least.

A list of three areas that need to be upgraded was brought to councillors at a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee in the Corran Halls. Included are the pathway leading to the stand, resurfacing the access area from the car park, including the back of the goal area, and doubling the current power supply for events.

Historically, Mossfield Stadium has been used successfully over many years for various sporting tournaments including football

and shinty as well as the Argyllshire Gathering. It has also been the home of Oban Live, attracting several thousand people over its weekend.

Argyll's largest music festival, Oban Live announced in June it would be taking a break in 2020 due to the lack of development and improve-

'Mossfield has been managed into decline by the council'

ment of the stadium and the annual issues that remain with regard to making the site acceptable for such a major event.

Organisers, led by Skerryvore's Daniel and Martin Gillespie, said they could no longer keep absorbing the huge costs and risks associated with hosting the event

while the facilities deteriorate and costs increased.

Councillors were asked to note a report at last week's meeting and consider that further development of the work outlined in it will be undertaken, subject to another report coming to the committee's December meeting.

But Councillor Julie McKenzie demanded no resources should be committed until there had been a full consultation with stakeholders and the community.

She called for a stakeholders' group to be set up and wanted to know who had asked for costs in the report to be drawn up and who had already identified the areas outlined for improvements without 'robust' consultations first.

Councillor McKenzie said: 'Mossfield has been managed into decline by the council.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, who chaired the meeting, said: 'We want the best for Mossfield. We've said yes it needs improvements. It's highly important. Let's get something off the ground.'

The meeting heard how some work had already been carried out as part of the improvements before any consultations but it was explained a problem in a piece of road equipment meant a pile of tarmac would have gone to waste until a worker used their initiative to use it up, patching Mossfield.

Councillor Kieron Green put forward a motion that the committee agreed the recommendation, adding a stakeholders' group be formed and no funds be committed until that had been done.

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKenzie and passed unanimously.



Drums N Roses performed at the gala ball.

Eilidh's trust launch event a huge success

The official launch of the charity set up in memory of Manchester Arena victim Eilidh MacLeod was a resounding success with thousands raised to support music education for young people.

Around 250 people gathered in Glasgow's Oran Mor on Friday September 6 for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust's Tartan and Tiaras gala ball to mark its launch and to recognise the work done since the trust was established in October 2018.

Eilidh's trust was established in memory of 14-year-old

Eilidh MacLeod from Barra who died along with 21 others in the attack in May 2017. The trust aims to support music education for young people, reflecting Eilidh's own musical ability and enjoyment as a piper. The trust will also manage and maintain a permanent memorial to Eilidh and a garden of remembrance and reflection on Barra.

On the night, £18,000 was raised, the majority coming from an auction. Raffles and the sale of images of beaches depicting the name of each table helped to boost the total.

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Dante Kane, 10, of Taynuilt, was eyeing up a red MGA at Motorfest. 16_T38_motorfest01_DanteKane

Motorfest got Oban in gear for good day out

Oban's popular Oban Motorfest roared into town, driving in 66 entries from all over Scotland.

Sunday's event was organised by Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club and BID4Oban.

One of the largest entrants was from the Scottish Capri Owners' Club, which arrived with eight vehicles.

The farthest travelled car was a Ford Capri that made it from 220 miles away in Sanquhar, Dumfries, driven by Iain Campbell.

The prize for the best visiting vehicle went to Keith McNaughton from Perth and District Classic Car Club with his Austin 7 Ruby.

Oban man Ken Groom got best car in the show with his 1927 Model T Ford.

Clan Scotland's cycle stunt team entertained the crowd, including youngsters turning up on their own stunt bikes to pick up top tips, for the second year running.

Martyn's Monday Club took the opportunity to raffle a drive in a rally car before

next month's Mull Rally. Tickets for £10 are available from the club's Facebook page and the winner will be drawn on October 4.

And Campbell Cameron was there from Oban FM to play tunes throughout the day.

Organisers also wanted to thank Argyll and Bute Council for its support and West Coast Motors and the town's taxi drivers for relocating for most of the day so the event could take place in Station Square.

Town hits 'saturation'

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A problem-busting working group will get together to help ease traffic-choked Tobermory.

The new group will include council infrastructure officers, police and community representatives to find ways of freeing up the Main Street and surrounding areas in peak tourist time.

On Friday, Pippa Milne, Argyll and Bute Council's executive director of development and infrastructure, was at a meeting at the town's fire station to hear first-hand the problems Tobermory faces five months of the year when the centre is 'saturated' with visitors, their cars and campers.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who warned the town was 'in crisis' and was 'waiting on an accident to happen,' called for the meeting to go away with the foundations of an action plan to address the problems – and that is what happened.

Brian Swinbanks, from

Universal horror at rejection of islands' parking inquiry

Rejection of calls for an independent inquiry into a flawed parking management exercise on Mull and Iona has created 'universal horror' on the islands.

Shiona Ruhemann, convener of Iona Community Council, was at last week's Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee when a call for an out-of-council inquiry into what went wrong was defeated by just one vote.

Instead, officers' recommendation for an in-house review was agreed with the added instruction it would be followed up with a report to the responsible committee for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Dr Ruhemann said: 'We are far from

assured. There's been universal horror at that decision and what they did there.

'The councillors who rejected the independent inquiry and pushed through the parking charges last time had the opportunity to behave accountably and transparently and repair the communities' massive loss of faith in their representatives but instead they went on to cause more damage.'

After Mull and Iona communities launched a legal challenge against Argyll and Bute Council, it shelved plans to introduce parking charges and campaigners got an unreserved apology from the authority's chief executive Cleland Sneddon.

Tobermory Harbour Authority and the Tobermory Traffic Management Group, presented a series of problems and solutions to the meeting that had already been compiled by the concerned community.

He said: 'We miss seeing our town. This lovely, historic town can't breathe. It's saturated.' Ms Milne agreed the town had a seasonal saturation problem and said

the council was aware of the problems.

The meeting, also attended by other Argyll and Bute councillors, police inspector Mark Stephen and worried representatives from the harbour, the doctor's surgery, fire crew, RNLI and businesses, heard a catalogue of concerns from invasions of campervans to chaos at the clock in Main Street and near misses with pedestrians to fire and

lifeboat crews struggling to get through the town.

A nurse told how two workers have to be spared from the doctor's surgery daily to pick up prescriptions. One jumps out to collect from the chemist, while the other stays in the car.

The meeting heard how one long-term solution would be to fill in more of the bay to create more parking, a shorter-term solution would be to come up with some

kind of out-of-town park and ride or park and walk. One suggested site was an area of unused council land adjacent to the cemetery at Baliscate.

Solutions for Main Street could include road markings and new signs and, if needed, traffic regulations to deliver two-hour short stay spaces for shoppers, drop-off delivery points, banning big vehicle parking and providing parking slots for residents and overnight hotel and B&B visitors.

The entrance to Ledaig car park is also dangerous and needs to be improved, the meeting was told.

Once formed, the working party will meet frequently to look at the feasibility of solutions and come up with proposals. Updates will also be brought to the area committee at regular intervals.

Argyll and Bute councillor Elaine Robertson said it was clear how much work had already been done by the community to find solutions and fellow councillor Jim Lynch pledged to keep it on the area committee's agenda.

Join in the Great British Beach Clean

Oban and its surrounding area has lots of opportunities for people to join in the Great British Beach Clean this weekend.

Almost 500 beach cleans and 15,000 volunteers took part last year, lifting more than 305,000 items.

Here are some of the public events starting this week: Friday September 20 from 10.30am to noon on George Street, Oban, supporting the Global Climate Action.

On Saturday September 21 from 11am to 1pm there will be a beach clean along The Esplanade in the town centre.

At the same time, Scottish Sea Farms is organising a clean-up at Teithil Beach at Barcaldine and then on Sunday September 22 an event is being organised from the Creagan Inn, near Appin.

Mull has a beach clean on Sunday, 1am to 4pm at The Corran, Knock Hatchery.

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CHARTS takes over the floor at St John's Cathedral, Oban.

Praise be for CHARTS exhibition in cathedral

Talent was on display in Oban at the weekend showcasing creativity from Argyll and the Isles.

It was the first time St John's Cathedral was able to use its now open space as a venue since the pews were removed earlier this summer and it was filled on Saturday by culture, heritage and arts creatives in celebration of recently formed CHARTS SCIO.

The programme was packed with exhibitions, workshops and live music and the chance to hear more about CHARTS'

plans for the future and how it intends to keep supporting the sector it has been bringing together in a network over the past two years.

Since the project started, with support from Argyll and Bute Council, Creative Scotland and Leader funding, 73 organisations have signed up to it and it has 356 members.

One of the artists who was there on Saturday with her Seadrift ceramic business, was Pauline Beautyman. 'When you work in your own

studio, you forget to put your head up sometimes and don't get a chance to get involved with others, so CHARTS has been amazing for me. I've been a part of the Cowal Open Studios, I've been on a special map that was produced and I've had a film made all about me. I couldn't have done all that by myself.'

The Very Rev Canon Margi Campbell, Provost of St John's Cathedral, said seeing the space opened up showed all the potential and possibilities for its use in the town.

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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 October 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

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OT

Centre owner fondled boys

A man who was jailed for 18 months in 2015 for sexually assaulting young boys 30 years ago has been found to have carried out further acts in the 1990s.

While Torquil Charles Johnson Ferguson, of Solwaybank, Chapel Knowe, Canonbie, was unfit to stand trial, an examination of the facts hearing went ahead last week in Oban Sheriff Court.

Two witnesses gave evidence from an incident that occurred at the Rua Fiola Adventure Centre, near Oban, between 1992 and 1994 and again in 1998, when they were aged 10 and 11.

One witness came forward after a television episode filmed in the Highlands triggered a memory of the adventure camp and, after carrying out an online search, recalled what had happened to him around 25 years previously.

The other phoned his old school to find the name of the outdoor centre and, after searching online, he said he saw the face of his abuser.

One witness said Ferguson fondled him when he was sleeping in a dark cave during one of the activities.

The other said the accused undressed him and repeatedly touched his genitals when he was lying in his bunk.

On Wednesday September 11, Sheriff Patrick Hughes found Ferguson to have committed the acts, though he emphasised it was not a criminal trial.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'We have heard the evidence of both the witnesses and both were the only people present, as is often the case in these type of matters.

'The adults gave evidence about things that happened 30 years ago.'

Mr McGinty said that while the witnesses could not remember some of the 'less important details', they were clear about the fact they were sexually assaulted by Ferguson.

'In my submission, the discrepancies that have been pointed out are perfectly explainable given the passage of time and the age of the complainers. They have given reliable and believable evidence and you can find the acts have been carried out.'

Ferguson's solicitor refuted the claims on his behalf, claiming the witnesses' statements were unreliable.

He said the first witness could not be sure who touched him and there were some inconsistencies with his evidence, such as which side Ferguson was positioned.

The solicitor added that the complainer said when he went

to sleep, Ferguson was next to him and he was awoken with an adult's hand fondling him.

He said the complainer was unaware of Ferguson's movements in the night, he said he could not see as the cave was dark, there were other adults in the cave, and Ferguson was not lying next to him in the morning.

And he said the second witness only able to give evidence after searching online.

Giving his verdict, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said he found both witnesses to be honest and said there was no need for them to make lengthy journeys to court unless they were true. Sheriff Hughes stated he was satisfied Ferguson did the acts described in the evidence. He added: 'The accused has not been found guilty of a criminal offence; he has been found to have done acts which constitute these offences.'



Nurse practitioner Ann-marie Houston and Lorn and Islands Hospital resuscitation officer Glenda Critchley show the public how to give basic life support. 16_T38_ABCD

Charity has heart to heart with public

A charity showcasing its achievements over the past two decades gave visitors the chance to get hands-on at an open day on Sunday.

ABCD (Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease) organised a number of have-a-go demonstrations at Lorn and Islands Hospital on Sunday to raise awareness of its work.

The demonstrations ranged from basic life support and

CPR to finding out more about heart ultrasound screening, cardiac rehabilitation and exercise testing for the heart.

ABCD has raised more than £250,000 since it was launched in 2000, supporting ways of getting people of all ages active in a bid to cut Argyll's rate of cardiovascular disease.

It also helps fill gaps in NHS provision.

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Another cracker of a weekend

Around Oban

KAY McDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



What a great day we had for Motorfest on Sunday – the sun came out at last and the atmosphere was fantastic.

We had great music from Campbell Cameron and Oban FM, lots of wonderful vehicles to reminisce over and covet.

The displays from Clan Mountain Bike Team were astounding. I only hope none of the children got too adventurous when they got home.

I heard the whisky feis was great as well, as was the CHARTS event in St John's Cathedral.

It's hard to keep up with everything that's going on just now.

This weekend promises to be just as eventful.

On Friday night, comedian Jim Smith is on at the Corran Halls, Oban Town Market is on Saturday in Station Square, and Stonefest is on in The Rockfield Centre on Friday and Saturday.

Stonefest sounds really intriguing with lots of things for children to do and very interesting exhibitions and demonstrations for everyone, including dry-stone

walling, stone carving and an exhibition on the Scottish Stonemasons Who Built The White House.

Saturday also brings a day of shinty again after the awful weather rained everything off last weekend with Oban Camanachd competing in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final in Fort William at 3pm and the Under-14 MacMasters Cup final also on again at noon, which also has an Oban team competing.

It's fantastic to see how many locals are doing really well in their sporting fields. You can't open a newspaper or turn on the news without

seeing Robert MacIntyre, John MacPhee, Abi Evans, Magnus Bradbury or one of quite a few other local heroes who represent us so well in their sporting fields.

We're lucky to have so many opportunities for young people to follow their passions and, looking forward, hopefully this will continue and Oban will continue to pop its head up in lots of different sports and show the world what we can do.

The photo last week was above the door to the manager's house at Oban Distillery and this week's photo is nearby but perhaps harder to spot.

New meaning for 'life'boat

by David McPhee
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk



A teenager who was born on Oban's lifeboat has been presented with a commemorative bell from the RNLI for her 18th birthday.

Kerrie MacGillivray, who was born on September 13, 2001, visited Oban Lifeboat Station to mark the anniversary, alongside crew members who were on the original shout and former midwife Hazel Munro.

They welcomed Kerrie back and presented her with the birthday bell, which is an RNLI tradition.

At 3.34am on September 13, 2001, Oban's lifeboat crew was paged to collect Kerrie's mum, who was in labour on Mull.

The volunteers launched, with a midwife from Oban hospital on board, and were soon on their way back towards Oban with Kerrie's mum.

However, before arriving back in Oban, at 6.18am, the



L- R David Isaac (crew), John Wilson (crew), Hazel Munro (midwife), Kerrie MacGillivray, John MacNeil (mechanic), David Graham (crew), Billy Forteith (crew), James MacGillivray (Kerrie's father). Missing from the photo is Lorne MacKechnie who was coxswain.

population of the lifeboat had increased by a further person, as Kerrie was born at 6.16am just as the lifeboat entered the bay.

In his book, *The Story of Oban Lifeboat*, the late Willie Melville wrote: 'On 13th September 2001, Kerrie Hazel MacGillivray made her entry to this world at 06:16 as the

lifeboat entered Oban Bay. Midwife Hazel Munro joined the crew on this service (much to the relief of the crew lads who were without crew member Dr Colin Wilson on this occasion) and it was not surprising to find that the baby's middle name is Hazel.

"The return to service shows the hon sec's remarks as

"Coxswain and crew suffering from a mixture of elation and shock ... all recovered after a bacon roll and a mug of strong tea"

The volunteer crew and everyone at Oban RNLI wished Kerrie a very happy 18th birthday and fair seas and following winds for the years to come.

Oban RNLI crew in three call-outs to rescue vessels

Oban lifeboat came to the rescue of two yachts and a fishing vessel during a busy period last week, all of which had suffered some kind of mechanical failure.

The first of the three call-outs came on September 8, when the volunteer crew of Oban RNLI was tasked with assisting a yacht with engine failure, which was drifting towards Lady's Rock, near Lismore.

The Mora Edith MacDonald arrived at the scene at 8.28pm and found the yacht, which had successfully dropped an anchor to hold it off the rocks.

A tow was secured and Oban lifeboat started to transport the vessel towards Dunstaffnage marina where it was secured alongside the pontoons shortly before 10pm.

The following morning, at

11.25am, the crew were back in action to help a 10-metre fishing vessel with steering failure, also near Lismore. A tow line was secured and the boat brought back to Oban.

On Wednesday September 11, the volunteers were again called out to assist a 30ft yacht.

The boat suffered engine failure in Sound of Luing and was at risk of being blown onto rocks in force eight winds. The yacht, which had two people and a large dog aboard, had suffered full mechanical failure. An anchor was preventing the yacht from being blown onto the rocks.

Owing to the strong currents, rough seas and high winds, it was decided to tow the vessel to the safety of Oban Marina, arriving at 1.55pm.



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OT

Charlotte's back from Mexico trip

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Benderloch teenager Charlotte Jackson-Stark is back from Mexico after 'the best experience' of her life – so far. The 14-year-old was the youngest of 10 Girl Guides representing Scotland on an international volunteering project in July.

Charlotte, who is a young leader with North Connell Guides and goes to Oban High School, spent part of her summer holiday finding out more about Mexican culture, seeing the sights, tasting the best street food tacos, jumping 30ft in waterfalls, climbing the world's second highest pyramid and helping an anti-abuse project promote girl power and girls' rights.

She was based at one of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' five



Charlotte with her cheque donation and some of the children she helped.

centres 80kms away from Mexico City and had to raise £2,000 to fund the trip.

And she was also able to make a £300 donation to a school where she volunteered in Cuernavaca and plans to stay in touch.

Charlotte will also be keeping up-to-date with two

new best friends she met from Canada and hopes to see again soon. 'I thought it was just something they make up when they say you'll make friends for life but you really do. The trip was the best experience of my life,' she said.

Organising bake sales, online sales and a bag pack

in Tesco helped get to her funding goal. She also had lots of support from Oban businesses, the Anne Scott Fund and some funding from GirlGuiding Scotland.

Charlotte and her family are planning a fundraising auction to raise more cash for the school at which she helped.

St Columba's reveals new catchment area

St Columba's Primary School in Oban has now finished a consultation process to rezone its catchment area.

The consultation was a result of a request from the school's parent council which felt the existing one did not reflect fairly the right of children who wanted to get into the school.

The whole mainland area of Oban High School's catchment area is now covered in the new zone as well as islands that do not require hostel accommodation for their children.

Parent council chairperson Helen McGuigan said: 'We have been pushing this case for a long time now, as we knew it was the rights of the children from these areas to access our school without barriers such as placing requests, transport or financial strain.'

'We have a wonderful school with staff who provide such a loving environment for the children to learn and grow, and as a parent council we want to support both the

school and all our parents in any way we can.

'With the new catchment area in place, it means all new and existing families from these areas will now access the free transport they are entitled to, without the worry that it can be taken away from them.'

She added: 'Ensuring the rights of our children has been such a long and difficult journey but it was something we were not going to stop campaigning for. We are very happy with this outcome as it will protect the rights and promote inclusiveness to any family choosing to send their children to St Columba's School for generations to come.'

Mrs McGuigan thanked everyone for their support, including the school staff and children 'who have kept us inspired to do our best for them', she said.

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Coffee and cakes helped to raise funds for the Oban branch of Macmillan Cancer Support. A coffee morning was organised in aid of the charity at Glencruitten church centre on Saturday. Coffee morning fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support, from the left, are Ann McAllistair, Rosemary Young, Pat Horne, Fiona Anderson and Caroline Dunn. The next event will be a collection at Tesco on Friday October 25.

MacColl marches off with Springbank prize

The overall winner of this year's Springbank Invitational Piping Competition was Benderloch's Angus MacColl.

Held in Campbeltown's Seaford Hotel on Saturday September 14, Kintyre Piping Society's annual competition pits some of Scotland's best pipers against one another in a series of competitions.

Mr MacColl had success across the contests, placing second in the Piobaireachd,

winning the Carmichael Quaich; third in the MSR; first in the 6/8 March (by local composers), winning the McFadyen's Transport Ltd Trophy; and first in the Hornpipe and Jig, winning the Committee Members Trophy and a Sgian Dubh presented by the McCallum family. This meant he also won the Silver Medal and the Willie McCallum Memorial Trophy for being champion piper on the day.



Angus MacColl.

Birthday gift boosts diecast show donations

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Organisers of a diecast model show in aid of former firefighter Brian MacDonald of Oban were stunned when a £600 donation was hand-delivered all the way from Islay.

Heather Campbell from Bowmore was so moved when she read about Brian's battle against Motor Neurone Disease in The Oban Times and how the diecast model show was trying to help, that she asked wellwishers to donate money instead of giving her birthday presents.

Heather, who also gave a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support and whose partner's father had Motor Neurone Disease, travelled by boat from Islay to hand over a cheque on Saturday to organiser George Berry.

Mr Berry said he had never



Heather Campbell travelled from Islay with her dad Peter to Benderloch to hand over her £600 donation to diecast model show organiser George Berry. 16_T38_diecast03

known a gesture like it and felt overwhelmed. 'I can't get over it. It really is the kindness of strangers.'

'We are absolutely delighted with Heather's gift and the generosity of everyone who came along to support us at the show,' he said.

The show at Benderloch's

Victory Hall has made £2,094.43 so far with donations still coming in.

Donation tins are also still out at Soroba shop, Connel village shop, the Halfway House filling station, Aulay's bar and at Poppies near Dunbeg for anyone who wishes to make a donation.



Linda Currie with daughter Megan, 12, from Barcaldine and David Williamson, who brought his fire helmet collection from Edinburgh. 16_T38_diecast01



Lewis Owen from Oban was at the show giving great attention to tiny figurines with a micro brush. 16_T38_diecast02

Communities' fund helps thousands

Out of £28,893 awarded to 16 Oban, Lorn and Isles organisations from Argyll and Bute's supporting communities fund last year, £2,170 is due to be returned unspent.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee agreed last week the money coming back from Ardchattan Community Council could be carried forward for next year.

Members agreed Oban Community Sensory Garden could keep the £650 it had been awarded for a project to get an arts tutor to work with adults with learning disabilities which had not run its course because of illness.

In all, the 2018/19 grants supported 5,250 people to get involved with projects from outdoor activities, sports, music and mental health.

Highlights included a grant for a Lego Club in Oban, a range of youth projects including marine environment education sessions for children in Mull, and strength and conditioning classes for older people in Dalmally.



From left, missionary worker Ruth Turner, Catherine Pearson, service supervisor Beth Campbell, Sue Turner, Jennifer Radcliffe and Annie Acton.

Hats the way to help impoverished children

Children living in one of the most deprived areas of Johannesburg are to receive a gift from Hope Kitchen guaranteed to brighten up their lives.

Beanies for Hope will see more than 50 rainbow-coloured hats jetting over to South Africa, in the safe hands of missionary worker Ruth Turner.

Lovingly knitted by volunteers from Hope Kitchen, the first consignment of beanies also feature a specially crafted flower which can be detached from the hat and worn as a brooch or given to a loved one.

Hope Kitchen service

supervisor Beth Campbell said: 'Our volunteers have made hats before for local causes such as premature babies and twirl muffs for dementia sufferers, so when they heard about the places Ruth had been working at in South Africa, from her mum Sue who volunteers with us, we decided that they would maybe appreciate some hats too. The group have been working hard and came up with a wonderful assortment of multi-coloured hats of all sizes.'

Ruth lives in South Africa now and visits her parents on Seil on her yearly trips back to Scotland. 'One of the

things I do in South Africa is visit communities that are in poverty - we call them squatter camps - and the children there have absolutely nothing.

'These hats will go to children living in Krugersdorp, where they live in metal sheds, have no food and there is only one water tap at the end of the village. It is at high altitude so the temperatures plummet in winter. These hats will help them survive.'

Children from Lochnell Primary School will be carrying out unwanted wool collections in the Benderloch area next week to donate to Beanie for Hope.

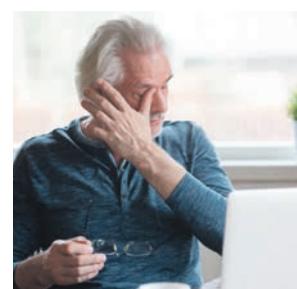


Eye to eye with John Wallace

Rights v responsibilities

Most of my day is spent examining elderly patients. Our population is ageing. Dealing with eye diseases and cataracts in this patient group is the norm rather than the exception. For many of these patients vision problems can be life changing. If you are the only driver in the family and have to give up driving, or you struggle to look after yourself due to poor vision, you might have to consider residential care of some sort. Thankfully these more extreme outcomes can often be prevented by early treatment.

In Scotland the NHS provides many aspects of our eye-care. For cataract surgery your optometrist will normally refer you to an NHS hospital. In the last



couple of years the waiting time for an ophthalmological out-patient appointment has gone from two to eight or nine months. This is partially due to increased demand but, a very significant factor is almost one in three patients fail to attend for their appointment. If we were all to attend the hospital appointments we had been given there would be a dramatic improvement in

waiting times. Even worse is the cost of failing to attend. If you have had a letter regarding a forthcoming hospital appointment you may have read each appointment costs a minimum of £135. In a busy clinic these lost appointments could easily be costing the NHS £2000 per consultant day. Just think of all the treatments that could be funded if that money was not being squandered by failing to attend.

Fail to attend also happens to optometric, dental and GP practices. Most optometrists and dentists are NHS contractors who are paid only when we examine a patient. That lost income cannot be replaced.

Free treatment is a right. It's your responsibility not to squander that right!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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OT

Meeting aims to shape up Oban's future

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Community Council hosted an open meeting for people to have their say on the town's future.

Last night's event, September 18, was open to everyone in the town and surrounding areas who was interested.

Feedback from the evening and people's questions on Oban's strategic development framework will be submitted to council officials working on it.

Meetings with all community councils in the area are to be arranged as part of consultation in creating the document that will help take the area

into the next 20 to 25 years. Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre said a lot of effort and money had been spent on the framework so far but there was frustration that there was nothing solid as yet for people to grasp.

At a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last week, members were given an update on the strategy. They heard it would have to be evaluated before it can be made available to the public but that it would be 'fluid' and could kept being fed into.

No date was given for when the final document would be ready for people to read up on but there would be another update given to members in the New Year.



Neil MacIntyre.

'A lot of effort and money has been spent on framework'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The Glenfinnan Highland Gathering is now long past for the year so this article is nearly a month out of date.

However, a phone call last Friday night from none other than Fergie MacDonald reminded me of the day and spurred me to write about it. The phone call was on a totally different subject, but it brought back thoughts on Fergie's memorable opening speech as chieftain of the games.

I've been to many Highland games over the years, mainly as a spectator, sometimes to sell CDs and occasionally as a competitor, and I've heard many a speech delivered to open these events. Never have I enjoyed one as much as Fergie's on August 17 this year.

It was classic 'Fergie' and cut straight through the customary pomp and ceremony of most speeches at such occasions. There is, of course, nothing wrong with a bit of pomp and ceremony at this type of event and in many ways they are vital ingredients, but it was nonetheless refreshing to see Fergie standing on the

platform in his own relaxed manner and to hear him deliver the speech with his unique confidence, energy and style.

On August 17, 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the Jacobite standard at Glenfinnan, beginning a military campaign that ended in failure at the battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746. There were many strands and complexities that led to the Jacobite Rebellion but, regardless of the complicated political and social context of it, there is no doubt that its occurrence and subsequent failure led to the destruction of Highland society and culture in the years that followed.

The effects of the brutal ethnic cleansing that came after the battle of Culloden are clear to see to this day and the population of Gaeldom has not recovered from it.

Fergie succinctly covered the history and the many issues surrounding it with clarity and without the misty-eyed romanticism that often accompanies any reference to this subject. He even managed

a good portion of humour throughout.

A particular highlight was when Fergie quoted his direct ancestor, Ronald MacDonald, Raoghnnall Iain, as he was known, who, according to Clan Ranald lore, said to Prince Charles that day: 'Thearlaich, tha mi 'n dòchas gu bheil na buill agad airson a gnothaich seo fhaicinn troimhe.' (Charlie, I hope you have the courage to see this through.)

I can well imagine that if Fergie MacDonald himself were at Glenfinnan on August 17, 1745, he would be similarly direct in his approach to the Prince. He would probably have written him a tune, given him a haunch of venison and sold him a box of CDs as well.

Fergie's speech was the perfect foundation for the rest of the gathering and it reminded me once again why I have held him as a hero since first I heard his music when I was nine years old. With the energy and vigour Fergie still has at the age of 82, he will be playing music and making speeches for many years to come.



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Rumours about lack of recycling are rubbished

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A council boss has rubbished rumours that recycling efforts are going to waste.

Oban councillor Kieron Green asked Argyll and Bute Council's head of Infrastructure Service Jim Smith last week if everything put out for recycling really was dumped into the same bins at collection and was not actually recycled.

'This is an opportunity to put these rumours to bed,' said Councillor Green, speaking at Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) Area Committee.

Mr Smith answered that everything recyclable was recycled apart from a small



Kieron Green.

percentage of items contaminated because they have not been washed out.

'The bulk of the materials - cans, glass, plastic and tins go to "offtakers" and into the

recycling process. They don't go to landfill.

'There's some confusion that the same collection vehicles are used but they are cleaned out before the recycling rounds. I can give absolute assurance that recycled waste is taken and used in the recycling process,' he said.

A report to the OLI committee showed that across Argyll and Bute in 2018, 48.8 per cent of waste was recycled, composted and recovered while the rest went to landfill.

The numbers were slightly up on 2017 figures. Tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste that went to landfill in 2017 were 18,556 and 18,671 last year.



Paul Lawson from Oban Distillery was at The View.

Whisky feis toasts success

Oban's second whisky feis attracted a big crowd to The View on Saturday in search of the west coast's best tittle.

There were more than 22 whisky and gin producers at the event organised by Euan Finlayson of Oban Whisky and Fine Wines.

From Campbeltown to the Isle of Harris, producers

came from across the west coast and the islands to showcase their wares.

'We've got so many wonderful producers in our area so that was the point of having the feis - to celebrate them all,' said Mr Finlayson, who said he was delighted with the turnout and will be doing it all over again next year.

Man spared jail after car park assault

A man has been spared jail after assaulting two men in a supermarket car park.

Stewart Cain, 21, of Sgeir Mhol Guest House, Oban, admitted approaching a car on October 19, 2018, before repeatedly punching one of the victims on the body and headbutting another, breaking his nose.

He was sentenced on September 11, where, in his defence, solicitor Kevin McGinness said his client was heavily intoxicated and had very little recollection of events.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Cain he made a sensible decision to take a bag to court with him. However, in the end he dealt with it by way of a community payback order. That included Cain to be under the supervision of the social work department for 12 months, to carry out 170 hours of unpaid work, to remain indoors between the hours of 8pm and 5am, and to pay £2,000 in compensation to one of the victims.



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OT

Mull Mòd numbers



Tarbert folk group Na Smearaich are Daria Deravyankin, Sarah Kirk and Aimee Burnett. 16_T38_mullmod04_NaSmearaich



Hughes brothers Felix, eight, and Rufus, 11, from Rockfield Gaelic Unit won medals. 16_T38_mullmod12_FelixRufus

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The 81st Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinn, Mull provincial mòd, enjoyed bumper numbers of entries this year, delighting organisers.

More than 1,600 separate entries were signed up for this year's event, including eight adult choirs.

For the past two years, numbers have topped 1,400 but figures excelled for 2019, said chairwoman Janet MacDonald.

Choirs from Oban, Taynuilt, Cumbernauld, Lothian, Mull and Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association had their competition on Saturday.

As ever, with the Royal National Mòd being less than a month away in Glasgow, Mull made a good practise ground for medal hopefuls.

'Numbers this year were really quite amazing,' said Mrs MacDonald.

Tobermory venues over Friday and Saturday included the Main Street's MacDonald



Dervaig Primary School's song was appropriately called I'm Good at Singing.

16_T38_mullmod05_dervaigschool

Arms for the first time, stepping in to make up for the loss of MacGochan's after a devastating fire.

Hardy competitors and supporters also tackled Middle Brae to get to the parish church, the hilly route being acclaimed as Scotland's steepest street.

'It's the quickest way up but not the most comfortable,'

added Mrs Mac Donald.

Participants travelled from all parts of Mull, Oban and Glasgow to join in the Mòd festivities, and Tìree sent a school choir for the first time.

Last year the island sent over a few soloists but for 2019 the choir came the conventional way by ferry to Oban, then Oban to Craignure and bus to Tobermory, said choir

leader Ishbel Campbell. Among Mòd winners was Innes MacKay from Dunbeg Primary School, who got his third gold in the age nine to 12 learner boys' own choice song, adding to his wins at Oban and Lochaber Mòds.

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SCOTLAND

50 YEARS

boom for 81st year



The glorious sight and sound of youngsters singing on Tobermory beach. 16_T38_mullmod05_beachchoir



Ulva Primary School made their own masks for their song called Going to The Zoo. 16_T38_mullmod09_ulvaschool



Tiree Primary School sent a choir for the first time to the Mull mòd. 16_T38_mullmod06_Tireechoir



Proud moment for mòd watchers when the children sang on the beach. 16_T38_mullmod08_audience



Eva and Bethany Bisp, aged eight and six, from Oban's Rockfield Primary School. 16_T38_mullmod011_Bispsisters

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In 2018 we raised an incredible £26,914,382 and are aiming to top that this year.

How you can get involved

Registrations for 2019 are open. All you have to do is sign up to host a Coffee Morning and receive your free Coffee Kit.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Staff given stake in television company

Eighteen staff at Stornoway-based production company MacTV have been given a stake in the business after it became Scotland's latest employee-owned business.

Established in 2001, award-winning MacTV is the largest independent TV company in the Highlands and Islands.

Specialising in factual documentary, arts and music programmes in Gaelic and in English, the company is one of the biggest producers of programming for BBC ALBA, including the Gaelic language channel's flagship documentary series Trusadh, which tells distinctive and compelling stories from Scotland.

The company's main production base is in the Hebrides, with staff also in the central belt, and in recent years the firm has been involved in a variety of international co-productions, working with companies in Canada, Ireland, Iceland and Wales.

When managing director Bill Morrison began to look ahead to his retirement, there were a number of considerations, including a preference to ensure the business remained based in Stornoway, and that the positive community ethos and culture remained at its core.

Bill identified employee ownership as a potential ideal solution, and he subsequently got in touch with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to explore the option in more detail. From there, he was introduced to Co-operative Development Scotland, the arm of Scotland's enterprise agencies that supports company growth through collaborative and employee ownership.



Staff of MacTV are being given a stake in the company.

Bakery is on a roll with a third outlet

The Ginger Breadman, an established Argyll and Bute bakery, is raising the bar in Helensburgh, with the launch of its third premises following funding support from the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme.

The bakery, which is run by Martin Rippon, was launched in June 2013 in Dunbartonshire in a converted church and sold scones and traybakes using only a domestic cooker.

Since relocating to Helensburgh in October 2015, the business has continued to expand rapidly and now specialises in artisan sourdough breads, cakes, deli sandwiches and pastries.

Its significant growth has resulted in the requirement for additional premises to service both the bakehouse, located in Helensburgh, and the catering business which supplies baked goods for hotels, restaurants and retail outlets across the central belt.

Martin, owner of The Ginger Breadman, said: 'I launched the business after years working in hospitality, both front and back of house and always loved it.'

'I approached Business Gateway as, while I had the passion, I had never baked goods in a commercial capacity.'

'However, with its support, I decided to take the plunge and open a small bakehouse and it's just snowballed since then. We've gone from baking six loaves a day to more than 1,000 a week.'

'Business Gateway has been an excellent partner since I started my business, helping me with the early stages of my business plan and providing a range of workshops that we were able to take advantage of.'

'This relationship has only grown as The Ginger Breadman relocated from Dunbartonshire to Helensburgh.'

'The support let me employ additional staff, including a trained and qualified patissier chef through grant funding, and purchase equipment that has furnished our second outlet.'

The business has since grown from one



Martin Rippon is owner of The Ginger Breadman.

full-time member of staff to nine employees, including two apprentices, and supplies businesses in Loch Lomond and Helensburgh.

Martin, who gained his SVQ Level II Craft Bakery Skills while on the job, is an active member of Scottish Bakers and works with them to deliver his apprenticeship training.

Martin said: 'The wider industry can struggle to attract people due to difficult conditions and the unsociable working hours required. However, it's an incredibly rewarding job and we have been fortunate to have a great bunch of passionate bakers working for us.'

'Looking after them is really important to us, because we appreciate it's a hard job and

we couldn't do it without our great team behind us.'

Jen Smith, Business Gateway adviser, added: 'It's been a brilliant journey to support Martin as his business has gone from strength to strength, and completely embedded itself into the Helensburgh community.'

To find out more about Business Gateway and its services, please visit its website at <https://www.bgateway.com/>.

The Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund 2014-20 Structural Funds Programme.

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Gastro pub of year for Ben Cruachan

The Ben Cruachan Inn at Lochawe scooped a win at the sixth annual Food Awards Scotland.

The awards were held in the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow, on Monday August 26 and recognised professionals and establishments with a range of awards and accolades from across the vibrant Scottish food scene.

The Ben Cruachan Inn, which reopened after a full refurbishment in 2017, has grown its culinary reputation for high quality, locally-sourced food and has proved popular with residents and tourists.

Members of the team behind the award-winning pub attended the awards dinner already proud of their nomination in the Gastro Pub category, which was voted for by the public.

Co-owner Tracey Peedle commented: 'We were so pleased to have been nominated by the public as it shows that people are



Left to right are Jodie Sharkey, Ross MacDonald, Tracey Peedle, Steve McDonald, Lesley Murray, Debbie Ross and Tom Fossey.

really enjoying what we set out to create by bringing the pub back to life after many years of disrepair.

'To walk away with the win of Gastro Pub of the Year for the Central Scotland region came as a fantastic surprise and we couldn't be more delighted.'

Co-owner Steve McDonald

added: 'These awards celebrate the very best in the Scottish food industry, the servers, the specialists and suppliers.'

'There's so much team effort behind what makes the Ben Cruachan Inn tick, from our incredibly hard-working staff to the choices made on the menu,

suppliers and more. We just want to say a huge thank you to all our staff and supporters for their part in this win. We feel very excited about the future and our role in the Argyll hospitality industry.'

Irfan Younis, CEO of the company behind the 2019 awards, said: 'Scotland offers a wide range of places that serve world cuisines.'

'The finalists were voted for by the public for providing authentic recipes and unique dishes to their diners, creating memorable experiences for both residents and visitors. For this year's awards, we welcomed and rewarded some of the best in the Scottish food industry who serve us up some of the tastiest food, enhance our culture, deliver top quality customer service and provide us with some of the best banter around.'

The Ben Cruachan Inn recently received its Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence based on its number of five-star reviews and was given the Silver Award for Green Tourism earlier this year.

MSP hits out at criminals targeting businesses

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant has questioned Kate Forbes, the minister for public finance and digital economy, about reports that criminals are targeting rural businesses due to the lack of facilities to bank cash.

Mrs Grant, at Holyrood last week, asked what the Scottish Government was doing to support Highlands and Islands businesses experiencing losses due to cuts in rural banking services.

The MSP said: 'Businesses that deal in cash are especially vulnerable because there appears to be an increase in break-ins surrounding those types of businesses. That is costing them financially but also impacting on business confidence.'

Ms Forbes, the Lochaber MSP, said Mrs Grant raised a good point. She said advice on how to develop business crime reduction and prevention strategies was carried out by the Scottish Business Resilience Centre which received grant funding from the Scottish Government but also work was ongoing with the banks to ensure that, between government and banks, businesses had the security they needed when it came to dealing with cash.

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Crowds celebrate life of naturalist Gavin Maxwell

On Saturday September 7 at Sandaig Beach, Glenelg, people from all over the world crowded around a simple rock, with a plain plaque upon it.

Songs were sung and poems read to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Scottish natural historian and writer Gavin Maxwell, who died aged 55 from lung cancer in 1969.

Organised by the Gavin Maxwell Society, the commemorations began at 2pm with a reading by society member Margaret MacKenzie, from Maxwell's most famous book *A Ring of Bright Water*, which tells of his life at Sandaig with his first otter Mijbil.

Richard Wathen, a distant relative of Maxwell, read the poem *Avalon* by Tennyson followed by a minute's silence which ended the gathering, with many spotting a golden eagle flying overhead. It is with thanks to Lord Dulverton of the Eileanreach estate, that vehicle access was given to the beach for the ceremony.

To bring the day of commemoration to a close, the Gavin Maxwell Society had gained permission from the Eilean Ban Trust to use Gavin Maxwell's last home before his death, the lighthouse keeper's cottage of Eilean Ban.

Visitors from all over Lochalsh, society members and students representing Plockton High School arrived to gather in the large living room of the cottage, called the Long Room. Americans, Europeans and locals swapped their favourite Maxwell anecdotes, before order was called by the evening's compere Peter Lees.



The Sandaig Gathering by Gavin Maxwell's memorial. Photograph: Katia Auvity

Highland Yacht Club a

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



One of the pleasures of sailing on the west coast is that there are, surprisingly, still one or two hidden corners to savour and explore.

Loch Teacuis, a short sea loch off Loch Sunart on the Morvern Peninsula, is one. The name is Gaelic and Old Norse and means the 'loch of the thickly wooded hillsides', which, in Viking speak, is where long ships were built and repaired.

The earlier history of the area lies in the prehistoric kitchen-middens of Barr and the nearby Island of Risga, the 4,000-year-old chambered burial cairn at Carnliath by Rahoy House (the birth place of the celebrated 19th century Gaelic songwriter and local GP, Dr John MacLachlan) and the vitrified Iron Age dun standing on top of the 'Giant's Knoll' above the entrance to the inner loch.

Access to outer Loch Teacuis is guarded by two narrow channels, Caol Charna and Caol Achadhleac, and to the inner loch by Caolas Rahuaidh. Neither is wide and each echoes the old Gaelic proverb, 'Tha beagan trocair aig an fhairge, ach cha'neil trocair idi aig na creagan' - the waves have some mercy but the rocks have no mercy at all, but for all that they are navigable on a rising tide.

Up until the 1940s, when puffers, small Clyde steamers, delivered coal and other provisions to the communities around Loch Teacuis, they always used the Caol Achadhleac route.

According to tradition a Highland bull regularly swam across Caol Charna for some female company.

It so happened that John MacLachlan was courting a girl on the same island at the time. When there was no boat to be had, the story goes that this Highland Poseidon would cross the icy narrows on the bull's back remarking once to some awestruck visitors, not used to seeing passenger-carrying bulls, that their missions could be described as being somewhat similar.

Before the First World War, anyone who owned a coastal property in the Highlands kept a yacht for pleasure and work because many of the public roads were, and still are, little more than cart-tracks - two wheel ruts and a ribbon of weeds and stones down the centre.



In 1871, three brothers called Newton bought the 23,500-acre Glencripesdale Estate, including Rahoy, lying between Loch Teacuis and Loch Sunart, which they serviced with the Kelpie, a 98ft long, 102-ton, twin-screw, steam yacht and two other vessels. It was said that to keep the Kelpie's crews occupied, they would get up steam simply to pick up lobster pots from behind the island of Carna.

The Newtons were founding members of the Royal Highland Yacht Club based in Oban. One of them, Commander Mark Newton RN, settled at Rahoy and participated in many RHYC activities. After Mark Newton's death in 1933, and the sale of the estate shortly afterwards, contact with the club was lost until 1965 when Captain Archie Colville arrived on the scene in his magnificent trimaran, the *Victress of Rahoy*, which he sailed from Great Yarmouth, via Inverness and the Caledonian Canal.

Victress of Rahoy was designed by an American, Arthur Piver, who became world

renowned in the late 1950s for his trimarans. Built by Contour Craft in Great Yarmouth in 1964-5 to Lloyds 100 A1 specification, *Victress* was the first and probably the only Piver trimaran certified to that exacting standard. She was Bermudan rigged, constructed of GRP sheathed marine ply and was 40ft long, 22ft wide and drew only 3ft 6in. There was no blade keel or centreboard and she never heeled more than 10 degrees. Although *Victress* did have high windage (but little brute momentum) she could be taken into Loch Teacuis at most stages of the tide.

On one occasion on her return from a trip to Skye, she passed through the Carna Narrows by moonlight, with Tilley lamps as head lights hung from under the float cross beams.

There were six berths although sometimes the floats would be used for sleeping in. The only technical equipment she carried was a Brookes and Gatehouse radio direction finder (RDF) and an echo sounder made by the same company. There was a Ford petrol



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and secret loch



Victress of Rahoy ready for anti-fouling on the beach with Rahoy House in the background (photograph: Tom Colville) **and, inset, Loch Teacuis would be a fine location for an annual muster** (photograph: Iain Thornber).

she delivered much-needed stores to Mull and clays for the annual Morvern clay pigeon shoot. Following Captain Colville's death in January 1970, the Victress languished on a mooring off Kerrera for a couple of seasons before being sold and refitted. Her new owner used her for family cruises to Norway and Brittany. If her present whereabouts is known to any reader, I would be grateful if they would contact me.

Captain Colville, who was a popular and well-liked resident landowner in Morvern, had a distinguished military career. Before the Second World War he had been a keen canoeist. Shortly after hostilities began, he volunteered for what was termed 'special and hazardous service', and in 1942 was recruited by the Small Scale Raiding Force (SSRF) within 62 Commando. Later he joined the Special Boat Service where he became a canoeing instructor.

In the summer of 1943, he trained at Loch a' Choire, Kingairloch, on one-man midget submarines called Welman. That year he was injured and after convalescing was re-recruited in July 1944 by Special Operations Executive to work on the Welfreighter. These were top secret, 37ft cargo submarines, designed with the highly dangerous objective of transporting mines and special forces personnel on raiding and sabotage operations in enemy-held ports and coastal waters. Later he served in the British section of Australian units interrogating former Japanese PoW in the Philippines and the Palau Islands before returning to Australia and becoming eligible for repatriation. He was demobbed in 1946 and remained a keen canoeist all through his life.

When Archie Colville was serving in the Far East at the end of the war, he sailed in local fishing craft with outriggers which, it is thought by his family, may have led him towards acquiring a trimaran.

Given Morvern's long association with the RHYC, Loch Teacuis, although challenging, would seem an appropriate place for an annual muster. I hope one day this may come to fruition.

auxiliary motor engine with a hydraulic, fully feathering propeller, but no reversing gearbox. Although she carried no large-scale electronic charts or a plotter, Victress sailed in and out of Loch Teacuis without mishap.

This was due to good navigational skills and also, in part, to an innovative scheme which involved fastening fluorescent metal road-signs onto the rocks and skerries in the Carna Narrows to determine the vessel's exact position even at night.

For five years, Victress sailed under the club's blue ensign and was well known on the west coast. Every year she participated in a number of RHYC events, including West Highland Week, and cruised extensively for several weeks each summer with the family aboard. Victress was also made available to local school children and to Sea Scouts attending the training camps at Ardencaple on Seil Island, enabling many of them to go to sea in a 'proper yacht' for the first time.

During the 1966 national seamen's strike,

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We travel back to January 1993 and the ladies of Taynuilt WRI who were all smiles as they posed for a photograph. We published a photo here on September 5 which had little information. However, Graham Campbell emails to say the people pictured were, back row, Gavin MacDonald, Craig Robertson, Graham Campbell and Ross Brown. Front, Shona Crawford, Carolyn Campbell and Mairi Crawford. It was taken at the Seil Games.



This photograph dates back to 1997 and shows David Campbell, left, of Ballachulish Primary School, and Stefan Haynes, from St Mary's Primary School, who were winners of a poster competition organised by Lochaber Health Forum.



Portnahaven Rooftops - Islay



Highland Coo - 'Windy MacArd'

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OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBWork together to
improve Oban's
Mossfield Stadium

As we reported a couple of months ago, Oban Live will not take place next year because, in part at least, of the condition of Mossfield Stadium and its perceived deterioration. The music festival's demise, hopefully temporary, is a significant loss to the town.

The stadium, of course, is also home to other major events, most of the sporting by nature.

So it is good news we report this week that a stakeholders' group is to be established to help decide what improvements are required. Councillor Julie McKenzie says Argyll and Bute Council has 'managed its decline' in a clear apportioning of blame.

The important thing now is for all those with an interest in Mossfield's future to set aside their differences and work together to bring about the stadium's necessary upgrading. Oban's economy is in part relying on it.

RNLI remains crucial
to our communities

No-one who lives in a maritime community such as Oban, Argyll and the Isles would ever downplay the importance of the RNLI.

The crucial nature of the charity's work is never underestimated in communities such as ours.

This was thrown into sharp relief last week as the Oban lifeboat crew responded to three emergencies in the space of a few days as two yachts and a fishing vessel got into difficulties.

But there was another, much happier, reminder of its lifesaving work when Kerrie MacGillivray, was presented with a commemorative bell on her 18th birthday – having been born on Oban lifeboat.

More is needed from SNH to
protect habitats

I read in The Oban Times that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is funding £1.8 million worth of projects to improve natural habitats – an admirable gesture – as part of its work to 'improve natural habitats, safeguard plant and animal species, and improve biodiversity'.

In a separate article, SNH is quoted as 'protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health'.

How much better it would be if it put more effort at no cost into protecting our seas from devastation, by vigorously opposing plans for new or enlarged fish farms. Its efforts in the case of the recent application in the Sound of Gigha were feeble at best.

What action will it take in the face of multiple applications currently in the pipeline around the whole of the Argyll and Bute coastline? Probably it will support them without due consideration of their cumulative effect, as will Argyll and Bute Council, despite the fact that they will surely damage ecosystems and endanger biodiversity.

All this in a week when SNH's failure to stand up to Donald Trump's golf courses near Aberdeen seems likely to lead to the complete abandonment of an entire SSSI – with SNH recommending withdrawal of protection.

Scotland deserves better protection of its natural heritage than SNH seems willing to give.

Dennis Archer,
Gallanach Road, Oban.

Islanders have been
abandoned in face of greed

A recent report from Skye says folk were captive in their homes for a lengthy period due to the single-track roads in one village being full of cars and campervans, and most with no driver to be seen.

We as islanders have been sold out by various organisations, including the tourist board and those who rent out holiday homes, who are obsessed with greed. Islanders are now having to move at odd times, like 7am, for shopping before the onslaught starts again.

Peaceful islanders only want the freedom of coming and going from their own homes at their own chosen time but we cannot do that any more as we have been rudely invaded.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir.

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 Estate, Oban, or to our office in High

What has happened to the
swans in Oban?

I have been a visitor to Oban over a long period of time and in years gone by used to see the swans in the harbour. However, I have not seen them for a long time.

I have asked about this but no one seems to

know where they have gone. Do any Oban Times readers have any information on this?

Mrs K Douthwaite, by email.

Our communities are not
being well-served

It is hard to disagree with Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara when he calls Boris Johnson's



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Street, Fort William. This week's photograph is by Ian Lockhart who said: 'An image from Battleship Hill overlooking Dunollie Castle towards the Sound of Mull during sunset.'

parliamentary shenanigans 'outrageous'. Each day this Prime Minister looks ever more like 'Wreck it Ralph' than someone with a real plan. The hard right Tory government at Westminster doesn't give a hoot for ordinary people, whether they live on the west coast of Scotland or in the middle of England.

The recent drama at Westminster may have made good telly and copy for the newspapers

but let's not fall into the trap that all this parliamentary manoeuvring is making a difference to many people's lives. I really hope over the next few weeks that our representatives can focus on the real political issues, using their position to shift power from those in high places to those who don't have a lot of money, those who are working hard just to get by.

What really matters is making sure that people can get a job and earn a decent wage, have a roof over their head, are looked after when times get hard, or they're ill, or get old, that our schools, public services, and transport links are properly funded and organised.

There's a need for our representatives to keep this in mind, whether they're in Westminster, Holyrood, or Argyll and Bute Council chamber. I get the feeling that the needs of our communities are not being well-served by any level of government.

**Polly Jones,
Treetops, Garelochhead.**

More funding is needed to finance road repairs

I was happy to be back on Islay again recently to check up on progress being made by our hard-working roads and streetlighting teams in improving our island's infrastructure.

The long overdue pavement and streetlighting work is being welcomed by residents in Port Charlotte especially, considering how long it has been since the last time any pavement work has been done in the village.

In Portnahaven, there continues to be justifiable complaints from residents on King Street about the glare from the streetlighting on Shore Street. This could be rectified by directing the lights downwards on to the road, where they should be pointing.

In Bowmore, the rough and crumbling pavements are rapidly becoming a series of trip hazards. As part of my role on the council administration, I have been pressing for more funding to address this longstanding matter.

My constituents on Mansfield Road in Port Ellen are still pressing for a proper resurfacing job to be done as the pothole repairs do not last. This small road has a large flow of heavy vehicles so it is only fair that it is given proper attention. Our roads department's hands are tied by the funding it receives and our council's block grant is regularly cut by the Scottish Government.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and Islands ward.**

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Tha obair-ealain le Dòmhnall Moireach an crochadh san taigh agam a th' air a stèidheachadh air a' bhàrdachd aig Catriona NicGumaraid "Cearcall mun Ghealaich".

Bliadhna mhòr na stoirme chunnaic mi cearcall mun ghealaich 's dh'fhalbh na h-adagan eòrna nan sruth chun a' chladaich. Is sheas sinn nar triùir ann, mi fhìn, mo phiuthar, is m' athair, a' faicinn obair ar làimhe na dheann ruith à sealladh.

Saoilidh mi gum bheil e doirbh briathran a lorg a chuireas an cèill an tàmailt agus am briseadh spioraid a tha an lùib a bhith a' faicinn toradh do chuid spàirn ga sgrios le cumhachd droch aimsire, gun iomradh air a' chosgais mhòr a thig an cois sin nuair a dh'fheumar biadh-sprèidh a cheannach mar gheamhrachadh.

Tha mi a' cuimhneachadh air nàbaidh bho am m' òige a thòisich air obair-àitich air a' chroit agus gu mì-fhor-tanach nuair a bhuain e feur airson a' chiad turas bha fìor shamhradh fliuch ann.

Dh'fhairtlich air am feur a thiomachadh agus mu dheireadh bha e air grodadh agus cho dubh ris an todhar, agus thug nàbaidh geur

"foghar nam boiteag" air saothair an duine bhochd.

'S tric a chluinnear iomradh air maise na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eileanan, agus aithne gum bheil sin pailt cho fìor ri droch latha 's a tha e ri latha àlainn samhraidh! Thug e toileachas mòr dhomh aithris a chluinntinn air mar a tha an ro-innleachd Gàidhlig aig VisitScotland /Alba a' soirbheachadh is dearbhadh a' sìor nochdadh air meud na h-ùidh a th' aig luchd-turais far feadh an t-saoghail anns a chànan agus na dualchas.

Thug mi-fhìn bliadhnaichean a stri, gun chus adhartais, gus toirt air luchd-stiùiridh a ghnìomhachais chudromach seo luach na Gàidhlig a thuigsinn agus tha e sònraichte math seo fhàicinn a' tachairt mu dheireadh thall. Bheir turasachd cultair agus cànan cothroman cosnadh luachmhor ùra dha luchd-cleachdaidh Gàidhlig feadh na dùthcha, agus gu sònraichte ann an sgìrean a' sìor nochdadh far am bheil Gàidhlig fhathast meadhanach làidir mar chànan làitheil.

Cuidichidh sin gus eaconamaidh nan coimhearsnachdan sin a bhrosnachadh, cosnadh a chruthachadh, agus daoine òga a ghleid-

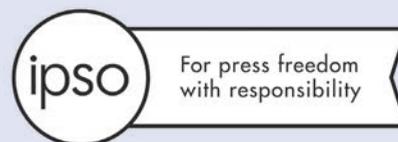
headh, amasan a tha deata-mach dha luchd-riaghlaidh aig gach ìre. Cha bhuainear ach mar a chuirear, agus tha an seanfhacal pailt cho fìrinneach a thaobh cànan 's a tha e a thaobh planntais, agus gun teagamh tha sin a' daingneachadh cho fìor chudromach 's a tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig mar phàirt den iomairt an cànan ath-bheothachadh.

Sin rud a dh'fheumas tachairt ma tha na cothroman cosnadh a tha a' sìor nochdadh an lùib na Gàidhlig gu bhith air an toirt gu buil mar thoradh air Achd Gàidhlig a fhuair taic thar-phàrtaidh. Sin cuideachd pàirt de dhleasan ughdarrasan libhrigidh foghlaim feadh na dùthcha.

It was encouraging to hear recently of the early success of VisitScotland's Gaelic Language Plan confirming international interest in the language.

Most importantly, this identifies significant employment opportunities for fluent Gaelic speakers and it reinforces the case for expansion of Gaelic-medium education.

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



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

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DISTRICT NEWS

GARELOCHHEAD

Improved broadband service has come to a part of rural Argyll and Bute – but calls have been made for a better service to other parts.

Residents of Portincaple, on the outskirts of Garelochhead, now have access to superfast broadband services after BT Openreach confirmed that a new cabinet installed in the hamlet is now operational.

Lomond North councillor George Freeman confirmed he had been fighting for the service to be provided in the area for more than two years. But his Kintyre and the Islands counterpart Alastair Redman, a long-standing advocate of better broadband for rural parts of Argyll and Bute, still wants to see more being done.

DUNOON

A group of staff and pupils from Dunoon Grammar School participated last week in a national mental health conference in Glasgow.

The event was organised by See Me – an organisation established to help end the stigma often associated with mental health – and gave young people from across Scotland the opportunity to get together and share ideas of how they have been working to combat mental health discrimination.

The school's head boy and depute head girl, Reece McIntyre and Katie Cameron, were joined by teachers and fellow S6 students Ryan Currie, Jack Brown, Jasmine Smith, Fergus Walker and Erin O'Donnell at the event in The Arches.

The pupils are all members of the school mental health committee, along with depute head teacher Kirsty Campbell, and gave an insightful presentation on a number of projects that have been carried out to support culture change in relation to mental health across the school community.

Kirsty said: "They were extremely professional and their work was praised as a shining example of what schools across Scotland should be doing to address these important issues."



Lismore 'Granny Bus' passengers show gratitude for the service.

Granny Bus celebrates with elevenses

Everyone had a good time at the recent gathering of drivers and passengers of Lismore Community Transport for elevenses at the Heritage Centre café.

Along with the chance for a chat with old friends, there were yummy homemade scones and delicious jam to be enjoyed.

Affectionately known as the 'Granny Bus' (although grandpas

are, of course, also welcome) the vehicle is indispensable for taking older folk to the shop, surgery, Oban hospital appointments or even to Glasgow when necessary.

Maybe a prescription needs picking up or messages collected? The volunteer bus drivers will do that too.

The group is grateful to Glensanda Aggregate Industries

for its recent generous donation and also to Gleaner Ltd for its welcome support.

Although a contribution to trips is made by users, extra money is necessary to keep this essential vehicle in good condition.

All those who benefit will also want to thank the volunteer drivers who so cheerily keep the service running.



Olympic hopeful Anna Burnet goes back to Lomond School to tell pupils of her life on the high seas.

HELENSBURGH

Tokyo 2020 Olympic hopeful Anna Burnet returned to Lomond School in Helensburgh to deliver an inspiring talk to pupils on her career so far.

The former pupil, who has also taken on the role as sailing ambassador for Lomond School, spoke to the keen sailors, as well as those expressing an interest in what it takes to become an elite athlete, about her sailing.

Anna provided the pupils with tips on balancing school work with

competitive sailing, finding the right boat for your body type, and finding the perfect sailing partner.

Anna and her sailing partner, John Gimson, have been spending five hours on the water per day, training 300 days per year, in the lead up to their bid for the Olympics.

The pupils were also keen to know more about women in sport, how she got into sailing and the types of boats she has sailed in, while Anna shared her experiences of trying to find the edge that gets athletes to the top. Sailing is on the curriculum at Lomond School as part of a focus on adventure, taught on its own fleet of dinghies and in partnership with RNCYC.

KILMORE

September 100 Club winners were Duncan Mudie and Ian Gibson.

The Kilmore Hall AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday October 2. A Hallowe'en party is to be held on Saturday November 2, a fun evening for all the family.

WESTERN ISLES

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed a Scottish Government announcement of funding for the new Castlebay Project.

The comhairle has committed £7 million to the project from its capital programme.

This will take forward proposals for education, health and social care services to be provided on Barra and Vatersay in high-quality provision with well-trained and specialist staff.

There are two separate major investment projects being proposed for Barra and Vatersay.

First, the comhairle is looking to replace Castlebay and Eoligarry Schools as part of the development of a learning and community facilities hub for Barra and Vatersay.

Secondly, NHS Western Isles, in collaboration with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, is developing proposals which will see the replacement of the St Brendan's Hospital and Care Home.



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At random

MARTIN LAING

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Great sports

We at The Oban Times have, perfectly understandably, given considerable space to the brilliant golfing exploits of Oban's Bob MacIntyre in his rookie season on the European Tour.

I know personally a number of Bob's many fans in the town who have travelled to various golf courses to cheer on the Glencruitten club youngster, particularly here in Scotland.

But the Lorne pub's landlord Declan Curran and Brian Livingstone took it to a whole new level by flying out to Hamburg in Germany for the final round of Porsche European Open at Green Eagle Golf Courses.

Declan and Brian left Oban at 4am to fly to Hamburg and arrived at the course just in time to see Bob start his final round. As you will know, Bob came tantalisingly close to his maiden tour victory.

Bob took the time to meet his fellow Obanites and shake hands with them. You can see footage online as a short film was made of the guys' flying visit to support Bob.

Better informed

I wrote last week lamenting the eyesore gap site in Stevenson Street following the demolition of a building between the Salvation Army premises and the Dove Centre.

I admitted that I could not recollect what was there previously so I am indebted to Kay McDonald for her assistance.

Kay, as many people will know, is an Oban town ambassador who works for the excellent BID4Oban company, whose offices are also in Stevenson Street.

Kay tells me: 'That space you were asking about in Stevenson Street used to be D Crawford and Sons, Plumbers. My dad was a partner in the firm many years ago but both partners have passed away and it was left to the sons of Charlie MacInnes. I'm not sure what the plans are but I had heard flats mentioned.'

Anyone know more details of any proposed development?

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.

Four men and their dogs went to climb a mountain . . .

A group of four Oban Rotarians have raised £750 for Water Aid through their annual sponsored hill climb of Creag Meagaidh.

Ronnie Forbes, Jack Tollan, Chris Sutton and Graham Innes – along with Ronnie's and Chris's dogs – tackled the Munro, which sits on the north side of Loch Laggan, on Sunday September 8.

The day started in lovely sunshine and good progress was made up picturesque Coire Ardair to the lochan at the foot of the impressive cliffs on the side of the mountain. At this point the weather closed in a bit but the group managed to navigate safely through the mist to the top.

Weather on the descent was even more changeable starting with the hilltop mist, then a shower of heavy rain and finally some sunshine again but the intrepid climbers made it safely back to the start of the walk having spent just over six hours on the hill.

This was the 22nd consecutive year Rotarians from the Oban



Three of the intrepid quartet at the summit, number four is taking the photo.

club had undertaken an annual sponsored hill climb climbing more than 35 Munros and Corbetts to date. As a result thousands of pounds have been raised for various charities and

good causes including Water Aid, a truly life changing and life giving charity which helps to provide clean drinking water to those who have none.

Thanks went to all Rotarians

and sponsors and especially to past president Graham Innes, who has participated in all 22 climbs. This is a huge sustained effort to gain clean drinking water for everyone.

Blooming marvellous floral feast

Despite poor weather conditions keeping entries down slightly this year, St Oran's Connel and Dunbeg Flower Show was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Held on Saturday September 7 in Connel Village Hall, the adult floral art section was particularly poor in terms of submissions this year and there were no trophies awarded.

Results: Falls of Lora Trophy (Pre-School) Fraser Ireland; Campbell Trophy (Floral Art) P1-3 – Hayley Ronald; Campbell Trophy (Floral Art) P4-7 – Pamela Ingram; Campbell Trophy Baking P1-3 Caitlin Carswell; Campbell Trophy Baking P4-7 Lucas and Zara McLeod; Peggy Sinclair Trophy (Baking Adults)

Margaret Moody; Centerary Trophy (Runner-up adult baking) Helen Ireland; St Oran's Challenge Trophy (Most Points) Ian Brown; Catherine MacCallum Trophy (Best single Rose) Isobel Grout; Black Family Trophy (Best Pansies) Duncan Black; Hugh MacPherson Trophy (Best Tomatoes) Ian Brown; Duncan MacPherson Trophy (Best Vegetables) Duncan Black; Henderson Trophy (Best Pot Plant) Agnes Macphee; Hugh Gillies Trophy (Best Vegetables Confined Class) Roger Ashforth; Angus Ferguson Trophy (Hanging Basket) Jim Grout; Jimmy Black Trophy (Best Dahlia) Ian Brown; Manse Trophy (Most points High School Section) Caitlin MacPherson.



Some of the floral entries.



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OUTDOORS

2019: year of the painted lady

In just three weeks this summer, nearly half a million painted lady butterflies were counted as part of the 10th UK-wide Big Butterfly Count, run by Butterfly Conservation and sponsored by B&Q.

The wildlife charity confirmed that 2019 had been a 'painted lady year' – a natural phenomenon that happens about once in a decade, when unusually high numbers of this migratory butterfly arrive in the UK.

Scotland was at the forefront of this spectacle with at least 141,649 painted



ladies spotted as part of the survey, making up more than half of all the butterflies counted.

The east coast had a massive influx of the brightly coloured butterflies, particularly along the Firth of Forth, which then dispersed through the central belt and participants in Scotland saw far more painted ladies than people doing the count in England.

On average, 14 painted ladies were seen per count in Scotland this summer, compared to just three per count in England.

It is too early to tell how 2019 compares to the last 'painted lady year' in 2009, but the number recorded in this year's Big Butterfly Count was almost 160 times greater than in the 2018 survey, equating to an increase per count of 7,541 per cent on the year before.

Several other common species have experienced a bumper summer, helped by the fine weather.

Argyll College UHI in green award success

Argyll College UHI has received the Scottish Environment Protection Agency Award for excellence in environmental sustainability.

This award was presented at the SCDI Highlands and Islands annual dinner and business excellence awards at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, last Friday.

A sell-out audience of 350 guests attended the awards ceremony, which was hosted by Gyles Brandreth. The award is presented to the Highlands and Islands business or organisation which best demonstrates its commitment to improving its environmental performance and resource efficiency, in ways which go beyond regulatory compliance and also increase profits and, or efficiency.

Argyll College, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, provides further and higher education from nine centres spread throughout the vast geographical area of Argyll, Lochaber and Arran. The average mileage of the entire college staff runs to approximately 150,000 miles a year as people travel between centres to deliver training and to meet with students and business partners.

In 2015/16, Argyll College leased three fully electric vehicles. While there was initial doubt and in some cases opposition from staff to the use of such vehicles, given the terrain involved, and the perceived lack of charging points, the cars travelled some 30,000 miles in their first year.

Ailsa Close, Argyll College UHI finance director, said: 'We are delighted to have our green credentials recognised in this way. We are lucky enough to live and work in such a wonderful part of Scotland and all of our staff have a commitment to protecting our beautiful environment.'

'Building on the success of our first three vehicles, we now operate a fleet of six Nissan Leafs, four Renault Zoes and a hybrid Mitsubishi.

'We have recently been successful in securing funding to install chargepoints in Campbeltown, Oban, Dunoon and Helensburgh. These chargers will be available to the general public as well



From left, Giles Brandreth, who presented the award, with Martin Jones, principal of Argyll College UHI, and Ivan McKee MSP; below, some of the college's fleet.



as which will ease the burden on the council chargers in those areas where, other than in Oban, there is currently only one charging point per town.

'Given that the main nervousness with regard to the use of electric vehicles is the lack of infrastructure, we see the installation of these chargers as being quite a big part of improving that infrastructure in Argyll.'

With the current electrical vehicle fleet, it is estimated that the college's annual petrol and diesel mileage is now just 10,000 miles, down from 150,000, giving an annual carbon emissions reduction of a staggering 20 tonnes. This adds up to a saving of around £42,000 for the college and the public purse in 2019/20 alone.

The college is currently operating a vehicle-sharing agreement with Police Scotland in Lochgilphead, and has plans to extend this to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Argyll and possibly to relevant charities in the area.

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This week's walks

Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*).

© Lorne Gill/SNH



Harbour seals do well on west coast

Harbour seals are doing well on the west coast of Scotland but have declined around some parts of the eastern coastline, recent surveys show.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has published the initial findings from a four-year programme of surveys that aim to cover the entire coastline of Scotland and provide the most up-to-date assessment of the harbour or common seal populations.

The results indicate that while numbers on the west coast and in the Western Isles remain stable or are increasing, populations on the east coast remain at low levels.

Aerial surveys carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) at the University of St Andrews counted 3,533 harbour seals around the Western Isles in 2017 – the highest number in the area since surveys began in 1992.

In many of the west coast areas

surveyed, harbour seal numbers were either comparable or slightly higher than previous counts.

Meanwhile, on the east coast, the number of harbour seals counted in the Moray Firth was 831.

Numbers in the Dornoch Firth reached a low of 39 while the population at Culbin and Findhorn increased to 526.

Only 29 harbour seals were counted in the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary.

The latest estimate of the size of the harbour seal population around Scotland is 26,565.

SMRU research, funded by the Scottish Government, is looking at the causes of the declines in harbour seals in some regions.

Potential reasons being investigated include quality and availability of prey, competition from grey seals, predation by grey seals and killer whales, and exposure to toxins from harmful algae.

Morven Carruthers, SNH policy and advice officer, said: 'These latest findings provide further evidence of a geographic divide in the fortunes of harbour seals in Scotland. While populations on the west coast are increasing in many areas, numbers on some parts of the east coast are historically low.'

'These annual surveys, together with the research being carried out by SMRU, are really important as they will help us gain a better understanding of our harbour seal populations and how they are faring so that we can target conservation efforts where they are most needed.'

Professor Ailsa Hall, director of the Sea Mammal Research Unit, added: 'The abundance and distribution data generated by these surveys are the bedrock of the applied research we carry out. They are vital for the conservation and management of seals in Scotland.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday September 22, Bonawe Smokery to Inverlivet, Loch Etive.
An out and back walk along side of Loch Etive.

Park near Smokery at track NN025 317. Walk north up track through woods, take left fork at first junction and right fork at second. Continue to Glen Noe then on to Inverlivet. Return by outward route.

Grade: L. Distance: 15km. Height to climb: 300m. Maps LR 50 EX 377. Meet at: Longsdale CP, Oban [NM862307] 9.30am; Ballachulish TIC [NN083584] 8.50am. Start of walk: 10am Leader: Alison Wilson.

Thursday September 26, Sgurr Mhic Eacharna, Ardgour.

Start the walk on the E side of the Abhainn Coire an Iubhair where there is a small CP at NM928597.

Take an indistinct track up the hill N towards Lochan Druim an Iubhair and pass this on the W side and trend NNW along Druim an Iubhair to the summit of Sgurr Mhic Eacharna at 650m.

Proceed W to a spot height at 736m and the Beinn Bheag ridge eventually moving SW and then NW past various spot heights and descend to the Bealach Feith 'n Amean and the small Lochan Coire an Iubhair. From the bealach descend the Coire an Iubhair to the start.

Grade: M+. Distance: 15km. Height to climb: 950m. Maps: EX391. Meet at: Corran Ferry slip 9am for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 9.40am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

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 21, Beinn Coire nan Gall, Druim Fiachlach, Beinn Mhic Caidh, Lochailort.
A through route linking hills usually climbed from Lochailort with those more frequently accessed from Glenfinnan. It traverses some of the

difficult-to-reach terrain between Lochs Eilt and Shiel.

Start at Inverailort, where ample parking is available N of a row of cottages at NM765816. Head N back to the road junction. Follow the minor road NE alongside the River Ailort, past Glenshan Lodge. From here, the route continues E as a track, turning S up to a dam on the Allt a' Bhuidh at NM777810.

Cross the burn below the dam and continue S, curving E up to a lochan on the col just N of Druim Fiachlach. Head N up to the summit of Beinn Coire nan Gall. Return to the col and climb the N ridge of Druim Fiachlach to its summit. Turn E and follow the toothed ridge, curving SE down to a small spur on the 750m contour overlooking the steep escarpment at the head of Glen Aladale, NM802 787*. Continue E along the rim, down to a larger spur at 580m alt where the escarpment turns NNW to accommodate a tributary of the Glenaladale River. Cross this burn and resume an E heading down the slope to a wide flat col with the meandering Allt Dubh Easain and several lochans.

Cross the burn and head E up the long slope to the summit of Beinn Mhic Caidh. Descend the N ridge to the FB at NM833807 and cross the Allt a' Choire Bhuidhelr.

Follow an ATV track which passes under the railway at NM840813. Head E on rough ground on the N side of the railway for 1km then climb up about 50m to re-cross the railway on one of the tunnels. Follow the S side of the railway a short distance to the level-crossing and the lay-by on the A830. Transport required at NM856812, 11mins from start.

*The long 430m ascent of Beinn Mhic Caidh may be avoided by a traverse over the twin hills of Diollaid Mhor and Diollaid Bheag; from the 750m spur, head N down to the col 0.5km SW of Diollaid Mhor. Climb NE to its summit, 751m. Descend N, curving NE across the Bealach Coire nan Gall and up to the summit of Diollaid Bheag, 665m. Descend ENE for 1.5km to WP NM825808, then turn E and make for the FB over the Allt a' Choire Bhuidhe. Continue to the finish. 15km, 1,439m ascent.

*15km, 1,182m ascent.
Suggested by Andrew Gilbert.
Coordinated by John Burton.



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- Gas Safe Register calls on people to protect themselves and loved ones by getting clued up on gas safety.
- 1 in 5 homes** in UK have unsafe gas appliances, according to latest UK inspection figures.
- Renowned Bad Nana author, Sophy Henn, creates new book to boost gas safety awareness and understanding.

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Confusion amongst carers about the signs of unsafe gas appliances could be putting vulnerable people at risk. This is according to research* released today by Gas Safe Register. The findings are particularly worrying as new data from the Register reveals that 1 in 5 UK homes contains unsafe gas appliances such as cookers, fires and boilers.

The research involved 2,001 people who care for or check in on an elderly or disabled loved one who doesn't live with them. Three quarters (75%) of these said safety was a key reason for checking in on their vulnerable loved one. Yet 92% don't know at least one of the crucial signs that a gas appliance is unsafe.

Over half (54%) don't know that a lazy yellow flame on appliances such as cookers is a warning sign. Over three quarters (76%) were unaware that increased condensation inside windows is a red flag, and over half (55%) didn't know to look out for sooty stains on or around appliances such as cookers.

There is also evidence of confusion around the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. Almost half (49%) of respondents didn't know that breathlessness is a symptom, over a third (38%) were unaware that nausea can be a sign of poisoning and (32%) were unaware that headaches can mean an appliance is emitting carbon monoxide.

The survey also revealed the extent to which vulnerable people may not be protected by an audible carbon monoxide alarm. A fifth (20%) of those surveyed said they weren't sure if the person they care for has an audible carbon monoxide alarm and, more worryingly, 17% said they know their loved one doesn't have one.

This Gas Safety Week (16-22 September 2019), Gas Safe Register – the UK's official registration body for gas engineers and gas businesses – is urging people to protect themselves and their loved ones by familiarising themselves with the signs and symptoms of unsafe gas appliances.

To help raise awareness, the Register has partnered with best-selling children's author, Sophy Henn, to create a short story based on the original 'Bad Nana' series, 'Bad Nana: Better Gas Safe Than Sorry'. The book sees Jeanie aged 7 ¾, and her annoying little brother Jack help her nan (aka Bad Nana) save a neighbour from carbon monoxide poisoning, after spotting the signs and symptoms. The book's aim is to bring the issue to the attention of families and the people they care for, all delivered with Sophy's signature dose of fun.

Jonathan Samuel, Chief Executive, Gas Safe Register said:

"Those who look after others care deeply about their safety and wellbeing and feel a lot of responsibility. We don't want to add to the list of things to worry about, but we want to raise awareness of the signs of unsafe appliances. Unsafe appliances can be deadly and knowing the warning signs can protect you

and your loved ones from harm."

Sophy Henn said:
"I'm delighted to be working with Gas Safe Register. I don't want to give too much of the plot away, but Bad Nana and Jeanie have a very eventful day when they check on an elderly friend who has been behaving strangely. My hope is that this book will entertain children, parents, grandparents and carers alike, while at the same time spreading an important message about gas safety."

The Better Safe Than Sorry book is available online at bit.ly/Gas-Safe-Story along with further information about gas safety and details of how to ensure the gas work on your home is safe.

Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas businesses who are registered to work safely and legally on boilers, cookers, fires and all other gas appliances. By law all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register.

The key signs are:

- Floppy yellow or orange flames on gas appliances, such as cookers, instead of a bright blue one
- Increased condensation inside windows
- The pilot light repeatedly going out or the boiler fails to light
- Black or sooty marks on or around your gas appliances
- Feeling unwell – the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are: headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Free festival cinema visits for Argyll pupils

School pupils in Campbeltown, Dunoon and Oban are among those being offered free cinema trips as part of the Into Film Festival.

The seventh Into Film Festival, from November 6 to November 22, hosted by film education charity Into Film, will see more than 240 pupil premieres across Scotland and the UK of new climate change documentary 2040.

Cited as the first film aimed at young audiences to offer a hopeful response to eco-anxiety, 2040 will screen as part of the festival's environmentally-themed screenings and events and is supported by Greenpeace and UNICEF.

Kirsty Gallacher, Into Film programme delivery manager, Scotland, said: 'Film is a powerful tool for learning and engagement.'

'It's rich in curriculum from story to screen and everything in between.'

I would urge teachers to look at the programme and explore the associated resources to see how it can be used to support pupil learning.'

The Into Film team has worked with cinemas, theatres and some unusual venues across Scotland, from castles to aquariums, to ensure pupils north of the border will have access to a wide variety of films.

Scottish youngsters will have their pick of historical dramas like Mary Queen of Scots, documentaries including Nae Pasaran, which chronicles how Scottish aircraft workers refused to fix engines in solidarity against Chile's fascist dictatorship, and The Queen's Corgi, a Belgian animation in which the queen's most beloved dog must find his way back to the palace after being betrayed by his fellow corgi.

Music, memoirs and politics the hot topics in Tobermory

Music and politics will come together in the Aros Hall, Mull, as part of the entertaining programme of events at the second Tobermory Book Festival.

Former Labour MP Alan Johnson is one of Britain's best known politicians who has been home secretary, secretary of state for work and pensions, education secretary, health secretary and shadow chancellor.

He is now a best-selling author of four memoirs, in which he also documents his dreams of becoming a rock star.

Mull native and award-winning musician/author Colin MacIntyre is the man behind Mull Historical Society and son of former BBC political correspondent Kenny. The unlikely duo will come together on Saturday October 26 for a special evening of conversation entitled In My Life: Music, Memoirs and Politics, from 5.45pm to 7pm.

'Alan's books each borrow titles from the Beatles as he wanted to be a rock star, so I'll play a song too,' said Colin.

'I was surprised when he told me one



Colin MacIntyre. Photograph: Soren Kristensen.

of his favourite songs of all time is Five More Minutes, which I wrote about my dad. So there is a sense of something coming full circle.'

Earlier in the day, Colin will be in An Tobar for a words and music event for children, based on his picture book The Humdrum Drum.



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BINGO NIGHT

Friday 27th September
Eyes Down 7.30pm
Glencruitten (Oban) Golf Club
Tickets £10 on the door
Bingo cash prizes and great raffle!

All proceeds go to the Pink Ladies Day - a special day out for women living with Breast Cancer.

Rock up to Rock

Exhibitions, talks and fun for all the family

There will be no stonewalling at Oban's Rockfield centre this weekend during two days of activities and fact finding.

Stonefest will feature exhibitions, talks and fun for all the family in the huts and car park.

The event is being supported by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

As well as a chance to try out traditional roofing and slating skills, there will be stone-carving, dry stone walling and stone dressing.

Exhibitions and talks include a display telling the fascinating story of the Scottish masons who travelled to build the presidential White House in America.

Five months into the refurbishment of the main building of The Rockfield Centre, there will be a chance to see inside.

Tours will take place between 11.30am and 3pm on Friday and 10.30am to 2.30pm on Saturday. With

a maximum of 10 people on each tour, places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and can be booked on the day at the huts.

A speakers' session will be held on Friday, including the launch of the Argyll and Islands Traditional Building Forum.

Neil McAllister, GLM, Paul Everett of the British Geological Survey and Marcus Paine, president of the Stone Federation of Great Britain will all give presentations on Friday September 20.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, which owns the centre, said: 'We are extremely lucky to be hosting such a prestigious event with some of the leading experts in stone coming to The Rockfield Centre.'

'Whilst many may think

stone has no interest, it is in what our built environment is all about, so come along and get hands on with the traditional skills we take so much for granted.

'We are grateful to HES and HIE for their support of Stonefest and for helping Oban Communities Trust breathe new life into the Rockfield Centre.'

'It would be remiss of me not to mention the huge amount of help to host this event we have had from our volunteers. The weekend was the brainchild of our heritage group and with support from others has mushroomed to what we hope will be an event for everyone to listen, learn and enjoy.'

Stonefest runs from 10am to 4pm tomorrow (Friday) and 10am to 3pm on Saturday.

EXCLUSIVE OBAN TIMES READER COMPETITION

WIN
Glasgow Mod experiences

To celebrate the Royal National Mod taking place in Glasgow, the organisers of Mòd Ghlaschu | Glasgow Mod, in association with partners are offering us some fabulous prizes to give away.



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All you need to do is answer this simple question:
What month will the Royal National Mod be held in Glasgow this year?
To enter, send your entry to us in one of the following ways:
Via email to adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Or, by post to:
Glasgow Royal National Mod competition,
The Oban Times, Lochavullin Road,
Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.
Please remember to include your answer, name, address and telephone number with your entry.
You have to be in it to win it! Good luck!

First Prize

Two night stay for two people at Holiday Inn Glasgow Theatreland

Third Prize

Four prizes of a pair of return rail travel passes from any station in Scotland to/ from Glasgow.

Second Prize

Ten prizes of a pair of tickets to 'The Final Fling' at the Barrowland Ballroom on Friday 18 October 2019 With Skerryvore, Trail West and Special Guests.

Glasgow Mod Competition

The Oban Times **LOCHABER TIMES**

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Terms & conditions: First prize • Two night consecutive stay in one of our standard double rooms with full Scottish breakfast on both mornings. • Rooms subject to availability, and must be booked in advance via our in-house reservations team. • Non-transferable and non-refundable. • This has no cash value. • To be used within 12 months of dated issue, please be aware that some dates will not be available at short notice. Second Prize • Tickets are non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. • Over 18s only. Third prize • Winners will receive a pair of passes for standard class, return rail travel, from any station in Scotland to/ from Glasgow. • Travel is by ScotRail services only. • Passes are valid for one trip each way and must be used between 10th and 20th October, 2019. Passes are non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. Competition closing date Thursday 4th October.

Oban Stonefest



Displays from attractions including Oban's Dunollie Castle, which is ready to start its next phase of conservation work, will be on show at Stonefest.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk



THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm
& 7:00pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

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

Recovery Cafe
New Hope Kitchen. 12:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Hope Kitchen Music Group
Salvation Army Hall
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe
New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Calum MacPhail Band
Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Hill Walk
Lochailort, Fort William
All day

Funbox Space Race
Corran Halls, Oban
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Rumskee. Open till 2am

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Fellowship Meeting
New Hope Kitchen
2:00pm

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilphead
5:30pm & 7:30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

Drumming and Music Making

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

Martyn's Monday Club Mens
New Hope Kitchen
7:00pm - 9:00pm

TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

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 25TH SEPTEMBER

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean
Slip opposite Stafford Street
10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day
Greenshoots Garden
10:30am - 3:30pm

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

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EDDIE ALBERT · JAMES WHITMORE · ROD STEIGER · SHIRLEY JONES

Directed by FRED ZINNEMANN Produced by ARTHUR HORNBLOW JR.
Dances staged by AGNES DeMILLE Screen Play by SONYA LEVIEV and WILLIAM LUDWIG

Music by RICHARD RODGERS Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, II

Oban author joins Big fun-filled festival in W

Authors, illustrators and storytellers from all over the country will be joining Big Wig – a large, friendly blue creature who lives in the woods – for the annual children's book festival named in her honour.

Among them will be Alan Windram, from near Oban, who will be joined by Saffanna Al-jbawi to read his book *One Button Benny* in English and Arabic.

One Button Benny, the winner of this year's BookBug Picture Book Prize, tells the story of a robot with a single red button on his stomach with the words 'Only press in an emergency' written next to it.

Alan, a former theatre nurse and musician, sees Wigtown Book Festival, and the Big Wig children's festival which forms part of it, as a great way to stimulate young minds.

He said: 'Children go into their own rooms and their



Alan Windram.

Shalla Gray and Saffanna Al-jbawi telling the story of Big Bill the Beltie Bull as he goes to an agricultural show. Then there's Debi Gliori with *The Bookworm* – the light-hearted tale of Max's pet worm which suddenly grows spikes and breathes smoke.

Renita Boyle will entertain with *The Strange Visitor*, a traditional tale in Scots and English, which features a wily old woman, wide-eyed cat, wild weather and a weird newcomer.

Vivian French will present *The Steam Whistle* Theatre Company, the adventures of a family theatre troupe struggling to avoid financial ruin and a story filled with dark deeds and piratical plots.

Anne Barclay, Wigtown Book Festival operational director, said: 'The children's festival will be loads of fun and some lucky visitors will also get to meet Big Wig herself who will be coming

own worlds when they are reading. So it's something special to go somewhere and meet the person who created the story and the characters.'

Big Wig opens up a huge world of imagination for children aged up to 14 and starts with a party to celebrate The Very Hungry Caterpillar's 50th birthday.

Other attractions include

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FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER	12:00/18:15/20:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	16:00
Dora & The Lost City of Gold PG	18:00
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	20:30
The Mustang 15	
SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER	11:30 ★
Uglydolls U	13:45
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	15:45
Dora & The Lost City of Gold PG	18:00/20:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	18:00
The Mustang 15	20:15
Angel Has Fallen 15	
SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER	13:15
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	16:00
Dora & The Lost City of Gold PG	18:00/20:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	18:15
The Mustang 15	20:30
Angel Has Fallen 15	

BIRTHDAY PARTY COMING UP?

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER	16:45
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	19:00
Nation: Norway & Iceland - Bookends Screening	19:15
It: Chapter 2 15	
TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER	17:00
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	19:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	19:30
The Mustang 15	
WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER	12:00 ★ / 19:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	17:00
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	19:30
Walk With Me PG TICKETS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT	
THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER	12:00/17:00
The Art of Racing in the Rain PG	14:30 ★
Angel Has Fallen 15	19:00
NT Live: One Man, Two Guvnors 12A	19:30
IT: Chapter 2 15	

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Oban set for star studded Irish Country Show!

Back by popular demand and following a sell-out tour last year the popular "Stars of Irish Country" Show makes its welcome debut to the Corran Halls, Oban on Friday 11th October for what will be a superb concert featuring 4 of Irelands top music stars all on the one stage. The stellar line-up that would even look well in Nashville, Tennessee will include the gentle giant of Country Music Mick Flavin from County Longford, Country Queen from Tipperary Louise Morrisey who is celebrating 30 years in showbusiness, the popular wee man from Strabane in the County Tyrone Curtis Magee and one of Irelands most talented entertainers Stephen Smyth from Co. Down making this a show you wont want to miss. Each of the 4 stars will showcase there biggest hit songs in the company of Irelands top backing band Keltic Storm who themselves

have now become a household name across the country. This is a rare chance to see so many great acts on the one show and tickets are now on sale from the Corran Halls, Oban Box office on 01631567333 or online at <http://www.liveargyll.co.uk>. So folks keep Friday 11th October free in your diary as all Country Roads are Oban bound for the Stars of Irish Country Show!



Wig for Wigtown

in from the woods where she lives to listen to stories.'

Alan Windram will also be leading another event, along with Sara Sheridan, called So You Want To Be a Children's Author?

Sara is an author and Alan is a publisher as well as being a writer. Together they will share tips on how to develop characters and drive a story

Alan said: 'Some people want to write for themselves, some want to tell their own story, others would love to become children's authors. The important thing is to get it down on paper. It doesn't have to be perfect, but you have to get the story out there. I only began writing books in my 40s, so it's never too late to start.'

Apply for What's Your Story?

Young people are being invited to apply for this year's Scottish Book Trust What's Your Story? programme.

Now in its fifth year, the scheme has so far helped around 30 teenagers develop writing, illustration and performance projects.

Fourteen to 17-year-olds are encouraged to apply for this all-expenses-paid opportunity to learn, grow and create as a writer or illustrator. This year, the Gaelic Books Council has provided funding to secure a place for a young Gaelic speaker.

Successful applicants will be paired with a professional mentor who will work with them over six months.

As part of What's Your Story?, the aspiring writers will take part in a week-long retreat at Moniac Mhor, Scotland's

Creative Writing Centre. The participants will also plan and host StoryCon 2020, Scotland's biggest creative writing and illustration conference for young people.

Applications close on Wednesday November 27 and can be made online at thestoryis.co.uk/storyboard

Marc Lambert, chief executive officer of the Scottish Book Trust, said: 'Scottish Book Trust is delighted to launch the sixth year of the What's Your Story? programme.'

Alison Lang, director of The Gaelic Books Council, said: 'Through this programme a young Gaelic speaker will get the opportunity to make their voice heard and express themselves in a creative way that allows them to develop their skills and confidence.'

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OBAN: St John's Cathedral Saturday 28th September 20.00
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FORT WILLIAM Duncansburgh Church - Sunday 29th September 14.30
CHORAL MAJESTY: with Magnificent Music for all Tastes
Tickets £8 includes donation to Church restoration Funds

LOCH AWE: St Conan's Kirk - Monday 30th September at 14.00
CHORAL PURITY: with music from the Classics
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TICKETS: for St John's at Oban Music for Duncansburgh Church at Nevis Centre or for All Concerts at the GPC Box Office
on line at www.wegotickets.com

There are TICKETS at the DOOR for all CONCERTS

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 19 AN T-SULTAIN THURSDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 An Lot S3 (rpt)
21.00 An Làin - A' Tuigsinn an Làin (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Na Millenni-Gaels
22.30 ÙR/NEW: Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail
23.20 ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge
23.25 FUNC (rpt)

DIHAOINE 20 AN T-SULTAIN FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's Programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là - News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 BEÒ/LIVE: Scottish Women's Premier League - Forfar v Motherwell
21.35 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
22.05 ÙR/NEW: The Flatey Enigma
23.00 Steelmen

DISATHAIRNE 21 AN T-SULTAIN SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's Programming
17.45 An Là - News
18.00 BEÒ/LIVE: Scottish Premiership - Livingston v Aberdeen
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Fuine S6 (rpt)
21.00 Seirm (rpt)
22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
22.55 Scottish Premiership - Livingston v Aberdeen (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 22 AN T-SULTAIN SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
18.15 An Là - News
18.30 Seachd Là - News Review
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
20.00 An Lot S3 (rpt)
20.30 Druthag na Hearadh (rpt)
21.00 Mathair a' Chinn-suidhe - Trump's Mother (rpt)
22.15 Manran aig Barrowland (rpt)
23.00 The Flatey Enigma (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DILUAIN 23 AN T-SULTAIN MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads (Cathy Ann MacPhee & Maggie MacInnes) (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Vets: Gach Creutair Beo S6
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Bannan
21.30 Trusadh - Eileanaich Phagastain (rpt)
22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
23.30 Na Milleni-Gaels (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 24 AN T-SULTAIN TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Air an Smuid (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Gaisgich Òga an Dàrna Cogaidh

20.55 Binneas - Na Trads - Tide Lines (rpt)
21.00 Obair Ealain (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh - Eileanaich Phagastain (rpt)
23.00 Co-Sheim (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DIADIADIN 25 AN T-SULTAIN WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads (Cathy Ann MacPhee & Maggie MacInnes) (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fuine
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: FUNC
22.30 Bannan (rpt)
23.00 An Làin - A' Tuigsinn an Làin (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 26 AN T-SULTAIN THURSDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Mischa@Blas (rpt)
19.10 An Là - News
19.20 BEÒ/LIVE: UEFA Women's Champions League 2019 - Glasgow City v WFC Chertanovo
21.30 An Lot S3 (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Na Millenni-Gaels
22.30 ÙR/NEW: Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail
23.20 ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge
23.30 FUNC (rpt)



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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.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Glasgow Skye concert on Saturday

Last week, I incorrectly wrote the Glasgow Skye Association's opening concert of the season was to be held this Friday, September 20. It will, in fact, be held the following night - Saturday September 21 - in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm. Apologies and, if you are attending, enjoy the concert.

Lewis and Harris opening ceilidh

If you have booked the bus to Glasgow based on my misinformation that the Glasgow Skye is on Friday, never fear - you won't be left without a ceilidh!

The Lewis and Harris Association's first ceilidh of the season starts at 7.30pm on Friday in Scotstounhill Bowling Club, off Goldberry Avenue.

Clydebank kicks-off ceilidh season

Clydebank Highlanders were delighted with the turnout to their recent ceilidh and thank Murdo MacDonald, Barra; Billy MacPhee, South Uist; Paul MacCallum, South Uist; and Ruairidh MacDiarmid, to whom the association wishes the very best of luck at Mòd Ghlaschu.

They also thank the evening's chairman Neil Murray; piper Iain MacPhee and Kirsteen Grant for accompanying the singers.

The next Clydebank Cèilidh will be on Friday October 11.

William Keenan

The funeral of Willie Keenan, owner of the Islay Inn who died recently at the age of 62, was held last weekend.

I didn't know Willie, but I know how popular a man he was among musicians and pub regulars who all considered him a great friend.

He will be a huge loss to the Highland and island community in Glasgow.

Count down to the Mòd

With less than a month to go to the Royal National Mòd, I will be including a 'What's on at the Glasgow Mòd' section in my column, adding to it each week.

This week, it features official events from the Mòd programme published by the committee but there will be unofficial events going on throughout the week. For example, I will be including a special 'pub scene' section for the Mòd - so keep a look out for that.

What's on at the National Mòd

Friday October 11, 8.30pm: Glasgow Mòd 2019 public launch - open air ceilidh at George Square.

Saturday October 12, from 11am: Super Saturday

of Sport at Glasgow Green Football Centre.

Saturday October 12, 7.30pm: 'Our Language, Our Music - Our Glasgow' Concert, featuring young talented musicians, in the City Halls, Albion Street.

Sunday October 13, 2.30pm: Ecumenical Gaelic service, led by Father Ross Crichton and Rev Donald Michael MacInnes, in St Andrew's Cathedral, Broomielaw.

Sunday October 13, 7.30pm: Celtic Praise, featuring Gaelic and English choirs, in Princes Square, Buchanan Street.

Tuesday October 15, 7.30pm: 'Glasgow Gold' Concert in the Main Auditorium of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Friday October 18, 7pm: The Final Fling, featuring Skerryvore and Trail West, in Barrowland Ballroom.

Saturday October 19: Massed Choirs, 10.30am, from the steps of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Hidden Heritage Doors Open Day

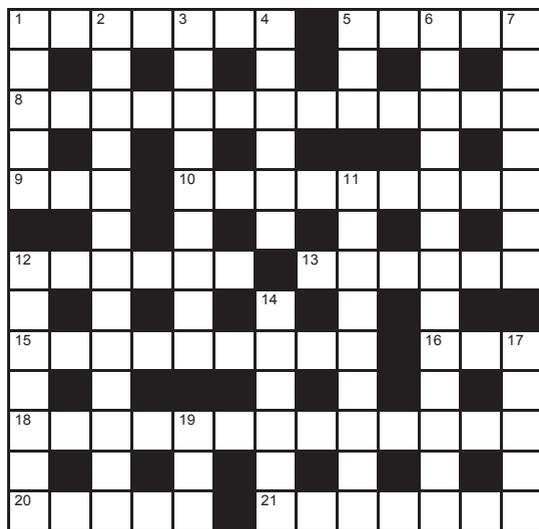
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Saturday 21st September
10am - 4pm
Tours, Hidden Areas, Craftsmen, Teas, Walter's Words, Conservation

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OBAN

resumes on
Tuesday 24th September
Guide Hall, Soroba Road,
Oban
at 7:30pm
New Members Welcome



Crossword



Across

- 1 Slight (7)
- 5 40-40 score (5)
- 8 Moving sit-on toy (7,6)
- 9 It comes in sticks (3)
- 10 Fear of animals (9)
- 12 Woe (6)
- 13 Squirm (6)
- 15 Collection of money (4-5)
- 16 Capture (3)
- 18 Inconsistency (13)
- 20 Smell (5)
- 21 Acid neutralizers (7)

Down

- 1 Shoot (5)
- 2 Cast out (13)
- 3 Raining more (9)
- 4 Area (6)
- 5 Twosome (3)
- 6 Fanciful (13)
- 7 Trap (7)
- 11 Alcohol (4,5)
- 12 Beats (7)
- 14 Capital of Zambia (6)
- 17 Lads (5)
- 19 Receive from (3)

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CIH Scotland welcomes energy efficiency regulations for the PRS

The Scottish Government is preparing to introduce a minimum energy efficiency standard for privately rented homes of EPC band E at change of tenancy from April 2020 and EPC band D at change of tenancy from April 2022.

A consultation on regulations and guidance to support the new requirements included details on proposed exemptions for landlords where permission to carry out work has been refused and where the cost of the work required to meet the minimum standard would exceed £5,000 for EPC band E with a further £5,000 cost cap applying to meet EPC band D.

Under the proposals, local authorities would be responsible for ensuring compliance with minimum standards and landlords failing to meet the standards could face financial penalties of up to £5,000.

Ashley Campbell, policy and practice manager at CIH Scotland, said: 'We welcome the introduction of minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector. People should be able to expect to live in a warm, energy efficient home regardless of what tenure



they are living in. Improving the energy efficiency of all of our homes will help to reduce fuel poverty and work towards meeting ambitious climate change targets. However, we do have some concerns.

'If the regulations are to be successful, the Scottish Government must undertake a proactive communication campaign to ensure that landlords and tenants understand the new requirements. It is also essential that landlords have the support they need to comply including

advice and information on what work needs to be done to their property and financial support such as low-cost loans if required.

'Robust monitoring and enforcement will also be key to ensuring compliance and it is unlikely that local authorities will be able to undertake this function without additional resources. We want to make sure that any new regulations are applied equally and fairly and that landlords who choose not to follow the rules are identified and dealt with accordingly.'

SMITHY HOUSE WHITEHOUSE, BY TARBERT 4 BED SEMI DETACHED



Spacious property - Potential B&B - 3 en suite rooms - Double glazing - Private front and rear gardens - Quiet residential area - 5 minutes drive to Tarbert - Quantum efficient heating - Rural views - Approx 126 sq.m of living space - Surveyed at £160,000

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14b Victoria Park is a three-bedroom semi-detached bungalow nicely situated within a small residential development in the picturesque village of Minard. The accommodation comprises Lounge/Diner, kitchen, bathroom and 3 bedrooms.

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Summer's coming to an end, time for sales and tractors



Where did 2019 go? September is almost over; the summer show season came to an end with Dalmailly at the start of the month and we are heading into the time for ploughing and general cultivation, drilling and sowing.

And it is time to get preparations under way for auctions at the end of the month, especially the sheep sales.

This is the time of year when farmers are turning to reliable, proven services like those offered by Caledonian Marts and Tunstall Tractors Ltd.

Caledonian Livestock Services, AKA Caledonian Marts, but known widely as 'Cally Marts', have provided generations of farmers with livestock, property and implement sales.

The central location at Stirling attracts buyers and sellers from across Scotland, the UK and Europe.

This month sees predominantly sheep sales with ram sales, store lambs, feeding ewes and the first annual sale of crosses and uncrossed Blackface ewes, along with a calf sale to round the month off.

And don't forget to look out for the plant and equipment sale at the start of October.

Tunstall Tractors Ltd has been trading in new and second hand tractors, servicing and repairing since 1984 and it reckons it is now onto its third generation of customers.

The firm has the full range of Steyr, Hurlimann and Solis tractors which can be ordered, with a short lead time for delivery.

As well as new sales, Tunstall has a good reputation for its second-hand tractors of all makes; work is carried out by qualified mechanics in its own workshop by staff who are accredited by Steyr and Hurlimann and regularly

attend courses run by these manufacturers.

David Tunstall, the boss, is a farmer himself down in Cumbria and he understands the needs of farmers. It has been said: 'You can guarantee that he won't turn up at your farm looking like a salesman' but when you are as knowledgeable about your products as David is, that doesn't matter.

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New Solis RX 26 & RX 50 in stock	£POA
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02 reg New Holland TM 125, front links	£23500
04 reg Same Silver 105.....	£18700
05 reg Hurlimann XT 105 turbo.....	£19200
60 reg Hurlimann XB Max 110, loader	£29000
05 reg MF 5455, power shuttle, loader	£25000
S reg Renault 80.14.....	£7200
53 reg Zetor 6341 Major, very clean.....	£14000
15 reg Deutz Fahr 5090D, loader.....	£27500
P reg Same Silver 100.6, air con.....	£12800

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MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER
3000 SHEEP 3000
Sale of Store Lambs to include special sale of Blackface Lambs at 11.00am

WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER
Annual Sale of Blackface Ewes & Gimmers
Also all classes of Breeding Ewes & Gimmers

MONDAY 30th SEPTEMBER
Show & Sale of Suckled Calves & Store Cattle to Include Native Breeds
Also Sale of Store Sheep

Around the markets

OBAN – United Auctions on Tuesday September 10 held its Annual Show and Sale of Blackface Wedder lambs at Oban Livestock Centre also sale of all classes cross bred lambs and feeding sheep. A total of 3,785 lambs and sheep were sold, and this recorded an increase of 692 head on the year. The show of pens of 20 or more Blackface wedder lambs was ably judged by Craig Malone, Pitcairn Farm, Cardenden. His awards were as follows: Champion pen taking the Carrs Billington Shield was Achalic Farm which sold for £54.50 to the judge. 2 Turnault £48.50 to J Gilvear and Sons, Stirling. 3 Fiart, £46.50 to J Gilvear and Sons. The sale average for the Blackface Lambs was £33.23 which records a drop of £3.28 per head on the year. It was evident throughout the sale that there wasn't the normal tail end of Blackface lambs presented. The overall average of the sale was £35.09 which is £5.70 back on the corresponding sale last year.

PRINCIPAL LOTS and PRICES LAMBS
BF £54.50 – Achalic Farm : £53.00 – Acharonich : £48.50 – Turnault : £46.50 – Fiart : £46.00 – Barndromin : £43.50 – Mid Farm : £43.00 – Achalic Farm : £41.00 – Carnasserie : £40.50 – Glengorm : £40.50 – Saulmore : £40.50 – Homestead : £40.00 – Bragleenbeg. SUFFx: £52.00 – Kilbride Croft : £51.00 – 1 Knockvologan : £51.00 – Frackersaig : £50.50 – Ardencaple : £50.00 – Mid Farm.
TEXx: £53.00 – Kengharair : £52.00 – Balnagown : £50.00 – Knock Farm. CHEV £52.00 – Cuan Croft : £51.50 – Strongorm : £51.00 – Kilbride Croft : £50.00 – Upper Cuan.
CROSS £43.00 – Upper Cuan : £40.00 – Mid Farm : £40.00 – 1 Knockvologan. MULE £49.50 – Fiart : £45.00 – Frackersaig : £42.00 – Garraron and Melfort Farms.
EWES
SUFFx: £65.00 – Shenavallie.
TEXx: £90.00 and £73.00 – Barcaldine HF : £52.00 – Knock Farm.
CHEV £49.50 – Shenavallie : £48.00 – Drumingal : £48.00 – 4 Glenaros. CROSS £44.00 – lochdar.
MULE £54.50 – Rhugarbh : £54.00 – Achnacree Beag.
BF £40.00 – Rhugarbh : £33.00 – Treshnish : £32.00 – lochdar : £31.00 – Kengharair.

DALMALLY – United Auctions on Saturday September 14 held its annual show and sale of Blackface wedder lambs at Dalmally Auction Mart which was sponsored by The Blackface Sheep Breeders Association. The show was ably judged by long-standing supporter of this event, Mr Ben Jack, Wester Upper Urquhart Farm, Fife, who made the following awards: Champion Pen of 40 or more BF Lambs and winner of the James Weir, Memorial Trophy 1 Achnaba £58. 2 Clachan Farms, Kilniver £57.50 3 Glenfeochan Estate £47.50. All three pens were purchased by M/s Errington, Penrith. The Blackface wedder lambs averaged £39.02 per head or 137.6p per kilo (+ £1.67 per head). The overall average price for the 7,181 head sold was £39.86 against £39.98 at the corresponding sale last year with 302 more sold.

PRINCIPAL LOTS and PRICES LAMBS
BF £62.00 – Balliemeanoch : £59.00 – Lephinkill : £58.00 – Achnaba : £57.50 – Clachan Farms (Kilniver) : £54.50 – Dall Farm : £51.00 – Invernahyle : £48.00 – Clachan Farms (Kilniver) :

£47.50 – Glenfeochan Estate : £47.50 – Lurgish : £47.00 – Lephinkill : £46.50 – Saulmore : £46.50 – Clachan Farms (Kilniver) : £46.50 – Balliemeanoch : £46.50 – Scallasaig : £46.50 – Raera : £46.00 – Corrylorn : £46.00 – Fearnoch : £45.50 – Tullochcan : £45.50 – Littleport : £45.00 – Mill Park : £45.00 – Bragleenmore : £45.00 – Dericambus : £44.50 – Dall Farm : £44.50 – Fearnoch : £44.00 – Tayvallich Estates : £44.00 – Corrylorn : £44.00 – Castles Estate : £44.00 – Ardchnonell : £44.00 – Machrins Farm. SUFFx: £44.50 – Balnahard. TEXx: £68.00 – Lephinkill : £58.00 – Inchgarth Farm : £56.00 – Innisaig : £46.00 – Inerlair : £46.00 – Garvachy. CHEV: £58.50 – Cour Grazings : £58.00 – Lochdochart : £56.00 – Glenshero : £55.50 – Inchgarth. CROSS £58.50 – Inchgarth : £57.50 – Dericambus : £55.00 – 10 Eastfield : £54.00 – Lephinkill. MULE £56.50 – Glenshellach. EWES
CROSS £53.00 – Craigmore BF £41.00 – Woodside Croft
TOP PRICES PER KILO
LAMBS
BF 154p – Achnaba : 154p – High Balantyre : 151p – Fearnoch : 149p – Littleport : 149p – Glenbeg : 148p – Clachan Farm (Kilniver) : 147p – Castle Estate : 147p – Ormsary Farmers : 147p – Castle Estate : 146p – Garrogie Estates : 145p – Duncroisk : 145p – Littleport : 145p – Bragleenmore : 145p – Raera : 145p – Duallin : 144p – Machrins : 144p – Ronachan Farms : 144p – Dunans : 143p – Balliemeanoch : 143p – Kiloran Farmers : 143p – Dall Farm : 143p – Corrylorn : 142p – Invernahyle. SUFFx: 165p – Balnahard. TEXx: 174p – Inchgarth : 160p – Glenshellach : 156p – Leargie Farm : 150p – Lephinkill. CHEV 177p and 162p – Kilchoan : 160p – Inchgarth : 159p – 1 Stronaba : 158p – Lochdochart : 157p – Inchgarth : 156p – Blackmount : 154p – Quinish Estate : 153p and 152p – Kilchoan : 151p – Lochdochart : 151p – Glenshero. CROSS 160p – Balvicar : 158p – Gorten : 156p – Lephinkill : 156p – Dericambus : 154p – Inchgarth : 152p – Balnahard : 151p – Glenshellach : 151p – Inchgarth.

TIREE – United Auctions held its second sale of lambs and the annual sale of breeding and feeding sheep, also all classes cattle at Tiree Auction Mart. 1,265 head of sheep was sold. Cattle, in keeping with mainland trends, met with a hesitant trade. All classes of sheep sold well.

PRINCIPAL LOTS and PRICES BULLOCKS
CHARx: £655 – Ardmay. HERx: £975, £940 and £935 – Clachan. LIMx: £775 – Vaul. SALx: £915 and £800 – 6 Crossapol. SIMx: £720 – Ardeas. HFRS
CHARx: £580(3) – Ardmay. HERx: £830 – Clachan. LIMx: £550(2) – Ardmay. SHEEP
EWE LAMBS
SUFFx: £100 – Mannal. TEXx: £71 – 7 Balinoe. MULE £132 – Braeside : £100 – Mannal. GIMMERS
SUFFx: £108 – 2/15 Balevullin. CROSS £152 – Middleton : £130 and £100 – Carrachan
TEXx: £125 – 5 Kilmoluag : £122 – 2/15 Balevullin : £120 and £110 – 5 Kilmoluag : £106 and £102 – Benview.
MULE £136, £134, £132 and £130 – Greenhill : £130 and £126 – 2/15 Balevullin : £120 – Greenhill. BF £85 – Mannal. CAST EWES
SUFFx: £85.00 – 9 Barrapol : £68.50 – Druaisaidh : £65.00 – 9 Barrapol. HB £66.00 – Croish : £60.00 – 6 Barrapol. BELTx: £100 – Heylipol Farm : £92.00 – 2/15 Balevullin : £60.00 – Heylipol Farm.



Below: Steven Handley, Carrs Billington; James Hodge, Achalic Farm; Karen Mackay, Carrs Billington and judge Craig Malone, Pitcairn.

TEXx: £84.00 – 6 Crossapol : £84.00 – 2/15 Balevullin : £75.00 – Heylipol Farm : £75.00 – Sandaig : £73.00 – Whitehouse : £71.00 – Heylipol Farm : £70.00 – Braeside : £69.50 – Benview : £69.00 – 6 Crossapol and 4 Kilkeneth. CHEVx: £80.50 – Heylipol Farm. CROSS £62.00 – Hillcrest. MULE £67.00 – Braeside : £65.00 – Benview : £63.00 and £61.00 – Heylipol Farm : £60.00 – Garaphail. BF £44.00 – Cnoc Gorm. HB £75.00 and £60.00 – Croish. CORRECT EWES
SUFFx: £138 and £90 – 2/15 Balevullin. TEXx: £120, £86 and £80 – 2/15 Balevullin. CROSS £80 – 2/15 Balevullin. RAMS
SUFF £320 – 2/15 Balevullin : £220 – 6 Barrapol. CROSS £150 – Mannal. BFL £160 – Mannal. STORE LAMBS
SUFFx: £59.00 – Ardmay : £56.50 – Croish. BELTx: £59.50 – Ardmay. TEXx: £53.00 – Whitehouse. CHEV £50.00 – Vaul. CROSS £52.50 – 6 Balevullin.

PORTREE – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on September 16 sold 2,405 store lambs and feeding sheep. Lambs (2,240) averaged £39.13 (+£5.38 on the year) and sold to £69 gross for Crosses from 15 Glenconon, Uig. Feeding sheep (165) sold to £73 gross for a Cheviot ram from 7 Herbusta, Kilmuir. A spokesperson said: 'All classes exceeded expectations and met a solid trade throughout.' Leading prices per head
Lambs: TexX – 20 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir, £66, 44 Borneskitaig, Kilmuir, £64.50, 40 Mains, Bernisdale, £56; Cross – 42 Bernisdale, Skeabost Bridge, £56, 19 Kilmuir Dunvegan, and 7 Totaig, Husabost, £53, 5/6 Sheader, £54.50, 2 Eyre, Snizort, £54, Balnacoc, Uig, £53; CharX – 4 Edinbane, Portree, £50.50; SuffX – 40 Mains, £50. Feeding Sheep: BF gmr – 1 and 2 Conon, Uig, £66; Chev wdr – 7 Herbusta, Kilmuir, £54; BF wdr – 5 Keistle, Snizort, £54; Chev ewe – 1 Galtrigill, Dunvegan, £50 (twice); BF ram – 3 Eyre, Snizort, £49; Cross wdr – 5 Keistle, £48.

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www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk

West Coast MOTORING

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TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631
568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial
Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.

WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

Tel: 07546 788945

ORIGINAL ROMANY CARAVAN



Proven holiday let, very attractive piece of history, must be viewed.

**OFFERS AROUND
£6,500**

Tel 07483 824484 (Fort William area)

FIAT DOBLO VAN



First Reg. 15/6/15
Mileage 58,000
MOT 14/6/20

Good condition

**PRICE £4,000
PLUS VAT**

Telephone: 01631 564022 / 07710 060021

WANTED

All types of 4x4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4x4 pickups. Older models and non runners/ MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Tel 07546 788945

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

CARS WANTED

Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.

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**Euro 6 Long
Wheel Base
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PICKUP OF THE YEAR 2019

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125,000
MILE
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3.5
TONNES
TOWING
CAPACITY

—OVER—
1.1
TONNE
PAYLOAD

164
PS

—OVER—
40
MPG
COMBINED

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Supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years

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address, postcode and phone number.

ELLDIS CYCLONE G.T.

Caravan 1994 model, 1 berth-fixed double, Bed plus two singles, 2 gas bottles, Aquaroll, electric cable,, Kitchenalia, bedding pump, Porch awning, Sited North Ledaig Caravan site. Illness forces sale.

£650 ONO

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All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.

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Tel: 01546 603055 Email: admin@pier-garage.co.uk



CAMPBELTOWN MOTOR COMPANY

SALES • REPAIRS • SERVICING

GREAT DEALS ON NEW '69' PLATE PEUGEOTS

2018 (18) Peugeot 308 Allure PureTech



Grey, 15800 miles, glass roof, parking sensors, satellite navigation, alloys, DAB radio/USB.

Was £13499
£12999

2016 (66) Peugeot 208 Allure PureTech



Red, only 7000 miles, glass roof, satellite navigation, parking sensors, alloys, bluetooth.

Was £9999
£9499

2019 (19) Peugeot 108 Allure PureTech



Red, ex-demonstrator, 700 miles, reversing camera, DAB radio/USB, alloys, bluetooth.

£10999

NEW MODEL Partner Professional BlueHDI Diesel



From £11999 + VAT
Ply lined, parking sensors, side loading door, Apple Car Play & Android Auto as standard.

NEW '69' 308 Tech Edition PureTech



£228 per month
on Peugeot PCH. Includes maintenance, servicing and road
Satellite navigation, parking camera, smartphone connectivity, glass roof & blind spot monitoring as standard.

Initial rental £1495.45. 48 months at £299 per month based on 8000 miles per annum. Peugeot Contract Hire. All figures quoted exclusive of VAT. You will not own the vehicle. Over 18s only. Terms & Conditions apply.

Contact us for car, van, 4x4 and shuttlebus hire

We are open Monday to Friday 8:00 – 17:30 and every Saturday 8:30 – 13:00

www.campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk

Campbeltown Motor Company, Snipefield, Drumore, Campbeltown 01586 552030

All finance prices above based on 6000 miles per annum. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Terms & Conditions apply. Age restrictions may apply on certain models. Excess mileage charges may apply. Contact us for more information Alternatively email us at cmc@peugeotmail.co.uk

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REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE	REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
19	Dacia Stepway Essential, Petrol,	Blue	10	£9,950	15	Peugeot 3008 HDi Allure	Green	42,000	£8,650
68	Renault Captur TCe Play,	White/black	9,000	£11,450	15	Dacia Duster LAU Prime DCi 4x2	Blue	41,000	£8,250
18	Dacia Logan AMB TCE Est,	White	5,000	£8,950	14	Nissan Micra Acenta,	Black	21,400	£5,950
67	Renault Twingo 1M SCE,	White	8,700	£6,950	64	Renault Clio Dyn TCe	Red	16,000	£7,500
67	Dacia Stepway Summit TCE,	Grey	19,000	£8,500	64	Vauxhall Corsa SE 1.2, 5dr,	Blue	39,000	£5,650
66	Dacia Sandero DCi,	Silver	15,000	£8,500	64	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5 dr,	Red	36,000	£6,500
66	Dacia Stepway Amb DCi,	White	23,000	£6,950	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£7,950
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£9,750	60	Citroen Picasso HDi	Blue	80,000	£3,500
66	Fiat Punto Pop Plus	White	8,500	£6,950					

RANGE OF LOWER PRICED CARS RENAULT CLIO RENAULT SCENIC HONDA CIVIC

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER
Inveraray - 01499 302150 Lochgilphead - 01546 606767

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E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.

WANTED

All types of 4x4's, Landrover
Toyota, Nissan etc... We also buy
MOT failures and accident damage
vehicles. Anything considered.

**Tel: 01250 884306 or
M: 07885 203020**

WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH



WANTED ALL 4X4'S & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the
age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or
old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used,
accident damaged, mot failures etc.

**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE,
FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.**

CALL TODAY ON 0778 985 5381



**MOT TEST
STATION**

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SERVICING
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& REPAIRS**

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BEST DEALS IN TOWN FOR
TYRES • BATTERIES • EXHAUSTS**



t: 01631 566502 / 566470 e: lmsautoservices@gmail.com
6 Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB

WANTED

For immediate cash payment and free collection
all types of of 4x4 vehicles double cab and single
cabs pickups shogun landrover defenders Isuzu
Landcruiser Navara I200 Toyota Hilux discovery
any vehicle considered old or new any condition
running or not high miles rotten chassis over
heating top price paid without any hassle we also
buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial
vans and trucks.

**Tel 07703490572
or email balgowan4wd@gmail.com ask for Robert**

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01292 880080
01292 880440

Great Wall
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080
01292 880440

SUBARU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080/880440

RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS



The Campbeltown Courier has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team.

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence. As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels. In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to Susan Windram: swindram@obantimes.co.uk

George McNaughton and Son Lochgilphhead

The opportunity has arisen for an experienced Accountant/ Bookkeeper to join our busy office team.

Duties include writing up and maintaining Sage line 50 bookkeeping records

Task will include

- Bank Reconciliation
- Managing Purchase Ledger
- Issuing Sales invoice and managing Sales Ledger
- Completing VAT returns
- Managing CIS deduction
- Running Weekly Payroll using Sage Payroll

Training could be available if required.
Full-time. Salary- Tba

**Send CV to – gmnargyll@gmail.com
Or phone for further information
on 01546 602389.**

CLASS 1 DRIVER

Required

ALSO TRANSPORT
SERVICES

Tel: 01852 300393

North Argyll House

Bealach an Righ, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Currently recruiting for:

Care assistant – full time

Part time cook

Housekeeping staff

All permanent positions. Good pay and conditions.

For an application form contact manager

Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168

Email info@northargyllhouse.org

Career opportunities



JOINERS

(Islay, Oban & Lochgilphhead)

BRICKLAYERS

ROOFERS

The above positions are also suitable for Sub-Contractors.

Full time/Permanent positions

**Please send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk
or call 01546602989 for further info.**



PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

Oban or Lochgilphhead



Full, part-time + bank positions
£8.75 per hour

We're looking for confident and motivated individuals to support people to live the life they choose. You don't need experience in social care to work for us, we recruit based on values.

**For more information contact our local offices on Oban 01631 565062
Lochgilphhead 01546 602725
or email lynn.campbell@enable.org.uk**

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at hijobs.co.uk/app

HIJOBS



Advertising Sales Manager

We have a rare and exciting opportunity for the right person to join our team in a senior sales management role.

Based in Oban, the successful candidate will report directly to our MD and will be expected to lead our experienced sales team to achieve realistic revenue targets both in print and online. They will also be expected to use their sales experience to deliver their own individual revenue target.

You will be working with highly recognisable and trusted brands including the Oban Times, Scotland's second highest selling weekly newspaper.

The right person for the job will have considerable sales experience, ideally within a media or digital background. They will have a track record of delivering results both from a personal and team perspective. They will be confident, articulate and target driven and above all they will be able to motivate and inspire their team.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car (you will require a full driving licence) and the chance to work in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland.

If this sounds like you and you are up for the challenge send your CV and current salary to Nicky Murphy, nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk by 8th October.



MKM BRINGS EXCITING NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO OBAN

An unprecedented opportunity has come up to join the UK's largest and fastest growing independent builder's merchant MKM Building Supplies Ltd. A new, state-of-the-art MKM branch is due to open in Oban soon, offering exceptional career opportunities for local people.

MKM is currently recruiting for experienced, enthusiastic and hardworking staff with a wide range of skills including managerial, sales, HGV drivers, administration as well as yard and warehouse assistants.

The new branch in Oban will be located on the Glengallan Road and will be headed up by an experienced industry team, committed to making MKM Oban the best merchant in the area.

If you are interested in joining the Oban team, more information about these vacancies is available on our website www.mkmbms/about-us-careers, along with details on how to apply.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD AND 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under section 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic and reduction of speed limit on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from its junction with the ZC1094 Glen Etive Road in a generally westwards direction to a point 500 metres or thereby west of its junction with the Old Glencoe and Clachaig Inn Road, Glencoe, a distance of 12.7 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Skyline Scotland Event 2019, will be in operation for short periods of time between the hours of 07:30 hours and 15:30 hours on 22nd September 2019 but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event or vehicles falling within regulation 3(4) of the Road Traffic Exemptions (Special Forces) (Variation Amendment) Regulations 2011 when used in accordance with regulation 3(5) of those Regulations.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

S LEES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 PONTOON- ISLE OF ERISKA, BENDERLOCH

Notice is hereby given that Arch Henderson has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a new pontoon at:

Cost	£350,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Isle Of Eriska,	56° 32.279' N	005° 24.380' W
Benderloch,	56° 32.262' N	005° 24.311' W
Oban	56° 32.221' N	005° 24.424' W
	56° 32.203' N	005° 24.358' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Public Library, Albany St, Oban PA34 4AL

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 07058 and Arch Henderson.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing. A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

THE BANK HOUSE B&B LIMITED PETITION FOR RESTORATION OF COMPANY RESTORATION FTW-B87-19

The Bank House B & B Limited, a company with its Registered Office latterly at The Bank House, Leven Road, Kinlochleven, PH50 4RP. A Petition has been presented at Fort William Sheriff Court within the Sheriffdom of Grampian, Highland & Islands for the restoration of the above company. Anyone wishing to object should lodge answers with the Sheriff Clerk at Fort William Sheriff Court House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EE within 21 days failing which the Petition may be granted.

Jonathan Bell, Twin Deer
Law, TDL HQ, Lochaber
Rural Complex, Fort
William
Agent for the Petitioner

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD Rectification of Croft Registration

A rectification has been made to the croft 'Cathcan, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon' on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 11 June 2020. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The Croft Registration number is C6144.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD CREATE A NEW CROFT DECISION ISSUED

Application by KH Farrell & J Farrell has been Approved.
Aegir Fell Croft
Case 95195

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against the decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days from the date of this advert.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

A Glenn
Whitestone, Saddell &
Skipness
0.020 ha -Existing house
site
100785

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 18/10/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - info@crofting.gov.scot

Our privacy notice is available at www.obantimes.co.uk/privacy-policy or on request. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

69%

of the business community
read the regional press



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to

cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned

by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular adver-

tisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Alexander James Smith has registered his croft, Ardcaig Croft (Grazing Share), in the Parish of Jura on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29 April 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6228.



Com-pairteachas Nibheis
The Nevis Partnership

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEVIS PARTNERSHIP WILL BE HELD AT:

Voluntary Action Lochaber,
An Drochaid,
Claggan Road, Fort William
PH33 6PH

ON TUESDAY 12th
NOVEMBER 2019
AT 5.30PM

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

Water Environment And Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011

Application for variation of authorisation COLONSAY MARINE PEN FISH FARM

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Mowi Scotland Ltd. to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1110925 authorising the carrying on of controlled activity at, near or in connection with Colonsay Marine Pen Fish Farm, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change to the discharge of trade effluent arising from the increased production of salmon at an existing cage fish farm.	The Sea of the Hebrides	NR 4345 9672

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk or to the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1110925.

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

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
19/01736/AMSC	Approval of matters specified in conditions 3 to 7 relative to planning permission in principle reference 16/01369/PPP -Site for the erection of 4 dwellinghouses	Land West Of Lag An Fhiodhain, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01797/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Croft 7, Kilvaree, Connel, Argyll And Bute
19/01755/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of 8 Glen Houses, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01892/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 6 Lagganmore, Kilniver, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01890/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/01979/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land West Of Uisken Croft, Bunesan, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/01817/PP	Demolition of ruinous dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse and detached garage with flat above	Land North Of Cliff House, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01891/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/02486/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Site North Of Moine Mor, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01801/PP	Removal of existing roof, erection of first floor extension onto existing bothy to provide accommodation for staff members	Harbour View, 1 Argyll Terrace, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6PB
19/01833/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North Of Hazel Cottage, Ulva Ferry, Isle Of Mull
19/01806/LIB	Internal alterations and installation of replacement windows	Perle Oban Hotel, Station Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5RT
19/01859/PP	Re-painting of dwellinghouse	1 Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7TX
19/01842/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/02869/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land North West Of Mulldubh, Upper Kilchattan, Isle Of Colonsay, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
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First Registration of a Croft

John Cameron has registered their crofts 10&12 Dalnabreck, Dalnabrecki, Arisaig and Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by May 29, 2020. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration numbers are C6306 & C6305.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://www.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
19/03878/FUL	Laraichean, Glencoe Ballachulish	Erection of a house and linked self contained annexe
19/04022/FUL	Ardeeven, 71 Camaghael Fort William	Erection of holiday let accommodation (retrospective)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
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TRIC START GENERATOR - Hyundai HY3100LE 2.8 electric Start petrol generator UNUSED - Unmarked all labels still attached, was purchased as couldn't use pull starts any more if required, £350.00 Telephone 07528479746

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DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at home in Redlands, California, on September 5, 2019 and surrounded by his family, Duncan Campbell, late of "Fasgadh", Taynuilt. Loving husband of Lois and adored brother of Catherine, Neil and the late Sally. Will be much missed by his wide circle of friends and the extended family at home and abroad.

TOMLINSON-HALL - Janet. Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow, Janet a very beloved wife to Peter. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium, Cardross, Dumfries G82 5HD on Friday September 20 at 12.15pm. Followed by a memorial service on the Isle Of Mull at Torosay Church, Craignure on Tuesday October 1, at 12pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

JOHNSTON - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on September 3, 2019, Isabel Vivienne, aged 86 years, Royal Ness Court, Inverness. Beloved wife of the late Neil Johnston, sister to Elizabeth, sister-in-law to Michael, Ayr and aunt to Pauline, Violet and Francis. Funeral Service on Tuesday September 24, at 10.00am in the Funeral Home of John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, followed by a Committal Service on Wednesday September 25 at 1.00pm in Kirkapoll Cemetery, Isle of Tiree. Family flowers only please. Donations are invited for the British Heart Foundation and the Highland Hospice at the service or may be forwarded to the funeral directors. Car parking available at the funeral home.

MACCUISH - Sadly but peacefully, on September 11, 2019, after a long illness, in her 87th year, Marion Macrae, (née Galbraith), beloved wife of Peter, mother to Peter, David and the late Bobby, grandmother to Jenna, Andrew, Claire and Daniel and a loving great-grandmother. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Friday,

September 20, 2019 at 11.00am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

MACLEOD - Mary (née Kirkham), formerly of Creagan Park, Tobermory died peacefully in the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle on September 9, 2019 in her 89th year. Much loved wife of the late Ian. A loving mother, granny and great granny and will be sadly missed.

MCQUARRIE - On September 10, 2019, peacefully at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Donald McQuarrie (Donnie), in his 90th year, dearly loved husband of Marjorie, beloved dad of Donna and the late Rhoda, much loved brother of the late Neil, May and Minnie, and a dear brother-in-law, uncle and good friend to many. Funeral service was held at Inveraray Parish Church, on September 17, 2019, thereafter at Cardross Crematorium.

NICOL - Suddenly but peacefully, at home, 16 Knockscaibert Way, Campbeltown, on September 13, 2019, Hugh MacLellan Nicol, in his 79th year, much loved husband of the late Agnes Armour, much loved dad of Hugh, Wendy and the late Judith, father-in-law of Christine and a dearly loved grampa of Cara and Andrew. Funeral service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, Campbeltown, on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

WOODROW - Peacefully at home in Hawthorn Cottage, Bowmore. Isobel nee Johnston aged 84 years beloved wife of Isla and much loved mother to John and Kathleen and mother in law to Rae and Duncan, beloved grandmother and great grand mother. Funeral service in Round Church on Friday 20th September 2019 at 11.30 am and there after to Bowmore Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACINNES - The family of the late John Joseph (Joe) MacInnes would like to thank Fr David Connor, Fr Emmanuel, Fr Stan, Deacon

Thomas and Kevin the organist for their compassion and wonderful service at St Mary's Church. Also, to the staff at Belford Hospital, Respiratory Care Services and Glen Mor Medical Practice, particularly Dr Weir and the ambulance crew who were in attendance when Joe passed away, for their care. Thanks also to the staff at McFall Funeral Directors, McDonald Brothers florist and the Railway Club for their help and support through this difficult time. Finally, thank you to all friends and family for their messages of condolence, support and attendance at the funeral service. The sum of £786.62 was raised for Macmillan Nurses Lochaber and St Mary's Church. Rest in Peace Da xxx

MACPHERSON - The family of Amy MacPherson would like the thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, words of support, flowers and cards during this sad time. Amy was a much loved wife to Hughie, mother to Heather, grandmother to James and Andrew and great grandmother. A special thanks to the Doctors and Nurses at both the Belford and Raigmore Hospitals. We would also like to thank the Rev Baxter and the Rev Muirhead for their words of comfort and prayers at both our home and during the service. A special mention to the McDonald Bros for the floral tributes, the Railway Club for providing the lovely tea and a special thanks to McLellan Funeral Directors for their professionalism, care, support and attention to detail with the handling of the funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who came to pay their last respects to Amy, many travelling a long distance to be there. Finally thank you for the generous donations to the Coronary Care Unit at the Raigmore Hospital.

MUNRO - The family of the late Craig Munro extend sincere thanks to the many relations, friends and neighbours for their kindness, messages, cards, flowers and gifts at this very sad time. Thanks also to Petals for the lovely flower arrangements. Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his care and attention and

Rev Dugald Cameron for his touching service. Finally a huge thanks to all those who attended the celebration of Craig's life and generously contributed to the £646.12 retiring collection to be shared equally between Martyn's Monday Club and Add-action. Love you forever - Mum, Derek, Dad, Gillian, Gary, Adam and Ben.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - Hughie, September 21, 2017. Loved and remembered every day. - Helen, Mary, David, Sharon and families. X

BLUE - Cherished memories of Lilian, a loving sister and aunt, who died September 22, 2011. Forever in our hearts.

- Donnie, Mary, Jim and Kevin.

HUNTER - Betty - 22-9-2013
And while she lies in peaceful sleep

Her memory we shall always keep

- Love from Monica, Brian, Emma, Steven, Danielle and Sarah xxx

MACCUISH - In loving memory

of our darling son Bobby who left

us on September 17, 2006.

Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Till we meet again Son.

- Mum and Dad.

MACCUISH - Bobby not a day goes by that we don't think of you, our world is a lonelier place without you.

- David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

MACCUISH - Bobby. Always in

our hearts. You'll never walk alone.

- Love Peter, Julie and family.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas Macdonald, who passed away on September 18, 1991. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

We keep in our hearts the love of the past

For there it was planted forever to last.

Too deep in our hearts, for death to divide.

Each day of our lives, you walk by our side.

- His ever loving daughters, Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of Betty, my dear wife, died September 25, 2012.

Much love.

- Jim xx

MACDOUGALL - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy, who died on September 19, 1997.

Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family.

MACDOUGALL - Treasured memories of our dad and grampy, Callum, who passed away on September 19, 1997. Never more than a thought away.

- Margaret and family, Bunessan.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my dear sister Kathryn, who died September 24 2015.

Always in our thoughts and never forgotten.

-Anne

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GRADUATION



LYNNE ELIZABETH MACLEAN

Lynne, youngest daughter of Willie and Christine MacLean, Barcaldine was awarded a Bachelor of Arts with Honours (2:1) in Criminology from Abertay University, Dundee. Lynne is the granddaughter of Margaret Forbes and the late Harry Forbes, Connel and the late Charlie and Isa MacLean, Balure. She is a former pupil of Barcaldine Primary School and Oban High School.

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Matheson gives memorial lecture

This year's prestigious Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture will be given by well-known businessman and broadcaster Kenny Matheson at 7.30pm on Thursday October 24 at Pairc School, Gravir, South Lochs, Lewis.

It will have the title The Leverhulme Initiative – An Opportunity Lost or a Narrow Escape for Lewis and Harris?

Kenny, who is from Gravir but is now based in Aberdeen,

'I will try to discover what lessons have been learned'

will speak in English and assess, with the benefit of 100 years of hindsight, the reasons for Leverhulme's failure and what lessons can be drawn for recent and current debates about the economic future of Lewis and Harris.

Addressing the question in the lecture title, Kenny said: 'I thought it might be appropriate in the first instance to take a little time to try and understand something about the type of man William Lever, the first Viscount Leverhulme, was and what made him tick.



Kenny Matheson.

'Secondly, I will explore the significance of his timing before thirdly speculating on whether his grand plan was fundamentally flawed and as such doomed to failure from the beginning or whether

a different approach might have produced an altogether different outcome.

'I will then try fourthly to consider what lessons, if any, have been learned and applied in the intervening

decades before, fifthly and finally, posing the question whether the historical controversies surrounding Leverhulme's ideas remain relevant to more recent and current debates about the types of commercial activities which may or may not be compatible with the traditional ethos of the island.'

The lecture series is arranged by Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc in partnership with e-Sgoil, the CnES multi-media unit,

'Attendance at Pairc School is free and all are welcome'

the Islands Book Trust and Angus Macleod's family.

The lecture will be live-streamed over the internet and will be shown in the e-Sgoil headquarters at 44 Francis Street, Stornoway, and possibly other venues.

Attendance at Pairc School is free and all are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. A big turnout is expected for what is sure to be a thought-provoking lecture and a memorable occasion. For further details, please contact John Randall at john673randall@btinternet.com.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Very Rev Canon Margi Campbell.

There is much cause for hope of positive future

That question 'where is the relevance of the Christian faith in the current political climate of our nations?' felt incredibly apposite over the past weeks.

This is not about Christians dictating politics (we are not a political party) but the way of Christ does give us principles by which to live and, maybe more crucially, the hope and belief that things can be different. We can heal the fractures within communities espousing differing political views; we can live together, agreeing to disagree, but maintaining our care and respect for each other.

The principles which Jesus gave ask us to stand up for all who will be disadvantaged by any decision from any party and to be the voice for those whose views are ignored, whether in our democracy or in the Amazonian rainforests.

And they ask us to test any decision, political, personal or in our work, against God's values of love, peace, justice and equality.

I do not believe that we should foist Christian principles on those who do not hold that faith, but for those who follow Jesus, it is an imperative to offer a way of life and values give hope into all aspects of our lives here and beyond our human existence.

The faint rainbow that appeared over Oban Bay the other morning reminded me that there is hope and there are ways to repair and go forward into a positive future, as we pray for wisdom to guide us all in the coming months.

Very Rev Canon Margi Campbell, Provost and Rector of St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban.

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Cammanachd Cup Final w

Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd will have to do it all over again this Saturday for the right to claim shinty's greatest prize after terrible weather conditions forced the abandonment of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final, whilst Kingussie draw level on points with Mowi Premiership leaders Lovat following the shinty action on Saturday September 14.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final

Newtonmore A Oban Camanachd A

Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd will have to do it all over again this Saturday after terrible weather conditions forced the abandonment of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup at An Aird, Fort William.

Newtonmore were trying to win the trophy for the fourth time in a row, whilst Oban Camanachd looked to win shinty's blue riband event for the fourth time in their

history. The warning signs were there as the wet weather over the previous 24 hours left surface water which the Fort William ground staff battled manfully to clear but which also raised early speculation the final might not start.

Newtonmore got by Lovat, after a replay, Skye Camanachd and Caberfeidh on their way to the final with Iain Robinson scoring in all three rounds. Oban Camanachd accounted for Glenurquhart, Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic with Andrew MacCuish netting in every round.

The teams and officials were led onto the field in monsoon conditions by Lochaber Pipe Band before being introduced to George Fraser from sponsors Tulloch Homes, Camanachd Association president Keith Loades and Camanachd Cup Ambassador Gary Innes.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh had injury concerns around Michael Russell and Glen MacKintosh. Russell started and al-

though MacKintosh, who scored the only goal of the game between the sides in the 2016 final, was included, he was on the bench.

Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss was without the suspended Scott MacMillan, whilst injury continued to rule out Willie Neilson. Captain Daniel Cameron was in defence with Malcolm Clark starting in attack. Stephen Sloss said his line-up was influenced by the conditions, going for his more senior players, with Keith MacMillan playing at wing centre whilst Gary McKerracher was given the full forward slot.

The howling wind was such that it was clear from the outset it would be a game of two halves.

Oban Camanachd won the toss and chose to start with the strong wind in their favour, playing away from the town end.

Newtonmore forced an early corner but it was Oban Camanachd who created the first shot at goal on six minutes when Malcolm Clark held off his marker on the left and steadied himself before shooting. Newtonmore keeper Kenny Ross did well to sweep the skidding, low shot away to safety.

Splashes on the surface were evident during the early exchanges and there was an indication of what was to come on 10 minutes when Newtonmore's Drew MacDonald did well to keep the ball in play on the left of midfield, driving it up the line, however a combination of his momentum and the wet surface meant he slid along the ground into the railings at the side of the pitch and required treatment before continuing.

Despite playing into the full force of the wind, Newtonmore were creating opportunities and, following Steven Macdonald's free-hit from the left of midfield, a turn and shot from skipper Evan Menzies on 13 minutes went wide of target.

Gary McKerracher was proving a handful for the Newtonmore defence, winning two set-piece chances in quick succession but the Oban side didn't take advantage of either opportunity.

The weather was worsening with the surface getting more and more difficult as the game went on and, as the midway point of the first half approached, Newtonmore knew they were getting closer to the turn-around when the elements would be in their favour.

The first substitution was made on 28 minutes when Daniel MacVicar replaced Daniel MacCuish in the Oban Camanachd attack.

Seconds later, it took a brilliant challenge from Daniel Madej to foil Evan Menzies to the right of the 'D'. Menzies had latched onto a wonderfully measured ball forward from midfield from Fraser MacKintosh and it took a fine Madej block to prevent Menzies hitting the target.

Menzies regained possession on the right before being brought down



Referee Robert Baxter explains his decision to abandon the game to the media. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

by his marker but the free-hit came to nothing.

Fraser MacKintosh sent a fine effort from the left wide of the far post on the half hour mark after he won possession following Michael Russell's corner from the right.

Iain Robinson required treatment for a hand injury before Oban Camanachd went back on the attack and Daniel MacVicar tugged a shot wide from a Lorne Dickie free-hit after Malcolm Clark had been impeded.

Steven Macdonald caught teammate Drew MacDonald on the head with a trailing swing and referee Robert Baxter stopped play for treatment to the head-knock with Iain Robinson racing forward.

An Evan Menzies strike was well-blocked and then cleared over his head by the effective Daniel Madej following another Steven Macdonald free-hit with eight first half minutes remaining.

Water was now lying all over the pitch, especially in front of both technical areas. With five first half minutes remaining, Andy MacKintosh blocked an Andrew MacCuish high shot from the left with MacCuish then hitting the side-netting to the keeper's left.

Oban Camanachd made a tactical switch with Daniel Cameron going forward late in the half and Malcolm Clark dropping into defence.

With almost a minute's stoppage time played, referee Robert Baxter brought the first half to a close and whilst Newtonmore would be satisfied in having prevented the Oban side making the elements count, Oban Camanachd would have noted Newtonmore were able to threaten despite playing against the wind and they would look to do the same.

Referee Baxter spoke to both camps at the break, making them aware he would be forced to abandon the match if conditions worsened.

The players made their way back onto the field for the second half

and the body language from some suggested they felt matters were becoming farcical.

A couple of minutes after the restart, Daniel Cameron, now back in defence, sent a free-hit forward and Aidan MacIntyre's ball to the edge of the 'D' held up on the wet surface and Malcolm Clark couldn't take the ball on the run as he surged into the 'D'. Possession broke to MacIntyre on the right and he hit the side netting to the keeper's left.

With four second half minutes played, Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord went to clear his lines but sent a wave of water forward as he connected with the ball and referee Robert Baxter had seen enough, bringing the final to a premature end.

Speaking afterwards, referee Robert Baxter said: 'We gave it a go but player safety is paramount in these circumstances and the rain was getting a lot heavier. I took the pitch conditions into consideration too. It's a hard call when it's the biggest game on the shinty calendar and so many people have travelled here but it's fairer to both sides that they get to play a rescheduled final in better conditions.'

There were no dissenting voices with Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss holding a similar view: 'It was getting dangerous out there so it was the correct call. The conditions were horrendous and it was hard for the referee to work out what was a slide and what was a fall. The game probably shouldn't have started in the first place but, because it's the Camanachd Cup Final, it was given a go. At least it was 0-0 when it was ended so neither side was ahead so I'll go with the decision.'

'It's a situation I've never been involved in before. We were training five nights a week in the lead up to the final but you can't keep that going as it would be too much. We also had two supporters' buses at the game but I don't know if we will



Oban Camanachd's Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and Newtonmore's Andy Mackintosh splash their way through the puddles.

Fixtures

Saturday September 21

Tulloch Homes

Camanachd Cup Final

Newtonmore v Oban Camanachd

Robert Baxter - 3pm

At An Aird)

Mowi Premiership

Kingussie v Inveraray

Graham Cameron

Kyles Athletic v Kilmallie

Ross Brown - 3pm

Lovat v Caberfeidh

Andy MacLean

Mowi National Division

Beaully v Bute

Steven MacLachlan

Oban Celtic v Strathglass

Lachie Wood - 3pm

Skye v Glenurquhart

Calum Girvan - 3pm



Marine Harvest

North Division 1

Inverness v Lovat

Deek Cameron

Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh

Ronnie Campbell

Newtonmore v Glengarry

Alex MacVicar - noon

Skye v Kingussie

Callum Duff - noon

Mowi South Division 1

Ballachulish v Aberdour

John Wood - noon

Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll

David Mitchell

Kyles Athletic v Taynuilt

Graham Fisher - noon

Mowi North Division 2

Lochcarron v Strathspay

John Angus Gillies

Kilmallie v Beaully

Iain Kennedy - noon

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

ashed out

Results

Saturday September 14

Tulloch Homes

Camanachd Cup Final

Newtonmore A v A Oban Caman
Unplayable field

Mowi Premiership

Kingussie 4 v 1 Caberfeidh
Lochaber 0 v 3 Kyles Athletic

Mowi National Division

Glasgow MA 0 v 0 Strathglass

get that again this week.

‘There is a bonus in that if any of our younger players had nerves, they won’t find it so daunting this time as they have now been through it. Otherwise, it is difficult to take anything from the game because of the conditions other than we have no new injuries.

‘A lot was made of Newtonmore having the elements in the second half but, in reality, it wasn’t that easy playing with the wind, simply because the ground was so wet which made it difficult to hit the ball. I’ve seen us playing into the wind before and winning the game.

‘The most important thing is, whatever the circumstances, the Camanachd Cup is still up for grabs and we are one of only two teams that can win it.’

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon, who will miss a trip to the Ayr Gold Cup to be at the rearranged final, described the conditions as ‘horrendous’. He added: ‘The referee made the correct decision as it could have turned into a bit of a lottery and it was good it was 0-0 at the time. The surface water was a big problem and wind advantage can be exaggerated as you can end up over-hitting the ball. Our preparations ahead of the game will still stand us in good stead so we’ll go again this week.’

Newtonmore boss Paul John MacKintosh said: ‘The referee has responsibility for the safety of all the players so I suppose it’s the correct decision.

‘It’s disappointing for us as conditions weren’t great when we started and we weathered the first half elements, when there was a big wind in Oban’s favour, and there weren’t too many sliding challenges or injuries. We’re gutted as once you’ve started, you want to finish the game but it

was the right decision.’

Re-arranged Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final details

After the match, and following consultation between both clubs and the Camanachd Association board of directors, came confirmation that the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final has been re-scheduled for this Saturday at An Aird, Fort William, with a 3pm throw-up. Entry will be by donation.

A weather inspection will be carried out at An Aird on Wednesday September 18 to determine if there are any weather risks for the fixture. If the weather forecast has not improved, the match will take place at a neutral venue in Inverness.

A Camanachd Association statement read: ‘Yesterday’s conditions were unprecedented and worsened considerably as the game went on. In celebration of all those that braved the conditions yesterday, the Camanachd Association would like to advise that next Saturday’s Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final will be free entry for all, with donations at the gate to help cover costs for the rearranged fixture.

‘The Camanachd Association are a not-for-profit organisation led by a board of directors who have volunteered at clubs across the country, played shinty at the highest levels throughout their lives and continue to help the game by leading and giving up their time to support our sport.

‘In appreciation for those that travelled on Saturday September 14, and understanding that those same people will likely wish to support

Continued on page 52



Oban Camanachd’s Keith MacMillan takes a tumble after a challenge from Newtonmore’s Fraser Mackintosh.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£3500

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two ‘near miss’ prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to ‘Spot the Shinty Ball’ Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company’s decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners’ names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant’s details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to ‘Spot the Shinty Ball’ Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name

Address

Tel No

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell** Sept '18 **£2500**
- S Campbell** Sept '18 **£2550**
- L Currie** Nov '18 **£800**
- L Nicolson** Dec '18 **£3900**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- A Files**
- Kilmelford**
- T Campbell**
- Oban**

Continued from page 51

their teams again in this week's final, the board has agreed to make entry by donation.

'The board would also like to express their gratitude and appreciation to all the volunteers and our staff who worked so hard to prepare An Aird for Saturday.

Volunteers are at the very heart of our sport and what makes it such a special community to be part of.

'The Under 14 MacMaster Cup Final has also been provisionally scheduled to take place on Saturday 21 September 21 with a noon throw up.'

This means Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd will now meet on three successive Saturdays as they are due to clash at the Eilan in the Mowi Premiership on Saturday September 28.

Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan, whose booking in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final triggered a two-match suspension, will still be banned for this Saturday's game, whilst Newtonmore's Glen MacKintosh has an additional seven days to prove his fitness.

The developments also impact Fort William, who last played in the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final on Saturday August 24, as they have to wait to be presented with the Mowi National Division title as their final league fixture against Glasgow Mid Argyll at An Aird, which had been due to be played this Saturday, has now been put back to Saturday October 12.

GMA were scheduled to play Bute in the Mod Cup on that date.

Mowi Premiership Lochaber 0 Kyles Athletic 3

Lochaber's goal difference is such that their Mowi Premiership survival chances are hanging by a thread following their 3-0 defeat to Kyles Athletic in their 11.30am throw-up at Spean Bridge.

There was very heavy rain for a short while ahead of throw-up followed by a good strong, drying wind.

It was the visitors who took the lead on 10 minutes when Roddy Macdonald tapped the ball in at the bottom end after the home defence was carved open.

It was pretty much one-way traffic towards the Lochaber goal at this point.

Kyles were playing some good shinty up front with Robbie MacLeod linking up well with full forward Roddy Macdonald.

The outcome remained in the balance until 15 minutes



Lochaber's Barry MacDonald shields the ball during the game against Kyles Athletic. Photograph: Kim Ferguson.

from time when substitute Ross Macrae scored following a poor clearance from Lochaber keeper Calum MacDonald.

Then, with a couple of minutes remaining, Roddy Macdonald held off his marker as he tried to get a shot in and Ross Macrae nipped in to grab his second from between the penalty spot and the 'D'.

Tempers frayed towards the end of the match with a number of players involved in a flare-up following an initial clash between Lochaber's Barry Macdonald and Kyles Athletic's Conor Kennedy who were yellow-carded by referee David Mitchell.

Kyles didn't have it all their own way and keeper John Whyte had saves to make.

Lochaber's Stuart Callison had a great game at the back, whilst Andrew King did well in the same position for Kyles with Thomas Whyte controlling the midfield.

Lochaber remain in the relegation zone and their negative goal difference makes it unlikely they will escape the drop.

Lochaber's final fixture, at home to Oban Camanachd, is currently scheduled for Saturday October 19.

Kyles Athletic host Kilmallie this Saturday.

Kingussie 4 Caberfeidh 1

Kingussie go level on points with Mowi Premiership league leaders Lovat after defeating Caberfeidh 4-1 in their 11am throw-up at the Dell.

This was Kingussie's first match since their Artemis Macaulay Cup Final win over Oban Camanachd four weeks

earlier. Caberfeidh's last outing was a league defeat, also to Oban Camanachd, three weeks before.

Kingussie were along usual lines but Caberfeidh were missing keeper Ewan Pilcher, Ben MacDonald, Kenneth MacKenzie Robbie Brindle and Colin MacLennan. Iain McCall deputised in goal.

James Falconer broke the deadlock on 29 minutes. He initially went to hit the ball on his back-hand before missing and turning to his fore-hand, sending the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

With just a couple of first half minutes remaining, Roddy Young made a run behind the defence, where he was played in by Lee Bain, and Young cut in towards the goal, avoiding a flying caman, before slotting the ball between the keeper's legs.

Craig Morrison maintained his superb scoring streak, netting for the nineteenth consecutive match on 51 minutes.

Morrison hit the ball as he was falling over, making it 2-1.

Roddy Young got his second and Kingussie's third goal on 65 minutes.

The goal came from a free-hit, cut back from the penalty spot by Ruaridh Anderson and Young connected well with the ball, slamming it high into the net.

Roddy Young completed his hat-trick with five minutes remaining. Savio Genini made a run in towards goal with Roddy Young making a run off the defenders. Genini squared the ball to Young who composed himself before rifling a shot past the keeper to make it 4-1.

Mowi National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Strathglass 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll's promotion chances suffered a blow when they drew 0-0 with Strathglass in their noon throw-up at Yoker.

GMA were without suspended South U21 captain Jonny MacAskill, whilst Josh Fraser was free of his ban for Strathglass.

GMA had the better possession but found it difficult to trouble the visiting keeper.

The Strathglass defence were very good, not allowing GMA to get shots in on goal.

GMA now go one point clear of third-placed Skye with a game in hand but they have a difficult run in with their final three matches all away to Strathglass, Skye and Fort William with the later clash now scheduled for Saturday October 12.

Strathglass are back in action this Saturday as they travel to Oban to play Oban Celtic.

Youth shinty

Mowi MacMaster Cup Final

Kinlochshiel U14 P Oban Camanachd U14 P

There was disappointment for Kinlochshiel U14 and Oban Camanachd U14 as the MacMaster Cup Final was postponed.

Heavy rain and blustery conditions left the An Arid pitch heavy and, with the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final coming up later in the afternoon, the final was put off and provisionally re-scheduled to take place at An Aird on Saturday September 21 with a noon throw-up.

Camanachd Association Cup

Skye Camanachd 5 Newtonmore 2

Skye Camanachd beat Newtonmore 5-2 in the inaugural National Final of the Camanachd Association Cup at Lochaber High School's all-weather pitch on Saturday September 14.

This is a new 10-a-side competition in the primary school age shinty calendar.

The match was played in difficult conditions.

Skye led 3-0 at half time through an own goal followed by efforts from Alasdair Stewart and Seonaidh MacLeod.

Brodie MacQueen and Reid Constant made it 5-0 before Lewis MacKintosh and Cameron Mitchell countered for Newtonmore.

Challengers return to take on their own Round Shuna Race

SAILING

A new development this year for Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club's (CCYC) race saw a fleet of eight Challenger dinghies from all over Scotland, some from as far afield as Dumfries and Galloway, return to compete in the Round Shuna race.

Challengers are designed to allow disabled people to sail safely and have fun on the water. They have one main hull with two outriggers - one on either side - so they are unlikely to capsize.

Several 'senior' sailors, one at the tender age of 89, proving sailing is truly for all ages.

Everyone braved the dreich weather on Saturday to rig the boats and get the Challengers ready for action.

Despite being offered a shorter course, all Challengers completed the circumnavigation after a delayed start so they could launch in time and they showed their seamanship

skills by sailing through the marina to the start instead of being towed.

Liz Eaton with White Knight won the race overall from Duncan Greenhalgh in Scottish Flame with Dorothy Bennet and Glasgow Draper in third. Liz recently competed in Oban Sailing Club's dinghy regatta where she won the fast class for dinghies.

Seonaid Reid, commodore of CCYC, said: 'It was brilliant to have the Challengers back at Shuna after several years absence. I was really impressed by their teamwork, humour and enthusiasm.'

Seonaid added the Craobh Marina team had been as helpful as ever in providing ideas for accommodation and arranging launching and recovery as well as helping set up the barbecue.



Round Shuna Challenger winners.

Light winds test co

Oban Sailing Club's (OSC) Wee Peaks Race had a record 18 competitors competing in 13 dinghies.

Seven of those taking part were under 12-years-old. And it was victory for Euan Dowd in his Laser who took first overall with Calum Warnock second.

One of the most popular of the dinghy events at OSC and now organised by Chris Dowd, this annual race was initiated by Murray Peden, a junior dinghy sailor at the time. He wanted the Wee Peaks to provide an opportunity to combine hill running and dinghy sailing locally.

The Wee Peaks event is a scaled down version of its big

brother, the Scottish Islands Peaks Race.

The course involves racing across Oban Bay, running up to Hutchison's Monument and another three peaks on Kerrera, sailing and landing on Heather Island and finally scaling a hill at the back of Kilbowie, all undertaken in sailing dinghies or kayaks. Originally Battleship Hill was a check point but more frequent ferry traffic saw organisers change this for safety reasons.

Competitors are allowed to use their own power as well as that of the wind.

In addition to individual competitors, this year there were sibling and parent and

Otters and Dolphins are in the swim



Swimmers from Oban Otters and Islay and Jura Dolphins who took part in the CalMac Gala last Saturday. Oban Otters were delighted to welcome the Dolphins who made a huge effort to travel to Oban and back in a day. Many of the swimmers achieved their fastest times and everyone tried their best for their club. All of this was made possible by a generous donation from the Caledonian MacBrayne Community Fund.

Oban swimmers rack up 20 personal bests at West District Championships

Oban Otters had a splashing good time at the West District Championships in Tollcross earlier this month.

While 10 swimmers qualified from the club, nine competed in the competition, racking up 20 personal bests between them, including some from team leader, 17-year-old Sam Coates.

Cai MacKechnie got to the final of the 11 to 12-year-old category 50 metre back crawl.

Speaking about the event, Sam said: 'It was good because that is my first swim back after my highers.'

The amateur athletes were



A number of swimmers from Oban Otters qualified for the West District Championships. 17_T38_ObanOtters01

also sporting their new kit, courtesy of D&K Lafferty.

Swimming coach Lyndsay Elliott was over the moon with her pupils' performance. 'Just to qualify is great,' she

said. 'All the standards are really high, so we are chuffed to bits that all the youngsters qualified. We are really proud of them.' In the past, only one or two swimmers had qual-

SWIMMING

ified for the tournament and the youngsters said 'it was a lot better having a lot more people there'.

GOLF

Oban Saints to the fore!



The winning team: Gavin Hill, Kenny Wotherspoon, Allan MacKay and Donald Campbell.

Oban Saints Football Club held a fundraising golf competition last Sunday at Glencruitten. More than 50 golfers took part and £1,200 was raised to help buy a new minibus. Special thanks from everyone at Oban Saints goes to the tournament sponsors.



The Claret Jug won by the winning team.



Nearest the pin winner Iain Jackson and longest drive Matt Rippon.



A representative from the businesses that sponsored the tournament.

MINI RUGBY



Oban Lorne Minis with coaches Walter Spiers and Lucy Stewart.

Lorne Minis at Scotstoun

Oban Lorne's P6 mini rugby players travelled to Scotstoun Stadium on Saturday to take part in a pre-game tournament and watch the Glasgow v Ulster match.

The Oban squad were in a pool of four teams, the other three being Perthshire, Ayr and Strathaven. They won against Strathaven but lost the other two. They were then flag bearers for the match.

They were accompanied by coaches Lucy Stewart and Walter Spiers, who is also the mini's convener of Oban Lorne.

Competitors in OSC 'Wee Peaks' Race

child teams. Sunshine and very light winds at the start at OSC saw the dinghies sail and paddle across to the first 30m ascent to Hutchison's Monument, navigating past the luxury cruise ship anchored in the bay.

With the wind gradually filling in, it was a faster sail to the second peak (40m) then across to Heather Island for the third check point, and back across to Kerrera for the fourth (90m), before finally crossing the mainland to Kilbowie hill. On the final sail in to cross the finish line at OSC, the wind started to fade again but everyone finished.

Irena Chapman of Oban



Winners and competitors in the 'Wee Peaks' Race.

Sailing Club said: 'Despite the light airs, we had much better conditions than last year when high winds resulted in the sailing part of the race being abandoned and participants being ferried to

the various hill races in the safety boats. This year there was some very close racing and enthusiastic paddling.'

Euan Dowd was first over the line and won the Under-16 category in his Laser.

SAILING

Calum Warnock finished second overall and first in the Over-16 section in a club Topper. The team of Callan and William were third.

OT

GOLF



Andrew Davidson, Galloway; Ian Kinnaird, head of UK Hydro and David Campbell from Cruachan.

Drax tees off to raise £2,200 for Macmillan Cancer Support

Drax raised £2,200 at its annual charity golf day at the Lanark Golf Club, located near the firm's landmark Lanark and Galloway hydro-power schemes.

Organised by Ian Kinnaird, Drax's Head of Hydro, this year's event saw 24 Drax staff take to the fairway to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, which works throughout Scotland (and the UK) to provide emotional, physical and financial support for people affected by cancer. Cancer charities are one of four national causes Drax is supporting in 2019 and the company contributed £1,000 towards the total raised by the teams.

Ian Kinnaird, Drax's head of UK Hydro, said: 'Despite some variable weather – which included some good hydro weather – we had a fantastic day raising money for a great cause. Scotland's the birthplace of golf and this is Drax's own Ryder Cup with teams from



Cruachan Power Station's Neil Carmichael on the tee.

our energy sites across Scotland and England all competing with winners from Cruachan power station, making it a fantastic fundraising opportunity for our business. We're proud to have raised £2,200 for Macmillan, supporting the incredible work it does for so many people and we're looking forward to the other events we'll be organising for it over the course of the year.'

Wilson takes the win

Craignure Golf Club's John Angus Seniors Trophy was won by Steve Wilson with 41 Stableford points. Runner up was Barry Whenman on 39. The trophy was presented by third-placed Ronnie Wilson.



OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Campbeltown Pupils 8 v Under 13s 6. Scoring for Saints were Rhys Millar (5), and Jacques Coates; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Ardencaple 1, Under 17s 6. Netting for Saints were Ross Higgins (3), Ross Campbell, Connor Moore and James Beaton

This Sunday's fixtures: Glasgow Boys v Under 13s; Under 14s v Milton Rovers; Under 15s v OLM; Under 17s v Glenvale.

Four shades of grey as Saints dump Talbot



Oban Saints	4
Cambusnethan Talbot	0
Central Scottish 1B	

A hat-trick from Lewis Cameron and a further strike from leading goal scorer Craig MacEwan helped maintain Oban Saints' 100 per cent record at the top of the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B at a rain-soaked Glencruitten last Saturday.

Resplendent in their new grey and black strips, kindly supplied by principal sponsors D&K Lafferty



Before the match a minute's silence was held in remembrance of former Saints player and manager Henrik Madej who died recently. Henrik will be sadly missed.

Contractors, Saints were made to work hard for the points against a battling Cambusnethan Talbot side still in search of their first league victory of the season.

Prior to kick-off referee Kevin O'Neill led both sets of players and officials in a

silence of remembrance for former Saints player and manager Henrik Madej who sadly passed away during the week.

Visiting keeper David Thomson made the first of a string of good saves to deny Lewis Cameron in the fourth minute before punching clear the resulting corner kick from the Saints left.

Galloping

The deadlock was broken in the 20th minute when Lewis Cameron regained the scoring touch from the penalty spot which had recently deserted him. Cammy Hill's galloping run up the right touchline found David Beaton inside the box where the diminutive wide man had the legs whipped away from him giving referee Kevin O'Neil an easy decision to make.

Craig MacEwan gathered in a 23rd minute Scott Maitland left wing cross before laying the ball off to Matty Kelly for a low 20-yard shot just wide of David Thomson's left hand post.

David Thomson produced a fine save diving full length to his right to tip a 32nd minute Cammy Hill shot behind for a corner kick which Lewis Cameron smacked off the near post.

After climbing well to win a header, the subsequent fall on his head didn't quite provide the soft landing for Ruaridh Horne that many onlookers had speculated on and, despite a brief groggy return to the action, the young full back would fail to reappear after the half-time interval.

Steven MacLeod replaced the out-of-sorts Ruaridh



Craig MacEwan makes it 3-0.

Another impressive home win for

Oban Lorne	47
Waysiders Drumpellier	7
Tennent's West Division 2	

A busy weekend of rugby for Oban Lorne U18/U16s' boys and U16s' girls all taking part

as well as the first team.

Oban Lorne welcomed Waysiders Drumpellier to Glencruitten on Saturday for the first time in a couple of seasons.

With the weather breaking overnight it was a cold, wet day which greeted the teams

although the pitch was again in great shape given the amount of rain which had fallen in recent days.

Oban started the game in confident mood with a strong starting line up and a strong bench with Stanley Lister/Daniel Speirs and Lorne Maclachlan all coming back into contention.

Oban got off to a flying start with a try from Lorne Sinclair after five minutes. The try was converted by Finlay Carmichael to give Oban a 7-0 lead. At the same time Oban were dealt a major blow when Ferg McCoss limped off the pitch with a bad hamstring injury which looks to rule him out for a number of weeks.

He was replaced by Calum Murray, with the PE teacher making his first appearance

of the season. From the restart a great break from Murray up the outside led to a great try from young David Cameron who broke a couple of tackles to score another great try.

Unfortunately that was to be Murray's last contribution to the game as he took a nasty blow to the head and after some worrying moments was cleared to leave the pitch and was taken for a check-up at the hospital.

Another injury which will see him miss a couple of weeks and which caused a further reshuffle in the Oban side with Lorne Sinclair moving out to the wing and Lorne Maclachlan coming off the bench.

From the restart Waysiders started to get a foothold in the game and after a couple of silly penalties conceded



Lorne Sinclair dives over for a try.



The Oban Saints squad pictured before Saturday's game in their new grey playing kit kindly sponsored by D & Lafferty Contractors. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Horne for the start of the second half which saw Saints come flying out of traps.

Cammy Hill and Lewis Cameron combined to set up David Beaton for a shot from 18 yards which David Thomson did well to push behind for a corner kick.

Denying

It was Thomson to the rescue again from another sweeping Saints move on the left denying firstly Scott Maitland and then Craig MacEwan before Matty Kelly finally hooked the loose ball over the crossbar.

Kerr Newbigging made way for Myles McAuley just before the hour mark with McAuley soon on the wrong end of a trip in the centre circle which earned Cambusnethan substitute Douglas Bell a yellow card.

A further Saints change followed in the 67th minute which paid instant dividends for the home side. David Beaton was withdrawn in favour of Donald Campbell who linked up with Lewis Cameron to feed Craig

MacEwan on the left. MacEwan's cross evaded keeper David Thomson who would have been impressed with the agility shown by Paul Costello to fingertip Cammy Hill's net bound cushioned volley over the crossbar.

Less impressed with Costello's innovative intervention was referee O'Neil who sent the big defender packing. Lewis Cameron made no mistake with his second penalty kick of the afternoon to double Saints' lead.

More inventive work from Donald Campbell and Lewis Cameron saw Cameron unselfishly pick out the supporting run of Craig MacEwan who calmly slotted the ball past the hopelessly exposed Cambusnethan keeper to put the game well beyond the reach of the 10 men.

Lewis Cameron missed the chance to seal his hat-trick in the 75th minute, heading a cross from Central Scottish Amateur Football League Select colleague Matty Kelly wide of target.



Donald Campbell and Matt Rippon congratulate Lewis Cameron on his hat-trick.

Saints made a double substitution with 10 minutes remaining replacing Cammy Hill and Matty Kelly with Matt Rippon and Gavin Forgiveie.

Hat-trick

Lewis Cameron completed his hat-trick and rounded off the scoring in the 84th minute slotting home from the corner of the six-yard box after being sent through by young Gavin Forgiveie.

Saints are at home again this coming Saturday when they welcome old rivals Inverclyde

FOOTBALL

in the first round of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup. Taking charge of the 2pm kick off at Glencruitten is experienced Caledonian League referee Steven Nicholls.

Saints GG team continued their winning ways with a fine 2-1 away win over Colquhoun Amateur. Sean Grant scored both goals for the Oban side. This Saturday they face a tough test away to St Patrick's FP in the Bobby Thomson Challenge Cup.

The Green Machine

in the middle of park Oban found themselves defending a lineout five metres from their line. The visitors' pack secured the ball and a powerful drive took them over the line and with the conversion successful were back in the game at 14-7.

Oban responded again and managed another score from Lorne Sinclair as he managed to get into the corner after some great lead-up play.

This brought the first half to the end with Oban leading 19-7.

The second half continued in a similar vein to the first but the wind and rain were proving difficult for both teams struggling to get any continuity.

A brace of tries for Owen McDonald gave Oban a comfortable lead and secured

the bonus point for the third game on the trot for the Green Machine.

With 55 mins gone, the coaching team emptied the bench with Stanley Lister replacing Ewan Shearer, Daniel Speirs making his comeback after getting a shoulder injury last season replacing Mitchell Smith, who had another fantastic game and James Divers replacing Andy Ritchie on the wing.

The changes brought a renewed impetus to the Oban attack and Stanley Lister got a fantastic try and made a number of significant contributions off the bench.

Calum Maclachlan got the final try of the game after having a quieter game and not really seeing the opportunities he had in recent games.

This was a comfortable



David Cameron breaks through the Waysider's defence to score a try.

43-7 victory for the Green Machine, who continued their great start to the season but at a significant cost on the injury front.

Next weekend Oban travel to Clydebank for what will be a difficult task given the good start to the season that Clydebank have had.

With another strong squad

RUGBY

available for selection, Oban welcome Craig Wright, Stephen Povey and Daniel Broderick back into the match day squad.

Results: Under 16 girls 25, East Kilbride 19; Under 16 boys 46, Annan 26; Under 18 boys 12, Burnbrae Colts 12.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook Saturday
Sunny and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 12, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.21	1.3	08.05	3.6
	14.24	1.4	20.29	3.6
Fri	02.52	1.4	08.38	3.4
	14.58	1.6	21.04	3.4
Sat	03.35	1.6	09.18	3.3
	15.46	1.8	21.51	3.1
Sun	04.39	1.8	10.14	3.1
	17.08	2.0	23.12	2.9
Mon	06.07	1.8	11.55	2.9
	18.57	2.0	**.**	2.0
Tues	02.16	2.9	07.30	1.7
	14.43	3.2	20.37	1.7
Wed	03.19	3.2	08.43	1.4
	15.28	3.5	21.46	1.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Another impressive home win for the Green Machine

Four shades of grey as Saints dump Talbot

Superb second place for John McPhee in Misano

PETRONAS Sprinta Racing's John McPhee has taken his third podium of 2019, securing second place on the final lap of the Gran Premio di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini.

Starting from 14th and forced to take avoiding action not once but twice as other riders fell in the low-grip conditions at Misano, the Oban rider had to pick his way through the field from 18th to the podium. Showing incredible race pace, he was able to close down the leading group to leave himself in a perfect position to capitalise in the frenetic final laps, getting involved in the battle for the podium before finally setting up a last lap overtake for second place.

Moto3 returns to action next weekend at the Gran Premio de Aragon, with practise starting on Friday and race day at Motorland Aragon on Sunday September 22.

After the race John said: 'It was an interesting race. I had good pace all weekend, but I left myself with a lot of work to do after a crash in qualifying.'

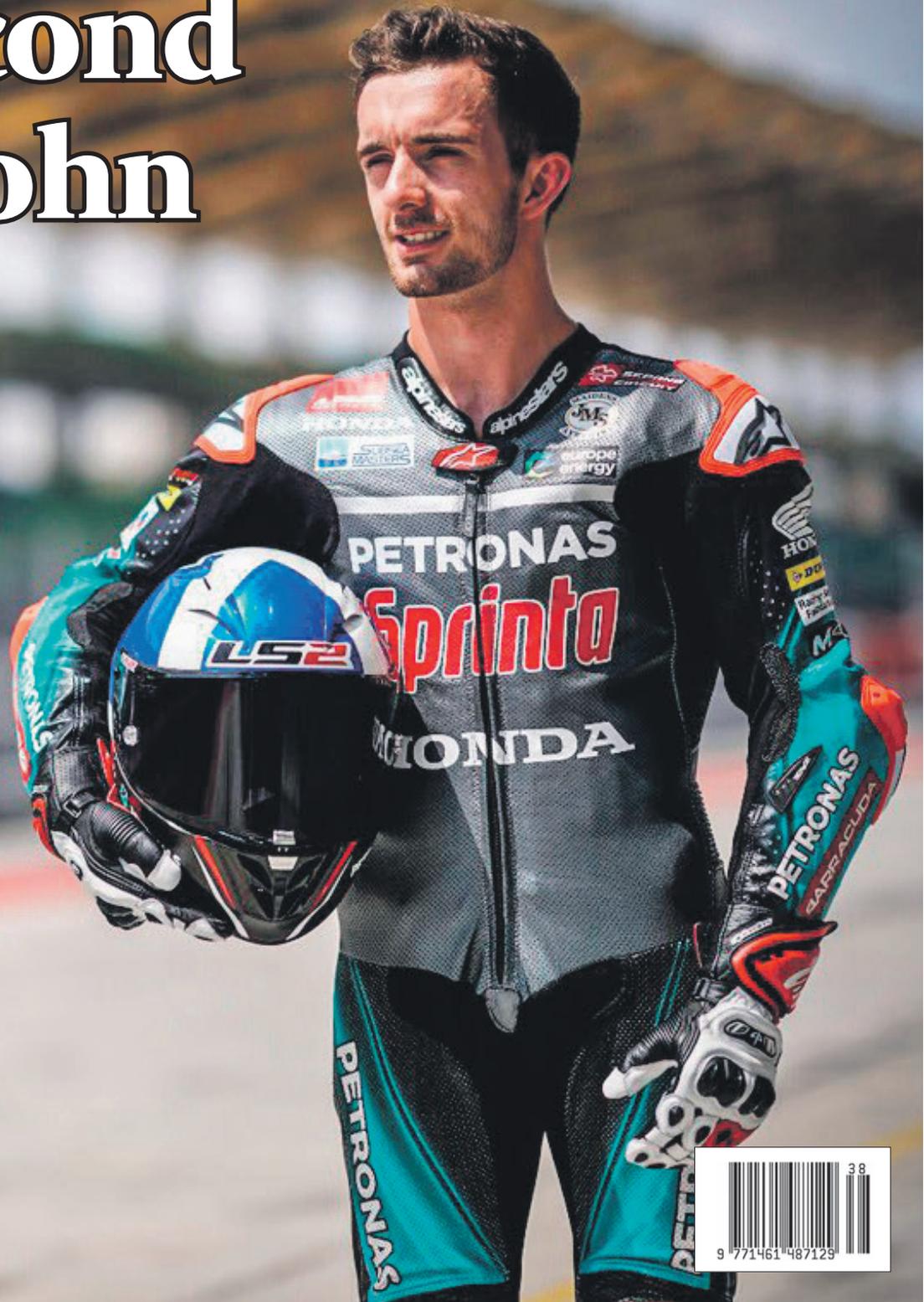
'I made a plan for the start, but

MOTO3

it didn't go right from the first corner - I wanted to make up as many positions as possible, but I got caught up in someone's crash and found myself in P16. I worked hard and made my way to the top 10, but someone else crashed and the next thing I knew I was back in P18 again.

'It was difficult to make my way through the pack, but I had the rhythm to be fast and I just needed to pick them off one at a time. Being able to bridge the gap to the leading group was the most satisfying part of the race, but it also meant that I had to settle myself again after doing it. Third was possible, but when I saw a crash in front of me on the last lap I knew I could go one better.'

'There was a chance of the win, but with four corners to go I made a pass for second that was on the limit, and it just left me a little bit too far back to have a go. I owe a huge thanks to the team for giving me a great bike today and I can't wait for next weekend.'



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95p

Fort earn first league win in over two years



Robin goes the distance with 20-stone carving in tow



COMING SOON
Don't miss next week's Lochaber Times for your 2019 primary ones intake supplement

Cash machine removal put on hold for a year

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Post Office bosses stung by a wave of condemnation after the Lochaber Times revealed plans to strip Kinlochleven of its only external free-to-use cash dispenser have agreed to a year's reprieve.

There will be widespread relief in the village this week with news the ATM machine, the only external free-to-use cash dispenser between Tyndrum and Ballachulish, is not now going to be removed within weeks.

In the Lochaber Times last month, postmaster Andrew Baxter disclosed the ATM machine was to be removed from his branch at the end of October by Post Office Ltd/Bank of Ireland.

However, it has now been confirmed that after a meeting between senior Post Office officials and Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes last week, a year's extension had been secured.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'I'm really pleased the Post Office has agreed to extend the lease on the ATM by a further year. After Andrew Baxter alerted me to the prospect of the cash machine being removed next month, I raised the matter at chief executive level with the Post Office and the Bank of Ireland. I met with senior Post Office officials last week at the Scottish Parliament and, after much discussion, I'm pleased they have offered this extension. I appreciate we may find ourselves in the same situation in a year, but

it does give extra time for negotiations and to consider alternatives. I hope people will make use of the ATM to show how important it is.'

Mr Baxter had warned that removal of the ATM would have what he called 'a massive impact' on the village, particularly to visitors on the West Highland Way.

Although many can withdraw cash from across the counter in the Post Office, this is only during opening hours and those with foreign bank accounts would be unable to do so.

Mr Baxter said: 'The Post Office has confirmed the Bank of Ireland has granted an extension for another year but it says it will remove it at the end of that period. However, bosses at the Post Office say they have listened to

my concerns, the representations from Kate [Ms Forbes] and Ian Blackford [MP] and had noted the reaction to the story in the Lochaber Times, as well as community concerns generally, and have recognised a cash machine is very important for the village and will be spending the next 12 months investigating a permanent solution for Kinlochleven.'

Asked to confirm the latest development, a Post Office spokesperson said: 'We have listened to the concerns raised regarding the planned removal of the ATM at Kinlochleven Post Office and are currently reviewing this decision. In the meantime, the licence for the ATM has been extended and there are no plans to remove it in the immediate future.'



Young campaigner's Global Climate Strike appeal to Lochaber

Lochaber Times environment columnist and climate action campaigner Holly Gillibrand with one of the banners she will be taking to the Global Climate Strike in Fort William tomorrow (Friday). Holly says she hopes to see as many people as possible taking part in the event, both young and old. Full story, page four.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



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LT

Snapshots of luck and opportunity at exhibition

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Ardgour resident and esteemed film producer Norrie Maclaren is displaying his new exhibition A Conversation Around Luck at Resipole Gallery in Acharacle.

The exhibition, which begins on the way up the stairs to the mezzanine of the gallery and on screens around the top floor, goes through key moments that Norrie has picked out from his remarkable life.

Born and raised in the Highlands, he has returned to live on the Ardnamurchan peninsula. In the intervening years, however, Norrie has had as diverse a career as it is possible to have in show business.

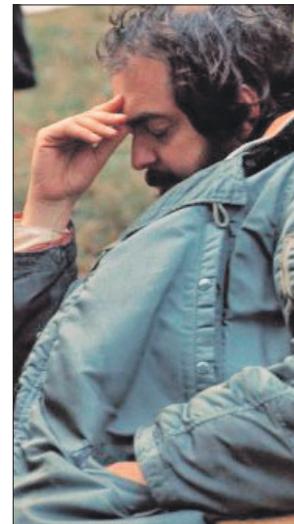
Travelling the world, working in Hollywood and rubbing shoulders with some of the biggest stars of the past six decades makes for a fascinating life story, part of which is here on display.

I met Norrie at the gallery where owner Andrew Sinclair introduced us, telling me how the exhibition had come about. 'Norrie and I were chatting about how locally he is known as a gardener and maker of preserves, although he has had a tremendously interesting life as a photographer, producer, writer and still does.'

'I thought that it would make a fantastic exhibition to highlight a few of the points in Norrie's life that



Norrie Maclaren at the exhibition in Acharacle and, right, Stanley Kubrick taken by Norrie.



stood out to him, and this would give a brief insight into how luck can offer opportunity, which then became the title and main focus of the show.'

Norrie took up the story, saying: 'We bought these screens and then I had to fill them. I could have done themes - I've been the editor of a magazine, a producer, a director, I've worked in TV, worked with Stanley Kubrick.'

'I started out thinking this would be like putting together a film, highlighting certain parts of the story but as I put it together I realised there

have been moments when I could have chosen a certain path and this is a collection of those moments.'

We sat talking in the shadow of two large screens - one displaying the proposal for a TV show, the other stunning black and white photographs of teddy boys at the memorial service for Elvis Presley. To my right, a screen showing film footage which Norrie broke from conversation several times to draw my attention to interesting moments.

Most of us have a stash of photos, theatre ticket stubs, perhaps an

item of clothing or newspaper article in a box somewhere, tucked at the back of a wardrobe or up in a loft that we keep to remind us of moments in our lives.

Norrie Maclaren had just that, only his wallets of negatives were behind-the-scenes shots from movie sets and yellowing magazines are ones he created.

He told me: 'It's been an experience going back through the attic. It's been a bit like a film going through and creating a story and giving it stages. It is quite abstract and maybe some of the people I've met are only

known in small circles although some are very famous. Maybe I'll do another one, something more weird and wonderful in the future.'

The exhibition is eclectic, diverse and beautiful. We walk around the display weaving between different periods of Norrie's life. A picture of Stanley Kubrick, an album cover of a 1980s pop band, a contact sheet of photos including Quentin Crisp and Arnold Schwarzenegger walking along a London street, fashion shoots of beautiful models dressed in designer clothes. But Norrie explains the significance of every one.

'We drifted in and out of each other's lives but these images capture that moment. These people were my friends and we shared connections.'

He paused at an image of two women dressed in 1980s fashion and told me how they were training to be doctors. This brings us back to the overarching theme of the exhibition - connections.

'Connections with people and how you use those connections,' is how Norrie describes his unusual path through his career.

'And all of those connections are luck,' he added. 'It's about recognising your luck and how it leads you through life. And this is a conversation around my luck, hence the title of the exhibition.'

Conversation Around Luck is at Resipole Studios, Acharacle, until October 11.



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Lifeline for Kinloch Castle

Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum could receive a lifeline from the Scottish Government if an asset transfer goes ahead.

Currently closed except for limited tours, the Category-A listed building used to be a thriving visitor location with a hostel that could sleep 55 people.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which owns the property, closed the hostel which took a toll on the area's tourism at a time when the rest of Scotland was experiencing a boom. The population of the small isle subsequently dropped from 42 to 22 people.

This led to the Kinloch Castle Friends Association (KCFA) submitting a business and renovation plan to SNH in May that seeks to make it into a bed and breakfast with room for 50 visitors.

Extensive renovations need to be completed in the castle and hostel, but KCFA is confident it can complete these with minimal impact to the running of the castle and projects quick profit generation from its efforts which will go into further development.

Further possible uses for the castle include as an event space, a film location and housing an outdoor pursuit business that could create jobs.

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Lochaber runner takes on the world in Kinlochleven

Fresh from winning a record tenth Ben Nevis Race, Lochaber's Finlay Wild will compete against top international competition at the Salomon Ring of Steall Skyrace this Saturday.

Fort William GP Finlay will take on some of the world's best trail runners when the Golden Trail World Series (GTWS) comes to Kinlochleven for the Salomon Skyline Scotland event.

The race sees competitors from 40 countries pushed to their limits over a 29km route from Kinlochleven, across the Mamores mountains, into Glen Nevis and back.

Finlay, 35, told the Lochaber Times: 'These are my home

Aamar's determination to fulfill medical dream

by Kirsteen Bell
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Many people across Scotland will be beginning their journey in higher and further education this week as universities and colleges go back for the new term.

But few will have travelled further – literally or metaphorically – than Kinlochleven man Aamar Yasouf.

Mr Yasouf, 33, originally from Syria, came to Scotland in 2017 as part of the United Nations' refugee resettlement policy as the crisis in his homeland worsened.

This week, he begins his MPharm in Pharmacy at the University of Strathclyde – the number one ranked university for the subject in the UK.

Aamar has always wanted to work in the medical sector since he began studying in the Laboratory of Blood Analysis at the Medical Institute of the University of Aleppo.

The war hampered his opportunities to continue his studies and an elongated spell in a refugee camp in Lebanon made his dream seem even further away.

Explaining the level of barriers he had to overcome, Mr Yasouf said: 'When I came here I had no English and tried to develop my understanding and ability in this new language through volunteer work. I worked in the primary school nursery and several places in the village.

mountains so I know them well. I'm looking forward to racing some top runners along them.'

In 2016, Finlay came fourth in the sister race, the Salomon Glen Coe Skyline.

Splitting his time between his commitments as a GP and international trail running, Finlay currently sits 16th in the GTWS rankings and a good result at home could send him to the grand final in Nepal next month.

Salomon Skyline Scotland takes place from September 20 to 22 with starts based in Kinlochleven.

As well as the Glen Coe Skyline and Ring of Steall trail races, there are two more mountainous races, the

Inspiring refugee pursues ambitious path

'In addition, I took English language classes. After this, I started working as a housekeeper at the Dragon's Tooth Golf Club at Ballachulish. I then worked in Fort William's Belford Hospital as a nurse assistant.'

Explaining what has inspired him to pursue this ambitious path, Mr Yasouf said: 'I have tried to become familiar with the role of the hospital pharmacist here in Scotland, which is slightly different from that in Syria.

'In Syria, you need to pay to see a doctor and so, often, a pharmacist would be the first person to see and advise a patient. After my work at my village pharmacy, I have realised that the pharmacist in Syria, especially in the developing regions, is a like a doctor.

'He examines the patient and prescribes him the most suitable medicine.

'The NHS provides greater safeguards and I have learnt a lot from seeing this in action.'

At the same time as gaining the qualification he needed to be admitted to the course – undertaking a summer school

Salomon Ben Nevis Ultra and the Salomon Mamores VK.

These races are strictly for experienced runners with previous competition experience.

Three new trail races were also launched this year: the Grey Mare's Trail 5km, Loch Eilde Mor Trail 10km and the Three Mealls Trail 18km.

These give amateur competitors a chance to test their grit on one of Kinlochleven's classic trails.

There will be limited entries on the day for these for anyone wishing to take part.

Trails will not be closed to the public but people are advised to be mindful of runners if out in the mountains over the weekend.



Aamar Yasouf, centre, speaking in Geneva.

in chemistry, which he passed with 78 per cent, as well as an English language standard test at a very high level – Mr Yasouf has been representing the experiences of refugees and resettled people across the UK, appearing on panels in Leeds and for the UN in Geneva over the summer.

'I want to complete what

I wanted from the start of my higher education. I want to study pharmacy and the effect of medicine on the human body so that I can help people if I can return to Syria, especially after the war, because they are in dire need of well qualified medical staff.

'If I cannot return to Syria, I want to work in the area

where I live, to be useful and to do my best. After two years here, this has become my second home.

'We have security, stability and tranquillity here, receiving a warm welcome and support from our friends in Highland.

'I wish to be able to offer something back.'

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LT

Lochaber people urged to get behind climate strike

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A plea has gone out to Lochaber school pupils, residents, workers and businesses to show their support for action to tackle the climate emergency by joining the global strike tomorrow (Friday).

Young activists who have been taking part in weekly school strikes are expected to be joined by thousands of adults across Scotland, the UK and around the world in what is being hailed as the UK's first general strike since 1926.

The international protest comes ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit on Monday September 23.

Among those pledging to take action are staff from the Wildcat vegan café in Fort William.

Joint proprietor Deanna Laforet told the Lochaber Times why they feel it is important for as many people to join the protest as possible.

'It's scary but we need to face up to the reality that the world is in ecological crisis with the sixth mass extinction – with up to 200 species going extinct every day – and the climate emergency, both of which are the result of human activity in the financially rich world,' she said.

'This crisis is already displacing people, causing food and water shortages and extreme weather events in other parts of the world and we will all feel the affects of it soon.

'Whoever we are – an individual, a family, a company, a multi-national corporation, a charity, a government – we should all act to address this crisis and to try to safeguard the future of our home, the

Earth, for all people and other species who live here.

'This is why we, The Wildcat, are joining the Global Strike for the Climate this Friday. Join us.'

Andrew Squire, one of the founders of the Lochaber branch of Extinction Rebellion (XR), added: 'Millions of people around the world will be walking out of their workplaces on Friday to join the young climate strikers in their demand for an end to the age of fossil fuels.

'The effects of global over-heating and ecological collapse have already started – this is a matter of fact. And the effects of the climate crisis will, unavoidably, have a serious impact on us all, including here in Lochaber.

'So we urge all employees and businesses to join the youth and call for an end to



Lochaber climate activist Holly Gillibrand with one of the banners she will be taking to tomorrow's protest in Fort William.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

the system that is destroying life on our planet and threatening the survival of millions of people, plants and animals over the next few decades.

'As with a car hurtling towards a brick wall, the sooner we put the brakes on, the more we will reduce the impact. The youth have risen and it is time for the adults to join them – for the sake of our children and grandchildren.'

Lochaber Times environment columnist Holly Gillibrand, who is gradually achieving national recognition for her own school climate strike action, will also be among those protesting.

'If you care about the environment, people or want your

children to have a liveable future, please come to the school strike, no matter who you are or where you come from,' said Ms Gillibrand.

'It is important we hear the voices of everyone because the climate and ecological crisis is going to impact everyone. We all need to rise up and put pressure on the people in power to take action for our future and our planet.

'There is a question we all must ask ourselves. Will you act now or will history look back on you as one who did nothing while the world was facing the biggest catastrophe in the history of humankind?' School authorities in New York have said they

will excuse any absences by pupils taking part in the protests, expected to be led in the city by Swedish teenage climate action figurehead Greta Thunberg. Asked for its view, a Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Highland Council schools and the council as education authority does not sanction unauthorised absence from school. No pupil will be punished for striking. If they do strike, their attendance record will be marked with an unauthorised absence.'

'Strikers' will meet at 9am at Lochaber High School tomorrow (Friday) before making their way to Fort William High Street.

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WHAT'S ON

Lochaber Athletic Club is holding an open meeting for parents of children aged 9 to 16 years to hear more about junior athletics training and races and to meet the junior coaches. The meeting will be held tonight (Thursday September 19) at 7pm at the changing rooms, Claggan Park.

Team Cupcake is hosting a Cuppa and Cupcake Coffee Morning in Ballachulish Village Hall tomorrow (Friday September 20) between 10.30am and 1.30pm. All proceeds to Alzheimer's Scotland Action on Dementia.

West Highland Community Rail Partnership is holding its annual general meeting on Saturday September 21 at 12.30pm in Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach. Everyone interested in the rail line between Mallaig and Crianlarich is welcome.

A coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses is being held on Friday September 27 in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William, between 10.30am and 2.30pm. Contributions of home-baking would be gratefully accepted.

Two walking tours have been arranged 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. The walks have been organised by West Highland Museum. Both trips are limited to 20 people. Places can be booked by phoning the museum on 01397 702169 or emailing info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk.

Glasgow Phoenix, one of Scotland's best-known choirs, will be performing at Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Sunday September 29 at 2.30pm.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the High and Dry Fund, which meets some of the considerable costs of ensuring the church is in good condition for this and future generations. Tickets for the concert cost £8 and are available from the church, the Nevis Centre or online at the GPC Box Office at wegottickets.com

Breast Cancer Care is holding a free course in Fort William to help women adjust to life beyond breast cancer.

In partnership with NHS Highland, the charity's course will provide information and support to women at the end of their breast cancer treatment.

The course, which will include talks from counsellors and breast care nurses, will take place on Friday October 4 from 10am to 4pm at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie.

New plan to save green space cash

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

A bold new strategy to manage Highland green spaces could see the introduction of biodegradable weedkiller and wild flowers.

Following a motion to stop the use of glyphosate weedkiller in public spaces, after it was used near children's play areas, Highland Council is looking into a foam substitute.

Glyphosate has been identified as a substance hazardous to public health.

At the forefront of the campaign to remove glyphosate

Council trials biodegradable weedkiller and considers planting wild flowers

from public spaces, Lochaber councillor Niall McLean said: 'We are concerned about the amount of weed killing in play parks, school playgrounds and feel it got out of hand in terms of how much it was being done.'

'The council has been trialling this hot foam which is inert and environmentally-friendly.'

The same hot foam has been

used by Glastonbury Town Council since 2016. It found that despite the initial cost of machinery, it is cheaper and more effective than glyphosate.

Weedingtech, the company that produces the foam, says the herbicide-free weedkiller can be used in all weather conditions, whereas glyphosate loses effectiveness even if it begins to rain 10 days after



Rotherham has planted wildflowers on eight miles of roads and saved thousands in maintenance costs. Photograph: Pictorial Meadows

application. After consulting with members of the community, the council also wants more wild areas.

Councillor McLean said: 'Previously there has been a blanket approach of cutting all the grass short and hoping people will be happy with that, but times are changing and I think people want to see more wild flowers. That in turn could save the council money if we execute it properly.'

The council will be asking communities what they want, but Councillor McLean thinks there also needs to be education on where weeds can be damaging.

He said: 'Dandelions, for example, are traditionally

thought of as weeds but they are really important for the ecosystem with pollinators like bees.

'We need to move away from the traditional idea of large manicured areas and think about the benefits of vegetation.'

Upkeep of green spaces can be time consuming and expensive but if rough spots are designated wild flowers can flourish through a system of permaculture.

Permaculture Association chairman Graham Bell said: 'If you limit the cutting of grass to twice a year then wild flowers will flourish. There does still need to be some management as the grass can just take over if not cut.'

'Once wild flowers are established, these areas attract invertebrates, birds and generate a huge benefit to the biodiversity of the area.'

'Every plant was once a weed until we found a use for it. All we have done is favour certain ones. Dandelions are great attractor for bees which are facing a huge pressure from chemical farming. If we don't have bees then 60 per cent of what we eat cannot be produced, because it is dependent on bees pollinating it.'

Various councils in England have begun to 'rewild' roadsides and only cutting when necessary has seen savings of up to £93,000 per year in Dorset, for instance

Special public event to look at FW2040 progress one year on

A public exhibition is being staged later this month to review progress on a master plan for the area's future.

A year on from the first Fort William 2040 (FW2040) consultation, residents are being encouraged to go along to the Nevis Centre on Wednesday, September 25, to review progress and give their views on the next stages of the masterplan. The exhibition runs from 2pm to 7.30pm.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of The Highland Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee, said: 'Significant progress has been made over the last year and we want to continue the momentum to deliver other services and infrastructure over the next few years, including major new employment opportunities, a new hospital and educational facilities,' he said.

Representatives of all the existing and aspirational projects in the town will exhibit the plans they are working on and answer any questions.

Highlands and Islands Programme Manager Alastair Nicolson added: 'This is a really exciting



Alastair Nicolson, left, of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Scott Delgarno, development plans manager at Highland Council, at Caol Community Centre in December last year with the FW2040 map ahead of the follow-up consultation event. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

opportunity for the people of Fort William and Lochaber. Their input will help shape priorities for the year ahead.'

Councillor Henderson hopes as many people as possible will take up the opportunity to get involved.

'FW2040 is about communities, businesses, landowners and potential investors collaborating to create and deliver the type of place peo-

ple want Fort William to be.

'Results of the event will help feed into an updated version of the FW2040 Masterplan. We also want to see people from across the water on Ardgour and the wider area coming along too because they are also directly involved. People don't have to come for the whole day. They can drop in for as long as they want.'

OFFERS & competitions

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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 October 2019. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

LT

Room 13 artist opens door on unseen work

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber artist Richard Bracken opened the doors of his studio for the first time this summer.

Visitors saw pieces he had previously never shown to anyone, sketches and older work that had been hidden away in drawers.

Since graduating from Edinburgh College of Art in 2009 with a degree in sculpture, the environmental artist and creative educator has worked across a range of disciplines including casting and mould-making, photography, printmaking and drawing. He has worked with youth arts organisation Room 13 International as lead artist since 2011.

The Open Studio at Caol Community Centre gave people the chance to see Mr

‘It’s very easy to store work so it never sees the light of day.’

Bracken’s work in a more informal setting.

As well as showing the pieces from Living Memory, a series of cast-iron sculptures and photographic works inspired by two Lochaber woodlands affected by the world wars, the artist also displayed bronze-casting preparations for work in development at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop.

Mr Bracken told the Lochaber Times: ‘It’s very easy to store work so it never



Artist Richard Bracken with some of his work.

sees the light of day. The open studio was for anyone in the community interested in my current and future work, as well as expanding

the network within the arts community and for anyone interested in collaborating or just learning more about my work.’

Inviting people into his workspace allowed the artist to talk about his work. He said: ‘Talking about the work can be tricky. Ideas

can shatter as you talk about them, but once it’s made I can reappraise it against the initial idea.’

Mr Bracken balances his time between developing his own work and supporting Room 13’s creative initiatives.

Speaking about his work with the student-run arts studio, Mr Bracken said: ‘It’s a privilege to work in the Room 13 space at Caol Community Centre; working in an environment that has children in it as well is a refreshing place to be. My work can be quite tight. I know the way I want to make something. Adults and young people make marks in a different way, they see things in a different way. It’s a good thing to be around young people who have such a different energy, while being able to provide them with advice and guidance.’

The Open Studio came during a lull in activity with Room 13.

He said: ‘It’s so easy to put a lot of energy into Room 13 and put my own work on the back burner. The timing was right. I recently finished exhibiting work at Resipole Studios and I wanted to keep the foot to the pedal for showing people my work. I wanted to use the quiet period in Room 13 to make connections with people.’

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Lochaber Ladies Who Lunch at their Marie Curie event at Ben Nevis Distillery with guest speaker Craig Gardiner, district nurse, and hostess for the afternoon Paula MacAskill, fourth left. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Lochaber Ladies Who Lunch raise £5,000 for Marie Curie

More than 100 ladies got their glad rags on last Saturday to enjoy a fabulous fundraising afternoon which boosted Marie Curie funds by £5,000.

The event, hosted this year by Paula MacAskill, is in its third year and was held in the function suite of Ben Nevis Distillery.

The afternoon began with a talk by Craig Gardiner on how Marie Curie Nurses help

him and his district nurse colleagues and how every penny will help to provide more Marie Curie nurses.

A beautiful two-course meal was followed by home-baking, tea and coffee. A raffle with almost 50 prizes and a silent auction were a big success.

Entertainment, organised by Paula, included fun games. The fundraising group

thanked all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the raffle and auction, Brian Hume and distillery staff, Ali Smith and his bar staff and Paula, who helped make the day so entertaining.

Most of all though, thanks went to the ladies of Lochaber who once again turned out in numbers to support this great cause.

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Inspiring training seminars

It is that time of year again. The nights are drawing in, there's a chill in the air – it must be time to start thinking about Lochaber Ideas Week.

Held from Monday November 18 to Friday November 22 at the Moorings Hotel, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce presents a fantastic week of business events to inspire the community.

Ideas Week is open to everyone – you don't need to be a chamber member to come along.

It is a great chance to meet new people, discover new ways of doing things and get your ideas flowing.

We know it can be hard for businesses and self-employed people to make the time to attend training seminars that frequently involve travel and accommodation costs.

Helping to provide inspiring training on our doorstep is a big part of what Lochaber Ideas Week



is all about. We have got three fantastic seminars on offer over the week, starting with something completely different - the We're all Creative! seminar with renowned creative director John-Paul Hughes on Monday, November 18.

This is all about freeing yourself to think differently about your work – whatever the industry and whatever the type of work you do.

The Small Steps to Big Success seminar led by Olympic athlete and former diplomat Dr Cath Bishop and sponsored by Liberty British Aluminium, will focus on harnessing the power of marginal gains to create outstanding results.

Her seminar will also look at using practical strategies

to build resilient and positive teams for business success.

This seminar is a must for everyone who leads teams in their work role.

On Friday, November 22, we welcome straight-talking motivational speaker Don MacNaughton to help us smash through our limiting beliefs and develop ways to overcome what is holding us back.

In his Go for your Goals! seminar, sponsored by BSW Timber, Don's down-to-earth approach is guaranteed to help you see your own potential and get you motivated.

All Ideas Week training seminars are two hours long – meaning you can benefit from high-level personal development training without taking a lot of time out of your working day.

Find out more about the training seminars on offer during Ideas Week at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705 765.

A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Help stop the destruction of the Amazon

The Amazon rainforest burning meaning the hopes and dreams of my generation are going up in flames.

When Notre Dame burnt, everyone knew about it within hours ... perhaps even minutes. Now, when the Amazon rainforest, a natural wonder and essential ecosystem that cannot be replaced, is facing a record number of fires, many people remain unaware of the seriousness of this crisis.

Sixty per cent of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil and it is here where more than 72,000 fires have been recorded since the beginning of 2019. The Amazon is facing the highest number of fires in Brazil for six years and there was an 84 per cent increase in the number of wildfires this June compared to the same

period a year before. Most of them are thought to have been started to clear land for crops and cattle grazing but before attacking the Brazilian farmers, consider the fact that during the last decade, the European Union has imported 120,000 tonnes of Brazil-originating beef per year.

What we do as consumers has consequences for the environment and people in other parts of the world.

The Amazon Basin is home to three million species of animals and plants and one million indigeneous people. It is one of the most biodiverse places on earth as well as absorbing millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

The terrifying reality is the Amazon is approaching a tipping point beyond which it can never recover and will deteriorate irreversibly to dry savanna. Climate scientist Carlos Nobre believes 15 to 17 per cent of the Amazon rainforest has already gone

and the tipping point is likely to be between 20 to 25 per cent destruction. If this happens, if the world's largest rainforest falls into irrevocable dieback, it could release billions of tonnes of stored carbon into the atmosphere, creating a catastrophic climate crisis.

We need people to act. I recently joined a fantastic new initiative – Reserva: The Youth Land Trust. We are working to create the first youth-funded nature reserve in Ecuador, which will cover more than 1,200 acres of the Chocó rainforest.

To help stop the destruction of the Amazon, boycott beef and soy that has been shipped from Brazil. A simple act like that can have an enormous impact.

And please join the global youth and adult strike for the climate tomorrow (Friday). Our war on nature must end and this will only happen if every single one of us puts pressure on our leaders stop it.



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LT

Big Learner Relay is coming to Lochaber

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The Big Learner Relay for Children in Need is coming further north than it has ever been and Lochaber driving instructors are raising money in the build-up.

Driving instructors will be in the car with a learner, who will take a short stint of the more than 3,000-mile journey.

The relay will take a spotted, yellow top box – like those driving instructors use – from Land's End to John O' Groats, then back down to finish at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

Jean O'Brien is going to be taking one of her pupils from Ballachulish to Fort William on Friday November 8 and is looking forward to taking part. She said: 'Lots of driving instructors are raising money but I will be taking part as a lead car for one part of the relay.'



O'Brien will taking part in the relay as a lead car, with one of her pupils driving from Ballachulish to Fort William.

'I have already raised £300 and definitely think we can do more. You can sponsor one of the spots on my car – there are lots left – and you can donate until November 15 through my Facebook page. What I love about this is it's completely and

utterly voluntary from all the driving instructors and the organisers to raise money for a good cause.'

Jean will do the last leg of the day on Friday with her pupil – who will get a few free practise lessons on the A82 to Fort

William – and, after handing over the top box to the next car, is hoping to follow the relay up to John O'Groats.

The route will then wind its way back down to the National Space Centre to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

Volunteer organiser Amy Cullen said: 'The instructors are really pulling out all the stops to raise money for Children in Need by giving up weekends, booking hotels and joining our big road trip around the country. It's wonderful to see the commitment.'

'It's also an opportunity to bring driving instructors together. Instructors largely work independently apart from the occasional training day or passing on the road, so this gives them an opportunity to get together, plan local routes and raise money for a great cause.'

Hampshire driving instruc-

tor Louise Walsh came up with the idea in 2014 when participants raised more than £65,000 for the children's charity, smashing their initial goal of £5,000. Now in its sixth year, this is the most ambitious route yet with more than 170 volunteer instructors passing the top box between learner drivers and supported by many more cars and fundraisers.

Louise, who will be in the back seat of every car, said: 'I am so looking forward to meeting the hundreds of participating instructors, taking photos, cheering the convoy on, updating the live feeds, communicating with the media and wearing my Big Learner Relay hoodie with pride as we travel around the country.'

Anyone who wants to sponsor Jean O'Brien, can contact her via her Facebook page or text LAUNCH and the amount to 70085.

Creative Scotland's Gaelic plan

Creative Scotland has published its Gaelic Language Plan, detailing commitments for support of Gaelic language and culture across the arts, screen and creative industries over the next three years.

The second Gaelic Language Plan 2019-22 builds on existing support for Gaelic language and culture and sets out how the organisation will help deliver the aims set out in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 2023.

Language

The plan's publication coincides with the 2019 UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Language.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney welcomed the plan. He said: 'Gaelic is flourishing in the cultural activities that take place across the country and Creative Scotland has an important role to play in supporting the language.'

The plan can be viewed on the Creative Scotland website.

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Chairman of Great Glen Energy Co-operative Murdo MacDonald, right, makes a £3,000 donation to Glengarry Community Woodlands development officer Tom Cooper, left, with, back row centre, Felix Paterson, Great Glen Energy vice-chair; Community Woodlands trustee Peter Walker and chair of the Glengarry Trust, Maria MacRae with young Robbie Fraser on the tractor.

Boost for Glengarry woodlands scheme

Social enterprise initiative Glengarry Community Woodlands received a funding boost from one of its neighbours recently.

The Great Glen Energy Co-operative handed over a cheque for £3,000 towards a tractor and circular saw to help the community-owned enterprise achieve its plans to cut and sell firewood.

Murdo MacDonald, chairman of the Great Glen Energy Co-operative, commented: 'Glengarry Community

Woodland runs an impressive social enterprise and education programme, and the wood fuel enterprise will be an extension to that.

'It works closely with Invergarry Primary School and this new project fits in very well with the curriculum and learning life and work skills. We're delighted to have been able to support this very worthy cause which is very much a community project.'

Glengarry Community Woodlands was set up in 2016

when the community bought a 32-hectare woodland in Invergarry. It runs a variety of activities and events, including a forest school club for children, guided wildlife walks and green woodwork courses. The Great Glen Energy Co-operative has 668 members who collectively own a stake in the Falck Renewables' Millennium Wind Farm. The co-op offers support to local education initiatives and helps promote the benefits of renewable energy.

Robin goes the distance with 20-stone carving in tow

Motorists on Lochaber's B roads last week may have spotted an odd couple of figures marching southwards.

The chances are it was 63-year-old retired army reservist Robin Hood, who is pulling a 20-stone wooden carved First World War soldier 340 miles from John O'Groats to Dumfries this month.

Mr Hood is making his way down the B roads of the Highlands, with the soldier in tow, for Forces charity SWSRnR to help veteran troops find employment. He stopped by the Lochaber Times office in Fort William's High Street last week before continuing his journey south towards Oban. Every public donation goes directly to the cause. Go to the SWSRnR Just Giving page to donate or visit www.southwestscotlandnrn.org.uk.



Robin Hood with his 20-stone soldier in tow.

Food solutions for challenging times ahead

Stephen McDonach, Environmental Development Officer for Lochaber Environmental Group, explores local food solutions for the challenges that lie ahead:

'The Trussell Trust gave out 1.6 million emergency food parcels in the UK between April 2018 and March 2019 - 210,605 of which were distributed in Scotland, the highest proportion for any region in the UK.'

'Food is currently at the heart of some of Scotland's biggest challenges, from inequality to ill health to ecological breakdown.'

'Our food security depends on sustainability in its production and distribution. As the climate and biodiversity emergency deepens, the vulnerabilities of a mono-cultural, just in time, globalised food system are increasingly laid bare.'

'These weaknesses within an already inequitable system have implications for all of us, rich and poor. The proposed Good Food Nation Bill attempts to address the purpose of our food system in law.'

'The hope is legislation, with social justice, health and ecology at its core, can act



as a catalyst in transforming how our food system works. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land states our future food security depends on doubling productivity of smallholder farms and halving food loss and waste by 2030.

'To achieve this in Lochaber we have to rediscover our past. Historical knowledge is essential.'

'Ground breaking work at the Blackland Centre on the Isle of Uist highlights how crofters in western Scotland, through their traditional light-touch management mosaic, have in the past contributed to enhanced biodiversity, thus improving nutrition for local communities and increasing food security through the practice of unique methods for sustainable agriculture.'

'These traditional low input practices stand in stark contrast to the large scale industrialised practices, such as end-to-end ploughing, that

have been widely adopted in 'agricultural' regions such as in the east of Scotland.'

'In Lochaber, where large scale agricultural machinery is simply not suitable, the Blackland project found the ecological impacts of using small micro plant machinery, such as two-wheeled tractors, were minimal compared to those arising from importation of food and fodder.'

'Blackland's research demonstrates sustainability and resilience should be seen as a 'third way' between extremes of production and conservation as it will be essential in the 21st century to resolve the paradox of under-used land and vanishing skills at a time of growing demand for food, increasing climate instability and rising fuel prices.'

'Lochaber Environmental Group's 'Food Lochaber' initiative aims to co-ordinate a response to the challenges of local food production and distribution. Check out www.foodlochaber.org and join the local food revolution.'

Award success for young film-maker

It is red carpets all round as a young person from Ardnamurchan has made a film which has garnered awards across Scotland.

The Brave looks at the experience of being Scottish from young people's perspectives. The short film has gathered momentum, winning the prestigious John Byrne Award and the Paisley Open Mind Festival. These successes brought it to the attention of the Edinburgh Film Festival where the short was selected to play at the New Visions event as well as at the Lift Off Global Network Sessions.

Hannah Hunter, from Kilchoan, is in her final year of BA Film-making at Glasgow's prestigious Royal Conservatoire Scotland (RCS).

She acted as cinematogra-

pher on The Brave, which stars young actor Cameron McNee and was written and directed by the St Andrews University and RCS pairing of Fraser Scott and Iona Ramsay.

Hannah is ambitious to keep improving. She said: 'I think it's good for our first small-scale production but recently we've created films of a much higher standard.'

'We try to make as much as we can between classes and grad shoots and the quality of our work has quickly begun to improve over the course of the year which is very exciting.'

'I never pictured myself as someone who would prefer working on-set to production-based duties, yet I soon began to love the pressure that comes from the disciplined process of working with crew

and cast to create work of a great quality.'

She continued: 'Currently, I'm enthusiastic to keep creating original work as it brings its own freedoms and limitations and allows you to push yourself to think unconventionally. I love experimenting with cameras and kit, and with the resources that RCS provides for us we have a lot to utilise.'

'After I graduate this year, I would love to get an apprenticeship with one of the TV production companies in Scotland as television has always been the area I've wanted to work in most.'

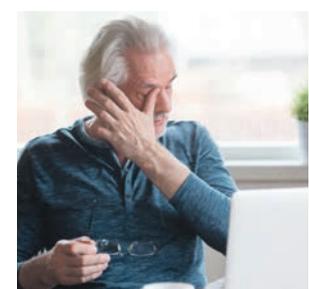
'Most likely, I'll be a floor runner for a while but, eventually, I'd love to work in an area where I can make more of a creative contribution.'



Rights v responsibilities

Most of my day is spent examining elderly patients. Our population is ageing. Dealing with eye diseases and cataracts in this patient group is the norm rather than the exception. For many of these patients vision problems can be life changing. If you are the only driver in the family and have to give up driving, or you struggle to look after yourself due to poor vision, you might have to consider residential care of some sort. Thankfully these more extreme outcomes can often be prevented by early treatment.

In Scotland the NHS provides many aspects of our eye-care. For cataract surgery your optometrist will normally refer you to an NHS hospital. In the last



couple of years the waiting time for an ophthalmological out-patient appointment has gone from two to eight or nine months. This is partially due to increased demand but, a very significant factor is almost one in three patients fail to attend for their appointment. If we were all to attend the hospital appointments we had been given there would be a dramatic improvement in

waiting times. Even worse is the cost of failing to attend. If you have had a letter regarding a forthcoming hospital appointment you may have read each appointment costs a minimum of £135. In a busy clinic these lost appointments could easily be costing the NHS £2000 per consultant day. Just think of all the treatments that could be funded if that money was not being squandered by failing to attend.

Fail to attend also happens to optometric, dental and GP practices. Most optometrists and dentists are NHS contractors who are paid only when we examine a patient. That lost income cannot be replaced.

Free treatment is a right. It's your responsibility not to squander that right!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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LT

Judo coach is an inspiration

by Neill Bo Finlayson
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It has been a record-breaking year for Scottish sport, according to governing body sportscotland.

And one Lochaber resident has more than played her part.

Rebecca Maclean, 27, from Fort William, continues to inspire young people around the country to get involved in sport, even after winning Young Coach of the Year award at the sportscotland Year of Young People Awards 2018.

She is now a part-time Active Schools coordinator based at Kinlochleven High School and develops a range of programmes to help increase the number and quality of opportunities available for young people to get involved in sport.

Rebecca lives and works in Lochaber but regularly travels



Rebecca Maclean.

to Glasgow in her spare time to support the successful Judo Girls Rock project, delivered by Judo Scotland, Scottish Sports Futures and Youth Scotland.

The original Judo Girls Rock helped girls in socially deprived areas of Glasgow and Rebecca has now opened a new class in Fort William.

'My week is pretty busy but

I'm doing what I love. It's amazing to watch young girls doing the sport that made such a difference to my life – and now I'm starting to see it making a difference to theirs.

'It's making a big difference in the deprived areas and getting a lot of girls into judo who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to do so. But it's also about more than judo, it's about introducing girls to sport in general and showing them a healthier life.

'I'm in a good position to pass on my experience and help other young leaders on their journey because I've done exactly what they're going through.'

She added: 'I just want to develop Judo Girls Rock further and get even more young girls and clubs involved. I'm also looking forward to getting as many people as possible active – I believe sport can change your life.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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The Glenfinnan Highland Gathering is now long past for the year so this article is nearly a month out of date.

However, a phone call last Friday night from none other than Fergie MacDonald reminded me of the day and spurred me to write about it. The phone call was on a totally different subject, but it brought back thoughts on Fergie's memorable opening speech as chieftain of the games.

I've been to many Highland games over the years, mainly as a spectator, sometimes to sell CDs and occasionally as a competitor, and I've heard many a speech delivered to open these events. Never have I enjoyed one as much as Fergie's on August 17 this year.

It was classic 'Fergie' and cut straight through the customary pomp and ceremony of most speeches at such occasions. There is, of course, nothing wrong with a bit of pomp and ceremony at this type of event and in many ways they are vital ingredients, but it was nonetheless refreshing to see Fergie standing on the

platform in his own relaxed manner and to hear him deliver the speech with his unique confidence, energy and style.

On August 17, 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the Jacobite standard at Glenfinnan, beginning a military campaign that ended in failure at the battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746. There were many strands and complexities that led to the Jacobite Rebellion but, regardless of the complicated political and social context of it, there is no doubt that its occurrence and subsequent failure led to the destruction of Highland society and culture in the years that followed.

The effects of the brutal ethnic cleansing that came after the battle of Culloden are clear to see to this day and the population of Gaeldom has not recovered from it.

Fergie succinctly covered the history and the many issues surrounding it with clarity and without the misty-eyed romanticism that often accompanies any reference to this subject. He even managed

a good portion of humour throughout.

A particular highlight was when Fergie quoted his direct ancestor, Ronald MacDonald, Raoghnnall Iain, as he was known, who, according to Clan Ranald lore, said to Prince Charles that day: 'Thearlaich, tha mi 'n dòchas gu bheil na buill agad airson a gnothaich seo fhaicinn troimhe.' (Charlie, I hope you have the courage to see this through.)

I can well imagine that if Fergie MacDonald himself were at Glenfinnan on August 17, 1745, he would be similarly direct in his approach to the Prince. He would probably have written him a tune, given him a haunch of venison and sold him a box of CDs as well.

Fergie's speech was the perfect foundation for the rest of the gathering and it reminded me once again why I have held him as a hero since first I heard his music when I was nine years old. With the energy and vigour Fergie still has at the age of 82, he will be playing music and making speeches for many years to come.

LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



18-22 November 2019

Presented by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

Lochaber Ideas Week is back!

Lochaber Ideas Week 2019 kicks off at the Moorings Hotel, Fort William on Monday 18th November with a duo of inspirational business seminars to get us thinking creatively and working more effectively in teams.

Monday 18th November

10am-12pm, Moorings Hotel.

Price £30

The day starts with the 'We're all Creative!' seminar led by renowned creative director John-Paul Hughes. He's back by popular demand after fantastic feedback from last year's event. If you didn't get a chance to make it along to his seminar last year, don't miss it this time!

This seminar is for everyone in business - whatever the industry and whatever the type of work you do. Kick off your Ideas Week by learning to think differently about what you do...and how you approach your working life!



Monday 18th November

2-4pm, Moorings Hotel.

Price £30

Join us in the afternoon for another fantastic training seminar: 'Small Steps to Big Success' led by Dr Cath Bishop. As a former Olympic athlete and international diplomat, Cath is an expert in outstanding performance under pressure. Her seminar will focus on using practical strategies to create strong teams and harness the power of small changes to create amazing results.

This event is kindly sponsored by Liberty British Aluminium. Liberty British Aluminium own and operate the UK's last remaining aluminium smelter here in the heart of Lochaber. They are delighted to be a part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2019. Liberty is part of the GFG Alliance with sister companies



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Government gives £3m to rural tourism

by Neill Bo Finlayson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslop MSP has outlined a multi-million-pound package of measures to help support Scotland's world-class tourism industry.

The sector is an important part of the Highland economy, employing thousands of workers and hosting millions of visitors every year from all over the world.

Specific commitments include an additional £3 million in 2020-21 for the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

This will be used to enhancing the visitor experience at rural and island tourist sites, taking the total investment

over three years to £9 million.

The package also includes creating a free open public wifi system at 10 sites on the North Coast 500 route, providing tourists and residents with increased internet connectivity all year round.

Ms Hyslop said: 'Our

'Our tourism industry is crucial to the Scottish economy'

tourism industry is of crucial importance to the Scottish economy. We are committed to working with the sector to support them through this uncertain time and ensure that they can continue to offer

high-quality experiences for visitors while minimising the impact on the environment and the lives of those who live here all year round.

'People choose to visit Scotland for our culture, heritage, scenery and world-class attractions, and we should always seek to diversify that offer. That is why we have been working with the industry to place Scotland as a top destination for adventure tourism and those seeking forest trails.

'We will also increase efforts to spread the benefits of tourism across all of Scotland, and ensure communities from Lossiemouth to Luss can reap the rewards of people looking to enjoy our wonderful country.'



Kim Kennedy, left, with her son Corey and her dog Benji, receives the vouchers from Karin McKay of Highland Council. Photo: Abridge Photography.

Kim's colourful garden tops competition

A Fort William garden has come out on top in a Highland-wide competition.

The Highland Council Tenant Participation Team held a garden competition for all its tenants across the Highlands, sponsored by Simpsons Garden Centre in Inverness.

After sifting through the entries, the judges finally chose Kim Kennedy's amazing garden as the overall winner. Highland Council tenant

participation officer Karin McKay presented Kim with her Simpsons prize vouchers last week and said: 'Her garden is beautiful. She has put so much time and effort into it and deserved to win.'

The runners-up were the Kilmallie Road neighbours' group in Caol that featured in the Lochaber Life this month. This group of tenants has worked together with the support of Ms McKay and community warden Mathew

Prosser. The group has helped transform the square by digging, potting planters and composting plants. A picnic table has since been donated to the residents in Caol and A&A Taxis is donating planters. The residents are delighted that their work has been recognised.

The tenant participation team would like to thank everyone for their entries and to Simpsons for sponsoring the event.



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Change of director for Skye arts

One of Skye's leading arts promotion charities has reached a new milestone in its 28-year history.

Marie Lewis is taking over the position as creative director at SEALL (Skye Events for All), held by Duncan MacInnes for almost three decades.

Duncan, 69, who began promoting performing arts in the south of the island in the late 1980s, has gone on to receive a number of prestigious awards during his lengthy service to the Sleat community. In July, he received his greatest honour to date with an MBE for his services to the arts.

Marie, who lives in the north of the island, will take the helm of the Sleat-based organisation in November.

She said: 'Duncan's decision to retire this year is a very important juncture in the history of SEALL.'

'Duncan has done such a great job in bringing quality performing arts to the Sleat community for almost three



Marie Lewis takes over the reins from Duncan MacInnes.

decades and I am eager to carry on this good work across the island and into an exciting new future for SEALL.

'We are already forming new partnerships and forging important new relationships with individuals and organisations at a local, national and international level and I look forward to programming some amazing events

in venues across our communities for our year-round touring programme, The Skye Festival and the SEALL Festival of Small Halls.'

The handover will take place during SEALL's AGM on November 19.

Anyone interested in becoming a board member is asked to contact SEALL on 01471 844207 or email info@seall.co.uk.

Plan is to cut councillors for the islands

Council representation for islanders could soon be about to change.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has begun a public consultation on proposals for councillor numbers and ward boundaries in Na h-Eileanan an Iar council area.

The commission's proposal is to reduce the number of councillors from 31 to 28, while increasing the number of wards from nine to 11.

If accepted, these changes could be in place for the next local government elections in May 2022.

The commission wants the public's view on the changes so that islanders' voices can be taken into account when developing final recommendations for Scottish ministers.

The consultation will run until Monday December 2.

The islands legislation introduced in 2018 allows for use of one or two member wards, in addition to the current three and four member wards, where a ward includes an inhabited island. This was one of a number of changes made by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

The commission conducted an initial consultation with the comhairle earlier this year and is now beginning a 12-week public consultation. This will result in recommendations for the number of councillors on the council and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors.

Ronnie Hinds, chairman of the commission, said: 'We are pleased to begin our public

consultation on electoral arrangements for Na h-Eileanan an Iar council area. We have already consulted the comhairle and have considered their views carefully before preparing the proposals published. We now look forward to hearing the public's views.'

'We welcome the flexibility offered by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 to use one or two member wards and have used this flexibility in Na h-Eileanan an Iar council area where we propose a single member Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra and Vatersay) ward as well as five two-member wards elsewhere in the council area.'

'Hearing local views on these issues is vitally important as we develop our final recommendations.'



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Pipe rock band Drums N Roses performed at the gala ball.

Eilidh's Trust launch event was a 'resounding success'

The official launch of the charity set up in memory of Manchester Arena victim Eilidh MacLeod was a resounding success with thousands raised to support music education for young people.

Around 250 people gathered in Glasgow's Oran Mor on Friday September 6 for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust's Tartan and Tiaras gala ball to mark its launch

and to recognise the work done since the trust was established in October 2018.

Eilidh's trust was established in memory of 14-year-old Eilidh MacLeod from Barra who died along with 21 others in the attack in May 2017. The trust aims to support music education for young people, reflecting Eilidh's own musical ability and enjoyment as a piper. The trust will also manage

and maintain a permanent memorial to Eilidh and a garden of remembrance and reflection on Barra.

Over the night, £18,000 was raised, with the majority of that coming from an online auction. Raffles and the on-the-spot sale of unique images of Scottish beaches which depicted the name of each table helped to boost the total.

The money raised will allow

Eilidh's trust to support young musicians to realise their potential by funding music education and performance opportunities.

The night also recognised the special work of two pipe bands within their communities. Donations of £1,500 were made to both Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, which Eilidh used to perform with, and the Manchester Community Pipe Band.

Closure for Skye Chocolate

The economic uncertainty caused by Brexit has been blamed for the closure of Isle of Skye Chocolate.

The Uig-based company, which supplied shops around the island and ran an online mail order service, announced last week on social media that it would be ceasing operations.

The couple behind the business said price hikes caused by Brexit uncertainty had caused 'irreparable damage' to the business, which im-

ported its raw materials from Europe.

The company said it was unable to run profitably in 'these trying conditions' and reluctantly took the decision to close permanently.

The company also thanked its customers and suppliers for their loyalty and support.

Owner Angus MacRuary said: 'With Brexit looming we just did not feel we could commit to more investment and so held off, and held off, and held off, feeling in limbo

the whole time. After three years of uncertainty - and another price increase from

'We couldn't justify the hours worked for very little return'

our suppliers - we decided we couldn't justify the hours we were working for very little return.'

Mr MacRuary took over

Skye Chocolate in 2015 when he sold his previous business, Isle of Skye Brewery.

Joined by his partner Pam, the pair had built up a strong following, supplying around 20 shops on Skye, along with the mail order service. Operating out of a large garage next to their house, the couple also ran chocolate-making courses and opened a small retail area.

Mr MacRuary explained: 'The first inkling we had had of an uncertain future

was after the Brexit vote in 2016 when, as a result of the immediate fall in the value of the pound against the euro, our suppliers increased their prices for our raw materials by 10 per cent.

'We had no option but to swallow this as we had already given our customers their prices for the season and did not want to inconvenience them.

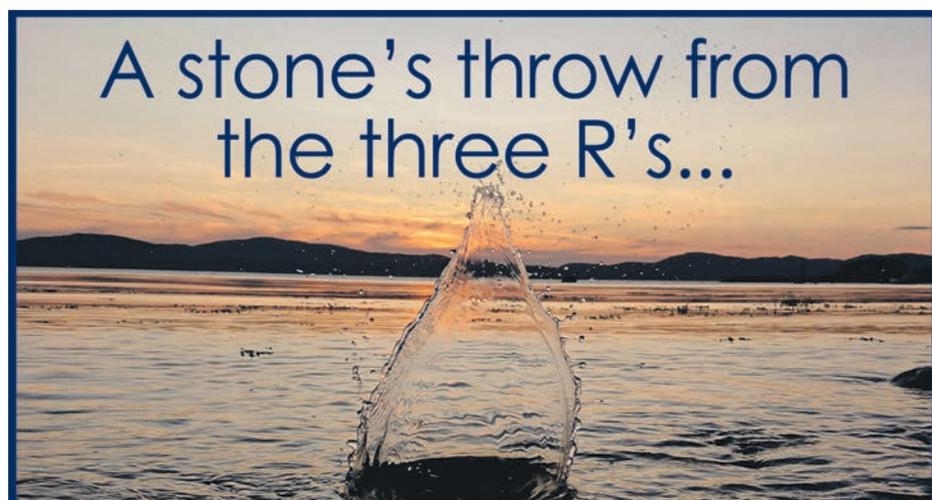
'Six months later, we had another 10 per cent increase imposed. At that point we

increased our own prices by 10 per cent with a mixed response from our customers.

'If there is a no deal Brexit and the UK trades on WTO rules, then we will be hit by a further increase of between 10 per cent and 20 per cent in our raw material costs, depending upon type of chocolate.'

Mrs MacRuary now works as a part-time relief postie on the islands, while, for the moment, Mr MacRuary has accepted retirement.

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LT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Importance of Brexit is hitting home locally

We have avoided resolutely becoming involved in the Brexit debate until now but the impact of the national issue is hitting home locally this week.

It is disappointing in the extreme to have to report this week on the demise of Isle of Skye Chocolate, which has closed and blamed economic uncertainty caused by Brexit for doing so.

The couple behind the Uig-based business said price hikes caused by Brexit uncertainty had caused 'irreparable damage' to the business, which imports its raw materials from Europe.

Owner Angus MacRuary said: 'With Brexit looming we just did not feel we could commit to more investment and so held off, and held off, and held off, feeling in limbo the whole time.'

After three years of uncertainty – and another price increase from our suppliers – we decided we couldn't justify the hours we were working for very little return.'

To lose the business is a bitter blow to the local economy.

Succeeding in the face of great adversity

Heading off to university is an exciting time for anyone but must be especially so for Kinlochleven's Aamar Yasouf.

Mr Yasouf is Syrian originally and came to Scotland in 2017 as part of the United Nations refugee resettlement policy as the crisis in his homeland reached fever pitch.

This week, he begins his course studying an MPharm in Pharmacy at the University of Strathclyde.

Given that when he arrived he spoke no English, it is astonishing that he is now embarking on his degree.

It is a triumph in the face of adversity.

More is needed from SNH to protect habitats

I read in The Oban Times that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is funding £1.8 million worth of projects to improve natural habitats – an admirable gesture – as part of its work to 'improve natural habitats, safeguard plant and animal species, and improve biodiversity'.

In a separate article, SNH is quoted as 'protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health'.

How much better it would be if it put more effort at no cost into protecting our seas from devastation, by vigorously opposing plans for new or enlarged fish farms. Its efforts in the case of the recent application in the Sound of Gigha were feeble at best.

What action will it take in the face of multiple applications currently in the pipeline around the whole of the Argyll and Bute coastline? Probably it will support them without due consideration of their cumulative effect, as will Argyll and Bute Council, despite the fact that they will surely damage ecosystems and endanger biodiversity.

All this in a week when SNH's failure to stand up to Donald Trump's golf courses near Aberdeen seems likely to lead to the complete abandonment of an entire SSSI – with SNH recommending withdrawal of protection.

Scotland deserves better protection of its natural heritage than SNH seems willing to give.

Dennis Archer,
Gallanach Road, Oban.

Islanders have been abandoned in face of greed

A recent report from Skye says folk were captive in their homes for a lengthy period due to the single-track roads in one village being full of cars and campervans, and most with no driver to be seen.

We as islanders have been sold out by various organisations, including the tourist board and those who rent out holiday homes, who are obsessed with greed. Islanders are now having to move at odd times, like 7am, for shopping before the onslaught starts again.

Peaceful islanders only want the freedom of coming and going from their own homes at their own chosen time but we cannot do that any more as we have been rudely invaded.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir.

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 Estate, Oban, or to our office in High

What has happened to the swans in Oban?

I have been a visitor to Oban over a long period of time and in years gone by used to see the swans in the harbour. However, I have not seen them for a long time.

I have asked about this but no one seems to

know where they have gone. Do any Oban Times readers have any information on this?

Mrs K Douthwaite, by email.

Our communities are not being well-served

It is hard to disagree with Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara when he calls Boris Johnson's



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DISTRICT NEWS

STRONTIAN

Ardnamurchan Library Summer Reading Challenge blasted off and landed safely.

The annual summer reading challenge, which runs in libraries across the country, had a space chase theme this year to celebrate 50 years since the moon landing.

The challenge which asked children aged four to 11 years to borrow and read six library books over the summer. There were rewards for books read with stickers to go in a special folder that children receive when they sign up to the challenge.

Library supervisor at Ardnamurchan library in Strontian Helen Tait said: 'We had pupils from all five primary schools starting the challenge this year, which was fantastic. And 73 pupils started the challenge and 26 managed to read at least six books over the holidays.'

The library, which is in the Sunart Centre, also hosted other events for children over the summer including a Space Race activity as part of the playscheme week and Eco Club sessions with the countryside ranger.

Bookbug sessions which have stories, songs and rhymes for babies, toddlers and preschool children and their families ran throughout the summer and continue all year round fortnightly in the library.

Mrs Tait added: 'Year-on-year, a higher proportion of our primary school pupils of all abilities take on this challenge. We love hearing about the books they have enjoyed over the summer, and are proud of all of their accomplishments.'

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant is calling for the Scottish Government to urgently review its ferry services.

Ms Grant said that in order to meet the growing demand for ferry services to be met, ferries had to be fit for purpose and provide the capacity required.

She said: 'Between 2014 and 2018 there has been an increase of 27 per



Pupils enjoyed a visit from Lochaber police last week.

Police help Ardnamurchan youngsters arrest the slide

Police in Lochaber have been helping young people of Ardnamurchan High School to learn how to spot crime, keep themselves safe and learn how to report it if they see it.

PCs Duncan and Jones came into the S1 Personal and Social Education class to deliver a lesson called 'The Slide'.

The Slide is a short movie which tells the story of a young man, David, from ages 13 to 20 and details how through making the wrong choices he finds himself

sucked into a life of crime. The film, and the associated lesson activities which accompany it, has been developed by the Scottish Government's Serious Organised Crime Taskforce and hopes to tackle issues such as the so-called county lines recruitment of young people.

This taskforce, which has members including Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service, the National Crime Agency and Action For Children has four aims:

to divert individuals (particularly young people) from engaging in or using the products of serious organised crime; to disrupt the activities of serious organised crime groups; to deter, through measures to protect communities, from serious organised crime; and to detect by improving co-ordination.

As well as talking through the lesson, the young people had an open discussion if they had any questions and were left with leaflets for Fearless.org, a charity which

allows people to anonymously report crimes if they have any concerns.

The same week, Strontian PC Campbell came into the school to speak to all the year groups about online safety and the laws surrounding use of mobile phones. She came into all of the PSE classes and explained how to ensure that young people keep themselves safe online and minimise any poor choices they have made by contacting trusted adults.

cent for foot passengers and 35 per cent for cars on the Stornoway to Ullapool route alone.

Similar increases can be seen on routes throughout Scotland and this has to be welcomed and encouraged for rural economies to grow and thrive.

'Unfortunately, our seagoing transport network is groaning under the strain, and solutions urgently need to be found to ensure that these lifeline services are fit for purpose.'

Ms Grant also said that islands are already seeing the consequences of the stretched capacity during peak

times, with constituents reporting cancelled accommodation bookings and the inability to travel for medical appointments.

She continued: 'The mismanagement of the Uig and Arran ferries' build is astonishing and it is unclear whether these ferries will ever come into service. They need to stop initiating vanity projects and provide reliable boats that can serve the needs of our communities.'

'It is time that the Scottish Government stopped kicking this issue into the long grass and provided ferry services that meet demand, both immediate and long term.'

LOCHABER

The Western Isles Development Trust (WIDT) is inviting applications from community groups for a share of funding.

The money is aimed at supporting projects with a focus on alleviating fuel poverty and promoting renewable energy.

Since April 2016, WIDT has committed to almost £300,000 in grant payments and loan funding to promote these objectives. Recent beneficiaries include: Kinloch Historical Society, Lewis; North Uist

Development Company Trading Limited, North Uist; Garadh a Bagh a Tuath, Barra; and the West Harris Trust, Harris.

The trust has now established a new annual Small Grants Fund which is open to applications from September 1 for a maximum of £2,000.

To be eligible, applications must meet at least one of the WIDT's objectives, as set out in its articles of association and published on the website, and show benefit to the community. Details of the new fund and application forms can be found at the website widt.co.uk.



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Roy Bridge cottage is voted best in Scotland

Lochaber holiday home owners Sue, Nick and Amy Hunt are celebrating after picking up an award for their property in Roy Bridge.

The family, originally from Bristol, scooped gold in the Best in Scotland category for their chocolate box holiday cottage, called Spinnyfield, in the heart of the Highlands.

They took home the trophy at the Sykes Gem Awards – a national travel awards programme run by leading UK holiday rental firm Sykes Holiday Cottages.

Seeking a change of scenery in retirement, Sue, who was previously a dental nurse, and Nick, a former policeman, decided to relocate from the south-west of England to the Highlands in 2015, along with their two children, Amy and Lucy, and Sue's mother, Freda.

After spotting an opportunity to purchase a plot of land in picturesque Roy Bridge in 2016, the family spent a year-and-a-

half building and furnishing Spinnyfield, a picture-perfect, two-bedroomed holiday cottage, nestled in tranquil surroundings.

Since Spinnyfield became available to holidaymakers back in October 2017, the Hunts have reaped the rewards of a surge in staycations to the Highlands, and the property is nearly fully-booked throughout the whole of 2019.

Sue said: 'We've put so much into making Spinnyfield a success, and constantly get great feedback from our visitors, but an award like this really does mean a lot. The trophy will definitely be given pride of place in the cottage.'

The everyday running of the cottage is very much a family affair – with Sue looking after the interior design and furnishing, Amy taking care of the cleaning and changeovers and Nick managing the book-keeping, as well as general maintenance of the garden.



Nick, Sue and Amy Hunt picked up an award for their property.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Fort William ceilidh train part 2:

You'd be right in thinking that, earlier this month, I'd finally got off the ceilidh train. But I'm catching it again, just to add a few final anecdotes for posterity. So, back on the train the ceilidh continued on the way home to the Fort. And how! There was a brief interval to cater for the guard's van having run out of brandy. However, that didn't stop two of the lassies having a dance duet on the tables. Even a Glasgow guard got in on the act with a 'Glesca' One Step' before he went to join his own train.

Things were comparatively quiet for about 20 minutes after leaving Queen Street. This was due to the fact that everyone had settled down to enjoy their buffet dinner. However, halfway through the meal, quite a few tales emerged. Like the story of Mairi and Mary who were asked what was in their carrier bags as a result of the Glasgow shopping spree. A loaf and two sausage rolls were the sum total. Both ladies were asked – several times – if it wasn't a bit expensive, having paid £37 between them to go to Glasgow, to spend more money in a Glasgow bakery when the cost of the buffet was included in the ticket price.

Meanwhile Margaret was bemoaning the fact that she had tramped the length and breadth of Glasgow 'looking for a Boot's the Chemist'. 'I never found one yet', said she. 'Then when we arrived back at Queen Street at six o'clock, there was a Boot's branch right in front of our noses – shut! Never mind, Margaret, you've still got a Boot's in the Fort – and a Lloyd's now, as well.

Buffet dinner over – and it was a good one, served up by Fort William Community Council members, wives and husbands – many of us recalled the halcyon days of Skeesh

and Allan charging through the Glasgow train, shouting 'Last call for dinner now, please!'

Donnie had brought his electric bagpipes, but couldn't find anywhere to plug them in. Katie had bought a toasted sandwich maker, but had similar electrical difficulties. Likewise Mairi and Mary with their sausage rolls.

The music and singing took over again as we headed back to the Highlands. Aye, the ceilidh train came over the hill; and she blew – as did the young pipers. But the older hands – those on the box and on the fiddle, were being held back in readiness for their Ceilidh contribution. The train reached Crianlarich. In time-honoured manner lots of Lochaber locals took over the platform – not to visit the 'Refresh', but to get lined up for a Strip the Willow! However, the train couldn't wait because the blessed 'London' would have been held up.

But it WAS 'On with the Dance' at Bridge of Orchy. And how! All of 10 sets were assembled for what turned out to be a surreally sublime Strip the Willow. In the dark, on a platform which doesn't even boast bitumen (It's covered by granite chips) the musicians turned a station seat into a mini bandstand. Then came the whirling and the birling. Of course there was no 'Slipperine' for the 'dance floor'. Which probably accounts for the fact that John was swept off his feet and landed his length in a large shrub tub, causing untold harm to Bridge of Orchy's prospect of winning a Best Kept Station award.

Amid all this frivolity Linda was celebrating her 40th birthday. Or, rather, a number of Linda's clan members were marking the occasion for her. During that strenuous Strip the Willow, Divy dashed across the

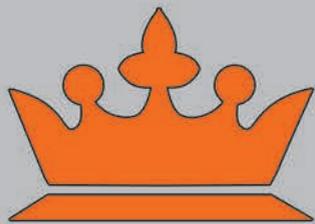
platform to talk to a number of folk on the London-bound train, who had the opportunity to marvel at the Station Strip the Willow at Bridge of Orchy instead of Crianlarich. Divy had left her double Bacardi and coke in a safe place, balancing it perfectly in a platform shrub tub. Unfortunately she had chosen the very one into which John had landed – resulting in Divy forfeiting her Bacardi.

One or two items were, apparently, mislaid on the ceilidh train. Largely due to the first coach in the southbound journey becoming the last on the return to Fort William. Indeed two female passengers from Roy Bridge are rumoured to have found themselves being carried past their Beloved Braes to Fort William Station. Meanwhile, if any ceilidh train passenger misplaced a bag containing a bottle of Coke, an umbrella and a single sock, it's available for collection from FW Community Council.

Funnily enough, I'm not sure if the booby prize was claimed in the Great Ceilidh Train Raffle. It comprised a Rab C Nesbitt Semmit (used) a sweatband, an old copy of the Daily Record, a Brillo Pad, and a hair brush. And that reminded me of the story told of a former West Highland Line Coal Stage railwayman – a stranger to soap – who went for his annual medical at Buchanan House. Apparently, when he was having his chest sounded the doctor 'found another semmit'.

Anyway, the Fort William Community Council Ceilidh Train Trip in September 1994 will live long in the memory of the Lochaber folk who were privileged to be aboard.

And one other facet which struck me about the ceilidh train trip was the impressive amount of Gaelic spoken en route.



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LT

SAILING



Plockton A and Plockton B teams with the Gunn Trophy at Lochcarron.

Gunn Trophy for Plockton

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club won the Gunn Trophy for the third year in a row at Lochcarron on Saturday September 7.

Two teams from Lochcarron, two from Plockton and one from Gairloch competed for the Gunn Trophy this year.

The first race was abandoned due to light winds as competitors were pushed backwards from the start line by the tide. Just as boats were preparing for a tow around the loch, the wind got up and racers enjoyed gradually freshening conditions for the rest of the afternoon.

Five races were completed, with the competition hotting up with each successive start and some very good individual performances – Matthew Goodman (Lochcarron) scored two firsts, while Robbie Baird (Plockton) had three first places.

The winning Plockton A team was made up of Robbie Baird, Ash Glasgow and Calum Reeves-Womble. Sailing for Plockton B was Calum Hay and Lachlan McGhie.

Results: 1 Plockton A; 2 Lochcarron A; 3 Gairloch; 4 Lochcarron B; 5 Plockton B.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINTY



The winning Inverloch team with coach Robert MacMillan.

Inverloch make it three in a row at Kingussie sixes

Inverloch won the Kingussie sixes for the third successive year in the P6-7 age group.

The primary school team from Fort William beat Newtonmore on penalties in the final, with a great save from Owen Ohagan securing the win. Inverloch were without their top player James Clark, who was injured with a broken collar bone, but still managed to do what was needed to secure the win.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 8, 14 and 18. There was no winner this week. The prize for the draw today, Thursday September 19, will be £500.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 15, 18 and 20. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £600.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers this week were 10, 11 and 13. There were no winners. The prize next week is £200.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 6, 9 and 16. There were no winners this week, so next week's prize will be £200.

Trio presented trophy from Andy Ferguson



Andy Ferguson, fourth left, presented the winners of his triples bowls competition, Brian Moffat, Suzanne Williamson and Colin MacDonald, with the trophy. They are pictured with runners up, from left, Kevin Douglas, Eddie Downs and Agnes Boyle. Andy, who has been coming to the Fort William Railway Bowling Club with the Broad Street Bowling Club Cowdenbeath for the last eight years, thanked the club with sponsoring the competition.

Photo: Anthony MacMillian Photography.

Jags get vital win away to Erskine

Erskine	1
South Lochaber	3
GGPL - Division One	

This week saw South Lochaber Thistle head to Renfrew, emerging victorious against tough opponents Erskine in a Division One League match.

Erskine had bested the Jags last season, stealing an injury time winner to secure the President's Cup semi-final, a tournament they went on to win.

This time, however, despite a thin bench due to absences and injuries, Thistle were not to be caught unawares.

Despite a howling wind swirling overhead, it was the visitors who took the initiative in the tie. Spritely senior player Daniel Mackintosh, capitalising on a loss of touch from the Erskine goalkeeper after only 10 seconds, nicked the ball away and waltz it into the net for the best possible start.

Erskine soon recovered their composure and began to apply pressure. The

hosts were moving the ball around comfortably, but the experienced heads of player/manager Alan Gray, centre half partner Andrew Martin and veteran midfielder Dave Forbes kept them at bay.

With only 12 minutes on the clock, Erskine were handed a golden opportunity to level the scores. Martin was judged to have followed through with his foot after a headed clearance and the referee had no hesitation in awarding the penalty which was duly slotted away.

What was obvious, however, was that there were goals for the attackers in this game. Captain Martin Munro and returning winger Lewis Morrison were pushing up and linking well with Bradley Cameron, who started the game up top: a just reward for his crowd-pleasing performance getting off the scoring mark last week.

With 20 minutes of the first half gone, it was Munro who pounced to edge the Jags ahead. The wind was making aerial passing extremely

difficult for both teams, but when it broke, Munro was able to scamper away and slot the ball home.



SLT manager Alan Gray.

The rest of the first half and much of the second was played in backs against the wall fashion. Erskine pressed and probed but the quality of Kieron Lopez and John Ferguson at full back and the grit and determination of Gray and Martin allowed Owen Cooke in goals to deal with all that was thrown at them.

Likewise, Forbes continued his profitable partnership

FOOTBALL

with Andrew MacLean, who continued to win everything in the air and provide the link between the attack and defence.

As the clock ticked down to the end, Munro was again released by a ball over the top as the home side pressed on to try and snag an equaliser. Scampering 20 yards, the club's top goalscorer impishly put the ball into the net and the tie to bed.

In his post-match comments, Alan Gray paid testament to his troops: 'Today was a hard one and there are going to be some sore legs tomorrow – least of all mine after 90 minutes. Erskine are a good quality side and we were very good today in some testing conditions. I thought the defence played out of their skins today and we are going to be full of confidence going forward in the league.'

Saturday sees SLT travel to Glasgow to take on Tynecastle in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Lochaber survive Banavie wash out for home victory

Lochaber	34
Moffat	10
West Region Division 3	

In their 50th anniversary year as a club, Lochaber got off to a winning start in the league with a convincing home victory over Moffat.

The day started out with a Ladies' Lunch day for all the women associated with the club.

The weather refused to play ball, however, and made for atrocious conditions for the match at Banavie, which seemed to favour the boys from Moffat.

Lochaber opened the scoring with a try out wide scored by Matt Murray to get a five-point lead. Moffat were able to get over for a very controversial try to level the match, however, after their prop recovered the ball from a Lochaber lineout after standing in a seemingly offside position.

Lochaber were straight back on the scoreboard with captain Callum MacDonald making and Lochaber's third try soon followed. Ryan Davis kicked the ball into the corner and as Christopher Simpson was about to re-gather the ball he was tackled off the ball



Horizontal rain made life hard for players at Banavie on Saturday.

stopping a try which resulted in a penalty try but the referee kept the yellow card in his pocket. That made it 17-5, which is how the first half would end.

Lochaber started to control the game better in the second half and their scrum continued to overpower Moffat's. It was from a dominant scrum that their fourth try came

RUGBY

when a cross-field kick from Davis was gathered by Edward John, who beat the last defenders to score on his debut and, with McCook converting, it brought the score to 24-5.

Jonathan McCook even got his name on the scoresheet with a try after some good attacking play to improve the home side's advantage.

Moffat did hit back with another try after their big tight head prop managed to spin out of the tackle on the line to get the ball down. But it was Lochaber who got the final say in the final play of the game after some great hands in the torrential rain. The ball was worked wide to Koni Johnson, who scored in the corner to make it 34-10 at full time.

Lochaber now travel away to Cumberland on Saturday with a 3pm kick off. The Banavie side expect a tough game with Cumberland starting the season strongly with two good wins.

Lochaber are also through to the quarter finals of the west regional bowl after Shawlands were unable to field a team the week before.

Four-goal Buckie sink Fort to go top

Buckie Thistle	4
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Title contenders Buckie Thistle were made to work for their victory on Saturday, September 14, against a dogged Fort William side.

Three second half goals made it a more comfortable win in the end for the Jags, who now sit top of the Highland League table.

The Fort were under pressure right from the off in this tie at Victoria Park, and Buckie were unlucky not to have taken an early lead.

However, the Fort's forwards began to show why they have become a force

to be reckoned with in the league this season as Roddy Kennedy went close but his effort was blocked in front of goal.



The Fort remained resolute in defence and were not afraid to get close to their markers, with Robert Nevison picking up a yellow card early on. Tempers flared on the sidelines as well as one of Buckie's

coaching staff was also shown a yellow card.

Buckie's breakthrough came in the 41st minute when Jack Murray headed past Fort goalkeeper Martin MacKinnon.

The second half started in a similar manner and within seven minutes the Jags were awarded a penalty, which was duly dispatched by former Fort player Sam Urquhart. The third goal of the game followed just two minutes later, this time through Shaun Wood.

Buckie continued to dictate play and extended their lead in the 70th minute thanks to Scott Adams.

Fort William did create a clear cut chance with 15

FOOTBALL

minutes to go but Donald Morrison's strike was straight at the Buckie goalkeeper Lee Herbert.

The Fort were able to see out the remaining minutes of the match to keep the margin at four goals.

Thistle are now one point ahead of Fraserburgh at the top of the Highland League.

Meanwhile the Fort remain in 14th position thanks to their midweek win against Clachnacuddin last Wednesday.

The Fort are next in Highland League action on Saturday September 28 at home to Deveronvale.

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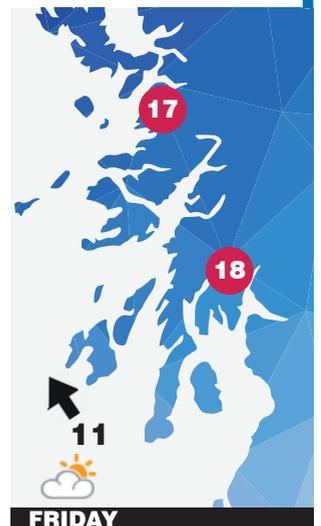


WEATHER

Thursday
Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny and a moderate breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 12, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.21	1.3	08.05	3.6
	14.24	1.4	20.29	3.6
Fri	02.52	1.4	08.38	3.4
	14.58	1.6	21.04	3.4
Sat	03.35	1.6	09.18	3.3
	15.46	1.8	21.51	3.1
Sun	04.39	1.8	10.14	3.1
	17.08	2.0	23.12	2.9
Mon	06.07	1.8	11.55	2.9
	18.57	2.0	**.**	2.0
Tues	02.16	2.9	07.30	1.7
	14.43	3.2	20.37	1.7
Wed	03.19	3.2	08.43	1.4
	15.28	3.5	21.46	1.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Lochaber survive
Banavie wash out
for home victory

Jags get vital
win away to
Erskine

Fort earn first league win in over two years

Fort William	1
Clachnacuddin	0
Highland League	

There were jubilant scenes at Claggan Park last Wednesday night (September 11) when the referee's whistle blew.

Fans rejoiced while simultaneously drawing a sigh of relief – the wait for a league win is over.

After a 74-match run without a win in the Highland League, Fort William finally managed to pull it off, with nearest rivals Clachnacuddin being put to the sword.

In what was a tense affair, the match winner came from 18-year-old midfielder Jack Brown, one of nine players

sent to Fort on loan from Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Despite their recent heroics in the North of Scotland Cup this season – beating Nairn County and Rothes on their way to the semi-finals, scoring five goals in each match – the Fort were still without a win in the league.

Until last Wednesday, their previous league victory was 882 days and 29 months ago on April 12, 2017.

Frenetic

The match got off to a frenetic start with Clach coming close to opening the scoring within just a few minutes. The Fort managed to compose themselves and came back at the visitors, creating two clear opportunities for themselves



The Fort go close. Photos: Abrightside Photography

but neither Robert Nevison and Roddy Kennedy were able to get the ball in the net.

Chances continued to flow between the sides but still the score remained goalless. Jack Brown came closest to getting the first goal for the Fort on the half hour mark but his effort was thwarted by the Clach 'keeper. Soon after, Clach replied but a long range effort only struck the bar.

The ref finally blew time on a frantic first half which should have offered more goals.

Within just a few minutes of the restart the breakthrough finally came for Fort William. And it all started with a throw-out from goalkeeper Martin MacKinnon who found Jack Brown. After a neat one-two in midfield,

Brown continued his run to latch on to a through-ball from the left to evade the chasing Clach defenders. He then coolly slotted the ball past the onrushing 'keeper into the bottom right hand corner to send the 200-strong Claggan Park crowd into raptures.

Grazed

It looked as though he might double his team's tally for the day just five minutes later but his effort grazed the outside of the post.

The Fort were still causing problems for the opposition and the defence weathered the Clach storm for the remaining 30 minutes. Eventually the referee blew time on a historic victory for the home side.



Ben Dignan in action at the recent Super Trial.

Dignan secures British 125 title

Roy Bridge rider Ben Dignan was crowned British trials champion in the 125 category last weekend.

Dignan secured the title on Saturday September 14 in East Lothian.

Riding with a foot injury, the Gas Gas team rider managed to maintain his winning record in the class with a clear margin over his nearest competitors.

His victory meant he topped the category with one round of racing to spare on the following Sunday, meaning he could ride with a little less pressure.

Speaking about the weekend's racing Dignan said: 'I had a slow start and wasn't riding like myself. This weekend was hard for me on Saturday after being on crutches for a week. But I was riding really well yesterday and it was really nice to show everyone how I can ride.'

The British title victory comes after a remarkable 2019 season for the 16-year-old Lochaber rider, which also saw him clinch a podium finish in the youth European championships and a top 10 finish in the youth world championships.

FOOTBALL

The victory means Fort William now sit in 14th place in the Highland League, above Clach, Huntly and Lossiemouth with a game in hand over their fellow strugglers.

The report from Fort William's match against Buckie Thistle on Saturday is inside.

Fort William host Vale of Leithen in the Scottish Cup first round at Claggan Park on Saturday September 21.

The club are hoping for a good crowd as they look to put their name in the draw for the second round. Kick off is at 3pm.



Kieran Chalmers drives into the Clach box in front of the Claggan Park crowd.



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