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One of David Webster's photographs from his trips around the Highlands: The King George V coming up the Sound of Iona at the beginning of the season. The puffer is beached on Iona beach t01cas04

'I have always been interested in show business,' said David, 'When I was living and working London in the 1940s, before I went into the RAF, I went to see almost every show in west end London - I was indoctrinated and learned from them. The whole idea of doing the show was to publicise Scotland. All the slides began and ended with Oban.'

Aside from taking the shows all over the country in winter and even abroad to New Zealand, David was still running his businesses in Oban – thanks he says to loyal staff.

He also had time to join Oban Town Council to which he was elected in the 1950s and from there served as a member for Strathclyde Regional Council, to which he was elected unopposed for 12 years and Argyll and Bute District Council, throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

'I made myself popular by saying things I shouldn't have,' chuckled David of his time as a councillor.

He recalled one incident where he had found out that certain members of the town council had received turkey and bottles from a certain builder in town.

He 'stirred it up' by mentioning it at a town council meeting. 'I felt strongly that we shouldn't accept any sort of gifts,' he said. 'So I didn't make myself popular with some people, but did with others for being a bit outspoken.

'I didn't go on to any council to be paid to do a job, I went on it to serve the people.'

When the unitary authority came into being in 1996, David bowed out of local politics only to be needed into returning four years later to continue 'making himself popular'.

He finally bowed out of local politics in 2003 but retained his interest in tourism by continuing to be a director of the then Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and Trossachs Tourist Board until recently when it was changed into a forum when VisitScotland was centralised all the local boards. He was chairman of the first tourism organisation for Oban

and Mull, as well as being chairman of Oban and Lorn Chamber of Commerce for many years.

Married three times, most recently to Margaret in 1980, David has two sons from his first marriage and a daughter and son from his second marriage.

One son is a photographer in London, with a business providing equipment and props to television companies, another was in the RAF and the third is a hotel manager in Surrey, while his daughter runs a bed and breakfast in Connel.

Asked how he managed to run so many businesses and manage his shows alongside being a councillor, David replied: 'I delegate and usually find I can rely on people – I have seldom been let down by the people I delegate to. Alex Milligan has been at the camera store for 25 years and I have Jonathan Williams and Micahel Tinney at 'Frank Walton's' shop. I find the photographic businesses run themselves.

'The cinema is, however, very time consuming and I have to keep a close eye on that business,' he said.

He negotiates with the film distribution companies and writes all the promotional material himself.

His wife, who runs the businesses alongside David is, he says, a first class photographer and is very good with customers and staff and 'a very talented lady'.

But there comes a time when everyone has to take it easy and the Highland Theatre has now been on the market for eight months or so. David would love to sell it as a going concern but if the right buyer cannot be found to take the building on as a cinema, then he feels they will have no choice but to sell the building for any purpose.

Either way David has well and truly earned his retirement and a place of honour in the town of Oban.