

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8294

Thursday 17 March, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

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SPORT

Your comprehensive shinty round-up

Councillor 'owes it to electorate to resign'

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE SNP has lashed out at a councillor who announced on Tuesday that he is standing down from the political party, but will not stand down from his seat in Oban Lorn and the Isles.

Opposition SNP leader Councillor Sandy Taylor hit out at Councillor Iain MacLean saying the community

of Oban, Lorn and the Isles would be unhappy that he was staying on as a councillor - and urged him to resign.

It is understood both Iain MacLean and Iain Angus MacDonald, who has resigned as a councillor for the area, were due to be disciplined by the SNP for non-attendance at both Argyll and Bute and community council meetings - as reported last week in *The Oban Times*.

Cedar or not a cedar - ask a consultant

WHEN is a fir tree a cedar tree?

If a report going before a planning committee is to be believed, it is when they are identified by a member of Argyll and Bute Council's planning staff.

The incorrect identification of fir trees as cedar trees has forced the local authority into hiring a tree specialist consultant to identify the type of tree before a preservation order can be approved or dismissed.

The Tree Protection Order (TPO) proposed in December 2015 in relation to several trees on land at Kinlochlaich, Appin, has identified numerous trees on land belonging to Donald Hutchison of Kinlochlaich.

It so happens that the man is also a tree specialist and he says the trees are the more common fir and not the rarer cedar trees as Argyll and Bute Council had stated.

Council minutes state that Mr Hutchison wrote to the local authority on January 25 to question the identification of the trees raising the validity of the order because the wrong trees had been identified.

Mr Hutchison is a chartered

member of the Institute of Horticulture and operates a garden centre.

Mr Hutchison wrote again on February 23 with an initial arboriculture survey of the trees. Ignoring that account, the local authority paid a consultant for an arboriculture survey.

The report, the local authority stated, was 'by a qualified and experienced arboriculturist'.

It identifies 14 trees as being within the family Abies, 'fir' trees.

The plan prepared by Argyll and Bute Council for the provisional TPO identifies the same trees as being 'cedars'.

The report states: 'Cedar' trees can belong to several family groupings but are not, it is alleged, within the family Abies.

'The arboriculture survey has examined the health and condition of each of the trees within and surrounding the development site, including all of the trees within the provisional TPO.'

The submitted report states that they are generally dead/part-dead/part-decayed and/or damaged, with several having suffered lightning strikes.

Community councillor Antoinette Mitchell, of Kilniver and Kilmelford, said she had not seen Mr MacDonald for 'about four years' and Mr MacLean had only been 'once or twice' to other community council meetings.

Mrs Mitchell raised the matter with area chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish, but said she had heard nothing more.

Kieron Green, Oban Community Council secretary, said: '...having been around many community councils in Oban and Lorn most often there is only one Argyll and Bute councillor present, usually Elaine Robertson.

'Either Iain MacLean or Iain Macdonald is usually at Ardchattan, and Iain MacLean has made appearances on occasion elsewhere; Seil and Luing I seem to recall.

'I'm not sure I've seen Iain Macdonald ever apart from Oban and Ardchattan. Elaine Robertson is the only councillor I've ever seen at Lismore, Dunbeg, Appin, Taynuilt, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilmore, Kilniver and Kilmelford and Avich and Kilchrenan.'

Mr MacDonald and Mr MacLean were absent from the council's crucial budget meeting in March - and no explanation for their absence was given at the time.

Mr Taylor, leader of the SNP group, said: 'I am saddened to acknowledge the recent resignation of two colleagues.'

'I know that Councillor Iain MacDonald has found it increasingly difficult to meet the conflicting demands of his 'day job' and his role as an elected member of Argyll and Bute Council for Oban North and Lorn.

'Being elected to public office, in service of your community brings many responsibilities, and I know that his decision to stand down will not

have been an easy one. I wish Mr MacDonald all the best for the future.'

Mr Taylor continued: 'In contrast, my former colleague councillor Iain MacLean has offered me no reason or insight into his decision to leave the SNP party whilst remaining as an elected member of the council.'

'Although Mr MacLean failed to attend important meetings of the SNP council group and the council of late when dealing with the council's critical budget deficit, the SNP council group nonetheless looked forward to working together as a united, principled opposition.

'Mr MacLean's decision to resign from the party, but not from the council, will not be welcomed in his community.'

'I am clear that Mr MacLean owes a duty both to the electorate of Oban North and Lorn and those who worked in support of his election to resign as a member of the council to which he was elected as a party candidate.'

Attempts to contact Mr MacLean were made but at the time of going to press he had not responded.

Efforts have also been made to contact Mr MacDonald but he also has not responded.

Over the last four years in Oban Lorn and the Isles there have been five by-elections.

One was due to the death of John MacGregor of Oban only a few days after he was elected.

Another by-election was called following the resignation of Duncan MacIntyre of Kilmore due to ill health.

Three members have resigned due to other pressures and three have resigned from the SNP but have not stood down from their council wards.

Each by-election costs approximately £30,000 and even if held on the same day as another election costs are similar.



Traffic crawls along George Street.

Road chaos should be over by Friday

JAM-PACKED traffic in Oban brought the town to a standstill on Monday morning as workers and families were trying to get into work and school on time.

Reports of an hour-and-a-half to get across town were exacerbated by an emergency vehicle getting stuck in the traffic and police officers called to get it moving again.

The problem seemed to be the fitting of two refuge islands in the centre of George Street - a place in the middle of the road to let people cross the road safely.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The work is part of the council's ambitious project to improve Oban Bay.'

'These improvements will make a huge difference to the town once complete.'

'The specific works on

George Street will see new traffic islands installed, making it easier and safer for people to cross the road.

'In last week's progress update we gave advance notice of this work, and an indicative timescale.'

'We are still working to that timescale and should have the islands installed by the end of the week, as planned.'

'In an effort to help traffic flow on Tuesday we agreed with Transport Scotland to cover the pedestrian crossing controls on George Street at West Coast Motors, another set by Specsavers and the set on Stafford Street by the North Pier.'

'This should help relieve some of the traffic congestion.'

The congestion was continuing at the time of going to press.

TIMESLINE

Tiree drink driver fined and banned

A 20-YEAR-OLD Tiree man lost his driving licence for 15 months and was fined £750 at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Creel boat skipper Stewart Cowling, of Clachan Dubh, Barapool, was found guilty of being unfit to drive through drink and failing to stop and give details to the owner of a car after he reversed his pickup truck into it in the car park of the Tiree Lodge Hotel, on the island on September 12 last year.

Three staff from the hotel told the court that Cowling had been drinking in the bar. The manageress decided to clear the bar after a completely separate 'altercation'. Cowling left, but returned later. It was then his pickup truck collided with the parked car, as he reversed out of a parking space.

Defence agent Laura McManus said Cowling denied drinking as much as the witnesses said: 'He accepts he drove away but he did not come back. He does not accept he hit the car; he didn't hear any noise, there was no damage to the bumper of his pickup.'

Oban youngster's a record breaker

AN OBAN youngster has broken, by almost two metres, a shot-putt record set 12 years ago.

Murdo Masterson, 16, broke the sports hall athletics record set by James Campbell of Mull, throwing 15.15 metres.

Theatre upgrade at Oban hospital

PLANNED works are due to take place from March 21 to upgrade the theatre and endoscopy department within Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and will last for approximately three weeks.



LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL

CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
30th - 31st Mar 2016
7.30 Tickets £6 (conc. £5)
Six one-act plays performed over 2 nights

No time to lie down on the job

THERE was a stark, yet positive message for tourism's biggest get-together in Argyll and the Isles in Helensburgh on Tuesday.

Delegates were told that more and more visitors to the area were being put off visiting due to the lack of connectivity. Reports to the conference suggested that more than 23 per cent of people would not even consider coming to a destination if they could not connect to a mobile phone signal.

Marc Crothall, right, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance said: 'We need to ensure we have a digital presence. We cannot be left behind.'

He was backed up by the chairman of Sky PLC, Nick Ferguson, who appeared in a film talking about his role at the helm of the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum. He said: 'Without mobile connections we are hamstrung.'



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Dr Mustafa will be providing NHS & Private Braces to both children and adults.

Before After

It's Bed month

A good night's sleep doesn't have to be a pipe dream

Wide range of beds and mattresses in stock
See advert on page 7
MATHESONS FURNISHINGS
Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
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New flexible fares package takes off

SCOTTISH airline Loganair has unveiled a more flexible fare package, offering extra baggage and discounted fares at short notice, for students aged 12 to 25.

Passengers with a Young Scot Card, or students enrolled in a full-time, vocational, technical or nursing training course, can now carry 40kg of baggage free of charge, doubling the standard 20kg allowance.

Discounted fares will remain on offer closer to the date of departure and customers will be able to make one amendment to the return part of their itinerary as part of the ticket.

Passengers eligible for the Air Discount Scheme can also combine this saving into bookings.

Pair appointed to rural action board

SCOTTISH Rural Action, the company responsible for the Scottish Rural Parliament, has appointed Alison McLeod from Applecross and Sue Beer from Shetland to its board of directors.

Co-chairman John Hutchison retired from the board and his role. Sandy Brunton and Vanessa Halhead were re-appointed onto the board along with Rebecca Dawes who had previously been co-opted onto the board. They join Amanda Burgauer, Maggie Gordon and Niall Smith who were elected at the first AGM last March.

The two retiring directors, John Hutchison and Angus Hardie, were thanked for all their hard work since Scottish Rural Action was formed in 2013.

Lochcarron's Lisa is top learner

LISA Askham from Lochcarron picked up the Aquaculture Learner of the Year 2016 prize at Lantra's top awards, recognising rising stars from the land-based, aquaculture and environmental industries.

The 25-year-old freshwater operative for The Scottish Salmon Company beat off stiff competition and received the honour at a ceremony in Dunblane on Thursday March 3.

Argyll school leavers thriving

THE NUMBER of young people in Argyll and Bute who do well after leaving school continues to rise to a record level.

A report compiled by Skills Development Scotland and presented to Argyll and Bute Council's Community Services Committee last week, shows the number of school leavers going on to further education, employment or training in 2014-15 was 93.1 per cent - a rise of 1.4 per cent on the previous year and 0.2 per cent above the Scottish national average.

Lagavulin launches 200-year celebrations



Diageo chief executive Ivan Menezes, at Lagavulin Distillery, selecting a special cask to mark the distillery's 200th anniversary, with Lagavulin Distillery manager Georgie Crawford and Lagavulin warehouseman Iain McArthur.

LAGAVULIN Distillery launched a year of celebrations to mark its 200th anniversary with the iconic Scotch whisky island of Islay at its heart.

Ivan Menezes, chief executive of Diageo, the business which owns the Lagavulin Distillery, visited Islay to officially announce the 200th anniversary year and joined distillery staff in selecting a rare cask of Lagavulin to be used to raise funds for community benefit.

Iain McArthur, who started working at the Port Ellen Distillery in 1970 before moving to the Lagavulin Distillery in 1983, said: 'Of course, every cask of Lagavulin is special, but the one we have picked today with Ivan is very rare. It was filled in 1991 so it has spent 25 years gently maturing in our warehouses here on Islay. It's fitting that the money raised by such a special cask and such amazing whisky will be used directly here on Islay.'

Further details of the plan for the special cask will be revealed later in 2016 as part of the programme of celebrations for Lagavulin Distillery's 200th anniversary.

Islanders facing four-hour ferry trip for books if library is axed

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

ISLANDERS on Tiree are said to be 'furious' after an Argyll and Bute Council decision to cut to their library service.

Argyll and Bute councillors decided, as part of the 2016-17 budget that the high school should lose its secondary school librarians.

This decision has sent shock waves through the community, as the librarian on Tiree also serves the thriving primary school and the wider community.

Paul le Roux, vice chairman of the Tiree Parent Council

told *The Oban Times*: 'We are appalled by this short-sighted decision.'

'The Scottish Government has made the improvement of literacy and numeracy a priority, yet Argyll and Bute wants to take our only public access to books away from this island community by removing our librarian at a time when use of our library by the community and children is growing year by year.'

A Tiree resident, who has children at the school but asked not to be named, said: 'Tiree High School Library caters not only for pupils, but also for the island generally,

including a Bookbug session for under-fives. This is a community that cannot head down the road to another public library - it is our only library. Buying books online is not a replacement for a public library. Not only does it cost money, but on the one hand we are encouraging children to reduce their screen time, while taking away the opportunity to be able to offer them a good old-fashioned book in its place.'

'Tiree will be losing its library while Argyll and Bute Council reassures us that their hanging baskets will be protected - although I haven't seen many of those on Tiree.'

Dr John Holliday, convenor of Tiree Community Council, said: 'The community council is outraged by this decision by Argyll and Bute, which is possibly in breach of its statutory obligations. If this cut goes ahead, our nearest public library will be a four-hour ferry ride and an overnight stay away. Our librarian, as part of our community school, provides a wonderful service for older members of the community, for many of whom their day out to the library is one of the high points of their week. It works both ways; the school pupils benefit from the books that the library service

sends out to Tiree. The council cuts have been described as 'salami slicing'; this is throwing the whole sausage away.'

An Argyll and Bute spokeswoman said the council was making arrangements for the high school library to be made available to the community.

She said: 'Making changes to the way library services are provided was one of the difficult decisions the council had to take [during its budget setting]. Library services will continue to be available across Argyll and Bute. However, the way in which these are provided has been altered to best match local circumstances.'

Coll homes expected to be approved

TWO NEW social houses could be built in Arinagour on Coll by spring next year, if planning permission is granted by Argyll and Bute Council.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) submitted plans last October to build the semi-detached, two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes on its land, adjacent to the former Free Church Manse on Carnan Road, south

of Arinagour Primary School.

The L-shaped building will be one and half storeys high, with white rendered walls and slate roofs.

'We anticipate planning approval to be granted very soon,' ACHA's chief executive Alastair MacGregor said.

'Tenders for the works were due to be returned on March 7. Subject to funders approving the level received, a project could start on site this summer

and be complete by spring 2017.' The new houses were welcomed by Development Coll's chairperson Lavinia Maclean-Bristol.

'Coll is losing children,' she said, 'and there is a big need for housing on the island.'

ACHA is planning to build hundreds of other houses in the region.

Mr MacGregor added: 'The association is currently considering its development plans

for 2018-22 and evaluating demand in all villages and towns throughout Argyll and Bute.'

'ACHA is currently proposing to build between 200 and 270 units during that period.'

'When this exercise is approved by our board these proposals will be discussed further with the council and Scottish Government.'

Anyone interested or wishing more information should call ACHA on 01546 605930.

Sailing into retirement

ANDREW Duncan, director of vessels in the company which owns and leases 31 ferries to operator CalMac, will retire in May 2016 after almost nine years' service.

Mr Duncan was instrumental in helping to establish Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) in June 2007.

His first major project was overseeing the construction and delivery of *MV Finlaggan* in Poland and since then has

directed the development and building of hybrid vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides ferry service. *MV Loch Seaforth* was launched in December for the Stornoway-Ullapool route; *MV Carriona* was launched with its route to be announced soon. He has also commissioned two 100-metre dual-fuel ferries, from Fergusons Marine Engineering Ltd in Port Glasgow.

His replacement will be Jim Anderson, currently CMAL's senior technical manager.

BE HEALTH-WISE THIS EASTER

- Check when your GP surgery is open
- Don't run out of repeat prescriptions - order only what you need in plenty of time



BE HEALTH-WISE THIS EASTER

NHS SCOTLAND

Don't let ill-health spoil Easter.

For more health advice visit www.nhsinform.co.uk/easter

Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Kilmeny church

KILMENY Parish Church at Ballygrant enjoys one of the most scenically pleasing settings for a local place of worship.

It stands 400m north of the medieval chapel and burial ground, known locally as Cill a' Mhanaich, and is surrounded by woodland known as the Church Plantation.

The church and parish takes its name from the Celtic saint Eithne, although we cannot be certain which Eithne is commemorated at the site. It is generally thought the original chapel was named after the Eithne who is reckoned to have been the mother of St Columba. She is reputed to be buried on Eilean an Naoimh, the Saint's Isle, and one of the Garvellach islands at the entrance to the Firth of Lorne.

The Kilmeny church and manse plans were adapted by the island's principal landowner Walter Frederick Campbell from parliamentary church designs by Thomas Telford of bridge-building fame. This follows the undertaking by parliament in 1828 to provide funding for the building of churches and manses of simple design in the remote areas of Scotland.

When the Church of Scotland decided there should be no further resident minister at Kilmeny, the parish became linked with Kildalton and Oa. When this link was re-appraised, the Kilmeny congregation found itself linked with Kilarrow. This situation con-



Kilmeny Parish Church.

tinued until 2006 when the Argyll Presbytery decided in its parish readjustment programme that Kilmeny should become part of a three-way link with Kilchoman and Portnahaven, now known as the North Parishes.

And so it continues with the Rev Valerie Watson being responsible for worship at Kilmeny, the parish church at Portnahaven and St Kieran's church at Port Charlotte.

Donald MacFadyen

THE ISLAND'S farming community and local Gaelic enthusiasts were saddened by the death of the Rhinns farmer Donald MacFadyen, better known to everyone

as Dòmhnall a' Chàrn. He was 85 years old and lived at Càrn on the outskirts of Port Charlotte.

Donald's father, a kenspeckle figure, had been the village blacksmith at Port Charlotte and his Yorkshire-born mother was the area's district nurse.

Donald was a well-known figure in farming circles and was a stalwart supporter of the Gaelic cause.

He was a longstanding member of the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, fully backed the local Mòd and was much in demand as fear an taighe at island concerts and ceilidhs. His interest and support in this field was recognised by the Glasgow Islay Association when members invited him to chair its

annual gathering in 1988. He was also staunch in his support of Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, the St Columba Gaelic Centre at Bowmore, and enjoyed participating in various Gaelic-related events.

Local history and heritage were also high on his agenda and it was fitting that he was a valued member of the Finlaggan Trust which administers the ancient seat of the Lords of the Isles.

A service of thanksgiving for Donald's life was held at St Kieran's Church on February 15, followed by interment at Kilchoman cemetery. He leaves a widow Isabel, daughter Janice, sons Duncan and Donald and their families. Another son Neil was tragically killed in a road accident eight years ago.

Donald will be greatly missed by his immediate family and by everyone who knew this proud and friendly Ileaich.

Beannachd leibh a Dhòmhnall còir.

Daffodil tea

MEMBERS of the Round Church are holding a daffodil tea in Bowmore Buffet Hall tomorrow evening, Friday, March 18, at 7pm.

Admission is £4 and there will be lots of attractions including music from young performers.

Come along and get into the spring mood.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

LORN lines

Seil beekeeper to receive award for his contribution to magazine

A SEIL beekeeper will receive the Harry Brown Award at the Scottish Beekeepers Association AGM in Perth on Sunday March 20, for his outstanding contribution to the Scottish Beekeeper Magazine.

Last month Dr Phil Moss, an agricultural scientist and former secretary of the Oban Beekeepers Association, stepped down as editor after two years, during which time he oversaw the magazine transformation from black and white into colour. Dr Moss now plans to devote more time to keeping his beehives at Clachan Seil.



Ron Ganzfried, second left, with a number of Argyll residents who share an interest in Palestine.

Oban Concern for Palestine group welcomes speaker from Switzerland

A PUBLIC speaker from Switzerland travelled more than 1,100 miles to Oban to discuss the plight of Palestinians.

Ron Ganzfried, a grandfather of three, made the journey after being invited by the group Oban Concern for Palestine (OCCFP).

He addressed a meeting of concerned Argyll residents last Thursday at the Rockfield centre in the town.

Palestine is currently involved in an ongoing conflict with Israel.

Mr Ganzfried, who works at a telecommunication company in his home country, said: 'Last November I was here visiting a friend and she asked whether this would be an idea - I'm an activist on the Palestinian issue - so I said yes, why not?'

'I would like to talk about what Palestinians have to face in the coming years - confronting Israel, Zionism and I think that Israel and its ideology is a question of ethnic purity, which is inherently racist.'

'I hope people here contact their MP and MSPs to make them accountable for supporting Israel or not.'

Margaret Powell-Joss, member of Oban Concern for Palestine, said: 'Ron and I have been friends for ages and I have family who are interested in this.'

'I have a deep concern for human rights.'

She continued: 'This organisation was established in 2005 and I joined in 2008. We have two to four events a year.'

For more information, contact obanconcern4palestine@gmail.com.

Oban singer hits all the right notes to win Perth Rotary Club singing contest

OBAN'S Lora Macleod beat four fellow music students of the University of the Highlands and Islands to win a singing contest held by Perth Rotary Club in the city's Royal George Hotel on Tuesday March 1.

Music tutor Lisa Lulis selected the four students, including runner-up Anna-Lotte Vaskelainen from Finland, as those most likely to benefit from the experience of singing in public under the pressure of competition.

The performers competed for music shop vouchers, but all received financial help towards their music course costs.

BT's commitment to Argyll under scrutiny in debate

THE SERVICE standards of communications company BT came under scrutiny in Westminster Hall last Wednesday when Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara held the multi-million company to account.

Calling the delays in landlines and broadband connections in Argyll 'unacceptable', Mr O'Hara said he has a 'vast quantity of complaints' something he said should not continue.

Contributing to MP Caroline Noakes' Westminster Hall debate on BT service standards, Mr O'Hara said: 'I seized the opportunity at Westminster to challenge BT's commitment to Argyll and Bute amidst a vast quantity of complaints I have received about broadband and internet connectivity.'

'Complaints have been raised by constituents from Helens-

burgh to Kintyre and across our 26 island communities.'

'BT is letting our constituency down and the rollout of broadband across Argyll and Bute remains the biggest concern for our area.'

'The gaps in broadband availability and even delays in reconnecting rural communities to simple landlines is far more than an inconvenience.'

'Whilst many are battling to reverse the trend in depopulation, BT are becoming a stumbling block to those efforts and the impact ranges from rural landlines to disadvantaging our schoolchildren struggling to access essential education materials.'

A BT spokesman said: 'BT recognises the importance of digital communication to communities, particularly in rural areas, which is why we are

rolling out faster broadband services across Scotland. These high-speed services are available over Openreach's open network, used by hundreds of companies to offer services at a variety of speeds and prices.'

'We're also working with public sector partnerships across Scotland to roll out faster broadband services to areas that wouldn't otherwise be served by commercial deployments and we've made great progress. Already, more than 55 per cent of premises in Argyll and Bute can benefit from faster fibre broadband and by the end of 2016 we'll have connected eight in 10 Argyll and Bute homes and businesses. The work to deliver services to these areas is complex, time-consuming and expensive. For example, in summer 2014 BT undertook

its most ambitious domestic subsea work around Scotland, linking island communities around Scotland together with land-based connections, for the first time.'

'Some 20 separate subsea connections were made which includes links between Oban and Mull and between Tiree and Mull.'

'This will allow new exchange areas to go live in coming months such as Aros, Ardeninty, Clachan, Connell, Ford, Kilmelford, Tayvallich and Toward. The first properties on the islands of Coll and Tiree will also go live for the first time.'

Additional coverage will be added to existing locations like Balvicar, Dunoon, Lochgilphead, Strachur, Tarbert, and Tobermory on Mull in the next few months.'

Police files

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a close on Alma Crescent in Oban was sprayed with graffiti between 6pm on Wednesday March 9 and 6pm the following day.

Anyone with any information is urged to call 101 and ask for PC Masterson at Oban Police Office.

A 55-YEAR-OLD woman failed an alcohol breathalyser test after police stopped her vehicle in Oban's Morvern Hill at 5.10pm on Thursday March 10.

She later failed to provide further samples without a reasonable excuse at Oban Police Office and was held in custody for a court appearance the next day.

POLICE detained a 28-year-old and 23-year-old man under the Misuse of Drugs Act after stopping their vehicle on Oban's Dunollie Road at 8.30pm on Wednesday March 9.

The pair were subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, and were held in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

A 31-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal for driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, after he failed a breathalyser test when police stopped his vehicle at 9am on Sunday March 13 at Corran Esplanade, Oban.

Biker clocked at 98mph on A85

GETTING clocked on the A85 going at 98mph cost a 51-year-old motorcyclist £400 and added six penalty points to his licence.

Guy Goodlad of 17 High Croft, Brandon, Durham, admitted speeding when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Goodlad was the last of a group of three bikes heading east along the 60mph trunk road on September 19 2015. He apologised, saying he and a friend were touring when another motorcyclist overtook them and they allowed their speed to creep up.

Appeal to always wear a lifejacket

THE 2016 trout season opened on March 15 and community charity LochWatch has issued a timely reminder about wearing lifejackets while on, at or near Loch Awe.

Chairman of LochWatch Loch Awe Iain MacKinnon said: 'Wearing a lifejacket is a simple precaution that will help save your life should an accident occur. Having a lifejacket with you in the boat is not enough; it must be worn at all times to be effective.'

Top cadet's delight at trip donation

AN OBAN sea cadet will wave goodbye to his friends and family as he sets sail to spend one week aboard a training vessel thanks to a generous donation.

Orin Corlett, 16, from Ardfern, was named Oban Sea Cadet's cadet of the year 2015. He will learn sailing and leadership skills on the *TS Royalist* thanks to the Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC), which will cover the £295 cost of Orin's seven-day adventure.

Commanding Officer for Oban Sea Cadets Lt Ewan McCuish said: 'Our sail training vessel *TS Royalist* is a fantastic opportunity for a youngster to go offshore and to discover the reality of working at sea, sometimes in challenging conditions.'

'Cadets get the chance to learn new skills and to experience acting as part of a team, as well as enhancing their self-esteem and quite possibly making new friends for life. It's marvellous that the RHYC has helped make this possible for a member of our unit, and we'll look forward to hearing Able Cadet Corlett's account of his adventures.'



Former commodore of the Royal Highland Yacht Club Robert Clement, right, congratulates cadet Orin Corlett, who will enjoy a week on board the Sea Cadets training vessel *TS Royalist*.

Easter holiday health plan to reduce pressure on NHS

NHS 24 has launched a Be Health-Wise campaign this Easter holiday, to help reduce pressure on vital NHS services during one of its busiest times of year.

GP surgeries in Argyll and Bute are closed Friday March 25 and re-open Tuesday March 29. People are reminded to

check their local GP surgery and community pharmacy opening hours, and to make sure they have a supply of over-the-counter medicines and repeat prescriptions.

NHS 24's medical director, Professor George Crooks, urged people to stay safe and be prepared: 'It's an early

Easter this year so there could be winter colds and illnesses around, alongside spring challenges such as hay fever,' he said.

NHS Highland associate medical director Dr Ken Proctor added: 'With children off school, and with improving weather, there can be an in-

creased risk of minor injuries like cuts and bruises, so make sure antiseptic cream or wipes and plasters are part of your home medicine cabinet.'

Although many GP surgeries will be closed at Easter, hundreds of GPs will be working out-of-hours services across Scotland.

Sheriff sentences Oban man to six months for drug offences

AN OBAN man was sent to jail on Monday for six months for drugs offences.

The sentence on David McGillivray, aged 38, was backdated to the start of December last year when he was arrested.

He admitted possessing heroin in his room at Shore Street Flats,

Oban, on November 13 last year and also on December 2; he was also also found to have Diazepam on December 2.

He was given six months for each offence to run concurrently.

The town's sheriff court also heard that he had lost his rented home after being taken into custody.

'Well he's a healthier looking colour than the last time I saw him,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who asked if McGillivray had yet come to a place in his life where he could agree to being placed on a Drug Treatment and Testing Order.

A number of other drug addicts in the area have done so already.

'DTTOs are expensive and they are not easy,' said the sheriff.

The offender has to agree to take part and be willing to accept treatment and be frequently and randomly drug tested. They must attend court on at least a monthly basis so that the sheriff can review their progress.

Loch Awe survival skills holiday leads man to jail

A MAN from Hull who thought the waters of Loch Awe near Kilchurn Castle were remote enough to practise survival skills was sentenced to four months in jail.

'Remote? It's right opposite a trunk road,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Peter Moore, aged 40, of 28 Kings Bench Street, Hull, had a warrant issued for his arrest after failing to attend court

for the offences which took place on September 9, 2014. He admitted being in a public place with a .177 air rifle and possessing cannabis resin.

Moore and three friends hired a boat and visited Kilchurn Castle; he returned to the boat first and was seen by two anglers to fire the rifle into reeds and they contacted the police.

After his subsequent arrest Moore was taken to Oban

Police Station where a small amount of cannabis was found in his pocket. In his defence it was said Moore and his friends were survival skills enthusiasts and thought the location a remote enough area to practise.

He was admonished for possessing cannabis but Sheriff Anderson said she was sending him to jail for the gun charge 'given your record and the circumstances of the offence'. The gun was forfeited.

Firm ditches elephant treks after Islay man's death

TRAVEL agent Thomson has removed elephant treks from its itineraries after an Islay man's death in January.

The holiday planner will also cease offering elephant rides after Gareth Crowe, 36, was killed while on holiday with his family on Koh Samui, Thailand, after the animal turned on its handler.

Thomson chief executive Nick Longman said: 'All excursions

involving elephant shows, in which elephants exhibit unnatural behaviour, have already been removed from our customer offering. In addition, we are working with partners in various destinations to phase out any elephant riding excursions over the course of 2016.'

This decision will apply across the entire TUI Group - the world's largest travel company - of which Thomson is part.

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Cash appeal for 'crucial' homes

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A PLAN for 'crucial' rural housing is at risk unless a shortfall of £40,000 can be found to save an island project.

The Ulva School Community Association (USCA) started thinking about how to bring more people into the area more than five years ago when there was a threat to the future of the school at Ulva Ferry on the isle of Mull.

One plan was to build locally-won social housing to let affordably to meet the shortfall in the area.

The Leitch family at Lagganulva farm sold a plot of land to USCA, and gifted a second plot to be sold on affordably, in order to take forward the housing project.

To date USCA has raised £400,000 towards the build costs from various sources including Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Land Fund, the Quaker Housing Trust and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation - alongside individual donations

from locals, visitors and those sympathetic to community-led development.

Helen MacDonald, housing project manager, explained: 'This project is so close to being completed and it will make such a difference to the people in the area.'

'Our build costs are higher due to the very rural, island location, the nature of procurement and the high quality design.'

'We have been told by contractors that both materials and labour costs are 15-20 per cent higher on the island, than even in Oban.'

'We have worked with the community to get the best housing in place for three-bedroomed houses for social housing let.'

'They will be owned by the community and we will have a locally-decided letting policy to ensure those people who are allocated houses want to live here.'

'At the moment people live in various different types of accommodation including caravans and temporary housing and these houses



The building plot at Laggan Ulva.

- while there are only two houses being built, will make a huge difference to the local area.'

The highly insulated and well ventilated 'passive' houses are designed to a high standard and will cost less than £300 per year, per house, to heat.

The high specifications were in response to Scottish Government guidelines to reduce fuel poverty in rural areas.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to secure the housing in the area should make a cheque payable to 'Mull and Iona Community Trust', payment by BACS Transfer to: Unity Trust Account 20124144, Sort Code 60-83-01, send cheques to: MICT, An Roth, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY

Mrs MacDonald continued: 'We are very grateful for every donation, however small, which brings us a step closer to making affordable housing a reality at Ulva Ferry.'

For more details or to make a donation look online at www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing

On your marks for Bunessan Easter Run

THE annual Bunessan Easter Run will be held again this year thanks to the continued support of PDK Shellfish and Knights Offshore Support.

As usual, the road races will be held on Easter Sunday, March 27, starting and finishing at the fire station in Bunessan.

Jack Degnan, one of the organisers, said: 'The Easter Run, about 11 kilometres, taking in spectacular scenery, starts at 12.30pm, as does the Loopy Run. This latter run is shorter than the main run, being about 9km.'

'The 12.30pm start allows for runners from the mainland to catch the 10am ferry and arrive in Bunessan in plenty of time to warm up before the runs begin.'

'And, with RET now, it is a lot more within reach financially for those from the mainland, especially with four adults sharing a car.'

'There will be prizes for the usual categories and a gift for all runners to mark their participation, regardless of finishing times.'

'There will again be a barbecue so participants and spectators can, no doubt, look forward to some delicious home-baking as well as the usual burgers on offer.'

'As last year, the parent and child pushchair race will no doubt be fiercely contested.'

'Why not decorate your child's pushchair - go faster stripes?'

Entry fees are £7 for the Easter Run and £5 for the Loopy Run.

The children's run is £1 with every child taking part receiving a chocolate cream egg at the finish.

Newsdesks

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Scottish Water delivers on new Dervaig mains pledge

HOMES and businesses in the community of Dervaig, Mull, are now benefiting from Scottish Water's £450,000 water mains investment.

More than 1,000 metres of ageing water mains have been replaced with new plastic mains to help prevent bursts and improve the security of supply to residents.

Before this mains replacement work took place, bursts along sections of the pipe resulted in the water supply being shut off to customers served by Dervaig Water Treatment Works and, last summer, the frequency with which customers were affected by these bursts became increasingly significant.

As a result, Scottish Water made a commitment to provide the Mull community with a long-term solution by investing in the upgrade to the water network to address and improve this.

Scottish Water's regional communities

manager, Ruaridh MacGregor, said the work would make a huge difference to residents: 'We fully appreciate the inconvenience that frequent interruptions to the water supply caused for our customers. The community can be reassured that this new, fit-for-purpose solution will benefit them for many years to come.'

'The majority of the work was carried out on Kilmore Terrace from the B8073 down to Kilmore Church junction through the village and out past Glenview.'

'Local contractors carrying out the work on our behalf have received praise from the community regarding the courtesy shown to residents during the works.'

'Scottish Water would also like to take this opportunity to thank people living in Dervaig for their understanding and co-operation while we have been carrying out this vital work.'

Campaign group battles to keep library services

PLANS to remove the library vans on the isle of Mull have left readers on the island and Iona reeling.

For some the service is a 'life line' and many parents and children say they will not have any chance of a library service if the van is cancelled.

Leading a campaign to find an alternative to taking away both the school librarian and the island-wide library van is Richard Thorne, chairman of Tobermory School's Parent Council.

Mr Thorne, who heads up other community projects, says the withdrawal of the service will cause problems.

He said: 'All we are asking is that the council considers the impact on removing the librarian and the library van for the whole community. There are no alternatives for people in rural communities and we are now trying to find out if there is a legal requirement for the local authority

to give people access to books.'

Mr Thorne has been in negotiation with the local authority which he hopes will make a commitment to employing a library assistant to take on the running of the library at the school. But he has not had this confirmed and doesn't know whether the current librarian in the school will be able to apply for the position.

The campaign group has set up a Facebook group, Mull and Iona Libraries Action Group which has received support from all over the country. A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'When the mobile library service ceases on the island of Mull, members of the public will continue to have library provision via a service that will be provided in Tobermory High School outwith school hours.'

For some readers that will mean a round trip of more than 100 miles.

ADVERTORIAL

Argyll students making positive choices

A RECENT report by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) shows that the University of the Highlands and Islands is the top destination for Argyll school leavers entering higher education, an honour shared jointly with Strathclyde University. The university is made up of 13 academic partners with Argyll College UHI being the partnership's largest provider of further and higher education in Argyll and the Isles.

The SDS report, produced for the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership, analyses school leaver destinations in 2014-15. An impressive 89 per cent of students remain in school past the statutory leaving date, a statistic closely linked with progression to a positive destination such as education, training or employment.

Argyll and Bute saw more than 900 pupils leave school in 2015 and almost 40 per cent entered higher education, slightly above the average for Scotland.

Charlie Collins is currently studying for an HNC Horticulture at Argyll College's Oban centre, and is the elected student representative to the college's board.

'This is my third year with Argyll College UHI and it's wonderful to be able to study whilst staying close to home. The college has a really welcoming atmosphere and a great mix of students and staff, but being able to stay in Argyll with the support of family and friends has made my time at college a wonderful experience.'



Many people will know that Argyll College UHI provides valuable training opportunities for those entering construction, catering and beauty industries but the range of courses available at Argyll College UHI continues to grow: now on offer is an industry recognised qualification in maritime skills, giving students an insight into the workings of many of the maritime industries which abound on Argyll's 3,000-mile coastline.

This year will also see the first group of students completing the PGDE Primary Teaching in Oban in June, and in September the introduction of NC Social Science and HNC Applied Science.

In addition to work-based vocational courses, and further and higher education courses, Argyll College UHI provides access to a multitude of degree and post-graduate programmes through the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The Oban Centre is located in Glenshellach Business Park with easy access by car or bus and if anyone would like find out more about what Argyll College UHI has to offer the next open day is on Wednesday 23 March 2016 from 10am to 7pm.

It's a chance to get all the information needed about full and part time courses, including access to university education through Argyll College UHI.

During the day those interested can meet teaching staff and current students, take a tour of the centre to view the areas they are interested in such as the professional kitchen, sound studio, hair salon and garden, and get advice on funding options and financing studies.

If for those who think they know what Argyll College has to offer, it's time to take another look.



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Magazine low-down on biker safety

THE THIRD edition of a magazine aimed at motorcyclists who ride in the west of Scotland is being launched at a ride-in event to be held at the Inveraray Inn.

Scottish Biker Magazine is a collaborative initiative, delivered through Road Safety West of Scotland, and supported by the region's 12 local authorities, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue.

The magazine is written 'for bikers by bikers' and aims to give information on all aspects of riding including basic skills and advanced training, and tips on maintenance and equipment.

It includes popular routes and covers the types of issues that bikers may come across, from the skills of cornering to where to get a cup of coffee.

The drop-in event on Sunday March 20, between 10am and 2pm will give riders the chance to meet the team behind the magazine as well as some of the businesses and organisations featured in the publication.

Anyone who wishes to be involved on the day can contact ian@indmedia.biz

For further information please e-mail road.safety@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Planners consider reservoirs project

THE INSTALLATION of two Scottish Water service reservoirs, 30m in diameter, at Pennyfuir near Oban will go before Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee this week.

Plans recommended for approval include a 1.8m high fence and land recontouring.

Newsdesks

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INNOVATIVE CUDDLE COT SYSTEM ALLOWS BEREAVED PARENTS TO SPEND TIME WITH THEIR BABY

Oban mum channels child loss grief into fundraising

LOUISE GLEN

lglen@obantimes.co.uk

WHEN Frances Goodwin lost her daughter 27 years ago she was not able to hold her and cuddle her - something she believes is why she is still grieving so badly now.

Mrs Goodwin told *The Oban Times* the loss of her daughter on April 6 1989 had played a huge part in the rest of her life - and she now wants to allow bereaved parents to spend time with their child.

An innovative cuddle mat to assist in bereavement care has encouraged Mrs Goodwin to launch the Angel's Wings campaign for Oban and Fort William.

Mrs Goodwin said: 'In 1989, the same year as my son was born, I lost my daughter to meningococcal septicaemia at the age of three.'

At the time Mrs Goodwin lived in Soroba, and she remembers the death of her daughter as if it was yesterday.

She said: 'Losing a child is the worst thing you can imagine. My daughter, Yvonne Elizabeth, was only ill for two days



Frances with a treasured photograph of her daughter, Yvonne.

and at first I thought it she had something like chicken pox.

'Dr Lennox came to the house to see her and said she had to go to hospital immediately.

'He even offered to drive her there himself.

'By the time she got to the hospital she was almost gone. I knew she was not going to make it when the ambulance booked to take us to the children's hospital in Glasgow was sent away.

'My father said to me, 'you are going to have to be very brave.'

Mrs Goodwin describes the aftermath as a time she needed to cope.

She was pregnant with her son and even when she was giving birth, in the same hospital where her daughter had died, she had a feeling that no-one was able to cope with her emotions and feelings.

'My daughter was a small and dainty wee thing. She had not been well until she had this illness.

'She went to Soroba Young Families at the time.

'The staff gave me support after she had died, and I had

some counselling. The cuddle cot will give grieving parents the time to spend with their baby. I would have loved that time myself.'

A child's body deteriorates quickly after death and needs to be kept cool to help parents spend time with their child.

Mrs Goodwin explained that the cuddle cot system cooled the baby so he/she could remain with the family.

The cooling pad is placed in any Moses basket, crib, pram or bed; it is connected by a specially insulated hose and is quietly cooled using the cuddle cot cooling unit.

The cost of each cot is £1,600 and Mrs Goodwin wants to donate one in memory of Yvonne.

Yvonne's father, Richard 'Tiree' Maxwell, is fully supportive of his former partner's fundraising efforts.

To support the Mrs Goodwin's fundraising please go to the Angel Wings Baby and Child Loss Support Group Facebook page, or contact Mrs Goodwin on 01631 562354 to find out how to help her campaign.

CalMac sponsors powerboat event

THE OPERATOR of the UK's largest ferry network, Caledonian MacBrayne, has become a leading sponsor of the first P1 Scottish Grand Prix of the Sea.

Co-hosted by Inverclyde Council and Riverside Inverclyde, the powerboat championships, organised by the world's biggest marine motor sport brand, Powerboat P1, will take place in Greenock on June 18-19.

CalMac's head of commercial operations Graeme MacFarlan said: 'We have a long history of supporting community events and we are delighted to add this event to our list.'

'We are keen to increase the contribution we make to the development of Scottish marine tourism and welcomed the opportunity to become involved in an event of this calibre. Inverclyde is our base and we pride ourselves on the relationships we have locally and are keen to do all we can to further opportunities in the area.'

Driver banned for three months

LAST week's *Oban Times* reported that a driver was fined £250 at Oban Sheriff Court for speeding.

The accused was clocked by police driving at 105mph in the 60mph zone at Arrivain on the A85.

The *Oban Times* would like to point out that Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC also disqualified MacInnes from driving for three months.

Oban beer features in Aldi celebration

A SKINNY Blonde from Oban Bay Brewery will feature in supermarket Aldi's eighth in-store beer festival as part of the retailer's celebration of Scotland's best up-and-coming beers.



Argyll MSP backs new credit union initiatives

ARGYLL and Bute's MSP has spoken in support of making Scotland a credit union nation.

Michael Russell has backed the Credit Union Charter, launched by the Association of British Credit Unions Limited (ABCUL), which outlines areas to improve the nation's financial health.

A credit union is a non-profit co-operative that allows its members to borrow from a

pool of combined deposits at a low interest rate.

The Credit Union Charter calls for employers to make saving and repaying loans through employee wages a standard workplace benefit for people across Scotland, as well as every school in the country having someone to help pupils learn about saving and budgeting.

Mr Russell said: 'I'm delight-

ed to support ABCUL's Credit Union Charter. Encouraging regular saving and responsible borrowing is a key way to build financial health and credit unions play a vital role in Argyll and Bute in helping people get, and stay, on top of their finances. Research has shown that money worries and debt problems can lead to ill health and absence from work. So educating young people about

money and making it easy for adults to save and borrow with a credit union via their employer can help save public funds and boost the Scottish economy.'

ABCUL Scotland policy officer Karen Hurst said: 'It's no coincidence that the most successful credit union movements around the world have established close links with employers to help people build

up savings and access affordable credit when they need to.

'We're delighted to have the support of Michael Russell MSP for our campaign to make Scotland a credit union nation - something that would benefit the whole country.'

Scotland has the fourth highest level of credit union members in Europe, with more than 100 unions serving more than 375,000 people.

Skye fisherman speaks from experience and warns of alcohol addiction dangers

A SKYE fisherman is on a mission to warn of the dangers of alcohol addiction in the Highlands and Islands.

'It's one of the longest and most painful suicides in the world,' Elgol-born Alister McKinnon said. 'If there's an area I most want to touch, it's the islands.'

A year after leaving school aged 14, Mr McKinnon became a fisherman in Mallaig, when his downward spiral began. 'Working on trawlers from the west coast to Aberdeen, I did my apprenticeship as a drinker,' he said. 'In a short time my life fell apart. By the age of 18, alcohol had taken control of my life. It was a way of life. I worked hard all week and drunk hard all weekend, and back to sea on Sunday night. This cycle goes on today.'

Deteriorating over the next 20

years, Mr McKinnon developed cirrhosis of the liver, while working in the oil industry in Aberdeen. 'I found it very hard to balance my off-shore work and my addiction, until eventually I had to come to terms that my life was ebbing away from me,' he recalled. 'Physically and mentally I wasn't capable.'

The turning point was hitting rock bottom after he lost his business. 'When the money has gone, it's a lonely place to be,' he said.

'Doctors told me if I carried on drinking I would be dead in two years.

'I was told 'if you stay away from alcohol, you'll live'. A cancer patient doesn't have that choice.'

'I grasped life with both hands.' He then lost his wife, his mother and best friend, but threw himself into charity work helping Ukrainian

street children living in Chernobyl's sewers. 'I felt I did not need a straight jacket but a working jacket,' he said.

Now, 28 years since he quit alcohol, he has launched a programme and website, called North Sea Garden Mission, to help others beat the booze: 'I am getting old and I wish to stamp my past experiences, my failures and wrong choices and show these guys that they can make it no matter how screwed up their life may be, there's a way out.

'Sobriety doesn't happen overnight - you have to work at it. Accepting, first, that alcohol in one's life is the root cause, only then can sobriety be achieved. Anything else will fail. How do I know? I tried it many times and failed.

'I will not sober up the fishing fleet - that's not my intention - but plant a seed regarding the dangers of

alcohol. Even turning one fisherman to the straight and narrow will be a great achievement.' But his main objective is to prevent alcohol abuse at an early age.

'These are the people who can go downhill very fast, and lose their identity,' he said. 'In a rural area, they know you're the local drunk, and you get a stamp.'

But it's an uphill battle, he added: 'Most countries have a serious alcohol problem. 24/7 alcohol is cheaper than water. No matter where you go today, to a function, wedding, engagement, funeral, birthday, or graduation, all of these are alcohol-related. Life sounds boring without booze. I can assure you it is anything but: to wake up in the morning with a clear head knowing where you were the previous night, and still have money in your pocket.'



Skye-based acute rural fellow Dr Robert Scully.

National rural fellowship shows a healthy return for NHS Highland

NHS HIGHLAND says the results of a study into a national initiative which gives newly-qualified doctors experience in rural areas show a healthy uptake in the area.

The GP Rural Fellowship scheme, organised by the training and education body NHS Education for Scotland (NES), saw five of the six GPs signed up to the scheme in 2015 working in NHS Highland.

Like many health boards, NHS Highland has had difficulties recruiting and retaining medics in some of its more isolated communities.

The study was conducted by Professor Ronald MacVicar, who has overall responsibility for the rural fellowship programme. He questioned 66 of the 69

GPs who were recruited to the fellowship between 2002, when the scheme was set up, and 2012, and found that of the 63 who were currently working in general practice, 46 were doing so in rural areas or small towns in Scotland.

Dr Ken Proctor, NHS Highland's associate medical director, said the study's findings underlined the importance of the rural fellowship scheme to the health board. He said: 'Our difficulties recruiting and retaining clinicians, including GPs, are well documented and anything that helps to accentuate the positive about practising in some of our more remote areas has to be welcomed.'

'This report shows that the rural fellowship scheme has been a big success.'

Better broadband high on agenda as convention gathers in Stornoway

THE CONVENTION of the Highlands and Islands highlighted the need for better digital connectivity last week when representatives of communities from Argyll to Shetland and four MSPs came together in Stornoway Town Hall.

High on the agenda was ensuring the roll-out of fibre broadband benefited as many communities as possible. Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'Much of [the meeting] was given to the concern of people through the Highlands and islands to ensure BT delivers on providing a better

broadband connection for all. The convention will now write collectively to BT to underline this point.'

Deputy First Minister John Swinney emphasised the roll-out of fibre broadband was as important as the provision of mains electricity in the 1950s. 'The meeting also covered fuel poverty,' Mr Allan continued, 'where John Swinney undertook to work closely with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and other local authorities about the need to ensure hard-to-insulate houses continue to receive attention.'

Chance to boost funding

TIME is running out for community projects in Argyll and Bute to enter Clydesdale Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards 2016 for a chance to share a funding boost of £75,000 to make a real difference in their local area.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations are invited to enter their projects into the awards scheme under one of three categories: projects which help people to

have a healthy relationship with money; projects which help people to improve their local environment and projects which help people into employment.

Five projects will be selected in each of the three categories and all 15 winners will be awarded £5,000 each.

Entries for this year's Spirit of the Community Awards must be submitted by Friday April 8 and the winners will be announced in summer 2016.

We are part of the Link Group

PROPOSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

LOCHDON, ISLE OF MULL

West Highland Housing Association own land at Lochdon, Isle of Mull.

Prior to building on this land we want to establish whether or not there is a demand for housing in this area.

We would urge people who are interested in either buying or renting at Lochdon to contact us immediately to complete a short questionnaire. By contacting us you are not making any future commitment but it will help us make a judgement of what type of housing is required and the size of properties.

If you are interested please contact:
West Highland Housing Association
Crannog Lane
Oban
PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 566451
0845 340 2058
Email: mail@westhighlandha.co.uk
SCOTTISH CHARITY IN SCOTLAND NO. SCO17357

New Look

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LADIES in Oban will soon be able to get a trim for a portion of the price and in a fraction of the time.

From March 24 onwards, Isla MacFarlane, who has 10 years of experience in hairdressing, will be starting in

New Look Tattoos and Barbers.

Justin Black, who owns the soon-to-be unisex establishment, said: 'We will be offering ladies' dry cuts.

'I think it will offer an affordable alternative for women to get a haircut. It will be a quick, cheap and cheerful service.'

Isla said she was excited and looking forward to getting started.

New Look Tattoos and Barbers also have the latest technology for sale such as games consoles.

Plockton

THE SOUTH West Ross district community drama one-act play festival was held at Plockton High School on February 19 and 20.

On the Friday there were three plays by Stornoway Theatians, Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society (ADS south) and Lochcarron (ADS east). On the Saturday there were two plays from Plockton ADS (north) and Lochcarron ADS (west).

The adjudicator was Walker Ewart who, in 2013, was awarded the OBE for services to education as he had been a teacher of French and Spanish for 23 years and then a school inspector. At the close of Saturday evening performances he announced the winners as Plockton ADS (north) with its play *Room 342* by Mike Tibbetts, produced by Gill James, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Stage managers were Dave Charnley and Katie Davies, who received the stage set award. Runners-up were Lochcarron ADS (west) which won best comedy with *Momentum* by Rita Sykes. Both now go forward to the Highland division finals being held at Plockton, for the first time in 40 years, on April 1 and 2.

Western Isles

A SURVEY of more than 1,200 properties in the Western Isles is set to be carried out in order to provide local authorities with information on the condition of private sector housing.

The survey, which will be carried out for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar by David Adamson and Partners Ltd, will examine the physical aspects to provide information on areas such as energy efficiency and defects.

It will also include interviews, which will provide useful information for future housing and will assist with planning for particular needs and an aging population. Homes have been chosen at random, but the survey will be carried out on a voluntary basis. All surveyors will carry a photo card and identification pass from David Adamson and Partners Ltd. The surveys will take place in Lewis and Harris until April 8; North Uist and Benbecula from April 11 to May 6; and South Uist and Barra from May 9 to June 3.

Morar

MEMBERS of Morar SWI went to Deirdre Roberts' home on March 3 where she demonstrated how to dye sheep's wool using natural materials including onion skins and lichen.

Eleanor Reid and Deirdre were hostesses for the evening. Eleanor won the raffle. Competitions: marmalade: 1 Isabel Morton, 2 Christine Haynes. Knitted sheep: 1 Flora Lawrie, 2 Christine Haynes, 3 Isabel Morton. Next month's meeting on April 14 will be held in Morar school at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Karen Calder. The competitions are spring flower arrangement and sausage rolls.

Campbeltown

A CAMPBELTOWN makeup artist has won her second award in two years at the Scottish Wedding Awards.

Diana McKenzie, who lives in Saddell, picked up the 2016 Makeup Specialist Award for the Central Region at the ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza, after winning Hair and Makeup Specialist of the Year for North West Region last year. 'I am over the moon to have won again,' she said: 'I was delighted to have been nominated and owe a massive thanks to my brides and clients who voted for me.'



South Uist pupils welcome Bishop

A warm welcome awaited Bishop Brian McGee when he visited St Michael's Ardkeneth in lochdar, South Uist. lochdar school pupils led the service with a procession of light.

Kinlochleven

KINLOCHLOVIN' is Kinlochleven High School's charity registered social enterprise.

It trades to tackle social problems, improve the community and life chances of its pupils.

Pupils can set up their own enterprise and make their own products, selling under the umbrella of Kinlochlovin'. The profits they make from selling goods are reinvested back into the business or the community.

Thomas Price, an S1 pupil, is marketing manager of both Buzz Buzz and Scents. Buzz Buzz is a textile company making hats and scarves, using crochet and knitting. Scents makes candles, soaps and bath bombs.

Thomas said: 'As a managing director I don't have to make anything. My job is to advertise our products and be the face of Kinlochlovin'. It's good fun and keeps me busy during lunch times and on Saturdays when we have stalls.'

Mrs McBride, chairperson of Kinlochlovin', explained: 'As a social en-



Thomas Price is marketing manager for the Kinlochlovin' companies.

terprise we can also apply for match funding. We are grateful to Awards for All for providing a generous award of £7,000. It is such a wonderful reward for our youngsters' hard work and commitment.

'There are many families in our area who experience adverse social and economic circumstances and this can be compounded by our rurality and social isolation. We believe extra-curricular opportunities are vitally important in improving

our young people's health and well-being, as well as promoting social inclusion and social justice.

'Through this project we want to widen the opportunities by enabling all young people to be able to take part in quality outdoor learning activities. Specifically, this application sought to support the expedition part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The funding will pay for expedition equipment, so that all of the required kit is available for all youngsters regardless of background.'

Rebecca Machin, head teacher of Kinlochleven High, said: 'A significant source of inequality lies outside the classroom. Softer cultural experiences and participation in extra-curricular activities can have a positive effect on both educational attainment and career outcomes.'

'The grant means we can offer all young people within Kinlochleven the opportunity to participate in an internationally recognised achievement award.'

Kintyre

THREE years and almost £200 million later, work to reinforce the electricity network on the Kintyre peninsula to Hunterston has been completed.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) and SP Energy Networks carried out the multi-million pound project and say that it was finished on time and on budget.

Stuart Irvine, the Chair of East Kintyre Community Council added: 'It was so reassuring to see that, during these most recent storms, we had only the tiniest flicker to our lights and nothing more; no outage and that's a huge improvement.'

'These improvements, along with other small, local projects they helped with, will benefit the community for many years to come and we are most grateful to SHE Transmission.'

Portree

PORTREE High School third year pupils have been preparing bids to secure £3,000 for charity.

As part of the international Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), pupils have investigated social issues in Skye and Lochalsh, made connections with local charities addressing those issues and are advocating on their behalf.

The young people are preparing to compete at an event at the school, judged by local businesspeople, journalists and community leaders. The best presentation will be awarded £3,000 for their chosen charity.

Some students have been getting involved first hand, learning how to cook, the importance of gardening, how to act during a cardiac arrest and how to pilot a lifeboat.

Supported in Scotland by the Wood Foundation and SSE, the YPI was originally set up in Canada by Toskan Casale Foundation, supported by the founders of MAC cosmetics.

Every year, more than 50,000 students across the world take part in YPI.

MORVERN lines

Priest's fascination with tales of mysterious 'Beast of Barrisdale'

LOCH Hourn is a 14-mile long sea loch snaking inland from the Sound of Sleat, opposite the Isle of Skye, to the head of the loch at Kinloch Hourn.

The popular translation of the Gaelic name of this sea loch is Loch of Hell but, according to Celtic scholars, the name is a less exciting one and means Loch of Berries.

Glen Barrisdale lies on the south shore of the loch and is famous on three counts: its ancient Scots pines which, by the way, is a tree that grows in an unbroken arc all the way to Vladivostok, a family called MacDonnell who were out in the '45, and a mysterious animal which acquired such a terrifying reputation that it became known as the 'Beast of Barrisdale'.

What was the Beast and when did it exist? According to Father Andrew MacDonnell (1870-1960), a Dominican priest from Fort Augustus standing in for the priest at Inverie, its blood-curling howls were first heard about 1845 and continued, off and on, until 1900.

Father Andrew, who was clearly interested in the history of the area, gathered some fascinating stories about the Beast from a number of stalkers, not one of whom, he recorded, would dream of trying to deceive him.



Ronald MacMaster, the Barrisdale gamekeeper who saw the tracks of the Beast.

Ronald MacMaster (1829-1906) the Barrisdale keeper, told Father MacDonnell that one day in November, he set off in the morning for the summit of Sgeir a' Choire-beith, a 3,000 ft hill overlooking Glen Barrisdale, to shoot ptarmigan. No sooner had he reached his destination than a flock of birds he had heard ahead of him, rose and flew off in alarm. He thought they might have been disturbed by a fox but the snow-covered ground revealed a set of fresh tracks which were far larger than that of a fox or indeed of any other animal he knew.

Guessing that it may have been the 'beist mhor' (Gaelic, big beast) he followed them until he came to a long rocky ledge 12 to 14 feet high on top of which he found four large paw marks indicating that the animal had without any hesitation surmounted it in one leap. The gamekeeper's description of the tracks was interesting. He said they were almost round and about four inches in diameter and gave the impression of a heavy animal. There was evidence of four toes but no central pad and the mark of a claw behind the paw.

Ronald MacMaster's son John (1865-1913) who lived at Runival a few miles up the loch from Barrisdale, was out on the hill and saw what he took to be the paw mark of a hound in a patch of soft peat. Stopping to take a closer look he realised it was far too large for any dog and that its dimensions closely matched those his father had seen a few years before.

On another occasion two stalkers watching deer on a clear, calm summer's afternoon, heard strange roaring and howling coming from a corrie on the opposite hill about three miles away from where they lay. The deer took no notice but the dogs they had with them became very agitated and unmistakably frightened.

Although very vocal the Beast shunned human contact except in the depths of winter when food was scarce. Descriptions of it vary. The few who had actually seen it seemed to think it was about the size of a donkey, with a mane and tail like a horse. The head was broad at the top between the ears similar to the head of a boar, but instead of a snout the lower part was rounded with a heavy upper jaw and large red, overhanging lips. The face, they described as being hideously and terrifyingly ugly.



A hyena, alias the Beast of Barrisdale.

So what was this animal that had put the inhabitants of Barrisdale and its neighbouring communities in a state of fear and alarm for so many years? The answer - a hyena! Now you may well ask how did a hyena, a native of Africa, arrive on Loch Hourn-side in the mid 1800s. It seems a small travelling circus or a menagerie was on route overland to Skye by way of Invergarry, Arnisdale and Glenelg when somewhere around Kinloch Hourn a hyena managed to escape. Although these picturesque travelling menageries, often consisting of no more than a bear on a chain, a monkey, a chimpanzee, a zebra perhaps and in this case a hyena, did not usually stray far from towns and villages, they were not unknown in the Highlands and Islands where the exotic animals they brought with them were, understandably, a great attraction. In many respects, other than its size and age, the descriptions of the Beast of Barrisdale collected by Fr MacDonnell, were fairly close to that of a hyena especially the vocalisations, including wailing calls, howling screams and the well-known 'laughter' used to alert other clan members up to three miles away of a food source.

One day perhaps its skeleton will be found in a cave or a peat hag in Glen Barrisdale that will confirm its identity beyond all doubt.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



Lochaber pupils visit London sights

LOCHABER High School sixth year pupils enjoyed seeing the sights of London during the school's 10th annual trip.

Staff and 63 pupils visited the capital city from February 25-28.

There was a mixture of sight-seeing and cultural activities, giving young people the chance to experience some of the UK capital's top highlights.

The hectic schedule included BBC Broadcasting House, South Kensington Museums (Natural History, Science and

V&A), Emirates Stadium, Madame Tussauds, Warner Bros Studio (Harry Potter set) and general sight-seeing around Buckingham Palace and Whitehall.

Evening options included laser tag, the cinema at Leicester Square and the Lyceum Theatre for the spectacular production of *The Lion King*.

There were meals out at Carluccio's and Hard Rock Café and the trip was rounded off with a flight on the London Eye before the long journey home.

Spring rally spotlight on tourism

THE GUEST speaker at the SWI Lochaber Federation's Spring Rally, held recently in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, was Colin G MacLean.

Mr MacLean spoke of his career as a tourist guide and as a member of the Highlands of Scotland Tour Guide Association.

Operating mainly in the Highlands, north of a line running from Loch Lomond to Montrose, the association provides specialist guides for coach and cruise ship operators, as well as small groups and individual tourists, who wish to discover the grandeur of the Highlands, its history and natural heritage.

The guides, who regularly attend courses run by the association, cover a wide range of expertise, many speaking several

languages. Most have lived in the area for many years and enjoy showing visitors the area they love. It was obvious from Mr MacLean's enthusiasm that he enjoys showing visitors round his Highland home.

He was thanked for his interesting and informative talk by Martine Young. After a question and answer session, the company enjoyed a tea, provided by the ladies of Ardgour Institute.

The gingerbread competition winner was Heather MacLean, Ardgour, second was June Cairns, Arisaig, and third was Isobel McGavin, Fort William.

Christine Haynes, Morar, won best photograph for a tourist poster competition, with June Cairns second and Vera MacDonald, Arisaig, third.

AS A RESULT of damage caused by various winter storms, the bothy at Camasunary on Skye has been closed temporarily.

Tin sheets have become detached from the roof and the remaining sheets are in a precarious position. The new bothy for

Skye

the area is not yet ready for use. In the meantime, visitors should be prepared to camp at the site. To keep up to date, visit www.mountainbothies.org.uk.

Rare opportunity to participate in Archaeology work at Dunollie Castle



'Telling the Castle Story'

Dunollie Castle, Oban's most iconic monument is undergoing Phase II of a programme of consolidation work.

As part of our 'Telling the Castle Story' project, we are offering a fascinating one-off opportunity for people interested in archaeology to work with our expert archaeologist on-site to help produce accurate measured drawings of the castle walls.

You will learn professional techniques used for measuring, identifying notable features and translating the findings into scale drawings.

The project is over three consecutive weekends starting on Saturday March 26th. There is no charge but spaces are limited.

For more information please contact melanie@dunollie.org or ring 01631 570550

Other 'Telling the Castle Story' activities include Blogging, Stories & Characters from the archives, Jacobean Embroidery & the castle bed hanging, Behind the Scenes Tours, Objects & Lifestyle Museum Arts award (11 - 25 years). We would be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to participate.

Dunollie Projects Ltd. North Wing, Dunollie House, Oban PA24 5TT
www.dunollie.org



Pitch plan in crisis as board members quit

CAREN MCPATE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE RESIGNATION of three board members from Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) has thrown plans for a new £1.47 million indoor sports pitch up in the air.

Chairperson Jane Blanchard and directors Duncan MacPhee and Leen Volwerk announced they were standing down this week.

Other members of the LSA board and its grants and awards committee were said to be considering their positions.

Liz MacFarlane, treasurer of the grants committee, was already planning to stand down and Christine Falconer, who sits on both groups, is considering her positions.

The move follows Highland Council's decision in October last year to only award £200,000 to the group when it was believed it would be given £600,000.

A total of £600,000 was secured from sportscotland and Score Environment, leaving LSA with a funding gap of almost £700,000.

LAS has led plans for a much-needed indoor 3G pitch at a site beside Lochaber high school for seven years.

Ms Blanchard said: 'The



An artist's impression of how the new indoor sports pitch would look.



Jane Blanchard.

council said it's strapped for cash, but things are happening in Inverness and they're painting the museum and art gallery

gold. I don't think our project is seen as being as important as others.

'There's fantastic amounts of money being spent on sports facilities in Inverness that are said to be for the Highlands, but how is someone from Ballachulish going to get there? The funding gap just became far too big. We have tried to look for other funders, but there are no big ones.

'In order to get to this point we have raised a lot of money, have done a feasibility study and full planning permission is in place.

'The pitch would be suitable for a huge variety of sports. All the club's pitches are grass which requires maintenance



We have tried to look for other funders, but there are no big ones

Jane Blanchard
Lochaber Sports Association

because it rains a lot and this budget has been cut.

'Matches and training have been cancelled several times over the last few years.'

Ms Blanchard hopes that the project will continue and new people will join the LAS board with fresh ideas and a new approach. The grants and awards committee give funds to clubs and individuals throughout Lochaber.

The group's chairman, Stewart Sandison, said: 'We want to keep going and support the local clubs whatever format that takes in the future.'

LAS is holding an extraordinary general meeting on Monday April 11, with the time and venue to be confirmed.



Zuzanna in running for Miss Teen title

A FORT William teenager is hoping to be crowned Miss Junior Teen Great Britain 2016.

Zuzanna Kruk, 14, has beaten off competition from across the country to win a place in the semi-final of the contest.

Teenagers will compete for the crown in a spectacular grand final at The Globe in Blackpool in October with the winner walking away with prizes, including £500.

Finalists will enjoy a beauty queen challenge day, a pyja-

ma diva party and more. Zuzanna, a third year Lochaber High School pupil, said: 'My mum saw the competition on the internet and I thought I would give it a try.'

'I never really expected to go so well and get to the semi-final, but I'm pleasantly surprised.'

A panel of judges from Miss Junior Teen will now mark the semi-finalists on their appearance, the content and quality of their answers in the contestant semi-finalist form and how photogenic they are.

TIMESLINE

Roybridge flood prevention work

ESSENTIAL work to help prevent the A86 near Roybridge from flooding during heavy rain will be carried out next week.

The culvert maintenance will take place on a short section of the road at Aite Cruinnichidh from Monday March 21 for up to four days.

The £30,000 work will involve re-lining an existing culvert underneath the A86 to stop leakage into the surrounding ground. This will prevent water undermining the A86 carriage-way above the culvert during periods of heavy rain.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place between 7am and 7pm until the work is completed.

Police name man found in harbour

POLICE have named a man whose body was recovered from Mallaig harbour.

William Grant, 63, who was from the area, was found on Thursday March 3.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

Car tyres slashed in Monzie Square

THE TYRES of a Volkswagen Golf car were slashed in Monzie Square, Fort William.

The vehicle was targeted between 5pm on Thursday March 3 and 10am the following morning.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious is asked to contact police on 101.

Study slate building and help conserve historic arch

PEOPLE interested in learning about traditional slate building techniques are being invited to attend a free two-day course in Ballachulish.

The course, which is part of a wider £277,000 project to conserve and interpret the historic Ballachulish slate arch, will run on Thursday March 24 and Friday March 25.

It's open to anyone with a personal or professional

interest in using slate to build features such as dykes, cairns, plinths and seating. It follows on from a similar course held last December in the village as part of the same project, but new participants are also welcome to attend.

The programme for the two days will focus on hands-on training, including helping to build a new stone plinth, which will be part of new interpre-

tation at the East Quarry in Ballachulish. All tools and protective clothing will be provided. The course is free but places are limited and must be booked in advance.

The Ballachulish slate arch, also known as the Tom Beag Inclined Plane, can be seen from the A82 trunk road close to the village. It dates back to the 19th century when it was built to transport wagons of

dressed slate from the quarry to piers on the loch-side and to transport empty wagons back up to the quarry.

The project and the course is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Highland Council and Historic Environment Scotland. For further information or to book a place, contact Helen Smith by emailing helen@rowan-tree-consulting.co.uk or call 079105 24037.

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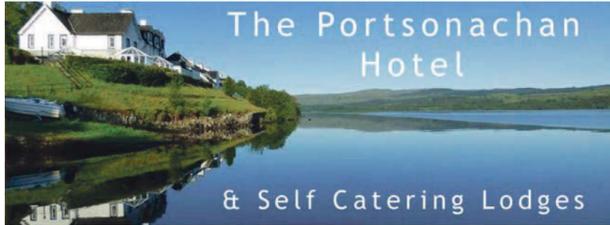
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THE BRIDE GUIDE

See you at The Oban Times Highland Wedding Show on Sunday 20th March, 10am - 5pm, Corran Halls, Oban. Here's a snapshot of our latest exhibitors



Stunning weddings at The Portsonachan Hotel

Nestling on the shores of the magnificent Loch Awe, the charming Portsonachan Hotel provides the most wonderful venue for your wedding day.

Breathtaking surroundings, warm hospitality, excellent accommodation, superb food and drink and all the luxurious little extras you need to ensure your special day is exactly as you have dreamt it will be.

For further information and to discuss your special day, please contact us on 01866 833224 or visit us at Southlochaweside, Dalmally, PA33 1BJ

We look forward to meeting you at the Oban Times Highland Wedding Show on Sunday 20th March.

WITH breathtaking surroundings, warm hospitality and excellent accommodation, Portsonachan Hotel is a perfect wedding venue.

The hotel was built around 1840 on the beautiful southside shores of Loch Awe and offers a full range of facilities for weddings.

It can provide superb food and drink and all the luxurious little extras you

need to ensure your special day is exactly as you dreamt it will be.

Portsonachan offers bed and breakfast and self catering in the main hotel rooms, the loch side apartments, the coach house and the nine private wooden lodges.

Producing the best out of fresh and seasonal local produce, the restaurant has the best the west of

Scotland has to offer whilst enjoying panoramic views of Loch Awe.

The Portsonachan Hotel team will be one of the exhibitors at The Oban Times Highland Wedding Show this Sunday, March 20.

For further information and to discuss your special day, contact the hotel on 01866 833224 or visit Southlochaweside, Dalmally



Getting married lochside at Portsonachan

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PAMPERED PETS

The law is changing! As from the 6th April 2016 you **must** have your dog microchipped!

Whether you have a cat, dog or horse, grooming is an essential part of their routine to avoid discomfort. If you are unable to carry this out yourself there are grooming services, which are happy to take care of this aspect of your animal's well-being for you. Many also operate on a mobile basis and will visit your home if required. Lastly your new pet should never be bored, get them lots of toys and play with them regularly. Remember, the more time you spend with your pet the more rewarding the experience will be.

OWNING an animal, whether you are buying for one for the first time or have had them for years, can be a big task with lots of work involved. There are lots of pet stores on the west coast of Scotland providing high quality items, which will ensure the comfort and safety of your pet. Pets need lots of time devoted to them and if you find this a problem you could take advantage of professional pet-sitting services for when you're away from home for short periods. For longer holidays, booking them into a kennel is usually the best idea.

If your pet gets injured you will need to take them to the vet. Depending on what has happened, the bill for bringing them back to full health can be expensive so to avoid being out of pocket taking out a pet insurance policy is advised. Just like humans, your pet needs plenty of exercise. If you are unable to provide your pet with the exercise they need, employing a dog walker could be a good idea. Training your animal is also important whether they are young or old. If you are struggling to train your pet there are classes available.

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'Dangerous' road neglected for years

YEARS of neglect have left a rural road 'dangerous', according to a community council chairman.

John Fotheringham, who leads Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, has hit out at the lack of action to repair potholes on Leanachan Road.

He said: 'It is clear this rural road like many others has suffered years of neglect.'

'Two years ago Highland Council was going to repair part of the road, but claimed its product contractor wouldn't deliver using the forest roads.'

Highland Council said the road was on a list to be treated.

A spokesperson explained: 'There have been difficulties in getting access.'

'However, the intention is to undertake innovative road surface treatment on this road in 2016-17.'

'This will again be subject to budget availability and competing priorities.'

HIE report reveals support for return of Skye flights

CAREN MCPATE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

FLIGHTS could be reintroduced between Skye and Scotland's central belt after a report showed huge demand for the service from businesses and islanders.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), on behalf of the Skye Air Service working group, commissioned ekosgen to carry out the research which explores the benefits an air service could bring to local businesses and communities.

Almost 200 businesses, social enterprises and community organisations submitted their views in an online survey to gauge the potential economic and social benefits from a service being reintroduced.

There was a scheduled air



Councillor Drew Millar supports flights from Skye to the central belt.

service from the island's airstrip at Ashaig, Broadford, operated by Loganair between 1972 and 1988.

Building on the 2013 Skye air services feasibility study which established clear demand for a service, the new report found that flights would address some of the constraints facing businesses and residents as a result of the length of current travel options between Skye and the central belt.

Apart from shorter journey times, it would reduce the need for overnight stays and improve access to onward connections at Glasgow Airport.

Stuart MacPherson, from HIE, said: 'The report concludes that a reintroduced service would bring significant economic and social benefits to Skye and surrounding areas, and would help to address some

of the major constraints identified by the area's businesses.' According to the report, 85 per cent of businesses on the island currently travel regularly to the central belt and envisage positive effects from an air service in terms of access to markets, customers and clients.

Tourism would gain from an increase in short-break visitors outside the peak summer season.

It would also improve options for travel for personal, health and leisure reasons, and access to Skye for healthcare professionals providing secondary and tertiary care.

Professor Boyd Robertson, principal of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig college on Skye and part of the FlySkye campaign group, said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is the third largest employer on Skye and our staff have to travel

frequently to engagements in the central belt.'

'A twice daily air service would greatly facilitate our business and reduce the time spent in long and unproductive road journeys as well as obviating the need for overnight stays.'

'Our student body draws from all parts of Scotland and beyond and our international short course students and conference delegates would all benefit hugely from an air service comparable to that enjoyed by all other islands and parts of the mainland such as Wick and Campbeltown.'

Highland councillor for Eilean a' Cheò, Drew Millar, said: 'The council is working with HIE and HITRANS to press the case for improved air links to and from the Highlands.'

TIMESLINE

Attempt made to enter Fort home

AN ATTEMPT has been made to enter a house in Fort William's Claggan area.

Police are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious on Carn Dearg Road between Saturday March 5 and the next day to contact them.

In a separate incident, a fence was damaged at a property on Henderson Row, Fort William, between 3am and 4.30am on Sunday March 13.

The police can be contacted on 101.

Rotary cash boost for access panel

LOCHABER Rotary Club has awarded £500 to Lochaber Disability Access Panel after hearing of its efforts to achieve a barrier-free environment.

The panel is currently working with Lochaber High School to create a disability awareness panel within the school. Rotary club president Terry Lee said: 'We were very impressed by this funding application and had no hesitation in awarding the grant.'

'Our colleague, the late Dr Su Sen, was a founder member of the panel and we are pleased to see his good work continuing in the current panel.'

Last chance to vote for favourite work

THIS Sunday (March 20) is the deadline for the public to vote for their favourite artwork in the Moving Mountains exhibition at Fort William's Lime Tree Gallery.

The People's Prize is the final award with £200 going to the artist who gets the most votes.

The gallery is free to enter and is open daily from 10am to 10pm.

Charity Get Set for Summer show

PUPILS at Lundavra Primary School are holding a Get Set for Summer fashion show this evening (Thursday).

The event is being supported by M&Co, Phoenix Discos and is in aid of Action for Children.

It takes place at the school at 7pm. Tickets cost £2 for adults and 50p for children and can be bought from the school in advance or at the door. There will be a raffle and refreshments.



Tom plans epic voyage in giant whale-shaped boat

THE FIRST man to row the north Atlantic Ocean single-handed is preparing for his next challenge - to sail in a giant whale-shaped boat at the age of 73.

Tom McClean launched the boat project 20 years ago and designed and built the structure called Moby, which is 65ft long, 25ft high and weighs 60 tonnes. He's spent £100,000 on Moby and hopes to secure a further £150,000 to make the Atlantic voyage from London to New York.

It's not the first unusual adventure for Mr McClean as he sailed from New York to England in a 37ft long bottle shaped boat in 1990.

Mr McClean, who served

with the parachute and SAS regiments, runs an outdoor centre on the shores of Loch Nevis in Lochaber.

He said: 'After I had done the sailing in the bottle boat I thought, what's next? There was a save the whale campaign so I thought I'd design a boat.'

'We've taken Moby around the UK into 50 harbours. We got an amazing reaction, although the coast guard was called out several times as people reported seeing a whale.'

Mr McClean was the first man to row the Atlantic solo in 1969 and recaptured the transatlantic rowing record for Britain in 1987 after 54 days at sea.



Tom McClean with Moby the boat which is currently berthed on the shores of Loch Nevis. Photograph: Cascade News.

Search on for hotel complex investor

WORK has started on finding the right investor to take forward plans for a luxury hotel development for the Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort.

The new complex is part of a wider masterplan covering part of Leanachan Forest, to boost recreation and tourism over the next 10 to 20 years.

It includes a luxury 80-bed hotel or high-quality forest lodges and cabins, as well as a yurts, bunkhouse or camping pods in an area close to Nevis Range.

Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) is working with Scottish Development International (SDI), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Visit Scotland to take forward the proposals. A business plan is being developed to help sell the investment potential.

Ben Lennon, of Forest Enterprise Scotland, said:

'We are all very excited what this potential transformation could mean for the area, but there is a lot of work to do in order to attract suitable investment from private sector developers.'

FES has undertaken work to improve the forest landscape adjacent to the access road. It has also begun speaking to neighbouring landowners and tenants to explore improvements to the access road.

Head of tourism at SDI Graeme White said they hoped to attract interest from both international and UK investors.

Scott Dingwall, HIE's head of regional development for Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, said: 'The masterplan opens up huge potential to attract investment which could attract more visitors and boost the Lochaber economy.'



An artist's impression of what a luxury hotel could look like at Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort.

Lochaber pine forest to be restored



Members of Arkaig Community Forest and a representative from the Woodland Trust Scotland at Clunes on the shore of Loch Arkaig.

A LARGE area of ancient Caledonian pine forest in Lochaber looks set to be restored.

The Woodland Trust Scotland and Arkaig Community Forest have signed an agreement to work together on the project. They intend to buy the forest, which covers 2,700 acres of ancient Caledonian pinewood, plantation forest and other habitats over two areas on the southern shores of Loch Arkaig.

Carol Evans, director of the

Woodland Trust Scotland, said: 'Restoring the South Loch Arkaig and Glenmallee pinewoods is an ambitious project that will take decades.'

'Our aim is to restore the forest to native woodland and also to give the community a real stake in its future. We want local people to benefit through improved access and involvement in woodland management, supporting local jobs and livelihoods in a remote rural area.'

The land is currently owned

by Forestry Commission Scotland which announced it was disposing of it as surplus through the National Forest Land Scheme.

Gary Servant, of Arkaig Community Forest, said: 'We are excited to be working to acquire this pinewood. We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge and we welcome the opportunity to work with one of the UK's leading woodland conservation charities, neighbouring Achnacarry estate, and other stakeholders.'

Community company delighted with £1.1m campsite boost

A £1.1 MILLION cash boost will create a new 50-pitch campsite in a community woodland on south Skye.

The Big Lottery Fund Scotland has awarded the funding to Broadford and Strath Community Company.

The project will provide a much-in-demand camping facility and help stimulate the local economy by attracting more tourists to the area.

Alistair Macpherson, chairman of Broadford and Strath Community Company, said: 'We received this good news with a mixture of delight and disbelief. We have been working towards developing this much-needed facility and producing an income stream to support community projects for many years. We have had several setbacks along the way, but this injection of capital means that we can at last make things happen for the good of the

whole community. Local people will benefit from the campsite in so many different ways. We're creating and supporting jobs, there will be opportunities for local businesses with more tourists in the area, and the profit from the campsite will be used to support community groups.'

Skye is one of three Highland community-based projects to benefit from more than £2.6m from the Big Lottery Fund.



Pupils spread spring cheer to the elderly

Generous pupils at Inverloch Primary School delivered daffodils and cards to senior citizens in the community. The children nominated elderly people to receive daffodils and cards as part of their work on the sunshine committee, which aims to make links with the community. 21_f12daffodils

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Arena

TRAVELING: Aidan Moffat and his red hat stand out against the Scottish landscape



Where you are meant to be?

AFTER a sell-out premiere at Barrowland Ballroom as part of Glasgow Film Festival, *Where You're Meant To Be* hits the road with a preview cinema tour at venues across Scotland from March 25.

The film, plus a live set from Aidan Moffat and friends, will visit a limited number of venues from Skye to Blairgowrie, granting communities where the film started out access to a preview before a wider release later this year.

In the spring of 2014, Scottish cult-pop raconteur Aidan Moffat and award-winning filmmaker Paul Fegan made plans to tour the length of Scotland – to socialise with local characters, carouse into the early hours, and explore the country's music traditions as part of a folkloric pop voyage called *Where You're Meant To Be*.

It was meant to be the basis for a film depicting Moffat's road trip. It was meant to be a film that celebrated Scotland's communities and lore, as the former Arab Strap frontman toured his modern re-interpre-

tations of old folk songs. But just before they hit the road, Fegan and Moffat met Sheila Stewart: a 79-year-old force of nature, the last in a line of travelling folk royalty, and a balladeer whose life – and unexpected death in September 2014 – upturned Moffat's folk assumptions, and diverted the course of Fegan's film.

The ensuing film, *Where You're Meant To Be*, is a warm-hearted and open-armed journey through Scottish music, landscape and time.

It's also a moving, wry and enlightening depiction of two of the country's most distinct and vital voices as they cross paths (and words): Moffat believes Scotland's oldest songs are ripe for re-working against a contemporary urban backdrop. Stewart does not.

Following Moffat's initial encounter with Stewart last spring, and with her wrath ringing in his ears, he embarks on a trip around Scotland's remote parts with his band in tow, to immerse himself, and his bawdy muse, in folk clubs, gatherings and the country's oldest songs. He encounters myriad colourful myths and characters along the way: feuding monster hunters at Loch Ness; a heartbroken crofter singing at his kitchen table on the Isle of Skye; a gaggle of chain-mail clad warriors, re-animating history in a village cemetery outside Oban; and many singers, tales and songs.

When Moffat's tour of Scotland comes full circle – back to Glasgow, where he lives, and where it all began – he finds himself cornered as Stewart takes her last stand at the Barrowland Ballroom. The world-famous venue is a fitting locale for their crowning face-off: a symbol of social gatherings past; the best-loved rock stage in the world; and a recurring character in a film – and love story – with a sense of community at its heart.

On bringing the film back to the communities, involved director Paul Fegan commented: 'I'm excited to show the film first within the communities that we toured and where the characters within the film live. All the songs and stories shared with us over the past three years have helped shape the film greatly.'

'It's been a long journey since we first started and I can't wait to share the finished film with our Scottish audiences first, and the rest of the world after.'

Following its run at the Glasgow Film Festival, *Where You're Meant To Be* will have a preview event cinema tour at venues across Scotland, featuring a live set with Aidan Moffat and friends after each screening. The tour will call at:

March 31 - Aros Hall Skye
April 1 - Drumnadrochit Village Hall
April 2 - Phoenix Cinema Oban.



Aidan Moffat takes a trip on a ferry as part of the documentary - *Where You're Meant To Be*.

Letters to an unknown soldier speak of personal impact of war

A POIGNANT book of Gaelic letters was launched as part of the Aye Write Book Festival in Glasgow last Saturday.

Litir Chum an t-Saighdeir gun Ainn / Letter to the Unknown Soldier was commissioned by the 14-18 Now World War One centenary art commemoration project.

It drew its inspiration from a bronze memorial, in Paddington Station, London, of a life-size statue of a soldier in trench uniform reading a letter. No-one knows who the letter was from and what it contained.

The BBC was invited to participate in encouraging radio listeners to take a moment and write that letter.

BBC Radio Four and Radio nan Gaidheal embraced the project and listeners of all ages stepped back in time to 1914-18 and the First World War to pen personal letters to family members and loved ones.

More than 50 letters were written and broadcast in Gaelic and they make up this unique collection compiled 100 years after the First World War.

Project creators Neil Bartlett and Kate Pullinger were deeply moved at the response with more than 21,000 letters received in total: 'People wrote from across Britain, and across the world....they wrote from different places, different generations and dif-

ferent points of view - and sometimes in different languages.'

'Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised that the idea of writing a letter to a lost soldier would resonate so strongly in the Gaelic-speaking parts of Britain, when these regions were hit especially hard by the death-toll of the First World War.'

'By writing to him in Gaelic, people have made us remember just how many soldiers would have spoken that language.'

The letters in this collection were written using a range of styles, some composed from the perspective of family members, mothers, sisters, brothers, trying to imagine what the soldier might be experiencing - they passed on news of the community they left behind with some trying to keep things light for the reader.

This young writer conveyed the mood of many young boys at the time: 'Murdo and I were fishing down at the river today.'

'I gave him my fishing rod and I used your one. I caught three trout and Murdo caught two. I wish I was old enough to be in the Army. I envy you. Two more years though and I'll be old enough. If I'm lucky the War will still be on.'

Some of the letters are written in the form of poems and reflect the feelings and memories of loved ones

and others wrote letters between soldiers taking the reader directly into the dirt, devastation and death of the trenches, questioning the purpose of war:

'Who are you? The question is pointless. The hungry soil of France and Belgium swallowed you all, and it took four years to satisfy it.'

And poignant thoughts on the many who did not return are expressed in many: 'Don't be afraid. This silence will not last long. You will rise, brave fighter, and you will leave your gun and bayonet behind. You will find a familiar road and you will follow their voices back to the landscape of your youth.'

The publication of the collection of letters came about from a collaboration between the BBC, the Gaelic Publishing House CLAR with support from The Gaelic Books Council.

Margaret Mary Murray, head of BBC Gaelic Services, said: 'A letter is a very precious thing and particularly so in this situation with the reader thousands of miles away from the writer and in the throes of war.'

'Radio nan Gaidheal listeners of all ages embraced the creative letter writing challenge and explored themes of family, community, love and loss. The act of reading the letters aloud for broadcast added further emotion.'

19th century Skye poet tops 'Outstanding Women' Twitter poll

A 19TH CENTURY nurse, poet and songwriter from Skeabost on the Isle of Skye has topped a social media poll of Outstanding Women of Scotland through the ages.

Màiri Mhòr nan Oran (Mary MacPherson) was announced the overall winner of the online poll to coincide with International Women's Day on Tuesday March 8.

Since launching the 2016 Outstanding Women of Scotland campaign on St Andrew's Day, cultural charity the Saltire Society has been celebrating women from throughout Scottish history via a series of daily Tweets.

Fellow Twitter users were asked to vote for their favourites from a list of more than 80 outstanding women from Scottish history.

A wide range of Historic Scottish women have been celebrated as part of the campaign, from Mary King, who famously has an Edinburgh close and visitor attraction named after her, to Dorothy Donaldson Buchanan, the first female member

of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Màiri Mhòr nan Oran was born on the Isle of Skye in 1821 and, after being briefly arrested and imprisoned for theft in 1872, turned to poetry to protest her innocence and express her anger through Gaelic verse. Following her release from prison, she lived in Glasgow where she worked as a nurse and became well known for her poetry and songs. She was a supporter of land reform and, amongst other things, used her verse to urge Skye crofters to resist their landlords, including through perhaps her best known poem *Incitement of the Gaels*. Màiri died following a short illness in 1898.

A plaque to her memory was unveiled in 1966 at Skeabost in Skye and there is a more recent plaque outside her last home in Portree, erected by the Portree Local History Society.

Nominations for the Saltire Society's Outstanding Women of Scotland 2016 campaign will join the ranks of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Singer and writer Anne Lorne

Gilles, and Strathclyde University Engineering Professor Rebecca Lunn, who were inducted at the inaugural celebration in 2015.

Commenting on the results of the Twitter poll, Saltire Society programme manager Sarah Mason said: 'The historic Scottish women we have been celebrating since launching the 2016 campaign on St Andrew's Day came from a wide variety of backgrounds.'

'They included a campaigner for women's rights and birth control, musicians, an astronomer, a theatre director, writers, a weather presenter and many others.'

'I'm particularly pleased that the overall winner is someone who is perhaps less well known than many of the other more prominent figures on our list of outstanding women of Scotland through the ages.'

She hoped more people would be encouraged to find out about outstanding women from history who had made a contribution to Scotland.

Will thistle be their year?

ARGYLL and islands businesses hope to star at the Scottish tourism 'Oscars'.

Torrisdale Castle Estate, Ninth Wave Restaurant and Tíree Music Festival are among a host of finalists flying the flag for the region at Scottish tourism's awards.

A total of eight Argyll and islands finalists will compete with tourism businesses from around Scotland at the national final of the Scottish Thistle Awards later this month.

Led by a panel of industry experts, the Scottish Thistle Awards celebrate tourism businesses or individuals

across the country which have gone the extra mile to offer an outstanding visitor experience.

Scottish comedian Fred MacAulay will announce this year's winners during a glittering ceremony at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre tomorrow, Friday March 18.



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The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil

DUNDEE Rep Theatre has announced a Scottish tour of its critically-acclaimed production of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, written by John McGrath and directed by Joe Douglas, in the autumn.

The iconic political play, widely considered to be a cornerstone of contemporary Scottish theatre, was a huge success at Dundee Rep Theatre in September 2015, garnering critical praise and smashing box office records.

The production will once again be performed in Dundee from August 31 until September 10 before embarking on a Scottish tour visiting The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness and the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, until 22 October 2016.

This will be the first professional tour of the play in more than 20 years.

The Cheviot the Stag and the Black, Black Oil was written by

renowned British playwright, director and political theorist John McGrath, who often took up the cause of Scottish independence in his plays.

Many of the issues and themes covered in *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, are as topical today as they were back in the 1970s, such as, the North Sea oil industry and the treatment of working people in the Highlands and islands.

The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil is considered one of Scotland's first theatrical examples of docu-drama and verbatim story-telling. It has been hailed as greatly influencing generations of theatre-makers in Scotland and beyond, as well as drawing in new audiences through its unique story-telling.

McGrath famously embraced the techniques of music hall, variety and especially the ceilidh to appeal to audiences across the social classes.

John McGrath is also re-

nowned for setting up 7:84 Theatre Company in 1971.

Its aim was to take popular, political theatre to the working classes and they performed in alternative venues throughout Scotland, England and Wales.

The title of the company derived from a 1966 statistic that seven per cent of the population of Great Britain owned 84 per cent of the wealth. *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil* is its most famous production.

The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil is directed by Joe Douglas, a theatre director, writer and performer.

He has won Fringe Firsts for *Letters Home* (Grid Iron/Edinburgh International Book Festival, 2014) and *Educating Ronnie* (MacRobert/Utter, 2012), and has recently been appointed associate artistic director of Dundee Rep Theatre.

Joe Douglas, director of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil* said: "Directing

The Cheviot has never been anything but a terrifying honour.

"Dundee was jumping when we performed the play last year and we're very excited to take the ensemble out on the road.

"I'm delighted to have the opportunity to bring this vibrant production to a wider audience and see how the people of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Glasgow uniquely respond to it.

"McGrath's philosophy was that the audience must have 'a good night out' and that's something that we aim to ignite across the country."

Nick Parr, chief executive at Dundee Rep Theatre said: "The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil was a huge success in Dundee last year.

"I am delighted that we can share this outstanding and timely production in Dundee again and also across Scotland - John's script is as powerfully relevant today as it was 40-odd years ago."

Skerryvore to play Bute Fest

SKERRYVORE are just one of the bands that will be playing at this year's Bute Fest, due to take place at King George's Field, Rothessay.

The three-day festival runs

from July 29-31 and will see performances from bands such as Idlewild, The Magic Numbers, The Rezillos, the Baghdaddies and more.

Bute Fest, which launched

in 2015, will have plenty of activities and entertainment for young and old to enjoy.

To find out more or to purchase tickets, visit www.butfest.co.uk.

Media festival reveals nominees for 2016 awards

THE CELTIC Media Festival has unveiled the nominees for the prestigious Torc Awards for Excellence.

The winners will be announced at the 37th Festival in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Ireland from April 20-22.

Nominees from more than 90 production companies and broadcasters will compete across 23 award categories, including Arts, Comedy, Current Affairs, Drama Series, Factual Single, Sport, Radio Documentary and more.

Entries for the 2016 awards again surpassed 500 submissions, with the festival consistently attracting applications from high-standard productions from across the Celtic nations and regions; 10 separate juries undertook almost 370 hours of listening and viewing to produce a shortlist of the very best in productions in the past year.

The 2016 host nation, Ireland, has 42 productions in the running for a Torc Award including Factual Single nominee, Cumann na mBan - Mná na Réabhlóide. Produced by Genefile Ltd for TG4, it tells the story of the women of Cumann na mBan during Ireland's revolutionary period.

2015, received 37 nominations across a range of categories for productions including *Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Specials 2014*, a festive episode of the hugely popular comedy created by BBC Comedy Production, and *Catch Me If You Can*, a BBC Scotland investigation into the world of doping in athletics, spanning more than 30 years and involving some of the biggest stars in the sport. The programme is nominated in Current Affairs.

Welsh nominees include *Y Gwyll / Hinterland*, Fiction Factory and S4C/BBC's ground-breaking, gripping crime drama that won a Torc Award for Excellence in Drama Series in 2014. Michael Sheen's *Valleys Rebellion*, a Cwmni Da/BBC production nominated in Factual Single commemorates the 175th anniversary of the Newport Rising. The esteemed actor goes on a personal journey to discover the cause of political disillusionment in the Wales of today.

Cornwall's *Poldark* is nominated in Drama Series, always a particularly strong category in the Torc Awards for Excellence.

The nominations for Radio Presenter of the Year span Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with RTÉ

Raidió na Gaeltachta's *Dónall Mac Ruairí*, BBC Radio Cymru's *Beti George* and BBC Radio Scotland's *Edi Stark* on the road to potentially winning a prestigious Torc Award for Excellence.

Festival director Catriona Logan said: "Every year, we're taken aback by the quality of programming that is entered into Celtic Media Festival.

"The Celtic Nations and Regions are a force to be reckoned with creatively, and we're proud to be involved in recognising this.

"It's hugely important to acknowledge the stellar work that these people do, and all the entries this year are testament to the talent and skill that these programme makers have.

"The record-breaking entries were whittled down by our dedicated National Juries who, in all, watched and listened to over 370 hours of top quality submissions and we're looking forward getting to work with the Celtic Media Festival International Jury for the difficult task of choosing the winners."

Delegate registration for Celtic Media Festival 2016 is now open - visit www.celticmediafestival.co.uk Further details on the festival will be unveiled shortly, with the full programme set to be revealed soon.

Funding boost for Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and Oban Live

A NUMBER of events taking place over the coming months are set to benefit from EventScotland investment, after 13 successful grant applications were made during round 31 of national programme funding.

Events such as Oban's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and Oban Live will now be in a position to grow event attendance and improve the spectator experience, in keeping with the objectives of the programme.

National programme funding supports the strategic development of events which take place outside of Edinburgh and Glasgow, with the aim of driving domestic tourism, economic impact for local communities and media value for Scotland.

The fund is administered by EventScotland, a team within VisitScotland's Events Direc-

torate.

Adding to activity programmes, extending the public relations/marketing capabilities of events and improving the food and drink offer are among the enhancements to be made through combined funding of over £150,000.

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's director of events, said: "Funding delivered through the national programme is crucial in encouraging people to travel around Scotland and contributes greatly to the economies of several local authority areas with every funding round.

"Additionally, it helps to promote a positive image of Scotland to audiences domestically and in neighbouring markets, which is invaluable to the visitor economy.

"These EventScotland awards will allow each event to create an even more attractive prop-

osition to potential attendees, and we look forward to working with event organisers to realise the shared vision for their development."

Neil Mackay, community director of Oban Live, said: "The support from EventScotland is invaluable not only in assisting the launch of Oban Live but, more specifically, in helping create an infrastructure that will allow more vendors and businesses to trade and benefit from this new event.

"It is amazing for the Oban community to have a major concert arena created in the heart of the town for what will be an incredible weekend of live music, food and west coast hospitality."

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival is held in Oban between April 29 - May 1 while Oban Live is held on May 13 and 14.

Far-flung musicians join Skye youngsters to set toes tapping at March club meeting

A MIX of first-class music and lots of hilarity were high on the agenda in the March meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club as chairman and MC for the evening, Aly K MacPherson, welcomed a large audience to the function room at Portree's Royal Hotel, writes John Grundy.

Aly K was first on stage to give some toe-tapping sets on his accordion, accompanied by Donald John Campbell on drums and John Cameron on keyboards.

Fiddle tutor, Laura Harrington, filled the stage with no less than 14 of her young musicians ranging in ages from primary to secondary school, resplendent in their new band uniforms. Known as Skye Strings they entertained the audience with selections on fiddles, cello and keyboards. For the first time, their programme included a Gaelic vocal which went down well with the audience.

Sandy Ross, of Lochcarron, on his three row button-box, accompanied on keyboards and drums by John Cameron and Donald John Campbell, gave his usual polished performance while solo fiddler Wendy Riva completed the line-up of contributors.

A welcome and far-travelled



Guest duo Leonard Brown and Malcolm Ross in action.

visitor to the club was accordionist, Newby Park, who made a fine contribution accompanied by the guest duo for the evening, none other than ace accordionist Leonard Brown, of Newcastle, and legendary drummer Malcolm Ross, of Arbroath. Leonard, who started playing accordion at age 11,

went on to win the prestigious title of All Scottish Accordion Champion in 2012. Malcolm had his first BBC audition at the tender age of 11, starting him on a long career which today sees him as one of the country's foremost drummers.

The fine duo entertained the audience to playing of the highest

standard with charm, style and more than a little humour leaving the appreciative audience shouting for more as the evening came to an end.

At the next meeting on April 7, the club looks forward to a visit by the ever popular Hector McFadyen Band of Oban.

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Annual Boat Jumble & Car Boot Sale

In Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern Saturday March 19th from 10.15am - 2pm Nautical & non-nautical bargains; new and nearly new items. Bring all the family for a great day out! Entry - £2.50 (includes refreshments). Details - 01852 500689

Oban Art Society Talk/Demonstration with Louise Oppenheimer

A tale of wellbeing in colour Friday 18th March 2016 In Lorn Resources Centre Soroba Road, Oban 7.30 to 9.30pm Visitors Welcolme

Oban Gaelic Choir in concert with special guests from Connemara

Cór Chois Fharráige Saturday 19th March Argylshire Gathering Halls 8pm Admission £7/£5 Tickets available from Oban Music Shop

Age Positive Oban Seniors Forum

Invites you to an afternoon promoting active ageing Tuesday 22nd March 2-5PM Argylshire Gathering Halls Zumba, Hearing Tests, Scottish Country Dancing, Functional Fitness MOTs, TaiChi, Yoga, Indoor Bowls, Walking Football Refreshments provided, Free Raffle, (wear something loose if you want to take part) Transport available - Call Maggie on 01631 564839

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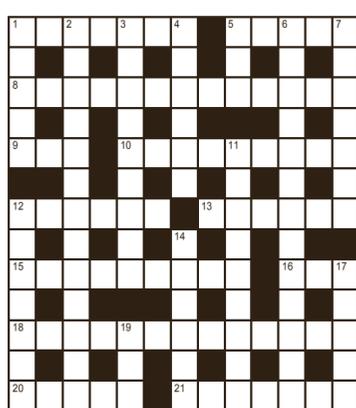
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Across

- Immobile organism (7)
- Go over (5)
- Cabinet minister without given duties (4,5,4)
- With order, it keeps the peace (3)
- Salary (9)
- Like teeth cleaning thread (6)
- Dessert (6)
- Heaven (5,4)
- Consume (3)
- One who performs unorganised combat in a public place (6,7)
- Artful move (5)
- One with colourful locks (7)

Down

- Plant found by the Lewis and Clark expedition of the Ericaceae family (5)
- Shade of dry grass (5-8)
- Made a mark on (9)
- He who has the last say before print (6)
- Beam (3)
- Green drink (5,2,6)
- With which people can taste different flavours (7)
- Without wing feathers (9)
- Intent (7)
- Disagree (6)
- Sleepy (5)
- Before (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Social scene

Gathering toasts new look venue

The re-opening of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls took place last Friday evening in Oban after a major refurbishment.



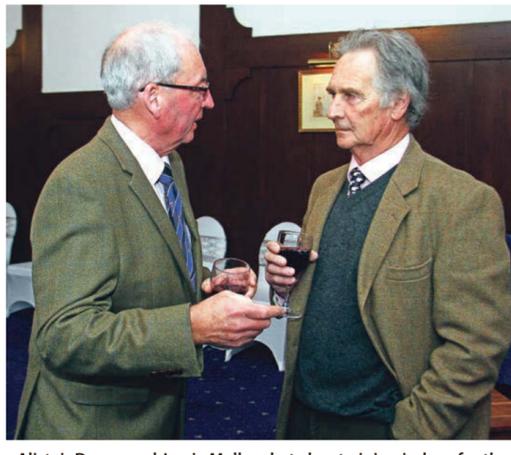
Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Patrick Stewart and his wife Mary Anne.



Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban Community Council.



Peter Forrester, Alistair Dewar, Torquil Telfer and Graham MacQueen.



Alistair Dewar and Jamie Mellor chat about piping judges for the 2016 Argyllshire Gathering.



Michael Hewitt with canapés which went down a treat with guests at the reception opening of the refurbished Argyllshire Gathering Halls.



The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson Bishop Argyll and the Isles Anglican with his wife, Elspeth.



Isabella MacRitchie and Kath McMahon from MacPhee and Partners enjoy a glass of champers.

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban



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18 March - 24 March

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP | U | 112 MIN
12:45 12:30

Through a series of misunderstandings, Alvin, Simon and Theodore come to believe that Dave is going to propose to his new girlfriend in New York City - and dump them. They have three days to get to him and stop the proposal.

DEADPOOL | 15 | 128 MIN
20:45 17:00 21:00 21:00 21:00 21:00

Based upon Marvel Comics most unconventional anti-hero, DEADPOOL tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool.

GOOSEBUMPS | PG | 123 MIN
13:45 14:30

A young kid teams up with the niece of young adult horror author R.L. Stine after the writer's imaginary demons are set free on the town of Greendale, Maryland.

GRIMSBY | 15 | 102 MIN
19:45 19:00 21:15 21:15

Mi6's top assassin (Mark Strong) has a brother. Unfortunately for him, he's an English football hooligan (Sacha Baron Cohen) from the town of Grimsby. After they were adopted by different families as children, Nobby spent 28 years searching for him. Upon hearing of his location, Nobby sets off to reunite with his brother, unaware that not only is his brother an MI6 agent, but he's just uncovered a plot that puts the world in danger.

HAIL, CAESAR! | 12A | 126 MIN
16:30, 18:30, 17:30, 18:15, 16:45, 19:30, 16:30, 18:30, 16:30, 18:30, 16:30, 18:30

HAIL, CAESAR! is a US comedy about a Hollywood fixer who must investigate the kidnapping of a movie star. Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen

PARENT & BABY SCREENING - HAIL, CAESAR! | 12A | 126 MIN
11:30

Parent & Baby Screening! Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available.

KIDS CLUB: SHREK 2 | U | 89 MIN
11:00

Children's Classic. Princess Fiona's parents invite her and Shrek to dinner to celebrate her marriage. If only they knew the newlyweds were both ogres.

Adults & Children £2 entry.

KUNG FU PANDA 3 | PG | 115 MIN
16:15, 18:45, 11:30, 16:00, 12:00, 16:15, 18:45, 16:15, 18:45

When Po's long-lost panda father suddenly reappears, the reunited duo travels to a secret panda paradise to meet scores of hilarious new panda characters.

SPOTLIGHT | 15 | 149 MIN
21:45

SPOTLIGHT tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions.

THE REVENANT | 15 | 176 MIN
20:45

Inspired by true events, THE REVENANT captures one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit. In an expedition of the uncharted American wilderness, legendary explorer Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is brutally attacked by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team.

YOUTH | 15 | 144 MIN
21:00, 15:00, 21:00, 21:00, 18:45, 18:45

Fred and Mick, two old friends, are on vacation in an elegant hotel at the foot of the Alps. Fred, a composer and conductor, is now retired. Mick, a film director, is still working. They look with curiosity and tenderness on their children's confused lives, Mick's enthusiastic young writers, and the other hotel guests.

COMMUNITY SCREEN - YOUTH | 15 | 144 MIN
14:30

Community Screen - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea and cake.

COMING SOON:

Batman vs. Superman – 25th March

Iona – 25th March

Eddie the Eagle – 28th March

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www.facebook.com/obantimes

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Fri 25 - Sun 27 Mar

Goosebumps (PG) 103 mins
Jack Black stars and is on great form. "An ingenious action-comedy." Telegraph
25/03 at 5.30pm, 26/03 at 2pm

Dad's Army (PG) 100 mins
A fabulous cast brings entertainment for all ages. "This celebration of Dad's Army surpasses the original." Telegraph
Independent 25/03 at 8.30pm, 26/03 at 5.30pm

Rams (15) 93 mins
Hilarious and heartbreaking comedy drama. In Icelandic with English subtitles. "funny, melancholic film about two feuding sheep-farmer brothers is Icelandic cinema at its breathtaking best" Telegraph
26/03 at 8.30pm, 27/03 at 5.30pm

He Named Me Malala (PG) 86 mins
Documentary of the life and family of Malala Yousafzai. "This portrait of the teenager shot by the Taliban underlines how remarkable she is." Observer
27/03 at 8.30pm

Book now at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults and £5.50 Concessions



What's on at The Nevis Centre

Superbowl open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm



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

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DECLAN NERNEY & BAND
APPEARING LIVE IN RAILWAY CLUB, FORT WILLIAM
On Thursday 31st March
Doors Open 7.30pm Show Time 8.00pm
Tickets £14 On Sale From Club Or Tel 01463 221268

LORN SHOW CEILIDH DANCE

with Ceol An Aire
Saturday 26th March
North Connel Hall. Doors open 8pm
Under 14s FREE but must be accompanied by an adult
Tickets available from Committee members or at the door £10 per ticket
Also available from Oban Music, Argyll Square

Mr Snip the Barber - Shadow Puppet Play and Paper Workshop

Craighish Village Hall, Ardfern
20th March 2 - 5pm. £6 / £4
Journey Of A Turtle - Lempem Puppet Theatre
26th March 2pm. £6/£4/£18 (2 adults + 2 kids)/free under 5 years
To book: 01852 500746
https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/venue/EGIFHD

DunOllie Museum + Castle + Grounds
DUNOLLIE WOODLAND
egg-stravaganza EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY
Sunday, 27th March
1.00pm - 4.00pm
Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Bonnet Making & Parade
Drop-In Woodland Crafts
Refreshments available at the Kettle Cafe Kiosk. Limited Parking
Adult: £5 Child (5-15): £2.50 Under 5: FREE Conc: £4

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 -1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosner, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Sunday Brunch, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Arena

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

Wildcat haven project claws back West Highland peninsulas for native cats

A WILDCAT haven project in the West Highlands has completed a winter fieldwork season resulting in 100 domestic cats being neutered over the last 12 months, expanding the wildcat threat-free region to almost 800 square miles covering Ardnamurchan, Sunart, Morvern and Moidart.

As winter fieldwork closes, conservation project Wildcat Haven has added a remarkable 300-square-mile extension to its threat-free region designed to protect the Scottish wildcat from extinction.

Covering several connected peninsulas in the West Highlands, which are protected at heavily monitored land bridge choke-points, the project has carried out intensive feral and domestic cat neutering, working closely with landowners and the local community since 2008, to humanely remove the primary threat to wildcats; cross-mating, or hybridisation, with domestic cats.

Chief scientist on the project Dr Paul O'Donoghue explained further: 'It's all about hybridisation, the wildcat is a very capable survivor and prefers to breed with other wildcats, but

it's so outnumbered by domestic cats that hybridisation is inevitable.

'This means that over a few generations, those wildcat genes are lost, and you're just left with domestic and feral cats causing big problems for prey species and themselves; domestics are basically desert cats and, unless they're curled by a warm fire every night, they live a miserable existence in the Scottish Highlands.'

Working in tight winter fieldwork windows and the worst of the Highlands weather across rough ground, the team has neutered more than 50 cats in the last month and more than 100 in the last year, leaving almost 800 square miles where the entire domestic cat population is neutered, allowing the wildcats to begin rebuilding their population.

Dr O'Donoghue said: 'In-situ conservation is so important for this species; there's very clear recommendation from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature that captive breeding shows no evidence of working for wildcats and that every effort must be made to protect them in the wild. A lot

of people were saying 10 years ago it just wasn't possible to remove the domestic cat threat, but

we've shown it can be done. Our first peninsula, 200-square-mile Ardnamurchan, hasn't had a report of an intact feral or domestic cat in three years now; soon the only cats left will be neutered pets and farm mousers.'

The news follows endorsement by the Humane Society International UK last year which has sponsored the project to support its exceptional animal welfare standards and humane domestic cat control.

HSI UK executive director Claire Bass said: 'This is a fantastic example of compassionate conservation in action. Saving this endangered species is, of course, a fantastic goal, but we're equally inspired and impressed by the positive impact this work has for feral and domestic cats, humanely stopping uncontrolled breeding into a harsh environment, stopping disease transmission, and promoting responsible pet ownership.'

'Wildcat Haven is providing a humane and effective conservation solution, instead of reaching for the gun or poison to remove feral cats, or imprisoning the last remaining wildcats in zoos.'

Wildcat Haven is now looking to expand as far as Fort William and open up further haven regions in the West Highlands.

Dr O'Donoghue said: 'We have now developed a proven template for wildcat conservation that can be rolled out across the Western Highlands. While 800 square miles can home around 100 true Scottish wildcats, our aim is a 7,000-square-mile threat-free area that could hold a sustainable population and save them from extinction. Wildcat Haven is living proof that the Scottish wildcat can and must be saved in the wild where they belong.'

Voting urged for ambitious rewilding the Highlands project

AN AMBITIOUS project in Scotland aiming to establish one of the UK's most inspiring examples of rewilding is to be launched - if conservation charity Trees for Life wins an online vote to secure a major European funding award.

The plan is to create a habitat for rare and endangered wildlife such as golden eagles and Scottish wildcats, the planting of 50,000 trees and a substantial boost for wildlife tourism.

The charity's Rewilding the Highlands project has been shortlisted to receive more than £20,000 in the European Outdoor Conservation Association's (EOCA's) funding scheme, with the outcome to be determined by online voting taking place between March 8-22. Trees for Life can be supported via www.treesforlife.org.uk/voteTFL.

'Anyone can vote for us, and we urge as many people as possible to do so, to give us the best chance of winning this significant award,' said Alan Watson Featherstone, Trees for Life's Founder.

'Success will enable us to expand our pioneering work to revitalise native woodlands in the Highlands - benefiting our communities, landscapes and economy for many years to come.'

Funding from the awards would allow Trees for Life to extend substantially the native woodland around Glenmoriston - with the planting of 50,000 trees by volunteers at the charity's flagship Dundreggan Conservation Estate and a major increase in the charity's ground-breaking work growing rare montane tree species - and to provide support for a local community project at Invergarry, to enhance biodiversity at its newly acquired Glengarry Community Woodland.

Habitat creation would boost the fortunes of native wildlife including pine marten, red squirrel,

golden eagle and Scottish wildcat, while initiatives will be introduced to involve local communities and visitors with rewilding - the restoration of damaged natural ecosystems, and the return of key native wildlife.

The project also aims to boost the local and Highland economy by promoting Glenmoriston as a tourist destination, where people can discover an astonishing variety of wildlife.

The centrepiece to this would be Dundreggan - a 'lost world' biodiversity hotspot where more than 3,000 species have been discovered, including 10 found nowhere else in the UK and others that are extremely rare.

'The remaining woodlands of the ancient Caledonian Forest are some of our most fragile and endangered habitats, and are at risk of being lost forever - we are the last generation with the chance to reverse the fortunes of this special place,' said Mr Watson Featherstone.

'We want to transform Dundreggan into one of Scotland's finest native woodlands, abundant in wildlife and

protected for the future - every vote will help us to achieve this.'

For more details about how to vote, please see www.treesforlife.org.uk/voteTFL or call 01309 691292.

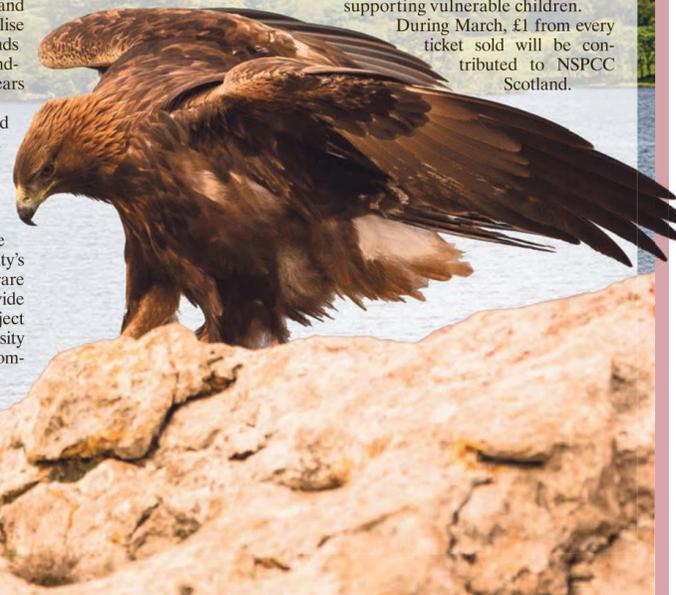
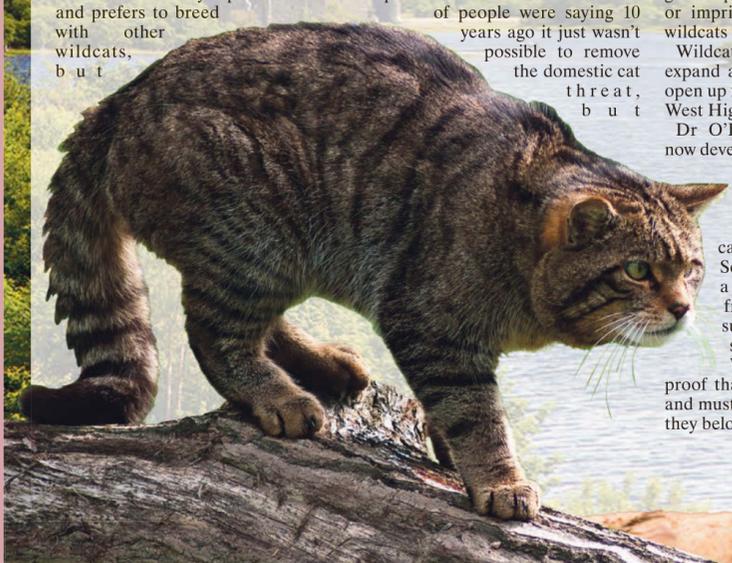
Island author to visit Gardening Scotland

NSPCC Scotland is delighted to announce the award-winning author of the books behind the hit CBeebies show Katie Morag will be joining it at Gardening Scotland.

Mairi Hedderwick, who lives on the island of Coll, will be reading her popular Katie Morag stories in the children's tent on Saturday June 4 at Gardening Scotland - the national gardening and outdoor living show - which is taking place at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh.

The event, which takes place from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 June at the Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, will raise awareness of NSPCC Scotland's invaluable work supporting vulnerable children.

During March, £1 from every ticket sold will be contributed to NSPCC Scotland.



David Adams McGilp Scotland – A spirit of its own

It is Scottish Tourism Week and there have been many significant events around the country devoted to the Scottish visitor economy. National and regional conferences, summits and symposiums have focused on geographical industry development and marketing activity, sector-specific issues and how the entire country can support the growth ambition for 2020 and beyond.

The incontrovertible fact is that the visitor economy affects everyone, and touches every community and every person in Scotland. That's why keeping investment and development at the top of the list of priorities for the Scottish Government and local authorities is so important - in times of difficult spending decisions it is easy to dismiss tourism, recreation and leisure activity as luxuries and focus on core services, but the visitor economy is worth £12 billion to Scotland every year and has grown by 34 per cent in the last decade, outperforming every other sector. Blue chip corporations get really excited about growth rates of two-three per cent against recessionary markets so

the individuals and businesses that comprise this fantastic industry are to be congratulated on doing things that clearly work.

This outstanding performance does not mean businesses can be complacent. For a small country Scotland already achieves visitor figures and expenditure that are the envy of many bigger nations, but to maintain the status of one of the world's top destinations it needs to come up with ever more compelling reasons to explore, stay longer and spend more.

That means closer and more practical partnerships that can deliver more with limited resources, and spread the message that Scotland is the best holiday destination in the world. One such example is Spirit of Scotland, a global movement dedicated to making as many people as possible aware of the outstanding experiences that Scotland can offer, all year round.

A fundamental principle of the Spirit of Scotland campaign is the social media activity using #ScotSpirit, which seeks to go beyond standard destination marketing and have an impact on every industry, business

and person. We want everyone in Scotland and everyone who cares for Scotland irrespective of who they are to get behind #ScotSpirit. People across the world will be asked to share their experience of #ScotSpirit and to start the conversation; VisitScotland has introduced 'the seven Spirits of Scotland' - key traits that can be found within the characters of the people and landscapes of the country; warmth - guts - humour - determination - soul - spark - fun.

If you are not already taking part, find out more at www.visitScotland.org - there are lots of interesting and fun ways to get involved - or contact me directly david.adams.mcgilp@visitScotland.org and I will be delighted to help. I even opened my own Twitter account so I can share my experiences of Scotland with the world, and hope that everybody that cares will be motivated to shout about just what a brilliant place this is. What better recommendation is there to your friends and customers than a trusted source? What more convincing marketing campaign than one delivered by Scotland's greatest asset, its people?

Mindfulness classes come to Oban

Teaching how to reduce anxiety, pain and stress

MINDFULNESS has become fashionable lately but scientific evidence shows it does reduce anxiety, chronic stress, chronic pain and depression whilst improving concentration, memory and relaxation.

The NHS lists mindfulness as one of the five steps to mental well-being.

Mindfulness is paying attention to the present moment without judging it - so not thinking about the past or the future and through moment to moment awareness coping with varied illnesses and responding positively and calmly with what life throws at one.

Claire Hartley, living on Seil, has travelled widely to learn to teach mindfulness, studying with the best University for Mindfulness in the world - the University of Massachusetts and with the top university in the UK for MBSR (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) - the University of Bangor.

'For many years, I was very stressed with my job and had different stress-related illnesses. I tried various methods to reduce the stress but the effects never lasted. My brother suggested trying mindfulness after seeing a huge improvement in a friend's anxiety so I did an eight-week course which was life changing. Since then, even though my job can be very stressful, I am no

longer overwhelmed by it. My health and memory have improved and I more easily accept whatever comes my way.'

In 1979, Jon Kabat Zinn, famous Mindfulness teacher at the University of Massachusetts, created the MBSR Programme. Although based on ancient Buddhist practices, mindfulness does not conflict with any religions or beliefs. It is a practical method of developing sensory awareness and has been widely used in schools, prisons and hospitals around the world to improve physical and mental health.

Claire will be teaching two mindful movement classes in Oban - on Tuesday afternoons from March 22, 2.30-3.30pm, at the Oban Congregational Hall and on Tuesday evenings, 6-7pm from April 5 at the Rockfield Centre.

'The classes involve gentle movements suitable for any age or ability and are the first step in a more in-depth course but are also beneficial on their own.'

'I am teaching people how to be present with the movement and how to translate that into everyday life - to being in the present instead of getting caught up with our thoughts or worries.'

Claire said: 'I am delighted at the

interest for the classes and only have two places left in the afternoon class so if anyone is interested they need to call 01852 300073 or email mindful34@outlook.com to book a place. The movements can be done whilst sitting or standing and there is wheelchair access.

'I have seen how being mindful utterly changes people's quality of life - from those who feel they cannot cope to those just wanting to get more from everyday life.'

'We often rush through parts of our lives we don't like trying to get to the bits we do like but by being mindful we can even enjoy the daily chores.'



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Dear reader,

We are currently seeking to better understand our readers' buying habits in relation to grocery shopping and we would be delighted if you could spare three minutes to complete our survey.

If you complete the survey, you will be entered into a draw and five readers will win a £25 shopping voucher to be redeemed at any branch of Argos.

All entries must be received by 31 March.



Local Scotland Personal Finance

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Scottish Weeklies Personal Finance survey 2016, please follow the instructions below.

Q1 - Please can you tell me, in which local newspaper did you find this survey? (Please write)

Q2 - Please could you tell me which Local Authority you live in?

Please select from the following and circle or write below;

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Scottish Borders, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee city, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, City of Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow City, Highland, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Renfrewshire, Shetland Islands, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, West Lothian, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

About you

Q3 - Thinking about your personal circumstances, what is your attitude towards your present household income?

	Select one
Comfortable On Present Income	<input type="radio"/>
Coping On Present Income	<input type="radio"/>
Finding It Difficult On Present Income	<input type="radio"/>
Finding It Very Difficult On Present Income	<input type="radio"/>

Q4 - Which of the following most closely describes the extent to which you are involved in your household finances?

	Select one
I make all the decisions for the household	<input type="radio"/>
I share the responsibility with my partner	<input type="radio"/>
I have very little input as someone else in the household deals with them	<input type="radio"/>

Q5 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
I don't like the idea of being in debt	<input type="radio"/>				
I am more aware of personal finance than I used to be	<input type="radio"/>				
Financial security after retirement is your own responsibility	<input type="radio"/>				
It is important to be well insured for everything	<input type="radio"/>				
I trust Banks/Building Societies to look after my money	<input type="radio"/>				
I look for profitable ways to invest my money	<input type="radio"/>				
I prefer to get paper bills and statements rather than access them online	<input type="radio"/>				
I usually consult a professional Financial Adviser before deciding on financial matters	<input type="radio"/>				
I'm interested in Financial Services advertising	<input type="radio"/>				
Price comparison websites have helped me reduce my household outgoings.	<input type="radio"/>				
I only take out loans when they are absolutely necessary	<input type="radio"/>				

Q6 - When do you think you will retire?

	Select one
I am retired	<input type="radio"/>
I'll retire in the next 10 years	<input type="radio"/>
I'll retire in the next 20 years	<input type="radio"/>
I'll retire in the next 30 years	<input type="radio"/>
I've got more than 30+ years before retirement	<input type="radio"/>

Retirement planning

Last year witnessed unprecedented changes to the retirement landscape and increasingly financial security after retirement is your own responsibility.

Q7 - How would you describe your current attitude to saving for retirement?

	Select one
I don't currently save anything towards retirement.	<input type="radio"/>
I've embraced the idea of a pension and save a significant amount.	<input type="radio"/>
I've embraced the idea of a pension and save an adequate amount.	<input type="radio"/>
I've embraced the idea of a pension, but don't think that I save enough.	<input type="radio"/>

Q8 - Which of the following financial strategies have you adopted for your retirement

	Select all that apply
Invested in property with a view to equity release or rental income.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My company has (had) a final salary pension scheme.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auto enrolled in a company pension	<input type="checkbox"/>
A personal / private pension	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Save regularly in an ISA (either cash or shares)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rely on the State pension.	<input type="checkbox"/>
None.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9 - Where will you go for guidance and advice about your pension when it comes to retirement?

	Select all that apply
Friends & family	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid-for professional adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet search engine	<input type="checkbox"/>
My current pension provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
My employer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pension wise	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10 - When you are retired which of these options would be preferred for managing your finances?

	Select one
Taking some cash to spend in the early years of retirement, and using the rest to provide a guaranteed income for life.	<input type="radio"/>
Investing in a pension plan and drawing income from it each year.	<input type="radio"/>
Using all my money to buy a product that will give me a guaranteed income for the rest of my life.	<input type="radio"/>
Taking all my money as cash and investing it how I see fit.	<input type="radio"/>
Investing it in buy to let properties.	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know.	<input type="radio"/>

Q11 - Thinking about the types of pension that exist, how well do you feel that you understand them?

	I fully understand	I have some knowledge, but would like to know more	I've heard the terms, but I'm not interested	I've not heard of this
Annuity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retirement income drawdown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workplace pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual savings pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12 - The UK government has introduced the New State Pension, how well do you feel that you understand the following elements?

	I fully understand	I have some knowledge, but would like to know more	I've heard the terms, but I'm not interested	I've not heard of this
How much state pension you are likely to receive when you retire.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effect of having been contracted out of the state scheme at any working life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How the new state pension will be calculated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to top up your state pension	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Banking

Q13 - Thinking about your bank; to what extent do you agree or disagree with the relative importance of each attribute in your choice of bank (please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
Locality (having a branch that is local to me)	<input type="radio"/>				
Company reputation (trust)	<input type="radio"/>				
Counter staff / Personal service	<input type="radio"/>				
Interest rates (on savings and or loan)	<input type="radio"/>				
Personal experience	<input type="radio"/>				
Telephone / internet banking facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Range of services	<input type="radio"/>				
Overdraft charges	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty scheme	<input type="radio"/>				
Personal recommendation	<input type="radio"/>				
Reviews	<input type="radio"/>				
Advertising	<input type="radio"/>				
Introductory offers	<input type="radio"/>				

Q14 - And what is your preferred method for accessing your banking services?

	Select one
Via the internet.	<input type="radio"/>
Via the telephone talking to someone	<input type="radio"/>
Via the telephone using an automated service.	<input type="radio"/>
In a branch	<input type="radio"/>
Via an ATM	<input type="radio"/>
By post.	<input type="radio"/>

Q15 - Increasingly banks are offering current accounts with a bundle of benefits, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the relative importance of each benefit that could be offered. (Please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
Cash back on utility bills or travel	<input type="radio"/>				
Cash back on direct debits	<input type="radio"/>				
Car insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Travel Insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Mobile phone insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Home insurance (Buildings & contents)	<input type="radio"/>				
Enhanced ISA interest rate	<input type="radio"/>				
Extended warranty cover on white goods purchased in the last year.	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to a 24-hour home emergency service	<input type="radio"/>				

Q16 - Would you consider paying a monthly fee to your bank to access the benefits of a product bundle?

	Select one
No - I would not	<input type="radio"/>
Yes - if the overall bundle resulted in my annual outlay on these products decreasing.	<input type="radio"/>
Yes - if it was a tiered approach that allowed me to select the benefits I wanted.	<input type="radio"/>

Q17 - Would you consider switching your bank account to another provider?

	Select one
Yes	<input type="radio"/>
Maybe	<input type="radio"/>
No	<input type="radio"/>

Relationship with your local weekly newspaper

Q18 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (please select just one option per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
I rely on my local newspaper to keep me up to date with the latest offers from local shops.	<input type="radio"/>				
I trust what I read in my local newspaper.	<input type="radio"/>				
I find the adverts in my local newspaper are most useful in helping me make purchase decisions?	<input type="radio"/>				
I know that if something is advertised in my local newspaper, then it will be available in my area.	<input type="radio"/>				

Q19 - Which of the following have you personally done as a result of seeing something advertised in your local newspaper?

	In the last 3 months	In the last 12 months
(please select all that apply)		
Researched a product in a shop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Researched a product / service online.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited a brand / advertisers website.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited / followed a brand / advertiser on Social media.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bought a product / brand / service in store.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bought a product / brand online.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talked about a brand either through word of mouth or via social media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommended a product / brand or service to someone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In order for us to analyse the information, please can you categorise yourself

Q20 - What gender are you?	Q21 - Which age group do you fall into?
Select one	Select one
Male <input type="radio"/>	18 to 24 <input type="radio"/>
Female <input type="radio"/>	25 to 34 <input type="radio"/>
	35 to 44 <input type="radio"/>
	45 to 54 <input type="radio"/>
	55 to 64 <input type="radio"/>
	65+ <input type="radio"/>

Q22 - What is your current employment status?

	Select one
Working Full-time (30+ Hours per week)	<input type="radio"/>
Working Part-time (8 to 29 hours per week)	<input type="radio"/>
Working Part-time (less than 8 hours per week)	<input type="radio"/>
Not working - Retired	<input type="radio"/>
Not working - Long term Illness / Disabled.	<input type="radio"/>
Not working - Other	<input type="radio"/>

All details supplied by you are optional, except name, postcode and email address

Title..... **Postcode**.....

Name..... **Email address**.....

Surname..... **Home: Tel number**.....

Address..... **Mobile: Tel number**.....

Please return completed survey by 31st March 2016 to: Wyvex Media, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This is a survey being carried out by a third party (Local Scotland) and not Wyvex Media, any information provided is being provided to "Local Scotland" and not Wyvex Media. If you complete the survey in paper form, the form will be sent to Wyvex Media for processing only. Wyvex Media will process the form entering the data direct into the Local Scotland survey system. Wyvex Media will then securely destroy your paper survey. Wyvex Media will not retain any of the data you provide on this survey form. The data collected in this survey will be anonymised and the results will be aggregated to understand the variances by local authority area. The insights from this data will be utilised to evidence why brands / companies should advertise within the Local Scotland portfolio of newspapers. The aggregated survey data will be retained in a SNAP file, although respondent count data will exist no individual respondent details will be contained within the SNAP file. The data set will be held by Local Scotland and shared with Mediaforce (Local Scotland's media sales representatives) who will provide data analysis. At no point will the data be transferred overseas.

If you would prefer to fill in this survey online please go to this website:

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Farming

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Spring farming and machinery

Scotland's agriculture industry fact file

IT has been a long hard slog of a winter and there can't be a soul who isn't glad to see the first signs of spring.

The ground lay sodden for weeks with December 2015 declared the wettest month ever recorded in the UK.

And prices for practically every farm commodity are on the floor; these last few weeks have seen the Scottish farming community as political and as vocal as it has ever been.

So the first signs of spring are more welcome than ever; lambing is now well under way.

A WINTER like we've just had takes it out of you: farmers and livestock and also out of the plant and machinery on farms.

Across the Highlands farmers and crofters are checking over pieces of kit and looking at what must be replaced and what can be repaired and there has never been a time like this to make every penny count.

Renovation and repair can be costly; get it wrong and you'd have been better off buying new or second-hand. No-one wants any costly mistakes.

If this summer is anything like last year's and weather windows are small then no-one will want to be wasting time waiting for an agricultural engineer to arrive and get to work on emergency repairs.

Or worse still to be sitting in the farm office in front of a computer terminal looking to get the best deal on a new, vitally-needed piece of equipment. Or even more disastrous: sitting down with the bank man-



ager or accountant trying to figure out how you are going to raise the extra cash to buy it. That's when you wish you hadn't skimped on springtime repairs.

The same goes for farm buildings; the winter has seen some nasty storms with little chance of a let-up in the rain to carry out repairs. Across the West Highlands there are long 'to do lists' where roofs and guttering are concerned.

That's just the hard-bitten, book balancing aspect of spring time repairs. The need to keep on top

of plant machinery and buildings also has other important aspects - the safety of workers and livestock alike.

Get it wrong and you could be looking at HSE prosecutions. Maintaining your farming machinery, equipment and property is also demanded by the law to avoid risking people's health and safety.

While doing vehicle maintenance ensure: the brakes work properly; the engines are running properly; the fuel tanks are clean, and when emptying out fuel tanks beware of any explosion risks; drain the fuel away from any sources of ignition; and before changing any batteries make sure that you have disconnected the terminals to avoid any

electrical hazards. It is the job of the employers to make sure that their workers are safe. This includes doing regular maintenance checks on farming machinery and equipment as well training workers in a proper manner.

Health and safety legislation also demands that any new machinery a farmer buys is CE marked. The CE mark basically means that each piece of machinery has been built keeping in mind the minimum legal safety requirements. The machinery should also have a certificate of conformity and a workshop manual.

The busiest time of year begins now. Are you ready?

- Around 65,000 people are directly employed in agriculture in Scotland - this represents around eight per cent of the rural workforce and means that agriculture is the third largest employer in rural Scotland after the service and public sectors. It is estimated that a further 250,000 jobs (one in 10 of all Scottish jobs) are dependent on agriculture.

- Some 75 per cent of Scotland's land mass is under agricultural production.
- Around 85 per cent of Scotland is classified as Less Favoured Area. This is an EU classification which recognises natural and geographic disadvantage.

- Produce from Scotland's farmers, crofters and growers is worth around £2.3 billion a year.

- Between them they are responsible for much of Scotland's £400 million food exports, rising to £2.4 billion if whisky exports (barley) are included.

- The agri-food sector is now the UK's largest manufacturing sector.

- Around 65,000 people are directly employed in agriculture in Scotland. Best estimates suggest that for every worker employed in agriculture another three workers are employed elsewhere. These jobs are largely in agricultural supply, and in food and drink processing. (Source: NFUS)



Safety first is the message for farmers and agricultural workers

IN the last 10 years, almost one person a week has been killed as a direct result of agricultural work. Many more have been seriously injured or made ill by their work.

People have a right to return home from work safe and sound. Good farmers and employers recognise the benefits of reducing incidents

and ill health among their workers, and are aware of the financial and other reasons to aim for and maintain good standards of health and safety.

Health and safety is a fundamental requirement of a sustainable farming business and should be regarded as an essential part of farm business management.

Unwise risk-taking is an underlying problem in the industry and those working on their own are especially vulnerable.

Farming is a hazardous industry. Farmers and farm workers work with potentially dangerous machinery, vehicles, chemicals, livestock, at height or near pits and silos. They are exposed to the effects of bad

weather, noise and dust. The risks also include family members working at the farm and children living at the farm.

Agricultural work can also be physically demanding and the repetitive nature of the work causes a range of health problems, including severe back pain.

With high numbers and rates of fatal injury,

agriculture, forestry and fishing is the riskiest industry sector. Just over one in a hundred workers (employees and the self-employed) work in agriculture, but it accounts for about one in five fatal injuries to workers.

(Source Health and Safety Executive)



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Plenty of buyers at quality Islay spring sale



A HIGH quality catalogue of cattle attracted plenty of mainland buyers to United Auctions' early spring sale on Islay.

A total of 826 store cattle passed through the ring on Saturday March 12, and though sale averages were back on the corresponding sale last year, sellers were satisfied with their returns given the current market for cattle.

Bullocks sold to £1,275 per head for Limousin crosses from Tallant. The same breed led the kilo prices for bullocks when a pen of six from Blackrock sold to 300 pence. Charolais heifers from Eorabus sold to £1,195 per head and Starchmill sold their Limousin heifers to 269 pence per kilo. Bullocks sold to

an average £869.72 per head or 233.01 pence per kilo, whilst heifers levelled out at £779.99 per head and 222.04 pence per kilo.

Principal lots and prices:
Top prices per head:
Bullocks:
AAx: £895 - Ardfarnal, Jura: £875 (16) - Tallant: £835 (2) - Eorabus.
BRBx: £975 and £945 - Octofad: £905 - Starchmill: £875 - Octofad.
CHARx: £1,105 (2) and £1,045 - Tallant: £1,045 (8) - Craignis: £1,025 - Octofad: £955 (4) - Tallant: £955 (3) - Octofad: £955 (5) - Aoradh: £955 (8) - Craignis: £945 - Eorabus (4) and Aoradh (5): £915 (5) - Octofad: £905 (5) - Aoradh.
LIMx: £1,275 - Tallant: £1,185 - Balaclava: £1,085 - Lössit (4), Blackrock and Neriby: £1,075 (3) - Balaclava: £1,065 - Ardbeg (5) and Balaclava (5): £1,055 - Ardbeg (6) and Balaclava: £1025 - Uiskentuie and Blackrock

(6): £1,015 (8) - Octofad: £1,005 (4) - Lössit: £995 - Starchmill: £985 - Octofad (7) and Ardbeg (4): £975 (5) - Octofad: £965 - Tallant and Starchmill (4): £955 (6) - Aoradh: £945 - Balaclava (2), Lössit (3), Eorabus and Octofad (4): £935 (4) - Balaclava: £925 (4) - Ardbeg: £915 - Starchmill (6), Octofad (3) and Eorabus (4): £900 (8) - Blackrock.
Luing: £560 (2) - Aoradh. SIMx: £1,070 and £915 - Cladville: £895 and £800 - Uiskentuie.
SHx: £735 (6) - Aoradh.

Heifers:
AAx: £935 - Craignis.
BRBx: £945 and £875 - Octofad.
CHARx: £1,195 - Eorabus: £1,045 - Tallant: £985 - Eorabus: £945 - Tallant: £935 (3) - Craignis: £925 (2) - Tallant: £915 (17) - Eorabus: £905 (4) and £900 - Tallant.
LIMx: £995 (2) - Lössit: £965 - Uiskentuie: £955 - Lössit: £945 - Octofad, Balaclava (6) and Aoradh: £925 - Blackrock (2), Uiskentuie (5) and Lössit: £915 - Eorabus: £900 - Starchmill.
SALx: £905 - Uiskentuie. SIMx: £975 (2) - Cladville. SHx: £635 (4) - Aoradh.

Top prices per kilo:
Bullocks:
AAx: 249p (4) - Tallant: 241p (2) - Eorabus: 236p (13) and 234p (4) - Tallant: 228p (2) and 222p (2) - Aoradh.
BRBx: 244p, 230p and 224p - Octofad.
CHARx: 278p (5) - Carra-

bus: 273p (2) and 268p (11) - Aoradh: 264p and 263p (6) - Tallant: 256p - Eorabus: 253p - Tallant (4) and Aoradh (5): 249p (3) - Carrabus: 246p - Tallant (3) and Aoradh (7): 245p (5) - Aoradh: 243p (8) - Tallant: 242p (3) - Carrabus: 239p - Aoradh (5), Eorabus (4) and Octofad (2): 238p (2) - Aoradh: 235p (4) - Octofad: 233p - Craignis (2) and Aoradh (2): 232p (3) - Eorabus: 229p (2) - Tallant: 228p (8) - Craignis: 222p (4) - Eorabus: 221p (8) - Craignis: 220p (3) - Octofad.

LIMx: 300p (6) - Blackrock: 285p - Ardbeg: 284p - Neriby: 281p (5) - Ardbeg: 275p (2) and 272p (8) - Blackrock: 271p (5) - Ardbeg: 267p - Carrabus (2) and Smaladh (2): 263p, 262p (8) and 257p (2) - Tallant: 256p - Eorabus: 255p - Smaladh: 249p (4) - Lössit: 248p (2) - Ardbeg: 246p - Octofad (8) and Blackrock (3): 245p - Carrabus (4) and Octofad (4): 244p (6) - Octofad: 241p (11) - Eorabus: 240p - Kinnabus (2) and Smaladh: 239p - Eorabus: 237p (4) and 235p (8) - Ardbeg: 234p - Balaclava, Eorabus (4), Aoradh (4) and Tallant (6): 233p - Aoradh (11), Uiskentuie (5) and Starchmill (6): 232p - Lössit (4) and Eorabus (2): 231p - Tallant: 230p - Kinnabus and Octofad (5).
SIMx: 215p - Cladville. SHx: 217p (6) - Aoradh.

Heifers:
AAx: 219p (5) - Eorabus. BRBx: 222p - Octofad. CHARx: 259p (7) - Tallant:

257p (5), 253p (5), 252p (5) and 244p (4) - Aoradh: 241p - Tallant (3) and Aoradh (2): 236p - Aoradh (3) and Tallant: 234p - Aoradh (9) and Octofad (6): 233p (2) - Tallant: 232p (17) - Eorabus: 231p (4) - Carrabus: 228p - Tallant (9) and Eorabus (2): 225p - Tallant (5) and Craignis (5): 222p (18) - Eorabus.
LIMx: 269p - Starchmill: 268p (2), 256p (4) and 250p (9) - Ardbeg: 244p (4) and

242p (4) - Blackrock: 238p (5) - Uiskentuie: 236p - Ardbeg (5) and Aoradh (7): 234p - Octofad (9) and Aoradh (5): 233p (2) - Octofad: 232p - Eorabus and Lössit (2): 230p (11) - Eorabus: 229p - Starchmill (9) and Balaclava (2): 228p - Tallant: 227p - Uiskentuie (8) and Ardbeg (2): 225p - Lössit and Octofad (4): 224p (4) - Ardbeg.
SIMx: 207p (5) - Cladville. SHx: 208p (4) - Aoradh.

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West coast recruitment



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Closing date: Friday 1st April 2016





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For more information, please contact Iain McLeod on 01546 605807

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Monday 11th April 2016

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Salary £23,074 - £27,146 per annum
35 hours per week

For more information, please contact Matthew MacAulay on 01546 605839

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Tuesday 19th April 2016

For further details and to apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 1st April 2016



Scotland's Business of The Year is looking for a... Technical Assistant Cairndow

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Reporting to the Quality Coordinator, the technical assistant will maintain trend monitoring of customer admin and quality complaints. Arrange sampling and maintain the document management system. Assist with technical projects and carry out internal/external audits. The successful candidate will also require good organisational skills to ensure all business and customer targets are achieved. Operate to the highest standards of food safety, health & safety, hygiene, fish welfare and bio security in a production environment.

A full driving licence is also essential for this position.

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Angela Gibson HR Officer
The Scottish Salmon Company
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For more information, please contact Jenna Shaw on 01546 605800

Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 24 March

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New venetian red D-Max Blade marks 100 years of Isuzu



THE ISUZU D-Max Blade – the flagship model of the multi-award winning pick-up range – is getting a centennial Venetian Red paint finish as part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary since the company first set up operations in Tokyo, Japan. The glowing red colour scheme will be limited to 100 D-Max Blade pick-up vehicles.

The vibrant Venetian Red colour will leave a lasting impression as it takes hints from the same shade of red consistently used by Isuzu throughout the

brand's history. The top-of-the-range double-cab Blade is available from just £25,999 (CVOTR) in manual transmission and the eye-catching Venetian Red finish comes at no extra cost. The Blade, which has been a big hit since it was launched in 2014, is already available in Cosmic Black or Pearlescent White.

The D-Max Blade range-topper comes with a host of extra features and quality interior appointments for a premium level of comfort and

refinement, including superior leather upholstery, 18-inch Shadow alloy wheels and choice of Black Mountain Top Roller Cover with Black Rear Style Bar or Colour Coded Aeroklas Leisure Canopy.

At the heart of the Blade remains the powerful-yet-efficient 2.5-litre twin-turbo diesel engine, producing 163 PS and 400 Nm of torque.

Isuzu's advanced power unit returns a highly impressive fuel economy of 38.7 mpg on a combined cycle. Owners also benefit from a heavyweight towing capacity of 3.5 tonnes (braked trailer) and 1,072 kg (manual) / 1,067 kg (auto) payload.

Isuzu entered its centenary year on a rich vein of form, as the longest-running Japanese car manufacturer continues to break sales records in the UK. With 6,220 vehicle registrations in 2015, Isuzu UK made a 13 per cent year-on-year improvement while also recording a 478 per cent sales boost compared to five years ago. Further model news is expected later in the year.

Every new D-Max sold in the UK is backed by the company's pioneering, five-year / 125,000-mile warranty.

Dacia Duster Commercial wins 'Best 4x4 car-derived van' at VansA2Z Van of the Year Awards 2016

DACIA now has even more reason to celebrate after the Dacia Duster Commercial won 'Best 4x4 CDV' at the VansA2Z Van of the Year Awards 2016.

The 'shockingly affordable' brand's commercial crossover fought off stiff competition to win the car-derived van award after impressing judges with its value, quality build, level of equipment and driving dynamics.

Launched at last year's Commercial Vehicle Show, the Duster Commercial combines the great features of the award-winning Duster SUV on which it is based with the same tax advantages of light commercial vehicles.

The win builds on the success of the Dacia Duster Commercial 4x4 in the recent What Van? Awards 2016, where it won the award for 'Best 4x4 Van'.

Neil McIntee, editor, VansA2Z.com, said: 'Dacia has made an excellent return to the UK light commercial market and the 4x4 version of its Duster Commercial is so good we had to make it our 4x4 Car-derived Van of the Year.'

'It's well put together and the drive is good with a ride and handling that far exceed expectations. Off-road it is a more than adequate performer and overall it represents great value for money for operators that require four-wheel drive and don't need a huge amount of load space.'

Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: 'We're delighted that the Duster Commercial 4x4 has won this award and



it's another addition to its fast-growing trophy cabinet.

'Since its launch in 2015 the Duster Commercial 4x4 has proved to be a firm favourite with businesses who are looking for a great value and dependable vehicle that can also go off-road.'

'With such versatility, the Duster Commercial 4x4 is particularly suitable for use by landscape gardeners, ground maintenance staff, farmers, power and communications companies, in fact, any business who needs to reach remote, off-road areas.'

Available in two different trim levels – Ambiance and Lauréate – the Duster Commercial 4x4 receives Bluetooth connectivity and electric front windows even on entry-level versions.

The Lauréate version adds air conditioning, cruise control, leather steering wheel, alloy wheels and electrically operated and heated door mirrors.

Dacia offers a comprehensive selection of low-priced option packs to help owners secure

payloads and protect their vehicle during a life of hard work.

There is a choice of steel or mesh bulkheads between the passenger and cargo areas and privacy film for the tailgate and rear side windows.

The Duster Commercial is offered with one business-oriented diesel engine – the dCi 110 unit, the best-selling Renault Group diesel powertrain, either as a 4x2 or a robust, go-anywhere 4x4.

The 4x2 dCi 110 returns up to 56.5mpg (NEDC Combined), with CO2 emissions as low as 130 g/km and is available from £9,595 (excluding VAT) for the Ambiance entry level trim.

Meanwhile, the 4x4 dCi 110 returns up to 54.3mpg (NEDC Combined), with CO2 emissions as low as 137 g/km and is available from £11,295 (excluding VAT) for the Ambiance trim.

The peace-of-mind new vehicle warranty is for three years/60,000 miles, with a two-year paint warranty and six years' anti-corrosion cover.

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Property tax reform could encourage landlords to sell to private tenants

THE RICS Property Tax Report says that the Chancellor should use his budget to deliver and then stick to a clear property tax policy, to give private tenants, home buyers and investors the clarity, certainty and predictability they need for future stability and growth.

Chairwoman of the RICS Taxation Policy Panel Group Ros Rowe said: 'By removing Capital Gains Tax for landlords, the Government could find a solution to the housing crisis that it has been so keen to address.'

'Houses could be released to private tenants with the funds reinvested in more homes.'

What does this mean?

The report identifies and proposes solutions for the UK's most unworkable property taxes.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is identified as one of the country's least effective taxes for delivering the Government's housing and property policies.

Buy-to-let investors are liable for CGT whenever they sell their property, which is often perceived to be a barrier to the release of available homes on to the market. Recent research from the Residential Landlords Association suggested that 77 per cent of private landlords would consider selling their property to tenants if the tax liability was waived.

Given the Government's focus on home ownership, RICS recommends one way that homes could be delivered is if the UK's 3.84m private landlords were motivated to sell to existing tenants. If just a fraction were encouraged to sell at affordable rates, thousands of new homes could potentially be released on to the market. Further incentives could then be provided to encourage the seller to invest in further rental properties.

The report recommends that the proposed change to CGT should be the carrot that en-



courages landlords to sell their properties and reinvest in the rental market. However, it is felt that the new Stamp Duty increase for buy-to-let investors is a disincentive to the expansion of the much-needed Private Rental Sector (PRS).

As such, the report is calling for the Stamp Duty increase to be waived for large institutionalised landlords to encourage the growth of the professional PRS.

The view from RICS is: 'The Government has

changed its policies around property taxes more often than the Chancellor has been pictured in a hard hat. That has resulted in uncertainty in the property market. What we need is a period of stability and we would call on the Government to set a course and see it through. This budget, the Chancellor is due to announce his new business tax roadmap, it is critical that property taxes are included in this plan.'

Jeremy Blackburn, RICS Head of UK Policy



Preparing to buy or sell a property?

Purchasing a new home, whether you are a first-time buyer or making your way onto the next stage of the property ladder, can be exciting and daunting in equal measures. There is no denying the sheer volume of paper work involved in the conveyancing process can become overwhelming, which is why it is vital to secure the services of a good solicitor before you get carried away with the 'fun' side of looking for a new home or putting your own on the market.

Choosing a suitable solicitor is not something to be rushed into. This is a business relationship that will last the duration of the selling and purchasing process, and in some cases, beyond, so it is worth spending time investigating the best fit for you. As soon as you place an offer on a property, you will require your conveyancer to be in touch with the seller's own legal team, so it is wise to have a solicitor in place beforehand to save any last minute scrabbling or hasty decisions.

Recommendations from friends and family who have used local conveyancers are a good place to start, but you can also ask your estate agent for advice on solicitors in your area.

In a nutshell, a conveyancer's job is to take care of all the legal aspects of moving house, which includes making an official offer, negotiating the sale and / or purchase, checking and transferring the ownership (known as title deeds) and providing advice on dealing with home reports, which sellers are required to provide by law.

Your solicitor can also organise the payment of Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) on your behalf. LBTT replaced UK Stamp Duty in Scotland in April 2015 and is only applicable for properties costing over £145,000. If your property is a second home there will also be 3% LBTT due after April 2016 on the whole value for properties sold over £40,000.

Whether you are buying or selling, or both, being geared up and prepared with your legal paperwork is a very wise move, leaving you time to comfortably search for the home of your dreams without any nagging paper work worries to spoil your fun!

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<p style="text-align: center;">14B Albert Lane, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First floor flat • 3 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom • Close to Oban town centre • Communal drying area • Private parking • EPC Rating - D (65) <p style="text-align: center;">UNDER OFFER OIRO £110,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Albert Lane is a well presented 3 bedroom flat close to Oban town centre. The accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and plentiful storage. This flat is in walk in condition and would make an excellent rental investment, first time buyer or family home.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Schiehallion, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terraced Cottage Conversion • 4 Bed / 3 Bath / 1 WC • Mature garden • Close to Tobermory town centre • Excellent B&B potential • EPC Rating - C (74) <p style="text-align: center;">OIEO £225,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Schiehallion is a spacious 4 bedroom terraced cottage conversion located in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This deceptively spacious 1 storey converted cottage offers generous living spaces, self contained holiday rental and garden and is close to all the amenities Tobermory has to offer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Carnock, Lochdon, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached Bungalow • 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom • Generous plot • Close to Craignure Ferry • Excellent Holiday home • EPC Rating - D (63) <p style="text-align: center;">UNDER OFFER OIRO £175,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Carnock - A delightful 3 bedroom detached bungalow situated in an elevated position above Loch Don on the beautiful Isle of Mull. The accommodation comprises a porch, hall, spacious lounge/dining room, kitchen, family bathroom and three well-proportioned bedrooms, all benefiting from integrated storage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cove, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached • 6 Bed / 2 Bath Elevated situation close to centre of Tobermory • Driveway parking • Excellent rental income • EPC Rating - D (63) <p style="text-align: center;">REDUCED PRICE OIRO £250,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A spacious 6 bed house currently sub divided into two 3 bed flats. Cove offers a fantastic opportunity of purchase a large family home or spacious flat with potential to generate additional rental income from the ground floor accommodation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Glenfuran, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms • Close to golf course • Excellent rental potential • Large garden • Rural location close to town • EPC Rating - C (72) <p style="text-align: center;">OIRO £230,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Built in 2001, comprises large lounge, open plan kitchen diner, utility room, spacious hallway, family bathroom, three well-proportioned bedrooms with one en-suite shower room. Large double glazed windows which bathe the interior in natural light.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Old Chapel Plot, Bunessan, Isle Of Mull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full planning permission for 2 • Close to beaches & village • Uninterrupted views • Option for more ground by separate agreement <p style="text-align: center;">REDUCED PRICE OIRO £50,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A unique opportunity to acquire the ruin of a former Chapel above the village of Bunessan on the Ross of Mull, with full planning permission for an architect designed, two bedroom property. The site currently extends to approximately 0.5 acre.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Portmore Cottage, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-detached cottage • 2 Bed / 1 Bathroom • Central close to Harbour • Holiday let potential • In need of some modernisation • EPC Rating D - (58) <p style="text-align: center;">OIRO £120,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Portmore Cottage offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a centrally located traditional cottage situated just meters from Tobermory's harbour and Main Street. Upon entering the cottage a small porch leads into the lounge which features a gas fired Eifel stove. This charming cottage has excellent potential as a holiday rental.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Polfearn House, Taynuilt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Floor Flat • 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom • Lovely views • Rural, quiet location • Factored building • EPC Rating - C (68) <p style="text-align: center;">OIRO £75,000</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">No. 6 Polfearn House - A well-proportioned one bedroom flat which enjoys views of Loch Etive. The flat is accessed via a communal carpeted stairwell and comprises hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.</p>







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Government schemes improve prospects for first-time buyers

GOVERNMENT schemes are generally well-received by those aiming to get on to the housing ladder. The BSA's March Property Tracker shows that 45 per cent of aspiring buyers say that these schemes have made it easier for them to raise a deposit. A further 28 per cent of people who aspire to buy said that the schemes have made no difference to them and a smaller group, eight per cent, say the schemes have actually made it harder for them to raise a deposit.

This quarterly consumer survey shows that those who aspire to buy with a mortgage are most commonly aiming for a 10 per cent deposit (25 per cent). A slightly smaller group (22 per cent) are aiming to save more than 25 per cent of the cost of their first home. A quarter of people think that they will raise their required deposit within a year, three-quarters within five years.

While Government schemes are being viewed on balance positively with only eight per cent of people unaware of them, their existence highlights that there is still a significant lack of new house building. Government schemes are helping to fuel buyer demand and aid the financial ability to buy, but do not address the underlying chronic lack of affordable homes, which is acute in some areas like London.



Commenting on the results, BSA Head of Mortgage Policy Paul Broadhead said: 'A significant proportion of aspiring homebuyers say that Government schemes have helped them to raise the required deposit to get on the housing ladder, which is good news.'

'However, these are clearly demand side interventions that address the symptoms and not the root cause of the problems in the housing market: the fact that affordability is becoming stretched across all tenures; and the failure of successive Governments to build or facilitate the building of sufficient homes of the right type, across mixed tenures in the right places.'

'Help to Buy mortgage guarantee, which is arguably the Government's most successful and high profile scheme, comes to an end at the end of this year.'

'Some lenders, including many building societies, were active in the high loan-to-value (LTV) market before the scheme, and will likely remain so when the scheme ends.'

'It is vital that the Government clearly articulates its strategy to maintain consumer confidence and avoid a squeeze in the number of mortgages available at high LTVs once it is gone,' added Broadhead.



Nearly 60% of construction bosses start their careers as an apprentice

NEARLY 60 per cent of SME construction owners started their career as an apprentice, according to new research from the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) released ahead of National Apprenticeship Week (March 14-18).

The research also shows that more than half of those bosses were running their own company within just seven years of completing their apprenticeship training, and that 98 per cent of construction SME owners value an apprenticeship over a degree when looking for new staff.

Brian Berry, chief executive of the FMB, said: 'The construction industry is ideally suited to a young person with heaps of ambition and an entrepreneurial spirit. Our research demonstrates that a construction apprenticeship is the perfect springboard

for a successful and rewarding career, with more than half of construction SMEs being run by people who started out as an apprentice.'

'Of those who went on to start their own businesses, more than one in two reached that goal within a mere seven years of completing their apprenticeship training, showing that you can go from being a brickie to a business owner in no time at all.'

Berry continued: 'Even if running your own firm isn't what you aspire to do, a construction apprenticeship can nevertheless provide the foundation for a highly rewarding career.'

'Almost 80 per cent of SME construction bosses said that employment in the sector offers high levels of job satisfaction with tangible results and 87 per cent believe an apprenticeship teaches useful and practical skills.'

'What's more, by the age of 23, a bricklayer with five years' experience can earn up to £31,000 and rising in some cases to £52,000 in London.'

'Given the high levels of university tuition fees, young people have every reason to properly consider a more vocational education and pursuing a career in construction looks an increasingly shrewd move.'

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COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY
Councillor Julie McKenzie
Ward 5 Oban North and Lorn
Councillor McKenzie will be holding a council surgery in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban on TUESDAY 22nd MARCH 2016 between 10.00am and 12 noon.
She can also be contacted by email - julie.mckenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by telephone on 01631 567878.

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PLANNING
These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office: Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office: 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 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

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00545/PP	Erection of office building and installation of septic tank	Barrachander Quarry Kilchrenan Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HD	Sub Post Office Tainuill
16/00647/PP	Renewal of planning permission 13/00963/PP - Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and installation of septic tank	Plot 5 Betts Field Ardnacross Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
16/00590/PP	Alterations to form bellmouth for existing access	Land South of Taychreggan Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/00576/PP	Erection of 8 dwellinghouses	Phase 10 Glenshellach Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/00321/PP	Change of use from mixed use restaurant (class 3) and craft shop (class 1) to restaurant (class 3), erection of extension and alterations, including formation of covered seating area	The Holy Coe Shore Street Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7LB	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/00269/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse, reuse of materials for the erection of replacement dwellinghouse and installation of private drainage system	Kilchoan House Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
16/00696/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/00240/PPP (Site for the erection of a craft house)	Croft 5A Kilvaree Connel Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/00621/PP	External alterations	Tobermory Ferry Terminal Pier Road Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
Norman MacDonald Ltd of Baliscate Industrial Estate, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6QA is applying for a licence to use Baliscate Industrial Estate, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6QA as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representation to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

First registration of a Croft
Mr Anthony Brian Smith has registered the croft 198 Fulnarn, Ardnarmurchan and 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 18/08/2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The Croft registration number is C1996.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
M MacEachen
1 Toigal, Arisaig & Moidart 0.085 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.60581
Conditions: 1,2, 3b, 4

Conditions
(1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.
(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of: (b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

Amended Registration of a Croft
Mr Kenneth Stewart has amended the registered boundaries of the croft 133 Kilmory, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 2 December 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1097.

First Registration of a Croft
Mrs Fiona MacPherson Kennedy has registered the croft 1 Arinagour, Coll, 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 22 October, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2195.

public notices

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 between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

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
16/00687/FUL	The Old Scout Hut, 25M South of Lochview, Lochaline, Morvern		Erection of 3no houses, a community building and associated parking and landscaping
16/00850/FUL	Lilac Cottage, Torcastle, Banavie, Fort William		Change of use from holiday let to residential
16/00938/PIP	Land 120M NW of Taigh Breagh, Achhabobane, Spean Bridge		Erection of house (Plot 1)
16/00939/PIP	Land 50M NE of Sealladh Na Coille, Achhabobane, Spean Bridge		Erection of house (Plot 2)
16/01013/PIP	9 Shielfoot, Acharacle		Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

First Registration of a Croft
Ms Isabel Ashcroft have registered their croft at 5 & 6 Sanna, Ardnarmurchan, 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 25th October 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2205

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WATERCOLOUR an original signed watercolour, measuring approx 10"x8" Seafont at Tobermory, sold mounted but not framed, offers/enquiries to roger_manns@hotmail.com

BICYCLES

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CYCLE RACK 3 bike rack to fit on the back of any hatchback type car. 6 anchor straps with hooks to fit onto the hatchback/estate door, £10 Telephone 01631 563466.

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BUILDING / DIY

BLUE HPP 90MM WATER PIPE approx 15 metres, £75 Telephone 01499 302362.

DRILL DRIVER Bosch 14.4 drill driver, £12.50 Telephone 01631 564777 or 07840 813409.

LOCAL SLATES FOR SALE Ballachulish, approx 5,000. For more information write to Box no 16, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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FRIDGE FREEZER as new, Campbeltown, £50 Telephone 01586 551427.

MICROWAVE COMBI Panasonic Inverter slimline combi, 1000w, microwave with built in oven and grill in good condition, £138, £59 Telephone 01586 551658.

VAX BAGLESS CYLINDER vacuum cleaner 1800w, with tools, excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01586 553843.

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COLLIE PUP tri-colour collie pup, 10 wks old, bitch,

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EXTENDING PINE TABLE and 6 chairs. Good condition, £300 Telephone 01397 704658.

METAL FRAME cream fabric chair bed, £50 Telephone 07883 667284.

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GARDEN FURNITURE wooden table and 4 chairs, £30 Telephone 01631 563277.

GARDEN MOWER Hayter Ranger 53 Pro, self propelled, variable speed control 21inch cut. Serviced regularly, ideal for larger garden, £250 Telephone 07909 582925.

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GOLDEN WEDDINGS

MACLEOD - MACLEOD - On March 23, 1966 by Rev William MacDonald at Oban Old Parish Church, Bruce to Elizabeth. Present address 59 Nant Drive, Oban.

McPHAIL - SHEARER - On March 19, 1966 at Kinlochleven Parish Church by Rev James Rennie, Dugie to Wilma. Present Address: 6 Abrach Road, Inverloch, Fort William.

DEATHS

FRIEL - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on March 10, 2016, aged 80 years, Arthur Friel, beloved husband to Mary, a much loved dad and pop. He will be sadly missed.

GRANT - Peacefully at home on Iona, on March 9, 2016, in her 100th year, Kathleen May Grant (May), formerly of Lismore, dear mother to Gordon, Graeme, Guy and the late Robert and a much loved Nana to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Saturday March 19 at 10.30 am.

KITCHIN - Peacefully at home, 1 Caledonia Court, Ardrishig, on March 11, 2016, Miss Mairi Kitchin, in her 83rd year, beloved daughter of the late Walter and Margaret Kitchin. A dear friend to many. Funeral to be arranged.

MACALISTER HALL - The family of the late Donald Macalister Hall would like to thank all relatives and friends for the beautiful flowers, cards and expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Thank you to doctors and nurses at Lorne and the Islands Hospital, Oban, to Donna, Sandra and Gillian at the MacMillan Unit in Oban and to Kitty in Campbelltown and Dr Elder. Thank you to Rev Steve Fulcher for his support and for conducting a very uplifting service, to David McEwan for playing the organ so beautifully and to choir members from Tarbert Gaelic Choir and Ceann an Tuirc for their lovely singing. Thanks too to Alasdair and Kenneth Blair for their handling of funeral arrangements and to the Glen Restaurant for the lovely tea. Finally, thank you to everyone who came to pay their respects at the church and the graveside - I think Donald would have enjoyed the service. The retiring collection in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care and Saddell and Carradale Parish Church raised £1,200.

MACLEAN - Jennifer (nee Rose) 78, beloved wife of Ian (died 2004), survived by daughter Tessa and grand-daughters Anna-Rose, and Iona. Service on Wednesday, March 30 at 1pm, West Herts Crematorium, WD25 0JS. In lieu of flowers, donations please to Alzheimer's Society.

MAIR - Dr Helen Mair OBE, FRCP FRCPsych FFCM (Director of Public Health), in her 92nd year, passed away peacefully after a short illness on March 14, 2016 at home, Kintaline, Benderloch, (previously of Kent). Beloved wife of the late Derek Senior; dearly missed by her daughter Jill Bowis & son in law Tim, former colleagues, and her extended family and friends around the world. Gathering of celebration at Kintaline House (tba, contact D&AMunn Undertakers, Oban for details), garden flowers especially welcomed. Donations to Oban Hospice. Your remembrances and memories invited: drhelenmair@gmail.com

McNIVEN - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban on Friday March 11, 2016, in her 87th year, Catherine Clark McNiven (Cathy), 14b Millpark Terrace, Oban, last remaining member of the family of the late Robert and Archina and youngest sister to the late Paddy, Willie, Jessie, Bella, Duncan and Robert and a much loved Auntie. She will be sadly missed.

MUNRO - Hester, peacefully on Friday, March 11, age 94. Dear mother of Alasdair, Janet and Fiona. Private funeral service. Family and friends welcome to the Moorings Hotel, 12.30pm Friday, March 18 for a time of remembrance and refreshments. Thank you to the staff of Mosspark Care Home. No flowers. Donations to: Lochaber Sensory Care.

OLSEN - On Monday, March 7, 2016 at Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline, Fritz, aged 87 years. Loving husband to Inger. Devoted father and grandfather. Funeral Service is being held at Dunfermline Crematorium on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 1.15pm.

ORR - JAMIE. Peacefully on March 13, 2016 in Sydney NSW after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Much loved son of Willie and Jan and brother of David, Kate, Erin and Sally. Adored husband of Sue and father of Aydin, Imran and Emrah. Brother-in-law to Sandy, Tim and Gordon. IRREPLACEABLE

THOMSON - Peacefully in the Belford Hospital on March 7, 2016 in her 82nd year. Gertrude M Thomson (Trudie), 2 Abhainn Cottages, Duror and latterly, Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, a dearly loved aunt, cousin and friend who will be greatly missed. Funeral will take place at St Munda's Parish Church, Ballachulish on Friday, March 18 at 12.30 and thereafter at Duror Cemetery. Family flowers only. A retiring collection will be held for Abbeyfield Ballachulish.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

STRATH - On March 13, 2016, peacefully, in her 104th year, at Strathearn, High Airs, Carradale, Miss Edith Strath, resident in Abbeyfield, Carradale up to October 21, 2015. A graveside service will be held at Minard Cemetery on Friday, March 18 at 1.00pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEATON - The family of Archie would like to thank most sincerely relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, and beautiful floral tributes. Special thanks to the staff at Abbeyfield and the doctors and nurses at Ballachulish Medical Centre for their dedicated care and attention. Our grateful thanks also to Rev Ann Winning, McLellan Funeral Directors and to all who attended at the church and graveside.

BOWMAN - Ewen February 29, 2016. Ann and all the family would like to thank most sincerely relatives, neighbours and friends for attending the funeral and all those who sent cards, flowers and very kind words of sympathy and support, also the generous donations to Macmillan Nurses Belford Hospital totalling £1161.96. Thanks also to doctors and staff at Belford hospital and Tweedale surgery. Special thanks to John Howieson for his beautiful and comforting service, John, Angus and John for their music, Ben Nevil Hotel, Donnie McGillivray Sheil Buses, Kilmallie Shinty Club and all employees at Bowman's. And finally a massive thank you to Mike McFall and his staff.

JOHNSTONE - Elizabeth and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbors for cards, floral tributes and kindness shown after the recent sad loss of Bob. Thanks to all NHS staff in Raigmore Hospital, Belford Hospital and Cill Chuirein Medical Centre for all the care he received over the last few years. Also to the Telford Day Care Centre, Lynn of Lorne Care Home and the care he received at home from NHS and Crossroads. Special thanks to all at Lorne & Islands Hospital in Oban for the special and loving care that Bob received in his final days. Also to McLellans for funeral arrangements and to Rev. Tabea Baader for the comforting and uplifting service. Thanks to the ladies at Glengarry Community Hall for the refreshments and finally to everyone who attended the funeral where donations of £505.57 were received for Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.

MATHESON - The family of the late John Matheson (Jakey) would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them at this sad time. Thanks to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh for their care and support. Thanks to Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd for their efficient funeral arrangements, to Reverend Robert Brookes for a personal and uplifting service and to Michael for piping at the graveside. Thanks also to Taynuilt Hotel for providing the refreshments. Finally, our grateful thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. The retiring collection of £549.00 will be shared by Cancer Research (UK) Scotland and Taynuilt Shinty Club.

TOUGH - Moira, Alison and families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and cards received in the passing of our lovely mummy, Mrs Nancy Tough. Thanks also to the Rev Roderick Campbell, Andrew and Paula for their kind words. We would like to thank Stan Lupton and his staff for attending to all the funeral arrangements with such professionalism, his help and efficiency were invaluable. Thanks to the George Hotel for their purvey, to Kenny for the lovely flowers and a very special thank you to Angie who visited mummy such a lot at the Ashgrove Care Home, Dunoon. Thanks also to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. We raised £200 for Alzheimer Scotland.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mother and grandmother, Betty Lyall, who died on March 19, 1979. Never a day but in our thoughts. - Inserted by her loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian, Ardress, Tiraghoil, Bunnass, Mull.

FORSYTH - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Precious memories R.I.P. - Your loving husband Jimmy xx

FORSYTH - In loving memory of a dear sister and aunt Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Always in our hearts. R.I.P. - Margaret, Kirsteen, Stephen and family

FORSYTH - In loving memory of a dear sister, Calac, auntie and great-auntie May, who died March 17, 2012. Loved and remembered everyday. - Ronnie, Kathleen and family, Ballachulish, East Kilbride and Bridge of Earn.

ANNALACH, UIBHIST A TUATH (Anna Chrois Moraig/Chnoc na Lùib) Chaill saoghal nan Gàidheal, na Gàidhlig is an fhòghlaim neamhnaid oirdhearc nuair a chaichail Anna anns a' Ghearran. Bu mhòr a buaidh air sgoilear-an òga, cha b' ann a-mhàin anns na h-Eileanan Siar ach air feadh Alba agus gach àite far an robh Gàidhlig ga teagasg. Dh'fhogail an leabhar beag àlainn a chruthaich I air an robh "Stamh" iomadach sùil air mar a ghabhadh cuspair sam bith a theagasg troimh mheadhan na

HOLLAND - Treasured memories of a devoted husband and father, Robert, who passed away March 15, 1991. Also Gary who died on October 24, 1990. Never more than a thought away loved and remembered every day. Memories of happy family life. Never fade, we miss you both, as much today even after these 25 years. Love you always. - Your loving wife Sarah, daughter Sharon, John, Dougie, Eoghan, Jessica and the rest of family and friends.

LAFFERTY - In loving memory of our Da, John J, who passed away March 15, 1989. Always in our thoughts. - Denise & Kerry

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our dear parents, Jessie and miss you always. Love from Dad and Mary.

and Neil who passed away April 30, 1991. Miss and love you both always. - David and Eileen.

MACKINNON - With fondest memories of Jessie and Neil a wonderful gran and granda. - Love from Helen, John, Lisa and Lorne and James and Andrew.

MACNICOL - In loving memory of Seumas (James) who died March 20, 2015. Sadly missed by his family and fondly remembered by all Nar cridheachan gu bràth

MACPHERSON - In loving memory of Sandra, died March 17, 2013. Always in our thoughts. - Donald and family.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my dear son John, who passed away March 15, 1995. Love and miss you always. Love from Dad and Mary.

SCOTT - In loving memory of Jimmy, dear husband, dad, grandad and great-grandad, died on March 15, 2015. Always in our thoughts - Jessie and family.

SHAW - Loving memories of Alex, formerly of Lergychnie Cottage, Barbreck, who passed away peacefully on March 16, 2015. Always in our thoughts, Mary and family.

RENNIE - In loving memory of dearest mum, Mary Elizabeth Rennie (nee Robertson), an Oban girl. Oh happy hours we once enjoyed how's sweet their memories still. - Inserted by her loving daughter Angela and Son-in-law David.

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Editorial

Chief reporter Louise Glen lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter Caren McPate cmcpate@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee reporter David McPhee dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk Oban 01631 568060 Fort William 01397 703003 editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising supervisor Nadine Ross nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive Rhona McKillop adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive Stephanie Dunstaffnage sdunstaff@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive Julie Baird jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

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- Fort William Tel 01397 70003
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LIFE lines Driving Force

MY daughter has saved enough money from her part-time job to buy her first car. She won't be able to drive it until she is 17 (in a few weeks' time) but found a sensible automobile at a fair price and she is very excited about it. It is not new, but it is in significantly better condition than my first car, and the manufacturer has an exemplary record for

safety and reliability. Living in rural Scotland, a driving licence and access to a car is a rite of passage: a ticket to independence, freedom of movement and a symbol of adulthood. But these social advantages come at a cost. Used cars don't need to be expensive, but one that has been well looked after and still has a long life ahead of it will consume a large chunk of any

teenager's savings (and/or mum and dad's) for a start. Then there is a fee for a licence, and the cost of lessons (five times what they cost 30-odd years ago); and a theory test (no such thing 30-odd years ago). Insurance for new drivers is the real deal-breaker. Eye-watering premiums for learner drivers unaccountably escalate to heart-stopping amounts for the newly-

qualified driver, and place motoring quite out of reach for many young people. Determined individuals and families will find ways to finance this new mobility, and attendant annual expenditure on fuel, road fund duty, MOT testing, servicing and repairs. Welcome to the open road, teenagers. Please drive safely. JA

World day of prayer. Women gather for World Day of Prayer

AROUND 60 women from Lochaber gathered to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer at St John's church in Caol. The service had been prepared by women from Cuba with the theme,

Receive children, Receive me. During the service, on Friday March 4, there was a glimpse of Cuba's history, geography, culture and every day life through three generations. Pupils from Lochside

primary led the community in singing the hymn, This is our Faith, composed by Lochaber musician Peter Rose. Following the service a time of fellowship and afternoon tea was enjoyed by everyone.

Life, work and persona of the late Annie MacDonald - an appreciation

ANNA DHÒMHNAL-LACH, UIBHIST A TUATH (Anna Chrois Moraig/Chnoc na Lùib) Chaill saoghal nan Gàidheal, na Gàidhlig is an fhòghlaim neamhnaid oirdhearc nuair a chaichail Anna anns a' Ghearran. Bu mhòr a buaidh air sgoilear-an òga, cha b' ann a-mhàin anns na h-Eileanan Siar ach air feadh Alba agus gach àite far an robh Gàidhlig ga teagasg. Dh'fhogail an leabhar beag àlainn a chruthaich I air an robh "Stamh" iomadach sùil air mar a ghabhadh cuspair sam bith a theagasg troimh mheadhan na

Gàidhlig. Ghabh I os làimh eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig Sgeama Naiseanta Matamataic airson clann gu aois ceithir deug. Tha e air aithris gun do lorg I mearachdan cudromach anns an ionndadh Beurla agus gun deach an ceartachadh gu h-obann leis an fhòillsichear ri linn a comhairle. Bha doimhneachd is farsaingeachd eòlais aig Anna air eunlaith an t-sleibh, flùraichean is lusan na machrach is nam beann nach gabhadh tomhas. Cha b'e sin a-mhàin ach bha I daonnann a' gabhail mòr ùidh is a' faighinn tlachd

do-labhairte a h-eilean fhèin gu àraid a chuid eachraidh is a bheartais àrsaidheachd. B'e bean usal a bha ann an Anna, sàr-sgoilear, agus fialaidh anns a h-uile dòigh, le a cuid eòlais, a càirdeas agus a h-aigheachd na dachaidh fhèin. Is mòr an ionndrainn a bhitheas oirre anns an teaghlach seo, na teaghlach fhèin agus aig iomadh cagail eile. Fois shiorraidh do h-anam is I cadal gu sèimh air a' mhachair a bu ghaolach leatha.

Donnchadh MacGuair

Thought for the week

'Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.' (Luke 9:51)

Heading to Jerusalem LUKE tells us: 'As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.' Sometimes our resolve can weaken and after having decided on a particular course of action we then change our minds. Not so with Jesus. Although he knew exactly what lay ahead for him, he was determined to go to Jerusalem because nothing would make him change his mind about doing the will of God his Father. On Palm Sunday Jesus would ride into Jerusalem

on the back of a donkey as the crowds welcomed him with their glad 'Hosanna'. But by the end of the week on Good Friday the cry had changed to 'crucify'. He died on the cross to pay the price of our sin. It was God's will that his beloved Son should suffer for our salvation. This was the road he had to travel before he could return to heaven. By his resurrection on Easter Sunday God vindicated his Son. His suffering and death was an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world. All who repent of their

sin and believe in Jesus find forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus resolved to die for us that we might live. Let us resolve to come to him and accept him as our Lord and Saviour. Let us trust in him alone for salvation knowing that the promise of the Gospel can never be broken. It is a decision we will never regret - a resolve that will never weaken or lead to a change of mind. Rev. George Cringles Minister of Coll with Cornel Parish Church of Scotland

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Lochaber Phoenix boxing brothers both lift Scottish titles

BOXING brothers Cameron and Tyler Whyte both lifted Scottish titles at the Scottish Open Schoolboy and Junior Championships at Ravenscraig.

When the championships are over (this Saturday) the Whyte boys will become the most successful for the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club.

Not only have they claimed two golds, but 14-year-old Ewan Eason has negotiated his way through to his final on Saturday and is guaranteed at least a silver, if not the gold.

It's incredibly difficult to become the best boxer in the country at a given weight, so for two brothers to achieve this in the same year is quite an achievement.

Thirteen-year-old Cameron Whyte claimed the Scottish title for a fourth consecutive year. His semi-final opponent was Owen Duffy from Kilmarnock's Northwest club. Duffy is a strong forward boxer but Whyte tried to beat him at his own game. This resulted in a very messy round with the styles clashing.

In the second round, Whyte dictated the range the contest was fought at and began to land powerful shots with both hands forcing Duffy to the ropes for extended periods. This continued into the last round and, although Whyte ran out a clear points winner, it was a hard-fought contest.

His final was against the highly regarded Marc Johnstone from Forgewood boxing club. Johnstone is known for having an excellent jab, so the Lochaber youngster tried to take that jab away in the opener.

Halfway through the second round Whyte landed a booming overhand right cross, which buckled Johnstone at the knees and prompted Whyte to bombard

Boxing

him with shots until the round's end.

In the last round Whyte put in a thumping body shot and was able to land enough clean shots to take the round.

Tyler Whyte's semi-final bout was contested against Callum Smith from Edinburgh's Lochend club.

The first round was very competitive although Whyte, 11, forced Smith to box at a pace he was uncomfortable with enabling him to always initiate and end the exchanges. The Lochaber boxer upped the tempo in the next round and Smith struggled to keep up.

Whyte proceeded to totally dominate the last round and ran out a comfortable points winner.

In the final day Whyte faced Alex Cullen from Linwood. This was another bout that was fought at a pace befitting the best two boxers in Scotland. Cullen tried to come forward behind his jab while Whyte attempted to land two-handed attacks as he powered forward. Whyte started to take over in the second round with the third more of the same.

Fourteen-year-old Ewan Eason has been a revelation in his short boxing career, reaching the final of this Scottish championships this Saturday, all in under 10 contests.

Ryan Whiteley of Viewpark was his opponent in the semi-final.

All three rounds followed a similar pattern as both boxers tried to steal points and force mistakes from their opponents.

The judges decided to go with the greater variety from Ewan which was well deserved as he refused to waver from his tactics and showed great self discipline.



Lochaber Phoenix boxing brothers Tyler and Cameron White lifted Scottish Titles at the Scottish Open Schoolboy and Junior Championships. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Young Lochaber team no match for Moray

Moray	86
Lochaber	7
Caledonian League - Div 2 North	

LOCHABER travelled to Moray at the weekend with a very young and inexperienced team; a couple of boys either playing their first senior game or their first game of rugby.

Moray scored two tries early on but were looking shaky under the restarts with Lochaber putting on good pressure.

This is how they scored their only try of the game when Moray yet again failed to catch the kick off Callum Boyd who kicked the ball along the ground and picked it up a few meters from the line.

Converted
Callum managed to get the ball down over the try line despite two defenders tackling him. He then converted his own try to bring the score to 10-7.

It looked briefly like it could be a competitive game but Moray

Rugby

started putting more pressure on and ran away with it, the final score being 86-7.

Lochaber stay seventh in the league with four games remaining after there was a change with Kinloss Eagles pulling out of the league.

Lochaber's next game is at home to Ross Sutherland on Saturday March 26, kick-off 3pm.



Kinlochleven High School girls' football team.

Girls visit Ross County FC

KINLOCHLEVEN High School girls' football team recently visited the home of newly crowned 2016 Scottish League

Girls' football

Cup winners Ross County FC. The girls arrived at the Global Energy stadium and took part in training at the Highland Football Academy.

They were then given tickets for Ross County's match against Hamilton Academical, which was won by the home team 2-1.

Fourth year pupil Rebecca Small said: 'It was an amazing match even though it was pouring and freezing. All in all I think we would all go back in a flash as we had a fantastic day and we were really lucky to have been given such an amazing opportunity.'

Welfare football

ANY team wishing to enter this year's Lochaber Welfare League should send a representative to the meeting in the railway club on Tuesday March 22 at 7pm.

The meeting is being held earlier as some teams last year struggled to field a team if they had two games in a week. The league may have to start earlier to accommodate this.

Children enjoy cross country challenge

MORE than 100 children from 15 primary schools around Lochaber took part in the annual cross country running competition.

The fun and challenging course was just under 1.5 miles long and wound its way through Leanachan Forest, passing the hole in the wall, going along MacKenzie's Road, underneath the highwire adventure course and finished at Nevis Range.

Encouraged
The youngsters were cheered and encouraged by around 20 marshals, who were pupils from Lochaber High School.

The competition, organised by

Lochaber visiting PE staff, with the help of High Life Highland, had a few different categories, including the individual competition, the team event and the girls' team and the boys' team event.

In the girls' race Alice Anne MacPherson, from Lochyside, took the first place trophy with a great time of 11:17. Caol primary's Molly Blackhall wasn't far behind to take second place and rounding out the podium was Hannah Loughray from Spean Bridge.

In the boys' race the fastest runner was Innes Orr, from Inverloch primary, who ran

the course in a new record of 9:42, with a clear lead over second-placed Josh Wallace from Lundavra. Following closely behind was Caol primary's Ben MacKinnon. Innes was presented with the Rotary cup as the fastest overall runner.

Team events
In the team events the points were given according to each runner's individual result. There was a tie for first place in the girls teams with both Spean Bridge primary and Caol primary gaining 23 points each.

For the boys, Lundavra primary were the clear winners with all

Cross country

three of their runners finishing in the top five.

The results in the mixed team event category were based on each team's fastest two girls and two boys. After adding up all of the scores it was Caol primary which took the Samuel and Partners' shield home with a great score of 28 points. Second was Lochyside with 33 points and third with 40 points was Lundavra.

The organisers would like to thank all of those involved in helping to ensure a smoothly run event.



The winning teams: 1 Caol, centre; 2 Lochyside, left; and 3 Lundavra, right. Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

Waterlogged pitch causes another cancellation

Football

A WATERLOGGED pitch at Claggan Park once again forced Fort William's match on Saturday to be postponed.

They were due to play Huntly in the Highland League.

However, the team was given a boost after a 3-1 win against Rothes last Wednesday evening.

Fort were one down at half-time but came back fighting after the break with goals from Liam Taylor, Michael Ellis and Scottie Davidson.

Coach Alan Gray said: 'It really gave the boys a boost. We had lots of opportunities, but we started slow.'

'Ally spoke to them at half-time and they came out with more spirit and got a well-deserved win.'

This week will be a difficult one for Fort as they were due to play top of the league Brora Rangers last night (Wednesday) and face Cove Rangers on Saturday.

Gary Cowan leads scratch league

Tenpin bowling

AFTER week four of the tenpin bowling singles leagues at the Fort William's Nevis Centre, Gary Cowan leads the scratch league with 71 points.

Brian Johnstone follows with 67 points and Darren Duncan with 66 points. Gary also leads the handicap league with 64 points, followed by Brian on 63 points and Darren on 59.

Gary Cowan leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1924 pins.

Next is Ben Weller with 1883 and Brian Johnstone is third with 1863 pins.

There were a lot of good individual games this week, the best coming from Ben Weller with an outstanding three games of 210, 209 and 183.

Other good games came from John Weller with 189, Tommy McKnight, 185, Brian Johnstone, 184, Tim Attack, 181, Gary Cowan, 177, and Pam Weller with 170.

The top three game scratch series this week was by Ben Weller with 602. Ben also rolled the top three game handicap series with 728.

Final qualifying winter league race

Athletics

LOCHABER Athletic Club's Glen 10k on Sunday was the final qualifying winter league race.

The club's junior (under-23) Steven Burns was first to cross the finish line in 36:07.

Top 10 finishers were all from LAC: 1 Steven Burns 36:07; 2 Aidan Donnelly 36:58; 3 Steven Monk 37:30; 4 Gavin MacMillan 38:51; 5 Ben Dodman (vet 40) 40:32; 6 Colin Britton 41:07; 7 Niall Macbeath (vet 40) 42:50; 8 Markus Mertens (vet 40) 43:29; 9 Brian Campbell (vet 50) 43:33; 10 Emma Britton 44:25.

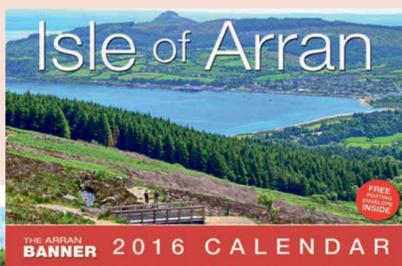
The prize-giving for the qualifiers and medal winners takes place this Saturday at the Nevis Centre.

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Athletic see red as they lose to Duntocher

Oban Athletic	2
Duntocher	4
Challenge Shield	

WITH most of the sport in Oban being cancelled due to the weather, all eyes were on Oban Athletic as they hosted top of the league Duntocher in the first round of the Challenge Shield.

Unfortunately, Oban Athletic ended up with nine-men and lost 4-2 on Oban Community Pitch's 3G surface, despite an encouraging start from the home side.

An Alan Morrison throw-in, from deep inside the opposition half, fell to the feet of Kris Gillies, who played the ball to Shaun MacIver whose snap-shot from the edge of the box bounced just past the post.

Not long after, Paul Carmichael received the ball in the middle of the park, and drove forward before running in to a cul-de-sac of players and being bought down. Athletic were awarded a free-kick in a dangerous area and Shaun MacIver's set piece went just over the top.

Duntocher came more into the game and put some pressure on the Athletic defence, but the

Glasgow side's attack came to an end with a shot from Matthew White sailing over the bar.

However, both teams continued to play with a high intensity. MacIver received the ball and, straight away, played it over the top towards Carmichael, who attempted to set Kris Gillies up, but a Duntocher defender was able to get there and block the shot.

The visitors then broke forward with left back Lee Campbell, driving forward - before getting a shot away, but he was not able to direct his effort on target.

Drifted

The end-to-end affair resulted in an Athletic corner, which Gillies quickly passed to his team mate Stefan Campbell. Campbell played the ball back to Gillies, who beat his man and played the ball into the box for Carmichael but he was not able to trouble the goalkeeper as his attempt drifted wide.

Duntocher had the better share of possession, but it was the home side who looked the most likely to score. Carmichael drove into the box and just before he was able to pull the trigger, the ball was nicked from his foot.



Athletic's Chris Gillies slots home the penalty which made the score 2-1. 15_112athletic02

Duntocher's Campbell received the ball deep in the Athletic half and played in Stewart on the edge of the box, who back-heeled the ball into the path of Campbell, but David Smith intercepted and Oban broke on the counter attack with the ball falling to Gillies, who tried the spectacular, but his acrobatic effort went wide of the target.

Duntocher were then awarded a free-kick at the edge of the box. Matthew White attempted a cute set piece, by trying to fire the ball under the wall, but it deflected off the wall and out for a corner.

White made up for his failed free-kick and, from the corner, headed the ball in to the back of the net to break the deadlock and put his side 1-0 in front.

Duntocher's White was again on target when he caught the Oban defence off guard and the scorer of the first goal wasted no time at all in claiming his, and his team's, second of the day. White blasted the ball, from a wide angle, into the bottom corner of the net leaving Athletic keeper Graham 'Sugar' Douglas with no chance.

Shortly after this Athletic's Shaun MacIver showed his frustration by kicking the ball away, which resulted in him being the first name to go into the referee Peter Laing's book.

The home side continued to try and get themselves back in to the game - Ryan Campbell's free kick was met by Craig Campbell, but Campbell's header hit the wrong side of the net just before the referee blew for half time, with the visitor's leading 2-0.

Duntocher's Ryan McGilveray had the first clear cut chance of the second half when he cut inside in the box, creating a couple

of yards of space for himself, but in the end, he blasted his shot over the crossbar.

MacIver then spotted his opportunity to get his side a goal, when the Oban man fired in a shot from 25 yards which made Scott Wright scurry across his goal line to save the long-distance strike.

The home side got themselves back into the game when Gillies proved too tricky for the Duntocher defence, dribbling the ball in and out, going past his man twice and taking on another before being brought down in the box leaving the referee no option but to point to the spot.

Gillies volunteered to take the penalty, and, after a stuttering run, slotted the ball in to the back of the net.

Athletic used this momentum to their advantage and MacIver almost levelled the score from a corner.

He forced his way to the front post before getting his head on the ball, but couldn't direct it on target.

The momentum came to an end when Duntocher were awarded a penalty after Steven MacLeod's diving clearance seemed to hit his arm. MacLeod was adamant the ball had come off his shoulder and after a verbal exchange with the referee the Athletic man was shown red and sent off the pitch for dissent.

Football

Michael Hopkirk stepped up to take the penalty, and put it straight up the middle, sending a diving Graham the wrong way to make the score 3-1 to the visitors.

Matthew White then completed his hat-trick and made it 4-1, after he fired in a shot from outside the box that flew into the net, leaving the Athletic goalkeeper, again, with no chance.

Despite the scoreline, Athletic continued to try and get back in to the game.

But as the home side pressed forward, they left themselves vulnerable at the back and keeper Graham had to make a double save to keep the scoreline down.

Athletic were dealt another blow when Shaun MacIver stupidly kicked the ball away for a second time and received his second yellow card of the game and Athletic's second red card of the day.

However, it was the nine-man Athletic who would have the last word when Craig Campbell got on the end of a Kris Gillies corner to head the ball into the back of the net to make the final score 4-2.

Athletic will have a chance to avenge this result when they travel to take on Duntocher in a West of Scotland League match on Saturday.

Medals for Argyll athletes at National Indoor Championships Athletics

A SMALL group of Argyll athletes excelled at the Scottish Indoor age group championships held in the Emirates Arena in Glasgow last weekend winning one gold medal, two silver and one bronze.

Finbar Dunne from Oban was the star, winning gold in the Under 15s shot putt with some style. Finbar's winning throw of 12.59metres was almost three metres ahead of second place. Finbar is not only number one in his age group in Scotland but also number one in the UK rankings for 2016.

Jilly Lefebvre, from Kilmichael Glassary and a member of Mid Argyll Athletic Club won silver in the under-13s high jump clearing 1.40m. The winner, Abbey Orr of Victoria Park AC, Glasgow, cleared 1.42m on her third attempt denying Jilly the gold medal as Jilly has been ahead on less failures at the previous height of 1.40m.

Another Mid Argyll athlete Shaun Doy won a bronze medal for third place in the under-15s pole vault clearing 2.42m.

Gregor Campbell from Glenbarr in Kintyre won silver in the under-13s 1,500m in an excellent time of 4 mins 56.5 secs, only two seconds behind the winner and well clear of third place. Gregor's older brother Cameron was seventh in the under-15s 800m final in a time of 2 mins 13.8 secs. Grace Thompson from Oban was fourth in the under 15s triple jump with a 9.47m effort and was two places ahead of Jodie Robertson from the Mid Argyll club who jumped 9.01m. Grace's older sister Emma cleared 1.45m for ninth place in the under 20s high jump.

Results and fixtures Pool

RESULTS March 10: OFS Cup Semi-Finals - Lancaster A 7-0 Markie Dans B; Lochnell 2-7 Lochavullin's Cellar; League - Wide Mouthed Frog 8-4 Outreach.

Fixtures March 17: Lochavullin's Cellar v Markie Dans A; Lancaster A v Lochavullin; Outreach v Lochnell; Gluepot v Wide Mouthed Frog; Markie Dans B v Lancaster B.



Action from the Kilchoan v Barra friendly match held at the Oban Community pitch last Saturday. Barra, last season's Uist and Barra Football League champions won an entertaining game 7-1.

Four new age-group records set at Oban Sports Hall Athletics event last Sunday

THE Sports Hall Athletics competition for the Oban area was held at Atlantis Leisure last Sunday. This event was the fourth local area competition to be held in Argyll this winter. The series of competitions is promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

After more than three hours of competition four Argyll age records were broken and a similar number were under threat from the young athletes.

Three of the records were set in the running events by the younger boys with the under-seven champion Conon Burns from St Columba's breaking the four-lap record by almost a second in a time of 66.8 seconds. In the same age group Conner MacLean from Park improved the two-lap record in a time of 30.3 seconds and finished third on overall points. Conner MacAulay from Rockfield was runner-up in the under-sevens thanks to wins in the javelin and speed bounce.

Jacques Coates from Park

school was the under-nine champion winning five out of the seven events with some style and broke the Argyll age record by half a second in the two-lap race recording 25.7 seconds. George Pagan from Rockfield was second overall thanks to a win in the high jump clearing 1.09metres and just failed on his attempt to equal the age record of 1.12m. In the same section Rio Brown from Salen won the javelin.

Finlay MacLean from Rockfield was the under-11 champion winning the four-lap race, javelin and both the long and triple jumps. Fraser Campbell won the under-13 competition and Sam Coates and Stewart Inglis done likewise in the under-15s and under-17s.

There was a new record in the under-17s shot putt when Highland games athlete Murdo Masterton from Dunbeg threw a massive 15.15m to add almost two metres to the long standing

record. The entry in the older age groups was disappointing but compensated for by the good entry in the three younger groups.

Esmé Tosh from Park primary was the girls' under-seven champion winning four out of the five events.

In the under-nines Mia Campbell from St Columba's won ahead of Anna Forgive from Park. Mia won the high jump and speed bounce and placed first equal in the four-lap race with Anna. Anna also excelled in the standing triple jump clearing over four metres.

Two girls from St Columba's dominated in the under-11s with Jessica Graham a convincing winner ahead of Seonaid Burns.

Jessica won the four-lap race, javelin and both the high and long jumps. Seonaid excelled in winning the two-lap race and secured runner-up place ahead of Chloe Campbell from Taynuilt and Mairi Inglis from Dunbeg who tied for third overall.

Athletics

Jilly Lefebvre from Lochgilphead was under-13 champion and impressed with her all-round performance including an attempt on the Argyll age record over four laps, only missing the record by 0.1 seconds in 54.6 seconds.

Hannah Teape from Taynuilt was the under-15 winner and, like the boys, the entry numbers in the two older age groups were down on past years.

Many of the athletes taking part qualify to take part in the Argyll final, sponsored by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, to be held at Atlantis Leisure this Sunday, March 20. The final will start at noon with registration from 11am.

The final will bring together the best young athletes from the competitions at Lochgilphead, Campbeltown and Tobermory plus the qualifiers from last Sunday.

Argyll islanders to represent Scotland

THREE Argyll islanders will travel to the other side of the world in order to represent their country in the 2016 Masters Hockey World Cup.

Ernie Brittain-Dodd from Seil;

Alan Parker from Mull; and Dannie Onn from Colonsay, are all involved with Oban Hockey Club and members of Scotland LX Hockey Club, which caters for the growing number of players

Hockey

over the age of 60 who are still fit enough to play.

The trio will travel to Newcastle, New South Wales and Australia this coming May to compete against Malaysia, Japan, England and Australia.

MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell has spoken of his support for the islanders.

Mr Russell said: 'Hockey is a particularly fast game now with stamina being a pre-requisite of success.'

'Masters Hockey requires not only fitness, but also the ability to adapt to the constraints of ageing. It is therefore, remarkable that these three Argyll islanders have made the grade and taken on the commitment.'

'All three make regular journeys to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling to take part in international training and are totally self funded, including this 10-day visit down under.'

'I wish them every success and envy them their determination, fitness and stamina. I wish I had it.'



Ernie Brittain-Dodd, left; Alan Parker; and Dannie Onn, right.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

Mrs A McIntyre Claggan, Fort William

Mrs M Shaw Barbreck, By Lochgilphead

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
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
The MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup

SHINTY
Best for all shinty new

Unplayable pitches cause postponement

WITH the shinty season only in its second week a number of games last weekend were either postponed or the fixtures were reversed due to unplayable pitches.

The matches between Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic, Ballachulish and Kilmallie, Glenorchy and Oban Celtic, Lochside Rovers and Kyles Athletic, Kilmallie and Strathspey, along with Abdeen University and Lewis Camanachd were all postponed due to waterlogged pitches with the Premiership game between Fort William and Kingussie switched to The Dell and the North Division One game between Skye and Strathglass switched to Cannich.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 7 Glenurquhart 0

Champions Newtonmore opened their bid for seven league titles in a row in impressive fashion when they beat Glenurquhart 7-0 at the Eilan.

There are a number of personnel changes from last season at the Eilan. Owen Fraser has taken over in goal from the retired Michael Ritchie. Scott Chisholm is abroad whilst Cameron Binnie has taken a step back this season because of work commitments.

Fraser MacKintosh has returned from a trip abroad and he made a 20 minute appearance whilst Jamie Robinson is recovering from an operation and he was an unused substitute.

Glenurquhart were still without the injured Euan Lloyd and James Hurwood whilst Andrew Corrigan was working. James MacPherson was with the Glen seconds.

Newtonmore went in front on 20 minutes. Glen MacKintosh found himself in space just outside the D and he struck the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Iain Robinson started for the home side and the youngster's name is likely to feature prominently in the top division scoring lists this season. Robinson opened his account on 21 minutes when he won the ball from Ally MacKintosh before getting past him and slotting the ball into the net.

Glen MacKintosh got his second goal a minute later when he received the ball around the penalty spot and he rolled his marker before sending a powerful shot past Stuart MacKintosh in the Glen goal.

Newtonmore had now scored three goals in only three minutes. Newtonmore went four goals to the good on 42 minutes. Iain Robinson did well on the wing to beat his man and he sent the ball across to Glen MacKintosh who completed a first half hat-trick with a wonderful finish.

There was more to come as just on the stroke of half time. Evan Menzies collected possession from Paul MacArthur. Menzies

took the ball down on his chest before sending a thunderous strike past the helpless keeper to make it 5-0 at the interval.

Newtonmore added a sixth on 53 minutes when Norman Campbell played a high ball to Glen MacKintosh and his first-time pass set up Iain Robinson, all alone at the back post, and Robinson hit a quick, clean shot underneath Glen keeper Stuart MacKintosh.

Iain Robinson completed his hat-trick with just seven minutes remaining. Norman Campbell pushed forward and slid the ball to Iain Robinson and he managed to out-pace John Barr and Fraser Heath before sending a great strike into the top corner to make the final score 7-0. It wasn't Glenurquhart's day in what is one of the most difficult fixtures in their league schedule and they had a second penalty miss in successive Saturdays as Fraser Heath sent the spot-hit over the bar.

Lovat 2 Kinlochshiel 5

Kinlochshiel twice came from a goal down to eventually beat Lovat 5-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Balgate.

Lovat boss John MacRitchie relied on the squad which lifted the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup last season. However he was without the suspended Lorne MacKay whilst Calum MacAulay was ruled out through injury.

Kinlochshiel boss Colin Fraser was without last season's top scorer Jordan Fraser who started a two-match ban.

There was a competitive debut at buckshee back for Scotland international Conor Cormack who joined Kinlochshiel from Beaulieu in the close season. This allowed Finlay MacRae to start at full forward. Kinlochshiel began the game with a strong wind advantage in their favour but it was Lovat who settled into the game first and Lewis Tawse disposed Conor Cormack in the opening minute but his shot went wide of goal.

The young Lovat centre line of Craig Mainland, Danny Kelly and Martin Mainland took a grip of the game and the home side went in front on 18 minutes. 'Shiel keeper Scott Kennedy made a save but Lewis Tawse, as he often does, followed the ball in and he lifted the rebound into the net to make it 1-0.

The home side continued to press but Conor Cormack's big hitting from the back helped take the pressure off the visitors. 'Shiel came close to an equaliser when Conor Cormack found Keith MacRae and he sent a screaming shot goalwards but Lovat goalie Stuart MacDonald dived to make a very good save.

Kinlochshiel drew level on 26 minutes. Full centre Donald Nixon launched a free-hit into the Lovat goal area and Stuart MacDonald seemed to lose the ball under his feet which gave Finlay MacRae the chance to force the ball home.

Lovat went back in front on 34 minutes. Greg Matheson latched onto a ball down the right and his cross deflected off a defender's caman into the path of Kevin Bartlett at the edge of the D and the Scottish international wasn't going to miss from there.

Kinlochshiel drew level for a second time with just three first half minutes remaining. Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald was looking to clear a ball out of the danger-area but Keith MacRae nipped in to get to it first. MacRae took the ball around the goalie before rolling it home from a tight angle to make it 2-2 at half time.

Lovat threatened five minutes after the restart when Scott Kennedy turned away a long ball from midfield with Greg Matheson ready to pounce. The clearance came to Kevin Bartlett who rocketed the ball into the net from 25 yards out but the goal was disallowed as Matheson was in an offside position.

Lovat continued to press but it was Kinlochshiel who would go in front for the first time in the match with an hour played. A ball into the Lovat goal area was missed by a couple of defenders and as Stuart MacDonald came off his line to try and clear the danger, John MacRae was left with the chance to steer the ball into the empty net.

Keith MacRae punished the Lovat defence to make it 4-2 just a couple of minutes later for what was his second goal of the afternoon.

Euan Ferguson replaced Ryan Ferguson in the Lovat attack on 73 minutes. 'Shiel's final goal came a minute later and it was the pick of the bunch. John MacRae collected a cross from the right at the edge of the D MacRae showed great strength and ball control as he held off several challenges before picking his spot with a composed finish to make it 5-2.

Duncan 'DA' MacRae replaced David Falconer in the 'Shiel defence with just 10 minutes remaining and, a couple of minutes later, Calum MacLean came on for Donald Nixon who had suffered a blow to the arm. MacLean joined the attack with Finlay MacRae dropping back to take over from Nixon at full centre.

Kingussie 1 Fort William 0

A Saturday morning pitch inspection ruled An Aird unplayable so Fort William's clash with Kingussie was switched to the Dell with a 1pm throw up.

Kingussie were without keeper Craig Dawson so wing centre Rory MacGregor deputised with Jake MacPherson at wing centre. Fort William's Cal Brown served the second game of his two-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Both sides had young substitutes with Robert Mabon, Calum Grant and Roddy Young featuring for the Kings and Lewis

Morrison, Jay MacLeod and Seamus Gall listed as the Fort replacements.

The only goal of the game came after 20 minutes. Kingussie broke forward and referee John Angus Gillies allowed a good advantage following a foul on Savio Genini. Thomas Borthwick took aim 20 yards from goal and he sent an unstoppable drive past Fort William keeper Paul MacKay to make it 1-0.

Thomas Borthwick and Ryan Borthwick each had a couple of attempts in the second half but Paul MacKay made really good saves.

Fort William tried hard to get on level terms but Scotland defender Lee Bain was solid at the back for the Kings, sweeping up several attacks.

Both Fraser Munro for the home side and Niall MacPhee for the visitors were booked for reckless caman swinging. The win, coupled with a point against Lochaber last weekend, means Kingussie are the early top division leaders.

Lochaber 1 Skye Camanachd 1

With most of the west coast shinty pitches deemed unplayable this weekend, Spean Bridge bucked the trend as it hosted the encounter between Lochaber and newly promoted Skye Camanachd.

Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson was still without Zandz Ferguson but Martin Johnstone returned after missing last weekend's 1-1 draw with Kingussie and he started on the bench alongside Barry MacDonald and Finlay MacDonald.

Skye Camanachd first team manager John MacLeod was without forwards Will Cowie and Danny Morrison. However Shockie MacLennan, Iain Nicolson and David MacInnes were added to the squad that was named for last week's postponed match against Lovat in place of Neil John Campbell Ally 'Cleod' MacLeod and John Angus MacInnes.

Ally 'Spod' MacLeod was a late call-off for the Islanders with a knee injury which is likely to keep him out for around four weeks so Shockie MacLennan started in defence.

The Islanders started well on a heavy pitch and John Gillies, making his first senior start, shot wide after five minutes.

The Islanders had to rely on keeper Jamie Gannon to keep them on level terms with a couple of good saves.

Lochaber took the lead on 23 minutes when Stuart Callison crashed a rebound into the net after Gannon had made an initial save.

Skye equalised on 61 minutes. Jordan Murchison had gone close on a couple of occasions before he found just enough space to send a great 25-yard waist-high shot into the net to make it 1-1.

Both sides had chances to win it but the draw gives Lochaber a second point from two games



Newtonmore captain Steven Macdonald is sandwiched between Glenurquhart's Michael Fraser and Neale

whilst Skye will be happy to have secured a first league point from a difficult opening fixture.

Oban Camanachd P Kyles Athletic P

With both sides recording impressive wins in their opening day fixtures, the meeting between Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic at Mossfield looked to be the pick of the day's shinty action.

There was disappointment for both clubs as the game was called off early on Saturday morning as Mossfield was waterlogged and Kyles' Tighnabruach pitch wasn't an option as it was also unplayable.

Some of the Oban Camanachd squad took the chance to head for Spean Bridge to have a look at next week's opponents Skye Camanachd.

Manager Ian Hay will travel to Skye with a full strength squad as they aim to consolidate on the positive start made by the team.

The Oban side are introducing a monthly Super Draw which will go to offset costs such as travel and equipment. The club at present have four teams at Under 14, Under 17, reserve side Lochside Rovers and Oban Camanachd.

Details of the draw can be obtained from players and committee members with 50 per cent of the proceeds going into the prize fund.

Lochside Rovers team manager, Gareth Evans said: 'Although we are indebted to our various team sponsors the club committee are always looking at ways of raising funds to provide the necessary facilities for our teams to take part in the various competitions.

Marine Harvest National Division

Bute 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll 4
Glasgow Mid Argyll are the early Marine Harvest National Division pace-setters following their 4-0 triumph over Bute at the Meadows.

Bute's James Craig was free of his two-match suspension. GMA's new signing John McNulty has yet to complete his four-game ban which was carried forward from his time with Glenorchy last season.

GMA started in devastating fashion and they were 3-0 ahead after just 10 minutes. Euan Forsyth got the opener after three minutes when he got on the ball on the GMA left, just outside the D, and he drilled a backhand shot into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Euan Forsyth then turned provider as he played a ball in from the wing to Calum McLay who ran the ball into the D before slotting it past the keeper to make it 2-0.

It's been a good week for GMA's Craig Anderson. After scoring in the University of Strathclyde's 2-0 Littlejohn Vase Final win over Edinburgh University during the week, the Scotland U-21 forward made it 3-0 when the ball broke to him around 30 yards out in a central position. Anderson needed no second invitation as he hit the ball into the top corner of the net on his left side.

The pitch really started to cut-up which didn't help the teams.

Craig Anderson got his second and GMA's fourth goal five minutes after the restart when he got on the end of a Euan Forsyth cross from the left to the back post and Anderson tucked the ball into the bottom corner of the net from just outside the D.

Bute's Arran Dunn was sent off by referee David Mitchell to cap a miserable day for the home side.

Beaulieu 6 Inveraray 2

Beaulieu twice came from behind to beat Inveraray 6-2 at Braevie Park.

Barrie MacDonald and Liam Mutch were still out through injury for Beaulieu. Inveraray player/boss Ruaridh Graham had served his three-game ban and he started on the bench. Alan MacDonald continued to stand-in for the injured David Robertson at

full centre. Lewis Montgomery was also free of suspension and he started in attack.

The visitors had seven players aged under 18 in their squad as they go through a transitional period.

Beaulieu's Jack MacDonald netted twice in last weekend's 5-2 victory over Inverness and he stole the show in this clash with a superb five-goal haul.

Inveraray had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half and Grant Griffin, who missed a large chunk of last season through injury, sent the ball low past Beaulieu keeper Josh Grant to make it 1-0.

Beaulieu equalised on 15 minutes when Jack MacDonald scored from inside the D after being set-up by Sandy Elrick.

Inveraray struggled to get shots on target against Bute last weekend but their forwards linked up well on 20 minutes with Lewis Montgomery supplying the finishing touch from 18 yards out.

Inveraray looked the more likely to add to their lead before the interval and they would regret not doing so.

Beaulieu had the elements in their favour in the second half and they drew level for a second time following a corner 10 minutes after the restart. The ball fell for Jack MacDonald and he sent a 20 yard shot through a ruck of players and it beat unsuspecting keeper Scott MacLachlan to make it 2-2.

Jack MacDonald completed his hat-trick four minutes later to put Beaulieu in front for the first time in the match. MacDonald sent a low drive into the net from the edge of the D after the impressive Colin MacDonald had won possession in midfield.

Beaulieu's fast forward play was a joy to watch and Jack MacDonald got his and Beaulieu's fourth on 62 minutes when he latched onto a Conor Ross shy to score from 15 yards.

Inveraray player-manager Ruaridh Graham came on but the pattern of play continued the same.



Newtonmore youngster Iain Robinson scores one of his three goals against Glenurquhart at The Eilan last Saturday. Photo: Neil Paterson

SHINTY

News, results and fixtures

Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup



Upsets and fixture reversals



Reid. Photograph: Neil Paterson

second teams took centre stage at 3pm at the Dell. And it was Kingussie who ran out 5-1 winners against last year's league champions.

Kingussie took the chance to give Calum Grant a run-out after he was a first team substitute in the earlier game.

Fort William's Scott Knox served the second game of his two-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

There was a place for Scott Henderson who signed from Ballachulish during the close season.

Kevin Thain, a Ruaridh Anderson hat-trick and a Calum Grant goal all counted for Kingussie with Scott Henderson countering for Fort William.

The win means that the Kingussie first and second teams top their respective leagues after the first two weekends of the new shinty season.

Glenurquhart 0 Newtonmore 3

The visitors were 3-0 victors as the Glenurquhart and Newtonmore second teams clashed at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart's James MacPherson was available following suspension whilst 'More included former first team captain John MacKenzie.

'More led 2-0 at the break thanks to a Neil Stewart goal on 15 minutes and a Darrin Fowler effort on 36 minutes. John MacKenzie made it 3-0 on 66 minutes.

Strathglass 5 Skye Camanachd 1

Strathglass beat the Skye Camanachd colts 5-1 at Cannich. The match was originally scheduled for Paic nan Laoch, Portree but constant rain from late Friday afternoon left the Portree pitch unplayable.

Neil John Campbell Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod and John Angus MacInnes returned to the Skye squad after being named with the Skye firsts last weekend. There were also places for Andrew Banks and Iain MacPherson.

Darren Reid scored twice for Strathglass with Eddie Noble, Steven Hyslop and Barry Phimister getting the others. James Pringle grabbed a consolation goal for Skye.

Lovat 0 Kinlochshiel 4

The Kinlochshiel reserves and the Lovat reserves were scheduled to meet at Kirkton.

An unplayable field meant the game was switched to Balgate with a 12.30pm throw up and Shiel took the points with a 4-0 win.

Lovat were without defender James Grieve who started a two-match ban for his red card against the Skye Camanachd seconds last week.

There were no goals during the first 45 minutes with 'Shiel missing a number of chances.

Promising youngster Chris Townend gave the visitors the lead after 51 minutes when his ball from wide on the left went into the net off the keeper's caman.

Neil Fraser gave 'Shiel a physical presence in attack which the young Lovat defence found difficult to cope with and Steven Isles made it 2-0 just four minutes later with a 20 yard shot from just left of centre.

Lovat moved full back Fraser Gallacher up front with Sam Ferguson switching positions to take over.

Kinlochshiel put gloss on the win with a late Scott MacLean double on 85 and then 87 minutes. MacLean's second saw him dribble the ball around marker Ferguson before placing it in the bottom corner of the net.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen 1
Taynuilt 1
Col Glen and Taynuilt shared the points in a 1-1 draw at Gledaruel.

Col Glen took the lead when they worked the ball forward from a goal-hit. Half forward

Jamie MacVicar chipped the ball onto the D where Steven MacKellar finished in style.

Taynuilt earned a point when Ryan Gillies made a darting run onto a well-placed corner from the left and he axed the ball above head-height into the top left corner of the net for what was a spectacular equaliser.

Lochside Rovers P Kyles Athletic P

The venue for the match between the Kyles Athletic second team and Lochside Rovers was switched to Ganavan on Friday afternoon when Tighnabruich was ruled unplayable. But the pitch at Ganavan failed a Saturday morning pitch inspection so the game was called off.

This Saturday Lochside face a tough game against Oban Celtic who are favourites for South Division 1.

Rovers themselves lost out on South Division One last season on goal difference to Bute who were promoted to the National League. The red and blacks will continue their policy of developing players from their successful Under-14 and Under-17 teams as a pathway to eventually playing in the top flight of shinty.

Glenorchy P Oban Celtic P

The match between Glenorchy and Oban Celtic was postponed as the Mart Park in Dalmally was unplayable.

This means both Oban Celtic and Lochside Rovers, who occupy the top two spots in the league, had a free week ahead of this Saturday's Oban Derby at Mossfield.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry 1
Caberfeidh 2

Two goals in the last 15 minutes gave the Caberfeidh colts a 2-1 win over Glengarry at Craigard. Glengarry included former Glenurquhart and Boleskine player Raymond Robertson in their side whilst Caberfeidh's Declan Wilson was suspended.

The first half finished goalless but Raymond Robertson put the home side ahead on the hour mark.

A Colin MacLennan goal on 75 minutes and a James Rolfe effort just five minutes from time gives Cabers the win that sends them to the top of the table.

Boleskine 0 Lochaber 2

The Lochaber second team beat Boleskine 2-0 at Smith Park.

Boleskine had new boss Jamie Matheson and his assistant Jimmy MacKenzie in their fold. Lochaber's James MacIntyre was again sidelined through suspension.

The first half looked as if it was going to finish without a goal when Lochaber's Johnny Cameron played a corner in to the penalty spot and Stuart Matheson fired a great shot into the net. It was the last hit of the first half.

Stuart Matheson got his and Lochaber's second on 77 minutes to leave the Spean Bridge side behind leaders Caberfeidh on goal difference.

Inverness 1 Lochcarron 3

Lochcarron collected their first two points of the season when they beat the Inverness second team 3-1 at the Bught Park.

Nick Dalgety gave Lochcarron an 18 minute lead but former Kinlochshiel player Stuart MacRae drew Inverness level on 35 minutes.

It only took Lochcarron three minutes to get back in front and it was Nick Dalgety who again made the difference.

Crisdean Finlayson sealed the win with a goal 15 minutes from time.

Kilmallie P Strathspey Camanachd P

The Kilmallie second team and Strathspey Camanachd will both have to wait another week to start their league campaigns as an unplayable pitch led to the postponement of their game at the Canal Parks



Inveraray's Grant Griffen holds off Beaulys Ewan Campbell during their National Division game last Saturday. Beauly won 6-2.

Photo: Donald Cameron

Aberdeen University P Lewis Camanachd P

Heavy rain in the Granite City led to the Friday afternoon postponement of the match between Aberdeen University and Lewis Camanachd at Balgownie

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Tayforth 7
Oban Lorn 0

Tayforth put six goals past the Aberdour seconds on the opening day of the season and they went one better this week with a 7-0 win over Oban Lorn at Levenhall Links.

Oban Lorn's Calum MacLean was free of his one-match suspension so joined the squad. He will face another spell on the sidelines after being sent off by referee Ross Brown for speaking out of turn.

Tayforth had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half and they led 4-0 at the break. Tayforth's Orsten Gardner grabbed a hat-trick with Brendan Duggan and Finlay Stark both bagging a brace.

The win means Tayforth top Marine Harvest South Division 1 on goal difference.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 8 Bute 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves are in second spot after they over-powered Bute's second team 8-1 at Yoker.

Andy Mathie scored twice for GMA and when referee Iain Kennedy pointed to the penalty spot, former Kilmallie player Nick Lavin stepped up to score from the spot. Angus MacInnes was GMA's top scorer with four goals with Lewis Miller getting

the other. Ben Clarke scored a consolation goal for the Islanders.

It's been a good start to the season for GMA. Their first and second teams have both won their opening two fixtures, their ladies team has also made a winning start and they are getting 25-30 players at training each week.

Aberdour 0 Kilmory 9

Kilmory, who were relegated from Marine Harvest South Division 1 at the end of last season, seem intent on a swift return and they were too strong for the Aberdour second team, winning

9-0 at Silver Sands.

Duncan MacBrayne gave Kilmory an early lead and he added a second shortly after.

Kilmory full centre Ally Cunningham made it 3-0 mid-way through the first half with Alex Cunningham adding a fourth almost straight from the restart. Hal Jones scored either side of the break to make it 6-0.

Duncan MacBrayne completed his hat-trick mid-way through the second half shortly before Alex Cunningham scored his second to make it 8-0.

Hal Jones completed his hat-trick 15 minutes from time to complete a 9-0 triumph.

Camanachd Cup preliminary and first round draw

THE DRAW for the preliminary and first round in the 2016 Camanachd Cup competition was made on Tuesday in Inverness by Lovat Shinty Club's 1953 Cup winners Allan Maclaren and Willie Maclean, assisted by the Camanachd Association's newly appointed director, Steven Mackenzie.

Preliminary round to be played on Saturday April 2:
Bute v Inverness

First round to be played on Saturday May 7:
Caberfeidh v Glenorchy

Beauly v Bute/Inverness

Inveraray v Ballachulish

Oban Celtic v Strathglass

Taynuilt v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Kilmallie v Aberdour

The 2016 Camanachd Cup Final - shinty's BIG day out - will be held on Saturday September 17.

Fixtures

Fixtures March 19

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart v Fort William
Calum Girvan
Kingussie v Kinlochshiel
Lachie Wood
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
David Mitchell
Lovat v Lochaber
Deek Cameron
Skye v Oban Camanachd
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish v Caberfeidh
Evan MacRae
Beauly v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Innes Wood
Inveraray v Inverness
Robert Baxter
Kilmallie v Bute
Archie Ritchie - 1pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Glenurquhart
Alex MacVicar
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
John Wood
Newtonmore v Beauly
Martin MacLean
Strathglass v Lovat
Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Inveraray
Ronnie Campbell
Glenorchy v Col Glen
Neil Ferguson
Lochside Rovers v Oban Celtic
Ewan MacDonald
Taynuilt v Kyles Athletic
Willie MacDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh v Strathspey
Daniel MacRae
Glengarry v Boleskine
Scott McNeil
Inverness v Kilmallie
Iain Kennedy
Lochaber v Aberdeen University
Brian MacKay
Lochcarron v Lewis
John Matheson

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon v Kilmory
Euan Pearson - 12pm
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Tayforth
Ross Brown
Oban Lorn v Aberdour
Jim Innes

(All throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Womens Camanachd Association Sunday March 20

Marine Harvest National Division 1
Aberdour v Lochaber
All Stars v Badenoch & Strathspey
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Skye

Development League

Host Club - Lochaber

Results

Saturday March 12

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie 1-0 Fort William
Lochaber 1-1 Skye
Lovat 2-5 Kinlochshiel
Newtonmore 7-0 Glenurquhart
Oban Camanachd P-P Kyles Athletic
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish P-P Kilmallie
Unplayable field
Beauly 6-2 Inveraray
Bute 0-4 Glasgow Mid Argyll
Caberfeidh 4-1 Inverness

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glenurquhart 0-3 Newtonmore
Kingussie 5-1 Fort William
Lovat 0-4 Kinlochshiel
Strathglass 5-1 Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen 1-1 Taynuilt
Glenorchy P-P Oban Celtic
Unplayable field
Kyles Athletic P-P Lochside Rovers
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University P-P Lewis
Unplayable field
Boleskine 0-2 Lochaber
Glengarry 1-2 Caberfeidh
Inverness 1-2 Lochcarron
Kilmallie P-P Strathspey
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0-9 Kilmory
Glasgow Mid Argyll 8-1 Bute
Tayforth 7-0 Oban Lorn



Lochaber's Stuart Callison, left, who opened the scoring, with Skye's Ally MacDonald. Photograph: John Paul Peebles.

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Saints in bid to reach Scottish Cup semi-final for the first time

THIS Saturday afternoon at Glencruitten Park, Oban Saints manager Alex Craik bids to make history by leading his charges into the previously uncharted territory of the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finals.



Oban Saints manager Alex Craik.

Barring the path to a semi-final showdown against either Kingdom Caledonian AFA high flyers Leven United or Linlithgow Thistle of the Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Premier Division are Ayrshire AFA First Division outfit Shortlees Amateurs.

The Lees are the form team in the Ayrshire Amateur ranks with a 100 per cent start to their league campaign and a place in the semi-finals of the Ayrshire Cup already secured as they strive to go one better than last season's runners-up spot against all conquering Hurlford Thistle.

Their semi-final slot was confirmed last weekend with a 3-1 away win against fierce local rivals New Farm Loch whom Saints fans will recall from the West of Scotland Amateur Cup fourth round tie at Oban High School in January.

On that occasion Saints also

prevailed by three goals to one before falling at the next hurdle to the seemingly invincible Colville Park.

Shortlees, however, made it a double of quarter final qualifications in the national cup competitions with last month's sixth round 4-0 win over three-time winners Dalziel High School Former Pupils of the Caledonian League Premier Division.

Relentless
The Kilmarnock side have also been relentless in their pursuit of Scottish Amateur Cup glory cementing their place in the quarter-finals with a thoroughly convincing 5-0 win over Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Championship leaders Shotts Victoria taking their goal tally to 34 goals in seven matches.

Saints, however, can point to an equally impressive run in Scottish amateur football's most

prestigious competition which notably includes the scalps of last season's runners-up Craigshill Thistle and runaway Caledonian League Premier Division leaders Doune Castle.

A good turnout of local fans is anticipated and with the Shortlees supporters likely to travel in large numbers to cheer on their favourites the stage is set for a thrilling cup tie between two well-matched teams standing at the edge of semi-final glory.

The Oban side had Shortlees watched in their 3-1 win over New Farm Loch last Saturday when former manager Iain Jackson ran the rule over Saints' opponents and he will be giving Alex Craik some useful information on the Kilmarnock men.

Manager Craik's preparations for the biggest test of his tenure so far received a set-back when

last Saturday's Scottish Amateur League Premier Division match against league leaders and reigning champions St Joseph's FP had to be postponed on the morning of the match.

Glencruitten failed to withstand Friday and Saturday's deluge leaving an eager to go Saints squad kicking their heels and hoping that the cancellation will not prove too disruptive of the terrific head of steam built up in recent weeks.

Unfortunately due to two other games taking place it wasn't possible to switch the game to the 3G at Oban High School.

Foot injury
Alex Craik's team selection options narrowed somewhat with the news that the re-occurrence of Martin Bonar's foot injury will keep him out of action for the remainder of the season. This significant blow was

Football

compounded when news of Dene Cassells' suspension for his ordering off against Colville Park in last month's West of Scotland Amateur Cup tie came through from Hampden Park.

Cassells' red card in the dying minutes of the fifth round tie will keep him on the sidelines for six matches which is enormously frustrating at this crucial stage of the season.

On a more positive note Saints confirmed the re-signing of Brian MacKay, who will be a valuable addition to the squad with the big fixtures coming thick and fast.

Despite losing Bonar and Cassells from his plans manager Craik will still be able to name a strong squad as he plots to take Saints into their first ever Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final.

Argyll athletics final on Saturday

Athletics

ATLANTIS Leisure in Oban is the venue this Sunday, March 20, for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final which is sponsored this year by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust.

The competition starts at noon in the large games hall at Atlantis with young athletes from most parts of Argyll taking part in various running, jumping and throwing events.

The final on Sunday is the last of a series of competitions held in the district this winter starting with local area events in Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Tobermory and finally the Oban area event held last Sunday.

Successful qualifiers from the local contests will now come together in Oban with as many as 120 young athletes, from five years to 16 years, participating in what should be an enthralling competition.

Athletes are reminded to register between 11am and noon on Sunday with the first events starting at noon.

Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third overall in each age group.

The Argyll Sports Hall competitions are promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v East Kilbride postponed; Oban Saints v St Joseph's FP postponed; Premier Division One - Ferguslie 9, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Neilston, Dunoon 3; Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU 2, Tarbert 3; Coronation Cup, first round - Dunoon Athletic 5, Whitehill FP 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, quarter finals - Oban Saints v Shortlees; Premier Division - East Kilbride v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Busby; Lochgilphead Red Star v Jamestown; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Rosehill Star.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under-13s v Drumchapel, postponed; Dumbarton United 2, Under-14s 0; Under-15s v Helensburgh; Under-16s v Busby, postponed; Riverside 5, Under-19s 1. Scoring for Saints was Douglas MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures: Under-13s v Ardencaple; Under-14s v Drumchapel United; Under-15s v Broomhill; Port Glasgow v Under-16s; Under-19s v Milngavie.

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Revenge is sweet for Green Machine as team defeat Lenzie

Oban Lorne	13
Lenzie	6
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne welcomed Lenzie to Glencruitten on Saturday for the second game between the sides in 2016. Lenzie recorded a 25-19 victory over the Green Machine in January.

Oban were looking for revenge against the visitors and also a much-needed win that would see the team reclaim fourth place in the league.

Coach Corrie Louw was without a couple of key players for the game with injuries to Lorne MacLachlan and Struan Smith. Connor Ferris started his first game in a green jersey in over 10 months, playing in the front row.

Both sides played out a scrappy opening to the game with play being disrupted by both teams being constantly offside and giving away needless penalties.

Lenzie took the lead with a penalty after 15 minutes to lead 3-0.

Oban settled into the game and had a good period of attacking possession in the away 22. Callum MacLachlan burst over the line after an impressive run to put Oban 7-3 ahead after 20 minutes.

With the conditions deteriorating both sides struggled to create any meaningful passages of play.

The second half was similar to the first with a midfield battle ongoing with two forward dominated teams adapting to the poor playing conditions at Glencruitten.

Lenzie were dealt a blow with a sinbanning of their hooker which in turn disadvantaged Oban's strong scrum with the sides being forced to play uncontested scrums for the duration of the sinbanning.

Oban's scrum half Finlay Carmichael kicked two successful penalties to increase the lead to

Rugby

13-3 while the visitors hit back with a penalty to narrow the gap in the closing stages to 13-6.

In the end it was a forgettable game of rugby with Oban running out comfortable winners despite the low scoreline.

The win means that Oban Lorne move back up to fourth place above Allan Glens who the Green Machine face away from home next Saturday - kick off 3pm in Bishopbriggs.

Argyll and Bute	27
Hyndland	7
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL took on Hyndland at North Connel on Saturday. The home side were hoping for a win that would see them keep up the pressure on the teams above them in the league.

Hyndland kicked off in what was going to be a very wet afternoon of rugby. The first 10 minutes of the game was taken up by both stand-offs kicking for territory without any notable attacking plays.

Both sides then started to find space with the ball and attacked well when in possession.

Argyll took the lead when Centre Lewis MacFarlane kicked through a loose ball, and gathered to run close to the line before passing inside to Roddy Morrison who set up Sandile Khumalo for the days first try, 5-0.

The home side took confidence from this and impressed with some strong runs by Andrew Johnston, Neil Rimmer and Jamie MacMillan.

Argyll looked to have scored when Andrew Johnston picked and went close to the line, the referee would not give the score but a quick pick-up and touchdown



Oban Lorne's Cameron Smith is backed up by Tommy Sutherland as they head for the Lenzie line during last Saturday's match at Glencruitten.

Photos: Kevin McGlynn



The Green Machine's Andy MacDougall is stopped in his tracks by two Lenzie defenders.



Argyll and Bute's Michael MacKinnon breaks through the Hyndland defence during last Saturday's match at Connel

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WEATHER

Thursday Light Cloud
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Friday Thick cloud
Winds light north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

Weekend Outlook Thick cloud on Saturday
Thick cloud on Sunday
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 4°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 17, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	06.50	1.6	13.52	2.8	19.07	1.5
Fri	01.56	2.9	08.43	1.5	15.22	2.9
Sat	03.27	3.1	09.53	1.4	16.09	3.1
Sun	03.58	3.3	10.38	1.2	16.34	3.3
Mon	04.30	3.5	11.15	1.1	17.01	3.5
Tues	05.03	3.7	11.47	1.0	17.31	3.7
Wed	05.37	3.9	12.18	0.9	18.02	3.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Pitch plan in crisis as board members quit

CAREN MCPATE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE RESIGNATION of three board members from Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) has thrown plans for a new £1.47 million indoor sports pitch up in the air.

Chairperson Jane Blanchard and directors Duncan MacPhee and Leen Volwerk announced they were standing down this week.

Other members of the LSA board and its grants and awards committee were said to be considering their positions.

Liz MacFarlane, treasurer of the grants committee, was already planning to stand down and Christine Falconer, who sits on both groups, is considering her positions.

The move follows Highland Council's decision in October last year to only award £200,000 to the group when it was believed it would be given £600,000.

A total of £600,000 was secured from sportscotland and Score Environment, leaving LSA with a funding gap of almost £700,000.

LAS has led plans for a much-needed indoor 3G pitch at a site beside Lochaber high school for seven years.

Ms Blanchard said: 'The



An artist's impression of how the new indoor sports pitch would look.



Jane Blanchard.

council said it's strapped for cash, but things are happening in Inverness and they're painting the museum and art gallery

gold. I don't think our project is seen as being as important as others.

'There's fantastic amounts of money being spent on sports facilities in Inverness that are said to be for the Highlands, but how is someone from Ballachulish going to get there? The funding gap just became far too big. We have tried to look for other funders, but there are no big ones.'

'In order to get to this point we have raised a lot of money, have done a feasibility study and full planning permission is in place.'

'The pitch would be suitable for a huge variety of sports. All the club's pitches are grass which requires maintenance

“ We have tried to look for other funders, but there are no big ones ”

Jane Blanchard
Lochaber Sports Association

because it rains a lot and this budget has been cut.

'Matches and training have been cancelled several times over the last few years.'

Ms Blanchard hopes that the project will continue and new people will join the LAS board with fresh ideas and a new approach. The grants and awards committee give funds to clubs and individuals throughout Lochaber.

The group's chairman, Stewart Sandison, said: 'We want to keep going and support the local clubs whatever format that takes in the future.'

LAS is holding an extraordinary general meeting on Monday April 11, with the time and venue to be confirmed.



Zuzanna in running for Miss Teen title

A FORT William teenager is hoping to be crowned Miss Junior Teen Great Britain 2016.

Zuzanna Kruk, 14, has beaten off competition from across the country to win a place in the semi-final of the contest.

Teenagers will compete for the crown in a spectacular grand final at The Globe in Blackpool in October with the winner walking away with prizes, including £500.

Finalists will enjoy a beauty queen challenge day, a pyja-

ma diva party and more. Zuzanna, a third year Lochaber High School pupil, said: 'My mum saw the competition on the internet and I thought I would give it a try.'

'I never really expected to go so well and get to the semi-final, but I'm pleasantly surprised.'

A panel of judges from Miss Junior Teen will now mark the semi-finalists on their appearance, the content and quality of their answers in the contestant semi-finalist form and how photogenic they are.

TIMESLINE

Roybridge flood prevention work

ESSENTIAL work to help prevent the A86 near Roybridge from flooding during heavy rain will be carried out next week.

The culvert maintenance will take place on a short section of the road at Aite Cruinnichidh from Monday March 21 for up to four days.

The £30,000 work will involve re-lining an existing culvert underneath the A86 to stop leakage into the surrounding ground. This will prevent water undermining the A86 carriage-way above the culvert during periods of heavy rain.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place between 7am and 7pm until the work is completed.

Police name man found in harbour

POLICE have named a man whose body was recovered from Mallaig harbour.

William Grant, 63, who was from the area, was found on Thursday March 3.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

Car tyres slashed in Monzie Square

THE TYRES of a Volkswagen Golf car were slashed in Monzie Square, Fort William.

The vehicle was targeted between 5pm on Thursday March 3 and 10am the following morning.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious is asked to contact police on 101.

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703003



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Study slate building and help conserve historic arch

PEOPLE interested in learning about traditional slate building techniques are being invited to attend a free two-day course in Ballachulish.

The course, which is part of a wider £277,000 project to conserve and interpret the historic Ballachulish slate arch, will run on Thursday March 24 and Friday March 25.

It's open to anyone with a personal or professional

interest in using slate to build features such as dykes, cairns, plinths and seating. It follows on from a similar course held last December in the village as part of the same project, but new participants are also welcome to attend.

The programme for the two days will focus on hands-on training, including helping to build a new stone plinth, which will be part of new interpre-

tation at the East Quarry in Ballachulish. All tools and protective clothing will be provided. The course is free but places are limited and must be booked in advance.

The Ballachulish slate arch, also known as the Tom Beag Inclined Plane, can be seen from the A82 trunk road close to the village. It dates back to the 19th century when it was built to transport wagons of

dressed slate from the quarry to piers on the loch-side and to transport empty wagons back up to the quarry.

The project and the course is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Highland Council and Historic Environment Scotland. For further information or to book a place, contact Helen Smith by emailing helen@rowan-tree-consulting.co.uk or call 079105 24037.

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Former colleagues of the demolished Belhaven hospital ward in Fort William came together recently for a reunion. They shared memories and enjoyed listening to music in the railway club, Inverloch, last Friday evening. The Belhaven Ward closed in 2013 and was latterly used for physiotherapy and occupational therapy services. New homes are being built on the site. Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

The Sunart Centre

Strontian 01397 709228 www.sunartcentre.org

Friday 18th March

LIZ LOCHHEAD with saxophonist Steve Kettley.

Some things Old, Some things New
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'Dangerous' road neglected for years

YEARS of neglect have left a rural road 'dangerous', according to a community council chairman.

John Fotheringham, who leads Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, has hit out at the lack of action to repair potholes on Leanachan Road.

He said: 'It is clear this rural road like many others has suffered years of neglect.'

'Two years ago Highland Council was going to repair part of the road, but claimed its product contractor wouldn't deliver using the forest roads.'

Highland Council said the road was on a list to be treated.

A spokesperson explained: 'There have been difficulties in getting access.'

'However, the intention is to undertake innovative road surface treatment on this road in 2016-17.'

'This will again be subject to budget availability and competing priorities.'

HIE report reveals support for return of Skye flights

CAREN MCPATE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

FLIGHTS could be reintroduced between Skye and Scotland's central belt after a report showed huge demand for the service from businesses and islanders.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), on behalf of the Skye Air Service working group, commissioned ekosgen to carry out the research which explores the benefits an air service could bring to local businesses and communities.

Almost 200 businesses, social enterprises and community organisations submitted their views in an online survey to gauge the potential economic and social benefits from a service being reintroduced.

There was a scheduled air



Councillor Drew Millar supports flights from Skye to the central belt.

service from the island's airstrip at Ashaig, Broadford, operated by Loganair between 1972 and 1988.

Building on the 2013 Skye air services feasibility study which established clear demand for a service, the new report found that flights would address some of the constraints facing businesses and residents as a result of the length of current travel options between Skye and the central belt.

Apart from shorter journey times, it would reduce the need for overnight stays and improve access to onward connections at Glasgow Airport.

Stuart MacPherson, from HIE, said: 'The report concludes that a reintroduced service would bring significant economic and social benefits to Skye and surrounding areas, and would help to address some

of the major constraints identified by the area's businesses.' According to the report, 85 per cent of businesses on the island currently travel regularly to the central belt and envisage positive effects from an air service in terms of access to markets, customers and clients.

Tourism would gain from an increase in short-break visitors outside the peak summer season.

It would also improve options for travel for personal, health and leisure reasons, and access to Skye for healthcare professionals providing secondary and tertiary care.

Professor Boyd Robertson, principal of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig college on Skye and part of the FlySkye campaign group, said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is the third largest employer on Skye and our staff have to travel

frequently to engagements in the central belt.'

'A twice daily air service would greatly facilitate our business and reduce the time spent in long and unproductive road journeys as well as obviating the need for overnight stays.'

'Our student body draws from all parts of Scotland and beyond and our international short course students and conference delegates would all benefit hugely from an air service comparable to that enjoyed by all other islands and parts of the mainland such as Wick and Campbeltown.'

Highland councillor for Eilean a' Cheò, Drew Millar, said: 'The council is working with HIE and HITRANS to press the case for improved air links to and from the Highlands.'

TIMESLINE

Attempt made to enter Fort home

AN ATTEMPT has been made to enter a house in Fort William's Claggan area.

Police are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious on Carn Dearg Road between Saturday March 5 and the next day to contact them.

In a separate incident, a fence was damaged at a property on Henderson Row, Fort William, between 3am and 4.30am on Sunday March 13.

The police can be contacted on 101.

Rotary cash boost for access panel

LOCHABER Rotary Club has awarded £500 to Lochaber Disability Access Panel after hearing of its efforts to achieve a barrier-free environment.

The panel is currently working with Lochaber High School to create a disability awareness panel within the school. Rotary club president Terry Lee said: 'We were very impressed by this funding application and had no hesitation in awarding the grant.'

'Our colleague, the late Dr Su Sen, was a founder member of the panel and we are pleased to see his good work continuing in the current panel.'

Last chance to vote for favourite work

THIS Sunday (March 20) is the deadline for the public to vote for their favourite artwork in the Moving Mountains exhibition at Fort William's Lime Tree Gallery.

The People's Prize is the final award with £200 going to the artist who gets the most votes.

The gallery is free to enter and is open daily from 10am to 10pm.

Charity Get Set for Summer show

PUPILS at Lundavra Primary School are holding a Get Set for Summer fashion show this evening (Thursday).

The event is being supported by M&Co, Phoenix Discos and is in aid of Action for Children.

It takes place at the school at 7pm. Tickets cost £2 for adults and 50p for children and can be bought from the school in advance or at the door. There will be a raffle and refreshments.



Tom plans epic voyage in giant whale-shaped boat

THE FIRST man to row the north Atlantic Ocean single-handed is preparing for his next challenge - to sail in a giant whale-shaped boat at the age of 73.

Tom McClean launched the boat project 20 years ago and designed and built the structure called Moby, which is 65ft long, 25ft high and weighs 60 tonnes. He's spent £100,000 on Moby and hopes to secure a further £150,000 to make the Atlantic voyage from London to New York.

It's not the first unusual adventure for Mr McClean as he sailed from New York to England in a 37ft long bottle shaped boat in 1990.

Mr McClean, who served

with the parachute and SAS regiments, runs an outdoor centre on the shores of Loch Nevis in Lochaber.

He said: 'After I had done the sailing in the bottle boat I thought, what's next? There was a save the whale campaign so I thought I'd design a boat.'

'We've taken Moby around the UK into 50 harbours. We got an amazing reaction, although the coast guard was called out several times as people reported seeing a whale.'

Mr McClean was the first man to row the Atlantic solo in 1969 and recaptured the transatlantic rowing record for Britain in 1987 after 54 days at sea.



Tom McClean with Moby the boat which is currently berthed on the shores of Loch Nevis. Photograph: Cascade News.

Search on for hotel complex investor

WORK has started on finding the right investor to take forward plans for a luxury hotel development for the Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort.

The new complex is part of a wider masterplan covering part of Leanachan Forest, to boost recreation and tourism over the next 10 to 20 years.

It includes a luxury 80-bed hotel or high-quality forest lodges and cabins, as well as a yurts, bunkhouse or camping pods in an area close to Nevis Range.

Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) is working with Scottish Development International (SDI), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Visit Scotland to take forward the proposals. A business plan is being developed to help sell the investment potential.

Ben Lennon, of Forest Enterprise Scotland, said:

'We are all very excited what this potential transformation could mean for the area, but there is a lot of work to do in order to attract suitable investment from private sector developers.'

FES has undertaken work to improve the forest landscape adjacent to the access road. It has also begun speaking to neighbouring landowners and tenants to explore improvements to the access road.

Head of tourism at SDI Graeme White said they hoped to attract interest from both international and UK investors.

Scott Dingwall, HIE's head of regional development for Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, said: 'The masterplan opens up huge potential to attract investment which could attract more visitors and boost the Lochaber economy.'



An artist's impression of what a luxury hotel could look like at Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort.

Lochaber pine forest to be restored



Members of Arkaig Community Forest and a representative from the Woodland Trust Scotland at Clunes on the shore of Loch Arkaig.

A LARGE area of ancient Caledonian pine forest in Lochaber looks set to be restored.

The Woodland Trust Scotland and Arkaig Community Forest have signed an agreement to work together on the project. They intend to buy the forest, which covers 2,700 acres of ancient Caledonian pinewood, plantation forest and other habitats over two areas on the southern shores of Loch Arkaig.

Carol Evans, director of the

Woodland Trust Scotland, said: 'Restoring the South Loch Arkaig and Glenmallee pinewoods is an ambitious project that will take decades.'

'Our aim is to restore the forest to native woodland and also to give the community a real stake in its future. We want local people to benefit through improved access and involvement in woodland management, supporting local jobs and livelihoods in a remote rural area.'

The land is currently owned

by Forestry Commission Scotland which announced it was disposing of it as surplus through the National Forest Land Scheme.

Gary Servant, of Arkaig Community Forest, said: 'We are excited to be working to acquire this pinewood. We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge and we welcome the opportunity to work with one of the UK's leading woodland conservation charities, neighbouring Achnacarry estate, and other stakeholders.'

Community company delighted with £1.1m campsite boost

A £1.1 MILLION cash boost will create a new 50-pitch campsite in a community woodland on south Skye.

The Big Lottery Fund Scotland has awarded the funding to Broadford and Strath Community Company.

The project will provide a much-in-demand camping facility and help stimulate the local economy by attracting more tourists to the area.

Alistair Macpherson, chairman of Broadford and Strath Community Company, said: 'We received this good news with a mixture of delight and disbelief. We have been working towards developing this much-needed facility and producing an income stream to support community projects for many years. We have had several setbacks along the way, but this injection of capital means that we can at last make things happen for the good of the

whole community. Local people will benefit from the campsite in so many different ways. We're creating and supporting jobs, there will be opportunities for local businesses with more tourists in the area, and the profit from the campsite will be used to support community groups.'

Skye is one of three Highland community-based projects to benefit from more than £2.6m from the Big Lottery Fund.



Pupils spread spring cheer to the elderly

Generous pupils at Inverloch Primary School delivered daffodils and cards to senior citizens in the community. The children nominated elderly people to receive daffodils and cards as part of their work on the sunshine committee, which aims to make links with the community. 21_f12daffodils

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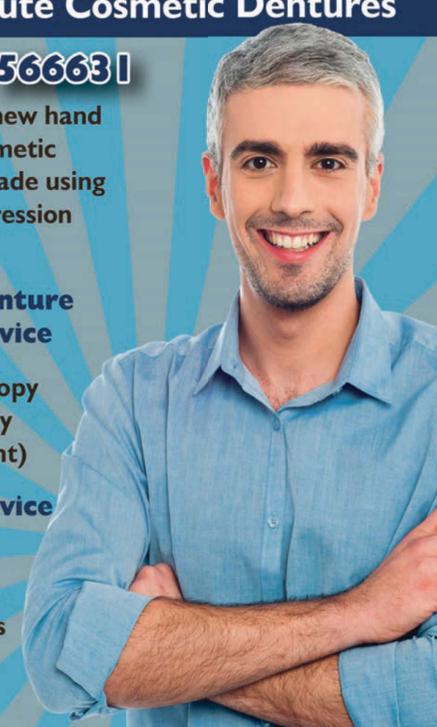
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Councillor 'owes it to electorate to resign'

LOUISE GLEN
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THE SNP has lashed out at a councillor who announced on Tuesday that he is standing down from the political party, but will not stand down from his seat in Oban Lorn and the Isles.

Opposition SNP leader Councillor Sandy Taylor hit out at Councillor Iain MacLean saying the community

of Oban, Lorn and the Isles would be unhappy that he was staying on as a councillor - and urged him to resign.

It is understood both Iain MacLean and Iain Angus MacDonald, who has resigned as a councillor for the area, were due to be disciplined by the SNP for non-attendance at both Argyll and Bute and community council meetings - as reported last week in *The Oban Times*.

Community councillor Antoinette Mitchell, of Kilninver and Kilmelford, said she had not seen Mr MacDonald for 'about four years' and Mr MacLean had only been 'once or twice' to other community council meetings.

Mrs Mitchell raised the matter with area chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish, but said she had heard nothing more.

Kieron Green, Oban Community Council secretary, said: '...having been around many community councils in Oban and Lorn most often there is only one Argyll and Bute councillor present, usually Elaine Robertson.'

'Either Iain MacLean or Iain Macdonald is usually at Ardchattan, and Iain MacLean has made appearances on occasion elsewhere; Seil and Luig I seem to recall.'

'I'm not sure I've seen Iain Macdonald ever apart from Oban and Ardchattan. Elaine Robertson is the only councillor I've ever seen at Lismore, Dunbeg, Appin, Taynuilt, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilmore, Kilninver and Kilmelford and Avich and Kilchrenan.'

Mr MacDonald and Mr MacLean were absent from the council's crucial budget meeting in March - and no explanation for their absence was given at the time.

Mr Taylor, leader of the SNP group, said: 'I am saddened to acknowledge the recent resignation of two colleagues.'

'I know that Councillor Iain MacDonald has found it increasingly difficult to meet the conflicting demands of his 'day job' and his role as an elected member of Argyll and Bute Council for Oban North and Lorn.'

'Being elected to public office, in service of your community brings many responsibilities, and I know that his decision to stand down will not

have been an easy one. I wish Mr MacDonald all the best for the future.'

Mr Taylor continued: 'In contrast, my former colleague councillor Iain MacLean has offered me no reason or insight into his decision to leave the SNP party whilst remaining as an elected member of the council.'

'Although Mr MacLean failed to attend important meetings of the SNP council group and the council of late when dealing with the council's critical budget deficit, the SNP council group nonetheless looked forward to working together as a united, principled opposition.'

'Mr MacLean's decision to resign from the party, but not from the council, will not be welcomed in his community.'

'I am clear that Mr MacLean owes a duty both to the electorate of Oban North and Lorn and those who worked in support of his election to resign as a member of the council to which he was elected as a party candidate.'

Attempts to contact Mr MacLean were made but at the time of going to press he had not responded.

Efforts have also been made to contact Mr MacDonald but he also has not responded.

Over the last four years in Oban Lorn and the Isles there have been five by-elections.

One was due to the death of John MacGregor of Oban only a few days after he was elected.

Another by-election was called following the resignation of Duncan MacIntyre of Kilmore due to ill health.

Three members have resigned due to other pressures and three have resigned from the SNP but have not stood down from their council wards.

Each by-election costs approximately £30,000 and even if held on the same day as another election costs are similar.



Traffic crawls along George Street.

Road chaos should be over by Friday

JAM-PACKED traffic in Oban brought the town to a standstill on Monday morning as workers and families were trying to get into work and school on time.

Reports of an hour-and-a-half to get across town were exacerbated by an emergency vehicle getting stuck in the traffic and police officers called to get it moving again.

The problem seemed to be the fitting of two refuge islands in the centre of George Street - a place in the middle of the road to let people cross the road safely.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The work is part of the council's ambitious project to improve Oban Bay.'

'These improvements will make a huge difference to the town once complete.'

'The specific works on

George Street will see new traffic islands installed, making it easier and safer for people to cross the road.'

'In last week's progress update we gave advance notice of this work, and an indicative timescale.'

'We are still working to that timescale and should have the islands installed by the end of the week, as planned.'

'In an effort to help traffic flow on Tuesday we agreed with Transport Scotland to cover the pedestrian crossing controls on George Street at West Coast Motors, another set by Specsavers and the set on Stafford Street by the North Pier.'

'This should help relieve some of the traffic congestion.'

The congestion was continuing at the time of going to press.

TIMESLINE

Tiree drink driver fined and banned

A 20-YEAR-OLD Tiree man lost his driving licence for 15 months and was fined £750 at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Creel boat skipper Stewart Cowling, of Clachan Dubh, Barapoll, was found guilty of being unfit to drive through drink and failing to stop and give details to the owner of a car after he reversed his pickup truck into it in the car park of the Tiree Lodge Hotel, on the island on September 12 last year.

Three staff from the hotel told the court that Cowling had been drinking in the bar. The manageress decided to clear the bar after a completely separate 'altercation'. Cowling left, but returned later. It was then his pickup truck collided with the parked car, as he reversed out of a parking space.

Defence agent Laura McManus said Cowling denied drinking as much as the witnesses said: 'He accepts he drove away but he did not come back. He does not accept he hit the car; he didn't hear any noise, there was no damage to the bumper of his pickup.'

Oban youngster's a record breaker

AN OBAN youngster has broken, by almost two metres, a shot-putt record set 12 years ago.

Murdo Masterson, 16, broke the sports hall athletics record set by James Campbell of Mull, throwing 15.15 metres.

Theatre upgrade at Oban hospital

PLANNED works are due to take place from March 21 to upgrade the theatre and endoscopy department within Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and will last for approximately three weeks.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Cedar or not a cedar - ask a consultant

WHEN is a fir tree a cedar tree?

If a report going before a planning committee is to be believed, it is when they are identified by a member of Argyll and Bute Council's planning staff.

The incorrect identification of fir trees as cedar trees has forced the local authority into hiring a tree specialist consultant to identify the type of tree before a preservation order can approved or dismissed.

The Tree Protection Order (TPO) proposed in December 2015 in relation to several trees on land at Kinlochlaich, Appin, has identified numerous trees on land belonging to Donald Hutchison of Kinlochlaich.

It so happens that the man is also a tree specialist and he says the trees are the more common fir and not the rarer cedar trees as Argyll and Bute Council had stated.

Council minutes state that Mr Hutchison wrote to the local authority on January 25 to question the identification of the trees raising the validity of the order because the wrong trees had been identified.

Mr Hutchison is a chartered

member of the Institute of Horticulture and operates a garden centre.

Mr Hutchison wrote again on February 23 with an initial arboriculture survey of the trees.

Ignoring that account, the local authority paid a consultant for an arboriculture survey.

The report, the local authority stated, was 'by a qualified and experienced arboriculturist'.

It identifies 14 trees as being within the family Abies, 'fir' trees.

The plan prepared by Argyll and Bute Council for the provisional TPO identifies the same trees as being 'cedars'.

The report states: 'Cedar' trees can belong to several family groupings but are not, it is alleged, within the family Abies.

'The arboriculture survey has examined the health and condition of each of the trees within and surrounding the development site, including all of the trees within the provisional TPO.'

The submitted report states that they are generally dead/part-dead/part-decayed and/or damaged, with several having suffered lightning strikes.



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LORN lines

Seil beekeeper to receive award for his contribution to magazine

A SEIL beekeeper will receive the Harry Brown Award at the Scottish Beekeepers Association AGM in Perth on Sunday March 20, for his outstanding contribution to the Scottish Beekeeper Magazine.

Last month Dr Phil Moss, an agricultural scientist and former secretary of the Oban Beekeepers Association, stepped down as editor after two years, during which time he oversaw the magazine transformation from black and white into colour. Dr Moss now plans to devote more time to keeping his beehives at Clachan Seil.



Ron Ganzfried, second left, with a number of Argyll residents who share an interest in Palestine.

Oban Concern for Palestine group welcomes speaker from Switzerland

A PUBLIC speaker from Switzerland travelled more than 1,100 miles to Oban to discuss the plight of Palestinians.

Ron Ganzfried, a grandfather of three, made the journey after being invited by the group Oban Concern for Palestine (OCCFP).

He addressed a meeting of concerned Argyll residents last Thursday at the Rockfield centre in the town.

Palestine is currently involved in an ongoing conflict with Israel.

Mr Ganzfried, who works at a telecommunication company in his home country, said: 'Last November I was here visiting a friend and she asked whether this would be an idea - I'm an activist on the Palestinian issue - so I said yes, why not?'

'I would like to talk about what Palestinians have to face in the coming years - confronting Israel, Zionism and I think that Israel and its ideology is a question of ethnic purity, which is inherently racist.'

'I hope people here contact their MP and MSPs to make them accountable for supporting Israel or not.'

Margaret Powell-Joss, member of Oban Concern for Palestine, said: 'Ron and I have been friends for ages and I have family who are interested in this.'

'I have a deep concern for human rights.'

She continued: 'This organisation was established in 2005 and I joined in 2008. We have two to four events a year.'

For more information, contact obanconcern4palestine@gmail.com.

Oban singer hits all the right notes to win Perth Rotary Club singing contest

OBAN'S Lora Macleod beat four fellow music students of the University of the Highlands and Islands to win a singing contest held by Perth Rotary Club in the city's Royal George Hotel on Tuesday March 1.

Music tutor Lisa Lulis selected the four students, including runner-up Anna-Lotte Vaskelainen from Finland, as those most likely to benefit from the experience of singing in public under the pressure of competition.

The performers competed for music shop vouchers, but all received financial help towards their music course costs.

BT's commitment to Argyll under scrutiny in debate

THE SERVICE standards of communications company BT came under scrutiny in Westminster Hall last Wednesday when Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara held the multi-million company to account.

Calling the delays in landlines and broadband connections in Argyll 'unacceptable', Mr O'Hara said he has a 'vast quantity of complaints' something he said should not continue.

Contributing to MP Caroline Noakes' Westminster Hall debate on BT service standards, Mr O'Hara said: 'I seized the opportunity at Westminster to challenge BT's commitment to Argyll and Bute amidst a vast quantity of complaints I have received about broadband and internet connectivity.'

'Complaints have been raised by constituents from Helens-

burgh to Kintyre and across our 26 island communities.'

'BT is letting our constituency down and the rollout of broadband across Argyll and Bute remains the biggest concern for our area.'

'The gaps in broadband availability and even delays in reconnecting rural communities to simple landlines is far more than an inconvenience. 'Whilst many are battling to reverse the trend in depopulation, BT are becoming a stumbling block to those efforts and the impact ranges from rural landlines to disadvantaging our schoolchildren struggling to access essential education materials.'

A BT spokesman said: 'BT recognises the importance of digital communication to communities, particularly in rural areas, which is why we are

rolling out faster broadband services across Scotland. These high-speed services are available over Openreach's open network, used by hundreds of companies to offer services at a variety of speeds and prices.'

'We're also working with public sector partnerships across Scotland to roll out faster broadband services to areas that wouldn't otherwise be served by commercial deployments and we've made great progress. Already, more than 55 per cent of premises in Argyll and Bute can benefit from faster fibre broadband and by the end of 2016 we'll have connected eight in 10 Argyll and Bute homes and businesses. The work to deliver services to these areas is complex, time-consuming and expensive. For example, in summer 2014 BT undertook

it's most ambitious domestic subsea work around Scotland, linking island communities around Scotland together with land-based connections, for the first time.'

'Some 20 separate subsea connections were made which includes links between Oban and Mull and between Tiree and Mull.'

'This will allow new exchange areas to go live in coming months such as Aros, Ardentiny, Clachan, Connell, Ford, Kilmelford, Tayvallich and Toward. The first properties on the islands of Coll and Tiree will also go live for the first time.'

Additional coverage will be added to existing locations like Balvicar, Dunoon, Lochgilphead, Strachur, Tarbert, and Tobermory on Mull in the next few months.'

Police files

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a close on Alma Crescent in Oban was sprayed with graffiti between 6pm on Wednesday March 9 and 6pm the following day.

Anyone with any information is urged to call 101 and ask for PC Masterson at Oban Police Office.

A 55-YEAR-OLD woman failed an alcohol breathalyser test after police stopped her vehicle in Oban's Morvern Hill at 5.10pm on Thursday March 10.

She later failed to provide further samples without a reasonable excuse at Oban Police Office and was held in custody for a court appearance the next day.

POLICE detained a 28-year-old and 23-year-old man under the Misuse of Drugs Act after stopping their vehicle on Oban's Dunollie Road at 8.30pm on Wednesday March 9.

The pair were subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, and were held in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

A 31-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal for driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, after he failed a breathalyser test when police stopped his vehicle at 9am on Sunday March 13 at Corran Esplanade, Oban.

Biker clocked at 98mph on A85

GETTING clocked on the A85 going at 98mph cost a 51-year-old motorcyclist £400 and added six penalty points to his licence.

Guy Goodlad of 17 High Croft, Brandon, Durham, admitted speeding when he appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Goodlad was the last of a group of three bikes heading east along the 60mph trunk road on September 19 2015. He apologised, saying he and a friend were touring when another motorcyclist overtook them and they allowed their speed to creep up.

Appeal to always wear a lifejacket

THE 2016 trout season opened on March 15 and community charity LochWatch has issued a timely reminder about wearing lifejackets while on, at or near Loch Awe.

Chairman of LochWatch Loch Awe Iain MacKinnon said: 'Wearing a lifejacket is a simple precaution that will help save your life should an accident occur. Having a lifejacket with you in the boat is not enough; it must be worn at all times to be effective.'

Top cadet's delight at trip donation

AN OBAN sea cadet will wave goodbye to his friends and family as he sets sail to spend one week aboard a training vessel thanks to a generous donation.

Orin Corlett, 16, from Ardfern, was named Oban Sea Cadet's cadet of the year 2015. He will learn sailing and leadership skills on the *TS Royalist* thanks to the Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC), which will cover the £295 cost of Orin's seven-day adventure.

Commanding Officer for Oban Sea Cadets Lt Ewan McCuish said: 'Our sail training vessel *TS Royalist* is a fantastic opportunity for a youngster to go offshore and to discover the reality of working at sea, sometimes in challenging conditions.'

'Cadets get the chance to learn new skills and to experience acting as part of a team, as well as enhancing their self-esteem and quite possibly making new friends for life. It's marvellous that the RHYC has helped make this possible for a member of our unit, and we'll look forward to hearing Able Cadet Corlett's account of his adventures.'



Former commodore of the Royal Highland Yacht Club Robert Clement, right, congratulates cadet Orin Corlett, who will enjoy a week on board the Sea Cadets training vessel *TS Royalist*.

Easter holiday health plan to reduce pressure on NHS

NHS 24 has launched a Be Health-Wise campaign this Easter holiday, to help reduce pressure on vital NHS services during one of its busiest times of year.

GP surgeries in Argyll and Bute are closed Friday March 25 and re-open Tuesday March 29. People are reminded to

check their local GP surgery and community pharmacy opening hours, and to make sure they have a supply of over-the-counter medicines and repeat prescriptions.

NHS 24's medical director, Professor George Crooks, urged people to stay safe and be prepared: 'It's an early

Easter this year so there could be winter colds and illnesses around, alongside spring challenges such as hay fever,' he said.

NHS Highland associate medical director Dr Ken Proctor added: 'With children off school, and with improving weather, there can be an in-

creased risk of minor injuries like cuts and bruises, so make sure antiseptic cream or wipes and plasters are part of your home medicine cabinet.'

Although many GP surgeries will be closed at Easter, hundreds of GPs will be working out-of-hours services across Scotland.

Sheriff sentences Oban man to six months for drug offences

AN OBAN man was sent to jail on Monday for six months for drugs offences.

The sentence on David McGillivray, aged 38, was backdated to the start of December last year when he was arrested.

He admitted possessing heroin in his room at Shore Street Flats,

Oban, on November 13 last year and also on December 2; he was also also found to have Diazepam on December 2.

He was given six months for each offence to run concurrently.

The town's sheriff court also heard that he had lost his rented home after being taken into custody.

'Well he's a healthier looking colour than the last time I saw him,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who asked if McGillivray had yet come to a place in his life where he could agree to being placed on a Drug Treatment and Testing Order.

A number of other drug addicts in the area have done so already.

'DTTOs are expensive and they are not easy,' said the sheriff.

The offender has to agree to take part and be willing to accept treatment and be frequently and randomly drug tested. They must attend court on at least a monthly basis so that the sheriff can review their progress.

Loch Awe survival skills holiday leads man to jail

A MAN from Hull who thought the waters of Loch Awe near Kilchurn Castle were remote enough to practise survival skills was sentenced to four months in jail.

'Remote? It's right opposite a trunk road,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Peter Moore, aged 40, of 28 Kings Bench Street, Hull, had a warrant issued for his arrest after failing to attend court

for the offences which took place on September 9, 2014. He admitted being in a public place with a .177 air rifle and possessing cannabis resin.

Moore and three friends hired a boat and visited Kilchurn Castle; he returned to the boat first and was seen by two anglers to fire the rifle into reeds and they contacted the police.

After his subsequent arrest Moore was taken to Oban

Police Station where a small amount of cannabis was found in his pocket. In his defence it was said Moore and his friends were survival skills enthusiasts and thought the location a remote enough area to practise.

He was admonished for possessing cannabis but Sheriff Anderson said she was sending him to jail for the gun charge 'given your record and the circumstances of the offence'. The gun was forfeited.

Firm ditches elephant treks after Islay man's death

TRAVEL agent Thomson has removed elephant treks from its itineraries after an Islay man's death in January.

The holiday planner will also cease offering elephant rides after Gareth Crowe, 36, was killed while on holiday with his family on Koh Samui, Thailand, after the animal turned on its handler.

Thomson chief executive Nick Longman said: 'All excursions

involving elephant shows, in which elephants exhibit unnatural behaviour, have already been removed from our customer offering. In addition, we are working with partners in various destinations to phase out any elephant riding excursions over the course of 2016.'

This decision will apply across the entire TUI Group - the world's largest travel company - of which Thomson is part.

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FW

Saints in bid to reach Scottish Cup semi-final for the first time

THIS Saturday afternoon at Glencruitten Park, Oban Saints manager Alex Craik bids to make history by leading his charges into the previously uncharted territory of the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finals.



Oban Saints manager Alex Craik.

Barring the path to a semi-final showdown against either Kingdom Caledonian AFA high flyers Leven United or Linlithgow Thistle of the Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Premier Division are Ayrshire AFA First Division outfit Shortlees Amateurs.

The Lees are the form team in the Ayrshire Amateur ranks with a 100 per cent start to their league campaign and a place in the semi-finals of the Ayrshire Cup already secured as they strive to go one better than last season's runners-up spot against all conquering Hurlford Thistle.

Their semi-final slot was confirmed last weekend with a 3-1 away win against fierce local rivals New Farm Loch whom Saints fans will recall from the West of Scotland Amateur Cup fourth round tie at Oban High School in January.

On that occasion Saints also

prevailed by three goals to one before falling at the next hurdle to the seemingly invincible Colville Park.

Shortlees, however, made it a double of quarter final qualifications in the national cup competitions with last month's sixth round 4-0 win over three-time winners Dalziel High School Former Pupils of the Caledonian League Premier Division.

Relentless
The Kilmarnock side have also been relentless in their pursuit of Scottish Amateur Cup glory cementing their place in the quarter-finals with a thoroughly convincing 5-0 win over Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Championship leaders Shotts Victoria taking their goal tally to 34 goals in seven matches.

Saints, however, can point to an equally impressive run in Scottish amateur football's most

prestigious competition which notably includes the scalps of last season's runners-up Craigshill Thistle and runaway Caledonian League Premier Division leaders Doune Castle.

A good turnout of local fans is anticipated and with the Shortlees supporters likely to travel in large numbers to cheer on their favourites the stage is set for a thrilling cup tie between two well-matched teams standing at the edge of semi-final glory.

The Oban side had Shortlees watched in their 3-1 win over New Farm Loch last Saturday when former manager Iain Jackson ran the rule over Saints' opponents and he will be giving Alex Craik some useful information on the Kilmarnock men.

Manager Craik's preparations for the biggest test of his tenure so far received a set-back when

last Saturday's Scottish Amateur League Premier Division match against league leaders and reigning champions St Joseph's FP had to be postponed on the morning of the match.

Glencruitten failed to withstand Friday and Saturday's deluge leaving an eager to go Saints squad kicking their heels and hoping that the cancellation will not prove too disruptive of the terrific head of steam built up in recent weeks.

Unfortunately due to two other games taking place it wasn't possible to switch the game to the 3G at Oban High School.

Foot injury
Alex Craik's team selection options narrowed somewhat with the news that the re-occurrence of Martin Bonar's foot injury will keep him out of action for the remainder of the season. This significant blow was

Football

compounded when news of Dene Cassells' suspension for his ordering off against Colville Park in last month's West of Scotland Amateur Cup tie came through from Hampden Park.

Cassells' red card in the dying minutes of the fifth round tie will keep him on the sidelines for six matches which is enormously frustrating at this crucial stage of the season.

On a more positive note Saints confirmed the re-signing of Brian MacKay, who will be a valuable addition to the squad with the big fixtures coming thick and fast.

Despite losing Bonar and Cassells from his plans manager Craik will still be able to name a strong squad as he plots to take Saints into their first ever Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final.

Argyll athletics final on Saturday

Athletics

ATLANTIS Leisure in Oban is the venue this Sunday, March 20, for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final which is sponsored this year by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust.

The competition starts at noon in the large games hall at Atlantis with young athletes from most parts of Argyll taking part in various running, jumping and throwing events.

The final on Sunday is the last of a series of competitions held in the district this winter starting with local area events in Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Tobermory and finally the Oban area event held last Sunday.

Successful qualifiers from the local contests will now come together in Oban with as many as 120 young athletes, from five years to 16 years, participating in what should be an enthralling competition.

Athletes are reminded to register between 11am and noon on Sunday with the first events starting at noon.

Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third overall in each age group.

The Argyll Sports Hall competitions are promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v East Kilbride postponed; Oban Saints v St Joseph's FP postponed; Premier Division One - Ferguslie 9, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Neilston, Dunoon 3; Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU 2, Tarbert 3; Coronation Cup, first round - Dunoon Athletic 5, Whitehill FP 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, quarter finals - Oban Saints v Shortlees; Premier Division - East Kilbride v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Busby; Lochgilphead Red Star v Jamestown; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Rosehill Star.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under-13s v Drumchapel, postponed; Dumbarton United 2, Under-14s 0; Under-15s v Helensburgh; Under-16s v Busby, postponed; Riverside 5, Under-19s 1. Scoring for Saints was Douglas MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures: Under-13s v Ardenchapel; Under-14s v Drumchapel United; Under-15s v Broomhill; Port Glasgow v Under-16s; Under-19s v Milngavie.

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Revenge is sweet for Green Machine as team defeat Lenzie

Oban Lorne	13
Lenzie	6
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne welcomed Lenzie to Glencruitten on Saturday for the second game between the sides in 2016. Lenzie recorded a 25-19 victory over the Green Machine in January.

Oban were looking for revenge against the visitors and also a much-needed win that would see the team reclaim fourth place in the league.

Coach Corrie Louw was without a couple of key players for the game with injuries to Lorne MacLachlan and Struan Smith. Connor Ferris started his first game in a green jersey in over 10 months, playing in the front row.

Both sides played out a scrappy opening to the game with play being disrupted by both teams being constantly offside and giving away needless penalties.

Lenzie took the lead with a penalty after 15 minutes to lead 3-0.

Oban settled into the game and had a good period of attacking possession in the away 22. Callum MacLachlan burst over the line after an impressive run to put Oban 7-3 ahead after 20 minutes.

With the conditions deteriorating both sides struggled to create any meaningful passages of play.

The second half was similar to the first with a midfield battle ongoing with two forward dominated teams adapting to the poor playing conditions at Glencruitten.

Lenzie were dealt a blow with a sinning of their hooker which in turn disadvantaged Oban's strong scrum with the sides being forced to play uncontested scrums for the duration of the sinning.

Oban's scrum half Finlay Carmichael kicked two successful penalties to increase the lead to



Argyll and Bute's Michael MacKinnon breaks through the Hyndland defence during last Saturday's match at Connel

Rugby

13-3 while the visitors hit back with a penalty to narrow the gap in the closing stages to 13-6.

In the end it was a forgettable game of rugby with Oban running out comfortable winners despite the low scoreline.

The win means that Oban Lorne move back up to fourth place above Allan Glens who the Green Machine face away from home next Saturday - kick off 3pm in Bishopbriggs.

Argyll and Bute	27
Hyndland	7
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL took on Hyndland at North Connel on Saturday. The home side were hoping for a win that would see them keep up the pressure on the teams above them in the league.

Hyndland kicked off in what was going to be a very wet afternoon of rugby. The first 10 minutes of the game was taken up by both stand-offs kicking for territory without any notable attacking plays.

Both sides then started to find space with the ball and attacked well when in possession.

Argyll took the lead when Centre Lewis MacFarlane kicked through a loose ball, and gathered to run close to the line before passing inside to Roddy Morrison who set up Sandile Khumalo for the days first try, 5-0.

The home side took confidence from this and impressed with some strong runs by Andrew Johnston, Neil Rimmer and Jamie MacMillan.

Argyll looked to have scored when Andrew Johnston picked and went close to the line, the referee would not give the score but a quick pick-up and touchdown



Oban Lorn's Cameron Smith is backed up by Tommy Sutherland as they head for the Lenzie line during last Saturday's match at Glencruitten. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

over the line by scrum half Niall MacFarlane increased the Argyll lead to 12-0 with a conversion from Dom Ma.

Argyll went into the half-time break comfortably in the lead but knew they would have to play better in the second half to keep Hyndland out of the game.

The second half started with the match referee warning both sides about the high number of ruck infringements which would eventually lead to a yellow card. Hyndland were shortly reduced a man with the referee proving true to his word. Argyll then lost Robert McCall to the sin bin for the same circumstances.

With 20 minutes remaining Argyll sub Michael MacKinnon came off the bench and made a couple of good breaks down the wing. This resulted in the third try of the day when MacKinnon offloaded to Seamus Morrison, who finished off in the corner.



The Green Machine's Andy MacDougall is stopped in his tracks by two Lenzie defenders.

Dom Ma again converted for a 19-0 lead.

Straight from the kick-off Argyll broke free, again from MacKinnon who put Morrison in for his second try of the afternoon in quick succession. Argyll took the lead to 26-0.

Just as Robert McCall returned to the field Argyll were down a player again with Dom Ma going off due to not using his arms in the tackle. Hyndland dominated the last

10 minutes of play but could not breach the Argyll tryline with some very strong defence. Eventually the referee awarded a penalty try to the visitors due to the high number of penalties being given away by Argyll close to the line.

In the end it was a comfortable bonus point win for Argyll & Bute. The team have a week off from matches and face their next opposition, Cowal RFC in Oban on Saturday March 26.

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Lochaber Phoenix boxing brothers both lift Scottish titles

BOXING brothers Cameron and Tyler Whyte both lifted Scottish titles at the Scottish Open Schoolboy and Junior Championships at Ravenscraig.

When the championships are over (this Saturday) the Whyte boys will become the most successful for the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club.

Not only have they claimed two golds, but 14-year-old Ewan Easson has negotiated his way through to his final on Saturday and is guaranteed at least a silver, if not the gold.

It's incredibly difficult to become the best boxer in the country at a given weight, so for two brothers to achieve this in the same year is quite an achievement.

Thirteen-year-old Cameron Whyte claimed the Scottish title for a fourth consecutive year.

His semi-final opponent was Owen Duffy from Kilmarnock's Northwest club. Duffy is a strong forward boxer but Whyte tried to beat him at his own game. This resulted in a very messy round with the styles clashing.

In the second round, Whyte dictated the range the contest was fought at and began to land powerful shots with both hands forcing Duffy to the ropes for extended periods. This continued into the last round and, although Whyte ran out a clear points winner, it was a hard-fought contest.

His final was against the highly regarded Marc Johnstone from Forgewood boxing club.

Johnstone is known for having an excellent jab, so the Lochaber youngster tried to take that jab away in the opener.

Halfway through the second round Whyte landed a booming overhand right cross, which buckled Johnstone at the knees and prompted Whyte to bombard

Boxing

him with shots until the round's end.

In the last round Whyte put in a thumping body shot and was able to land enough clean shots to take the round.

Tyler Whyte's semi-final bout was contested against Callum Smith from Edinburgh's Lochend club.

The first round was very competitive although Whyte, 11, forced Smith to box at a pace he was uncomfortable with enabling him to comfortably initiate and end the exchanges. The Lochaber boxer upped the tempo in the next round and Smith struggled to keep up.

Whyte proceeded to totally dominate the last round and ran out a comfortable points winner.

In the final day Whyte faced Alex Cullen from Linwood. This was another bout that was fought at a pace befitting the best two boxers in Scotland. Cullen tried to come forward behind his jab while Whyte attempted to land two-handed attacks as he powered forward. Whyte started to take over in the second round with the third more of the same.

Fourteen-year-old Ewan Easson has been a revelation in his short boxing career, reaching the final of this Scottish championships this Saturday, all in under 10 contests.

Ryan Whiteley of Viewpark was his opponent in the semi-final.

All three rounds followed a similar pattern as both boxers tried to steal points and force mistakes from their opponents.

The judges decided to go with the greater variety from Ewan which was well deserved as he refused to waver from his tactics and showed great self discipline.



Lochaber Phoenix boxing brothers Tyler and Cameron White lifted Scottish titles at the Scottish Open Schoolboy and Junior Championships. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Robert MacDonald, 14, was also in action but bowed out to the vastly more experienced and highly decorated Scottish international Lewis Byrne of Barrhead Boxing Club. MacDonald had never boxed at these sort of levels before but was undaunted by the task at hand and had a lot of success with his movement and straight shots.

Young Lochaber team no match for Moray

Moray	86
Lochaber	7
Caledonian League - Div 2 North	

LOCHABER travelled to Moray at the weekend with a very young and inexperienced team; a couple of boys either playing their first senior game or their first game of rugby.

Moray scored two tries early on but were looking shaky under the restarts with Lochaber putting on good pressure.

This is how they scored their only try of the game when Moray yet again failed to catch the kick off Callum Boyd who kicked the ball along the ground and picked it up a few meters from the line.

Converted
Callum managed to get the ball down over the try line despite two defenders tackling him. He then converted his own try to bring the score to 10-7.

It looked briefly like it could be a competitive game but Moray

Rugby

started putting more pressure on and ran away with it, the final score being 86-7.

Lochaber stay seventh in the league with four games remaining after there was a change with Kinloss Eagles pulling out of the league.

Lochaber's next game is at home to Ross Sutherland on Saturday March 26, kick-off 3pm.

Waterlogged pitch causes another cancellation

Football

A WATERLOGGED pitch at Claggan Park once again forced Fort William's match on Saturday to be postponed.

They were due to play Huntly in the Highland League.

However, the team was given a boost after a 3-1 win against Rothes last Wednesday evening.

Fort were one down at half-time but came back fighting after the break with goals from Liam Taylor, Michael Ellis and Scottie Davidson.

Coach Alan Gray said: 'It really gave the boys a boost. We had lots of opportunities, but we started slow.'

'Ally spoke to them at half-time and they came out with more spirit and got a well-deserved win.'

This week will be a difficult one for Fort as they were due to play top of the league Brora Rangers last night (Wednesday) and face Cove Rangers on Saturday.

Gary Cowan leads scratch league

Tenpin bowling

AFTER week four of the tenpin bowling singles leagues at the Fort William's Nevis Centre, Gary Cowan leads the scratch league with 71 points.

Brian Johnstone follows with 67 points and Darren Duncan with 66 points. Gary also leads the handicap league with 64 points, followed by Brian on 63 points and Darren on 59.

Gary Cowan leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1924 pins.

Next is Ben Weller with 1883 and Brian Johnstone is third with 1863 pins.

There were a lot of good individual games this week, the best coming from Ben Weller with an outstanding three games of 210, 209 and 183.

Other good games came from John Weller with 189, Tommy McKnight, 185, Brian Johnstone, 184, Tim Attack, 181, Gary Cowan, 177, and Pam Weller with 170.

The top three game scratch series this week was by Ben Weller with 602. Ben also rolled the top three game handicap series with 728.

Final qualifying winter league race

Athletics

LOCHABER Athletic Club's Glen 10k on Sunday was the final qualifying winter league race.

The club's junior (under-23) Steven Burns was first to cross the finish line in 36:07.

Top 10 finishers were all from LAC: 1 Steven Burns 36:07; 2 Aidan Donnelly 36:58; 3 Steven Monk 37:30; 4 Gavin MacMillan 38:51; 5 Ben Dodman (vet 40) 40:32; 6 Colin Britton 41:07; 7 Niall Macbeath (vet 40) 42:50; 8 Markus Mertens (vet 40) 43:29; 9 Brian Campbell (vet 50) 43:33; 10 Emma Britton 44:25.

The prize-giving for the qualifiers and medal winners takes place this Saturday at the Nevis Centre.

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Kinlochleven High School girls' football team.

Girls visit Ross County FC

KINLOCHLEVEN High School girls' football team recently visited the home of newly crowned 2016 Scottish League

Girls' football

Cup winners Ross County FC. The girls arrived at the Global Energy stadium and took part in training at the Highland Football Academy.

They were then given tickets for Ross County's match against Hamilton Academical, which was won by the home team 2-1.

Fourth year pupil Rebecca Small said: 'It was an amazing match even though it was pouring and freezing. All in all I think we would all go back in a flash as we had a fantastic day and we were really lucky to have been given such an amazing opportunity.'

Welfare football

ANY team wishing to enter this year's Lochaber Welfare League should send a representative to the meeting in the railway club on Tuesday March 22 at 7pm.

The meeting is being held earlier as some teams last year struggled to field a team if they had two games in a week. The league may have to start earlier to accommodate this.

Children enjoy cross country challenge

MORE than 100 children from 15 primary schools around Lochaber took part in the annual cross country running competition.

The fun and challenging course was just under 1.5 miles long and wound its way through Leanachan Forest, passing the hole in the wall, going along MacKenzie's Road, underneath the highwire adventure course and finished at Nevis Range.

Encouraged
The youngsters were cheered and encouraged by around 20 marshals, who were pupils from Lochaber High School.

The competition, organised by

Lochaber visiting PE staff, with the help of High Life Highland, had a few different categories, including the individual competition, the team event and the girls' team and the boys' team event.

In the girls' race Alice Anne MacPherson, from Lochside, took the first place trophy with a great time of 11:17. Caol primary's Molly Blackhall wasn't far behind to take second place and rounding out the podium was Hannah Loughray from Spean Bridge.

In the boys' race the fastest runner was Innes Orr, from Inverloch primary, who ran

the course in a new record of 9:42, with a clear lead over second-placed Josh Wallace from Lundavra. Following closely behind was Caol primary's Ben MacKinnon. Innes was presented with the Rotary cup as the fastest overall runner.

Team events
In the team events the points were given according to each runner's individual result. There was a tie for first place in the girls teams with both Spean Bridge primary and Caol primary gaining 23 points each.

For the boys, Lundavra primary were the clear winners with all

Cross country

three of their runners finishing in the top five.

The results in the mixed team event category were based on each team's fastest two girls and two boys. After adding up all of the scores it was Caol primary which took the Samuel and Partners' shield home with a great score of 28 points. Second was Lochside with 33 points and third with 40 points was Lundavra.

The organisers would like to thank all of those involved in helping to ensure a smoothly run event.



The winning teams: 1 Caol, centre; 2 Lochside, left; and 3 Lundavra, right. Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light Cloud
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Friday Thick cloud
Winds light north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

Weekend Outlook Thick cloud on Saturday
Thick cloud on Sunday
Winds light north north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 4°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 17, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	06.50	1.6	13.52	2.8	19.07	1.5
Fri	01.56	2.9	08.43	1.5	15.22	2.9
Sat	03.27	3.1	09.53	1.4	16.09	3.1
Sun	03.58	3.3	10.38	1.2	16.34	3.3
Mon	04.30	3.5	11.15	1.1	17.01	3.5
Tues	05.03	3.7	11.47	1.0	17.31	3.7
Wed	05.37	3.9	12.18	0.9	18.02	3.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate