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Village powered hydro scheme could make millions for locals

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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A £1.5 MILLION hydro scheme powered by the big ambitions of a tiny community officially opens next month.

It has taken '10 years of dreaming, five years of planning and nine months of construction' to get the ambitious project up and running in Dalavich.

Residents living in the remote former forestry village, 14 miles down a single-track road from Taynuilt, can expect to benefit from £2 million generated over the next 20 years by selling hydro electricity to the National Grid.

Villagers behind the mammoth scheme, led by project manager Carol Thomas, who lives in The Old School, set up a community benefits society called Awesome Energy (Dalriada) Ltd to run it.

Five people have now been trained and are being paid to carry out regular checks on the hydro turbine, which cost about £225,000 and was shipped in from the Czech Republic.

After a feasibility study in 2012 and planning permission being granted in 2014, the hydro finally went operational on January 31 this year, just four weeks later than planned.

It has partnered with renewable energy business Innogy, owners of Braevallich Hydro near Dalavich, which is allowing Dalavich to share its grid connection.

Dalavich's turbine can be turned up, to top up the power that the larger Braevallich cannot produce, or down.

'Someone in the village once summed it up best saying it's taken 10 years of dreaming, five years of planning and nine

months of construction to make it happen – but here it is at last,' said Mrs Thomas.

During the planning and construction work, mostly carried out by local contractors and professionals, the project – which at one time had eight lawyers working on it – has used stone from the nearby Barracander Quarry, completely renewed part of the village's water supply from the River Avich, has revealed and preserved a Victorian stone power house and weir, and saved a rare rainforest lichen only found in Venezuela and some of the wettest parts of Argyll.

Land to the side of the new timber power house and the pipeline has been leased from the Forestry Commission for 20 years, and the huge pipe carrying the water down the hillside to the power plant had to be dug seven metres deep, out of sight below the sloping ground, leaving the view for visitors unspoiled.

'What makes us worthy is that it's an entirely community-driven project. We've come up against unexpected barriers at every turn but we've got here in the end and what we've achieved is remarkable,' said Mrs Thomas.

A footpath has also been re-routed so people can safely walk a loop, passing the rushing river and round the head of the hydro system. There are also plans for a picnic area.

'The idea of all this was to provide community benefit, not just for the people in the immediate vicinity but the wider community and visitors too.

'We are a tiny community running a significant business. Every penny of profit from Awesome goes to the community benefit

Oban High's wizard world record attempt

ON ITS last day before moving into a new £32 million building, Oban High School is hoping to break the world record for dressing up the most people as Harry Potter, writes Sandy Neil.

Past and present pupils, as well as children from Oban High's feeder primary schools, are invited to join the attempt, donning a wand, glasses, Gryffindor tie and painted forehead scar on Monday March 26 at the school's all-weather pitch.

Sixth-year pupil Lewis Buchanan explained: 'Oban High School has stood on this ground for more than 100 years. However, in April 2018, we are moving into a new building on a different site and the building we are currently in will be demolished.

'We thought it would be a good idea to mark the last day of being in this building with an event. We thought a world record attempt was a fitting tribute and, as Harry Potter is arguably the greatest school story ever written, we would like to try to break the record of the most people dressed as Harry Potter.

'We are also going to do some fundraising for some of



Sixth-year student Des Halewood is helping to organise Oban High's world record attempt to dress 1,000 past and present pupils up as the wizard Harry Potter, on their last day in the old school building. 16_T11Harry Potter02

our additional support needs pupils who are going on a trip, by selling butterbeer and Bertie Botts Beans.'

Another organiser, teacher Aisling Clark, said: 'The current record is 676. We hope to get 1,000. We need volunteers to steward it on the day. The wand

and tie are easily made from paper and we are selling glasses for £1.'

Ms Clark had even spent £20 of her own money buying 1,000 chopsticks to turn into magic wands. 'Any funds made on the day will be given to HCPT,' she added.

'This charity takes children away every Easter. These children are either additional support needs, young carers or have health problems, and this may be the child's first experience away from their family. It offers respite for families and particularly young carers.'

putting around £200,000 in the funding pot with more financial help coming through grants and loans. The main lender has been Social Investment Scotland.

More shares are to be offered for purchase in the future, said Mrs Thomas, with Awesome Energy Ltd hoping it will bring a further £300,000 to the enterprise. The hydro's official opening is on Sunday April 22 when MSP Michael Russell has been invited to do the honours.

Mrs Thomas, with Awesome Energy Ltd hoping it will bring a further £300,000 to the enterprise. The hydro's official opening is on Sunday April 22 when MSP Michael Russell has been invited to do the honours.

Man jailed for 'vicious' knife assault

A MAN has been jailed for 52 months for a knife attack on his ex-partner.

On the second day of his trial, Kamil Florian, 33, of Her Majesty's Prison Low Moss, Bishopbriggs, pleaded guilty to assaulting his partner at her Oban home on September 23, 2017, by repeatedly striking her on the head and body with a knife to her severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

Florian's sentence was deferred until Tuesday March 13 for reports, when his defence agent, Edward Thornton, told Oban Sheriff Court: 'Mr Florian accepts it is inevitable his relationship with the complainer is at an end.

'Although this was an incident of violence, it does seem to be isolated. He is realistic there can be no other disposal other than custody.'

The court heard Florian had a record of prison sentences in Poland, but since each case was suspended, this would be his first time in custody.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty was granted a non-harassment order banning Florian from contacting his ex-partner for 10 years, given the crime's 'extreme' and 'casual' violence.

Imprisoning Florian for four years and four months, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This was a vicious and unprovoked attack on a defenceless woman. As a result [she] is scarred for life. I accept you do feel some remorse.'



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Husband blasts fatal crash sentence

THE HUSBAND of a Kilniver woman killed in a head-on road smash has hit out over the leniency of the sentence given to the driver who caused the accident.

Andrew Shann said he was 'disgusted' with the outcome, which saw Christopher Taylor, 30, avoiding jail after being convicted of causing death by careless driving.

Mr Shann's wife, Yvonne, 56, died following the accident on a country road near Oban on December 30, 2015.

Taylor was ordered to perform 300 hours of unpaid community work and was banned from driving for 22 months.

Mr Shann said: 'I am disgusted. It's just ridiculous. He has gone from being charged with death by dangerous driving to death by careless driving to getting community service. The law is an ass.

'It's just unbelievable. The thing is, there's nothing you can do about it, you just have to take it. [Our children] are absolutely gutted.'

The High Court in Glasgow heard Taylor was originally charged with causing Mrs Shann's death by dangerous driving, but a jury convicted him of the reduced charge of causing death by careless driving.

Judge Lord Beckett told Taylor: 'A middle-aged woman who was driving safely and responsibly died in a head-on collision which you caused. Her family are left to grieve and her husband and three sons are still struggling to come to terms with it.'

The judge said there was no suggestion there was anything wrong with Taylor's driving until he pulled out to overtake.

Lord Beckett said to Taylor, a first offender: 'I am satisfied your remorse is genuine.'

He banned Taylor for 22 months and warned him if he did not carry out the unpaid work, he could be jailed.

Mrs Shann had to be cut free from her Citroen and died more than a week later in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

The fatal crash took place on the A816 Lochgilphead to Oban road.

Taylor, of Rothesay, Isle of Bute, had a young child in his Peugeot at the time. The crash happened at night on the 'twisty and windy' road.

The court heard Mrs Shann – who lived at Home Farm, Kilniver – could not have done anything to avoid being hit.

His defence counsel, Dale Hughes, said: 'Mr Taylor has expressed regret and guilt.'

FIRST PERFORMANCE

OBAN SYMPHONY

By NORMAN NICHOLSON

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CalMac expands training programme

FERRY operator CalMac is expanding its modern apprenticeship (MA) programme to include harbour operations.

The company has joined forces with Forth Ports Ltd to devise a new port operations MA, the first time the port owner has partnered another company to deliver specialist training. CalMac operates out of 33 harbours and slipways and apprentices will learn all aspects of loading, unloading and securing cargo, mooring, passenger operations and workplace transport operations.

CalMac director of human resources Christine Roberts: 'Increasing training opportunities was a key commitment of our successful bid to continue delivering ferry services across the west coast and

'I'm delighted to announce the expansion of our MA programme.

'These will be the next generation of staff with the key task of ensuring the safe berthing, loading and unloading of our fleet. Port operators need to learn to deal with everything from fishing boats to cruise ships.

'This new MA will give them the ideal foundation to build a career in harbour management.'

Over the 15-month programme of on-the-job and classroom training, MAs will qualify to SVQ level 2 in port operations along with an additional industry qualification in plant and health and safety.

Training will be carried out at ports across the CalMac network and at Forth Ports' centre in Grangemouth.

Jackie Anderson, HR director from Forth Ports, added: 'We are thrilled to be working in partnership with CalMac. We are pleased to support the skills and development of people within the marine and port sector.'

This year CalMac will be recruiting 25 MAs - six deck ratings, four engine ratings, 10 retail ratings and five port ratings.



CalMac will take on 25 apprentices this year.

Islanders fear new GP contract could dismantle rural healthcare

SANDY NEIL
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RESIDENTS of the isles of Luing and Seil have voiced concerns about the impact of proposed new GP contracts in Scotland.

Seventy five islanders, just under half the population of Luing, filled Toberonochy Hall at a public meeting on Monday last week organised by Luing Community Council.

It heard some services current-

ly carried out locally by rural GPs could be handed out to centralised health teams, making them more difficult to access and increasing waiting times for an appointment.

The contract has been negotiated between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Scottish Government and has been agreed by the GP workforce.

The first phase is due to be implemented in April 2018.

At the meeting Dr Miranda Barkham, a GP at the Easdale

Practice, expressed her concerns about the effects the changes could have on local services: 'The way we deliver services such as vaccinations currently meets the needs of the local community.'

'The new GP Contract threatens to dismantle rural healthcare and bring years of uncertainty for GPs and patients.'

Fiona Rogers, convener of Luing Community Council, added: 'Our local doctors deliver an excellent service at the moment, so why try fixing something that

isn't broken? The lack of public consultation when drawing up this contract is disgraceful.'

'With significant changes in how services could be accessed, people across Scotland should have been involved at a much earlier stage.'

'Our own practice said it knew very little about this until a month ago. Patients were not consulted.'

'There is now an attempt to get feedback from patients. Unfortunately the feedback has to be given by the end of March, which

does not give us much time.'

'The government must now ensure it listens to local communities and take into account the needs and priorities in rural areas.'

Councillor Kieron Green said: 'Communities across Argyll are clearly worried about the implications of these potential changes to health services.'

'The council has already indicated support for rural GPs in challenging this contract and it is now important people make clear to the Scottish Govern-

ment this must be reconsidered.'

The BMA has said the new contracts will bring significant benefits to GPs in every part of Scotland, including rural and remote areas.

The final shape of services is still to be decided on at a local level and feedback at workshops will help inform these decisions.

Representatives of patients from four GP practices in Oban, Appin, Connel and Seil are meeting next week to give feedback to the Scottish Government.

Working hard to reduce, recycle and reuse on Mull

THE MORE MESS, Waste LESS project, run by Mull and Iona Environmentally Sensitive Solutions (MESS) and managed by Mull and Iona Community Trust, has been working hard over the last eight months to help people reduce, recycle and re-use more.

Highlights have included a workshop and a Christmas event at An Roth, making beautiful decorations out of old materials including tin cans; the MESS fashion show with fabulous upcycled dresses and, more recently, installing food waste composters with two local businesses and at the Bunesan Island Castaways shop.

These composters can take all cooked and raw foods and will reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill. Good news for the environment as well as for keen gardeners who will benefit from the compost produced.

Savings so far amount to 77 tonnes of materials - electricals, cans, plastics, glass, card, paper and clothes - being diverted from landfill and 61 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided.

The project is offering Mull schools a recycling lesson; promoting beach and village cleans and running free up-cycling workshops where people can learn how to maintain their bike, create beautiful woven baskets from waste plastic cartons and give their old furniture

a new lease of life. There will be an end-of-project celebration on Thursday March 22 at Craignure Village Hall to review the project's achievements and enjoy a low carbon lunch.

The event is free and everyone is welcome to attend but please book so the project can avoid food waste!

Look out for more details on the Island Castaways and Everything Mull Facebook pages, as well as in Round and About and on local posters.

As many islanders as possible are being encouraged to use the food waste composter in Bunesan and anyone interested in reducing their food waste should contact Siân on sscott@mict.co.uk/01680 812904. Compost caddies will be provided. All the project asks in return is for people to keep a simple record of what and how much they put into the composter.

A form will be provided. People are encouraged to sign up in advance so the project can provide training to everyone using it to ensure it is being operated correctly.

The community trust has applied for a further grant which, if successful, will enable it to continue and build on this work.

Anyone interested in using the Bunesan food waste composter or who has a question about recycling should visit www.mict.co.uk or contact Siân on sscott@mict.co.uk / 01680 812904.

Skye charity dinner raises more than £3,000



Gwen Culbertson, left, and Angela MacGillivray.



Waitresses, left to right, Mairi MacDonald, Jenni Stokes, Jacqui MacKinnon, Marlene MacDonald and Lynsey Finlayson.

A CONVERSATION between two Isle of Skye friends has led to more than £3,000 being raised for The Highlands Support Refugees.

Gwen Culbertson and Angela MacGillivray organised a fundraising event after the pair were moved by the plight of refugees in Syria and across Europe.

Having supported a collection for The Highlands Support Refugees organised by Sleat Primary School last year, the friends decided they wanted to do more.

Tickets were sold for a Middle Eastern inspired dinner at An Crubh in Sleat, with catering provided by Croft No 8 caterers. The event was supported by local businesses and individuals including Cuillin Brewery, Flòraidh, Isle of Skye Candles, Isle of Skye Chocolate, Kinloch Lodge, Lenz Ceramics, Love Skye Photography, Lusach - the Gaelic Gins, Prabanna Linne, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, SE-ALL, South Skye Cycles and Williamson of Inverness.

Guests were shown powerful images of the voluntary work The Highlands Support Refugees undertakes and Sleat

resident Andy Neison talked about his experiences working as a dentist in refugee camps abroad. Entertainment was provided by local musicians Hector MacInnes, Rick Taylor and Simon Larson.

A raffle for a night's stay in Kinloch Lodge Hotel raised £1,000, with the lucky winner, Mairi MacLeman of Fortrose, announced on the night. There were plenty more great raffle prizes and a silent auction of giveaways from local businesses.

The girls hope to raise £4,000, so a large container can be dispatched to Greece.

Gwen and Angela said: 'We were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone who attended and supported the event. We would love to see a container shipped to Europe. This is a cause we feel strongly about and we hope other communities across the Highlands and islands will support this fantastic charity.'

If you would like more information or would like to get involved visit www.thehighlandssupportrefugees.com or email: sleatfugees@gmail.com



The Croft No 8 team served a Middle Eastern menu.

Film club nominated for national award

YOUNG film programmers from Tìree walked the red carpet this week after being nominated for national recognition at the 2018 Into Film Awards.

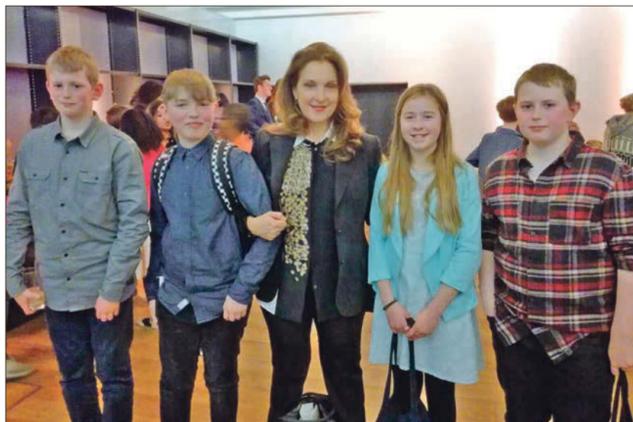
Their Into Film club was nominated for its exceptional engagement with film and they attended a star-studded ceremony, hosted by TV and radio presenter Gemma Cairney, at BFI Southbank on Tuesday March 13, though they didn't win.

Tìree Film Club leader Jen Skinner said: 'We were thrilled to be nominated as Film Club of the Year. Tìree has a population of 650 and the nearest cinema is four hours away by boat.'

'Our biggest highlight last year was welcoming Jim Parkyn from Aardman. He made Morphs with most of the children on the island and adults. He talked about his work at Aardman and introduced films. He inspired some future animators, with one girl saying it had been 'the best day ever'.

'This year we started our young film programmers group and it was fantastic to hear their ideas including a spooky Halloween screening and a snowball fight during a festive screening of Elf.'

'One of our young film programmers has also gone on to be a youth adviser for Into Film, which is an amazing opportunity for him. Running our film club opens up the world of cinema not



Tìree Film Club members were thrilled to meet film producer Barbara Broccoli when they attended the awards this week. Left to right are Finlay MacKinnon, Forrest Lockhart, Barbara Broccoli, Emily Armstrong and Innes MacKinnon.

just on Tìree but connects us with activity across the UK, enabling us to share ideas and broaden our experiences.'

The awards were hosted by film education charity Into Film, which engages with more than half of UK schools and count Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Michael Sheen and Naomie Harris among their ambassadors. The awards pay tribute to outstanding five- to 19-year-olds who have shown exceptional achievement in film-making, film reviewing or within their film clubs and to educators who have demonstrated inspirational use of film in the classroom.

Anyone interested should contact donald.murray@hient.co.uk.

Artist chosen for Hebrides project

NEILSTON-BASED artist Julie Aitken will travel to the Outer Hebrides to engage young people in nature and the environment through workshops backed by the Future Routes Fund.

Future Routes is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and administered by ReRoute, Scotland's Youth Biodiversity Panel, with support from Young Scot.

Julie was one of 11 applicants chosen from across Scotland to develop a project to encourage young people's interest in nature during the Year of Young People.

Harris beach among the best

LUSKENTYRE, on the Isle of Harris, has been named the second best beach in the UK and the 16th best in Europe by TripAdvisor.

The Isle of Harris beach ranks above beaches in locations including Sardinia, the Turkish Aegean coast and Brittany.

Bournemouth beach in Dorset was judged best in the UK, fifth in Europe and 14th in the world.

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Workshops will help Barra and Harris firms innovate

FREE workshops are taking place this month in Harris and Barra with a focus on how businesses can benefit from innovation.

The Co-Innovate programme was launched last year to encourage research and innovation. Small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in some of the most fragile areas of western Scotland are among those which will benefit.

The first workshop will be held at Tàlla na Mara, Harris, on Tuesday March 20. Jamie McGowan, owner of Essence of Harris, will speak about

how innovative ideas helped him grow his business. A second workshop will take place at Castlebay Community Hall on Thursday March 29. Jane Morrison-Ross, chief executive of Taigh Chearsabhagh, will talk about the innovative approach which has helped the arts and heritage centre to develop in North Uist. Each workshop will run from 10am till noon.

Donald Murray, Co-Innovate programme manager at HIE, said: 'These workshops will explain how the programme can benefit businesses in

the Outer Hebrides. Each company's needs around innovation development are different. The programme supplies the tools and support to help innovate, differentiate and compete successfully. It can help businesses identify opportunities for growth and create a vision to make it happen. There will also be mentoring and consultancy as well as grants for research and innovation and for SMEs to engage an intern for cross border collaborative projects.'

Anyone interested should contact donald.murray@hient.co.uk.

POLICE FILES
with Sergeant
Iain MacNicol

Trailer stolen

SOMETIME between 2pm on Friday March 3 and 10am on Monday March 5, a 24-foot blue and black boat trailer was stolen from Port Beag, Gallanach Road, Oban.

Dangerous

AT 7PM on Tuesday March 6, on Dunollie Road, Oban, a blue Saab car was allegedly driven in a dangerous and erratic manner.

Police stopped the vehicle and the driver, a man aged 38, was found to have no licence, no insurance and no MOT.

The car was seized and the man was charged with the offences. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Serious assault

A MAN suffered a fractured jaw after he was assaulted at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 27, at Railway Pier, Oban

The incident was reported to police on Thursday March 8. On Friday March 9 a man, aged 24, was arrested and charged with the offence. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Speeding drivers

ON SATURDAY March 10, on the A85 near Tyndrum, two motorists, a man aged 46 and another aged 41, were stopped for speeding.

The drivers were charged and reports will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Woman charged

FOLLOWING a report of a woman behaving in an abusive manner in a house in Dunbeg, a 55-year-old woman was arrested and charged at 3.30pm on Saturday March 10. The woman was held for court and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Injured in assault

A MAN suffered facial injuries after he was assaulted by another man in a house on Dunollie Road, Oban, at 10pm on Saturday March 10.

The incident was reported to police and a man, aged 48, was arrested and charged.

He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

ANYONE with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact their local police office on telephone number 101 or, anonymously, through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Last Meals on Wheels for Oban and the Islands

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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THE LAST Meals on Wheels deliveries go out in Oban and the islands next week.

After weeks of uncertainty, letters to Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) volunteers have only just been received, giving them notice Friday March 23 will be their final day.

Volunteers who wanted to keep the service going have complained of being 'dropped' by the charity after 40 dedicated years of delivering meals to some of the area's loneliest and most vulnerable people.

Sam Ward, director of com-

missioned services for the Royal Voluntary Service, confirmed, following a review, the service delivered by Royal Voluntary Service in Argyll and Bute would stop by the end of March.

'We are keeping in close communication with our volunteers, who along with our staff members have worked tremendously hard to deliver the council meals and their efforts have been hugely appreciated.

'We would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely,' she said.

But volunteers feel they have been left in the dark about any alternative scheme being put in place to help service users.

One of the Oban volunteers, who did not want to be named, said: 'Surely something must be in place to replace it by now but we haven't been told a thing. We feel as if we've just been dropped.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Kieron Green said: 'There have been assessments to see if the people who were using the service need any care in its place and that could include meal preparation that would be provided as part of a general care package or a new care package.'

'I'm not sure of the exact status but that's what was planned to make sure no one would be disadvantaged.'

'Meals On Wheels is a service which has been widely supported by local volunteers who have found it rewarding and many people in the community who have really appreciated it.'

A Health and Social Care partnership spokesman said service users have now been contacted and alternative options have been discussed and put in place, where necessary. Anyone who feels they still need an assessment should contact social services on 01546 605517.

'The partnership wishes to thank the RVS management and volunteers across the authority for all the time and effort they have given to the elderly

community and wish them the best of luck with the rolling out of their new innovative projects,' added the spokesman.

Three volunteers are hoping they can keep the service going through a different project as part of another community scheme.

John Bottomley, who volunteers on the island, said: 'We received a letter from RVS with the final decision that they are withdrawing from the service. The last delivery will be made on March 23. Cùram on Tìree are trying to come to an arrangement with the health and social care partnership so that the service can continue.'

Roundabout concerns as £340,000 is spent on new barriers

A £340,000 project to fit and upgrade crash barriers along the A85 between Oban and the south of Dunbeg could take up to four weeks.

The project will see more than 1,800m of safety barriers installed or upgraded along sections of the route from the north of Oban to the Halfway House Filling Station.

Work started last week and motorists are being warned to expect some delays. The A85 will stay open during the project but there will be temporary traffic lights.

The project was identified as part of an on-going study to improve road safety, following 'The Oban Times' campaign, Stay Alive on the A85.

But now residents in Dunbeg are concerned the crash barriers could jeopardise the possibility of a roundabout being built on that section of road.

Dunbeg Community Council chairman Sean MacIntyre said: 'Does that mean the roundabout is not going to go ahead? I don't think it will ever happen. The people in this village were sold the idea of two roundabouts.'

Argyll and Bute councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'There are on-going talks about this. We want to see the roundabout in.

'We are asking the same questions as you are. We have to get the funding bodies together.'

A member of the public said: 'I think by putting the traffic barriers there, people will see them and think they need to slow down, then they will come out and start speeding up and go past the road end faster.'

'In a way it's like saying we will just give them a crash barrier and they will shut their mouth.'

Flu shuts care home

A FLU and viral outbreak has shut Eadar Glinn care home in Oban to new admissions.

Health bosses made the decision to close the home in Dunmore Road on Tuesday afternoon as a precaution.

Tests are now being carried out at the 25-bed facility and the situation will be reviewed on a daily basis, said a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

'As a precaution, the Eadar Glinn residential home in Oban has been closed to admissions following an outbreak of flu and viral illness among the residents and staff,' he said.

Oban marks International Women's Day at event

DISCUSSION, poetry, music and food were part of an International Women's Day celebration at Oban's Rockfield Community Centre.

Women and men from all walks of life joined in the event on Sunday.

The day started off with political discussion followed by lunch and an open-mic afternoon of entertainment including music, poetry and tribute covers of female singers. A children's play corner was a big hit with youngsters.

Rockfield Community Centre's creative support worker Kirsty Macdonald said the day was a huge success.

'We did it last year, but it's much bigger this year. We started with a discussion with input

from a panel of local activists and looked at what barriers there might be in the community to stop women from playing a part in shaping and influencing what happens.

'It seems making meals and looking after the children can still be among those barriers, which is why we had a shared lunch and made sure people knew they were welcome to bring their children along! We had about 20 people come to the morning session with more joining us for the afternoon,' she said.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson was at the event - but women still make up less than one third of all Argyll and Bute councillors, pointed out Ms Macdonald.



Rockfield Community Centre hosted this year's International Women's Day celebration in Oban.

Campaigners launch Dalmally pylon protest

SANDY NEIL
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CAMPAIGNERS in Dalmally have launched a petition opposing a 'monstrous' plan to install 25, 150-foot tall pylons near the village.

The structures would be twice as high as the 29 pylons already there, prompting fears they could cause cancer.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) plans to reinforce the transmissions network in north Argyll, including a new overhead cable linking the substation in Stronmilchan with a new substation near Cladich. SSEN is consulting communities around Dalmally, Kilchrenan, Portsonachan and Tainuill next week on the proposed location of the new Creag Dhubb substation and the alignment of the new 275kV power line connecting Creag Dhubb and Dalmally.

Campaigners met last night

(Wednesday March 14) in Dalmally Community Centre 'to pull together responses, questions and opposition ideas'.

A leaflet posted to households said: 'This will take the form of 25 pylons, twice as high as, and in addition to, the current monsters, passing as close as 50m to residential properties in Dalmally and Stronmilchan.'

The protesters fear the pylons will risk their health, negatively affect property prices, cause wildlife, tourism and livelihoods to suffer, and have a 'staggeringly grotesque' visual impact.

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council secretary John Kerr said there is 'great opposition' to the 'additional overhead high voltage line and pylons 'oversailing' Dalmally'.

'One of the main concerns is health,' he added, pointing to 'several studies' into childhood leukaemia 'which show that a child, under 15, born within 600m of a high voltage line is roughly at double the risk of

contracting leukaemia, than a child born outwith this distance'.

Mr Kerr also pointed to villagers' worries when the first pylons were put in, citing a *Guardian* article from 1991 'specifically referring to "cells" of cancer deaths in Dalmally which lies under the existing Scottish Power high voltage connector between Cruachan and Glasgow'.

In it, Dalmally mum Eileen Mackay, who lived in Glenview estate, under a 275,000 volt electricity pylon, detailed all the cancer deaths from the same two streets in the last five years: 'All the victims were in their 40s or 50s. There seems to have been up to nine cancers from 36 houses - a rate [she] regards as "astounding".'

Cancer Research UK explained: 'There is little strong evidence to link power lines to adult cancers or to most types of childhood cancer. But some studies have suggested a statistical link between exposure to

magnetic fields and a higher risk of childhood leukaemia.

'We don't have enough convincing evidence to be sure whether the link is real, but if it were, the impact would be small - only around one per cent of childhood leukaemia.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson told campaigners: 'We share your concerns. To my knowledge the planning application has not been lodged yet. When it is, letters of objection from members of the local community, the community council and ward councillors can and, I am sure, will be lodged.'

Councillor Kieron Green added: '[I] am strongly advocating the option of an underground cable.'

SSEN's lead project manager, Jean Lewis, said: 'Our proposals to reinforce the network in North Argyll have been developed based on a balance of environmental, technical and economic considerations. Any views or concerns raised

Man charged after second sheep attack

TWO HORRIFIC attacks on flocks of sheep, the latest just one week after the first attack which left four sheep dead, with a further seven having to be put down, have taken place near Inveraray.

On Sunday March 11, police captured two husky-type dogs after they were spotted loose among sheep at 5.20pm in a field behind the former Inveraray police station. Three sheep are said to have sustained injuries in the latest attack.

Police attended and two dogs were seized.

The owner of the dogs also attended the scene.

The 55-year-old man, who has not been named, has been charged under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and will appear in court at a later date.

The two attacks happened a few hundred yards from each other.

Do you have a story?
Call the newsroom on
01631 568000

Fined for careless driving

A 38-YEAR-OLD man has received seven penalty points and a £500 for careless driving on the A828.

Robert Murray of Tigh Sanos, Barcaldine, pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of careless driving when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday March 12.

The court heard that in September 2016, Murray attempted to overtake another vehicle when it was not safe to do so near Sutherland's Grove.

This resulted in the car having to 'break heavily' to avoid a collision and ending up on the verge at the side of the road.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty described the offence as being at the 'upper end' of the careless driving spectrum.

In Murray's defence, it was said that he did not fully appreciate that he was not travelling quickly enough to carry out the manoeuvre.

Trust moves closer to Rockfield Centre goal

OBAN COMMUNITIES Trust has received a £420,000 grant that will move it closer to its goal of opening the Rockfield Centre as a community hub.

The money is part of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) from the Scottish Government and COSLA, which supports local regeneration.

Speaking about the good news, trustee Gordon McNab said: 'This is a massive help. It's another

huge step in the funding ladder to support the capital works project.

'We have to say a huge thanks to the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council.

'At the moment, we also have an award from the Big Lottery fund, smaller awards and we are waiting to hear from another which we have applied for.'

Mr McNab also revealed that, in May, people will be able to buy 'community

shares' and become owners in the project, saying: 'This will be a chance for the community to buy community shares - which will be a first for central Oban.'

Oban Communities Trust is hoping to raise a further £400,000 from the community shares project. Trustees are trying to raise a total of £2.5 million before the end of the year to allow the refurbishment work to begin.

McGinnes, said his client was a former army cadet and trained in the use of fire arms.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'It does not matter how familiar someone is. Air weapons should be licensed.'

'If you don't have one, you can't have one of these weapons.'

Sheriff Hughes deferred the matter for three months good behaviour.

Unlicensed air weapon

A 36-YEAR-OLD man has been found guilty of possessing an air weapon without a certificate.

Joseph Miller, of 43 Rhuvaal Road, Oban, pleaded guilty to the charge when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday March 12.

When police found the weapon on April 14 of last year, Miller said he simply had not got round to applying for the certificate.

His defence solicitor, Kevin

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OT

Pick a patch and clean up Oban

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgiffiths@obantimes.co.uk

LITTER busters across Oban are being called on to help keep the town beautiful.

A Facebook group, started last year, has attracted more than 200 followers and it is hoped to sign up businesses, streets, groups, clubs and other organisations willing to dedicate a weekend from March 24-25 to rid areas of the town of rubbish. Letters about the big spring clean are going out this week to 400 local businesses to hopefully get them on board.

And Maurice Wilkins and other volunteers from the Keep Oban Beautiful group are inviting anyone else interested in getting involved, from weekly groups to neighbours, to make it a town-wide event and get in touch with their chosen hot-

spot so they can map out all the areas being targeted.

'We're going to be putting up posters to get people's attention. We'd love to make this a town-wide event and get as many people involved as possible to make Oban a litter-free town as well as a university town.'

'It would be great to see that up on a sign coming into Oban one day.'

'We know there are a lot of people who already pick up litter, which is great. We're not trying to take over people's efforts. We're just wanting to bring it all together a bit.'

'Bid4Oban are helping us by contacting local businesses and we've put it up on our Facebook and the Information Oban site,' said Mr Wilkins.

Litter picking equipment will be available for loan on the weekend from Rockfield Com-

munity Centre, which will be the event's hub. Support is also coming from the GRAB Trust, a charitable social enterprise that has been backing activities linked to litter and recycling in Argyll and Bute for 20 years.

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust is also helping. It has supplied hi-viz vests to the group in the past and has agreed to buy a number of litter-picker sticks. 'Quite a few people have been in touch already as word about the weekend spreads but we hope to hear from many more,' said Mr Wilkins who worked as a head gardener at Arduaine Gardens for 23 years.

People taking part are also being encouraged to take before and after pictures over the weekend to show off the difference they make. Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to provide a cage basket outside

Rockfield Community Centre to collect the rubbish which will be picked up on the Monday, said Mr Wilkins.

A van will also be doing the rounds during the weekend to clear the full rubbish bags.

Mr Wilkins said: 'The weekend will be a bit of an experiment for us.'

'We hope it will be a success and there will be lots of enthusiasm for cleaning Oban up.'

'Ultimately we are organising this event in the hope the day will come when we won't need to do anything like this because everyone will take responsibility for binning their own litter - and not just dump it around town.'

Anyone interested in supporting Keep Oban Beautiful's Spring Clean should contact c.rizos@btinternet.com or call 07891 543540.



Maurice Wilkins, one of the organisers of Keep Oban Beautiful.

Workshops will focus on books

THE IONA Abbey Library Project is bringing two exciting workshops to Oban.

A book conservation workshop will be held on Wednesday April 11 from 11am to 2.30pm at Atlantis Leisure, with conservator Fiona Anderson.

At this free, drop-in event those taking part can make and decorate their own book, learn techniques for cleaning and repairing older tomes and bring their own poorly books to a 'first aid' corner.

Anyone attending a similar event on Saturday May 12, from 11am to 4pm, also at Atlantis, will be able to create a handmade book based on the inspiring Celtic designs found in the project's heritage collection. A variety of techniques will be demonstrated - gelli plate printing, stencils, textural rubbings, paper piercing and paper craft. Experienced book craft artisan Jo Caskie will share her expertise in paper folding, stitching and rolling techniques to create a finished article.

This workshop is aimed at those aged 16 and over and there is a suggested donation of £5 to take part. Space is limited so pre-booking is essential. Email toben@tobenlewis.com or call 07522 767121.

Oban Lions need your old glasses

OBAN and Lorn Lions Club is appealing to local residents to donate their old glasses for the Recycle for Sight Appeal, which gives the gift of sight to people in developing countries.

The spectacles will be sent to Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana and Nepal, where eye care and prescription glasses are not available to those who need them most.

'In just about any home, you will find at least one pair of glasses that are no longer being used,' said Lions press officer Jim Edge. 'That pair of glasses can change another person's life. The inability to see clearly can prevent children from learning in school and adults from finding work, but by working with other Lions clubs around the world, we can bring clear vision to millions.'

Glasses can be dropped off at the doctors' surgeries in Oban and Connel, Oban's three opticians, Atlantis Leisure, Hope Kitchen, *The Oban Times* and in Rockfield and St Columbas primary schools.

Applications wanted for fund

COMMUNITIES in Argyll and Bute are being urged to take advantage of a fund to help them improve their resilience before applications close on Tuesday May 15.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks has opened the 2018 Resilient Communities Fund with £220,000 available for non-profit-making organisations, community groups and charities.

To find out more or to download an application form, visit ssn.co.uk/resiliencefund.

Apprenticeship places with SSEN

SCOTTISH and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) is encouraging candidates in the Western Isles looking for a career in the energy industry to apply for its 2018 apprenticeship programme before the application deadline on Sunday March 18.

For more information visit: www.ssen.co.uk/Careers/Apprenticeships/.

Landowner denies illegal felling of a dozen trees on Soroba site

A LANDOWNER facing an allegation of illegal tree felling near Soroba House in Oban says he is sure he is in the clear, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Graham MacEachen, who bought the plot of land in 2016, said he took professional advice before the trees were taken down last month.

Mr MacEachen, a qualified architect, said by the time the dead, dying and dangerous trees were taken 'out of the equation', the number of healthy trees he felled on the site would be 'well below' the number that officially needed a Forestry Commission licence.

The trees do not have protect-

ed status but Forestry Commission Scotland confirmed it was investigating the 'alleged illegal felling of a dozen large trees' on land near to Soroba House.

Mr MacEachen from Oban said: 'I took advice from a local tree surgeon and we think we didn't need a licence.'

'It's early days, but I'm planning on building a house there for myself and selling a couple of plots. No one is ever happy when you talk about putting houses up, but no one is furious about it or the trees as far as I'm aware.'

'I've spoken to residents at a meeting to tell them about my building plans but it was nothing specific about the trees. The

land had become overgrown. To get to the dead wood, some healthy trees had to be felled,' he added.

Mr MacEachen has since met with Forestry Commission officers at the site to explain his project. He said: 'I explained I would be replanting some trees and using trees as screening for the plots and they seemed happy with that.'

People living near the site had previously told *The Oban Times* they assumed the landowner had got the permission needed to fell so many trees.

'We saw it happening and just thought the landowner would have got permission first. They

were lovely trees. A lot of them were tall oaks,' said one man, who asked not to be named.

Another man said he was happy more light was now getting into his home.

Felling work has stopped on site.

A Forestry Commission spokesman said: 'Forestry Commission Scotland is currently investigating an alleged illegal felling of a dozen large trees.'

Investigations by the commission can take days or weeks, depending on circumstances. If illegal felling is found and a conviction is made, in some cases there can be fines of up to £2,500.

Oban friends reunited at dinner dance



Former pupils of Oban High School gathered at the Royal Hotel on Saturday for a reunion.

GUESTS travelled from far and wide to be at the 51st Oban High School reunion this weekend - including a man from Africa.

The dinner dance at Oban's Royal Hotel attracted more than 45 former pupils, including Roy Scobie, 60, who works in Ghana as a marine engineer. Mr Scobie, who left Oban High School in 1974, met up with classmate from the past James McLoone who now lives in East Kilbride and has just retired from the fire service after 30 years.

'I'm thrilled to be back in Oban. I've been looking forward to seeing my pals,' said Mr Scobie.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish was the guest

speaker. For the last 50 years, the reunion has been organised by a Glasgow branch of former pupils. But 2018 brought change with a new group of organisers based in Oban.

David Brown was one of them. He said: 'We're pleased with this year's numbers and hope to see even more people from Oban here next year.'

'It's good to see everyone get together and catch up. We've had people travel quite a distance to get here, including one man from Africa who made the trip specially to be here and one lady who, at a very young age, was on the first reunion's organising committee.'



Parsley the cat with his owner Fiona Ferris and his yarn bomb tribute.

Who's who? Spot the real Parsley

OBAN'S furriest celebrity came face to face with a knitted version of himself at the weekend.

Parsley the cat, who has a world-wide fan base, was outside Made In Argyll craft shop on Saturday to see the town's latest yarn bomb revealed.

Yarn bombs have appeared on bollards near the train station over the past few months, but the identity of the maker has remained top secret.

Other hand-made yarn bombs keeping the wooly Parsley company include a man in a kilt and film characters Thelma and Louise.

Speaking on behalf of a

rather proud Parsley, his owner Fiona Ferris said the popular pet was 'feline' most honoured to have a yarn bomb modelled on him.

'He's rather impressed - especially by the tail. He says it's almost as good as the real thing!'

'He's privileged to be honoured in this way and tempted though he is, he has promised not to have a scratch at the post.'

Parsley was also invited to do the honours and pick a winner from Made In Argyll's Mother's Day competition after 15 people entered pictures of their lovely mums into a prize draw to win vouchers to spend in the shop.

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For the love of Oban...

KAY McDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IT'S FAIRLY obvious that I love living in Oban and I could go on at length about the joys and benefits, and frequently do, especially on a nice day - and I'm not alone in that.

There are people all over the world who come from Oban, have been to Oban, or who have aunts, uncles or friends who live here. It seems you can't go anywhere without meeting someone who has a connection.

My connection is fairly basic - Oban is my home, with all that means to me. I love the place and the people; I love the beauty and the friendliness; and, weird as it sounds, I even love the thought that one day I'll be in Pennicuik Cemetery with all my family and friends.

This all came out of a conversation with friends and left me curious about other people's connection to Oban, how they came to be here or know of Oban and how they feel about it. So I'm putting the question

WHERE IS THIS?



out there and I would really like to know how everyone else feels about Oban and their connection to it, no matter where or who you are and then perhaps I can share it with everyone.

I have a friend who moved here in the 1970s to work for one summer season and was still here 17 years later; an uncle who left Oban in his early 20s, who is now in his 80s

and still reads *The Oban Times* every week.

What's your connection? Email kay@bid4oban.org or write to Kay McDonald, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA.

Last week's photograph was of the wall near the Railway Pier and I think most of you would have got that one.

This week's is of something a wee bit newer, so keep your eyes open!

New designated car park could solve congestion

COUNCIL officials are looking for a single site where contractors working on Oban's new high school can leave their vehicles without causing congestion.

Pensioner Angus MacPhee previously made a stand against workmen parking their vans outside his home in Lynn Gardens by creating a barricade of wheelie bins.

Mr MacPhee, 69, is worried the vehicles taking up residents' parking spaces could block family, friends, nurses and emergen-

cy services from getting access to people living there. Mr MacPhee said: 'I'm sick of it. I want the boys to earn their money. I want the school to get its new site finished but we also want to be left alone and for them to park elsewhere. We've had enough of it.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council told *The Oban Times*: 'We are currently looking at the feasibility of parking in an area of Mill Park for vehicles associated with the project.'

Councillor Jim Lynch, who has been supporting Mr MacPhee's campaign, said: 'One of the areas we are looking at is the old council yard that had the fire but no decision has been made yet. We are looking to see if we can alleviate the problem and make it a bit easier. It could be better if all the site workers were parking in one place.'

He added: 'I'm also looking to see if I can get some kind of official sign saying 'residents' only parking'. We couldn't enforce it, but it might help.'

Calor Gas customers get cold treatment

SHORT supply of bulk Calor Gas is putting a freeze on supplies for customers, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Problems with oil refineries and a major pipeline bringing the fuel to the mainland has created exceptional circumstances, leaving some off-grid bulk gas customers in rural communities across Argyll without gas or with worrying low levels.

One of those customers is 72-year-old Ronnie McCord from Dalavich. He contacted *The Oban Times* after giving up trying to call Calor Gas for help. He said: 'I'm totally out. I started trying to ring them when I had 13 per cent left - but that was six weeks ago. I've got no hot water but I do have a multi-fuel stove to put on at night. It's like an ice-box upstairs though.'

A Calor Gas spokesperson said recent atrocious weather had hampered efforts to bolster supplies in Scotland, although problems have been UK-wide, adding: 'It is going to take us a few weeks to catch up with the backlog but we are doing our best. Our advice is for any customers with 25 per cent or less left to give us a call. We will get out to them, but we need plenty of notice. The sooner we know, the better. In the meantime, people should use what they have sparingly.'

For advice, call Calor Gas on 08081 495332.



Ronnie McCord could be waiting weeks for a top up of Calor Gas - until then he has no hot water.

Development group looks at Dunbeg pitch upgrade

DAVID MCPHEE

dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

A POSSIBLE upgrade of Dunbeg's derelict football pitch has taken a step forward with the inception of a village development group.

Although still in the preliminary stages, the group would be responsible for revamping and maintaining the pitch, which is situated near Kirk Road.

However, if this is to happen, more volunteers are needed.

Dunbeg Primary School's football coach Steven Macaulay has been vocal in his criticism of the pitch. He said there is currently nowhere for children to play, as the school's pitch is on a hill and is boggy.

He continued: 'When football is being re-introduced to the village school, it's about time something was done about where the children can play



Dunbeg's Primary School pupils with their football coach Steven Macaulay who is keen to see the village's sports pitch revamped.

07_11_Dunbegpitch02

football. What's the cost to maintain a pitch with so much history? I'm not sure, but some of the memories on that pitch are priceless.'

Steven, who has been coaching the primary school pupils since last year, added: 'We should be

putting more into the community.'

Speaking at the Dunbeg Community Council meeting on Monday night, secretary Allan Robinson said: 'We had a development group meeting, but it's early days.'

“ Going back to the early 1990s, that was the place everyone went ”

Community councillor Marion Power

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Elaine Robertson said: 'There's money, but we have to wait until the group is up and running. This gives us something to work to.'

Fellow councillor, Kieron Green, previously pledged his support for developing the pitch

saying 'it would be brilliant'. Community councillor Marion Power said: 'The council sent a letter to people saying they wanted to build a road there. But we all objected and that belongs to us. Going back to the early 1990s, that was the place everyone went. They had the charity days and football matches there but in the mid '90s this all stopped.'

Dunbeg resident Shirley Inglis suggested getting a new textile bank that would make money for the newly-formed group.

She said the current one is full and hasn't been emptied for two years. Shirley told the community council there's a company that picks up donated clothes weekly.

Speaking about the pitch, an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The pitch is in a poor condition and we have no identifiable budget to carry out the required works.'

Forum for listed building owners

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara and the Listed Property Owners' Club (LPOC) are to host the first Listed Property Owners' Forum in Scotland.

The forum, which aims to help current and future owners of listed buildings deal with the challenges of looking after the nation's historic properties, is being held in Helensburgh Parish Church, Colquhoun Street, on Saturday (March 17) from 10am to 2pm.

All owners of listed buildings and anyone considering buying one are welcome.

Anyone wishing to attend should email their name and contact details to events@lpsc.scot.

Deadline for nominations

NOMINATIONS are invited until Thursday March 22 for volunteers to serve as community councillors on Argyll and Bute's 56 community councils.

To become a community councillor, you must be a resident within the community council area you would like to join and be on the electoral register.

Find out more about becoming a community councillor at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-councils

Success for Argyll school leavers

ARGYLL and Bute school leavers continue to go on to positive destinations after finishing secondary school - with the latest figures showing 94.7 per cent of youngsters in Argyll and Bute going into further or higher education, employment or training three months after leaving school.

Charity wine tasting event

TICKETS are on sale for a wine tasting event to help fund an Oban teenager's charity trip to Chile.

David Lapsley, sommelier at the Etive Restaurant in town, is hosting the Chilean-flavoured event on Monday April 2 at 7.30pm. Proceeds will go towards supporting Megan Evans who is fundraising for a trip in August to teach English to disadvantaged youngsters. She needs £6,000.

Mr Lapsley offered to help after reading a story about Megan in *The Oban Times*. He is also raffling tickets to win a case of Chilean wine. Twenty tickets, priced £15 each, are available for the wine tasting. For tickets call 01631 564899 or go to [eat@etiverestaurant.co.uk](mailto:etiverestaurant.co.uk)



MSP Michael Russell pledges his support for striking SAMS lecturers. 07_11_SAMS01

MSP backs lecturers

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Michael Russell visited the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg last Friday to support lecturers who are on strike.

SAMS union members have been striking for the last month over changes to their pension, which could see a typical lecturer £10,000 worse off per year.

Mr Russell, who is a member of the University and College Union, said: 'The important thing for me is to make sure there's a recognition for the case of the institution and the people they employ, and to make sure they are back round the table.'

Lecturer Estelle Dumont said: 'It's good to get his support. "We don't want to be on strike. We are looking for a solution.'

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Specsavers' teams up-skill awareness in glaucoma - the silent thief of sight

In the build up to World Glaucoma Week this week, Specsavers teams have been up-skilling to better support patients with the condition.

Often symptomless in its early stages, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible sight loss. It is thought to affect 700,000 people in the UK today, but as many as 50% of cases are undiagnosed*.

In conjunction with the International Glaucoma Association, Specsavers has developed training for its retail teams to assist sufferers with their treatment. Specifically, they will be advising on how to effectively administer eye drops, which are crucial for managing the condition.

This new training complements the skills held by Specsavers' optometrists, who have collectively completed almost 5,000 post-graduate glaucoma accreditations since 2017, through a variety of accrediting bodies including Cardiff University and the College of Optometrists.

Alan Murphy was just 37 when a trip to Specsavers found the early stages of glaucoma. Thanks to early detection, his



condition is now managed by using eye drops daily.

Alan, now an advocate of regular eye tests and good eye health, believes early diagnosis and careful management has saved his sight. He says: 'I would strongly urge people to go for regular eye tests, and to make the most of the advice and support provided by their local optician.'

Karen Osborn, chief executive of IGA, says: 'The majority of people who are diagnosed early with glaucoma will retain useful sight for life. Most will be treated with medical eye drops. Unfortunately we know from calls to our helpline that many people aren't told about how to put the drop in the eye correctly, or aren't advised about the aids that are available to help them. We are delighted to work with Specsavers on this often overlooked aspect of glaucoma management.'

*RNIB State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017



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Eye health clinic in store

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Specsavers
Transforming eye health

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Muckairn

THE Muckairn Guild met in the church on March 5, and this gathering's theme was: 'Go in love'.

After the hymn 'Jesus I have promised to serve you to the end', Jessie Servant read of the love of Jesus and his exhortation to love one another.

Marlene Stanners then welcomed Beth Campbell and Marie McDougall from Hope Kitchen.

Beth began with a quote from Bob Kerry: 'Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly and most under-rated agent of human change.'

Beth and Marie then spoke of the work done by the Christian charity at New Hope, as it is now called.

They and many volunteers welcome people with many difficulties, such as homelessness, poverty and loneliness, providing hot meals, washing facilities, advice and company, as well as, when needed, clothing, bedding and food.

The meeting closed with the hymn 'The church is wherever God's people are praising'.

Inveraray



Donnie Munro.

SCOTTISH music legend Donnie Munro and his band are to headline the 2018 Best of the West Festival at Inveraray Castle on September 7-9.

The former Runrig frontman will perform songs from his earliest Runrig days through to his own most recent compositions.

Born and bred on the Isle of Skye, Donnie's career has spanned almost four decades.

Speaking from Scorrybreac House, his Isle of Skye home, Munro said: 'I am absolutely delighted to be playing this exciting event for the first time and to performing in such an amazing and historical setting. This is a great venue for people to come and share music and my experiences throughout the years has shown me what a wonderful atmosphere is created in such special locations.'

'I am very lucky to be bringing with me, some of Scotland's finest contemporary musicians, most of whom have formed the backbone of my live and studio band over recent years but who have also enjoyed great careers as musicians in their own right. They have played with some of the major names in folk, rock and pop music, including Kate Bush, John Martyn, Fish, Strangeways, John Reid's Night-crawlers and many others and I am extremely lucky to have such amazing players to form my band.'

Helensburgh



MEMBERS of the public are invited to get involved in progressing the £18 million Helensburgh Waterfront Development.

The project has taken another step forward with a formal 12-week public consultation which began on February 26.

This pre-application consultation is required as part of the planning process for major developments such as the regeneration of Helensburgh waterfront.

Councillor Ellen Morton, chairwoman of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee, said: 'The development project is all about creating a vibrant and attractive waterfront for the town.'

Easdale and Luing



Easdale and Luing Primary Schools have together netted the first prize in a film competition.

Schools join forces for award

EASDALE and Luing Primary Schools have together netted the first prize in a film competition with their short feature about the life cycle of a farmed Atlantic salmon.

The competition was organised by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), based at Dunstaffnage, as part for the EU Horizon 2020 Aquaspace project.

The three-year Europe-wide project aims to find space for aquaculture industries to grow in a sustainable way.

The film competition was open to local primary schools in the Oban and Lorn area, with a brief to make short films about where the fish on their dinner plate actually comes from.

SAMS scientist Dr Suzi Billing and SAMS resident film-maker Andy Crabb, who has previously travelled to local schools to run workshops on fish-farming as well as film-making, visited Easdale school to congratulate the teachers and the pupils of both

schools, and to present the prize of £200 in Amazon vouchers and give them a 'big' certificate.

Dr Billing said: 'I really enjoyed talking with the students about the fish and shellfish which are farmed right on our doorstep here in Argyll.'

'They had some great questions and were very keen to learn. It was so nice to see a good number of submissions, even though we set a pretty tight deadline.'

'A huge thank you to all

of the schools that participated.'

Andy said: 'We had some excellent entries from all the schools who took part, full of imagination invention and humour.'

'Lochnell and Taynuilt schools also picked up prizes, but after some considerations the judges chose Easdale and Luing's joint entry as the best overall. It combined a lot of creative elements, some great art work and was cleverly put together.'

'Congratulations to all.'

Appin

Trust buys whistles for Feis

FEIS na h-Apaine are celebrating the Year of Young People with the purchase of eight Low D whistles made possible by a very generous contribution from the Appin Community Trust.

Chairwoman of Feis na h-Apaine Fiona Hutchison welcomed the trustees to the Feis and thanked them for their considerable support.

Dr Iain McNicoll, Jessie MacKenzie and Bob Cornish, trustees, along with Marina Curran-Colthart of Feis na h-Apaine joined in a group session with some of the local talented musicians.



Feis na h-Apaine received eight Low D whistles thanks to the Appin Community Trust.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Sentence far too lenient

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR has been sentenced to carry out 300 hours of unpaid work for a crime he committed.

What was his offence? Something reasonably anodyne, you might think.

But no. He was convicted of causing death by careless driving – a charge reduced from causing death by dangerous driving.

The 30-year-old carried out a desperate overtaking manoeuvre on a 'twisty and windy' section of the road between Oban and Lochgilphead that resulted in a head-on collision which caused the death of Kilninver woman Yvonne Shann, 56.

Mrs Shann did nothing wrong and was driving carefully, points recognised by the judge who sentenced Taylor at the High Court in Glasgow last week.

With no thought for the dangers and very real consequences, Taylor put lives in peril with the way he drove. And he killed Yvonne.

The judge said he was 'satisfied that your remorse is genuine'.

However, that doesn't wash with me. Yvonne Shann's husband, Andrew, and family are left with an unbridgeable gulf in their lives that was caused by Taylor.

I have spoken to Andrew Shann on a few occasions and fully understand why he is 'disgusted' with the leniency of the sentence imposed on Taylor.

As we report elsewhere this week, he said: 'I am just disgusted. It's just ridiculous. He has gone from being charged with death by dangerous driving to death by careless driving to getting community service. The law is an ass. It's just unbelievable. The thing is, there's nothing you can do about it.'

From our conversations, I can tell Andrew is a measured man not prone to outbursts. If anything, his words are understated.



Yvonne Shann.

I don't know what you have to do to receive a jail term these days if killing someone by 'careless' driving is not sufficient.

I sincerely hope someone in the Crown Office asks for a review of the sentence in this case. It simply does not reflect the Shann family's suffering.

Wake-up call for fish farms

THE SCOTTISH Government's environment, climate change and land reform committee has warned the planned expansion of salmon farming over the next 10 to 15 years, aiming to grow the industry by 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes,

Mull



Tide Lines will play on Mull this month.

Top acts head for isle

THERE are a number of events taking place in March on Mull.

Comar, An Tobar and Mull Theatre will be hosting events such as art displays and musicians, while the Aros Hall will have traditional music band Tide Lines in the building.

Tina Scopa's plant and earth paintings will be showcased in the An Tobar Gallery until March 30.

As well as this, John Goldie will be playing in An Tobar on Tuesday March 20.

John, who will start his set at 8.30pm, is described as a 'world-class acoustic guitarist, incorporating a wide range of influences including jazz, blues, Celtic and funk'.

Tide Lines will take to the Aros Hall on Tuesday March 27 from 8.30pm.

Jura

ARGYLL and Bute charity Home-Start MAJIK has been awarded a £18,125 grant from the Scottish Children's Lottery to support local families in areas such as Jura.

Home-Start MAJIK (Mid Argyll, Islay, Jura and Kintyre) supports families across Argyll and Bute, including Cowal and Bute, with at least one child under the age of five.

Aiming to give children in the area the best start in life, the charity responds to the needs of each family and offers one-to-one support, group sessions and home visits to parents and carers.

Sharon Erskine, acting manager and coordinator at Home-Start MAJIK, said: 'We are aware that there is no rule book for raising a family and it can seem overwhelming at times.'

'Our volunteers are trained to support local parents in giving their children the best start in life, and we are more than grateful to Scottish Children's Lottery – and the people who play – for supporting our core service.'

The Scottish Children's Lottery was launched in October 2016 to raise money for children in Scotland, with proceeds helping to improve the lives of children right across the country and make a real difference to those who need it most.

Dame Anne Begg is trustee of Chance to Flourish, which operates as a society lottery under the Scottish Children's Lottery.

Chance to Flourish supports projects that work within the area of social development of pre-school children and their families and carers, making a positive difference to children's lives in their early years.

Dame Anne said: 'I am delighted that we are able to provide funding for Home-Start MAJIK from the monies generated from the Scottish Children's Lottery, which was established to promote and support the development and potential of children and young people in Scotland.'

'Thank you to those who play the Scottish Children's Lottery – you are helping to support the great work that our charities undertake.'



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Are you ready to get MAD with Atlantis Community Leisure?

Saturday 19th of May see's our first oneOff Muddy Atlantis Day. With gallons of mud, icy water and some shocks along the way. We are creating a 10k cross country assault course designed to challenge and test you. Get a team together or go solo and join in on a fun filled and crazy challenge right here in Oban.

The MAD team are creating some gruelling obstacles up some gut-busting hills, over craggy cliffs and through the chilly west coast sea. Keep your eyes peeled for sneak peaks of what they have in store for you.

Entry is £25 (plus booking fee) per person for age 16+

All money raised is going towards Atlantis Community Leisure 25th Birthday Fundraising campaign to upgrade the original facilities in the centre.

Raise extra money for our community centre and collect sponsors; download a sponsorship form or set up a sponsor page.

Build your team; grab your friends, work colleagues or gym buddies and attack this together.

Looking for some team mates? Head to our Facebook group (MAD- Teams) and find like-minded comrades.

We also have our wee MAD event for 8-16-year-olds.
The course involves loads of obstacles over a shorter distance and is taking place between 9-10am before the adults set off.
Entry is £10 (plus booking fee).

There will be spectator areas and it is completely free to come and watch.

Looking for the Campbells

When she befriended a man who had been one of the last Hebridean drovers, **Terry J Williams** wanted to find out more about his former colleagues. In this first part of a serialisation of her book, she explains how she did so.

I had spent a day at the North Uist Show with a smaller version of the Highland Drover exhibition at Dingwall hoping to meet people interested enough to share memories of the cattle sales of the 1950s and 1960s when my friend Ian Munro used to go across to work on the island as a drover. Local people expressed enthusiasm for my project, invited me into their homes, plied me with food and cups of tea and were usually still sharing stories when I left, often several hours later.

In the family croft on South Uist, John Macmillan soon had us surrounded by photographs and papers as he generously shared his wealth of local knowledge. He told me his great-great-grandfather used to keep 600 cattle on the rugged east side of the island. I brought out an archive photograph of a sale in progress and he picked out his grandfather in the crowd. Had I noticed a big stone enclosure as I left the main road? That was Milton Fank where the sale used to be held, though it had been much altered and added to over the years and was still in use for handling the crofters' livestock. The voice recorder caught story after story.

Back in the van I spent the evening typing up my notes. Two names caught my attention: Neil and Simon Campbell. Back in Dingwall, Ian Munro had told me to look them up. Their family croft, he remembered, was near Lochboisdale.

Neil Campbell's wife answered my phone call. Yes, I could come to see him any time at all for wasn't he retired now? Just come, any time.

Looking two decades younger than his 82 years, Neil welcomed



A sale at Milton in South Uist in the 1950s, with George McCallum auctioneering.

me with a firm handshake. He was not impressed to hear of his unsought fame. There was a pride in him nonetheless when he began telling me about droving cattle, recalling the exhaustion of long days in difficult conditions and frequently poor weather, with insufficient helpers and uncooperative animals. The drovers' skill had been vital to the sale and transfer of island cattle to the mainland, and he assured me that, whatever information I might get from other people, only those who had actually walked with the cattle knew the full story.

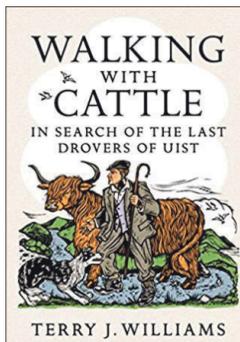
I heard about the cold and the beasts running off, and no fences and the dogs, and the pay of £8 or so for the week's work and the long days out in the weather...

'Some of the cattle were easy enough,' said Neil, 'but you would get the awkward ones, oh yes, trying to get away all the time. They didn't have time for grazing ... There's something

else as well. You were without food all day. Well, later on in years there were vans going round but that time, when I started out, nothing ... I must be the oldest at this end of the island that was involved with it. There used to be another five of us.' His brother Charlie was no longer with us, he said, but Simon still lived in the family home near Lochboisdale. Was I going to see him? Yes – and I'd been given instructions for finding the house.

Simon Campbell was waiting for me as my van bumped gently along a grassy track towards a plain grey house with smoke streaming from the chimney. Once again, I was made me to feel like a special guest.

There was a clear family likeness between the two brothers but each cast a different light on their droving days. Neil's tales of hardship and misadventure turned to comedy in Simon's telling of them. Hardly had I set



up the recorder than we were out walking the roads with the cattle. Gesticulating, eyes flashing, he brought each scene to vivid life. At several points, he jumped up from his chair, miming the effect of island hospitality on a mainland cattle dealer or a beast leaping over a fence with men and dogs in pursuit. His voice rose and fell to suit the drama of

the occasion, the rhythms of his native Gaelic underpinning his answers to my English questions.

The result was almost musical. Gaelic was the first language of nearly everyone who helped me. An occasional slight pause between my question and the response hinted at the moment it took to shift their instinctive answer into English for my benefit. I brought out my file of photographs and we were soon putting names to faces among the dealers.

'That's Andrew Hendry from Stirling there,' said Simon. 'And then there was a Mr Binnie – the one on the right, I think. Then the one on the left is Ian Oswald ... Some of them were staying here – was Neil telling you? ... They were sleeping down in the room. Bob Love and Tom Adams and Willie Hendry and Andrew Hendry. Two double beds down there, just two in each bed. They were staying here until my mother got old.'



The office car – a scene common to all the island sales in the 1950s and 1960s.

A tingle ran up my spine. I was sitting by the fire next to the room where the cattle buyers had slept and a tea tray was waiting for me in the kitchen where they had eaten their meals. It all suddenly felt very real. I mentioned that the Dingwall team had stayed at the Lochboisdale Hotel. Oh yes, Simon remembered, and the Oban folk stayed 'at our neighbours down here. They would phone to say they would be home at eight or nine o'clock. Maybe the sale was finished at six o'clock but there was a couple of jars going after that and sorting the cattle ...'

His mother, wanting to have the dinner ready as soon as her lodgers got in, would put the potatoes on to boil at eight o'clock, but 'they would be nine o'clock and after nine,' said Simon. 'She was worrying about the potatoes getting cold.' Her neighbour, wiser to the ways of these cattlemen, waited until they came through the door before putting the potato pan on the stove. 'And then there was drama going in the house down there,' said Simon. 'They were getting good feeds and they were happy.'

I thought there must have been a lot of fun as well as a great deal of hard work. 'Oh yes,' said Simon, 'down at the pier and watching them going on the boat and this hullabaloo going on. There was never a dull moment. You would get a wee dram now and again. That was keeping morale going. There was no such a thing as tiredness, no.'

The Campbell brothers had both been eager to share their memories and, as I played back the recordings, I realised that each of the three drovers had spun me a different colour of the same yarn. Ian, the son of a mainland farmer, found wonder in sights and sounds that Neil and Simon had known all their days. For them, the adventure began with the arrival of the twice-yearly cavalcade of strangers in their midst and the welcome break in routine that the sales provided. Their talk was of the characters, the disasters and funny incidents along the way that enlivened the journey. They were on familiar ground, they knew the cattle and the people and, of course, they were at ease in their own language.

'At every second croft you would hear the weavers at work,' Ian had said and I could almost hear the soft thud of cattle hooves, the clack-clacking of the looms as crofts came and went, the constant booming presence of the Atlantic. By the time I reached the islands, only the last of these was unchanged. Ian's was the thread that had led me here and now I held two more. My task was that of the weaver.

□ This is an edited extract from *Walking with Cattle: In Search of the Last Drovers of Uist* by Terry J Williams, which is published by Birlinn, price £7.99, and first published in *Farming Scotland Magazine*.

Travelling back in time

MORVERN LINES
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SOME years back, a few of my columns were made up of extracts from old copies of *The Oban Times*. As they appeared to be of wide interest, here are a few more for this week.

Mull Lairds at loggerheads – amusing proceedings

A most amusing affair, which recalls the old days of Highland clanship, has occurred in Mull within the past few days.

Mr Dugald Cameron MacLachlan of Oban, who has recently bought the estate of Aros, thought he could claim the rocky 'Glaseiler' [now called Eileanan Glas] in the Sound of Mull, which, as far as the longest memory, or perhaps the oldest tradition proves, has followed the estate of Pennygowan.

In order to justify his claim, the proprietor of Aros commanded his men to take possession of the 'debatable' island. Some sheep belonging to Colonel Gardyne of Glenforsa, the proprietor of Pennygowan, were accordingly ferried away and replaced by a number of sheep from Aros estate.

Upon hearing of this forcible occupation of his 'territories', the gallant colonel despatched his men immediately to the spot. Mr MacLachlan's sheep were taken off, and the former 'blackfaces' set back.

Mr MacLachlan retaliated by taking Colonel Gardyne's sheep off a second time, but the colonel continued the campaign, to the no small amusement of the neighbourhood, by driving the invaders away once more. Then, for the third time, Mr MacLachlan's men took possession of the island, and signified their intention to 'hold the fort' by firing six defiant shots from a rifle.

The matter has caused intense amusement throughout Mull, and reminds people of the old clan feuds with which their folklore is so replete. The whole proceedings have arrived at a stage which cannot be adjusted out of the law courts.



Lochaline House: built 1819, demolished 1899. Picture: Iain Thorne

It is said that neither party can produce documentary evidence to substantiate his claim, and that both rely on tradition alone for proof, but the long time that the island has been in possession of Colonel Gardyne is a strong point in his favour, though it is alleged that the estate which has the shallower intervening water can claim the property. [April 1900.]

Mary MacFie's dog

'Sir – your issue of the 19th inst [Oct] contains a communication from the pen of "Historicus" in reference to Mary MacFie's dog. Historicus could not have seen the remains of Mary's dog before it was too far advanced in decay to distinguish, or form a correct judgement, as to whether they were the bones of a dog or a cat.

'Without the shadow of a doubt, the skeleton on the rock shelf near Mary's cave, was that of her favourite and only companion, her dog "Sonnachan". [When the dog died, Mary had its remains pickled in whisky and placed on a ledge at the entrance to her abode which was near Cameron Farm on the West shore of Lochbuie.]

'My recollection of the matter dates back to 1840. My home at that time was well within half a mile of the cave, consequently I had often a peep at the remains. At the time referred to, the dog was in a fair state of preservation, with the hair almost intact, but when I left the district in 1854 it was rapidly decaying.

'The animal was once blamed for pilfering and eating some herring-net buoys, made out of sheep skins. Mary resented the

accusation by composing some doggerel verses clearing her favourite character from the unfounded charge.

'One of the verses was afterwards set to lively dance music by the then Mrs Maclaine of Lochbuie, the present laird's grandmother.' [Letter, May 1907]

Old mansion house dismantled
Another of the old Morvern mansions – Lochaline House – has been dismantled by the proprietor, Mr T Valentine Smith of Ardtornish.

This house was built in the year 1819 by Mr John Sinclair, proprietor of the Tobermory Distillery, who had shortly before then bought the Lochaline Estate from the Duke of Argyll.

It is interesting to remember that Mr Sinclair was married to a sister of Dr MacLachlan of Rahoy, perhaps the sweetest singer among our modern Gaelic bards. On Mr Sinclair's death, the property passed into the hands of a Mrs Paterson, in whose times nearly all the crofters on the estate were evicted.

Several years ago, the property was bought by Mr Smith. The fate which now befalls Lochaline House happened several years ago in the case of Ardtornish House, which was for a time the home of the Sellars of Sutherland-shire clearance notoriety.

Near it is the ruined castle of Ardtornish, built over 500 years ago by the Lord of the Isles, and which for a long time was the recognised seat of the Clan Donald chiefs. [Report 1899].

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Day in the life of Argyll's lead pharmacist Sandra



Over the coming year *The Oban Times* is running a series of fortnightly articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality.

Each article will feature a specific service provided by the HSCP and will focus on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas.

This week we look at the work of the lead pharmacist for Argyll, Sandra Melville.

SANDRA Melville is Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's lead pharmacist based in Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

In 1998, after several years' experience in community pharmacy,



Sandra saw the opportunity to develop pharmacy services in the newly opened hospital in Oban. Since then she has built a comprehensive service which includes the pharmacist/nurse-led chemotherapy unit.

Sandra's role as lead pharmacist is an integral clinical part of Oban HSCP healthcare teams. On a daily basis, she works with doctors, nurses and other

members of multi-disciplinary teams with her priority always being patients.

She is a prescriber of chemotherapy, which is beneficial to cancer patients, allowing many to be treated at the hospital rather than travelling to Glasgow. She also advises on a selection of medicines, dosage and administration.

Sandra gives professional specialist advice and checks the compatibility of medications for inpatients, closely monitoring potential side-effects and interactions to ensure that patients prescribed medications are effective.

She is a familiar and welcome face during daily inpatient ward rounds. She checks patient drug charts, and if a patient has been newly admitted, she checks their notes to see why they have been admitted and to gain more understanding about the patient's medical history and medication requirements.

This involves close working relationships with local medical practices and other primary care pharmacies.

She assesses individual patients to help them select the most appropriate therapy, taking account of factors including their existing medication, health history, lifestyle and their capacity to understand and follow suitable treatment and care plans.

Sandra loves working and living in Oban. She was attracted to Oban by the wonderful rural lifestyle and feels fortunate to live in such a strong spirited community where people genuinely care about each other.

Sandra has no problem balancing work and the many outdoor leisure activities she enjoys.

She is a keen sailor, enjoys wild swimming and skiing on the nearby Scottish slopes.



The hyperbaric chamber at Dunstaffnage.

Decompression chamber is saved

A NEW diving and underwater research company in Oban, Tritonia Scientific Ltd, has taken over the operational management of the hyperbaric therapeutic facility at Dunstaffnage.

The unit provides emergency treatment for divers who are suffering from decompression illness, otherwise known as the bends.

It was threatened with closure when the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) indicated it could no longer support the facility.

Tritonia Scientific has retained most of the specialist technical and nursing staff from the unit and will continue to operate in association with doctors from the Lorn Medical Centre who have supplementary training in diving medicine.

Taking on this role will ensure that the facility retains its status as one of only three NHS-registered emergency treatment centres for decompression illness in Scotland.

The Dunstaffnage unit is responsible for providing NHS treatment for divers from the

whole of the west coast of Scotland, including the islands, and its operation supports various diving sectors such as recreational diving, fish farm diving, shellfish harvesters and civil engineering diving.

Dr Martin Sayer, managing director of Tritonia Scientific, said: 'It is obviously important for everyone diving on the West Coast to continue to have access to this treatment facility.'

'If it had closed, then anyone suffering from decompression illness would have faced the probability of being transferred to Aberdeen for their treatment.'

'Some of the divers we have seen over the years have presented with very severe symptoms and obtaining appropriate care without the need for further transfers may well improve the chances of a good outcome.'

There is a Scottish helpline for anyone involved with a diving accident and they should telephone 0345 408 6006 and ask for the hyperbaric doctor on call. Alternatively, the unit can be alerted through the Coastguard channel 16.

Cowal Community Hospital exceeds casualty targets

COWAL community casualty department at Cowal Community Hospital in Dunoon has exceeded Scotland's national accident and emergency waiting time targets.

A&E performance figures monitor patients' waiting times for admission, discharge or transfer for accident and emergency treatment.

The casualty department operates by bringing together a wide range of professional experienced nurses and GPs to provide quality person-centred care and treatment.

There was a total of 636 patients in January from around

Cowal peninsula requiring accident and emergency services, 99.8 per cent of them accessing services within four hours and thereby exceeding national quality care performance targets.

Jayne Lawrence-Winch, local area manager for the hospital, said: 'Winter months can put pressures on services.'

'I am really pleased with the excellent target of 99.8 per cent. As always, staff remain professional and focused on delivering improved services meeting better outcomes for patients. I am thrilled to reflect on the good news.'

Cathedral's new Provost Margi Campbell tunes in to Oban life

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgiffiths@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S new provost of St John's Cathedral is well-tuned to Argyll and the Isles.

Former music teacher and lifelong choir singer Margi Campbell takes up her new post in May and she will also be rector of St James' Ardbrecknish and a gathered congregation that meets at Kilbrandon.

The Rev Campbell, whose organist husband James is taking early retirement to move with her, has visited the area on many occasions over the years and already 'feels at home'.

Mrs Campbell is looking forward to encouraging and enjoying the music that plays a big part of the cathedral's life, even though keeping busy with her new role means she will not be signing up to any of the town's choirs or music groups just yet.

'I'm looking forward to encouraging and enjoying the music and celebrating it as part of church and community life first,' said the Rev Campbell, who used to teach the subject to primary school children.

And she added: 'Music and liturgy have been at the heart of all my parish and diocesan ministry, exploring how we can be both missional and welcoming in our worship.'

The Rev Campbell, who grew up in Kent before moving to Somerset, was ordained 16 years ago and, until this spring, will keep up her role as rector of Backwell in the Diocese of



The Rev Margi Campbell has been a regular visitor to Argyll and the Isles.

Bath and Wells and as rural dean of Portishead.

Argyll and the Isles Bishop Kevin Pearson said Mrs Campbell was one of three 'very strong candidates' for the job. 'We were unanimous that the Rev Margi was the right person to become our next provost,' he said.

The Rev Campbell, who has two sons and whose sabbatical in 2016 first brought her to Argyll and Iona, said: 'We've been

drawn here, gently nudged over the years. We've spent a lot of time visiting Argyll and the Isles and just felt this was the place for us. We already feel at home.'

Mrs Campbell and her husband, whose son Tom will be on Mull soon filming eagles as part of his MA in wildlife film-making, had already bought a house in the area for their eventual retirement but they will be living in the

rectory. Their other son Ben is a research physicist.

'We look forward to meeting everyone and beginning a new stage of our pilgrimage of discovery.'

'I come knowing that I have much to learn as I transfer all my experiences into the Scottish Episcopal Church, but do so with confidence because of the wonderfully warm welcome we have already felt from those we have met,' she said.



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Fri. 16 Mar. 2018, 1000 - 1300, Corran Halls, Oban

Mon. 19 Mar. 2018, 1000-1300, The Enterprise Centre, Lochgilphead

TWITTER AND HOOTSUITE

A workshop for businesses that already use Twitter as part of their digital marketing and want to produce more engaging content. We will also go through the features of Hootsuite and how it can help streamline your activity on social media.

Tue. 20 Mar. 2018, 1300-1600, The Enterprise Centre, Lochgilphead

LINKEDIN FOR BUSINESS

Want to boost your business with LinkedIn? We'll take you beyond networking and show you how it can market your products and promote your brand.

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Thu. 29 Mar. 2018, 0930-1230, West Highland Housing Association, Oban

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visit www.bgateway.com/events

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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 15th March	Saturday 17th March	Sunday 18th March
Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns Quiz night at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win £20 bar voucher
Oban Health Walk Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am	Mary's Meals Easter Craft and Coffee Morning Connel Village Hall 10am-noon	Monday 19th March
Netherlorn Piping Society Recital Argyllshire Gathering Halls 7.30pm	Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Declan's Irish Weekend The Irish Imposters Open till 2am	Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns Free jukebox every Thursday	Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group) Furan Gaelic Centre, noon-1.30pm	Oban Photographic Club Meeting Regent Hotel 7.15pm-9.30pm
Friday 16th March	Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All day	Tuesday 20th March
Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College. 9am-11am	Family Quiz Kilmore Village Hall 7pm-10pm	Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am
Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Final Tainuill Winter Ceilidh Tainuill Village Hall 7.30pm	Irish Dancing Classes St Columba's Cathedral Hall 4.15pm-5.45pm
Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Declan's Irish Weekend Rox Revival Disco with Neilly & Neil Open till 2am	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns Live Music with Davie Rollo from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	Wednesday 21st March
FREE workshops KEEP YOUR BUSINESS SAFE ONLINE (CYBER SECURITY ESSENTIALS) McCaig Suite, Corran Hall 10am - 1pm To book a place contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 808363	Sunday 18th March	Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns Live music with Torsa from 9pm. Free entry Open till 1am	Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban Lorne pub quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
	Hill Walk Fort William All Day	WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

Tiree Music Festival announces first acts



Jamie MacDonald is the new youth artistic programmer for the Tiree Music Festival.

Tiree Music Festival has confirmed its first acts on the official TMF Facebook page for this year's festival.

The line-up includes Skip-innish, Skerryvore, Wolfstone, Trail West, Martyn Joseph and Elephant Sessions. More acts will be announced on the Facebook page and website in the coming months.

The festival will run from Friday to Sunday, July 13 to 15 this year. The early bird tickets already sold out in 48 hours in November.

The multi-award-winning festival was founded in 2010 by Tiree locals Daniel Gillespie and Stewart MacLennan, and it has continued to sell out every year since. It has also won nine national awards, most recently Best Small Festival at the National Outdoor Event Awards.

Tiree Music Festival also announced a new youth artistic programmer for 2018 in partnership with the Year of Young People, a year-long initiative

by the Scottish Government to create a platform for young people aged eight to 26.

Thirteen young people applied for the role of youth artistic programmer at TMF and the organising team were amazed at the high calibre of entries. After much consideration, Jamie MacDonald, who is from the Isle of Tiree and has recently graduated with first class BA honours degree in Applied Music, has been confirmed as the successful candidate.

Jamie has a keen interest in the culture, music and language of the west coast of Scotland, and he is passionate about creative arts, especially music and the traditional music scene.

Jamie said: 'I am so delighted to have been appointed as the youth programmer for Tiree Music Festival. As a local to Tiree, I have always attended the festival, whether as part of the crowd or playing as part of

my own band, so it is a huge honour to be given this opportunity to become part of the organising team. I can't wait to get started.'

New to TMF 2018 will be the Elevate stage. This new outdoor stage will showcase the best talent on the Scottish music scene with its line-up focusing on up-and-coming Scottish artists.

The Elevate stage is supported by the Year of Young People 2018 event fund, managed by EventScotland and part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate.

During 2018, Scotland will put its young people in the spotlight, celebrating their talents, contributions and creating new opportunities for them to shine. The Year of Young People 2018 is a year-long programme of events and activities that will give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they are made of.

Calling all budding musicians and dancers...

This year the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban celebrates its 35th anniversary.

And it hopes to beat its recent participation numbers of 1,100 entries in the 125 competitions.

Organisers are looking for budding Highland dancers, fiddlers, pipers, pianists, accordion and clarsach players, not forgetting those proficient in woodwind and brass,

to come along and show their talents.

The festival showcases performers from all over Scotland, from neighbouring places such as Campbeltown to as far afield as Edinburgh, Dingwall and Skye, and this year it has its first entry from Germany.

The festival brings many venues alive in the town with live music and outdoor performers in the heart of the

town, promoting a long tradition in music and dance but also introduces innovation through its group dancing competitions and novelty from the individual. Argyll is rich in musical and dance heritage and the festival provides a great outlet for this.

Organised by volunteers, the festival attracts more than 3,000 visitors to the town which is a welcome boost to the local economy through hotels, restaurants and travel.

Over the years, the economic impact has been acknowledged, and the festival would not be possible without the support of many local businesses. This support over the years has enabled young people to have the opportunity to compete to the highest level and offers them the opportunity to go on to make solid careers from their musical abilities and passion.



Young dancers from a previous festival showing off their medals.

Chairwoman of the festival, Breege Smyth said: 'The festival has retained a unique family feel that is the hallmark of true Highland hospitality, despite the competitive nature of the programme. Each year I am delighted that

our funders and the businesses of Oban share our passion and are generous in support - particularly as we have been going to 35 years!'

This year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival is supported by EventScot-

land, part of VisitScotland's events directorate, through its national events programme.

Entries close Monday March 19, 2018. For more information on eligibility and how to enter, visit www.obanfestival.org

The Oban Times supports local charities and not-for-profit event organisers

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary.

We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable)

Put your event in front of 25,000 readers and also see what we can offer you by promoting your event online - we have more than 11,000 followers on Facebook and 36,000 monthly visitors to www.obantimes.co.uk

It pays to advertise with The Oban Times - first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands.

Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call 01631 568000

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl
open everyday from
12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

Lecture for Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society

Tomorrow (Friday March 16), Dr Roger Anderton will give a lecture to the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society on the geology of the Crinan Canal.

Dr Anderton has worked exten-

sively on the sedimentology and tectonics of the Dalradian following his PhD on the Dalradian of Islay, Jura and mid-Argyll.

He now lives near Lochgilphead following a career at the British

Geological Survey, Strathclyde University and in the oil industry.

The lecture will be in the Church Hall of St Columba's Cathedral at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome for an entrance fee of £3.

BBC ALBA

DIARDAOIN 15 MÀRT
THURSDAY 15 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** - salmon fishing in Argyll (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - Seamus O' Sullivan (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Eòrpa**
21.00 **UR | NEW: DIY le Donnie**
21.45 **Belladrum 2017: Dub Pistols** (rpt)
22.20 **Dhan Uisge** - Easdale (rpt)
22.25 **UR | NEW: Luinean Lannsaireachd**
23.15 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** - featuring the MacLean Project (rpt)
23.30 **Mach à Seo!** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 16 MÀRT
FRIDAY 16 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)

19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **From Harris With Love: Chi Mì'n Tìr** (rpt)
20.00 **Òran na Mnà** (rpt)
20.30 **Cuimhneachan** (rpt)
21.00 **A gu U, An Cuala Tu?** (rpt)
22.00 **Fèis na Mara** - featuring Kathleen MacInnes & Mànan (rpt)
23.00 **Rathad na Deighe** - ice road rescuers (rpt)
23.45 **Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan** - Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 17 MÀRT
SATURDAY 17 MARCH
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
17.35 **Machair** (rpt)
18.00 **UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Hearts v Partick Thistle
20.00 **From Harris With Love: Chi Mì'n Tìr** (rpt)
20.30 **North Coast 500** - Le Anne London (rpt)
21.00 **Na Worlds 2015** - World Pipe Band Championships (rpt)

22.00 **Luinean Lannsaireachd** (rpt)
22.45 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** - Paddy Callaghan (rpt)
22.55 **Scottish Premiership** - Hearts v Partick Thistle (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 18 MÀRT
SUNDAY 18 MARCH
16.00 **UR | NEW: Scottish League 1** - Raith Rovers v East Fife
18.15 **Piobairean Bhoirnis** (rpt)
18.30 **Seachd Là**
19.30 **Alleluia** (rpt)
20.00 **Eòrpa** (rpt)
20.30 **Fuine** - recipes that will impress your guests (rpt)
21.00 **Air an Rathad** - Rallidh na Trealach (rpt)
22.00 **Na Worlds 2015** World Pipe Band Championships (rpt)
23.00 **The Munich Games** - Munich '72 (rpt)
23.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** - featuring Dougie MacLean (rpt)

DILUAIN 19 MÀRT
MONDAY 19 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.05 **Caistealan Alba** - the history of Scotland's castles (rpt)
19.25 **UR | NEW: Binneas - Na Trads** - Lori Watson
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - Ross Ainslie (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Cuimhneachan** - Songs and poetry about World War 1 (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh - Taighean Sinc** (rpt)
22.00 **Cuirm @ Celtic** - Julie Fowles (rpt)
22.30 **Opry an Iúir** - featuring Jim Devine (rpt)
23.30 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 20 MÀRT
TUESDAY 20 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** - Salmon fishing in Argyll (rpt)

19.30 **Binneas - Na Trads** - Lori Watson (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Fuine** - recipes for making bread (rpt)
21.00 **Rona: Dileab Chlann Eardsaidh Raghnaill** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Taighean Sinc** (rpt)
23.00 **Ar Duain** - featuring Ceitlin L.R. Smith (rpt)
23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia** - Catriona Watt performs Psalm 94 (rpt)

DI CIADAIN 21 MÀRT
WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Caistealan Alba** - the history of Scotland's castles (rpt)
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Leugh Mì** (rpt)

21.00 **Opry an Iúir** - music from Charlie Landsborough (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Mach à Seo!**
22.30 **Cuirm @ Celtic** - Julie Fowles (rpt)
23.00 **DIY le Donnie** (rpt)
23.45 **Piobairean Bhoirnis** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 22 MÀRT
THURSDAY 22 MARCH
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Turas a' Bhradain** - salmon fishing on the Firth of Clyde (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Eòrpa**
21.00 **UR | NEW: DIY le Donnie**
21.45 **Piobairean Bhoirnis** (rpt)
21.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017: Twin Atlantic**
22.35 **UR | NEW: Luinean Lannsaireachd**
23.20 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** - Paddy Callaghan (rpt)
23.30 **Mach à seo!** (rpt)



New album chronicles history of Lewis bard

Lewis piper James Duncan Mackenzie has just released his second album with a launch gig at the recent Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow.

Sròmos consists entirely of self-penned melodies, led by wooden flutes and Highland pipes, with accompaniment from an array of acoustic and electric instruments.

James, a member of award-winning folk group Breabach, is a leading exponent of the Highland bagpipe and wooden flute in Scotland, and as a tune writer. Although his compositions are firmly rooted within the traditional idiom, they are equally at home with modern backing.

James invited some of Scotland's finest traditional and jazz musicians to join him on this album and exhibit typical melodic flair and instrumental prowess coupled with grooves, electric instrumenta-

tion and multi-layered textures.

The CD cover depicts the Ordnance Survey map of South Lewis which was surveyed and published in the 1850s.

James is well aware of the recent history of the Highlands and Islands and has used this for his stimulus and creativity. On further examination, the tune names contain a wealth of Lewis history.

Many of the melodies are named after events associated with the Clearances and the crofters' war.

The title of the CD and the first tune is Sròmos. This was a township in the Park area of Lewis formerly called the 'great forest' and was once owned by the Seaforth Mackenzies.

It was one of the few villages in the Park which had the potential to be self-sustaining. This area was totally given over to red deer and latterly to sheep.

Indeed, many of the

tunes have their roots in this area of Lewis and this period in history. The tune Seaforth's Wall or Garadh an Tighearna refers to the peat dyke Seaforth built between Loch Erisort and Loch Seaforth to keep red deer in the Park and possibly humans out.

Another tune is named after an event that was perhaps seminal in the modern history of Lewis and possibly the Highlands. The tune is called The Ballallan Raiders.

The events of 1887 are well documented. The park deer forest was raided in an effort to kill as many deer as possible to bring the poverty to the Lewis crofters.

A more recent tune commemorates the Iolaire tragedy which occurred 100 years ago. Despite the huge death toll and the sadness, Mackenzie takes inspiration and optimism from a Harris man who survived the sinking, Alick Campbell's Walk.

The hopeful tune remembers how this brave Harris man managed to survive the First World War, the Iolaire sinking and then proceeded to walk home to Harris from Stornoway within a few hours of the event.

Two other tunes retain the historical significance but also reflect Mackenzie's own family pedigree. James's paternal great-great-grandfather was Iain MacRath, Bard Loch Carrainn, or John Macrae the Lochcarron Bard.

The Plough on the Crossbeam is a direct translation from one of Macrae's songs. The other tune, John Macrae, the Lochcarron Bard, simply remembers the man himself.

Sròmos can be purchased from An Lantair or the Mòd shop in Stornoway. It can also be purchased directly from James's website www.jamesduncanmackenzie.com

Left: James Duncan Mackenzie's album is a tribute to his ancestors on Lewis.

Your local radio listings

OBAN FM Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

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

MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 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 Station close down

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 Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 15.00 The Wednesday Jukebox with Michelle 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

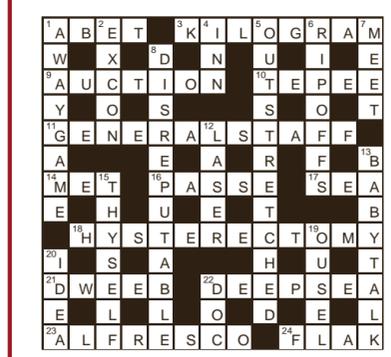
THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 One who rings (6)
 - 8 Require... (6)
 - 9 ...flying requirement (4)
 - 10 Exactly between the two (8)
 - 11 Naturally warm garment fabric (7)
 - 13 Summer dish (5)
 - 15 Very bad odour (5)
 - 17 Additional fortification (7)
 - 20 When lighter below (3-5)
 - 21 Region (4)
 - 22 Touch with flame (6)
 - 23 Classify (6)

- Down**
- 1 Unbleached cloth (6)
 - 2 Tell it on the web (4)
 - 3 Restrict freedom of action (7)
 - 4 Obstreperous (5)
 - 5 Place of wealth (8)
 - 6 Country in East Africa (6)
 - 12 Essential thing (8)
 - 14 First day of January (3,4)
 - 16 However (6)
 - 18 System using 0 and 1 (6)
 - 19 Products exchanged for money (5)
 - 21 Verve (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



OFFERS & competitions

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 March 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

WIN
A ONE NIGHT EASTER STAY AT ARDANAISEIG WITH DINNER FOR TWO PEOPLE

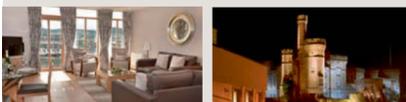


One of Scotland's most sought after exclusive use wedding and events venues is opening its doors to the public for a memorable week over Easter. Located on the shores of Loch Awe near Taynuilt in Argyll, it's the perfect setting for a wedding or special occasion. Our winners will stay for one night in a beautiful Master Loch Suite in this remarkable manor house. A sumptuous three course dinner, breakfast and true Scottish Highland hospitality await.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **On which loch is Ardanaiseig situated?**

NB: Competition closes on 19 March 2018
Prize is for one night's stay between 30 March - 2 April 2018

WIN
A TWO NIGHT STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT HIGHLAND APARTMENTS IN INVERNESS



Highland Apartments by Mansley provide luxury living in the heart of Inverness. These serviced apartments on the corner of the High Street, overlooking the River Ness, offer the flexibility of self-catering accommodation with the added benefit of a daily housekeeping service, discounted dining, secure parking and wi-fi. Many feature designer interiors with balconies and terraces. Shops, restaurants, cafes and bars are just a short stroll away.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **What river runs through the centre of Inverness?**

The prize is a stay in a deluxe one bedroom apartment for two nights. Stay must be taken before end of June. Accommodation is for two persons sharing. Prize includes car parking.

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. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Light & Life Oban is organising a Body & Soul event (free admittance) with different means to give encouragement. We welcome you to come for healing (body, soul and spirit), destiny words from spiritual readings, encouragement through spiritual art, relaxation through hand massage and more! We work solely through the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Th. 22nd of March 7-9 p.m. New Hope, 2 Soroba Road. Free entry!

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain FINAL TAYNUILT WINTER CEILIDH
Joy Dunlop
Nicola Pearson
Male Voice Quartet 'Fir an t-Sruth'
Plus Full Supporting Programme
Saturday 17th March
Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30pm
Adults - £4 Children £2

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

Adult £13.40
Children £11

SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY

Annual pass READER OFFER

Pay once and come back all year when you claim your 12-month local resident's Sea Life Annual Pass for the cost of just one admission. Customers can use their pass at both the Oban and Loch Lomond Sea Life sites. Visit the seal sanctuary on the shores of Loch Creran near Oban or see Scotland's largest collection of sharks and family favourites - otters Lily, Pickle and Cub at the Loch Lomond Sea Life Aquarium.

Claim your pass, using the Oban Times application form, and pay just £13.40. A child's annual pass will cost just £11. Children under three go free of charge. Your annual pass will entitle you to 12 months unlimited entry to The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary Oban and Sea Life Loch Lomond Aquarium, 20% discount in the Sea Life Sanctuary and Loch Lomond gift shops, a half price guide book and entry to our special events at both sites, including our Santa at Sea Life fun day to name a few.

To claim this offer complete the below application form and, **along with an up-to-date passport sized photograph**, take it along to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban (photos are required for both adult and child passes). This offer is valid until **March 29, 2018**.

2018 APPLICATION FORM

Application Form

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Adult (£13.40) Child (£11) Pass (tick box selection)

FURTHER PASSES

Name.....

Adult (£13.40) Child over 3 (£11) (tick box selection)

Name.....

Adult (£13.40) Child over 3 (£11) (tick box selection)

Name.....

Adult (£13.40) Child over 3 (£11) (tick box selection)

I have enclosed all photographs required Cheque enclosed (postal applications only)

Terms and conditions apply. Photocopied application forms will not be accepted. Offer valid until March 29, 2018. Digital users: If you are reading the digital edition of The Oban Times and would like to apply for this offer, please call 01631 568000 or email your name, postal address and email address to readeroffer@obantimes.co.uk and we will arrange the relevant form to be posted to you.

Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Ceol's Craic screens film on photographer

Ceol's Craic Club Film returns with a free event on Tuesday March 20 at 7pm in the cinema of the Centre for Contemporary Arts.

They will be showing the 30-minute film *Kissling – Duin' Ioma Fhillte*.

The film profiles enigmatic photographer and film-maker Werner Kissling, who recorded the life of the people of Eriskay during the 1930s.

Kissling was a German soldier, scholar and diplomat, yet he died penniless in Dumfries, his work forgotten.

Fluency in Gaelic is certainly not necessary for those wishing to attend the screening as there will be subtitles on the film and Gaelic tutor Janet Evans is holding a learners' conversation group for half an hour before the screening – starting at 6.30pm.

Line-up for March ceilidh

The Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar will hold what looks set to be an excellent ceilidh in

their usual venue, the Ellangowan Social Club, on Thursday March 22 at 7.30pm.

The evening will be chaired by Angus Cameron and singers will be Eilidh Cormack, Fiona Ross, Gillebride MacMillan and Norman Mackinnon – a quite incredible line-up. Kenneth Macfarlane will be the piper and Kirsteen Grant the accompanist.

There will be a raffle as well as tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits in the interval. Admission will be £7 at the door.

Happy birthday

Belated happy 30th birthday to Kirsty Netta MacKinnon from Tobermory, who celebrated in style on Friday evening with a 1990s-themed fancy dress and karaoke birthday party in the West Brewery in Glasgow. Many happy returns to Kirsty.

What's on

Friday March 16: Glasgow Skye Association Cothrom na h-Oigridh (youth concert) at 7pm in the Crawford Hall.

Friday March 16: Eadar Pinn is Guthan Binn – Gaelic songwriting

workshop by the Gaelic Books Council in the Mitchell Library at 6pm. Friday March 16: Farpais Ceist – Gaelic quiz in the Argyll Hotel. Saturday March 17: Lewis/Harris Association ceilidh in the Crawford Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday March 17: Clydebank and District Highland Association supper dance at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Sunday March 18: Òrain Ileach – Islay songs by the Gaelic Books Council in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 6.30pm.

Tuesday March 20: Ceol's Craic Club Film at 7pm in the Centre for Contemporary Arts. Thursday March 22: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar closing ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club.

Friday March 23: Am Balach Beag a dh' Eisteadh aig Dorsan by the Gaelic Books Council at 6pm in the Mitchell Library.

Friday March 23: Pupils' concert in the Glasgow Gaelic School at 7pm. Friday March 23: Helensburgh and District Highland

Association dance in the Commodore Hotel. Friday March 23: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association dance in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street at 9pm.

Pub scene

Islay Inn.

Friday March 16: Mookie.

Saturday March 17: The Raggae's. Park Bar.

Friday March 16: Susan MacFadyen.

Saturday March 17: Gunna Sound.

Sunday March 18: Martainn Skene.



One photo from the collection of Werner Kissling who will be celebrated by Ceol's Craic in a screening of a film about his life and works.



Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Visual hallucinations

Recently I have seen several elderly patients who complained of seeing people or animals when sitting alone. To say the least, they were terrified they might be suffering from dementia. Many of them were too scared to discuss what they were seeing with family members in case the family thought their elderly relative was going senile. In virtually every case, the elderly patient suffered from macular degeneration or severe loss of vision.

Macular degeneration is a group of diseases that affect vision by damaging the light receptor layers in the retina. It normally occurs in the elderly, particularly females and invariably smokers. Usually there is a gradual loss of central vision which makes watching TV, driving and even recognising faces increasingly difficult. Sometimes the loss of vision can come on very suddenly. In this case often it is possible to treat the loss of vision and sometimes restore it

provided very prompt treatment is given. When the change is the gradual type, the best form of prevention is to eat healthily and take specially designed supplements. In both types, it's recommended you stop smoking immediately. Once the retina has been damaged it is almost impossible for vision to return to pre-disease levels but vision loss can be minimised. In the case of the patients I recently saw who were seeing things, they all had long-term macular disease with

significant vision loss. The condition is known as Charles Bonnet Syndrome. It is well known by eye care practitioners but is not widely talked about or even explained to potential sufferers. If your vision has been deteriorating, either gradually or it has suddenly got worse, you should seek immediate advice from your optometrist. If you are seeing things you know are not really there, discuss this with your family and seek professional advice.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

Wallace Optometrists

The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic, 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban

Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)

www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

To advertise your event please call 01631 568000



Lochgilphead High School
18th March 2018 ~ 11am-4pm
FREE ADMISSION

Dunoon Grammar School
25th March 2018 ~ 11am-4pm
FREE ADMISSION

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Say yes to your dress at the bridal show

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Oban Unsigned 2018

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Will you be playing Oban Live 2018?

With the abundance of local talent right here on our doorstep, Oban Live and The Oban Times, the event's media partner, have teamed up to give one local band or artist the chance to perform at Oban Live 2018. The winner will join an impressive list of artists from trad-stars Skerryvore and Skipinnish to Ireland's hottest band Hermitage Green.

Performing to thousands at Argyll's biggest live music event, taking place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, June 8 & 9, the winning act will get their very own slot to showcase their talents. Last year's event attracted 7,800 attendees to the two-day concert. As well as benefiting from on-stage exposure and publicity from The Oban Times and Oban Live, the winning act will also receive weekend VIP tickets, backstage access (on performance day) and a merchandise goody bag

Enter today at

www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned

Terms and conditions apply. The closing date for entries is 10am, April 5, 2018. Good luck!



The Coll Hoard and catwalk comes to Kilmartin

A pre-loved fashion show takes to the catwalk at Lunga House on Saturday March 24 to raise money for Kilmartin Museum's redevelopment project, writes *Katie Trafford*.

Beautiful outfits created from donated clothes will be modelled at the show, and then auctioned, followed by a prize raffle. There will be a welcome drink on arrival, but guests are encouraged to bring their own.

Kilmartin Museum has excavated and housed artefacts from all corners of Argyll for 20 years, but the collection has outgrown

the current buildings. Scottish architects Reich and Hall have been chosen to design a new museum.

The museum will be designed to showcase the growing collection of Argyll's neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts, that include the earliest 'beaker' pots ever found in Britain that date back 4,000 years.

As part of the project, Kilmartin Museum will be able to start conservation work and research on collections in its care, including the skeleton of a woman who was buried in the Bronze Age, and found in a nearby quarry. They

hope to find out what she looked like.

The design also includes a space that can be used by the community local artists for temporary exhibits and cultural activities.

A learning space, big enough to accommodate a class of children for educational visits, will also be created.

Thirteen Bronze Age artefacts discovered on the Isle of Coll in 2015 have returned to Kilmartin Museum after being cleaned and conserved at the Scottish Conservation Studio in Edinburgh, thanks to supporters of last year's crowdfunding campaign.

Run by Kilmartin Museum, the campaign raised more than £10,000, allowing these ancient artefacts to be saved from active bronze disease and preserved to prevent further decay.

Enough money was also raised for radiocarbon dating to take place: residual wood found in the sockets of three of the spearheads dates from between 1120-810 BC, implying that the hoard had been deposited over a long period of time.

The hoard was discovered as a single deposit and awarded to Kilmartin Museum, the nearest museum to the Isle of

Coll. Unfortunately, the current museum gallery does not have the space to showcase these unique items.

The new museum exhibition area will be three times bigger than the current one, allowing many unique and internationally important artefacts, such as the Coll Hoard, to become part of the permanent exhibition.

The pre-loved fashion show starts at 7pm, with tickets priced £17.50.

To book a ticket, please visit the Kilmartin Museum website at www.kilmartin.org or search for the event on Eventbrite.com

Oban Symphony to make its debut performance



Oban is getting its very own symphony on March 20 when the first performance of local composer Norman Nicholson's recently completed Oban Symphony takes place in the Corran Halls. It was commissioned 10 years ago as a work associated with this area, and written for Oban Bach Orchestra,

who will give the first performance. Like other amateur orchestras, they have played several classical symphonies over the years, such as Beethoven's 5th and Schubert's Unfinished, but have not attempted any more recent symphonies, since these tend to be too demanding and require too large an orchestra. The

Oban Symphony fills a gap and will be played by an orchestra of 40. It is written in a fairly traditional style, easily understood at first hearing, yet containing the detailed musical development associated with a symphony.

Three other short pieces by Norman Nicholson complete the programme: one

of Scotland's foremost brass quintets, Brass Tracks, will get the evening off to a festive start; the Dohnanyi Trio will play arrangements of traditional Scottish airs; and Oban Bach Choir will join the orchestra in an extract from Saint Columba of Iona, composed 20 years ago to a libretto by Iain Crichton Smith.

Made in Oban blankets bring comfort to baby-loss families

Blankets sewn with love are being sent from Oban to families around the UK who are grieving the loss of a baby.

The beautiful blankets are included in special memory boxes provided by charity SiMBA and go out to 210 hospital units – the charity supports anyone affected by miscarriage, a still birth or neo-natal death.

On Saturday, the local branch of SiMBA had its first blanket making session at Rockfield Community Centre, helped by sewing teacher Breege Smyth.

Susan Simpson, who is SiMBA's Highlands ambassador and one of its directors, said: 'The blankets are to wrap baby in. What makes them so special is that the families who receive them will know the

blankets in their memory box have been made with love by people who have experienced the loss they are going through.'

A bereavement support drop-in session is held on the first Thursday of every month at the Rockfield Centre from 7pm to 9pm.

To find out more about the charity's work visit simbacharity.org.uk or call 01368 860141.



Breege Smyth with Joyce Miller, Susan Simpson and Emily Miller at SiMBA's first blanket-making session in Oban.

Slow sessions pick up pace for musicians

Musicians wanting to ease their way into sessions and build up confidence to play with others can get started at a friendly Slow Session club held on the second Saturday of every month at Oban's Rockfield Community Centre, from 2pm to 4pm. The sessions usually attract 12 or more people wanting to practice first

before joining full-on sessions around the town.

Oban's Lancaster Hotel has regular Friday night sessions, the first Wednesday of the month is session-night at the Oban Inn and The Barn at Lerags hosts Sunday sessions.

Musicians at Rockfield Community Centre's Slow Sessions workshop.



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bonnie babies
 competition 2018
 IS BACK!

After the overwhelming response from our readers last year Bonnie Babies is back. Make sure you enter your little bundle of joy into our 2018 competition for the chance to win

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How to enter

We are now open for entries! The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2018 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after June 14th 2014. Look out the most adorable photo of your gorgeous little one and enter online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies.

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2018 Supplement

After you enter your child, look out for our delightful Bonnie Babies 2018 supplement in a future edition of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times – a lovely little keepsake to show your children when they are older.

Vote for your favourite!

Readers will have the important job of voting for their favourite kiddy-winks in the supplement. We will then break it down to four further rounds of top 50, 30, 20 and finally top 10. From the top 10, the baby with the most votes will be crowned The Oban Times' Bonniest Baby 2018. **Good luck!**

The closing date for entries is noon on 26th March 2018.

ENTER ONLINE

www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies

Terms and conditions: By entering the competition, you – the parent or guardian – consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times Bonnie Babies features in the paper and online and in any other related competition promotions. You agree that Wyvex Media Ltd has the right to publish the images and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting Wyvex Media Bonnie Babies campaign(s). If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition.

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2018 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after June 14, 2014, and must live in Argyll & Bute or in postcode areas PH30-PH44, PH49, PH50 and Isle of Skye. The closing date for entries is noon on Monday 26 March, 2018. Only one entry per child. Poor quality photographs will not be accepted as an entry. The winner must take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The prizes are as stated and not transferable or redeemable for cash

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ROCKFIELD PUPILS GET READY TO GO FOR SPORTS RELIEF

YOUNGSTERS from Oban's Rockfield Primary School have stepped up to a special Sport Relief challenge.

Pupils in Class P6 were invited by *The Oban Times* to design adverts for local businesses to appear on a special page supporting this year's Sport Relief.

Class teacher Fiona Cameron said pupils had some 'brilliant' ideas for their designs and had lots of fun.

'They knew a lot about the businesses they were drawing adverts for.'

'Some of them have family working in some of them. I

think they had brilliant ideas, they've done fantastically well,' said Ms Cameron.

As well as designing the adverts, the class will also be getting sporty to take part in their own challenge. 'Weather depending, we'll be out in the playground running round or doing cycling proficiency. If we're indoors, we'll be doing star jumps and jumping jacks to do as much as we can for Sports Relief,' added Ms Cameron.

The nation is being challenged to come together to beat an epic one billion steps a day, every day, for Sport Relief

this year from March 17 to 23. Celebrities Zoe Ball, Greg James, Alex Jones and more are taking on epic challenges of their own. The stars will also be out in force for a night of TV entertainment, on Friday March 23, live on BBC One.

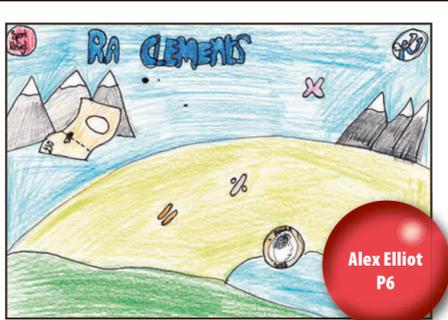
Comic Relief chief executive Liz Warner said: 'Sport Relief gets us all donning our trainers and taking on all types of sporty challenges or running a mile at school to help raise funds.'

'In 2018, we have more British celebrities than ever pushing themselves to the limit to help us raise money for

Sport Relief, which gives 50 per cent of funds to the UK and the other 50 per cent to the most desperate communities in the world.

'This is the first time we have asked the nation to take up a collective challenge and we can't wait to see how many steps we can all do. Let's hit a billion steps and get more donations and sponsors coming in to help others.'

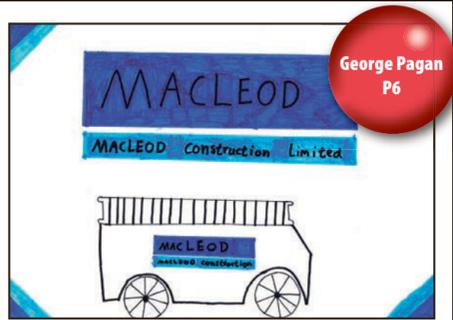
For more information on how to get involved with this year's Sport Relief campaign, download the Sport Relief app or go to sportrelief.com.



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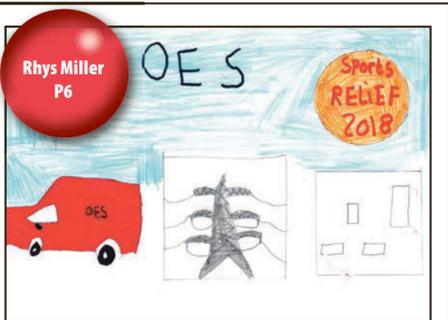
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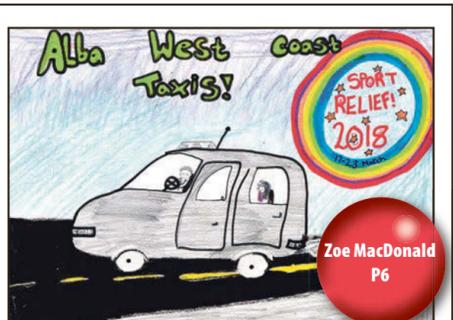
Youngsters from Rockfield Primary School show off their adverts for local businesses supporting Sport Relief.



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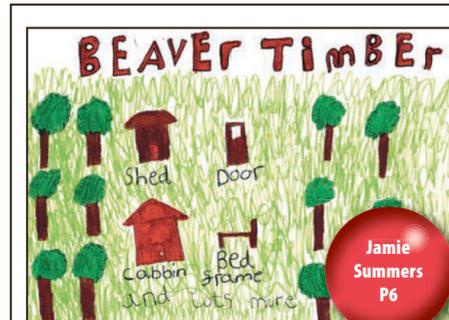
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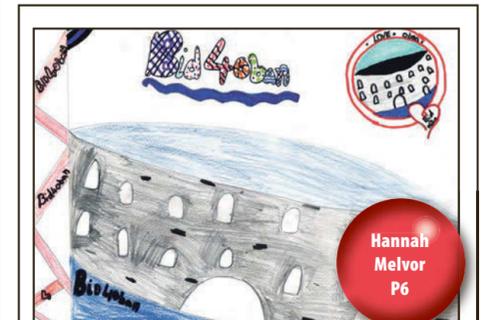
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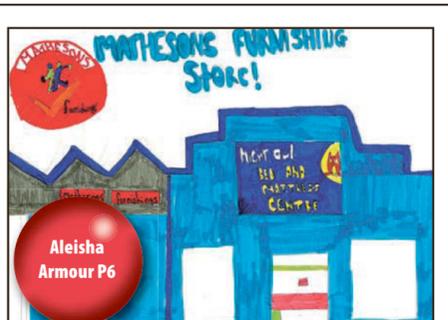
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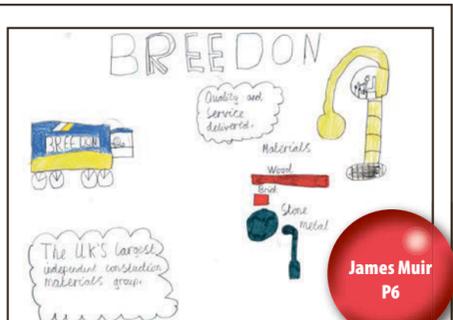
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BUSINESS NEWS

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Jura whisky eyes its future with new range

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE Isle of Jura Distillery has relaunched its range of malt whiskies, reducing the number it produces down to five.

The Inner Hebridean island is home to one road, one pub and one distillery, whose owner, Whyte and Mackay, explained: 'Free from distractions, we focus entirely on one thing - making the very best single malt whisky we can.'

'This focus has now led us to a new place. A place reflective of our past, present and future where we can reveal a different side of our character. Signifying the start of a new chapter in our rich story, we have created a new signature style for Jura single malt whisky, a style reminiscent of our past but with a firm eye on the future.'

'The whisky itself sees a subtle smokiness brought together with a sweetness to create our new defining character.'

'This sees us, for the first time, marry together the classic styles of Highland and Island malts, and unify these in one remarkable [range of] whisky.'

Currently Jura Distillery's extensive range currently includes



Neil Gow monitors a spirit safe at Jura Distillery. Inset, the new, tighter range of malt whiskies.

(with ages): Origin (10), Elixir (12), Peated Prophecy, Diurach's Own (16), Tasting (up to 19), One And All (20), Superstition (up to 21), and Jura 21-year-old, plus occasional bottlings from older, rarer casks.

But its new, smaller range of five single malts, which will launch globally in April, starts with Journey, then Jura 10, Jura 12, Seven Wood and finally Jura 18.

'This marks a hugely significant step for Jura,' said Jura distillery manager

Graham Logan. 'A new house style of whisky is not for the faint-hearted but it tells you where we are now and how committed we are to Jura, the community and our whiskies for the long term. Combining two styles of whisky is a fairly unorthodox approach, but one that we know is right for Jura. We can't wait for people to try and it and see for themselves.'

A spokesperson for Whyte and Mackay added: 'Established in 1810, the distillery fell into disrepair and closed in 1901.

'In 1963, after years of economic depression, the islanders felt it high time to revive the economy by rebuilding Jura's distillery from scratch; a monumental feat achieved through determination, endeavour and true community spirit.'

'Distillery manager William Delmé-Evans went to extreme lengths to ship unusually tall stills to an island which has been called "the most un-get-at-able place" by George Orwell, author of 1984, written in a remote farmhouse on Jura.'

Arisaig's Glenuig inn wins top green award

THE Glenuig Inn, on the Sound of Arisaig, was presented with the Scottish Green Champions Award at the International Green Apple Awards in recognition of its environmental best practice.

Glenuig Inn, one of very few leisure and tourism businesses to clearly demonstrate that it is possible to operate efficiently and profitably with minimal environmental footprint, was developed with the vision that environmental sustainability should be at the fore.

Ten years after launching that's still the case. No decision is made without full consideration of environmental impacts and fully engaging the team in the process.

Steve Macfarlane, a director at Glenuig, said: 'It's always a challenge to do the right thing for the environment and even more so when we aim to provide excellence in all we do for all our guests - especially as we're open all day, every day, all year. We are delighted to have been named as Scottish Green Champion at the Green Apple Environment Awards, and to have been recognised for our strong environmental commitment in everything we do.' The inn runs on 100 per cent renewable



Steve Macfarlane was delighted with the green award.

energy, and has done so since 2015, and has a zero food waste policy. Any food waste is dried, sterilised and comingled with wood pellets to provide all the heating and hot water for guests and staff. LED lights are installed throughout

and there is minimal waste which cannot be recycled or repurposed. By the end of 2017, all single-use plastics were removed, including plastic straws, black bin liners, crisp bags and individual milk portions.

Products are bought with packaging minimisation in mind and currently there is only one domestic bin of waste per fortnight being sent to landfill. There is an extensive sustainable supply chain management project being carried out at present to further reduce packaging through a 'packaging take-back' scheme.

Steve added: 'As a 100 per cent renewable business, with lower energy costs in winter than summer, we believe strongly in doing the right thing across all aspects of the business, including minimising waste and truly believe that a holistic approach to creating a sustainable business is the only way to achieve real success both for the bottom line and also the environment.'

'The combined infrastructure measures and integrated operating procedures not only significantly reduce carbon emissions, but also have reduced total energy consumption to almost half while growing the business substantially.'

Fusion Marine appoints new manager

FUSION Marine has appointed Iain Macdonald as operations manager in a move that will enable the Argyll-based company to further develop and service its order book.

A former merchant navy deck officer, Iain brings a wealth of experience to Fusion Marine, having most recently worked in Thailand where he was involved in oil and gas subsea construction work.

Based at Fusion Marine's

manufacturing facility at Barcaldine, Iain is overseeing the fabrication of fish farm pens and a range of other equipment for the aquaculture and marine sectors.

Stephen Divers, managing director of Fusion Marine, said: 'We are delighted to welcome Iain to the team and he has already made a positive impact in the short time he has been here.'

'This appointment underlines the positive economic

benefits the aquaculture sector brings to the west of Scotland.'

Iain, who is originally from Morar, said: 'I am enjoying this new role and I have already been able to implement work practices and techniques utilised in my previous employment to good effect here.'

'There is a fantastic team of people here at Fusion Marine and it is great to be part of Scotland's dynamic and innovative aquaculture industry.'



Iain Macdonald.

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Interface has already supported almost 3,000 organisations since it set up in 2005 by matching them to academic expertise in universities, research institutes and colleges.

Interface has connections to thousands of academics and the specialist facilities in universities, to help test,

create and develop new ideas. Research showed 97 per cent of businesses said their project would either not have happened or taken longer without support from Interface.

Statistics also reveal 83 per cent of businesses helped by Interface have recorded reduced operating costs, increased productivity and turnover, and created or saved jobs.

Clients have included an oyster farm on Lismore which wanted to expand. Poaching oysters in unusual flavours such as artisan gin, white wine, champagne and lemon was the brainwave of Mairi Hawkes, whose father started farming oysters from Lismore 25 years ago.

Before launching the new product range, Mairi wanted to carry out some research to be sure that the shellfish did not shrink during the process, had as long a shelf life as possible and develop the flavours.

Lorraine Thomson, who heads up Interface's Highlands and Islands team, matched up Mairi with Scotland's Rural College to get the expert help she needed. Through SRUC, the project was awarded a £5,000 Innovation Voucher from the Scottish Funding Council which Interface administered to help offset the costs of the collaboration.

The business is now working on the logistics of producing the poached oysters, preparing

for a launch of a range of cocktail-inspired drizzles to complement their fresh oysters.

Among other businesses Interface has supported locally are Craine Communications, Zing Organics and Staffin Community Trust, connected with Heriot-Watt University, University of Strathclyde and the University of the Highlands and Islands respectively.

Visit interface-online.org.uk/oban-times, or contact lorraine.thomson@interface-online.org.uk, 01463 245263 for businesses in Argyll and the Isles or Carol-Ann.Adams@interface-online.org.uk on 01463 245 262 for businesses in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross.



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Supporting farmers and crofters to submit their SAF online

With the window for the Single Application Form (SAF) 2018 opening on Thursday, 15 March, it has never been easier to apply for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding online.

The digital process is straightforward, more efficient and provides access to the most up-to-date land information.

The process also reduces the risk of inadvertently making application errors and incurring penalties.

The drive towards digital has been underway for several years and last year more farmers and crofters than ever before chose to make their application online, given the clear advantages of doing so.

The Scottish Government appreciates that change can sometimes be challenging. That is why we are offering farmers and crofters applying under the SAF in 2018 more support to help them make the switch to applying online.

This includes, for example, refreshed online guidance and regional events held this spring to demonstrate how to make an online application.

To secure a place, customers who made a paper application last year can notify interest in attending one of these events by contacting their local RPID office.

The Scottish Government is committed to supporting farmers and crofters across Scotland in delivering a better, more efficient service and encouraging all customers to submit their SAF online by 2020.

<https://www.ruralpayments.org>



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Farm incomes increase for first time in six years

INCOMES from commercial farms in Scotland have increased by around 94 per cent, according to new government figures, reversing the decline from the previous year, with incomes recovering to 2014 levels. Average farm business income rose this year by around £12,800 to £26,400 which shows that the industry has

regained some of the decline since 2011. Farm income had decreased 46 per cent (£22,900) in real terms until last year.

The figures are based on annual audits of nearly 500 commercial farms in Scotland called the Farm Business Survey (FBS). The report focuses on the 2016 crop year. Other findings from the analysis show

that farms spent less on raw materials and other inputs in 2016-17, such as cattle feed and labour costs, compared to the previous year. In contrast for outputs, such as revenue from livestock and crops, there was an improvement on the average output values across all farm types.

The reduced inputs and improved outputs combined with

a five per cent rise in grants and subsidy payments from the EU, due to favourable exchange rate, led to an increase in the profitability of agriculture.

Farmers that have expanded from traditional agricultural work, such as renting out holidays homes or building small wind farms to generate electricity, did better than

those farms that have not.

Across all farms in the survey there has been an average increase in the farming income.

However, incomes from 45 per cent of farm businesses in the survey would not have been enough to meet the legal minimum agricultural wage for unpaid labour, which includes farmers, spouses and

business partners.

NFU Scotland chief executive Scott Walker said: 'There are two key messages that should be taken from the figures that have been published on farm incomes. The first is that 45 per cent of farms in the survey are not able to pay the farmer, spouse and other working family members a rate of pay equal to

the minimum agricultural wage. The second is that without the financial support payments these farms receive they would make a loss.

'Until we can address the inequalities in the supply chain, government support for the industry remains essential and must not be threatened due to Brexit.'

Lochaber monitor farm meeting planned

The Lochaber Monitor Farm team, left to right, Morven MacArthur (SAC Oban), Chris, Eileen and Malcolm Cameron, Niall Campbell (SAC Oban) and Gavin Dick (AHDB).



POTENTIAL routes to optimise the use and management of grazing land to improve profitability will be discussed at the next Lochaber monitor farm meeting on Thursday March 15.

Monitor farmers Chris and Malcolm Cameron, from Strone Farm near Banavie, have recently secured a five-year tenancy of around 42 hectares of additional grazing with a small shed at Fassfern, Lochail, 11 miles away from the home farm.

At the meeting, which will be held at the newly-rented land at Fassfern, the group will consider the best use of the new additional acreage within the current farm management system in order to improve the output of the business. The group will discuss how the grassland should be managed and what improvements will provide the best return on any investment.

Due to a serious predation problem around Strone, the Camerons currently send their ewes to rented grazing land near Inverness to lamb outside. The lambs are then reared and sold as stores in August without returning to Strone.

Although lambing away from Strone has resulted in much higher lambing percentages, it means Chris needs to live away from the family farm for up to four weeks every year so that he can monitor his ewes during the lambing period.

Chris already has some ideas

for using this extra grazing: 'I'm keen to see if it would be feasible for us to lamb our ewes with twins inside and maybe even finish some lambs ourselves, rather than selling them as store, as we have done in the past,' he said. 'How hill and mountain farmers like ourselves improve the light lamb product they currently offer was one of the issues highlighted at last month's Vision of the Hills and Mountains meeting and it has certainly given us food for thought as to how we can do this differently at Strone.'

The meeting on March 15 will also explore the option for finishing lambs on the west coast, including input and outputs and how to best improve marginal land, through rush control, drainage, ditching and reseeded.

The Lochaber Monitor Farm is one of nine monitor farms around Scotland in a joint initiative by Quality Meat Scotland and AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds. The aim of the programme, funded by Scottish Government, is to help improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Scottish farm businesses.

The meeting runs from 11am to 2.30pm. Use postcode PH33 7NP for directions. A cold lunch will be provided. To book a place call Niall Campbell or Morven MacArthur on 01631 563093 or email fbsoban@sac.co.uk.

Around the markets

ISLAY – United Auctions held their annual early spring sale of grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart on Saturday March 10 when they sold 898 head. A good show of quality grazing cattle was presented to the regular strong force of mainland buyers. Cattle in general were lighter on the year. Bullocks sold to average £853.79 per head or 250.2 pence per kilo (down £38.10 per head and up 6.7 pence per kilo). Heifers averaged £774.50 per head or 234.1 pence per kilo (up £8.52 per head and 3.83 pence per kilo). Bullocks sold to £1200 from Craigfad and Lossit and to 309 pence per kilo from Aoradh. Heifers from Craigfad sold to £1180 whilst Starchmill sold heifers to 279 pence per kilo.

Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head. Bullocks AAx: £1030 – Tallant: £1000(2) – Octomore: £960(7) – Aoradh: £940(6) – Octofad: £920(2) – Tallant: £910 – Uiskentuie. CHARx: £1200 – Tallant and Craigfad(3): £1150(2) – Octofad: £1080 – Tallant: £1030(8) – Craignis: £1020 – Eorabus: £990(2) – Tallant: £980(5) – Eorabus: £970 – Aoradh(6) and Craignis(6). LIMx: £1200(7) and £1190(7) – Lossit: £1180 – Octofad: £1140 – Ardbeg: £1120(2) – Craigfad: £1100 – Ardbeg: £1090 – Balaclava(2) and Ardbeg(2): £1080 – Lossit(4) and Balaclava: £1050(10) – Octofad: £1040 – Tallant(2) and Starchmill(2): £1030 – Ardbeg: £1020(2) – Starchmill: £990 – Tallant(3) and Eorabus(6): £980 – Eorabus, Aoradh(4) and Balaclava: £970 – Octofad and Blackrock(6): £960 – Kilchiaran(5) and Starchmill: £950 – Balaclava(2), Ardbeg(4) and Aoradh(3). LUINGx: £730(9) – Duich. SIMx: £900(4) – Carrabus. Heifers AAx: £1000(2) – Eorabus. BAx: £840(2) – Eorabus. CHARx: £1180(2) and £1130(5) – Craigfad: £1000 – Tallant: £970(3) – Octofad: £950 – Tallant and Craignis(6). LIMx: £1100 – Eorabus: £1020(2) – Starchmill: £1000(13) – Lossit: £970 – Octofad: £940 – Starchmill, Kilchiaran(3) and Uiskentuie. Top prices per kilo Bullocks AAx: 282p(5) – Tallant: 272p(7) and 262p(9) – Aoradh: 256p(2) –

Tallant: 255p – Uiskentuie: 253p – Ballinaby. CHARx: 286p(5) and 279p(5) – Aoradh: 274p(2) and 271p – Tallant: 271p(4) – Aoradh: 270p(5) – Eorabus: 269p(7) – Ballinaby: 263p(4) – Craignis: 261p(3) – Ballinaby: 258p(6) – Aoradh: 257p – Carrabus(2) and Claggan(2): 255p(8) and 254p(6) – Craignis: 251p(2) – Eorabus: 250p(2) – Aoradh. LIMx: 309p(3) – Aoradh: 302p, 294p and 293p(2) – Ardbeg: 292p(2) – Uiskentuie: 286p – Ardbeg: 284p – Tallant(5) and Lossit(4): 282p – Ardbeg(5), Smaladh and Tallant(2): 281p – Uiskentuie(2), Tallant(4) and Duich(7): 278p – Blackrock(7) and Lossit: 277p – Claggan: 276p(2) – Ardbeg: 275p – Aoradh(10) and Octofad(6): 273p – Ardbeg(2) and Lossit(7): 272p – Ardbeg(8) and Tallant(3): 271p – Claggan and Tallant(2): 270p – Tallant(5), Aoradh and Eorabus: 269p and 268p(3) – Kinnabus: 265p – Smaladh and Aoradh(4): 264p(6) – Blackrock: 263p – Octofad(9) and Duich(9): 262p – Ardbeg, Tallant(4) and Grulinbeg: 261p – Starchmill(3) and Eorabus(8): 260p – Tallant(2) and Octofad(4): 256p – Octofad(6) and Balaclava: 255p – Eorabus(5) and Uiskentuie(4): 253p – Starchmill(2) and Ardbeg(4): 252p – Sannaigmore, Tallant(2) and Aoradh(3): 251p – Starchmill and Eorabus: 250p – Starchmill(2) and Carrabus. LUINGx: 263p(6) and 262p(9) – Duich. SIMx: 252p – Sannaigmore: 248p – Carrabus. Heifers AAx: 248p and 230p – Craignis. CHARx: 274p(3) – Tallant: 273p(6), 268p(4), 264p(4) and 260p(9) – Aoradh: 258p – Ballinaby(5) and Aoradh(12): 257p(2) – Aoradh: 256p(2) – Tallant: 255p(3) – Aoradh: 251p(9) – Octofad: 250p – Aoradh: 248p – Craignis(5) and Octofad(5): 240p(20) – Eorabus. LIMx: 279p – Starchmill: 276p(2) – Ardbeg: 261p – Starchmill: 260p(3) and 259p(2) – Tallant: 257p(6) – Ardbeg: 255p – Aoradh: 254p(13) – Lossit: 251p – Ardbeg: 250p – Starchmill(2), Ardbeg, Kinnabus(6) and Grulinbeg(2): 249p – Ardbeg(6) and Blackrock(4): 248p – Tallant, Octofad and Aoradh(6): 247p(5) – Starchmill: 245p(3) – Smaladh: 243p(9) – Uiskentuie: 241p(8) and 240p(3) – Eorabus.



Winner of the Stirling show of store cattle, Allan McArthur, Cretlevane, being presented with the trophy by the judge William Moir, Cairness. Also in the photograph Lynda Graham from the sponsors Rural Finance and George Purves, MD, United Auctions.

DINGWALL – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Saturday March 10 sold six cattle, one pony, 11 goats, 159 adult head of sheep and 343 lots of poultry, eggs and poultry equipment at their, rare and traditional breeds of livestock sale. Cattle (6) sold to £350 gross for a Dexter heifer from Midburn, Lochussie. Pony (one) sold to £300 gross for a Shetland from Hillcrest, Duncanson. Goats (11) sold to £40 gross for a pygmy male from Blackhilllock, Knockando. Sheep (159) sold to £230 gross for a Dorset gimmer with a lamb at foot from Smallburn Farms, Duffus. Poultry (343) sold to £150 gross for a trio of Copper Blue Maran from Rowan Villa, Mybster. Sheep other leading prices: Cattle: Dexter – Midburn, £300 (thrice). Goats: Sannen – Blackhilllock, £30 (twice). Lambs: Dorset – Balmungie, Rosemarkie, £140; Kerryhill – Balmungie, £130; Zwartble – New Croft, Aberchirder, £65 (thrice); Jacob – Bogallan, North Kessock, £50; Hebridean – 77 Saval, Lairg, £45; Herdwick – Burnfield Farm, Rothiemay, £45; Shetland – Cypress, Achterneed, £40. Ewes: Jacob – Tyree, Mulbuie, £70. Gimmers: Jacob – Tyree, £40.

Wedders: Jacob – Mulchaich, Conon Bridge, £100. Ram: Dorset – Balmungie, £105; Poll Dorset – Easter Muckernich, Tore, £80. In lamb ewe: Dorset – Blackhilllock, £130; Zwartble – Scroggie Farm, Dingwall, £110; Wensleydale – Blackhilllock, £90; Herdwick – Dunmore House, Beauly, £70; Shetland – Myre Farm, Dallas, £56. In lamb gimmer: Dorset – Balmungie, £90; Shetland – Myre Farm, £54. Ewes with lambs at foot: Dorset – Balmungie, £170 (twice); Bleu De Maine – Easter Muckernich, £140; Jacob – Bogallan, £100 (twice). Gimmers with lambs at foot: Dorset – Smallburn, £210. Hogs with lambs at foot: Dorset – Smallburn, £200, £190. Poultry other leading prices per section: Large Fowl: 4 Copper Maran hens, £120, 2 Gold Spangled and Black Appenzeller females, £110, 2 Black Silkie females and 2 Speckled Sussex pullets, £100. Ducks: Pair Blonde Whistling and Pair Carolina, £120, Pair Mandarin, £110, 3 Mini Runners, £90. Call Ducks: 1 Silver female, £100, 1 Apricot female, £90, 1 White female and Pair mallard, £80. Bantams: 2 Chocolate Pekin pullets (POL), £100, 2 Golden Silkie pullets,

Trio Silver Seabright and 2 Silkie pullets, £90, 3 Pekin pullets, 2 Black Pekin females and a trio Partridge Wyandottes, £85. Pigeon: 6 White Doves, £60, 3 lots of 4 Indian Fantail, £45, 6 White Doves, £40. Pheasants: Trio Reeves, £50, Trio Golden, £40. Quail: Quartet Chinese Painted, £70, 3 lots of 6 Japanese hens, £65, 2 lots of Pair Mexican Speckled, £45. Egg: 12 Light Sussex and 12 Cuckoo Maran, £35, 12 Light Sussex, 12 Buff Sussex and 6 Copper Maran, £25. Geese: Pair Pilgrim, £110. Turkey: Pair Bronze, £140, Pair Crollwitzer, £90. Pea Fowl: 2 Peafowl, £110. Equipment: Wooden Hen House and Antique Bushel Measure, £50, 2 large galvanised drinkers and 4 section show box, £40, plastic feeders and drinkers, £38.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Wednesday March 7 sold 1934 store cattle at their show and show and 126 cast cows and forward cattle also forward 705 store and breeding sheep. Bullocks (1058) – averaged 244.96p to 314.20p per kg for a 288kg LimX from Carslae and £1420 for a 755kg SimX from Oatridge. B & W bullocks (45) – averaged 169.00p to 179.90p per kg for a 289kg HFX from Graystale and £810 for a 484kg BFX from Mid House. Heifers (813) – averaged 237.70p to 303.70p per kg for a 382kg LimX from Easter Greenhill and £1340 for a 552kg CHX from Cretlevane. Young bulls (18) – averaged 219.82p to 235.60p per kg for a SimX from Nether Birkwood and £885 for a BAX from South Brownhill. Cast cows (86) – averaged 143.08p to 194.30p per kg for a BRBX from Easter Greenhill and £1430 for a SimX from Woodmill. Dairy cattle (36) – averaged 105.30p to 120.60p per kg for a HFX from High Branchal and £965 for a HFX from Claylands. Forward cattle (4) – averaged 174.16p to 178.90p per kg for a AAX from Lower Greenyards and £1350 for a BSX from Pathcondie. Bullocks Up to 250kgs – Corsencon £660, 314.2p; 301-350kgs – Carslae £905, 314.2p; 301-350kgs – Killoccraw £1000, Carslae 302.5p; 351-400kgs – Easter Greenhill £1100, Killoccraw 287.0p; 401-450kgs – Cretlevane £1230, 279.5p; 451-500kgs – Cretlevane £1270, Kinnaird 256.5p; 501-551kgs – Farden £1335, 247.2p; 552-601kgs – Oatridge £1360, Cretlevane 236.3p; 602-651kgs – Cretlevane £1320,

212.9p; 652-701kgs – Oatridge £1355, 203.8p; 702-999kgs – Oatridge £1420, 188.1p. Heifers Up to 250kgs – Corsencon £560, West Muirhouse 242.3p; 251-300kgs – Killoccraw £790, Low Dunashery 266.9p; 301-350kg – Easter Greenhill £1000, 295.9p; 351-400kgs – Easter Greenhill £1060, 303.7p; 401-450kgs – Cretlevane £1210, 291.6p; 451-500kgs – Farden £1300, 268.0p; 501-551kgs – Cretlevane £1230, 229.5p; 552-601kgs – Cretlevane £1340, 242.8p; 602-651kgs – Drumoider £1160, 190.2p. OTM cows: Prices per head Garvald Mains (AA) £1330; Gate-side (BS) £1300; Craignid (BRB) £1330; Harvey Bros (HE) £1100; Longearse (Lim) £1390; Kinloch (SH) £1170; Woodmill (Sim) £1430; Craignid (Cont) £1210. Prices per kilo South Brownhill (AA) 163.5p; Glen-Isle (BS) 159.4p; Easter Greenhill (BRB) 194.3p; Burnside of Balhaldie (HE) 147.5p; Traprain (Lim) 184.5p; Kinloch (SH) 161.6p; Borland (Sim) 178.8p; Craignid (Cont) 169.5p. OTM bulls: Prices per head Garvald Mains (AA) £1290; Woodmill (CH) £1450; Drumoider (Sim) £1030. Prices per kilo Garvald Mains (AA) 112.8p; Boghall (CH) 123.0p; Drumoider (Sim) 104.3p. Show and Sale judged by W Moir, Home Farm, Cairness. Single bullock: 1st McArthur, Cretlevane, 2nd Warnock, High Bent, 3rd Lines, Killoccraw. Single heifer: 1st McArthur, Cretlevane, 2nd Paton Easter, Greenhill, 3rd Nisbet, Sorn Mains. Pen of four bollocks: 1st Paton, Easter Greenhill, 2nd Lines, Killoccraw, 3rd Paton, Easter Greenhill. Pen of four heifers: 1st McArthur, Cretlevane, 2nd Lines, Killoccraw, 3rd Paton, Easter Greenhill. Champion: single heifer from McArthur, Cretlevane. Reserve: single heifer from Paton, Easter Greenhill. United Auctions also sold 705 store and breeding sheep. Store sheep Daldorn (Suff) £90.00; Craigmaddie Muir (Tex) £77.00; Invernoden (BF) £93.00; Ballygrogan (BFX) £78.50. Breeding sheep Scart (Mule ewe hogs) £89.00. STIRLING – Caledonian Marts on Thursday March 8 sold 191 cattle, comprising 129 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, and 62 cast

cows and bulls. Bullocks were topped at 245p (twice) both for Limousins from Learielaw, Broxburn purchased by T Johnston Butchers, Falkirk and to £1646 for a Limousin from T Adam and Son, Craigton, Clackmannan. Heifers topped at 252p again for a Limousin from Learielaw, purchased by W W Wales Ltd, Kirkcaldy and to £1562 from the same farm. Young bulls sold to 225p for a Limousin from J Burnett and Sons, Upper Spittalton, Blairdrummond and to £1552 from the same farm. Leading prices Bullocks p/kg: 242p Meadowend, Learielaw and Brockwoodlees 238p Seggersdean, Lower Greenyards, Faskine and Over Inzievar 232p Strageath 230p Pleanmill and Moorfield 228p and 225p Strageath, Highholm and Seggersdean. Heifers p/kg: 248p Bankhead (Kerr), Meadowend, Learielaw, Upper Spittalton and Pitcairn 245p (twice) Brockwoodlees and Over Inzievar 242p Mains of Cullmalundie and Moorfield 240p Pitcairn 238p West Thomaston 235p Mains of Cullmalundie and Faskine 232p Bankhead and Moorfield 228p Auchmuir and Highholm. Also forward were 62 cast cows and bulls. With a great trade for all classes of cows, many more could have been sold to sellers advantage. Beef cows averaged 143p and sold to 202ppkg for a Limousin from W Dick, Mains of Throsk and to £1590 from D and L Graham, Mains of Burnbank. OTM males and bulls averaged 137p selling to 178p from T and E Tod, Nether Longford and to £1060 from R and W Waugh, Summerhouse. Other leading prices Beef cows per head £1438 Mains of Throsk £1240 Balkaithly £1230 Callendune £1092 Pitcairn £1080 Highflat Beef cows per kilo 188p Mains of Burnbank 165p Pitcairn 162p Balkaithly 160p Balaclava 159p Patrickston 154p Callendune Dairy cows per head £850 and £790 Glenrigg £750 Summerhouse £740 Greenrigg Dairy cows per kilo 126p Summerhouse 119p Greenrigg and Summerhouse 118p Summerhouse, Glenrigg and Greenrigg Males per head £966 Patrickston £710 Carrabus

SPRING FARMING REPORT



Farmers advised to take steps to combat late spring

SCOTTISH farmers are being advised to take steps and plan fodder usage now, with experts predicting a late spring.

Using data from grass variety trials, specialists from SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), predict that T-Sum 200 – which indicates when soils have warmed sufficiently for grass growth to begin – will be two-to-three weeks later than normal.

This could lead to a variety of problems, including straw shortages, which could in turn heighten the risk of disease among newborn animals.

Basil Lowman, beef adviser at SAC Consulting, said: 'A late spring couldn't be at a worse time. Not only are many farms already short of forage due to last summer's wet weather, which forced many stock to be housed much earlier than normal, but potentially as problematic is a severe shortage of straw to bed stock.'

'Many farmers with suckler herds, block calving dairy herds and housed flocks time calving and lambing so that stock can be immediately turned out on to clean, high-quality spring grass. Being forced to keep animals indoors could pose a major additional disease challenge for newborn animals this spring. With a real risk of a late spring, it is best to plan now and minimise problems later.'

Immediate steps livestock farmers can take to combat the late spring include:

- Discuss with their vets what preventive treatments, for example vaccinations, might be sensible and cost-effective.

- Sell trading stock as quickly as possible. Even consider selling all or some cattle store rather than finishing them.

- Prioritise bedding towards young stock, especially newborns. For example, ensure a dry, well-bedded creep area is made available for new calves.

- Graze all grass and delay shutting fields up for silage. Consider grazing forward winter sown cereal crops with ewes and lambs or graze cover crops.

Despite being counter-intuitive, it may even be a sensible option to delay turnout for the earliest calvers and synchronise then artificially inseminate them indoors.

The remainder of the herd could be turned out to grass. This would reduce demand for silage and grazing. It would also allow the youngest calves, which are most susceptible to disease build-up, to be turned out with their mothers.

These later calving cows will also benefit from a longer transition in diet before cycling and breeding commences. Overall, this could help avoid an extended calving period often associated with a late spring. The early calving group can then be turned out to grass once they are over seven days inseminated.

Farmers seeking further advice should email beefandsheep@sac.co.uk



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IACS 2018

SAC CONSULTING

SAC Consulting will be holding IACS Surgeries throughout Argyll & Lochaber

Make sure you maximise your farm support payments from the CAP system by getting us to complete your IACS forms.

To book your appointment please contact:
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by Ronnie the Crofter @ 3pm - input welcome

SAC Consulting

TODAY (March 15, 2018) the Scottish Government will once again open the annual applications for farm and crofter support payment under the IACS process. This annual form is hugely important for agricultural businesses' cashflow as it includes applications for Basic Payment Scheme, Less Favoured Area Support Scheme payments and the annual environmental management payments under SRDP-RP and AECS. The IACS form also unlocks access to the direct support payments such as the Sheep Upland Support Scheme and Scottish Suckler Beef Support scheme – though they also have individual applications later in the year. In the west coast hill and mountain farming area of Scotland, these support payments will, on average, make up between two-thirds and three-quarters of a farm business's annual income. Hence the IACS form's importance for business survival.

The big change this year is that SGRPID will not be accepting paper applications. All applications will instead need to be completed electronically. At SAC, we have been using the electronic system for many years. It is not without its frustrations but, on balance, it does deliver more benefits than a paper system. The deadline is as usual May 15 so, in theory, there is plenty time to apply. However, if you previously applied on paper we advise you plan a bit further ahead this year so you have time to adjust to the new electronic system.

Niall Campbell, SAC Consulting, Oban

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Mountain rescue team praised for their efforts

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

MOUNTAIN rescue teams have been praised for their life-saving efforts in recent times, especially during the big freeze dubbed the beast from the east.

Scottish Government Justice Secretary Michael Matheson has thanked the rescue teams for the hard work being done by their volunteers across the country.

Mr Matheson said: 'In the past weeks, volunteer teams have assisted stranded motorists, emergency services and essential workers, as the recent snow has caused considerable disruption around the country.'

'But, since December, teams have also been involved in a number of challenging search and rescues, assisting those in trouble in Scotland's mountains, in heavy snow and strong winds, maximising survival chances and saving lives.'

'As a former mountain rescue volunteer, I have seen the conditions they face first-hand and am particularly grateful for their efforts this winter.'

'I want to take this opportunity to remind anyone consider-

ing walking, climbing or taking part in any other activities in the mountains and hills, at any time of the year, to take proper care and follow best available advice, so that the lives of our dedicated volunteers are not put at risk unnecessarily.'

'Although we are entering spring, conditions are such that anyone without an extremely high skill set, detailed knowledge of the terrain and all the necessary equipment should not even consider venturing out. To ignore best advice, and to set off regardless, can unwittingly put our dedicated volunteers lives at risk.'

He added: 'Scotland's weather can be challenging and very changeable, especially on high ground. However, mountain safety experts stress that simple precautions and good equipment can greatly reduce the risks of misadventure and accident.'

Top mountain safety tips include:

□ Check the weather forecast and avalanche information service, and change your plans if necessary. Relevant information can be obtained from Scottish Avalanche Information Service at sais.gov.uk, the Met Office and Mountain Weather Information Service.

□ Leave a note with details of your route and when you expect to return.
□ Have an alternative plan in case weather conditions worsen.
□ Have all the appropriate equipment, including ice axe and crampons if conditions demand it.



Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team members carry out another rescue.

□ Carry a compass and map and know how to use it. Don't rely on GPS.

□ Attend a winter mountaineering course to brush up on your skills.

□ Read up about the risk of avalanche and how to spot the warning signs.

□ Carry a compass and map and know how to use it. Don't rely on GPS.

□ Attend a winter mountaineering course to brush up on your skills.

□ Read up about the risk of avalanche and how to spot the warning signs.

In 2017-18 the Scottish Government is providing the following funding to help ensure the safety of mountain users: £312,000 annual grant funding for Scotland's voluntary mountain rescue teams and £1,312,400 through sportscotland.

New award recognises best farm woodlands

THE finest farm woodlands in Scotland are being asked to step forward as part of a national awards programme.

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, which recognise excellent management and the creation of new woodlands, have added a Farm Woodland Award for 2018. Any farm where tree planting or woodland management has made an important contribution to the farm business and/or the local environment is encouraged to enter.

The winner will receive the magnificent Lilburn Trophy and £1,000 cash, thanks to joint support from the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) and Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

Farm woodlands entering the award will be used in a 'sustainable and potentially enterprising way with responsible management providing direct farming benefits'.

This might include:
□ generating income from sustainably managed woods;

□ using biomass, woodfuel or wood chips on site or selling them as renewable, clean energy;
□ creating new woods to offset carbon produced from agricultural operations;
□ using woodland for livestock shelter, sporting interests or other amenity use.

The award is open to active farmers anywhere in Scotland. The area of woodland must be two hectares (five acres) or more in size, with tree canopy cover (or the potential to achieve this for young woodland) of at least 20 per cent. Any young woodland must have had at least five years of growth.

Other awards to be presented at the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards ceremony at the Royal Highland Show will be made to Scotland's finest Community Woodlands, New Native Woodlands and Quality Timber, in addition to the Schools Award.

The deadline for entries is March 31. For details and an entry form, go to <http://www.sfw.co.uk/awards-2018/>

Weather takes its toll on deer populations

THE Association of Deer Management Groups is warning that, given the recent cold spell and conditions through the winter, there is a possibility of higher deer mortality this spring than in recent milder winters.

Richard Cooke, chairman of the Association of Deer Management Groups, said: 'We have heard from some deer management groups that deer in their areas were found to be in poor condition during the hind season and this cold spell will be hard for them, particularly if it now turns wet.'

'Often it is the past few weeks before the grass starts to appear on the hill that leads to losses, particularly of last year's calves. Also mature stags which use up most of their body condition in the breeding season in the preceding October and November can succumb. Hinds tend to be more resilient. The thinner-skinned roe deer are

also susceptible to hard weather. Winter losses are a natural process for wild deer, particularly in a year such as this but, by selectively removing the older and poorer individuals, management culling undoubtedly reduces natural mortality.'

'The Scottish red deer population is now beginning to decline due to culling efforts, as found in the James Hutton Institute report to SNH in 2017, and the overall health status of our red deer is generally good and within the carrying capacity of their range, but hard weather takes its toll as it does on all wildlife and

wildlife.
'Our request to the hill-going public is please to give deer a wide berth to avoid imposing further stress. Also, we would urge particular caution on the roads as deer naturally seek shelter on lower ground in hard times and are a potential hazard for motorists.'

Polar bear born in Highlands emerges from cover

Mum Victoria and her new cub have been caught on camera at the Highland Wildlife Park and will feature on television in a documentary this Sunday.



THE first polar bear cub to be born in the UK for 25 years has emerged at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Highland Wildlife Park.

Previously, the birth had only been confirmed by high-pitched noises heard from the maternity den.

Now the cub's first venture into the outside world has been caught on cameras installed by STV Productions during a two-year exclusive project to document the breeding and birth of the cub.

The cameras have been positioned outside the female polar bear's den since early February, giving unprecedented access for a forthcoming documentary, made for Channel 4 by STV Productions, about the park's pioneering polar bear breeding programme.

The cub was born in the week before Christmas, with mum Victoria having mated with Arkos, one of two male polar bears at the park, at Kincaig near Kingussie.

Victoria and her cub's enclosure will remain closed to the public until late this month to ensure privacy. Arkos can still be viewed in the enclosure he shares with Walker, the park's other male.

Born blind and weighing little more than a guinea pig, the cub, which has not yet been named, is now able to see and is the size of a Scottish terrier, having fed exclusively on Victoria's fat-rich milk over the past 12 weeks.

□ Britain's Polar Bear Cub airs on Channel 4 at 7pm on Sunday March 18.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Saturday March 17 Leum Uilleim, Corrour

An interesting day by train to one of Britain's most remote stations and a walk up this isolated hill on the edge of Rannoch Moor. Great views under a wide open sky. Re-

freshments at station cafe. Start from Corrour Station NN355664. Head NW on the path on the W side of the railway for 500m. Cross the bridge over a river and head W on a track leading up the spur of An Diollaich.

The track follows the rim of Coire a' Bhrich Beag, curving SW past Tom an Eòin. Continue to gain height gradually, past a cairn and on to the summit of Beinn a' Bhrich, 876m. Turn E, descend to a col then climb to the summit of Leum Uilleim, 909m. Descend steeply NE on rough ground over Sron an Lagain Ghairbh and continue NE on the boggy lower slopes back to Corrour Station for 3.24pm departure.

Grade: M+; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 580m; Map(s): LR41, EX385. Meet at Fort William station for 7.42am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

Thursday March 22 Am Bathach and Ciste Dhubh, Loch Cluanie

These hills have fine airy ridges that together make an unforgettable expedition in magnificent surroundings. The W face of Ciste Dhubh is remarkably steep.

Start from the A87 1.5km E of the Cluanie Inn at NH087120, where ample roadside parking is available. Head E to a gate just before the bridge over the Allt a' Chaorainn Mhoir. Follow the

starkers path beside the forested area, now clear-felled, up the SE ridge of Am Bathach. The path becomes indistinct, but stay on the ridge to the summit at 798m. Descend the NW ridge to the Bealach a' Choinich. Climb N steeply up the grassy slope to reach a rocky outcrop, and follow the ridge up to An Cnapach, 877m. The narrow ridge continues N for another 800m, rising to the summit of Ciste Dhubh, 979m. Return by the outward route to Bealach a' Choinich. There are two options from here: 1. Head ENE and follow the follow the Allt Coire Fhearchair down in to An Caorann Mor, cross the main river to reach the

path and a good track S to the A87 just E of the bridge.

2. Alternatively, and especially if rivers are in spate, descend SE in to An Caorann Beag and follow a very boggy path on the E side of the Allt a' Chaorainn Bhig which leads back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 14km; Height to climb: 1101m; Map(s): LR33, EX414. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill, at 8.20am for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club

secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Sunday March 18 Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag, Fort William

Take the path through the gorge and across the bridge to Steall ruin. Head NE up the broad ridge, which turns E as it narrows, to reach the summit Sgurr a' Bhuic, 963m. Descend a little NE to a col, then climb steeply N to Stob Coire Bhealaich, 1048m. Head W along the ridge, then steeply NW up a fine ridge to Aonach Beag, 1234m.

Descend steeply NW on rocky ground to the col then climb

gradually to the summit plateau of Aonach Mor, 1221m. Return S, almost to the col, to a WP (NN192722) on the 1130m contour.

Descend steeply W on an ill-defined spur to the bealach at NN186721, taking care not to stray on to even steeper ground on either side of this line. From the bealach, head S through the hanging valley of Coire Giubhsachan to pick up the path down to Steall ruin on the W side of the burn. Return through the Nevis gorge to the car park.

Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 1500m. Suggested by Toril Frantzen; coordinated by Ken Stevenson.

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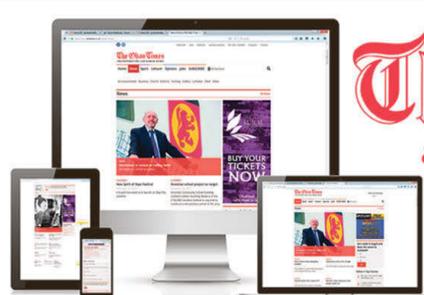
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Housing market activity flat, but prices rise as demand exceeds supply

RICS Residential Market Survey for Scotland, February 2018

Housing market activity in Scotland was flat in February as a shortage of properties becoming available for sale continued to result in an increasing number of potential new buyers being thwarted, according to the latest RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Residential Market Survey.

The number of properties coming onto the market (instructions to sell) failed to increase again in February, according to the survey, continuing a constrained supply trend that has been evident since 2015. As a result, newly agreed sales were flat last month, despite a rising number of new buyer inquiries.

Due to this gap between demand and availability, average house prices rose again, according to respondents, with a net balance of +31 per cent of Scottish surveyors reporting increased values in the latest survey. This was significantly above the UK average and one of the highest readings of the UK nations and regions.

Encouragingly, though, surveyors in Scotland are optimistic about the short-term outlook for activity in the market as we move into the spring months. A net balance of +39 per cent of respondents expect the number of sales to increase in the three months ahead, from their low base, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that surveyors expect more potential vendors to bring their properties to the market when the weather improves.

RICS director Gail Hunter says: 'Surveyors have continued to report that a lack of supply is



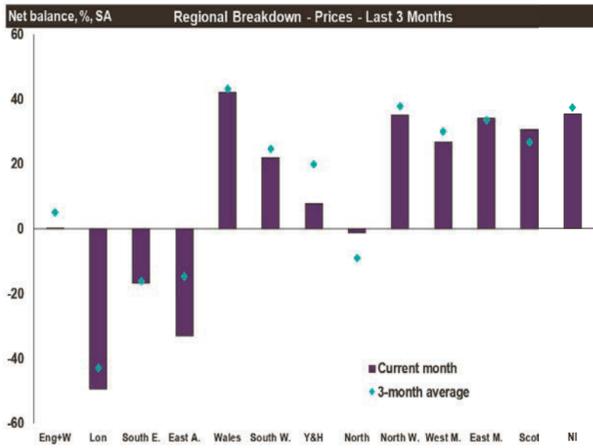
both constraining activity in the market and leading to prices being pushed upwards. However, looking ahead, there is an anticipation that this situation will improve in the spring months, with more properties becoming available and the backlog of potential buyers potentially easing. The expectation is that if the supply side improves, activity should increase and the upward pressure on prices should ease somewhat.'

The main findings of the survey were as follows:

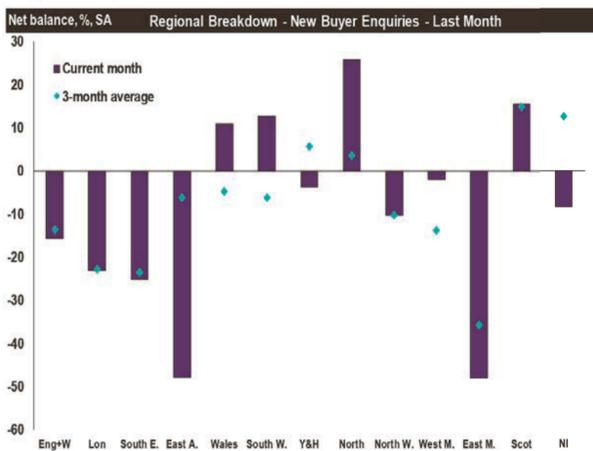
The headline price balance for Scotland was +31 per cent in the latest survey, meaning that 31 per cent more surveyors said that prices rose in the past three months than those who said they fell. The three-month price expectations balance, at +15 per cent, remains positive. Meanwhile, three-month sales expectations data at +39 per cent picked up and was firmly positive.

Newly agreed sales (+4 per cent) were broadly flat in February, according to the balance of respondents, whilst there was an increase in new buyer inquiries (+16 per cent). Significantly, instructions to sell failed to rise again (-4 per cent).

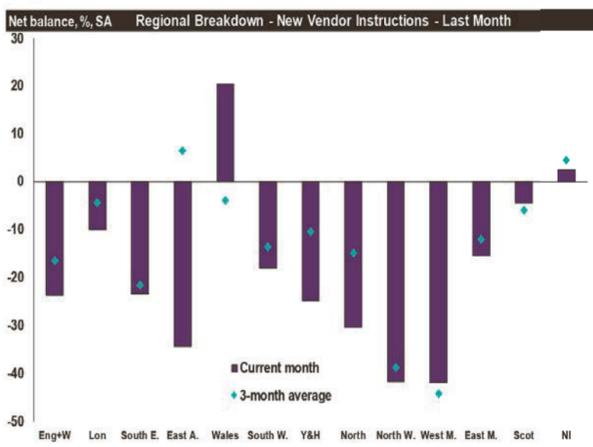
Regional Prices - Past three months



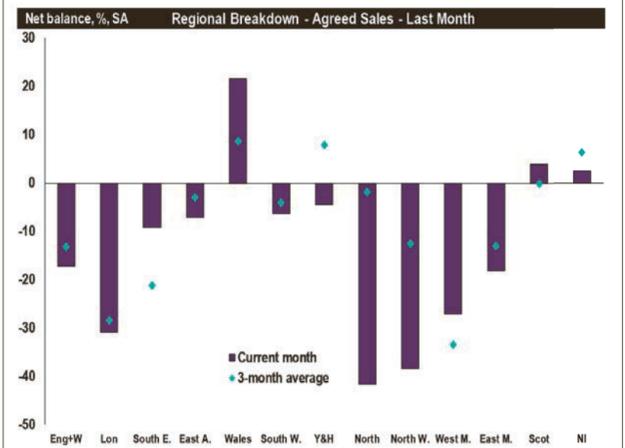
Regional Enquiries - Past month



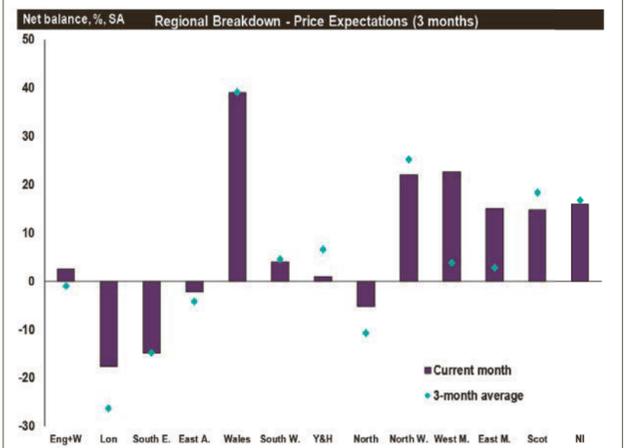
Regional New Vendor Instructions - Past month



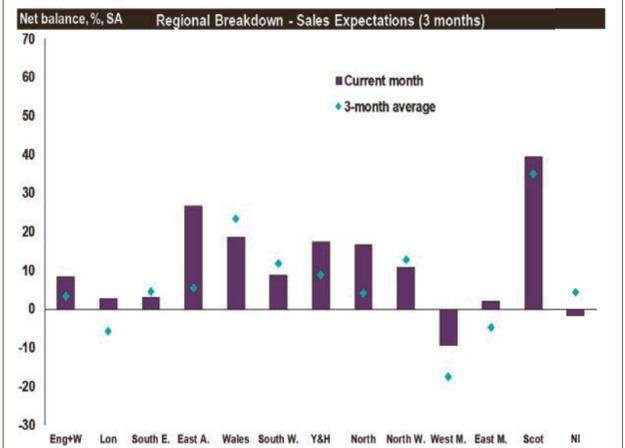
Regional Newly Agreed Sales - Past month



Regional Price Expectations - Next three months



Regional Sales Expectations - Next three months



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The phasing out of mortgage interest relief has already had a major impact on the way buy-to-let landlords operate, with 19 per cent of landlords having already moved properties into a limited company or transferred ownership to a spouse, according to new research by Kent Reliance.

But somewhat concerning, the study by the specialist lender, part of OneSavings Bank, also shows that 15 per cent of landlords do not fully understand the implications of taking this action, and could be in for a rude awakening when they file taxes for the year 2017/18.

Adrian Moloney, sales and marketing director at OneSavings Bank, said: 'Landlords have had nearly three years to understand and prepare for the changes to the tax treatment of mortgage interest. Most have risen to the challenge, but a few might have quite the shock when they come to file this year's tax return.'

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BREAKING NEWS BROUGHT TO YOU BY S&S SERVICES

WORLD PREMIERE OF SUBARU VIZIV TOURER CONCEPT AT GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW

TOKYO, MARCH 6, 2018 – Subaru Corporation today unveiled the Subaru VIZIV* Tourer Concept at the 88th Geneva International Motor Show.

SUBARU VIZIV TOURER CONCEPT

Since the debut of the Subaru VIZIV Concept in 2013, Subaru has produced a series of themed concept models embodying the brand's vision for the future of making cars, that deliver enjoyment and peace of mind to its customers.

Designed with a tourer theme, the Subaru VIZIV Tourer Concept unites a Symmetrical AWD layout powered by a boxer engine, with Subaru's wealth of expertise in offering driving performance, practicality and safety; delivering a new value in a tourer form, enabling drivers and passengers to fully savour the enjoyment of travelling by car.

In anticipation of widespread future deployment of automated driving technologies, advanced driver-assist functions combining the next-generation EyeSight system with other devices have been installed in the car to reduce driver fatigue on long journeys and enable active enjoyment of driving with peace of mind.

Subaru's design and development will advance in the directions indicated by the VIZIV Concept models as the company continues to make cars that deliver enjoyment and peace of mind.

* The name VIZIV has been coined from the phrase 'Vision for Innovation'

MAIN SPECIFICATIONS OF SUBARU VIZIV TOURER CONCEPT

Body size (overall length x width x height): 4,775 x 1,930 x 1,435 mm
Wheelbase: 2,730 mm
Tire size: 245/40 R20
Seating capacity: 4

DESIGN FEATURES

Evoking successive generations of Subaru touring wagon models that have paired superior driving with high levels of practicality, the Subaru VIZIV Tourer Concept has been designed based on Subaru's shared 'Dynamic x Solid' design philosophy.

The hexagonal grille is the starting point for a rigid, forward-thrusting body that combines with four powerfully defined fenders to highlight the enjoyment of driving while conveying a sense of security. Capacious luggage space at the rear offers utility and practicality. The VIZIV Tourer Concept is filled with a crossover mix of values to enhance active lifestyles, expressing the enjoyment and peace of mind that Subaru delivers to its customers.

ADVANCED DRIVER-ASSIST TECHNOLOGIES

Subaru has teamed advanced driver-assist technologies scheduled for launch around 2020 with the high performance offered by the boxer engine and Symmetrical AWD to create a tourer symbolising the enjoyment and peace of mind to be expected of its cars. By also incorporating further enhancements to EyeSight driver-assist technology, radar, and highly accurate GPS and navigation systems, Subaru continues to pursue ultimate levels of safety in the aim of eliminating automobile accidents.



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- Have a positive attitude to life and a commitment towards making a difference to the lives of people with disabilities
- Have excellent life skills and the ability to share these with others
- Have common sense and can understand and adhere to Codes of Practice and Care Standards

Experience of working with adults with disabilities although desirable is not essential as full training and 'on the job' support will be provided.

For informal discussion or support contact: Stephen.Riches@key.org.uk

For an application form and job description, please visit our website at www.key.org.uk email: jobs@key.org.uk or tel: 0141 342 1892.

closing date for applications is 30th March 2018.

Key, Key Support and Key Housing are names used by Key Housing Association Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC006652.

Visit: www.key.org.uk



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Are you looking for your next challenge?
Are you a good communicator and team player?

If you can answer yes to all of these questions, this may be the perfect job for you!

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The company is looking for individuals with a strong passion to learn and gain a career within the timber industry. We will help you learn and develop on the job and through study - gaining a recognised industry qualification at the end of your training.

The key attributes to success for this position are:

- Good communication skills
- Technical aptitude and ability to use tools and equipment
- Attention to detail
- Confidence
- Good time keeping
- Team player
- Responsible attitude to health, safety and the environment
- Positive, enthusiastic and self-motivated approach

No experience is necessary as full training is given.

Applicants **MUST** hold SQA's in English and Maths and a science based subject at National level 4 or above, or hold Functional Skills Level 2 or equivalent.

If you are looking for a challenging career within a highly motivated team, then for an application form please email our Recruitment Team at: recruitment@bsw.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 26th March 2018

For more information on careers and apprenticeships with BSW Timber, please visit our website www.bsw.co.uk

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BIELD
FREE TO BE

Biield are looking for an Assistant to join their development, Torosay Court in Oban, PA34 4RW.

Duties will involve the preparation of a meals service to tenants, providing general and emergency assistance and ensuring a high level of cleanliness within the development.

Although relevant experience in a similar post is desirable, this is not essential as training will be provided.

Hours of employment are 16 per week Monday and Sunday 10:30am - 7:00pm. We offer a competitive benefits package including a salary of £7,082 pro rata (£16,599 FTE) per annum.

To find out more and apply please visit <https://jobs.biield.co.uk/> or call 0131 273 4007. Closing date for applications is 20 March.



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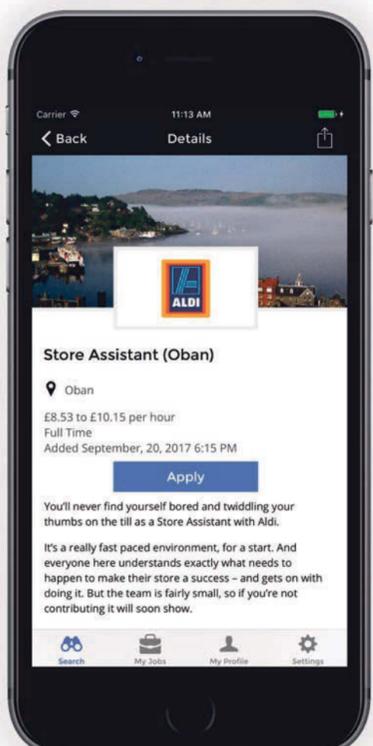
Saturday work for holiday let house in Connel, Oban, general house cleaning and bed changing. Salary will still be paid even if house is not let on certain weeks. Approximately 4 hours work per week.

Please contact Letty on mobile 07980955849.

Assistant Stockman Required

We have a vacancy for an Assistant Stockman at Ormsary Estate, near Lochgilphead, Argyll. The successful candidate will report to the Farm Manager. You will have a positive and enthusiastic manner, and be able to work in a small multi-skilled team with a flexible hands-on approach to stock farming and estate work. You will preferably have a recognised qualification and experience in all aspects of cattle and sheep husbandry, as well as general farm and machinery work. For the right candidate additional training will be given where required. The successful candidate will also possess a full driving licence, and be prepared to make their home at Ormsary. Ormsary Farmers offers an excellent employment package, including pension and family housing in a vibrant and scenic rural community, with a modern local primary school.

If you are confident that you can fulfil this role, please apply in writing by sending your CV to James Lithgow, Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary, Lochgilphead PA31 8PE, or by email to enquiries@ormsary.co.uk



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Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:

Name: Former Office & Store
Area: 0.08 ha.
Grid ref: NM792688
Location: Polloch, Glenfinnan, PH37 4LX

Name: Glenhurich Sawmill
Area: 0.19 ha.
Grid ref: NM835683
Location: Glenhurich, Glenfinnan, PH37 4LX

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website for more information on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

North Argyll Reinforcements

March 2018 Consultation Events

Come talk to us

We are holding a series of consultation events to provide an update on our proposals to reinforce the transmission network in North Argyll.

The Dalmally - Creag Dhubb element of the North Argyll project proposes to reinforce the existing transmission network in the region. This will enable generation projects to connect to the electricity network and ensure security of supply.

The project team are seeking comment from the local community on the preferred location of the new 'Creag Dhubb' substation (formerly known as North Argyll). We will also be seeking comment on the proposed alignment of the new 275kV line between Creag Dhubb and Dalmally.

For more information on the project, either come along to the events or contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Kelly Scott
Community Liaison Manager
Tel: 07443 772 946
Email: kelly.scott@sse.com
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/north-argyll

Dalmally Community Centre
Mon 19th March
14:00 – 19:00

Kilchrenan Village Hall
Tue 20th March
14:00 – 19:00

Portsonachan Village Hall
Wed 21st March
14:00 – 19:00

Taynuilt Village Hall
Thurs 22nd March
14:00 – 19:00

@ssencommunity

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest 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
18/00978/FUL	Old Byre, Onich Fort William		Section 42 Application - Removal of Condition 2 from Planning Permission 03/00385/FULL0
18/01036/FUL	In Garden Ground At Beinn Bhan, West Laroch Ballachulish		Erection of garage/letting unit (retrospective) and erection of house
17/05785/FUL	The Laird's Retreat Duror, Appin		Construction of a new section of cycle path (Further Details Submitted)
18/00942/FUL	Land 170M NE Of Ardgour House, Ardgour		Erection of house
18/01023/TPNO	Telephone Exchange Strontian, Acharacle		Erection of 12m streetworks pole and associated works

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents 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, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or 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	Location of Plans
18/00360/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage (amended scheme relative to planning permission reference 12/01864/PP)	Plot 4 Land Adjacent To Kilmore And Kilbride Parish Church Kilmore Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/02927/PP	Change of use of agricultural shed to form equestrian manage for horse and dog training use	Mill Farm House Barcalidne Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Connel

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/fin-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 Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

MALLAIG HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Appointment of Non-Executive Board Members

Mallaig Harbour Authority is seeking to make appointments of three non-executive members to its Board and individuals with an interest in public service are being sought.

Mallaig Harbour Authority is a Trust Port which differs from company or local authority owned ports by its constitution and powers. All port investments are funded from trading revenues supplemented by commercial borrowings.

The main duties of the Authority are to maintain, improve and develop the Port.

The appointments will be for a period of three years with all three appointments commencing in April 2018. Posts will be part time, typically a few days per month. A modest remuneration is payable.

Competencies/Skills

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- That they have achieved results in demanding situations and can demonstrate ability and a proven track record in their chosen profession (or other activities);
- That they have the ability to contribute effectively in group discussions involving a wide range of people, including specialists and professionals. This includes the intellectual ability to extract the essence of an argument from papers and to analyse problems and assess evidence impartially;
- That they have been able to earn the respect of colleagues and been influential as a member of a team working over a sustained period of time towards demanding goals;

Applicants should make clear the level and depth of management or specialist expertise (if any), and of any other experience which demonstrate knowledge and interests relevant to this post e.g. management of harbours, financial management, human resources and industrial relations, laws relating to Scotland.

Residence within a reasonable distance of the port, and familiarity with local issues in the region surrounding the port, are highly desirable.

The Authority is committed to equality of opportunity and encourages a diverse range of applicants and to the principle of appointment on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process in accordance with the Guide To Good Governance for Trust Ports.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from:
Mallaig Harbour Authority, Harbour Office, Mallaig, Inverness-shire. PH41 4QB or info@mallaigharbourauthority.com
Closing date for applications – 2pm on Friday 23rd March 2018

Atlantis
25 YEARS

AGM

16th April 7pm – 8pm
Atlantis Leisure Function room

It's our 25th AGM and we would love you to join in celebrating our achievements and plans for the future.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Allan Cameron has registered his croft 208 Acharacle Lochshiel View, Acharacle, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 26th November 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4890.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Peter Alexander Sinclair has registered his croft Dalrannoch, Achaleven, Ardhattan & Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 7th December 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4914.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr George Reid has registered his croft 3 Airds Bay, Airds/Kirkton and Balindore 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 18th October 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0017.

First Registration of a Croft

Miss Rhona Anne MacLeod has registered her croft 13 Cloulin, Ardgour on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th December 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4918.

First Registration of a Croft

Ronald Stewart McColl has registered his crofts at (i) 1 Kinlochlaich, (ii) 2 Kinlochlaich, Kinlochlaich, and (iii) Portnacroish, Stalker Cottage, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any persons who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 10 October 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The registration number is C4006, C4002 and C4801.

CARNACH COMMON GRAZINGS COMMITTEE MEETING

Carnach (Glencoe) Common Grazings in the Parish of Lismore and Appin will elect a new grazing committee at a meeting to be held on Thursday April 5, 2018, at 7pm in the Glencoe Church Hall.

FORBES BOAT CARE LTD
Company Number: SC440943
(In Liquidation)

We, Kenneth W Pattullo and Kenneth R Craig, of Beghies Taynor, Finlay House, 10-14 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2PP hereby give notice, pursuant to Rule 4.19 of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986, that on Thursday 8th March 2018, we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company by a Resolution of the First Meeting of Creditors held in terms of Section 138(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986. A Liquidation Committee was not established. All creditors who have not already done so are required to lodge their claims with us by 8th June 2018. Further details contact: Louise Lawlor, Email: louise.lawlor@beghies-taynor.com Kenneth Pattullo, Joint Liquidator 8th March 2018

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (C1162 GLEN NEVIS) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2018

On 7th March 2018 The Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to enable Gumshoe Productions to provide a safe working space for the filming unit.

The use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule hereto is prohibited from 5am - 8pm each day during the period the above Order is in force from 5am on Wednesday 21st March 2018 until 8pm on Saturday 24th March 2018.

Access will be provided for emergency vehicles and services buses. Pedestrians and cyclists will be transported through the site.

A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, on weekdays during normal office hours.

7th March 2018 Mrs Lesley Howie, Legal Manager Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

SCHEDULE

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C1162 Glen Nevis
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REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 5645782.

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CARAVAN WATER PUMP Truma Crystal water pump, very clean and good working order, £20 Telephone 01631 770698.

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RAYBURN 400k. Very good condition. Uninstalled and ready to go. Transport could be arranged. £1,500 Call Neil on 01369 840408.

TUMBLE DRYER Hotpoint Aquarius CTD00 condensing dryer, white, £50 Telephone 07484 708004.

VINTAGE CONA coffee maker, cream, £25 ono Telephone 01546 603654 or 07900 862835.

WASHING MACHINE Indesit IWC61451, 6Kg load, A+ efficiency, 1400 spin, £60 Telephone 07484 708004.

EQUESTRIAN

DONKEYS Betty, grey mare 6 yrs, Hardy, brown Jack 3yrs. Both chipped and papered, quiet to lead and handle. Can be sold separately, Telephone 01631 564085 or 07990 731845.

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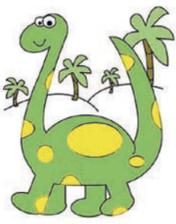
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BIRTHS



BOURNE - NEULANDS

Lucy and Ralph are delighted to greet Findlay William on Monday March 12, 2018. Brother Harry is readying the dinosaurs. Granny Liza and grandad Richard are proud of their fine brood.

DEATHS

BLACK - Thomas (Tommy) late of Killeen Inveraray and Edengettagart Luss, passed away peacefully at home, Bowman Court, Isle of Mull. Beloved husband of Sheena, loving father of Carol and the late Joan. Devoted Papa of Iain, Joan and Ewan and a proud Great Grandfather. Funeral service was held at Luss Parish Church on Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 12.30.

CAMERON - AMENDED NOTICE - Peacefully at the Highland Hospice on Friday, March 2, 2018, Andrew Cameron, 8 County Cottages, Culduthel, Inverness. Retired Farm Manager of the famous Tordarroch Highland Cattle Fold. Devoted husband of Sheena, much loved dad of Jane, Mary and Catherine, a dear brother of Rena and a loving uncle. Will be very sadly missed. Funeral service on Thursday March 15, 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Funeral Home of William T. Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduthel Road, Inverness, thereafter burial in Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban, on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for the Highland Hospice welcome at the service.

KENNEDY - John James, aged 68, husband of Seonaid, passed away in Dunoon on March 10 2018, son of the late Jack and Rebecca, brother of the late Lamont.

LINDSAY - Peacefully at Hillview Care Home on Saturday March 3, 2018, Sarah (Sally) McIntyre. Loving aunt of Anne and Mairi, beloved great-aunt of Dugald, Lorna, Thomas and Fiona and great-great aunt of Isla and Campbell. Funeral takes place today at Cardross Crematorium at 11.15 a.m.

MACPHERSON - Donald, aged 71, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2018, at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert. Beloved husband of Marion, loving father of Charles, Angus and Mairi, a much loved grandad of the family. Funeral service on Wednesday March 21, 2018 at Alva Parish Church at 11.45am. Thereafter to Falkirk Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations may be given in a retail offering for the British Heart Foundation. Hillview Funeral Services 01259 725999

MCGREGOR - At the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on March 7, 2018, John Malloch, beloved husband of Margaret, much loved dad of Iain and Fiona, father-in-law of Colin and Nikki and loving Grampa of Alasdair, Euan, Innes, Aoife and Oren. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday March 20, at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Cancer Research UK.

MCKENZIE - Peacefully on March 8, 2018, in her 80th year of life, Pat, beloved wife of Richard, mother of Anna and Iain and amazing grandma to Torfinn, Tallack and Tilde. Funeral will take place at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally on Thursday March 15, at 2.00 pm. Private cremation. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Support.

MICHIE - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban on March 11, 2018, in her 89th year, Nana Michie, beloved wife of the late Ewen, much loved mother to Malcolm and Colin, a loving granny and great granny. Sadly missed.

MEMORIALS

CONEY-BAYLEY - In treasured, loving memories of our dearly esteemed friend, helpmate and colleague, the honoured international artist and illustrator Ruth Jacqueline, who passed away on March 19, 2015 leaving those privileged to know her bereft, but ever more devotedly remembered.

ELLIS - In loving memory of Emily who passed away on March 17, 2017.

I'm sending a dove to Heaven With a parcel on its wings Be careful when you open it It's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses Wrapped up in a million hugs To say how much I miss you And to send you all my love. I hold you close within my heart And there you will remain

To walk with me throughout my life Until we meet again.

- Cathy, Mike, Lisa, Iain, Michael and Ni. Night Night Aunty Emily - Ryan, Michael, Abbie and Tyra.

LAFFERTY - In loving memory of our dad John Joseph who passed away March 15, 1989. Always in our thoughts. - Denise and Kerry.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Alistair MacLean (Monumental Sculptor) who died March 19, 2016, aged 84 years, beloved husband to the late Mary, a much loved and loving dad, paps, papa and father-in-law. Loving and kind in all his ways. Upright and just to the end of his days. Sincere and true in heart and mind. Beautiful memories he left behind.

- Dugald, Arlene and families. **MACPHERSON - In loving memory** of Sandra, died March 17, 2013. Always in our thoughts. - Donald and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of my wife Ena, dearly loved mum, mother-in-law and granny, who passed away on March 18, 2017. Much loved and sadly missed. Happy and smiling always content. Loved by all wherever you went Always so thoughtful, loving and kind. What beautiful memories you left behind Always in our thoughts. - Dougal and family.

OMAND - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious Nana, Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. Loved and remembered always.

- Family Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

STEWART - In memory of our precious mother Maryann (Maisie), who died on March 11, 2016 at the Belford Hospital. Your voice we still can hear You always feel so near Our protector and our guide Forever by our side Remembered always with love.

- Your girls Christina and Catherine, Fort William and Ballachulish.



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Churches urged to car-share on diocesan drive to 'go-green'

CAR sharing to get to church was just one of the many 'go green' ideas aired at Argyll and the Isles Diocesan Synod when more than 100 delegates met near Oban.

The two-day event was hosted at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunbeg.

Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Rt Rev Kevin

Pearson likened the synod to an annual general meeting and said it was an opportunity 'to hold up a mirror to the life of the diocese and take a closer look'.

Climate change and minimising the Scottish Episcopal Church's investment in fossil fuels was also on the agenda.

Ways of churches growing greener in terms of build-

ing and heating methods were also up for discussion and representatives of churches were encouraged to look at ways of making travelling to church more environmentally-friendly such as setting up car-sharing schemes.

Dean of Argyll and the Isles, the Rev Andrew Swift said: 'Some of things like car-sharing may seem trivial

and small examples but they do make a difference.'

On the first day of the conference, delegates heard from Canon Dave Richards from St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh about its £6.5m refurbishment.

'We have been pooling knowledge and planning our aspirations,' added the Rev Swift.



Dean Andrew Swift, diocesan treasurer; Dr Jean Ainsley, diocesan secretary; Dr Peter Kemp; and the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson.

Lewis pupils create Iolaire memorial for Stornoway

STONES have been collected from the home village of each of the 201 sailors lost on the Iolaire and will be incorporated into a unique memorial in Stornoway town centre to be unveiled later this month.

Stornoway Amenity Trust, in partnership with the Nicolson Institute, and supported by Stornoway Historical Society, has been working on the Iolaire Memorial Project (Pròiseact Carragh-Cuimhne na h-Iolaire) to create a memorial to mark the centenary of the sinking of the Iolaire on New Year's Day in 1919 - the worst peacetime maritime disaster in British waters.

Stones have been collected from the villages of those lost on the Iolaire. Stones have been collected from the villages of those

lost on the Iolaire. The memorial will be situated in Carn Gardens, close to the town hall and will consist of a slate engraving on a wall and a stone cairn which will include stones to represent each man lost.

A bench donated by Stornoway Port Authority will also be put in place nearby. The plan to include stones from the home village or town of all victims was devised by pupils of the Nicolson Institute who have spent the past few months working on those collections.

Stones have now been collected in villages all over Lewis, Harris, Berneray (North Uist) and also from the home towns of the 20 victims who were not from the Isles - a project which has involved communities across the UK.



Pupils visit the site of the sinking of the Iolaire.

The memorial is currently under construction and will be unveiled at 11am on March 23 by descendants of some of those lost in the Iolaire.

A procession of 201 pupils from the Nicolson Institute will walk to Carn Gardens where the cairn, the engraving and the bench will be unveiled. All are welcome to attend this event.

Stornoway Amenity Trust would like to thank the

Heritage Lottery Fund, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery and Stornoway Port Authority for providing funds for the project.



Stones have been collected from the villages of those lost on the Iolaire.

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WEDDING



RACHEL MACINTYRE AND EWAN CAMERON

Married at Nether Lochaber Parish Church. Onich on October 14, 2017 with a reception held at The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William. The happy couple are pictured at Glencoe Lochan. Photo by Gavin Macqueen, Alba Wedding Photography.

Thought for the week

RECENTLY I lost my back-door key. It was missing for about two weeks and it was very frustrating.

I always keep it in the glove compartment of my car, but the car is off the road just now (that's another story) so I decided to put it somewhere 'safe' that I would remember.

The trouble was that I forgot where that safe place was!

I searched high and low, in all the obvious places and then anywhere I could think of ... even daft places.

It turned up again on Saturday morning - and it had been in a pocket in my handbag all along.

Sometimes, in life, it can feel like we are searching for something. We can't quite place what it is or where we might find it, but we'll only be content once it is found.

Perhaps we search for the 'missing piece' of our lives

in all the obvious places ... among our family, with friends, through our social life or retail therapy. When none of those things works, perhaps we need to look somewhere else close by.

I've been a church member for all my adult life, but there was a time when I tried to walk away and do without it. I thought it might make my life easier, but how wrong I was.

Our local churches are places of welcome and acceptance, of friendship and faith, and, for many of us, they provide what would otherwise be that missing link in our lives.

Sometimes what you are searching for is closer to hand than you realise ... and where you least expect to find it.

Rev Christine Fulcher,
Parish assistant,
Kilmore and Oban Parish Church.

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In memory of Catherine MacLeod

Fort climber sets sights on Scottish youth squad after regional win

A YOUNG Lochaber climber is one step away from winning a place on the Scottish youth climbing team after being crowned north of Scotland champion for his age group.

Twelve-year-old Archie MacIntyre, from Corpach, put in a number of impressive performances this year to win the north section of the Youth Climbing Series (YCS), cementing his place in the Scottish youth development squad.

With one more round of competition to go before the development squad is whittled down to the final team, Archie is keen to build on his recent results to make sure he gets the chance to climb for his country.

Last September, at the beginning of his fledgling climbing career, Archie took part in the Scottish school climbing heats, having to complete his scorecard at Three Wise Monkeys in Fort William and then send

Climbing

it to adjudicators. Archie was then selected to go to the final in Glasgow in November, where the young Lochaber climber finished second overall, missing out on the top spot by just one point.

This taste of national competition encouraged him to enter the premier youth climbing series in Scotland, the YCS. As part of the series, Archie took part in three competitions over the course of January and February this year.

At the first round in Inverness, Archie finished third. The second stage was closer to home at the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven where he secured a top place finish. The final competition of the series was held in Aberdeen, where Archie equalled his previous performance and finished first again.

These two wins in the final two rounds confirmed meant that Archie was confirmed as the north of Scotland champion for his age group, meaning that he was automatically selected for the Scottish YCS development squad.

Archie only started climbing 18 months ago at Three Wise Monkeys but has since worked through the Nicas climbing scheme and is about to complete level four.

He is competing again in Ratho the March 24 to be selected to represent Scotland in the British final in April.



Archie on top of the podium at the Aberdeen stage of the Youth Climbing Series.



Archie MacIntyre focuses during one of his competition climbs.

Race to register for Crinan Puffer places

THE RACE is on to register for the next big event on Argyll's athletics calendar.

Organisers of the Scottish Sea Farms Crinan Puffer, an eight-mile, point-to-point race along

the bank of the Crinan Canal, are looking for entrants for this year's event on Sunday April 22.

Athletics

The race, promoted by Mid Argyll Athletics Club, has been held as a fundraiser for Mid Argyll Community Pool since 2010, when the pool faced closure.

This year, runners have a chance to earn back their entry fee, by raising £55 or more for the swimming pool.

The race is held under UK Athletics rules and is a Scottish athletics-licensed event.

There are five categories: juniors aged 16-17, seniors aged 18-39, veterans aged 40-49, super veterans aged 50-59, and vintage, aged 60 and over.

Many Argyll athletes participated in last year's event, with Campbeltown Running Club's Jennifer Martin coming first in the senior ladies' race, and Stuart McGeachy, also of CRC, runner-up in the senior men's contest. An event spokesperson said: 'We look forward to welcoming race participants old and new this year.'

More details about this year's event, including a timetable, can be found by visiting www.crinanpuffer.co.uk.



Jennifer Martin, left, pictured with fellow CRC members, won last year's senior ladies' race.



The Oban primary school cricket competition ended in an all Park final. 07_111_Cricket01

Park primary win cricket competition

PUPILS from Park Primary School came out on top at this year's primary cricket competition.

Teams from Rockfield, St Columba's and Park all took part in the event, which was held at Atlantis Leisure last

Thursday, but in the end it was an all Dunollie final, with Park 3 beating Park 4 71 points to 28.

Player of the tournament was Park 3's Emma Fairbairn.

Speaking about the event, head organiser Ronnie Kelly said: 'It's been absolutely superb.'

Cricket

'The standard was really high. It gets better every year and the enthusiasm was great. We have been doing this since 2010 and it just gets better and better.'



The Rodger family hand over a cheque for £2,000 to Star for Harris charity raised at the darts tournament in memory of Duncan Rodger. JP F11 Duncan Rodger darts. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

Duncan Rodger Memorial darts raises £2,000 for Star for Harris

DARTS players in Fort William banded together earlier this month to take part in the Duncan Rodger Memorial tournament at Sunny's Sports Bar.

Memory

Dozens of players turned out to honour the memory of former local darts champion, Duncan Rodger, who passed away in May last year.

The darts event, which was hosted by members

Darts

of Duncan's family, also helped raise funds for Star for Harris, with the proceeds of the tournament going towards the Fort William charity.

The tournament raised a whopping £2,000 in total and a cheque was presented by the Rodger family to the charity last week.

More postponements for Oban rugby teams

Annan	P
Oban Lorne	P
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne's fixture pile-up continues with another postponed game, this time in the form of Saturday's trip away to Annan.

Pitch conditions due to melting snow and a heavy downpour of rain meant that the game could not go ahead at Annans Violet-bank pitch.

Saturday's postponement was a huge blow for Oban Lorne who had a full and strong match day squad.

The team still have a huge tally of ten games remaining that need to be played between now and Saturday May 19.

Oban now find themselves ten points adrift of safety in the league but have three games in hand on some of the teams above them.

This Saturday the team entertain mid table Kilmarnock at Glencruitten.

The sides met earlier in the season with Killie recording a thumping 106-13 win over an understrength Oban team.

Kick off is 3pm at Glencruitten.

The clubhouse will also be open for all of Saturday's Nat West Six Nations fixtures.

Oban Lorne	P
Royal Dick Vet College	P
BT Women's National League 2	

OBAN Lorne Ladies were left without another fixture on Sunday as Royal Dick Vet Ladies conceded the National League 2 tie due to a lack of available

players. This means that Oban Lorne have now won the league title and have sealed their promotion to National League 1 for the 2018/19 season.

For Oban the focus is now on their two remaining league fixtures but also the task of the meeting between themselves and Howe of Fifa Women on Sunday April 8 in the semi final of the BT National Bowl Competition.

Rugby

The sides will battle for a place in the National Final at BT Murrayfield on Saturday April 28.

This Sunday Oban Lorne Ladies travel away from home to take on mid table Grangemouth RFC. The teams met earlier in the season with Oban recording a 68-0 win.



Oban Lorne Ladies were crowned BT Women's National League Division 2 champions when Royal Dick Vet College Ladies conceded the points.

Kyokushinkai Karate
THE SCOTTISH Open tournament, which is run by Iain Rodger from the Oban and Lochgilphead clubs, was



Darryl McLaughlin.

a great success with all those who took part vowing to return next year. There were very few Scottish fighters in the mix but Karen Paterson from the Lochgilphead Kyokushinkai Karate club took a second place in the ladies' novice category, which has spurred Karen on and she is now in training for the Irish Open in June.

Darryl McLaughlin has sustained an injury and now won't compete at the Kyokushin Cup in Glasgow on April 7. His sights are now set on the Irish Open in June and the British Open in October.

Darryl was this week awarded his embroidered black belt after his successful grading in December.

If you are interested in learning Kyokushinkai Karate, contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Kickboxing

Senshi Do Kick Boxing students Cody and Henley McCulloch, Daniel and Gracie Hill, Adam, Billy and Robbie Bratton, Lewis May and Logan Galbraith are all training hard to take part in the Kyokushin Karate tournament in Glasgow on the April 7. This will be the third time students from Oban have taken part in this full contact tournament where the aim is to knock your opponent to the floor or impress the judges enough with good strong technique and show of spirit that they award you the win if there have been no knockdowns in the match.

The rest of the students are working towards the grading on Saturday March 24 when they hope to achieve their next belt on the journey to the coveted black belt.

Sundays have seen the return of the women-only sessions at 1pm. This is designed for women who would like to start a martial art but are put off by the idea of joining a club where there are men who have been training for a while. It's worth pointing out that martial artists are some of the least judgemental people there are when it comes to beginners as they all know how hard it is to start the journey and want to help people begin theirs.

For more details, contact Wullie Rodger on 07588 513618, shi-



Henley McCulloch and Gracie Hill preparing for the Kyokushin Karate tournament on April 7.

MARTIAL ARTS
WITH IAIN RODGER

hanwill@gmail.com, or pop in to the club on Wednesdays 4.30pm juniors, 6pm seniors, Fridays 4.30pm juniors, 6pm seniors or Sundays 11am juniors over seven and 1pm women only.

Shukokai Karate

Argyll Shukokai are currently working towards the next grading test which will be held at the end of April. With over 50 students training at the three dojos, the organisation is currently looking for a central location to hold the grading, with Dalmally looking possible with its new community centre and modern facilities.

Anyone looking for more details should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com

BJJ

Oban BJJ has had a busy month with promotions to blue belt for Ewan and Callum Weir from Appin and Craig Cameron all getting their well deserved new coloured belt.

On February 25 a team from the club travelled to Ravenscraig to join more than 400 other practitioners from 51 teams across the UK to participate in the West of Scotland winter cup.

This tournament may have been the club's most successful tournament to date with every student who competed ending up on the podium.

Liam Roberts surpassed all expectations getting a bronze in gi and winning gold in nogi, looking polished and confident throughout his fights and showed tremendous improvement.

Ruarigh Black after only three months' training improved in every match and can be pleased with a hard-fought bronze in nogi. Mateusz Grabiec dominated both his gi and nogi divisions, submitting all his opponents on his way to two golds, Dawid Loukil and Tomasz Kapusta rounded off the day with a gold, silver and bronze.

After the tournament, the club got the great news that, of the 51 teams, they finished third overall with only the powerhouse gyms Aberdeen Combat Centre and Griphouse above them.

BJJ is on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 7.30pm.

Anyone looking for more information about BJJ and MMA classes should contact club coach Iain (Coogie) Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com



Daniel Hill and Cody McCulloch in action.



Oban BJJ's Mateusz Grabiec, centre, picked up two gold medals at the West of Scotland winter cup tournament held at Ravenscraig recently.



The Oban BJJ team that competed at Ravenscraig. Back row, left to right, Coogie Potter, Tomasz Kapusta; front row, left to right, Dawid Loukil, Mateusz Grabiec, Ruarigh Black, Liam Roberts.

Oban hockey club strengthen their grip on Division Four league title

Oban	4
Giffnock 3s	1
West District Men's Div 4	

AFTER the 'Beast from the East' saw last week's game postponed, Oban were back in action against third-placed Giffnock.

Having lost to Giffnock earlier in the season, the team knew this would be a tough encounter.

In typical Oban style, a goal was scored in the first 10 minutes of the game with captain Ali Burton firing home from a short corner. Moments later, star striker Stuart Head scored Oban's second from open play.

After a strong start, the team then found themselves under pressure from a resurgent Giffnock, who launched numerous counter-attacks and forced three attacking short corners inside the first half.

Oban's defence was proving to be impenetrable, with each short corner saved from Giffnock scoring.

However, the breakthrough came for the opposition and Giffnock struck the ball home after finding a way past keeper Andy Head diving away to his right.

At 2-1, the pressure was on and Oban had to dig deep to see off the Giffnock attacks. Just before half-time Oban got lucky and were awarded a short corner.

After the ball deflected off the Giffnock keeper George Gauley scrambled to the ball and managed to push it over the line before Giffnock's defenders could get there.

At 3-1 up going into the second half, the team knew they had to work hard to hold onto the game. To make things worse, Jack Anderson, who had pro-

Hockey

vided great stability in defence, had to leave the game.

It was time for a change of tactics and Oban amended their formation to a more defensive 5-3-2. The plan worked and Giffnock were not able to break through the strong Oban defence.

The smell of victory was in the air and Oban launched several counter-attacks of their own to put Giffnock under pressure once again.

Yet another short corner was won, and the ball was passed back to key midfield player Zeph Petit, who fired home with sublime accuracy, ensuring Oban sealed a 4-1 victory to further extend their lead at the top of the table.

The team travel to close rivals Hillhead on Saturday.



Zeph Petit scores Oban's fourth goal to secure victory over Giffnock.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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- M Fletcher Creran Gardens, Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
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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

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.

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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Late goal gives Oban Camanachd a share of the points at Blairbeg

AFTER winter weather wrecked the opening day of the new shinty season, the fixture card was almost completed on Saturday March 10.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glenurquhart 1 Oban Camanachd 1

Lorne Dickie scored five minutes from time to give Oban Camanachd a 1-1 draw with Glenurquhart at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart defender Lachie Smith sat this one out as he served the final game of a four-match suspension.

Manager Ian MacLeod made four changes to the side which lost to Kinlochshiel a week earlier, with Andrew Corrigan, Finlay Ralston, Ben Hosie and Cameron MacKintosh included, whilst David MacLennan had recovered from a knee injury sustained in the previous week's game.

With Scott McKillop injured and Scott MacMillan suspended, Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay made changes at the back with Daniel Cameron, Matt Rippon, Willie Neilson and youngster Daniel Sloss forming a new back-four.

Garry Lord returned from holiday and joined David Lafferty and Keith MacMillan on the bench.

There was also a change in goal where Cameron Sutherland took over from the injured Gavin Stobbart. Evan MacLellan would have started, but pulled out 24 hours before the game after hurting his back at work.

Both teams started well with their respective keepers called into action.

Cameron Sutherland made a great save with the side of his stick to keep out a waist-high shot and prevent Glenurquhart going in front.

At the other end, Daniel MacVicar and Craig MacDougall sent efforts just the wrong side of the post, while Stuart MacKintosh saved well with his hand from Aidan MacIntyre.

The Oban side had a chance to go in front after 38 minutes when referee John Angus Gillies awarded them a penalty. Glenurquhart defender Ally MacKintosh was penalised for stopping the ball with his feet inside the 'D' just after he had dropped his stick.

Malcolm Clark stepped up to take the spot-hit but he topped the ball and the chance was gone

and Glenurquhart were awarded a free-hit. The home side broke the deadlock on 49 minutes. A fine strike from Michael Fraser produced an equally fine save from Cameron Sutherland but, with the ball still in mid-flight at the 'D', Daniel MacKintosh stretched to lob the ball with his back to goal and it went over the Oban keeper and into the net to make it 1-1.

Glenurquhart then enjoyed a good period of play including two clear-cut opportunities from Fraser Heath which Cameron Sutherland kept out with tremendous saves.

At the other end, Stuart MacKintosh also had some good stops to deny Daniel MacVicar and Lorne Dickie.

The pitch became heavy, not helped by the earlier game, and the midfield got congested.

Andrew MacCuish was solid in the centre line for Oban Camanachd. He lined up against David MacLennan and both players were booked following one midfield tussle which ended in a melee with the Glenurquhart man perhaps fortunate the penalty wasn't more severe.

Oban Camanachd finally drew level with five minutes remaining. Malcolm Clark made amends for his earlier penalty miss when he played a perfect pass from a free-hit to Lorne Dickie wide on the left and he hammered a 20-yard drive in to the top right hand corner of the net to make it 1-1.

The Oban side created three more chances during the closing stages but Stuart MacKintosh – twice with his feet and once with his stick – was equal to their efforts.

This was a good and very competitive match throughout and Glenurquhart held on to get their first point on the board so they will go into Saturday's trip to Kingussie with confidence.

Oban Camanachd didn't make the most of their chances and there are two new concerns for manager Ian Hay as Aidan MacIntyre left the field with a knee injury which is going to require at least a fortnight's rest whilst Lorne Dickie's groin injury, suffered just before he scored, will also lead to a spell on the sidelines.

Both players will miss Saturday's meeting with Newtonmore with Cameron Sutherland likely to remain between the sticks with Gavin Stobbart still injured.

Scott MacMillan will return from suspension though.

Caberfeidh 3 Kinlochshiel 5

Kinlochshiel stay top of the table courtesy of their 5-3 win over Caberfeidh at Castle Leod.

This was a first Premiership match for Caberfeidh, who had Fraser MacArthur suspended, and it was against the champions who were without injured captain Paul MacRae.

John MacRae gave Kinlochshiel the lead after five minutes when his shot from the right squeezed past the keeper at his right post.

Craig Morrison equalised on 22 minutes. Blair Morrison sent a free-hit from left midfield into the danger area and Craig Morrison got onto the ball at the back post to fire past goalie Scott Kennedy, beating the keeper on his left side.

Kinlochshiel regained the lead on 30 minutes when they were awarded a penalty. Jordan Fraser crashed the ball high over the keeper's left shoulder to make it 2-1.

Duncan 'DA' MacRae made it 3-1 on 40 minutes when his low shot from the left deceived the keeper and the visitors took their two-goal advantage into the break.

Jordan Fraser added a fourth on 59 minutes when he ran forward to get onto a low John MacRae cross from the right, scoring from just inside the 'D'.

Keith MacRae followed up his two goals a week earlier when he made it 5-1 on 63 minutes. MacRae knocked the ball home from a tight angle at the back post following a corner from the right.

Caberfeidh rallied though and Kevin Bartlett pulled a goal back on 76 minutes. Bartlett's low shot from the right went across the keeper and into the far corner of the net.

Craig Morrison made it 5-3 on 90 minutes when he scored a re-bound after Scott Kennedy had saved, but Kinlochshiel took the points.

Kyles Athletic 4 Kingussie 0

With on-going pitch improvements continuing at Tighnabruaich, Kyles Athletic will play their early season home matches at Dunoon Stadium.

For Kingussie, this meant a return to the scene of their 2006 Camanachd Cup win.

Kyles Athletic manager James Perlich included Neil MacVicar, signed from Skye in the close season, and he started on the bench. Forward Sandy MacKen-



Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie and Glenurquhart's Andrew Corrigan in action during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Blairbeg which ended in a 1-1 draw. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

zie was banned. Kingussie boss John Gibson has been boosted with the news Fraser Munro and Louis Munro have returned to his squad. The former missed out through injury though, whilst the latter was included.

Kyles took the lead on 12 minutes when Dunkie Kerr scored. They would net twice more before the interval through Scott MacDonald on 20 minutes and Roddy MacDonald seven minutes later.

Kingussie enjoyed a period of pressure at the start of the second half and hit the post following one attack.

Kyles put Neil MacVicar on at wing back for a competitive debut in place of Rupert Williamson and he played well, making a good, solid start to his Kyles' career.

Thomas Whyte made it 4-0 on 65 minutes. Dunkie Kerr missed from the spot during the second half.

Skye Camanachd 2 Lovat 4

Lovat came from a goal down to beat Skye Camanachd 4-2 at Paic nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye manager John MacLeod had a full squad to choose from and Ruairidh MacLeod was given a first Premiership start.

Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher was without Callum Cruden who served the final match of a three-game ban following his red card in last season's Camanachd Cup final. Injury ruled out Martin Mainland and Duncan Davidson, whilst Thomas Fraser was a late call-off so manager Gallacher joined Bailey MacKay on the bench.

Skye, on their return to the top flight after a season in the National Division, could hardly have got off to a better start. Danny Morrison won the throw-up and the ball was played wide on the left to Will Cowie. Cowie sent a low, tantalising ball across the face of the goal and James Pringle ran in at the back post to send the ball past Stuart MacDonald's left foot and into the net.

It didn't take Lovat long to level though with Lewis Tawse making it 1-1 after nine minutes. The goal came after the visitors had forced three successive corners on their right side.

Greg Matheson gave Lovat the lead on 23 minutes, with the goal again coming following a corner.

Lovat, who lost defender Drew Howie for a spell with a cut head, punished a poor ball out



Lovat's Greg Matheson celebrates after scoring his second goal to seal the game against Skye. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

of the Skye defence and Lewis Tawse scored to make it 3-1 with 35 minutes gone.

Skye were left to reflect on what could have been during the first 45 minutes with Jordan Murchison blasting an effort off the bar and Ruairidh MacLeod clipping the far post after a great run inside from the left.

Skye knew they needed to score next and Jordan Murchison did just that with a powerful finish on 72 minutes.

There was to be no come-back though and Greg Matheson took advantage of another defensive slip to make it 4-2 after 86 minutes.

Lovat weren't at their best but manager Fraser Gallacher was happy with the win. Skye have plenty to build on but they will be frustrated they don't have a match this coming week as it is Lochaber's 'free Saturday'.

Newtonmore P Lochaber P

Newtonmore will have to wait another week before they get their season under way as snow on the pitch led to the postponement of their meeting with Lochaber at The Eilan.

New Lochaber boss Neil MacDonald will need to wait until Saturday March 24 before he sees his team in action. His team have their nominated

The rest of the game was a hard-fought affair in terrible conditions. The constant rain led to scrappy play at times and the pitch really cut up as the match went on.

Fort William were delighted to head home with both points, getting their title push off to a great start.

Oban Celtic 6 Inverness 0

Oban Celtic got their National Division campaign up and running with a solid 6-0 win over Inverness at Mossfield.

With Oban Celtic scoring 29 goals in three pre-season games, confidence was high in the home camp. Rory Bruce was missing as he is still recovering from a shoulder injury, whilst Robert Alexander will miss a chunk of the season as he travels around Australia. Ian MacFarlane started in goal whilst Neil Carmichael, Lee Askew and Dylan Cooke formed a strong bench.

Inverness, now managed Callum McLeod, were without defender Arran MacMaster who had a one-game suspension carried forward from the end of last season.

Inverness started well, boosted by a strong wind in their favour, and forced a couple of early corners but the home defence dealt with them comfortably.

Oban Celtic sparked into life, taking the lead after six minutes. Some good link-up play culminated in Ross MacMillan firing a shot low, hard past Inverness keeper Allan MacLeod.

Celtic added a second on 19 minutes. Daniel Madej and Daniel MacMillan combined to set up Andy MacDonald who fired past the away keeper to make it 2-0.

Ross MacMillan was causing the Inverness defence all kinds of problems and he was involved in Celtic's third on 25 minutes when he floated the ball in to Andy MacDonald who nipped in behind his marker Drew MacNeil to tuck away his second goal of the game with the Inverness defence claiming offside.

The home fans didn't have long to wait before celebrating their side's fourth which came when captain Daniel Madej added his name to the scoresheet four minutes later, scoring following an impressive solo run.

With the outcome all but decided, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon decided to take off the impressive Ross MacMillan, replacing him with Neil Carmichael with 36 minutes on the clock. With no further scoring, the Oban side took their 4-0 advantage into the break.

There were more changes at



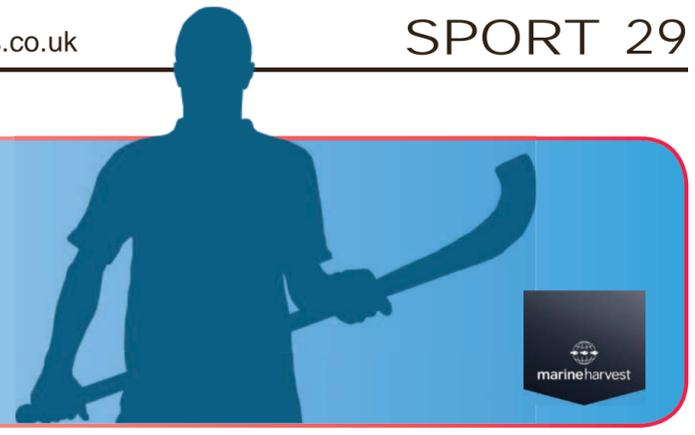
Lovat's Danny Kelly and Skye's Connor Gilpin battle for the ball during last Saturday's game at Paic nan Laoch. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh can only look on as Lorne Dickie's shot flies into the net for the equaliser. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



half-time but the home side continued to press in the early stages of the second period, forcing keeper Allan MacLeod into some good saves.

When Inverness did press, Michael MacKinnon was on hand to keep danger man James Cameron relatively quiet.

Oban Celtic passed up some good chances to increase their lead, however, they added a fifth when Andy MacDonald completed his hat-trick with another hotly disputed goal. Inverness' claims of offside were again waved away by the goal judge and referee Lachie Wood.

Oban Celtic added a sixth on the stroke of full time when come-back man Lee Askef rifled a shot into the top corner of the net from a tight angle.

Oban Celtic could hardly have wished for a better start to the season and Lewis MacPhee had a fine game for the hosts.

Next up is another home match against Inveraray this Saturday, whilst Inverness have a tricky trip to Kilmallie.

Beaulieu 0 Kilmallie 3

Kilmallie made a winning start to their league campaign, beating Beaulieu 3-0 at Braeview Park.

Beaulieu boss Alan MacRae is without Sandy Elrick, who has moved to Kingussie.

Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson was without Craig MacIsaac, Martin Stewart and Michael Rodger, who all missed this one through suspension.

Kilmallie forward Daniel Stewart made a scoring start to the new season, netting the only goal of the first half after 31 minutes.

Innes Blackhall made it 2-0 on 55 minutes and Bryan MacKay added a third 10 minutes later for a good opening game victory.

Strathglass P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The match between Strathglass and Glasgow Mid Argyll at Cannich was postponed following the death of Strathglass stalwart and chieftain Johnny Fraser.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Fort William 1
Newtonmore 2**
Champions Newtonmore reserves opened with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Fort William reserves at An Aird.

It was a cold but mostly dry day at An Aird with a strong wind towards the town end which Newtonmore choose to take from the start.

Fort William fielded a young team and Newtonmore also included youngsters. With Newtonmore's first team match postponed, Norman Campbell was called in to play full back, with attacker Iain Robinson also included. This helped cover some absences who were struck down by a sickness bug which affected the club.

The game started evenly but, after just a couple of minutes, a lapse by young Newtonmore keeper Callum Grover saw Greg Kelly score.

Newtonmore boasted an impressive forward line on paper but despite some excellent build-up play, they failed to hit the target on several occasions. Big swings and snatched efforts were at the route of their wastefulness.

Fort William were limited to a few chances, with the excellent Norman Campbell and Stuart Mitchell mopping up at the back.

When Fort William did find the target, Callum Grover made an excellent save to keep the score 1-0.

Newtonmore drew level five minutes before half-time when former Aberdeen University and Boleskine player Ewen Fraser reacted well to score from a re-bound.

Unfortunately for Fort William, the wind died down in the second half and Newtonmore, with Scott Chisholm outstanding in the centre line, went on to dominate the game.

However, Newtonmore continued to pass up chances in front of goal and, when they did get shots on target, they found



Mud, mud, glorious mud: Inveraray and Fort William played their National Division match at the Winterton in horrendous weather. Our photograph shows Inveraray's Fraser Watt jumping over an attempted clearance from Fort William's Shaun Cruickshank. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

young Fort William keeper Stuart Disher in tremendous form, making several fantastic saves with his feet.

It was now one-way traffic towards the home goal and, with 10 minutes remaining, Norman Campbell was switched to full forward. Campbell hit a rocket shot which was blocked by a Fort William defender who threw his body at the ball. Fort William were giving their all and defending stoutly.

Newtonmore then forced a series of corners which were all cleared by the Fort William defence.

The winning goal came with just a minute remaining. Ewen Fraser hit a goal-bound shot but the ball took a deflection on its way past the excellent Fort William keeper Stuart Disher to give Newtonmore a 2-1 lead which they held until the final whistle.

Fort William will feel their defensive performance and overall effort meant they deserved more from the game, whilst Newtonmore will be glad to return home with both points after squandering so many chances.

Glenurquhart 1 Kingussie 4

An unplayable field on Friday evening led to the meeting between the Kingussie and Glenurquhart seconds being transferred from The Dell to Blairbeg with a noon throw-up.

Cairn Urquhart gave Glenurquhart the lead on 10 minutes, but Chris Holleyson levelled four minutes later.

It looked as if the sides would go into the break level until Michael Slimon put Kingussie in front with three first half minutes remaining.

Kevin Thain added a third Kingussie goal on 72 minutes before Russell Menzies made it 4-1 with 10 minutes to go.

Glengarry 1 Skye Camanachd 0

Glengarry beat the Skye Camanachd reserves 1-0 at Craighard.

This was Glengarry's first game back in North 1 after winning the North 2 title last season.

Steven Morrison made his Skye return at full forward after injury ruled him out of the 2017 campaign.

The hosts played with the wind in the first half and Nick Dalgety gave them the lead after 10 minutes.

Skye's Ross Gordon and Angie MacDonald had chances in the second half, whilst Glengarry, with Steven Cameron excellent in midfield, twice had the ball in the net but both efforts were ruled out for earlier infringements.

Skye, who looked rusty, had keeper Ryan Morrison to thank for a couple of good stops.

**Kinlochshiel 0
Aberdeen University 7**
Aberdeen University, who are

looking to go one better than last year's second place finish, beat a young Kinlochshiel colts side 7-0 in their 1.30pm throw up at Kirkton.

It was a long trek from east to west for the students but it didn't seem to bother them as Stuart Cameron scored in the opening minute.

Former Lochcarron player Gregor Cushnie fired home on 15 and 32 minutes to make it 3-0.

Kinnon Dear added a fourth four minutes later and Stuart Cameron got his second with five first half minutes remaining.

The Aberdeen side could have been further ahead but for a first half penalty saved by veteran home goalie Graham Kennedy.

There was no further scoring until Gregor Cushnie completed his hat-trick on 80 minutes with Stuart Cameron doing likewise 60 seconds later to round off the 7-0 win.

Kinlochshiel included Ewan Falconer on his return to the side.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Lochside Rovers 0
Bute 2**

Two of the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title heavyweights clashed at Ganavan where two late goals gave Bute a 2-0 win over Lochside Rovers.

John MacCallum and Ian McDonald took over at Bute during the close season and they had just 12 players – but a strong 12 – for this game, with another 12 travelling with their second team.

There have been changes at Lochside with Steven Sloss no longer playing and Daniel Sloss, Evan MacLellan and Craig MacDougall moving up to the Oban Camanachd squad, but Chrissie MacMillan was available for this one as work commitments meant he couldn't travel to Blairbeg with Oban Camanachd. David Lafferty and Keith MacMillan were with the senior side.

A great shot from Michael MacQueen was superbly tipped over the top by Bute goalie Kevin Queen who also did well to turn over a Chrissie MacMillan effort from midfield with the ball dipping just under the bar before the keeper's intervention.

The first goal was always going to be crucial and it came on 82 minutes. Robert Walker, who had always looked dangerous but had been well-policed by Josh Rippon, found just enough space to get onto a ball to the back post and crashed a shot into the top corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Lochside had to go for a leveller but they were picked off a minute from time when Ian McDonald finished well from outside the 'D', sending the ball high into the corner of the net.

Bute did enough to win, evidenced by the fact keeper Brian MacCallum was probably Lochside's best player. John MacCallum was influential in the Bute midfield and the islanders showed they will be a formidable outfit in the league this season.

There were also positives for Lochside, with boss Gareth Evans putting together a good defence with Craig Kilpatrick doing well at the back.

Taynuilt 3 Inveraray 1

Taynuilt beat the Inveraray second team 3-1 at The Taynuilt Sports Field.

Taynuilt were five players short through injury but they looked bigger and stronger than their opponents throughout.

2017 South Division 2 winners Inveraray travelled without player of the year Lewis Cameron and top scorer David Robertson which meant a young forward line of 15 year old Calum MacDonald and Campbell Watt, supported by 13 year old Coll Mackay. 17 year old defender Kieran Kirkhope returned to the game after recovering from an ACL operation.

Taynuilt started strongly and had Inveraray under pressure.

Both keepers then made good saves with one Beano Logan stop from ex-Kilmory player Rhys Williams catching the eye as the Taynuilt goalie turned the ball over the bar.

Inveraray player/manager Graham MacPherson also tipped one over at the other end.

Taynuilt suffered a blow when they lost forward Ewan MacCorquodale with a pulled hamstring; adding to their long injury list.

However the hosts went on to score twice, late in the first half, to take the initiative.

Taynuilt eventually broke down the Inveraray defence, benefiting from a 'un-deliberate kick' with Mark Bergant scoring from close range to make it 1-0 with 37 minutes gone.

Gerry Kilmurray then made it 2-0 with a low volley from a tight



Kingussie's Darren Hanlon and Lewis Thain close in on Glenurquhart's Cairn MacDonald during last weekend's North Division One encounter. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

angle just 5 minutes later to give the hosts a deserved interval lead.

With his side two goals down, Graham MacPherson took himself out of goals to add some experience to the forward line and 16 year old Gregor Mather took over between the Inveraray posts.

And it was Graham MacPherson's through ball that picked out the run from David MacPherson and he fired past the on-rushing keeper to make it 2-1.

The game was finely balanced until Taynuilt restored their two-goal advantage when Scott Dempster netted on 82 minutes following a well worked free-hit.

Best of the home team were youngsters Blair MacFarlane and Zander Kilmurray. Inveraray were well served by their young players who gave a good account of themselves.

Tayforth 1 Aberdour 2

The game between Aberdour and Tayforth passed a Friday evening pitch inspection.

However, heavy overnight rain left Silversands unplayable so the game was switched to Levenhall Links.

Throw-up was brought forward to noon.

Adam MacVay scored for Tayforth, but Andrew Fraser and David MacKenzie gave Aberdour a 2-1 win.

Col Glen 2 Kyles Athletic 3

Col Glen and the Kyles Athletic second team served up a five-goal derby thriller at Otter Ferry.

Donnie McDermid gave Col Glen the lead on 12 minutes, but Ross MacRae levelled on 20 minutes.

Luke Thornton, who signed for Kyles from Glasgow Mid Argyll during the close season, gave his side the lead again on 25 minutes and they went into the break in front.

Willie MacVicar drew Col Glen level when he made it 2-2 after 55 minutes.

It stayed that way until 10 minutes from time when Kyle McMartin grabbed the winner for the Tighnabruach side.

Kilmory P Ballachulish P

Kilmory's match with Ballachulish was postponed on Saturday morning as MacRae Park was unplayable.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Lochaber 1
Caberfeidh 5**

The Lochaber second team, who finished second in the division last season, opened with a match against the Caberfeidh second team, who finished a place below, at Spean Bridge.

Caberfeidh took the points though after a Stuart Kryzanowski hat-trick and strikes from Ruairidh MacKinnon and Alan Ross cancelled out Pat Toal's goal for Lochaber.

Lochcarron 3 Lewis Camanachd 0

Murdo John Fraser's reign as Lochcarron boss started with a 3-0 win against Lewis Camanachd in their 1.30pm throw-up at Battery Park.

Liam Arnott put Lochcarron ahead after eight minutes.

Lochcarron sealed the win with late goals from Michael MacKinnon on 74 minutes and Lance MacCuish five minutes from time.

Lovat 2

Strathspey Camanachd 1
Darren Urquhart's second season as Lovat second team manager started with a win as his side beat Strathspey Camanachd 2-1 at Balgate.

Strathspey took the lead with Donald Colville scoring after five minutes.

Raymond Rennie drew Lovat level on the hour and Ryan Ferguson, who is unable to commit to first team shinty this season, scored what proved to be the winner on 70 minutes.

Kilmallie P Beaulieu P

The game between the Kilmallie colts and the Beaulieu colts was postponed on Friday evening as Canal Parks was waterlogged.

Boleskine P Strathglass P

Boleskine's meeting with the Strathglass second team at Smith Park was called off following the passing of Strathglass stalwart Johnny Fraser.

Drew McNeil's Inverness second team were the team without a match in this 11-team league.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Glenorchy 4
Bute 2**

Glenorchy, relegated from Marine Harvest South Division 1 last season, got off to a good start with a 4-2 win over the Bute seconds at Mart Park.

Bute second team captain Neil McKirdy missed out as he served the second game of a two-match ban carried forward from last season.

Kieran MacKay scored twice for the home side, with Conor Sartain and Murray MacKay getting the others. Stuart Stirling and Steven Dunn netted for Bute.

Strachur A Oban Celtic A

Strachur, who are amongst the division's title favourites, welcomed the Oban Celtic second team to Strachurmore.

This was the Oban Celtic second team's return to league action for the first time since the 1999 / 2000 season and they trailed 3-0 in the match with Ian Wilson and an Ian MacLennan double counting for Strachur.

However, with worsening weather conditions, referee Ted McDonald was left with little choice but to abandon the game.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Aberdour P

The clash between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Aberdour's second teams will be re-arranged as Yoker was waterlogged.

WCA round-up

Marine Harvest National Division 1

**Lochaber 6
Fort William 1**

Lochaber were 6-1 derby winners in their noon throw-up against Fort William at Spean Bridge.

Kirsty Delaney scored four times whilst Natalie MacDonald and Rebecca Masson were also on target for Lochaber.

It's been a tough start to the season for Fort William who have faced Skye and Lochaber, who finished in the division's top two places last season.

Strathspey Camanachd 0 Badenoch 3

There was another derby as Strathspey Camanachd and Badenoch met in a 1pm throw-up at Granttown Grammar School. Badenoch won 3-0, with Zoe Reid (2) and Mairi Stewart on target.

The games between Aberdour and Skye and Glasgow Mid Argyll and Ardnamurchan were postponed because of unplayable pitches.

Fixtures



Saturday March 17

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh v Kyles Athletic
Calum Girvan
Kingussie v Glenurquhart
Ross Brown
Lovat v Kinlochshiel
Archie Ritchie
Oban Cam v Newtonmore
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu v Strathglass
John Angus Gillies
Fort William v Glasgow MA
Martin MacLean
Kilmallie v Inverness
Innes Wood
Oban Celtic v Inveraray
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni v Glengarry
Neil MacDonald
Kinlochshiel v Fort William
Steven MacLachlan
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
Deek Cameron
Skye v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish v Lochside Rovers
Lachie Wood
Col Glen v Bute
Des McNulty
Inveraray v Aberdour
TBC
Kilmory v Taynuilt
Jim Innes - 2pm
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth
Graham Fisher - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Lewis
Brian MacKay
Inverness v Lochaber
John Matheson
Lochcarron v Lovat
John Wood
Strathglass v Kilmallie
TBC
Strathspey v Caberfeidh
Ronnie Campbell - 1.30

Marine Harvest South Div 2
Aberdour v Strachur
Ewan MacDonald
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute
Euan Pearson
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
Alex MacVicar

All throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Saturday March 10

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh 3 v 5 Kinlochshiel
Glenurquhart 1 v 1 Oban Cam
Kyles Athletic 4 v 0 Kingussie
Newtonmore P v P Lochaber
Unplayable field
Skye 2 v 4 Lovat

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 0 v 3 Kilmallie
Inveraray 0 v 2 Fort William
Oban Celtic 6 v 0 Inverness
Strathglass P v P Glasgow MA
Due to bereavement

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 1 v 2 Newtonmore
Glengarry 1 v 0 Skye
Glenurquhart 1 v 4 Kingussie
Kinshiel 0 v 7 Aberdeen Uni

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Tayforth 1 v 2 Aberdour
Col Glen 2 v 3 Kyles Athletic
Kilmory P v P Ballachulish
Unplayable field
Lochside Rovers 0 v 2 Bute
Taynuilt 3 v 1 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine P v P Strathglass
Kilmallie P v P Beaulieu
Lochaber 1 v 5 Caberfeidh
Lochcarron 3 v 0 Lewis
Lovat 2 v 1 Strathspey

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow MA P v P Aberdour
Unplayable field
Glenorchy 4 v 1 Bute
Strachur A v A Oban Celtic
Due to weather conditions

Saints battle to reach last eight of the Scottish Amateur Cup

Oban Saints	2
Yoker United	0
Scottish Cup - 7th round	

LAST Saturday at a cold, wet and windy Glencruitten, Oban Saints clinched their place in the quarter-finals of the Scottish Amateur Cup with a hard-fought 2-0 victory over Yoker United. Despite this being their debut season, the Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League new boys gave an extremely good account of themselves and will be slightly disappointed not to have taken something from the game. Saints, however, dug in where necessary and, although well short of their best form, ultimately had too much for the visitors and booked a third consecutive quarter-final appearance.

Saints manager Alex Craik took the now customary flurry of late call-offs in his stride to name a strong starting eleven. Graham Douglas lined up in goal behind a back four of Steven MacLeod, Marc Maccallum, Paul Carmichael and Scott Maitland. Willie Gemmell anchored the midfield alongside Matthew Kelly and Keith Millar. Up front, skipper Donald Campbell spearheaded the attack flanked by Shaun MacIver and Craig MacEwan. On a full bench with a perfect blend of youth and experience were Alex Craik, Jamie Graham, Kerr Newbigging, Ruairidh Horne, Craig MacMillan and new signing James Ford.

The visitors kicked off attacking the Mossfield end, where they had the ball in the net after five minutes. Yoker skipper Allan Evans broke up a promising Saints attack with a robust but, in the opinion of 2017 Scottish Amateur Cup final referee Thomas Gilchrist, fair challenge on Scott Maitland, and immediately launched a counter-attack on the right.

With Maitland prostrate in the Yoker half, right-winger Derek Carson had plenty of the soggy Glencruitten turf to run into and

collected the quick ball forward from Evans. The Saints defence had been turned and Carson's ball across the box was turned in at the back post by Darren Currie. Fortunately for Saints, Mr Gilchrist ruled that Currie had strayed offside allowing Oban to survive the early scare.

Despite Yoker being a newly-formed club, manager James O'Hara has built a solid squad packed full of experience which had them in the ascendancy in the early exchanges as Saints failed miserably to hit their usual stride.

Yoker skipper Allan Evans earned a stern talking to from Mr Gilchrist for an overly robust tackle on Craig MacEwan before opposite number Donald Campbell stretched the referee's patience too far and picked up the game's first yellow card for a badly mistimed challenge on Stuart Alexander.

A better spell from Saints won the first corner kick of the match in the 21st minute after good work on the left from Scott Maitland, Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell.

Derek Carson was proving a handful for Scott Maitland on the Yoker right but his low cross in the 22nd minute was well cut out at the front post by Paul Carmichael who, after a shaky start, formed a solid partnership in the centre of the Saints defence with Marc Maccallum.

A late 27th-minute Stephen O'Hara tackle on Donald Campbell gave Willie Gemmell a deadball opportunity but his left-of-centre effort from 22 yards failed to clear the five-man Yoker wall.

From an almost identical position five minutes later, Gemmell came within the width of the crossbar of opening the scoring. Shaun MacIver's powerful run from right to left was ended by Allan Evans, giving Gemmell another chance to show his prowess with the deadball. Trying to pick out the back-post run of Shaun MacIver, Gemmell's



Saints keeper Graham Douglas punches the ball clear during a second-half Yoker attack. Match report and photos: Derek Black

curling delivery smacked off the crossbar with Craig Brown well beaten.

Kieren McIntyre's trickery on the left allowed him to escape the attentions of Steven MacLeod in the 34th minute but the inspirational Marc Maccallum was alive to the danger and made a vital interception at the front post.

The action swung quickly to the other end where Craig MacEwan sent Donald Campbell in behind the Yoker back three. William McKellar came sliding in and blocked with his forearm as Campbell tried to lift the ball over him in the box. However, referee Gilchrist was unsuspecting and unable to give the decision.

Yoker ended the first 45 camped in the Saints' half, forcing a succession of corners which the home defence were able to deal with before a Derek Carson cross from the corner of the 18-yard box found Darren Currie well offside on the six-yard line. The big striker beat Graham Douglas with a well-placed header but Mr Gilchrist was up with play and had an easy decision to make in ruling out the goal.

Saints knew they had to raise their game and duly did so for the start of the second half. After just 60 seconds, Steven MacLeod's adventurism on the right set up Matthew Kelly for a shot from the edge of the box. Kelly's scuffed effort wrong-footed the Yoker defence and fell kindly for Donald Campbell 14 yards out and he didn't need a second invitation to tuck the ball into the bottom corner beyond the left hand of Craig Brown.

The home side almost doubled their advantage straight from the restart with the danger again emanating from Steven MacLeod on the right. Shaun MacIver picked up the ball from MacLeod and continued his run across the edge of the box before slipping Craig MacEwan in on the left. MacEwan's placed finish across Craig Brown beat the keeper but unfortunately also the far post.

The away side's best chance of getting an equaliser looked likely to come from a set piece.

However, the home defence remained firm and repelled everything Yoker could muster.

A swashbuckling run from Scott Maitland in the 63rd minute opened up the Yoker defence with William McKellar making a vital interception to prevent Craig MacEwan squaring to Shaun MacIver for a tap-in.

A lunging Stephen O'Hara challenge on Donald Campbell went unpunished in the 69th minute as Saints looked to break on the Yoker defence once again. Marc Maccallum's protests at the lack of a free-kick award earned him a yellow card from Mr Gilchrist which would later prove to be very costly.



Scott Maitland.

With 21 minutes remaining, Graham Douglas produced the save of the match to deny the visitors an equaliser. A delicious diagonal ball over the top from Kieren McIntyre 10 yards inside his own half and wide on the left picked out the run of Robert White. The Yoker striker raced into the box but was thwarted by an excellent save from the Saints number one who narrowed the angle and stood up well to make a vital block.

Saints manager Alex Craik also decided on a change bolstering the midfield with the addition of Kerr Newbigging at the expense of striker Shaun MacIver.

Newbigging's first involvement was to win a free-kick when his run through the inside right channel was unceremoniously halted by William McKellar. Willie Gemmell's delivery into the box was too far in front of Paul Carmichael.



Saints players celebrate Donald Campbell's opening goal.

Craig MacEwan picked up the loose ball and tried to feed Donald Campbell on the corner of the six-yard box only for Stephen O'Hara to make a well-timed sliding interception to turn the ball behind for a corner kick. Willie Gemmell's ball into the six-yard area was partially cleared but Scott Maitland kept the pressure on with a driving run into the box. With Allan Evans, William McKellar and Stephen O'Hara in pursuit, Maitland spurned a golden opportunity to square the ball to the unmarked Donald Campbell, instead having to settle for another corner kick off Allan Evans.

The Yoker defence dealt with Willie Gemmell's latest delivery from the corner flag and were able to move the action to the other end, where Scott Maitland redeemed himself somewhat with a vital sliding interception on Robert White after another slide rule pass from Kieren McIntyre.

With Yoker committing everything to attack Donald Campbell looked to hit on the break again in the 91st minute. Craig Brown took the sting out of Campbell's effort on the edge of the box and second half substitute Robert McGowan held his nerve well to nick the ball off the toes of Matthew Kelly, who was closing in for what would surely have been a decisive second goal.

Mr Gilchrist allowed a generous amount of stoppage time during which the visitors looked to launch the ball forward at every opportunity. The Saints rearguard, defiantly marshalled by Marc Maccallum, stood firm, providing the platform for yet another Donald Campbell

Football

counter-attack in the 93rd minute. Kerr Newbigging's ball over the top was squared by Campbell looking for Craig MacEwan and drew a crucial mistake from Robert McGowan, whose handball in the box left referee Gilchrist no option but to point to the penalty spot.

Willie Gemmell's perfectly placed penalty kick gave Yoker keeper Craig Brown no chance. However, the drama didn't end there. Marc Maccallum and Kerr Newbigging's disagreement over defensive positioning at the penalty kick became dangerously inflamed, forcing Mr Gilchrist to issue yellow cards to both and prematurely ending Maccallum's involvement in the game.

Matthew Kelly made way for Jamie Graham for what little time remained on the watch before Mr Gilchrist, who correctly called the majority of the game's big decisions, ended proceedings, setting up a quarter-final appearance for Saints against either Sandys of the Lothian and Edinburgh FA Premier Division or Scottish Amateur FL Premier Division table toppers Goldenhill. Their seventh round match in Edinburgh at the weekend was abandoned at half-time due to ground conditions.

Saints manager Alex Craik said: 'We weren't at our best and had to show character and battle hard for the win but the boys certainly did that.'

Saints return to Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division action on Saturday when they travel to Greenock to face a resurgent Inverclyde in what promises to be a difficult battle for vital league points.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, 7th round - Oban Saints 2, Yoker United 0; Jimmy Marshall Cup - Rutherglen 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 1; Dunoon 3, Claremont 1; Premier Division Two - Tarbert 1, Houston 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Inverclyde v Oban Saints; Premier Division Two - Castlemilk v Tarbert; Paisley v Lochgilhead Red Star. Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round - Campbeltown Pupils v Rosehill Star.

Saints' youth team results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s, no game; Under 14s 10, Helensburgh Under 15s 5. Scoring for Saints were Liam Campbell (2), John Douglas (2), John MacDonald (2), Owen MacCorkindale, Rhys Fairbairn, Innes MacDonald and Higgins. Under 15s, no game; Baljaffray v Under 16s, postponed; Under 17s, no game.

Next weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Ardencape; Drumchapel United v Under 14s; Broomhill v Under 15s; Under 16s v Dumbarton Riverside; Dunoon v Under 17s.

Tarbert Gun Club winter league closes

Shooting

THERE was a full house of Tarbert Gun Club members at the final winter league shoot on at Barmore shooting ground recently.

All competitors valiantly attempted to increase their points tally to see if they could take home the silverware. The wind caught a few competitors out, though. The normally sheltered shooting ground was affected by easterly winds, interfering with targets and upsetting the usual high scoring.

Last month, four of the top shots were in contention for the high gun of the series - before Sunday's shooting sorted them out. In the end, one shooter won easily.

No names were revealed by the club, however, as all will become clear at the club's dinner and prize-giving.

Lomond selected for Scotland U19s

Rugby

CONGRATULATIONS to former Oban High School pupil Lomond MacPherson who was chosen for Scotland Under-19s against Romania last Sunday.

The Under-19 squad will be targeting places in the Scotland Under-20 squad for the World Championships to be held in France this June.

While the bulk of that squad will come from the current Under-20 squad competing in the Six Nations, some players will be added from this group of Under-19 players.



Steven MacLeod clears his lines ahead of Paul McCartney.

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TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 15, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	Mallaig
Thu	04.44 3.6 11.06 1.2 17.01 3.5 23.20 1.0		-5.35	+0.25
Fri	05.19 3.8 11.37 1.0 17.34 3.7 23.50 0.9		-5.30	+0.55
Sat	05.54 3.9 12.08 0.8 18.05 3.8 *** **		-0.47	+0.16
Sun	00.19 0.7 06.25 4.0 12.40 0.7 18.30 3.9		2.00	+5.30
Mon	00.48 0.6 06.53 4.0 13.09 0.7 18.56 3.9		+0.30	
Tues	01.18 0.6 07.22 4.0 13.40 0.7 19.26 3.8			
Wed	01.51 0.7 07.55 3.8 14.14 0.8 20.01 3.7			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain Breezy from the east Temperatures 6°C to 9°C
Friday	Cloudy Breezy from the east Temperatures 5°C to 8°C
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy Breezy from the east south east Temperatures 3°C to 7°C

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New Lochaber High School head says 'always room for improvement'

Ardgour blaze stokes fears over alleged hydrant issues

MARK ENTWISTLE
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RESIDENTS in Ardgour are fearful their homes could be at risk from further fires after what they claim were clearly water pressure problems with fire hydrants during efforts to combat a recent blaze.

A fortnight ago, villagers watched in horror as flames ripped through one semi-detached home at North Corran, before spreading to a second.

Eyewitness accounts told how firefighters appeared to have difficulty maintaining water pressure from the hydrants and were forced to use water from the nearby loch.

But in the first report of the blaze carried by the Lochaber Times on March 8, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) stated there had been no issues with water pressure.

The SFRS this week confirmed fire crews had indeed drawn water from nearby Loch Linnhe to augment water supply, in addition to the large volumes of water carried in each fire engine. But its spokesman said any questions about hydrants should be directed to Scottish Water.

Quizzed this week, Scottish Water said it was not aware of any water pressure issues on the day in question.

'The fire hydrants in the village would have been available for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to use, if required,' said a spokesperson, adding that staff tested the hydrants the week after the blaze and found no problems.

Rab Middlemiss, local senior



SFRS officer for the Highland area, said fire crews had responded quickly and effectively to what he called a 'significant' fire.

'On arrival, the fire had already developed rapidly as a result of the high winds but quick and decisive action from our highly trained firefighters ensured the fire was extinguished and the scene secured,' he said.

There has been nothing but praise for the efforts made by firefighters, but the comments from both the SFRS and Scottish Water have done little to allay the growing fears over what happens next time there is a fire.

Resident Naomi Westwood, whose home is next door to the burned out properties, told us: 'Any number of eyewitnesses can attest to the fact that the first fire engine seemed to make a good start at putting out the fire, but after its load was spent, the other engines were unable to get any hoses working, either from the tanks they arrived with or from the water hydrants.'

'I cannot claim to know anything about fire extinguishing but all the eye-witnesses report a crucial period where there seemed, for some reason, to be no water in the hoses, and this

was when the fire took hold of number 16.

'Several people report water leaking from below the engines, instead of coming out of the hoses.'

'The firefighters did a great job, and we are very grateful to them, but it was far too late. Many locals told me they watched helplessly as the fire spread from number 16 to number 15 - which could possibly have been saved from complete destruction if only the hydrants had been working within the first hour.'

Ms Westwood said the ferocity of the fire 'terrified' the village.

'We want to know who is responsible for checking these hydrants and making sure they work. If there was another fire in North Corran tonight, particularly after the ferry goes off at 9.30pm, would any of our houses be saved?'

It was Ardgour Inn proprietor Luke Alexander who first alerted the emergency services.

Mr Alexander said: 'My major concern, and that of a lot of other people who live here, is that there was clearly a problem with the hydrants.'

'As well as the safety of a hotel with 30 or 40 guests staying

Residents say the blaze spread from number 16 to number 15 after fire crews lost water pressure and were forced to use Loch Linnhe.

overnight, we also live here and have small children - as do a lot of now very worried people.'

Mr Alexander said after the Strontian crew arrived, firefighters started spraying the wall between the two houses but then there was no water pressure.

'One minute it came on, then there was none. It was intermittent. They just kept losing pressure. I think if there had not been a water pressure problem a lot of the damage caused to number 15 could have been mitigated.'

'That's the whole feeling of people in the village - we all know what we saw. And it is highly worrying.'

Caol and Mallaig hustings date set

COMMUNITY hustings for the upcoming Caol and Mallaig by-election for the Highland Council will take place next week.

On Friday March 23, the prospective candidates will face questions from the public and debate on issues affecting residents in ward 11, which spans an area of Lochaber which includes Invergarry, Caol, Glenfinnan, Mallaig and Knoydart.

Organised by Kilmallie Community Council, in collaboration with Caol Community Council, the hustings will take place at Caol Community Centre between 7pm and 9pm. The event will give voters a chance to put questions to all the candidates and hear what they have to say on local issues affecting constituents.

The candidates standing are: Ronald Joseph Campbell (Independent), Alex MacInnes (SNP), Catherine Margaret Mackinnon (Independent), Denis Rixson (Scottish Liberal Democrats), Ian Smith (Conservative) and Colin 'Woody' Wood (Independent).

The two current Caol and Mallaig council members are councillors Allan Henderson (Independent) and Ben Thompson (Independent).

Those intending to vote are reminded that the single transferable vote system will be used. Instead of using a cross, voters should number the candidates in the order of their choice. To vote in this by-election, eligible residents must be registered to vote by midnight tomorrow (Friday March 16).



Strontian care facility set to re-open

MARK ENTWISTLE
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HEALTH bosses have agreed to re-open the Dail Mhor facility at Strontian for day care and some other services, but there has been disappointment at news that residential care will not be resumed in the foreseeable future.

A private meeting was held with NHS Highland last week and attended by senior Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter and representatives of local community councils, with local MSP Kate Forbes joining part of the discussions by phone.

The property has been closed since the autumn due to

plumbing failures, but Highland Council has now given the green light for NHS Highland to resume some services.

Denise Anderson, chairwoman of Sunart Community Council, said: 'It's been really frustrating to wait this long, only to be told that residential care is not going to be provided on the peninsula, but I am pleased that we will at last get the doors to Dail Mhor re-opened and day care services back on track.'

'It's not what we hoped, but better than this continued wall of silence and a closed-down building.'

Geoff Campbell, chairman of West Ardnachurchan Community Council, said no

resumption of residential care would be a real blow to many but there was some positive news over day care services.

'As a community, we must ensure our voice is heard and we find a way to get NHS Highland to care for residents in, or close to, their homes,' he added.

In a statement on the meeting, NHS Highland deputy director of operations Tracy Ligema said a paper will be produced for the next health board meeting on March 27, setting out the principles and requirements for a strategic approach to long-term care provision across north Highland.

She confirmed there would

be no resumption of residential services at Dail Mhor pending the outcome of this review, but the facility could be used for other types of service provision and community uses.

Asked what it all meant for the future of long-term residential care at Dail Mhor, NHS Highland this week told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have made no secret that during the period in which essential remedial work has been carried out in Dail Mhor, NHS Highland has been undertaking a process of looking at how we provide sustainable and affordable long-term care in residential settings and, until that process has been completed, no decision will be made.'

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FW

New head says 'always room for improvement'

MARK ENTWISTLE
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'STRICT but fair' was Scott Steele's answer when Lochaber High School's new head teacher was asked how pupils and staff at his former schools in the Scottish Borders might sum him up.

But the man who readily admits he has big shoes to fill in taking over from newly retired head Jim Sutherland says it is important to proceed as you mean to go on.

'It's been a very quick few weeks and I was straight into meetings with the school's management team, attending pupil assemblies and meeting with teachers, which I hope to have completed by this Friday,' Mr Steele told us during a brief break in his hectic schedule this week.

'You need to maintain an ethos and set a standard from day one. I am strict but it is because it is important to ensure that this school proves a safe and enjoyable learning environment for everyone and I have found that is the best way to do that.'

Formerly deputy rector for 10 years at Berwickshire High School in the town of Duns, where he was also acting head for a year, Mr Steele also had a spell as acting head at Kelso High School in the Borders.

'It's important for all the staff to see my face early on, know who I am and what I am standing for and those meetings also give an opportunity for me to listen to them.'

'I've also had a very good meeting with local councillors



Lochaber High School's new head, Scott Steele, is looking to the future.

and the chairman of the school's Parent Teacher Association.'

Mr Steele, a native of Port Glasgow, says his time in the Borders was a great experience but he made the move after the opportunity arose for him to pursue a long-held dream to move to the west.

'My family are from the west and I still have family living in the west, so I always wanted to

move up this way after I first got to know the area as a teenager on holiday.'

As for his predecessor, Mr Steele said he owes a great debt of gratitude for the work done by Mr Sutherland and the staff.

'Jim and the staff must have worked so hard to get the school to where it is today. They have done an amazing job.'

But, as a teacher, it is no

surprise Mr Steele believes the age-old adage so beloved of school report cards that there is 'always room for improvement'.

He said: 'Basically, my job is to progress all the good work that already exists here and there is always room for improvement, no matter where you go, because you have to give yourself targets to strive for to help maintain high standards.'

'And, yes, absolutely, it is always possible to improve as long as all of the parties involved work together in a unity of purpose. Education never progresses as a result of stagnation - you always need to be looking to improve. It spurs you on.'

On his radar this week, Mr Steele's most important target is ensuring the school's young people are fully prepared for their looming SQA exams, with a special Easter study school and supported study classes being organised.

'Making sure our young people are as well prepared as they can be for these upcoming examinations is at the top of my priority list,' he added.

A keen hillwalker and road cyclist, it was while climbing in the nearby mountain range with a friend on a glorious August day last year that Mr Steele says he spotted the high school building in Fort William in the distance below.

'I said to my friend, "That place looks impressive - I'd love to work there" and then a few weeks later I saw the vacancy for a new head teacher advertised. I didn't hesitate in making up my mind to go for it.'

Married to Val with a daughter, step-daughter and three-year-old grandson, Mr Steele says he is excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

'I am relishing the chance to be in charge of this school as its head teacher - being a head teacher is something I always wanted to do.'

'And it's a dream to be able to do that in this amazing part of the world.'



Staff and students 'fly' their kites in the school.

Ardnamurchan flies for World Book Day

WORLD Book Day last week saw pupils and teachers in schools across Lochaber marking the event in some very special ways.

Inspired by the competition title Flying High with Reading, Ardnarmurchan High staff and pupils decided to make a kite that would 'fly' from the balcony in the school's central dining area displaying, on its tail bows, their favourite books.

All the building users got involved, including all the high school and nursery pupils, teaching and support staff, community library staff and users, parents and partner charity Ewen's Room. All chose a book and all have a bow on display.

The kite was designed and painted by an S2 pupil during art classes, with the kite structure made initially during tech lessons and Itealaich Ard written on the kite, meaning 'flying high' in Gaelic.

From the initial brainstorm, the whole project took wing, with pupils from the Craft Club adding a book tree 'growing out' of books. The library staff also got on board, linking the display to other World Book Day activities, by creating hot-air balloons from the £1 and £2.50 World Book Day titles.

The variety of titles chosen was amazing, from some Gaelic

titles, to *Thomas the Tank Engine* and *Horrid Henry* and from *A Prayer for Owen Meany* to the *The Communist Manifesto*.

The school has a voluntary reading group dedicated to reading the current shortlist for the Teenage Book Award and at least one pupil has selected Caighlan's Smith's novel *Children of Icarus* as their favourite book ever.

The school was delighted with the news that it is the recipient of Third Prize (Bronze) and £500 of Bonnier Zaffre books.

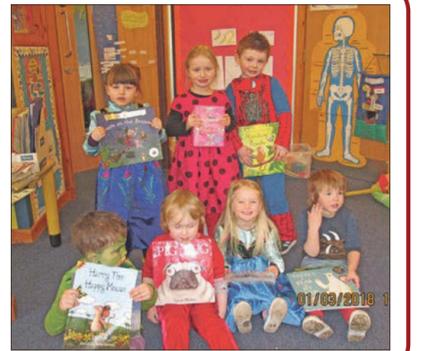
Debbie White, who teaches English part-time at the school, said: 'Best of all, though, have been the conversations that have happened, totally naturally as people made their bows, talked about their books and created the display.'

'One member of staff discovered, through the book choice of *Isolation Shepherd* that one of our cleaners is also a shepherd. 'As a result, she has been receiving advice on training a new collie pup. Everyone is truly talking books.'

And head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig added: 'Everyone did extremely well with this project and a particular congratulations to Debbie White and her team of helpers for getting this off the ground and for netting a bronze award for the school.'



World Book Day last week provided the perfect reason for local primary school and nursery pupils to have some fun thanks to their reading work. Pupils at Caol, left, and St Columba's, right, primaries, as well as the wee ones at St Bride's Nursery in North Ballachulish, far right, had great fun dressing up as their favourite literary characters for a day celebrating reading on March 1.



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New writers and features- Enjoy Alexander McCall Smith's new column... Mary Berry's Caledonian connection... Take a trip along the North East 250... Faces of Eigg



WHAT'S ON

□ **DYSLEXIA** Scotland is holding a number of masterclasses for parents in Fort William today (Thursday March 15). Dyslexia expert Fiona Dickinson will deliver a talk on what dyslexia is, how it can affect a child and what practical supports and strategies can help. This free talk will be at An Cala, Fort William, at 7pm and has been funded by the Scottish Government. There is no need to book.

□ **STAFF** and volunteers from Caol-

based Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on Monday March 19, from 10.30am until 12.30pm. LSC representatives will offer advice and assistance to anyone with a hearing loss or sight loss - residents and members of the public. The team will also repair and maintain NHS hearing aids, supply batteries and provide re-tubing. No appointment is required for this free service.

□ **TWO** Lochaber village halls are hosting 'jazz in the village' concerts this month. Saxophone and piano jazz duo Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer will be performing at the Sunart Centre tomorrow (Friday March 16) and Glenmuig Village Hall on Saturday March 17. The Edinburgh-based duo have been playing together for a number of years, producing melodic improvisations on jazz standards and originals compositions. Both concerts start at 8pm.

Tickets are £10 and available from the venues or online at ticketsource.co.uk. There is a licensed bar.

□ **LOCHABER** Piping Society holds its annual youth competition on March 24, starting at 9.30am at Lochaber High School.

□ **OFF** Beat Bikes is organising another open water swim on Friday March 30. Swimmers will meet at the Old Fort by the college at 10am. Wet suits are recommended.

View from the Chamber



DEVELOPING the Young Workforce West Highland (DYW WH) were delighted to work with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and West Highland College UHI to promote and celebrate this year's Scottish Apprenticeship Week, which ran from March 5-9.

There's more than one way for young people to get into their chosen career. Apprenticeships, whether foundation, modern or graduate, can offer young people a great opportunity to build vocational skills in their chosen field and make an informed choice about their future career.

Last week saw a range of great events about apprenticeships held in all nine partnership high schools across the West Highlands. All the events were attended by staff from local businesses, many of whom are current apprentices or who have already completed an apprenticeship.



Kilchuimen Academy pupils with apprentices from Lovat Hotel and Lantra.

They shared their inspirational stories of how becoming an apprentice had given them a fantastic way into their chosen careers.

The interactive events allowed the young people to engage with the businesses, ask questions and discover how an apprenticeship might work for them.

The week of apprenticeship cel-

ebrations began at Plockton High School on March 6 where S3 pupils benefited from a group talk from two local employers.

The events continued with a packed schedule of presentations, assembly group talks and parents' evenings at Ardnarmurchan, Gairloch, Lochaber, Mallaig, Kinlochleven, Ullapool and Portree high schools, and

Kilchuimen Academy. A massive thank you to all of the businesses who kindly gave their time to come and talk to the school pupils.

To find out more about how an apprenticeship could help a young person in your life onto a great career path, call 01397 705 765 or email us at info@dywesthighland.org.

Corpach marina plans closer after £1.5m boost

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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PLANS to build a marina at Corpach have been given a huge boost after almost £1.5 million was awarded to the project this week, with work now expected to start on the site this summer.

The Scottish Government announced on Monday that the Highland Council has been awarded £1,465,000 to build a marina on Loch Linnhe at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal at Corpach.

The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund cash has been awarded to the council on behalf of the Caol Regeneration Company, which is developing the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina as a community project.

This funding announcement follows the news in January that the marina has secured marine licences for the dredging and construction works necessary to construct the new marina.

The team behind the project says that the marina will help stimulate regeneration within the communities of Caol and Corpach, neighbouring Fort

William and the wider Lochaber area, and generate significant economic and social benefits.

Thomas Telford Corpach Marina chairman Andy McKenna said: 'I am delighted with this fantastic news - we have a real project at last. This new marina, slipway and visitor centre will bring real benefits to our local area, including jobs and increased visitor spending, and opportunities for local people to take part in healthy outdoor water-based sports and activities.'

'The marina will also enhance Fort William's reputation as the Outdoor Capital of the UK by providing excellent access to the water with its sheltered slipway, and quality marina berths for visitors arriving by boat to holiday in the Fort William area.'

The proposed Thomas Telford Corpach Marina aims to provide a high quality and sustainable year-round marina facility at the western gateway to the Caledonian Canal, including 40 yacht berths, marina services and facilities, toilets and showers, a public slipway, 40 car and trailer parking

spaces, and a café, shop and visitor centre. The marina will be owned by the community, through the Caol Regeneration Company, a registered charity, and will be run as a community enterprise, with other third sector organisations operating the café, shop and visitor centre, as well as providing some of the marina services.

With planning permission already in place, the Caol Regeneration Company and project



Allan Henderson welcomed 'terrific news'.

managers, Fort William-based Northern Light Consulting, can now focus on raising the remaining £1.5 million of funding needed to make the project a reality, as well as starting the procurement process for the contractors to deliver the project.

Caol Regeneration Company chairman Donnie Corbett expressed his delight in seeing the project get off the ground after nearly 10 years of planning.

He said: 'It's great to think that we could see boats in the water early next year. We've got a lot of hard work ahead of us to raise the remaining funds to make sure that happens, but I'm sure the marina will be a great asset for the local community and a fitting legacy for the late Dr Su Sen, who played such an important part in making it a reality.'

Working in partnership with Highland Council, Scottish Canals and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the project is expected to start on site this summer and will be complete in the spring of 2019.

The total project budget is just

under £3 million and, with the Big Lottery coastal communities fund closed in Scotland for the foreseeable future, the project team will have to rely more heavily on existing partners and other sources to raise the remaining funds.

Caol and Mallaig councillor and chairman of the Highland Council's environment, development and infrastructure committee Allan Henderson wishes the group the very best with their plans. He said: 'It is terrific news to get confirmation that this funding is in place and credit must go to everyone involved in securing the money. I look forward to seeing work on this exciting project get under way.'

'It's going to certainly breathe new life into this area and will make a very positive contribution to the local community and to the whole of Lochaber.'

Previous projects run by the Caol Regeneration Company have included beach clean-ups and improvements to green spaces and footpaths, mainly through voluntary involvement and the use of contractors.

The new residential block will aim to ease accommodation problems in the town after an increase in students number studying at the West Highland College UHI in recent years.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson also said that he was happy to support the new application as it was 'far, far superior' to the developer's previous submissions.



An architect's impression shows the proposed building within the grounds of the former St Mary's RC Primary School.

Council approve new Fort student flats plan

COUNCILLORS have given the green light to the construction of a three-storey, 40-bed student accommodation building in the centre of Fort William.

At a meeting of the Highland Council's south planning application committee, councillors approved Cityheart Ltd's application to build the new residential block within the grounds of the former St Mary's RC Primary School.

The property development company presented a fresh planning application to the Highland Council last month after being forced to go back to the drawing board when their original plans were rejected by councillors who said it would have a 'detrimental impact' on surrounding properties.

However, Highland councillors were impressed by Cityheart's new application and welcomed the revised plans, with one councillor saying that the new design was 'immeasurably better' than the previous one.

The new designs, which were presented to the council on Tuesday, show the building situated to the far end of the site, next to the Belford Hospital, rather than next to the neighbouring residential cottages

which the previous plans had set out.

The plans for the building itself have also been drastically changed, with the new blocks designed with lower pitched roofs and a 'more varied' front.

The Chester-based property developer, which has already built flats in An Aird for students in Fort William, said it took on board the councillors' previous concerns and submitted a 'substantially changed' design which aims to alleviate any issues of being overbearing to neighbouring properties and to make the building appear 'less monolithic'.

Lochaber councillor Blair Allan said: 'I think the need for student accommodation in Fort William with the growth of West Highland College is self-evident, accepted and welcome. So I am content to support this application.'

The new residential block will aim to ease accommodation problems in the town after an increase in students number studying at the West Highland College UHI in recent years.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson also said that he was happy to support the new application as it was 'far, far superior' to the developer's previous submissions.

Lochaber enthusiasts pup down to Birmingham for Crufts



Sarah Holroyd, front row right, and Ann Winning, far right, and the rest of the jubilant Scottish team at Crufts.

THE long trip south to Birmingham NEC for last week's Crufts dog show certainly proved worthwhile for several of the Lochaber contingent of canine enthusiasts who made the journey.

One of the most popular results was last Thursday's third place for the Scottish team in the Rally Obedience Inter-regional Competition.

With the assistant manager being Ballachulish resident Sarah Holroyd, for the second year running, and

Glencoe's Ann Winning and her Cavalier King Charles spaniel Rowan (Narayden Black Coffee) waiting in the wings as a reserve member, it made for compulsive viewing of Crufts television coverage.

Sarah, who is also acting secretary of Lochaber and District Canine Society, told us: 'We had an amazing time at Crufts. I am pleased to tell you the rally team came third overall.'

'They had all worked hard and

performed wonderfully on the day.' Sarah says the competition was tough and all Scottish team members and their dogs competed well and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

While Ann and Rowan were not called on to compete, they had the opportunity to experience a practise round on a course in the big ring at Crufts.

A number of other members of the Lochaber and District Canine Society

and their dogs also notched up good performances in various other classes and events in front of the thousands of spectators at this year's Crufts competition.

The Lochaber and District Canine Society meets on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm in the Nevis Centre where it offers puppy classes, companion dog training, ring craft, good citizen dog training and assessments, as well as rally obedience training.

Community in 'right-to-buy' plan for ex-visitor centre

A MEETING of a local community benefit fund held last week agreed to award £5,000 to help Sunart Community Company acquire the former Visitor Information Centre in the heart of Strontian.

The cash grant from the Sunart Community Benefit Fund Panel follows the packed extraordinary general meeting of the community company in mid-February when the latter's members voted overwhelmingly to update the charity's constitution to comply with new legislation.

This will allow the charity to lodge a 'community right to buy' registration application with the Scottish Government in order to secure the disused visitor centre for the good of the area.

The centre was shut down by VisitScotland last autumn and is to be put up for sale. With the backing of community council and the local tourism association, the company aims to buy the building and ensure the community can choose the busi-

ness that eventually rents the property and that a condition of any lease will be that visitor information, leaflets and maps continue to be stocked.

The Sunart Community Benefit Fund was formerly known as the Sunart Common Good Fund and is the method of distributing funds donated from the Sunart Community Renewables hydro electric scheme in the village. This spring they awarded £20,000 for local distribution.

Company treasurer James Hilder said the award of the £5,000 was a great boost to fundraising efforts.

'What will help us with our application for more support is a clearer idea of those businesses which would like to lease or share a lease on the premises,' Mr Hilder said.

'We want to hear from any small business that might benefit from being located in the heart of the village, and would ask that they email izzy@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk before the end of March to obtain

an expression of interest form. All inquiries will be dealt with in strict confidence.'

The charity has been holding conversations with VisitScotland over the winter, and in November, at the AGM of Sunart, Morvern, Moidart, Ardnarmurchan and Ardgour Tourist Association (SMMAATA) tabled a motion of support for community ownership, which was unanimously supported, with the aim of maintaining a key focal point for visitor information in Strontian.

If successful, the company will own the building and its 'footprint' and will have shared access rights to the car park in front for customers in perpetuity (it already owns the village green to the rear of the building).

The community company then hopes to enter into a commercial lease with a local business or several businesses working collaboratively. The annual rent will cover overheads, including buildings insurance and business rates,

with any profits thereafter being used to support community projects locally.

Timescales are unclear but it is likely that no deal will be concluded for a few months and therefore prospective tenants must consider whether they wish to take on the lease part way through the season or make an expression of interest for next year.

The company says that, in order to make a strong case to funders and the Scottish Government, it would be helpful to know how many prospective tenants there are for the property, and whether they wish to trade independently, or might wish to share the rental costs by working collaboratively.

Steven Speedie, VisitScotland's head of facilities, said this week that the organisation's board had now deemed the Strontian property as surplus to requirements.

'We are now just waiting for government approval and then it can be put up for sale,' Mr Speedie added.

Gairloch canal pods approved subject to management plan

THE Highland Council has approved plans to erect camping pods in Gairloch - with the condition that an appropriate management plan for the site is agreed.

The application from Scottish Canals set out plans to build six visitor camping pods on a site on the banks

of the Caledonian Canal, next to the locks at Gairloch.

At a Highland Council planning meeting on Tuesday, the application was granted, but under the condition that no development will begin until an operational management plan has been submitted and approved in

writing by the planning authority in consultation with a local councillor.

The condition aims to help regulate the camping site and to promote responsible access to the countryside, as well as provide appropriate services and arrangements for visitors.

Councillor Ben Thompson, who

proposed the extra condition, said: 'As far as I'm aware, there is no other letting facility or caravan site in Lochaber that does not have a receptionist or warden. To have an unregulated, unmanned pod set-up does not promote responsible access to the countryside.'

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FW

Skye and Lochalsh set for £25m homes boost

LOCHALSH and Skye Housing Association has agreed an 'unprecedented' housing investment in the area as part of a £25 million programme of development.

The management committee approved the association's new five-year business plan, which will result in more than 200 new houses being built by the association across the area by 2023.

Forty-four of the properties are already under construction or being purchased, and a further 70 houses and flats to start on site during 2018. The anticipated cost of the programme is in the region of £25 million.

Announcing the new development programme, the association's chief executive, Lachie MacDonald, said: 'This is a massive and unprecedented investment in Skye and Lochalsh and, in addition to being excellent news for jobs in the construction industry, it demonstrates our commitment to meeting the housing needs of individuals and families in the area as quickly as possible.'

'We believe that the best approach to dealing with housing need pressures is to increase the supply of housing and our development programme will certainly achieve that aim.'

The association's business plan also includes a commitment to partnership working with NHS Highland and other organisations working in the care sector to meet specific housing needs.

Mr MacDonald added: 'We very much welcome the tremendous support and backing we are receiving from the Scottish Government, Highland Council and our lenders which we believe will allow us to achieve our ambition of eliminating homelessness in Skye and Lochalsh. We will be providing new affordable rented homes for those in priority need including those affected by overcrowding, damp, temporary and poorly repaired properties.'

Tributes paid to former councillor

THE CONVENER of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has paid tribute to former Councillor Alasdair MacIwraith, who passed away aged 89 on Saturday March 3.

Convener Norman Macdonald said: 'Alasdair represented the Paible community between 1990 and 1994. He was also the secretary of the North Uist Community Council between 1989 and 1990. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who knew him.'

Staffin trust pulls out of Old Man of Storr project

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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STAFFIN Community Trust (SCT), which had submitted a bid to purchase local authority-owned land at one of the island's busiest visitor sites, has withdrawn from the process.

SCT's board of directors has now unanimously agreed that the short- and long-term interests of the development trust will be best served by withdrawing the Asset Transfer Requests (ATR) review and concluding any further discussions on a suggested partnership with Highland Council.

The community organisation lodged one of the first ATRs in the Highlands following the introduction of new Community Empowerment legislation

a year ago seeking to purchase roadside ground at the Old Man of Storr.

SCT had intended to build a new car park and public toilets in response to the local community's road safety and sanitation concerns.

After the ATR was declined by Highland Council, the site owner, in September 2017, SCT subsequently lodged a request for the decision to be formally reviewed.

The council separately proposed a partnership project, which may have involved working together on securing the necessary funding for improvements and agreeing a revenue sharing model. Several meetings between both parties were held but an agreement could not be reached.

SCT will instead focus on the delivery of its other major projects, which include an affordable business and medical development, along with efforts to deliver marine tourism and commercial infrastructure at Staffin slipway.

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie said: 'It is with considerable regret that the Staffin Community Trust directors have come to this decision. A great deal of effort had gone into creating a dynamic and robust development at the Old Man of Storr.'

'Our plans and documentation for the SCT project, which we believed to be a project of significant merit, will be made available to Highland Council. We wish the council well in the coming months in providing the much-needed development

of the site. I thank the council for working with SCT, and in particular, Stuart Black, the director of development and infrastructure.'

The ATR's submission followed several years of work by SCT, including a major consultation in Staffin and options appraisal, and came in response to the local community's increasing concerns at road safety and sanitation issues at the site, which has seen an unprecedented rise in visitors. A lack of parking space and absence of public toilets was highlighted by residents.

SCT said it will, where possible, back the council's efforts to secure funding for suitable infrastructure at what is one of three key gateways to the Staffin community and a

vital economic driver to local businesses and the island as a whole. SCT has pledged £10,000 worth of fully funded interpretation works at the Storr to the council.

The group has now also rescinded its expression of interest to the LEADER Programme in the hope it will allow the council to make its own application but will fully support any subsequent application to the new Rural Infrastructure Fund by the council.

SCT said it would like to thank the Scottish Land Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the council for funding the Storr Options Appraisal, the Site and Business Plans and the Social Enterprise Plan, which were lodged with the ATR in March 2017.

Communities learn skills to help abuse victims

THE COMHAIRLE chamber in Stornoway was packed on Tuesday March 7 for a joint meeting of the Adult Protection Committee, the Child Protection Committee, Public Protection Chief Office Group and the Domestic Abuse Forum, along with the Speak Out Group.

Each of the committees is made up of people from various organisations who aim to oversee measures that are taken to protect people in the Western Isles from abuse.

Abuse covers neglect, sexual exploitation, physical violence, financial exploitation and many other ways in which the quality of lives can be affected.

The programme for the event was led by the Speak Out Group through the SMILE Project. The aim of the SMILE Project is entertainment with a serious message.

Malcolm Smith, chairman of the Western Isles Adult Protection Committee, said: 'Although communication is a central part of our work, we are not as good as we should be.'

'We all need to engage more with people who have special support requirements, whether through learning disabilities or other vulnerability.'

'The central aims of the event were to help our communities to develop communication skills and methods, to bring service users and potential users more closely into the work we are engaged in, and to help draft information, whether by leaflet or online, in ways that reach out to a wider public.'

'This was a very beneficial event and I hope that everyone who attended gained a better understanding of the challenges of communication, and the work that we can take forward in the future.'

Blue Skye thinking for Gaelic students

THIRTY-TWO young people from Portree and Plockton took part in this year's residential 'Seachdain nan Deugairean' at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the national centre for Gaelic language and culture in Sleat, Skye.

The event, organised in partnership with Highland Council's Gaelic team and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, involved Gaelic fluent speakers and learner pupils.

The young people took part in various workshops, including drama, creative writing and media skills, and outdoor educational activities.

Archie Maclean, deputy director of studies at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, said: 'We are delighted to be involved in the delivery of this important event in partnership with the Highland Council and with support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. It is a wonderful opportunity for the teenagers to participate in activities through the medium of Gaelic and to use the language outwith the classroom. It also adds to their confidence in using the language socially and makes them aware of future opportunities available in Gaelic.'

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Charity dinner raises thousands for refugees

A CONVERSATION between two Isle of Skye friends has led to more than £3,000 being raised for The Highlands Support Refugees.

Gwen Culbertson and Angela MacGillivray organised a fundraising event after the pair were moved by the plight of refugees in Syria and across Europe.

Having supported a collection for The Highlands Support Refugees last year, organised by Sleat Primary School, the friends decided they wanted to do more.

Tickets were sold for a Middle Eastern inspired dinner at An Crubh in Sleat, with catering provided by Croft No 8 caterers. The event was supported by local businesses and individuals including Cuillin Brewery, Flòraidh, Isle of Skye Candles, Isle of Skye Chocolate, Kinloch Lodge, Lenz Ceramics, Love Skye Photography, Lusach - the Gaelic Gins, PrabannaLinne, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, SEALL, South Skye Cycles and Williamson of Inverness.

Guests were shown powerful images of the voluntary work The Highlands Support Refugees undertakes and Sleat resident Andy Neison talked about his experiences working as a dentist in refugee camps abroad. Entertainment was provided by local musicians Hector MacInnes, Rick Taylor



and Simon Larson. A raffle for a night's stay in Kinloch Lodge Hotel raised £1,000, with the lucky winner, Mairi MacLeman of Fortrose, announced on the night. There were plenty more great raffle prizes and a

silent auction of giveaways from local businesses.

The girls hope to raise £4,000, which would allow a large container to be dispatched to Greece.

Gwen and Angela said: 'We

were overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of everyone who attended and supported the event. We would love to see a container shipped to Europe with the support of the people of Skye and Loch-



Gwen Culbertson, left, and Angela MacGillivray; The Croft No 8 team served a Middle Eastern menu; and waitresses, left to right, Mairi MacDonald, Jenni Stokes, Jacqui MacKinnon, Marlene MacDonald and Lynsey Finlayson.

New lease of life for Lewis pier

THE PIER and slipway at Portnaguran, Isle of Lewis, has been brought into the 21st century thanks to a £5,000 grant from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

The pier, which dates back to the 1950s, is still a big draw and amenity at the end of the Point peninsula, despite being used more by leisure boats than fishing boats nowadays.

Much-needed repairs to the pier have now been completed in time for the summer season with the slipway in particular getting a major revamp, with around £10,000 spent on lengthening it and easing its gradient. Previously so steep that a winch was needed, it can now be accessed by cars, making it much easier to launch and retrieve boats.

Point and Sandwick Trust gave £5,000 towards the cost of



Pictured are Norman MacKenzie, Iain MacLea, Kenneth John MacDonald, Andrew MacKenzie, Murdo F Campbell, Alasdair Nicholson, and Donald John MacSween.

Photograph: Sandie MacIver.

improving the slipway, with the other £5,000 coming from the Scottish Landfill Tax. PST also gave £2,000 towards painting the pier and bridge walls, plus the former lighthouse store nearby.

There were a few other improvements, including the creating of 'rock armour' around the burn to lessen the likelihood of it getting clogged up with seaweed

and other debris. That was also funded by the Scottish Landfill Tax.

A picnic area has also been created, funded by a number of bodies, including Scottish Natural Heritage.

The improvements around the pier have been driven forward by the Portnaguran Amenity Committee, who have even bigger plans for developing the village.

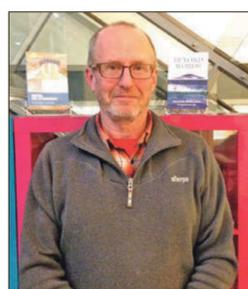
Stornoway writer wins crime story competition

STORNOWAY Writers' Circle member Tristan ap Rheinallt has won a national 50-word crime writing competition, which was judged by best-selling crime writer Sophie Hannah.

The competition, which was held locally at Stornoway Library, was part of a special promotion for Ruth Rendell's latest collection of short stories, *A Spot of Folly* (Profile Books).

One of Rendell's stories in the collection is a chilling 50-word ghost story and so participants at the promotional events were invited to write their own 50-word crime stories.

Events were held all over the



Tristan ap Rheinallt.

UK but, out of all the submissions, Tristan's story was voted the winner by Sophie.

Participants were only given

a short time to come with a story, making it even more difficult, but Tristan rose to the challenge with a wonderfully sinister story:

'I always hated that animal. Now it was dead, I hated it even more.'

'It should have worked, a glass of milk before bedtime, waiting on the kitchen table, same as always. How was I to know the cat was there? And my wife, still sitting by the fireside, oblivious.'

Tristan says he has always been a great fan of Ruth Rendell and was grateful for the opportunity to find out more about her latest book at the special event organised by

his local library. 'I'd never tried my hand at a 50-word story of any kind but in the short time available, I tried to come up with something whose meaning might not be entirely obvious at first reading,' he said.

'The last thing I expected was to find that I'd written the winning entry.'

Stornoway Writers' Circle meets every Tuesday evening at An Lanntair.

Since it was set up two years ago, the group has published two anthologies as well as encouraging members with their individual writing projects.

For more information visit www.stornowaywriterscircle.uk

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Officer Katy aims to keep youth on right side of law

MARK ENTWISTLE
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POLICE in Fort William have now introduced a new system designed to tackle anti-social behaviour among young people in the town.

This will see young people who are exhibiting behaviour that does not amount to criminal activity, but causes a nuisance to the wider community, issued with a warning letter in front of their parents or guardians.

As well as acting as a deterrent, this will allow officers to keep track of young people who come to their attention regularly.

A second warning letter would thereafter be issued with further action being taken against those who continue to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Criminal activity will still be



As Police Scotland's preventions and interventions officer for Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Constable Katy Duncan is heading up the initiative. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

dealt with in the normal way. Police Scotland's preventions and interventions officer for Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, is Constable Katy Duncan,

says anti-social behaviour is an unnecessary disruption for the general public going about their daily business and also ties up police officers who may

be otherwise engaged helping people in need.

'We are regularly told of concerns about children loitering or causing a nuisance in some way,' said Constable Duncan, who is based at Fort William police station.

'While this behaviour is not necessarily criminal, it does cause concern in the community and we believe this new warning system is a proportionate response to this issue.'

'I would also ask parents and guardians to make sure they know where their children are, who they are associating with and what they are doing.'

'Most young people do not come to our attention, but unfortunately there is a small minority who are drawn into anti-social behaviour, in many cases through peer pressure, and we all have a part to play

in keeping our young people safe.' Constable Duncan moved up to Fort William to take on the newly-created post after a period based at Glencoe as the area's community officer, prior to which she spent more than 15 years based in Edinburgh.

She says the new job is going well and loves working in the Highlands, adding: 'I am really enjoying the move to Fort William and my new role - it's very interesting and I have lots of ideas for initiatives.'

'It is about preventing crime and diverting people away from criminality and I am more than happy to meet with schools, colleges and community groups to discuss anything from doorstep crime to issues with drugs.'

'It's a big area but I am trying to get round as much of my new patch as I can over the next weeks and months.'



Ian Allan Forsyth died suddenly from a thoracic aortic aneurysm.

Shock death of well-known Lochaber family man

THE SUDDEN death of a 42-year-old member of a well-known Lochaber family has left the community in shock.

Ian Allan Forsyth died at home from 'a ticking timebomb' in his chest after a happy day out with wife Caroline and children, Emily, 15, and Craig, 13.

Ian Allan unexpectedly fell victim to a thoracic aortic aneurysm, the bursting of the main heart artery.

Medical literature states there are seldom any symptoms or warnings leading up to the swelling and sudden bursting of the vital blood vessel. It is a condition often described as a person unknowingly carrying 'a ticking timebomb' in their body.

For two generations the Forsyth family owned the upmarket Letterfindlay Lodge Hotel overlooking Loch Lochy, near Spean Bridge.

And it was at the hotel - then run by Ian Allan's dad and mum, Ian and Valerie Forsyth - that romance first blossomed for the tragic husband and father.

Caroline and her parents travelled up from England each summer to holiday at the Inverness-shire hotel.

The young widow said yesterday: 'We first met when we were four years old. We were always friends but when we were 18 we started going out together.'

Talking of the fateful day last week, Caroline, a learning

co-ordinator and nurse, said: 'We all went for a run in the car over to the Black Isle from our home in Inverness.'

'It was a nice, pleasant afternoon out.'

'When we got home we did stuff with the children's pet rabbits in the back garden. Ian Allan seemed fine.'

'Then we went inside and he sat down in his chair in the living-room and quite simply died suddenly there.'

'It was so sudden and shocking.'

Caroline dialled 999 and an ambulance rushed Ian Allan to nearby Raigmore Hospital but staff there were unable to revive him.

For 12 years, Ian Allan worked for Café Centro in Inverness's Eastgate Centre and latterly was in charge of stock and food preparation for Cento and the firm's other businesses in the shopping centre.

His boss, Barry Larsen, said: 'He was just a nice big lad, really into his family. It is a great shame for them.'

Ian Allan also leaves a sister, Mary MacColl, in Roy Bridge, and younger brother, Ross, in Easter Ross.

A funeral service took place yesterday (Wednesday) at Chisholms Undertakers in Inverness and the burial takes place at 12.30pm today (Thursday) at Blarour Cemetery, Spean Bridge.

£788,000 boost for Morvern hub

RESIDENTS in Morvern can look forward to having a community hub again thanks to a six-figure grant from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF).

Morvern Community Business Hub has been awarded £788,000 which will re-establish a site in the heart of the Lochaline village for the local community, visitors and for enterprise activity.

Morvern Community Development Company announced: 'This is very exciting news for the community of Morvern and for the development of the old Scout hut site.'

The six-figure grant is part of a £3.6 million programme of funding. Four Highland projects in total will benefit from this funding, including the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina.

MP hails 'day of action' success in push to save Mallaig bank branch

LOCHABER MP Ian Blackford said that the 'day of action' against bank closures was a great success after thousands of signatures were collected on petitions.

The petitions are asking the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) board members and the Westminster government to reverse the recent decisions to close branches across the country, including the Mallaig branch which is set to shut in June.

Mr Blackford joined protesters, members of the community and Highland councillors in Mallaig on Saturday to hand out leaflets and invite passers-by to sign the petition.

Even several members of a visiting bus tour stopped to ask what the protest was about and were happy to add their names, underlining the important role the bank has to play in the areas burgeoning tourist industry.

Mr Blackford said: 'I know that the RBS branch in Mallaig is very well used and was delighted at the support given to the campaign to halt its closure and that of others.'

He continued: 'The response we have had in Mallaig makes it clear that this branch is not only well used by local people who have accounts in the bank, but also by the tens of thousands of holidaymakers who pass

through the village every year, many looking for cash.'

'It is time that RBS realised just how important these branches are to the often remote areas in which they are situated, listen to the people and think again about the gravity of what they are proposing.'

The MP said that campaign so far has resulted in 'a stay of execution' until the end of 2018 for 10 of the branches under threat of closure.

He continued: 'This review should be extended to the other 52 branches under threat. On Friday I was in the Pitlochry branch, also due to close, and it was pretty busy all the time

I was there because a large number of people want to use the services which are offered by bank staff working in a real branch building, rather than online.'

'I would say to RBS and to the UK government - listen to what the people are saying and act on it by reversing these closure plans. It is vital to retain branches in which people can seek help and undertake transactions face to face.'

Do you have a story?
Call the newsroom on
01397 703003

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Specsavers' teams up-skill awareness in glaucoma - the silent thief of sight

In the build up to World Glaucoma Week this week, Specsavers teams have been up-skilling to better support patients with the condition.

Often symptomless in its early stages, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible sight loss. It is thought to affect 700,000 people in the UK today, but as many as 50% of cases are undiagnosed*.

In conjunction with the International Glaucoma Association, Specsavers has developed training for its retail teams to assist sufferers with their treatment. Specifically, they will be advising on how to effectively administer eye drops, which are crucial for managing the condition.

This new training complements the skills held by Specsavers' optometrists, who have collectively completed almost 5,000 post-graduate glaucoma accreditations since 2017, through a variety of accrediting bodies including Cardiff University and the College of Optometrists.

Alan Murphy was just 37 when a trip to Specsavers found the early stages of glaucoma. Thanks to early detection, his



condition is now managed by using eye drops daily.

Alan, now an advocate of regular eye tests and good eye health, believes early diagnosis and careful management has saved his sight. He says: 'I would strongly urge people to go for regular eye tests, and to make the most of the advice and support provided by their local optician.'

Karen Osborn, chief executive of IGA, says: 'The majority of people who are diagnosed early with glaucoma will retain useful sight for life. Most will be treated with medical eye drops. Unfortunately we know from calls to our helpline that many people aren't told about how to put the drop in the eye correctly, or aren't advised about the aids that are available to help them. We are delighted to work with Specsavers on this often overlooked aspect of glaucoma management.'

*RNIB State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017



EYES BOTHERING YOU? WE CAN HELP
Eye health clinic in store

Did you know, Specsavers stores provide a range of clinical services to help maintain the health of your eyes?
Book an eye test at specsavers.co.uk

Specsavers
Transforming eye health

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FW

Lochaber SWI spring rally

MEMBERS of the Lochaber Federation of the Scottish Women's Institute enjoyed a creative afternoon with a difference at their recent spring rally in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William.

Charlotte March, a poet, playwright, fiction writer, tutor, creative coach and daughter of an Ardgour member, began by talking about her experience of being the writer-in-residence at five Leeds hospitals, engaging with staff in every department and patients of all ages.

She examined the notices in the hospital corridors and realised they were full of warnings and the waiting rooms were cold and uninviting with the walls covered with frightening posters. With help from the staff, these 'decorations' were reduced by 75 per cent and, with the help of Leeds College of Art, were replaced by 100 poetry posters from around the world.

Later in the afternoon, Ms March engaged her audience in creative writing by encouraging them to write down, under set headings, evocations of their parents and sharing some of these with the audience. In between she read short poems from books she had brought with her. Ms March was warmly thanked for a most enjoyable afternoon by Vera MacDonald, Arisaig.

After tea and delicious home-baking, provided by Fort William institute members, the results of the competitions were announced.

Easter biscuits: 1 Isobel McGavin, Fort William; 2 Sheila MacKinnon, Spean Bridge; 3 Heather Davie, Fort William.

Easter Card: 1 Isobel McGavin, Fort William; 2 Heather Davie, Fort William; 3 Marion MacDonald, Spean Bridge; 4 Edythe Knowles, Fort William.

Winner of the quiz sheet was Grace Kennedy, Fort William.

Caol

CAOL Community Council received an update on the proposed flood prevention scheme last week.

Since the last public consultation in 2016, when objections to the standard of protection and height of the flood defence was raised by residents, the council's consultant has re-designed the scheme. The defence will meet the government's standards of protection for a one in 200-year event, while removing the wave wall which accommodated potential sea level rise caused by global warming.

The scheme drawings and documents have been completed and are undergoing a review by the council's legal department. Following that review, the scheme will be published for 28 days, during which details of the scheme will be made public to allow for formal comments or objections.

Notices will be placed in the local press and around the seafront at Caol when the details are made public. There will be a public exhibition in Caol and a notice about the exhibition will be delivered through doors.

If permission is granted to build the scheme, construction is expected to start in 2019/20.

Kinlochleven

TILHILL Forestry has warned of potential health and safety risks associated with its wood harvesting along Wades Road but assured residents it is doing everything to minimise risks.

Fencing will be put up around machinery, but there will be risks with timber stacks. Although the stacks may be appealing for youngsters to climb on, they pose a serious risk and can be dangerous.

Kinlochleven High School was asked to advise youngsters of the dangers and Tilhill will only fell during school hours to make sure there is no felling activity when pupils are walking to or from school.

Fencing started last Monday March 5, with machinery arriving towards the end of the week.

Fort William

MEMBERS of the Fort William branch of the Scottish Women's Institute enjoyed an informal evening at their March meeting chatting and decorating knitted twiddle muffs.

The twiddle muffs are colourful knitted wool cylinders, decorated inside and out with pompoms, beads, ribbons, buttons and small toys. They are used by dementia patients who find twiddling with something in their hands soothing. The muffs also keep their hands warm.

The winner of the best decorated muff was 1. Wilma McPhail; 2. Sheongh Robertson and 3. Wilma McPhail.



Are you ready to get MAD with Atlantis Community Leisure?

Saturday 19th of May see's our first oneOff Muddy Atlantis Day. With gallons of mud, icy water and some shocks along the way. We are creating a 10k cross country assault course designed to challenge and test you. Get a team together or go solo and join in on a fun filled and crazy challenge right here in Oban.

The MAD team are creating some gruelling obstacles up some gut-busting hills, over craggy cliffs and through the chilly west coast sea. Keep your eyes peeled for sneak peaks of what they have in store for you.

Entry is £25 (plus booking fee) per person for age 16+

All money raised is going towards Atlantis Community Leisure 25th Birthday Fundraising campaign to upgrade the original facilities in the centre.

Raise extra money for our community centre and collect sponsors; download a sponsorship form or set up a sponsor page.

Build your team; grab your friends, work colleagues or gym buddies and attack this together.

Looking for some team mates? Head to our Facebook group (MAD- Teams) and find like-minded comrades.



We also have our wee MAD event for 8-16-year-olds. The course involves loads of obstacles over a shorter distance and is taking place between 9-10am before the adults set off.

Entry is £10 (plus booking fee).

There will be spectator areas and it is completely free to come and watch.

Kilmonivaig church opens refurbished hall and welcomes new elders

SOMETIMES churches struggle to find people to take on key roles, but not at Kilmonivaig, which sits just below the Commando Memorial and serves a parish covering Spean Bridge, Roy-bridge and surrounding areas.

On Sunday March 4, the existing Kirk Session of six elders was joined by eight new members. The congregation enjoyed the celebration as six people were newly ordained and two who have previously been elders elsewhere were added to the group.

The church hall has recently been refurbished with funding from Highland LEADER and an official opening took place on the afternoon of Sunday March 4.

Lord Lieutenant, Cameron of Lochiel, performed the official opening. Guests from St Margaret's Catholic Church, community groups, Highland LEADER and Highland Council joined former minister Rev Donald MacQuarrie, former interim moderator Rev Adrian Varwell, current minister Rev Richard Baxter and members of the congregation for the celebration.

It is hoped the hall will be used by a wide range of community groups and will also be of value when events take place at the Commando Memorial.

Rev Richard Baxter said: 'The opening of the new hall and the ordination of new elders are signs of life and growth in a flourishing rural church. In the months ahead, we're also hoping to welcome new members and to find new ways to serve our local community.'



The new elders, back row: Chris Carver, Heather McMaster and Fred Toms. Front row: Morag MacNeill, Liz Fotheringham, Christine McWhinnie and Jennifer Skene. Missing from photograph: Helen Critchley.



Cameron of Lochiel opens the refurbished hall.

Fort woman praises apprenticeship scheme



Katie MacLennan started her modern apprenticeship with Scottish Water last summer.

A SCOTTISH Water apprentice is urging more young people to consider applying for modern apprenticeships.

Katie MacLennan, 22, from Fort William, joined Scottish Water last summer as a Modern Apprentice (MA) in Lochaber. Her role involves helping to keep water running and up to a high standard at four sites, which she visits twice a week to carry out checks.

'After a few years of jumping between winters in the Alps and summers in restaurants, I was ready to learn something new, take on a new challenge and use my brain again,' said Katie. 'That's what made me apply for the MA with Scottish Water.'

Talking about what she enjoys about the role, Katie said she loves working outside in fresh air and the fact no two days are the same.

Katie continued: 'When I first started I feared I would never in a million years be able to understand what was going on. Sometimes I still feel like that, but I'm picking more up every day. It's fitting together like a massive complex jigsaw.'

'I would 100 per cent encourage more girls to apply for an operational role like mine. There's no reason we can't do the job once we are trained.'

'My advice to anyone considering an MA would be just to go for it.'

Tuning up for Lochaber Music Festival

THE 44th annual Lochaber Music Festival begins on a 'traditional' note tomorrow (Friday March 16) with chanter and piping at Lochaber High School hostel.

Things continue in the same vein on Saturday with more piping and Scots fiddle, clarsach and accordion.

On Saturday afternoon, the more advanced players

selected by the adjudicators will take part in a competition to win the Premier Scots Traditional Award.

On Monday, there will be further competitions involving young musicians from Lochaber (and some adults). On Monday, speech classes take place at the Alexandra Hotel, while singing and strings classes are held at Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

The Kilmallie Community Centre event in the

evening promises a range of entertaining vocal and instrumental classes.

More music will follow on Tuesday with woodwind at Lochaber High School hostel and piano, Scottish country dance, Lochaber High School choir 'Harmonize' and strings at Kilmallie Community Centre.

On Tuesday evening, the Young Musician of the Year Award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lochaber will take place

in Lochaber High School hall, together with the premier instrumental and junior vocal award competitions.

On Wednesday morning, brass competitions will be held at Lochaber High School hostel while the Kilmallie Community Centre is the venue for choirs, action drama and group music making.

Audiences are welcome to attend all classes in the course of the week.



Lochaber Sea Cadets held their inspection. IF F11 Sea Cadets 01. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Sea Cadets host Royal Navy Parade

LOCHABER Sea Cadets (TS St Christopher) hosted their bi-annual Royal Navy Parade on Tuesday March 6.

Captain Peter Adams inspected the unit after what has been one of the toughest transitional years in the unit's recent

history, following the untimely passing of the unit's long-standing commanding officer, Lt Derrick Warner.

Petty officer Martin Hall held the unit through this tough transition and the reins have now been officially handed over to Petty Officer Dell Campbell on

a more permanent basis. Given the unit's troubles, the cadets pulled off a very good night with the senior cadets demonstrating their cooking skills, while the juniors talked about the different types of communication and then demonstrated their first aid skills.

RETRO Roamer

More items from 30 years ago

☐ There's a mouse loose about the 'Burroo'. It appeared during a hectic morning last week. The wee mouse was soon scooped up – with no questions about signing on – and put in a carrier bag. Then it was taken, gently, along the High Street and set free around the Old Fort.

☐ Occasionally in this column, a few verses – either homespun or contributed – make an appearance. Here's an offering by Tam Briseach: It's titled The Oracle, or That Blinking Bank Machine Again:

*Each weekend the faithful wend their way,
Towards their favourite shrine within the town.
And secret rites perform without delay,
Which hearten some but make a fair few frown.
A talisman appears to be the key,
Which operates the Oracle's replies.
And soon the apprehensive devotee
Will learn if fortune favours or denies.
But recently the Sphinx is growing fickle,
Which customers don't consider funny.
And clients are heard to say, I'm in a pickle –
This thing's broken down again – and I've no money.*

☐ It's all happening down Ardnamurchan way. There's plenty of dough for Acharacle with the new bakery and Roamer has it a kebab shop is to open there, too. 'De the dol?', the peninsula paper, had a mention on Radio Scotland the other night. And Glenborrodale Castle Hotel is heading for fame, Gleneagles style. Meanwhile there are calls for a Gaelic Medium School to be set up locally.

☐ It looks as if Lochaber District Council's 15 members will be receiving their insignia of office later this year. I'm not against that sort of recognition, but I think the long-suffering press corps, who cover the council's every public move, should also qualify for some form of acknowledgment. For they, too, deserve medals.

☐ Meanwhile, the simulated nuclear explosion and smokescreen at the Underwater Centre last week proved to be of the damp squib variety. Indeed, the exercise brought the comment of the week from councillor John Campbell at Monday's meeting in Lochaber House: 'How was the explosion?' asked Miss Maclean of Ardgour. 'I've seen more fire and smoke coming from your Woodbine,' replied councillor Campbell.

☐ A party from Lochaber High School on their visit to Paris were advised by their teachers that, really, the French DO speak 'good English', but don't usually advertise the fact. Just at that moment the group stopped outside a sports shop called 'The Athlete's Foot'.

☐ It was so hot in the Picture House last week, patrons were handed wet paper towels when they entered so they could wipe their soon to be fevered brows. And they were supplied with sheets of paper to use as fans!

☐ 'Make Your Way to Stornoway' has become the favourite song of Donald Watt and Willie Anderson of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team after their exploits of Friday night. What started off as a 'single' with a short helicopter flight to Knoydart became an 'EP' when they found themselves still aboard the Sea King – in Stornoway. And they graduated to 'LP' status when they were evacuated to Lossiemouth. For an encore, Donald and Willie had a 90-mile road journey back to Fort William, with a police escort! A long way to go just for a pint in the Nevis Bank. By then they were singing a duet, 'Yellow Bird'.

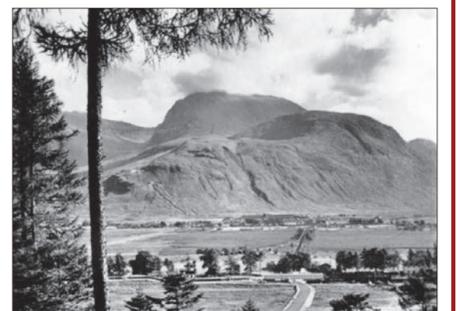
☐ Then there was the local family playing a popular question and answer game. No, not Pictionary. One of the answers was 'The White House' and another was Buckingham Palace. The game was being tackled in great spirit and on a sort of forfeit basis. So it was that the man of the house found himself being dared to phone the White House and ask for President Reagan. He rang Washington – but Ronald wasn't in, not even for our Lochaber ambassador. So he then dialled the palace. He got a speedy response from 'security'. Before he could even ask to speak to a member of the Royal Family, the security man wished him well in a Scottish accent, saying: 'You're playing Trivial Pursuits, aren't you?'

☐ A local hotel has been advertising in 'Lady Magazine' for staff? And us with 613 females on the 'Burroo' this month!

☐ If you spend £20 in Victoria Wine, you qualify for one of those nicely faded green and white company carrier bags. Last Friday I was in the off-licence – checking out the cheese counter! I lashed out on £20.43 worth. I was advised this entitled me to a 60p discount. You'll have calculated my expenditure had fallen below the magical £20 figure. So I was disqualified from receiving the carrier and contented myself with a Chateau Fromage cardboard box. Oh and 60p!

☐ Meanwhile the Presto checkouts were going like a fair. Up to the till comes an overseas visitor. 'Do you accept foreign currency?' he enquired. 'Well, I'm not too sure,' replied the understandably apprehensive lassie at the checkout. Those of you from the Midlands, Geordieland, the Lake District, Devon and the 'Smoke', who now call Lochaber 'home' will be relieved to know that the English £5 note proffered by the visitor was accepted without demur – and with no commission deducted.

☐ The mention of carrier bags reminds me that, the other day, I was walking through the street bearing identical carriers laden with messages. A blue overall appeared out of Marshall's and the accompanying voice shouted: 'Oh, look, a walking set of weighing scales!' As if that wasn't enough, I'd only got as far as the Picture House when another local wag piped up from the general direction of Kitchen's: 'Is this you off on holiday with your matching set of luggage?'



Ben Nevis from Banavie.

FW

Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

The news that Highland Council has been awarded very close to £1.5 million for the creation of a new marina at Corpach is a fantastic boost to the region.

It is little surprise that the awarding of such a significant sum has been widely welcomed by a range of civic leaders and those involved in the genesis of such an ambitious project.

To be named the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina, the facility will be run by the Caol Regeneration Company, a registered charity, whose chairman, Andy McKenna, was thoroughly justified in saying: 'I am delighted with this

fantastic news – we have a real project at last. This new marina, slipway and visitor centre will bring real benefits to our local area, including jobs and increased visitor spending, and opportunities for local people to take part in healthy outdoor water-based sports and activities.'

As we report this week, the marina will also incorporate toilets and showers, a public slipway, 40 car and trailer parking spaces, and a café, shop and visitor centre.

It is great news and a credit to those who have delivered this impressive initiative.



Days gone by – 1961

Oban Times reader A Kirkham handed in this great photograph showing 'a busy day in Tobermory bay' with three Royal Navy ships and a CalMac vessel all moored there. The navy ships are, furthest away, the destroyer HMS Carron, middle, the frigate HMS Urchin and another frigate, HMS Wizard. The CalMac vessel is the MV Claymore.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
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THE claws of the most widespread, blatant and opportunistic commercialism are sunk deeply into the fibre of most annually celebrated occasions ... and Mothering Sunday is no exception.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with giving the economy a boost with some old customs but it is important that, as with other such recurring events of celebration, the pressures inflicted on us by the mighty worlds of advertising don't eclipse the sentiments of what these times of goodwill are all about.

Although the origins of Mothering Sunday, which takes place each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, differ from the more recent advent of Mothers' Day in the United States, what it is celebrated in the UK today is more in line with the ingredients of the American counterpart.

Without the bombardment of marketing telling us we must buy flowers,

cards, cakes, massages, spa days, Michelin-star meals, soaps, champagne and chocolate, it is undoubtedly very worthy to pay tribute and thanks to mothers across the land.

We should, of course, be grateful and show thanks to our mothers all the year round, but it is good, once a year, to have a widespread and collective concentration of minds on the work, the influence, the love, the care and encouragement that mothers give.

It is an ingrained failing and well-recognised folly of mankind that familiarity can mean we take those close to us for granted. Familiarity may not always breed contempt, but it can certainly breed a lack of appreciation for the attributes and actions of those closest to us.

The nature of the mother-child relationship means that it is probably the one that holds the most familiarity of all and therefore is often the one that carries the biggest risk in this context.

A day to appreciate mothers can be very powerful in recalibrating our thoughts and remind us to be grateful

and to appreciate our mums. By chance, this year, on the weekend of Mothering Sunday, my own Cailleach was being interviewed and filmed for a student documentary about her and I was asked to play a few tunes and add a few words to it.

This, coupled with the sentiments of the day, made it very enjoyable to think about all she has done and continues to do for me.

As I was being filmed outside the house at Skipinnish on Tiree, talking about her writing and her character, I felt very proud of her and grateful that she was my mother.

She is definitely not one to enjoy praise, particularly publicly and certainly not in this article. However, I will say this. Whatever the attributes and flaws that I may have and to whatever degree I am a good or a bad person, there is no doubt that without her influence, I would be a great deal worse.

That is the common case with mothers everywhere and it is as worthy an aspect of life as any we could ever celebrate.

a shame, we loved this shop it was our treat every time we were in Oban, best cheese for miles.'

Pamela MacColl: 'So sorry to hear this, loved having lunch here and always managed to get something in the deli.'

Fiona MacInnes: 'So sorry to hear of your closure, I have been a customer for more years than I care to remember, when I came over Tobermory it was always a port of call! Rose always there to help and advise ... sad times!'

Katharine Elwis: 'You will be hugely missed. We always tried to use the cafe and your delicatessen was excellent. Where else am I going to buy my sugar mice at Christmas?'

Cat Connelly: 'This is very sad news. I loved the deli and your lovely hampers etc at Christmas. It's not good for the Main Street. Two of the nicest shops in the town gone, very sad.'

Nancy DusSault Winrod: 'I'm so sorry to hear this. I visited your shop

in September while on Holiday. Really enjoyed it and all that you offered. Wishing you the very best.'

Mary Thomson: 'Oh that's sad news. Don't know where to get our garlic stuffed olives and my Brodies tea now.'

John Michael Gallacher: 'Another sad loss to the town, it was unique.'

Yvonne Quinn: 'What a shame such a lovely place to visit our family here in blackpool will miss it when we are there.'

Mary Buchanan: 'Oh no, you gonnas be missed here in Oban no other shop like it, no one stocks the lovely produce and seasonings etc etc that you did. Take care and best of luck in what your doing next.'

Ann Maceachen: 'Dreadful news for Oban. Two of my fave shops closed suddenly....Nancy B now KG. Whats happening here? So very sorry for Rose and all the staff.'

Allan McAlonie: 'Such a shame.'

BT dictates pace of broadband delivery

Sir,
I am writing to add to the comments made by Richard Warwick on the state of rural broadband (Letters, *The Oban Times*, March 1).

My husband and I have recently resorted to getting satellite broadband, so fed up were we with what the telephone line provides. While it works, it is expensive (despite the grant available for installation), and we see it as a temporary measure until the Scottish Government delivers on its promise of 100 per cent coverage of fast broadband by 2021.

I don't see this as an impressive promise. Rather it is very late delivery of what we should already have.

In the UK, we are woefully behind other countries.

For too long our politicians have allowed BT to dictate the pace of delivering broadband. Are we surprised that a commercial company is not interested in rural areas which provide very little return for investment in infrastructure?

But it is even more shocking if a relatively small sum, the price of a new car, is all it takes to make small changes to the infrastructure we already have and upgrade the local exchanges so that they can deliver 'normal' broadband.

Why has BT been allowed to get away with not doing this?

In the absence of BT doing anything useful, Gigapuls Argyll was a recent attempt to put in place an alternative. A lot of time and money went into it before it sadly failed due to the demise of AB internet.

It is just another insult to the community that government officials have shown complete inflexibility on applying their rules on funding and won't allow the existing equipment to be used by a future venture that would continue the work started. They would prefer it sat there to decay rather than be used.

And so the wait for proper broadband continues.

**Marie Fox,
Tigh Na Con, Tiroran, Isle of Mull**

Waking up to 21st-century retailing

Sir,
The problems causing the enclosure of national retail chains like Toys R Us and Maplin are also impacting businesses here in Oban. So why are local politicians and trade groups refusing to act and think we still live in Victorian times?

Many people, and women in particular, now have such busy lives they have little time to shop, so it is much easier to go online. This rapid change in buyer behaviour is made worse by high property rents for high street shops compared to out-of-town stores and the punitive level of business rates as Holyrood seeks the mass strangling of golden geese.

Retail shopping in Oban is very enjoyable but we must change things to match the emerging 21st-century way of living. A handsome prince must be found quickly to awaken Kilmory

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S E SEALLADH DUILICH a th' ann an togalaichean a' dol bhuaite air sràidean bhailtean mòra, neo air an tuath 's gun duine a rèir coltais a' gabhail uallach mun deidhinn. Shaoileadh tu gum biodh eachdraidh an togalaich agus nan daoine a bha uaireigin ann an inntinn an neach dam buineadh e.

Ach 's dòcha gum bheil an seòrsa faireachaidh sin gu bhith nas coltaiche far am bheil togalach air a bhith ann an teaghlach fad ùine agus, seach buidheann-glèidhteachais gan gabhail thairis, gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid den t-seilbh eile ga reic 's ga cheannach airson airgead a dhèanamh às. Bidh cuid a' ceannach an làraich seach a bhith a' gabhail ùidh san bith san togalach a' th' ann agus iad am beachd an làrach sin a ghlanadh airson togail air às ùr nuair a thig àm freagarrach.

Bha am Prìomhaire a' càineadh bhuidhnean mòra togail ann an Sasainn bho chionn ghoidrid airson a bhith a' ceannach làraich togail is gan

Castle councillors from their slumbers and start to lobby Holyrood.

Oban business leaders must not only give solicitors and accountants earache over their high charges but try to waken tax haven-based property companies to the new realities of Scottish retailing.

And more local training courses must be provided to help retailers offer both bricks and mortar and click buying to customers.

**Mike Foster,
Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister,
Oban.**

Hares are important to the eco-system

Sir,
I must admit I quite enjoy reading your regular contributor Iain Thornber's articles on all things Scottish, even though I do not always agree with him.

In your issue of February 22, he was chronicling the demise of hares, both the brown hare and the mountain hare.

Although a long time ago, he quotes that, towards the end of the 19th century, their numbers began to decrease by as much as 80 per cent, but goes on to say that on the Kintyre peninsula, during the early 1930s, daily bags of 1,000 were the rule rather than the exception.

To me, this encapsulates the attitude of many so-called sportsmen even today – in other words, choosing to ignore science in favour of their 'sport'.

He finishes by suggesting hares would be better candidates for rewilding than lynx.

First of all, hares are not extinct in Scotland, despite many grouse moor owners' attempts to achieve this.

There are many recent reports of mass culls of mountain hares on driven grouse moors, supposedly to protect red grouse from ticks. Yet the red grouse, which are reared in hugely artificially high numbers, will either be shot or die from disease.

It is also no coincidence that mountain hares form a large part of the golden eagles' diet, and golden eagles, like anything else which dares to interfere with grouse numbers, are not welcome on driven grouse moors.

On a lighter note, I would love to see a video of a hare jumping backwards over a hedge!

**Ian Hopkins,
Isle of Bute.**

Red deer claims do not bear scrutiny

Sir,
I write in relation to two claims made by Iain Thornber in his column *Morvern Lines* (*The Oban Times*, March 8).

The first is where he claimed that red deer numbers in the West Highlands are 'already at their lowest ever'. His claim was then used to prop up a lurid argument against proposed re-introduction of lynx, albeit confused by conflation of lynx and wolves.

I'm no authority on ecological matters, I am just one of a newer generation of readers who will not blindly accept every claim presented as fact,

gleidheadh gun dad ga thogail orra. Trioblaid eile a dh'fhaodas tuiteam air neach aig am bheil seann togalach 's e gun tèid an t-àite a chomharrachadh mar ionad eachdraidheil, agus ma thèid a mheas aig sàr ire feumar a chumadh a ghlèidheadh anns a h-uile seadh.

Tuigear gun cuir sin cosgais leasachaidh suas gu mòr agus ann an iomadh suidheachadh gu ìre thar chomais an neach leis am bheil an togalach. Tha e follaiseach gum bheil maoin gu leòr aig cuid den luchd-ceannaich togalaichean a gh-abhail thairis agus am fàgail falamh is gun leasachadh, agus faodaidh leithid sin a bhith glè thàmailteach dha muinntir na coimhearsnachd sam bheil an togalach sin gu sònraichte ma tha e a' cur mi-shealladh air an sgìre.

Agus a rèir coltais, fiù 's nuair a tha an togalach air crionadh chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil e na chunnart chan eil e furasta dha ùghdarrasan dèiligeadh ris an t-suidheachadh, gu h-àraid ma tha an neach leis am bheil e a' còmhnaidh ann an dùthaich eile. 'S e an leamhachas as motha gur ann air na h-ùghdarrasan ionadail a thig

especially when the claim is then used in a clear and tabloid attempt to colour the thinking of the reader in relation to events yet to happen. It's never been easier for the ordinary person to carry out their own online research to check such claims.

The Scottish Government report, *Wild Deer in Scotland*, 13/74, November 8, 2013, says: 'Red deer numbers on the open hill have increased substantially (around a 75-80 per cent increase) since the 1960s' and 'The most recent population estimates for Scotland suggest overall numbers of between 360,000-400,000 red deer'.

This suggests to me that in this matter Mr Thornber is ignorant of Scottish Government statistics and is all too willing to provide false accounts for our collective memory. With this in mind, I'd invite Mr Thornber to elaborate and substantiate his claim relating to record low red deer numbers, with references.

The second claim is where he follows up with the inflammatory statement: 'The problem is not the deer but the humans, which is so often the case where country matters are concerned.'

Here he appears to be suggesting that it is not the number of deer that is the problem but instead the number of humans in the countryside.

May I point out that that tactic has already been used and the land has not yet recovered from the application of those 'country matters'.

**John Beaton,
Oban.**

Grateful thanks to The Oban Times

Sir,
In January, *The Oban Times* drew attention to the fact that Argyll and Bute Council had included disbanding its Road Safety Unit as a budget saving option for next year.

As you may be aware, this was rejected at the council's meeting on February 22 and I am sure this was, in part, due to the level of response by the public.

For this reason I would like to sincerely thank you for helping to save this essential service.

**Carl Olivarius,
Retired road safety officer,
Argyll and Bute Council.**

Kept in touch by the best of friends

Sir,
I left Caol 49 years ago and moved down south.

For almost half a century, my school friend Neeny Ross (Inverloch and Caol) never missed a week in sending me the then *Highland News* and now the *Lochaber Times*.

I enjoy getting all the news from back home, all the football and shinty reports and the Lochaber Athletic Club updates in which Neeny's family are involved.

Neeny Ross is the best friend any man could have. He's simply the best.

**Ian (the Gate) MacDonal,
71 Beanfield Avenue,
Corby, Northants.**

Ailean Caimbeul

feuchainn ris an seòrsa dùbhlain seo a rèiteach aig ceann cùise, trioblaid a bharrachd air nach eil iarraidh neo feum is gu leòr air an aire mar-thà!

Chan eil teagamh nach e pàirt den duilgheadas gum bheil e cho furasta do dhaoine far feadh an t-saoghail ionnhas a thasgadh ann an talamh is togalaichean ann am Breatainn, agus tha sin a' cur suas phrìsean cuideachd.

Saoilidh mi gun dèanadh e feum don dùthaich nan d' rachadh an lagh a thèannachadh gum uallaichean nas cruaidhe a chur air luchd-ceannach làraich agus thogalaichean agus nach biodh e fàbharach dhaibh an leithid fhàgail falamh agus a' dol bhuaite.

MANY will agree with Prime Minister Theresa May's criticism of building companies which fail to build on their massive land banks in England.

Maybe laws require changing, and perhaps land and property ownership in the UK should also become considerably more onerous for foreign investors.

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

Social media

News that the Kitchen Garden deli and cafe in Oban's George Street had ceased trading was met with widespread dismay.

Michèle MacLennan: 'Oh no !!! What a shame !!! An amazing place upstairs and downstairs !!! And so lovely staff !!! Like friends.'

Joan Kemp: 'That is a great tragedy – very sad and disappointed.'

Lucie Howard: 'What a shame...my favourite place in Oban to have lunch. Liz Gibson So sorry to see this. Thinking of you all.'

Gilli Morrison: 'Best shop in Oban! So sorry to hear the news.'

Belle Belle: 'We are enormously sad to read this. Best deli. What a shame. Hope any backers see these messages of support and see what will be missed though appreciate it may be other reasons for closure. The Oban Kitchen garden will be sadly missed.'

Lesley Anne Thomson Jardine: 'Such

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

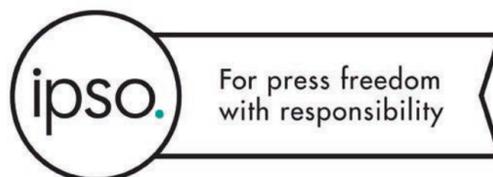
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We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves 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 telephone number

is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Seventh heaven for Buckie as Fort slump to league defeat

Fort William	0
Buckie Thistle	7
Highland League Cup	

FORT William Football Club slumped to another heavy defeat in the Highland League on Saturday, despite a promising first-half performance.

The home side battled well with the reigning Highland League champions in the opening 45 minutes but the experience of the Moray side ultimately proved too much for the Fort, notching up five goals in the second half.

A number of recent postponements meant that Fort William had not been in action since February 10 and with uncer-

tainty over the club's future following the announcement that the board will resign at the end of the season, it has been particularly testing few weeks for the club.

Despite the off-field developments, Fort William were able to call upon a strong squad for Saturday's match, with six substitutes named on the bench.

Claggan Park is usually a happy hunting ground for Thistle, who currently sit fourth in the league, and it wasn't long before they made their mark. Despite a good start from the young Fort side, Buckie midfielder Andy MacAskill opened the scoring after seven minutes. The home side weren't de-

Football

terred, however, and continued to take the game to Buckie, with the whole team working hard to push them back.

The Fort were happy to have 17-year-old Inverness Caley Thistle loan player Martin MacKinnon back in goal, giving the back four some added confidence.

After around half an hour of tense action, Fort William were unable to get on the scoresheet and it was Buckie who opened next with Steven Ross doubling the east coasters' advantage.

The score remained 2-0 as the half-time whistle blew with Buckie in the ascendancy.

Coming out for the second half, the Fort knew it would be an uphill battle to rescue anything from this game and this seemed all the more unlikely as Declan Milne scored Buckie's third of the afternoon just minutes after the restart.

Within five minutes, Thistle had scored again, with Steven Ross getting his second of the match.

Again, the Fort regained their focus and were able to keep Buckie at bay for a large spell in the second half but struggled to put any real pressure on their opponents.

As the home defence began to tire, the reigning league champions were able to make their pressure count with Declan Milne getting his second and third goals of the match to make it 6-0 and to complete his hat-trick on what was a fruitful day for the young forward.

In the final minute of the



Fort William's Callum Browett tackles Buckie's hat-trick hero Declan Milne. Photos: A Brightside Photography.

match, Lewis Campbell turned the ball into his own net, rounding off the day's scoring and compounding a difficult afternoon for Fort William.

The win moves Buckie up to fifth place in the league, while Fort William remain rooted to the bottom of the table with two points and without a win.

Fort William were due to take on Nairn County last night (Wednesday) before their home fixture against Huntly on Saturday March 17, at Claggan Park.



Fort defender Farquhar MacRae is chased by Buckie's Mitchell Foy.



Alistair MacMillan presents Portree High School with the trophy after winning the Donella Crawford sixes at Strontian last week. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Portree win Donella Crawford six-a-sides at Ardnamurchan

THE DONELLA Crawford sixes took place last week at Ardnamurchan High School, with a visiting Portree High School team taking the top spot.

This tournament is a key fixture for school teams in the shinty calendar and provides a platform for high school girls to come together and compete, while remembering Donella, who was a huge advocate of the girls' game.

Twelve teams in total travelled to Strontian to take part in what was a great showing of girls' shinty. For this year's tournament, three new teams were welcomed with squads from Lochgilhead, Dunfermline and Culloden.

In the group stages, each team played each other once allowing for the top two teams from each league to progress to the semi-finals.

Portree High School and Plockton High School both finished their respective groups unbeaten with newcomers Culloden Academy coming second to Portree and Ardnamurchan A just pipping Lochaber

A on goal difference to take the last semi-final spot.

The semi-finals were played in unison, four minutes each way. The match between Plockton and Culloden was an extremely tight, end to end battle with the score remaining 0-0, meaning extra time and the 'golden goal' rule came into play. Culloden found that crucial goal four minutes into extra time following some nice passing play on the left wing and a goalmouth scramble to put the ball past the Plockton keeper.

On the other park, a dominant Portree High School team managed to put two goals past Ardnamurchan, who came very close to scoring on a number of occasions but just couldn't manage to find the back of the net.

The final showcased some fantastic shinty played by both teams. Portree, having beaten Culloden in the group stages, had a number of early chances at goal, prevented only by some wonderful saves from the Culloden goalkeeper. The second half is where Portree's experi-

Girl's shinty

ence showed as they scored just after the restart.

With only a few seconds left in the game, the Skye side scored again, much to the delight of their travelling support. Culloden can be proud of their efforts, coming away with silver medals in their first competition.

Donella Crawford's cousin, Alistair McMillan, was on hand to conduct presentations and hand over the medals and the trophy to winning team captain, Emma Gordon. Alistair took the time to comment, as did many of the coaches, on the rising standard of girls' shinty and how it continues to improve each year.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank Alistair for agreeing to conduct the presentations on the day as well as Jake Green and Hanna Dougan for refereeing the event. Thanks also to Colm O'Rua and Ardnamurchan High School for hosting.

Lochaber 10-pin bowling results

10-pin bowling

AFTER the final week of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Allecats won the scratch division with 64 points out of a possible 70 followed by The Empire on 60 points and Council on 46 points. Allecats also won the handicap division with 55 points followed by British Legion Fort William on 47 points and Council on 43 points.

The season's high scores went to Tommy McKnight (Allecats) with a scratch game of 216, handicap game of 272 and two-game handicap series of 482 while Ben Weller (The Empire) had the season's top two-game scratch series with 392.

Allecats swept the board for the season's top team scores with a scratch game of 724, handicap game of 921, two game scratch series of 1385 and two-game handicap series of 1775.

The top scratch average of the season went to Ben Weller with 156 followed by Pam Weller (Allecats) with 152 and Tony Whitelocke (Allecats) with 150.

In the final week, Tommy McKnight (Allecats) had the top individual scratch game of 168 and the top two-game scratch series of 305 while Jim Bell (British Legion Fort William) had the top handicap game 240 and the top two-game handicap series of 444.

The best team scores of the final week came from Allecats who had the top scratch game of 582 and the top two-game scratch series of 1125 while British Legion Fort William had the top handicap game of 818 and The Dominoes had the top two-game handicap series of 1588.

Lochaber club lotteries

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 8, 18 and 19. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday March 15) will be £800.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 5, 8 and 9. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 2, 11 and 20. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,000.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 3, 6 and 20. The only winner this week was A Garrick. Next week's jackpot will be £200.

Saints in last eight

Football

OBAN Saints reached the quarter-finals of the Scottish Amateur Cup with a 2-0 win over Yoker United last weekend. The Oban side have been knocked out in the semi-finals for the past two seasons - could this be there year?

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Breezy from the east
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C

Friday Cloudy
Breezy from the east
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Breezy from the east south east
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 15, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am					pm						
Thur	04.44	3.6	11.06	1.2	17.01	3.5	23.20	1.0	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.19	3.8	11.37	1.0	17.34	3.7	23.50	0.9	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	05.54	3.9	12.08	0.8	18.05	3.8	***	**	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	00.19	0.7	06.25	4.0	12.40	0.7	18.30	3.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.48	0.6	06.53	4.0	13.09	0.7	18.56	3.9	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.18	0.6	07.22	4.0	13.40	0.7	19.26	3.8				
Wed	01.51	0.7	07.55	3.8	14.14	0.8	20.01	3.7				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate