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# 'Terrifying' cuts feared as Argyll struggles with health 'crisis'

**SANDY NEIL AND KATHIE GRIFFITHS**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AS ARGYLL and Bute's health managers secretly discuss 'savage' cuts of more than 400 jobs and propose closing all their care homes, day care and learning disability centres to plug a £13million black hole in this year's budget, an SNP minister has accused them of failing and being unfit for purpose.

The trade union Unison broke cover last Friday urging the Scottish Government to halt '400 redundancies' and a 'massive range' of cuts and privatisation proposals by Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Its overseeing Integrated Joint Board (IJB) is facing 'very difficult decisions' next Wednesday (March 28), when it must decide which cuts to adopt in a bid to save £13m from its £263m budget for 2018-19.

Unison urged ministers to oppose the HSCP's 'slash and burn' approach to services, adding: 'The IJB is to be asked to privatise all remaining in-house home care services. Cutting care homes, learning disability day centres and closing wards to relocate workers from the collapsing Aros building [in Lochgilphead] in to a PFI ward, to mention just some of the cuts, is not the actions of a credible public service and is crisis management.'

Papers released this week seemed to confirm these cuts and more, including closing older people's day care centres such as Lynnside in Oban and Struan Lodge in Dunoon with the loss

of 60 jobs, reviewing home care services, and withdrawing lunch clubs and meals on wheels, except in remote areas where charges would likely rise.

However, Unison revealed some cuts would be decided 'in private so the public are prevented from scrutinising deliberations about their services'. The *Oban Times* understands the HSCP will propose closing all its older people's care homes in Argyll and Bute, including Eader Glynn in Oban, Tigh a Rhuda on Tiree and Gortanvog on Islay, with more than 275 staff at risk of redundancy. If the homes close, residents will have to be found beds in other privately-run homes.

Argyll and Bute's SNP MSP Michael Russell also disclosed: 'Whilst they will put a few things on the table next week at their open meeting, they have now admitted to keeping secret a document which they intend to discuss later in private and which details a terrifying further range of options for more cost cutting.

'These are believed to include the complete privatisation of all elderly care, the closure of all day centres, a reduction in the number of midwives and other essential staff, and yet more pressure on the most vulnerable such as further reduction of the help available for sleepovers.'

Mr Russell sought to blame the HSCP, 'despite their spin to the contrary', for failing 'to implement effective budgetary control year after year', and called for an immediate change in management and governance.

'Local people and hardworking health and care staff are utterly fed up with this situation and with the constant pressures on



### Benderloch and North Connel sweep the boards at festival

Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club cleaned up at this year's Lorn Drama Festival, winning nine trophies. The club was successful in the adult and junior sections, claiming first prize in both. More than 10 plays were performed over three nights. Full story and photographs can be found on pages 16 and 17.

services,' he said. 'Too much centralised bureaucracy, ineffective, confusing consultations and misguided, and often futile, attempts to force through unacceptable closures have resulted in an ever worsening financial position.'

'The previous programmes of cuts haven't worked. Yet the

senior management's only answer is to do again what they have done before in the desperate hope it might produce a different result.'

'It won't. Even if these cuts happened we would be back again next year in the same position.'

'It is the people who are running the show who are the problem

because they have the wrong solutions. That needs to change, and change now. It is essential some stability is provided, either from within the organisation or from outside intervention so management and governance changes are made which will produce an organisation fit for purpose.'

IJB vice chair councillor Kieron Green said: 'The IJB has a duty to consider a balanced budget that meets the objectives of our strategic plan, and if additional resources could be made available by the Scottish Government to help us achieve this then these would be most welcome.'

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## Warning Argyll could lose GPs in new contract

NEXT month's new GP contract will lead to rural practices losing doctors and services, patients warned at a last-minute consultation, writes Sandy Neil.

'There is huge concern about this,' councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'A lot of people do not understand what is happening.'

The new contract, which comes into force on Sunday April 1, was negotiated by the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Scottish Government, and agreed by the GP workforce.

But patients and GPs argue it will disadvantage rural GP practices, Luing, Tainuill and Kilmelford community councillors told a meeting in Oban's Rockfield Centre on Tuesday, chaired by Carradale resident Karen Murphy.

'Rural and remote communities will

be left without safe medical care,' Ms Murphy said. 'They are talking about some services going elsewhere. At the heart of this is the workload allocation formula [determining how much money GP practices get]. Potentially GPs could go down from five days a week to two. There will be lots of recruitment and retention issues in rural areas.'

'Many GPs are leaving the BMA because they feel let down. Only 39 per cent voted, which is not an engaged workforce. This was clumsily managed. They did not tell us until the last possible minute.'

Retired Appin GP Dr Iain McNicol said: 'It works fine for cities. It does not make sense in a small, rural area where there is one provider. Once this safety net period passes after three years, we

will see a drift away of GPs, because practice incomes will plummet. We need something different for rural areas.'

The group urged Holyrood to look immediately at the issues raised by rural patients and GPs, give them a 'meaningful' place on a working group and adjust GPs' workload allocation formula.

'We are not saying do not do it, just make these adjustments,' she said.

'I want people to write to politicians and get in touch with us via our Rural and Remote Patients Group on Facebook. There are a lot of people out there interested. This is the NHS!'

Councillor Roddy McCuish added: 'This will only change with political will.' Views must be submitted via www.alliance-scotland.org.uk by Wednesday March 28.

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## Appeal to support Earth Hour 2018

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has urged constituents to get behind WWF Scotland's Earth Hour campaign to help protect wildlife from the effects of climate change.

The annual Earth Hour campaign encourages people to switch off their lights for one hour at 8.30pm on Saturday March 24 to highlight climate change and its effects.

This year, the theme for Earth Hour is #PromiseForYourPlanet which asks members of the public to take an action which will help protect the planet, including switching to a reusable coffee cup, washing clothes at 30°C, or composting left over food.

Donald Cameron MSP said: 'While this event only lasts for an hour, the effects of climate change will remain forever unless we take action now to reduce our carbon footprint.'

For the ninth year, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will participate in World Earth Hour.

At 8.30pm on Saturday March 24, the comhairle will switch off the lights at the war memorial on the outskirts of Stornoway.

To sign up for Earth Hour or for more information visit [www.earthhour.org/](http://www.earthhour.org/)

## Fisheries sectors gather in Uist

A HIGH profile fisheries conference was organised by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in Benbecula this month on the theme Future Opportunities for Island Fisheries Communities.

The conference brought together representatives from all the fisheries sectors in the Hebrides as well as key stakeholders in the industry.

There were also contributions from representatives from the Clyde Fishermen's Association and the Orkney Fisheries Association.

## New boat for cruise firm

Scottish small-ship cruising specialist The Majestic Line has confirmed a new purpose-built vessel will be delivered for its 2019 summer season.

The building of the Glen Shiel begins this month at Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Co Ltd on the island of Bute and will see Majestic Line's newest boat complement three existing boats.

# Holyrood grants £4.4m for Ulva community buyout

SANDY NEIL

sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY bid to buy the Isle of Ulva has been granted £4.4million by the Scottish Government, enabling open negotiations to begin with the owner.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWM-CWC) now has until Saturday June 9 to agree terms with the Howard family, raise the rest of the required funding and complete the sale.

The group hopes to buy the estate, which spans 2,000 hectares and includes the 12km-long Isle of Ulva which is home to just six residents, as well as land on nearby Mull. The buyout group aims to attract new residents by increasing economic activity and housing stock.

In December 2017, following an independent ballot of 401 voters in north-west Mull, almost 64 per cent of people

were in favour of the community buyout. The value for both the Ulva Estate (£4.2 million) and Ardalum House, if bought together, is £4.5 million.

Colin Morrison, chairman of NWM-CWC, said: 'Our application to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) has been approved. Under the Land Reform Act, we already have the right to buy all of the estate apart from Ardalum House for £4,241,000 and the SLF grant award of up to £4,415,200 means we can now open up negotiations and make a fair and serious offer for the whole estate.'

'This award from the SLF is hugely significant, not only for Ulva but also more broadly for north-west Mull.'

'Our top priority is to renovate the existing buildings and provide secure leases for present and new residents and businesses. We aim to have 20 or more people living on Ulva within two or three years, rising to as many

as 50 or more as new houses are built.

'Social and economic development of Ulva will bring benefits to the neighbouring communities on Mull. Schools, shops, local services and industry will all receive a boost from the increased population and from the increased number of visitors we are confident we shall see once accommodation and facilities are provided on the island.'

'We hope we will be able to enter into constructive discussions with the owners so that we can successfully conclude a deal for the whole estate. However, to protect the community's interest under the right we have been granted, we shall immediately be making a formal offer for the registered land, which comprises the bulk of the estate.'

'This is a momentous day in the story of Ulva and north-west Mull, but we still have much to do. Our fundraising effort has to step up a gear to ensure we can

fund not only the purchase but also the high priority developments identified in our business plan.'

SLF chairman John Watt said: 'It's with great pleasure the Scottish Land Fund awards this funding to the NWM-CWC. This means local people are one step closer to extending the area the community currently owns and in doing so putting the future of the island of Ulva firmly in local hands.'

'It is a momentous day for all those involved and I wish them every success as they go on to raise the remaining funding that will allow them to turn their dreams into reality.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added: 'This is fantastic news for Mull, for Argyll and the Highlands and Islands.'

'The proposed buyout of Ulva leads community land purchase in a new direction, seeking to take places that have suffered ruinous depopulation back into

the mainstream by devising and implementing community-led plans to attract new inhabitants and develop new enterprises.'

'This is a ground-breaking proposal and I am delighted it has attracted the largest-ever grant from the Scottish Land Fund.'

'The fund exists to take forward community ownership of assets presently held by the private or public sector but which would be better managed and run by communities. In recognising the unique nature of the ideas being considered for Ulva, it has expressed its support for a vision of a revitalised, socially just and economically productive Highlands and Islands and I am sure the community will work hard to achieve their part of it.'

'I hope the current owners of Ulva will now work constructively with the community to complete the purchase. It can be a fine legacy for the work they and their family have done there.'

## Western Isles lands £2.3m funding

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has been awarded £2.3 million from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for an investment programme in Newton, Stornoway.

Projects totalling more than £9 million will be carried out through a partnership between the comhairle, Stornoway Port Authority and local private business interests.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the comhairle's sustainable development committee, said: 'The comhairle recognises that Stornoway's Newton area, including Goat Island, has suffered dereliction through a lack of investment over a number of years. The RCGF's £2.3 million will help deliver projects that create sustainable employment and improve the visual blight affecting the local community.'

'The comhairle's economic development regeneration team is engaging with local businesses and Stornoway Port Authority to support the pre- and post-construction phases of these projects.'

In December 2017, the comhairle hosted an open day in Newton to consult on the planned developments.

Stornoway Port Authority will host community consultations in the coming months.

The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund is administered by the Scottish Government's Social Justice and Regeneration Division, having been developed in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and member councils. An annual budget of £25 million – open only to applications from Scottish local authorities – provides financial support to eligible projects.

## MP seeks clarity on Brexit

WESTERN Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil, the SNP fisheries spokesperson at Westminster, is writing to the Secretary of State for DEFRA Michael Gove to ask for clarification on what implications Brexit will have on the Scottish fishing industry. Mr MacNeil is urging Westminster to resist a 'power grab' of Scottish fisheries and enable the Scottish Government to negotiate on behalf of Scottish fishermen.

## Planning application submitted for South Uist project

THE CULTURE and education Cnoc Soilleir Project has reached an important milestone as a full planning application for the building has been submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The project is a joint venture between LLC UHI and Ceòlas in Dalabrog, South Uist – a key community for the revitalisation of the Gàidhlig language in Scotland. Cnoc Soilleir has a significant role in leading this development.

Following extensive consultations, the designs have been developed and are available to view at the Ceòlas offices in



An artist's impression of the new Cnoc Soilleir Project.

Dalabrog and Lionacleit.

Located at Cnoc Soilleir, by

the Dalabrog junction, it will establish a state-of-the-art

modern building for education, Gàidhlig language, music, dance and cultural heritage in Uist. The building has been designed to meet exemplary energy efficiency standards and minimise running costs and CO2 emissions.

It will contain an auditorium designed for traditional music, as well as recording facilities and studio. Spaces for dance and other sound-proofed teaching spaces will also be included alongside a new home for Ceòlas' archives and library.

The building has been designed around the college's

needs to deliver its educational programmes.

When the college is closed in the evenings, at weekends and holidays, the building will continue to be used by Ceòlas for its cultural programmes and activities.

The entrance foyer will open up to the heart of the building, complete with peat hearth, and will provide a welcoming space for members of the community and visitors.

This project has been funded by the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, HIE, CnES and local donations.

## New Uist economic taskforce meets

THE FIRST meeting of the Uist Economic Taskforce (UET) working group took place this month.

Councillor Iain A MacNeil, who was appointed group chairman, said: 'This was an important meeting that reset and refocused the efforts of the UET. We discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the economy of Uist. We were clear Uist is an excellent

place to live, work and bring up a family. In Uist, we have a first class cultural and environmental heritage.'

'Our community cohesion is second to none and we have excellent community facilities. We have real challenges, but it is important we acknowledge and celebrate what is so special about Uist and that we aren't shy in marketing these special attributes, within the islands and

further afield. Landowners and Hebridean Housing Partnership will be asked to the next meeting to find ways to accelerate housing development in Uist.'

It was also agreed to focus on broadband connectivity to all parts of Uist. The group will work with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Reaching 100% programme to ensure rollout is accelerated and that no gap sites are allowed

to develop in Uist. UET also agreed to support the team developing the Spaceport project; to explore future uses for any redundant elements at the Ministry of Defence's West Camp and to support the development of a masterplan to regenerate Balivanich. UET will also seek out people's views on what they want to see in future. Councillor MacNeil added: 'I look forward to progress being made.'



Iain Archie MacNeil.

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Dun Nosebridge

THERE are more than 80 hill forts and fortified sites scattered across Islay, largely dating back to the Bronze and Iron ages which stretched from 1000BC to 400 AD.

As well as the hill forts, a number of promontory and sea cliff forts have been located and these fit into the same time scale.

One of the largest and best preserved of these hill forts is Dun Nosebridge which lies east of the settlement of Bridgend in a commanding position atop a rocky outcrop overlooking the River Laggan.

Various suggestions have been put forward as to the derivation of the hill fort name.

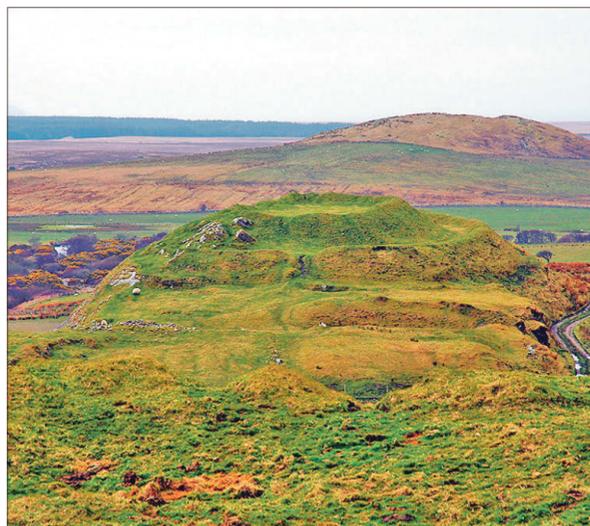
'Dun' is definitely the Scottish Gaelic name for fort and it has been suggested Nosebridge may be a Norse version of 'knaus borg', which may refer to 'the fort of the crag', or it could be 'knaus bog', which describes a 'fort of turf'.

Whatever the derivation, the hilltop fort was built by hand and the project would have involved enormous co-operation and organisational skills over a considerable period of time.

There is little doubt this particular fort would have provided an effective means of defence as there are still signs of ramparts, ditches and banks which add to the site's terraced appearance.

There is evidence of a timbered fort situated on the hilltop and there are signs the surrounding stone walls have collapsed inward. Traces were also found of cultivation within the fort enclosure suggesting the site was far from being a short-term stronghold.

What is obviously the foundations of buildings going back to the 18th



Dun Nosebridge hill fort.

and 19th centuries can be found on the north east slopes of the fort. This would suggest there was a settlement at the fort site.

Records show people were cleared from Nosebridge between 1848 and 1853 following the bankruptcy of the estate then owned by Walter Frederick Campbell, the island's main landowner.

It is thought likely the clearances at the fort site were ordered by the Edinburgh-based James Brown, the receiver for the sequestered Campbell properties.

Today, Nosebridge remains an impressive reminder of a more barbarous age when islanders had to be on the constant lookout for the threat of inroads and invasion.

### New estate manager

A NEW manager has been appointed to run the 54,000-acre Islay Estates, owned and operated by the Margdale family, the island's principal landowners.

He is David Blake, who recently moved from Salisbury in Wiltshire to take over his new post.

His previous background includes working at Cranbourne Chase, a chalk landscape to the north of Salisbury Plain and now designated as an area of outstanding beauty.

Prior to that he was employed as a wildlife ranger with the National Trust.

The experience he gained in these undertakings will prove invaluable

in his latest position. His new remit will include overseeing the estate's involvement in tourism and environment management, expanding the home farm operations as well as working closely with the estate's three gamekeepers and the management and staff of the Bridgend Hotel, which is also included in the estate's portfolio.

The new manager is also a keen and talented photographer and is looking forward to availing himself, when time permits, of the 'special Islay light' as he indulges in his hobby.

We wish him successful managing and happy snapping.

## Death of Mòd medallist

The whole of Gaeldom was greatly saddened to learn of the death on March 16 of the veteran Portnaveh Mòd gold medallist Donald M MacLeod, known locally as Domhnall Sheandaidh.

He was 91 years of age and was just coming to terms with the death in December last year of his wife Katie with whom he had shared 58 years of happy marriage.

He is survived by his daughters Fiona and Jane, son Alastair and four grandchildren.

Donald struck gold at the National Mòd in Rothesay in 1952 and went on to enjoy a long and successful singing career in which his voice brought pleasure to thousands over the years.

I will be paying tribute to this well-known Ieach and popular singer in my next letter.

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

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**POLICE FILES**

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

**Man arrested**

AT 4AM on Thursday March 15, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner towards a woman at a house near Kilniver, a 36-year-old man was arrested.

The man was charged with abusive behaviour and held for court. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Driver charged**

AT 8.10PM on Monday March 12, on Shore Street, Oban, police stopped a lorry as the driver, a man aged 57, was allegedly driving while using his mobile phone. The man was charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Door damaged**

SOMETIME between 4pm and 10pm on Wednesday March 14, the door to a flat at 12 Soroba Road, Oban, was damaged. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

**Fixed penalty**

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was arrested and issued with a £40 fixed penalty notice for behaving in an abusive manner at 12.50am on Monday March 12 in George Street, Oban.

**Fight warning**

THREE men, aged 20, 21 and 22, were issued with a recorded police warning after fighting with each other at 1.35am on Friday March 16, in Argyll Square, Oban.

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

**Newsdesk**

01631  
568000

# DNA detective's mission to re-unite MacIntyres

**KATHIE GRIFFITHS**  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN B&B owner Val Bichener has turned DNA detective to match-make fellow MacIntyres all over the world.

Mrs Bichener, who has managed to trace relatives from as far away as Australia, Canada and Pennsylvania, is co-ordinating a DNA reunion at this year's World Gathering of MacIntyres, meeting up at Taynuilt's Highland Games on July 21.

'It started with me suggesting to organisers could we ask if people had done DNA and could we view it and share it and it all snowballed from there. Because I've done the DNA thing already, people are tapping into my experience and I'm happy to help,' she said.

More than 500 MacIntyres are expected to turn up, including Mrs Bichener, who has set up a DNA Facebook page which now has 328 members and a

DNA spread sheet to help clan members declare and trace their ancestry.

'I'm playing matchmaker. There's relatives right across the world. I have a massive family. I've not found anyone famous or notorious yet but I'm glad I don't do Christmas cards,' she said.

More than 110 people so far have added information to the DNA spreadsheet, listing their last known MacIntyre.

'Some of them will be coming to the gathering at Taynuilt. It's going to be quite a party. Some of them will be re-connected with lost family thanks to DNA,' added Mrs Bichener, who is also making time to study for an Open University degree in Classics.

One of her new-found relatives Marion Kelly is coming from the USA and a third-cousin called Gretta MacIntyre from Pennsylvania is also on the gathering's guest list for this summer.

'There's going to be a full-

house of MacIntyres. The world has got smaller but my family is bigger!' she added.

Mrs Bichener was just 12 when a comment by her grandfather planted the seed of looking back at her own family tree.

'He said there were three centuries spanning him and his grandfather and I thought 'wow' but I was in my early 20s when I started digging for real. I'm a tenacious terrier. I won't let go once I start something,' she said.

Her search started in Edinburgh, sifting through reels of reference film, looking for baptisms with names that matched locally and writing everything down on sheets upon sheets of paper. But she hit a sticking point and it was only in 2015 when ancestry went on sale in the UK that her search took off again.

Her family tree now takes her back to 1770 when Archibald and Christina McIntyre married at Glenorchy, going on to have



Val Bichener is the official matchmaker for this year's World Gathering of MacIntyres coming to Taynuilt.

eight children. Records suggest Archibald had links to the famous Cladich Garter. The village of Cladich on Loch Awe was said to be home to a colony of weavers and almost all of them were MacIntyres who were well-known for their garter,

mostly made in red and white and greatly prized by pipers.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the MacIntyres' gathering and other events planned for their visit to the Oban area in July should go to macintyregathering.com

## Concern over dogs in Dunbeg playpark

DOG OWNERS in Dunbeg are being asked to keep their pets out of the park as it is stopping a child with allergies from playing in the area.

The issue was highlighted at a recent Dunbeg Community Council meeting after a member of the public complained about dogs being allowed to roam around the park and on to equipment.

This could potentially have dire consequences for at least one child, who suffers from allergies and uses an EpiPen.

A spokesperson for Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) said: 'A problem with dog fouling in Dunbeg playpark was raised by one of our tenants and by Dunbeg Community Council.

'We arranged to work in partnership with the community council to ask dog owners to show respect for other users of the playpark and the association has offered to provide two signs advising no dogs should be in the playpark. We hope dog owners will take heed of the new signs and not allow their pets to go into the playpark.

'ACHA staff carry out weekly inspections of the playpark and have never found evidence of dog fouling. We have, however, contacted the council's dog warden to alert him to the complaint.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This playpark belongs to ACHA, but we will ask our wardens to carry out extra patrols in the area.'

## Drivers warned of more traffic delays in Oban

DRIVERS in Oban are being warned to expect delays starting this weekend.

Roadworks will be carried out in Combie Street from 7am to 2pm on Saturday and Sunday.

More delays are also predicted when work continues in the same location extending to Argyll Square on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 to March 28, from 6pm to 11pm.

Diversions will be in place, said an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson.

# Pensioner challenges CalMac over free ticket EU rules

HUGE numbers of companions travelling with disabled or elderly CalMac passengers could be missing out on free tickets, it has been claimed.

Pensioner Peter White said he only uncovered the EU legislation after spotting a random passenger information notice onboard a ferry which only made a vague reference to regulation (EU) No. 1177/2010.

'It didn't say much about it, so I decided to go and ask the information desk but they didn't know either,' said Mr White, who later found out the regulation about the rights of passengers when travelling by sea mentions operators should set out clearly the circumstances in which a disabled passenger may need to be accompanied by a companion and 'in relation to ferry services, the arrangements for obtaining a ticket for such a companion free of charge'.

Mr White, who lives in Sunderland but has travelled on CalMac

ferries for 30 years exploring the islands on holidays, said: 'I think they've been hiding this from people. The only mention of people with disabilities getting any money off journeys is a flyer about Blue Badge holders getting 25 per cent discount on car bookings - and that's it. There seems to be one million other leaflets about everything else, except about these free tickets.'

The 63-year-old is writing to CalMac bosses to complain and ask them to 'open up' about the EU legislation.

He said it was on a trip from Berneray to Leverburgh when he saw the notice. 'It didn't go into details but it intrigued me. When I got off I asked more about it at their Tarbert office and they printed it all off for me. There were nine sections with 10 pages in each. When I read it, it was pure magic.'

'I see people travelling with disabilities and I go up to them now in the lounge and mention



Pensioner Peter White has called for CalMac to make clear the rights of passengers with disabilities.

it to them. Their eyes light up. I think it's time CalMac printed a leaflet about it and put it in plain English.'

A CalMac spokesman said an

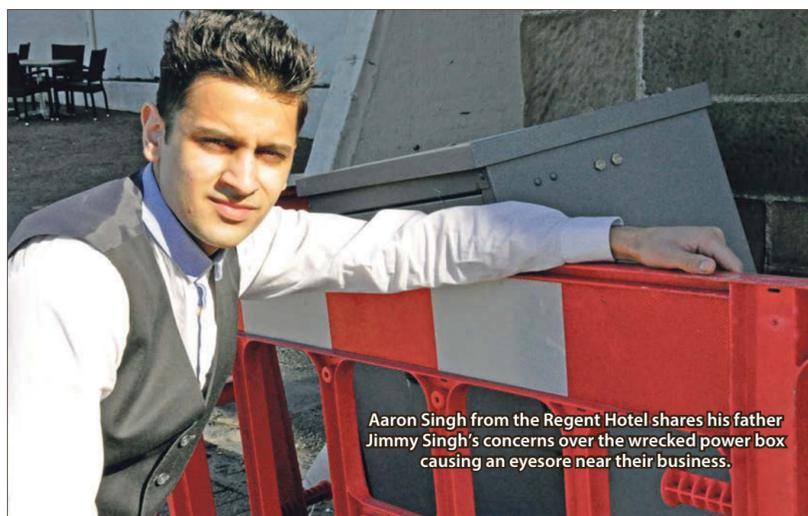
Assisted Travel Guide was now being finalised to cover such guidance but the free tickets, referred to by Mr White, would only be offered in cases were

**“**  
I think it's time CalMac printed a leaflet about it **”**

Peter White

CalMac were of the view that their own assistance team was unable to give the level of care needed during the journey.

The spokesman added: 'In this instance we would advise that a carer could accompany them free of charge. This decision is for the company to make and is made on a case by case basis determined on whether or not we would be able to accommodate a solo disabled traveller safely.'



Aaron Singh from the Regent Hotel shares his father Jimmy Singh's concerns over the wrecked power box causing an eyesore near their business.

## 'Exposed wires put lives in danger'

EXPOSED wires sticking out of a power unit on Oban's Esplanade are putting people in danger, says hotelier Jimmy Singh.

Mr Singh got in touch with *The Oban Times* worried the wrecked unit, ripped up from the pavement next to his Regent Hotel, had been in a dangerous state for five months with no one taking responsibility to fix it.

'I've exhausted myself trying to find out who is responsible for it. No one is interested. I've put calls in to the council, the water

board, the power company. I've consulted everyone I can think of.

'Someone has cordoned it off, putting a red plastic barrier round it but it keeps falling down when the wind catches it, making the safety cordon a risk in itself. It's a danger and it's an eyesore. If the barrier falls and hits someone, someone will get hurt and I hate to think what would happen if someone touched the wires. People are walking by it all the time. It needs sorting quick.'

When *The Oban Times* contacted SSE, a spokesman said there was no record of a call from Mr Singh but confirmed the box was part of its equipment and had been damaged in November after a car crashed into it.

'The local depot has been aware of it for a little while now. Engineers did go out after the crash to make sure it was safe. Work has now started and should be finished by the end of this week. We're very sorry Mr Singh exhausted himself phoning around.'

## Villagers warn campers to behave or face police

TAYNUILT is bracing itself for the expected Easter rush of campervans heading to its picturesque pier.

Community council chairman Davie Sloss warned campers' fires, rubbish and getting rid of effluent in the area was 'a police matter'.

'It's the usual problem. If people are misbehaving down there, they need to be seen and reported,' he said.

This week's community council meeting heard there was 'very little' to report back from the police, except that road signs for the local food van had disappeared.

Concerns had been raised about the position of roadwork lights on the bend coming in to Taynuilt from Oban but road policing officers had checked it out and were 'happy' it was safe for drivers to manage, the meeting was told.

## Oban care home still in isolation after flu outbreak

OBAN'S Eadar Glinn care home is still in isolation after a flu outbreak.

A spokesman for the Health and Social Care Partnership said: 'Residents are being monitored and appropriate infection control measures are in place with no other cases being reported.'

The Argyll and Bute Council-run home in Drummore Road shut to new admissions last Tuesday after some residents and staff fell ill with a suspected flu/viral illness.

The home will stay closed until Friday at least.

The spokesman said enhanced infection

control precautions were in place and added: 'Re-opening will be reviewed on Friday.'

'To help reduce the spread of infection we ask that visitors who have coughs and colds which could be flu not to visit friends and relatives until they are better.'

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## Rugby coach Lucy tackles fundraising mission

RUGBY Union coach Lucy Stewart is raising funds to 'tackle' a charity tour of Africa.

The 17-year-old from Benderloch needs £6,000 to fund the five-month expedition which starts in January and will take her through nine countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa.

During the trip Lucy, a modern apprentice for Scottish Rugby Union based at Oban High School, will visit school fields and dusty backyards in remote communities to pass on her passion for the sport.

'Some children will already have played rugby at school, others will never have even seen a rugby ball. What's important is that every child gets the same opportunity and same sessions. It's also about trying to work with their coaches and help them be better at what they do.'

Lucy, who coaches at primary schools around Oban as part of her apprenticeship, will be travelling to Africa with the Bhubesi Pride Foundation.

'I heard a presentation the charity did about their education work and I knew straight away it was something I wanted to do. I can't wait to go; I wish I was going sooner.'

To fund the trip she needs £6,000 and has set up a Gofundme page at [www.gofundme.com/lucyvolunteeringinafrica](http://www.gofundme.com/lucyvolunteeringinafrica).

Lucy, who is sending out letters to businesses hoping for sponsorship, is also organising a curry and quiz night on Saturday March 24 Benderloch's Victory Hall and a race night in May at the rugby club in Oban.

The teenager, who is thinking about a career in teaching, started playing rugby when she was 14 at school after friends persuaded her to give it a 'try' and she now plays in the Oban Lorn Ladies team.



Lucy Stewart is raising funds for an expedition to Africa next year, coaching rugby.

# Discrimination claim as pupils denied transport

**SANDY NEIL**  
[sneil@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sneil@obantimes.co.uk)

PARENTS at a Catholic school in Oban have accused Argyll and Bute Council of discrimination because their children's places on a school bus have been withdrawn.

The MacGregor family from Ardconnel Farm first registered their oldest daughter at St Columba's Primary School, part of the Oban Joint Primary Campus beside Rockfield primary's English and Gaelic schools, 10 years ago.

The MacGregors have lived on their farm for four generations and have always attended Oban's Catholic school. So it came as a surprise to both the MacGregors and to St Columba's 10 years ago that Argyll and Bute Council had reduced the school's catchment area.

St Columba's Parent Council has been campaigning to get the original catchment area reinstated, without success.

Since then the MacGregors, who have two daughters at St Columba's, were excluded from free bus transport and have paid thousands of pounds in bus fees.

A fortnight ago, the MacGregors received a letter from the council saying there was no longer space on the school bus for their daughters plus three other pupils at the Catholic school because they were being given a 'privileged' ride.

This was in contrast to children in the area who are entitled to the seats free because they attend another primary school in the same building.

The *Oban Times* understands the council gave the MacGregors three days' notice to arrange alternative transport before it was withdrawn and gave them

'a credit note' to reimburse the transport fees they paid in advance.

Maggie Anderson, Roman Catholic representative on Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee, said if the MacGregors' children instead chose to attend the Gaelic school in the same building, they would be entitled to free school transport. 'We believe Catholic education is being discriminated against,' Ms Anderson told councillors on the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

'Children who wish Catholic education do not have the same rights as those wishing Gaelic education. If they are seeking Gaelic education, they would get transport, but if they are seeking a Catholic education they cannot.'

Helen McGuigan, chairperson of St Columba's Primary School Parent Council, said

its campaign to reinstate the catchment area had been met with resistance by the council: 'For every reason, the parent council has proved facts and evidence that their excuses are invalid. While at first it started off with asking for a bus pass for one child, the parent council has discovered not only was the catchment area changed without following the correct procedure, but the case has also been dealt with incorrectly.'

'The council claims that to change the boundary line is expensive and lengthy and would have to go to a consultation which would include the opinion of all the local schools. However, in the past year this is exactly what the council did for Rockfield and Park school regarding the island of Kerrera, without the consultation of St Columba's School, for one family and at great speed.'

'This and all the others fighting against St Columba's school's request has now led the increasing number of families this affects to feel discriminated against. There are children who get on the same bus, in the same street, going to the same campus building who not only get on the buses but do not pay bus fares, where as now St Columba's school children are not even allowed on the bus.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is not meeting its legal obligation or following its education policy in ensuring it follows the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' guidelines.'

A council spokesperson said: 'We are following national guidelines in relation to providing access to both Gaelic and denominational education. Neither language nor religion are factors which play any part in our school transport policies.'

## Oban litter busters pick up a welcome donation



Graham MacQueen, left, and Maurice Wilkins with the new litter pickers.

KEEP Oban Beautiful has 'picked up' 20 litter grabbers to help tidy the town.

The equipment was donated by Graham MacQueen of MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust.

Maurice Wilkins said the litter pickers, adult and child-size, were 'top-range' and had been recommended by recycling and litter tidying charity the GRAB Trust.

He said: 'We are very lucky to get this donation. It now means our volunteers have their own tools to keep Oban beautiful and the group can loan them out to others wanting to help litter pick.'

Mr MacQueen added: 'If people are going to give up their spare time to help keep the town looking good, the very least we can do is give them the best tools we can.'

Next weekend, Saturday March 24 and Sunday March 25, volunteers across the town will be ridding the streets and open spaces of rubbish as part of a big

spring clean being organised by Keep Oban Beautiful. Litter picking gear will be available for groups, from churches to clubs and neighbours, to borrow on the Saturday and Sunday from a hub at Rockfield Community Centre.

Letters have also gone out to hundreds of local businesses, inviting them to take part. MacQueen Bros Removals & Storage is co-ordinating a clean-up of the industrial park where its warehouse is based in Glengallan Road.

Beach cleans will also be held over the weekend with the support of volunteers from Surfers Against Sewage and The Marine Conservation Society. To join them contact Janie Steele on 07530 314127.

Anyone interested in picking a patch elsewhere in the town or joining organised sessions as part of the big clean-up, should contact [c.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rizos@btinternet.com) or call 07891 543540 for more information.

## Doors open on creative Lego building at The Rockfield Centre

A MASTER Builders Lego and Creative Construction Club will hold its first session on Saturday March 31 at The Rockfield Centre (TRC) from 10am till midday.

Run by volunteer Fee Shaw, the club aims to provide a place for families of all ages to meet, build and get creative with Lego and is one of two new additions to the centre's monthly programme of activities.

Rhona Dougall, TRC arts co-ordinator, said: 'Building with Lego can be as simple or as complicated as you like,

making it accessible to children of all ages and abilities. It is hoped the club will appeal to dads, who can sometimes feel excluded from female-dominated playgroups, as well as to people new to the area whose first language may not be English, enabling them to make connections in the community based around a shared interest. It is also hoped the club will help enthuse girls about building and engineering.'

The idea has already gained widespread support through Facebook and is currently seeking funding through

Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund, voting for which will be open to the public in April.

Meantime, the club will hold a series of pilot sessions to test out what works. While funding is being sought, any donations of second-hand Lego would be gratefully received.

Another new event will be the centre's first Songshare session, also on March 31, from 2-4pm.

This will be a relaxed get-together for anyone with an interest in folk song, traditional and contemporary, from

Scotland and beyond. Refreshments will be provided and participants will be invited to share songs with the group, or just learn new ones. This first session will also feature a discussion on how the group can evolve to stimulate and preserve local folk singing culture.

A wide range of creative groups and activities is hosted every month at TRC as well as the opportunity for anyone keen to get involved in volunteering.

For more information on this or any of the centre events, visit [therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://therockfieldcentre.org.uk) or see the Facebook page.

## Oban man's marathon bike ride for charity

AN OBAN man is preparing to embark on a 737-mile cycle to raise money for three charities close to his heart.

Willie Neilson will cycle from Land's End to Oban, before raffling his £1,750 bike at Station Square, with all profits going to charity.

'My gran passed away in 2017 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease so I want to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland.'

'Secondly, my sister-in-law Laura has Cerebral Palsy. When she was growing up she went to a specialist school which provided educational and therapy services for children and young people throughout Scotland affected by Cerebral Palsy and other neurological conditions.'

'Schools like these are invaluable. They do fantastic work to help these children and young adults.'

'Lastly, in 2017, my granny Jean was diagnosed with cancer. She was admitted to the Beatson hospital in Glasgow. Thankfully, after treatment, she was given the all clear early this year. So I would like to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity.'

Willie, who describes himself as 'fairly new to the road', will be competing in this year's Oban Sportive cycle on Sunday April 22.

He will be riding alongside Mark Beaumont, who recently set a world record for cycling around the world in 80 days. Speaking about the trek, Willie said: 'It's going to be hard, but if it wasn't, no-one would sponsor me.'

The Oban Camanachd player has already secured sponsors including Cuan Mor and Fitness Hebrides, but is on the lookout for more.

Any businesses wishing to get in touch, or anyone looking to buy a raffle ticket, should email [bigbills@bigbillsbigcycle.com](mailto:bigbills@bigbillsbigcycle.com). To donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/bigbillsbigcycle](http://www.gofundme.com/bigbillsbigcycle)



Willie Neilson.

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## Defibrillators in Oban to be listed

THE ROTARY Club of Oban wants to publicise the location of every defibrillator in the town.

As well as the equipment at Ganavan Sands and at The Dove Centre, which the club donated, there are defibrillators in Station Square, Atlantis Leisure, the Rugby Club, Glen-cruitten Golf Club and Tesco.

'The intention is for Oban Rotary to advertise the availability of all defibrillators by putting up posters around the town,' said Rotarian Iain MacIntyre.

Anyone aware of defibrillators elsewhere is asked to let Iain know on 01631 562148.

## More time to enter awards

THE CLYDESDALE Bank has extended the deadline for Argyll and Bute groups entering the Spirit of the Community Awards 2018 until Tuesday April 3.

The bank also announced it will present one of the successful organisations with a Special Recognition Award, worth an additional £5,000.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations are invited to enter their projects if they help people to have a healthy relationship with money, help people to improve their local environment or help people into employment.

To enter, visit [www.cb-online.co.uk/foundation](http://www.cb-online.co.uk/foundation) or go any branch for an application form.

## Old Oban Slide Show helps ambassadors in training

**KAY MCDONALD**  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

I CAN'T believe how lucky we've been with our weather lately. It's been freezing but clear and bright and most people I talk to seem happier and more energised. I know I am.

We're getting ready to start training to take walking tours of the town and I know I'm going to learn so much more about Oban during it.

I'm going to start with the Old Oban Slide Show on Friday night in the Masonic Hall with Bob McCulloch. They are always so enjoyable, seeing the differences and similarities between then and now.

It's going to be a hectic weekend as I'm going to take part in the 'Keep Oban Beautiful' Spring Clean and tidy up the part of town I live in. There are lots of opportunities to take part and it's such a wonderful thing to do at this time of year when the sun highlights all the bits of rubbish lying about.

Please if you care about our lovely town take some time out of your day to do a little bit, even just your own street. It's a chance to do something positive for the community and join people who take a pride in where they live.

If you feel inspired to help, contact Claire Rizos at [c.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rizos@btinternet.com) or call her on 07891 543540. She can help with equipment

## WHERE IS THIS?



and where to leave your rubbish for collection.

It would be so lovely to start the spring and summer with a litter-free town and perhaps it would inspire everyone to keep it that way. You can always hope.

Last week's photograph was maybe a bit too easy - it was one of the new trees in Station Square. So this week I've gone for something a bit more out of the way, but not too far.

## Still no answer on First Responders

TAYNUILT villagers are hanging on to plans to set up a First Responders project - despite already waiting three years to get an answer from the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Davie Sloss, who chaired Monday's community council meeting, said: 'A few years ago we asked about a First Responders Scheme but for three years we have still been trying to get an answer. 'The ambulance people in Oban were really

helpful but I've not been getting anything back from the larger organisation. We will see how it goes.'

'If we do get a positive response from Scottish Ambulance, I will put it out to people who are interested in volunteering.'

Signs are to be put up around the village directing people to the defibrillator at the village sports centre, the meeting heard.

## Mental health volunteers sought

A PROGRAMME aimed at changing the lives of people struggling with their mental health is looking for volunteers in Argyll and Bute.

See Me, the national programme to end mental health stigma, is looking for community champions in Argyll and Bute to help stop the 'unfair discrimination' people still experience if they have a mental health problem. Latest figures from a YouGov poll of 1,004 Scottish adults commissioned by See Me, show that 35 per cent of people in Scotland have either experienced stigma and discrimination because of their mental health, or know someone who has.

See Me champion Des Macmillan, from Oban, said: 'Being a champion has made a massive difference to my own mental health issues. I have suffered since I was eight years old and I'm now 40. But the last two-and-a-half years I have been involved with See Me, it has been at its best.'

'I think it's down to meeting people with similar experiences and thoughts and feeling a belonging to something. Being associated with See Me is a powerful tool to have. But it is not just about the organisation, it is about making a group of friends and bettering your life and other people's lives.'

Champions will receive three, one-and-a-half day training sessions in Glasgow, held over two months, starting from Monday April 30. The deadline for applications is March 23. To apply, go to [www.seemescotland.org](http://www.seemescotland.org).

## School's Harry Potter record bid

THIS time next week Oban High School could hold a world record for dressing the most people up as Harry Potter.

Past and present pupils, as well as children from Oban high's feeder primary schools, are invited to dress as the wizard on Monday March 26 - all in the name of charity.

They will be raising money for HCPT Group 43, which takes young people with social, emotional or physical difficulties on an annual pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes in the south of France.

# Dismay as £180,000 playpark closed after safety inspection

**SANDY NEIL**  
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OBAN'S £180,000 community playpark for children aged five to 15, which had a surface 'sinking into a swamp' just two years after it was built, has been closed following a safety inspection and a reported injury.

Residents say it's a shame for children and the Friends of Oban Community Playpark, which raised more than £334,000 to replace the old playpark beside Atlantis Leisure, which closed for safety reasons in 2014, with two new ones - one for ages five to 15 and the other for under fives, plus a millennium garden.

The group raised £180,000 to fund Oban Community Playpark's first phase, designed for five to 15 years, which opened in November 2015. The new under-fives playpark, which cost around £95,000, opened at the



Oban's £180,000 community playpark built for ages 5-15 two years ago has been closed following a safety inspection.

leisure centre's 25th birthday party in September, adopting a pirate-ship theme from its neighbour.

But the first park's surface began to crack and bubble just two years after it was laid, and users grew impatient to

see it fixed before children or grandparents tripped and hurt themselves. One mum of four, whose children used the park every day, said 'massive patches' were turning into a 'swamp': 'The floor is sinking. It is an accident waiting to happen.'

Then the Friends' chairperson Lyndsay Elliott announced on Friday: 'The big playpark has been closed today after a safety inspection by Argyll and Bute Council, due to the state of the floor. At this point we cannot say how long the big playpark will be closed, however, we will share what we can when we know more about how this will be resolved. We are obviously very disappointed this has happened and are hoping for a speedy resolution.'

'The park has been open for more than two years now and the problems were apparent within six months.'

'A senior manager within Argyll and Bute Council is handling this and taking the matter extremely seriously, however, they had problems appointing a contractor to do an independent assessment.'

'The garden and under 5s' playpark remain open. If you have older children, please remind them to respect the little people who use the under 5s' playpark.'

One person commented: 'I fell and twisted my ankle really bad coming off the swing. Definitely needs sorted.'

Another said her grandchildren had a lucky escape: 'It's ridiculous after all the money that was put into it and the length of time it took. Surprised no-one has had a broken ankle or a bad fall. Kids just run and don't realise it's soggy underfoot. My grandchildren have fallen because of it but luckily no

damage was done. Should have been done properly in the first instance.'

Another person added: 'The flooring in the play park is a nightmare. It's uneven and sinks and is bizarre to walk on. I hope it doesn't take too long to get fixed though.'

'I knew there were problems from the start. Which is a shame after the fab job you all did getting it built.'

Last year The Friends of Oban Community Playpark received a Nancy Owens Award for Play - 'the Oscars of the play world'.

A council spokesperson said: 'The safety of the children and families who use the playpark is our key priority. Because of the risk of injury from uneven flooring, we have closed part of the park temporarily and are in contact with the contractor about progressing repairs. The rest of the park remains open.'

## Cycling legend saddles up for Oban Sportive

CHALLENGING routes, spectacular views and the chance to meet cycling legend Mark Beaumont are among the highlights of this year's Oban Sportive.

For the first time, the action-packed weekend for cycling enthusiasts will start with a hill climb up Ben Cruachan against the clock and Mark Beaumont, who holds the world record for cycling round the world.

The top British cyclist, adventurer, author and broadcaster, who completed his 18,000-mile route in less than 79 days on September 17 last year, will also be giving a talk over the weekend about his adventures.

Cyclists wanting to push themselves in the new event on Saturday April 21 - the same day as Mark Beaumont's talk - should register online at [www.obansportive.co.uk](http://www.obansportive.co.uk). More than 60 people have signed up so far but about 200 riders are expected.

With support from Ben Cruachan Inn and Scottish Power, event organisers have made sure access to the private road up to the dam will be car-free.

The 2.7-mile stretch climbs to 1,044ft. The event will be timed, with each rider leaving a minute

apart. Nick Charlton, one of the organisers, said it would be Oban's sixth sportive, previous events having raised £15,000 for good causes as part of a project between North Argyll Cycling Club and Oban Rotary Club.

This year's sportive has two marshalled routes on Sunday April 22. The longest is 87 miles around Loch Awe, passing under the shadow of Hollow Mountain Ben Cruachan.

The second route, at 56 miles, takes in repetitive short steep climbs mostly on quiet single track roads throughout Argyll.

'It used to be the second route that was the most popular but so far this year, it's the longest route that has the most riders. I'm not sure why,' said Mr Charlton.

The events on both days will go ahead whatever the weather and will only be cancelled on safety grounds.

Anyone wanting to take part must be 16 or over and although it is a timed event, organisers stress it is not a race. It costs £35 to enter, which includes a ticket to Mark Beaumont's talk.

For more information go to [facebook.com/TheObanSportive/](http://facebook.com/TheObanSportive/) or follow [twitter.com/ObanSportive](https://twitter.com/ObanSportive)

## New harbour building due to open

OBAN'S new maritime centre, which is due to open this month, has been named Oban North Pier Harbour Building.

The £1.6 million visitor centre complements the North Pier pontoons, which opened last summer, catering for cruise passengers, kayakers, sailors and sealife day trippers.

The new building, attached to the category B-listed Columba Hotel, has public toilets and showers, secure lockers, waiting areas for cruise ship passengers and coach parties, waterfront office space and the council's harbour master's office. It sits on the site of the former White Building charity shop.

'I would anticipate the opening of the new building this month,' Oban CHORD project manager Kirsteen Macdonald told councillors at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last Wednesday.

'The building is due to finish this week. This is the final sign-off. We do not anticipate any problems. TSL have been outstanding contractors.'

The officer's report explained how the project had developed: 'The proposals for



The new maritime centre on Oban's North Pier.

the centre, approved by Argyll and Bute Council on August 20 2014, had been altered due to objections by an adjacent business and concerns over affordability. The 'gathering place' design was altered to a more functional and compact wedge shape, which sits within the site boundary of the former White Building. The facility now includes: dedicated showers, toilets, changing areas and secure lockers for maritime visitors. Additionally, there are four office spaces, two on

the mezzanine floor and two on the ground level, including a harbour master's office, an office for the transit berthing facility operator and two additional commercial spaces, one already let and one room available for hourly rentals for meetings and presentations.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'We had lots of discussion with our neighbours regarding the access. I am delighted to see there is even more access down there.'

The report added: 'The open

plan area within the foyer will be able to cater for small events and the building will be fully accessible. The foyer on the ground floor may be rented for occasional event space and there will be the opportunity to rent the space outside the building for markets and pier-side events.'

Councillors heard the North Pier Harbour Building name was selected to stay in keeping with the North Pier pontoons. 'It is now necessary to name the building to enable the creation of a business address for the tenants and users,' the report continued. The name was selected for 'simplicity and functionality' and 'future proofing in the event of any future change in the management of the bay'.

'The North Pier projects' expectation is to increase visitor numbers with an estimated benefit of around £20 million to the area over the next 25 years. The 36 new finger berths at the North Pier pontoons welcomed 472 boats and 1,930 people - excluding cruise passengers - in August and 225 boats and 4,709 visitors in September.

## Loch Fyne caviar farm faces decision

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build a £4m caviar farm - Scotland's first - at the head of Loch Fyne was due to face Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee yesterday, Wednesday, after it was recommended for approval by officers.

The Fynest Caviar Co. applied to produce Osetria caviar from Russian and Siberian sturgeon in 'a closed containment aquaculture facility' in three buildings at Ardinglas Sawmill, Cairnrow.

According to planning documents, the caviar is expected to sell for £1,000 per kilo.

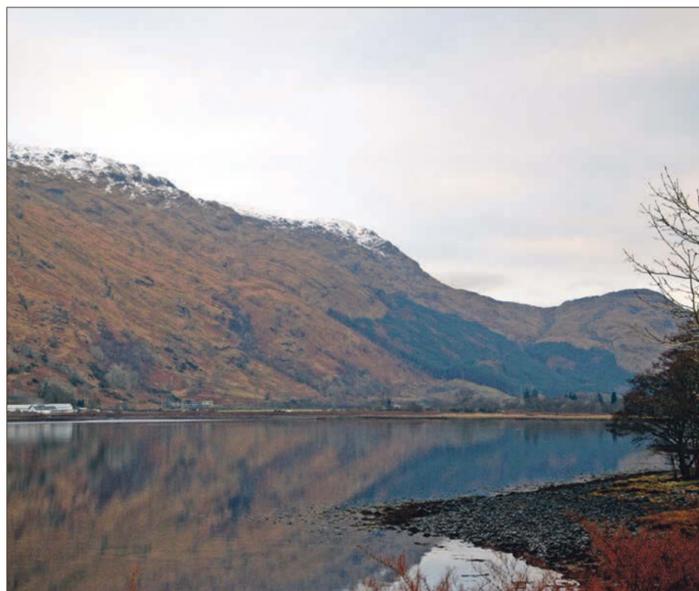
Cairnrow Community Council raised ethical concerns about the fish being slaughtered when the roe is harvested and argued 'there appears to be no or limited community benefit'. It asked if the space 'could have more innovative uses'.

The Fynest Caviar Co. explained in planning documents that sturgeon was 'more critically endangered than any group or species', according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and captive breeding programmes can prevent imminent extinction.

The sturgeon, aged seven to 10 years, would have their metabolism slowed in cold water and then be anaesthetised unconscious by clove oil. In less than a minute the fish would be stunned with a club or 'priest' and then bled. 'Death is instantaneous,' the company said.

'All staff within the Loch Fyne facility that are directly involved in the slaughter of fish will follow processes recommended by the Humane Slaughter Association.'

Fraser Niven, director of Fynest Caviar Co., said before the meeting: 'This decision to locate in Argyll is a positive reflection of the reputation of the area for providing Scotland and the wider markets with the



The Fynest Caviar Co. wants to open a farm in Cairnrow, Loch Fyne.

highest quality food and drink products and in particular the skills of the local people in the aquaculture sector.'

Stephen O'Brien, one of the three shareholders, added: 'The object is to become a leading high quality and profitable niche producer of caviar and sturgeon meat based on an ethical, sustainable and environmentally friendly operation in Scotland.'

The application received two objections and a 5,000-signature petition from the

animal rights group PETA. However, the officer's report noted: 'While some of the names on the petition are from Argyll, the vast majority are from all over the world.'

'It is therefore recommended members do not hold a hearing prior to the application being determined. The fish farm would be located in an area identified for commercial development and would accord with all other relevant local development plan policies.'

## Argyll and Bute landscape's leading role in investment

THE LANDSCAPE of Argyll and Bute is to play a leading role in supporting the area's economy by attracting investment through film production and tourism.

At its recent meeting (March 8), the council's environment, development and

infrastructure committee endorsed plans to develop Argyll and Bute as a leading location for films and their related tourism.

This follows on from more than £1.3 million of film-related investment attracted to the area in 2017.

Two feature films and a television series, currently confidential, are expected to be broadcast later this year.

The council launched a website dedicated to the screen industries - [www.filminargyll.co.uk](http://www.filminargyll.co.uk)

### Are you ready to get MAD with Atlantis Community Leisure?

**Saturday 19th of May see's our first one0off Muddy Atlantis Day. With gallons of mud, icy water and some shocks along the way. We are creating a 10k cross country assault course designed to challenge and test you. Get a team together or go solo and join in on a fun filled and crazy challenge right here in Oban.**

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

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

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

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

Build your team; grab your friends, work colleagues or gym buddies and attack this together.  
Looking for some team mates? Head to our Facebook group (MAD- Teams) and find like-minded comrades.

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

Entry is £10 (plus booking fee).

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

OT Killin



Handler Fiona Burhanan from Killin with Fergus who won Best of Breed on the second day of Crufts 2018 at the NEC Birmingham. Photograph: Flick.digital

Crufts win for Fergus

IT WAS a case of every dog having its day for Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Fergus when he won a prestigious prize at Crufts 2018 alongside his Killin owner Michael McLaren.

Six-year-old Fergus put his best paw forward at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre (NEC), suitably impressing judges to win Best of Breed.

That made it a Crufts to remember for his 50-year-old owner Michael, who joined thousands of other canine lovers at the world's largest dog show.

An estimated 22,000 pooches visited the NEC during the four-day event, with a record 3,623 four-legged-friends from 49 countries vying for the chance to win the coveted Best in Show.

Visitors learned about 200 different breeds at the Discover Dogs zone, while crossbreeds competed for the 'Scruffts' crown and the Friends for Life event highlighted inspiring stories showing dogs at their absolute best.

There was no wiping the smile off Michael's face as his beloved Fergus enjoyed his moment in the spotlight. 'It's fantastic because, first and foremost, they're our pets,' he said.

'They aren't just 'show-show' dogs so it really does mean the world to us to have this. We're honoured and delighted to take part in Crufts and to do so well is unimaginable.'

Rothesay

A GROUP of nine third year pupils from Rothesay Academy have completed a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service training scheme.

Funded by Argyll and Bute Council's Youth Services, the Fire Reach Training Scheme encourages young people to make the most of their physical and mental capabilities and raises the awareness of the role of the fire service within the community.

The council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'The Fire Reach Scheme is an excellent way for young people to demonstrate commitment which in turn can help their employment prospects.'

'It also teaches them basic life skills, the importance of being part of a team and improves self-discipline and confidence.'

'Congratulations go to the young people from Rothesay for completing the scheme and I would encourage other schools and community groups to sign up.'

Kilmore

KILMORE 100 Club winners: January - D Maxwell; February - L Hill; March: C Boswell and A MacPherson.

A family quiz was held in Kilmore Hall on Saturday March 17.



Taynuilt Tiddlers get hands-on with fish from Loch Etive during a visit from Martin Collins of fish farm firm Dawnfresh.

Taynuilt Tiddlers get hands-on with loch life

TAYNUILT Tiddlers have been learning about loch safety.

Martin Collins from Dawnfresh went along to the playgroup recently to teach the children about keeping safe near lochs.

He also showed them some fish from the Loch Etive site and let them try on life jackets.

Mum Adele Clarke said: 'The children loved their visit from Dawnfresh. Martin did such a good job explaining

the work they do at the farm and showing the little ones the trout.'

'They've asked if Martin can come back again so I think we may have some future trout farmers on our hands.'

Radio 1 presenter enjoys pit stop in Tyndrum

BBC RADIO 1 presenter Greg James made a pit stop at The Real Food Café in Tyndrum as part of his Sport Relief Three Peaks Challenge.

The broadcaster had to abandon his previous attempt at the end of February as the country suffered extreme weather conditions.

Greg vowed he would complete the challenge, though, and on Thursday March 14 cycled from Abington to Fort William ready to scale Ben Nevis on Friday.

The DJ and his cycling team enjoy the café's fish suppers before speaking to some of the supporters who had turned out, as well as café owner Sarah Heward.

Sarah said: 'The café team has been following Greg's journey since he started at the end of February and were sorry to hear the weather had seemingly put a kibosh on his attempt. 'We were therefore delighted to hear Greg would



Radio 1 DJ, Greg James, alongside staff at The Real Food Cafe in Tyndrum.

be completing the challenge, but also that he was stopping by the café on his way to Fort William. The café is always a popular re-fuelling station for people taking the Three Peaks Challenge so we are very pleased he

decided to join us. We do a lot of fundraising ourselves so it's been wonderful to be involved with the Sport Relief event. The community always backs us with our charitable endeavours and I was really pleased a large

number of them came out to send Greg on the next leg of his journey.'

The #Gregathon took five non-consecutive days to complete and has so far raised more than £1million for Sport Relief.

New centre for Cairndow Community Childcare

A FAMILY and early years centre will be built at Loch Fyne thanks to an £800,000 grant.

Cairndow Community Childcare will relocate from the village hall to the purpose-built centre thanks to funding from the Scottish Government.

The money is part of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund administered by Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Cairndow Community Childcare's chairwoman Alison Hutchins said: 'We are absolutely delighted that with this £800,000 from the Scottish Government fund, via Argyll and Bute



A youngster gets a peak at what the new centre at Loch Fyne will look like.

Council, we have reached our funding target for the centre at Cairndow.

'The local community has worked incredibly hard over the past three years to raise the other £1.2m from a

variety of other sources including the Big Lottery and local businesses Ardkinglas Estate and Loch Fyne Oysters, but until the government fund stepped in, it looked like we might not be

able to achieve our goal and begin the procurement and construction process.

'We expect to appoint a contractor soon and have them on site within the next few months.'

'Once complete, the centre will become a hub for the local community and provide an invaluable resource for local children and young people, allowing new services and activities to be brought to the area.'

'Thank you once again to Argyll and Bute Council and all of our other supporters. We look forward to continuing to work with them to make the new centre as productive and supportive for local people as possible.'

Fly-tippers dump waste on shores of Loch Etive

FLY-TIPPERS are spoiling the shores of Loch Etive near Bonawe Quarry, dumping a bed, a rowing machine and a Volvo bonnet among the mess.

The waste was part of the latest haul of rubbish cleaned-up by workers from fish farm company Dawnfresh and weighed in at 167kgs.

A classic racer bike frame, a single mattress, a diving hood, a storage heater, wheel wrench, car tyres, camping chairs, buckets, plant pots, cans and bottles were also collected.

Since December, the monthly shoreline trawls by boat have picked up 500kgs of waste.

Jason Dobson, who works as an environmental/fish health specialist for Dawnfresh, set up the clean-up project as part of the company's commitment to looking after the environment. He said: 'Fish farming gets a lot of negative press saying we are responsible for waste that's washed up on the shore but 90 per cent of what we pick up is nothing from our sites. It's left by fly-tippers, campers or fishing trips.'

Dawnfresh leases its sites on Loch Etive from the land-owning Campbell Prestons family but has an obligation to look after land near it. 'We could not believe our eyes at what we were picking up and pulling off the boat last time. It was just incredible. Some of the stuff was definitely fly-tipped deliberately by people getting access to the loch-side. We think they might be using an old fire road,' said Mr Dobson.

Now there are plans for more signs to go up along the shore, reminding people not to dump litter and take any waste home with them. Out of the 500kgs of rubbish collected in the last three months in the area, an average of 80 per cent of it has been recycled either through Dawnfresh's own disposable services or Argyll and Bute Council's recycling centre at Moleigh in Oban.

Achaleven

THEY might not have a big fancy tent like they do in the Great British Bake Off, but the competition at Achaleven Primary School was just as fierce when pupils took part in a Fairtrade version of the hit TV show.

Not only did the children learn about baking, they also put their maths skills to use, weighing out ingredients.

Three teams of pupils made iced banana bread, chocolate-orange cupcakes and chocolate chip and banana muffins.

While everything baked, the pupils learned about what Fairtrade products are available and why it's important to buy these items to help farmers.

Parents were invited into school to judge taste and appearance. It was a close contest, but the chocolate-orange cupcakes were victorious.

The school thanked Mrs Dundas, Mrs Ferguson, Ms Buchanan and Charlianne for their help with the all-important first stage of the signature bakes.



Pupils from Achaleven Primary School took part in a Fairtrade Bake off.



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At Random

MARTIN LAING mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

Recycling still not good enough

REGULAR readers will be well aware of my position on the three-weekly bin collection system introduced towards the end of 2016.

It has been a shambles. Now Argyll and Bute Council is trumpeting the new system's success in reducing the amount of rubbish sent to landfill from the region.

In a recent press release, the council trilled: 'Argyll and Bute Council's three-weekly collections are paying off, with the amount of waste going to landfill having fallen by three per cent in 2017, compared with the previous year.'

'At the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, members heard how 18,556 tonnes of biodegradable waste went to landfill last year, compared with 20,949 tonnes in 2016 - a drop of 2.5 per cent. 'Members also heard how 49.4 per cent of waste in Argyll and Bute is now recycled, composted and recovered, compared with 46.5 per cent in 2016.'

'Councillor Roddy McCuish, the council's policy lead for roads and amenity services, said: 'These figures are extremely encouraging.'

Really? I would have thought such a small decline of just three per cent is a cause for concern, not celebration, especially given the myriad - and continuing - problems in dealing with rubbish,



Chef Jay at BAAB at the Perle treats Martin to a taste of the Levant.

particularly in Soroba. We have run numerous stories over the past year and more chronicling the catalogue of complaints from readers about the repeated failure of the council to empty people's bins - one of its most basic services.

Yes, we all need to recycle more and reduce the amount sent to landfill but I would argue that pain to gain ratio is rubbish.

A welcome addition to Oban

OBAN is well-served with great places to eat.

The town has some of the finest seafood restaurants you will find

anywhere, augmented by an array of other dining establishments which include Italian, Indian, Thai and Chinese for a varied dimension.

Now there is a new - and very welcome - addition in the shape of the BAAB Meze and Grill at the Perle Hotel in the town.

I'm not especially familiar with eastern Mediterranean cuisine, so I was chuffed to be invited to a free sampling night on Sunday - yes, I know, I'd go to the opening of an envelope.

It's an exciting and exotic experience. Boss lady Beth from New Jersey introduced me to chef Jay, who is Russian, and explained her passion for the food of the Levant.

It was fabulous and very competitively priced.

And it's a cuisine that's made for sharing, with 'small plates' and 'large plates'.

Anything that enhances the choice and range of restaurants in Oban is a good thing.

We have been enjoying such a tourism boom in recent times, so the advent of BAAB provides a further feather in the town's cap.

And there's more good news. It has been dispiriting recently to have reported the closure of the Kitchen Garden deli and cafe in George Street and, last year, the demise of the Rockport Hotel in Tweeddale Street.

So it is heartening work is progressing well on the new Premier Inn near the Railway Pier. Added to that is the imminent opening of the North Pier Harbour Building, the new maritime centre beside the pontoons which opened last year.

The pontoons have been a roaring success in their first few months - pat on the back to Argyll and Bute Council - and will encourage even more visitors to the area.

Hopefully, the Kitchen Garden premises will soon be occupied again and the Rockport will find a new owner.

What do you think?

WRITE to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.

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# Recalling a road-mender and scholar

**MORVERN LINES**  
**IAIN THORNER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THOSE who travelled along the highways and byways of Sunart on the Ardnamurchan peninsula 60-odd years ago may recall seeing a man at the roadside with a wheelbarrow and accompanied by a black-and-white collie dog.

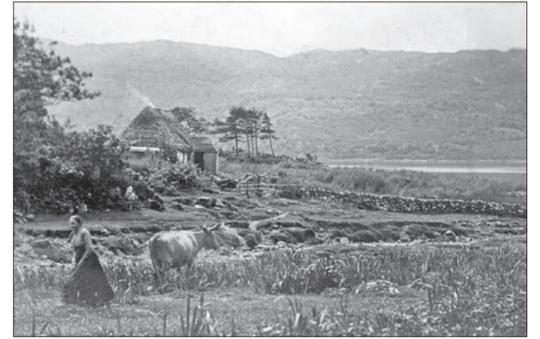
His name was Alastair Cameron and he was a road-section man employed by Argyll County Council to clean the drains and cut the verges of the eight-mile stretch of road between Strontian and Salen, Loch Sunart.

Alastair, or 'Sandy' as he was known locally, was a scholar, a tradition-bearer and a gifted historian, as much at home around the ceilidh fires of his native Sunart, as he was alone with his books and papers.

He was a member of the Royal Celtic Society, an honorary fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, writer and the holder of the honorary degree of Master of Arts of Edinburgh University. He was a fluent Gaelic speaker and a perfect example of Highland tradition and of a generation that overcame all difficulties in achieving an intellectual goal.

I remember the first time I saw him. I was accompanying my father from Glenhurich to the Salen cattle sale sometime in the late 1950s. We came upon Alastair cleaning a ditch by the roadside and stopped. He and my father had a long conversation about the price of cows and sheep, white deer and local place names, but then their talk turned to history and poetry and of his many publications.

I was amazed at what I was hearing. Here was this man, peering short-sightedly in our car window, through thick, rain-misted spectacles, dressed in a Maxproof coat, a black oilskin hat, wellington boots and leggings, having just risen out of wet ditch, engaged in a profoundly interesting and lucid discussion, albeit with a slight trace of a stammer, on the poetry of Alasdair Mac



Main picture, Alastair Cameron receiving the honorary degree of MA from the Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, July 3, 1969

(Photograph: The Scottish Daily Express); addressing the 1956 Clan Cameron rally at Achnacarry (Photograph: The Weekly Scotsman); and Bunalteachan, Loch Sunart-side, where Alastair was born in 1896 (Photograph: Iain Thorner).

Mhaighstear Alasdair and tracing some of the families who had descended from him and others who had been involved in the '45.

It was absolutely marvellous and yet, so perfectly natural too.

I have often thought that, as he talked, he was far better educated in the things which really matter, than most university men I have met. The young students of today, with grants and every encouragement in their careers, could learn from this erudite gentleman.

I only wish, now, that I had paid more attention to what was being discussed.

Alastair Cameron was born of crofting stock at Bunalteachan, between Strontian and Acharacle, in June 1896. From the age of seven until he was 14, he went to school in Salen, which meant a walk of about eight miles every day. He always said he was lucky there was no bus for he might have missed the important things such as puddles on a half-made road, a cuckoo on a fence, the restless tapestry of words and

Sunart's blue fjord beside him. At Salen, he read with avidity the 300 volumes of books donated by the Coates family to the school library.

When Alastair left school it was his ambition to emigrate to Canada but, instead, he went to work on the nearby farm of Resipole until 1918, when he was called up for the final period of the First World War, when the Allies launched a series of offensives against the central powers on the Western Front, beginning with the Battle of Amiens.

When the war ended, he went back to Resipole before getting part- and later full-time employment, with the county council local road squad.

From his O'Henley relations in Uist, others in Kintail and a grand uncle, Donald MacPhie, who had a vast store of information about the history of Moidart, Sunart, Ardnamurchan and Morvern, young Alastair inherited his interest in Gaelic and local folklore.

He wrote five books, contributed to An Comunn Gàidhealach's magazine, *The Gael*

and the Gaelic supplement of the Church of Scotland's magazine, *Life and Work*, and recorded many hours of Gaelic poetry and Highland history for the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh.

Of all the newspapers, jour-

“  
We greet one whom only chance has kept from our midst”

nals and publications to which Alastair contributed, there was none he was drawn more closely to than *The Oban Times*. His first letter was published in these columns in 1916 and signed 'A Cameron'. Two years later, he began using, 'North Argyll' - a pen-name under

which he became known to countless readers throughout the world wherever *The Oban Times* circulated among Highlanders far from home.

Encouraged by the late Alan Cameron (1910-2001), the newspaper's owner and editor, Alastair's output was prodigious which, all in all, amounted to 880 letters and articles - some often appearing at the rate of two or three a week.

Under Alan Cameron's long-term leadership, *The Oban Times* was as highly regarded in its area as the *London Times* was in its metropolitan setting.

The doings of the various clan and Highland societies in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London were as meticulously reported week by week as the village hall whist drives from Kilchoan to Campbeltown.

In North Argyll's own area, the paper was a bible. If an event was not reported, there would be real doubts as to whether it had occurred at all.

Many people bought *The Oban Times* solely to read his contributions. Never contented

with guesswork, and never pretending to knowledge he did not possess, Alastair Cameron made his mark through his own natural intelligence, good sense, steering clear of religion and politics, and a scrupulous regard for truth.

As road-section man, the quality of his day job was as meticulous as his learning, and his canine partner, Eachern, was as much a character as his master.

Reading and writing after work with no light source other than candles and a paraffin lamp, his eyesight began to fail and the last seven years of his life were spent in care in Oban where he died in 1973. He was buried below the east gable of the Strontian parish church.

Presenting Alastair Cameron, who was by now blind, to the principal and vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University for the degree of Master of Arts on July 1969, the Dean of the Faculty said that the 'lad o' pairts' who, despite initial adverse circumstances, was a well-known figure in Scottish life.

He was a 'man of the people' whom circumstances had never greatly favoured and who, though lacking opportunities and advantages, achieved esteem and authority through his native talent, his scholarly industry and the intellectual ardour that had so often been fostered in the humble country schools of our land.

Addressing the principal, the dean concluded: 'The brotherhood of scholarship, sir, as all those know well who have engaged in research or had any contact with the intellectual life of local communities, is fortunately very much broader than the frontiers of the university. In a man like Alastair Cameron, we greet one whom only chance has kept from our midst, and I would now invite you, sir, to make him in name what he already is in reality - one of ourselves.'

Alastair Cameron (North Argyll), JP, FSA Scot and MA, was a man of many talents and he used them well.

Iain Thorner  
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## New book chronicles Scotland's fishing boats

**SANDY NEIL**  
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A NEW book on the history and evolution of Scottish fishing boats, from pursers to herring trawlers, has been published.

*Scotland's Fishing Boats Old And New* is the fourth book on this subject by James A Pottinger, a retired marine engineer born in Shetland, who photographed and researched around 350 vessels he spotted while touring Scotland's water.

The publisher, The History Press, explains: 'The coasts of Scotland are a goldmine for fishing boats new and old, and this latest selection covers a huge variety of them - from early trawlers to seine net boats, to

modern twin rig side and stern trawlers.

'As it does so, it demonstrates the changes that evolved in the design of the boats themselves, as progress marches on: the numbers of handsome wooden boats have declined, while the smaller boats have flourished, now rigging themselves for trawling, lining and shellfish catching.'

Pottinger catalogues each boat's birth and name changes, alongside their final fates, such as Jasper III, built as Pisces at John Lewis and Sons in 1971, but in 1999 'started leaking 60 miles east of Orkney on September 10, crew picked up by Crystal River FR178'.

Other stories are barely hinted

at by the raw data, such as the steel boat Celestial Star PD118, which in 2005 'sank 70 miles south-east of Sumburgh Head after a collision with Norwegian Strillmoy on November 4, crew rescued from life raft by Ocean Harvester PD178'.

Ignominiously, the herring trawler Peter Scott H519, built by the Societe Anonyme Des Anciens Chantiers a Dubigeon in Nantes, burned out in Chile in 1989 and was converted into a floating pontoon.

The publisher concludes: 'With more than 200 photographs, many previously unpublished, *Scotland's Fishing Boats* is a photographic journey through time at a variety of locations around Scotland and the Isles.'

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## Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Argyll is facing a health crisis of that there is no doubt. This week members of the public met in the Rockfield Centre in Oban to discuss new a GP contract which comes into force on Sunday April 1, and which is likely to lead to rural practices losing doctors and services, according to patients and GPs.

Next week the Integrated Joint Board which oversees Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership has the difficult job of deciding which cuts to adopt in a bid to save £13million from its £263m budget for

2018-19. Those cuts could include more than 400 people losing their jobs, and a range of closures and privatisation options.

And while the public is to be given access to some of those proposals, not all will be available for scrutiny, some will be discussed behind closed doors.

That is not acceptable. When so many jobs and people's lives will be affected by these decisions, now and in the long term, the public should have the right to view and respond to all the information being considered.



## Days gone by – 1995

Our photograph this week comes from December of 1995 when members of Oban High School Hockey Club and pupils did some fundraising carol singing for charity. Do you recognise yourself in this picture?

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
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THIS article marks a happy ending to a thread that has run throughout my tenure writing *The Oban Times* and this, my fourth and final piece on the subject, brings a joyful concluding chapter to a story of courage, determination and eventual victory.

On Saturday March 24, Argyll man Billy Irving will marry his fiancée Yvonne MacHugh. Billy's four-year nightmare of unjust imprisonment and legal battles in the Chennai region of India came to an end in late November last year when an appeal court declared Billy and his colleagues 'not guilty'.

The tangled four-year background comprising of a web of technical, legal, political and diplomatic complications, mistakes, omissions, inaction and ineptness have been covered in previous articles and widely elsewhere, and it is a great relief that these problems are in the past and have been overcome by a long fight to gain justice.

I've been in contact with Billy a

few times since he got back, but until Monday night this week I hadn't seen him in person since 2013 before he set off for the new job that would lead to his involvement in this life-changing saga. We are playing at the wedding on Saturday so I was meeting him to check out the venue and to finalise details for the music.

Although in his messages he seemed upbeat, I was nervous as to how he would be. Four years of life is a big chunk of time to be stolen from someone in his prime through no fault of his own and in the most frustrating circumstances.

Add to that the poor conditions of the prison, the fact that his young son was growing up without him, that he had lost his job, his house and now has to rebuild his life, it is enough to change and adversely affect any human.

These were the thoughts and worries that were running through my head as I drove to meet him.

Billy's warm welcome and wall of positivity dispelled my fears in the most complete manner. Four years at the mercy of a flawed justice system

from which at times there was no probability of release were talked of as if he had been delayed for a few hours because the ferry to Mull had engine trouble.

The dark dogs of bitterness that would plague most people have been given short shrift by Billy and his attitude is firmly focused on building a bright future for himself and his family.

Where Billy did not make light was in his gratitude to those who showed support to him and his fellow prisoners. Those who visited, those who wrote letters, those who sent gifts, those who contributed financially, those who organised events and those who campaigned, he said were all responsible for his being home and for his wedding to be taking place this weekend.

It is poetic that the most committed, energetic, determined and adept campaigner who fought for his release, and eventually won, is Yvonne MacHugh, the mother of his child and the girl he will marry on Saturday.

Here's to a great day and bright future for a very special family.



### Social media

**Work to fill potholes in Oban caused a mixed reaction among readers.**

**Lorna Wylie:** While I appreciate the roads need done and the traffic hasn't been too bad the last few days, today it is absolute gridlock. School times were bad yesterday but today is a disaster. Neither end of the town is moving. 40 minutes and I still haven't managed to get onto the main road from Soroba.

**Michelle Hewitt:** Why cannot this work be done late evening when the traffic is light. Just don't understand it.

**James John McTaggart:** No pleasing

some people, job's getting done and still people complain.

**Danielle Hay-West:** Tbh I didn't find it too bad the last few days...the most I waited was 15 mins. And the results are worth it. Glad it's a proper top layer removal and replace job, rather than a patchwork quilt. Well done the guys. Especially when it's cold and wet today.

**Jo Allen Way:** Too late to announce this, already been stuck in it, pathetic road management and zero lack of warnings, better warnings would have stopped a lot of traffic even going to Oban today.

let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### Ambulances are in need of urgent funds

Sir,  
The recent announcement by Connectivity Secretary Fergus Ewing of plans to build up to 70 new telecommunications masts in Argyll and the Isles is of concern to the Scottish taxpayer.

An investment of £25 million in mobile connectivity should raise questions as to this government's priorities. Moreover, these masts are not about connecting remote communities.

They are 'infilling' to cover any potential blackspots and the question should be asked as to whether this huge amount of money could have been better spent.

I would urge your readers to email their MSPs to ask serious questions regarding why their money is being used to ensure 100 per cent mobile coverage when we have many other issues in the Highlands, not least the lack of funding within the NHS.

As a former member of the ambulance service, I am acutely aware of the limited resources that are at the forefront of emergency care.

These lack of resources do not include a need for 100 per cent mobile coverage or 4G but are more about maintaining vehicles with mileages equivalent to the distance needed to get to the moon.

Creaking and unsanitary conditions are present in ambulances because they are so old. It is not unusual for vehicles to break down. Some essential equipment therein is almost at the point of being unusable. Only the very hard work of ambulance staff keep these on the road at all.

Have a good look at an ambulance next time you can and think about where that £25 million should really go.

Nicholas MacIneskar,  
Barrahormaid Farm, Tayvallich.

### How can we trace litter louts?

Sir,  
As one who volunteers to pick up litter, I came across a receipt listing goods that matched the nearby empty plastic bottles and a cake box lying on the roadside verge, all recently bought from a local shop.

The goods were paid by a debit card, which only shows the last four digits of the account number. If it was a Silent Witness serious crime scene, I'm fairly certain that the person(s) could be traced back to the shop, probably having CCTV, transaction records, forensic evidence (fingerprints, DNA) and so on.

I know it's a sledgehammer to crack a nut situation, and that police and local authorities have not got the resources to deal with littering, especially beyond urban areas. However, I do wonder whether just one well advertised successful prosecution would send out a strong message that it is possible to be caught.

And what is wrong with using mobile miniature spy cameras at roadside lay-bys, as we have mobile speed cameras? Fortunately, Blue Planet 2 has provided the wake-up call over the

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



ABAIR DEIREADH SEACHDAIN dha sgiobaidhean rugbaidh nan dùthchannan Ceilteach! Tha na meadhanan mòra Breatannach cho tric a' dèiligeadh ri Alba agus A' Chuimrigh mar mhean-gan beaga de Shasainn ge b' e de an cuspair air am bheil iad a' labhairt, agus gu sònraichte a thaobh spòrs! Gabhaidh sin tuigsinn ma tha neach a' dèanamh coimeas àireamh sluaigh eadar fear sam bith de na dùthchannan Ceilteach agus Sasainn, oir an-uiridh bha còrr air seasad is còig millean a' còmhnaidh ann an Sasainn taça ri dhà dheug gu leth millean eadar Alba, A' Chuimrigh, agus Poblachd na h-Èireann còmhla!

Le taghadh bho àireamhan den t-seòrsa sin chanadh tu gum feumadh làmh an uachdair a bhith aig Sasainn daonnan nuair a thig e gu bhith a' cur sgioba spòrs sam bith ri chèile, agus dhearbhadh iad sin uair is uair. Ach Disathairne seo chaidh, mar Dhàibhidh a' coinneachadh Goliath, sheas na Ceilteach ris na dùthchannan mòra agus bhuannaich iad uile! Eirinn an aghaidh Shasainn; A'

need for action to protect our fragile environment.

If television is that powerful in conveying serious global matters then governments should act – for example, by enforcing big drinks companies to highlight in their TV adverts the problem of litter when their products are disposed of irresponsibly.

A Robinson,  
Spean Bridge.

### BBC Scotland coverage concerns

Sir,  
A mass protest against weapons of mass destruction is due to take place on September 15 at the Anglo-American naval facility at Faslane.

The Faslane Coulpport base holds the greatest arsenal of nuclear weapons in Europe and is a clear and present danger to the people of central Scotland.

Concerned people from all over the UK and Europe will be gathering at Faslane to make their protest and deare determined to make Westminster think again.

Having concerns about the 'black propaganda' campaign by BBC Scotland during the Independence Referendum, I have written to the head of news at the same and asked for assurance that the reporting of the mass advent will receive impartial coverage.

William JS Todd  
Stirling.

### Children have right to free travel to GMU

Sir,  
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the catchment area for Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

I do so as a parent of two sons who attended the Gaelic Medium Unit (GMU) in St Mary's School, Fort William.

I was active, with many local activists and council colleagues, in establishing the Fort William GMU in 1994 and then Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar in 2015 as part of the reorganisation of Fort William's primary schools.

I support the general proposals in the consultation paper. However, I challenge the assertion that the general limit for travel to the Gaelic school (GME) should be six to 15 miles. Many past pupils attending GME have travelled much greater distances.

My own children travelled 22 miles by road from Achaphubuil to attend the Fort William GMU. We also used the Camusnagaul ferry to do so.

It is good that this will be free but pupils from south Lochailside should have the right to access from this transport link to Caol.

Other pupils have attended from Ardour by crossing the Corran ferry. Again, they should have the right to transport from Nether Lochaber to Caol.

I would ask that Highland Council be more flexible in allowing future pupils from Invergarry, Glencoe and South Ballachulish to attend Bun-

scoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar if requested. The reasons given against this is that the distances are too long for the pupils and the cost would be excessive.

Many parents of pupils attending Gaelic Medium Education in Lochaber have done so by transporting their children 40-50 miles so that they could attend croileagan, Gaelic nurseries and after-school activities all at their own expense and by considerable personal effort.

The Highland Council's own Gaelic committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor Hamish Fraser, provided the evidence that Gaelic medium units and schools, once fully established after five years, were cheaper per pupil than English medium education. This was mainly because the support network for GME was much smaller.

I would ask that this cost saving of attending the Gaelic school is used to offset the right to access transport from Corran and Camusnagaul, and also to give serious consideration to any future requests for pupils from Invergarry, Glencoe and Ballachulish to attend GME.

This will then allow more of our young people to access the benefits of bilingual education.

Dr Michael Foxley,  
Achaphubuil,  
An Gearasdan.

### Litter pickers to be thanked

Sir,  
Congratulations to the team of litter pickers who are clearing a stretch of the grass verge on the A85 close to Tainuit.

This particularly twisty section of road had its verge littered with rubbish and is being transformed!

Thank you, all.  
Doreen Henderson  
North Connel.

### Annual Killin Community auction

Sir,  
The annual Killin Community Auction, will be held on Easter Saturday, March 31, in the McLaren Hall Killin. Viewing is from 4pm with the auction at 6pm prompt.

This eagerly awaited event raises much needed funds for local groups and worthy causes, and is well supported by both locals and visitors who all take the opportunity to relax, renew friendships and enjoy the friendly atmosphere the auction evening creates.

This year donations includes some surprising items, including a Cape Buffalo Skull with a horn span of over three feet, several items of china and stoneware in the antique category, as well as the more modern items and many collectibles new to the market.

There are some photos on the local masonic lodge website and their Facebook page which give a view of some of what's on offer. The wine and ale bar will help the craik and the kitchen will provide snacks and hot drinks.

A Stewart  
Killin

### Ailean Caimbeul

thar chàich le seinn agus cluiche ciùil sònraichte aig an aois. Feasgar Dhiardaoin bha Ceilidh eadar-dhealichte aig Theatre Gu Leòr san aon ionad aig Cùirt Eden. Chunnac is chuala sinn dealbh-chluiche clis air a bhonntachadh air fuadach Mhàiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh bho a h-àite mar bhanaltram dha Clann MhicLeòid Dhùn Bheagain gu ruige Muile. Chòrd an sgeulachd, a' chleasachd, an dòigh ealanta san robh teicneòlas ga chleachdadh agus eadar-theangachadh mar aon a libh-rigeadh, agus an ceòl ris na bha an làthair, agus saoilidh mi gun iarramaid uile barrachd fhacinn bho Theatre Gu Leòr!

SUPERB music and song at Inverness Gaelic Society's annual showcase concert on Friday, and an immensely enjoyable performance by Theatre Gu Leòr at the same Eden Court venue on Thursday.

This followed by rugby triumph for the Celtic teams in the Six Nations, proving once more that small nations can win against much larger neighbours.

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

### Your letters

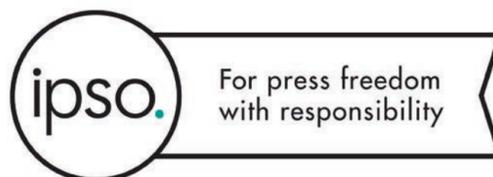
THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith.

A daytime telephone number

is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.



ADVERTORIAL



The seals are back at the Scottish Sealife Centre in Barcaldine.

## Seals return home to re-vamped pool at Scottish Sealife Sanctuary

THE SEALS who call the The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine home are back and happier than ever thanks to their refurbished pool.

After taking a six-week 'vacation' while their pools were re-lined, the seals returned 'as if they had never been away'.

Ensuring their home is maintained is 'absolutely vital', manager Heidi Holland said.

'The welfare of the seals and their environment is paramount to their care,' she added.

'We like to make sure their home is top notch. They went straight back in together like they had never been away and their training resumed as soon as they came back.'

The move wasn't a stressful one for the seals, as months prior to the trip, the seals were trained and rewarded for using the stretcher which was used to transport them in and out of the pool.

'They think it's a game,'

said Heidi. 'It's fun for them. It's all about positive reinforcement.'

This same technique is used for health checks, making it a fun experience for the seals.

Getting them to roll over in exchange for fish means they can be examined to ensure they are in tip-top condition.

It also 'keeps them active and keeps their minds engaged', Heidi added.

Members of the public can get up close and personal and play with the seals through the sanctuary's 'feeding experiences'.

A maximum of two people at a time can feed the seals before the centre opens to the public before being treated to breakfast themselves in the on-site cafe, which overlooks Loch Creran.

The other option is the VIP seal feeding experience, which gives two people the chance to feed the seals during opening hours.

To purchase experience tickets visit [www.visitsealife.com/oban/discover/experiences](http://www.visitsealife.com/oban/discover/experiences)



## Meet the seals

**Macey and Pippa:** Six-year-olds Macey and Pippa both suffer from thyroid conditions and will be on medication for the rest of their lives.

They were rescued by Hunstanton Sea Life Centre when they were pups, before being transferred to the sanctuary in Barcaldine in October 2012.

If they didn't get their medication, their fur would fall out and they would feel very ill.

They wouldn't be able to survive in the wild. They were brought to Barcaldine to keep Lora company.

**Lora:** Lora is the eldest seal at 11 years old and was born at the sanctuary.

As she was born in captivity she cannot be released into the wild because she doesn't know how to hunt for herself as her mother never had to teach her.

She is described as a clever and daring girl and her favourite place is the wall between the two seal pools.

The animal care team say it's amazing to see her jump out of the water and onto the wall.

**Boo:** Boo, aged four, is a rescued pup from summer 2014. He came to Oban's Scottish Sealife Sanctuary on June 15 in a very weak state. The sanctuary believe he was abandoned so young because he was born prematurely.

Boo, who is partially sighted, loves playing with hoops and his favourite thing is spinning around in the water.

He is very curious and likes watching guests through the windows.

# Mayday! Help needed to steer Oban lifeboat fundraising group

OBAN RNLI fundraising group has made a Mayday call for new volunteers.

The group, which is tasked with raising funds alongside one of Scotland's busiest lifeboats, has a willing band of friends who help out at fundraising events.

However, finding volunteers willing to take over the helm as chairman and secretary is proving a harder task.

Chairman Mike Robertson and secretary Moira Kerr have spent several years in the posts as they have been unable to find replacement office bearers.

Now work commitments have

forced the hand of the secretary, who is standing down from the voluntary role at the end of the month.

Fundraising group chairman Mike Robertson, who is also seeking a successor due to his many other commitments which include chairing the lifeboat management committee, said: 'For many years Oban, as well as being one of the busiest stations in the country, has also had a very active and successful fundraising group.'

'However, nothing lasts for ever and the group now finds itself in urgent need of fresh volunteer

leadership.' The job description might read: 'Wanted: one or more ladies or gents keen to help the lifesaving work of the RNLI by taking on the organisation of the Oban Fundraising Group. Would suit someone who has a bit of business or organisational skill, an interest in the sea and would like to become involved with the community through the lifeboat 'family'.'

'There is a very willing existing group of helpers for the fundraising activities,' said Mike. 'What is needed are one or two individuals willing to take over the roles of either chairperson

or secretary.' Mike added: 'I stepped in as temporary fundraising group chairman more than six years ago when no-one could be found for that post and am still in situ now.'

'However, I have many other commitments and feel the time is right to hand over the fundraising lead to someone else.'

Both the chairman and secretary are keen to continue giving a helping hand at fundraising events.

Moira said: 'It is great fun and it is hard to think of a more worthy cause to raise cash for than saving lives at sea.'

She added: 'I am sure there must be suitable candidates out there, with both the time and the skill set to take on a lead organising role on the committee.'

Mike added: 'I will be happy to have a chat or to show interested parties something of the work that goes on to make Oban the vibrant lifeboat station it is and just how important fundraising is to that work.'

Anyone interested in joining the fundraising committee should telephone the chairman on 01631 562840 or mobile 07766 757253 or email [mjr@dunol.co.uk](mailto:mjr@dunol.co.uk)

## Indie cafe appeals for help to kickstart business

OBAN cafe owner Joolz Goodman is crowdfunding £1,000 to kickstart her Little Potting Shed Venture.

She has just 15 days left to bring in the remaining £750 needed to finish off the vegetarian cafe's refurbishment which needed 'more than just a lick of paint'.

The appeal has gone out on Facebook and kickstarter.com so the wee cafe in John Street can re-open.

Joolz and her husband Russell have been working furiously behind the scenes to do much of the work themselves but desperately need the final £1,000 to get it finished and reveal the new look. They are hoping customers from the past, including comedian John Bishop, who called

in last year, and those from the present and future will donate to their kickstarter.com page to help them add the finishing touches.

In return people will get vouchers to the sum of their donations to reclaim in foody treats once the cafe opens again.

Joolz, who has also tweeted famous anti-meat campaigner Smiths' frontman singer songwriter Morrissey, said: 'We're hoping to get to target when the page runs out on Friday April 6.'

Anyone who lives far away and makes a donation will get a gift or a hamper from us. Others can redeem their vouchers in the cafe. We always knew there would be gremlins and hidden costs with a project like this, no matter how much we planned,

but the work needed doing and we wanted to put our own whacky mark on the place in terms of decor.

'We are offering something a bit different in Oban. The town has lost independent shops Kitchen Garden and Nancy Black's but we want to keep going. We just need a bit of help.'

Most of the commercial kitchen equipment needed replacing or repairing, including a leaky dishwasher. Getting new flooring halted work for a while after a supplier failed to turn up with the goods but the revamp is still pushing ahead.

The cafe, which supports Fair-trade and caters for alternative dietary demands including gluten free and vegan, went

virtually plastic-free from the day it opened and has just signed up to a Zero Waste Scotland initiative, will continue to be as environmentally-friendly as it can. There are also new eco-loos with eco-lighting to help save energy.

Outside, they hope to replace two benches with tables and chairs to free up more space inside the cafe, especially when tourists descend.

Joolz is also involved in planning Oban's first Wee Vegan Fair at the Rockfield Centre on Saturday May 19 from 11am to 4pm. To help The Little Potting Shed, go to [kickstarter.com/projects/756871463/cafe-essential-maintenance-and-equipment-upgrade](http://kickstarter.com/projects/756871463/cafe-essential-maintenance-and-equipment-upgrade)

## Cash boost for 'grow your own' project

AN ISLAND project turning fish farm waste into wind-break fencing and vegetable-growing tunnels, has been given a £222,926 share of government funding.

Tagsa Uibhist's Grow Your Own project on Benbecula is one of the latest initiatives to benefit from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF).

The Grow Your Own food project will use its money to develop school gardens and create more growing hubs out in the community. Two new polytunnels made out of fish farm waste materials will be set up at Sollas at the Old School community centre and at Lochboisdale in Kenneth Drive. The fish feed pipes will be bent into arches as part of the poly-tunnel like structures and old fish nets will be used for fencing.

Project leader Laura Donkers said this was the fourth round of CCF funding it had received and it was 'ready to hit the ground running' now that news of the latest money was official.

Two part-time workers will be recruited to help run the new polytunnels, said Ms Donkers. She added: 'This way the community feels it owns the site and the projects will be developed by them so they rise to the challenge.'

The new polytunnels should be up by July with a harvest to follow later in the year.

## Scotland's first female fish farming director keen to build more links with Taynuilt

DAWNFRESH boss Alison Hutchins is Scotland's first female fish farming director.

Ms Hutchins was in Taynuilt on Monday to introduce herself personally to the community council, keen to build more links with the village.

She asked councillors what they wanted to see more of from the company, which has sites on nearby Loch Etive and Loch Awe, and was told 'more timely responses would be useful' to stories in the press and incidents such as fish escapes in the loch.

Ms Hutchins answered a number of other questions from councillors explaining 27 local people were now employed at the Loch Etive site, compared to

13 five years ago, and said there were another 10 jobs at Loch Awe.

'We've no intention of letting that slip,' she added.

Ms Hutchins, who worked for Dawnfresh for five years before her new role, also said in terms of the salmon industry Dawnfresh was a small producer but when it came to farmed trout 'we are large', revealing all trout found in Marks & Spencers and Sainburys stores were supplied by them.

She said 60 per cent of its trout went to UK supermarkets with 40 per cent exported to America.

The possibility of processing in the local area was something

she would like to look at in the future, Ms Hutchins told the meeting, but said for the time being it was being carried out elsewhere, including in Arbroath where some of the fish goes to be smoked.

Dawnfresh is heavily regulated by watchdogs including Marine Scotland and by Argyll and Bute Council as well as all its customers said Ms Hutchins, who also reported there was no problem with sea lice in its waters 'just now'.

'Wild fish bring in the sea lice but there's no sea lice just now because of the rainfall.'

'We've not done any sea lice treatment since November,' she said.



Alison Hutchins.

## Oban whisky tasting raises over £1,000 for charity



The Oban Distillery tour and tasting session helped to raise more than £1,000 for charity.

A CHARITY tour and tasting session in Oban Distillery has raised £1,105 that will be used to help children with additional needs.

The fundraiser was organised by Jack Anderson, who is part of HCPT Group 43.

Every year the group takes young people with social, emotional, or physical difficulties

on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes in the south of France.

It costs around £1,000 per person to attend the event, and this year HCPT Group 43 is taking nine people, three of who hail from Oban.

Jack said: 'We had a fantastic night, it was really interesting to see how the whisky was made and where the flavours

come from, then try the whisky to compare.'

'We have to raise around £1,000 per young person, to take them on what can be a life changing trip and for a lot of them their first opportunity to travel abroad. Patrick Steeman [distillery operator], Calum Rew [distillery manager] and the staff put on a very success-

ful night that we hope to repeat next year.'

'Thanks go to all the staff who gave their time free of charge and to the distillery for holding the event.'

More funds for the trip will be coming from Oban High School's Harry Potter world record attempt on Monday.

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**After a long, cold, winter isn't it wonderful to welcome Eastertide and the lighter evenings and the much-anticipated arrival of spring!**

After a long, cold, winter isn't it wonderful to welcome Eastertide and the lighter evenings and the much-anticipated arrival of spring! EASTER is early this year but here is a conundrum: it might well be early in the calendar but it seems we have been waiting for it for so long after a bitterly cold spell of weather.

Winter does seem to have dragged this year, doesn't it? The daffodils all seem to have waited, shivering, to come out and greet the spring. It is a time for shaking off winter and getting out and about - whether that is meeting up with our families and friends, venturing out into the countryside or beginning to enjoy our gardens.

It is a time when migrating birds and animals start to arrive back in the West Highlands and our tourist season begins to build. Now that Easter is here let's all enjoy the awakening of new growth, new life in the fields around us, the lengthening days and the Christian celebrations at the heart of the holiday.

**Why does the date of Easter keep changing?**

**Part of the joy of Easter is that its date changes every year - why should all our holidays be on the same day?**

EASTER is decided by the heavens and not some committee laying down the rules when Bank Holidays should be.

That is part of its mystery. This religious holiday is not on the same day every year, so it is known as a moveable feast. The Gregorian calendar, also known as the western or Christian calendar, is the most widely-used

calendar in the world today and it is by its guidelines that we set our Easter date.

In 325CE the Council of Nicaea agreed that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. Easter is delayed by one week if the full moon is on Sunday.

The earliest that Easter can be is March 21; back in

1818 the Paschal full moon fell on Saturday March 21 (the equinox). Therefore, the following day, March 22, was Easter and it will not fall as early again until 2285, a span of 467 years.

The latest possible date is April 25. There are 35 dates on which Easter can take place.

Meanwhile, back at the Council of Nicaea! This ruling

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# Easter

upset some of the Christian community because the early Christians, who had been taught to do so by the Apostles, particularly by Paul and John, followed the custom of celebrating Easter on the 14th day of Nisan, or Aviv, to coincide with Passover. Then there are those churches in the world still observing Easter under the Julian calendar which means Easter Sunday is on April 8 this year. You

could, if you wanted, celebrate Easter three times every year. Just to throw a little more into the mix – did you know that this year March has two full moons, on the 1st and 31st of the month; the second is therefore a blue moon. And here in the northern hemisphere the March equinox is known as the vernal equinox and in the southern hemisphere as the autumnal equinox.

Amidst all our daffodils, Easter bunnies and spring in general, it is hard to think that family and friends 'down under' in New Zealand and Australia are putting on their woolly jumpers and winter coats as we start packing away ours. Oh, one more thing . . . that other great calculator to mark the arrival of spring, the CalMac summer timetable, begins on March 30.

## Easter goodies

ALL across the area you will find Easter egg hunts taking place. The National Trust for Scotland has them organised at some of its properties, as do many businesses around the area. The Sealife Centre Egg-stravaganza has become a firm Easter time favourite with

children. Also now is the time for Eater and daffodil teas – a great way for local charities to boost funds so look out for signs around all the towns and villages and go along and sample some West Highland home-baking and have a cuppa for a good cause.

**Atlantis EASTER PROGRAMME**  
**EASTER CAMPS**  
 (P4 - P7) Mon 2nd April - Fri 13th April  
 Full day camp 9am to 4pm  
 (Half Day Camp: 9.00am - 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 4.00pm)  
 Full Day Camp Cost £74.00 per camp or £14.80 per day  
 Half Day Camp Cost £37.00 per camp or £7.40 per half day  
 This is a multi-sport activity camp where children will have the chance to experience varied sports and games.  
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**JUNIOR MULTI SPORT SESSIONS**  
 (P1 - P3) Mon 2nd April - Fri 13th April  
 10.00am - 12.00pm  
 Cost £32.00 per week or £6.40 per day  
 This is a multi-sport activity camp where children will have the chance to experience varied sports and games.

**PRE-SCHOOL SESSIONS**  
 (3 - 5 yrs) Every Tuesday & Thursday  
 12.15pm - 1.00pm  
 Cost £3.20 per session.  
 Pre-school games and pre-school football

**POOL INFLATABLE FUN SESSIONS**  
 (3 - 5 yrs) Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
 11.15am or 12.00pm  
 Cost £3.30 per session.  
 In the main pool. Must be 8+ and be able to swim 50m

For more info: [ben.pollock@atlantisleisure.co.uk](mailto:ben.pollock@atlantisleisure.co.uk)  
 Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland PA34 5JE  
 Tel: 01631 566800

## Church services

Rev Dugald Cameron, Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll: The authorities should pursue the wrongdoer, enforce the law and string up those who upset order and common decency. How easily we can jump on that band wagon. And the mob shouted, 'Crucify Him.' But then, when we had done our worst, Christ looked down from the cross and with his last breath worked his justice, 'Father, forgive them.' This Easter, may we journey in peace.

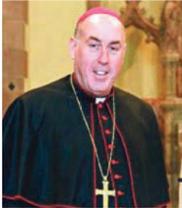


World. Please join us in St Columba's Cathedral throughout Holy Week. May Christ light up your hearts and lives this Easter. HAT

Bishop Kevin Pearson, Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles: God is Love which conquers All. God is Love which makes sense of who and what we are. Love liberates us from the tomb, as Jesus in the story of the resurrection, left the tomb. So we are able to leave the tombs we hew for ourselves out of the rocks of our own personalities. Come and celebrate at The Cathedral of St John in Oban.



Bishop Brian McGee, Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles: Happy Easter! On Holy Saturday night our Paschal Candle will be lit from the Easter Fire. As the darkness is dispelled we celebrate that Christ is Risen and that he is the Light of the



**St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort William**

**Holy Thursday Night 7pm**  
 Mass of the Lords Supper

**Good Friday Service 3pm**  
 The Way of the Cross 7pm

**Easter Vigil 8pm**

**Easter Sunday Morning Mass**  
 10.30am

**Oban Congregational Church**

**A Celebration Of Easter**

Maunday Thursday Communion 6:30pm

Good Friday Church Open for Prayer and Meditation from 2-4pm

Easter Sunrise Rise Service At Pulpit Hill 8am followed by Breakfast in the Church Hall

All Age Morning Service 11am

Easter Monday Coffee Morning Between 10.30 and 12.30

**VISITATION AT TAYNUILT**

**Taynuilt**

**Good Friday Service 3pm**  
**Saturday Easter Vigil 9.30pm**  
**Sunday Mass 11am**

**Dalmally**

**Sunday Mass 9am**

**St Columba's Cathedral**  
 Corran Esplanade  
 Oban, OBAN PA34 5AB  
 Tel: 01631 562123

**Holy Thursday 7pm**  
**Good Friday 3pm**  
**Easter Saturday Vigil 8.30pm**  
**Easter Sunday Mass 10.30am**

**Kilmore and Oban Holy Week and Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday  
 29th March 7.00pm

Sunday 1st April  
 9.45am Easter Breakfast and Egg Rolling  
 10.30am Easter All-Age Celebration  
 12.00pm Kilmore Easter Worship

More info at: [obancofs@btinternet.com](mailto:obancofs@btinternet.com)  
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# SLÀinte



THEY say that newspaper men and women like a drink and we are very proud of the fact that in four out of five of our home towns: Oban, Fort William, Campbeltown and Arran there are famous whisky distilleries. In fact whisky in Argyll and Bute is such a historic and valued part of the local economy that the area has two distinct whisky classifications to itself, Campbel-

town and Islay. Look out for the Campbeltown Whisky Festival in May.

In Fort William the distillery sits at the foot of Ben Nevis. Can you get more iconic than that?

The malts produced here are valued by connoisseurs around the world and the most famous blended whiskies all use our produce.

In the world of craft distilling

gin is enjoying an incredible success and we are starting to see some excellent products being added to the West Highlands and more are going to follow. Many people consider gin an English drink but nearly three-quarters of the gin drunk in the UK comes from Scotland, think Gordon's and Tanqueray.

The Botanist is a gin from Islay the home to so many whisky dis-

tilleries; other islands like Harris and Jura are producing gin and others are produced elsewhere using botanicals from the area with a view to eventually financing small-batch distilleries in the area.

Campbeltown and Kintyre are once again at the forefront and you can find gins created in Colonsay, Barra, Lochaber, Skye, Tiree and Mull to name just some.

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## Ben Nevis Distillery

Ben Nevis Distillery has been building on its success since its establishment in 1825. It is one of the oldest licensed distilleries in Scotland and continues to go from strength to strength.

The distillery is nestled at the foot of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, which has a summit elevation of 4,406 feet above sea level. Incorporated within Ben Nevis Distillery is The Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre, built into an old warehouse dating from 1862 and former bottling hall, which still retains some of its original features.

There is a conducted tour of the production areas by a trained guide which concludes with a complementary 'tasting'. After your tour around the distillery relax with a refreshment or if you are hungry, try some of their delicious home-cooking in the coffee shop and restaurant. The whisky shop is stocked with a large range of select whiskies, Scottish books and interesting gifts.

## Oban Distillery

Nestling beneath the cliff that overlooks Oban, Oban Distillery is one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky and is a stone's throw from the sea. Take a tour of the senses with one of our knowledgeable guides and explore each part of the whisky making process. Your tour will finish with a dram of Oban 14-year-old malt accompanied by some crystallised ginger – a truly memorable taste sensation!

The Distillery Visitor Centre is open all year round and houses an exhibition area, a well-stocked gift shop and a tasting bar (seasonal opening hours apply). The guided tours are in high demand so booking ahead is always advisable and can be done through the distillery website, www.discovering-distilleries.com/oban

Why not pay us a visit and learn what makes Oban single malt whisky unique?

## Glen Scotia Distillery

Glen Scotia Distillery was founded in 1832 and is one of just three working distilleries in Campbeltown. Glen Scotia is undergoing a renaissance, with a new visitor shop and tours now on offer throughout the year, offering another great reason to visit Campbeltown.

On offer in the new 'Victorian'-themed shop is our core range of malts, premium clothing as well as distillery editions only available at the distillery.

Each offering something special but all delivering the characteristic flavour of a Campbeltown single malt. We offer standard tours at 11.30am and 3pm, as well as special managers' tours available on request.

We are also expanding our offering at the Campbeltown Whisky Festival in May so if you can't make it down over Easter, come and see us on May 24-26. To book a tour call 01586 552288 or visit www.glenscotia.com

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@Glenscotiamalts /Glenscotiawhisky



**Win a bottle of Oban 14-year-old!**

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to The Oban Times, Distillery Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by midnight, Tuesday April 3, 2018.

**Question: How many Oban Distillery Malts are currently produced?**

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

Over 18s only. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date and will receive a 70cl bottle of Oban 14 year old whisky. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday April 3, 2018.



# OUTDOORS

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## Plan launched to widen access to national park

**MARTIN LAING**  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

**ENVIRONMENT** Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham has launched a five-year plan for supporting people from different backgrounds to enjoy the great outdoors through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Pupils from St Modan's High School in Stirling, who all have additional support needs, demonstrated how they are able to experience the fantastic recreational activities on offer at the park, thanks to a project that lends specially adapted bikes for children and young people with disabilities.

The Blazing Saddles project is run by FABB Scotland (Facilitating Access and Breaking Barriers), one of the third-sector activity providers that the national park authority works with to increase opportunities to widen the health and wellbeing benefits of the park for people of all abilities and backgrounds and one of the key themes of the National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023.

The plan sets out how all the groups involved in the management of the national park can work together to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits for the whole of Scotland.

The school pupils took Ms Cunningham, national park authority convener James Stuart and chief executive Gordon Watson for a bike ride in Callander, and explained what benefits the project has had for them.

Ms Cunningham said: 'Along with our partners at the national park, I'm delighted to be able to launch this plan, which aims to unlock the area's great outdoors for everyone.'

'And it's particularly encouraging to see the focus given to providing access for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to the national park's amazing resources.'

'It's great to see the ambition of the National Park Partnership Plan in trying to tackle issues that are key to young people - by providing skills and training opportunities, as well as creating more affordable housing within the park itself. That's particularly important during 2018 - the Year of Young People.'

Mr Stuart said: 'The partnership plan sets out how, working collaboratively, we can tackle some really key issues not just locally but for the whole of Scotland.'

'The focus is on big priorities that are most likely to make a lasting difference such as helping to tackle the impacts of climate change through extensive peatland and woodland



Roseanna Cunningham and children at Callander try out two-seater bikes.

restoration and innovative flood prevention projects; creating a sustainable population through affordable housing and the creation of employment and training for young people; and creating a world-class visitor experience.'

Deputy chief executive officer of FABB Scotland Jan Brereton added: 'We want to help make Scotland a happier and healthier place to live for everyone and

break down the barriers facing people with disabilities.'

'The adapted bikes are really popular and we work with a range of groups, such as the pupils at St Modan's, out of our base at Callander to give them that opportunity to get outside and enjoy the fantastic surroundings of the national park and all the benefits it brings.'

FABB Scotland is just one of

more than 70 organisations listed in the National Park Partnership Plan, which sets out 13 outcomes across conservation and land management, visitor experience and rural development.

To read the National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023, go to <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/rr-content/uploads/2018/02/NPPP2018-23-web.pdf>

## Appeal aims to help red squirrels return to Morvern

TREES for Life has launched an appeal to raise £22,000 to ensure a better future for red squirrels in the Highlands, writes Euan Carr.

The Reds Return appeal will enable the reintroduction of red squirrels in up to eight woodlands in the north-west Highlands, where new populations will be able to flourish, safe from competition and disease transmitted from grey squirrels.

This will help the natural expansion of the region's pine forests, due to red squirrels inadvertently planting new trees by forgetting where they have buried their winter stores of nuts and seeds. It will allow more people to see red squirrels in the wild.

Trees for Life is a charity which is working to restore Scotland's Caledonian forest.

Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive, said: 'Although one of our best-loved wild animals, red squirrels are sadly missing from suitable woodlands across the Highlands. They cannot reach these isolated havens on their own because they avoid crossing large open spaces.'

'Every donation will help us reintroduce red squirrels to ideal forest habitats.'

'Returning them to forests safe from grey squirrels will help conserve this charismatic species forever.'



For the past three years, the conservation charity has been transporting red squirrels from their strongholds in Inverness-shire and Moray to isolated fragments of suitable forest at Shieldaig in Wester Ross, the Coulin Estate near Kinlochewe, Plockton, Inverewe, the Reraig peninsular, Attadale and Letterewe.

The new red squirrel release sites have yet to be confirmed, but Trees for Life plans to focus on the Morvern peninsular and north of the Dornoch Firth, which will extend the species' current range.

Grey squirrels were introduced to the UK in 1870 and now number more than three million, compared to an estimated 120,000 red squirrels in Scotland.

## Nature projects share £20,000 in new funding

ELEVEN projects from across Scotland, designed to encourage young people's interest in nature during the Year of Young People, have been chosen to receive a total of £20,000 by the Future Routes Fund.

The projects are ideas developed by young people to help them get more involved with the environment and local wildlife throughout Scotland, in rural and urban areas, with the use of activities including film, music, art, volunteering, and outdoor recreation.

The projects to be funded include the Misty Isle Youth Forum, Skye, which offers several free, educational arts and crafts activities using items

found on beach-cleans during the summer; and Julie Aitken in the Outer Hebrides, who is hosting workshops throughout the islands to engage young people in the natural environment.

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

More than 30 groups and individual young people aged 11 to 26 applied for funding. SNH will also work with Young Scot to support the projects in developing their ideas. This could involve the use of SNH's and Young Scot's resources, or assistance from local staff.

## Mystery surrounds disappearance of golden eagle

CONSERVATIONISTS are concerned about the safety of a young pair of eagles after news emerged that another satellite-tagged golden eagle has disappeared in the Monadhliath Mountains of Inverness-shire.

Data from the two-year-old male's transmitter showed he had been living in an upland area, mainly managed for driven grouse shooting, north of Tomatin, since early last year. He had stayed almost exclusively in this area until mid-December, when his tag stopped transmitting.

An investigation by Police Scotland has not yielded further clues as to the bird's fate.

The bird, fitted with a tag sponsored by SSE, before it fledged from a nest in the Cairngorms National Park, was paired to a two-year-old female, coincidentally also fitted with a transmitter. Data from her tag shows she left the same area for several days following the male's disappearance, possibly searching for her missing mate, before returning to the territory. She has subsequently been

joined there by another young male, also reinforcing the case that the two-year-old bird has disappeared.

The missing bird and its mate were occupying a traditional golden eagle territory, but one where the nest has not been successful for decades despite good habitat and prey.

Anyone who can provide information about this bird is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, or to phone the confidential RSPB raptor crime hotline on 0300 999 0101.



## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

**Sunday March 25**  
**Meall nam Maigneach and Creag nan Eildeag, Glen Lyon**  
This walk offers a Corbett summit, grandstand views of the nearby

Munros and beautiful Glen Lyon, and finishes in a picturesque Highland village for refreshments at the PO cafe. Start at the hut by the CP, NN582417, on the Loch Tay to Glen Lyon road, 1.2Km W of the summit cairn. Head NNW to the wall running up the hillside of the Coire Buidhe. Follow a path by the wall N to the summit of Meall nam Maigneach, 779m. Head N for 800m to a cairn, turn NE and descend to a col 1Km distant at 566m alt. Continue NNE to the summit of Creag nan Eildeag, 642m, and on to its summit plateau at 637m. To avoid the steep and rocky N aspect, head E down

easy terraces between crags. On reaching easier ground, head NE to the path beside the Allt Gleann Da-Eig and follow it down to the Roroyere. Turn W on the track to Bridge of Balgie.

Grade: M; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 383m; Map(s): LR51, EX378, OL48. Meet at Longsdale car park in Oban 8.35am or Glen Coe village car park at 8.45am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

**Thursday March 29**  
**Eastern volcanic rim, Ardnamurchan**  
A circuit of the eastern rim of the

great Ardnamurchan volcanic ring giving very fine views of the volcano and the Small Isles.

Start on the Kilchoan-Sanna road at NM472669. Climb the deer fence and ascend the obvious gully to the summit of Creag an Airgid, 257m. Follow the ridge E over several tops to reach Meall an Tarmachain, 405m.

Descend steeply NE and recross the deer fence. Keeping to the highest ground of the NW/SE watershed make for the summit of Meall nan Con, 437m, marked by a trig point 2.1Km distant. Descend steeply WNW past some lochans and climb to the summit

of Meall Meadhoin, 388m. Follow the crest of the ridge NNW to an unnamed summit, 262m, 1.7Km distant. Turn W to reach Meall an Fhìr-eoin, then descend a steep, narrow gully and head NW to Lochan Dobhrain.

Follow the burn issuing SW from the lochan to reach the path to Glendrian. Follow the path S to the road and back to the start.

Grade: M+; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 800m; Map(s): LR47, EX390. Meet at Corran Ferry slip fort 8.50am sailing. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

**NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB**  
Please see full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

**Saturday March 24**  
**Carn Liath and Stob Poite Coire Ardair, Loch Laggan**  
Park at Aberarder farm and follow the path heading NW towards Coire Ardair.

Approaching the birch trees, a small cairn at NN473882 marks the path heading north up the

slopes of Na Cnapanan, 623m. From here, continue N up the broad ridge to Carn Liath 1006m. The route heads W along a fine ridge, over a succession of small summits, 969m, 963m, 991m and 1051m, to Stob Poite Coire Ardair, 1053m.

Descend to The Window, NN 427885, avoiding the crags, then steeply down the path to Lochan a' Choire.

From here a good path leads back to the car park. Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 950m. Suggested by Robert Paterson and Fiona Wild, coordinated by Liz Stevenson.

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# Arena

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## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)



Thursday 22nd March	Saturday 24th March	Monday 26th March
<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Oban Health Walk</b> Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am	<b>Table Top Sale</b> Oban Congregational Church Teas & coffees available 11am-2pm	<b>Oban Photographic Club Meeting</b> Regent Hotel 7.15pm-9.30pm
<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY	<b>Hill Walk</b> Loch Laggan All Day	<b>Tuesday 27th March</b>
<b>Developing and Managing Staff</b> Business Gateway workshop Oban, Please call 01546 604030 to reserve a space. 9.30am- 1pm	<b>Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading</b> Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Friday 23rd March</b>	<b>Oban Spring Clean</b> "pick your patch", choosing one of the litter hot spots. All Day	<b>Irish Dancing Classes</b> St Columba's Cathedral Hall 4.15pm-5.45pm
<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> Live Music with Crackin' Craic from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	<b>Wednesday 28th March</b>
<b>Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading</b> Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	<b>Sunday 25th March</b>	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Leugh is Seinn Le Linda (Read and sing with Linda)</b> Furan Gaelic Centre 2pm-3pm	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Practical Book Keeping</b> Business Gateway workshop Oban, Please call 01546 604030 to reserve a space. 9.30am- 12.30pm
<b>Old Oban Slide Show</b> Masonic Lodge, Oban 7.30pm-10pm	<b>Oban Spring Clean - Beach Clean</b> Wee Ganavan 2pm-4.30pm	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban</b> Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> Live Music with Tim O'Connor from 9pm Free entry Open till 1am	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win: £20 bar voucher	<b>WHAT'S ON IN OBAN</b>

# Ceòl Cholasa 2018 line-up

CEÒL Cholasa, nicknamed the best wee festival in the west, is only a matter of months away and this could be the last chance to secure a ticket. The festival will get underway on the evening of Thursday September 13, all the way through to late afternoon on Sunday September 16. The annual Colonsay-based music festival began in 2008 and has sold out every year since. The organisers attribute its success to the intimate atmosphere and award-winning acts that get stuck in every year. There is a great line-up in 2018, including arguably the biggest band on the traditional scene at the moment, Tide Lines, who are this year's Thursday night headliners. The Glasgow-based band is influenced by

the music of their native Highlands and islands, and emerged in the summer of 2016. Their debut album 'Dreams We Never Lost' rose to number 14 in the iTunes UK download chart. The line-up also includes the multi-award-winning a cappella group, The Young'uns, who currently hold the title of Best Group at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for the second year running. The Jarlath Henderson Band, whose frontman was the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Folk Award, will be playing on the Saturday and Sunday. There will be Gaelic songs from both Highland quartet Beira and electronic duo WHYTE. Favourites Cara will be returning and Fara, Hamish Napier and Innes Watson will be wowing with

both tunes and songs in the new hotel venue and of there will be concerts from wonderful local artists. The Late Night Ceòl Ceilidh takes place as Saturday night gives way to Sunday morning with music from the Caitlin McNeill Ceilidh Band and special guests. There is the opportunity to get up close and personal with the artists themselves as they host workshops throughout the weekend. Not to mention the sessions at the festival club which runs into the small hours every night. A full weekend pass is £80 and gains entry to all of the concerts, workshops and ceilidh. It can be booked online at [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) Accommodation can be found on the Visit Colonsay website or by checking the updated list on the Ceòl Cholasa festival website.



NO\_T012\_Ceòl Cholasa\_02\_Photo Liam McNeill



NO\_T012\_Ceòl Cholasa\_01\_Photo Liam McNeill



NO\_T012\_Ceòl Cholasa\_03\_Photo Liam McNeill

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

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary. We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable) Put your event in front of 25,000 readers and also see what we can offer you by promoting your event online – we have more than 11,000 followers on Facebook and 36,000 monthly visitors to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) It pays to advertise with The Oban Times – first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands. Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.

To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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**The Nevis Centre** An Aird, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 700707 [www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<b>Oban Congregational Church Table Top Sale</b> Saturday 24th March 11am till 2pm Teas/ Coffee available.	<b>Good Friday</b> 10.30am Stations of the Cross (up the hill behind Craiglodge, Dalmally) For further details please call 01838 200216 All welcome	<b>BOB MACCULLOCH Presents Old Oban Slide Show</b> in Masonic Lodge Albany Street Friday 23rd March 7.30pm Entry £5.00 includes tea Raffle	<b>Annual Boat Jumble &amp; Car Boot Sale</b> In Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern Saturday March 24th from 10.00am – 2pm Nautical & non-nautical bargains; new and nearly new items. Bring all the family for a great day out! Entry - £3.50 (includes refreshments). Details - 01852 500699
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If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

**BBC ALBA**

<p><b>DIARDAOIN 22 MÀRT THURSDAY 22 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 19.00 <b>Turas a' Bhradain</b> – salmon fishing on the Firth of Clyde (rpt) 19.35 <b>Speaking our Language</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>An Là</b> – News 20.30 <b>UR   NEW: Eòrpa</b> 21.00 <b>UR   NEW: DIY le Donnie</b> 21.45 <b>Piobairean Bhoirnis</b> (rpt) 21.55 <b>Fraochy Bay</b> (rpt) 22.00 <b>UR   NEW: Belladrum 2017:</b> Twin Atlantic 22.35 <b>UR   NEW: Luinean Lannsaireachd</b> – medics changing lives in West Africa 23.20 <b>Hebridean Celtic Festival</b> – Paddy Callaghan (rpt) 23.30 <b>Mach à seòl</b> (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIHAOINE 23 MÀRT FRIDAY 23 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 18.35 <b>Machair</b> (rpt) 19.00 <b>An Là</b> – News</p>	<p>19.25 <b>Fraochy Bay</b> (rpt) 19.30 <b>UR   NEW: Pro 14 Live Rugby</b> – Connacht v Edinburgh 21.25 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> – Lori Watson (rpt) 21.30 <b>Cuimhneachan</b> (rpt) 22.00 <b>Na Worlds 2015</b> (rpt) 23.00 <b>The Munich Games</b> – Munich '72 (rpt) 23.45 <b>Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan</b> – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)</p> <p><b>DISATHAIRNE 24 MÀRT SATURDAY 24 MARCH</b> 16.00 <b>UR   NEW: SPFL Challenge Cup Final</b> – Dumbarton v Inverness Caledonian Thistle 18.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 19.30 <b>Machair</b> (rpt) 19.55 <b>Fraochy Bay</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>From Harris With Love: Chi mi'n Tìr</b> (rpt) 20.30 <b>Leugh Mi</b> – with guests Màiri Sine Caimbeul and Carmine Colajezzi 21.00 <b>Na Worlds 2015</b> (rpt) 22.00 <b>Luinean Lannsaireachd</b></p>	<p>(rpt) 22.40 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> (rpt) 22.50 <b>As an Eilean</b> (rpt) 00.25 <b>Belladrum 2017: Cridhe Tartan</b> – featuring Twin Atlantic (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIDÒMHNAICH 25 MÀRT UNDAY 25 MARCH</b> 16.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 18.30 <b>Seachd Là</b> 19.30 <b>Alleluia</b> – featuring Mairi MacInnes and James Graham (rpt) 20.00 <b>Eòrpa</b> (rpt) 20.30 <b>Fuine</b> – recipes for baking bread (rpt) 21.00 <b>Rona: Dìleab Chlann Eardsaidh Raghnaill</b> (rpt) 22.00 <b>Na Worlds 2015</b> (rpt) 23.00 <b>Custer's Last Stand</b> – a portrait of Custer's fateful relationships with the officers of the Seventh Cavalry (rpt)</p> <p><b>DILUAIN 26 MÀRT MONDAY 26 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming</p>
<p>19.00 <b>Caistealan Alba</b> – the history of Scotland's castles (rpt) 19.25 <b>UR   NEW: Binneas – Na Trads</b> – The Shee 19.30 <b>Speaking our Language</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>An Là</b> – News 20.30 <b>UR   NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich</b> 21.00 <b>Trusadh</b> – Slàinte na Sgìre (rpt) 22.00 <b>Ceòlhor</b> @ Piping Live – music from Dàimh and Havanti (rpt) 22.30 <b>Opry an Iùir</b> – featuring Charlie Landsborough (rpt) 23.30 <b>Fonn Fonn Fonn</b> (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIMÀIRT 27 MÀRT TUESDAY 20 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 19.00 <b>Turas a' Bhradain</b> (rpt) 19.30 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> – Loi Watson (rpt) 19.30 <b>Speaking our Language</b> (rpt) 19.55 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>An Là</b> – News</p>	<p>20.30 <b>Fuine</b> (rpt) 21.00 <b>Bho Mhinistear gu Modartairainte na Sgìre</b> (rpt) 23.00 <b>Ar Duain</b> (rpt) 23.30 <b>Alleluia</b> (rpt)</p> <p><b>DICIADAIN 28 MÀRT WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 19.00 <b>Innsean an Iar</b> (rpt) 19.30 <b>Speaking our Language</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>An Là</b> – News 20.30 <b>Leugh Mi</b> – with guest Dolina MacLennan and Helen MacInnes (rpt) 21.00 <b>Opry an Iùir</b> – music from Brenda Shine (rpt) 22.00 <b>UR   NEW: Mach à Seòl</b> – an action-packed weekend in Tìree 22.30 <b>Ceòlhor @ Piping Live</b> – music from Havanti and Dàimh (rpt) 23.00 <b>DIY le Donnie</b> – Donnie finishes the Caladh Trust kitchen renovation (rpt) 23.45 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> – featuring Tryst (rpt)</p>	<p><b>DIARDAOIN 29 MÀRT THURSDAY 22 MARCH</b> 17.00 <b>Prògraman Chloinne</b> – Children's programming 19.00 <b>Turas a' Bhradain</b> – Neen visits the Uists for more salmon fishing in the Western Isles (rpt) 19.30 <b>Speaking our Language</b> (rpt) 20.00 <b>An Là</b> – News 20.30 <b>UR   NEW: Eòrpa</b> 21.00 <b>UR   NEW: Dùbhlán an Data</b> 22.00 <b>UR   NEW: Belladrum 2017:</b> Sister Sledge 22.35 <b>UR   NEW: Luinean Lannsaireachd</b> – medics changing lives in West Africa 23.20 <b>Binneas – Na Trads</b> – tunes from the Scott Wood Band (rpt) 23.25 <b>Mach à seòl</b> (rpt)</p>

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

# James to play Oban



THE BAND James are planning a seven-date UK tour in May – and one of those nights will be in Oban.

The tour will see the group re-visit venues across the country not played by the band for many

years, giving fans the chance to see them in unique and intimate surroundings.

Beginning at Llandudno's Venue Cymru on Wednesday May 16, the band will stop off at the Corran Halls, Oban on

Wednesday May 23. The special guests at these shows are five piece rock band Lanterns on the Lake.

Tim Booth said: 'After the intimacy of the Manchester Albert Hall gig we decided to try

a small tour of smallish venues.' These shows will be their first run of dates in the UK since the huge success of their 2016 release *Girl at the End of the World* which reached number two in the charts, second only to

Adele in their debut week. Following the Oban date, the band are set to play at a run of festivals across the UK before heading to Spain in July. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (March 23) at 10am.

## Beginners ballet class to keep adults on their toes

DANCERS from Scottish Ballet are to run a one-off absolute beginners class in Oban for grown-ups.

The dance company is bringing acclaimed choreographer Matthew Bourne's Highland Fling to the town at the end of April as part of a Highland and Islands tour and is taking time out of rehearsals to get the community up on its feet in a series of workshops.

The workshops which will also be held at Oban High School and primary schools, is part of Scottish Ballet's pledge to bring dance to everyone, from nursery youngsters to over 60s.

The town's Healthy Options Team, Alzheimer's Scotland

and Ballet West, based in Taynuilt, will also be getting involved.

And the public adult beginners ballet class, for ages 14 and over, who have always wanted to try ballet but never have - will be held at Atlantis, on Saturday, April 28.

It will be a fun class, looking at the fundamentals of dance followed by a creative workshop lasting one and a half hours. Anyone interested in joining in needs to email education@scottishballet.co.uk

The workshops for adults and secondary school pupils will be using the themes, characters and music from Highland Fling as

inspiration.

The production, which has its first tour night at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow on April 4, is also being billed as the 'Romantic wee ballet' with its dancers performing in tartan kilts, leather jackets and biker boots.

It is Matthew Bourne's interpretation of La Sylphide for the Train-spotting generation - a classical ballet set in modern-day Glasgow with a dark gothic twist.

Scottish Ballet's chief executive officer and artistic director Christopher Hampson said: 'We are really excited to be bringing Highland Fling to local communities across Scotland, who are often unable

to experience our full-scale productions.'

The company has partnered up with Loganair to help transport the production.

'Logistically it is no small feat - transporting our full set, costumes, props, technical and artistry teams, and of course our dancers - however our partnership with Loganair is making this all possible. We are honoured to be the only company apart from Matthew Bourne's New Adventures who can perform Highland Fling, a production that is swiftly achieving cult ballet status, and hope audiences enjoy this fun performance as much as we do presenting it,' added Mr Hampson.



Dancers from the Scottish Ballet rehearse for their production of Highland Fling, coming to Oban this April.

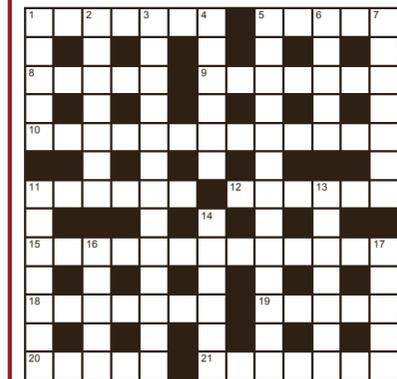
### Your local radio listings

**OBAN FM** Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)

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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 15.00 The Wednesday Jukebox with Michelle 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie  
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Contract (7)
  - 5 Terrible (5)
  - 8 Track shapes (5)
  - 9 Advising (7)
  - 10 Shell shock (6,7)
  - 11 Reason (6)
  - 12 Means of entering (6)
  - 15 Regrettably (13)
  - 18 One who knows the drill (7)
  - 19 Harden (5)
  - 20 Checks (5)
  - 21 Swell (7)

- Down**
- 1 One who doesn't show pain or feelings (5)
  - 2 Let in again (7)
  - 3 Roman females vowed to chastity (6,7)
  - 4 Sign out (3,3)
  - 5 Highest social classes (13)
  - 6 Cast (5)
  - 7 Drunk (7)
  - 11 Decay slowly (7)
  - 13 Carry out (7)
  - 14 Was appropriate for purpose (6)
  - 16 Mushrooms (5)
  - 17 Give way (5)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



### ADVERTORIAL

## Spring Show 2018 a group exhibition of work by Joyce Gunn-Cairns, Gillian Murray & Helen Michie

Resipole Studios March 30 – May 13 2018  
Private View - March 30 2018 (6 – 8pm)

RESIPOLE Studios and Fine Art Gallery are launching their 2018 programme with a group exhibition of work by artists Joyce Gunn-Cairns MBE, Gillian Murray and Helen Michie. The annual spring show presents a joint showcase of work by painter Joyce Gunn Cairns MBE and printmaker Gillian Murray in the main hall, and a solo display of paintings and ceramics by Helen Michie in the White Gallery.

Joyce Gunn-Cairns MBE is a multi-award winning artist who has gained national recognition for her portraits of famous writers. Described by Duncan MacMillan (*Scotsman*) as one of 'of Scotland's finest painters', Gunn Cairns trained in painting and drawing at Edinburgh College of Art. Her expressive figurative paintings are collected internationally. Nine of her works are in the permanent collection of Scotland's National Portrait Gallery and, in 2004, she was awarded an MBE for services to the arts. Also exhibiting in the main hall is work by Gillian Murray, an accomplished printmaker who lives and works in Edinburgh. She studied Fine Art (Printmaking) at Aberdeen's Gray's School of Art and, thereafter, worked at Edinburgh College of Art running its printmaking department. 'Line' is of prime importance in Murray's representation of the remote Scottish landscape. 'The 'line' . . . is the link between me physically being in a place drawing, to it appearing in my final screenprint. It is easy to be immersed in the process of printmaking. Making layers, trying to get the colours just right and mixing subtle blends all add to the anticipation in revealing the final image from the press. It is this combination of method and intuitiveness that keeps me fascinated by the printmaking medium.'

In the White Gallery Helen Michie, a Lochaber artist, presents a body of work entitled 'Shoreline'. Inspired by the local coastline, Michie combines raku, stoneware and mixed-media paintings to evoke the strength, fragility and impermanence of the shoreline. The natural environment is not only the inspiration behind Michie's work but instrumental in creating it. Whether it's the natural clay employed in her stoneware or the process of raku smoke-firing in an outdoor kiln, nature is inherent in her art. Helen Michie studied ceramics at Aberdeen Gray's School of Art and exhibits regularly with Resipole Studios.

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 March 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

### WIN

**A LUXURIOUS ONE NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT RUFFLETS, ST ANDREWS INCLUDING DINNER AT THEIR EXCITING NEW RESTAURANT – SEASONS**



Located in the heart of the family-owned hotel and overlooking acres of beautifully manicured gardens, you are guaranteed an unforgettable dining experience. Taking inspiration from the ever-changing seasons the menu feature freshly picked produce grown in the



kitchen garden or sourced from a rich larder of Scottish produce and trusted local suppliers.

One lucky reader will win a prize that includes dinner for two at Seasons restaurant, overnight accommodation and full Scottish breakfast.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: What is the name of the new restaurant at Rufflets? a) Roots b) Forresters c.) Seasons**

Package includes dinner for two at Seasons Restaurant (excluding drinks), overnight accommodation in a double or twin feature room and breakfast for two. Prize must be taken between 1 April and 31 May 2018. The prize is subject to availability and non-transferable or refundable and no cash alternative will be offered.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

# Arena

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

## Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



### Ceòl's Craic stage Gaelictronica event for third year running

CEÒL'S Craic's third annual Gaelictronica event on March 24 at 7.45pm in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, will combine Gaelic vocal and instrumental music with cutting-edge electronica to create a unique fusion of traditional, ambient and dance sounds. This year's event will feature interactive video installation and contemporary dance.

Award-winning electronic composer and multi-instrumentalist, Ela Orleans, returns to Ceòl's Craic to present a specially-commissioned piece entitled Displaced and Adjusted. The audio-visual performance will combine Ela's haunting and ethereal soundscapes with archive film. Her aim is 'to recreate the spirit of the past and attempt to reincarnate and adapt it to a new story based on memory, nostalgia and impression'. For this performance she

will reunite with Gaelic vocalist Ainsley Hamill and, for the first time, work with renowned percussionist Alex Neilson of Trembling Bells.

Another act on the evening features superb duo, WHYTE, whose album I reviewed in this column last year. Following a successful run of shows at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017, WHYTE (Alasdair Whyte and Ross Whyte) have teamed up again with visual artist Dan Shay to produce visuals for a new selection of songs from their eagerly awaited second album. Joining them for 'Gaelictronica' is Zoe Katsilerou, a physical performer, vocalist and musician, originally from Greece, and now based in Glasgow.

Hamish MacLeod and Josie Duncan are members of electronica outfit Inyal. This event will see a duo from electronica outfit, Inyal, experiment with more ambient, loop-based material combining electronics and guitar with Gaelic vocals and clarsach. Hamish MacLeod and Josie Duncan will be collaborating with Scottish-Icelandic drummer Signy Jakobsdottir.

### Glasgow Accordion and Fiddle Club bows out

LAST week's box and fiddle club with guest artist Roger Dobson was the final night for the Glasgow club for the time being as, unfortunately, it will not be resuming next year. The club was bold in its approach and unwavering in its determination to have all the guest bands playing with their full five- or six-piece line ups. This made for some fantastic nights in the Scotstounhill Bowling Club with wonderful music that you don't get the chance to hear too often nowadays.

It is a great shame that the club is calling it a day for now; but, having enjoyed a number of good nights over the last year at the club, I am very grateful to the committee for having put so much work into the project.

### What's On

Thursday March 22: Comunn an taobh-an-iar closing ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social

Club. Friday March 23: Am Balach Beag a dh' Eisteadh aig Dorsan by the Gaelic Books Council at 6pm in the Mitchell Library. Friday March 23: Pupils' Concert in the Glasgow Gaelic School at 7pm. Friday March 23: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance in the Commodore Hotel. Friday March 23: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Dance

in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street at 9pm.

### Pub Scene

Islay Inn Friday March 23: Deep River Saturday March 24: Auld Skool Sunday March 25: Jonathan Gillespie Park Bar Friday March 23: Dùn Mòr Saturday March 24: North 56 Sunday March 25: Scott Harvey



Josie Duncan and Hamish MacLeod, two members of electronica group, Inyal, will perform at Ceòl's Craic's next event.

# All the best photographs from the Lorn Drama Festival



Children from Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch performed The Vikings.

# Oban Unsigned 2018

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OBAN TIMES AND OBAN LIVE

**OBAN LIVE** *The Oban Times*  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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

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

### HOW TO APPLY

Carefully read through the terms and conditions below and head over to [www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned) where you can apply online. You will be asked to supply the following:

- A web link to your music that is publicly available so we can download and listen, for example Sound Cloud.
- A web link to any film footage you may have
- A photograph of the artist (s)
- Artist logo (if you have one)
- A short description of the artist or band and why you believe you should win (around 250 words).

**Applications must be received by 10am, Thursday April 5, 2018.**

### SHORTLIST

All entries will be handed over to a panel of judges, including independent judges from local institutions and a representative from Oban Live and The Oban Times. The panel will choose a shortlist which will be put out to a public vote.

**Terms and conditions:** Artists applying must currently live in Oban or the nearby surrounding area. For bands and duos, at least one member of the band must currently live in Oban or the nearby surrounding area. Applicants may include both original material and covers in their applications and the winner may include covers during their slot at Oban Live, June 8th or 9th. By applying to Oban Unsigned, entrants agree to give Oban Live, The Oban Times and obantimes.co.uk the right to use the music materials and any footage they have submitted as part of their application for campaign promotions on websites, on social media, and in print. Under-18s must have permission from a parent or guardian to take part and, if the winner is under 18, an adult must accompany them to the live show. The judges' decision is final. The winning act must have enough material for a 30 minute performance and must be available from 3pm, Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9 - Performance time and duration will be confirmed with the winning act. The winning act must take part in publicity. Closing date for applications is 10am, Thursday April 5, 2018. For Oban Unsigned enquiries please call 01631 568000 or email [pauline@obanlive.com](mailto:pauline@obanlive.com).

WORLD leaders such as Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, and Theresa May attended this year's Lorn Drama Festival in the Corran Halls.

The political figures appeared in teenager Calum McLuckie's *One Stormy Night* – a satirical comedy that won the

adjudicator's award. The play was performed by the Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club Juniors.

The club itself had a very successful festival last week, with first and second prizes in the adult section and a first place finish in the junior section.

The club performed two junior and two adult plays in the three-night festival, which also included performances by Accent Players from Campbeltown, Seil Drama Club, Lochnell Primary and Taynuilt and District Drama Society.

The festival adjudicator, Bruce Adam, hailed the festival as a great success and praised the number and variety of plays performed by juniors.

The trophy for the festival winner is named after Robin Banks, who was a leading member of the Benderloch and North Connel Drama

Club from its earliest days, and it is a special moment when the club wins this award, says Mike Rowell, who directed the winning play *Stream, River, Sea*.

This production was also awarded the JR Smith Trophy for stage set and the Lorn Drama Festival Trophy for

stage management, due to its innovative staging and use of sound and lighting effects.

The cast was made up of actors usually seen in Spotlight Musical Theatre productions. Ellie Cooper and newcomer Megan Day played bereaved mother and daughter, Bella and

Daisy, who are coming to terms with the loss of their husband and father with the help of the growing friendship with Hugh, played by Richard Baker.

Megan Day was awarded the Ian MacKay memorial trophy for a moment in theatre for her touching monologue that ended the play.

Second place in the adult section and the Chalmers of Oban Quach was awarded to *Mary, Mary*, performed by Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club.

Third place and The Oban Times Salver went to *Causalities* by the Taynuilt and District Drama Society.

The play also won the inaugural original script award.

*Causalities* is based on a true event - a visit made by Unity Mitford to the house of a relative of the playwright in Oban in 1948, shortly before she died in May of that year.

The first placed junior play was *Grandfather's Book* by Benderloch and

North Connel Drama Club juniors.

Lorn Drama Festival chairman David Price, thanked the clubs for their 'amazing contributions to this year's festival'.

'I am very much of the view that we reached new heights in innovation, variety and attainment,' he said. 'I must mention in particular the youth teams who brought a new dimension to the festival and all of whom set very high standards in production and organisation.'

Mike Rowell, director for Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club adult section said: 'Thanks to my marvelous cast who put in a lot of hard work. Both plays did very well, so we are pleased.'



The Taynuilt and District Drama Society Juniors performed *My Space, Our Place*.



Seil Drama Club performed *A Mystery Tour*.



The Accent Players from Campbeltown.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's Juniors B.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's Ellie Cooper, right and newcomer Megan Day played bereaved mother and daughter, Bella and Daisy.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club Team B.



Donald Trump was part of Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club Juniors' *One Stormy Night*.

# LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

bonnie  
babies

LOCHABER TIMES  
& Oban Times

competition 2018

£500 of vouchers.

**How to enter**

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

**The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2018 Supplement**

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

**Vote for your favourite!**

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

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

ENTER ONLINE

www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies

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

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

equivalent. We care about your personal information. The information gathered on the entry form will be used by us to contact you regarding the competition & the photo and name to enter you into the competition. We may also email you at the close of the competition. We will not pass on any of the information supplied by you in the entry form to any third party.

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## Winter to remember for the wrong reasons

EWEN CAMPBELL

SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre  
research farms manager

IT LOOKS like this winter is going to be one that we will remember for all the wrong reasons.

There has certainly been more snow this year than in any of the previous six I have been at Kirkton and, speaking to local farmers, opinion is that it has been one of the most challenging for livestock ever.

As our stocks of hay and silage are getting low, it has become more and more difficult to source quality fodder. We are lucky that some of the other SRUC farms have some spare and are willing to contribute.

The persistent snow made gathering the ewes for scanning a particularly difficult task this year, especially when the snow froze and turned to ice.

The wet autumn and cold winter certainly had an effect on the scanning results where the

Lleys, in particular, struggled, as well as the Corrie hirsell and Auchtertyre. The only positive result was the Kirkton Black-face flock which were 137, up one per cent.

We seem to be constantly feeding stock at the moment and, despite this, some of the ewes are still not in great condition. If the weather does not improve, it could make for a very difficult lambing.

Calving is in full swing at the moment and so far, so good. There are 10 calves in the shed from our Aberdeen Angus cross herd at the moment and we still have 14 of them to go.

Our eight Highland cows are outside and are yet to start calving but it definitely won't be long.

When the weather improves, we plan to put the Aberdeen Angus cross cows outside on the hill with their calves, so they are keeping everyone rather busy.

In the few days when the weather was good, we also had

the visit of the BBC Countryfile team. They were very keen to do a piece on the problem of Black-loss, which is the unexplained loss of sheep throughout the year but, in our case, mainly lambs between scanning and weaning.

There are thought to be several reasons for losing these sheep without trace. The weather certainly plays a part - for example, lambs washed away in flooded burns and rivers, predators such as foxes, and diseases also play a part but to what extent, we do not know.

It is something we have been looking into in our hill flock on Auchtertyre and it is linked to the vast mountainous areas where we keep our hill sheep in the Highlands and islands.

When you see how many climbers and hillwalkers go missing on these hills and mountains, some of whom are never found, it puts the scale of the task into perspective.

However, on the day filming

took place, the weather was beautiful... typical!

As well as being TV stars, we also had our annual visit of BSc students in their final year, from Harper Adams University in England. Around 25 students and two lecturers came to see the farms. We were busy scanning and weighing the sheep, so they had plenty to discover.

My colleagues John Holland and Claire Morgan-Davies took them up the hill and around the farms to show them the various research projects we are doing, the technology kits we have and the issues farmers are facing in this part of the world.

It is always nice to see young people so engaged in farming issues. They certainly had a lovely time with us, and enjoyed a (cold) walk in the sun before heading back down south in a bus. We look forward to seeing them next year.

Keep warm in the meantime and, hopefully, the weather will have improved by the next article.

## Around the markets

**DALMALLY** - United Auctions held its annual March sale of 209 all classes of cattle and 218 sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Tuesday March 13. With the combination of Oban and Dalmally sales held on the same day, a good turnout of buyers ensured all stock sold at satisfactory levels. Bullocks sold to 310.2 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Aird Farm and to average at 240.15 pence per kilo. Limousin heifers from Feorline sold to 278.8 pence per kilo and levelled out at 229.7 pence per kilo. Sheep sold to levels in keeping with current values.

Principal lots and prices:  
Top prices per head:

Bullocks:  
CHARx: £1020 - Ardmaleish: £900 and £870(4) - Barnakill.  
LIMx: £1020(2) - Lurignish: £970 - Stroneskar: £910 - Clachan Farm.  
SHx: £810 - Barnakill.  
SIMx: £1100 - Pitcastle Estate: £940(2) and £920(4) - Achnacone Farm.

Heifers:  
CHARx: £840 - Auchlyne Farm: £800(5) - Ardmaleish.

LIMx: £1000 and £960(2) - Lurignish: £840(3) - Achnacone Farm: £800(3) - Dall Farm.  
SIMx: £850 - Achnacone Farm.

Cows and calves:  
£1220(2) - Scoor Farm: £1100 - High Balantyre.

Top prices per kilo:  
Bullocks:  
CHARx: 252p(2) and 247p(2) - Barnakill.

LIMx: 310p(4) - Aird Farm: 281p - Tullochcan: 280p(3) - Aird Farm: 265p - Feorline: 261p - Aird Farm: 257p(2) - Ellary Farm: 256p(2) - Boreland Farms.

SALx: 270p - Brenchoille Farm.  
SHx: 258p - Ellary Farms.  
SIMx: 263p - Achnacone Farm: 258p(3) - Ellary Farms: 252p - Barnakill Farm.

Heifers:  
CHARx: 246p(4) - Barnakill Farm.

LIMx: 279p - Feorline: 273p(4), 254p(5) - Aird Farm: 253p(2) and 249p(2) - Tullochcan: 246p - Achnacone Farm.

SIMx: 273p(2) - Aird Farm.  
Sheep:  
Hoggs:

TEXx: £89 - Crunachy.  
CROSS: £67 - Garrogie Estate.  
BF: £74 - Crunachy: £67 and £63 - Garrogie Estates.

Ewes:  
TEXx: £65 - Garvachy: £55 - Ichrachan.

BF: £79 - Crunachy: £75 - Mealgalie.

**OBAN** - United Auctions held its early spring sale at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday March 13

when 54 cattle sold well to a good ringside of buyers. Bullocks sold to 288pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from M/s MacNicol.

Turnault. 585 sheep were sold and all classes sold at levels in keeping with current values.

Principal lots and prices:  
Bullocks:

AAX: £750 - Steall.  
CHARx: £840 - Bragleenmore: £820 - Ederline.

LIMx: £860, £850(8) and £820(3) - North Ardnacloch: £720 and £710 - Turnault.

SIMx: £750(4) - Scammadale Farm.  
Heifers:

LIMx: £730(2) - North Ardnacloch.  
SIMx: £680(3) - Ballard, Coll.

OTM cattle: £960, £880 and £820 - Torran.  
Top prices per kilo:  
Bullocks:

AAX: 242p - Steall.  
CHARx: 263p - Ederline Estate: 256p(2) - Bragleenmore.

LIMx: 288p and 277p - Turnault.  
SIMx: 259p(3) and 253p - Scammadale.

Heifers:  
SIMx: 212p - Torran.  
Sheep:

Hoggs:  
SUFFx: £75 - Achnacree Beag: £63 - Tiraghoil.

TEXx: £80 - Achaleven.  
CHARx: £58 - Achaleven.

CHEV: £56 - Antium: £51 - Ardnacross: £50 - Torloisk.  
CROSS: £67 - Scammadale: £63 - Achnacree Beag: £60 - Achaleven.

BF: £48 - Musdale: £47 - Scammadale and Carnasserrie: £45 - Tiraghoil: £43 - Corrylorn: £40 - Tiraghoil and Achaleven.

Ewes:  
SUFFx: £60 - Torbhlairen.  
HB: £70 - Shenavallie.

TEXx: £66 - Strongorm.  
CHEV: £60 - Strongorm.  
MULE: £66 - Ashfield.

BF: £57 - Musdale Farm: £54 - Ashfield.  
SUFF: £105 - Tiraghoil.  
CHEV: £77 - 6 Leanish, Barra.  
BF: £88 - Corrylorn.

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Tuesday March 13 sold 1,572 prime hoggets, ewes and tups. All classes of hoggets short of buyers requirements and more could have been sold to sellers advantage. 784 hoggets (39kg-51kg) averaged 230.8ppkg, with the overall average for 1058 sold being 224.6ppkg (+6.7p on the week, or +60.4p on the year).

Top price of the day was shared by Doune Farms, West Lundie and J Graham, Raecruick at £122 for outstanding Beltex Hoggets.

Top price per kg went to A and M Barr, Easter Buchlyvie at 267ppkg for a pen of 4 Beltex X Hoggets at 41.2kg.

Spring Lambs sold to £104 from A Baird, Greystone.

Leading prices per head:  
Tex: £121 Raecruick  
Beltex: £121 West Lundie  
Beltex X: £120 Easter Ochtermuth-ill

Tex X: £120 Easter Buchlyvie  
Suff: £116 Nether Strathkinnes  
Char: £110 Coulshill  
Mules: £99 Easter Buchlyvie  
BF: £98 St Mungo's

Leading prices per kg:  
Beltex: 265p Raecruick  
Beltex X: 263p and 261p Braco Castle

Tex X: 263p Meikle Seggie  
Tex: 259p Dowally Cont: 257p and 256p Meikle Seggie  
Chev: 248p Coulshill  
Suff: 241p Nether Strathkinnes  
Suff X: 240p Summerhouse

BF: 233p Braco Castle  
BF X: 230p Remony  
Mule: 223p Woodend

Also forward were 516 cast ewes and tups.  
81 heavy ewes averaged £83 selling to £125 for a Texel from R Wardrope and Son, Easter Coates.

415 export ewes averaged £54.58.  
Other leading prices:  
Texel: £111 Easter Coates  
£110 Kilbride Farms  
£109 Easter Dullatur  
£107 Kilbride Farms  
£100 Glenhead, Bailanstruth and Dowally

BF: £70 Coulshill (On Two Occasions), Bailanstruth and Dollarbank  
£66 Coulshill  
£65 Dyke and Auchtenny

Suffolk: £100 Easter Coates and Glenhead  
Chev: £100 Mains of Struie  
Zwar: £86 Greystone  
Mule: £88 West Balgothrie  
£80 Westerside, Callendoune, Dowally, Mill of Ardoch and Newlands

Cross: £80 Newlands  
£79 Coulshill  
£72 Hardiston  
£66 Dowally  
20 tups sold to £116 for a Texel from A MacGregor, Allanfauld.

**DINGWALL** - Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Wednesday March 14 sold 1,047 store cattle, seven adult head of breeding cattle and 83 OTM cattle.

Bullocks (627) averaged 238.4p and sold to 288.1p per kg for a 354kg Charolais cross from Greenvale, Thurso and £1,280 gross for a 555kg Limousin cross from Kinchyle, Scapport.

Heifers (406) averaged 236.3p and sold to 322.0p per kg for a pen of 472kg Saler crosses from Bunchrew Farm, Inverness, and £1,700 gross for a pair of 530kg Simmental crosses also from Bunchrew Farm.

Young bulls (13) averaged 204.0p and sold to 255.0p per kg and £1160 gross for a 455kg Simmental from Wellhouse, Beaulie.

Breeding cattle (7) sold to £1500 gross for a Saler cross heifer with a heifer calf at foot from Balavil Estate, Kingussie. Bulling heifers (1) sold to £710 from Balavil Estate.

OTM prime and feeding cows (79) averaged 152.3p per kg and sold to 194.0p per kg for a 500kg Limousin cross from Dunain Mains, Inverness and £1,530 gross for a 965kg Charolais cross from Conon brae farms, Conon bridge.

OTM bulls (4) sold to 125.7p per kg and £1370 gross for a 1,090kg Charolais from Lyne of Urchany, Nairn.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
Bullocks up to 250kg - Drummuie, Golspie, £600; 65 Clashaddy, Skerray, 260.3p; 251 - 300kg - Flowerburn Mains, Fortrose, £800, 290.0p; 301 - 350kg - Wester Tomloan, Ardelach, £990, 282.9p; 351 - 400kg - Wester Tomloan, £1040, Greenvale, Dunnet, 287.8p

401 - 450kg - Alterwall, Lyth  
£1180, Coldhome, Fortrose, 272.1p;  
451 - 500kg - Kinchyle Farm - £1200, The Cloy, Fortrose, 259.7p;  
501 - 550kg - Udale, Poyntzfield, £1260, The Cloy, 238.5p; 551 - 600kg - Druid Temple, Inverness, £1230, Kinchyle, 230.6p; 601 - 650kg - Redfield, North Kessock, £1260, 208.3p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Grainish, Aviemore, £630, 261.4p; 251 - 300kg - Kennachy, Forss, £770, Auchmore Farm, Muir of Ord, 267.9p; 301 - 350kg - Kennachy, £885, Dalmagarry Farm, Moy, 263.6p; 351 - 400kg - Lower Whitebog, Fortrose, £995, Wester Tomloan, 257.1p; 401-450kg - Raicastle Farm, Nairn, £1075, Kinchyle Farm, 252.4p; 451-500kg - Bunchrew Farm, Bunchrew, £1520, 304.9p; 501-550kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1650, 320.8p; 551-600kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1550, 276.8p; 601-650kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1650, 268.3p.

OTM prime and feeding cows (79) averaged 152.3p per kg and sold to 194.0p per kg for a 500kg Limousin cross from Dunain Mains, Inverness and £1,530 gross for a 965kg Charolais cross from Conon brae farms, Conon bridge.

OTM bulls (4) sold to 125.7p per kg and £1370 gross for a 1,090kg Charolais from Lyne of Urchany, Nairn.

Other leading prices per head:  
OTM cows: Kinnahaird farm, Contin, (LIM), £1490; Conon brae, (SMX), £1470; Balavil Estate, Kingussie, (SAX), £1350; 199 Lednabirichen, Dornoch, (BBX), £1210.

Other leading prices per kg  
OTM cows: Conon brae, (SMX), 186.6p; Balavil Estate, (SAX), 169.8p; Kinnahaird farm, (LIM), 169.3p.

## Mull stalwart Ronnie is honoured by the NFUS

MULL crofter Ronnie Campbell was presented with the NFU Scotland Argyll and the Islands Stalwart award at the branch meeting this week.

The award was created in 2016 in recognition and memory of the dedication shown by Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean. Bert and Lachlan, who represented NFU Scotland's farmers and crofters regionally and nationally, died in 2015.

The award is presented annually to either a member who has given their time and effort to the work of the union in Argyll and the islands or someone who has made a significant contribution to agriculture in the area.

The inaugural winner in 2017 was well-known Argyllshire hill farmer Sybil MacPherson.

Ronnie was announced as the 2018 winner at the region's AGM in January but was unable to travel to the event.

Sheila brought a minute book of the south-west Mull branch of NFU Scotland to the presentation, which showed that Ronnie was first elected



Presenting the trophy to Ronnie were regional board chairman John Dickson from Bute, Mull branch chairman Tom Corbett, left, and Mull regional board representative Jim Corbett, right. Ronnie was joined by his wife Sheila.

on to the NFU committee in 1966 and has gone on to give more than 50 years of service to NFU Scotland.

Ronnie, who runs a croft at Uisken with Sheila, con-

tinuously represented Mull and crofters on the union's Crofting Highlands and Islands committee and is a past vice-chairman of the group. He also represented NFU Scot-

land on the industry's liaison group with CalMac as well as being a Crofting Commission assessor, a special constable and a Forestry Commission ranger and stalker.

## Ploughing match off

THIS year's Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match has been cancelled.

The event was scheduled to have taken place on Saturday March 24 but the organisers have been unable to find a suitable field.

The ploughing match was resurrected in 2000 after a hiatus of around 40 years and has been held annually since. Organiser Willie Buchanan said it was hoped that it would return next March.

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**An excellent opportunity has arisen for an IT Support Technician based in our Oban office but travelling to Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Edinburgh, Arran and Fort William as required.**

**Reporting to the IT Manager you will work with every department throughout Wyvex Media providing support, troubleshooting, repairs, advice, training and development.**

You will require:-

An HNC/HND in computers or related suitable technical subject.

At least 3 years experience in an IT Support Helpdesk or similar, Cpanel, Wordpress, Apache, Microsoft Office (2000 to latest version Word/Excel/Powerpoint), ISDN and IP Telephone systems (AVAYA preferred), Phone cabling/wiring/Broadband configuration. Server 2009 – 2016. Windows 7 – 10 (Some legacy OS systems and a thorough understanding of CLI or Powershell).

A sound knowledge of networking, switches, testing routers, configuring and maintaining VPN and IP configuration/troubleshooting is essential. Knowledge of Survey Monkey/Wufoo/Mailchimp, building and maintaining Wordpress Websites an advantage as would some experience of Adobe Products (Indesign, Photoshop), experience with Digital SLR cameras and video equipment/editing with Adobe Premiere or similar.

A keen interest in legacy, existing and emerging technology.

Ability to troubleshoot and make diagnosis and repair quickly.

Ability to work under pressure.

Ordered working methods – and the ability to work on your own initiative when required.

An excellent telephone manner and ability to convey technical issues clearly to members of staff, customers and 3rd party suppliers/contractors as well as clear and concise report writing.

The right candidate will be able to help shape the use of technology and systems moving forwards within Wyvex Media in the future.

In addition to salary we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A current full, clean driving licence is essential for travel to other sites, on a regular and "as required" basis.

**Please send your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)**

## CARERS CENTRE MANAGER



Dochas Centre

LOCHGILPHEAD £29,841 – £33,573 p.a.

In this wide and varied role, you will be primarily responsible for leading, coordinating and managing the day to day delivery of the services to Carers in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles. Your proven experience in developing, delivering and managing projects, as well as managing and supervising a team of people are key to this role.

You will require a good understanding of the issues and challenges facing carers: hence your experience and excellent interpersonal skills would be an essential attribute in managing the centre's services and raising awareness of our work.

For further information and application pack please contact 01546 600 022 or email [wandaj@dochasfund.org.uk](mailto:wandaj@dochasfund.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications 6th April 2018**

### Assistant Stockman Required

We have a vacancy for an Assistant Stockman at Ormsary Estate, near Lochgilphead, Argyll. The successful candidate will report to the Farm Manager. You will have a positive and enthusiastic manner, and be able to work in a small multi-skilled team with a flexible hands-on approach to stock farming and estate work. You will preferably have a recognised qualification and experience in all aspects of cattle and sheep husbandry, as well as general farm and machinery work. For the right candidate additional training will be given where required. The successful candidate will also possess a full driving licence, and be prepared to make their home at Ormsary. Ormsary Farmers offers an excellent employment package, including pension and family housing in a vibrant and scenic rural community, with a modern local primary school.

**If you are confident that you can fulfil this role, please apply in writing by sending your CV to James Lithgow, Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary, Lochgilphead PA31 8PE, or by email to [enquiries@ormsary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ormsary.co.uk)**

## ISLAY CRAB EXPORTS

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Flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work weekends

£17.50 per hour

Applicants must possess the ability to provide strong leadership and high care standards

**Please contact the Georgina Taylor Home Manager for an application form or further information**

Tel: 01631 720278

Email: [lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk)



### Housing Services Officer, Kintyre

35 hrs £27,575 - £32,441

Interviews for the above post will be held on 26th April 2018 in Campbeltown.

### Lettings Assistant, Mid Argyll

17.5 hrs £9,858 - £11,598

Interviews for the above post will be held on 27th April 2018 in Lochgilphead.

**For more information on both posts, contact Sarah Campbell on 01546 605881 or email [Sarah.Campbell@acha.co.uk](mailto:Sarah.Campbell@acha.co.uk).**

### HR Modern Apprentice, Lochgilphead

£10,886 to £16,151 per annum depending on age

35 hours per week

Interviews for the above post will be held in Lochgilphead on Wednesday 18th April 2018

**For more information on the MA post, please contact Marina Macarthur on 01546 605860 or email [marina.macarthur@acha.co.uk](mailto:marina.macarthur@acha.co.uk)**

**Closing Date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday 6th April 2018.**

**For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk). CVs are not accepted. If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team: Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)**

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### Qualified Dispenser Required

Taynuilt Surgery

We have a vacancy for a reliable, organised and efficient dispenser to work at our Taynuilt branch surgery. The successful candidate will be responsible for the running of the dispensary.

Four days per week.

**For further information please contact Janice McGhee, Practice Manager on 01631 710229.**

**Closing date for applications (by CV and covering letter) Monday 16th April 2018.**

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### Cleaner required

Starting first week in May 2018

Saturday work for holiday let house in Connel, Oban, general house cleaning and bed changing. Salary will still be paid even if house is not let on certain weeks. Approximately 4 hours work per week.

**Please contact Letty on mobile 07980955849.**



## PERLE OBAN HOTEL

### Head of Maintenance – Perle Oban

Do you like the satisfaction of a job well done? Due to a retirement in our team, we are looking for a new member to look after our facilities. As a maintenance professional, you will be responsible for the upkeep of a beautiful hotel.

You will have a basic knowledge of some or all of the following: plumbing, electrical, joinery, and painting decorating. You will also be expected to liaise with contractors, arrange with suppliers to price and deliver materials. As part of your responsibilities will also be fault finding and statutory testing, such as fire and water systems. You must be organised and willing to work quite independently. As part of a team, you will be key to keeping the property

looking its best by following up issues raised in a timely manner.

You will have pride in knowing that the general upkeep inside and outside the premises was your job well done. It is important that your work is accurate and of a high quality.

The hotel is part of a small group looking to provide a fabulous experience for our guests. The hotel has been newly refurbished and is looking to you to keep it at its best.

You are looking after our guests and your team, so we will look after you. Of course, we will invest in training for you. We offer top salary and benefits, including a bonus scheme. Salary £20k+ bonus dependent upon experience.

**Send us your cv, so we can get in touch – [pquevedo@perleoban.com](mailto:pquevedo@perleoban.com) or call 01631 700301**



### Marine Husbandry Staff

Scallastle, Sound of Mull

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling, professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work, we would very much like to hear from you.

We are currently recruiting for Husbandry staff to join our dedicated team at Scallastle on the Sound of Mull.

### Experienced Husbandry Staff

Earnings Potential for this Role: £26,250 + Bonus

Applicants should have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience with a specific interest in Fish Health or Feed Performance. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

### Trainee Husbandry Staff

Earnings Potential for this Role: £23,750 + Bonus after 6 months

Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture Industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer.

In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with additional payments on completion of specific training, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

A current driving licence is essential.

We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons.

**To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Co-ordinator on 01786 445521 or e-mail [angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.**

**Closing date for applications: Friday 30th March 2018.**

### THE COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSES

The Northern Lighthouse Board – [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk) – is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, established by statute to provide, maintain and inspect marine aids to navigation throughout its waters.

### MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN (OBAN)

Based in Oban and travelling to any of the lighthouses within the NLB estate, the successful candidate will work as part of a team carrying out maintenance, repair and installation work on aids to navigation and associated equipment.

This will involve working on a wide range of mechanical plant and equipment including installing mechanical and control equipment to ensure equipment functions reliably and to specification. Configure, commission, fault-find, calibrate and test installations to ensure that the equipment functions reliably and to specification. Training will be provided where required.

Preference will be given to those who can successfully work as part of a team and have relevant mechanical qualifications and experience. There is a requirement to travel to and stay at remote locations (for up to 12 days at a time), often at short notice.

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For further details and an application pack please email [jobs@nlb.org.uk](mailto:jobs@nlb.org.uk) or download an application from our website [www.nlb.org.uk/InformationCentre/WorkingForUs/Vacancies/](http://www.nlb.org.uk/InformationCentre/WorkingForUs/Vacancies/) Closing date: 30th March 2018.

**The Northern Lighthouse Board is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from all suitably qualified people regardless of sex, race or disability.**

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## WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

### WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

#### APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION POLL NA GILLE MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, SOUND OF SHUNA, ARGYLL

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1000800 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Poll na Gille marine cage fish farm, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change in effluent dispersion and benthic footprint due to: an increase in maximum permitted biomass; alterations to cage size, number and configuration; an increase in the allowable quantity of in-feed sea lice medication, and; an increase in the allowable quantity of one or more bath sea lice medications.	Sound of Shuna	NM 7766 0818

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other water users.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registryingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registryingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1000800:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
18/01119/FUL	Hilbre, Arisaig		Erection of a dwelling house
18/00990/LBC	Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church	The Parade Fort William	Installation of air to air heating system
18/01019/PIP	Land 55M West Of Tarbet Gate, Salen, Acharacle		Removal of caravan and erection of house (Renewal of 15/00402/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days and 21 Days for 18/00990/LBC  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Peter Alexander Sinclair has registered his croft Dalrannoch, Achaleven, Ardochattan & Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 7th December 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C4914.

### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/03193/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North East Of Dali Lodge Ardrecknish Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
18/00419/PP	Rehabilitation of ruinous barn to form dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Kilmun Barn Dalavich Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
18/00246/PP	Construction of cycle/walking path and associated works	Fionnphort To Pottie Road End Fionnphort Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
18/00411/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 5 metre high monopole and associated works	Land West Of Kengharair Farm Dervalg Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervalg
18/00329/PP	Installation of smart metering mounted on 12 metre pole and associated works	Land Outside Stores Lochindaal Bonds Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### First Registration of a Croft

Miss Rhona Anne MacLeod has registered her croft 13 Clouvin, Ardour on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th December 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C4918.

### First Registration of a Croft

Donald MacLellan has registered their croft 1 Cuartaig, Cuartaig, Arisaig and Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by December 5, 2018

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C4913.

### Point Park Common Grazings Committee Meeting

Point Park (Taynuilt) Common Grazings in the parish of Glenorchy & Innishail will elect a new grazing committee at a meeting to be held on Saturday, March 31st 2018, at 7pm in the Taynuilt Sports Pavilion, Taynuilt.

### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Allan Cameron has registered his croft 208 Acharacle Lochshiel View, Acharacle, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 26th November 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C4890.

### Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Oban Times

## GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Alasdair McPhee trading as A & A McPhee Haulage of Almar, Shore Road, Connel is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Dornie Quarry, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SQ. 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 representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors 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.

## Argyll and Bute Council

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ardchattan Primary School  
We are seeking your views on the future of Ardchattan Primary School.

An open meeting will be held in Ardchattan Primary School on: Wednesday 28th of March 2.30pm to 7pm

A range of information will be available and your opinions welcomed. Following this meeting an options appraisal report will be collated. This meeting has been organised by Argyll and Bute Council for pre-consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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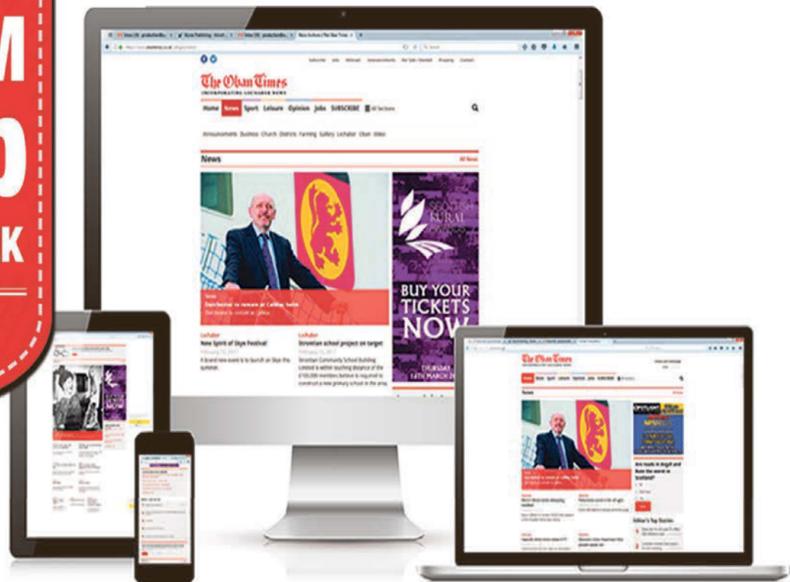
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# THE STATE OF THE NATION'S ROADS: POTHOLES COST DRIVERS £915 MILLION IN REPAIRS



- **VEHICLE DAMAGE FROM POTHOLE RISES BY 34 PER CENT IN TWO YEARS**
- **A QUARTER OF DRIVERS HAVE SUFFERED POTHOLE DAMAGE OVER THE LAST YEAR**

NEW RESEARCH lays bare the financial burden which is being placed on the nation's motorists by the condition of the road network. A study for Kwik Fit, the UK's largest automotive servicing and repair company, has found that over the last year, potholes have caused damage to vehicles costing a total of £915million to repair.

This is an increase of 34 per cent on the figure of £684million two years ago. The average cost of repairing damage to components including tyres, wheels, suspension and bodywork has risen only slightly – from £108.60 in 2016 to £111 this year. However, the number of drivers whose vehicles have suffered damage has skyrocketed over the last 24 months – from 6.3 million drivers a year to 8.2 million – leading to the total bill for repairs increasing by £231million.

Seventy per cent of drivers say they have hit at least one pothole a week over the last 12 months, with a quarter (25 per cent) hitting one every single day. Drivers in the north west of the country have the worst experience, with over a third (36 per cent) of drivers suffering a pothole impact on a daily basis.

Drivers give a combination of factors as the reasons for hitting potholes. 88 per cent of drivers cited road or weather conditions, such as the pothole being hidden by a puddle or it being too dark to spot, but many (47 per cent) also said they had to make a deliberate decision to hit the pothole as avoiding it would have compromised their own safety, and that of other road users. Almost one in 10 drivers (nine per cent)

admitted that the impact was their own fault, as they were either not paying attention to the road surface or driving too fast to stop in time.

A quarter of drivers who have hit potholes over the last year have suffered costly damage to their car, with the most common repairs being to tyres (4.2 million), wheels (2.7 million), suspension (2.4 million) and bodywork (1.2 million).

Drivers overwhelmingly believe that the nation's roads are deteriorating, with 76 per cent saying that the road surfaces on their most frequently made journeys are in a worse condition than five years ago, with 52 per cent saying they are significantly worse. This mirrors the findings of the ALARM report from the Asphalt Industry Alliance, which reveals that one in five local roads are now classed as 'structurally poor' – a 20 per cent increase on last year.

The condition of the road network is having an impact on driver behaviour, some aspects of which are likely to make the situation even worse. One in eight drivers (12 per cent) say they drive a longer route than the most direct journey as it has better road surfaces, thus adding unnecessary wear and tear to both road and vehicles, as well as using extra fuel. 1.5 million drivers say the poor road surfaces have caused them to switch their car to a more rugged vehicle such as an SUV or 4x4, while 1 million have bought a cheaper vehicle which they don't mind getting damaged.

The impact on vehicles has also led to drivers changing their car maintenance habits. Five per cent of drivers say they buy cheaper tyres as the road surfaces damage them before the tread wears out. However, 1.5 million drivers (four per cent) do precisely the opposite,

buying more expensive tyres which are better at coping with the poor condition of the roads. More than two million drivers (six per cent) say they have left damage to their car unrepaired as they are sure it will get damaged again soon.

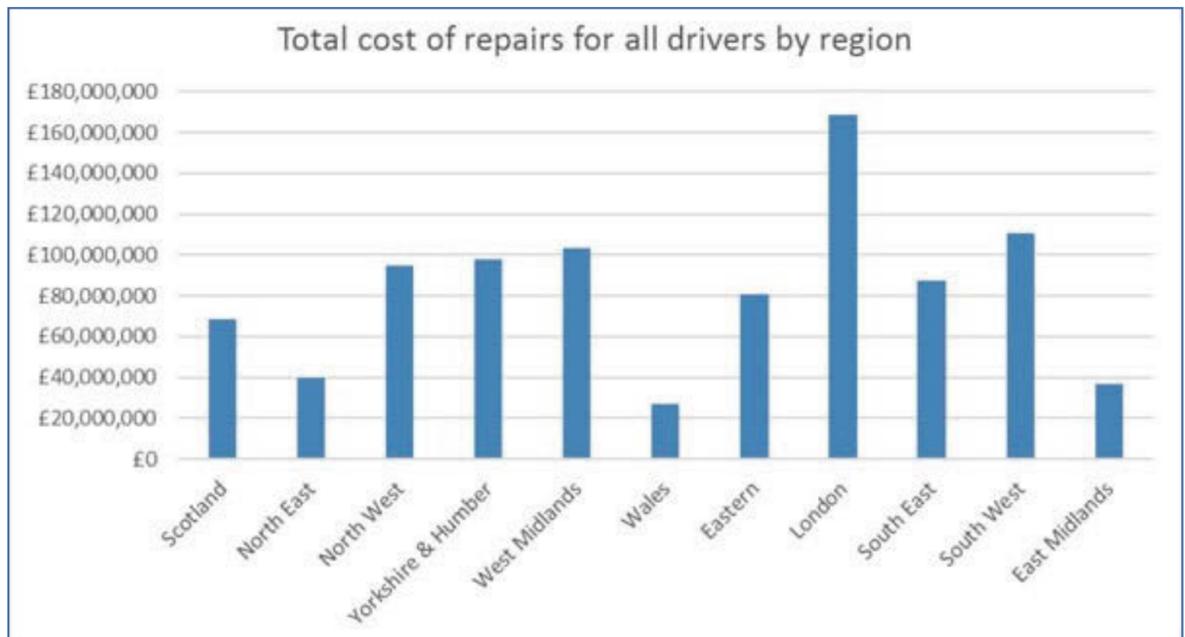
Roger Griggs, communications director at Kwik Fit, said: 'The poor condition of the road network is hitting motorists' wallets ever harder.'

'Unfortunately, experience of past years has shown us that the recent cold weather will only make the problem worse and we are likely to see even more drivers suffering

serious damage from impacts with potholes.

'It's important to note that while sometimes a pothole will cause a blow-out to a tyre, in many cases the damage is not immediately obvious. Often a pothole can cause a slow puncture, bulge on the inside tyre wall or hairline crack in the wheel rim which only becomes evident days after the impact. If any driver is concerned about the potential damage which a pothole has caused, they can bring it in to one of our centres and we will put their car on a ramp and carry out a

through inspection to put their mind at ease.' For the latest news and updates from Kwik Fit, customers can also follow the company on Twitter at @kwik\_fit.



Total Cost of all Repairs



## S&S SERVICES



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14	Subaru Forester 2.0i XT	Silver	19,382	£20,495
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Ewen MacLeod, 17 Pulpit Rock, Oban, would like to thank all family and friends for the wonderful cards and gifts received on the occasion of his 80th Birthday. Your kindness and generosity was over whelming  
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**GOLDEN WEDDINGS**

**BUCHANAN - MENZIES** - At Argyll Square Church on March 21, 1968, by the Rev C MacKinnon, assisted by the Rev N McDonald and the Rev D Cameron (uncle of the groom), Archie to Ann, Achnaba, North Connel.

**DEATHS**

**EASSON** - Peacefully, in Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, on March 18, 2018, after a long illness, bravely borne, Robert, aged 84 years, beloved husband of Elma MacRae, much loved dad of David and Pamela, dearly loved granda of Dale and Scott and a dear brother and brother-in-law. Funeral service in Dundee crematorium, on Tuesday, April 3, at 12.30 pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, may be made to Myeloma Research at the crematorium.

**JUDGE** - Suddenly on March 9, 2018 at Raigmore Hospital, Michael Judge aged 31 years. Beloved son of Michael and Sandra, brother to Lee, brother-in-law to Kim and uncle to Phoebe. Funeral will take place on Friday March 23, in St John's Church, Caol, Fort William at 1pm followed by interment in Kilmallie Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Donations, if desired to St John's RC Church and to Salvation Army.

**KENNEDY** - Peacefully at Belford Hospital on Saturday March 17, 2018, Morag aged 74 years, loving mum of Angus and Allan and much loved granny Morag. Funeral service will take place at 12 noon on Saturday March 24, 2018 in St John's RC Church, Caol, thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Marie Curie and can be given at church door or forwarded to John McLellan, Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William, PH33 6JB.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch on March 16, 2018, in her 82nd year, Winefride MacDonald (Winnie), beloved wife of the late Angus MacDonald, much loved mother and grandmother. Sadly missed.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Community Hospital, Lochgilphead, on March 16, 2018, in her 85th year, Margaret MacKinnon, beloved wife of the late Alistair MacKinnon, Dear mother of Ali, Dougie, James and Neil, Mother-in-law of Sheena, Jane and Connie, Much loved grandmother and great grandmother, Sadly missed by all. A private service will be held.

**MACKENZIE** - Suddenly, but peacefully at his home, on March 14, 2018, Colin James Mackenzie, aged 70 years, of 36 Dun Mor Avenue, Lochgilphead, (late of ACHA and Argyll and Bute Council), beloved husband of Fay Macpherson, much loved and loving father of Roddie, Colin and Stuart, a much respected father-in-law and adored grandpa of Annalise, Heidi, Finn, Luke, Ross, Alec, Ben and the late Little Roddie. Loyal brother, uncle and cousin to all the family and a good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed

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**RAMAGE** - Sheenac (née Campbell). Peacefully on March 16, 2018, in her 91st year in the Lorn and Isles Hospital. Will be sadly missed by her children Mary, John and Jim, daughter-in-law and son-in-law Roseann and Jamie, and grandchildren Elizabeth, Kathleen and Fiona. Funeral to be held at Ardchattan Kirk, Achnaba on Monday March 26, at 1.00 pm. Friends and family welcome. No flowers please.

**SIMPSON** - Christine Margaret (née Colthart), loving wife of Andrew G Simpson. Peacefully on Wednesday March 14, 2018. Service at Breich Valley Church, Stoneyburn on Wednesday March 21 at 12 noon, thereafter to West Lothian Crematorium at 1pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers. Donations to Marie Curie.

**STEPHEN** - Peacefully at home in Edinburgh on March 15, Eireen Stephen, (née Noel Paton) of Lochaline, Taynuilt and Oban. Much loved mother of Diana and Diarmid. A funeral service will be held at Warriston Crematorium on Friday March 23, at 4.30pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Support.

**WILSON** - Peacefully at home on the Isle of Luing, in her 79th year, Brenda Wilson beloved wife of Barry Wilson, a dear mother to Mandy, Andrew and Janet, much loved Granny to Emily and Grant. Please do not be sad, the time to be sad is when the illness arrived.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BALDON** - Sadie, Luciano and family would like to convey their sincerest thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their help, support and messages of sympathy following their recent loss of Roberto. Special thanks to all at Belford Hospital for their care and support. Grateful thanks to Rev. Richard Baxter for his comforting service, to Scott and Linnie at John McLellans for their compassionate handling of the funeral arrangements.

**BLACK** - Sheena and family would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the large amount of cards, sympathy and comfort following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks must go to the great care given to Tom from all the staff at Bowman Court, Community Nurses, staff at Salen surgery and nursing staff at Mull and Iona Hospital. Also a big thank you to the Rev Johnny Paton for his kindness, support and uplifting service. Also thanks to Billy McClymont for his compassion shown during funeral arrangements. To all those who attended the service, thank you for your generous donations. A sum of £1,000 was collected and will be shared between Bowman Court and the RNLI.

**BURGESS** - Bob, Michelle, Lorna and Alan wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his supportive visits and uplifting service. Special thanks to the West End Hotel for the lovely catering. Finally thank you to Billy Stott and all at John McLellans for their care and compassion with the funeral arrangements. The sum of £87.00 will be donated to Tweeddale Surgery in memory of Wilma.

**CRAIG** - The family of Peter Craig would like to sincerely thank the MacArthur Family, friends, neighbours and carers for their kindness over the years and for messages, cards and flowers received. Also, thank you to Rev Chris Fulcher, piper Emma Law, D & A Munn for funeral arrangements and the Lochnell Arms Hotel for their hospitality and finally to everyone who attended the funeral. The sum of £335.90 collected will be shared by Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Care.

**FORSYTH** - Ian and Valerie and Caroline, Emily and Craig would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many kind messages, cards, flowers, letters and phone calls received on the sudden death of Ian Allan, a dear son, partner and father. Thanks to D. Chisholm and Sons, Funeral Directors, Inverness for arranging funeral service in their Funeral Home and celebrant Mr Halde Pottinger for conducting service there and at Spean Bridge and to the Craigmonie Hotel for catering. Special thanks to family who travelled from Spain and New Zealand and to all who travelled to Inverness and Spean Bridge to pay their respects. Ian Allan was laid to rest in Blairour Cemetery, Spean Bridge.

**LIVINGSTONE** - All relatives of Helen Livingstone would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards and telephone calls received since their sad loss on March 2, 2018. Special thanks to all carers and district nurses who looked after her at Ford Spence Court, hospital staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Donald MacKinnon for a comforting service, D & A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements and the Falls of Lora Hotel for catering. Finally, thank you to all who attended the church and graveside. Retiring collection raised funds for the Ford Spence Court Residents Fund.

**MACLEOD** - Alex, Catherine, Kenny, Colin and Charles would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many thoughtful expressions of sympathy

shown to them following the loss of their mum Elizabeth. Sincere thanks to Invernevis House and Tweeddale Medical Practice for all their care and support. Grateful thanks to Fr Roddy McAuley for his comforting Mass, to Scott and Colleagues of John McLellan Funeral Directors for their compassionate care, support and guidance. Finally, thanks to everyone who paid their last respects and to those who donated generously £122.10 for the Invernevis Residents' Fund.

**STALKER** - The family of the late Jim wish to thank all relatives, friends and Royal Mail colleagues for their kind messages and support. A special thanks to Fr Roderick McAuley for beautiful service at St John's, John McLellan & Co for funeral arrangements and McDonald Bros for flowers. Also a thank you to Caol Community Centre for providing refreshments. Sincere thanks to all mountain rescue teams involved in bringing Jim home. Lochaber, RAF Valley, Lossie, Tayside and the crew of R951. Over £2,000 was collected for the MRT. Many thanks to everyone.

**MEMORIAMS**

**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, Ardness, Bunessan, Mull.

**DEMPSTER** - In loving memory of a dear mother and nana Morag Scouler, who died March 24, 1986, also her husband Kenny, who died December 1, 1989. - Fondly remembered by Hugh and her grandchildren.

**FORSYTH** - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary (Calac), who died March 17, 2012. Sadly missed, but happy memories. - Jimmy.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of my mother Jessie, who died March 17, 2015 also my father Neil, who died April 30, 1991. Both sadly missed by us all Always in our thoughts. - David, Eileen and all the family.

**MACHPHAIL** - Remembering John who was taken from us on March 15, 1995. Missing you more and more each passing year. Love always. - Dad and Mary.

**NEWTON** - Treasured memories of our amazing 'Auntie Amy' who passed away March 22, 2017. Loved and remembered always. - Ann, Brian, Maureen, Cliff and Annabelle xxx

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father Archibald who died on March 29, 1996. Sadly missed - Inserted by his loving son Archie.

# Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien dies at age of 80 after fall

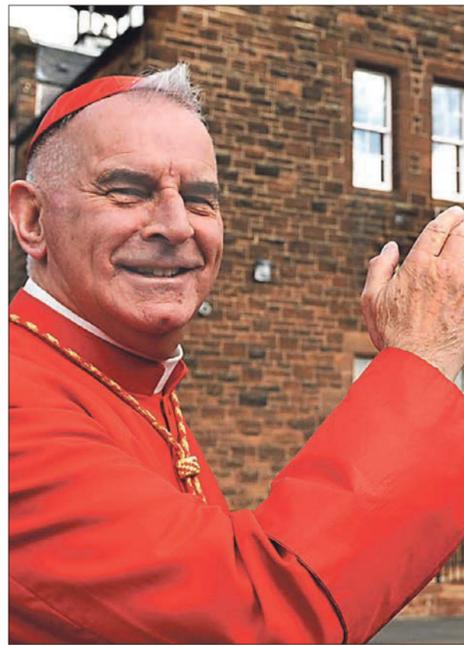
CARDINAL Keith O'Brien, formerly the Catholic Church's most senior cleric in Britain, has died at the age of 80.

The cardinal, who resigned as Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh in 2013 after apologising for sexual misconduct, was hurt in a recent fall.

Keith Patrick Cardinal O'Brien, Archbishop Emeritus of St Andrews and Edinburgh, died at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne early on Monday morning surrounded by family and friends.

Commenting upon the news, Archbishop Leo Cusley of St Andrews and Edinburgh said: 'In life, Cardinal O'Brien may have divided opinion - in death, however, I think all can be united in praying for the repose of his soul, for comfort for his grieving family and that support and solace be given to those whom he offended, hurt and let down. May he rest in peace.'

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, Archbishop Tartaglia said: 'We have received the sad news of the death of Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Emeritus Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh. I wish to express my sincere



Cardinal Keith O'Brien.

sympathy on the death of the late Cardinal to his family and close friends. I ask for prayers for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace.'

While Bishop Joseph Toal, former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, now of Bishop of Motherwell,

commented: 'I will pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, who died early this morning - may he rest in God's peace. I extend my sympathy and prayerful support to his family, friends and all who mourn his passing.'

## Thought for the week

THE DIGNITY of silence is Jesus's great lesson for us in the days leading up to His crucifixion and death.

Palm Sunday was the day of much noise and it looked as though Jesus was triumphant. As that last week unfolded, read the story and you notice Jesus says less and less. Eventually He is silent in front of Pilate at His trial.

Jesus's silence is not the mere absence of words but the silence of the deep knowledge of the meaning and purpose of love in our lives - love which is known not only in affection, warmth, relationships, life giving as these things are.

Love gives meaning and purpose to even suffering, pain, death. That may be our tomb experience leading us deep within ourselves to that place where heart and mind meet, the place where we know as we are known, by God; that place is the same, where we meet, know, God is Love.

Jesus gives dignity to the silence where words, actions, fail in the force of human suffering, as in Syria.

The dignity of silence leads us out of the tomb we heve for ourselves out of the rocks of our own personalities allowing us to recognise the possibilities of new life and light, the promise of love in who and what we are, the promise of the resurrection of the Easter story.

**The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles**

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Silver-lining for Arlo at national athletics championships  
**Athletics**



Arlo Van de Peer of Strontian became the second fastest under 15 in the 1,500 metres in Scotland.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

STRONTIAN athlete Arlo Van de Peer is the second fastest under-15 runner over 1,500 metres in Scotland, thanks to an impressive performance at the national championships earlier this month.

Arlo took home the silver medal in the 1,500 metres in the under-15 age group at the Scottish Athletics National Championships, held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Arlo, who lives in Strontian and turned 14 the day before the race, slashed an incredible 12 seconds off his previous personal best, to record a time of 4 minutes 34 seconds on the day.

Arlo runs for Glasgow club Cambuslang Harriers after being talent spotted at the Kilchoan Show and Sports last year by Richard Carr, a representative from the club. Both Richard and the club have been fundamental in providing mentoring and support since.

Arlo is hoping this early success is the start of something big in his fledgling athletics career.

**Lochaber club lotteries**

**Lottery numbers**

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 12 and 13. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday March 22) will be £900.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 6, 13 and 19. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 2, 6 and 16. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,200.

**Glenfinnan shoot results**

**Shooting**

GLENFINNAN Gun Club hosted a shoot on March 10.

The weather was cold and dry as 24 guns took part on the day.

First competition, won by Billy Bartlett. Second competition, Tennent Shield, won by Mark Shone. High gun for the day, Donnie Strang Memorial Quaich, won by Josh McGhee.

Double rise, Dewar Cup, won by Mark Snone. Under 18, won by Cameron Mergan.

# Fort fall short in two home Highland League fixtures

Fort William	0
Nairn County	2
Highland League	

NAIRN County took all three points in the swirling Claggan Park wind last Wednesday night as an unlucky Fort William were unable to take their chances.

Fort William produced their first shot on target of the game on 17 minutes but Barna Tot's first time effort was saved comfortably by the County 'keeper.

Nairn struck the post twice in the first half, with the second deflecting off a Fort defender before looping on to the crossbar.

Fort had a great chance to open the scoring 10 minutes



Fort player Barna Tot is put under pressure from Nairn's high press. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

before the break when Mark Gillespie was unmarked to meet a corner from the right with a header that he could only direct over the crossbar.

However, Nairn made them pay for that miss almost instantly by opening the scoring. Ewen Urquhart delivered a cross to the back post that the home defence could not deal with, allowing Max Ewan to sweep the ball home.

Fort William threatened again two minutes later but Iain MacLellan's shot-on-the-turn deflected just wide of MacLellan's goal.

Nairn continued their pressure in the second half almost immediately after the restart and

looked to put the game to bed early on in the second half.

County duly made it two on 57 minutes as Tom MacLennan marked his debut for the club with a goal as his in-swinging free kick dropped into the net at the near post.

Fort goalkeeper Campbell limped off injured on 63 minutes with attacker Stephen Lopez taking over in goal.

The Fort almost pulled a goal back with three minutes remaining when Iain MacLellan's low shot from the left flew across goal and just wide of the far post.

Fort William	1
Huntly	4
Highland League	

HUNTLY recorded their third straight win at Claggan Park over 10-man Fort William on Saturday to move up to eighth position.

Fort threatened early on with Iain MacLellan having a shot blocked before being denied a few minutes later by a last-ditch challenge in the Huntly box.

On the quarter-hour mark, a Huntly free-kick was whipped in to Matthew McDonald to open the scoring.

Less than 10 minutes later, a long throw from Cameron Booth was dropped by goalkeeper Bryan Simpson and after Michael Ewen's shot was blocked Michael Clark tapped in the rebound from close range.

John Farquhar again kept the home front-line out late on in



The Fort's Jack Lingard tackles former Hearts and Inverness CT forward Dennis Wyness. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

the half when he got down low to hold a Jack Lingard deflected drive just before the half-time whistle.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men only eight minutes into the second half when Mark Gillespie picked up a second caution following a late challenge.

Huntly extended their lead in the 56th minute after Cameron Booth netted the ball with a downward header.

The hosts did manage to pull a goal back immediately after

**Football**

with Jack Lingard firing in low from an Ian MacLellan corner.

Following the restart, Huntly broke upfield and a harmless shot from Cameron Booth squirmed through the legs of Fort goalkeeper Simpson and into the net to round off the day's scoring.

Fort William remain without a win so far this season at the foot of the Highland League.

## Lochaber swept aside by league leaders in 60-point victory

Wigtownshire	68
Lochaber	8
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER succumbed to a heavy 60-point defeat away to league leaders Wigtownshire on Saturday in what was their first game in over a month.

Lochaber could, however, take encouragement from their 25-11 win over Wigtownshire back in September, inflicting their only defeat of the season. But the visitors knew they were in for a tough match with Wigtownshire having won 73-0 and 57-0 in their last two fixtures and had only conceded 59 points in 11 games prior to this match.

It wasn't long before Wigtownshire showed why they are the top of the table when they used their big forward pack to crash through for their opening try. It was a tough first 25 minutes for Lochaber, who never had any real possession apart from on the odd occasion being able to turn Wigtownshire over and clear their lines.

At 15-0 down Lochaber were in Wigtownshire's 22 for the first time in the match when they were awarded a penalty which Jonathan McCook kicked to get some points on the board. However, Wigtownshire responded with more tries.

At around the 25-minute mark Lochaber turned the ball over and kicked for territory but two Wigtownshire players went to catch the ball and there was a nasty clash of heads with one of the

**Rugby**

players being knocked out after breaking his jaw. Play stopped for around 15-20 minutes while the paramedics dealt with the injury.

Play resumed with a Lochaber scrum just inside Wigtownshire's 22. From that set play Lochaber received a penalty 10 metres out and decided to run it. The ball was given to captain Callum MacDonald, who was stopped inches short of the line but the ball was recycled quickly out to the right wing where No 8 Conor Taylor was waiting. Taylor couldn't be stopped from such a close range making that his third try in three games.

The try gave Lochaber a lot of confidence going into half time and it showed in the second half. James Lucas continued to disrupt Wigtownshire's lineup which gave Lochaber more and more attacking opportunities. But time and time again they couldn't find a way through Wigtownshire's defence.

The second half was very balanced until the last 10 minutes where Lochaber started to fall away and Wigtownshire took full advantage and added to the score line with a few more quick tries.

The final score finished Wigtownshire 68-8 Lochaber, a win that extends the Stranraer club's lead at the top of the table to eight points.

Lochaber sit comfortably at mid-table in fifth position. The Banavie side travel to Hyndland next Saturday as they look for their first away win of the season.



The teams that competed in this year's Lochaber Building Supplies ten-pin bowling leagues attended the awards night last week. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

## Bowlers finish season on a high

TEN-PIN bowlers gathered at the bowling alley at the Nevis Centre on Monday last week for their annual prize presentation.

There was a good turnout at the awards night as the top performers were presented with their prizes in what was a good season for the Lochaber Building Supplies ten-pin bowling league.

The Alleycats won the the scratch division with 64 points out of a possible 70 followed by The Empire on 60 points and Council on 46 points.

Alleycats also won the handicap division with 55 points followed by British Legion Fort William on 47 points and Council on 43 points.

The season's high scores went to

**Ten-pin bowling**

Tommy McKnight (Alleycats) with a scratch game of 216, handicap game of 272 and two game handicap series of 482 whilst Ben Weller (The Empire) had the season's top two game scratch series with 392.

Alleycats swept the board for the season's top team scores with a scratch game of 724, handicap game of 921, two game scratch series of 1385 and two game handicap series of 1775.

The top scratch average of the season went to Ben Weller with 156 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 152 and Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 150.

## Lochaber Yacht Club push the boat out this summer

**Yachting**

LOCHABER Yacht Club in Fort William is pushing the boat out this May by offering people the chance to try their hand at sailing.

The club is inviting all ages and families to come and try sailing for free on Saturday 12 May and Sunday 13 (from 2pm to 5pm).

'We're inviting the local community to come down to have a go at sailing, see what Lochaber Yacht Club has to offer and get involved. Who knows, you might just get hooked,' said Hamish Loudon, club commodore.

Whether you're completely new to the sport or looking to get back on the water, RYA Push the Boat Out which takes place throughout May is the perfect time to give it a go.

The nationwide event will see thousands of people taking part in the sailing activity, with open days and taster sessions taking place at sailing clubs and centres across the country.

Starting at 2pm, on May 12 and 13 there will be sailing 'taster sessions' - for all ages, in dinghies and yachts, lead by experienced and enthusiastic club members. Refreshments will be available in the LYC clubhouse.

The sessions can be as physical or as relaxing as you want to make it, you can sail with others or on your own, do it competitively or potter about and just enjoy the gentle escape of being outside in the elements.

Booking via the following email would will guarantee a sail in a boat - sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.

For full details about what's going on at Lochaber Yacht Club visit lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk. For more information on RYA Push the Boat Out visit rya.org.uk.

## Thistle put seven past Islay

**Football**

South Lochaber Thistle	7
Islay	1
Friendly	

DUE TO a cancellation of their league game, South Lochaber Thistle welcomed Islay to Kinlochleven for a hastily arranged friendly.

Thistle played some sparkling possession-based football, with skipper Martin Munro in champagne form, ending his short drought with five goals, the pick of the bunch being a left foot peach curled into the corner of the net.

Morgan Birrell laid on a gift for Keir Kennedy while Sean Noble's luck finally took a turn for the good as he saw a drive towards goal deflect into the back of the net to double his tally for the season.

Islay scored a consolation to leave the final tally 7-1.

Next week, SLT are away for the final time this season to Westcliffe in Dumbarton.

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# Helen helps Scotland to Six Nations win over Ireland

Ireland	12
Scotland	15
Six Nations Championship	

GLENCOE girl Helen Nelson who plays for Murrayfield Wanderers was in the Scotland squad who recently defeated Ireland in the Six Nations Championship.

Scotland travelled to Dublin knowing that their last away win came in the Six Nations some 12 years ago.

Improved performances against France and England had showed that the team were able to compete in spells and a committed team effort with two tries won them a historic victory.

Scotland were unable to capitalise on early pressure and a kickable penalty when they went for the corner instead and lost the ball from the resulting squint throw.

Ireland's clearance was poor, however, and a neat line-out move and phase-play took Scotland to underneath the posts. Ireland gave up the penalty for offside and the kick was a formality for Helen Nelson to give Scotland the lead.

Both sides played attack-minded rugby in the opening quarter but couldn't quite make things stick in the final third of the field. A couple of forays deep into Irish territory yielded no scores and Scotland still led by three after 20 minutes.

The next chance came to extend the Scottish lead when Ireland slapped the ball down during a promising period but the attempt slid just right.

Much of the remainder of the half was played in the centre of the pitch but Ireland looked to finish with a flourish on the attack. They ripped Scottish ball and carried with purpose but came undone five metres out when a knock-on gave Scotland a scrum to end the half.

Scotland wasted no time in making a statement in the second half. They worked into the opposition 22 and quick ball created space for Helen Nelson to power over. Her own conversion was unsuccessful.

**Destructive maul**  
The score seemed to spark Ireland into life and a destructive maul earned them a line-out on the five-metre line. They crossed the try-line once but Scotland held them up to force a scrum but there was no stopping Ireland as their dominant pack sent the referee beneath the posts for a penalty try.

The hosts kept things tight from then on, using mauls and scrums to target Scotland.

Winning a short-range penalty they picked the scrum and won another. Megan Kennedy, winning her fourth cap and start, was sent to the sin bin when the next set-piece collapsed but Jade Konkel moving to prop seemed to shore things up and Ireland had to go through the backs.

The ball squirted loose and, although Scotland briefly claimed it, Ireland won another penalty.

This time they went for the corner but again faltered and Scotland breathed a sigh of relief.

The visitors would go on to lose the scrum against the head but speedster Rollie latched onto a pass from Ireland captain Griffin to go the length of the field, stepping the Irish fullback in the process.

Skeldon stepped up to add the extras and give Scotland an eight-point advantage once more.

Ireland's response was quick and relentless. They used close runners

to make ground and get over the line and the TMO was called in to play. The try would be given but the missed simple conversion meant that the Irish would need a try if they were to get the win.

Scotland came back well and played the majority of the last 10 minutes in the opposition half before a late penalty gave Ireland one last shot in the form of a line-out just inside Scottish territory.

The Scots challenged the throw and spoiled the ball for Ireland claiming possession and with it a memorable victory on the road.

Unfortunately Scotland lost their last game in the Six Nations going down 26-12 to Italy which meant they finished in fifth place ahead of Wales on points difference.

## Women's rugby



Helen Nelson

## Oban pupils take part in Warriors Championship

PUPILS from Oban High School competed in the 2018 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship at Scotstoun last week.

The Oban pupils were joined by girls and boys from St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Largs Academy, Falkirk High

School and Balfron High School as the first round of action got underway at the home of Glasgow Warriors.

**Competing**  
Each participating school in this year's SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship has S1 and S2 level boys' teams com-

peting as well as an under-15s girls' team.

The first day of action saw Oban High School run in 42 tries, winning five games.

They just missed out on a semi-final place after Balfron High School won eight of their matches.

All the pupils enjoyed a coaching session with a number of Glasgow Warriors players, including Greg Peterson as well as Scotland Women rugby stars Helen Nelson, who comes from Glencoe and Deborah McCormack.

Peterson said: 'What I love so

much about rugby is the camaraderie with my teammates.

'Every time we step out on the field we have fun and these players are able to experience exactly that by playing for their schools.

'I started playing at under-5s level for Norths Pirates Junior Rugby Club in Sydney and watching today brings back great memories.'

McCormack, part of the Scotland Women's side which beat Ireland in Dublin earlier this month, added: 'It's great to see the ever-increasing numbers of girls playing rugby and it shows that women's rugby is getting more accessible at such a young age.'

### Reward

'For me rugby is fun but challenging. If you put in the hard work you get a lot of reward back.'

Glasgow Warriors head coach Dave Rennie spoke to the Oban High School pupils at the end of qualifier one and had a message to all the players competing.

He said: 'Most of my friends I met through rugby so I would urge the players to keep playing rugby for that reason; you can make friends for life. It's a great team sport.'

He continued: 'The SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship is a brilliant concept.'

'The fact you field three teams including a girls' side gets so many more youngsters playing the game.'

At the beginning of this season Glasgow Warriors announced a landmark three-year partner-



Greg Peterson having fun last week with Oban High School's Eve Campbell at Scotstoun.



Glasgow Warriors player Greg Peterson with the Oban High School Girls' Under-15s team at the 2018 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship.

## Mull Rally organisers working hard behind the scenes

### Rallying

THE ORGANISERS of the Mull Rally are working hard behind the scenes to ensure this year's rally goes ahead.

However, at present, it is still unknown if this will be a possibility.

Writing on the rally's social media account, The Guardians of the Mull Rally and Car Club said: 'In the meantime we have planned a route to be put to the council and are proceeding with the organisation, so that if the insurance problems can be resolved we have the road closures in place.'

'We understand this is frustrating but we are doing all we can to make a closed-road event on Mull in 2018 happen. We will issue a further statement as soon as we hear any further updates.'

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## Game abandoned after injury to referee

Oban Lorne	A
Kilmarnock	A
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne and Kilmarnock will meet again at the end of this season after Saturday's game was abandoned before the 60-minute mark due to the referee sustaining a leg injury.

With the score standing at 8-3 to Kilmarnock in a tight game, the referee decided after around 55 minutes he was unable to carry on and the game was abandoned.

Oban had fielded a strong side for the game with Connor Kerr returning in the front row after a year abroad travelling.

Also returning were second row Lorne MacLachlan after his own travels along with back row Richard MacKay.

Oban Lorne fielded an unfamiliar backline with the returning Graham MacEachan at 13 and Jamie Bate at 12. This allowed captain Craig Wright to start the game at fullback.

The home side impressed through the 55 minutes that were played and won back their

respect after the 106-13 thumping received from Kilmarnock earlier in the season.

At the time the game was called off the scoreline was 8-3 in Kilmarnock's favour but Oban had dominated most of the play and felt hard done by with Kilmarnock being awarded a dubious try after two knock-ons and also having brothers Calum and Lorne MacLachlan both sinbinned either side of halftime.

This fixture will be added to the long list of other postponed fixtures which have caused a

### Rugby

huge backlog to the fixture card in West Division 1.

The fixture has been rescheduled to Saturday May 5 with a 3pm kick off.

Oban Lorne now have a league fixture on every available Saturday between now and the end of the season cut off on Saturday May 19.

This Saturday the team have a tough test, travelling to take on league leaders Carrick. Kick off is 3pm in Maybole.

Grangemouth Stagettes	P
Oban Lorne Ladies	P
BT Women's National League 2	

OBAN Lorne Ladies suffered yet another postponed game with Sunday's fixture away to Grangemouth falling foul of the wintry weather conditions.

The team's next fixture is the important clash with Howe of Fife RFC women in the semi final of the BT National Bowl on Sunday April 8.

The winner will progress to the final at BT Murrayfield on the 28th of April.'

## Road to the Isles Half Marathon set for bumper turnout

### Half marathon

THE ROAD to the Isles Half Marathon is set to be bigger than ever with more people signed up for the race than last year.

Along with the half marathon, there will be 10k and 5k races and a Walk on the Wild Side will be going ahead on Saturday May 12.

The stunning routes see runners snake through ancient woodland, jog by pretty coastal villages, run beside glorious beaches before going on to pass Loch Morar, the deepest freshwater loch in Britain; River Morar, the shortest river in Britain and Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe.

The closing date for entry is May 7. For more information go to [www.mallaigleisure.org.uk/road-isles-half-marathon](http://www.mallaigleisure.org.uk/road-isles-half-marathon)

All the events are in aid of the upkeep and renovation of Mallaig Pool and Leisure Centre.

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## Oban Lorne host first Mini Rugby Dalriada Festival of the season

OBAN Lorne hosted the first Mini Rugby Dalriada Festival of the season at Glencruitten on Sunday.

Teams from Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull, Lochaber, Mid Argyll and Oban Lorne were all in attendance.

Scores from the afternoon were as follows;

P4/5	Oban Lorne 1-5 Etive Vikings	P6/7	Oban Lorne 4-1 Lochaber
	Lochaber 4-4 Mid Argyll		Isle of Mull 0-5 Etive Vikings
	Isle of Mull 4-4 Lochaber		Isle of Mull 1-3 Mid Argyll
	Mid Argyll 5-3 Oban Lorne		Lochaber 1-3 Etive Vikings
	Etive Vikings 5-4 Mid Argyll		Oban Lorne 3-4 Isle of Mull
	Oban Lorne 4-0 Isle of Mull		Etive Vikings 3-2 Mid Argyll
	Lochaber 2-4 Mid Argyll		Mid Argyll 2-2 Oban Lorne
	Isle of Mull 3-3 Mid Argyll		Isle of Mull 1-3 Lochaber
	Isle of Mull 4-5 Etive Vikings		Lochaber 0-3 Mid Argyll
	Oban Lorne 3-1 Lochaber		Oban Lorne 1-2 Etive Vikings

Well done to Etive Vikings RFC who won all of their games at each age group.

This Saturday the teams meet again as Mid Argyll RFC host the second festival of the season in Lochgilphead. Kick off is at noon at the Ropework Park.



Oban Lorne face a huge backlog of fixtures

# Saints lose out in seven-goal thriller

‘We’ve played 23 games so far this season and haven’t been able to name the same starting 11 twice which is not ideal at this level of the game’

Inverclyde	4
Oban Saints	3
SAFL Premier Division	

A MIXTURE of charitable defending and profligate finishing consigned Oban Saints to a fifth defeat of a dismal league campaign at Battery Park, Greenock last Saturday. Hardly ideal preparation for the impending biggest fixture of the season so far.

Thankfully, due to the postponement of Saturday’s seventh round tie between potential opponents Sandys and Goldenhill, Saints will have at least one more opportunity to get their act together before their Scottish Amateur Cup quarter final tie now scheduled for March 31.

With Paul Carmichael, Keith Millar, Jamie Graham and Marc MacCallum unavailable for various reasons manager Alex Craik was forced into yet another squad reshuffle including a first competitive start for seventeen-year-old Ruaridh Horne.

Graham Douglas lined-up in goal behind a back four of Ruaridh Horne, Steven MacLeod, Alex Craik and Scott Maitland. Willie Gemmell anchored a midfield diamond flanked by Matthew Kelly and Kerr Newbigging with Captain Donald Campbell at its point.

Up front were Shaun MacIver and leading goal scorer Craig MacEwan. On the bench were James Ford, Craig MacMillan and veteran Peter MacCallum.

Riding high on a three-match winning run, hosts Inverclyde kicked off on a bitter cold afternoon with a biting easterly wind blowing across the park, bringing occasional flurries of snow.

Seventeen-year-old Ruaridh Horne, making his starting debut at right fullback, threaded a defence splitting seventh-minute pass through to Craig MacEwan. Unfortunately, after racing away from the ‘Clyde back four, leading goalscorer MacEwan overran the ball allowing ‘keeper Mark

Monk to come out and collect. Horne pressed forward again 60 seconds later to get on the end of a Willie Gemmell pass but the youngster’s cross from the right looking for the head of Shaun MacIver was too close to keeper Monk.

Saints paid a heavy price for a stray pass out from the back when Darren McGregor pounced on the loose ball and played Stewart Morrison in for a ninth minute opener. The big centre forward raced in behind the static Saints defence to slam the ball past the hopelessly exposed Graham Douglas.

Shaun MacIver spurned a glorious opportunity to bring Saints level in the 14th minute. Matthew Kelly was felled by ‘Clyde skipper Greg Wilson in the centre circle with Willie Gemmell sending his free-kick



Ruaridh Horne

up to Craig MacEwan on the 18-yard line. MacEwan spun away from Craig Ellis and, from the bye-line, picked out the unmarked MacIver in the middle who placed his downward header agonisingly the wrong side of Mark Monk’s left hand post.

MacIver shaved the same post again two minutes later with a low shot from 18 yards after Donald Campbell held up a Willie Gemmell pass to create the space for the young striker.

When Saints eventually managed to hit the target they found Inverclyde ‘keeper Mark

Monk equal to the task. On his favoured left foot Shaun MacIver tested Monk low to his left but the big ‘keeper got down well to turn the ball behind. MacIver’s in-swinging corner from the right found no takers in white but Kerr Newbigging was able to keep the pressure on and found MacIver who won a free-kick from James Buchanan’s tackle from behind. Willie Gemmell’s clever ball to Donald Campbell almost caught out the ‘Clyde defence but Tom McKittrick reacted in time to usher the ball back to his goalkeeper.

Having enjoyed a good spell since falling behind, Saints were caught out for a second time on the half-hour mark. From a quick counter attack on the right Michael McKittrick sent a low ball across the face of goal where Stewart Morrison’s nose for goal had taken him to double his tally with a simple tap-in from close range.

A swashbuckling 34th minute run took Scott Maitland in behind the home defence but his cutback from the left was cut out by ‘keeper Monk at the feet of Donald Campbell.

Sixty seconds later the Saints skipper pressurised Monk into a hurried clearance which fell invitingly for Craig MacEwan who, from 24 yards, clipped a disappointing effort in the grateful arms of the big ‘keeper.

MacEwan made amends in the 38th minute finding the net from close range after the home defence failed to clear a Saints corner kick from the left won by Donald Campbell. Willie Gemmell’s quickly taken corner to Scott Maitland was played back to Gemmell, who put the ball into the danger area. James Buchanan’s attempted clearing header fell nicely into the path of Craig MacEwan who lifted the ball over Mark Monk’s despairing dive to bring Saints back into the match.

Another good Scott Maitland run and cross from the left flashed across the face of the ‘Clyde goal in the 43rd minute with, frustratingly, no Saints



Craig MacEwan nets Saints’ first goal. Match report and photos Derek Black

player on the end of it. Donald Campbell drew a good save from Mark Monk with a crisp shot from 22 yards before referee Robert Doolan blew the half-time whistle.

Saints began the second half in positive fashion with a good overlapping run from Scott Maitland found by Craig MacEwan. Maitland’s run took him into the box where Mark Monk narrowed the angle well to make an excellent save at his near post.

An excellent sliding interception by Steven MacLeod launched a Saints counter-attack in the 52nd minute where Fraser Gunn got a vital touch to deny Donald Campbell at the expense of a corner kick. The Saints skipper played the corner on the left curled to Scott Maitland, who curled a right-foot shot wide of target.

From Mark Monk’s goal kick Saints quickly returned the ball to the Inverclyde penalty area where Donald Campbell evaded the attentions of Tom McKittrick and Fraser Gunn but couldn’t find the power to seriously test Monk who held the Saints skipper’s shot comfortably.

The big Inverclyde keeper made an excellent double save in the 57th minute to deny Saints what would have been a deserved equaliser. Donald Campbell and Matthew Kelly combined to send Craig MacEwan in behind the ‘Clyde defence. Monk stood up well at his near post to parry MacEwan’s left foot shot and somehow managed to throw out a long left leg blocking MacEwan’s follow up effort.

Monk added insult to injury finding Neil McCole with his goal kick who played the ball in behind a square Saints defence for Stewart Morrison. The big striker raced through the inside left channel and was once again clinical with his finish across Graham Douglas to seal his hat-trick.

Saints responded immediately to this latest set back with a delightful curling Donald Campbell finish into the postage stamp corner after good work by Shaun MacIver and Craig MacEwan.

Campbell had the chance to level things at the end of another cutting Saints attack in the 59th minute. Racing through



Tom McKittrick keeps a hold of Donald Campbell’s jersey.

on goal the skipper passed up the chance to shoot instead electing to try and play in Craig MacEwan who, unfortunately, had strayed into an offside position.

Saints manager Alex Craik made his only change with half an hour left to play replacing Ruaridh Horne, who gave a good account of himself on his first start in the hurly-burly of senior amateur football, with another debutant James Ford, younger brother of Saints legend Sean.

The change in personnel also brought a change to a 3-4-3 formation with Matthew Kelly dropping back to join Steven MacLeod and the Gaffer in defence.

Saints were still adjusting to their new shape when they were picked off for the fourth and final time. Another misplaced pass was seized upon in midfield by Greg Wilson, who worked the ball out to the right for Michael McKittrick to swing over a deep cross. McKittrick’s delivery caught out Matthew Kelly at the back post with Craig Ellis taking a leaf out of the Stewart Morrison clinical finishing book to ghost in behind and head the ball past Graham Douglas.

Referee Doolan denied Saints a chance to get straight back into the match once again when he ignored a blatant trip on Donald Campbell in the Inverclyde box in the 63rd minute.

Saints kept probing for openings but without the accuracy of passing necessary to open up the home defence which

had regained some degree of composure after a shaky start to the second half.

An Iain Beattie foul on Craig MacEwan 29 yards from goal gave Willie Gemmell an opportunity with the dead ball. However, despite getting the ball up and over the wall, Gemmell



James Ford

failed to trouble Mark Monk who made a comfortable catch to his left.

Mr Doolan infuriated the Saints players in the 82nd minute when he dismissed loud appeals for a penalty kick for a handball decision against Inverclyde right fullback Iain Beattie.

Donald Campbell came within the width of the crossbar of replicating his earlier perfect finish into the postage stamp corner. The Saints skipper gathered in a Willie Gemmell throw-in from the left and swivelled away from Fraser Gunn before curling a right foot shot off the crossbar with

## Football

Mark Monk well beaten. Having failed to find the net with the dead ball, Willie Gemmell had more success from open play in the 87th minute.

Pushing forward to join the attack, Gemmell collected a Donald Campbell lay off in the penalty box and steered a right foot shot from 15 yards past Monk’s left hand to give Saints some late hope.

Saints forced one final chance during the time added on for stoppages, however, Craig MacEwan’s shot from the edge of the box through the massed home defence was deflected inches wide of Mark Monk’s right hand post.

Manager Alex Craik was bitterly disappointed at the result. He said: ‘We played some great football but gave away bad goals. On the other hand we created plenty of chances but we failed to take them.’

‘We have our Scottish Cup quarter final scheduled for March 31 so hopefully we can get a full squad of players available. We’ve played 23 games so far this season and haven’t been able to name the same squad twice which isn’t ideal.’

While they wait on the outcome of the Sandys v Goldenhill Scottish Amateur Cup encounter, second from bottom Saints will continue their league campaign on Saturday with a home match against bottom club Hillington. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.



‘Clyde keeper Mark Monk comes out to collect this Willie Gemmell corner.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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**Competition rules**  
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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Close encounters in the Premiership

THERE were top flight wins for Kinlochshiel and Newtonmore and Oban Celtic remain in pole position in the Marine Harvest National Division following the shinty action on Saturday March 17.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

#### Lovat 0

#### Kinlochshiel 1

Early league leaders Kinlochshiel passed their toughest test so far this season when they beat Lovat 1-0 at Balgate.

Lovat had Callum Cruden back from suspension. However, Lorne MacKay was unavailable and Martin Mainland remained injured. Duncan Davidson declared himself fit and started on the bench alongside Chris Johnston and Thomas Fraser.

Kinlochshiel captain Paul MacRae was still sidelined with an elbow injury so Finlay MacRae continued at full back, where he was dominant. Forwards Oliver MacRae and Scott MacLean remained unavailable. Young Duncan MacRae started at wing centre, with Donald Nixon at centre and Fraser MacVicar and Duncan Matheson on the bench.

The only goal of the game came after 14 minutes. Lovat full back Drew Howie and Kinlochshiel full forward John MacRae had a great physical battle throughout but MacRae managed to wrestle himself free from Howie's clutches and dribbled the ball towards goal before slotting it low past Stuart MacDonald's right foot to make it 1-0.

A superb Stuart MacDonald save prevented the west coast side doubling their lead. The game was around 30 minutes in before Kinlochshiel goalie Scott Kennedy saw his first real action, dealing confidently with a shot which bounced awkwardly in front of him.

Kinlochshiel moved Jordan Fraser to full forward at the start of the second half.

The pitch wasn't in its usual condition, with bumps in places, which may have contributed to two second half misses.

On 48 minutes, an angled ball found Keith MacRae on the Kinlochshiel left. He cut inside and had enough time to control the ball before twice teeing it up but, with Stuart MacDonald rushing off his line, MacRae's effort went well wide of goal.

At the other end, with 15 minutes remaining, Marc MacLachlan couldn't get enough power in his shot and Kinlochshiel scrambled the ball away to safety.

There were good contests all over the pitch including Callum Cruden and Keith MacRae and Greg Matheson and Mark MacDonald.

Kinlochshiel did enough to win what was a largely uneventful match on a bitterly cold day.

Drew Howie had a very good game in the Lovat defence but manager Fraser Gallacher will have concerns after seeing Daniel Grieve and Marc MacLachlan suffering heavy knocks.

#### Oban Camanachd 0 Newtonmore 1

Newtonmore beat Oban Camanachd 1-0 in a game of few chances at Mossfield.

Aidan MacIntyre and Lorne Dickie joined Scott McKillop and Gavin Stobbart on the Oban Camanachd injury list. Cameron Sutherland continued in goal.

Kenny Ross started in goal for Newtonmore but Glen MacKintosh missed this one through suspension. Steven MacDonald was also absent. Norman Campbell started at full forward where he had a great contest with Oban Camanachd full back Daniel Cameron.

Newtonmore won the toss and played with a strong wind at their backs in the first half.

The Oban Camanachd defence of Daniel Cameron, Willie Neilson, Garry Lord and Daniel Sloss played well throughout the game, but Newtonmore forward Evan Menzies punished some hesitancy in the home back line on 38 minutes. Oban Camanachd passed up three chances to clear the ball when Menzies ran in and he kept his composure to slip the ball past on-rushing keeper Cameron Sutherland to make it 1-0.

Efforts on goal during the first period were rare, with Cameron Sutherland making a couple of saves and his counter-part Kenny Ross only having one stop of note.

Andrew McCuish and Jamie Robinson were having a great battle in the middle of the park and one good Oban Camanachd move ended with Scott MacMillan shooting past the post on the angle.

Garry Lord was forced off with a hip injury at half-time. Scott MacMillan, who started up front, dropped back into defence to cover with Chrissie MacMillan, who was himself carrying an injury, coming off the bench.

It was tight again in the second half with the midfield area congested.

The Oban side now had the wind in their favour but Cameron Sutherland was again the busier of the two keepers in the second period, saving well once with his hand and twice with his feet.

Malcolm Clark dropped back into the Oban midfield and can be pleased with his contribution.

Willie Neilson went off late in the game with a knee injury and youngster Evan MacLellan, himself not fully fit, was given a run out for the closing stages.

This was Newtonmore's first competitive match this year and there will be more to come



Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord gets his block in against Newtonmore's Fraser Mackintosh during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield which the Badenoch side won with the only goal of the game.

from them, starting with a derby meeting with Kingussie at The Eilan this weekend.

It doesn't get any easier for Oban Camanachd as they are off to Kirkton to play league leaders Kinlochshiel on Saturday.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay doesn't have his injury problems to seek and Aidan MacIntyre's absence is now likely to be measured in months rather than weeks. Hay could also have done without fresh injuries to Garry Lord and Willie Neilson.

Reflecting on the game, Ian Hay said: 'We just didn't create enough chances during the 90 minutes and that was the most disappointing thing for us. We lacked that bit of creativity and failed to open Newtonmore up.'

'I suppose you could say we could have dealt better with their goal and sneaked a goal-less draw but you'd have to say that Newtonmore deserved to win the game.'

'We'll have to assess the injury situation later in the week but we currently have six players out with injuries and another two playing whilst carrying knocks so it's a real test of our squad.'

#### Kingussie 0 Glenurquhart 0

Kingussie and Glenurquhart shared the points following a goal-less draw at The Dell.

Kingussie ground staff put in a tremendous effort before the game to clear the pitch of snow to allow the game to go ahead.

Fraser Munro was still out injured, whilst Kingussie manager John Gibson also had to do without Louis Munro and Sandy Elrick.

Glenurquhart manager Iain MacLeod finally had young defender Lachie Smith free of his four-match ban. David MacLennan was free to play for Glenurquhart but he will miss this Saturday's home meeting with Lochaber after picking up a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Kingussie, who introduced

James Hutchison as a second half substitute, had the better of the 90 minutes and Glenurquhart's Stuart MacKintosh was the busier of the two keepers, making three or four great saves during the game.

Craig Dawson, however, had to be alert to make two stops of note towards the end of the match to prevent Glenurquhart grabbing both points.

The home forwards were also wasteful at times and Kingussie will see this as a point lost rather than a point gained.

#### Caberfeidh 1 Kyles Athletic 1

Newly-promoted Caberfeidh picked up a valuable point, drawing 1-1 with title contenders Kyles Athletic at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh were missing Scott McLauchlan with injury and Jamie MacKintosh through illness.

Kyles Athletic forward Sandy MacKenzie served the second game of a two-match ban.

Caberfeidh took the lead after 11 minutes when a Gavin McLauchlan through ball was missed by a couple of visiting defenders and Kevin Bartlett ran on, one-on-one with the keeper, and finished in style to the delight of the home support.

It took an impressive Ewan Pilcher save midway through the first half to prevent Kyles restoring parity.

Kyles continued to launch wave after wave of attack into the second half but the Caberfeidh defence was resolute, although the home side were always a threat on the break.

The Tighnabraich side finally got back level with just 15 minutes remaining. Grant Irvine, who started in attack but was moved back to midfield during the first half, surged forward, finding the back of the net from just outside the 'D'.

Caberfeidh worked hard to contain the Kyles Athletic forwards throughout the game and they will be the happier with a point which sets them up nicely for this Saturday's match on Skye.

### Marine Harvest National Division

#### Oban Celtic 1

#### Inveraray 1

A Daniel Madej goal five minutes from time gave Oban Celtic a 1-1 draw with Inveraray at Ganavan.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon was without Neil Carmichael, Andy Hunt and Rory Bruce. Daniel Madej and Ross MacMillan both played through the pain barrier - Madej with a damaged ankle and MacMillan with a heavily strapped left hamstring.

Inveraray boss Ruairaidh Graham was still minus the suspended Allan MacDonald.

This was a scrappy encounter and the Oban side will feel they missed more clear-cut opportunities in front of goal.

The opening goal came on 64 minutes when Lewis Montgomery put Inveraray ahead.

And that's the way it stayed until five minutes from the end when Oban Celtic captain Daniel Madej levelled.

Speaking after the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'We have come such a long way over the last two years.'

'A couple of years ago, we could have taken a heavy beating in a game like this but the difference is we now feel extremely disappointed to only come away with a point.'

#### Fort William 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Late goals from Arran MacPhee and Jack Fraser completed a Fort William comeback as they drew 2-2 with Glasgow Mid Argyll at An Aird.

Sean Cameron, Sean Cruickshank, Graham Campbell and Mark Grant were all missing for Fort William.

GMA's John Don MacKenzie served a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold at the end of last season. Finlay MacMillan was on holiday, whilst Ewen Murray was at a wedding.



Goal judge Nigel Evans wrapped up against the elements at the Oban Camanachd v Newtonmore game. Photograph: Kevin McClynn.

After a goal-less first half, Craig Anderson gave GMA the lead on 42 minutes. Anderson's 30-yard shot from a central position took a deflection off a defender and the ball went into the top right corner of the goals.

Referee Martin MacLean penalised Fort William keeper Paul MacKay for a 'kick' inside the 'D' on 77 minutes and Craig Anderson stepped up to grab his second goal of the game.

Fort William came storming back though and finished the match well with GMA made to pay for not killing the game off.

Arran MacPhee pulled a goal back on 82 minutes from a corner. Arran MacPhee controlled the ball just outside the 'D' before hitting it low into the bottom corner of the net.

Fort William co-managers Victor Smith and Adam Robertson moved Jack Fraser from full centre to full forward and the switch paid off on 86 minutes. Young substitute Victor Smith hit a great strike which forced an equally fine save from GMA goalie Robert Dunnings. However, Jack Fraser picked the ball up from the re-bound, outside the 'D' and dribbled goalwards before sliding the ball past the keeper to make it 2-2.

The result sets up a mouth-wa-

tering derby between Fort William and Kilmallie at An Aird this Saturday.

#### Kilmallie 2 Inverness 3

Inverness were shock 3-2 winners against title hopefuls Kilmallie at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson had Martin Stewart free of suspension but Michael Rodger and Craig MacIsaac served the final games of their bans.

Callum McLeod has taken over the first team managerial duties at Inverness. He had Arran MacMaster free of his ban but Jason McLeod and James MacKenzie were missing. Davie Glass returned after a long period of injury to make up the 13-man squad.

Inverness had a fine first half and could have been even further ahead than their three-goal interval lead.

James Cameron put the Highland capital side ahead after three minutes, scoring against his former club.

The visitor's prolonged period of pressure continued and Matthew Clark made it 2-0 on 35 minutes.

It got even better for Inverness when Michael Price added a third three minutes later.

Kilmallie fought back after the restart and pulled a goal back on 50 minutes when Innes Blackhall scored following a disputed free-hit on the edge of the 'D'.

Daniel Stewart made it 3-2 with a good strike from a few yards outside the box.

Kilmallie pressed hard for a leveller but the Inverness defence stood firm and defended well to seal a morale-boosting win.

#### Beaulieu 2 Strathglass 2

Beaulieu and Strathglass served up an entertaining 2-2 draw at Braeview Park.

Both teams started the match with key players missing including Liam Girvan and Ryan Tillman for the hosts and Lawrence Jones, Michael Stokes and Archie Wotherspoon for the visitors.

Beaulieu made the stronger start and Jack MacDonald and Sean Stewart both hit shots wide in the opening 10 minutes.

There was a good battle in the middle of the park between Beaulieu's Calum Morrison and Hamish Myers from Strathglass whilst wing centres Angus Renwick and Lewis Douglas also had a fine duel.

Strathglass went ahead against the run of play. Full forward Ally McAdams turned his marker and placed a good pass to Steven Hyslop who drilled the ball low past keeper Josh Grant's right-hand post to make it 1-0 with 25 minutes on the clock.

It only took four minutes for Beaulieu to draw level. Angus Renwick got past his marker and hit a speculative lob from 30 yards out. With the low sun in keeper Adam Todd's eyes, he could do little as the ball dropped behind him and into the net.

Josh Grant and Adam Todd both made fine saves before the end of the first half.

Beaulieu had the wind in the second half and they used it to their advantage from the re-start.

On 52 minutes, Angus Renwick hit an excellent long shy from the left which deceived the Strathglass defence, landing perfectly for Robbie Brindle who tucked it past the keeper to put Beaulieu ahead for the first time in the game.

The Strathglass defence played well and restricted Beaulieu danger-men Jack MacDonald and Sean Stewart to a few opportunities on goal.

The first booking of the match came on 71 minutes when referee John Angus Gillies flashed a yellow card at Lewis Douglas for a reckless swing at Calum Morrison.

Strathglass drew level with 15



Action from the Kilmallie v Inverness National Division game.

Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

## Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

## Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



minutes remaining, the goal again coming from a shy. Lewis Douglas hit the ball in from the right, finding Darren Reid, who turned his marker and hit an unstoppable piledriver from 25 yards out leaving Josh Grant helpless.

Strathglass piled on the pressure in an effort to get a winner but Josh Grant was equal to their efforts, ensuring his side earned a share of the points.

A draw was a fair result and whilst Strathglass defenders Donald Fraser and George Phimister did well, Beaulay wing centre Angus Renwick was undoubtedly the man of the match, covering much of the pitch whilst also being strong in tackles.

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 4  
Glenurquhart 0**  
The Newtonmore seconds scored twice in each half to beat the Glenurquhart seconds 4-0 at The Eilan.

Chris Sellar got the opener on 14 minutes and added a second five minutes before the break.

It was Chris Sellar again for Newtonmore, completing his hat-trick on 64 minutes to make it 3-0.

Neil Stewart added a fourth for the early league leaders on 71 minutes.

### Skye Camanachd 4 Kingussie 0

Ross Gordon and Ruairaidh MacLeod both scored twice as the Skye Camanachd colts beat the Kingussie colts 4-0 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye added veteran Allan MacLeod and youngsters Ruairaidh MacLeod and Conor Gilpin to the squad which lost to Glengarry a week earlier.

Rory Fraser at full back and Kevin Thain at full forward provided the experience for a young Kingussie side which had beaten Glenurquhart a week earlier.

Kingussie opened with a strong wind at their backs and both teams had chances before Ross Gordon's 44th minute opener. Connor Gilpin got onto Martin Pringle's corner from the right. His effort was deflected into Gordon's path and he finished well, tucking the ball into the corner of the net to give Skye the lead at the interval.

Ruairaidh MacLeod thumped home a re-bound to make it 2-0 on 67 minutes after Kingussie keeper Robert Shiells had saved from Martin Pringle who had been played in by Ross Gordon.

Ross Gordon got his second when he tucked the ball into the corner of the net after 67 minutes.

Ruairaidh MacLeod got his second when he slammed the ball high into the net to make it 4-0 a minute from time.

### Kinlochshiel 0 Fort William 3

The Fort William reserves scored three times in the second half to beat the Kinlochshiel reserves 3-0 at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel gave first starts to Arron Jack, James Gunn and Calum Coghill.

David Wright was free to play for Fort William but he will miss Saturday's trip to Glengarry for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

After a scoreless opening 45 minutes, thanks mainly to good goalkeeping from veteran

Kinlochshiel custodian Graham Kennedy, Scott Knox opened the scoring five minutes after the re-start and a Greg Kelly double on 68 and 82 minutes rounded off the win.

Ewan Falconer played well for Kinlochshiel but Sandy MacDiarmid required a hospital visit after suffering a blow to the face.

### Aberdeen University P Glengarry P

Winter weather in Aberdeen led to the postponement of the game between Aberdeen University and Glengarry as the host's Balgownie pitch was unplayable.

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Ballachulish 1  
Lochside Rovers 1**  
Champions Lochside Rovers picked up their first point of the season when they drew 1-1 with Ballachulish at Jubilee Park.

It was encouraging for Ballachulish that they were able to name five substitutes for the game.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans had just 12 players so he named himself as substitute.

The visitors fielded a very young forward line of Euan Logan, Ross Campbell, Lewis Buchanan and Lennon Campbell.

Lochside created the game's first real chance after six minutes when Lewis Buchanan ghosted in at the back post, but keeper David Pearce saved well with his feet.

The Oban side took the lead on 30 minutes. Neil MacFarlane played a corner to the back post. Michael MacQueen made a great run forward from midfield, gathered the ball and beat two players before setting up Ross Campbell who slammed the ball into the roof of the net to make it 1-0.

This was Ballachulish's first game of the new season and they levelled through Stuart Robertson on 38 minutes. Michael MacQueen had dropped back into defensive area to help clear a Ballachulish attack but he was unable to get the ball away and the hosts won possession through Scott Henderson. The ball was steered goalwards by Stuart Robertson but Lochside keeper Brian MacCallum missed it and it trundled over the line.

Brian MacCallum later made a fantastic save with his feet to deny Stuart Robertson a second whilst, at the other end, Lochside hit the post twice.

Lorne Brown, a key player for Ballachulish, started the game in the forward line but moved into defence for the second half after Ross MacLean was injured.

Gareth Evans replaced Euan Logan 10 minutes after the re-start and he almost made an immediate impact but spurned a chance at the back post.

Both sides will take much from the game. Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans hopes to have players back for this Saturday's home match against Aberdour whilst Ballachulish will go into their home clash with Col Glen with plenty confidence.

### Col Glen 3 Bute 2

Col Glen came from two goals down to beat Bute 3-2 in a remarkable match at Otter Ferry.

Neil McKirdy put Bute ahead



Kyles Athletic's Andy King and Caberfeidh's Ali MacLennan in a tussle for the ball during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Castle Leod which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

after two minutes and added a second on 25 minutes.

Bute, who were minus Ian McDonald, Robert Walker and Ryan Craig, were stunned as Col Glen's second half substitute Sandy Paterson pulled a goal back on 50 minutes.

There was worse to follow for the islanders as Connor Kennedy made it 2-2 on 80 minutes.

Just a couple of minutes later, Sandy Paterson, who last played for the Skye Camanachd second team under their former boss Davie MacVicar, gave his new manager Ronnie MacVicar, Davie's brother, a first competitive win when he grabbed what proved to be the winner.

The sides also contested the Hamish Carmichael Memorial Trophy with Col Glen taking the honours.

### Kilmory 2 Taynuilt 0

Kilmory played their first match of the season, beating Taynuilt 2-0 at MacRae Park.

Alister MacArthur gave Kilmory the lead on 23 minutes. He received a ball from Alex Cunningham in the half forward position and turned his marker before hitting a great shot, low and hard inside of the far post.

Hal Jones made it 2-0 on 34 minutes. Alex Cunningham's shot from far out was saved by keeper Beano Logan and Jones ran in, striking the ball on the half-volley from inside the 'D'.

This was a good game but the pitch tore up in the second half which made it difficult for both teams.

### Tayforth 1 Kyles Athletic 4

The meeting between the Kyles Athletic second team and Tayforth was switched to Levenhall Links earlier in the week.

All the goals came during the first half.

Innes MacDonald gave Kyles the lead on nine minutes and Brandon Wilson added a second

on 19 minutes. Brendon Thompson pulled a goal back on 26 minutes, but Kyles were not to be denied.

Ross MacRae made it 3-1 on 35 minutes and Luke Thornton extended the visitors' advantage four minutes before the break.

### Inveraray P Aberdour P

The match between the Inveraray seconds and the Aberdour seconds was postponed as The Winterton was unplayable, having not recovered from the previous week's senior match between Inveraray and Fort William.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Strathspey Camanachd 1  
Caberfeidh 3**  
The Caberfeidh reserves are the early North 2 league leaders after they overcame Strathspey Camanachd 3-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at a cold Grantown Grammar School.

There was a physical opening to the match and although Caberfeidh made the better start, Strathspey always looked dangerous on the break.

Caberfeidh, who travelled without marksman Stewart Krzyzanowski who grabbed a hat-trick against the Lochaber seconds the previous week, went in front on five minutes when Alan Ross knocked home a re-bound off the keeper.

The goal settled Caberfeidh and they passed up a couple of opportunities before going 2-0 ahead on 20 minutes when Ruairidh McCreadie turned his marker before blasting an unstoppable shot past the keeper.

The visitors knew a third goal would put them out of sight but it was Strathspey who pulled a goal back on 42 minutes when a looping Arron MacBean effort dropped just under the crossbar to make it 2-1.

Caberfeidh introduced 14-year-old Kyle Grant from the start of the second half. He took over from Kyle MacLeod who had suffered a back injury.

Caberfeidh restored their two-goal advantage on 70 minutes when, in a crowded goal area, Kyle Grant capped a memorable afternoon by lofting the ball over the keeper to make it 3-1.

### Lochcarron 2 Lovat 0

Lochcarron made it two wins out of two when they beat the Lovat second team 2-0 at Battery Park.

Both teams had won their opening fixtures and it was Lochcarron's Lance MacCuish who opened the scoring on 16 minutes and the hosts took their

single goal advantage into the break. Liam Arnott added a second on 72 minutes to seal the win. Lochcarron travel to league leaders Caberfeidh reserves this Saturday.

### Inverness 0 Lochaber 4

The Lochaber second team were too strong for the Inverness second team, winning 4-0 at The Bught Park.

Max Campbell gave Lochaber the lead on 10 minutes with Sam Lees adding a second on 20 minutes. Harvey Allison made it 3-0 on 75 minutes with Iain Fyfe rounding off the scoring five minutes later.

### Boleskine 2 Lewis Camanachd 0

Boleskine, who finished bottom of the table last season, scored twice late in the game to beat Lewis Camanachd 2-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Smith Park.

Former Inverness player James Munro broke the deadlock on 80 minutes with Neil Hope adding a second five minutes later.

### Strathglass W/O v Kilmallie

The Strathglass colts were given a walk-over when the Kilmallie colts were unable to raise a team for their match at Cannich.

Andrew McAlister stood down as Kilmallie second team boss during the week and the club are currently actively seeking a replacement.

The Beaulay seconds were without a fixture in this 11-team league.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Aberdour 1 Strachur 6

Strachur showed they will be a force in this division when they beat Aberdour's second team 6-1 at Strachurmore.

Ian MacLennan gave Strachur the lead on 14 minutes and Stuart Robertson added a second on 25 minutes.

Iain MacLennan got his second on the stroke of half-time to give the visitors a 3-0 interval lead. Iain MacLennan completed his hat-trick on the hour mark whilst Stuart Robertson got his second seven minutes later.

A fourth Iain MacLennan goal of the afternoon on 82 minutes made it 6-0 before Aberdour's Brandon Marshall notched a consolation strike a minute from time.

### Glenorchy P Oban Celtic P

The Oban Celtic second team will have to wait another week

before making their league return after their match against Glenorchy was postponed as the Mart Park was unplayable.

### Glasgow Mid Argyll P Bute P

It was confirmed earlier in the week that the game between the Glasgow Mid Argyll and Bute second teams will be rearranged.

### WCA round-up

The Women's Camanachd Association's focus was on the lower leagues on Sunday March 18.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Lovat 1

**Glengarry 4**  
Glengarry defeated Lovat 4-1 in their 2pm throw-up at Balgate.

Fiona Urquhart netted for the home side but a Elaine Cameron hat-trick and a Emily Gordon strike gave Glengarry the win.

#### Lochaber 4 Kinlochshiel 2

Kinlochshiel made their competitive debut, going down 4-2 to the Lochaber second team in their 2pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Natalie MacDonald and Caitlin MacDonald bagged doubles for Lochaber with Maree MacKenzie and Eilidh MacInnes getting the Kinlochshiel goals.

#### Strathglass 9 Skye Camanachd 0

Strathglass were too strong for the Skye Camanachd second team, winning 9-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Cannich.

This was the new Skye Camanachd second team's first competitive match but there was to be no opening day success.

Mattie Jones and Cassie Dorian grabbed hat-tricks, Freya Strachan scored twice and Ciorstan Hughes and Eleanor Mann got the others.

#### Glenurquhart 2 Inverness 0

Glenurquhart beat Lovat 2-0 at Blairbeg on Saturday March 17. Hazel Hunter and Claire Hannon were on target.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Oban Lorn 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Oban Lorn went down 2-0 against the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds in their 1pm throw-up at Ganavan.

Katie Mullen and Amy Harris made the difference.

#### Ardnamurchan W/O v Cowal & Bute

The Ardnamurchan second team were to play their first competitive match at this level but Cowal & Bute were unable to raise a team so Ardnamurchan were awarded the points.

#### Dunadd P Tayforth P

The 1.30pm throw-up between Dunadd and Tayforth was postponed because of an unplayable pitch.

### Travis Perkins National First Shinty festivals

Inverloch were double winners at the Travis Perkins National P5 and under and P7 and under First Shinty Festivals which took place in Fort William on Saturday March 17.

Inverloch, captained by James Clark, won the P5 and under event at Lochaber High School, beating Taynuilt/Lochnell in the final.

Newtonmore Primary School won the National P5 and under fair play award.

Inverloch swept the boards with a 4-0 win over Bute in the P7 and under final at the Nevis Centre. Drakies Primary School won the National P7 and under fair play award.



### Fixtures

#### Saturday March 24

##### Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel v Oban Caman  
Andy MacLean  
Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
John Angus Gillies  
Newtonmore v Kingussie  
Innes Wood  
Skye v Caberfeidh  
Deek Cameron  
Glenurquhart v Lochaber  
Martin MacLean - 3pm

##### National Division

Fort William v Kilmallie  
Lachie Wood  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Beaulay  
David Mitchell  
Inverness v Inveraray  
Archie Ritchie  
Strathglass v Oban Celtic  
Calum Girvan

##### Marine Harvest North Division One

Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel  
Scott McNeil  
Kingussie v Newtonmore  
Brian MacKay  
Aberdeen Uni v Skye  
John Wood  
Glengarry v Fort William  
Ronnie Campbell

##### Marine Harvest South Division One

Ballachulish v Col Glen  
Iain Kennedy  
Bute v Kilmory  
Ross Brown  
Inveraray v Kyles Athletic  
Ted McDonald  
Lochside Rovers v Aberdour  
Graham Cameron  
Tayforth v Taynuilt  
Neil MacDonald

##### Marine Harvest North Division Two

Beaulay v Strathglass  
Steven MacLachlan  
Caberfeidh v Lochcarron  
John Matheson  
Graham Fisher  
Lovat v Boleskine  
Des McNulty  
Strathspey v Inverness  
Euan Pearson

##### Marine Harvest South Division Two

Aberdour v Bute  
Ewan MacDonald  
Oban Celtic v Glasgow MA  
Alex MacVicar  
Strachur v Glenorchy  
Jim Innes

### Results

#### Saturday March 17

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Caberfeidh 1 v 1 Kyles Athletic  
Kingussie 0 v 0 Glenurquhart  
Lovat 0 v 1 Kinlochshiel  
Oban Cam 0 v 1 Newtonmore

##### Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulay 2 v 2 Strathglass  
Fort William 2 v 2 Glasgow MA  
Kilmallie 2 v 3 Inverness  
Oban Celtic 1 v 1 Inveraray

##### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni P v P Glengarry  
Unplayable field  
Kinlochshiel 0 v 3 Fort William  
Newtonmore 4 v 0 Glenurquhart  
Skye 4 v 0 Kingussie

##### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish 1 v 1 Lochside  
Col Glen 3 v 2 Bute  
Inveraray P v P Aberdour  
Unplayable field  
Kilmory 2 v 0 Taynuilt  
Tayforth 1 v 4 Kyles Athletic

##### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 2 v 0 Lewis  
Inverness 0 v 4 Lochaber  
Lochcarron 2 v 0 Lovat  
Strathglass 1 v 3 Kilmallie  
Strathspey 1 v 3 Caberfeidh

##### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 1 v 6 Strachur  
Glasgow Mid Argyll P v P Bute  
Game to be re-scheduled  
Glenorchy P v P Oban Celtic  
Unplayable field



Kinlochshiel's John MacRae, number 10, slots the ball past Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald to score the only goal of the game at Balgate. Photograph: Donald Cameron.



John McPhee crashed out in the last seconds of the Qatar Grand Prix after fighting for third place at the Losail International Circuit last Sunday. Photos: Bonnie Lane

## John McPhee back in action

CONNEL'S John McPhee got back in action at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar to conclude the first Moto3 round with an amazing fight for a top three finish.

The CIP Green Power rider had qualified 12th with only a 1:04s gap from the best time. Unfortunately he lost eight positions on the first lap of the race, but immediately went in pursuit of the leading group and came back fighting for third place and a podium finish by lap 15.

In the last seconds of the race, an error during the intense battling caused John to crash out. Although disappointed in the eventual outcome John has plenty of positives to remain focused on.

### Moto3

The race was won by Spaniard Jorge Martin After the race he said: 'Overall we can be satisfied with the weekend. We showed our true potential through free practise, and the speed that we had through the race was very promising. Everybody in the team has done a good job, I am very thankful to them.'

'I was pushing hard to try and take third position on the podium, and had to take a few risks but unfortunately I crashed. Overall I'm satisfied and ready to fight for a win in Argentina on April 8.'

## Atlantis to host Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final

### Athletics

ATLANTIS Leisure in Oban is the venue this Sunday, March 25, for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics Final.

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, Mull, Oban and finally the Kintyre area event on Sunday March 4.

Successful qualifiers from the local contests will now come together in Oban on Sunday 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 just after 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 FL results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Inverclyde 4, Oban Saints 3; Premier Division Two - Castlemilk 8 Tarbert 1; Paisley 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 1. Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round - Campbeltown Pupils v Rosehill Star, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Oban Saints v Hillington; Premier Division One - Rosehill Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Castlemilk; Tarbert v FC Argyll.

## Saints' youth team results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 11, Ardencaple 1. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Andrew Nicol (3), Ruairidh Buchanan and Matthew Pollock. Drumchapel United v Under 14s, postponed; Broomhill v Under 15s, postponed; Under 16s v Dumbarton Riverside, postponed; Dunoon 1, Under 17s 11. Goalscorers for Saints were Keir MacLean (5), Cameron Hill (2), Rory Dowd (2) and Oran Bryce (2).

This weekend's fixtures: Campbeltown Pupils v Under 13s; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 14s; Under 15s v Cambuslang; Under 16s v Ardencaple; Under 17s v Dunoon.

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## Oban Hockey Club move closer to winning league title

Hillhead	0
Oban	4
West District Men's Div 4	

OBAN men's hockey team met second placed Hillhead VIIIs in what could prove to be a crucial encounter in pursuit of the Division 4 title. Having lost 1-4 earlier in the season Oban knew this would be a tough test and so the first 20 minutes proved to be.

Hillhead had a blend of experienced, skilful players with a number of juniors. Early on in the game there was little difference between the teams with Oban perhaps being a little nervous of the Hillhead poten-

Team	Played	Points
Oban	10	22
Hillhead	9	15
Giffnock	10	13
Ayr	9	11
Dumfries	8	9
East Kilbride	9	3
Clydesdale	9	2

tial. The tension was broken by Jack Johnson, one of five juniors in the squad, directing a drilled pass into the net at the far post. Text book hockey.

The first half ended with Oban 1-0 up, but this was how it was in the first meeting so the team knew that all the good work could be easily undone.

The bitter easterly wind and snow flurries were encouragement enough for the players to keep moving and Oban began the second half in fine, fluid form passing the ball quickly and accurately.

Within 10 minutes, Asher Petit and Stuart Head had pushed Oban further ahead. Oban looked the stronger team although Andy Head the goalkeeper was infinitely more involved as he had his one touch of the ball all game. He later quipped that he had to brush the cobwebs from his stick - a testament to the solid Oban defence. The development and im-

### Hockey

provement of the team since the first encounter was clearly demonstrated.

A solid cohesive performance topped off by a goal from team captain Ali Burton. Just deserts as he had worked tirelessly for the whole game.

Man of the match went to Jenson Binnie, one of Oban's juniors - new to hockey this season - who has grown hugely in confidence and ability: an excellent solid game.

The final whistle blew and Oban had won this critical game 0-4. Mathematically one win from the final two games will ensure Oban are league champions.

The next game is against bottom of the table Clydesdale, but given the 4-3 result in November Oban know this could be a close game. Chickens are not being counted yet.



Oban captain Ali Burton strikes for the fourth goal.



Oban on the attack during the 4-0 win over Hillhead.

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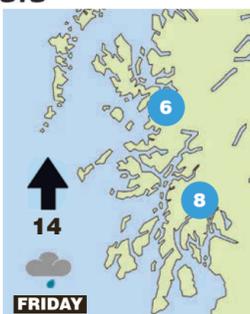
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### WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain in the afternoon Breezy from the south south east Temperatures 7°C to 8°C
Friday	Light rain Breezy from the south Temperatures 5°C to 8°C
Weekend Outlook	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the south west Temperatures 4°C to 9°C



## Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 22, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	02.29	0.8	08.33	3.6	14.55	1.0	20.41	3.5	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.15	1.0	09.18	3.4	15.46	1.2	21.28	3.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.15	1.3	10.17	3.1	16.52	1.4	22.32	3.1	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	05.39	1.5	11.55	2.8	18.12	1.5	** ** *	**	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.17	2.9	07.13	1.5	14.15	2.9	19.34	1.4	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	02.26	3.1	08.52	1.4	15.24	3.1	20.50	1.2	<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Wed	03.31	3.4	10.00	1.1	16.14	3.4	21.52	0.9	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)									Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

# LOCHABER TIMES

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**Salen's Mona Brown celebrates reaching 100**

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# Care home petition attracts significant support in hours

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

WITHIN 36 hours of being launched this week, a petition calling on NHS Highland's chairman to immediately reopen the Dail Mhor House care facility at Strontian had garnered nearly 600 signatures, with more being steadily added.

Last week the *Lochaber Times* reported that NHS Highland had agreed to reopen the home for day care and other services but that it would not reopen in the foreseeable future for residential care.

Quizzed over what this all meant for residential care in the long term at Dail Mhor, an NHS Highland spokesperson said last week: 'We have made no secret that during the period in which essential remedial work has been carried out in Dail Mhor, NHS Highland has been undertaking a process of looking at how we provide sustainable and affordable long-term care in residential settings and until that process has been completed, no decision will be made.'

But the news prompted widespread disappointment and now the community councils of West Ardnamurchan, Acharacle, Morvern, Ardgour and Sunart are calling on people to sign their petition and lobby the board of NHS Highland.

Dail Mhor House was closed in August last year and its five residents temporarily relocated on the understanding that essential plumbing work was required which would take approximately two weeks to complete.

But seven months later community councillors say there is

no sign from NHS Highland that the facility will ever be reopened for residential care, and that there is a worsening backlog for respite care.

'We welcome the announcement to reopen Dail Mhor for day care, but NHS Highland's failure to provide adequate alternative arrangements for residential and respite care for this area continues to discriminate against former Dail Mhor residents and their friends and families, and continues to fail a community which values its elderly care provision,' said the community councils in a joint statement launching the petition.

And the statement continues: 'We call on David Alston, chair of NHS Highland board of directors; Elaine Meade, NHS Highland chief executive and Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, to reopen Dail Mhor House immediately and enter into full and open dialogue with the community about their plans for long-term community care provision.'

An angry Denise Anderson, Sunart Community Council chairperson, told the *Lochaber Times* this week: 'NHS Highland needs to know we will not take this lying down.'

'We are going to fight this and hopefully at the NHS Highland meeting next week when the strategy paper concerning this is discussed, people will see sense and agree this home must be reopened.'

Geoff Campbell of West Ardnamurchan Community Council added: 'Many of us knew NHS Highland was looking for an

## Lochaber Music Festival hits high notes



The 44th Lochaber Music Festival, which got under way last Friday with a week-long packed programme of sessions and competitions, will draw to a close this evening (Thursday) with the final concert featuring a varied selection of some of the wonderful performances from the week. Among the competitors were the Fullford brothers – Ronnie, Freddy and Ben – who are pictured getting ready to do musical battle earlier in the week. (See Page 2 for more details and photographs). JP F12 Fullford Brothers

excuse to close Dail Mhor, so when this plumbing issue cropped up, they pounced on it. This is closure by stealth, and they shouldn't get away with it.'

James Hilder, also of Sunart Community Council, said: 'We must get the home up and running again, and if new facilities are required, let's use Dail Mhor

until these can be put in place. 'National statistics show that this community should have at least 15 residential care beds, yet we've been forced to manage with just six for years, and now those have been taken away.'

And David Ogg, speaking for Acharacle Community Council, commented: 'The importance

of elderly people to be able to stay in the communities they know, near friends and family, cannot be overstated, and is heightened in an area like ours.'

Lochaber lead councillor Andrew Baxter, who attended the recent meeting between the local community councils and NHS Highland, is also now

urging people to support the petition.

'NHS Highland has used every excuse possible to effectively close Dail Mhor House care home in Strontian – something they've been determined to do for years,' said Mr Baxter.

'Please support the local community by signing the petition.'

## Osprey web-cam set for switch-on

THE OSPREY nest camera at Loch Arkaig, watched by thousands around the world last year, is due to be switched on today (March 22) after a winter hiatus.

The camera stream, which attracted more than 200,000 viewers last year, beamed live footage of ospreys Louis and Aila around the world. The world watched with interest as the pair raised their first chick Lachlan in the trees on the shores of Loch Arkaig over the course of last summer.

The camera was switched off over the winter months when the birds migrated to West Africa.

During the winter break, two new nesting platforms have been built at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest, bought in partnership by Woodland Trust Scotland and Arkaig Community Forest last year, to encourage more ospreys to settle in the area.

Licensed bird workers Justin Grant and Lewis Pate have helped set up the new platforms, with Woodland Trust volunteer Kirsty Duncan from Ballachulish providing ground assistance, including carving spruce branches into building material.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland said: 'We expect Louis and Aila back in April and everyone will be able to enjoy the drama at the nest over the internet, thanks to Locheinet and our solar-powered camera.'

The *Lochaber Times* will be streaming live footage of the nest in the window of our Fort William High Street office. It can also be seen at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)



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## Fishing communities feel 'betrayed'

COMMUNITIES around Mallaig and along the West Coast are said to have been left feeling betrayed after the draft terms of the Brexit transition deal revealed the UK government has agreed to abide by the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) rules for the whole of the transition period, which ends after December 2020.

It means Britain's share of the total allowable catches – fixed for decades under the 'relative stability' quota arrangement – will still remain exactly the same for 21 months after the UK leaves the EU.

Lochaber SNP MSP Kate Forbes, whose Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency

means she represents fishermen on both the west and east coasts of Scotland, told the Scottish Parliament the Tories had 'betrayed' the country's fishermen after previously pledging to safeguard their interests in Brexit negotiations.

Speaking afterwards, she said: 'It was only last week that the leader of the Scottish Tories and Environment Secretary promised to safeguard fishing interests, but now plead disappointment over the result.'

'Now the suggestion from Scottish Tory MPs and others is that the deal is done and we should move on and focus on 2020. I have to say I find the idea that we just shrug our shoulders

and move on unforgivable.'

But Mark Robertson, chairman of the Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association, accused both the London and Edinburgh governments of mishandling the whole situation.

'I am totally sick of the political game being played – coastal communities have been struggling for years.'

'What is the plan to make things better?' he said this week.

'I think we all feel let down by the Conservatives – a lot of people in this industry voted for Brexit and feel let down.'

'I think we've been led up the garden path. 'But I think it's also a bit rich

of the SNP to be blasting the Tories over this as the SNP wants to keep us in Europe – or take us back in – which would mean staying in the CFP.'

'I'd personally like to know what the SNP's plan is for coastal communities in that case – they've had 10 years and they've done nothing to make things better. Look at how Mallaig and the surrounding area has fared – it's like we've been forgotten about.'

Mr Robertson added: 'We're under no illusions. The fishing industry is being let down by both sides. We're happy knowing we are leaving the CFP in 2020 but what will we be coming out into?'

## The Spring Exhibitions at Resipole Studios

Joyce Gunn Cairns and Gillian Murray | Helen Michie | The Spring Show



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**WHAT'S ON**  
in Lochaber

Lochaber Piping Society holds its annual youth competition on Saturday (March 24), starting at 9.30am at Lochaber High School.

Nether Lochaber Sewing Group is having an exhibition of quilts made by its members in the Nether Lochaber Village Hall. The quilts will be on display from 10am to 4pm from tomorrow (March 23), Saturday March 24 and Sunday March 25.

There will be a defibrillator training session at Glenfinnan House Hotel on Sunday, March 25, at 10.30am.

Staff and volunteers from Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Morvern Medical Centre in Lochaline on Tuesday March 27.

From 10.30am until 12.30pm the LSC representatives will offer advice and assistance to anyone locally with a hearing or sight loss.

The team will also repair and maintain NHS hearing aids, supply batteries and provide re-tubing. No appointment required for this free service.

Off Beat Bikes is organising another open water swim on Friday March 30. Swimmers will meet at the Old Fort by the college at 10am. Wet suits are recommended.

On Saturday March 31, from 2pm to 4.30pm, Lochaber Sensory Care is having an Easter-time awareness and small fundraising event with a 'Scavenger Hunt' in the 19 shops taking part on Fort William High Street.

'Hunters' will have to find the individual letters of Lochaber Sensory Care which will be placed in the shops.

There is also an optional quiz with a prize for the winner.

Full instructions will be given when collecting the entry form at Fort William Town Team Hub in the Parade, starting at 2pm. Entry is £5 for a group of four, £2 per adult and £1 per child.

The next meeting of Fort William Scottish Women's Institute will be on Monday April 2 at 7.15 pm in the Montrose Centre, Inverlochy when Liz Robertson will take the members through a gentle exercise routine.

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# 44th Lochaber Music Festival proves a major musical hit

THE 44TH Lochaber Music Festival will end with a grand finale in Fort William tonight after the event got off to a rousing start at the weekend with chanter, piping, fiddle, clarsach and accordion classes taking place in the town's high school, writes Mark Entwistle.

The classes were ably adjudicated by DJ MacIntyre from Inverness and Gillian Frame, an accomplished traditional musician from Glasgow.

High scoring entrants from different classes are selected to compete in the Premier Scots Traditional Award and this year, Laura Robertson (bagpipes), Cameron MacIsaac (accordion) and Orla Soe-Paing (clarsach) were chosen.

Cameron was eventually picked as the award winner

and he will play in the final concert at Lochaber High School tonight (Thursday).

Festival chairwoman Lilian Macdonald said: 'This week, so far, there has been singing, strings, woodwind, piano and verse speaking.'

'The Tuesday evening event at Lochaber High School featured the Young Musician of the Year and premier instrumental and vocal competitions.'

'The final classes in brass music-making, choral and action drama took place on Wednesday morning.'

'Following this, the celebration concert will be held at 7pm this evening (Thursday). All are welcome.'

There will be a full round-up and results report plus more photographs in next week's edition of the *Lochaber Times*.



Clockwise from left: Maya Lev from the Lochaber Music School, Lundavra Primary, and Ciara MacDonald, performed in the beginners Clarsach solos; Mitchell MacPherson performed in the Violin solo Scots elementary; Laura Robertson from Lochaber High School and pipe band; Lewis Gibb from Caol School performed in the Chanter Solos; Chloe Reynolds from Spean Bridge Primary performed a violin solo.

All Photographs: Iain Ferguson



## View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce was delighted to attend the annual Scotland's Marine Tourism Conference last week at the Moorings Hotel in Fort William.

The fact that the conference was held here for its first time in the Highlands is testament to the growing status of Lochaber as a tourism hub with great visitor facilities.

The Moorings Hotel, on the banks of the iconic Caledonian Canal, was the ideal location for discussions on the exciting future of marine tourism in Scotland.

Fiona Hyslop, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and

External Affairs, opened the conference with a speech that focused on the huge potential for Scotland of the 'blue economy', which covers energy, fishing, food and marine tourism. Scotland is increasingly well served in marina and pontoon facilities, and this investment is bearing fruit.

Fort William is expecting nine large cruise ships this year and there are 11 scheduled for 2019. These visits bring fantastic benefits to our retail and food providers, as well as to visitor attractions in the wider area. Having the right people in the right roles is crucial in marine tourism, as it is in all industries. Attracting young people

into the sector is key to its long-term sustainability.

Alex Williams, from West Highland College UHI, talked passionately about the college's Marine and Coastal Tourism degree and courses. The course aims to equip young people with the skills, experience and knowledge that they will need to work in the sector and become tomorrow's marine business leaders.

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we're committed to helping our members achieve their business goals. If you'd like to join us please give us a call on 01397 705 765 or visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk).



Fiona Hyslop speaks to the Marine Tourism Conference

## Scout swaps Ballachulish for Nairobi

NEILL BO FINLAYSON  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

A YOUNG scout leader from Ballachulish is getting set for a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to Kenya.

Fifteen-year-old Dawn Beaton has been accepted to take part in a three-week expedition to Kenya in July.

The expedition is being organised by Highlands and Islands Scouts and includes volunteering at an after-school project in the slums of Nairobi and spending seven days educating girls on health and other areas in a Masai village. On the lighter side, it also includes hiking up Mount Kenya and visiting a national park.

Dawn, a pupil at Kinlochleven High School and a young leader in the Scouting Movement, joined the Scouts in 2012 when the 4th Lochaber Scout group was restarted in Ballachulish by volunteers.

Deborah Fyfe, leader at the Scout group said: 'The purpose of the expedition is to promote the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of young people in achieving



Teenager Dawn Beaton from Ballachulish received £500 from Lochaber Rotary Club towards her costs for the trip.

their full potential as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.'

The Rotary Club is donating £500 towards Dawn's overall costs of £1,750.

Rotary Club president

Donald McCorkindale said: 'Dawn's expedition, and its benefits to communities in Kenya, aligns exactly with the ethos of Rotary and we were unanimous in our decision to award her a Rotary grant.'

An excited Dawn ex-

pressed her thanks to the Rotary Club and added: 'I'm most looking forward to climbing Mount Kenya and living as a local in a traditional Masai village. It will be good to visit Nairobi National Park where we will see lots of animals. We will

be working with schoolchildren and helping empower young girls through the Amuka Foundation.'

Dawn is actively fundraising to achieve her target of £1,750 and has set up a Facebook page 'Dawn's Kenya Expedition'.

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## Liberty sets wheels in motion for French buyout

IF SUCCESSFUL, a formal bid by the Lochaber smelter's parent company, GFG Alliance, to take over France's solitary manufacturer of aluminium wheels, would prove a bonus to the company's planned new Fort William wheels plant, writes Mark Entwistle.

GFG Alliance subsidiary, Liberty Group, has submitted an official bid to the court administrators for AR Industries (ARI) at Châteauroux in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

Apart from saving 400 French jobs, the deal will give Liberty access to specialist engineering expertise to help set up its wheels factory at Fort William, which will employ more than 400 people directly – with a similar number in the supply chain – and make up to two million car wheels a year.

GFG, which has a worldwide turnover of more than US\$12 billion, has put forward a comprehensive three-year plan for the recovery of the struggling ARI business, including investment in equipment, safety and quality improvements, and enlargement of its customer base.

Liberty Group is also currently purchasing Aluminium Dunkerque, Europe's largest aluminium smelter, from Rio Tinto as part of a drive to establish France as a major operating hub for the group. The Dunkerque installation is already a major supplier of raw materials to ARI.

The acquisition of ARI, which produces wheels for Renault/Nissan and PSA, would work in parallel with Liberty's construction of the Fort William plant.

Liberty aims to supply UK vehicle makers with up to 25 per cent of total domestic demand from the Lochaber plant.

GFG executive chairman Sanjeev Gupta says France is a hugely important location for his company and these investments will enable it to take sustainable production strategies into one of the world's most important industrial economies.

Mr Gupta told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The acquisition of ARI, following our purchase of Aluminium Dunkerque, will be an exciting, strategically important and very logical step for our fast-growing business.'

The court's decision on Liberty's bid for ARI is expected, after hearings, in the next month.

# Radio One DJ Greg James completes Ben Nevis challenge



James crosses the finish line on Friday at Achintee, at the bottom of Ben Nevis.



Dozens of eager fans from Fort William gathered at the foot of the mountain to welcome Greg James home; Greg reaches the summit of Ben Nevis on the final day of his 'Gregathlon'.

RADIO ONE DJ Greg James finished his Pedal to the Peaks Sport Relief challenge last Friday after a treacherous climb to the top of Ben Nevis - two weeks after it had to be called off.

The drive-time radio pre-

sender set out to climb three of the highest mountains in the UK and cycle the distances between them in what he dubbed the 'Gregathlon'.

The challenge had to be put on hold two weeks ago due to the freezing temperature and

heavy snow brought to the UK by the 'Beast from the East'.

Last Wednesday he returned to the spot where he'd abandoned the challenge just outside Glasgow to complete the ride to Fort William and climb Ben Nevis.



With the help of some experienced guides and all the necessary winter climbing gear to combat the freezing conditions, Greg finally completed the challenge on Friday after reaching the summit of Ben Nevis.

So far, he's raised nearly £1million for charity, with the money being used to help break the stigma around mental health and make sure that support is available for those experiencing mental health issues where they most need it.

## Minister in Corran ferry mix-up

THE SCOTTISH Government was left red-faced following an answer to a question about Cowal in Argyll and Bute, in which they praised a ferry service almost four hours away in Lochaber.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron lodged a question which mentioned the Cowal Fixed Link Working Group, and asked to ascertain the SNP Government's position on whether or not it would support a proposal to 'connect South Argyll and Bute to the Scottish Central Belt by either rail or road utilising one or more fixed links (tunnels, bridges).'

Responding, the minister for transport and the islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, dodged the question and instead praised the Corran ferry service, which is almost a four-hour drive away from Cowal's most southern point.

Mr Cameron said: 'It is incredibly embarrassing that the minister responsible for Scotland's transport network doesn't even know which ferry service currently operates along the Cowal peninsula.'

'I would suggest that the minister gets a map out first before he answers such questions in the future.'

## Caol and Mallaig council hustings

COMMUNITY hustings for the upcoming Caol and Mallaig by-election for the Highland Council will take place tomorrow night (Friday March 23).

The prospective candidates will face questions from the public and debate on issues affecting residents in ward 11, which spans an area that includes Invergarry, Caol, Glenfinnan, Mallaig and Knoydart.

Organised by Kilmallie and Caol community councils, the hustings will take place at Caol Community Centre between 7pm and 9pm.

The event will give voters a chance to put questions to all the candidates and hear what they have to say on local issues affecting constituents.

## Speeding near schools targeted

ROAD policing officers will be focusing their efforts on speeding vehicles near schools with a dedicated operation either side of the Easter holidays.

Road safety is a priority for Police Scotland and concerns are regularly raised about driver behaviour near schools.

The operation will run from Monday March 26 until Wednesday March 28, and between April 16 and 20.

# First for Highlands as marine conference comes

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FORT WILLIAM played host to the Scottish Marine Tourism Conference 2018 last week as industry experts came together to focus on how marine tourism can benefit Scotland's rural economy.

The conference, which was brought to the Highlands and Islands for the first time, provided a unique opportunity to bring the sector together to encourage new ideas, partnerships and increased collaboration.

A team of student volunteers from West Highland College UHI worked with the Sail Scotland to help organise the conference at the Moorings Hotel and gained a valuable backstage view of what it takes to run such a prestigious event.

On the day, students got to hear from sector leaders, and chat with future employers and major stakeholders, such as VisitScotland, Scottish Canals, and the Scottish Tourism Alliance, as well as many small business owners.

The college's marine and coastal tourism lecturers and students also had the opportunity to meet Fiona Hyslop MSP, cabinet secretary for culture, tourism and external affairs.

The cabinet secretary asked with interest about students' future plans, before speaking to the conference about the government support for the sector.

The BA (Hons) marine and



Staff and students from the West Highland College UHI marine and coastal tourism with guest speaker at the conference, MSP Fiona Hyslop.

coastal tourism course at the college in Fort William was showcased through a stand and a speaker slot, which explained the college's on-going involvement in a range of current projects in the area such as welcoming cruise ships to Fort William and the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina development.

These were very well received, and the students hope this will result in more potential collaborations with industry.

A formal twinning agreement between Sail Scotland and The

Swedish Guest Harbour's Association was also announced at the conference, while double Olympic gold medallist Shirley Robertson OBE was also announced on the day as Sail Scotland's inaugural honorary ambassador. Mrs Hyslop said: 'With extensive coastlines and beautiful scenery, it is little surprise that tourism is one of Scotland's key industries and biggest success stories – and marine tourism is fast becoming one of the driving forces behind that success.'

'With the right infrastructure

in place, community engagement and work of the public and private sector, future growth of marine tourism is sure to continue – and as this conference has demonstrated, there is no shortage of ideas about how we continue to move the sector forward.'

Organised by Sail Scotland, the national sailing tourism marketing organisation, Scottish Marine Tourism Conference was supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Caledonian MacBrayne.

COMING SOON

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## Skye MSP welcomes funding for mobile 'notspots'

KATE FORBES MSP has welcomed news that the south end of the Isle of Skye will be among the communities set to benefit from a new £25million Scottish Government project to address mobile 'notspots'.

Last week Fergus Ewing, the cabinet secretary for the rural economy and connectivity, announced the procurement process for the initiative, which will see new mobile phone masts in locations with no existing 4G coverage.

The Scottish 4G Infill Programme aims to improve mobile connectivity for communities and businesses, with the majority of the programme focusing on sites across the Highlands and Islands.

Tarskavaig near Sleat on Skye is one of the initial 16 'notspot' locations being targeted, and it is hoped that around 60 to 70 areas will be improved during the project.

Skye MSP Ms Forbes said: 'Connectivity is so important to the Highlands.'

'It gives an opportunity to be able to live on Skye while working all over the world.'

'The lack of connectivity affects education, business and leisure in places such as Skye, and so building mobile masts will make an enormous difference to linking up the unconnected areas.'

Other Highland locations on the initial list of 16 sites include Applecross and Dalnacroich (Strathconon).

'A few years ago, there would have been a mass outcry about the impact on the horizon and the scenery, and whilst there may still be some concerns, I think that the most people are very keen to get connected,' Ms Forbes added.



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# Skye half marathon set for record entry in 2018

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RACE organisers are expecting entries for the 2018 installment of the Isle of Skye Half Marathon in 2018 to sell out in record time, with more than 800 runners having put their name down already.

This follows the news last week that Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) will once again be the headline sponsor for one of the island's biggest sporting events.

A major highlight of the UK running calendar, and one of the world's most scenic races, the Scottish Salmon Company Isle of Skye Half Marathon will take place on Saturday June 9. With entries already surpassing the 800, places in this year's race look set to sell out in record time.

The event, which has grown hugely in size and popularity



On your marks, from left: Mark Crowe, race director; Sam Crowe, Skye Events development officer; Ewen Maclean, SSC site manager; Alistair Danter, race committee chair and race committee member Tina Schuman take their positions ahead of this year's Scottish Salmon Company Isle of Skye Half Marathon.

since it began 34 years ago, will start and end at Portree High School.

With breath-taking views of Ben Tianavaig, The Old Man of Storr, Isle of Raasay and the Cuillin mountain range, runners taking part in The Scottish Salmon Company Isle of Skye Half Marathon experience some

of the most stunning scenery Scotland has to offer.

In a change to previous events, the 2018 race will see the course reversed with a full road closure in place offering a more gradual climb for the start of the race before putting runners to the test for the remainder of the course.

Mark Crowe, race director,

said: 'Despite the weather, the 2017 half marathon was a huge success with 1,000 entry places made available for the first time in our history. The support we have received from The Scottish Salmon Company has allowed us to grow the event in a variety of areas and we are really looking forward to working together

again for the 2018 race. The help we receive from local businesses is crucial to the success of the half marathon and its associated events. The race is a real community occasion and we already welcome runners from all over the world but with continued support from The Scottish Salmon Company it has potential to grow even bigger.'

The announcement is part of a new three-year partnership with SSC which will continue to support the race committee in its planning and organisation.

This is the second year in a row the aquaculture company has sponsored the event. Craig Anderson, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, added: 'Mark and his colleagues on the race committee do a fantastic job and work incredibly hard in order to ensure the event goes smoothly.'

## Cash boost for youth summer activities outdoors

MISTY ISLE Youth Forum on Skye will receive funding from the Future Routes Fund to deliver several environmental activities on the island during the summer holidays.

The Misty Isle Youth Forum, a group of 12-17-year-olds living on Skye, was one of 11 applicants chosen from across Scotland to develop a project that will encourage young people's interest in nature during the Year of Young People.

The group will use the funding to offer free arts and crafts programmes for young people this summer using items found on beach cleans.

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

All winning projects were developed by young people to help them get more involved with the environment and wildlife throughout Scotland, in rural and urban areas, with the use of activities including film, music, art, volunteering, and outdoor recreation.

Orla MacLeod, Misty Isle Youth Forum team leader, said: 'Our youth forum applied for this funding on behalf of all young people of high-school age on the Isle of Skye.'

'We are delighted to receive the funding to provide environmental activities during the summer holidays which many young people would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in.'

Mike Cantlay, chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, added: 'We are proud to support the Misty Isle Youth Forum as it inspires young people throughout the country to enjoy nature now, and help work to preserve it for the future.'

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, said: 'I have been hugely impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated by all the applicants to the Future Routes Fund.'

'Young people can, and do, play a vital role in the protection of Scotland's precious natural environment and the wildlife which depends upon it.'

'That's something we should celebrate and support, particularly during the Year of Young People, and the Future Routes Fund is a great way of doing exactly that.'

Also receiving fund is Julie Aitken, of the Outer Hebrides, for a project hosting workshops throughout the island to engage young people in the natural environment.

## Travel scheme for Hebridean athletes

ELITE athletes from the Outer Hebrides are set to benefit from a scheme designed to support travel costs in the islands.

The pilot Islands Athlete Travel Award Scheme from sportscotland will support up to 24 high-performing athletes from across the islands to attend training and competitions.

The aim of this scheme is to help the elite athletes of the Outer Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland to gain better access to competitive and developmental opportunities available on the mainland.

Up to eight individuals could benefit in the Western Isles with £1,500 available per person this year. The scheme is now available for applications in the Outer Hebrides.

Awards will be allocated through an application process, with athletes required to evidence how the grant will improve their performance, provide them access to quality training opportunities and improve their sports or club environment.

To find out more about the scheme contact Karen Pickard at the Lewis Sports Centre on 01851 822787 or email karen.pickard@cne-siar.gov.uk

The deadline for applications is 5pm on March 26.

## Portree on course for new glamping resort

PLANS to transform the former golf course in Portree into a luxury camping pod resort hotel, will look to ease the tourist accommodation problems on Skye.

The ambitious project would see 27 luxury en-suite 'glamping' pods being installed on the site of the former golf course in Portree, providing what the developers describe as an 'ecological resort hotel'.

The camping pods would be positioned in three clusters across the site and would be designed to be in-keeping with the surrounding landscape.

As well as the single accommodation pods, a hotel 'hub' is planned to be built on the site to include a bar, restaurant, sauna and swimming pool.

Plans have also been drawn up for the main car park, which would be situated opposite the West Highland College and would accommodate up to 50 cars.

The application was submitted to The Highland Council recently by real estate business owners Charlie Garton Jones, and his wife Miranda.

The couple also currently own the Cow Shed, a boutique bunkhouse in the north of Skye.



An artist's impression of the development on the former golf course in Portree. The plans include a bar, restaurant, sauna and swimming pool. The developer plans to build 27 luxury en-suite 'glamping' pods on the site.



## Tenders sought for Staffin viewing platform

TENDERS for the construction of a viewing platform at a Skye waterfall have now been issued, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) has issued an invitation to companies – including specialist contractors who have previously built platforms and bridges of this type – to bid for the contract to construct the platform at Lealt Gorge in Staffin which will form a key part of a major new heritage development.

The development trust has secured grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund and SSE Sustainable Development to build the platform and has recruited Lothian-based engineer Geoff Freedman to design the steel platform and manage the project.

SCT believes the sensitively designed attraction will showcase Trotternish's landscape all-year round and will provide commanding views of two waterfalls, up towards the Trotternish Ridge and across to Wester Ross.

An economic impact analysis estimated that the Staffin economy would be boosted by an additional visitor spend of £165,000 through the project's delivery including construction works, new interpretation and the events programme.

The ecomuseum was first



A digger at the platform site in Lealt Gorge, Staffin, and right, platform designer Geoff Freedman at the site, (writing on a notepad) along with SCT director Dugald Ross.



opened in Staffin a decade ago and is an outdoor museum with 'no walls and a roofless sky'.

It includes a footpath network across Staffin with interpretation and parking.

SCT also has full planning permission to build a new car park with 20 vehicle spaces at Lealt to cater for the expected demand. This will be sited north of the existing car park and the tender will be issued imminently.

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie said: 'The trust is

making excellent progress towards the delivery of the platform and the car park, which is the culmination of a lengthy period of detailed and at times intense amount of work spread over the last few years.'

It is hoped to issue the tender for these contracts by April.

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## Lochaber businesses to benefit from digital boost

BUSINESSES in the Highlands are set to benefit from a digital connectivity boost.

Fort William is one of four Highland areas to benefit from the £4.7million funding secured by Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) as part of a major partnership bid to the UK Government for the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programme.

Local businesses will have the opportunity to benefit directly from the LFFN fund as a proportion of which will include the provision of around 150 vouchers to the value of £3,000 which will be aimed at encouraging businesses to adopt higher speed connectivity.

Lesley Chamberfield, CEO Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, which was involved in the bid, said: 'We are delighted to have contributed to The Highland Council's successful bid to the LFFN Challenge fund.'

'The fund is designed to maximise the availability of gigabit capable broadband services to business and residential users in Fort William, and is a positive step towards reducing the digital disadvantage faced by rural business. We will be able to discuss opportunities for members in the coming weeks.'

She added: 'While it's excellent news, there are still many businesses without sufficient digital connectivity within Lochaber, but it's a good start.'

'The Infill Programme, also announced this week for a £25 million investment in 4G mobile connectivity across Scotland, will make an additional significant difference, and whilst Lochaber generally has good 4G connectivity, a Scotland-wide approach and investment can only be good for business.'

## New boat for cruise business

SCOTTISH small-ship cruising specialist The Majestic Line has confirmed that a new purpose-built vessel will be delivered for its 2019 summer season.

The building of the Glen Shiel is due to begin this month at Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Co Ltd on the island of Bute and will see Majestic Line's newest boat complement three existing vessels.

# SEPA officers return to Fort over illegal fly tipping

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OFFICERS from the Waste Crime Team of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have been back in Fort William to continue their investigations into fly tipping at an illegal site at Mount Alexander, Camaghael.

Visits were undertaken last week to local businesses to gather additional information, check permits and reinforce the responsibilities and obligations that apply to anyone producing, carrying or managing waste.

Information notices will be issued to any businesses which are unable to provide details of how they are disposing of their waste. A previous multi-agency week of activity spanning the end of January and beginning of February, which also involved Police Scotland and Highland Council, has already been successful in



The view looking down on the rubbish that has been left illegally at Mount Alexander, Camaghael.

raising awareness of relevant legislation and gaining some understanding of the potential origins of the waste.

Building and construction materials are among the various types of waste that have been

accumulating at the illegal site in Camaghael for a considerable time.

SEPA says it is evident that tradesmen in the area are persistently dumping waste materials at the site to avoid paying the

cost of disposal at legitimate waste management sites.

And this, says the agency, is clearly for financial gain, with complete disregard for the law and the possible environmental consequences.

Remediation work for the site would be complicated given the scale of waste, the unknown nature of older deposits and the risk of it becoming unstable.

SEPA estimates the cost of removal could be as much as £50,000, depending on the types of waste involved.

To deter further flytipping, stone blocks have been donated by a local business to restrict access to the site.

SEPA's chief executive officer Terry A'Hearn said tackling illegal waste management activities was one of the organisation's major priorities.

'It is a criminal offence to illegally dispose of waste, with firm obligations on the waste

producer to ensure their waste is managed by a SEPA-registered waste carrier at a fully-licensed site,' said Mr A'Hearn.

'We are continuing to work to identify the responsible party for clearing the waste. Tackling those who continue to ignore regulations designed to protect our environment and communities will help ensure this behaviour does not continue.'

SEPA maintains an online register of licenced waste carriers and brokers enabling the public or businesses to check and ensure that contractors are sufficiently compliant and says everyone can help end the 'selfish, criminal fly tipping behaviours that blight our communities'.

Anyone who suspects fly tipping is being carried out, or wants to report illegal traders, can call the Dumb Dumpers Stopline on 0845 2 30 40 90 or by completing a form at www.dumbdumpers.org.

## Inverloch school praised after toy gun scare

STAFF and pupils of Inverloch Primary School at Fort William have been praised for their calm response after being alerted to Friday afternoon's incident when a man was spotted with what looked like a weapon, but which later turned out to be a toy gun.

Following the sighting of man in the Camanachd Crescent area, Inverloch Primary School management made the decision to have an immediate lock down until the situation was deemed safe.

Highland Council education chiefs say the lock down went 'very smoothly' and after contact with the police confirmed the person in question was in custody, normal classes resumed.

In a statement, Highland Council said: 'The school thanks those who phoned to inform them of the incident, and to their staff and pupils who reacted admirably.'

Speaking after the incident, Police Scotland Inspector Mike Middlehurst explained: 'We received numerous reports from members of the public about the behaviour of a man near the centre of Fort William.'

'An item, which was recovered from the man, has since been confirmed as being a toy gun. Nobody was injured during the incident.'

'We are grateful to the members of the public who contacted us for their vigilance.'

## MSP praises Mallaig school

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes has congratulated Mallaig High School for being named among the top 50 best performing state schools in Scotland.

Last week the figures, compiled and published by *The Herald* newspaper, showed that Mallaig High, which came in at No 38, along with Glenurquhart High School in Drumnadrochit at 29 and Fortrose Academy on the Black Isle at 37, were the only three Highland schools to make the top 50.

Ms Forbes said: 'This result is no doubt testament to the hard work and dedication of the teachers and school management.'

'I hope that next year there are even more Highland high schools in the top 50 list.'

## Salen's Mona Brown celebrates reaching 100

JUST A month after women over 30 got the vote for the first time in Britain and little more than two months since US troops fought one of the last battles of the American Indian Wars, a baby girl was born into a Lancashire family on March 18, 1918.

She was born into a world battered by four years of slaughter in the trenches on the Western Front, but one which also saw the birth of such great future stars as film director Ingmar Bergman and composer Leonard Bernstein.

On Sunday that century of a life-well-lived was celebrated by the family and friends of Mona Brown, of Salen.

Among the 70 or more guests at the special celebration tea held in Ardsheallach Lodge, Acharacle, was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire Iain Thornber, who was on hand to present Mrs Brown with her congratulatory telegram from HM The Queen.

It was after having been in Salen while on holiday that Mrs Brown and her husband, Leonard, decided they would like to make their lives in that part of the Highlands and so built their new home there and moved in during 1976. And Mrs Brown

has lived there ever since. Sunday's celebrations were attended by close family of Mrs Brown, including her second cousin, Jeff Irving, and his daughter, Viv Taylor, from Blackpool.

The special event was organised by the community, with various short speeches given, pointing out that Mrs Brown was born as the First World War was coming to an end and she reached the age of 21 as the Second World War broke out.

Mrs Brown was presented with the three sections of her special birthday cake by local children, shaped to depict the number 100. Apart from making up the number, each individual section represented the past, the present and the future.

Mrs Brown was also commended on her positive attitude and always having a big, enthusiastic smile.

The party was preceded by a service in Acharacle's Church of Scotland led by Reverend Fiona Ogg, who had decorated the church with balloons down each side of the aisle and a 'Happy Birthday' banner. Members of the congregation



One-hundred-year-old Mona Brown from Salen with her card from HM The Queen.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image. IF F12 mona brown 100TH birthday 03

had also brought in potted flowers.

The whole event came as a

surprise to Mrs Brown and none more so than when Mr Thornber produced one of HM

The Queen's famous birthday cards for centenarians and passed on the monarch's best wishes.

Mrs Brown was also presented with a bouquet of flowers by Councillor Andrew Baxter, leader of The Highland Council in Lochaber and letter of congratulations from Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford.

A clearly delighted Mrs Brown told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I am totally surprised by what has been done for me here and would like to thank you all.'

'I am also delighted with the card from The Queen, which is wonderful - doesn't she just look great on it?'

Asked what her secret was for such a long life, Mrs Brown replied: 'I have no secret for living to 100 - only that I don't think about age and take every day as it comes.'

Rev Ogg added: 'Mona is a very enthusiastic member of the church and popular member of the community.'

'I know she will be coming along to the next session of 'Messy Church' this week, doing crafts and speaking with the children.'

# Community council minutes

Notes from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry meeting

THE MARCH meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council was held at Kilmonivaig Church hall last week.

Items discussed were:  
■ Monthly police report from Sgt Deborah McCartney, who reported a number of speeding and road traffic matters since her last report.

She provided information on the Rural Watch scheme which is similar to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Interested parties can sign up as individuals or a local group can be created. Poster materials are available.

■ Next was a briefing by David Bell of Founin & Bell Architects on the development north-west of Mehalah, Tirindrish, Spean Bridge.

■ Discussions are under way with Highland Council housing department regarding the development of the affordable homes. The pedestrian access routes and the proposed location of the conditional work of art at the site entrance were highlighted. Landscaping and public footpaths will be created on the river facing land.

The location of a pedestrian crossing on the A86 is under discussion. Farm shop drawings were presented which had been further developed to include new entrances. Proposals for the relocation of 30mph speed limit signs have been rejected by Transport Scotland. The developer is reporting back to planning.

No business signage proposals yet.

**Planning updates:**  
Scottish Canals Gairloch Pods - Update from Councillor Ben Thompson. This planning application has now been approved. Cllr Thompson was successful in gaining a condition that a local input management plan be put in place.

**Developments update:**  
a) Major development opposite Bridge Cafe - the developer held an open presentation in the Spean Bridge Community Centre on March 8 and reported a good level of positive comments. The proposal is for 18 private dwellings, commercial premises and 10 affordable homes in the first phase. Phase 2 will see a further 10 houses, but that is likely to be some years down the line. The planning application is likely to be submitted in the coming months.

Some concerns were expressed by members of the public about density, road safety, and a lack of car parking capacity near the proposed village park, but the councillors welcomed the proposed affordable housing.

b) Development at Tigh Aran (behind Bridge Cafe) - Highland Small Communities Trust is likely to complete the purchase of the land shortly with Lochaber Housing to be the property owners. It will provide much-needed affordable housing of four blocks of five flats up to three storeys high.

c) Marine Harvest Development at Achnasaul - a neighbour of this development gave a detailed list of related concerns. The existing building

is to be located closer to the shoreline and an additional building constructed. There are concerns about the electricity supply lines, water supply, foul water treatment and a new circular road nearer the shore for operational reasons. The buildings will interrupt the shoreline aspect and they will lie on a flood risk area. There is the possibility of on-going generator noise. The community council agreed to object to the application.

**Matters arising (Highland Council/BEAR and Transport Scotland):**

■ The culvert at Clunes issue has not been resolved with flooding concerns to houses continuing but it is understood that action is planned.

■ Aldersyde - no remedial work has been undertaken yet on the B8005. The chairman advised that agreement had been given to resurfacing the B8004 at the A82 junction.

■ Blocked culvert on A82 Telford Bridge - presently being dug out for camera inspection

■ A82 northwards from 30mph signs is currently being resurfaced

■ A82/A86 junction was due to be resurfaced on March 9 but has not yet started.

■ Bus stop on A82 southbound opposite Spean Crescent - Pot-holes resurfaced and pavement partially swept. Debris has however blocked drain. Chairman has reported this.

■ Roy Bridge - no progress with the blocked drain on the bridge but there has been a stretch of the A86 resurfaced.

**Ward Discretionary Fund**

■ Continuing dispute with Highland Council regarding process for CC to distribute funds to small unconstituted bodies/events. Belated reply received from Highland Council to CC's official complaint. Reply does not answer the complaint raised. Chairman to submit complaint to Public Service Ombudsman.

■ Resilience committee - Ian Langley has been asked by the chairman to co-ordinate the CC's community resilience plan.

Mr Langley provided an update on this Government-encouraged initiative which covers risks to the community such as river flooding, train line incidents etc. and how the community would react with the assets at its disposal such as water pumps, snow ploughs and community buildings.

■ Stagecoach North of Scotland & Citylink - chairman confirmed that Stagecoach is considering withdrawing from Fort William services but reassured the meeting that the Fort William to Spean Bridge/Roy Bridge service should continue as it is wholly funded by Highland Council.

He had received an assurance that the Citylink service from Fort William to Inverness and Uig to Glasgow were also unaffected.

**MAD 19/05/18**  
MUDDY ATLANTIS DAY

### Are you ready to get MAD with Atlantis Community Leisure?

**Saturday 19th of May see's our first one0off Muddy Atlantis Day. With gallons of mud, icy water and some shocks along the way. We are creating a 10k cross country assault course designed to challenge and test you. Get a team together or go solo and join in on a fun filled and crazy challenge right here in Oban.**

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

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

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

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

Build your team; grab your friends, work colleagues or gym buddies and attack this together.  
Looking for some team mates? Head to our Facebook group (MAD- Teams) and find like-minded comrades.

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

Entry is £10 (plus booking fee).

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

FW

**Lochaber**

MORE than 150 pupils from Lochaber primary schools got an insight into clinical skills in simulated ward sessions run by fourth year medical students from the Dundee University clerkship based within NHS Highland.

The clerkship is a new type of course where students spend a year based in a GP practice in the Highlands. As part of their course, they are raising awareness about careers in healthcare among Highland primary school pupils.

A successful workshop was held at the end of last year in Inverness with Raigmore Primary School and last month every Lochaber primary six pupil was invited to take part in an event in Caol Community Centre.

Dr Yvonne Wedekind, regional tutor and GP teaching fellow with Highland Medical Education Centre, Raigmore, said: 'We want to encourage the pupils of today to think about a career in health and to show them what a varied number of disciplines there are.'

'The project which the clerkship students are leading on hopes to raise awareness with the primary school pupils about a career in healthcare and also engage their interest in science. The hope is we can 'grow our own' scientists and healthcare practitioners, which is part of our ongoing work developing the 'rural pipeline' for health care careers.'

All pupils at the workshops, which were held over three days, got involved in activities and learned more about breathing, circulation and blood. They also had the chance to measure their own vital signs and learn more about resuscitation.

Dr Wedekind added: 'Our aim was not only to make this workshop fun and informative for pupils but also to have them think about a future career in this field. Feedback from everyone involved has been very positive.'

The project is grateful for the support provided by the Science Skills Academy and NHS Highland.

■ AT its business lunch meeting on February 21, Lochaber Rotary Club members heard an encouraging update from Jahama Highland Estates chief executive Duncan Mackison on the recent conditional grant of planning permission for the new alloy wheels manufacturing plant project at parent company GFG Alliance company's Liberty British Aluminium Fort William smelter.

On behalf of the club, past president Mike MacGruer thanked Mr Mackison for his visit: 'We wish you well with your ambitious project and look forward to it progressing.' Club members applauded in response.

**Plockton**

TWO PLOCKTON couples have been celebrating decades of married bliss.

Ian and Joan MacLennan celebrated their golden wedding on Thursday March 8 and the following day Dr Iain and Lorraine Matheson, Harbour Street, Plockton also marked the same milestone.

THE LOCHALSH branch of the British Legion Scotland held a cheese and wine evening in the Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle, on February 24. Forty members and friends enjoyed the evening. The raffle raised £236 and donations totalled £75.

MEMBERS of the Lochalsh branch of the Scottish Women's Institute held a social evening in Plockton Hall on Thursday March 1 when local professional photographers James and Cat Krisp-Camp demonstrated how to take perfect photographs using cameras, phones and tablets.

PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society met in Plockton Hall on Thursday March 8 when guest speaker Ron Johnstone presented a talk entitled Preparing for Spring.

RECENT deaths in Lochalsh and Glenshiel include Alastair MacDonald, Stan Hill and June Burton, all from Kyle, as well as Colin Campbell, Glenshiel. Sympathy is expressed to bereaved relatives and friends.

THERE was six inches of rain in Plockton in February, with only the last eight days dry. The warmest day was 10°C compared with 13°C in 2017. The coldest night was -3.2°C, compared with -0.2°C in 2017.

While the rest of the country had a lot of snow during the last week, Plockton had none but had south-easterly gales resulting in two fishing boats and one yacht being driven ashore.



Banavie Primary School held a Fairtrade assembly which featured a talk from Neil MacLeod from the Co-op in Caol.

Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

**Primary schools mark Fairtrade Fortnight**



St Columba's RC Primary School raised £531.50 for Mary's Meals at their Fairtrade coffee morning.

Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

TWO Lochaber primary schools held special events this month as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

St Columba's RC Primary School and Banavie Primary School took time out of the classroom last week to think about where their food comes from and to learn about the importance of Fairtrade products.

Banavie Primary School held a special Fairtrade assembly to learn about sustainable food production and where chocolate, sugar and fruit come from. Neil MacLeod from the Co-op in Caol also dropped in to the school to talk to the children about Fairtrade.

St Columba's pupils held a Fairtrade coffee morning at the school and raised £531.50 for Mary's Meals – a total which is enough to feed 38 children for a year.

A member of staff at the Caol school said: 'Thank you to everyone who supported our Fairtrade coffee morning on Friday. We were overwhelmed by the donations and the good spirits of everyone who attended.'

'We continue to raise awareness of the Fairtrade products available to us locally and appreciate the support given by our local Co-op in Caol and the Emporium of Worldly Goods.'



Mallaig nursery children enjoy their new bikes, presented to them by Jayne MacKay from Marine Harvest.

**Mallaig nursery pupils saddle up on new bikes**

MALLAIG Primary School nursery children are developing new skills thanks to a donation from Marine Harvest.

The company kindly donated balance bikes and helmets for the youngsters who are having great fun on the

new equipment. Jayne MacKay from Marine Harvest visited the school last week to help the youngsters get started on their bikes.

Jayne said: 'Marine Harvest is delighted to help the children in Mallaig and Morar nurseries. We are happy to

help, especially as lots of the children who attend have relatives who are employed by us and who live and work locally.'

The children were dressed in their Superhero costumes as part of Safe, Strong and Free Highland Hero week.

**RETRO Roamer**

**More items from 30 years ago**

□ At long last, a 'town hall clock' has made a comeback to Cameron Square. Admittedly, the timepiece – a relic from Courour Station – is now an exhibit in the West Highland Museum, so it will not be for outdoor viewing. However, it IS a start. Perhaps our latest council group of city fathers and mothers will see their way clear to devote a little of their valuable time towards providing the square with a modern-day version of the town hall clock. Time will tell.

□ How about Lochaber Mountaineering Club's 'Single Transparency Film Show' at the weekend? Yes, the likely lads and lasses had arranged to have a night at the pictures at Steall Bothy (by appointment). There's no electricity at Steall. The club had thought of that, however. Hence the generator which they lugged in relays through the glen. But, during the trek to Steall, the generator, well, degenerated. The result was, after everything was rigged up, it lasted for just one transparency, before packing in. I reckon that'll be 'The Last Picture Show' in the bothy for a while.

□ Two local worthies waiting for a bus at the West End. Both with a staver. The bus was a long time coming. So one went away for another dram - or two. Of course, while he was imbibing, along came three buses. Meanwhile, his pal had slid to a sitting position down the wall of the telephone exchange. Each time a bus stopped he couldn't get up quickly enough to board it. Back came the party of the first part. Both then got on the bus - but neither of them had any money left!

□ Mallaig local enjoying a pint of heavy. Halfway through it he decided to pay a visit. A couple of well-kent fishermen happened by and proceeded to stick superglue to the underside of the absentee's glass. Back he came. Chat, chat, chat. Went to raise his glass and found he couldn't lift it up. 'I've lost the power of my hand!' he gasped. Aye, a pint of heavy, indeed.

□ Footwear seems to figure regularly in this column. Like the tale of the bloke from Morvern who poured a gallon of petrol into his wellies. And the council Labour candidate playing on the squash court with two right-footed sandshoes. Then Willie, one of our mountain men, went to Woolies to buy a pair of - sandshoes. Cut-price sale, you see. From £6.99 to £3.99. He rummaged about or, in this case, as it was Willie, 'aboot'. Then he asked if they had any size 8s. All at sixes and sevens, I'm afraid. So he pulled on a pair of extra thin socks from his ever-present rucksack, put them on, tried the size sixes. 'I'll take these, thanks,' said Willie. Then Seonaid, queen of the open market, was standing there in the Scholls - on the day the rains came down. Water, water, everywhere. Nothing for it then but to lash out on a pair of wellies. Guess what - none of the market stalls catered for wellies. So Seonaid hirlped/splashed along to D&E and bought a pair of wellingtons. Green ones, of course.

□ A tale of two councillors. Last weekend, one went up to Inverness to visit a colleague in hospital. Arrived at reception and asked to see his fellow Fort William worthy. 'There's nobody of that name here,' he was advised. 'There must be,' insisted councillor. 'He was admitted to Culduthel earlier this week.' The receptionist had the answer to that. 'Well, he may be a patient in Culduthel - but this is Craig Dunain.'

□ Remarkable features of last Wednesday evening's tourist board annual general meeting were the photographs taken from outside Boni's. In none of the beautiful colour shots could you see a car illegally parked in the pedestrian area in front of the tourist office. Not one single vehicle. Heaven knows when the pictures were taken. It must have been at about 6 o'clock on a summer's morning. But, then, they do say the camera never lies. At the meeting, it was nice to see the practice revived of the chairman offering a vote of thanks to the staff. I'm not sure the workers were all that keen about being asked to stand up and take a bow, but the thought was there.

□ The fire brigade raced to the Backlands via MacRae's Lane last Friday morning. Their services weren't required, however. Along with lots of other folk, the entire staff of McTavish's Kitchens came out to see what all the commotion was about. Among them was Raymond Hervo. He was having a look-see when one of the girls came running up to him, shouting: 'Raymond, come quick. Your pies are burning!' Thankfully, the well-fired pies were saved and the firemen enjoyed a few of them.

□ Met Plantation shopkeeper/newsagent Tommy Disher coming out of the Top Shop, clutching a Daily Record, if you please. Tommy saw me and said, a shade sheepishly: 'In case you're wondering, I sold my own copy by mistake!'

□ 'What's this?' That was the staff's query when they found a canvas bag, containing metal instruments, tucked away in the corner of the Cromag Bar. On close, but guarded, scrutiny, they discovered - as had the Volley a couple of nights before - the full range of Toto Kearney's hair-cutting tools. Aye, they'd been misplaced again. Now that normal service has been resumed in Toto's tonsorial operations, the local Licensed Victuallers Association is planning to present him with a powerful magnet. All he needs to do in future is to point it round the door of a hostelry and his instruments will come flying out to meet him. That, of course, is dependent on Toto not losing the magnet.

□ Great drama after the 24-hour postponement of the 'Eigg Wedding'. The young couple were awaiting the arrival - by lifeboat - of the best man, groom's parents and the officiating clergyman. Much interest, too, expressed by the southern-based national press. So much so that I was asked by a daily tabloid to 'nip over to this 'ere Eigg and get a couple of quotes from the newly-weds'. This despite the high seas and fierce gales which had caused the delay of the big day. And, believe it or not, a London newsdesk came on the phone to check that the population of Eigg is indeed 95 - thousand!

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**Society hosts 32nd fiddlers rally**

Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society staged its 32nd Fiddlers Rally in Caol Community Centre earlier this month, with conductor Sheena Fraser. Mod Gold medallists from 2017, Rachel Walker and John Joe MacNeil, made guest appearances.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

**MSP urges Earth Hour support**

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has urged constituents in Lochaber to get behind the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Scotland's Earth Hour campaign to help protect wildlife from the effects of climate change.

According to WWF Scotland, around one in six species is in danger of extinction, with 50 per cent at risk of local extinction.

The annual 'Earth Hour' campaign encourages people to switch off all their lights for one hour at 8.30pm on Saturday March 24 to highlight climate change and its effects.

This year, the theme for Earth Hour

is #PromiseForYourPlanet which asks members of the public to take an action which will help protect the planet, including switching to a re-usable coffee cup, washing clothes at 30°C or composting left over food.

Mr Cameron said: 'While this event only lasts for an hour, the effects of climate change will remain forever unless we take action now to reduce our carbon footprint.'

'I will continue to do my part in the Scottish Parliament and back measures which tackle climate change, but it is equally important local people play a part in this too.'



The shinty boys of 1933.

FW

## Viewpoint



Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

IT IS clear NHS Highlands has a fight on its hands with a petition launched this week, calling on NHS Highland's chairman to immediately reopen the Dail Mhor House care facility at Strontian, having attracted almost 600 signatures as the Lochaber Times went to press. The home closed last August and its five residents temporarily relocated after residents and their families were told essential plumbing work was required which would take around two weeks to complete. Now seven months later the community has been faced with the news that NHS Highland will reopen the home

for day care and other services, but that the home will not reopen in the foreseeable future for residential care. And they are having none of it. We know money is tight, but surely a sensible compromise can be found that does not require elderly patients being cared for miles from their community. As David Ogg, speaking on behalf of Acharacle Community Council, said: 'The importance for elderly people to be able to stay in the communities they know, near friends and family, cannot be overstated, and is heightened in an area like ours.'



## Days gone by – 1995

Our photograph this week comes from December of 1995 when members of Oban High School Hockey Club and pupils did some fundraising carol singing for charity. Do you recognise yourself in this picture?

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



THIS article marks a happy ending to a thread that has run throughout my tenure writing for *The Oban Times* and this, my fourth and final piece on the subject, brings a joyful concluding chapter to a story of courage, determination and eventual victory.

On Saturday March 24, Argyll man Billy Irving will marry his fiancée Yvonne MacHugh. Billy's four-year nightmare of unjust imprisonment and legal battles in the Chennai region of India came to an end in late November last year when an appeal court declared Billy and his colleagues 'not guilty'.

The tangled four-year background comprising of a web of technical, legal, political and diplomatic complications, mistakes, omissions, inaction and ineptness have been covered in previous articles and widely elsewhere, and it is a great relief that these problems are in the past and have been overcome by a long fight to gain justice.

I've been in contact with Billy a

few times since he got back, but until Monday night this week I hadn't seen him in person since 2013 before he set off for the new job that would lead to his involvement in this life-changing saga. We are playing at the wedding on Saturday so I was meeting him to check out the venue and to finalise details for the music.

Although in his messages he seemed upbeat, I was nervous as to how he would be. Four years of life is a big chunk of time to be stolen from someone in his prime through no fault of his own and in the most frustrating circumstances.

Add to that the poor conditions of the prison, the fact that his young son was growing up without him, that he had lost his job, his house and now has to rebuild his life, it is enough to change and adversely affect any human.

These were the thoughts and worries that were running through my head as I drove to meet him.

Billy's warm welcome and wall of positivity dispelled my fears in the most complete manner. Four years at the mercy of a flawed justice system

from which at times there was no probability of release were talked of as if he had been delayed for a few hours because the ferry to Mull had engine trouble.

The dark dogs of bitterness that would plague most people have been given short shrift by Billy and his attitude is firmly focused on building a bright future for himself and his family.

Where Billy did not make light was in his gratitude to those who showed support to him and his fellow prisoners. Those who visited, those who wrote letters, those who sent gifts, those who contributed financially, those who organised events and those who campaigned, he said were all responsible for his being home and for his wedding to be taking place this weekend.

It is poetic that the most committed, energetic, determined and adept campaigner who fought for his release, and eventually won, is Yvonne MacHugh, the mother of his child and the girl he will marry on Saturday.

Here's to a great day and bright future for a very special family.



### Social media

Work to fill potholes in Oban caused a mixed reaction among readers.

**Lorna Wylie:** While I appreciate the roads need done and the traffic hasn't been too bad the last few days, today it is absolute gridlock. School times were bad yesterday but today is a disaster. Neither end of the town is moving. 40 minutes and I still haven't managed to get onto the main road from Soroba.

**Michelle Hewitt:** Why cannot this work be done late evening when the traffic is light. Just don't understand it.

**James John McTaggart:** No pleasing

some people, job's getting done and still people complain.

**Danielle Hay-West:** Tbh I didn't find it too bad the last few days...the most I waited was 15 mins. And the results are worth it. Glad it's a proper top layer removal and replace job, rather than a patchwork quilt. Well done the guys. Especially when it's cold and wet today.

**Jo Allen Way:** Too late to announce this, already been stuck in it, pathetic road management and zero lack of warnings, better warnings would have stopped a lot of traffic even going to Oban today.

let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### Ambulances are in need of urgent funds

Sir, The recent announcement by Connectivity Secretary Fergus Ewing of plans to build up to 70 new telecommunications masts in Argyll and the Isles is of concern to the Scottish taxpayer.

An investment of £25 million in mobile connectivity should raise questions as to this government's priorities. Moreover, these masts are not about connecting remote communities.

They are 'infilling' to cover any potential blackspots and the question should be asked as to whether this huge amount of money could have been better spent.

I would urge your readers to email their MSPs to ask serious questions regarding why their money is being used to ensure 100 per cent mobile coverage when we have many other issues in the Highlands, not least the lack of funding within the NHS.

As a former member of the ambulance service, I am acutely aware of the limited resources that are at the forefront of emergency care.

These lack of resources do not include a need for 100 per cent mobile coverage or 4G but are more about maintaining vehicles with mileages equivalent to the distance needed to get to the moon.

Creaking and unsanitary conditions are present in ambulances because they are so old. It is not unusual for vehicles to break down. Some essential equipment therein is almost at the point of being unusable. Only the very hard work of ambulance staff keep these on the road at all.

Have a good look at an ambulance next time you can and think about where that £25 million should really go.

Nicholas MacIneskar,  
Barrahormaid Farm, Tayvallich.

### How can we trace litter louts?

Sir, As one who volunteers to pick up litter, I came across a receipt listing goods that matched the nearby empty plastic bottles and a cake box lying on the roadside verge, all recently bought from a local shop.

The goods were paid by a debit card, which only shows the last four digits of the account number. If it was a Silent Witness serious crime scene, I'm fairly certain that the person(s) could be traced back to the shop, probably having CCTV, transaction records, forensic evidence (fingerprints, DNA) and so on.

I know it's a sledgehammer to crack a nut situation, and that police and local authorities have not got the resources to deal with littering, especially beyond urban areas. However, I do wonder whether just one well advertised successful prosecution would send out a strong message that it is possible to be caught.

And what is wrong with using mobile miniature spy cameras at roadside lay-bys, as we have mobile speed cameras? Fortunately, Blue Planet 2 has provided the wake-up call over the

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



ABAIR DEIREADH SEACHDAIN dha sgiobaidhean rugbaidh nan dùthchannan Ceilteach! Tha na meadhanan mòra Breatannach cho tric a' dèiligeadh ri Alba agus A' Chuimrigh mar mhean-gan beaga de Shasainn ge b' e dè an cuspair air am bheil iad a' labhairt, agus gu sònraichte a thaobh spòrs! Gabhaidh sin tuigsinn ma tha neach a' dèanamh coimeas àireamh sluaigh eadar fear sam bith de na dùthchannan Ceilteach agus Sasainn, oir an-uiridh bha còrr air seasgaidh is còig millean a' còmhnaidh ann an Sasainn taça ri dhà dheug gu leth millean eadar Alba, A' Chuimrigh, agus Poblachd na h-Èireann còmhla!

Le taghadh bho àireamhan den t-seòrsa sin chanadh tu gum feumadh làmh an uachdair a bhith aig Sasainn daonnan nuair a thig e gu bhith a' cur sgioba spòrs sam bith ri chèile, agus dhearbhadh iad sin uair is uair. Ach Disathairne seo chaidh, mar Dhàibhidh a' coinneachadh Goliath, sheas na Ceilteach ris na dùthchannan mòra agus bhuannaich iad uile! Eirinn an aghaidh Shasainn; A'

need for action to protect our fragile environment.

If television is that powerful in conveying serious global matters then governments should act – for example, by enforcing big drinks companies to highlight in their TV adverts the problem of litter when their products are disposed of irresponsibly.

A Robinsón,  
Spean Bridge.

### BBC Scotland coverage concerns

Sir, A mass protest against weapons of mass destruction is due to take place on September 15 at the Anglo-American naval facility at Faslane.

The Faslane Coulport base holds the greatest arsenal of nuclear weapons in Europe and is a clear and present danger to the people of central Scotland.

Concerned people from all over the UK and Europe will be gathering at Faslane to make their protest and deare determined to make Westminster think again.

Having concerns about the 'black propaganda' campaign by BBC Scotland during the Independence Referendum, I have written to the head of news at the same and asked for assurance that the reporting of the mass advent will receive impartial coverage.

William JS Todd  
Stirling.

### Children have right to free travel to GMU

Sir, Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the catchment area for Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

I do so as as a parent of two sons who attended the Gaelic Medium Unit (GMU) in St Mary's School, Fort William.

I was active, with many local activists and council colleagues, in establishing the Fort William GMU in 1994 and then Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar in 2015 as part of the reorganisation of Fort William's primary schools.

I support the general proposals in the consultation paper. However, I challenge the assertion that the general limit for travel to the Gaelic school (GME) should be six to 15 miles. Many past pupils attending GME have travelled much greater distances.

My own children travelled 22 miles by road from Achaphubuil to attend the Fort William GMU. We also used the Camusnagaul ferry to do so.

It is good that this will be free but pupils from south Lochailside should have the right to access from this transport link to Caol.

Other pupils have attended from Ardour by crossing the Corran ferry. Again, they should have the right to transport from Nether Lochaber to Caol.

I would ask that Highland Council be more flexible in allowing future pupils from Invergarry, Glencoe and South Ballachulish to attend Bun-

sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar if requested. The reasons given against this is that the distances are too long for the pupils and the cost would be excessive.

Many parents of pupils attending Gaelic Medium Education in Lochaber have done so by transporting their children 40-50 miles so that they could attend croileagan, Gaelic nurseries and after-school activities all at their own expense and by considerable personal effort.

The Highland Council's own Gaelic committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor Hamish Fraser, provided the evidence that Gaelic medium units and schools, once fully established after five years, were cheaper per pupil than English medium education. This was mainly because the support network for GME was much smaller.

I would ask that this cost saving of attending the Gaelic school is used to offset the right to access transport from Corran and Camusnagaul, and also to give serious consideration to any future requests for pupils from Invergarry, Glencoe and Ballachulish to attend GME.

This will then allow more of our young people to access the benefits of bilingual education.

Dr Michael Foxley,  
Achaphubuil,  
An Gearasdan.

### Litter pickers to be thanked

Sir, Congratulations to the team of litter pickers who are clearing a stretch of the grass verge on the A85 close to Tainuit.

This particularly twisty section of road had its verge littered with rubbish and is being transformed!

Thank you, all.  
Doreen Henderson  
North Connel.

### Annual Killin Community auction

Sir, The annual Killin Community Auction, will be held on Easter Saturday, March 31, in the McLaren Hall Killin. Viewing is from 4pm with the auction at 6pm prompt.

This eagerly awaited event raises much needed funds for local groups and worthy causes, and is well supported by both locals and visitors who all take the opportunity to relax, renew friendships and enjoy the friendly atmosphere the auction evening creates.

This year donations includes some surprising items, including a Cape Buffalo Skull with a horn span of over three feet, several items of china and stoneware in the antique category, as well as the more modern items and many collectibles new to the market.

There are some photos on the local masonic lodge website and their Facebook page which give a view of some of what's on offer. The wine and ale bar will help the craik and the kitchen will provide snacks and hot drinks.

A Stewart  
Killin

Ailean Caimbeul

Chuirigh an aghaidh na Frainge; agus Alba an aghaidh na h-Eadailt! Bha mi a' cuimhneachadh air Jain Loin agus mar a thuir e ann an Inbhir Aora mu na chunnaic e de choilich dhubha aig Blàr Inbhir Lòchaidh! Cha ghabh e àicheadh gun deach an latha an aghaidh an t-srutha dha na dùthchannan mòra agus cha b' iongnadh luchd-taice nan sgiobaidhean Ceilteach a bhith a' dèanamh gairdeachais air mar a bhuannaich an cluicheadairean rugbaidh aca le spàirn agus dìongmhaltas. Thug iad togail dhan cuid sluaigh agus dearbhadh às ùr nach eil buaidh idir dearbhte dhan an fharpaiseach as motha!

Thug dà thachartas Gàidhlig aig an robh mi deireadh na seachdainne togail dhomh cuideachd. Oidhche Haoine libhrig Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis an consairt bliadhnaile aige, le taghadh eile de shàr sheinneadairean agus luchd-ciùil na Gàidhlig, agus bha e fìor mhath deagh àireamh luchd-èisteachd fhàicinn an làthair. B' iomchaidh dhai-bh moladh a dhèanamh air na chual iad ach theagamh gur e an còmhlan òg chiùil dùthchasach, Deàrrsadh, coigne-ar chloinne à Acadamaidh is Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain, a choisinn moladh

thar chàich le seinn agus cluiche ciùil sònraichte aig an aois. Feasgar Dhiardaoin bha Ceilidh eadar-dhealichte aig Theatre Gu Leòr san aon ionad aig Cùirt Eden. Chunnaic is chuala sinn dealbh-chluiche clis air a bhonntachadh air fuadach Mhàiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh bho a h-àite mar bhanaltram dha Clann MhicLeòid Dhùn Bheagain gu ruige Muile. Chòrd an sgeulachd, a' chleasachd, an dòigh ealanta san robh teicneòlas ga chleachdadh agus eadar-theangachadh mar aon a libhrigeadh, agus an ceòl ris na bha an làthair, agus saoiidh mi gun iarramaid uile barrachd fhàicinn bho Theatre Gu Leòr!

SUPERB music and song at Inverness Gaelic Society's annual showcase concert on Friday, and an immensely enjoyable performance by Theatre Gu Leòr at the same Eden Court venue on Thursday.

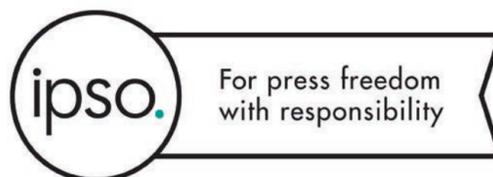
This followed by rugby triumph for the Celtic teams in the Six Nations, proving once more that small nations can win against much larger neighbours.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
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WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please



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THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number

is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.



John McPhee crashed out in the last seconds of the Qatar Grand Prix after fighting for third place at the Losail International Circuit last Sunday. Photos: Bonnie Lane

# John McPhee back in action

CONNEL'S John McPhee got back in action at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar to conclude the first Moto3 round with an amazing fight for a top three finish.

The CIP Green Power rider had qualified 12th with only a 1:04s gap from the best time. Unfortunately he lost eight positions on the first lap of the race, but immediately went in pursuit of the leading group and came back fighting for third place and a podium finish by lap 15.

In the last seconds of the race, an error during the intense battling caused John to crash out. Although disappointed in the eventual outcome John has plenty of positives to remain focused on.

## Moto3

The race was won by Spaniard Jorge Martin. After the race he said: 'Overall we can be satisfied with the weekend. We showed our true potential through free practise, and the speed that we had through the race was very promising. Everybody in the team has done a good job, I am very thankful to them.'

'I was pushing hard to try and take third position on the podium, and had to take a few risks but unfortunately I crashed. Overall I'm satisfied and ready to fight for a win in Argentina on April 8.'

# Oban Hockey Club move closer to winning league title

Hillhead	0
Oban	4
West District Men's Div 4	

OBAN men's hockey team met second placed Hillhead VIIIs in what could prove to be a crucial encounter in pursuit of the Division 4 title. Having lost 1-4 earlier in the season Oban knew this would be a tough test and so the first 20 minutes proved to be.

Hillhead had a blend of experienced, skilful players with a number of juniors. Early on in the game there was little difference between the teams with Oban perhaps being a little nervous of the Hillhead poten-

Team	Played	Points
Oban	10	22
Hillhead	9	15
Giffnock	10	13
Ayr	9	11
Dumfries	8	9
East Kilbride	9	3
Clydesdale	9	2

tial. The tension was broken by Jack Johnson, one of five juniors in the squad, directing a drilled pass into the net at the far post. Text book hockey.

The first half ended with Oban 1-0 up, but this was how it was in the first meeting so the team knew that all the good work could be easily undone.

The bitter easterly wind and snow flurries were encouragement enough for the players to keep moving and Oban began the second half in fine, fluid form passing the ball quickly and accurately.

Within 10 minutes, Asher Petit and Stuart Head had pushed Oban further ahead. Oban looked the stronger team although Andy Head the goalkeeper was infinitely more involved as he had his one touch of the ball all game. He later quipped that he had to brush the cobwebs from his stick – a testament to the solid Oban defence.

The development and im-

## Hockey

provement of the team since the first encounter was clearly demonstrated.

A solid cohesive performance topped off by a goal from team captain Ali Burton. Just deserts as he had worked tirelessly for the whole game.

Man of the match went to Jenson Binnie, one of Oban's juniors – new to hockey this season – who has grown hugely in confidence and ability: an excellent solid game.

The final whistle blew and Oban had won this critical game 0-4. Mathematically one win from the final two games will ensure Oban are league champions.

The next game is against bottom of the table Clydesdale, but given the 4-3 result in November Oban know this could be a close game. Chickens are not being counted yet.



Oban captain Ali Burton strikes for the fourth goal.



Oban on the attack during the 4-0 win over Hillhead.

# Atlantis to host Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final

## Athletics

ATLANTIS Leisure in Oban is the venue this Sunday, March 25, for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics Final.

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, Mull, Oban and finally the Kintyre area event on Sunday March 4.

Successful qualifiers from the local contests will now come together in Oban on Sunday 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 just after 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 FL results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division – Inverclyde 4, Oban Saints 3; Premier Division Two – Castlemilk 8 Tarbert 1; Paisley 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 1. Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round – Campbeltown Pupils v Rosehill Star, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Oban Saints v Hillington; Premier Division One - Rosehill Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Castlemilk; Tarbert v FC Argyll.

## Saints' youth team results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 11, Ardencaple 1. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Andrew Nicol (3), Ruairidh Buchanan and Matthew Pollock. Drumchapel United v Under 14s, postponed; Broomhill v Under 15s, postponed; Under 16s v Dumbarton Riverside, postponed; Dunoon 1, Under 17s 11. Goalscorers for Saints were Keir MacLean (5), Cameron Hill (2), Rory Dowd (2) and Oran Bryce (2).

This weekend's fixtures: Campbeltown Pupils v Under 13s; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 14s; Under 15s v Cambuslang; Under 16s v Ardencaple; Under 17s v Dunoon.



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## Silver-lining for Arlo at national athletics championships

### Athletics



Arlo Van de Peer of Strontian became the second fastest under 15 in the 1,500 metres in Scotland.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

STRONTIAN athlete Arlo Van de Peer is the second fastest under-15 runner over 1,500 metres in Scotland, thanks to an impressive performance at the national championships earlier this month.

Arlo took home the silver medal in the 1,500 metres in the under-15 age group at the Scottish Athletics National Championships, held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Arlo, who lives in Strontian and turned 14 the day before the race, slashed an incredible 12 seconds off his previous personal best, to record a time of 4 minutes 34 seconds on the day.

Arlo runs for Glasgow club Cambuslang Harriers after being talent spotted at the Kilchoan Show and Sports last year by Richard Carr, a representative from the club. Both Richard and the club have been fundamental in providing mentoring and support since.

Arlo is hoping this early success is the start of something big in his fledgling athletics career.

## Lochaber club lotteries

### Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 12 and 13. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday March 22) will be £900.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 6, 13 and 19. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £300.

Balachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 2, 6 and 16. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,200.

## Glenfinnan shoot results

### Shooting

GLENFINNAN Gun Club hosted a shoot on March 10.

The weather was cold and dry as 24 guns took part on the day.

First competition, won by Billy Bartlett. Second competition, Tennent Shield, won by Mark Shone. High gun for the day, Donnie Strang Memorial Quaich, won by Josh McGhee. Double rise, Dewar Cup, won by Mark Shone. Under 18, won by Cameron Mergan.

# Fort fall short in two home Highland League fixtures

Fort William	0
Nairn County	2
Highland League	

NAIRN County took all three points in the swirling Claggan Park wind last Wednesday night as an unlucky Fort William were unable to take their chances.

Fort William produced their first shot on target of the game on 17 minutes but Barna Tot's first time effort was saved comfortably by the County keeper.

Nairn struck the post twice in the first half, with the second deflecting off a Fort defender before looping on to the crossbar.

Fort had a great chance to open the scoring 10 minutes

before the break when Mark Gillespie was unmarked to meet a corner from the right with a header that he could only direct over the crossbar.

However, Nairn made them pay for that miss almost instantly by opening the scoring. Ewen Urquhart delivered a cross to the back post that the home defence could not deal with, allowing Max Ewan to sweep the ball home.

Fort William threatened again two minutes later but Iain MacLellan's shot-on-target deflected just wide of MacLeod's goal.

Nairn continued their pressure in the second half almost immediately after the restart and

looked to put the game to bed early on in the second half.

County duly made it two on 57 minutes as Tom MacLennan marked his debut for the club with a goal as his in-swinging free kick dropped into the net at the near post.

Fort goalkeeper Campbell limped off injured on 63 minutes with attacker Stephen Lopez taking over in goal.

The Fort almost pulled a goal back with three minutes remaining when Iain MacLellan's low shot from the left flew across goal and just wide of the far post.

Fort William	1
Huntly	4
Highland League	

HUNTLY recorded their third straight win at Claggan Park over 10-man Fort William on Saturday to move up to eighth position.

Fort threatened early on with Iain MacLellan having a shot blocked before being denied a few minutes later by a last-ditch challenge in the Huntly box.

On the quarter-hour mark, a Huntly free-kick was whipped in to Matthew McDonald to open the scoring.

Less than 10 minutes later, a long throw from Cameron Booth was dropped by goalkeeper Bryan Simpson and after Michael Ewen's shot was blocked Michael Clark tapped in the rebound from close range.

John Farquhar again kept the home front-line out late on in



The Fort's Jack Lingard tackles former Hearts and Inverness CT forward Dennis Wyness. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

the half when he got down low to hold a Jack Lingard deflected drive just before the half-time whistle.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men only eight minutes into the second half when Mark Gillespie picked up a second caution following a late challenge.

Huntly extended their lead in the 56th minute after Cameron Booth netted the ball with a downward header.

The hosts did manage to pull a goal back immediately after

## Football

with Jack Lingard firing in low from an Ian MacLellan corner.

Following the restart, Huntly broke upfield and a harmless shot from Cameron Booth squirmed through the legs of Fort goalkeeper Simpson and into the net to round off the day's scoring.

Fort William remain without a win so far this season at the foot of the Highland League.

## Lochaber swept aside by league leaders in 60-point victory

Wigtownshire	68
Lochaber	8
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER succumbed to a heavy 60-point defeat away to league leaders Wigtownshire on Saturday in what was their first game in over a month.

Lochaber could, however, take encouragement from their 25-11 win over Wigtownshire back in September, inflicting their only defeat of the season. But the visitors knew they were in for a tough match with Wigtownshire having won 73-0 and 57-0 in their last two fixtures and had only conceded 59 points in 11 games prior to this match.

It wasn't long before Wigtownshire showed why they are the top of the table when they used their big forward pack to crash through for their opening try. It was a tough first 25 minutes for Lochaber, who never had any real possession apart from on the odd occasion being able to turn Wigtownshire over and clear their lines.

At 15-0 down Lochaber were in Wigtownshire's 22 for the first time in the match when they were awarded a penalty which Jonathan McCook kicked to get some points on the board. However, Wigtownshire responded with more tries.

At around the 25-minute mark Lochaber turned the ball over and kicked for territory but two Wigtownshire players went to catch the ball and there was a nasty clash of heads with one of the

## Rugby

players being knocked out after breaking his jaw. Play stopped for around 15-20 minutes while the paramedics dealt with the injury.

Play resumed with a Lochaber scrum just inside Wigtownshire's 22. From that set play Lochaber received a penalty 10 metres out and decided to run it. The ball was given to captain Callum MacDonald, who was stopped inches short of the line but the ball was recycled quickly out to the right wing where No 8 Conor Taylor was waiting. Taylor couldn't be stopped from such a close range making that his third try in three games.

The try gave Lochaber a lot of confidence going into half time and it showed in the second half. James Lucas continued to disrupt Wigtownshire's lineout which gave Lochaber more and more attacking opportunities. But time and time again they couldn't find a way through Wigtownshire's defence.

The second half was very balanced until the last 10 minutes where Lochaber started to fall away and Wigtownshire took full advantage and added to the score line with a few more quick tries.

The final score finished Wigtownshire 68-8 Lochaber, a win that extends the Stranraer club's lead at the top of the table to eight points.

Lochaber sit comfortably at mid-table in fifth position. The Banavie side travel to Hyndland next Saturday as they look for their first away win of the season.



The teams that competed in this year's Lochaber Building Supplies ten-pin bowling leagues attended the awards night last week. Photo: Abridgeside Photography.

## Bowlers finish season on a high

TEN-PIN bowlers gathered at the bowling alley at the Nevis Centre on Monday last week for their annual prize presentation.

There was a good turnout at the awards night as the top performers were presented with their prizes in what was a good season for the Lochaber Building Supplies ten-pin bowling league.

The Alleycats won the the scratch division with 64 points out of a possible 70 followed by The Empire on 60 points and Council on 46 points.

Alleycats also won the handicap division with 55 points followed by British Legion Fort William on 47 points and Council on 43 points.

The season's high scores went to

## Ten-pin bowling

Tommy McKnight (Alleycats) with a scratch game of 216, handicap game of 272 and two game handicap series of 482 whilst Ben Weller (The Empire) had the season's top two game scratch series with 392.

Alleycats swept the board for the season's top team scores with a scratch game of 724, handicap game of 921, two game scratch series of 1385 and two game handicap series of 1775.

The top scratch average of the season went to Ben Weller with 156 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 152 and Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 150.

## Lochaber Yacht Club push the boat out this summer

### Yachting

LOCHABER Yacht Club in Fort William is pushing the boat out this May by offering people the chance to try their hand at sailing.

The club is inviting all ages and families to come and try sailing for free on Saturday 12 May and Sunday 13 (from 2pm to 5pm).

'We're inviting the local community to come down to have a go at sailing, see what Lochaber Yacht Club has to offer and get involved. Who knows, you might just get hooked,' said Hamish Loudon, club commodore.

Whether you're completely new to the sport or looking to get back on the water, RYA Push the Boat Out which takes place throughout May is the perfect time to give it a go.

The nationwide event will see thousands of people taking part in the sailing activity, with open days and taster sessions taking place at sailing clubs and centres across the country.

Starting at 2pm, on May 12 and 13 there will be sailing 'taster sessions' - for all ages, in dinghies and yachts, lead by experienced and enthusiastic club members. Refreshments will be available in the LYC clubhouse.

The sessions can be as physical or as relaxing as you want to make it, you can sail with others or on your own, do it competitively or potter about and just enjoy the gentle escape of being outside in the elements.

Booking via the following email would will guarantee a sail in a boat - see@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.

For full details about what's going on at Lochaber Yacht Club visit lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk. For more information on RYA Push the Boat Out visit rya.org.uk.

## Thistle put seven past Islay

### Football

South Lochaber Thistle	7
Islay	1
Friendly	

DUE TO a cancellation of their league game, South Lochaber Thistle welcomed Islay to Kinlochleven for a hastily arranged friendly.

Thistle played some sparkling possession-based football, with skipper Martin Munro in champagne form, ending his short drought with five goals, the pick of the bunch being a left foot peach curled into the corner of the net.

Morgan Birrell laid on a gift for Keir Kennedy while Sean Noble's luck finally took a turn for the good as he saw a drive towards goal deflect into the back of the net to double his tally for the season.

Islay scored a consolation to leave the final tally 7-1.

Next week, SLT are away for the final time this season to Westcliffe in Dumbarton.

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**WEATHER**

Thursday Light rain in the afternoon  
Breezy from the south south east  
Temperatures 7°C to 8°C

Friday Light rain  
Breezy from the south  
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C

Weekend Sunshine and showers  
Outlook Breezy from the south west  
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 22, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Thur	02.29 0.8 08.33 3.6 14.55 1.0	20.41 3.5	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	03.15 1.0 09.18 3.4 15.46 1.2	21.28 3.3	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	04.15 1.3 10.17 3.1 16.52 1.4	22.32 3.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	05.39 1.5 11.55 2.8 18.12 1.5	*** **	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	00.17 2.9 07.13 1.5 14.15 2.9	19.34 1.4				
Tues	02.26 3.1 08.52 1.4 15.24 3.1	20.50 1.2				
Wed	03.31 3.4 10.00 1.1 16.14 3.4	21.52 0.9				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate