

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8349

Thursday 6 April, 2017

www.obantimes.co.uk

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## Grieving family blast fatal accident inquiry as 'sham'

Candidates hoping to win election

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A GRIEVING family say a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) into their son's death will be a 'sham' unless the boat in which he was travelling forms part of the evidence.

Father-of-three Scott MacAlister, from the Isle of Seil, was lost at sea on April 25 2013, when the boat he was in, the *Speedwell OB950*, foundered.

Scott, 40, was the only crewman aboard the prawn fishing boat when he made a mayday call.

The vessel now lies at the bottom of the sea off the island of Inish, near Seil. Scott's body was never recovered.

At the time of his death, Scott had a six-month-old baby with his partner Tori MacNab, whom he spoke to moments before his death. Scott's body may not still be aboard the vessel but the authority dealing with the investigation is refusing to recover the boat to find out.

In a heart-rending plea, Scott's father, Peter MacAlister, and another son, Andrew, approached *The Oban Times* to raise the profile of the case and to call for community support to have the boat raised.

Peter said: 'We consider the evidence gathered for the upcoming fatal accident inquiry is incomplete and in certain areas

the interpretation of evidence gathered by the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) is at odds with statements given to us and our own marine knowledge.'

A former seaman himself, Peter continued: 'Only by salvaging the boat can all the evidence be properly recorded, interpreted and safe conclusions made as to future safety.'

At one point in the argument over lifting the boat, Peter was told the benefits were negligible because of the implosion and impact of the boat when it landed on the seabed. However, a diver who visited the boat on the seabed, 80 metres below the surface, claims it is intact.

Peter said: 'Both the diver's observation and the police report state there was no visible damage to the hull. So this is an outrageous statement and at odds with the MAIB's own report.'

It is only by lifting the boat, which was owned and operated by a third party, that key areas of evidence can be proven.

These include the suitability of lifejackets, the proper operation of bilge pumps, alarms, the situation and suitability of a hatch aboard the vessel and, above all, the seaworthiness of the vessel.

Scott's family, Peter and his former wife Lala, brothers Andrew and Glen, alongside Tori and three children, want justice.

Peter continued: 'We still have several remaining concerns about the investigation.'

'Our intention during the four years since the loss of our son is to ensure the authority involved in policing fishing vessels, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, has carried out its remit in a proper and responsible manner. Our reasonable expectation of the MAIB is a full investigation. Without the boat, it is simply not going to happen. It will be a sham.'

Sir Alan Massey, chief executive of the MCA, said in a letter to the family: 'It is not our intention to prosecute the owner of the *Speedwell*.

'For us to take action we would have to have independent evidence from at least two sources which would lead us to believe that the merchant shipping legislation, relevant to the fishing vessel, had been breached. We do not have this.'

'Boats such as the *Speedwell* are surveyed every five years and as this vessel sank in 2013 the last inspection was in 2009. Our surveyor would have inspected all of the items as required in the code of practice.'

'Once again, may I say how sorry I am for your loss.'

At the time of going to press, the MCA had not commented. See next week's *Oban Times*.

NOMINATIONS for election to Argyll and Bute Council have been announced - seeing a total of 18 candidates in Oban wards for eight council seats.

Argyll and Bute Council has 36 councillors who serve in 11 different wards across the area. Not returning to the ballot paper is council leader Dick Walsh, bringing to an end the Dunoon-based ex-milkman's decades-old dominance in the local authority.

On the ballot paper is war veteran Donnie MacMillan, who, if elected, will be the oldest councillor in Scotland.

In Oban North and Lorn and Oban South and Isles there are four councillors in each ward, with eight candidates standing in the Oban South and the Isles ward, and 10 standing in Oban North and Lorn. Voting takes place on May 4 but not in South Kintyre as the number of candidates matches the vacancies.

Oban South and the Isles: Jake Ainscough (Scottish Labour Party), Mary-Jean Devon (Independent), Jim Lynch (Scottish National Party), Alister MacDougall (Independent), Sean MacIntyre (Scottish National Party), Roddy McCuish (Independent), Jamie McGrigor (Scottish Conservative and Unionist), David Pollard (Scottish Liberal Democrats).

Oban North and Lorn: Brian Burnett (Independent), Kieron Green (Independent), Neil MacKay (Independent), Julie MacKenzie (Scottish National Party), Allan McKie (Independent), William Mohieddeen (Scottish Greens), Grant Nicholson (Independent), Elaine Robertson (Independent), Breege Smyth (Scottish National Party), Andrew Vennard (Scottish Conservative and Unionist).

## Youngsters score a dream outing

BOYS AND girls from Lochnell Football Club were the half-time entertainment during the recent St Johnstone match against Dundee.

The team, which plays in the 2005 Oban Primary League, were given the opportunity of a lifetime - to score in front of 4,500 fans in a professional stadium.

The youngsters took turns dribbling from the halfway line, before having a shot at goal.

Several of the players scored, but many were denied by the top form

Lochnell goalkeeper Adam Welsh.

A total of 39 children and 10 adults made the journey and everyone took part in a training session led by Lochnell coaches.

Following the exercise, the boys and girls enjoyed an entertaining Tayside derby with St Johnstone winning 2-0.

The Lochnell team rounded off the day by meeting some of the home side's players. Lochnell FC would like to thank St Johnstone for hosting the club.



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## 'Oban' Gin moves to Edinburgh

A GIN-MAKER has plans to create an Oban spirit in Edinburgh - decanting water from Loch Nell at Kilmore and transporting it to the city.

The owner of Oban Gin and McCaig's Distillery trademarks had initially planned to set up a distillery in the town but had failed to secure premises.

With almost 300 people in the town supporting former Oban man David Robertson's aspirations for the brand, some were disappointed to find out he would not be opening a local distillery. However, others are delighted the product may finally find its way into the shops.

Mr Robertson did not reply to calls or emails from *The Oban*

*Times*, but a post on the firm's Facebook page said: 'Wooohoo our premises are now secure get the keys this week!'

When Oban Gin revealed the product was not to be distilled in Oban, one person asked: 'What's the point of that? Surely you owe it to Oban to make the premises there?'

Oban Gin replied: 'We'll be opening in Oban eventually, but most gins do this; get another distillery to make for them!'

It was further stated most gins were made at a larger distiller 'along with half of the gins in Scotland, it's called private label gin. It's the quickest way to get into the market without the huge start up.'

Oban Gin wants to extract the water from Loch Nell to make the spirit, explaining: 'It's the source of where Oban gets its water from! Obviously your water goes through the treatment plant up by Soroba. So if it's good enough for Scottish Water to use as a water source it's good enough for us.'

In another post, Oban Gin said the process would be up and running as soon as possible, with the spirit distilled as soon as May.

Explaining how the water will be extracted from the loch, Oban Gin said: 'Specially designed IBC tank in the back of the van works perfectly. About one trip a month at most. Down the southern end of the Loch easily get parked and extract.'

*The Oban Times* spoke to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) about the extraction of water from the loch.

A spokeswoman for SEPA said it would consider any application for the extraction for a distillery but added: 'We have not received an application from anyone, or any business, about extraction from Loch Nell.'

The Health and Safety Executive said: 'Aside from an extraction licence, there are other considerations that anyone removing water for human consumption needs to consider and HSE would be keen to talk to anyone considering removing water from a loch, transporting it and then distilling it.'

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**Lifeboat called to evacuate patient**

OBAN lifeboat was launched on Thursday March 30 to evacuate a medical casualty from Mull.

The Mora Edith MacDonald was called out by Stornoway Coastguard to assist the Scottish Ambulance Service with a transfer from Craignure.

The volunteer crew left Oban at 8.50pm with two paramedics aboard.

With the assistance of Craignure's Coast Rescue Team, the lifeboat was alongside the ferry linkspan by 9.16pm. The casualty was transferred to the lifeboat which then sped back to Oban, arriving at 10.15pm, with the assistance of Oban Coast Rescue Team.

The casualty was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

**Social enterprises receive support**

SOCIAL enterprises in the Highlands and Islands are to receive specialist support from the Bank of Scotland.

Specialist non-executive directors, with a range of backgrounds in business, from the Bank of Scotland will serve on social enterprise boards.

Eight social enterprises from Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, the Outer Hebrides, Argyll and Bute, Caithness and Sutherland, Moray, Orkney and Shetland are taking part in the six-month pilot scheme from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

HIE ScotGrad placement Castriona Malloys said: 'This pilot is about providing social enterprises in rural areas with a range of expertise to which they might not otherwise have access.'

Social enterprises, which are businesses with a community or environmental mission, are particularly prominent in the Highlands and Islands, with 22 per cent of social enterprise groups operating in the area.



The gallant Islay lifeboat crew were honoured at Bowmore, with coxswain David MacLellan, second right, receiving the bronze medal.

# RNLI crew honoured for gallantry during rescue

**CAMERON GRAY**  
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A HEROIC Islay lifeboat crew have been honoured after braving the elements and saving a sailor's life during a severe storm.

The coxswain of the Islay lifeboat, David MacLellan, 46, and his crew of four were presented with the RNLI bronze medal for gallantry for their display of great skill and seamanship in saving a

yachtsman in an extremely challenging environment.

The award, one of the charity's highest accolades, was presented in front of a crowd of more than 120 at Bowmore Village Hall, Islay, on Saturday March 25. The rescue operation which, lasted more than 18 hours, took place on February 16 last year.

David, who has been with the charity since 1990, thanked his volunteer crew and fundraisers. He said: 'I might have been

the one making the decisions and helming the boat, but this was undoubtedly a fantastic team effort with the crew on the deck doing the hard work.

'We have a good team here on Islay with the crew, operations and fundraisers. The fundraisers do a fantastic job every year raising funds to provide the community with the best possible boat and equipment.'

RNLI chief executive Paul Bossier, who presented the

award, said: 'The medal is awarded in recognition of your personal courage, your leadership and your remarkable seamanship on that night. You fully deserve this medal and I know that you will wear it with pride for years to come.'

He acknowledged the difficult job of being an RNLI crewman, adding: 'It calls you out at all hours of the day and night. You deal with the elements at their most beautiful and also at their

most savage, and you do so to save the lives of people who find themselves in trouble.'

David's team – mechanic David McArthur, 42, navigator Thomas Coope, 31, and crew members Duncan MacGillvray, 32, and Peter Thomas, 38 – all received framed letters of thanks from the RNLI chairman, Captain Martin Porter, 62, of the Deep Energy pipelaying vessel, was also given a framed letter of thanks.

## Disabled islanders get help to find work

WESTERN Isles residents living with health conditions and disabilities will receive help to find a job under new Scottish Government powers.

The service, Work Able Scotland and Work First Scotland, which launched on April 1, is designed to help disabled people find and remain in employment.

Employability minister Jamie Hepburn said he recognised the 'different needs' of people living in the Western Isles but assured that the Scottish Government had 'a commitment to making sure our services are tailored to local issues, and are fairer and simpler for people to access'.

Mr Hepburn added: 'The devolution of employment support services is a real opportunity to make Scotland fairer. By making them voluntary, we are putting dignity and respect at the heart of our support so that participants are not under threat of benefit sanctions through their involvement with our new services. We want them to be seen as an opportunity and not a threat.'

People in the Western Isles are encouraged to contact their local Jobcentre Plus to find out if they are eligible for the service.

This will be one of the first exercises of devolved powers under the Scotland Act 2016 which will see the Scottish Government deliver one year transitional services to up to 4,800 people.

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## CMAL launches Gaelic language plan

CALEDONIAN Maritime Assets (CMAL) has outlined plans to increase the use of the Gaelic language across its ports, harbours and online platforms.

CMAL's Gaelic language plan includes a greater display of Gaelic across the company's ports and harbours, increased Gaelic multimedia content on its website and even encouraging staff to learn the language. Gaelic is widely spoken in the Western Isles communities that CMAL's services covers. This is CMAL's second



iteration of the five-year plan, which will run until 2021.

Kevin Hobbs, chief executive at CMAL, said: 'We believe that where possible we should endeavour to communicate in the language of choice for our communities and see Gaelic as an integral part of this goal. We are striving as a company to better support and

promote the Gaelic language and culture.'

Declan MacDonald, a native Gaelic speaker who was recently employed by CMAL as a graduate naval architect, said: 'If Gaelic is to be revitalised, it is important that CMAL makes an effort to enhance its status and to encourage its increased usage.'

Bòrd na Gàidhlig ceannard (chief executive) Shona MacLennan added: 'Each year, the Scottish economy is boosted by the investment made by tourists travelling to Scotland

who show great interest in the Gaelic language and culture, and recognise it as an important element of Scottish identity.'

The Scottish Parliament passed The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 with a view to securing Gaelic as an official language of Scotland. Public bodies in Scotland are now required to command equal respect to English and Gaelic language plans.

The plan can be found on CMAL's website <http://www.cmassets.co.uk/about-us/publications>.

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Bunnahabhain Distillery

BUNNAHABHAIN is Islay's most northerly distillery, situated some eight miles from Port Askaig and sits on the shore of the Sound of Islay with views to the west coast of Jura and the isle of Colonsay.

Its Gaelic name means the mouth of the river and refers to the Margadale waterway, whose clear spring water is an important ingredient in the distilling process.

The distillery was built in 1881 by William Robertson who, along with brothers William and James Greenlees, established the Islay Distillers' Company.

Production began in 1883 and the surrounding housing was provided to accommodate the workforce.

When brewing and distilling historian Alfred Barnard visited the sprawling Victorian distillery he referred to the workforce as numbering between 40 and 50 employees and was impressed at the provision of a reading room and school where the workers' children could receive an elementary education.

The provision of an approach road and distillery pier at a cost of £3,500 was also a plus, although the workers must have regarded a board of directors' instruction to the management to discontinue the practice of doling out a free dram as a decided minus. In 1887, the company merged



Bunnahabhain Distillery has views of Jura and Colonsay.

with William Grant and Son to form Highland Distillers, which held sway until 1999 when control passed to the Edrington Group.

This was a time of expectation and development with the rapid growth in Scotch whisky during the 1960s.

The number of stills doubled in 1963, malting floors were removed, but the good times were not to last. In 1982, the distillery was mothballed for two years and, when it re-opened, production levels were kept low.

Bunnahabhain had always played a vital role in the whisky blending industry and its products became an integral part of the Famous Grouse, Cutty Sark and eventually Black Bottle portfolio. By the end of the 1980s, it began to emerge as a single malt which was advertised with the memorable tagline 'the unpronounceable malt'.

It now enjoys great popularity in a number of African countries and goes down a treat in Taiwan.

In 2003, the Edrington Group sold the distillery to Burn Stewart Distillers who were owned by the Trinidad conglomerate C L Financial. When they crashed, the receivers sold Burn Stewart four years ago to the African multinational drinks group Distell, which is now Bunnahabhain's parent company.

Like most others, the island distillery has had its ups and downs but it now happily continues to operate successfully under the banner of the Bunnahabhain Distillery Company.

### Remembering Fraser

THE untimely death in May

2015 of piper, whistle player and composer Fraser Shaw saddened all who knew this skilled musician and cast a gloom over those involved in the world of traditional Scottish music.

Following Fraser's passing, his family and musical friends set up a trust in his memory with the sole aim of raising money for and heightening the awareness of the relief of multiple sclerosis in general and in the Argyll region in particular.

Before his death he planned to release a compilation of his compositions with the proceeds going to the MC Care facility at Lochgilphead. Sadly, his progressive illness prevented him from doing so.

Over the past year the trust members have been working flat out to make Fraser's dream come true and are now happy to announce that a book and album featuring Fraser's playing and compositions are shortly to be released under the title Mac Ìle – The Music of Fraser Shaw.

This will be officially launched at a tribute concert in the Bruichladdich village hall in June which will feature a number of the musicians participating on the album. A similar launch will take place in Glasgow in August as part of the city's Piping Live! celebration.

**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810 658.**

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in p f b

# Join us and Stay Alive on the A85

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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THE message is simple – Stay Alive on the A85.

After years of carnage, near misses and lives changed forever, we have now set up an official campaign to have safety on the road between Oban and Connel improved.

Countless people have contacted the paper this week to say the campaign is long overdue and they will support it.

What has become clear is that what happens on the A85 changes lives forever. One reader who contacted the paper said that after being involved in a critical accident on the road his life had never been the same.

While remaining nameless at present, due to ongoing legal issues, he told the newspaper: 'I used to be able to do anything I wanted. I was not afraid of anything.'

'After being in hospital for months, my life has changed forever. When I sleep I still imagine things like my children being in the car, or being cut out and the noise from all the equipment.'

Newcastle-based Mary Blyth, 73, contacted *The Oban Times* after her son pointed out the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign. Mrs Blyth, who was visiting family in the area at the time of her accident some five years ago, said: 'I was driving along the road one evening in

## STAY Alive on the A85

dry weather. It was still light, when a minibus came straight for me. There was a huge crash. I can't really remember what happened. But, thankfully, both myself and the minibus driver were not injured.

'When we eventually got out of the car and the minibus, there were loads of people around trying to help us. But we needed to wait for emergency services.'

'The other driver's mobile phone didn't work properly and

there was difficulty in getting my car door open. But apart from that we were physically unscathed.

'As for the nightmares and the sleepless nights, I think that I am over them but then one happens again and I start being nervous and anxious all over again.'

'Unless you have been in an accident, you never really know what it is like. That night was the closest I have ever come to death. I don't want to go there again anytime soon.'

'It has made me a very cautious and anxious driver.'

Driver Alec Mitchell, from Oban, said he was 'sick and tired' of trying to get someone to listen to his concerns.

'It starts with a lack of double

white lines on the road so people cannot overtake.

'There are very few things that indicate that the town's biggest cemetery is around the next corner and folk might be crossing the road.'

Some of the ideas being considered by a panel of advisers, made up from local experts and emergency services, is to educate people on good driving in terms of the roads and conditions, setting a lower speed limit incrementally with a reduction to 40mph, increasing the length of the no overtaking double white lines, and installing average speed cameras along the entire length of the road from Tyndrum to Oban.

One adviser said the area

was about to go through major development with many houses proposed for the Dunbeg corridor to Ganavan. With no out-of-town supermarkets, the majority of people will be making their way into Oban for shopping.

With so many extra homes over the next three to five years, the urgency to have the road updated is even more important, it was suggested.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by Louise Glen and David McPhee who can be contacted via obantimes.co.uk or on 01631 568000.

Next week we launch the online petition, so watch the website and social media for updates.

BETWEEN Friday and Monday, March 24 and 27, the play park at Menzies House, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban, was damaged by having equipment and fences vandalised. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

**ABOUT 6pm on Tuesday March 28 a man aged 35 was allegedly driving at excessive speed on the A85 at Arrivain, near Tyndrum. The man was stopped and charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.**

BETWEEN 5pm on Wednesday March 29 and 1pm on Thursday March 30, in Rockfield Road, Tobermory, a window on a parked ice-cream van was smashed. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

**ABOUT 2am on Saturday April 1, in Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man was assaulted. Police investigated and a man aged 27 was arrested and charged with assault. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.**

ABOUT 9.20pm on Sunday April 2, the window of a house in McKelvie Road, Oban was smashed by someone throwing a stone at the window. 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 555 111.

**ANYONE with information in relation to these incidents can call police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

## Hope launches tin campaign

AN OBAN charity has launched a campaign to get people to donate unwanted tins of food.

Hope Kitchen, which also acts as a food bank, is urging Obanites to Take in a Tin, so it can use them to feed vulnerable people in the town.

Hope helped to feed 93 people with its food parcels in February, not including the 40 or so people fed on a daily basis at its premises.

Beth Campbell, who works for the charity, said Hope's storage cupboard was starting to get a bit depleted, so volunteers thought of the campaign.

She said: 'We thought, we won't be able to fill these parcels and if we don't, I don't know what would happen to the people. It's for people who are elderly or don't have much money or are disabled. We keep them going.'

'Everyone has stuff in their cupboard that they are not going to use - bring it in here and we will use it. If it's something that someone won't use, then I make something with it in here.'

'People can bring us anything in a

jar, a tin or in a dried packet.'

Hope makes sure that its parcels are equipped with ingredients that will allow people to create a meal. For example, pasta is always partnered with a sauce.

Manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'What has happened was that we got a lot of food donations in at Christmas and a lot of it went out at Christmas in the 50 food boxes we sent.'

'We still had lots of tins leftover. However, in February we gave out 36 food parcels which fed 93 people - 47 children and 46 adults.'

'Most of our stock went out in February, where we fed almost double the amount of people that we did in January.'

'I thought up the "Take in a Tin" campaign to see if people could spare a tin of anything for us.'

'With a local population of 10,000 that could be a lot of tins - we're supporting people from Mull as well as locally.'

If anyone has a spare tin, packet or jar, it can be donated at the Hope Kitchen on Argyll Street, Oban.



Hope's Beth Campbell shows off some of the donations that they have had so far.

## Dealer is jailed for six months

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to six months in prison for dealing crack cocaine.

James Hendry, 35, of 1 Hill Street, Oban, pleaded not guilty to a charge of supplying crack cocaine and a second charge of supplying diamorphine to a woman at the rear of Shuna Terrace, Soroba, on October 20, 2016.

PC Paul MacMillan, the first witness called by procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty, told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday March 29 that he was on plainclothes patrol with DC Alisdair Dewar at 9.30pm that night when he saw the woman waiting outside Shuna Terrace with a mobile telephone.

Citing 'significant intelligence', PC MacMillan said: 'We both formed the opinion she was in the area to source drugs.'

'I heard her say, "James, is that you?" I then saw a male meet [her] outside number 22.'

Mr McGinty asked: 'Who was it?'

'James Hendry,' PC MacMillan said.

'He took something out of his pocket and gave it to [her]. I took it that James Hendry was supplying [her] with drugs.'

'We detained her. Before being asked, she said she had some crack on her, which she produced.'

During a search at Oban police office, the court heard, she said: 'I got this off James Hendry.'

The court was then told a wrap of crack cocaine, weighing 1.3g, was found in her jacket pocket, and two 1g wraps of brown powder, identified as diamorphine, were found in her bra.

Giving evidence, the woman said: 'I went to Shuna Terrace to see James. James Hendry.'

'Which did you get from James?' asked Mr McGinty.

'The crack,' she replied.

'But not the heroin?' he asked.

'No,' she said. 'I do not remember where I got the heroin. I know that James Hendry was effectively asking me to carry drugs on his behalf.'

A third witness, DC Alisdair Dewar, confirmed £640 in cash was found on Hendry in his wallet, for which Hendry gave officers no explanation.

Mr McGinty said a search also found a set of weighing scales. 'The items found at his home address are indicative of someone concerned in the supply of drugs,' he summed up.

Defence agent Eamonn

McGeehan pointed to the witness's 'radically different' account of the exchange in her statement. 'Your ladyship had to be satisfied that Paul MacMillan saw what he said he saw,' he said. 'We have two very different versions of the transaction.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'The fact there are these discrepancies adds to the reliability of the police officer.'

Addressing Hendry, Sheriff Anderson said: 'I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt of your guilt to charge one, and I convict you.'

Mr McGeehan said: 'A community payback order would allow the drug problem to be addressed.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Hendry to six months' imprisonment, and ordered the forfeit of the £640.

## New charging points for electric vehicles

TWO new electric vehicle charging points have been installed at Argyll College UHI in Oban, just in time for the arrival of two new vehicles adding to its fleet of electric cars.

The charging facility is open to anyone with an electric vehicle and will be free to all users for the next 12 months.

The college currently has three Nissan Leaf electric cars. Last week it learned it had been successful in applying for an additional £35,864.94 from the Scottish Government's Switched on Fleets funding to add another Leaf and a Mitsubishi hybrid.

College estates manager Elaine Clark said: 'Money is saved on fuel costs, which we estimate is approximately £1,600 per electric vehicle per year, and we will soon have five of them.'

'Installing the charging points and leasing an additional electric car is just the latest step in our drive to make Argyll College UHI as clean and as green as possible.'

'Argyll College UHI currently generates electricity at three of its learning centres, through solar panels in its Oban HQ, Dunoon and Lochgilphead bases. Together, these provide

10 per cent of the organisation's annual electricity needs. There is also a wind turbine at the construction, engineering and renewables centre in Lochgilphead.'

ScotRail is also installing a new, free-to-use charging point at Oban train station.



Argyll College UHI students Martin Henriksen, left, and Jamie Summers next to a new charging point.

## Council forced into U-turn over meeting

AN EMERGENCY meeting for councillors to discuss a 'weak' report into the state of education management in Argyll and Bute Council has been called.

Initially, council officers refused to hold the meeting, but after nine councillors petitioned against the decision the meeting will be held tomorrow (Friday April 7).

James Robb, the elected member who co-ordinated support for the council special meeting, said: 'Allowing councillors a meeting to discuss serious issues would be normal in any other council but it is news in Argyll and Bute.'

'[After my request] the chief executive opposed it, the council leader opposed it, the acting executive director of education opposed it and the provost refused it. A small victory for democracy and my thanks to colleagues who supported me in this.'

An archaic rule in the council is that if elected members want to hold a meeting they must get support from at least nine councillors.

A notice sent to all councillors from 'council manage-



Councillor James Robb won support from other members.

ment' reads: 'I have received notice from a sufficient number of Members in terms of Council Standing Order 1.3.2 to arrange a Special Meeting of the Council.'

Standing Order 1.3.2 reads: 'One-fourth of the members of the council want one [a meeting] to be held; if they do, they must all sign a notice which must be given to the Executive Director - Customer Services and the notice must set out the business which these members wish the council to consider at that meeting.'

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## WHITE VAN Man

### New dawn after council elections?

WE WILL soon come to the end of a chapter in local politics. Next month we vote for a new council.

The candidates have made themselves known. If you are saying, 'I didn't see that coming' in reference to some of the candidates, I don't know that I really believe you. Very interesting to see some oldies back on the list.

No matter what, the old council did not please everyone, nor will the newly elected council, but before they part, one or two changes are on the horizon.

The area committee voted with no abstentions to put new traffic plans in place in Gallanach Road, the Esplanade, beyond the cathedral and at Atlantis car park. The proposals are as follows.

\* Gallanach Road to just beyond the sailing club will be metered.

\* The Esplanade from beyond the cathedral to the war memorial will be metered.

\* At Atlantis car park, the first two hours will be free parking, after which it will be metered by the hour.

These proposals will go to public consultation and, to hand a bone back to the public, proposals to allow one to two hours' free parking in George Street have yet to be confirmed.

So what will the impact be? Gallanach is an area

frequently used by CalMac ferry staff, who are berthed in Oban for two weeks at a time. Crew were advised to vacate to Atlantis car park. This is now looking doubtful, as parking charges are imminent.

So it's back to CalMac. Where do ferry crews go? The situation at Oban ferry



terminal is bedlam with the pier extremely busy due to RET (Road Equivalent Tariff), so much so that crew parking was removed from the pier.

The Esplanade beyond the cathedral. Due to Ganavan losing its identity as a free car park, many tourists with caravans use this area as a car park. Are we going to chase tourists away?

And, finally, Atlantis. Owing to severe lack of free parking around Oban, Atlantis will no longer offer the opportunity for locals and tourists alike to park for any length of time without incurring charges.

Do we chase people away? Will tourists visiting the town drive in one end and out the other? It all remains to be seen.

Failte? Not yet. Not by a long mark.

### Wedded bliss

THE legendary Robbie Shepherd presented *Take The Floor* every Saturday night on BBC Radio Scotland for 35 years.

On his retirement last year, Gary Innes from Spean Bridge took over in the hot seat.

This Saturday, however, Gary takes the floor at his own wedding.

Good luck to you and your bride-to-be and thank you for making such a grand job of *Take The Floor*.

# Traffic plan will cause chaos on railway pier

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN 'ILL-THOUGHT-OUT' plan to limit the number of vehicles using Oban Railway Pier will see vans circling until they can gain access to the only delivery area serving some of the busiest outlets in town, says an entrepreneur.

Watts fishmongers, Wetherspoons, the Waterfront Fishhouse, Yu Wu, The Olive Garden, two fish takeaways and other retail outlets have been negotiating with CMAL and CalMac over a one-way system on the pier for a number of years - but the final outcome does not meet the approval of all the parties involved.

Callum MacLachlaine, who

has various business interests on the pier, says the one-way system for vehicles is not required.

Mr MacLachlaine said: 'There were plans to limit traffic on the pier when the queues for the ferry were backed up all the way to the woollen mill.'

'CalMac said only one lorry will be allowed on the pier at a time as it is only providing one space in the delivery bay for lorries. Most of our deliveries are lorries, and not cars or smaller vehicles.'

'But ask anyone who is regularly on the pier last year. The queues were not there any more because of the hourly ferry to Mull.'

'We have many deliveries over the course of the day to keep

our businesses running smoothly. Many of these people are making trips from elsewhere to Oban and every minute counts for drivers to get all their work done.'

'We've been told that if there is no space on the pier they will be asked to drive around town until there is space. I can't imagine that any business will want to deliver to any of the pier businesses if that is the case.'

'We were keen to look at a solution for the problems that do exist on the pier but after months and months of negotiation we were given the final decision and it simply didn't meet anyone's needs.'

CMAL, which owns the pier, said: 'The Oban Traffic Management Scheme is being

implemented by the Oban harbour operator, CalMac Ferries Limited (CFL).'

A spokeswoman for CalMac added: 'The assertion that only one vehicle will be allowed on the pier at any time is completely incorrect. This was discussed previously and discounted at a consultation meeting with the tenants.'

'The new traffic plan includes physical alterations to create a specific delivery bay, which will help to alleviate any potential conflicts.'

'It is also worth noting that we regard pedestrian and cyclist safety as paramount in this area, and that our plans follow specific guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive in this regard.'

## TIMESLINE Dunbeg ecologist secures funding

A MARINE ecologist from Oban will be travelling to Germany and the USA to study efforts to improve the general public's understanding of science by involving them in scientific research.

Dr Hannah Grist, who works at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, was awarded funding from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

Churchill fellows must be UK citizens aged 18 or over, but no qualifications are required.

## Light of India closes for good

IT WAS the end of an era last week when Oban's Light of India curry house shut its doors for the last time.

The business was established in the early 1980s and had become a firm favourite among locals and visitors to the town.

Former staff told *The Oban Times* it was impossible to get workers for the business with the correct skills to cook Indian cuisine.

The restaurant's owner, Abdul Mohamed, died last year, bringing to an end many years of his family's association with the town.

## Talk to Kay about events in Oban

NEXT week Kay McDonald from Bid4Oban will be updating Oban Times' readers with what is happening in the town from a tourism and business perspective.

Kay is one of a number of town centre ambassadors who work throughout the tourist season to 'help' visitors feel more welcome in the town.

Last year Bid4Oban talked to more than 40,000 people offering advice on directions, what to do in the town and, of course, where the toilets are.

Anyone interested in talking to Kay can contact her at kay@bid4oban.co.uk or on social media at Bid4Oban worker.

## Resident blasts 'terrible' bins system

OBAN'S waste collection system woes continue, despite council leader Dick Walsh's claim that the new three-weekly bins programme has 'on the whole worked well'.

A resident of Combie Court complained last week that drivers were dumping rubbish in the 24 flats' five shared bins, causing them to overflow and attract vermin.

'I have seen cars coming up at night and dumping rubbish in our bin, because their bins are overflowing,' he said.

'[Our] bins are overflowing and the bin men are refusing to give us another bin.'

'There are bags on the ground. We have got mice out at the bin area. There have been rats seen. It is terrible.'

'Every three weeks they empty the bins, but we have two weeks to go. We desperately need something done.'



People living in Combie Court have witnessed drivers dumping rubbish and now there are rats.

After the resident contacted Argyll and Bute Council, the bins were emptied on the Sat-

urday, but he said: 'It will just be the same next week and the week after that.'

'There are not enough bins to do the 24 flats. We need more bins.'

## Red Nose Day fun

■ Park Primary School, right, raised £242 for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. The pupils all wore something red.

The school had a Red Nose Day assembly with performances from P7 and P5 samba bands and a Red Nose Day clan quiz.

■ Below right, an Oban childminder took her youngsters on a sponsored walk last Thursday from Ganavan to Dunbeg and back to raise money for Comic Relief.

Siobhan Stephen and her pair of two-year-old girls completed the course with a smile. The three raised £107 in total and sponsors are still coming in.

■ Below, Taynuilt Primary School's boys and girls enjoyed raising cash for Red Nose Day.



## Young vandals damage Soroba swing park

CAMERON GRAY  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

SOROBA community groups were 'saddened' after 'senseless' vandals damaged a children's swing park.

Vandals ripped up the soft tarmac flooring under the swing set, twisted and removed fence rungs and pulled benches out the ground which were bolted down.

Soroba Community Centre in Oban said on its Facebook page: 'Very sad to see the newly laid safety Tarmac ripped up and strewn outside the play area. Rubbish left lying about too. This area is for everyone's enjoyment but is being ruined by some senseless individuals.'

Vivian Ritz, the community caretaker for Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), has had to do a daily safety check following the incident. The acts of



Caretaker Vivian Ritz in the vandalised play park.

vandalism started over the weekend and became worse on Monday last week, during the period of sunny weather.

Vivian said: 'It's really well used. That's why it is so upsetting.'

'There's a younger group

that are just rascals, but there is an older group who are vandals.'

'The bigger ones who do it know full well what they are doing. They are causing mayhem and danger.'

'The younger ones do not

see the bigger picture, that someone has to pay for it.'

Vivian said ACHA was in 'a running battle for the fence' adding, 'I do not know how many rungs we have had to replace. During the summer, it's weekly.'

The swing has had to be cable tied to the frame as it would be unsafe for children to use and it could be some time before repairs are made. Vivian said: 'Because of the nature of the stuff, we are going to have to get someone up from Glasgow. It will be expensive.'

Soroba Young Family Group also experienced a similar incident after returning to the playgroup following the weekend as sand had been flung around its outdoor play-space. CCTV footage revealed that a group of children had scattered the sand and two boys were caught lying on the playhouse roof.

The garden was grant-funded by Tesco's Bags of Help scheme and is used for different learning and activity opportunities.

The group is hoping to share the space with the community and develop it into a garden area where children can grow vegetables.

The group shared its disappointment on Facebook: 'We continually urge you to make sure your children are not damaging the nursery garden.'

'This may be "just sand" but it means time out of our nursery day to clean it up before our own children can go out to play. It also means a lack of respect for our property and resources.'

The group urged parents to remind children that CCTV cameras were in operation and to 'please have a word' with them if they recognised the culprits.

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# 'Worst road in Argyll' to be fixed

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS of Taynuilt are 'putting out the bunting' after hearing that repairs are to be made to the main road through the village.

The road has been described as the 'worst in Argyll' because of its state of disrepair for years. But as of next week it is finally going to get the makeover it needs.

The community council has raised the matter on a number of occasions and can finally say it will be resolved.

Work begins on Tuesday April 18 for three nights between



7pm and 7am with overnight road closures in place for safety, and height restrictions in place with diversion routes for vehicles over 13ft 9ins (4.2m).

The £30,000 improvements will resurface a 200m section of the A85 through Taynuilt and

this will repair any defects in the surface, creating a smoother, quieter and safer road through the village.

A spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland said: 'Due to the restricted width of the A85 at this location, a road closure is required to ensure the safety of roadworkers as well as the travelling public.'

'The A85 will be closed each night through Taynuilt from 7pm to 7am, with a diversion in place for trunk road traffic via the A82 at Tyndrum, A828 Ballachulish and A85 at Connel. The road will be open during the day.'

'Unfortunately, this diversion

route is subject to a height restriction of 13ft 9ins (4.2m) at Connel Bridge and as such will be unsuitable for vehicles exceeding this.

'Vehicles in excess of this restriction are encouraged to plan an alternative route during these overnight works. Alternatively, vehicles exceeding 13ft 9ins (4.2m) may proceed along the A85 where they will be stacked and escorted through the works at Taynuilt when it is safe to do so.'

'Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times, and local access only for Taynuilt village will be maintained when it is safe to

pass through the work area.

'Consultation has been carried out with local residents, businesses, transport operators, the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association to inform them of the plans.'

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, added: 'The resurfacing improvements will help address the defects on the road through Taynuilt and greatly improve the surface for motorists.'

'We've planned the works to take place overnight and are avoiding working at the weekends to limit the impact on residents and motorists.'

## £20m gap in funding for Argyll social care

ARGYLL and Bute faces a £20 million budget gap in health and social care over the next two years.

And Campbeltown's Auchinlee care home will need a further £300,000 to save it for a year, health officials have reported.

The figures were revealed as the body which manages the region's health and social care services, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), met last Wednesday.

The IJB's chief financial officer, Caroline Whyte, disclosed a budget gap of £11 million for 2017-18, and £9 million for 2018-19, and asked the IJB to approve the proposed Quality and Finance Plan for 2017-19, which would deliver savings of £11.6 million in that period. She also projected a year-end overspend of £700,000 for 2016-17.

The IJB also discussed a plan to save Auchinlee care home from closing for a year, which would require £291,000.

In December, its owner CrossReach, a social care charity linked to the Church of Scotland and the HSCP, stated it was unsustainable due to six-figure losses, including the high cost of recruiting agency workers to cover staff shortages in a rural area. An eleventh-hour reprieve in mid-December postponed a final decision for three months, after CrossReach and the HSCP agreed to share the losses.

At a crunch meeting at Kilmory Castle, Lochgilhead, in February, the parties agreed a transitional period was required to develop a local alternative for the existing relatives and this should be in place by March 31, 2018. They also agreed that 'none of the existing residents, subject to their individual needs and client choice, should have their placements outside Kintyre'.

The IJB's March meeting agreed two priorities: that residents 'will not be moved out of area unless it is their wish', and the HSCP would 'do all it can to protect the jobs and staff in the area'.

Lorraine Paterson, head of adult services (west), said £291,000 would be needed to support CrossReach with operating costs until the end of March 2018, which could be funded either by approaching Argyll and Bute Council for a one-off payment, or by adding it to the Quality and Finance Plan for 2017-18, which would require savings in other services.

## Green for go outside

HOPE 2 OBAN held its first Green Shoots open day of the season on Saturday at Glenruitten House's walled garden.

The Green Shoots project, which started in 2014 near Oban, 'provides a space for all to develop skills and experience the many benefits associated with being outside, meeting people, growing fruit and vegetables, and eating locally grown, healthy produce', its website explains.

Green Shoots co-ordinator Catriona Petit, who runs the project with her husband John, said: 'We help people who have special needs or who are in periods of unemployment. We have activity agreements for people who leave school as a way into further work or training.'

'It is based on what people want to do. During the week we make tables and benches out of wood from the woodlands, build pathways, they can grow their own vegetables - it's really different every day of the week. Any community groups can come up for a plot.'

Visitors are invited to an open garden day once a month from April to September, and another at Christmas. Last Saturday children - and adults - got busy putting strawberry plants in old welly boots, following a hungry caterpillar trail, and enjoying homemade cakes, jam and vegetable soup from the garden.

Previously Oban High School children and volunteers from the Lorne Resource Centre had built a sculpture in front of a new 'herb spiral' made of slate, and elsewhere in the garden were a wormery and composting toilet.

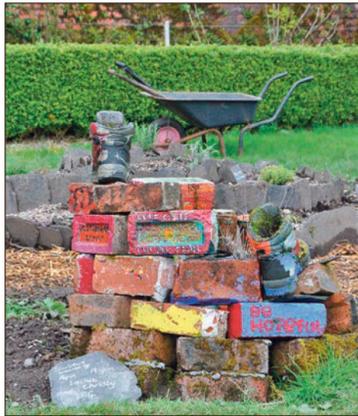
Green Shoots recently received £12,000 from Tesco's Bags for Life campaign to add another poly tunnel and improve disabled access. The website invites: 'It is a garden for all so if you have ideas or would like to use the garden then please get in touch. The future of the garden is immensely exciting.'



Maisie Edwards, front, and Arran MacGregor planted strawberries, helped by Catriona Petit.



Ros McFarlane, left, with Anna Ainscough and sons Wesley, one, and Finlay, four.



A colourful brick and boot sculpture with the new slate 'herb spiral' behind.



Joanne Watson and her one-year-old niece Ruby Bullock.



Catriona Petit with Ceitidh Garvin, nine, decorating slates.

## Atlantis girls go tribal at gathering



A 'TRIBE' of Atlantis Leisure fitness instructors travelled to Glasgow earlier this month to hone their skills.

Eight instructors made the trip for the Les Mills Tribal Gathering, taking part in different classes and sessions.

The girls said they had a great and sweaty time, as well as seeing teammate Katie Galbraith make her debut on stage shadowing Body Step.

The Tribal Gathering took place in the Kelvin Hall on Saturday March 4.

Atlantis Leisure instructors attend two upskilling events per year to maintain and improve their qualifications, as well as learning new routines and exercises every three months to keep up to date.

## Exciting season beckons

WITH summer almost upon us, it's great to see our beaches looking so good and it's all thanks to the fantastic volunteers from Hope Kitchen, writes Bid4Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald.

As a thank you to Oban for the support it receives, Hope Kitchen has been sending hardy volunteers down to clean the beaches on Wednesday mornings, come rain or shine, and they've also tackled the shortcut from Tesco to High Street.

The visible difference this makes to the town makes us all feel better - those who can see the results of their hard work and those who can enjoy looking at the beaches and not having the view marred by rubbish.

If anyone should feel moved to volunteer, just turn up at Hope Kitchen at 10am any

Wednesday. It's a very rewarding and relaxing thing to do, out in the fresh air, having a blether and some light physical exercise. What could be better?

I'm really looking forward to this summer. So much is happening: there are new cruise ships visiting, Oban Live, Bid4Oban local markets, Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival, to name a few, and hopefully some sunshine to enhance it all.

This year we'll have no orange barriers to spoil the enjoyment of our lovely new pavements and there will be room for everyone to enjoy our beautiful wee town.

A wee challenge as you go about your business: can you identify where in Oban this photo was taken?

You'll have to wait until next week to find out.



### There is a science to choosing the right window or door for your house

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OT

Islay

A WELL-KNOWN traditional Gaelic singer visited Islay and Jura primary schools to teach pupils about the Gaelic language.

Linda MacLeod visited five schools to teach the children local place names through songs.

The visit was part of the arts, education and language Fèisgheil programme which draws on the Go! Gaelic initiative that aims to provide teachers with the knowledge to bring Gaelic into the classroom.

Linda attended Port Charlotte, Bowmore, Port Ellen and Keills primary schools on Islay and Small Isles Primary School on Jura over four days.

Port Charlotte class teacher Maggie MacLellan said the programme was 'a brilliant opportunity', adding: 'The great thing is we don't have to go anywhere, which costs a fortune.'

Donald W Morrison, chief executive of Stòrlann Naiseanta na Gàidhlig, which created the Go! Gaelic programme, said this work by Fèisgheil was 'an excellent example of how Gaelic organisations can work together for the furtherance and promotion of Gaelic acquisition in Scotland'.

Inveraray

CHAIRMAN Niall Iain MacLean welcomed a near capacity crowd to the Inveraray Inn for the March meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Supporting players were in short supply but stalwarts Fyne Folk got the evening under way with Sally Hall, Jake MacKay and Alex John MacLeod on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. They were followed by Geoff and Margaret Burton from the Campsie club on accordion and keyboard. Jake and Agnes were again on hand with the 'moothie' and keyboard and all their tunes were much enjoyed.

Guest artistes were the Ian Muir Trio with Ian on accordion, Marie Fielding on fiddle and Neil MacMillan on keyboard. They treated the audience to a variety of sets, including two solos from Marie – the haunting airs *Hector the Hero* and *Leaving Lerwick Harbour*, beautifully played, followed by cracking reels.

After the final set of reels from the band, the chairman thanked all the artistes for a great night.

The club now looks forward to the welcome return of Kilberry man Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band for the grand finale of the season on Wednesday April 12 in the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray, at 8pm.



Coll Primary School pupils raised £550 for Comic Relief.

Coll pupils raise £550 for Comic Relief

THE 11 pupils at Arinagour Primary School on the isle of Coll have raised more than £550 for Comic Relief.

School staff said: 'That's more than £50 per child. For a tiny school on a tiny island, we are so proud of our pupils' efforts and would like to thank the locals who were so generous, as well as the parents who supported many aspects of our fundraising.'

'We started with a non-uniform day on Friday March 24. We then had generous donations of cakes and raffle prizes for a huge bake sale on Saturday March 25. The pupils arranged all the activities themselves, including advertising, letters to parents, sweepstakes, sales of merchandise and baking.'

'The children were sponsored by locals to do jobs and have put out rubbish, potted plants, walked dogs, recycled and generally helped people. Some were also sponsored to take part in a mini talent show.'

Doors re-open at Lochawe pub after five years

A LOCH AWE pub that has lain empty for almost five years re-opened last Friday under a new name.

The Tight Line, which was a focal point of the community for more than half a century, closed its doors in 2012 after falling into decline.

Now called the Ben Cruachan Inn, it also offers accommodation after the owners, Candleriggs Development, extended the building and built five bedrooms.

Tracey Peedle, project manager, said: 'We would drive by and see what a state it was in and think how sad it was and how great it would be to bring it back to life. It's important to us that this is a welcoming place for locals and visitors. It is accessible for all abilities.'



Staff of the Ben Cruachan Inn enjoy a drink in the new bar.

The building was initially converted from a stable block to accommodate staff. From the late 1950s

onwards, it was filled with workers who were building Cruachan dam and power station.

Alan Campbell, a Lochawe resident, lived upstairs in the Tight Line as a child in the late 1960s when his

mother Mary managed the adjacent cafe. There was a boom in the late seventies and early eighties when Cruachan was being refurbished. And for a long time after that you couldn't get in on a Saturday at 5pm.

'Bus-loads would come from Glasgow in the morning and be dropped off at different points around the loch. They would then all make their way back to the Tight Line to be picked up.'

'Though Mr Campbell has fond memories of the old Tight Line, he is positive about what the new pub can bring to the village.'

'I think its a good thing Lochawe will have a pub again,' he added. 'The fact the Ben Cruachan Inn is starting from scratch is fantastic. It's a chance to win people over.'

Prestigious medal for Oban beekeeper

THE president of Oban and District Beekeeping Association has received a prestigious accolade for his work in the community.

Phil Moss was presented with the Scottish Beekeepers' Local Association Medal at its recent annual general meeting.

Phil kept bees for many years in Hampshire before he retired to Oban more than 20 years ago.

When he moved to the town he started keeping the local Scottish Black Bee – a more hardy subspecies that has adapted to the wetter conditions.

He has helped many beekeepers in the area and is often called out to collect swarms and to remove bees from buildings and re-house them in hives.

A statement from the Oban and district club read: '[Phil] has been our president for a number of years. He is a mentor to many of us, running a number of courses on everything from queen rearing to swarm control.'

'He has given his time tirelessly to groups and individuals over the years, giving lectures to our group and other groups all over the UK. He also runs teaching sessions at our monthly meetings, to promote the love and care of bees nationwide.'

'He has increased the membership of our club during his time on the committee. He often represents our club at Scottish Beekeepers' Association meetings.'

Anyone interested in finding out more or taking up beekeeping should attend a club meeting on Thursday April 13 at 7pm in the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban.



Medal winner Phil Moss, president of Oban and District Beekeeping Association.

Seil

VOLUNTEERS from the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust gathered on Friday March 17 to celebrate the completion of a major refit and upgrade in the Slate Islands Visitor Centre in Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.

Twenty centre volunteers enjoyed light refreshments, while chatting with colleagues who devoted many hours to the extensive works. The much improved and re-modelled premises were admired by everyone.

Mike Shaw, chairman of the trustees, congratulated everyone concerned, while drawing attention to new displays, improved lighting and new carpets, set off by a complete redecoration.

Particular mention was made of Jim Watson, chief executive, who had orchestrated the work, helped by a small band of skilled but unpaid helpers.

Centre curator Alice Clayton and Mary Withall were also congratulated on the expert combination of new research and ever more interesting displays.

Recent interest and enthusiasm for the new look suggests a busy season lies ahead.



Left to right: Mike Shaw chairman of the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust, Christine Watson, Jim Watson CEO, and new trustee Isobelle Smith.

Islanders' appeal for less secrecy over Seil sewage proposals

SEIL islanders are asking Scottish Water (SW) to be less secretive about its sewage plans.

A member of the eight-strong local stakeholder group, Anne Marie Robin, told fellow Seil community councillors last Tuesday it was working hard with SW to achieve a 'fit-for-purpose' treatment plant that does not damage the amenity of the island or its people, or pollute the marine environment.'

SW proposed three options in

January to replace its leaking £11m Clachan Seil Waste Water Works. The group unanimously chose option 1A, which would replace it with a septic tank/submerged aerated filter/UV in the valley running up from Balvicar to the Ardencaple Road, 'hidden, secluded, and well away from houses'.

'The outfall pipe in [Balvicar] bay will remain in use,' Ms Robin continued, with a standalone septic tank installed for eight houses at

Seaview. 'Although we regret not being able to share much of the negotiations to date, we would appreciate support and trust from the meeting in our promotion of this option.'

The meeting also heard 'it is going to cost £4m, or thereby'.

One resident said he was happy to endorse the committee, if he could view all three options. Councillor Elaine Robertson agreed: 'I would not expect anyone to endorse any-

thing they do not know about. They are not giving enough information. It is putting the stakeholders into a very difficult position.'

Another resident said: 'The stakeholder group has been very unhappy with this requirement of secrecy. It is from SW that we are told not to give full details.'

Councillors resolved to raise these concerns with SW at the next stakeholder meeting on Monday April 24.

Dalavich hydro scheme £300k short as deadline looms

DALAVICH'S community hydro scheme is £300,000 short of its share sale target, with the deadline looming on Sunday April 30.

The project has so far raised £100,000 since its public sale began in January, to raise £400,000 of the £1.2 million needed to build the eco-venture on the River Avich.

Last year a small team of local volunteers set up a community benefit society, Awesome Energy (Dalriada) Ltd, 'to build a 350kW run-of-river hydro scheme, install a microgrid fed by the hydro and manage the supply and demand of the renewable scheme for the benefit of the community'.

Local support is high, they say, 'with 90 per cent of voters backing the scheme. The

scheme will also generate average profits of more than £80,000 a year over the first 20 years, which can be channelled directly into community projects. A target interest rate of four per cent means investors can contribute to the clean energy campaign, reducing CO2 emissions and pollution and gain a great return on their investment.'

The project has been funded by a loan from the Scottish Government CARES renewable energy scheme. The share offer is open to everyone, with a minimum investment of £250. For more information on how to invest, visit the Awesome Energy website or contact info@awesome-energy.co.uk.



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Volunteers in the new look Connel surgery coffee shop.

Connel surgery coffee shop back in business

CONNEL surgery's coffee shop is open for business again after a refurbishment.

The coffee shop, which has been in operation since 1999, is run by 24 volunteers, with all profits donated to a charitable trust run by Taynuilt Medical Practice, which makes grants to local organisations.

The upgrade was carried out by local joiner Richard Bergant. All the units were bought from Howdens in Oban which, said

one volunteer, Ann Colthart, 'were most helpful with the planning and design of the new layout'.

She added: 'We hope people will come in to see the new layout and enjoy the friendly service offered by our helpers.'

The coffee shop is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome, not just those people visiting the surgery.

**At Random**

**We can win road campaign**  
 THERE was an immediate and gratifying response to our new campaign to improve safety on the A85 between Oban and Connel. After we launched the vital campaign in last week's *Oban Times*, Inspector Mark Stephen called to thank us for our initiative and many readers were in touch to voice support for what we are doing. As we reported last week, at least 11 people have died and numerous others have been injured – many of them catastrophically – since the year 2000 on that stretch of road. Furthermore, buses often cannot stop at the gates of Pennyfuir cemetery because it is unsafe to drop-off or pick up passengers trying to visit their loved ones. Repeated attempts to have the statutory bodies responsible for the road to implement increased safety measures have failed because those who hold the purse-strings deem it not important enough. Meanwhile, countless millions of pounds are spent on roads in the central belt. It is little short of scandalous. Our demands are three-fold, simple and inexpensive: reduce the speed limit on the road, paint double white lines to prevent overtaking and create a lay-by at the cemetery. With regard to the last demand, the space is already there – it requires only the will to remove the kerbs and grass to allow buses to pull in. With the tourist season imminent, the A85 will soon be busier than ever and, if history teaches us anything, there will be more accidents and more deaths. That is unacceptable. I think this is a campaign we can win. Even more than that, it is a cause we simply cannot afford to lose.

**M&S food store excitement**  
 SELDOM have I seen such excitement as there was in our office not long ago about the possibility of Marks and Spencer opening in Oban. So I assume there will be similar eager anticipation in Fort William after the retailer was granted a licence to sell alcohol in its Simply Food shop which is scheduled to open in the town later this year. M&S has said in recent times it is looking at the viability of an Oban food outlet. Anything which improves competition is generally good for the punter on the street, so bring it on.

**Good news for islanders**  
 TWO STORIES last week gave me cause for pleasure. One was the campaign being fought on Raasay to save the island's community hall, while the other was the granting of planning permission for new affordable housing on Colonsay. In the case of Raasay, local people face a tough challenge as they need somewhere north of £18,000 to bring the hall, a crucial amenity for island life, back to a fit condition for public use. For Colonsay, despite there being a number of objections, Argyll and Bute Council was right to approve the new homes, as there is a desperate shortage of affordable housing on the island. What both share, of course, is the dispiriting problem of depopulation, a blight on many remote communities, let alone in the islands. Anything that makes a vibrant community more viable gets a thumbs up from me.

**What do you think?**  
 LET ME know by writing to me at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or email mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

MARTIN LAING  
 mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

# An independent thinker who shaped his destiny

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S national bard Robert Burns praises 'the man o' independent mind' in his Scots song *A Man's A Man For A' That* – a line that well describes Ian Hamilton QC, who has challenged the establishment for three-quarters of a century, and still has much to say.

Whether he likes it or not – and he doesn't – Ian Hamilton is most famous, and probably always will be, for jamming open the oak door of Westminster Abbey on Christmas Eve 1950, beside Alan Stuart and the late Kay Matheson and Gavin Vernon, to 'steal', or 'liberate', the Stone of Destiny from the Coronation Chair.

This symbol of Scottish sovereignty, a 336lb slab of sandstone on which Scotland's ancient kings were crowned, was removed from Scone Abbey to England by Edward I in 1296, and did not return until the quartet drove it across the border 654 years later, lifting them, for some, to the status of national icons. Hamilton was charged, but never prosecuted, and the Stone was repatriated to Edinburgh Castle in 1996.

Their audacious amateur heist, told in Ian's book *The Taking of the Stone of Destiny* and recently in a 2008 film *Stone of Destiny*, is a ripping tale, but to Hamilton himself it is 'a bore,' and fairly so: it was 66 years ago, and Ian has led many lives since.

Now 91, quietly retired to North Connel with his wife Jeanette, his books and dog Fleuch (meaning 'wet' or 'damp' in Gaelic), Ian has more than earned a right to the title 'man o' pairts' too. I want to find the common thread that explains his extraordinary life. I try to sum him up as a 'rebel', but the epithet is wrong. 'Rebels have causes,' he says. 'I have very few causes. I don't think it's a rebel mind. I think it's a curious mind.'

Ian Robertson Hamilton, the son of a merchant tailor, engaged in his first, and sole, protest aged just 14 while at school in Paisley, against being 'conscripted' to cheer the King and Queen on a visit to Clydeside. As a Glasgow law student, he began his legal career at the bar by challenging the Lord Advocate, raising a (failed) action with university rector and SNP leader 'King John' MacCormick, a fellow conspirator in taking the Stone, to recognise Queen Elizabeth II as Queen Elizabeth I in Scotland.



Ian Hamilton has been described as 'a caring, humane man of principle and integrity, who never compromised his principles'.

Ian rose to Queen's Counsel, but resigned from and rejoined the Faculty of Advocates twice, spending one gap as curator of the J M Barrie museum in Kirriemuir. Appointed a sheriff, he resigned again. 'I think I was the only one ever to resign,' he remembers.

'I had almost no power at all. There is a class of habitual petty criminal for whom we do nothing. What's the use of sending them to prison? What's the use of fining them? I am far from sure that the right way to deal with crime is to punish the criminal.'

'I want to see the redistribution of wealth in our country. Tax the rich, and use it to educate the poor. We spend far too much on university education, and not enough on primary and pre-school education, and that's the time when you can really make ideas stick. These people who appeared in front of me as sheriff, they didn't have a chance.'

One friend, celebrating Ian's 90th birthday, characterised him as a 'lifelong representative of the underdog, which he wears as a badge of honour, because in every context he sees the absence of effective opposition as dangerous'. Further, he is 'a caring, humane man of principle and integrity, who never compromised his principles, even when his own personal and professional best interests were on

the line. When [these] coincide life can be comfortable: when they are in fundamental conflict, then you find the measure of the man. Ian's principles have not changed, but the political climate has changed many of Ian's views from fringe minority to debatable mainstream'.

**“ Rebels have causes. I have very few causes ”**

Ian Hamilton

Hamilton's memory seems sharp, and his mind active, taking views on the dramatic changes shaking the world, expressed in the precise language of the legal profession where meanings matter, and simple storytelling as if persuading a jury of his case. You can read his full interview at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

Fraughtly must be frustrating for a man so active; he rode motorbikes into his eighties. Once kayaking the tidal race of Loch Etive, he was caught in a whirlpool below Connel surgery, and swam ashore to the Falls of Lora Hotel and a warm welcome from

the landlady, Jeanette. 'Her hotel wasn't really open,' he explained, 'but she was kind enough to make tea, and she's been doing it ever since. That's 44 years ago.'

Aged 50, he jumped off Connel Bridge for charity, armed with a rescue boat and advice from police divers. 'Water's hard when you hit it,' he recalls. 'You break the water with your feet, and you go through the same hole. If you do that, you're alright.'

Hamilton has written two autobiographies, *A Touch of Treason* and *A Touch More Treason*, and a play, *Tinkers of the World*, performed in 1957, which won the Foyle Prize – the following year's winner was Johnx Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*.

In *The Taking of the Stone of Destiny*, he reveals: 'I have always been afraid of the sameness of life in which each day is worn to a thinness, and night brings only the promise of an identical dawn. I wanted to make my life an adventure and already [1952] I was filling it with bright things ... I thought that morning that if I always sought adventure I could go on to the end without security. I would have a pageant in my mind of a life lived to the full. I would trade wealth for the richness of life itself even if it meant dying a pauper.'

I wondered what replays in that pageant in his mind, as he sits looking across the loch to

Cruachan. 'Oh, very little,' he replies. 'Just the fact I am lucky in my old age, but it does not stop me saying old is hellish. Nothing to do. Looking back, I feel I have done far, far, far too little.'

Pushed on what makes him most proud, he reflects: 'I think my independence of mind. Drawing my own conclusions from each set of facts as they are presented to me. I think too many people draw the accepted conclusions. I do have views which are not accepted views, but that is what education is all about. You're better to follow your own views, even if people disagree with them.'

Finally, I brave the question many would like me to ask: is the stone he returned to Arbroath Abbey the real Stone of Destiny? 'Well, it was the stone we took from Westminster,' he replies, acknowledging a possibility the Scots switched stones in 1296. 'I'll tell you how I know. An equerry came from the palace to ask the question you have asked. The way you can be sure is this, that until 150 years ago Westminster Abbey was illuminated by open fire, wicks, lanterns and lamps, which leave a deposit. All you have to do is scrape a bit off the surface of the Abbey round about it, put them under a comparison microscope and you will find that they are the same.'

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#MeetTheCairns

## MORVERN lines

### The Squire

I'M OFTEN asked why there are so few characters compared with 20 or 30 years ago.

How would you define a character? According to my dictionary, you would recognise one for his or her eccentricity and personality. That may have been so generally, but in the Highlands and Islands it means a great deal more.

A character is someone who has a genuine pride in their community, is unafraid to stand up and speak out, ask questions and goes quietly about doing acts of public service without looking for recognition or financial reward. Add wit, a few good stories, humour, a natural intelligence and a cheerful outlook on life, and you have it.

Where the characters have gone is not so easily answered. Local and national government must accept some of the blame in their unrelenting drive to dumb down the public; television, social networking and the diminution of local knowledge are other contributory factors.

Many wonderful characters have lived on Mull. One of the most popular was Mrs Maude Mary Cheape (1853-1919) affectionately known as 'the Squire' after she inherited the Bentley Estate in Worcestershire from her father – the previous squire. Her name became well known as a pony breeder, much-loved landowner and friend to many. The name is still in evidence on Mull and continues to be held in high esteem.



Squire Bentley and the SS Inniemore approaching Carsaig from a painting dated 1893.

The Cheapes arrived sometime in the 1860s and leased Ardura on the shores of Loch Spelve before going on to buy Carsaig, Inniemore and Tiroran from the Macleans of Pennycross. They gained a reputation, not by the authority of wealth, but by the way they engaged with the local community.

All of their employees and families were known to the Cheapes personally and were made to feel that he or she was a special friend – something almost unheard of among migratory Victorian landowners. The Mull folk truly worshipped the Squire, which was hardly surprising considering the following: when the Cheapes bought Carsaig, one of the many possessions they inherited was a 165-ton steamer called the SS Inniemore capable of carrying general cargo and 30 passengers. The



Squire really kept her going for the benefit of the islanders and for the convenience of those living in places where MacBrayne's ships often didn't call.

In order to offset the running costs, the Inniemore was placed in the hands of an agent and sailed from Glasgow every Wednesday at 1pm for Colonsay, Oban, Lochbuie, Carsaig, Iona, Bunessan, Lochscridain, Ulva and Torloisk, returning on Mondays.

Finally, after a costly law suit arising from an incident at Bunessan Pier, when several hundred sheep were drowned, the Inniemore was sold in 1896 to a French shipping company and was lost at sea in 1903.

With the idea of assisting the local crofters and others who could not afford to keep a pony, the Squire brought 27 donkeys and three foals by train to Oban in 1900 where

crowds gathered to see them embark for Mull. When they landed at Salen, the sensation was even greater as many of the islanders had never seen such beasts before.

Clipped and groomed with ornamental harnesses and tinkling bells, those that were kept by the family were a novel sight pulling two-wheeled trotting-carts from Inniemore to Tiroran, a distance of 14 miles. They picked up a living in the winter where a pony would starve, eating the tops of the coarsest herbage and not feeding as close as horses and sheep.

A very fine five-year-old donkey, described as quiet and fast in harness and to ride, was presented as one of the prizes by the Squire and her daughter at the Salen regatta that year.

Two adults and a foal were gifted to the Isle of Iona, where the hotel proprietor and

the postmaster made good use of them to convey visitors between the abbey and the jetty during the summer.

To the magnificent fold of Highland cattle and her famous Highland pony stud started in 1891 with ponies from Athol, Barra and the Uists, the Squire added a herd of lightweight Dexter Kerry cattle.

Kerry cattle are native to Ireland. They were developed as a milking breed suited to small subsistence farms of southern and western Ireland.

Because of their size they cause less damage to soils in high rainfall areas than larger breeds. What a pity more farmers on the West Coast wouldn't stock them instead of the baby elephants which pass for cattle these days. It is they who are to blame for souring the soil and destroying many historical hill paths and walks wherever they are fed during the winter.

The Squire's daughter, Maudie Ellis, wrote a fascinating illustrated book about her mother and life on Mull, called *The Squire of Bentley - Memory's Milestones in the Life of a Great Sportswoman*, which was published in 1926. It is now very rare but worth trying to find a copy. Further information about the Squire and the Cheape family can be found in the excellent *Pennyghael in the Past Historical Archive* not far from Tiroran House.

Iain Thornber  
[iain.thornber@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.thornber@btinternet.com)

# UK's regional publishers call on national advertisers to place their trust in local news brands.

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Today we publish our **online advertising charter** (available at [1xl.co.uk/adcharter](http://1xl.co.uk/adcharter)). The purpose of this is to ensure our advertisers are given the chance to see the standards and processes we work to in order to **guarantee** that they get the **transparency, trust and value** that we believe they deserve.

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What's more your advertising helps us to **continue to fund** much needed, **high quality local journalism**. We hope you will stand together with us to support our local news brands, many of which have been publishing for over 150 years, so their unique content can continue to be loved and trusted for many generations to come.



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# Councillor's shock over plan to mothball village primary school

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

PARENTS and the Highland Council have agreed to mothball Roy Bridge Primary School.

But the decision has shocked a local councillor who has previously fought to keep the school open.

Members of Roy Bridge Parent Council met Norma Young, care and learning manager for Highland Council, on March 13 when the decision was made. It was decided the remaining three pupils on the school roll would officially transfer to Spean Bridge Primary School after the Easter holidays.

Associate head teacher at both Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary schools Kate MacGillivray said, in the meantime, the children will 'continue to attend Spean Bridge Primary unofficially as they have been doing over the past few weeks'.

She said: 'Roy Bridge Primary School will then be mothballed for the following year which will allow it to be re-opened should circumstances change. At the end of the 12 months, the authority would proceed towards permanent closure of the school, a process that takes a further year.'

A campaign to stop the closure of the school was started some years ago when parents mounted what was described by one Spean Bridge resident as a 'fierce and strong' struggle to keep the school open.

But as pupil numbers at the school dwindled, so did the campaign.

Councillor for Caol and Mal-laig Allan Henderson told the *Lochaber Times* the news, which he first heard on Monday, came as a shock.

He said: 'I knew that numbers of children attending and parents supportive of sending children to Roy Bridge school had dwindled over the past year, but have had no official word that any mothballing, which is generally a euphemism for closure, was imminent.'

Mr Henderson, who was closely involved with the action group which fought to keep Roy Bridge school open, said it was 'disappointing' this is now the case.

He said: 'If the school is to be mothballed then, as a local councillor and a stout defender of small rural schools, I am dismayed and surprised that no official word has been forthcoming. I have been working closely

with officials on all the different changes for schools with new timetables and cluster heads. I hope this has not been done deliberately during the election period so that mounting a campaign to save it is more difficult.'

The *Lochaber Times* asked the Highland Council if there are plans to close the school in the next few years and a spokesperson responded: 'There are no plans as mothballing is a formal process.'

The council was also asked how much money would be saved by taking this action but a spokesperson said: 'The mothballing is not around money and was at the invitation of the parents.'

The spokesperson added: 'The school would have an allocation of one teacher and no staff will lose their post.'

Ms MacGillivray added: 'As the school is being mothballed, all pupils from the Roy Bridge catchment area are now entitled to free school transport to Spean Bridge Primary and the authority is in the process of ensuring this is in place for the start of next term.'

'Parents will be notified of transport arrangements before the Easter holidays.'



## Boys' Brigade pair get royal seal of approval at annual awards night

TWO MEMBERS of the 2nd Fort William Boys' Brigade Company were awarded the organisation's top accolade at the group's annual parents night and awards ceremony in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall last Friday night.

Ewan MacGregor and Roddy MacLeod were awarded the Queen's Badge, complete with certificate signed by HM The Queen.

During the event the boys demonstrated marching and other skills learned over the last session and outlined the many projects they had undertaken. Inspecting officer was Father

Roddy MacAuley from St John's, Caol, who along with company chaplain Rev Richard Baxter praised them on their smart turnout and exemplary conduct.

Awards were presented to recognise exceptional work, including four President's Badges and two of the ultimate accolade, the Queen's Badge, complete with certificate signed by HM The Queen. Kieran Boyd, above, received perfect attendance and best Anchor Boy in his section and was also promoted to the Junior Section.

## Land buyout trust prepares to hold meeting

A TRUST hoping to complete the biggest community land buyout in Scotland will hold an important meeting this month.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) remains interested in the land surrounding the aluminium smelter in Fort William which was bought by GFG Alliance last year.

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the trust will be held in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall, Fort William, at 7pm on Tuesday

April 25. This will be followed by a members' gathering with a keynote speaker and opportunity for discussion.

The following will be nominated for appointment as directors at the EGM: Andrew Baxter from Kinlochleven, Alex Farquhar from Fort William, John Hutchison from Badabrie, Patricia Jordan from Fort William, Flora McKee from Inverloch, Campbell Slimon from Laggan and Ben Thompson from Erracht.

## Spean Bridge brewery plan

AN APPLICATION has been submitted to the Highland Council to turn a Spean Bridge steading into a brewery.

West Highland Brewery (WHB) has applied to turn Tirindish Steading, Spean Bridge, into a brewery capable of producing 3,000 litres of beer and ale a week.

In a supporting statement to the council, WHB said it intends to build a 'thriving craft ale enterprise', distinct to Lochaber which uses local expertise and resources.

WHB will sell through local off-sales and from a small retail outlet on the proposed brewery site.

The project is the brainchild of director James Leggett, his partner Lucy Hicks and neighbour Ian Peter Mac-Donald.

James and Lucy own Tirindish House bed and breakfast, while Ian owns the steading and a holiday cottage behind it.

Ian bought the equipment from a brewery in Glenfinnan and invited James and Lucy to join him on the enterprise.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, WHB director James said: 'Ian invited us to join him with the brewery and it sounded like an exciting project. We will be using Ian's cow sheds, which have been disused for decades, and, hopefully with planning permission, we will start producing later this year. We hope to employ local people and open a farm shop in the future which will attract tourists. It's going to be fairly small-scale to begin with. It's not going to visually impact the local environment.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Dry Eyes

One of the certainties of life is that change is constant. There is seldom a month goes by without some innovation that improves the quality of our lives. That is particularly true in health care, whether it is a change in technique to investigate a problem or a new method of treatment. In some cases it can be the realisation something most health care practitioners thought of as trivial actually can have a major detrimental effect on our quality of life.

One example in eye-care is the realisation a tiny mite called Demodex is the culprit causing the majority of dry eye problems. Dry eyes have for many years been relegated to the list of trivial problems that we are all expected to simply live with and get on with our lives regardless of the discomfort we are suffering. In general eye care professionals, both ophthalmologists and optometrists, have ignored the substantial body of

research over the last few years which have looked at quality of life measures. This is particularly true with patients with dry eyes. I can understand this as patients with very obvious clinical signs of dry eye disease can have minimal symptoms and vice versa.

One of the things health professionals are guilty of is not listening to our patients. Only last month I talked about a new "Realistic Medicine" initiative where we should all take more time to talk to our patients and actually listen to what they are telling us. Often the clues are in simple throw away lines from our patients.

Frequently I deal with dry eye patients whose symptoms appear grossly disproportionate to the signs. Treatments range from masking the problem with eye drops to treating the underlying cause of the problem. The improvement in quality of life measures can be dramatic.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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OT

## 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

There is nothing more agonising for parents than the death of their offspring, especially if the cause is deemed avoidable.

However, that is the reality faced by the family of Scott MacAlister, who passed away in a tragedy at sea when the fishing boat on which he was working foundered.

What has made their loss even more unbearable is having to have fought since the sinking for a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) to be held into the circumstances which surrounded the accident.

For four years the family have waited for the inquiry

in the hope of finding answers as to how and why Scott lost his life.

Now it seems their wait and persistence have been in vain, as the powers-that-be have decided there will not be any kind of meaningful FAI which examines the boat.

That is a wrong decision. Apart from the pain which the MacAlister family must continue to endure, we will now be denied the opportunity to discover what caused the tragedy and if it could have been avoided.

The search for the truth is important as it could possibly prevent a similar tragedy at sea in future.



## Days gone by – Tobermory Choir

Coisir og Thobar Mhoire won the under-18s category, beating the high school choir, and they also won the primary unison choir section but can any readers shed light on the year this was taken and at what musical competition the success was in?

### Macphail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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### A life-line service

I HAVE always been a strong supporter of CalMac and, with a lifetime of good experiences with their vessels, crews and shore staff, the very sight of their ferries evokes in me a warm, excited and positive feeling.

Further, as I write this week's piece, I am sitting on the MV Clansman on the way back from Tiree with weather conditions in which a lesser skipper with a less capable vessel would not have attempted or completed berthing at Gott pier.

However, there is no hiding the fact that the frequency of disruption and cancelled sailings on many routes over recent years has increased dramatically and to such an extent that these unreliable transport links are becoming one of the biggest threats to the future sustainability of island economies and populations.

Until four or five years ago, if you heard a passenger complaining loudly about a ferry not sailing or not berthing, you could usually be sure it was the typical ignorant armchair skipper who wouldn't know a bow-thruster from a bowline. This has changed and there are increasing occurrences of ferries being cancelled in weather conditions that in the past would never have stopped a sailing or, worse, sailings being cancelled so far in

advance that by the time of the scheduled voyage, conditions are calm due to weather – as is common – changing from what was forecast.

There are many possible reasons for this change in operation and I am certainly not aware of all the details. Nor do I claim to have all the answers as to how best to rectify the very unsatisfactory situation, but something must change.

The modern environment of 'blame and claim' culture seems to be the primary issue, and this, according to experts, is affecting shipping companies across the world. There appear to be other problems, however, peculiar to CalMac that are exacerbating these issues. According to one retired captain, the human resources department's policy of moving skippers more frequently between different routes means on many occasions the masters are not fully familiar with the harbours and piers they are entering and therefore, and understandably, are much less likely to berth in poor conditions.

In an office in Gourrock, it is probably much more important to save some money by shifting crew around routes than having continuity of captaincy. When deciding whether to attempt berthing at Arinagour in a southerly force eight, experience of the vessel, the pier and of the approach is paramount and should be priority.

A very senior figure in the UK shipping industry highlighted to me the lack of experienced master mariners in the upper management of CalMac as a major issue and contributor to the current situation. Like me, he has the utmost respect for the captains and crew of CalMac, but he thinks its decision-making abilities are being hampered by the lack of experienced on-shore back-up at boardroom level.

This situation cannot continue. There are millions of pounds being lost annually due to this plunge in service and, if unchanged, it will devastate the future of our fragile island economies.

Safety, of course, must be paramount, and happily CalMac, as widely acknowledged, has a safety-record second to none (stretching back well beyond the present over-cautious climate) but if the ships that are serving these routes cannot berth as frequently as is the current case, then the vessels and/or the piers must be changed or upgraded to make them fit for use.

Since the time when the Caledonian Steam Packet Company and David MacBrayne merged, CalMac has successfully continued providing a long-revered and respected lifeline service to these islands.

This must continue and, if it is to do so, the operations must adapt and improve.



**Nikki Warham** posted: 'I pick up after my dogs when we are in Benderloch. Most people pick it up if it's on the path and some leave it if it's not.'

**Marcin Samarow** wrote: 'Only the civilised do.'

**Billy Kyle** reported: 'Have seen a few instances today already where some people obviously don't.'

**Mark Cardwell** warned: 'Every week there is at least one poo left on Breadalbane St; really inconsiderate as so many children use that route.'

supposedly awash with dog turds. I do see loads of broken glass, vomit, and takeaway wrappers strewn everywhere, so how about a campaign against that.'

**Laura Wathey** lamented: 'Don't know what's worse, the amount of dog mess over the pavements around town or the smell of the rubbish that gets piled up since the carry on with the new uplifts. It's a joke.'

**Heather Allen** blasted: 'No! Regularly walk dog on local cycle paths and the amount of poo is disgusting.'

### Press policy

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If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please 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,

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### Nationalists are guilty of deception

Sir,

Unlike your correspondents Yowann Byghan and Jim Waugh (*The Oban Times*, March 30), I always find letters from Donald J Morrison from Inverness (*The Oban Times*, March 23) to be very prescient and perspicacious, though one is left in no doubt as to his hostility to the creed of nationalism and its adherents.

I have to say I agree wholeheartedly with his view and I find that within the circles in which I move, both in the West Highlands and Edinburgh, these views are increasingly held by people whose political sympathies are across the left/right spectrum. It seems that almost as a reaction to the aberration of nationalism, people of all political persuasions have decided the greater threat to our country is not posed by those to the left or the right but by the divisiveness and economic recklessness of nationalism.

In the case of Mr Waugh, he doesn't so much challenge the substance of Mr Morrison's letter, but more the manner in which the content is expressed.

Although Yowann Byghan does not lay claim to it, there are clear signs of 'SNP political activist' transparent in the detailed claims made on behalf of the SNP administration. The list is replete with populist policies, and they have, indeed, had the desired effect in the case of many voters.

What there is no mention of, though, is where the money for this SNP largesse has come from. It is certainly not from any increased economic activity achieved under the nationalist watch.

The sources of the funds for these bribes are two-fold. First, it is other services which have been starved of funding (but we can always blame Westminster) and, secondly, the Barnett Formula by which Scotland benefits from the principle of sharing resources throughout the United Kingdom. But of course that wouldn't fit with the grievance and grudge agenda of the nationalists.

The most enlightening statement from Yowann, however, is the explanation of the choice people now face: 'The choice is between one change and uncertainty and another change and uncertainty' (so far so good). 'The change to a hard-Brexit UK separated from the largest single market in the entire world, or to a Scotland free to continue its growth as a progressive and successful independent nation.' Well, with that choice, we can only go with Utopia, can't we?

The people who perpetrate these myths are guilty of deception and misrepresentation. Those who believe them are the victims as it is they and the rest of us who would eventually pick up the tab for this Darien-type fantasy.

I'm with Mr Morrison all the way in his efforts to bring such cruel and reckless deception to attention.

**Alan Thomson,**

**The Old Barn,**  
**Kilcamb Paddock, Strontian.**

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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BHA CEANN-BLIADHNA AGAM Diciadain seo chaidh agus cha d'fhuair mi an latha a' chiad ghreis. Mar is àbhaist fhuair mi cairtean agus tiodhlacan gasta bho mo bhean 's a teaghlach, agus dùrachdan bho thall 's a bhios, agus bha sin air leth taitneach.

Ach 's e am prìomh adhbhar a leanas an latha na mo chuimhne gur e sin an latha air an do thòisich sgaradh Bhreatainn bhon Aonadh Eòrpach, gu h-oifigeil. Gun teagamh sam bith 's e latha eachdraidheil a bha seo dhan rìoghachd agus na mo bheachd phearsanta toiseach sgaraidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith gu math cosgail ann an iomadh dòigh dha sgìrean iomallach na dùthcha, leithid a' Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan.

Mar a tha seanfhacal ag ràdh, tha cothrom an lùib gach trìoblaid agus tuigear gun dragh nach robh poileasaidh iasgaich na Roinn Eòrpa math sam bith do dh'iasgairan Alba, is cus cothrom aig bàtaichean à dùthchannan eile anns na raointean iasgaich againn. Mar sin tha còir gum bi gnìomhachas an iasgaich againn nas treasa nuair a dhealaicheas sinn bhon Aonadh Eòrpach, ach tha duilgheadas air faire ma theid bacadh air cead-cosnaidh dha daoine bho thairis a bhith nam buill de sgiobaidhean bhàtaichean-iasgaich an seo.

Saoilidh mi cuideachd gum bheil deagh adhbhar dragh a bhith aig tuathanaich agus croitearan a thaobh dè an seòrsa taice a bhios ann dhaibhsan às aonais airgead Eòrpach fìu's ged nach biodh iomhas poblach na dùthcha cho gann 's a tha e. 'S e firinn na cùise gum bheil an Roinn Eòrpa air a bhith glè bhuannachdail dhuinne an seo ged nach biodh ann ach na chaidh a thogail de rathaidean, drochaidean, agus cidheachan, agus cha bheag na chuir Iomairt a h-Aon agus a liuthad sgeama leasachaidh eile ri beatha nan coimhearsnachdan againn. Bidh mi tric a' faighneachd dhìom fhìin cia mhead de na leasachaidhean a fhuair sinn air Ghàidhealtachd is as na h-Eileanan a bh' air nochdadh mura b' e gun robh ionmhas Eòrpach man coinneamh.

### Tax levels will have to rise after separation

Sir,

Your correspondent Yowann Byghan is clearly a staunch supporter of the SNP and lists some of its 'achievements'.

These include such things as free tuition for students, lack of prescription charges, free school meals and so on. There is certainly a long list of these freebies that we have to thank the SNP for – or perhaps I should say the English taxpayer. Before pushing for independence, SNP supporters should ask themselves where does the money come from for all these benefits, and where would it come from if Scotland were to become independent?

Can it be that the SNP administration is so efficient compared to that in England that it can fund all these things from the same tax levels as in England? Of course not; and, if we were independent, personal and business tax levels would have to rise sharply to cover the loss of support from England.

Furthermore, in disagreeing with the UK population over Brexit it is important to remember the largest part of Scotland's trade is with the rest of the UK. Incidentally, 62 per cent of the Scottish population did not vote to remain part of the EU as only 67 per cent of voters bothered to vote and so the figure was much less than 50 per cent. Our First Minister would be wise to collaborate with the Westminster government to achieve the best result for the UK, including Scotland, instead of behaving like a spoiled child and trying to cause as much trouble as possible.

In the run up to 2014, we were told that the independence referendum was once in a generation. We did not vote for it and if Nicola is able to waste our money on another vote she will lose again. I write as a Scottish nationalist, but I believe we should protect our unique Scottish identity, but within the United Kingdom.

**Prof Colin Davidson,**  
**Tigh nan Eilean, Ardfern.**

### Lack of respect for voters is insulting

Sir,

With regard to the letter written by Donald J Morrison (*The Oban Times*, March 23), could I be so bold as to make a few points?

The first and most obvious is his lack of respect for fellow voters who in 2015 gave the SNP the largest percentage of votes of any government in northern Europe and the UK for many years. In addition, it is worth pointing out to him that 56 of the 59 MPs elected were SNP.

Mr Morrison also makes a few assertions about the First Minister, some of a sexist nature. He says: 'She can't accept reality. Like a wee girl having uncontrolled tantrums.' In a past life I was a teacher and I can attest to seeing as many boys having tantrums as girls.

Mr Morrison also thinks she is stubborn and bitter and needs to 'lie down in a darkened room'. I think Mr Morrison should heed his own advice as there seems a fair amount of bitterness in his letter.

In fact, Mr Morrison's rant has little basis in fact and is a mix of assertion, assumption and bilious imagination. Take, for example, the use of such terms as 'independence rifle' and 'Brexit bullets' to be fired at those south of Hadrian's wall. Insulting stuff, particularly when he assumes those who have a different opinion to him are not sane. Presumably, if we are not sane then we must be insane, which is an interesting way to get our attention.

To add insult to injury, he resorts to the 'too wee, too poor' argument, having assumed we are also too stupid to form a valid opinion based on many factors, none of which relates to animosity against our neighbours and friends south of the border.

In terms of the SNP government and its period in office, we have an improved NHS performing significantly better than the rest of the UK despite increasing pressures, more young people passing exams and going on to higher education, violent crime at an all-time low, students not paying tuition fees, free prescriptions and bus passes.

Personalising the debate rather than making a measured and respectful argument smacks of desperation and I suspect we will see more of it over the next couple of years - but I hope not.

**David Young,**  
**Dalgety Bay, Fife.**

### How to help haddock and the Highlands

Sir,

While politicians bicker and battle in Brussels and Holyrood, our haddock stocks and fishing industry declines ('Haddock takes a battering', *The Oban Times*, March 30).

Britain is importing thousands of tonnes of white fish from Iceland and Norway due to overfishing so how can we help our haddock, help Oban and help Scotland?

Currently, only half of UK fish are caught by British boats. So from April 2019 we must ban all foreign fishermen within a 200-mile limit as Iceland does. Soft loans must be made available to help increase the size of the Scottish fishing fleet by half, plus expand on-shore fish processing. That will leave large areas for fish stocks to recover and around 2,040 local children will once again be able to catch large mackerel at the mouth of Oban Bay.

Sadly, bumptious bureaucrats and politicians of all colours seem intent on selling their grannies to any lobby group. But until positive action is taken to help the plant and help our communities, haddock and the Highlands will continue to be shafted.

**Mike Foster,**  
**Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.**

Ailean Caimbeul

Ged a tha an Roinn Eòrpa air mòran burocrasaidh a chur ri ar beatha tha sinn cuideachd air buannachadh a leithid Cairt Chòraichean a' Chinne-daonna agus Cairt nan Mion-chànan, agus ag èisteachd ri cuid de bhlas phoillitigs na dùthcha an-dràsta, saoilidh mi gum bheil ceist mhòr ma choinneimh ire dìon den t-seòrsa sin ann am Breatain taobh a-mach an Aonaidh Eòrpach. Gun teagamh mhiannaicheamaidh lughdachadh air burocrasaidh agus tha caochladh rudan co-cheangailte ri poileasaidhean Eòrpach a dh'arramaidh a leasachadh, ach cha chuala mi argamaid fhathast a chur às a' bheachd mi gum bheil sinn nas fheàrr mar bhall seach dealaichte.

TRAVELLING in the Highlands and Islands, one cannot avoid awareness of the extent to which European funds have contributed to major improvements in infrastructure, and I frequently wonder how much of this would have materialised without European support.

Despite its bureaucracy and at times unhelpful policies, I believe the EU has been good for our area, and I have yet to hear any convincing argument for separation.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
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### Le taic bho



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### 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

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Scottish Water staff work to clear the blocked sewer.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Sewer block causes a stink on High Street

SCOTTISH Water is asking people to pay more attention when disposing of fat and grease after a sewer blockage caused an unsightly scene in Fort William last week.

A choked sewer was reported just after 9am on Tuesday morning, April 4, on the High Street in Fort William, causing raw sewage to 'erupt' through the drain and paving stones.

A company spokesperson said Scottish Water staff were on site at 10.30am.

He added: 'They found the sewer choked with fat and grease, resulting in localised flooding.'

'The choke was unblocked by the team and a full clean up carried out.'

'We would like to take the opportunity to highlight our 'Keep the cycle running' campaign which offers advice on how best to dispose of fats and grease. Fat, oil and grease in liquid form may not appear to be harmful, but as they cool they congeal, harden and stick to the inside of drains and sewers, which can cause blockages and flooding to occur. They should be left to cool, scraped into a sealable container and either recycled or put in the bin. There's more information on the campaign on the Scottish Water website and Facebook page.'

# Accused of choking girlfriend

THE TRIAL of a Canadian man accused of choking his former girlfriend and rendering her unconscious last May is continuing in Fort William.

Jeffrey Raymond Kell, 33, has denied the assault, alleged to have taken place during the early hours of May 20, 2016, at a Fort William hotel.

On Monday April 3, when the trial began, Fort William Sheriff Court heard evidence from the complainant, a 27-year-old Canadian woman, who said an argument broke out between herself and Kell, who were on holiday in Fort William, after they had been drinking together at the hotel bar.

The complainant told the court she and Kell began 'bickering' after the pair engaged in sexual activity, during which she became uncomfortable but he failed to stop.

She said Kell 'just snapped' and grabbed her by the neck and threw her against the wall and the mirror, smashed her head on the floor and choked her.

She said she then saw him jump out the window on to the mezzanine roof below but he said she had pushed him. She told the court Kell then came back to the room and she let him in because she was 'scared of what he was going to do'.

At this point, she said, a concierge came to the door to tell them the police had been called.

The complainant said Kell then threw something small and hard at her and she threw a pillow back at him, at which point she says he choked her to the point where she became unconscious.

When she woke up, she ran to the front desk, where the concierge hid her in a corner in the dark until the police arrived.

The court learned the complainant had retracted the statement she had given to the police and had it authorised by a Canadian lawyer on May 31, 2016. The complainant claims Kell's mother made her do it as she said Kell was going to be killed in prison if she didn't.

Kell's solicitor Gerry Sweeney said his client's position was that he choked the complainant twice at her request, as part of the sexual activity, and he later choked her another twice in self-defence as she attacked him, all of which the complainant denies.

On Tuesday, the trial continued and the hotel's night porter, whom the complainant referred to as the concierge, told the court he had knocked on their hotel room door following three or four phone calls from other guests complaining about noise. He said as he approached the

room on the second floor to investigate he heard a woman screaming, 'Please stop doing that, just let me go' and a man saying: 'You're a bitch, you shouldn't be doing that, I don't deserve that' as well as loud banging which sounded like hitting or kicking.

When he knocked on the door, Kell answered and told him he was just leaving. The night porter then returned to reception to phone the police.

He confirmed he hid the woman until the police arrived, at which point he spoke to officers and then returned to the room following further calls from guests and came back down with Kell, who he feared was going to kill himself.

The court also heard evidence from two witnesses staying in the hotel on the night of May 19. The first told the court she

called police after hearing noises of a sexual nature followed by a man shouting loudly and aggressively and a hysterical woman, accompanied with loud crashes and bangs. She said she was fearful of someone being hurt and for her own safety.

The second witness told the court he heard loud footsteps followed by noises of sexual activity. Around half an hour after this he said 'all hell broke loose'.

Police constables Marina MacDonald and Sean Knox, who both attended the scene shortly before 1am after reports of a disturbance at the hotel, told the court the complainant was upset and distressed.

Constable Knox then checked if the woman was okay and the porter showed them to the couple's room where Kell was detained at 1am on suspicion of assault. The trial continues.

## Cash boost for Lochaber music group

A £5,000 boost from the Big Lottery fund means a Lochaber music group can continue to attract high calibre acts to the area.

Lochaber Music For All (LMFA), a not-for-profit organisation, organises five concerts between September and March each year bringing musicians from far and wide to play for the local community.

Assistant fundraiser David Hayes told the *Lochaber Times* the money had eased worries the group had last year about cash flow. 'We were worried about our cash flow and if we would have enough to pay the artists we had already earmarked. But our last two concerts have been extremely well attended,' said David.

'The Big Lottery money will cover our next season. What we really need though is people to come along to the concerts, because the whole point is bringing concerts to the local community for people to hear artists they would have had to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh to hear. That costs a lot of money. Now they can hear them on their doorstep.'

Lochaber Music for All held its last concert of the season last Friday when renowned pianist Martin Roscoe performed at Lochaber High School to an audience of around 90 people.

David said: 'We were really lucky to get Martin to play as he is internationally acclaimed.' Martin, who has recently moved to Roybridge, told LMFA it was a privilege to play a concert in such a beautiful part of the world.

David thanked committee members for their hard work over the last season, in particular chairwoman Clare Reynolds.



Polina Iljina, left, and Kathleen Rigby will head to France this weekend as part of centenary celebration of the Battle of Arras. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

## Lochaber school pair to attend commemoration

TWO PUPILS from Fort William are heading to France to take part in a cultural and commemorative experience this weekend.

Polina Iljina and Kathleen Rigby from Lochaber High School have been invited to observe the centenary of the Battle of Arras at Scotland's national commemorations.

The battle took place between April 9 and May 15 1917 and was part of a planned offensive by British and French forces.

The third year girls are among 10 pupils from across the Highlands selected for the five-day trip. They will participate in a memorial service at the Faubourg d'Amiens Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Arras on Sunday April 9, where they will lay a wreath on behalf of the nations

that fought together and place poppy crosses on graves.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'I'm delighted two of our young people have been chosen to represent Highland and will be joining pupils from all over Scotland to mark this important centenary.'

Organised by WW100 Scotland in conjunction with the Armed Forces in Scotland, Legion Scotland, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Education Scotland and Mercat Tours International, 72 Scottish pupils will be joined by a matching number of French and Canadian students.

Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture, tourism and external affairs, said: 'The Battle of Arras is of huge significance to Scotland's commemorative calendar.'

## Bus company publishes new timetable

SHIEL Buses has published a new timetable after securing 12 Highland Council public transport contracts.

The Fort William bus company will continue its current services and has taken over six contracts previously held by Stagecoach North of Scotland.

The new timetable will take effect from Monday April 24.

Shiel Buses will run two coaches on the Fort William to Inverness route, with some services going to and from Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

The company has also reinstated a morning service from Acharacle on a Thursday. This route was previously run by the council but was stopped following council money-saving cuts.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said it was fantastic to see a local company compete with a national

one and win so many of the Highland Council contracts.

But concerns about cross-town bus services are growing following news the two contracted operators running the service will not recognise each other's tickets.

The council has awarded the service between Fort William and Corpach to different operators. Shiel Buses will run the service during the day and Stagecoach at night. People who live in Fort William and work in Corpach and buy a weekly pass had questioned how this will affect them as they would be using one operator to get to work and another to get home.

At a meeting of the Lochaber bus users group on Tuesday March 21, Shiel buses and Stagecoach said the services will not be integrated, meaning joint tickets will not be available and the companies will not recognise each other's tickets. The

news means people will have to buy two separate bus tickets.

A Stagecoach representative said: 'We have raised a commercial joint ticket with the Highland Council, but we need the council to facilitate that discussion.'

Legally, bus operators cannot discuss ticket prices and fares with each other.

Earlier this month, Shiel Buses applied for planning permission to turn land at Glen Nevis Business Park into a bus parking area. The company currently occupies unit four at the business park with plans to develop 19 vehicle parking spaces on unit five, which lies within the Inventoried Battlefield of Inverloch.

The full Shiel timetable can be found at <http://www.shielbuses.co.uk>.

The *Lochaber Times* contacted Shiel buses but it did not respond before the paper went to press.

## Work to start on Soldier's Bridge

CONTRACTORS are on site preparing to start a £300,000 project to improve a crucial community link in Fort William.

Soldiers Bridge, which crosses the River Lochy between Black Parks Road, Inverloch, and Lochside, is going to be almost completely renewed.

Dingwall-based company Strath Civil Engineering is doing the work on behalf of the Highland Council.

Councillor for Caol and Mallaig Ben Thompson said: 'I dropped by to say hello to Strath Civil Engineering staff who are on site setting up to start the repair job.'

'For the next three weeks they'll be scaffolding the bridge.'

'Nine weeks after that we should finally have a mostly new bridge.'

## Man, 76, on driving and bail breach charges refused bail

A 76-YEAR-OLD man has been refused bail after being charged with three counts of careless driving and two breaches of bail conditions set on May 31 2016.

The conditions were that Thomas Allan Kirsop, a former police officer, was not to approach, contact or attempt to approach or contact two witnesses in an ongoing trial in which Kirsop is facing accusations of stalking.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose said Kirsop, of Brudair, North Ballachulish, was intimating a guilty plea and sought bail for him on the grounds that he has medical conditions which require him to be at his home address, where his wife, a retired nurse, can monitor his health.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood said that these charges suggested that Kirsop had no intention of stopping his behaviour towards the witnesses.

Mr Melrose provided three medical reports from two GPs for the sheriff to read which contained details of several medical conditions Kirsop suffers from. He told the court

that the address in the Inveraray area, where Kirsop was previously residing while on bail, was no longer available to him, and that he had no alternative available other than his home address.

Mr Melrose added that there were mental health concerns, for which Kirsop is to be referred for psychiatric tests to determine if he has early signs of dementia.

Sheriff William Taylor said that the current complaints were 'mirror images' of the ones before the court in the on-going trial.

He added that this showed Kirsop had 'paid no attention to the court orders in these matters'.

The sheriff refused to grant bail on the grounds that 'the public deserve to be protected' from him, but added that the point raised about psychiatric testing should be passed on to the relevant authorities so they could take it into account.

The trial for these charges has been set to take place on April 27, with an intermediate diet set for April 25 and Kirsop will remain in custody until these dates.

## Plans to turn 'eyesore' former pub into flats approved

THE LOCHABER Bar on Kilmallie Road is to be turned into three, two-bedroom flats after the owner of the former pub last week had planning permission granted by Highland Council.

Planning was first sought in 2015, when support for the flats was mixed. A petition, 'Stop Lochaber Bar becoming flats', was started and signed by more than 160 people with many calling for the pub, next to the Co-op and Sammy's fish and chip shop, to be brought back to life after being out of use for six or seven years.

Caol Community Council raised a similar point at the time. In its comments to the planning committee, it said: 'It was a great bar and could be again. It is important to keep social facilities such as this available to the community.'

The community council also raised concerns about a loss of commercial space from the village square and parking in what

is an already busy car park. One Caol resident told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Parking for the Co-op is already terrible so the loss of spaces will impact heavily on that. Parking in the bus stops will become the norm and in the access road for the houses opposite.'

But the council has stipulated there must be a minimum of five car parking spaces for residents.

The community council says its views on the application have not changed. It will hold its next meeting on Monday April 10 at 6.30pm in Caol Community Centre.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said: 'We have a housing issue but these flats are in a really awkward location. The feedback I have had from people is, yes it's an eyesore, let's sort it, but why can't it be used commercially. I would like it to be used commercially because I think that makes sense, but it's private property.'

## Nancy Blacks: Serving the community since 1965



Nancy Blacks has been serving the boating and outdoor needs of Oban since 1965, and owners Karina and Sean Jameson are celebrating five years of carrying on the tradition with their trademark friendly service and industry expertise.

'Nancy Blacks is not a typical chandlery,' said Sean. 'We welcome individual customer orders and are always happy to make the best deal for our customers. We stock a wide range of boat maintenance, safety and navigation equipment, camping gear, as well as quality sailing waterproofs and footwear. We take much care in choosing what we stock and are always exploring new suppliers to keep our customers excited and to provide products that they like as well as need.'

Sean has been involved with water sports his entire life and his family has a long tradition of sailing. Having spent 10 years in Greece running a windsurfing centre, he gained experience as a coach and manager. The couple lived on Scotland's east coast for six years before taking over as Nancy Blacks' third owners in 2012. They live in Taynuilt with their three children,

Rosie, Maja and Charlie.

'It is much more than just a job,' shared Karina. 'We have made our home here, we have made great friends and we fell in love in this part of the world.'

The new face of their clothing department, Coastal, shows that Nancy Blacks is not only about boats and sailing.

'Coastal clothing and accessories is all about bringing the latest fashion to Oban and the West Coast,' Karina said. 'As well as classic clothing brands, we are constantly looking for new, quirky designs and original patterns, from jackets to footwear. Our bestselling waterproof brand, Didriksons, is much loved and you can see it all over the streets of Argyll. It is a great pleasure to see people wearing clothes from our store.'

New for 2017 is the introduction of dancewear. Nancy Blacks now stocks ballet shoes, tights and cardigans, and they hope to expand the range in the near future.

'We really appreciate our loyal customers who pop in every now and then to check what's new and



our friendly staff are always there to help.'

The Jamesons are always adding new products and welcome requests and feedback from their customers. 'Please let us know how we are doing, and what you would like us to stock in the future,' Karina urged. 'Being based on West Coast of Scotland, as many people know, we often pay extra for postage; however our online store, [www.nancyblacks.co.uk](http://www.nancyblacks.co.uk), offers very competitive deals for our customers in the Highlands and Islands.'

Their devoted clientele have spoken, and Nancy Blacks has been short listed as a finalist for the Scottish Retail Awards in the Fashion and Accessories category. Karina said, 'We would like to thank our wonderful customers for the nominations!'

Drop in to say hello and browse the latest in equipment, gear and spring fashions at Nancy Blacks and Coastal, Oban's premier chandlery and outdoor shop at 18 Argyll Square.



[www.nancyblacks.co.uk](http://www.nancyblacks.co.uk)

18-19 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT

Tel: 01631 562550 Email: [sales@nancyblacks.co.uk](mailto:sales@nancyblacks.co.uk)

# OUTDOORS

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR OUTDOORS SECTION PLEASE CALL OUR SALES TEAM ON 01631 568000

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

**NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB**  
Meeting point for walks is the car park at the Ben Nevis Woollen Mill for departure at 8am. Further information available at [www.nevishillwalkingclub.org](http://www.nevishillwalkingclub.org) or by contacting the club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783.

**Saturday April 8**  
Morvich – A'Ghlas-bheinn/freenish-grey hill (918m) and Carnan Cruithneachd (729m) The walk covers 20.8km with an ascent of 1,400m, but it is possible to take in the Falls of Glomach as well, adding an extra 1.8km and an ascent of 150m.

**LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS**  
The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

**Sunday April 9**  
Creag Pitridh and Geal Charn, Glen Spean. These remote hills are easily accessed on good tracks and stalkers' paths. Although the smaller of the two, Creag Pitridh offers some grand views. A strenuous graded walk covers a distance of 20km and a height of 932m. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9am. The walk leader is Ian Moir on 07973 836498.

**Wednesday April 12**  
Glencoe village, Glencoe massacre monument, lochan and Loch Leven. A pleasant circular walk through the village. Taking in the Glencoe massacre monument and on to the lochan, a beautiful location. After going through the woods, we walk alongside the road to Kinlochleven beside Loch Leven. Back to the village, time allowing, we may pop into the museum. Lunch/refreshments either Crafts and Things or Ballachulish TIC Cafe (the Quarry Centre). This is an easy/leisurely graded walk which will cover a distance of 8km. Meet at the Ballachulish TIC at 9.50am, Glencoe village car park at 9.55am, Longdale car park in Oban at 9am or Spean Bridge Woollen Mill at 9.10am. Contact Denise Jones on 07823 779713 or 01397 772768.

**Thursday April 13**  
Gleann Rìgh to Glen Nevis, Onich – dog walk. A cross-country route in the shadow of the Mamores linking up with the final section of the West Highland Way. Mainly on well-made paths. Minimal bog-trotting. A moderate graded walk covering a distance of 22km and a height of 500m. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.10am or North Ballachulish School at 9.20. Depending on time, and interest, there is an option to climb from the West Highland Way up to Fort Dun Deardail. This will be decided by the group on the day. The walk leader is Trevor Jones on 07831 437454.

## Birdwatch shows waxwing numbers taking flight

AN EXPLOSION in sightings of waxwings was recorded during the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 2017. Over the last weekend in January, and for the first time including the Monday, more than 3,500 people in Scotland counted 626,184 birds in the 38th year of the survey. Waxwings are regular visitors to our shores and flock in much higher numbers once every

seven or eight years when the berry crop fails in their native Scandinavia. Results show that in 2017, 21 times more waxwings were spotted in Scottish gardens than in previous years, suggesting this may have been one of the influx years. Weather conditions in the run up to Birdwatch this year meant there was also an increase in numbers of other migrant birds

such as redwings and fieldfare as the sub-zero temperatures on the continent forced them here in search of a milder winter. Keith Morton, species policy officer at RSPB Scotland, said: 'Waxwings are very striking, exotic-looking birds with prominent crests, bandit masks around their eyes and brightly-coloured waxy quills on their wings, the reason for their name. They do visit Scotland most

winters but this year around 21 times more waxwings were seen than usually noted in the survey. They were also recorded in far higher number than usual across the rest of the UK and seen as far west as Wales and Northern Ireland. Their distinctive colouring and love for berries make them a great sight to see' House sparrows remained the most spotted species, as they have been since 2012, with star-

lings in second, pushing chaffinches to third, and blackbirds and blue tits rounded off the top five. Schoolchildren got in on the act with the Big Schools Birdwatch survey, which saw more than 6,300 school children spotting birds. Blackbirds remained the most common playground visitor followed by carrion crows and starlings. For more information about the visit [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

## BEHIND THE SCENES



**AGM**  
Atlantis's AGM on March 13 heard that, after a few tough years, 2015-16 saw us able to begin building our free reserves back up. As Atlantis is a social enterprise run for the benefit of the community (rather than shareholders), all surplus is held to reinvest when it is needed. As these reports show, there's always something needs doing in the building, and a 'rainy day fund' ensures the centre can stay open even when unexpected costs come along. The AGM also saw Andy Newiss of RA Clement step down as our financial director after 13 years' hard work as a volunteer for the organisation. Thanks for all your hard work, Andy.

**Lighting, hot water and more**  
Since the last Behind the Scenes (BTS) report, Resource Efficient Scotland has visited Atlantis and have identified several energy-saving opportunities around the centre. In particular, LED lighting would immediately begin saving us money. Unfortunately, LED lighting is quite expensive so we will need to consider how best to fund this. We hope to have the final report by the next BTS report, and it would be great to think that soon after that we would have a brighter, lighter (and cheaper to run) centre.

**Fundraising**  
As this month's report shows, fundraising is something Atlantis has to do on an ongoing basis. We have got a number of ideas that will be requiring some significant funding and we will be working on these over the next few months. Watch this space.

**Parking**  
We have been able to create a way that we think we can protect parking for customers when the council start making the main car park at Atlantis pay and display. We'll release a special BTS report on this within the next few weeks.

**Just completed**  
The following items have been completed in the past few weeks:  
 ■ An update on toilet facilities from last month – you may have noticed the new hand dryer in the cafe toilets. We are testing this to ensure it is a suitable hand dryer for other areas in the centre. This is the first tiny step towards improving our facilities, and there are plenty more to come as we determine how much financial support we can attract to help us do so.  
 ■ The two cubicle showers in the wet side changing rooms have been improved with new tiled floors making them more accessible than the old raised shower trays.  
 ■ The dry side disabled changing room was refurbished with a new floor and LED lighting as the floor had degraded to a point where the room was unusable.  
 ■ Staff training: Jade McEwan passed her Body Attack qualification and Rebecca qualified to train Body Balance, so watch out for these newly minted trainers in your classes.



The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has a full programme of events planned for the coming season.

# Whale and dolphin trust marks 20th anniversary

THIS year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) occupying 28 Main Street, Tobermory. During this time, the space has changed significantly - from a bakery to office spaces, from grassroots interpretation to an interactive centre, championing the conservation of whales and dolphins. The centre is now an integral part of the Main Street landscape and offers not only a fantastic experience for visiting tourists, but also an opportunity for interested locals to connect with regular events. The centre has certainly come a long way, and is proud - in its 20th year - to offer a whole

host of events and activities for the local community, from after-school clubs throughout the winter, to the up and coming evening science talks which start on May 18. The evening lectures are a great chance to learn about the wildlife of Mull every Thursday throughout the summer, as there are new guest speakers each week. Daily activities such as the whale watch workshops and exciting 'bones box are' a great way for families to bond and learn about the amazing whales, dolphins and porpoises that live on our doorstep. It is the perfect activity to set you up for an adventure in the great outdoors. HWDT has been advancing

the understanding of local whale, dolphin and porpoise populations for nearly 25 years. The trust collects visual and acoustic data from aboard our research vessel Silurian, surveying the length and breadth of the Hebrides during monitoring expeditions lasting seven to 12 days. HWDT is not a campaigning organisation, but analyses data and disseminates the results to the wider public. HWDT encourages members of the public to report their sightings, contributing to the baseline data now held on cetacean occurrence in the area. If you spot a whale, dolphin, porpoise or basking shark, please report it to the trust,

either online at [hwdt.org](http://hwdt.org) or by popping into the centre. Another core activity is outreach and engagement - encouraging stewardship of the local environment and providing opportunities for children and adults to learn and develop their skills. During two weeks of the field season, Silurian becomes a floating classroom and welcomes aboard school children to participate in a range of fun activities. This month, the trust is visiting island schools on Skye. Classroom visits are also undertaken, with the centre's engagement team visiting locations all over the West Coast.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Centre is the perfect place to find out more. There are interactive displays, information about the different species seen and news of what HWDT has learned about the specific populations. Go along to join in on the evening science talks, summer youth clubs and more. From the start of April, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Centre will be open seven days a week from 10.30am-4.30pm. Entry into both the centre and evening events is on a donation basis. Details of the events planned for the season will be made available through [HWDT.org](http://HWDT.org), social media and posters displayed on the island.

## Latest publication gives new names to clouds

A CLOUD atlas has been published online and three new cloud structures have been named. Last month marked World Meteorological Day and, to raise understanding of weather and cloud patterns, a map of clouds and formations has been published online. The cloud species Volutus has been officially named as a new species of cloud in the World

Meteorological Organisation Cloud Atlas. The new cloud species name will now be used by meteorologists operationally around the world. As well as a new species, several 'special clouds' and supplementary features of existing cloud types have been officially recognised in the atlas, which is the official publication of cloud types. It is used as a reference doc-

ument by operational meteorologists around the world and is also an important training tool for meteorologists, as well as for those working in aviation and at sea. Special clouds named in the new edition include: Flam-magenitus, which are clouds formed as a result of forest fires; and Homogenitus, which denotes man-made or anthropogenic clouds such as those

which form over power station cooling towers. An example of a new supplementary feature is Asperitas, which are well-defined wave-like structures in the underside of clouds. Met Office chief executive Rob Varley said: 'World Meteorological Day provides a fantastic opportunity for everyone to appreciate the importance and value that the weather can bring to the globe.

'Clouds play a key role in the function of our planet's climate system and the naming of the new Volutus species of cloud shows that we are continually learning and developing our understanding.' The new edition of the WMO Cloud Atlas will be available online for the first time, with official definitions, imagery and information on all of the clouds including the additions.

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# Arena

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

## Folk duo begins Highland tour



Sophie Ramsay will join her singing partner on tour.

**FOLK SINGERS** Sophie Ramsay and Sarah Smout begin their Argyll and Lochaber tour of 'new and old folk songs about nature, love, loss and home' later this month.

The duo, taking turns to present their songs, are billed as 'lending each other harmonies on voice, cello, viola and guitar, resulting in a conversation between two distinctive voices, each complementing and offering contrast to the other'.

Perthshire born and bred Sophie is a singer-songwriter whose 'undeniably beautiful' music and 'freshly poetic lyrics' are described as 'deeply moving'.

Her third album of old Gaelic and Scots songs, titled *The Seas Between Us*, is praised as 'atmospheric, elegant and beguiling... an exciting new voice to carry Burns onwards'. It follows her first album of traditional songs called *Ca' the Yowes*, and her second of original compositions of love and grief, *The Glassy Mountain*.

Sarah Smout is a cellist, singer and song-

writer from Yorkshire, who has toured the world playing with acts like Michael Chapman, Rachel Ries, Gren Bartley and King Creosote. But as a singer and poet in her own right, it was only a matter of time before she began a solo career.

2016 saw the release of her EP, *Decision to Leave*, featuring 'songs with cello which are original, beautifully crafted and hugely touching, exploring themes like home, land, love and climate change'.

Sophie and Sarah met at a Rachel Ries concert at the Green Note in Camden, where Sarah was playing. They got talking about nature, beaver reintroduction and probably climate change, and almost immediately began dreaming up future musical journeys.

Their tour begins at Lochaline Village Hall on Tuesday April 25 at 7.30pm, followed by performances at Craignish Village Hall on Thursday April 27 at 7.30pm, and at The Oyster Catcher in Otter Ferry on Friday April 28 at 8pm.



Sarah Smout has teamed up with Sophie for their tour.

## Second album recorded by Atomic Piseag

**ARGYLLSHIRE** ladies' Gaelic choir Atomic Piseag recorded a second album of specially-arranged songs at An Tobar, Tobermory, at the weekend.

Songs including *Am Bruader*, *Air Tuathal* and *Hug O'* were recorded over two days under the supervision of Gordon MacLean of Comar.

Choir conductor Raymond Bremner said: 'An

incredible amount of patience and dedication from Gordon, the choir and our Gaelic tutor Joy Dunlop all went into making this two days of making wonderful music together.

'The facilities at An Tobar for our fairly large choir were exceptional.

'So far there is no name for the album but we hope to have it released by late summer.'



## Oban photographers could be featured in Argyll and Bute outdoors calendar

**PHOTOGRAPHERS** in Argyll and Bute could have their pictures featured on a calendar that will be distributed throughout the region.

The Argyll and Bute Outdoor and Woodland Learning Group (OWL) has organised a photography competition for people of all ages to promote outdoor and woodland learning.

There are three categories: nine and under, 10 to 16, and 16 and over.

The pictures must capture the spirit of outdoor learning in Argyll and Bute.

Digital files must be submitted as JPEGs and emailed to [Argyllowl-group@gmail.com](mailto:Argyllowl-group@gmail.com).

Entries must include the name and age of the entrant and there can only



be one entry per person. The closing date to submit a picture is Friday June 9.

The Argyll and Bute OWL Group was set up in 2004. It consists of people from the educational community, the Forestry Commission, and local organisations such as Stramash.

The group runs a number of projects to support the training and delivery of outdoor learning in Argyll and Bute.

## Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

### Hoping for a 'fool' house for album launch

ANOTHER April Fools' Day has come and gone and, this year, myself and Ross Wilson received an interesting prank call from Glasgow while on the way to a gig in the Highlands.

'I've got a dug here for you!' exclaimed the caller. 'You ordered a dug! I've got it here ready to deliver.'

I was clueless and confused but Ross quickly clocked the perpetrator and asked him: 'Does this dug play the moothie?'

The prankster was, of course, Argyll mouth organ

player extraordinaire, Donald Black, who is preparing to launch his new album next month.

The album, entitled *Bho m' Chridhe*, features a number of guest musicians including Alex Dalgligh from Skerryvore, Malcolm Jones from Runrig and Nashville's Charlie McCoy, the world's most recorded harmonica player, with whom Donald duets on a tune written by Skye accordionist, Blair Douglas. I cannot wait to get my hands on a copy of this CD.

The launch will take place on Thursday May 18 in the College of Piping on Otago Street and is sure to be a great night. I expect Donald to have the audience rolling in the aisles with his humour and sobbing into their tissues with his delivery of slow, Gaelic airs.

### Care for a Ceilidh to be on BBC Alba

AFTER writing about Donald MacLeod's *Care for a Ceilidh* only last week, I heard from Donnie some days later that BBC Alba is going to be featuring the scheme in a Trusadh documentary on care in the community this spring.

The programme, *Cha tig an aois leatha fhein* (Later Life Care), will be broadcast on Monday May 29 at 9pm on BBC Alba, and will show a *Care for a Ceilidh* performance.

I very much recommend trying to tune in to watch this programme and see the great work done by Donnie in the care homes around Glasgow and further afield.

### What's on

Saturday April 15: The Highlanders' Club Easter ceilidh dance with Susan MacFadyen's Band from 8pm till 11pm in Partick Burgh Hall. Tickets are £9 at the door.

Saturday April 21: Clydebank Highlanders' charity ceilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm in aid of Erskine Hospital.

Friday April 28: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Saturday April 29: The Glasgow Skye Association annual spring concert (*Wee Skye*), in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Thursday May 11: Comunn-an-Taobh-an-Iar annual general meeting in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

Thursday May 18: Donald Black album launch in the College of Piping, Otago Street.

Friday May 26: The Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting in Lourdes Secondary School.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association annual general meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday June 9: The Glasgow Skye Association end of session social in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

### Pub scene

Park Bar.

Friday April 7: Robert Robertson.

Saturday April 8: Scott Harvey.

Sunday April 9: Trail West.

Islay Inn

Friday April 7: Crooked Reel.

Saturday April 8: Gunna Sound.

## malt OF THE month

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**Glenmorangie 10 year old 40% Vol**

There is no denying the fact that Glenmorangie is the quintessential drink of choice for some.

It was certainly the first whisky I ever tasted. It was when I was with a Christian youth worker, Lizz Spence, aboard the old style trains with eight seater compartments on the West Highland Line.

Lizz was, and is, beautifully vivacious. We were making our way to Iona, via Oban and she had bought the whisky to celebrate my 18th Birthday.

While that kind of youth work would now be frowned upon - back then in the dark ages when I was a youngster, it was unseen.

Through the many years we were great friends, Lizz would often bring out a bottle of Glenmorangie and over the

years I learned to drink without getting drunk. I seem to have lost that ability again.

Last weekend, I was on Mull and I was taken to a brand new bar (in my friend's back garden) and all I could find in my car as a gift were two miniature bottles of Glenmorangie.

What ensued was a day of high fun and merriment in the sun at the appropriately named *Fu Bar* (as I interpret it, in the style of Burn's *Unco Fu* in his opus *Tam O'Shanter*). As the evening came to an end, in a village inn, whisky was on the cards.

Poncho John made his way to the bar in a very squint line and bought a whisky. And there it was, a whisky of friendship a Glenmorangie.

Slainte.

*Louise Glen*

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# Arena

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

## From comedy to conflict, Lorn Drama Festival serves up full menu of plays



THE 20th Lorn Drama Festival put on another fine programme of plays for the crowds at Oban's

Corran Halls last week. The festival put on three nights of live theatre for the audience's

enjoyment, from drama societies from Benderloch, Seil, Taynuilt, Dalmally and Accent from

Campbeltown – but sadly not Lochgilphead Drama Club, which had to pull out due to illness on the Friday.

The last-minute replacement acts, which were not judged, included a humorous talk titled A Tale of Two Ships by the Oban War and Peace Museum's Bill Leech, which ranged from stories of an escaped monkey in Benderloch to shipwrecks carrying 50,000 left-footed sandals.

Linda Robb performed a short comedy by Geoff Parker called 'Is That You Clint?' about meeting her

heavy-breathing stalker, and Anuschka Miller performed her original story A Little Voice.

Vivienne Price, Kathleen Hannigan and Carol Thomson then read Robert Service's poem The Haggis of Private McPhee, sent to the WWI soldier for a Burns Supper in his trench, before a German bomb blows it up, but the thought of the haggis drives a legless McPhee back to the line.

The festival featured seven plays, including Last Tango In Little Grimley by Dalmally and Lochawe Drama

Group, and Tom Stoppard's A Separate Peace by Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club. The festival's adjudicator Dave Bennett praised the quality of all the performances, as did audience members.

Taynuilt and District Drama Society's performance of Trio won the biggest cluster of trophies: best moment in comedy, the adjudicator's award, and the highest marks for dramatic production.

Vivienne and David Price, the play's producer and sound manager respectively, said: 'Trio is set in a concert hall

and features three characters, Violin, Viola and Cello, who go through the motions of farce to savage ends.

'The author, James Saunders, said of his work: 'If there is any theme that runs through my work, it is the absurdity of finding logic in anything.' His play, Trio, is a good example of what he meant.

'It is an extremely challenging ensemble piece both for the actors and the technical team and what we achieved was due to their total commitment to the play.

'We had no idea how the audience would

react to the piece and we were amazed and delighted with the result.'

In the junior section, Taynuilt and District Drama Society (Juniors) won first prize with Mark Rees' moving wartime play Remembrance set in a British park in 1915, followed in second place by Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club (Juniors) with their comic production Prof's Big Idea by Geoff Bamber. Remembrance's end scene also earned the award for the best moment in theatre.

Seil Drama Group's play set on an island

called All By Myself picked up the stage management award, and the highest marks for stage set was won by The Magic Roundabout performed by Accent Players, about two road workers who find a lady camping on a roundabout.

The festival's chair David Price said: 'Whilst I am delighted to see a small resurgence of interest in amateur theatre, I think it is true to say that all our local societies are on the look out for new blood. So, if you're inspired to take part, don't hesitate to get in touch.'

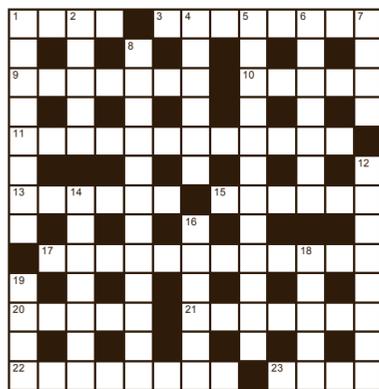
### St Columba's Cathedral

Corran Esplanade  
Oban, OBAN PA34 5AB  
Tel: 01631 562123



Holy Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 3pm  
Easter Saturday Vigil 9pm  
Easter Sunday Mass 10.30am

### THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



#### Across

- 1 Barely audible utterance of boredom (4)
- 3 Defeated (8)
- 9 Two helpers? (2,5)
- 10 Sparkle (5)
- 11 Objecting (12)
- 13 Tricks by tricksters (6)
- 15 Quickly! (6)
- 17 Liquid purification (12)
- 20 Bracelet ornament (5)
- 21 Strongly built (4-3)
- 22 View from above (5-3)
- 23 Carve in stone (4)

#### Down

- 1 Careless (8)
- 2 Stares (5)
- 4 Turn to (6)
- 5 Impossible to control (12)
- 6 Hair knot (7)
- 7 Cat nap (4)
- 8 Large water-mammal (12)
- 12 First class (8)
- 14 Vanishes on top of a mountain? (4,3)
- 16 Without haste (6)
- 18 Small enlargement to show detail (5)
- 19 Crusted protection (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



### A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 6 April – Thursday 13 April 2017

**DIARDAIN 06 GIBLEAN**  
THURSDAY 06 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.25 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep3  
21.00 **UR | NEW: Ceum air Cheum** – First Steps  
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)  
22.30 **Seòid a' Chidsin** – The Kitchen Coves – S1 Ep3 (rpt)  
23.00 **Rona: Dileab Chlann Eardsaidh**

**Raghnaill** – music documentary on Rona Lightfoot (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 07 GIBLEAN**  
FRIDAY 07 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)  
19.00 **An Là** – News  
19.25 **Pro 12 Live Rugby** – Edinburgh v Connacht  
21.30 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep7  
22.00 **Seirm** – music from Celtic Connections (rpt)  
23.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – St. Johnstone v Hearts  
**DISATHAIRNE 08 GIBLEAN**  
SATURDAY 08 APRIL  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)  
19.30 **Pro 12 Live Rugby** – Munster v Glasgow  
21.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
21.30 **UR | NEW: Mánran** – Quay Sessions

**Sions**  
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Hearts v Dundee  
23.00 **Balaich Iasgach Alasga** – Alaska Fish Wars (rpt)  
23.40 **Belladrum 2015** (rpt)  
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** – Pub quiz (rpt)  
**DIDÒMHNAICH 09 GIBLEAN**  
SUNDAY 09 APRIL  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review  
19.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)  
20.00 **Chi mi 'n Tir** – From Harris with Love (rpt)  
20.30 **Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep3 (rpt)  
21.00 **Càirdeas Cogaidh** – 100 years on from the Battle of Arras (rpt)  
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Partick Thistle v Motherwell  
23.00 **Ar-a-mach na Càisge** – Easter Rising (rpt)  
23.45 **Belladrum 2014** (rpt)

**DILUAIN 10 GIBLEAN**  
MONDAY 10 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Aibisidh** (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep8  
21.00 **Trusadh – Seachad air Cur-seachad** – More than a Hobby (rpt)  
22.00 **Taghadh Bho Na Trads** (rpt)  
22.30 **Eòrpa** – Brexit Debate (rpt)  
23.30 **Seòid a' Chidsin** – The Kitchen Coves – S1 Ep3 (rpt)

**DIMÀIRT 11 GIBLEAN**  
TUESDAY 11 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** – News  
20.30 **Alba: 1999** – the charts hits and top news stories (rpt)  
21.00 **Ceòl Country** – Country Music (rpt)  
22.00 **Trusadh – Seachad air Cur-seachad** – More than a Hobby (rpt)  
23.00 **Latha Bha Siud** (rpt)  
23.25 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

**DICIADAIN 12 GIBLEAN**  
WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Aibisidh** (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** – News  
20.30 **Chi Mi 'n Tir** – From Harris with Love (rpt)  
21.00 **A' Ghàidhealtachd** – Scotland's wild heart – The Highlands (rpt)  
22.00 **UR | NEW: Seòid a' Chidsin** – The Kitchen Coves – S1 Ep4  
22.30 **Taghadh bho Na Trads** (rpt)  
23.00 **Ceum air Cheum** – First Steps (rpt)

**DIARDAIN 13 GIBLEAN**  
THURSDAY 13 APRIL  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.25 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep4  
21.00 **Tèarmann** – Home from Home (rpt)  
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)  
22.30 **Ar-a-mach na Càisge** – Easter Rising (rpt)  
23.20 **Piobairean Bhòrnish** – Pipers of Bornish (rpt)  
23.30 **Mánran** – Quay Sessions (rpt)



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Friday 7 April – Thursday 13 April

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | PG | 150 MIN**

Fri: 12:30, 14:00, Sat: 16:00, Sun: 16:00, Mon: 12:30, 14:00 Tue: 17:45, Wed: 12:30, 14:00, Thu: 12:30  
3D: Sat: 14:00, Tue: 14:00, Thu: 14:00

"Beauty and the Beast" is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within.

**KIDS CLUB: THE LEGO MOVIE | U | 106 MIN**

KIDS CLUB: Sat: 11:30  
Tue: 13:45

Children's Classic. An ordinary Lego construction worker, thought to be the prophesied 'Special', is recruited to join a quest to stop an evil tyrant from glueing the Lego universe into eternal stasis.

**KONG: SKULL ISLAND | 12A | 138 MIN**

Fri: 17:00, 20:00, Sat: 17:00, Sun: 19:00, Mon: 17:00, 20:00, Tue: 17:00, 20:30, Wed, Thu: 17:00, 20:00

When a scientific expedition to an uncharted island awakens titanic forces of nature, a mission of discovery becomes an explosive war between monster and man.

**LIFE | 15 | 124 MIN**

Fri, Sat: 19:30 Sun: 19:15, Mon, Wed, Thu: 19:30

Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30

Life tells the story of the six-member crew of the International Space Station that is on the cutting edge of one of the most important discoveries in human history: the first evidence of extraterrestrial life on Mars.

**LOGAN | 15 | 137 MIN**

Fri: 17:00 Sat: 18:45 Sun: 13:00, Mon: 17:00, Wed, Thu: 17:00

Set in the future, Logan and Professor Charles Xavier must cope with the loss of the X-Men when a corporation led by Nathaniel Essex is destroying the world leaving it to destruction, with Logan's healing abilities slowly fading away and Xavier's Alzheimer's forcing him to forget. Logan must defeat Nathaniel Essex with the help of a young girl named Laura Kinney, a female clone of Wolverine.

**MOONLIGHT | 15 | 130 MIN**

Sat: 21:30

A timeless story of human connection and self-discovery, Moonlight chronicles the life of a young black man from childhood to adulthood as he struggles to find his place in the world while growing up in a rough neighbourhood of Miami.

**PEPPA PIG: MY FIRST CINEMA EXPERIENCE | U | 93 MIN**

Fri: 12:00, 15:15 Sat: 12:00, Sun: 11:00, 12:30, Mon: 12:00, 15:15, Tue: 12:00, 16:00 Wed, Thu: 12:00, 15:15

Join Peppa for one hour of fun in an exciting cinema experience for Peppa fans. Featuring nine brand new episodes including a visit to London, an Australian Holiday and a trip to the Zoo.

**SILVER SCREEN - THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES | 12A | 124 MIN**

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Sun: 14:30

Determined to gatecrash her ex-lover's funeral on glamorous French hideaway Ile-de-Re, former Hollywood siren Helen escapes her London retirement home with the help of Priscilla, a repressed English housewife stuck in a bad marriage. Pooling their limited resources, they hit the road together by coach, ferry, car and foot in a race to get to the funeral on time, becoming entangled in a love triangle with a reclusive French millionaire along the way.

**VICEROY'S HOUSE | 12A | 126 MIN**

Sat: 13:45, Sun: 17:00

In 1947, Lord Mountbatten assumes the post of last Viceroy, charged with handing India back to its people, living upstairs at the house which was the home of British rulers, whilst 500 Hindu, Muslim and Sikh servants lived downstairs.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club juniors in the Prof's Big Idea.



Accent Players in The Magic Roundabout by Bob Davidson.  
Photo courtesy Robert Batty.



Taynuilt and District Drama Society Juniors in Remembrance by Mark Rees. Photo courtesy Robert Batty.



Seil Drama Group in All By Myself. Photo courtesy Robert Batty.



Linda Robb in Is That You Clint by Geoff Parker.



Taynuilt and District Drama Society in Trio by James Saunders.  
Photo courtesy Robert Batty.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club in A Separate Peace by Tom Stoppard.  
Photo courtesy Robert Batty.

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**OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station**  
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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

**MONDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Maccoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2

**TUESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

**WEDNESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

**THURSDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

**FRIDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.

**SATURDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Coshier, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

**SUNDAY:** 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

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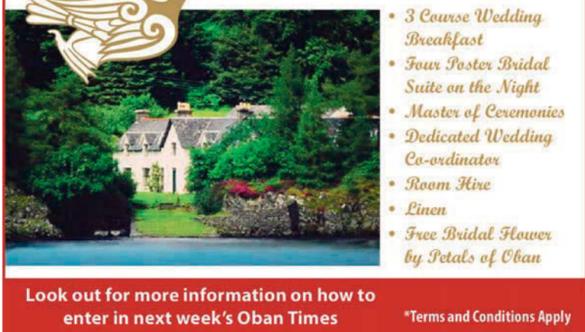
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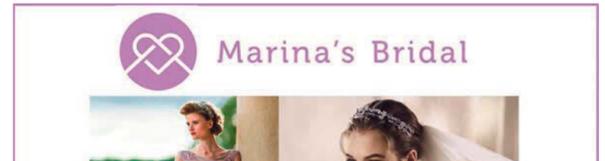


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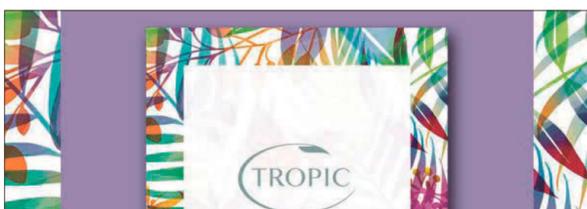
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# Don't Buy It

# HIRE IT



Hiring is an aspect of life that has blossomed over the last 30 years to the point where it has become very big business indeed. Both in the domestic and commercial spheres, it has reached the point where it is no longer a 'last resort' or 'emergency' decision. Hiring these days is the automatic move taken whenever a special job needs doing, special equipment is required, temporary transport needed or a venue required for a function. In the complex world we live in it does in fact, make economic good sense.

All facets of human activity are catered for by hiring firms. Hiring can be done by the hour, the day, the week, month, year or indeed for much longer periods. Generally speaking it can be divided into domestic and commercial areas, though by its very nature it does allow either side to 'cross the line', which is an even greater advantage in many cases.

For the private, domestic client, High Street hiring shops can provide all the DIY requisites necessary to keep even the busiest amateur painter, decorator, carpenter, plumber, electrician or car mechanic, toolled up. There too can be found all the mechanised aids that render gardening less of a backbreaking job.

In all these activities, the hiring of equipment and tools can mean a job becomes an economically viable activity. It means the average, hard-pressed householder can afford to improve his home or garden without having to buy expensive tools and equipment which may only ever be used once or twice. Jobs can be safely executed simply because hired tools and equipment are in first class order, well maintained and safe.

Of course the commercial hirer can find this way of acquiring highly specialised plant and equipment an extremely eco-

nomical activity.

Hired equipment after all need only be accommodated whilst in use, so there are no complex storage problems to cope with. Hiring allows a firm to have the very latest equipment for the job at very minimal rates. It means valuable capital is not tied up in a rapidly depreciating asset.

Then there is the matter of maintenance. All mechanical equipment deteriorates eventually. Regular servicing, periodic repairs and eventual replacement, must all come into the calculation.

All of this just goes to show how deeply into our society the habit of hiring has gone. So important is it now, were it to stop tomorrow, a lot of homes would begin to deteriorate, many weddings would appear less smart and accommodate fewer guests, and a great many commercial concerns would simply cease to function.



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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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## How to handle an unexpected property inheritance

By Elliot Castle, CEO of We Buy Any Home

INHERITING a property can be hugely overwhelming. When you've lost a loved one, the last thing you want to think about is what to do with the home they've left behind.

Deciding what to do with the property can be stressful and daunting as there are a number of options available to beneficiaries of a home: you can rent out the property, live in it yourself or sell it.

If you are selling the property with joint inheritors you will need to agree who is going to manage the sale and agree the minimum price you will all accept.

When you are ready to proceed you then have two options: put the house on the market and sell through an estate agent or sell the property with a private buying company which can guarantee a quick and easy sale.

If you prefer to put the house on the market with estate agents, you will need to prepare the property for sale - applying a fresh coat of paint and repairing any damage.

It is important to choose your agent carefully to make sure you trust their valuation and desire to sell the home, and you are happy for them to enter the property and conduct viewings if you can't be there yourself.

However, if it is in your interest to sell the property very quickly, you may be reluctant to invest the time and money to put it on the market. In this case, you can opt to sell the property through a private buying company such as We Buy Any Home.

We will provide you with an initial offer within 24 hours of contact - enabling completion on a house sale in as little as seven days. We will also pay the solicitor's fees for property sales, so beneficiaries can be assured that the offer made to them is the full amount they will receive.

If it is in a good area, and in good condition, renting it out is a beneficial way to keep the property as part of your estate, pay off the mortgage and even provide yourself some extra cash.

If you are considering renting out, you must be willing to commit to rent it out for six months or more, keep the house in good repair and make necessary updates and fixes when required and you have a full understanding of the legalities of being a landlord.

You will have to pay tax on any profit you make from the rental income and make sure the property is in full possession of energy, gas and electrical safety performance certificates.

There are two options available for managing a rental property. The first is using a letting agent who handles the legal process of moving your tenants in and any issues that occur, but you will need to pay them a fee. The other option is landlord management, which means you are in charge of managing the property and the potential midnight calls about broken boilers.

If the property is desirable, you may decide you would like to live in it yourself. If you are the sole inheritor this is slightly more straightforward, as it is your decision alone whether to inhabit the property. However, if you share the inherited property you will have to seek legal advice to draw up an agreement to ensure that all parties are compensated for their partnership.

Again, you will need the agreement of your joint inheritors so it is best to discuss this with them before any decisions are made.

In either case, there are a few questions you need to ask before going ahead. Does the property have any debts? The value of the deceased person's share is counted

as part of their estate. The personal representative or executor for the deceased person's estate is responsible for settling all financial affairs. They must ensure that all debts and any tax due is paid before they distribute the assets of the estate.

If you inherit a property which has a mortgage, you'll be responsible for the monthly payments even if you don't live there. If you are unable to pay these, there is a risk the property could be repossessed. An adviser will be able to help you work out your options or negotiate with your lender.

Are there any tenants in the property? If you inherit a property that has a tenant, you will have to take their legal rights into account. Giving them proper notice is important and it is important to seek legal advice to help you negotiate their contract if you don't understand the agreement.

View all of these properties on [westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk](http://westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk)

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### New Terminal Building, Fishnish

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#### TO LET

A bespoke food outlet with modern kitchen and waiting room. The building forms part of the new Ferry Terminal on the Isle of Mull. The building could be operated as a kitchen/take away facility adjacent to the waiting room. Whilst the facility is separate from the waiting room, it will benefit from

passing trade from the regular ferries to and from Lochaline. The Net Internal Area is 145 sq.ft. (13.49 sq.m.).

Offers are invited for the leasehold interest. To arrange a viewing or for further information please contact:

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#### THE OLD POWER HOUSE, ISLE OF MULL

REDUCED PRICE OIRO £235,000

EPC D56

The Old Power House, as its name suggests, was originally an electric generator station which has been totally upgraded and sympathetically extended over the years. In its current configuration, the property offers an ideal business opportunity with a comfortable, one-bedroom owner's apartment attached to a well-fitted and popular, two bedroom holiday letting unit. However, by returning the kitchen of the letting unit into a bedroom, the property can be occupied as a spacious, four-bedroom house.

- Rural location
- Beautiful countryside views
- Easily maintained attractive gardens
- Ideal permanent home
- Suitable for B & B or holiday letting purposes



#### BEATTIES CROFT, ACHNAHA

GUIDE PRICE £90,000

EPC G1

Beatties Croft is a traditional cottage of white painted stone elevations under a corrugated roof. The property was historically let to tenants, and the simple accommodation is in poor condition and now requires refurbishment. The accommodation comprises a kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room and dilapidated bathroom on the ground floor, with two double bedrooms on the first floor. The cottage's position and outlook is fantastic with views toward the islands of Muck, Eigg and Rum.

- Traditional stone cottage
- Outstanding views of the Small Isles
- Elevated position
- In need modernisation and improvement

## OFFERS OVER, OFFERS AROUND AND FIXED PRICE



**OIEO, OIRO and Fixed Price**  
 'Offers in Excess of', 'Offers in the Region of' and 'Fixed Price' are the main ways that you can price your home when selling. Because no two properties are the same, a number of factors will determine the best method for you. If you are confused about which is best, you are not alone, so here is an overview of each.

**Fixed Price**  
 Fixed price is the most clear-cut way to sell your house. The seller offers the home at a certain price. Remember, though, that price is only one factor, with considerations such as the proposed date of entry or extras that the buyer may wish to include. Also, be aware that in a buyers' market, potential buyers may offer a figure below the asking price in order to open negotiations so sometimes this isn't always the best option.

**Offers in Excess of**  
 OIEO used to be a common tactic for pricing home in Scotland, and works best when the sellers' market is strong, there are several buyers competing for the same property and usually results in a closing date being set. Alternatively, where the property is maybe a holiday let with bookings, website etc., the seller is looking for the buyer to consider this in their offer figure. This method has declined in popularity over the past decade, but the current sellers' market has seen it make a comeback.

**Offers in the Region Of**  
 'Offers in the region of' is a bit of a combination of fixed price and offers over. It gives a potential buyer an idea of what the sellers expects for his or her house, as with fixed pricing, but the seller can set a closing date if the property is in high demand, and the buyers can bid against each other.

For more information about the different pricing tactics or to arrange a valuation of your home, please do get in touch with us.

[info@west-property.co.uk](mailto:info@west-property.co.uk)

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## PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET



### TOBERMORY



• Spacious Detached House  
 • 3 Bedrooms All En-Suite  
 • High Standard Fixtures & Fittings  
 • Private Garden  
 • Potential B&B/Holiday Rental  
 • EPC - C75  
**OIRO £300,000**

Comraich - A spacious 3 bedroom detached house located above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Built 6 years ago by the current owners the accommodation comprises a spacious hallway, large lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Upstairs there are 2 further generous bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, large store cupboard and study.

**£625 PCM**  
 Unfurnished 3 bedroom ground floor flat in highly desirable residential area of Fort William with stunning views out towards Loch Linnhe. Within walking distance of town centre and Lundavra primary school. Recently refurbished to a good standard with neutral decor throughout. Council tax band C. Parking available in shared car park area to front of property. Landlord registration: 478762/270/19321. EPC Rating: D62. AVAILABLE MARCH!

### BUNESSAN



• Spacious detached granite house  
 • 4 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms  
 • Built in 1870  
 • Excellent B&B Potential  
 • Large garden & lawn  
 • EPC Rating - F26  
**OIRO £325,000**

Sheepknowe House - A substantial detached granite house positioned in a private location within walking distance of the village of Bunessan, on the beautiful Ross of Mull. Built in 1870, the property is full of character and has been lovingly maintained by its current owners.

**£600 PCM**  
 This large 3 bedroom top floor flat located close to Oban town centre offers spacious accommodation with large windows and high ceilings. Recently redecorated throughout the property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, family bathroom, large lounge & kitchen with dining area. Rent excludes council tax (Band C) & utilities. Deposit & references required. EPC E53. Landlord Reg 149580/130/06310 Available June.

### CAMAS INAS, ACHARACLE



• Detached House  
 • 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms  
 • Quiet loch side location with mooring & slipway  
 • Approx. 2.5 acres  
 • Stunning views  
 • EPC Rating - E 48  
**OIRO £380,000**

A delightful home in a secluded and stunning loch side setting set in approx. 2.5 acres with panoramic views across Loch Sunart. The Steading provides spacious and flexible accommodation with a large modern dining kitchen, outstanding views from the south facing facade, original beams and wood burning stove in the comfortable lounge.

**£525 PCM**  
 Modern 2 bedroom flat in upper Oban. Recently refurbished in a modern, neutral decor throughout, the property comprises of 2 double bedrooms - 1 with built-in wardrobe, a spacious kitchen with stunning views, lounge & shower room. Electric storage heating and double glazed windows. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band B) and Utilities. EPC C75. Deposit & References required. Landlord Reg: 270831/130/07331. AVAILABLE NOW!

### ERRAY ROAD, TOBERMORY



• 2 Plots Available  
 • Full Planning Permission  
 • Fully Serviced  
 • Within walking distance of Tobermory  
 • Build package available  
**OIRO £70,000**

Plot 4 & 5 are situated in a sought after area of Mull on the edge of Tobermory town and within walking distance of the golf course, these two plots come with full planning permission for two good sized properties. The plots are being sold fully serviced one also with a septic tank already installed and with Septa registration.

**£480 PCM**  
 One bedroom ground floor flat, newly refurbished, unfurnished flat with modern decor, located in Oban town centre. The accommodation comprises of a large open plan kitchen and sitting room with bay window, 1 double bedroom, separate WC and shower room's, Council Tax B. Electric heating throughout. References and Deposit (1 Month Rent) required. Landlord Reg. Numbers: 43971/130/10230 & 143974/130/10390. EPC F25 AVAILABLE MAY.

### MORAY PLACE, FORT WILLIAM



• 3 bedroom ground floor flat  
 • Unfurnished  
 • Parking available  
 • Recently refurbished  
 • Close to town centre  
 • Electric heating  
**£625 PCM**

### SOROKA ROAD, ARGYLL



• 3 bedroom flat  
 • Unfurnished  
 • Town centre location  
 • Recently redecorated  
 • High ceilings  
**£600 PCM**

### SHUNA TERRACE, OBAN



• 2 bedrooms  
 • Recently refurbished throughout  
 • Modern, neutral decor  
 • Unfurnished  
**£525 PCM**

### BELLVUE APARTMENTS, OBAN



• 1 bedrooms  
 • Unfurnished  
 • White goods included  
 • Town centre location  
 • Private parking  
**£480 PCM**

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# FARMING

## Argyll farmer steps down from chairman of forum

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL farmer Angus MacFadyen has stepped down from his chairmanship of the Argyll and Isles Agricultural Forum after 19 years.

Angus, a livestock farmer from Bragleenmore Farm, Kilninver, handed over the reins on Friday March 17, at the forum's most recent meeting, to Kintyre's Sandy Pirie.

On behalf of the forum, Bill Dundas, principal agricultural officer with Rural Payments and Inspections Division in Oban, acknowledged the significant contribution Angus has made.

Bill said: 'Angus has given a great deal of his own time to the forum to secure a better future for Argyll's agricultural sector over the past 19 years and it has been greatly appreciated.'

'This has been not only through his time chairing meetings, but all the activity that goes on behind the scenes that many of us don't realise.'

'I have only been involved in the forum for the past 12 years

and in that time have seen the development of the Argyll and Isles Agricultural Strategy in 2005 and the delivery of tangible activities against that strategy.'

'This has been far more than just a round-table, tick-box engagement process.'

In addition to this, Fergus Younger, who joined the forum in 2006, has also stepped down to take on a full-time role with the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society.

Bill acknowledged the contribution that Fergus has made over the past 10 years.

This has included developing and delivering on some of the strategic priority actions: the development of the Food From Argyll brand, work on the Argyll Hill Lamb project, the island slaughterhouses, the working farm woodlands and, most recently, the work with Kintyre and Bute's dairy farmers.

Bill said: 'The appointment of a full-time development officer, Fergus Younger, in 2006, gave the forum the opportunity to deliver on its aspirations.

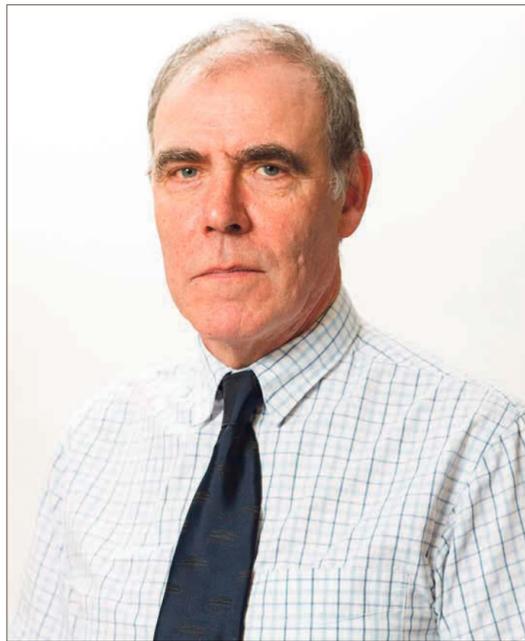
Securing the funding was one of the most impressive bits of partnership working I have been involved in and Angus was instrumental in this.'

'There are some great results from this work and I do believe the forum has made Argyll's agricultural sector stronger and more prosperous and Angus has been a crucial part of that.'

'On behalf of the farming community in Argyll and the islands and the other forum members, I thank both Fergus and Angus for the valuable contribution they have made.'

Kintyre dairy farmer Sandy Pirie has now taken on the chairmanship of the forum, with John Dickson, a livestock farmer from Bute and who is also currently NFU Scotland's regional board chairman, taking on the vice-chairman's role.

Angus will remain very much to the fore of agricultural policy development in his role as chairman of NFU Scotland's environment and land use committee, having just been re-elected to this position for the second year.



Angus MacFadyen has chaired the forum for 19 years.

## Land reform body is now operational

THIS week marks a significant milestone in land reform in Scotland with the establishment of the Scottish Land Commission.

The new organisation was created under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 to help take forward the Scottish Government's priorities for land reform.

The commission comprises six commissioners, including a tenant farming commissioner, whose job it is to advise the Scottish Government and those involved in land.

Chairman Andrew Thin said: 'We are really keen to get out and talk with everyone who has an interest in the work of the commission.'

'We have published our interim corporate plan for 2017-18, which outlines the commission's priorities for the first year, and how we will help to take the next step on the land reform journey.'

'We are focused on driving land reform and working towards creating a fairer more inclusive Scotland, in which everyone has a shared interest in our land, and everyone looks out for the interests of others.'

The cabinet secretary for land reform Roseanna Cunningham said: 'The commission will have a key role in reviewing policy and



Roseanna Cunningham.

legislation, helping to influence future developments relating to land ownership and helping to ensure that communities in both rural and urban Scotland are enabled to make the most of their potential.

'The membership of the commission reflects the fact that land reform impacts on every single person in Scotland, with members from cities, towns, rural areas and a dedicated tenant farming commissioner to deal with the specialised nature of this important area.'

'I would like to wish all the commissioners the best of luck with their important work.'

Hodge Fencing's new product range – creosoted Baltic pine straining posts and stobs. The rough round shape – because it protects the heartwood with a thick layer of creosote-soaked outer wood – should last the longest of all the possible shapes of stob.



Advertorial

## Hodge brings local expertise

WITH the increasing demands and difficulties farmers face in mind, Hodge Fencing has just introduced a new product range – creosoted Baltic pine straining posts and stobs.

The rough round shape – because it protects the heartwood with a thick layer of creosote-soaked outer wood –

should last the longest of all the possible shapes of stob.

This is in addition to the firm's larch and pine treated square stobs, larch and spruce treated rough round, and machined round.

Hodge has a wide range of rails and timbers as well as two kinds of wire, with the most popular

and longest lasting 2 Life Estate netting in all sorts of sizes.

The company also has a stock of cattle and sheep hurdles and feed rings and troughs. And it can order anything from the IAE range for customers at discount.

Hodge Fencing chooses every product it stocks with local conditions in mind.

# Easter on the Farm

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SPRING is in the air and Easter is imminent. And as everyone involved in the agricultural industry understands only too well, it is one of the busiest times of the year.

Uppermost in almost every livestock farmer's mind is the arrival of new life, with lambs and calves making their entry into the world.

But Easter also marks the start of the open farm season. With that in mind, experts from across the industry have shared their tips on keeping visitors of all ages safe.

The National Farmers' Union's Visit My Farm Code is set up to offer proportionate solutions to everything from basic best practice to practicable solutions to deliver safe and enjoyable farm visits.

Start with animal contact areas with clear signage ensuring all of your visitors are aware of what is expected of them and the systems you have put in place to ensure their visit is a safe, educational and enjoyable one.

For more information, go to <http://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/staying-safe-for-easter-farm-visits>.



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# Crofters have been 'cheated'

CROFTERS have been 'cheated', the Scottish Crofting Federation claims, by the Scottish Government's decision not to introduce the planned Areas of Natural Constraint support scheme.

The government has, instead, opted to reduce support payments to fragile areas.

'The government has reneged on its promise,' said federation chairman Russell Smith, 'which was made in the lead up to this phase of the Common Agriculture Policy. For years government and stakeholders have been working on the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) support scheme, which was to replace the Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS).

'LFASS has been consistently

misused by Scotland to divert public money intended for support to the fragile areas to act as a top-up for the industry farms on better land. Crofters have had to put up with being thrown the scraps for decades, but the European directive that LFASS has to stop by the end of this year looked like the light at the end of the tunnel for marginal areas. LFASS was to be replaced with the ANC scheme which would be much more favourable for those constrained areas that actually need the support.

'ANC could have replaced LFASS years ago, but agricultural industry lobbyists convinced the Scottish Government to keep the change until the last minute. Now the Scottish Government has

decided to take the penalty option instead. If LFASS is not replaced with ANC, it has to be reduced by 20 per cent, and then every year reduced further.

'So, instead of an expected increase in payment, crofters are faced with the certainty of a 20 per cent cut in support. This seems to be the worst of all options for crofters.'

Mr Smith continued: 'With Brexit or independence on the cards, we are moving into a new era of Scottish agricultural policy. Introducing ANC now, even at this late stage, would have shown a commitment by the Scottish Government to supporting the peripheral areas in the uncertain times to come.

'Instead the Scottish Gov-

ernment has chosen to cut the income of crofting families in some of the most remote and fragile rural communities in Scotland.'

Rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'I understand the Scottish Crofting Federation's frustration. And I want to assure them and crofters that I have given this issue the most careful consideration. The overwhelming view was that changing to an ANC scheme would add unwelcome uncertainty and upheaval at this time.

'We are in a situation not of our own making and one that is not easy to resolve given the wider uncertainty caused by the outcome of the EU referendum and the unhelpful silence from the UK government on funding

for LFASS - or indeed, any successor scheme in 2019.

'The European rules do not permit us to continue with LFASS unchanged after 2017.

'EU expects a change from LFASS to an ANC scheme in 2018. A 2016 commission guidance publication on ANC allows for those member states that do not make the transition to ANC in 2018, to continue with LFASS payments paying 80 per cent of payments in 2018. This will provide stability of funding and support for our farmers and crofters.'

A supportive NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'The vast majority of active LFA farmers and crofters struggle to understand why we need to change a scheme which is largely working and deliver-

ing for them. We have tried to convince Europe to keep our scheme but these channels are now exhausted and change is required.

'We have worked with the Scottish Government on the design of this parachute payment scheme for 2018. We believe it avoids the very onerous and restrictive rules that a European-approved ANC scheme would have brought and avoids the risk of a big reduction in support for some farmers and crofters posed by a move to ANCs compared to existing LFASS payments.

'While the parachute option is not ideal, it is significantly better than the cliff edge of ANC payments that active upland beef and extensive hill sheep producers faced.'

## Funding for young farmers

YOUNG people seeking to establish a career in agriculture could benefit from £2.5 million in Scottish Government funding.

The grant funding has been awarded to develop the next generation of farmers and will benefit 47 new agricultural businesses.

Rural secretary Fergus Ewing insisted it was 'crucial' to bring new talent to the industry, adding: 'Overcoming barriers to entry and attracting new entrants to farming is vital for the sustainability of the industry.

'New entrants drive innovation and best practice, improve efficiencies and contribute towards the economic vitality of the sector.'

The application window for the Young Farmer and New Entrant Start-up Grant scheme closes on September 30 2017.

## Pig prices on the rise

PIG prices have risen to a nine-week high following a continued downward slide at the start of the year.

Quality Meat Scotland's economics services team said: 'This impressive year-on-year increase will be of comfort to producers,' but added, 'the market remains below the levels of March 2014.'

The GB Standard Pig Price prices fell from 151.9p/kg dwt at the end of 2016 to 159.6p/kg in the week ending February 25.

However, there has been a 35 per cent increase in prices from a year earlier recorded in the third week of March.



All six elected and three appointed crofting commissioners met for the first time on March 28 in Great Glen House in Inverness. The commissioners had a chance to have an informal chat and get to know each other over coffee before getting down to business meeting Scottish Government officials to discuss the future of crofting legislation. In the afternoon, commissioners considered how to work together as a board. The commissioners then held their first board meeting on Wednesday March 29 in Great Glen House.

## Around the markets

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts on Monday April 3 sold 743 store cattle and 1036 store hoggets and grit gimmers and Ewes at their April show and sale.

The judge for the day was Ross Johnston, North Medrox, Cumbernauld, and the following were his awards and prices.

Overall champion, a Charolais bullock from J and D Mitchell, Offers, Gargunnoch, scaled 480kg realised £1100 and purchased by A C Bruce, Glendavny, Aberdeen.

Reserve champion, a Limousin heifer from D and L Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, at 345kg realised £830 purchased by A Kerr, East Cairnbeig, Laurencekirk.

Best Pen of four Bullocks came from R McNea Ltd, Woodend, Armadale at 492kg sold for £1100 purchased by A C Bruce, Glendavny, Aberdeen.

Best Pen of four Heifers came from D and L Graham, Mains of Burnbank at 378kg sold for £920 purchased at A J Ingram, Huntly.

Bullocks averaged 222ppkg selling to 268ppkg for a Simmental from G Stewart, Wester Whin, Slamannan and to £1300 top for a Simmental from A Peock, Bowhouse, Gartnash and for a Saler from J and J Brown, Loanrigg, Slamannan.

Heifers averaged 217ppkg selling to 260ppkg for a Limousin from A McDowall and Son, Mid Ervie, Kirkcolm and to £1230 for a AA from T J Paterson, Alton Muirhouse, Newmilns.

Black and white Bullocks averaged 152ppkg, selling

to 195ppkg from J C Orr, Baldastard, Lundin Links and to £1170 from the same home.

Other leading prices:-  
Bullocks per head  
£1270 Loanrigg (twice) and Alton Muirhouse £1260  
Lower Crawtree £1250  
Loanrigg £1240 Callendoune, Loanrigg and Bowhouse £1220  
Callendoune £1210 Loanrigg and Callendoune £1200  
Callendoune.

Heifers per head  
£1160 and £1150 Alton Muirhouse £1150 Woodcockfaulds £1140 and £1130 Alton Muirhouse £1100 Reivoch and Alton Muirhouse £1090 and £1080 Alton Muirhouse £1050 Coillabus (Islay) £1040  
Bowhouse, Bowridge and Woodcockfaulds

Bullocks p/kg  
266p Mid Ervie and Midton 264p Walton 262p Craigievern 258p Wester Whin 257p and 256p Mid Ervie 255p Offers Heifers p/kg  
250p Mid Ervie 249p Keirsbeath 248p Mid Ervie 247p Mains of Burnbank and Mid Ervie 246p Walton (Kinloch) 243p Mains of Burnbank and Keirsbeath 241p Mains of Burnbank 240p Robertsonlane, Keirsbeath and Offers

B&W per head  
£850 Gryfside £800 Lochnaw, Home Farm £770, £760 (twice) and £740 Gryfside £730 Knockraich  
B&W p/kg  
179p Lochnaw, Home Farm 169p Knockraich 158p Gryfside 149p West Kirkland  
Breeding cattle sold to £920 for a cow and calf from G Stewart, Wester Whin, Limerigg.  
Also sold were 1036 store hoggs, ewe hoggets, grit ewes

and ewes with lambs at foot.

Ewe Hoggets:-  
NCC - Woodend Cottage £77  
Chev X - Duallin £72  
Chev - Scoor, Isle of Mull £69  
Cross - Treshnish, Isle of Mull £64  
BF - Dirnanean £49  
BF - Duallin £47  
Swale - Rossal, Isle of Mull £35  
Grit Ewes:-  
Cross - Woodend £91  
Shet - Arns £38  
Ewes with Lambs at foot:-  
Texel with twin lambs - £158  
Tullygarth  
Cross with single lambs - £100  
Wester Whitefield  
BF with twin lambs - £100  
Wester Whitefield  
BF with single lambs - £50  
Wester Whitefield

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts on Thursday March 30 sold 182 cattle comprising of 95 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 10 OTM Cattle and 77 cast cows and bulls. All classes of prime bullocks and heifers would be dearer on the week.

Prime bullocks averaged 210p  
Prime heifers averaged 210p  
Young bulls averaged 172p  
Otm cattle averaged 182p  
Beef cows averaged 121p  
Dairy cows averaged 105p  
Prime bullocks sold to 240ppkg for a British blue from TH Gray, Balquharrage, Lennox-town purchased by T Connor, Butchers, Troon and to £1528 for a Limousin from JH and NT Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan.  
Prime heifers sold to 238ppkg for a Limousin from R Cook, Kinneil Mill, Linlithgow purchased by D Campbell and Son, Butchers, Callander and

to £1549 from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie, Tibbermore. Young bulls sold to 210ppkg for a Limousin from W Dick and Sons, Mains of Throsk, Stirling and to £1548 from same farm.

Leading prices:-  
Bullocks p/kg  
238p Balquharrage 230p Moorfield, Learielaw and Bankhead (Kerr) 228p Learielaw, Moorfield and Low Crawtree 222p Borlick 220p Flemington, Balquharrage and Moorfield 218p Faskine, Mains of Cultmalundie and Low Crawtree 215p Dullomuir and Kinneil Mill  
Heifers p/kg  
235p Dalchirla 232p (twice) Learielaw and Mains of Cultmalundie 230p Meadowend and Dalchirla 228p Over Inzievar, Faskine, Borlick, Flemington and Dalchirla 225p Faskine, Moorfield, Dalchirla 220p Dyke and Meadowend 218p Pityot and Moorfield  
Bullocks per head  
£1518 and 1500 Learielaw 1517 Mains of Cultmalundie £1495 Moorfield £1481 Pityot (Stonehaven)  
Heifers per head  
£1447 and £1438 Learielaw £1431 Greencraig £1403 Meadowend £1395 Borlick £1390 Dalchirla and Greencraig £1382 and £1377 Pityot  
Also forward were 76 cast cows and bulls.

Beef cows averaged 121ppkg selling to 189ppkg for a Limousin from W Dandie and Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn and to £1300 for the same beast. Dairy cows averaged 105ppkg and sold to 119p from J Pollock and Sons, Bonnyhill, Bonnybride and to £930 from

the same home.  
Bulls averaged 130ppkg and sold to 148ppkg for a Limousin from Keirsbeath, Mains of Beath, Crossgates and to £1590 for the same beast.  
Overall a good show of cows with all cows lean or fat selling away well.  
Other leading prices:  
Beef cows per head  
£1220 Murrayshall £1100 Kinneil Mill and Auchmuir £1080 Howkerse £1070 Dyke £1030 Murrayshall £980 Borlick and Inchie  
Beef Cows p/kg  
150p Dyke and Auchmuir 145p Howkerse and Kinneil Mill 142p and 140p Murrayshall 136p Inchie and Garffairn 133p Gryffwraes  
Dairy cows per head  
£910 Bonnyhill £880 North Mains and Meldrum £860 Bonnyhill £850 Solsgrith £840 Meldrum (twice) and Bonnyhill  
Dairy cows p/kg  
116p North Mains and Stenhouse 114p North Mains 113p Bonnyhill and Solsgrith 112p Meldrum 111p North Mains.

the same home.

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts, on Tuesday March 28 sold 2173 prime hoggets, ewes and tups.  
Top price of the day went to A MacGregor Ltd, Allanfauld for a pen of Texel hoggets at £108.  
Top price per kilo went to J B Guthrie, Cuilburn at 238ppkg for a pen of 42 kilo at £100.  
Overall sale averaged for 1550 sold 179.7ppkg (+ 4.7p on the week), mixed show of sheep for quality today but many export hoggets between 39-42 kilo selling between 190ppkg - 206ppkg and more could have been sold to sellers advantage.

Leading prices per head:

Texel  
£102 Birch Avenue £101  
Wester Thomaston £100  
Easter Buchlyvie £100 Easter Ochtermuthill  
Beltex  
£100 and £98 Cuilburn £100  
Easter Ochtermuthill £94  
Meikle Seggie £94 Strageath Cross  
£97 Birch Avenue £95 West Thomaston £94 Strageath £94  
Meikle Seggie  
Suffolk  
£90 Birch Avenue £88 Er Buchlyvie £88 Castle Rednock £85 Newton of Crathie  
Mule  
£85 and £81 Meikle Seggie £84.50 Allanfauld £80 Newton of Crathie £79 Wr Thomaston  
Cheviot  
£89.50 Nr Strathkinness £87.50 Burnshot £87 Er Craigduckie £86 Newton of Crathie  
Blackface  
£86.50 Burnshot £77 Home Farm £76 Wester Thomaston £75.50 Castle Rednock  
Leading prices per kilo:  
Beltex  
225p and 220p Meikle Seggie 223p Cuilburn 219p Strageath  
Texel  
218p Inchgall 217p Easter Buchlyvie 212p Birch Avenue Continental  
218p Cuilburn 218p Er Ochtermuthill 216p Strageath  
Suffolk  
203p Graystale 198p Loanhead 192p Newton of Crathie  
Cheviot  
206p North Kinkell 196p Overhillhouse 192p Newton of Crathie  
Blackface  
188p West Thomaston 179p Coulshill 179p Braco Castle  
Mule

182p Whitecraighead 181p

Coulshill 174p Newton of Crathie  
Also forward were 604 cast ewes and 18 tups, 268 heavy ewes averaged £77.82 selling to £126 for a Texel from J McKerrow, Riverview, Bo'Ness, 230 Export Ewes averaged £47.52. Overall a good show of ewes with the average on the week up £4.33  
Other leading prices:  
Texel  
£125 Riverview £118 South Flanders £116 Whitecross £108 South Flanders and Inchgall  
BF  
£76 Bailanstruth £67 Mansfield £66 Townhead £60 Coulshill £59 Home Farm, Arniston and Castle Rednock £55 Dollarbank  
Suff  
£122 and £110 Easter Buchlyvie £90 South Flanders £84 Riverview  
Cross  
£96 South Flanders £86 Greigston £82 Braco Castle £79 Inchgall  
Cheviot  
£71 Kilbryde £60 Wester Whitefield  
BDM  
£106 Riverview  
Blue Face Leicester  
£88 Clunebeg and Thorn  
Beltex  
£111 Dyke £110 and £100 Cuilburn (twice)  
Mule  
£73 Harviesmailing £71 Pendreich £70 Allanfauld  
Tups sold to £116 for 3 Texels from Reston and Berwick, Shawbraes, Reston.  
Other leading prices  
£99 Home Farm £70 Blairlusk and Harviesmailing £69 Laphroaig (Islay) £68 Mains of Struie

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Britain's Motorists and Government should reflect on 'UNACCEPTABLE' MOT Failure rates due to tyre defects, says tyresafe.



Government figures have revealed tyre defects account for over a quarter (27%) of all car MOT failures. The data requested by TyreSafe from the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) reveals nearly 2.2 million cars failed the MOT in 2016 as a result of dangerous or illegal tyres\*. These latest figures mean tyre defects remain the second most common reason for an MOT failure after lighting.

Of those, 106,000 failures were cars taking their first MOT, currently required when it reaches three years of age\*\*. That equates to a 5% failure rate due to tyre defects for all cars taking their first MOT.

In combination with TyreSafe's own findings that more than one-in-four tyres are already illegal when they are replaced\*\*\*, the overwhelming conclusion is that far too many of Britain's motorists are not carrying out routine tyre maintenance checks between MOTs, leaving themselves and other road users at an increased risk of an incident on the roads.

The findings are set against the background of the government's consultation

to evaluate extending the requirement for a car to be submitted for its first MOT after four years rather than the current three, known as the 'grace period'. The government argues that this could be considered as the existing three-year gap was implemented when vehicles were not as reliable as they are today. The consultation is open for comments until 16th April 2017 at 11.45pm.

However, TyreSafe is reminding motorists and government alike that tyres' tread depth can easily be worn to below legal limits in three years and being in contact with the physical road environment they are vulnerable to damage at any time. Drivers can reduce the risk of driving with defective tyres and facing a potential fine of up to £2500 and three-penalty points (per tyre) by carrying out routine checks, yet the evidence proves they do not. Evidence also implies a substantial proportion of tyres continue to be used despite being unsafe and only replaced when the owner has no choice, for example following an MOT failure.

Stuart Jackson, TyreSafe

chairman, said: "The existing MOT failure rates are unacceptable as they are and, based on current evidence, it's reasonable to suggest any extension would only result in more defective tyres on Britain's roads. Many of the government's own departments, agencies, and associate companies, along with road safety stakeholders, are working tirelessly to make our roads ever safer and reduce the number of incidents. TyreSafe believes increasing the grace period for cars' first MOT to four years would counteract those efforts and would urge those involved in the consultation to reject this proposal purely on the grounds of safety.

*"However, regardless of legislation, drivers individually need to take their responsibilities to road safety seriously and carry out routine checks to stay tyre safe out on the roads. Remember ACT: check tyres' Air pressure, Condition and Tread depth at least once a month and before long journeys."*

For more information on all aspects of tyre safety, visit [tyresafe.org](http://tyresafe.org)

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A **part-time audio typist/admin staff member** is also required for **afternoon cover**. Please contact Roanna Agate for more information on 01631 567797 or [Roanna.Agate@bellingham.co.uk](mailto:Roanna.Agate@bellingham.co.uk). Salaries commensurate with experience.

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Please note that SSSC registration and the appropriately recognised qualifications aligned with that registration are essential requirements for this post, although consideration will be given to strong candidates who require support to achieve the required qualifications at SVQ4 level.

To apply, please visit: [www.btha.org.uk/items/BTHA-Jobs](http://www.btha.org.uk/items/BTHA-Jobs) and submit an application form to [recruitment@btha.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@btha.org.uk), or by post to the Recruitment team, Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, 3rd Floor, 100 Berkeley Street, Glasgow, G3 7HU.

Closing date: Monday 17th April 2017.  
Registered Charity No SC010858

### Mull and Iona Community Trust Vacancy - Recycling Project Officer

Mull and Iona Community Trust is recruiting a full time Project Officer, for our new project to increase rates of recycling on the islands.

The successful applicant must have excellent and sensitive communication skills and a keen interest in developing and promoting recycling.

A relevant qualification or prior experience of community development and community engagement projects would be desirable but is not essential. The project is funded by the Climate Challenge Fund and will be administered by Mull and Iona Community Trust.

The position is for a 12 month fixed term contract ending in March 2018.

For a full job description visit [www.mict.co.uk](http://www.mict.co.uk) then Contact Moray Finch, General Manager of the Community Trust ([enquiries@mict.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mict.co.uk)) for an application pack.  
The closing date for application is Monday 17 April 2017

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You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.



**Repairs Assistant** Lochgilphead  
Fixed term contract (2 years) 35 hours per week  
£19,717 - £23,197

For more information, please contact  
Iain McLeod on 01546 605 807

Interviews to be held on 16 May 2017, Lochgilphead

**Regeneration Officer (New Build)**  
preferred location Lochgilphead  
Fixed term contract (3 years)

£27,087 - £31,867 35 hours per week

For more information please contact Matthew MacAulay on  
01546 605 839

Interviews to be held on 16 May 2017, Lochgilphead

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website at [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk).

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)

Closing date for all posts: 12 noon on 21st April 2017

CVs are not accepted.

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RECRUITMENT



**Administrator/secretary**  
Oban Games  
£3500 pa plus commission  
Oban Area

The Premier highland games and international piping competition is looking for the services of a pro active and flexible administrator to coordinate preparations for the event and liaise with local authorities, emergency services, police, trade stand holders, helpers and groundstaff. In addition they will facilitate monthly, or as necessary, meetings of the games committee acting in a secretarial role.

This role requires commitment and availability throughout August.

Please email your CV or application to the secretary of the Argyllshire Gathering at [sec@argyllshiregathering.org.uk](mailto:sec@argyllshiregathering.org.uk)



**AHFA Plumber/ Multi Skilled Operative** Oban & Lorn  
Salary £25,515 - £30,023 per annum 37.5 hours per week  
£13.09 - £15.40 per hour

**AHFA Solid Fuel/ Multi Skilled Operative** Mid-Argyll  
Salary £21,127 - £24,853 per annum 37.5 hours per week  
£10.83 - £12.75 per hour

**AHFA Joiner** Mid-Argyll  
Salary £21,127 - £24,853 per annum 37.5 hours per week  
£10.83 - £12.75 per hour

All posts include 35 days holiday inc public holidays, life assurance, health plan, overtime/price work and generous standby/call out payments.

These posts are subject to a basic Disclosure Scotland check.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Thursday 13 April 2017

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Lee Holness on 01546 605815

To apply please go to the recruitment section of our website at [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk)

If you are unable to access the website please contact the recruitment team;

Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

CVs are not accepted



Crossroads North Argyll is an Oban based charity providing respite support to allow unpaid Carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities. We are a small friendly team based in the North Argyll Carers Centre in Oban with a vacancy for an

**OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR**  
10 hours per week-£9.37 per hour.

We are seeking an experienced admin person to support our aim of providing high quality respite care. You will manage the office systems eg invoicing, inputting time sheets, data collation and banking. If you are interested in working with us and can develop and maintain efficient office systems then please contact Cath for an informal discussion /application form on 01631 562277 / [info@crossroadsna.org.uk](mailto:info@crossroadsna.org.uk)

Closing date 28th April

We are also keen to hear from individuals who are interested in working for us to provide flexible weekly respite hours. We offer training, support, expenses and pay rate of £8.36/hr.

registered charity no: SC032051



## Marine Husbandry Staff

Sound of Mull, Loch Linnhe and Loch Nevis

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 Marine Husbandry staff to join our teams on the Sound of Mull, Loch Linnhe and Loch Nevis.

### Experienced Husbandry Staff

You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of skills including fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance 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 Farmer

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.

Working a 40-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:3 weekend working required on a rota system. We will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme. A current driving licence is essential.

We are also recruiting for seasonal staff on our marine farms between April and October.

To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email [angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.

Closing date: Monday 10 April 2017



### MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Are you the person to lead a new initiative to enable rural communities to thrive through the improved distribution of the community funds generated by wind farms? Blue Energy Sustainable Communities Initiative (BESCI) is recruiting an Initiatives Director to do exactly this, with an initial budget to distribute just under £1M annually, working mainly in Scotland.

You will be an excellent communicator, self-motivated and organised, probably with experience in community development, social or commercial enterprise and project management.

Salary circa £40k p.a. depending on experience, plus extensive benefits.

Full details: [www.besci.org.uk](http://www.besci.org.uk)

Application Deadline: Midnight, Monday 17th April 2017

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VIEW ALL JOBS AT [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)



**Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999**  
The preparation of an Environmental Statement in connection with an application for consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, to construct a forest road on an area extending to 0.47 hectares at Dornie Quarry, Leanaichan was advertised in this newspaper on 2 March 2017 in accordance with Paragraph 13 of these Regulations.

Following consultation with statutory agencies and the public Forestry Commission Scotland have now considered the application and the information provided in the Environmental Statement and have decided to give consent for the proposals. Copies of the full decision can be viewed, during normal office hours at:

**Forestry Commission Scotland** **Forest Enterprise Scotland**  
**'Woodlands'** **Torlundy**  
**Fodderty Way** **Fort William**  
**Dingwall** **Lochaber PH33 6SW**  
**Ross-shire IV15 9XB**

If you would like to appeal against the granting of this consent, you must make an application to the Court of Session with a copy to John Risby Conservator for Highland and Islands Conservancy within 6 weeks from 6th April 2017, the date that we published our decision.

**John Risby, Conservator, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland and Islands Conservancy, Woodlands, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB**

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL give notice that they have made The Highland Council (A82 Trunk Road And Other Roads, Inverness Area) (Temporary Prohibitions Of Traffic And Temporary Speed Restrictions During The 'Etape Loch Ness 2017' Cycling Event) Order 2017 to enable the following prohibitions or restrictions to be introduced when such a restriction or prohibition is identified as applying to the whole or a part or parts of the length of road by means of one or more of the traffic signs prescribed in diagram 7105 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016(b) or by means of no waiting cones, as prescribed or authorised in section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.**

1. To temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from:

- (a) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with Bught Drive, Inverness, and its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, from 06:00hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (b) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, Inverness, and its junction with the A831 Drumnaidochit – Cannich – Beaulie Toll Road, from 05:35hrs to 08:05hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (c) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the A831 Drumnaidochit – Cannich – Beaulie Toll Road and its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle, from 06:35hrs to 08:15hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (d) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle and its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, from 06:20hrs to 09:05hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (e) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 07:00hrs to 09:35hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (f) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores Inverness Road between its junction with the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road and its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfergialg – Dores Road, from 07:10hrs to 10:55hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (g) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfergialg – Dores Road between its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road and its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:05hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (h) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfergialg – Dores Road between its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:55hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (i) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfergialg – Dores Road and Holm Roundabout, from 08:15hrs to 12:25hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (j) Travelling in a northbound direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness – Leys – Inverarmie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (k) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk, Inverness, between its junction with Young Street and its junction with Andross Terrace, from 08:45hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (l) Travelling in any direction on Andross Terrace, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk and its junction with Bishops Road, from 08:45hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (m) Travelling in any direction on Bishops Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Andross Terrace, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 22nd April to 15:00hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (n) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Bishops Road and its junction with Ballifeary Lane, from 05:30hrs to 08:00hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (o) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Ballifeary Lane and its junction with Bught Road, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 22nd April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (p) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Bught Avenue, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 22nd April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (q) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with Whin Park, from 21:00hrs on Saturday 22nd April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (r) Travelling in any direction on Bught Avenue, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Road and its junction with Bught Lane, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 22nd April to 07:30hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.
- (s) Travelling in any direction on Bught Drive, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road, from 05:30hrs to 07:10hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.

2. To temporarily restrict any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from exceeding a speed limit of 20 miles per hour on: The B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness – Leys – Inverarmie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 23rd April 2017.

3. To temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from waiting on any of the roads listed in item 1 of this notice.

The Order, which is required to ensure the safe passage of participants taking part in the 'Etape Loch Ness' Cycling Event, will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs or cones.

Emergency services' vehicles, being used in an emergency for ambulance, coastguard, fire brigade or police purposes, and vehicles employed to ensure the safety of the event participants are exempt from the restriction and prohibition detailed in the Order.

Vehicles driven under escort are exempt from the restriction and prohibition detailed in the Order.

Special forces' vehicles, when driven by a member of the special forces in response to a national security emergency, are exempt from the restriction and prohibition detailed in the Order.  
Cyclists who are registered to participate in the 'Etape Loch Ness 2017' Cycling Event are exempt from the restriction and prohibition detailed in the Order.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available for viewing at the following address:  
Highland Council, Community Services, 94 Driehought Road, Inverness, IV2 3QN

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Mr Niall MacPhee, Mr Aaran MacPhee, Mr Ruaridh MacPhee, Mrs Catriona MacDonald has registered their croft Part Sheelling, Back of Keppoch, 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 16, 2017.  
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 C3794.

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press



**First Registration of a Croft**

Donald MacIsaac and Karen MacIsaac have registered their crofts Smirsary, 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 30, 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The crofts registration numbers are C3888, C3890, C3891



**Stray Sheep**

Stray sheep have been identified at Eredine and Glen Orchy. If you consider these may belong to you please contact us with verification of identification. If the keeper remains unidentified, the sheep will be considered lost or abandoned and disposed of by the Chief Constable in accordance with Part VI of the Civic Government (S) Act 1982.

Please contact:  
**Raymond Mundie, Assistant Area Land Agent,**  
**Forest Enterprise Scotland, Whitegates,**  
**Lochgilphead, PA31 8RS or email Raymond.mundie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or phone 03000 676673**

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
17/00398/PIP	Dal Na Crannich, Glenmamie, Lochailort	Erection of house - renewal of outline planning permission 13/03902/PIP
17/01207/FUL	Land to West of Onich Filling Station	Change of use of land to site catering caravan
17/01401/PIP	Land 45M SW of Yatter Whaup Croft, Tigh A Phuirt, Ballachulish	Erection of house
17/01451/PIP	Land 43M West of Braehead Cottage, Tigh A Phuirt, Ballachulish	Erection of house, formation of vehicular access

**Time period for comments is 14 days**

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [elanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elanning@highland.gov.uk)

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION THE FYNEST CAVIAR COMPANY, THE SAWMILL CAIRNDOW**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by The Fynest Caviar Company Limited for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with a closed recirculation tank system for the production of sturgeon and caviar namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Discharge of 77m³ per day of treated waste water from a fish production tank farm	River Fyne	NN 1957 1285

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/S/1153651:  
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.

**SAMOSSET LIMITED**

Company No. 33178 (in voluntary liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the above named company, is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 24th October 2016 and Harry Thompson of Harbour House, P.O. Box 4428, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands is the voluntary liquidator.

Dated: 24th October 2016 (Sgd) Harry Thompson  
Voluntary Liquidator

**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
17/00547/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new vehicular access.	Plot 2 Otter Creek Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/00801/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Achadaphail Croft Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DN	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
17/00662/PP	Alterations and change of use of outbuilding to form holiday letting unit	79 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Argyll And Bute PA42 7BG	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/00622/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and upgrade of existing access	Land South Of Dugarra Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/00765/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Plot 1 Benmore View North Connel Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
17/00802/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Achadaphail Croft Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DN	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
17/00119/PP	Formation of vehicular access and hardstanding	Letterwood Schoolhouse Lochave Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AQ	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/00377/PP	Change of use of shed to facilitate bicycle hire/storage.	Am Bealach Baligrundle 4 Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UQ	Sub Post Office Lismore
17/00734/PP	Siting of additional 5 storage containers from 17 to 22.	Craigunre Storage Containers Craigunre Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craigunre
17/00682/PP	Demolition of garage, erection of residential annex with studio space above and associated works	Traigh Bheag East Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AH	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**

Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 7th April 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm – 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567854

**Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)**

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 21st April 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 562 444

**First Let of a Croft**

Mr David Craig is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Lettershuna No2, Appin to Mrs Patricia Ethel Johnston of Lettershuna Lodge, Appin, Argyll, PA38 4BN. If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mrs Susan Mary MacKenzie MacDonald has registered their croft 9 Dalnabreck, Dalnabreck, 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 9th December 2017.  
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 71075

**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

I Blake & K A Blake  
14 Lower Carnach (tulach Gorm), Lismore & Appin 69575  
0.093 ha  
Reason – Site for a dwelling house  
Condition – With fencing conditions.

C Cole  
5 Achosragan, Lismore & Appin 74327  
0.159 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site and garden ground  
Condition – With fencing conditions.

S MacKintosh  
South Corran, Kilmallie 75046  
0.308 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site and garden ground  
Conditions – With fencing conditions  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARE REVIEW**

Notice is hereby given that there will be no changes to the maximum fares for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council following the recent taxi fare review in accordance with Section 17 and 18 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. These maximum fares will become effective from 25th July 2017. The fares will be as follows:-

Tariff	Hirings from ranks or "flag"	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)
Tariff 1	Hiring between 7am and 10pm	£3.00	20 pence
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	£3.60	20 pence
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" 24th December and 7am 27th December and 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	£4.20	20 pence

**Soiling Charge** – £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence).

**Waiting Time** – 35 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second.

**Taxi called by means of telephone** – 30 pence additional charge.

**Large Mini-bus type vehicles** (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) –  
a) Where Tariff 1 would apply – charge Tariff 2  
b) Where Tariff 2 would apply – charge Tariff 3  
c) Where Tariff 3 would apply – Surcharge £1.00

**Fee by negotiation** – for all journeys commencing within but finishing outside Argyll & Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

**Ferry Fares** – The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry.

**Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT**

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

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (B8035 SALEN-GRULINE-KINLOCH ROAD, ISLE OF MULL) (KNOCK BRIDGE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017**

On Monday 3 April 2017, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle (with the exception of vehicles being used for carrying out the works) on that length of the B8035 Salen-Gruline-Kinloch Road, as carried by Knock Bridge which extends to 47 metres or thereby.

The restriction imposed by this Order will be effective when indicated by signs, from 0001 hours on 18 April 2017 until 2359 hours on 16 June 2017 or until the works are completed, whichever is the earliest.

This restriction is required to allow bridge strengthening works to be carried out after which the bridge will be re-assessed with a view to removing the existing temporary 7.5T MGW weight restriction.

**Restricted Alternative Route – 18t MGW**  
An alternative route is available via the B8035, A849 Salen-Craigunre-Iona Ferry Road and the B8035 and vice versa. The B8035 is restricted to a maximum gross weight of 18 tonnes from its junction with the A849 at Kinloch to the entrance of Balmeanach Farm.

**Jim Smith**  
Head of Roads & Amenities Services,  
1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

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to hear your views, hopes and fears on Scotland's future now that Article 50 has been triggered.

**& Constituency Surgeries**  
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*Constituency Office, Fort William*  
*3.30pm - 4.30pm*  
**All welcome, no appointments needed**

For further information contact Constituency Office, Marmor House, Fort William, PH33 6BA, Tel 01397 700030

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**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITÈARACHD CROFT AVAILABLE FOR LET**  
CROFT: 113 Plocaig Sanna, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
CASE NUMBER: 76707

The Crofting Commission intend to let the tenancy of the above croft. The croft land, which will need to be included in the new Crofting Register, extends to approximately 1.9ha (hectares) and shares in the Achnaha and Plocaig Common Grazings with a souming of 6 cows and 25 sheep. The let is subject to crofting tenure and its regulation by the Crofting Commission.

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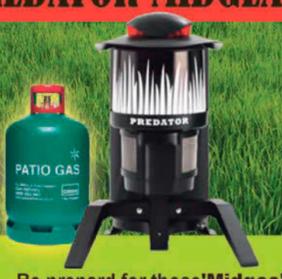
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**BIRTHS**

**ROBERTSON** - To Jamie and Lotti (née Mellor) a son, Alfred Guy Hally, born March 23, 2017.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**BARR** - The family of the late F.L. Kirstie, Duisdale, Lochgilphead would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages and cards during their recent loss of Kirstie. We would also like to thank the staff at the Mid Argyll Hospital, the 1st Responder from Carr Gomm and the ambulance crews in attendance for their care and attention; Donald MacDonald for their professional service; Jenny Campbell, Linda Tighe and their colleagues for arranging the coffee morning in memory of Kirstie and in aid of the British Red Cross and the RNLI, everyone for their raffle donations and all who attended - the total sum raised was £740.50. We would also like to thank Kirstie's many friends for their support and friendship to her over the years.

**GALLOWAY** - The family of the late Norris Galloway wish to thank you all for your support and kind expressions of sympathy. Your generosity at the retreat collection raised £585 which was locally received by the Lochaber Community Nursing Fund.

**MACCALLUM** - The family of the late Isobel would like to thank all those who attended the church service and for all the cards and kind wishes. A special thank you to Rev Corbett for his comforting service and to Mike McFall & Co for the excellent funeral arrangements, and to Hendry Robertson and Inverness Crematorium. Thank you to all the staff at Moss Park for their care and attention during mum's short stay. Thanks to all who so generously donated at the church £773.50 which will be split between Moss Park Residents Fund and Sense Scotland.

**DEATH**

**CAMPBELL** - Robinetta Margaret Campbell (née Anderson) affectionately known as Etta. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Etta who died on Thursday, 30th March 2017 in the Belford Hospital. Etta was much-loved and will be greatly missed by her son John and daughter Maureen, her sister Louise and her many grandchildren. Family and friends please meet for Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Spean Bridge at 1pm today (Thursday) 6th April 2017; thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations

in lieu to Cancer Charity can be given at the Church door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

**MACLEAN** - Peacefully and with dignity on Thursday 30th March 2017 at Eadar Glin Care Home. John Allan MacLean, in his 78th year. Devoted husband to Ann, loving dad to Morven and Kathleen and much loved granpa John and uncle. Funeral service will take place at Kilniver Parish Church on Friday 7 April, 2017 (tomorrow), at 1pm. Family flowers only.

**MEMORIAMS**

**ANDERSON** - Treasured memories of a dear mum, gran and great gran Mary Hay, passed away April 6, 1999. Loved and remembered always. - Seonaid, Kenny and family.

**CLARK** - Remembering with love my fiancé George, who died April, 7, 2006. I will always love you. - Jackie xx.

**MACARTHUR** - With loving memories of our Mum Morag, who died April 6, 1991. - Love from Lorna and Neil.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Alister, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha, April 13, 2003. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay. - Alister and Angus, Cath and family.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our parents, John, died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, April 11, 1989. Fond memories. - Ewen, Rosie and family, Spean Bridge.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, April 11, 1989. Time rolls on but memories last. - Catherine, John and family, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

**MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my daughter Yvonne Maxwell. Passed to heaven April 6, 1989 aged 3 years. Always in my heart till we meet again. - Love Daddy xx

**McKECHNIE** - In loving memory of a dear dad James, who passed away on April 6, 1977 and a dear mum Nancy, who passed away on November 30, 2013. Forever in our thoughts. - Fiona and Alex

**McNEILL** - In loving memory of Wilma, beloved wife of Seamus and devoted auntie of Owen, died April 9, 2016. No farewell words were spoken. No time to day goodbye. You were gone before I knew it. And only God knows why. My heart still aches with sadness. And silent tears still flow. For what it meant to lose you. No one will ever know.

R.I.P. - Your loving husband Seamus xx

Goodnight - From Owen xxx

**McNEILL** - Wilma, first anniversary, passed away April 7, 2016

We do not need a special day, To bring you to our mind, The days we do not think of you, Are very hard to find, Each morning when we wake, We know that you are gone, And no one knows the heartache, As we try to carry on, Our hearts still ache with sadness, And secret tears still flow, What it meant to lose you, No one will ever know, Our thoughts are always with you, Your place no one can fill, In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still. Forever in our hearts -Duncan, Heather and boys. xxx

**McNEILL** - Forever in our hearts and minds. - Allan and Irene

**McNEILL** - In loving memory of my dear sister-in-law Wilma, who died on April 9, 2016. She never failed to do her best. Her heart was true and tender. She simply lived for those she loved. And those she loved remember. Fondly remembered by her sister-in-law

- Margaret, Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt

**McPHEE** - In memory of my husband, father, father-in-law and granddad Willie, who died April 8, 2005. Gone but not forgotten. - From his wife and family at home and away.

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne Elizabeth, called to Jesus on April 6, 1989, age 3 years. A rose bud, petals tightly furled was lifted from her mortal clay. And firmly planted in a world where full blooms grow in rich array. - Love Mummy

**DCI Daley digs up Gigha's war secrets**



Denzil Meyrick who has contributed £3,000 to restoring Dalintober beach with the organiser of the project and long time pal Jamie McLean.

Photo by Raymond Hosie Photography.

DENZIL Meyrick's fifth DCI Daley novel, *The Well of the Winds*, launched at the Gigha Hotel on Saturday, on the Hebridean island where the crime thriller is set.

Around 50 people from Gigha, Campbeltown, Kintyre and further afield gathered to hear Meyrick discuss the new book with author and journalist Freddy Gillies.

Meyrick, who grew up in Campbeltown but now lives with his wife Fiona on Loch Lomondside, has sold more than 250,000 copies in the detective series. His detective protagonist DCI Jim Daley first appeared in *Whisky from Small Glasses* in 2012, and then *The Last Witness*, *Dark Suits and Sad Songs* and *The Rat Stone Serenade*.

The latest thriller, based on historical events, begins with the sudden and

mysterious disappearance of a Gigha family; the case leads Jim Daley and his deputy DS Brian Scott to start looking into some curious goings-on in wartime Argyll.

The book's publisher, Polygon, explains: 'Argyll, perennially remote yet abuzz with military activity in the 1940s, is a landscape that hoards secrets. In the kind of tight-knit communities in which people know each other's business but let each other alone, Daley's tenacious nose for a story uncovers a tale of world-historical significance.'

'On the small island of Gairsay, off the Kintyre peninsula, the local postman-cum-police and fire officer discovers that the Bremner family have vanished from their farm. There's a pot on the stove and food on the table, but no sign of three generations of a family long-believed to

be Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. 'A World War II mystery is revealed as investigations begin and various branches of the security services take an interest in the case. When DCI Daley comes into possession of a journal written by his wartime predecessor in Kinloch, Inspector William Urquhart, he soon realises Gairsay (a fictionalised Isle of Gigha) has many secrets.'

'Assisted by his indomitable deputy, DS Brian Scott, and new boss, Chief Superintendent Carrie Symington, Daley finds that he must solve a wartime murder to reveal not only the shocking events of the past, but new horrors of the present.'

Saturday's book launch on Gigha heard sales of Meyrick novella, *Dalintober Moon*, have raised more than £3,000 for the Dalintober Beach restoration project in Campbeltown.

**Churches - Lorn girls**



LORN girls' under 16 rugby team, who are coached by OHS PE teacher Murray Hamilton, are seen here receiving a cheque for £350 which will go towards

the club's development. In the picture, representing The Rotary Club of Oban, is rotarian Iain MacIntyre who emphasised that Oban Rotary was keen to support

all youth orientated activities. The photograph was taken before a training session, which still went ahead despite particularly inclement weather.

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**Thought for the week**

WHAT are we to make of the tumultuous political changes sweeping our world at this time? With the rise to power of such populist leaders as Putin in Russia, Erdogan in Turkey, Trump in the USA, Modi in India and Duterte in the Philippines, familiar values are being called into question.

Concern for the most vulnerable in society, an internationalist approach to global justice and peace-making, hospitality towards strangers, scrupulous commitment to being truthful, care for the environment - all of these long-cherished values now appear to be in jeopardy.

Deep questions arise about the

nature of power and the exercise of power.

These are not new questions. In fact, they are questions that were in the air on the first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem amid the cheering crowds. It was a potent symbol. For Zechariah had long before declared: 'Behold your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

Jesus's calculated move to enter Jerusalem on a donkey showed that he identified himself with this Messianic expectation.

Even as he did so, however, he also

challenged it. He made it clear that he would not be the martial hero of nationalistic expectation. He came, rather, as the Prince of Peace. Not for him the horse, which was the mount of war. He chose the donkey to carry him into Jerusalem. He brought a different kind of power - the power of humility, the power of service, the power of suffering for others, the power of justice and peace.

These are the realities of Easter. Might they be the answer to the crisis of our times?

**Kenneth Ross,**  
Parish minister, Netherlorn.

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**CHARITY DONATIONS**

# Oban BJJ members pick up the medals



Dawid Loukil, Coogie Potter and Tomasz Kapusta show their haul of medals won at the annual BJJ 24/7 competition in Glasgow.

**BJJ**  
Oban BJJ had a busy couple of weeks with their monthly seminar with Professor Marcos Nardini covering deep half guard.

Members of the club also travelled to Glasgow to compete with more than 300 athletes in the BJJ 24/7 annual competition in Scotland. The team of four boys took home five medals between them.

Callum Weir took a bronze in his first competition, Dawid Loukil took a bronze, Tomasz Kapusta took a gold and club coach Coogie Potter picked up two medals – a gold in no gi and a silver in gi.

The club's competitive record is something coach Coogie is extremely proud of as most of the club's athletes now compete at intermediate level and medalling is now commonplace for the club.

Classes continue as normal on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at 7pm and all are welcome. The club is run by



Iain (Coogie) Potter who trains under Marcos Nardini. For any inquiries, contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.

**Kyokushinkai Karate**  
Darryl and Charlie McLaughlin from the Oban club and Jodie Robertson from the Lochgilhead club are in Glasgow this Saturday (April 8) competing in the Kyokushin Cup. The three competitors are taking part in full contact fighting, with Darryl and Jodie also entered in the kata sections of the tournament. This is an international tournament with competitors attending from all over Europe. A full report on the tournament will be in the next report.

ing Kyokushin karate, please contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

**Shukokai Karate**  
Beginners are always welcome at the Argyll martial arts classes and if you are interested please contact Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or 01838 200419 or Flo McBurnie on 07765 931902.

**Kickboxing**  
Senshi Do kickboxing had a few juniors taking part in a freestyle karate tournament on Sunday March 26 in Arbroath. While the rules said light contact and mentioned the face as an illegal target, the home competitors flouted the rules with full contact face punches getting

thrown at an alarming rate with no reprimand from the referees and judges. Nevertheless, Sara MacIntyre managed to fight through to take a second place and Cody McCulloch took a third.

On Wednesday March 29 the club held a grading, a full report will be in the next column once those who were too ill to take part have a chance to test in a back-up grading.

The Kyokushin Cup tournament in Glasgow on April 8 is attracting competitors from all over Europe. The club has several members taking part and a full report will be in the next report.

Training continues as usual: Wednesdays for juniors from 6.30-7.30pm, seniors from 7.30-9pm and on Sundays juniors are from 11am-12.30pm and women-only session at 2pm. Find the club on Facebook under Senshi Do Kickboxing or contact Wullie Rodger on 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com.

# Charity swimmers raise money for Diabetes UK

A CHARITY relay swim covering the length of the English Channel in Oban's Atlantis pool on Sunday has so far raised £900, well over twice its £350 target, for Diabetes UK.

Local organiser Ben Pollock, himself a type one diabetic, swam 100 lengths of the 1,416 required to equal the 22-mile distance between England and France, followed by dozens of other sponsored swimmers, including Ben's girlfriend Lisa who finished 20 lengths, and his son Matthew who complet-

ed 25. The youngest supporter, aged five, managed two lengths.

Diabetes UK's national fundraising event, called Swim 22, is meant to run over three months, but Ben planned it to last one day from 8am to 4pm, with the help of his friends and family.

He said: 'My main objective when organising this swim was to raise money for Diabetes UK, but more importantly get everyone active and achieve something together.'

'It didn't matter if you swam

one length or a million – we did it together.'

'It's time to go to great lengths for people with diabetes. A huge thank you to everyone. I am overwhelmed with your generosity.'

Ben's Justgiving page explains: 'Each week thousands of people in the UK suffer heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, amputation and blindness because of their diabetes.'

'But when people manage their diabetes well, they can avoid these life-threatening

## Charity swim

complications and stay healthy. Diabetes UK provides information, care, and support for everyone with diabetes – and for their family and friends – so they can manage their condition well.

'Diabetes UK's campaigns improve life for people with diabetes while their research develops new treatments, technologies and will, one day, find a cure.'



Dugald Munro completed 40 laps of Atlantis Leisure's swimming pool, out of 1,416 needed to cover the 22-mile distance of the English Channel.



Julie Didcock in the pool. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Swimmers Ewen MacEachen, left, and Elliot Dougall, right, about to begin their charity swim for their friend Ben Pollock, centre, and Diabetes UK.



Ben Pollock fresh from swimming his 100 lengths at Atlantis to raise awareness and funds for Diabetes UK. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Charity swimmers Julie Didcock, Keira MacIntyre, Katie Galbraith and Claire Hutchison.



Right: Rebecca MacKinnon on her way to completing 80 plus lengths of the pool at Atlantis Leisure.

# £3,000 raised for trip to Perpignan



The three Oban High School students who will be attending the Glasgow Thistles rugby trip to France are Sandy Bavington, Euan Shearer and Kieron Morrison.

A FANTASTIC £3,000 has been raised in aid of three Oban Lorne under-16 players to attend the Glasgow Thistles rugby trip to Perpignan in the south of France this year.

The three players – Euan Shearer, Sandy Bavington and Kieron Morrison – were selected by their coaches to attend this year's trip which will involve two weeks of high quality coaching with other selected players from across the West of Scotland.

The fantastic sum of money was raised thanks to a sponsored Glasgow to Perpignan cycle over the weekend. Players, coaches, parents and guest cyclists all contributed pedalling the 1,550-kilometre trip.

Such was the effort put in by all who took part that the challenge was completed in under 19 hours with three spin bikes being put to continuous work in the Oban High School

## Rugby

gymnasium. Thanks must go to the following organisations for their generous donations: Beaton and McMurchy Architects, Morham and Brotchie, Lonan Properties, Regent Hotel, Jackson Butchers, PDK Shellfish, ACHA, Oban Rotary Club, Taynuilt Masonic Lodge and West Highland Housing Association.

As well as the donations received, the cyclists were backed all the way by a healthy following of supporters who turned out over the course of the 19 hours. Thanks also must go to Oban High School for providing the facilities and spin bikes for the event.

Euan, Kieron and Sandy will travel to Perpignan at the start of the summer holidays for what will be a fantastic experience for all three players.



Head of PE at Oban High School Murray Hamilton, Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Allan Wright and Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain get on their bikes to help the fundraising cause.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 8, Helensburgh 2. Scoring for Saints were Ross Higgins (6), Thomas McCrindle and Owen MacCorkindale, St Cadoes YC 7, Under 14s 1; Under 15s, no game; Under 16s v Port Glasgow BC, postponed; Antonine 1, Under 17s 6. Saints goalscorers were Kenny MacDonald (2), Lewis McPhee, Craig Easton, Ruairidh Horne and Lewis Buchanan.

The under-13s, 14s, 15s and 17s have no games this weekend. The under-16s travel to play Broomhill SC.

## Oban Bowling Club opens for season

### Bowls

OBAN Bowling Club opens for the season this Saturday April 8. The first jack will be thrown at 3pm.

# Big shots compete at Glendaruel spring open

A MORNING of drizzly rain greeted the participants for the spring trophy competition held at Glendaruel recently.

Conditions improved for the afternoon for the field of 25 senior and one junior gun. The club is attracting visitors from a wide area to the open shoots, normally four, possibly five this year.

The field competed for two trophies, the Dunans Challenge Open Trophy and the Glendaruel and Ormidale Cup, which is restricted to club members.

A side 'Annie Oakley' pool trap competition was a diverting warm-up event before the main event, a 50-target down-the-line competition.

The Dunans Challenge Trophy was won by Ronald Jenkins, Lochgilhead, with a

score of 144 out of a possible maximum of 150 points. Second with 143 points was Charlie Routenberg, Coalburn. Third place was taken by Alan Brown, Bute, with 142 points. There was a four-way tie for fourth place between Donnie McPhail, Glendaruel; Ted Blakeway, Glendaruel; Craig McFadyen, Oban; and Ronald Robertson, Bute.

The Glendaruel and Ormidale Cup, which goes to the top scoring club member, went to Donnie McPhail, Glendaruel, after a shoot-off.

The best and only junior shooting was Archie McBride, Glendaruel, on 138. Archie progresses to the senior ranks in the autumn, and any juniors out there wanting to shoot will be most welcome.

Grateful thanks are extended

## Rugby

to Anne McPhail and Johann McBride for their excellent catering.

The club also wishes to thank all those who donated items for the catering and prizes for the raffle. This was a good start to the 2017 open shoots and the club looks forward to welcoming members and visitors to the season's programme.

From left to right: Willie McDermott, Ted Blakeway, Donnie McPhail, Ronald Jenkins, Archie McBride, Charlie Routenberg and Alan Brown.



## New playing tops for Oban Ladies squash team

Allan McKechnie of Rutherfords Hairdressers in Oban, has kindly sponsored the Oban Ladies squash team with new tops. The ladies will be wearing the tops when they compete against other clubs during the season. Allan has been a great supporter of ladies squash and has been sponsor of the ladies leagues for the past two years. The ladies are very grateful to Allan for his support and sponsorship. Thanks also to the Oban Wool and Needlecraft Centre for embroidering the club logo on the tops. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Good turnout out a Mid Argyll Dalriada

### Mini rugby

MINI rugby players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull and Mid Argyll made the trip to Lochgilhead recently as Mid Argyll RFC hosted the latest Argyll and Bute Dalriada Mini Rugby Festival.

This was the second festival of 2017, with good playing numbers representing each team.

Kintyre RFC travelled to what was their first festival and will become a valuable and welcome addition to the fixtures.

Scores from Saturday were as follows: P4/5 – Oban 5, Mid Argyll 1; Etive Vikings 10, Kintyre 5; Mid Argyll 4, Kintyre 4; Etive Vikings 3, Oban 2; Kintyre 1, Oban 4; Etive Vikings 8, Mid Argyll 3.

P6/7 – Mid Argyll 3, Mull 1; Etive Vikings 5, Oban 0; Etive Vikings 4, Kintyre 1; Oban



Oban youngsters pictured at the Mid Argyll Dalriada.

Lorne 0, Mid Argyll 6; Kintyre 4, Mull 2; Mid Argyll 0, Etive Vikings 1; Oban Lorne 5, Mull 4; Kintyre 5, Oban Lorne 2; Etive Vikings 6, Mull 2; Mid Argyll 5, Kintyre 0.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Shinty world pays its respects to Oban's 'Nonny' MacInnes

IT WAS with great sadness that Oban Camanachd Club advised the shinty fraternity of the passing on Tuesday March 28 of Neil MacInnes, at the age of 46, following a short, but bravely fought, illness.

'Nonny', as he was known to everyone who knew him, was a colossal part of Oban Camanachd during his lifetime, not only as an outstanding player and then administrator but lately as a supporter.

It is poignant to report that Nonny was in the stand supporting Oban Camanachd in their game against Newtonmore on Saturday March 18 and, although very ill, it would be in his nature to rejoice that his last involvement with shinty was a win against

such formidable opponents. As mentioned, Nonny was an outstanding player for Oban Camanachd and although a medal winner on many occasions, his greatest triumph was to lead Oban Camanachd to victory as captain in the 1996 Camanachd Cup Final versus Kingussie.

In addition to being an outstanding half back, he was a natural born leader and on that day he led by example, bringing his team back from a deficit of 2-0 to win 3-2.

Few will forget his after dinner speech at Inverness Town Hall where, 'off the cuff', he gave a humorous and delightful winning captain's speech.

Nonny won the Albert Smith Medal for

'man of the match' on two occasions at Camanachd Cup Finals as well as a 'man of the match' at a Macaulay Cup Final. Nonny also featured in the shinty/hurling internationals.

The shinty world is united in extending its sympathy to his wife Karen and daughters Kirsty and Jenna at this difficult time. Also in our thoughts are his mother Rhoda and his brothers Ian and Ally; Ally having played with him in the 1996 final.

Iain MacIntyre.  
Nonny's funeral was held at Oban Parish Church on Tuesday April 4, with the interment at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban, thereafter.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup – first round

**Bute 1**  
**Kyles Athletic 7**  
Kyles Athletic powered past Bute, winning their Artemis Macaulay Cup first round tie 7-1 at The Meadows.

Kyles settled into the tie courtesy of an opening goal from Grant Irvine after five minutes.

Roddy MacDonald doubled Kyles' lead three minutes later and Grant Irvine got his second on 25 minutes.

When Roddy MacDonald got his second five minutes before half time, the Marine Harvest Premiership side were 4-0 up and out of sight.

Bute, who play two leagues below, showed their fighting spirit when Duncan Davidson pulled a goal back on 58 minutes.

Grant Irvine completed his hat-trick on 75 minutes and Sandy MacKenzie made it 6-1 a minute later.

Roddy MacDonald got his hat-trick with five minutes remaining to make it 7-1.

Kyles Athletic now await the winners of the tie between Aberdeen and Glasgow Mid Argyll in the next round.

### MacTavish Cup – first round

**Fort William 0**  
**Newtonmore 2**  
Newtonmore will host Caberfeidh in the MacTavish Cup quarter-finals after they beat Fort William 2-0 in their 3pm throw up at An Aird.

Fort William's Arran MacPhee was back in the fold after recovering from injury and there was also a place for Bryan Simpson.

Newtonmore defender Andy MacKintosh started a two-game ban following his red card

against Oban Camanachd in his team's last outing. Michael Russell was named in the squad following a spell working abroad.

This was one of a number of games across the country where there was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up in memory of Oban Camanachd stalwart Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

Newtonmore took the lead on 15 minutes. David MacLean played a good pass down the line to Iain Robinson who collected possession just inside the Fort William half.

Robinson used his pace to lose his marker and ran goalwards before sending a powerful strike past the keeper to make it 1-0.

Fort William gave a good account of themselves though and it took until 62 minutes before Glen MacKintosh made it 2-0.

A long pass from midfield dropped at MacKintosh's feet and he twisted one way and then the other before sending a shot into the net off the post.

### Strathdearn Cup – first round

**Fort William 13**  
**Caithness 0**  
The Fort William second team were too strong for non-league Caithness, winning 13-0 in their noon throw-up at An Aird.

Mark Fraser gave Fort the lead in three minutes and Scott Henderson added a second 10 minutes later and there was only going to be one winner.

Scott Henderson got his second on 15 minutes and Mark Fraser did likewise on 24 minutes.

Lachie Shaw made it 5-0 on 31 minutes and Victor Smith added a sixth four minutes later.

Victor Smith got his second five minutes after the restart and Bobby MacMillan added his name to the scoresheet to make

it 8-0 on the hour. Mark Fraser completed his hat-trick five minutes after and Bobby MacMillan took the Fort to double figures with 10 minutes remaining.

There was no respite for Caithness as Fort William added three more goals during the closing stages.

Paul Paterson made it 11-0 just a minute after MacMillan's second and Scott Henderson completed his hat-trick with a minute remaining.

A final minute goal from youngster Lachie Shaw, his second of the game, rounded off the 13-0 win.

Fort William will now play Kinlochshiel's second team in next month's Strathdearn Cup second round.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

**Lochaber 0**  
**Kingussie 2**  
League leaders Kingussie stay top of the table after a Martin Dallas double gave them a 2-0 win over Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Barry MacDonald was free to play for Lochaber but will miss his team's next two matches after passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Keeper Callum MacDonald was back, taking over from Bryn Whittaker in goal.

Kingussie were without injured forwards Savio Genini and James Falconer.

Martin Dallas gave Kingussie the lead with a well-worked goal on 19 minutes. Dallas collected a ball played up the right, almost on the by-line. He then cut across goal, linking up with the other forwards, before sending the ball low into the net from the left side of the 'D'.

It was Martin Dallas again who made it 2-0 on 41 minutes. This time Chris Holleysong floated the ball into the danger area. Ryan Borthwick fought with the full back for possession and the ball broke to Dallas on the right who struck a shot low into the net.

Lochaber were still very much in the game though and it took some excellent goalkeeping from Kingussie custodian Craig Dawson to earn his third clean sheet in four league matches. James Hutchison was also his reliable self at the back.

Callum MacDonald had to look lively on a couple of occasions in the home goal but Kingussie will be delighted to take the points ahead of this weekend's home meeting with Lovat.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 0**  
**Kinlochshiel 1**

Kinlochshiel returned from Glasgow with both points after beating Glasgow Mid Argyll 1-0 at Yoker. Brian Slattery

recovered from injury to line up for GMA but they were missing Mark Bain and Stuart Reid who were both on holiday. Iain Luke was on the bench as he works his way back to fitness from a broken hand.

Kinlochshiel forward John MacRae was free of suspension after missing the MacTavish Cup win over Kingussie a week earlier whilst brothers Donald and Ally Nixon were also back.

The match was played on a difficult surface and the only goal of the game came three minutes before the break. Some great wing play from Jordan Fraser saw him play the ball to Oliver MacRae who blasted a shot high into the net to give 'Shiel a 1-0 lead.

The win gives Kinlochshiel maximum points from their three league matches so far, leaving them a point behind leaders Kingussie with a game in hand.

Kinlochshiel don't have a game this Saturday, whilst GMA will be tested at home against Newtonmore.

**Glenurquhart 2**  
**Lovat 1**

Glenurquhart got third in the table as they came from a goal down to beat Lovat 2-1 at Blairbeg.

John Barr and Andrew Corrihan were in a strong 'Glen' side, lining up with Euan Lloyd and Lachie Smith in defence.

Lovat had Danny Kelly at full back and Calum MacAulay returned, starting on the bench.

The home side had an early chance to take the lead when Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald was penalised by referee Calum Girvan for falling on the ball. Neale Reid hit the penalty well, but Stuart MacDonald made a brilliant save with his stick.

Glenurquhart had made the better start but when Lovat took a grip of the midfield, 'Glen' boss Iain MacLeod showed he wasn't afraid to make early changes and, with 15 minutes played, James MacPherson came on for Arran MacDonald with Connor Golabek dropping back into midfield.

More changes followed as Lovat replaced Graeme MacMillan with Martin Mainland on 26 minutes and Glen's David MacLennan came on for Callum Smith at full forward on 30 minutes.

The visitors took the lead on 42 minutes. Ryan Ferguson sent a low ball in from the left and Greg Matheson got to it ahead of Lachie Smith. Matheson then sent a well-stuck shot into the net from 12 yards to make it 1-0.

Lovat almost extended their lead on the stroke of half time when a Lorne MacKay effort hit the base of the post so they had to settle for a 1-0 lead at the end of a physical, all-action first half. The second half never hit the



James Tangey takes a fall, watched by Newtonmore's Mike Russell and Fort William team mate Niall MacPhee. Photograph: Steven Lawson.

heights of the first period and Stuart MacDonald twice saved well to thwart Connor Golabek.

Drew Howie was having a keenly contested battle with his former Lovat team mate James MacPherson. And it was MacPherson who got the equaliser on 63 minutes when he got in front of Howie to crash a dropping ball into the net from an Ally MacKintosh corner on the left. It was a terrific finish which set up an interesting final third of the contest.

Stuart MacDonald again denied Golabek and then MacPherson. The reflex save from Golabek was outstanding as the Scotland goalie stretched his stick to the side to turn Golabek's low shot over the bar with 77 minutes played.

The winning goal came on 82 minutes. James MacPherson was fouled by Drew Howie. MacPherson then ran away from the goal, taking marker Howie with him.

Fraser Heath spotted the space in the Lovat defence and his run forward was picked out by free-hit taker Neale Reid and Heath scored from inside the 'D'. Lovat appealed for offside but their claims were waved away by referee Girvan.

There was a late scare for the home support as Lovat pushed for a leveller but stand-in goalie Garry MacKintosh was cool under pressure as he cleared the danger ahead of the on-rushing Lovat forwards, proving he could be difficult to shift when Stuart MacKintosh returns from injury.

The sides meet in the MacTavish Cup quarter finals at the same venue in a fortnight.

**Kilmallie P**  
**Oban Camanachd P**

The game between Kilmallie and Oban Camanachd at Canal Parks was postponed as a mark of respect following the sad passing of former Oban Camanachd player Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

Oban Camanachd host Glenurquhart this Saturday and should have Gary McKerracher back.

Kilmallie are at home to Kyles Athletic. Michael Rodger is free of suspension but bookings in the league defeat to Glasgow Mid Argyll mean Innes Blackhall and Jordan MacPhee join Craig MacIsaac on the banned list.

### Marine Harvest National Division

**Caberfeidh 4**  
**Oban Celtic 2**

Caberfeidh twice came from a goal down to beat Oban Celtic 4-2 at Castle Leod.

'Cabers' missed the influence of full centre Craig Morrison who started a two-game ban after being red carded against Skye the previous week. Oban Celtic travelled without Fulton

Ross, Rory Bruce and Iain Mackechnie. Keeper Stephen Davidson was also missing so Jack Hill played in goal for the first time in four years.

The Oban Celtic players wore black armbands and there was a minute's silence ahead of throw up following the passing of Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

Neil Carmichael got Kenny Wotherspoon's side off to a great start when a long ball forward led to a goal with just a couple of minutes played.

When referee Andy MacLean awarded 'Cabers' a penalty in the seventh minute, Kevin Bartlett stepped up to send the ball low and hard into the net to make it 1-1.

Oban Celtic lost Andy Hunt early in the match with a hamstring problem. Neil Carmichael got a second to put the Oban side back in front on 17 minutes.

Stand-in Oban Celtic keeper Jack Hill then made some good saves in the match including one from an Ally MacLennan piledriver from 35 yards out with the goalie turning the ball over the bar with his stick.

Oban Celtic were unable to hold out until the interval though and a second from Kevin Bartlett on 40 minutes drew the sides level again. Bartlett beat his marker before rounding the keeper to score.

The second half was just a couple of minutes old when 'Cabers' took the lead for the first time when Colin MacLennan got on the end of a ball into the goal area just ahead of the keeper to score.

Oban Celtic pushed hard for a leveller but this time it was Caberfeidh's turn to hit them on a counter-attack and Gavin Mclauchlan played a one-two with Kevin Bartlett before scoring from around the penalty spot to make it 4-2.

Oban Celtic's Daniel MacMillan required a hospital visit to get a cut head attended to.

Caberfeidh now only trail league leaders Skye by a point with both sides having played three games.

Despite competing well in their first three league matches, Oban Celtic are still in search of their first points and they will have to put that search on hold as they don't have a game this coming Saturday.

**Strathglass 1**  
**Inverness 1**

Strathglass and Inverness had to settle for a point apiece in a 1-1 draw at Cannich.

Strathglass were without injured pair George Phimister and Hamish Myers. Scott Douglas started at buckshee back.

Inverness were minus Scotland U21 forward Charles MacDonald who was at a different shooting competition so Jason McLeod started in attack. William MacKinnon was still out injured and with goalie Ian Munro missing, boss Drew Mc-

Neil started between the sticks. Inverness made a strong start and created an opening on seven minutes. James Cameron was impeded outside the 'D' but referee John Angus Gillies played advantage and Cameron surged forward, But, with the keeper to beat, Cameron was unable to get a strike goalwards and the ball was cleared to safety by the home defence.

Inverness kept pressing for the opening goal and Sorley MacDonald sent a couple of shots wide of target.

Strathglass took the lead on 43 minutes, the goal coming against the run of play. Michael Stokes peeled away from Dougie Rankin and passed to Steven Hyslop on the 'Strath' right. Hyslop showed great composure to slot the ball into the keeper's right hand, bottom corner of the net.

Inverness levelled on the hour. A long clearance from David Glass found James Cameron at half forward and he crossed to Jason McLeod who turned his marker and shot past the helpless Ally MacAdams in the 'Strath' goal.

Inverness suffered a blow on 70 minutes when David Glass had to go off with a twisted knee. Kenneth Loades came on in his place.

Inverness missed Charlie MacDonald's influence and when he made a late arrival at the match, he replaced substitute Loades who had only been on the field for a couple of minutes.

Strathglass almost grabbed a winner with 10 minutes remaining. Scott Douglas found space 25 yards from goal and unleashed a powerful strike which produced a tremendous save from stand-in keeper Drew Mclauchlan played a one-two with Kevin Bartlett before scoring from around the penalty spot to make it 4-2.

Oban Celtic's Daniel MacMillan required a hospital visit to get a cut head attended to.

Caberfeidh now only trail league leaders Skye by a point with both sides having played three games.

Despite competing well in their first three league matches, Oban Celtic are still in search of their first points and they will have to put that search on hold as they don't have a game this coming Saturday.

**Skye Camanachd P**  
**Beaully P**

The meeting between Skye Camanachd and Beaully at Paicr nan Laoch, Portree, was postponed on Friday evening because of an unplayable pitch.

The sides meet at Braeview Park this Saturday in the first round of the Marine Harvest Camanachd Cup.

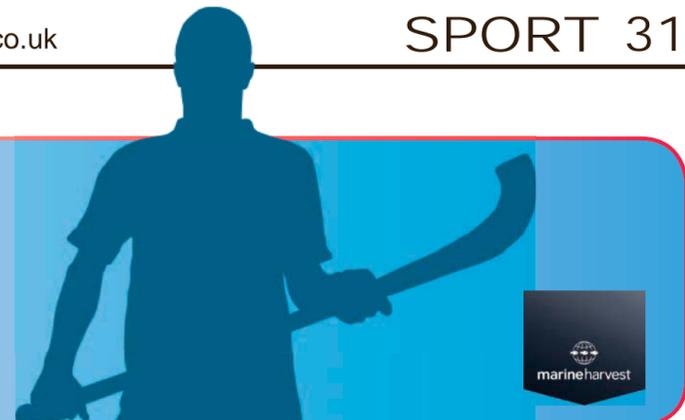
### Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 3**  
**Kinlochshiel 0**

Newtonmore's second team drew level on points with league Aberdeen University after they



Taynuilt's Willie Lafferty gets a shot on target during the game against Glenorchy. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

beat Kinlochshiel's second team 3-0 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore's Calum Stewart scored the only goal of the first half on 25 minutes.

Craig MacLeod made it 2-0 on 53 minutes and Calum Stewart got his second on 66 minutes.

Newtonmore trail the students on goal difference but they are ahead of Beaully and Kingussie, also on goal difference.

### Kingussie 3 Glenurquhart 1

The Kingussie seconds recorded their second win of the season when they came from behind to beat the Glenurquhart seconds 3-1 at The Dell.

The visitors went in front on 21 minutes when the ball ended up in the net off Kingussie youngster Liam Borthwick.

Kingussie were quickly out of the blocks at the start of the second half and two Kevin Thain goals in three minutes – on 48 and 50 minutes – swung the match their way.

Liam Borthwick atoned for his earlier mishap when he made it 3-1 on 74 minutes.

### Beaully 1 Skye Camanachd 0

The Beaully colts notched up their second successive 1-0 win, beating the Skye Camanachd colts at Braevue Park.

Beaully had Barrie MacDonald in their side as he makes his way back from injury.

Skye absentees included young defender Jamie Gillies who has a broken ankle but, with no first team game, youngster James Pringle was given a run out in attack.

The first half ended goalless with Skye's John Angus MacInnes seeing one effort come back off the post.

Just as he did a week earlier, Ross Forbes scored the only goal of the game to give Beaully the lead on 56 minutes. Good lead up play from Barrie MacDonald, Sean Stewart and Callum Flynn set up the chance for Forbes to score.

Beaully player/manager Kyles MacDonald made some great saves during the game and Skye came within a whisker of a leveller when a James Pringle strike hit the post.

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

#### Kilmory 3 Aberdour 3

Aberdour stay top of Marine Harvest South Division 1 after they picked up a hard-earned point following a 3-3 draw with Kilmory in their 2pm throw up at MacRae Park.

The league leaders travelled short with absentees including talisman Roddy MacColl.

It was a heavy surface but David MacDougall mastered the conditions, dribbling the ball into the danger area to put Aberdour 1-0 ahead with 15 minutes played.

It only took Kilmory four minutes to restore parity through Andrew Cunningham, although Aberdour had edged the first 45 minutes.

Aberdour put themselves in a

strong position with a blistering start to the second half. John Martin Philips made it 2-1 on 46 minutes with Angus Thorburn adding a third just 60 seconds later.

Kilmory fought back and Alastair MacArthur made it 3-2 on 55 minutes.

Boosted by the goal, Kilmory went in search of a leveller and it arrived on 62 minutes when Andrew Cunningham got his second.

Aberdour are a point clear at the top of the table, ahead of Tayforth who have a game in hand.

### Tayforth 4 Kyles Athletic 1

Tayforth were on top form as they beat the Kyles Athletic second team 4-1 at Levenhall Links.

Jamie MacDonald gave Tayforth the lead in two minutes, with Finlay Stark making it 3-0 with goals on 21 and 36 minutes.

Craig Martin got a goal back a couple of minutes into the second half.

However a second from Jamie MacDonald on 49 minutes confirmed the 4-1 win.

### Taynuilt 1 Glenorchy 1

Two goals in the final 13 minutes saw Taynuilt and Glenorchy share the points in a 1-1 draw at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Alex MacPherson gave Glenorchy a 77th minute lead in this derby match but Steven Campbell equalised with just five minutes remaining.

This was Glenorchy's first league game of the season and they are in Marine Harvest Camanachd Cup action this Saturday at Kilmory.

### Lochside Rovers P Ballachulish P

The game between Lochside Rovers and Ballachulish at Mossfield was postponed following the passing of Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Glengarry 6 Lochaber 1

Match of the day in this division looked to be the encounter between Glengarry and the Lochaber seconds at Craigard.

And 'Garry remain top of the table after Daniel MacLennan inspired them to a 6-1 win putting them two points clear at the top.

A Daniel MacLennan brace on 10 and 16 minutes made it 2-0.

Steven Cameron made it 3-0 on 24 minutes with Raymond Robertson on target three minutes later. Nick Dalgety netted four minutes before the break to make 5-0.

Lochaber's Keith Neville reduced the deficit on 60 minutes and there was no further scoring until eight minutes from time when Nick Dalgety got his second to make it 6-1.

### Caberfeidh 5 Lochcarron 0

The Caberfeidh reserves inflicted Lochcarron's first defeat of

the season, winning 5-0 at Castle Leod. Lochcarron made the better start, but two goals late in the first half gave 'Cabers' the edge. Substitute Paddy Wilson opened the scoring on 40 minutes and Jamie Matheson made it 2-0 with a firm strike a minute before the break.

The Caberfeidh full forward line of Stuart Krzyzanowski and Jamie Matheson will cause problems for defences in this division and Krzyzanowski made it 3-0 on 58 minutes.

Stuart Krzyzanowski got his second on 79 minutes, beating the onrushing keeper, and James Matheson got his second three minutes later to round off a fine 5-0 win which lifts 'Cabers' to second place in the league.

### Boleskine 0 Kilmallie 8

A strong Kilmallie reserve side returned from Smith Park with both points after they beat Boleskine 8-0.

The visitors got off to a good start, Dean Williamson giving them the lead in five minutes.

With no Kilmallie first team game, Arran Sandison was included with the reserves and he notched a first half hat-trick with goals on 11, 20 and 32 minutes.

Dean Williamson got his second to make it 5-0 nine minutes after the restart.

Arran Sandison took his tally to five goals with strikes on 61 and 85 minutes – either side of a 70th minute Callum MacDougall goal.

### Inverness 2 Lewis Camanachd 1

The Inverness seconds recorded their first victory of the season, defeating Lewis Camanachd 2-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Bught Park.

Inverness goal-keeper Allan MacLeod saved well from Donald Lamont early in the match, with Lewis goalie Graham Cay also called into action at the other end.

Lewis lost Peter Gomes with a nasty head injury as the first half ended scoreless.

The visitors took the lead on 56 minutes when Dougie Shaw took an Ally Lamont ball out of the air to score from 20 yards.

Lewis had chances to increase their lead and they were punished for not taking them when the home side made a strong finish to the game.

Stuart MacRae found space to make it 1-1 on 67 minutes.

Kenny Murray went close for Lewis before Inverness won it at the death. The ball was squared to Stuart MacRae and his last minute goal, his second of the match, gave Inverness a 2-1 win.

### Lovat 6 Strathglass 2

The Lovat seconds notched up their first win of the season, beating the Strathglass seconds 6-2 at Balglate.

Rory Campbell gave Lovat the lead on six minutes but Penri Jones equalised on 21 minutes.

James Fraser put Lovat back in front on 27 minutes and Rory Campbell's second made it 3-1 on 30 minutes.

Strathglass reduced the deficit on 50 minutes. Referee John Wood awarded them a penalty and Penri Jones got his second from the spot to make it 3-2.

Raymond Rennie made it 4-2 on 64 minutes and this time they stayed in front.

Raymond Rennie again on 72 minutes and Darren Douglas a couple of minutes from time sealed the 6-2 win.

Strathspey Camanachd were the team without a fixture in this 11-team division.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Inveraray 4 Dunoon Camanachd 0

The Inveraray second team followed up the previous week's win over the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds with a 4-0 victory over Dunoon Camanachd at the Winterton.

Inveraray second team manager Graham MacPherson made just one change from the



Kingussie's Ryan Borthwick and Lochaber's Duncan MacKinnon in action during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership game at Spean Bridge. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

previous week's starting line-up, leaving himself out young Graham Mather continued in goal after making a substitute appearance against GMA.

There were ten U18 players in the Inveraray squad, with MacPherson resisting the temptation to call up any first team players as the seniors didn't have a fixture.

Gordon Asher was given a debut in the Dunoon goal as regular keeper Cormac Nelis was unavailable through work commitments.

David MacPherson, for so long a trusted wing centre with the Inveraray senior team, has been lending his experience to the reserves this season and he made it 1-0 after 20 minutes with a 35-yard shot which flew into the roof of the net.

MacPherson got his second, his third goal in two games, five minutes later when he followed up after Dunoon keeper Asher had saved well from young Campbell Watt. The ball came to MacPherson at a tight angle and he fired home.

Dunoon never let their heads drop and a superb Graham Mather double save denied them a goal before Inveraray went on to seal the win.

Wing centre Kenny Kirkhope added a third on 70 minutes after some good midfield play to give Inveraray control of the match.

There was still time for Coll MacKay to get his first goal at second team level. MacKay comes from a strong Argyll shinty family and he opened his account with a nice strike at the back post with 60 seconds remaining.

Inveraray could have added to their tally but twice missed from the penalty spot. The first opportunity came just before half time when keeper Gordon Asher fell on top of the ball. Campbell Watt struck the ball well enough but Asher redeemed himself with a superb stop.

The second penalty came at the start of the second half when referee Des McNulty, after consulting with the goal judge, pointed to the spot following a kick inside the 'D'. David Robertson took responsibility but he sent the ball over the bar.

The win takes the Inveraray seconds to the top of the division, ahead of Strachur on goal difference.

### Aberdour 2 Bute 3

The Bute seconds earned their first league win of the season when they beat their Aberdour counter-parts 3-2 at Silversands.

Kieran Burns was suspended for Aberdour following his red card a week earlier.

Brian Toal gave the home side the lead in 18 minutes with the

only goal of the first half. Chris McGowan got Bute level a minute into the second half.

Youngster Stewart Stirling put Bute 2-1 to the good on 50 minutes and Andrew MacLachlan made it 3-1 on 58 minutes.

Chris Bowerman reduced the deficit on 74 minutes but Bute stayed in front for the win.

### Oban Lorn P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The game between Oban Lorn and Glasgow Mid Argyll's second team at Ganavan was postponed following the passing of Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

### WCA Round Up Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Strathglass 1 Glengarry 2

The match between Glengarry and Strathglass was switched from Craigard to Cannich on Saturday evening.

Chloe MacLeod scored for Strathglass but goals from Margaret Jane Malcolm and Elaine Cameron gave Glengarry a 2-1 victory.

#### Inverness 0 Strathspey 7

Strathspey hit form to beat Inverness 7-0 in their 3pm throw up at a bright Bught Park.

Two early goals from Jess Hart gave Strathspey confidence and, after the break, a hat-trick strike from Jess Hart and four Jade Longworth goals gave the visitors a 7-0 win.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Cowal & Bute 2 Ardnamurchan 3

Ardnamurchan are the team to beat in Marine Harvest South Division 2 after they recorded their third successive win, a 3-2 victory over Cowal & Bute in their 1.30pm throw up at Strachurmore.

Fay Robertson and Charmaine Love got the home goals but strikes from Rachel Ford, Annie MacDonald and Kate Bradley gave Ardnamurchan the win and next up for them is a trip to Oban Lorn on Sunday April 16.

#### Dunadd 4 Oban Lorn 0

Four goals in the second half gave Dunadd a 4-0 victory over Oban Lorn.

Dunadd were without the injured Iona MacNicol and neither side was able to break the deadlock before the interval.

Zoe McKillop gave Dunadd the lead with Nicola Smyth adding a second soon after.

Dunadd's Grace Jeffrey had

an effort disallowed for off-side before Laurene Cameron made it 3-0. A second from Zoe McKillop in the final minute rounded off the 4-0 win.

### Glasgow Mid Argyll W/O Lorn Ladies

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team were awarded the points after Lorn Ladies were unable to raise a team for the journey south.

### WCA names new Valerie Fraser Cup sponsor

The Women's Camanachd Association has unveiled Marine Harvest as new sponsors of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, the blue riband event of the woman's game.

This investment means Marine Harvest now sponsor both WCA national cup competitions and all five WCA leagues.

WCA president Lisa MacColl took time to thank previous Valerie Fraser Cup long-term sponsor Peter Gow. She said: 'The WCA would like to acknowledge the support of the previous sponsor Peter Gow who has been involved since the first finals. We are delighted Peter will remain involved by sponsoring the player of the match awards for both finals.'

The draw for the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and Marine Harvest Challenge Cup competitions took place at Marine Harvest Headquarters, Rosyth, on Thursday March 30. The draws were made by Steve Bracken from Marine Harvest and WCA president Lisa MacColl. Scottish international Rosie Mulligan and Aberdour Ladies head coach Charlie Neilson were also in attendance.

The draws are as follows:  
Saturday April 22  
Skye v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Sunday April 23  
Lovat v Fort William  
Cowal & Bute v Aberdour  
Badenoch & Strathspey v Lochaber

The draw for the semi-finals will be made after the quarter-final ties have been played.

### Marine Harvest Challenge Cup - Preliminary Round

Saturday May 6  
Glenurquhart v Inverness  
Sunday May 7  
Glasgow MA v Strathspey  
Tayforth v Lorne Ladies  
Cowal & Bute v English Shinty Association  
Dunadd v Ardnamurchan  
Glengarry v Lochaber  
Byes  
Strathglass and Oban Lorn

The draw for the quarter-finals will take place after the first round ties have been played.

## Fixtures

### Saturday April 8 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round

Kilmory v Glenorchy  
Deek Cameron  
Beaully v Skye  
Innes Wood 3pm  
Inverness v Caberfeidh  
Martin Maclean 3pm

### Balliemore Cup 1st round

Col Glen v Aberdeen Uni  
Des McNulty

### Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st round

Beaully v Lochside Rovers  
Brian MacKay - noon  
Inverness v Lewis  
John Matheson - noon  
Kingussie v Skye  
Iain Kennedy - 3pm  
Lochaber v Inveraray  
John Wood  
Lochcarron v Glasgow MA  
Steven MacLachlan  
Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
Archie Ritchie  
Newtonmore v Kilmallie  
Ronnie Campbell  
Strathglass v Caberfeidh  
Calum Girvan

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA v Newtonmore  
David Mitchell  
Kilmallie v Kyles Athletic  
John Angus Gillies  
Kingussie v Lovat  
Andy MacLean - 1pm  
Oban Caman v Glenurquhart  
Lachie Wood

### Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray v Strathglass  
Graham Cameron

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel  
Scott McNeil

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Tayforth  
Ross Brown  
Ballachulish v Bute  
Neil Ferguson

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Oban Lorn  
Jim Innes

## Results

### Saturday April 1 Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st round

Bute 1 v 7 KylesAthletic

### MacTavish Cup 1st round

Fort William 0 v 2 Newtonmore

### Strathdearn Cup 1st round

Fort William 13 v 0 Caithness

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA 0 v 1 Kinlochshiel  
Glenurquhart 2 v 1 Lovat  
Kilmallie P v P Oban Caman  
due to bereavement  
Lochaber 0 v 2 Kingussie

### Marine Harvest National Division

Caberfeidh 4 v 2 Oban Celtic  
Skye P v P Beaully  
Due to bereavement  
Strathglass 1 v 1 Inverness

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaully 1 v 0 Skye  
Kingussie 3 v 1 Glenurquhart  
Newtonmore 3 v 0 Kinlochshiel

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory 3 v 3 Aberdour  
Lochside P v P Ballachulish  
Due to bereavement  
Tayforth 4 v 1 Kyles Athletic  
Taynuilt 1 v 1 Glenorchy

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 0 v 8 Kilmallie  
Caberfeidh 5 v 0 Lochcarron  
Glengarry 6 v 1 Lochaber  
Inverness 2 v 1 Lewis  
Lovat 6 v 2 Strathglass

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 2 v 3 Bute  
Inveraray 4 v 0 Dunoon  
Oban Lorn P v P Glasgow MA  
Due to bereavement



Oban Celtic's Daniel MacMillan and Caberfeidh's Ryan Mackay chase the ball. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

## Oban Saints march into second Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final

ON SATURDAY April 15 Oban Saints will rack up 1,600 Scottish Amateur Cup miles for the season when they travel to New Douglas Park, home of good friends Hamilton Academical, for their crunch semi-final tie with cup holders Colville Park.

Saints' Scottish Cup adventure has taken them to Glasgow, Bearsden, Tarbolton, Perth and Edinburgh twice where they have faced some formidable opposition. However, the trip to Hamilton to cross swords with Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division top dogs Colville Park is by far the biggest test yet.

Arguably the best amateur team in Scotland the reigning Central Premier Division Champions and Scottish Cup holders are well on the way to retaining their league crown and are also through to the West of Scotland Amateur Cup semi-finals where they will face Cambria of the Caledonian League.

Motherwell-based Colville Park's bid for a fourth Central Amateur Football League Premier Division title in six years sees them currently top of the league with a 100 per cent record from their first 10 games.

Only Saints' old friends East Kilbride look capable of halting Colville's march to back-to-back league titles but with nine points points dropped even they must now rely on help from others to overhaul the title favourites.

On the domestic front Colville's only defeats so far this season have come in cup competitions with East Kilbride putting them out of the Burnhill Trophy and Haldane United ending their interest in the Cinema Cup.

Last season's Scottish Amateur Cup triumph earned Colville a place in the preliminary rounds of the Scottish Cup proper where they did the amateur game proud

eliminating Edusport Academy of the South of Scotland League before losing out narrowly to Girvan Juniors in a match they certainly deserved to take more from. Colville's defence of the Scottish Amateur Cup has seen them bang in 32 goals and concede just four in their seven matches so far. Victims to date include league rivals Harestanes

**To reach the semi final two years in a row is a tremendous feat for a club like Oban Saints**

David Buchanan  
Oban Saints secretary

and Bannockburn, each of which have three Scottish Amateur Cup triumphs to their name, Saints Scottish Amateur Football League colleagues Drumchapel Colts and Caledonian League high fliers Thorn Athletic.

Despite the size of the task ahead Saints can at least point to a good record against Colville. In four previous Scottish Amateur Cup encounters there has been two draws and a win a piece. In last season's West of Scotland Amateur Cup fifth round tie at Glencruitten the visitors edged a close match by two goals to one. Donald Campbell's successfully converted eighth-minute penalty kick cancelled out James

### Football

Miller's headed opener. However, another header just before half-time, this time from Robbie Peebles, restored the advantage for the visitors which they held onto despite a spirited second half display from Saints.

After 40-plus years of competing in Scottish amateur football's blue riband event, Saints once again stand within one match of an appearance in the final of the Scottish Amateur Football Association Challenge Cup Competition due to be played at Hampden Park in May.

There is no doubting the strength of the opposition but with the agony of last season's semi-final defeat at the hands of Leven United still fresh in the players' minds Saints will need no motivating for the most important match in the club's 57-year history.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said: 'We had Colville watched last Saturday and our manager Alex Craik travelled down to Motherwell last night to watch them again.'

'To make the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final two years in a row is a tremendous feat for a club like Oban Saints. The boys are buzzing so hopefully we can go one better and reach the final this year, but we know it will be very difficult against the cup holders who are a very experienced outfit.'

Previous encounters between Saints and Colville Park - Scottish Amateur Cup 2006/07 sixth round Oban Saints 2-2 Colville Park; sixth round replay - Colville Park 1-2 Oban Saints; 2012/13 seventh round - Colville Park 2-2 Oban Saints; seventh round replay - Oban Saints 1-3 Colville Park. West of Scotland Amateur Cup 2015/16 fifth round - Oban Saints 1-2 Colville



Oban Saints will be hoping to lift the the biggest prize in amateur football circles this season, The Scottish Amateur Cup, but they have to negotiate a very tough semi-final against Colville Park before reaching the final at Hampden Park in May. Photo: Scottish Amateur Football Association

Park. Colville Park's route to the semi-final: first round bye; second round - Colville Park 6-0 Gormac; third round - Harestanes 1-2 Colville Park; fourth round - Renfrew 0-4 Colville Park; fifth round - Drumchapel Colts 0-6 Colville Park; sixth round - Colville Park 5-1 Woodside; seventh round - Colville Park 6-1 Thorn Athletic; quarter final - Bannockburn 1-3 Colville Park.

Oban Saints' path to the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final - first round Finnart 1-3 Oban Saints; second round - Oban Saints v Bishopston - walkover to Saints; third round - FC Clydebank 1-3 Oban Saints; fourth round - Salvesen 0-2 Oban Saints; fifth round - Oban Saints 5-1 Westdyce; sixth round - Tarbolton 1-3 Oban Saints; Letham 1-1 Oban Saints; seventh round replay - Oban

Saints 4-3 Letham; Quarter Final - Barca-Milton 0-2 Oban Saints.

The Oban side will have to put the semi-final to the back of their minds for a week as they try to keep pressure on league leaders Goldenhill and St Joseph's FP.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban outfit take on Motherwell Thistle in a league game at Glencruitten on Saturday, kick-off 2pm. Referee Jimmy Litster.

## Defeat for Oban Lorne in last league game

Irvine	71
Oban Lorne	15
BT West Division 1	

A MUCH-changed Oban Lorne made the trip to Ayrshire on Saturday to take on midtable Irvine RFC.

Nothing was at stake for either of the teams on Saturday with Oban securing survival in the league after last week's 21-14 win over Kilmarnock at North Connel.

Irvine RFC have been in good form in the second half of the season after a dismal opening to the season. The hosts on Saturday have raised a few eyebrows through the game in Scotland with some notable signings throughout the season including former Fijian international stand off Nikki Little.

Oban recorded a 16-10 win at Glencruitten over Saturday's opponents earlier in the season but knew that they were in for a tough afternoon with a number of key players unavailable.

Missing from the squad were prop Tommy Sutherland, back row's Lorne MacLachlan and Struan Smith. Half back pairing of Finlay Carmichael and Dave McCabe also missed out along with suspended centre Malcolm Kavanagh.

Oban were up against it for most of the game as Irvine ran out comfortable 71-15 winners in what was to be Oban Lorne's heaviest defeat of the 2016/17 season.

Responding from the barrage of scores from the hosts were tries from scrum half Vasco Borisov and stand off Rudolphe Bertrand, who also landed a penalty in Oban's haul of 15 points from the game.

Saturday's match brings to an end what has largely been a disappointing season for Oban Lorne, who will be left relieved at securing safety in the league by a margin of only two points from ninth-placed Kilmarnock.

After early promise with some encouraging performances, the

team were unable to gather any momentum over the year with a number of injuries and too many changes in the match day squad from week to week.

The team's progress has also lately been restricted due to a lack of winter training facilities in the town disrupting weekly training sessions.

Oban Lorne's attention now turns towards their annual sevens Festival that will be held on Saturday May 6. Training continues every Tuesday and Thursday evening at Glencruitten from 7-9pm.

### BT West Division 4 Argyll and Bute P Cowal P

ARGYLL and Bute's home game on Saturday was postponed due to a lack of players. The game will be rescheduled by the West Regional League Committee.

Argyll's next game is away to Glasgow University Medics on Saturday April 29.

### BT Women's National League 2

ANAN Warriors P Oban Ladies Ladies P

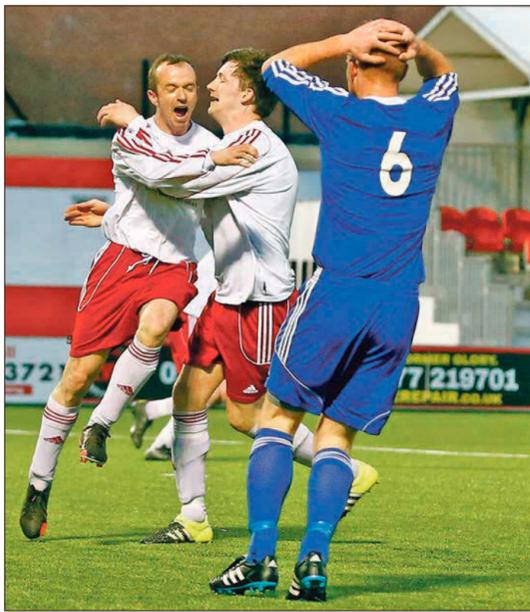
Oban Ladies league match away to Annan Warriors was postponed on Sunday as the opposition were in action in the National Bowl Semi Final.

Oban Ladies are back in action away to Lismore RFC in Edinburgh on the 9th of April before they travel to play the rearranged match in Annan on Sunday 7th of May.

Oban Lorne Seven's 2017 OBAN Lorne RFC will be hosting their annual seven-a-side festival on Saturday May 6 at Glencruitten.

A mixture of local and visiting teams will be present at the tournament starting at noon

Anyone interested in entering a team should email obanlorneenquiries@gmail.com or get in touch via the club's facebook page.



Leven defender Glen Russell holds his head in his hands while Ross Maitland and Craig MacEwan celebrate Maitland's equaliser during last season's Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final which the Oban side eventually lost 2-1 after extra time. Photo: Stephen Lawson

### Bus to the Scottish Cup semi-final Football

OBAN Saints will be taking a bus to the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final in Hamilton on Saturday April 15.

A number of seats will be available on a first-come-first-served basis for any supporters who wish to travel to the game.

For more information please contact club secretary David Buchanan on 07787 375008.

### Scottish AFL results and fixtures Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Inverclyde 2; Shawlands v Oban Saints, postponed; Premier Division One - Rutherglen v Dunoon postponed; Premier Division 2A - Lochgilphead Red Star 5, Port Glasgow OBU 0. Tarbert, no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup, third round - Houston v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division - Oban Saints v Motherwell Thistle; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Kings Park Rangers; Premier 2A - Lochgilphead Red Star v Millbeg; Premier 2B - Arkleston v Tarbert.

### Results from Taynuilt Golf Club Golf

RECENT competition results from Taynuilt golf club. Gents: - Subscription medal - 1 Mark Hendricksen 69 (7) 62; 2 David Currie, 79 (17) 62; 3 Mark Grant 75 (13) 62.

ARC Trophy 1 James McLean (21) 39 pts; 2 Andy Ronald (7) 39; 3 Alex Needham (19) 39.

Countback calculation scored over the last nine holes. Winner had the best countback from their handicap.

Ladies: Local charity competition - 1 Alice MacCalman 29 pts; 2 Susan Cameron 26 ps; 3 Carol McLarty 24 pts (bih).

### Bowled over at Benderloch Bowling

BENDERLOCH Bowling Club had a good finish to the 2016/2017 season coming third in the area league and then winning the Knockout cup final after an extra end.



Alasdair Cruickshanks was crowned Benderloch bowling club champion.

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**WEATHER**

Thursday Cloudy  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Friday Light rain shower  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 30, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm			
Thu	02.08	3.0	08.46	1.4	15.14	3.0	20.32
Fri	03.18	3.2	09.51	1.2	16.02	3.2	21.36
Sat	03.59	3.4	10.36	1.0	16.34	3.4	22.25
Sun	04.34	3.6	11.13	0.9	17.03	3.6	23.07
Mon	05.07	3.8	11.47	0.8	17.34	3.8	23.45
Tues	05.40	3.9	12.18	0.8	18.04	3.9	***
Wed	00.21	0.7	06.11	3.9	12.50	0.8	18.34

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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# Councillor's shock over plan to mothball village primary school

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

PARENTS and the Highland Council have agreed to mothball Roy Bridge Primary School.

But the decision has shocked a local councillor who has previously fought to keep the school open.

Members of Roy Bridge Parent Council met Norma Young, care and learning manager for Highland Council, on March 13 when the decision was made. It was decided the remaining three pupils on the school roll would officially transfer to Spean Bridge Primary School after the Easter holidays.

Associate head teacher at both Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary schools Kate MacGillivray said, in the meantime, the children will 'continue to attend Spean Bridge Primary unofficially as they have been doing over the past few weeks'.

She said: 'Roy Bridge Primary School will then be mothballed for the following year which will allow it to be re-opened should circumstances change. At the end of the 12 months, the authority would proceed towards permanent closure of the school, a process that takes a further year.'

A campaign to stop the closure of the school was started some years ago when parents mounted what was described by one Spean Bridge resident as a 'fierce and strong' struggle to keep the school open.

But as pupil numbers at the school dwindled, so did the campaign.

Councillor for Caol and Mal-laig Allan Henderson told the *Lochaber Times* the news, which he first heard on Monday, came as a shock.

He said: 'I knew that numbers of children attending and parents supportive of sending children to Roy Bridge school had dwindled over the past year, but have had no official word that any mothballing, which is generally a euphemism for closure, was imminent.'

Mr Henderson, who was closely involved with the action group which fought to keep Roy Bridge school open, said it was 'disappointing' this is now the case.

He said: 'If the school is to be mothballed then, as a local councillor and a stout defender of small rural schools, I am dismayed and surprised that no official word has been forthcoming. I have been working closely

with officials on all the different changes for schools with new timetables and cluster heads. I hope this has not been done deliberately during the election period so that mounting a campaign to save it is more difficult.'

The *Lochaber Times* asked the Highland Council if there are plans to close the school in the next few years and a spokesperson said: 'There are no plans as mothballing is a formal process.'

The council was also asked how much money would be saved by taking this action but a spokesperson said: 'The mothballing is not around money and was at the invitation of the parents.'

The spokesperson added: 'The school would have an allocation of one teacher and no staff will lose their post.'

Ms MacGillivray added: 'As the school is being mothballed, all pupils from the Roy Bridge catchment area are now entitled to free school transport to Spean Bridge Primary and the authority is in the process of ensuring this is in place for the start of next term.'

'Parents will be notified of transport arrangements before the Easter holidays.'

## Spean Bridge brewery plan

AN APPLICATION has been submitted to the Highland Council to turn a Spean Bridge steading into a brewery.

West Highland Brewery (WHB) has applied to turn Tirindish Steading, Spean Bridge, into a brewery capable of producing 3,000 litres of beer and ale a week.

In a supporting statement to the council, WHB said it intends to build a 'thriving craft ale enterprise', distinct to Lochaber which uses local expertise and resources.

WHB will sell through local off-sales and from a small retail outlet on the proposed brewery site.

The project is the brainchild of director James Leggett, his partner Lucy Hicks and neighbour Ian Peter MacDonal.

James and Lucy own Tirindish House bed and breakfast, while Ian owns the steading and a holiday cottage behind it.

Ian bought the equipment from a brewery in Glenfinnan and invited James and Lucy to join him on the enterprise.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, WHB director James said: 'Ian invited us to join him with the brewery and it sounded like an exciting project. We will be using Ian's cow sheds, which have been disused for decades, and, hopefully with planning permission, we will start producing later this year. We hope to employ local people and open a farm shop in the future which will attract tourists. It's going to be fairly small-scale to begin with. It's not going to visually impact the local environment.'



## Boys' Brigade pair get royal seal of approval at annual awards night

TWO MEMBERS of the 2nd Fort William Boys' Brigade Company were awarded the organisation's top accolade at the group's annual parents night and awards ceremony in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall last Friday night.

Ewan MacGregor and Roddy MacLeod were awarded the Queen's Badge, complete with certificate signed by HM The Queen.

During the event the boys demonstrated marching and other skills learned over the last session and outlined the many projects they had undertaken. Inspecting officer was Father

Roddy MacAuley from St John's, Caol, who along with company chaplain Rev Richard Baxter praised them on their smart turnout and exemplary conduct.

Awards were presented to recognise exceptional work, including four President's Badges and two of the ultimate accolade, the Queen's Badge, complete with certificate signed by HM The Queen. Kieran Boyd, above, received perfect attendance and best Anchor Boy in his section and was also promoted to the Junior Section.

See award winners on page 5.

## Land buyout trust prepares to hold meeting

A TRUST hoping to complete the biggest community land buyout in Scotland will hold an important meeting this month.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) remains interested in the land surrounding the aluminium smelter in Fort William which was bought by GFG Alliance last year.

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the trust will be held in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall, Fort William, at 7pm on Tuesday

April 25. This will be followed by a members' gathering with a keynote speaker and opportunity for discussion.

The following will be nominated for appointment as directors at the EGM: Andrew Baxter from Kinlochleven, Alex Farquhar from Fort William, John Hutchison from Badabrie, Patricia Jordan from Fort William, Flora McKee from Inverloch, Campbell Slimon from Laggan and Ben Thompson from Erracht.

## Skye care home residents face mainland move

CONCERN is mounting on Skye over the lack of residential care for adults as another home is due to close within weeks.

The Haven on Uig is to close because of a lack of suitably-trained staff. Unless a solution can be found quickly, residents may have to leave Skye for similar provision because the island's other few care homes are all full.

SOS NHS Skye has set up Facebook pages and petitions as part of its campaign to save services on the island. According to the group, the fact four care homes have closed in as many years has resulted in hardship, anxiety and horrendous journeys to Broadford and even Inverness through the night as patients are shipped off island for care far from loved ones.

Sarah Marshall from SOS NHS Skye told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The majority of these people are elderly. Gaelic is their mother tongue so when you take them to the mainland they are away from family, routine and even any entertainment provided will not be what they are used to.'

'The Haven was helping with capacity and offering respite for carers, which is also so important, but because of privatisation and heavy regulation these places no longer become economically viable and the people in charge think it is no longer worth it.'

Skye MSP Kate Forbes raised the plight of The Haven in the Scottish Parliament chamber on March 30 as she questioned the minister for public health, Aileen Campbell, on how the Scottish Government supports residential care for older

people in rural areas. Ms Campbell has offered to meet Ms Forbes to discuss the matter, which has been accepted by the representative for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.

Ms Forbes said: 'The Haven has provided quality care for residents and I pay tribute to carers and staff. Across Skye, there is pressure on care beds for the elderly so this will exacerbate the situation. However, I'm determined to do everything I can to establish the best way forward for residents and their relatives.'

'I have met the director of adult care and others at NHS Highland and it's helpful that the Scottish Government is willing to offer expertise on the best continuity of care for the residents. The ideal solution for current residents and the community is a local care home.'

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## School's pride over pupil's poster hit

A PRIMARY four pupil from Lady Lovat Primary School in Morar has been selected as a finalist in a Show Racism the Red Card competition.

Fraser Martin, above, was chosen for his anti-racism poster which stated: 'Racism is wrong, racism should stop. Come to Scotland, it's safe. Everybody should be treated the same. It doesn't matter how we look. We're all different, but we shouldn't be judged for that. It doesn't matter if you're in a wheelchair. It doesn't matter if you wear glasses. Put a stand on racism!'

Fraser was invited to Hampden Park on Thursday March 23, along with his dad Ross, sister Kirsty and two friends, where they enjoyed a tour of the stadium and a welcome reception.

Fraser was presented with a signed Caley Thistle FC ball, posters and other goodies, including a free pass for a large group to attend a Caley Thistle home match.

Head teacher Fiona MacKellaigh said: 'All the staff and pupils of Lady Lovat Primary are very proud of Fraser and his success.'

# U-turn over plans to axe board

ELLIE FORBES  
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CONTROVERSIAL plans to scrap the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) have been dropped.

Scottish economy secretary Keith Brown confirmed last Thursday that HIE will continue to be managed and run in the Highlands.

But plans for an overarching strategic board to oversee the activities of all the enterprise and skills bodies are still going ahead.

Proposals for a shake-up of Scottish enterprise and skills

agencies came after Professor Lorne Crerar's review into the bodies.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes welcomed the news saying she was 'delighted' the name, functions and structures of HIE will remain the same. She said: 'Since the review of Highlands and Islands Enterprise was first announced, I have made clear my strong belief that HIE should be based, managed and operated in the Highlands.'

And the MSP said a collaboration with other agencies will 'strengthen' the board's position. 'I want to see HIE strengthened with greater resources

and more opportunities to collaborate with other agencies and bodies for the benefit of the Highland economy and Highland communities,' she said.

'I am pleased by the government's commitment to not just preserving HIE as we know it, but strengthening it with opportunities to work with other bodies in Scotland.'

'It is only right that after several decades of HIE's existence, that the Scottish Government established a review to determine whether HIE could be strengthened.'

But one opposition MSP said it was a 'humiliating U-turn'

by the SNP on the decision. Scottish Labour Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'It is welcome that the Nationalists have scrapped their plan to centralise control of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise. The independence of the board should never have been put at risk in the first place.'

'Decisions about the Highlands and Islands economy are best taken locally, rather than by ministers sitting behind a desk in Edinburgh. We will watch very carefully to ensure the strategic board does not encroach on the responsibilities of the Highlands and Islands board.'

Ms Forbes added: 'HIE has been a force for good and the Highland economy has been strengthened in part through HIE's work with Highland businesses and communities.'

'Like the cabinet secretary said, we want to see a step change in the Highland economy. There are entrepreneurs and small businesses across the Highlands who have benefited from support from HIE.'

'There are communities who have employed local development officers to open up opportunities. That support will not just continue but be strengthened.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan also welcomed the announcement saying: 'There was never any doubt about HIE's future as an organisation, or that it would continue to be locally-based, managed and directed. However, I did appreciate the worries people had about the board and I hope the commitment given today will allay those concerns.'

'HIE performs incredibly valuable work in the Western Isles in helping to create and sustain jobs, and these new arrangements should protect and enhance the unique service they provide to us.'

## Dream comes true as £1.8m Sleat centre opens

A TINY south Skye community realised its dream on Saturday with the opening of a new £1.8 million centre.

And An Crùbh, Sleat's new community hub, got the thumbs up from residents and visitors who kept the staff busy all day.

The project was developed by Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) with the aim of giving local residents and visitors a place to meet, shop and socialise.

Saturday's event saw the opening of the café, shop and meeting space. A post office will open for business later in the month.

Business manager Sharon Campbell said: 'We are delighted with the huge level of support we received during the opening of An Crùbh. The day was very successful and the feedback we got from happy customers was extremely positive.'

'We have an amazing facility on our doorstep which will benefit future generations and attract visitors from near and far. It has created good permanent job opportunities and we have a great team in place to give everyone



Chef Lawrence Millott; shop manager Mhairi Cousins; Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative chairman Mark Wringe; Rory Flynn, CDI director; Alan Gibson, An Crùbh Ltd chairman; Sheila Dick, An Crùbh Ltd director; Innes Grant, CDI treasurer; DJ MacLennan, An Crùbh Ltd director; and business development manager Sharon Campbell. Photograph: Sara Bain.

who visits An Crùbh the warmest of welcomes.'

The journey began five years ago. With support from Highland Council, the Robertson Trust and its architects WT Architecture, CDI became one of the first community projects

in Scotland to be promised more than £1 million by the Big Lottery Fund.

CDI chairman Mark Wringe said: 'The building is a model for how small communities can develop and bring vibrancy to an area.'

“We'll be seeing each other more. It'll make this an even better place to live”

Mark Wringe  
CDI chairman

'Before April 1, buying a litre of milk meant using two litres of diesel to get to a shop and back. Now the community and its visitors have a well-stocked general store, selling local produce and supporting suppliers in the area. 'The café has a cosy inglenook where small groups can gather for activities.'

'A highly talented chef, who has just returned from working

in Japan, offers appealing, affordable food, including great vegetarian options.'

At the heart of the building is a hall with stunning views over the Sound of Sleat, which has been welcomed by the community. Bookings have already been taken for exercise and yoga, charitable events, dances, weddings and stand-up comedy.

Mark added: 'More than 30 groups around south Skye and Lochalsh expressed their wish to use the hall for everything from musical events to circus training. Yes, the roof is high enough to accommodate circus training.'

One of the main aims of the group is to bring new jobs to the area. Shop and café profits will be used to sustain the hall and generate funds for other community projects.

Mark also sees the new hub as a way to renew and strengthen community bonds.

'We'll be seeing each other more,' he said, 'doing things together more and feeling more confident about what a small rural place can achieve. It'll make this an even better place to live.'

## Lewis Castle tops contest

LEWS Castle has been named as a finalist in Channel 4's Great British Buildings Restoration competition.

The Isle of Lewis castle faced stiff competition but was crowned joint winner of the Victorian category with Mount Stewart in Northern Ireland.

The castle had suffered the effects of harsh Hebridean weather for decades but now stands proud again as an innovative heritage and hospitality destination.

The judges were blown away by the impressive restoration of the gothic revival-style castle and said: 'The building had been empty for 40 years so finding a new use was going to be a major achievement. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has carried out a real full-blooded restoration.'

It is now home to Museum nan Eilean, where six of the world famous 12th-century ivory Lewis Chessmen from the British Museum collection are now on display.

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## Urgent plea for lifeboat shop staff volunteers

THE RNLI shop in Mallaig is in desperate need of new volunteers to avoid closure.

The lifeboat station in Mallaig was established in 1951 and the shop, which has been open since 1998, is one of 160 RNLI shops across the UK and Ireland, raising money for the charity that saves lives at sea. The popular shop opens from April to September.

It is planned to re-open this month, but volunteers are needed to keep the shop open throughout the summer, or it is at risk of closure.

Audrey McKay, fundraising chairwoman, said: 'We understand most people have many demands on their time, so we're not asking much. If you feel you could spend a bit of time helping us to run our shop we'd love to hear from you. The money raised in the shop and through our fundraising events is used to train and equip the volunteer lifeboat crew.'

Shop manager Ann Currie retired from her volunteer post of shop manager last season after 18 years. She said: 'My husband was the coxswain at the station until he retired so I have a strong link with the lifeboat station. I started selling items in the shop as my way of supporting the RNLI. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering at the shop.'



Aros marketing officer Ruth Meekings; Aros managing director Donald MacDonald; Spirit of Skye festival producer Pam Allan; Fiona MacIntyre, Talisker brand home manager; and Talisker brand home lead Lesley Taylor. Photograph: Sara Bain.

## Masterchef stars on Skye festival menu

BBC MASTERCHEF champion Gary Maclean features on the menu of a new festival on Skye in June.

The winner of the 2016 professionals series says he is looking forward to taking part in the first Spirit of Skye Festival, which brings together the best of Scotland's whisky, gin, beer, music and food under one roof.

The two-day event, at the Aros Centre, Portree, between Friday and Saturday, June 16 and 17, will serve up a feast of demonstrations and talks by major drinks brands and local experts, creative masterclasses, live music, local produce stalls, two of Scotland's finest chefs, film and a grand finale barbecue and ceilidh featuring four of Scotland's best Scots trad musicians.

Gary will be joined by Three Chimneys' head chef Scott Davies, the 2013 Masterchef professionals runner-up, to take part in the Chefs' Theatre event.

Gary said: 'I am really excited to be playing a role in the Spirit of Skye Festival. Fresh Scottish

produce is world class and I want to share with festival-goers new ideas to bring out the best flavours and tastes Scotland has to offer.'

Donald MacDonald, managing director of the Aros Centre, said: 'We are really looking forward to hosting the event and it is very exciting to have so many people involved.'

In addition to the Chefs' Theatre, the weekend includes masterclasses and tasting sessions by Talisker Whisky, Stirling Gin, Cuillin Brewery and Sligachan Hotel. There will be children's events and a play area, film showings and a hall of exhibitors from some of Scotland's finest food and drink producers, including The Isle of Skye Sea Salt Company, Orbest Farm, Isle of Skye Brewing Co, Diageo, Talisker, Crossbill Highland Distilling, R&B Distillers, Cuillin Brewery, Cairn o'Mohr wines, Chocolates of Glenshiel and more.

Festival organiser Pam Allan has just finished finalising the programme and says she is looking forward to June.

## Community unites to support volunteer lifesavers

VOLUNTEERS who support the oldest lifeboat station in the Outer Hebrides have been going the extra mile in and out the water.

The Stornoway branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year. To help fund the service, a quiz, organised by Stornoway Lifeboat Ladies' Guild (SLLG), was held in Stornoway Golf Club on March 17.

Ellen Macdonald from SLLG said: 'It was a busy night and our thanks go to everyone who came along and the local shops and businesses which donated an excellent array of prizes for our raffle on the night.'

The event, which raised £852, coincided with the release of the official 2016 RNLI

statistics. According to the RNLI, which has 237 lifeboat stations around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, volunteer crews spent a total of 228,869 hours at sea last year, helping more than 30,000 people.

Stornoway RNLI launched 27 times last year, rescuing 24 people and saving one life. Of those rescued, one person was under the age of 18. The volunteer crew and Tom Sanderson, a Severn-class lifeboat, launched eight times in darkness during 2016 and three times in wind speeds over force seven, near gale.

Over the same time period, Barra Island RNLI crew spent 1,125 hours at sea. Aboard the Severn-class all-weather RNLI lifeboat *Edna Windsor* there were 19 launches – four in darkness and two in

wind speeds over force seven. The crew rescued three people under the age of 18 and 22 over the age of 18. The crew spent 497 hours on service and 628 hours on exercise.

Will Stephens, the RNLI's head of life-saving, said: 'Once again, we are extremely grateful for the dedication shown by our lifesavers.'

'Our volunteer lifeboat crews spent more than 228,869 hours at sea last year, but we really see our rescue service as a last resort. We'd really like to see people paying more attention to safety messages and giving the water the healthy respect it deserves. While we will always answer the call for help, myself and everyone within the RNLI would like to see people staying safer.'



Scottish Water staff work to clear the blocked sewer. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Sewer block causes a stink on High Street

SCOTTISH Water is asking people to pay more attention when disposing of fat and grease after a sewer blockage caused an unsightly scene in Fort William last week.

A choked sewer was reported just after 9am on Tuesday morning, April 4, on the High Street in Fort William, causing raw sewage to 'erupt' through the drain and paving stones.

A company spokesperson said Scottish Water staff were on site at 10.30am.

He added: 'They found the sewer choked with fat and grease, resulting in localised flooding.'

'The choke was unblocked by the team and a full clean up carried out.'

'We would like to take the opportunity to highlight our 'Keep the cycle running' campaign which offers advice on how best to dispose of fats and grease. Fat, oil and grease in liquid form may not appear to be harmful, but as they cool they congeal, harden and stick to the inside of drains and sewers, which can cause blockages and flooding to occur. They should be left to cool, scraped into a sealable container and either recycled or put in the bin. There's more information on the campaign on the Scottish Water website and Facebook page.'

# Accused of choking girlfriend

THE TRIAL of a Canadian man accused of choking his former girlfriend and rendering her unconscious last May is continuing in Fort William.

Jeffrey Raymond Kell, 33, has denied the assault, alleged to have taken place during the early hours of May 20, 2016, at a Fort William hotel.

On Monday April 3, when the trial began, Fort William Sheriff Court heard evidence from the complainant, a 27-year-old Canadian woman, who said an argument broke out between herself and Kell, who were on holiday in Fort William, after they had been drinking together at the hotel bar.

The complainant told the court she and Kell began 'bickering' after the pair engaged in sexual activity, during which she became uncomfortable but he failed to stop.

She said Kell 'just snapped' and grabbed her by the neck and threw her against the wall and the mirror, smashed her head on the floor and choked her.

She said she then saw him jump out the window on to the mezzanine roof below but he said she had pushed him. She told the court Kell then came back to the room and she let him in because she was 'scared of what he was going to do'.

At this point, she said, a concierge came to the door to tell them the police had been called.

The complainant said Kell then threw something small and hard at her and she threw a pillow back at him, at which point she says he choked her to the point where she became unconscious.

When she woke up, she ran to the front desk, where the concierge hid her in a corner in the dark until the police arrived.

The court learned the complainant had retracted the statement she had given to the police and had it authorised by a Canadian lawyer on May 31, 2016. The complainant claims Kell's mother made her do it as she said Kell was going to be killed in prison if she didn't.

Kell's solicitor Gerry Sweeney said his client's position was that he choked the complainant twice at her request, as part of the sexual activity, and he later choked her another twice in self-defence as she attacked him, all of which the complainant denies.

On Tuesday, the trial continued and the hotel's night porter, whom the complainant referred to as the concierge, told the court he had knocked on their hotel room door following three or four phone calls from other guests complaining about noise. He said as he approached the

room on the second floor to investigate he heard a woman screaming, 'Please stop doing that, just let me go' and a man saying: 'You're a bitch, you shouldn't be doing that, I don't deserve that' as well as loud banging which sounded like hitting or kicking.

When he knocked on the door, Kell answered and told him he was just leaving. The night porter then returned to reception to phone the police.

He confirmed he hid the woman until the police arrived, at which point he spoke to officers and then returned to the room following further calls from guests and came back down with Kell, who he feared was going to kill himself.

The court also heard evidence from two witnesses staying in the hotel on the night of May 19. The first told the court she

called police after hearing noises of a sexual nature followed by a man shouting loudly and aggressively and a hysterical woman, accompanied with loud crashes and bangs. She said she was fearful of someone being hurt and for her own safety.

The second witness told the court he heard loud footsteps followed by noises of sexual activity. Around half an hour after this he said 'all hell broke loose'.

Police constables Marina MacDonald and Sean Knox, who both attended the scene shortly before 1am after reports of a disturbance at the hotel, told the court the complainant was upset and distressed.

Constable Knox then checked if the woman was okay and the porter showed them to the couple's room where Kell was detained at 1am on suspicion of assault. The trial continues.

## Cash boost for Lochaber music group

A £5,000 boost from the Big Lottery fund means a Lochaber music group can continue to attract high calibre acts to the area.

Lochaber Music For All (LMFA), a not-for-profit organisation, organises five concerts between September and March each year bringing musicians from far and wide to play for the local community.

Assistant fundraiser David Hayes told the *Lochaber Times* the money had eased worries the group had last year about cash flow. 'We were worried about our cash flow and if we would have enough to pay the artists we had already earmarked. But our last two concerts have been extremely well attended,' said David.

'The Big Lottery money will cover our next season. What we really need though is people to come along to the concerts, because the whole point is bringing concerts to the local community for people to hear artists they would have had to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh to hear. That costs a lot of money. Now they can hear them on their doorstep.'

Lochaber Music for All held its last concert of the season last Friday when renowned pianist Martin Roscoe performed at Lochaber High School to an audience of around 90 people.

David said: 'We were really lucky to get Martin to play as he is internationally acclaimed.' Martin, who has recently moved to Roybridge, told LMFA it was a privilege to play a concert in such a beautiful part of the world.

David thanked committee members for their hard work over the last season, in particular chairwoman Clare Reynolds.



Polina Iljina, left, and Kathleen Rigby will head to France this weekend as part of centenary celebration of the Battle of Arras. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

## Lochaber school pair to attend commemoration

TWO PUPILS from Fort William are heading to France to take part in a cultural and commemorative experience this weekend.

Polina Iljina and Kathleen Rigby from Lochaber High School have been invited to observe the centenary of the Battle of Arras at Scotland's national commemorations.

The battle took place between April 9 and May 15 1917 and was part of a planned offensive by British and French forces.

The third year girls are among 10 pupils from across the Highlands selected for the five-day trip. They will participate in a memorial service at the Faubourg d'Amiens Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Arras on Sunday April 9, where they will lay a wreath on behalf of the nations

that fought together and place poppy crosses on graves.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'I'm delighted two of our young people have been chosen to represent Highland and will be joining pupils from all over Scotland to mark this important centenary.'

Organised by WW100 Scotland in conjunction with the Armed Forces in Scotland, Legion Scotland, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Education Scotland and Mercat Tours International, 72 Scottish pupils will be joined by a matching number of French and Canadian students.

Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture, tourism and external affairs, said: 'The Battle of Arras is of huge significance to Scotland's commemorative calendar.'

## Bus company publishes new timetable

SHIEL Buses has published a new timetable after securing 12 Highland Council public transport contracts.

The Fort William bus company will continue its current services and has taken over six contracts previously held by Stagecoach North of Scotland.

The new timetable will take effect from Monday April 24.

Shiel Buses will run two coaches on the Fort William to Inverness route, with some services going to and from Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

The company has also reinstated a morning service from Acharacle on a Thursday. This route was previously run by the council but was stopped following council money-saving cuts.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said it was fantastic to see a local company compete with a national

one and win so many of the Highland Council contracts.

But concerns about cross-town bus services are growing following news the two contracted operators running the service will not recognise each other's tickets.

The council has awarded the service between Fort William and Corpach to different operators. Shiel Buses will run the service during the day and Stagecoach at night. People who live in Fort William and work in Corpach and buy a weekly pass had questioned how this will affect them as they would be using one operator to get to work and another to get home.

At a meeting of the Lochaber bus users group on Tuesday March 21, Shiel buses and Stagecoach said the services will not be integrated, meaning joint tickets will not be available and the companies will not recognise each other's tickets. The

news means people will have to buy two separate bus tickets.

A Stagecoach representative said: 'We have raised a commercial joint ticket with the Highland Council, but we need the council to facilitate that discussion.'

Legally, bus operators cannot discuss ticket prices and fares with each other.

Earlier this month, Shiel Buses applied for planning permission to turn land at Glen Nevis Business Park into a bus parking area. The company currently occupies unit four at the business park with plans to develop 19 vehicle parking spaces on unit five, which lies within the Inventoried Battlefield of Inverloch.

The full Shiel timetable can be found at <http://www.shielbuses.co.uk>.

The *Lochaber Times* contacted Shiel buses but it did not respond before the paper went to press.

## Work to start on Soldier's Bridge

CONTRACTORS are on site preparing to start a £300,000 project to improve a crucial community link in Fort William.

Soldiers Bridge, which crosses the River Lochy between Black Parks Road, Inverloch, and Lochside, is going to be almost completely renewed.

Dingwall-based company Strath Civil Engineering is doing the work on behalf of the Highland Council.

Councillor for Caol and Mallaig Ben Thompson said: 'I dropped by to say hello to Strath Civil Engineering staff who are on site setting up to start the repair job.'

'For the next three weeks they'll be scaffolding the bridge.'

'Nine weeks after that we should finally have a mostly new bridge.'

## Man, 76, on driving and bail breach charges refused bail

A 76-YEAR-OLD man has been refused bail after being charged with three counts of careless driving and two breaches of bail conditions set on May 31 2016.

The conditions were that Thomas Allan Kirsop, a former police officer, was not to approach, contact or attempt to approach or contact two witnesses in an ongoing trial in which Kirsop is facing accusations of stalking.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose said Kirsop, of Brudair, North Ballachulish, was intimating a guilty plea and sought bail for him on the grounds that he has medical conditions which require him to be at his home address, where his wife, a retired nurse, can monitor his health.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood said that these charges suggested that Kirsop had no intention of stopping his behaviour towards the witnesses.

Mr Melrose provided three medical reports from two GPs for the sheriff to read which contained details of several medical conditions Kirsop suffers from. He told the court

that the address in the Inveraray area, where Kirsop was previously residing while on bail, was no longer available to him, and that he had no alternative available other than his home address.

Mr Melrose added that there were mental health concerns, for which Kirsop is to be referred for psychiatric tests to determine if he has early signs of dementia.

Sheriff William Taylor said that the current complaints were 'mirror images' of the ones before the court in the on-going trial.

He added that this showed Kirsop had 'paid no attention to the court orders in these matters'. The sheriff refused to grant bail on the grounds that 'the public deserve to be protected' from him, but added that the point raised about psychiatric testing should be passed on to the relevant authorities so they could take it into account.

The trial for these charges has been set to take place on April 27, with an intermediate diet set for April 25 and Kirsop will remain in custody until these dates.

## Plans to turn 'eyesore' former pub into flats approved

THE LOCHABER Bar on Kilmallie Road is to be turned into three, two-bedroom flats after the owner of the former pub last week had planning permission granted by Highland Council.

Planning was first sought in 2015, when support for the flats was mixed. A petition, 'Stop Lochaber Bar becoming flats', was started and signed by more than 160 people with many calling for the pub, next to the Co-op and Sammy's fish and chip shop, to be brought back to life after being out of use for six or seven years.

Caol Community Council raised a similar point at the time. In its comments to the planning committee, it said: 'It was a great bar and could be again. It is important to keep social facilities such as this available to the community.'

The community council also raised concerns about a loss of commercial space from the village square and parking in what

is an already busy car park. One Caol resident told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Parking for the Co-op is already terrible so the loss of spaces will impact heavily on that. Parking in the bus stops will become the norm and in the access road for the houses opposite.'

But the council has stipulated there must be a minimum of five car parking spaces for residents.

The community council says its views on the application have not changed. It will hold its next meeting on Monday April 10 at 6.30pm in Caol Community Centre.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said: 'We have a housing issue but these flats are in a really awkward location. The feedback I have had from people is, yes it's an eyesore, let's sort it, but why can't it be used commercially. I would like it to be used commercially because I think that makes sense, but it's private property.'



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# African adventure beckons as Caol teacher prepares to swap classroom



Teacher Jennifer Easson is heading to Rwanda.

**KATIE CARABINE**  
kcarabine@obantimes.co.uk

A CAOL Primary School teacher is to swap her class for one in Rwanda. Jennifer Easson has enrolled in a professional development project with Global Learning Partnerships (GLP), which includes a four-week trip to teach in the African country. While there this summer she will learn about Rwandan life and culture, which she can share with her Caol pupils on her return. Jennifer will also be helping the teachers in Rwanda, sharing her knowledge and teaching style, particularly around problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity. Ms Easson said: 'It's always been my dream to go to Africa. In January, I was

thinking of what I could do this year, especially as I am turning 30, then the next day I got an email through from GLP offering the chance to have a real life cultural experience for four weeks.' Ms Easson will be part of a 20-strong group who will arrive in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, on July 1 for a two-day induction before they travel to their assigned regions. They will visit a different school each day then get together in the middle weekend of the trip to discuss progress and share ideas. There will also be some time to explore the country and Ms Easson hopes to go on a safari, among other things. She said: 'I am excited. I love meeting new people and learning new things. The whole experience will be out of this world, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I think it will be really eye-opening and I will feel really alive.' There will, of course, be challenges, but Ms Easson says she will take these in her stride. 'I will have to adapt quickly but I like a challenge. I have to learn some of the languages: Rwandan French and Kinyarwanda. 'We will be living like Rwandan teachers live so we will have £40 a week to live off and will have to dress like they do - very smartly and with no short skirts or shoulders showing. 'I am probably most worried about the food. I'm a very fussy eater and if you are offered a meal there, you have to clear the plate, otherwise it's seen as very rude. 'The staff have been talking about giving me a bush tucker trial to prepare me for the food.'

## WHAT'S ON

**AYE2AYE** Lochaber will be hosting The National Roadshow on Friday April 7. Everyone is welcome to pop along to Aye2Aye to discuss local issues and stories. In the evening, there will be a talk by Paul Kavanagh - Wee Ginger Dug - blogger, author and columnist for The National newspaper, at Kilmallie Community Centre from 7pm-9pm. Aye2Aye will also be holding a conference on Saturday April 8 in Kilmallie Community Centre from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Main speakers will be Robin McAlpine, Common Weal director and Commonsense columnist; Cat Boyd, Scottish trade union activist, co founder of Radical Independence Campaign and Scottish Left Project; and Paul Kavanagh. The events are free, although donations are welcomed.

**KILMALLIE Christmas Lights Group** will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday May 10 at 7.30pm in Kilmallie Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Ardnamurchan on Monday April 10. The LSC representatives will be based at Acharacle Medical Practice between 10.30am and 11.30am and Dail Mhor Care Home in Strontian from 12.30-1.30pm. At each venue they will offer support and advice to those with a hearing loss or sight loss. The team members will also re-tube and maintain NHS hearing aids and supply NHS batteries. No appointment is necessary.

## Birthday boy clocks up the miles

A 72-YEAR-OLD man has celebrated his birthday by walking more than 300 miles for charity. John Dodd, from Northumberland, started his 600-mile journey on his birthday on Saturday March 11 in Brooklands, a motor racing circuit in Surrey, in memory of actor James Robertson Justice, who once featured on the track. John has raised more than £500 so far for four charities close to his heart: the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, Headway, Age Concern and Meningitis Now. John has been a film fanatic since the age of 14 and has worked as an extra on a number

of films including *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Around the World in 80 Days* and TV series *Minder*. When passing the Lochaber Times office on Monday, John was on his way to Spean Bridge for the night, before walking to Glengarry then on to Inverness and Dornoch prior to getting the bus back to Glasgow then home. He said: 'I will have walked in excess of 350 miles when I finish which is not bad for a 72-year-old. I have just been taking my time with it. I started walking about 15 years ago after I lost the last member of my family. I wasn't going to sit at home so I did seven walks that first year.'



John Dodd in the Lochaber Times' office on Monday.

## Highland firm wins wind farm work

HIGHLAND business RJ McLeod has been given the contract for civil engineering work at SSE's 66-turbine Stronelair wind farm near Fort Augustus. Construction is expected to take just over two years, with the site fully operational by summer 2019. The wind farm had originally been given

planning consent by the Scottish Government in 2014, but was challenged by the John Muir Trust. Following a legal battle it was eventually given the green light last year. Sandy Osborne, RJ McLeod's north director, said: 'The project will enable us to continue to provide ongoing and additional employment.'



Lots of balloons on display at Eric Wallace's shop. Photograph: Abridge Photography.



The Lochaber Times' display for the week. Photograph: Abridge Photography.



High Street fish and chip shop Macari's also took part in the week. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

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## Businesses back Autism Awareness Week



The ladies from Nevis Bakery who took part in Autism Awareness Week.



Spean Bridge Primary School pupils at their special assembly on Friday. Photograph: Abridge Photography.



Gillian Sloan from Gallery in the Fort with a lovely window display. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

LOCHABER businesses have been decorating their shop fronts in support of Autism Awareness Week. The event ran from March 27 to April 2 with many High Street shops putting up posters, colourful balloons and bunting to support the cause. Amie-Louise Wallace, from Lochaber Autism Support Group, handed out decoration packs to all those taking part and told the *Lochaber Times* she is 'pleased' with how the week went. She said: 'I am really pleased. There has been great feedback from people. Everyone seemed to really like the bright displays and I can only hope it served its purpose and people have read the posters and the leaflets and we have managed



Bunting at the House of Clan Jamfrie. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

to raise awareness and educate people a little more. 'Thank you to CG Ltd in the train station, which printed our posters for free, and a huge thank you to all the businesses who got involved this week.

Thanks also to McDonald's who raised £175 for our group at its Mothers' Day craft day.' Spean Bridge Primary School also held a series of events, finishing the week off with a special assembly.

## View from the Chamber



A NEW trade alliance between Strait Area Chamber and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Scottish Government, is set to forge trading alliances between

Lochaber and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, in 2017/18. A trading alliance is an agreement between two Chambers of Commerce and their members committing to shared business priorities and specific trade plans. Key sectors such as aquaculture, tourism, food and drink, creative industries, and renewable technologies have much to offer and gain from increased engagement and collaboration with Canadian

companies. Canada is also one of Scotland's biggest overseas tourism markets. Direct flights from Halifax to Glasgow and a direct ferry service from Mallaig to Lochboisdale have opened the region to growing tourism numbers. The strength of the Canadian dollar against the pound and the influence of Scotland's international diaspora in key target markets present a good opportunity to per-

sue Canadian travellers to come to Lochaber and the Highlands. Internationalisation is a key part of Scotland's economic strategy and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is stepping up efforts to raise Lochaber's profile and encourage more local businesses to export. Grassroots business-to-business international connectivity has the potential to deliver a revolution in the way our SMEs trade overseas - resulting in jobs, growth and wealth.

## Come clean on Eden show, says councillor

A COUNCILLOR says the makers of a TV programme which caused public access to Ardnamurchan to be restricted have to be more honest.

Last May, 23 volunteers aged 24 to 55 entered Eden, a 600-acre 'village' or film set near Ardtoe which offered the chance to 'start again'.

Cut off from modern society, the show required them to live off the land for a year.

Produced by London-based KEO films, the reality TV group was protected by an application submitted in 2015 to remove public right of access in Ardnamurchan Estate.

Eden was first aired on July 18 on Channel 4 and attracted 1.8 million viewers but the show failed to gather momentum and disappeared from the airwaves after only a handful of episodes. In October, Channel 4 assured the public the experiment was still under way and that the shows were to be released.

An extension to the planning application was sought and granted earlier this year, as reported by the *Lochaber Times* but now, it seems, all the contributors have left.

The *Lochaber Times* contacted KEO for comment on how the show was progressing, whether it felt it was a success, and if there was likely to be any insight on how the contributors had dealt with their experiences before they left.

A spokesperson said: 'The participants left Eden after a year as was always the plan. The story of their time in Eden will be broadcast on C4 later this year.'

Councillor Brian Murphy said the makers should be more honest with their intentions. He added: 'I have never seen a restriction being asked for or allowed in all my years as a councillor. It is quite a significant thing - the mountain bike event in Nevis Range is one of the biggest events and access is only restricted for three days. So if they do not want to continue the project, they really need to make it be known.'

The Highland Council confirmed an access exemption is in place until March 21 2018.

A spokesperson said: 'If the purpose for which the order is made, to film a TV series, is no longer intended then the council would seek to revoke the order. Site notices advising of the exemption will be taken down and non-vehicular access would be resumed.'

# Man, 68, admits sex offences against girl aged under 16

**COURT REPORTER**  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A 68-YEAR-OLD man has been placed on the sex offenders' register after admitting committing sexual offences against a girl under 16 years.

Rupert James Nevil Valpy, resident of France, admitted to lewd, indecent and libidinous

practices towards the girl on various occasions between February 22 2003 and February 26 2006 at Otter Lodge, Ardnamurchan.

Valpy's solicitor Gerry Sweeney explained to the court that being on the register would affect Valpy in this jurisdiction.

He would have to make contact with Police Scotland before travelling in the UK jurisdiction,

present himself to the relevant police office and report to police again when leaving the UK jurisdiction.

Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court Valpy had lived most of his adult life in the UK and went on holidays to Otter Lodge with a group including the complainant.

She noted this was a 'remote location with no neighbours or

streetlights'. The procurator fiscal explained the complainant reported three incidents which took place in the grounds of Otter Lodge and that Valpy had admitted to his now-estranged wife that he had 'perhaps been inappropriate' with the child on one occasion only.

These incidents were reported to have taken place during games of 'flashlight tag' in the

dark when the girl was 12 years old or above.

The procurator fiscal said these incidents had affected the complainant deeply.

Sentence was adjourned until May 24 for a criminal justice social services report to be prepared including how long Valpy will be on the sex offenders' register.

He was released on bail.

## Lorry crash closes A82

TWO LORRIES collided on the A82 at Onich last Thursday, closing both lanes of the carriageway for more than four hours.

No other vehicles were involved, and no-one was injured, Police Scotland said.

Inspector Isla Campbell, area inspector for Lochaber, added: 'At about 10am on Thursday March 30, officers were called to a report of a collision between two large goods vehicles on the A82 just south of Onich.'

'A large piece of plant machinery being carried by one of the lorries shifted and came into contact with a second lorry travelling in the opposite direction.'

'As a result, the road was closed for four-and-a-half hours while the plant was safely adjusted, the lorries moved and the road cleansed. During this period, when possible and safe to do so, officers allowed traffic to pass.'

'The 60-year-old driver of one of the lorries has been reported to the procurator fiscal for road traffic offences.'



Last Thursday's lorry crash closed the A82 just south of Onich for four and a half hours.



Liam MacDonald, President's Badge, Ewan MacGregor and Roddy MacLeod, both Queen's Badges, Max Fox-Gillies, Jason Jeffrey and Daniel MacLeod, all President's Badges, with Captain Ian Fleming.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Award winner of the junior and senior sections of 2nd Fort William BB Company after their parents' evening in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Fort Boys Brigade winners celebrate

2ND FORT William Boys' Brigade prize list 2016/2017:

Anchor Boys: Perfect Attendance, Kieran Boyd; Best Anchor Boy: Kieran Boyd.

Junior Section: Perfect Attendance, Finlay MacBride; Arran Stephen; Ruairidh Stephen; Faolan Hunter; Ben O'Sullivan and Robert McTaggart. Regular Attendance: Scott MacLeod and Reece Miller.

Centenary Cup, Best Junior Section Boy: Arran Stephen.

The Wattie Adam Cup, presented by the Adams family in memory of their father, Best Junior Section Squad: Squad 1. Junior Section Gold Award: Finlay MacBride, Scott MacLeod.

Company Section: Perfect Attendance, Josh Higginson, Daniel MacLeod and Max Fox-Gillies. Regular Attendance: Ewan MacGregor, Nathan Johnston, Jay Jay Calder, Liam MacDonald, Jack O'Neill, Daniel Turner and Finlay Hunter.

The Dan Hunter Memorial trophy, Best Drilled Recruit, Finlay Hunter. The Lawrence Wilson Memorial Shield, Best Squad: Squad 2: Lance Corporal Daniel MacLeod.

1st Brierley Hill Trophy, presented to the boy who, in the opinion of the drill officer, has shown most improvement in his drill over the year, Private Max Fox-Gillies.

The Duncansburgh Cup, presented to the company by members of the Kirk Session for Christian Endeavour in and out of company meeting times, Private Jack O'Neill.

The Jim Rodger Trophy, Best All-round Boy in badge work, attendance and enthusiasm, Private Nathan Johnston.

The Seniors Trophy, presented to senior boys of 15 years and over who have completed the Boys' Brigade award scheme and who are working for the Queen's Badge, Sergeant Ewan MacGregor.

President's Badge, Liam MacDonald, Daniel MacLeod, Jason Jeffries and Max Fox-Gillies.

Queen's Badge, Ewan MacGregor and Roddy MacLeod. Promotions: Anchor Boys to Junior Section and Blue: Kieran Boyd, Mark McCook, Theo Black and Caleb McSorley.

Junior Section to Company Section: Finlay MacBride and Scott MacLeod.

# Speeding driver narrowly escapes jail term

A PROFESSIONAL driver narrowly escaped being banned from the road and losing his job after he admitted driving at more than twice the speed limit.

Charlie Coull, 22, of 19 Cameron Place, Fort William, admitted driving carelessly at speeds of up to 65mph in a 30mph zone on May 1 2016 on the A82 north of Fort William.

Coull's solicitor Stephen Kennedy told Fort William Sheriff Court Coull already had six points on his driving licence for failure to stop and report.

Mr Kennedy told the court Coull realised he had put himself in a 'very serious position' as he is in full-time employment as a driver/shunter and his licence was essential to his employment.

He said Coull had spoken to his employers who had told him if he was disqualified for anything longer than two months he would lose his job.

Mr Kennedy added that Coull seemed to be a valued employee and his employer would like to keep him.

He therefore suggested to the sheriff that he give six points or

fewer, or none, and no disqualification.

Mr Kennedy asked that the sheriff take into account the fact his client had a lot of debts to pay and that Coull's previous points were not for speeding but as the result of clipping a van that braked suddenly in front of him.

Sheriff William Taylor said:

'It seems that although you may well have reached speeds of 65mph, you did so for what was really the blink of an eye.'

He added: 'Let it be a lesson to you that if you do speed you are likely to get caught.'

Sheriff Taylor fined Coull £500, to be paid in monthly instalments of £125, and issued four penalty points.



The Oban lifeboat was in attendance. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

## Man arrested after yacht runs aground on shore

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after a boat ran aground on the shore of Loch Linnhe.

Police were called to the loch side just south of Fort William at 7.55am where a yacht had grounded near Lochaber Yacht Club. With the assistance of two units from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the sole male occupant was assisted to shore.

The man has since been arrested and will be reported to the procurator fiscal in connection with the incident.

Police told the *Lochaber Times* that no-one else was involved.

A police spokesperson said: 'The vessel was damaged. However, the extent of this has not yet been ascertained.'

The RNLI confirmed the Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonal was launched shortly after 8am to help emergency services with the grounded yacht.

The lifeboat departed the scene at 10.35am, returning to Oban where she was refuelled and made ready for service again shortly after noon.

# Convicted sex offender is jailed for two years after re-offending

A CONVICTED sex offender has been sentenced to two years in jail while serving a community payback order for similar offences.

Ian Andrew Bruce, 49, currently in Inverness prison, will also be placed on the sex offenders' register for 10 years after he was convicted of sexually assaulting two women and performing sexual acts in front of them in December 2016, after being convicted of similar offences against three other women in May 2014.

On Thursday March 30, Fort William Sheriff Court heard that Bruce had been in custody since December 12 and that he had tendered a guilty plea in advance of the first court hearing on March 3.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose explained the more recent charges were more serious than on the previous occasion and that Bruce had 'gone further' this time.

The court heard that Bruce was more than two thirds of the way through a three-year supervised programme requirement as part of his community payback for the previous charges.

The court heard Bruce knew one of the complainants of the more recent charges and had been invited to her home that night where Bruce and both complainants drank quite a lot.

Bruce had found that the two females had had some sort of sexual contact and had invited them to continue in his presence, and when they didn't, he assaulted them both and performed a sexual activity in their presence.

Mr Melrose said the criminal justice report described this as 'opportunistic offending' and that Bruce accepted the description that it was 'a complete betrayal of trusts', and the impact his behaviour

would have upon the two women.

Mr Melrose added that on the previous occasion Bruce had lost a good job and had been supported by his wife, but this was not the case now as their relationship had ended and he was no longer welcome at home.

Sheriff William Taylor said: 'It's a very worrying matter as it shows a deterioration in your behavior and I very much have in mind the protection of public and young people.'

He issued the prison sentence and recalled the previous community payback order and substituted a further six-month jail term to be served concurrently.

He added it was important the public continued to have protection on Bruce's release and therefore ordered a two-year supervised release order as well as 10 years on the sex offenders' register.

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FW

## Fort William

A YOUNG man who has made his home in Fort William has been shortlisted for a top award following his 'hard work and incredible achievements'.

Zeki Brown, 17, has been named as a finalist in the environment category of the Sunday Mail's Young Scot Awards 2017.

The teenager grew up in a remote house on the edge of the Cairngorms and by the time he had left school he had completed all three levels of the John Muir Award through the Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger scheme. He has been delivering bush-craft sessions to other young people since.

In 2016, Zeki won a place at the School of Adventure Studies on Skye, where he lived alone in a tipi for almost a year. He also travelled to California to make his first short film, *In the Spirit of John Muir*.

His next adventure was closer to home when he filmed *Wild Along the Way*, which aims to show everyone can enjoy wild places.

Now in their twelfth year, Young Scot awards celebrate contributions and work across health, community, the arts and diversity.

From hundreds of entries, three finalists will be chosen in 12 categories. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in the Clyde Auditorium in Glasgow on Thursday April 27.



Zeki Brown has been shortlisted in the environment category.

## Strontian

A DETERMINED, fundraising duo planning to become the first adventurers to circumnavigate mainland Britain in an open canoe will set off from Strontian.

Colin Skeath and his nephew, Davis Gould-Duff, are making the attempt in a Swift Temagami craft and will leave from outside the Sunart Hotel on Sunday April 30.

The pair plan to cover the 2,500 miles clockwise. When conditions allow, they will take the shortest route between daily stops, taking maximum advantage of each tide.

Colin said: 'My wife Katrina and I have moved to Strontian from Halifax in West Yorkshire, where we both worked for West Yorkshire Police. We had been coming to the west coast for a long time and had been hoping to move up for the past 13 years. Now we have finally done it. Although it will make the circumnavigation longer, we thought it would be nice to start at Strontian as it is now our home. Davis is 25 years old - half my age - and is currently living in Limerick in Southern Ireland. He will be giving up his job working in an outdoor shop to enable him to go on the trip.'

As well as being a personal challenge, Colin and Davis will be raising money for the Forget Me Not Charity.

Colin added: 'I feel very fortunate when I look at the struggles some people face in their daily lives, so to be able to support a charity is a privilege.'

To find out more or donate visit [www.canoearoundbritain.com](http://www.canoearoundbritain.com).



Colin Skeath with his nephew, Davis, will paddle from Strontian on April 30 to circumnavigate the UK in an open canoe.

## Kinlochleven pupils donate £3,000 to charity



Jodie Daynes, Sinead MacDonald and Aaron Aitken of Kinlochleven High School.

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils have donated £3,000 to a Lochaber charity through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

For the second year in a row, third year students have taken part in the project which encourages young people to understand the important work of charities in the community. The pupils were split into eight groups and each selected a charity to research and visit. The charities picked by the pupils were Macmillan Cancer Support, Room 13, Glencoe Mountain Rescue, Men's Shed, Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired, Lochaber Women's Aid, the Salvation Army and Lochaber Hope.

Presentations were given to fellow students, teachers and a judging panel and the winning group received

£3,000 from YPI to give to their chosen charity. This year's winners were Aaron Aitken, Sinead MacDonald and Jodie Daynes whose chosen charity was Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired, a charity which provides visually impaired people with a chance to chat, socialise and build relationships.

The group plans to use the money to pay for transport and trips and to train more volunteers to read to people who are visually impaired.

Head teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'All the pupils who took part are winners.'

'Our objectives in taking part in this project are to support our local community, to understand our community better and to encourage youngsters to become active citizens in their community. Everyone achieved that.'

## Sheila goes for gold and gets it

A SPEAN Bridge woman is celebrating after winning a gold award at the World Original Marmalade Awards.

Sheila Mackinnon, of The Heathers B&B, Invergloyle, Spean Bridge, won the prestigious accolade for her Rowan and Clementine Marmalade which impressed judges with its appearance, colour, consistency, aroma and flavour.

Delighted to have won the award, Sheila said: 'This is a golden award for us in more ways than one. I am so pleased to have won this award against such strong competition from all over the world. I've got the pans at the ready to make lots more jars but making marmalade and jam for guests is something I have always done.'

Sheila told the *Lochaber Times* she has been making marmalade for about 35 years: 'I am a home-made person. I was brought up on a farm where we were taught to make all sorts.'

The landlady, who has had the Spean Bridge B&B for seven years, also makes bread, scones and whatever she can turn her hand to. She said she enjoys the challenge of making home-made goods for her B&B customers. Sheila added: 'This is my fourth year entering the competition. I have won silver awards in the past but I just thought this year I am going for the gold.'



Ian and Sheila MacKinnon.

## Newly-formed Fort William Brownies makes all the right moves in charity pyjama danceathon

FORT William Brownies has made all the right moves and raised £250 for charity.

The money was raised when the newly-formed group, set up last October by Louise Giles and Becky McCook, held a pyjama danceathon at the Salvation Army Hall a few weeks ago.

The brownies visited the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals' (PDSA) shop in Fort William High Street last week to hand over £125. The other half of the money was donated to a charity for snow leopards.

Louise told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The brownies were doing their friends to ani-

mal badges, part of which is raising money for charity.

'They decided to donate part of the money to the PDSA because it's our local animal charity.'

PDSA shop manager Caroline Campbell said: 'It was a total surprise to find out the girls had raised money for the charity.'

'I just thought, 'wow that's so good of them'.'

Louise, who has been in guiding all her life, moved to the area last year and discovered there was no brownies in the town.

'The local guiding unit is usually where you can meet new people. When I

discovered there was nothing in the town any more, I decided to set up a rainbows and brownies group.'

The group has now joined forces with the Kilmallie and Fort Augustus Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to form a Lochaber district group.

Brownie helper Shannon Stewart worked her way up through the ranks in the Fort Augustus group but had to give it up when she moved to Fort William for college.

She was delighted to hear a group had started in the town which she could get involved with.



Louise Giles hands over the £125 cheque to PDSA manager Caroline Campbell, as some of the Fort William Brownies and Shannon Stewart look on.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

## Sewing machines needed to help deliver new project

A LOCHABER group is appealing for sewing machines to help deliver a new project to young adults.

Studio 2 on Fort William High Street plans to run basic sewing workshops for people who can't sew.

Times have yet to be confirmed, but the group hopes to run the two-

hour classes for four weeks.

Bronwyn Strachan from Studio 2 told the *Lochaber Times*: 'You don't hear of too many young people sewing these days but you know what it's like when you want to put on a pair of jeans but the zip is broken. If the jeans haven't cost that much, you might throw them out but if you

can fix them it gives the jeans a new lease of life.'

To help the project go ahead, Studio 2 is looking for sewing machines.

Bronwyn added: 'People may have sewing machines sitting gathering dust and if they are happy to donate them to Studio 2 that would

be great. If they are willing to let us use their machine during the project we would really appreciate that as well. Two people have already done this.'

For more information or to donate a sewing machine contact [info@thebuzzproject.org](mailto:info@thebuzzproject.org) or call 01397 705428.



Some of the St Columba's children with their bonnets. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

## Easter eggs and bonnets brighten St Columba's

ST COLUMBA'S Primary School, Fort William, held its annual Easter egg and bonnet competition last Friday.

Sister Diane Moore, from St John's Church, and parishioner Claire MacDonald were the judges this year and had a difficult job picking the winners.

Children from nursery to primary seven were challenged to decorate eggs or create Easter bonnets at home.

A school spokesperson said: 'The chil-

dren came up with some lovely ideas. The entries were of a very high standard and the children did a fantastic job creating unusual entries. One did the Jacobite steam train with egg people, another did the Alice in Wonderland tea party. Some created stones with the boiled eggs to create Jesus' tomb.'

There were 14 winners on the day and some of the work will be showcased in St John's Church. Winners: Nursery, Rubyn

Lopez; P1, Taylor Lauder; P2, Duncan MacFarlane; P3, Asher Johnston; P4, Bradley Monk; P5, Lexi Lauder; P6, Bella Macfarlane and P7, Sophie Lopez.

Easter bunny prizes went to: Elize Lopez, Natalie Byrne, Aaron MacLellan and Callum MacLean. The Sister Diane prize went to Gracie Henderson and Father Roddy's prize was won by Darcy Bradley. For more photographs visit [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)



A committee greeted Big Pedal participants each day at Lochaber High School.

## School keeps cycling

AFTER 10 days of cycling, the Big Pedal challenge was brought to a close but it might not be the end of the initiative at a Fort William school.

Schools across Lochaber took part in the Big Pedal which encouraged people to cycle to school.

Nix Forster from Fort William's Off Beat Bikes, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Together with some of the parents we created a welcome committee for the children at Lochaber High

School. We kept a record of how many people participated each day and said 'well done'. The most we had was 65. Some mornings were lovely and some were pretty wet so we were really impressed by all the efforts. The teachers got involved too.'

Nix is hoping a 'spin off' of the programme will be launched soon. 'We are thinking of maybe doing a wheels on Wednesday for the next nine weeks,' he said.

## Banavie pupils spring into action for funds

BANAVIE Primary School pupils have been raising funds for a trip to The Shieling Project.

The primary seven youngsters held a spring tea and open day to help fund their stay at the project, near Beaulieu.

With the help of teacher Mrs Harley, the youngsters organised the event, put out invitations, arranged home-baking and served the parents.

Some pupils wore bow ties for the occasion and there were spring flowers for sale on the day.

The event raised £350 towards the trip and head teacher Maxean Dunham said the children had a marvellous time at the event.

Based in Struy, near Beaulieu, The Shieling Project allows youngsters to experience the traditional lifestyle and practices of living on high ground with livestock over summer, including stocking up on peat and dyes and making butter and cheese.



Banavie primary sevens served parents during their spring tea on Friday March 31.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

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Hector the Haggis was popular with the younger festival-goers. Pictures: Iain Ferguson/The Write Image.

# Festival celebrates great chieftain o' pudding race

**ELLIE FORBES**  
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A GROUP of dedicated volunteers have kicked off the start of the tourist season by hosting the third annual haggis festival.

Spean Bridge residents hosted the Highland Haggis Festival last weekend which saw more than 200 people celebrate Scotland's national delicacy.

This year's festival welcomed Lochaber residents as well as tourists, some from Germany, to enjoy all things haggis.

Eight-year-old Ruaridh Ste-

phen, winner of the Design a Haggis-themed gondola competition, officially opened the festival with help from Hector the Haggis and Dougie Beck.

Spean Bridge Primary School hall was packed with stalls, all with local home-made crafts and foods, a haggis cafe serving up haggis pastry rolls, haggis pakora and traditional haggis, neeps and tatties, and there were a number of chefs in cooking demonstrations for a hungry audience.

This year was the first time the festival has been run without any funding. With a committee of just

six volunteers, a huge amount of time and effort throughout last year went into fundraising the £5,000 needed to stage the event.

Committee member Deneil Snaith told the Lochaber Times: 'Last year we had funding from the Big Lottery and the year before that we applied to the Highland Council for help, but these were one-off funding streams so this year we had to raise the money ourselves.'

'It cost more than £5,000 to put the festival on, and we held a number of fundraisers last year. We had a Christmas afternoon

tea which was really popular, and we hosted a wine and beer tasting night, which we'll be having another one of soon too.'

A whole host of haggis-related events and games took place.

Committee member Vanessa Martin said: 'We have cookery demonstrations, a haggis fling, a haggis hunt and a children's haggis recipe competition.'

Glenn Russell, of Russell's Restaurant, kicked off the cookery demonstrations with a haggis and goats' cheese cheesecake, and was followed by head chef at Inverloch Castle, Andy Turnbull.

Deneil said she was pleased with the way the event had gone. She said: 'It's been really busy and everyone seems to be enjoying all the different types of haggis.' She said the committee was desperately on the look-out for more volunteers, adding: 'We really need to get more people involved with the festival. It's not a huge amount of work. It gets a bit crazy the week leading up to it, but it all ends up being really fun, and the more you can share it out the better.'

For more pictures and results, go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).



Ruaridh Stephen opens the festival with help from Hector the Haggis and Dougie Beck.



Three-year-old George MacRae in the junior haggis fling with Glyn Davies.

## MORVERN lines

### The Squire

I'M OFTEN asked why there are so few characters compared with 20 or 30 years ago.

How would you define a character? According to my dictionary, you would recognise one for his or her eccentricity and personality. That may have been so generally, but in the Highlands and Islands it means a great deal more.

A character is someone who has a genuine pride in their community, is unafraid to stand up and speak out, ask questions and goes quietly about doing acts of public service without looking for recognition or financial reward.

Add wit, a few good stories, humour, a natural intelligence and a cheerful outlook on life, and you have it.

Where the characters have gone is not so easily answered. Local and national government must accept some of the blame in their unrelenting drive to dumb down the public; television, social networking and the diminution of local knowledge are other contributory factors.

Many wonderful characters have lived on the island of Mull. One of the most popular was Mrs Maude Mary Cheape (1853-1919) affectionately known as 'the Squire' after she inherited the Bentley Estate in Worcestershire from her father - the previous squire.

Her name became well known as a pony breeder, much-loved landowner and friend to many. The name is still in evidence on Mull and continues to



Squire Bentley and the SS Inniemore approaching Carsaig from a painting dated 1893.



be held in high esteem.

The Cheapes arrived sometime in the 1860s and leased Ardura on the shores of Loch Spelve before going on to buy Carsaig, Inniemore and Tiororan from the Macleans of Pennercross. They gained a reputation, not by the authority of wealth, but by the way they engaged with the local community.

All of their employees and families were known to the Cheapes personally and were made to feel that he or she was a special friend - something almost unheard of among migratory Victorian landowners. The Mull folk truly worshipped the Squire, which was hardly surprising considering the following: when the Cheapes bought Carsaig, one of the many possessions they inherited was a 165-ton steamer called the SS Inniemore capable of carrying general

cargo and 30 passengers.

The Squire really kept her going for the benefit of the islanders and for the convenience of those living in places where MacBrayne's ships often didn't call.

In order to offset the running costs, the Inniemore was placed in the hands of an agent and sailed from Glasgow every Wednesday at 1pm for Colonsay, Oban, Lochbuie, Carsaig, Iona, Bunnassan, Lochscridain, Ulva and Torloisk, returning on Mondays.

Finally, after a costly law suit arising from an incident at Bunnassan Pier, when several hundred sheep were drowned, the Inniemore was sold in 1896 to a French shipping company and was lost at sea in 1903.

With the idea of assisting the local crofters and others who could not afford to keep a pony, the Squire brought 27 donkeys and three foals by

train to Oban in 1900 where crowds gathered to see them embark for Mull. When they landed at Salen, the sensation was even greater as many of the islanders had never seen such beasts before.

Clipped and groomed with ornamental harnesses and tinkling bells, those that were kept by the family were a novel sight pulling two-wheeled trotting-carts from Inniemore to Tiororan, a distance of 14 miles. They picked up a living in the winter where a pony would starve, eating the tops of the coarsest herbage and not feeding as close as horses and sheep.

A very fine five-year-old donkey, described as quiet and fast in harness and to ride, was presented as one of the prizes by the Squire and her daughter at the Salen regatta that year.

Two adults and a foal were gifted to the Isle of Iona,

where the hotel proprietor and the postmaster made good use of them to convey visitors between the abbey and the jetty during the summer.

To the magnificent fold of Highland cattle and her famous Highland pony stud started in 1891 with ponies from Athol, Barra and the Uists, the Squire added a herd of lightweight Dexter Kerry cattle.

Kerry cattle are native to Ireland. They were developed as a milking breed suited to small subsistence farms of southern and western Ireland.

Because of their size they cause less damage to soils in high rainfall areas than larger breeds. What a pity more farmers on the west coast wouldn't stock them instead of the baby elephants which pass for cattle these days. It is they who are to blame for souring the soil and destroying many historical hill paths and walks wherever they are fed during the winter.

The Squire's daughter, Maudie Ellis, wrote a fascinating illustrated book about her mother and life on Mull, called *The Squire of Bentley - Memory's Milestones in the Life of a Great Sportswoman*, which was published in 1926.

It is now very rare but worth trying to find a copy. Further information about the Squire and the Cheape family can be found in the excellent *Penrynghael in the Past Historical Archive* not far from Tiororan House.

Iain Thornber  
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#MeetTheCairns

# Grieving family blast fatal accident inquiry as 'sham'

Candidates hoping to win election

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A GRIEVING family say a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) into their son's death will be a 'sham' unless the boat in which he was travelling forms part of the evidence. Father-of-three Scott MacAlister, from the Isle of Seil, was lost at sea on April 25 2013, when the boat he was in, the *Speedwell OB950*, foundered. Scott, 40, was the only crewman aboard the prawn fishing boat when he made a mayday call. The vessel now lies at the bottom of the sea off the island of Inish, near Seil. Scott's body was never recovered.

At the time of his death, Scott had a six-month-old baby with his partner Tori MacNab, whom he spoke to moments before his death. Scott's body may not still be aboard the vessel but the authority dealing with the investigation is refusing to recover the boat to find out. In a heart-rending plea, Scott's father, Peter MacAlister, and another son, Andrew, approached *The Oban Times* to raise the profile of the case and to call for community support to have the boat raised. Peter said: 'We consider the evidence gathered for the upcoming fatal accident inquiry is incomplete and in certain areas

the interpretation of evidence gathered by the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) is at odds with statements given to us and our own marine knowledge.' A former seaman himself, Peter continued: 'Only by salvaging the boat can all the evidence be properly recorded, interpreted and safe conclusions made as to future safety.' At one point in the argument over lifting the boat, Peter was told the benefits were negligible because of the implosion and impact of the boat when it landed on the seabed. However, a diver who visited the boat on the seabed, 80 metres below the surface, claims it is intact.

Peter said: 'Both the diver's observation and the police report state there was no visible damage to the hull. So this is an outrageous statement and at odds with the MAIB's own report.' It is only by lifting the boat, which was owned and operated by a third party, that key areas of evidence can be proven. These include the suitability of lifejackets, the proper operation of bilge pumps, alarms, the situation and suitability of a hatch aboard the vessel and, above all, the seaworthiness of the vessel. Scott's family, Peter and his former wife Lala, brothers Andrew and Glen, alongside Tori and three children, want justice.

Peter continued: 'We still have several remaining concerns about the investigation. Our intention during the four years since the loss of our son is to ensure the authority involved in policing fishing vessels, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, has carried out its remit in a proper and responsible manner. Our reasonable expectation of the MAIB is a full investigation. Without the boat, it is simply not going to happen. It will be a sham.' Sir Alan Massey, chief executive of the MCA, said in a letter to the family: 'It is not our intention to prosecute the owner of the *Speedwell*.

'For us to take action we would have to have independent evidence from at least two sources which would lead us to believe that the merchant shipping legislation, relevant to the fishing vessel, had been breached. We do not have this. Boats such as the *Speedwell* are surveyed every five years and as this vessel sank in 2013 the last inspection was in 2009. Our surveyor would have inspected all of the items as required in the code of practice. 'Once again, may I say how sorry I am for your loss.' At the time of going to press the MCA had not commented. See next week's *Oban Times*.

NOMINATIONS for election to Argyll and Bute Council have been announced - seeing a total of 18 candidates in Oban wards for eight council seats. Argyll and Bute Council has 36 councillors who serve in 11 different wards across the area. Not returning to the ballot paper is council leader Dick Walsh, bringing to an end the Dunoon-based ex-milkman's decades-old dominance in the local authority. On the ballot paper is war veteran Donnie MacMillan, who, if elected, will be the oldest councillor in Scotland. In Oban North and Lorn and Oban South and Isles there are four councillors in each ward, with eight candidates standing in the Oban South and the Isles ward, and 10 standing in Oban North and Lorn. Voting takes place on May 4 but not in South Kintyre as the number of candidates matches the vacancies. Oban South and the Isles: Jake Ainscough (Scottish Labour Party), Mary-Jean Devon (Independent), Jim Lynch (Scottish National Party), Alister MacDougall (Independent), Sean MacIntyre (Scottish National Party), Roddy McCuish (Independent), Jamie McGrigor (Scottish Conservative and Unionist), David Pollard (Scottish Liberal Democrats). Oban North and Lorn: Brian Burnett (Independent), Kieron Green (Independent), Neil MacKay (Independent), Julie MacKenzie (Scottish National Party), Allan McKie (Independent), William Mohieddeen (Scottish Greens), Grant Nicholson (Independent), Elaine Robertson (Independent), Breege Smyth (Scottish National Party), Andrew Vennard (Scottish Conservative and Unionist).

## Youngsters score a dream outing

BOYS AND girls from Lochnell Football Club were the half-time entertainment during the recent St Johnstone match against Dundee. The team, which plays in the 2005 Oban Primary League, were given the opportunity of a lifetime - to score in front of 4,500 fans in a professional stadium. The youngsters took turns dribbling from the halfway line, before having a shot at goal. Several of the players scored, but many were denied by the top form

Lochnell goalkeeper Adam Welsh. A total of 39 children and 10 adults made the journey and everyone took part in a training session led by Lochnell coaches. Following the exercise, the boys and girls enjoyed an entertaining Tayside derby with St Johnstone winning 2-0. The Lochnell team rounded off the day by meeting some of the home side's players. Lochnell FC would like to thank St Johnstone for hosting the club.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Dry Eyes**  
One of the certainties of life is that change is constant. There is seldom a month goes by without some innovation that improves the quality of our lives. That is particularly true in health care, whether it is a change in technique to investigate a problem or a new method of treatment. In some cases it can be the realisation something most health care practitioners thought of as trivial actually can have a major detrimental effect on our quality of life. One example in eye-care is the realisation a tiny mite called Demodex is the culprit causing the majority of dry eye problems. Dry eyes have for many years been relegated to the list of trivial problems that we are all expected to simply live with and get on with our lives regardless of the discomfort we are suffering. In general eye care professionals, both ophthalmologists and optometrists, have ignored the substantial body of research over the last few years which have looked at quality of life measures. This is particularly true with patients with dry eyes. I can understand this as patients with very obvious clinical signs of dry eye disease can have minimal symptoms and vice versa. One of the things health professionals are guilty of is not listening to our patients. Only last month I talked about a new "Realistic Medicine" initiative where we should all take more time to talk to our patients and actually listen to what they are telling us. Often the clues are in simple throw away lines from our patients. Frequently I deal with dry eye patients whose symptoms appear grossly disproportionate to the signs. Treatments range from masking the problem with eye drops to treating the underlying cause of the problem. The improvement in quality of life measures can be dramatic.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
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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 only to be expected that there would be opposition to the plans to convert a former pub in Caol into flats. Some people, quite understandably, would prefer to see the building restored as licensed premises, given how important that type of business can be to a community. Indeed, the fact that 160 people signed the petition 'Stop Lochaber bar becoming flats' is illustrative of the strength of feeling among many in that part of town. And Caol Community Council (CC) reflected that public sentiment when it said in a representation to planning: 'It was a great bar and could be again. It is

important to keep social facilities such as this available to the community.'

However, it is also an undeniable fact of life that commercial realities cannot be overlooked and the fact that the premises have been abandoned for six or seven years speaks volumes.

Buildings which are not in use and have been left to decay run the risk of becoming derelict, causing danger to the public as well as being eyesores.

The flats plan may not be ideal but it is better than the status quo.



## Days gone by – Tobermory Choir

Coisir og Thobar Mhoire won the under-18s category, beating the high school choir, and they also won the primary unison choir section but can any readers shed light on the year this was taken and at what musical competition the success was in?

### Macphail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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### A life-line service

I HAVE always been a strong supporter of CalMac and, with a lifetime of good experiences with their vessels, crews and shore staff, the very sight of their ferries evokes in me a warm, excited and positive feeling.

Further, as I write this week's piece, I am sitting on the MV Clansman on the way back from Tiree with weather conditions in which a lesser skipper with a less capable vessel would not have attempted or completed berthing at Gott pier.

However, there is no hiding the fact that the frequency of disruption and cancelled sailings on many routes over recent years has increased dramatically and to such an extent that these unreliable transport links are becoming one of the biggest threats to the future sustainability of island economies and populations.

Until four or five years ago, if you heard a passenger complaining loudly about a ferry not sailing or not berthing, you could usually be sure it was the typical ignorant armchair skipper who wouldn't know a bow-thruster from a bowline. This has changed and there are increasing occurrences of ferries being cancelled in weather conditions that in the past would never have stopped a sailing or, worse, sailings being cancelled so far in

advance that by the time of the scheduled voyage, conditions are calm due to weather – as is common – changing from what was forecast.

There are many possible reasons for this change in operation and I am certainly not aware of all the details. Nor do I claim to have all the answers as to how best to rectify the very unsatisfactory situation, but something must change.

The modern environment of 'blame and claim' culture seems to be the primary issue, and this, according to experts, is affecting shipping companies across the world. There appear to be other problems, however, peculiar to CalMac that are exacerbating these issues. According to one retired captain, the human resources department's policy of moving skippers more frequently between different routes means on many occasions the masters are not fully familiar with the harbours and piers they are entering and therefore, and understandably, are much less likely to berth in poor conditions.

In an office in Gourrock, it is probably much more important to save some money by shifting crew around routes than having continuity of captaincy. When deciding whether to attempt berthing at Arinagour in a southerly force eight, experience of the vessel, the pier and of the approach is paramount and should be priority.

A very senior figure in the UK shipping industry highlighted to me the lack of experienced master mariners in the upper management of CalMac as a major issue and contributor to the current situation. Like me, he has the utmost respect for the captains and crew of CalMac, but he thinks its decision-making abilities are being hampered by the lack of experienced on-shore back-up at boardroom level.

This situation cannot continue. There are millions of pounds being lost annually due to this plunge in service and, if unchanged, it will devastate the future of our fragile island economies.

Safety, of course, must be paramount, and happily CalMac, as widely acknowledged, has a safety-record second to none (stretching back well beyond the present over-cautious climate) but if the ships that are serving these routes cannot berth as frequently as is the current case, then the vessels and/or the piers must be changed or upgraded to make them fit for use.

Since the time when the Caledonian Steam Packet Company and David MacBrayne merged, CalMac has successfully continued providing a long-revered and respected lifeline service to these islands.

This must continue and, if it is to do so, the operations must adapt and improve.



**Nikki Warham** posted: 'I pick up after my dogs when we are in Benderloch. Most people pick it up if it's on the path and some leave it if it's not.'

**Marcin Samarow** wrote: 'Only the civilised do.'

**Billy Kyle** reported: 'Have seen a few instances today already where some people obviously don't.'

**Mark Cardwell** warned: 'Every week there is at least one poo left on Breadalbane St; really inconsiderate as so many children use that route.'

### Social media

This is International Pooper Scooper Week. We asked on social media: 'Do people pick up after their pooches where you live?'

**Saskia Cheney** replied emphatically: 'No! The whole town is disgusting! I can't walk into town with my son without constantly warning him about the dog muck everywhere! Gives a bad name to the majority who do pick up.'

**Willie Reid** disagreed: 'I'd say 99 per cent of dog owners in Oban already do. I've never seen these areas that are

supposedly awash with dog turds. I do see loads of broken glass, vomit, and takeaway wrappers strewn everywhere, so how about a campaign against that.'

**Laura Wathey** lamented: 'Don't know what's worse, the amount of dog mess over the pavements around town or the smell of the rubbish that gets piled up since the carry on with the new uplifts. It's a joke.'

**Heather Allen** blasted: 'No! Regularly walk dog on local cycle paths and the amount of poo is disgusting.'

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, 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.

### Nationalists are guilty of deception

Sir, Unlike your correspondents Yowann Byghan and Jim Waugh (*The Oban Times*, March 30), I always find letters from Donald J Morrison from Inverness (*The Oban Times*, March 23) to be very prescient and perspicacious, though one is left in no doubt as to his hostility to the creed of nationalism and its adherents.

I have to say I agree wholeheartedly with his view and I find that within the circles in which I move, both in the West Highlands and Edinburgh, these views are increasingly held by people whose political sympathies are across the left/right spectrum. It seems that almost as a reaction to the aberration of nationalism, people of all political persuasions have decided the greater threat to our country is not posed by those to the left or the right but by the divisiveness and economic recklessness of nationalism.

In the case of Mr Waugh, he doesn't so much challenge the substance of Mr Morrison's letter, but more the manner in which the content is expressed.

Although Yowann Byghan does not lay claim to it, there are clear signs of 'SNP political activist' transparent in the detailed claims made on behalf of the SNP administration. The list is replete with populist policies, and they have, indeed, had the desired effect in the case of many voters.

What there is no mention of, though, is where the money for this SNP largesse has come from. It is certainly not from any increased economic activity achieved under the nationalist watch.

The sources of the funds for these bribes are two-fold. First, it is other services which have been starved of funding (but we can always blame Westminster) and, secondly, the Barnett Formula by which Scotland benefits from the principle of sharing resources throughout the United Kingdom. But of course that wouldn't fit with the grievance and grudge agenda of the nationalists.

The most enlightening statement from Yowann, however, is the explanation of the choice people now face: 'The choice is between one change and uncertainty and another change and uncertainty' (so far so good). 'The change to a hard-Brexit UK separated from the largest single market in the entire world, or to a Scotland free to continue its growth as a progressive and successful independent nation.' Well, with that choice, we can only go with Utopia, can't we?

The people who perpetrate these myths are guilty of deception and misrepresentation. Those who believe them are the victims as it is they and the rest of us who would eventually pick up the tab for this Darien-type fantasy.

I'm with Mr Morrison all the way in his efforts to bring such cruel and reckless deception to attention.

**Alan Thomson,**  
The Old Barn,  
Kilcamb Paddock, Strontian.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



BHA CEANN-BLIADHNA AGAM Diciadain seo chaidh agus cha d'fhuair mi an latha a' chiad gheire. Mar is àbhaist fhuair mi cairtean agus tiodhlacan gasta bho mo bhean 's a teaghlach, agus dùrachdan bho thall 's a bhios, agus bha sin air leth taitneach.

Ach 's e am prìomh adhbhar a leanas an latha na mo chuimhne gur e sin an latha air an do thòisich sgaradh Bhreatainn bhon Aonadh Eòrpach, gu h-oifigeil. Gun teagamh sam bith 's e latha eachdraidheil a bha seo dhan rìoghachd agus na mo bheachd phearsanta toiseach sgaraidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith gu math cosgail an aonadach dòigh dha sgìrean iomallach na dùthcha, leithid a' Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan.

Mar a tha seanfhacal ag ràdh, tha cothrom an lùib gach trioblaid agus tuigear gun dragh nach robh poileasaidh iasgaich na Roinn Eòrpa math sam bith do dh'iasgairan Alba, is cus cothrom aig bàtaichean à dùthchannan eile anns na raointean iasgaich againn. Mar sin tha còir gum bi gnìomhachas an iasgaich againn nas treasa nuair a dhealaicheas sinn bhon Aonadh Eòrpach, ach tha duilgheadas air faire ma theid bacadh air cead-cosnaidh dha daoine bho thairis a bhith nam buill de sgiobaidhean bhàtaichean-iasgaich an seo.

Saoilidh mi cuideachd gum bheil deagh adhbhar dragh a bhith aig tuathanaich agus croitearan a thaobh dè an seòrsa taice a bhios ann dhaibhsan às aonais airgead Eòrpach fìu's ged nach biodh ionmhas poblach na dùthcha cho gann 's a tha e. 'S e firinn na cùise gum bheil an Roinn Eòrpa air a bhith glè bhuannachdail dhuinne an seo ged nach biodh ann ach na chaidh a thogail de rathaidean, drochaidean, agus cidheachan, agus cha bheag na chuir Iomairt a h-Aon agus a liuthad sgeama leasachaidh eile ri beatha nan coimhearsnachdan againn. Bidh mi tric a' faighneachd dhìom fhìin cia mheud de na leasachaidhean a fhuair sinn air Ghàidhealtachd is as na h-Eileanan a bh' air nochdadh mura b' e gun robh ionmhas Eòrpach man coinneamh.

### Tax levels will have to rise after separation

Sir, Your correspondent Yowann Byghan is clearly a staunch supporter of the SNP and lists some of its 'achievements'.

These include such things as free tuition for students, lack of prescription charges, free school meals and so on. There is certainly a long list of these freebies that we have to thank the SNP for – or perhaps I should say the English taxpayer. Before pushing for independence, SNP supporters should ask themselves where does the money come from for all these benefits, and where would it come from if Scotland were to become independent?

Can it be that the SNP administration is so efficient compared to that in England that it can fund all these things from the same tax levels as in England? Of course not; and, if we were independent, personal and business tax levels would have to rise sharply to cover the loss of support from England.

Furthermore, in disagreeing with the UK population over Brexit it is important to remember the largest part of Scotland's trade is with the rest of the UK. Incidentally, 62 per cent of the Scottish population did not vote to remain part of the EU as only 67 per cent of voters bothered to vote and so the figure was much less than 50 per cent. Our First Minister would be wise to collaborate with the Westminster government to achieve the best result for the UK, including Scotland, instead of behaving like a spoiled child and trying to cause as much trouble as possible.

In the run up to 2014, we were told that the independence referendum was once in a generation. We did not vote for it and if Nicola is able to waste our money on another vote she will lose again. I write as a Scottish nationalist, but I believe we should protect our unique Scottish identity, but within the United Kingdom.

**Prof Colin Davidson,**  
Tigh nan Eilean, Ardfern.

### Lack of respect for voters is insulting

Sir, With regard to the letter written by Donald J Morrison (*The Oban Times*, March 23), could I be so bold as to make a few points?

The first and most obvious is his lack of respect for fellow voters who in 2015 gave the SNP the largest percentage of votes of any government in northern Europe and the UK for many years. In addition, it is worth pointing out to him that 56 of the 59 MPs elected were SNP.

Mr Morrison also makes a few assertions about the First Minister, some of a sexist nature. He says: 'She can't accept reality. Like a wee girl having uncontrolled tantrums.' In a past life I was a teacher and I can attest to seeing as many boys having tantrums as girls.

Mr Morrison also thinks she is stubborn and bitter and needs to 'lie down in a darkened room'. I think Mr Morrison should heed his own advice as there seems a fair amount of bitterness in his letter.

In fact, Mr Morrison's rant has little basis in fact and is a mix of assertion, assumption and bilious imagination. Take, for example, the use of such terms as 'independence rifle' and 'Brexit bullets' to be fired at those south of Hadrian's wall. Insulting stuff, particularly when he assumes those who have a different opinion to him are not sane. Presumably, if we are not sane then we must be insane, which is an interesting way to get our attention.

To add insult to injury, he resorts to the 'too wee, too poor' argument, having assumed we are also too stupid to form a valid opinion based on many factors, none of which relates to animosity against our neighbours and friends south of the border.

In terms of the SNP government and its period in office, we have an improved NHS performing significantly better than the rest of the UK despite increasing pressures, more young people passing exams and going on to higher education, violent crime at an all-time low, students not paying tuition fees, free prescriptions and bus passes. Personalising the debate rather than making a measured and respectful argument smacks of desperation and I suspect we will see more of it over the next couple of years - but I hope not.

**David Young,**  
Dalgety Bay, Fife.

### How to help haddock and the Highlands

Sir, While politicians bicker and battle in Brussels and Holyrood, our haddock stocks and fishing industry declines ('Haddock takes a battering', *The Oban Times*, March 30).

Britain is importing thousands of tonnes of white fish from Iceland and Norway due to overfishing so how can we help our haddock, help Oban and help Scotland?

Currently, only half of UK fish are caught by British boats. So from April 2019 we must ban all foreign fishermen within a 200-mile limit as Iceland does. Soft loans must be made available to help increase the size of the Scottish fishing fleet by half, plus expand on-shore fish processing. That will leave large areas for fish stocks to recover and around 2,040 local children will once again be able to catch large mackerel at the mouth of Oban Bay.

Sadly, bumptious bureaucrats and politicians of all colours seem intent on selling their grannies to any lobby group. But until positive action is taken to help the plant and help our communities, haddock and the Highlands will continue to be shafted.

**Mike Foster,**  
Sannox, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

Ged a tha an Roinn Eòrpa air mòran burocrasaidh a chur ri ar beatha tha sinn cuideachd air buannachadh a leithid Cairt Chòraichean a' Chinne-daonna agus Cairt nan Mion-chànan, agus ag èisteachd ri cuid de bhlas phoilltigs na dùthcha an-dràsta, saoilidh mi gum bheil ceist mhòr ma choinneimh ire dìon den t-seòrsa sin ann am Breatain taobh a-mach an Aonaidh Eòrpach. Gun teagamh mhiannaicheamaidh lughdachadh air burocrasaidh agus tha caochladh rudan co-cheangailte ri poileasaidhean Eòrpach a dh'arramada a leasachadh, ach cha chuala mi argamaid fhathast a chur às a' bheachd mi gum bheil sinn nas fheàrr mar bhall seach dealaichte.

TRAVELLING in the Highlands and Islands, one cannot avoid awareness of the extent to which European funds have contributed to major improvements in infrastructure, and I frequently wonder how much of this would have materialised without European support.

Despite its bureaucracy and at times unhelpful policies, I believe the EU has been good for our area, and I have yet to hear any convincing argument for separation.

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

### Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

### Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please 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 timely, 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.

### 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.

# Join us and Stay Alive on the A85

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE message is simple – Stay Alive on the A85.

After years of carnage, near misses and lives changed forever, we have now set up an official campaign to have safety on the road between Oban and Connel improved.

Countless people have contacted the paper this week to say the campaign is long overdue and they will support it.

What has become clear is that what happens on the A85 changes lives forever. One reader who contacted the paper said that after being involved in a critical accident on the road his life had never been the same.

While remaining nameless at present, due to ongoing legal issues, he told the newspaper: 'I used to be able to do anything I wanted. I was not afraid of anything.'

'After being in hospital for months, my life has changed forever. When I sleep I still imagine things like my children being in the car, or being cut out and the noise from all the equipment.'

Newcastle-based Mary Blyth, 73, contacted *The Oban Times* after her son pointed out the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign. Mrs Blyth, who was visiting family in the area at the time of her accident some five years ago, said: 'I was driving along the road one evening in



dry weather. It was still light, when a minibus came straight for me. There was a huge crash. I can't really remember what happened. But, thankfully, both myself and the minibus driver were not injured.

'When we eventually got out of the car and the minibus, there were loads of people around trying to help us. But we needed to wait for emergency services.'

'The other driver's mobile phone didn't work properly and

there was difficulty in getting my car door open. But apart from that we were physically unscathed.

'As for the nightmares and the sleepless nights, I think that I am over them but then one happens again and I start being nervous and anxious all over again.'

'Unless you have been in an accident, you never really know what it is like. That night was the closest I have ever come to death. I don't want to go there again anytime soon.'

'It has made me a very cautious and anxious driver.'

Driver Alec Mitchell, from Oban, said he was 'sick and tired' of trying to get someone to listen to his concerns.

'It starts with a lack of double

white lines on the road so people cannot overtake.

'There are very few things that indicate that the town's biggest cemetery is around the next corner and folk might be crossing the road.'

Some of the ideas being considered by a panel of advisers, made up from local experts and emergency services, is to educate people on good driving in terms of the roads and conditions, setting a lower speed limit incrementally with a reduction to 40mph, increasing the length of the no overtaking double white lines, and installing average speed cameras along the entire length of the road from Tyndrum to Oban.

One adviser said the area

was about to go through major development with many houses proposed for the Dunbeg corridor to Ganavan. With no out-of-town supermarkets, the majority of people will be making their way into Oban for shopping.

With so many extra homes over the next three to five years, the urgency to have the road updated is even more important, it was suggested.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by Louise Glen and David McPhee who can be contacted via obantimes.co.uk or on 01631 568000.

Next week we launch the online petition, so watch the website and social media for updates.

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

BETWEEN Friday and Monday, March 24 and 27, the play park at Menzies House, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban, was damaged by having equipment and fences vandalised. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

**ABOUT 6pm on Tuesday March 28 a man aged 35 was allegedly driving at excessive speed on the A85 at Arrivain, near Tyndrum. The man was stopped and charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.**

BETWEEN 5pm on Wednesday March 29 and 1pm on Thursday March 30, in Rockfield Road, Tobermory, a window on a parked ice-cream van was smashed. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

**ABOUT 2am on Saturday April 1, in Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man was assaulted. Police investigated and a man aged 27 was arrested and charged with assault. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.**

ABOUT 9.20pm on Sunday April 2, the window of a house in McKelvie Road, Oban was smashed by someone throwing a stone at the window. 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 555 111.

**ANYONE with information in relation to these incidents can call police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

## Hope launches tin campaign

AN OBAN charity has launched a campaign to get people to donate unwanted tins of food.

Hope Kitchen, which also acts as a food bank, is urging Obanites to Take in a Tin, so it can use them to feed vulnerable people in the town.

Hope helped to feed 93 people with its food parcels in February, not including the 40 or so people fed on a daily basis at its premises.

Beth Campbell, who works for the charity, said Hope's storage cupboard was starting to get a bit depleted, so volunteers thought of the campaign.

She said: 'We thought, we won't be able to fill these parcels and if we don't, I don't know what would happen to the people. It's for people who are elderly or don't have much money or are disabled. We keep them going.'

'Everyone has stuff in their cupboard that they are not going to use - bring it in here and we will use it. If it's something that someone won't use, then I make something with it in here.'

'People can bring us anything in a

jar, a tin or in a dried packet.' Hope makes sure that its parcels are equipped with ingredients that will allow people to create a meal. For example, pasta is always partnered with a sauce.

Manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'What has happened was that we got a lot of food donations in at Christmas and a lot of it went out at Christmas in the 50 food boxes we sent.'

'We still had lots of tins leftover. However, in February we gave out 36 food parcels which fed 93 people - 47 children and 46 adults.'

'Most of our stock went out in February, where we fed almost double the amount of people that we did in January.'

'I thought up the "Take in a Tin" campaign to see if people could spare a tin of anything for us.'

'With a local population of 10,000 that could be a lot of tins - we're supporting people from Mull as well as locally.'

If anyone has a spare tin, packet or jar, it can be donated at the Hope Kitchen on Argyll Street, Oban.



Hope's Beth Campbell shows off some of the donations that they have had so far.

## Dealer is jailed for six months

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to six months in prison for dealing crack cocaine.

James Hendry, 35, of 1 Hill Street, Oban, pleaded not guilty to a charge of supplying crack cocaine and a second charge of supplying diamorphine to a woman at the rear of Shuna Terrace, Soroba, on October 20, 2016.

PC Paul MacMillan, the first witness called by procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty, told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday March 29 that he was on plainclothes patrol with DC Alisdair Dewar at 9.30pm that night when he saw the woman waiting outside Shuna Terrace with a mobile telephone.

Citing 'significant intelligence', PC MacMillan said: 'We both formed the opinion she was in the area to source drugs.'

'I heard her say, "James, is that you?" I then saw a male meet [her] outside number 22.'

Mr McGinty asked: 'Who was it?'

'James Hendry,' PC MacMillan said.

'He took something out of his pocket and gave it to [her]. I took it that James Hendry was supplying [her] with drugs.'

'We detained her. Before being asked, she said she had some crack on her, which she produced.'

During a search at Oban police office, the court heard, she said: 'I got this off James Hendry.'

The court was then told a wrap of crack cocaine, weighing 1.3g, was found in her jacket pocket, and two 1g wraps of brown powder, identified as diamorphine, were found in her bra.

Giving evidence, the woman said: 'I went to Shuna Terrace to see James. James Hendry.'

'Which did you get from James?' asked Mr McGinty.

'The crack,' she replied.

'But not the heroin?' he asked.

'No,' she said. 'I do not remember where I got the heroin. I know that James Hendry was effectively asking me to carry drugs on his behalf.'

A third witness, DC Alisdair Dewar, confirmed £640 in cash was found on Hendry in his wallet, for which Hendry gave officers no explanation.

Mr McGinty said a search also found a set of weighing scales. 'The items found at his home address are indicative of someone concerned in the supply of drugs,' he summed up.

Defence agent Eamonn

McGeehan pointed to the witness's 'radically different' account of the exchange in her statement. 'Your ladyship had to be satisfied that Paul MacMillan saw what he said he saw,' he said. 'We have two very different versions of the transaction.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'The fact there are these discrepancies adds to the reliability of the police officer.'

Addressing Hendry, Sheriff Anderson said: 'I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt of your guilt to charge one, and I convict you.'

Mr McGeehan said: 'A community payback order would allow the drug problem to be addressed.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Hendry to six months' imprisonment, and ordered the forfeit of the £640.

## New charging points for electric vehicles

TWO new electric vehicle charging points have been installed at Argyll College UHI in Oban, just in time for the arrival of two new vehicles adding to its fleet of electric cars.

The charging facility is open to anyone with an electric vehicle and will be free to all users for the next 12 months.

The college currently has three Nissan Leaf electric cars. Last week it learned it had been successful in applying for an additional £35,864.94 from the Scottish Government's Switched on Fleets funding to add another Leaf and a Mitsubishi hybrid.

College estates manager Elaine Clark said: 'Money is saved on fuel costs, which we estimate is approximately £1,600 per electric vehicle per year, and we will soon have five of them.'

'Installing the charging points and leasing an additional electric car is just the latest step in our drive to make Argyll College UHI as clean and as green as possible.'

'Argyll College UHI currently generates electricity at three of its learning centres, through solar panels in its Oban HQ, Dunoon and Lochgilphead bases. Together, these provide

10 per cent of the organisation's annual electricity needs. There is also a wind turbine at the construction, engineering and renewables centre in Lochgilphead.'

ScotRail is also installing a new, free-to-use charging point at Oban train station.



Argyll College UHI students Martin Henriksen, left, and Jamie Summers next to a new charging point.

## Council forced into U-turn over meeting

AN EMERGENCY meeting for councillors to discuss a 'weak' report into the state of education management in Argyll and Bute Council has been called.

Initially, council officers refused to hold the meeting, but after nine councillors petitioned against the decision the meeting will be held tomorrow (Friday April 7).

James Robb, the elected member who co-ordinated support for the council special meeting, said: 'Allowing councillors a meeting to discuss serious issues would be normal in any other council but it is news in Argyll and Bute.'

'[After my request] the chief executive opposed it, the council leader opposed it, the acting executive director of education opposed it and the provost refused it. A small victory for democracy and my thanks to colleagues who supported me in this.'

An archaic rule in the council is that if elected members want to hold a meeting they must get support from at least nine councillors.

A notice sent to all councillors from 'council manage-



Councillor James Robb won support from other members.

ment' reads: 'I have received notice from a sufficient number of Members in terms of Council Standing Order 1.3.2 to arrange a Special Meeting of the Council.'

Standing Order 1.3.2 reads: 'One-fourth of the members of the council want one [a meeting] to be held; if they do, they must all sign a notice which must be given to the Executive Director - Customer Services and the notice must set out the business which these members wish the council to consider at that meeting.'

## Nancy Blacks: Serving the community since 1965



Nancy Blacks has been serving the boating and outdoor needs of Oban since 1965, and owners Karina and Sean Jameson are celebrating five years of carrying on the tradition with their trademark friendly service and industry expertise.

'Nancy Blacks is not a typical chandlery,' said Sean. 'We welcome individual customer orders and are always happy to make the best deal for our customers. We stock a wide range of boat maintenance, safety and navigation equipment, camping gear, as well as quality sailing waterproofs and footwear. We take much care in choosing what we stock and are always exploring new suppliers to keep our customers excited and to provide products that they like as well as need.'

Sean has been involved with water sports his entire life and his family has a long tradition of sailing. Having spent 10 years in Greece running a windsurfing centre, he gained experience as a coach and manager. The couple lived on Scotland's east coast for six years before taking over as Nancy Blacks' third owners in 2012. They live in Taynuilt with their three children,

Rosie, Maja and Charlie.

'It is much more than just a job,' shared Karina. 'We have made our home here, we have made great friends and we fell in love in this part of the world.'

The new face of their clothing department, Coastal, shows that Nancy Blacks is not only about boats and sailing.

'Coastal clothing and accessories is all about bringing the latest fashion to Oban and the West Coast,' Karina said. 'As well as classic clothing brands, we are constantly looking for new, quirky designs and original patterns, from jackets to footwear. Our bestselling waterproof brand, Didriksons, is much loved and you can see it all over the streets of Argyll. It is a great pleasure to see people wearing clothes from our store.'

New for 2017 is the introduction of dancewear. Nancy Blacks now stocks ballet shoes, tights and cardigans, and they hope to expand the range in the near future.

'We really appreciate our loyal customers who pop in every now and then to check what's new and



our friendly staff are always there to help.'

The Jamesons are always adding new products and welcome requests and feedback from their customers. 'Please let us know how we are doing, and what you would like us to stock in the future,' Karina urged. 'Being based on West Coast of Scotland, as many people know, we often pay extra for postage; however our online store, www.nancyblacks.co.uk, offers very competitive deals for our customers in the Highlands and Islands.'

Their devoted clientele have spoken, and Nancy Blacks has been short listed as a finalist for the Scottish Retail Awards in the Fashion and Accessories category. Karina said, 'We would like to thank our wonderful customers for the nominations!'

Drop in to say hello and browse the latest in equipment, gear and spring fashions at Nancy Blacks and Coastal, Oban's premier chandlery and outdoor shop at 18 Argyll Square.



**www.nancyblacks.co.uk**  
18-19 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT  
Tel: 01631 562550 Email: sales@nancyblacks.co.uk

## Whyte to represent Scotland

### Boxing



Cameron Whyte has been selected to represent Scotland at the Junior GB Championships.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

THE BOXING season is building to a crescendo over the next two or three months for Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club as all the club's boxers, including some debutants, are scheduled to box by June.

This weekend sees the culmination of the GB championships for the junior and youth age levels and the Lochaber club are lucky enough to have in their ranks Cameron Whyte who will represent Scotland in the 48-50kg Junior category.

He hopes to continue his great success from last season where he annexed the Scottish and GB titles at Schoolboy level in addition to a European championships silver.

This weekend the odds are stacked against Cameron repeating that feat as not only is he at the younger end of his age category but his weight division includes Repton Boxing Club's Barney Docherty.

Last season he not only won the European championships in the weight division above Cameron but was also voted the boxer of the tournament, effectively becoming the pound-for-pound best Schoolboy boxer in Europe.

Cameron always seems to rise to a challenge, however, and has prepared in his usual diligent manner with at least 10 training sessions a week since capturing the Scottish Junior title on the first weekend of March.

Last Friday he traveled to Inverness in the afternoon for quality sparring with Highland Boxing Academy's former Scottish champion Darrell Russell. He then attended a boxing show in Huntly on Friday night before arriving in Glasgow for 10am on Saturday for Scotland training.

Cameron leaves on Friday morning to travel to the venue in Sheffield with the rest of the Scottish team.

The other members of the Phoenix club hope to feature in shows all over Scotland before appearing in the Nevis Centre in Fort William on May 13. Tickets are available from the Nevis Centre or anyone involved with the club.

# Lochaber pipped at the post

Lochaber	17
Deeside	18
BT Caledonia 2NW	

LOCHABER rugby club hosted Deeside last Saturday and with Lochaber still chasing their first league win of the season they were targeting this game to get that first win.

Deeside were once again the first to open the scoring and after prolonged pressure they won a penalty which was taken quickly enabling them to crash over the line to open the scoring.

Lochaber were again able to control the scrum and on Deeside's ball put them under real pressure. Lochaber's lineouts were going well and they were able to steal some ball from the lineout as well.

Lochaber opened up their account when Christopher Simpson crashed over in the corner and, with Jonathan McCook converting the try, the score was 7-7.

Deeside fought back but the Lochaber defence held time after time and although Deeside crossed the line several times Lochaber were able to hold the ball up denying the tries. Lochaber were then able to convert that defence into attack.

From being on their own five metres line they were suddenly at the other end of the park

where Callum Boyd managed to cut through the Deeside defence to get Lochaber's second try and, with McCook converting it, brought the score to 14-7 just before half time. In the second half Deeside were able to get their second try just after Lochaber had a player sin-binned for 10 minutes. But their kicker managed to slice the conversion from right in front of the posts to bring the score to 14-12.

Deeside were able to work their way downfield where they won a penalty. This time their fly half made up for the missed conversion by scoring the penalty to give Deeside the lead 14-15. Lochaber worked their way down the pitch and continued to dominate the Deeside scrum despite being a man down in the scrum. The hard work paid off and they were awarded a penalty near the Deeside line after the referee sent off the wrong player from Deeside after a high tackle.

The offence was committed by their fly half but a prop was sent off with nine minutes remaining. McCook scored the penalty to give Lochaber the lead again and make the score 17-15.

Deeside came on the attack desperate to get another score to win the game and with only seconds remaining after stout defending Lochaber looked



Chris Simpson dives over for a Lochaber try. Abrightside Photography

to have won the ball back after the Deeside scrum half lost control of the ball and dropped it forward right in front of the referee.

With the ball rolling forwards from the drop, the referee waved play on and Deeside recovered

the ball and in the next phase Lochaber received their second yellow card for a high tackle. With the last kick of the game, the Deeside fly half, who should have been in the sin bin, kicked the resulting penalty to win the game 17-18.

### Rugby

Lochaber now face a tough trip away to Ellon this Saturday before finishing their season at home to Shetland on Saturday April 22.

## Fort William table tennis season is drawing to a close

### Table tennis

IN DIVISION one last season's champion Steven Crook recently retained his title when he recorded a 3-0 win over closest rival Monte Bleasdale. But Steven was made to work hard for his win as his narrow 11-9, 12-10, 11-9 victory suggests.

Monte secured the runners-up spot after a 3-0 victory over the ever-improving Fiona Clarke, who gave John Grant a real scare as she took a 2-0 lead in their recent match, only for John to fight back as he took the next three games in his 12-14, 10-12, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 win. John also recorded a 3-0 win over Angus MacDonald but again was made to fight hard as he won 11-9, 14-12, 11-6.

In division two, Aileen MacFazdean recorded two comfortable straight set wins over Joe Robson and now leads the division on games won over Stuart Steele, who also had an easy victory over namesake John which took him level on points at the top of division.

John, however, did record a 3-0 victory when he proved too strong for Neil Cameron, who on the night could not replicate his fine form of late. John's win moving him up to joint third place with Joe Robson.

## Club lottery numbers

CAOL Community Centre bingo winning lottery numbers for the draw on Sunday April 2 were 1, 19 and 20. Kathleen Leask won the £300, so the draw return to £100 this week.

Caol Regeneration winning lotto numbers for the draw last Thursday (March 30) were 1, 5 and 17. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £400 for today's draw (April 6).

The winning numbers for the Fort William golf club lotto draw last Thursday were 3, 15 and 18. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £400 for today's draw.

Winning numbers for the Ballachulish shinty lottery draw on Sunday April 2 were 14, 16 and 17. There were no winners again last week so it goes to a fine draw of £800.

J MacPhee won the £300 up for grabs in the Kilmallie lottery draw last Sunday. The winning numbers were 13, 15 and 17.

## Fort lose second home game in two weeks

### Football

FORT William suffered another defeat at home last weekend, this time against Inverurie Locos in the Highland League.

Locos took the lead in the 26th minute with the first of four goals from Andy Hunter. Nine minutes later Fort's top goal scorer Scottie Davidson brought the teams back neck-and-neck at the break.

Locos came out fighting, with Hunter scoring a second goal in the 62nd minute, and shortly after in the 68th securing a hat-trick for the away side.

Hunter quickly got his fourth in the 78th to finish the match 4-1.



Returning to the Fort team after a few years, former captain Andy Martin is leapt over by Jordan Leyden. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Budding athletes with their coaches. Picture: Anthony Macmillan Photography.

## Family night out for junior athletes

JUNIOR members of Lochaber Athletic Club have celebrated the end of their winter season.

The children, pictured with their coaches at the end of their winter season, had a family night with a treasure hunt last Thursday (March 30).

Presentations were also made to the winners of the winter league.

The juniors represented the club earlier this year

### Junior athletics

at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, where part of the Commonwealth Games were held. There they competed against clubs from all over Scotland.

After the Easter holidays the club nights will restart in the Claggan Park on Thursday nights.

## Portree high win Leanachan Challenge

THIS year's Leanachan Challenge saw 55 pupils taking part in the annual race.

Organisers were delighted at the turn out this year with runners from Lochaber High School, Mallaig High School, Ardnarmurchan High School, Glenurquhart High School and Portree High School taking part.

The first Leanachan Challenge for all was the brainchild of the late Professor Peter English, a trustee of Lochaber Rural Education Trust, and was held in 2008.

S1/2 runners ran 3.8km, S3/4 ran 6.2 km and S5/6 ran 7.6 km along a genuine 'cross country' path complete with mud, tree roots and narrow bridges. There were medals for all

the runners taking part with trophies for the first, second and third boy and girl in each category, a cup for the fastest boy and girl and a shield for the overall winning team.

This year the school shield went to Portree High School. The cup for fastest girl went to Melissa Mack from Glenurquhart High School, who ran the 3.8km-route in 15.43 minutes.

The shield for fastest boy went to Ben Johnstone from Lochaber High School who ran the 6.2km-route in 23.38 minutes.

The winning places in the S1/2 category were, girls: 1 girl Melissa Mack, Glenurquhart, 2 Bethan White, Ardnarmurchan, 3 Mia McGillivray,

### Cross country

Portree. Boys: 1 Joe Jones, Portree, 2 Innes Orr, Lochaber, 3 Eric Robinson, Glenurquhart.

S3/4 Category, girls: 1 Rebecca Johnstone, Lochaber, 2 Amy Stoddart, Lochaber, 3 Emily Mathieson, Portree.

Boys: 1 Ben Johnstone, Lochaber, 2 Cameron Macintosh, Glenurquhart, 3 Angus Moss, Mallaig.

S5/6 Category, girls: 1 girl Mairi Duncan, Lochaber, 2girl Elaine Deas, Portree, 3 girl Gaia Jones, Portree.

Boys: 1 Andrew Grieve, Portree, 2 Christopher Piras, Glenurquhart, 3 Chisolm Campbell, Portree.

## Pam takes the lead in singles scratch league

AFTER week three of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre Fort William, Pam Weller is the new leader of the scratch league with 45 points.

She is followed by Tony Whitelocke with 44 points and Brian Johnstone on 40 points.

Brian Johnstone is the new leader of the handicap league with 42 points followed by Pam Weller on 37 points and Tony Whitelocke on 35 points.

Tony Whitelocke leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1,455 scratch pins followed by Pam Weller in second with 1,447 and Brian Johnstone in third with 1,302.

### Ten pin bowling

The top individual scratch game this week came from Pam Weller with 199. Other good games this week came from John Weller with 183, Gary Cowan with 180, Wendy Brooke with 179 (a personal best) and Ben Weller with 175.

The top three game scratch series of the week were bowled by Pam Weller with 506 followed by Ben Weller with 494 and Gary Cowan with 466.

The top three game handicap series came from Ben Weller with 611 followed by Brian Johnstone with 608 and Pam Weller with 596.

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**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 30, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm				
Thur	02.08	3.0	08.46	1.4	15.14	3.0	20.32	1.3
Fri	03.18	3.2	09.51	1.2	16.02	3.2	21.36	1.1
Sat	03.59	3.4	10.36	1.0	16.34	3.4	22.25	0.9
Sun	04.34	3.6	11.13	0.9	17.03	3.6	23.07	0.8
Mon	05.07	3.8	11.47	0.8	17.34	3.8	23.45	0.7
Tues	05.40	3.9	12.18	0.8	18.04	3.9	***	**
Wed	00.21	0.7	06.11	3.9	12.50	0.8	18.34	3.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Cloudy Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.
Friday	Light rain shower Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

**FRIDAY**



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176

Courtney McInnes  
11 months Ardour



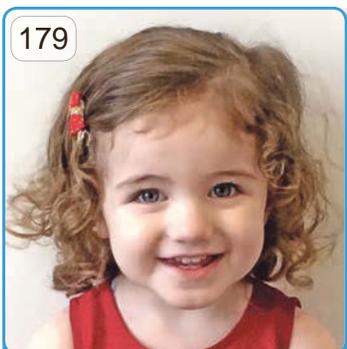
177

Aoife Mae Stewart  
12 months Caol



178

Nicole McInnes  
2 years Ardour



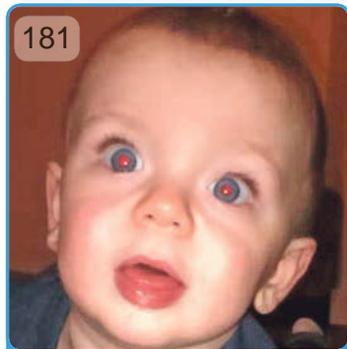
179

Jessica Grieve-McCaffrey  
2 years Caol



180

Ryan Paterson  
3 years Caol



181

Dylan Martin  
16 months Kinlochleven



182

Kayla MacLean  
4 months Oban



183

Jack Daniel Baker  
20 months Oban



184

Naomi Allan  
11 months Fionnphort



185

Jack Henderson  
2 years Oban



186

Struan Nicholson  
8 months Oban



187

Ruaridh Yates  
2 years Benderloch



188

Barnaby Y Slocombe  
3 years Oban



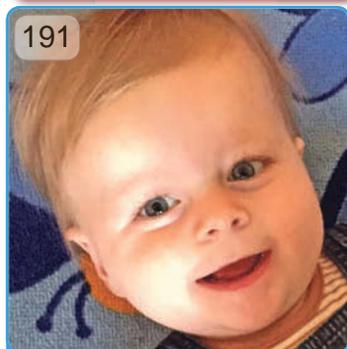
189

Rubi Whyman  
9 months Oban



190

Lucas Donald Rowsell  
22 months Fort William



191

Callum Black  
9 months Oban



192

Felix Y Slocombe  
13 months Oban



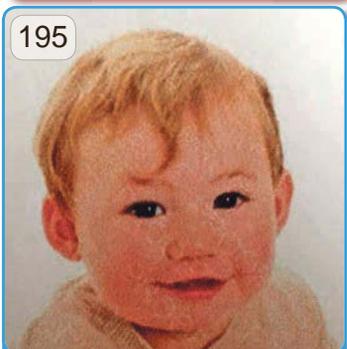
193

Cailean Johnson  
2 months Lochgilphead



194

Theia Macinnes  
6 months Ballachulish



195

Callum Alexander Clark  
21 months Kilmelford



196

Jack Vance  
16 months Corpach



197

Demi-rose Hunter  
2 years Corpach



198

Hamish Campbell  
3 years Fort William



199

Maddisyn McGeachie  
3 years Dunoon



200

Olivia Iris Webb  
14 months Oban



151

Lyra Simone Black  
6 months

Oban



152

Ava Pagett  
4 months

Lochgilhead



153

Holly Mackenzie  
13 months

Corpach



154

Carley MacAllister  
24 months

Oban



155

Roxi Findlay  
20 months

Fort William



156

Reece Docherty  
10 months

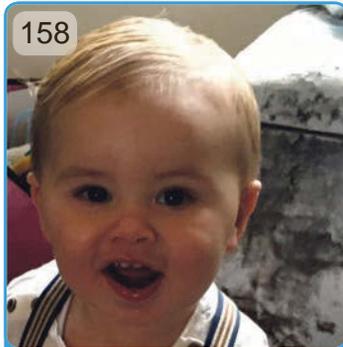
Lochgilhead



157

Caitlin Carswell  
2 years

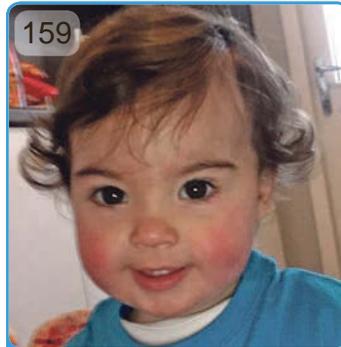
Connel



158

Ronnie Ewen MacDonald  
16 months

Dunbeg



159

Isla June Shevlin  
14 months

Oban



160

Donnie Fisher  
21 months

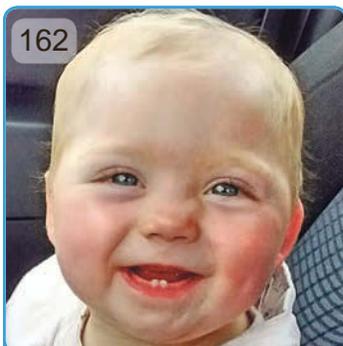
Tobermory



161

Poppy May Black  
14 months

Oban



162

Zoe Yates  
16 months

Benderloch



163

Calum Alexander Brown  
2 years

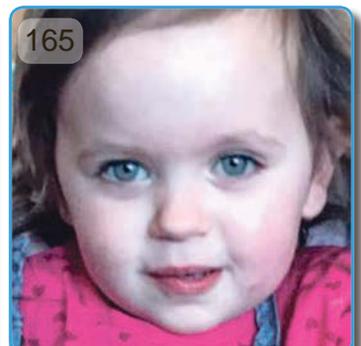
Tobermory



164

Rowan Rough  
7 months

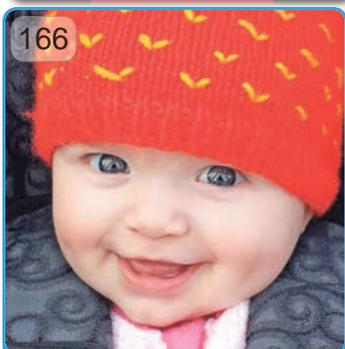
Dunoon



165

Hannah Lily Mackie  
2 years

Islay



166

Ava Grace Campbell  
7 months

Barcaldine



167

Rosie Macdonald  
22 months

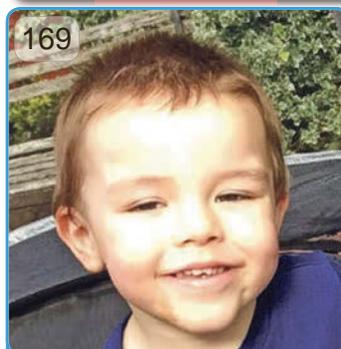
Easdale



168

Louis McLuckie  
2 years

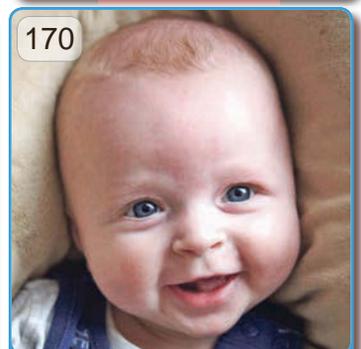
Oban



169

Euan Jamieson  
3 years

Oban



170

Ruaridh Cameron  
5 months

Ardrisaig



171

Gracie Cuthbertson  
7 months

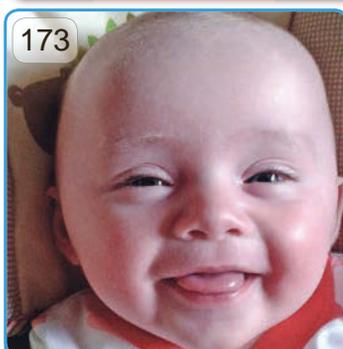
Kinlochleven



172

Hana Chicharu Mackinnon  
12 months

Tobermory



173

Rebecca McInnes  
11 months

Ardgour



174

Liam James McTaggart  
12 months

Fort William



175

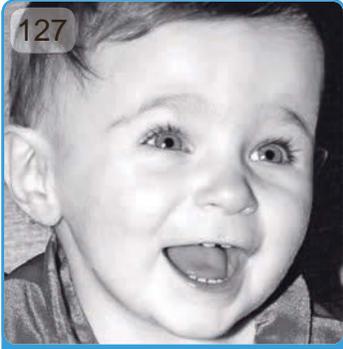
Kai Joshua Andile Wilson  
12 months

Ballachulish



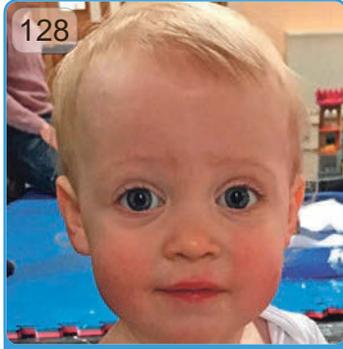
126

Hamish Nicol  
13 months Appin



127

Evie Claridge  
2 years Oban



128

Orlaigh McCartney  
17 months Caol



129

Ethan Lang  
21 months Campbeltown



130

Corey Lang  
7 months Campbeltown



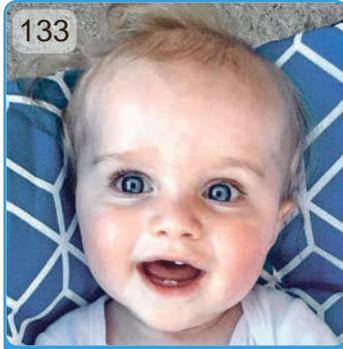
131

Naeve McNeill  
2 months Tarbert



132

Lewis Scott  
6 months Ardrishaig



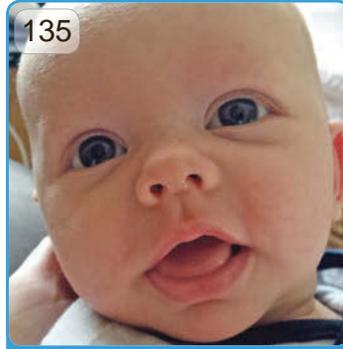
133

Bodhi Livingston  
9 months Corpach



134

Robbie Rennie  
9 months Islay



135

Innes Cameron  
3 months Oban



136

Lucy Grace Richmond  
2 years Oban



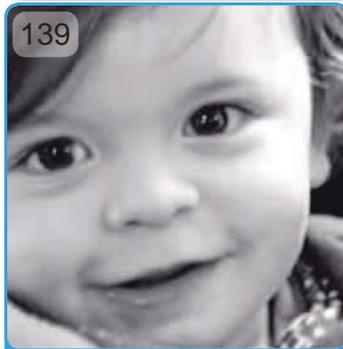
137

Archie John Martin  
2 months Oban



138

Cole McNally Gillies  
10 months Oban



139

Archie Shaw  
2 years Rothesay



140

Aidan MacCuish  
3 years Oban



141

Ryan MacCuish  
2 years Oban



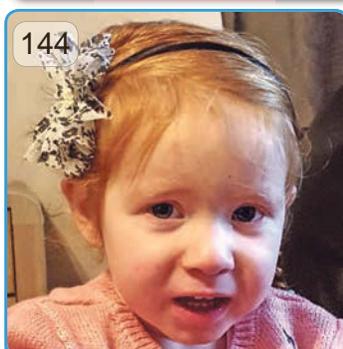
142

Oran O'May  
15 months Lochgilphead



143

Liam MacAulay  
3 months Oban



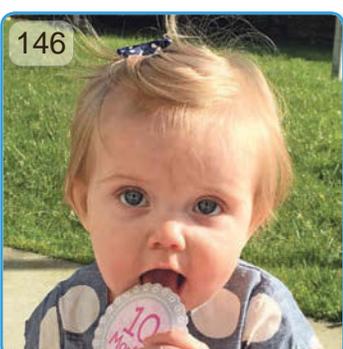
144

Lily Galloway  
2 years Lochgilphead



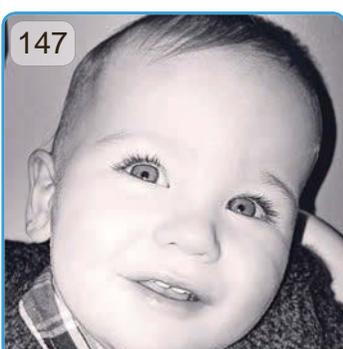
145

Maximus Cann  
1 month Fort William



146

Lacey McKenzie  
11 months Campbeltown



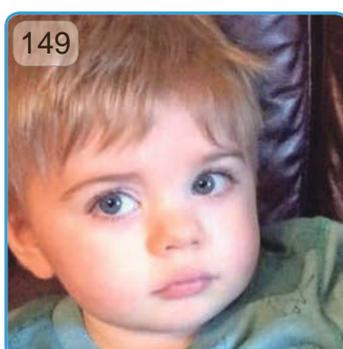
147

Noah Telfer  
15 months Oban



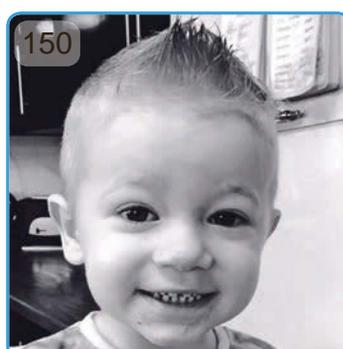
148

William Robertson  
8 months Oban



149

Donny Kerr  
2 years Oban



150

Jacob Aitkenhead  
2 years Oban



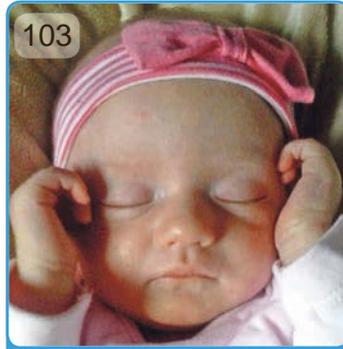
101

Noah Ward  
4 months Fort William



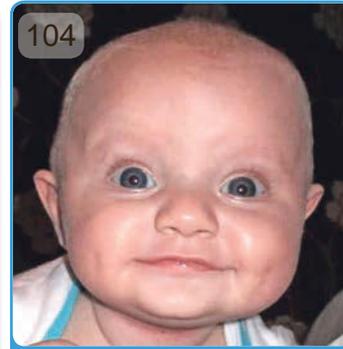
102

Zander Colin Boyd  
5 months Roybridge



103

Carla Louise Craik  
8 months Oban



104

Finn Andrew Harkins  
18 months Fort William



105

Cievah Baker  
14 months Islay



106

Christopher-James Williams  
4 months Ardrishaig



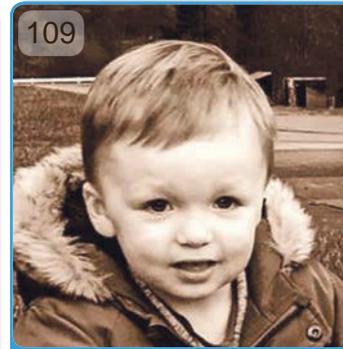
107

Logan Mathers  
19 months Fort William



108

Anna Howat  
6 months Inverlochy



109

Aidan MacDonald  
2 years Fort William



110

Conor MacNeil  
16 months Oban



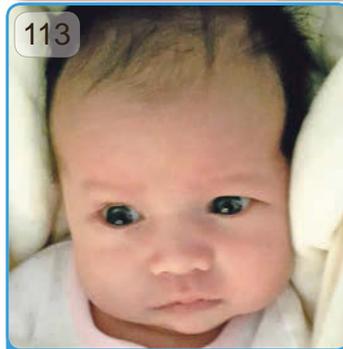
111

Cole Collins  
13 months Portree



112

Koby Dale  
8 months Aros



113

Alisha Tomkinson  
3 months Tobermory



114

Jaxon Macneil  
7 months Fort William



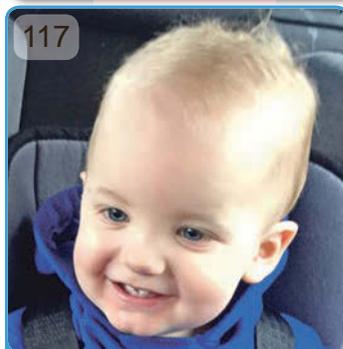
115

Alfie Macleod  
2 years Claggan



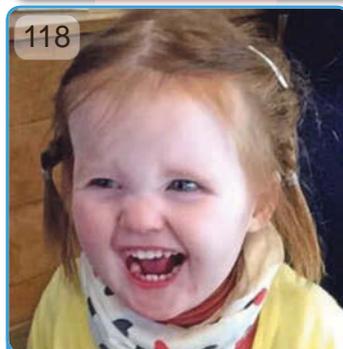
116

Ellis Kelly Grant  
5 months Inverlochy



117

Riley Cameron  
17 months Fort William



118

Lola Aitken  
2 years Fort William



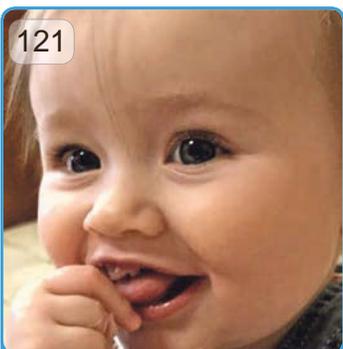
119

Calleigh Kennedy  
21 months Fort William



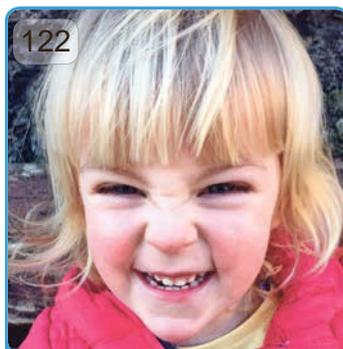
120

Ellie-Louise Gemmell  
15 months Connel



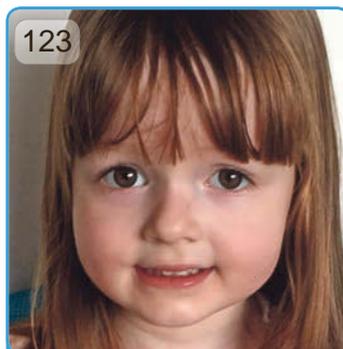
121

Eirinn Smith  
10 months Fort William



122

Lucille Holland  
2 years Lochbuie



123

Brooke Robson  
3 years Fort William



124

Isla-niamh Leiper  
21 months Eredine



125

Hope Cairns  
12 months Glenceo



081

Jacob Cringles  
4 months Oban



082

Elaina Chirsty Ramsay  
2 years Oban



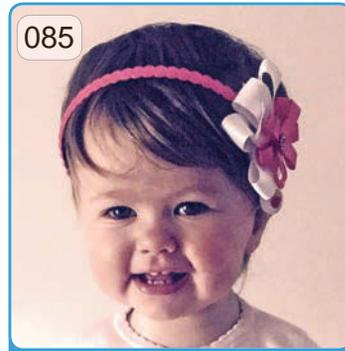
083

Max Cameron  
18 months Taynuilt



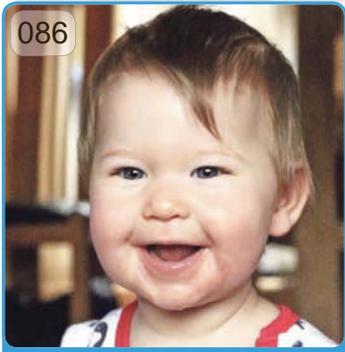
084

Aria Dibsdale  
8 months Fort William



085

Skylar Dibsdale  
2 years Fort William



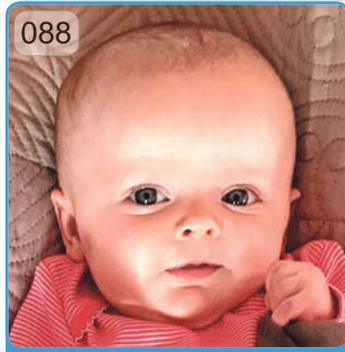
086

Hallie Knox  
10 months Fort William



087

Lacey Masson  
2 years Oban



088

Amelia Macmillan  
5 months Oban



089

Mairi Catriona Mackie  
2 years Fionnphort



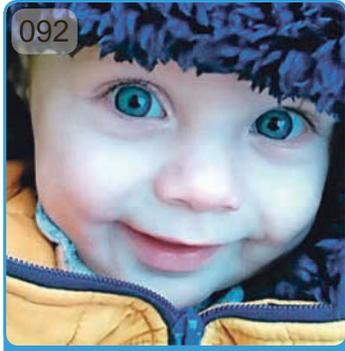
090

Isla Grace Cameron  
13 months Inverlochy



091

Olivia Fisher  
12 months Tobermory



092

Logan Watt  
11 months Oban



093

Eachann Brown  
2 years Oban



094

Alan Shaw  
11 months Oban



095

Lomond Welch  
6 months Lochgilphead



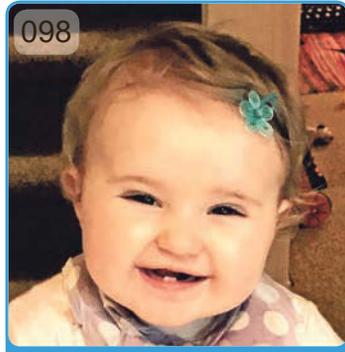
096

Sofia Jasmine Ben Said  
2 years Oban



097

Katie Macinnes  
2 years Fort William



098

Idun Kjaer Harrison  
9 months Strachur



099

Max MacLennan  
3 years Oban



100

Aaron MacLean  
1 month Oban

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061

Esca Julian Sigerson

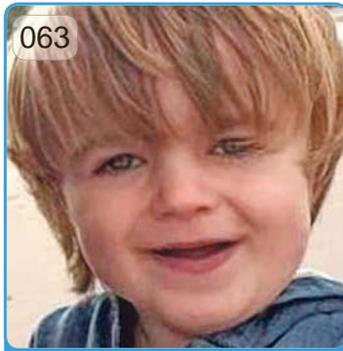
7 months Benderloch



062

Freddie Dunn

23 months Oban



063

Lewis West

2 years Oban



064

Harry Ronald

20 months Campbeltown



065

Harlow Davie Rae

15 months Oban



066

Eli Thouless

11 months Fort William



067

Kaylyn Poppy Confield

3 months Corpach



068

Jack Grant

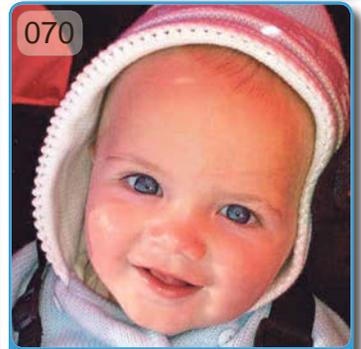
2 years Spean Bridge



069

Aaryn-John Barr

6 months Fort William



070

Ruach Smith

2 years Oban



071

Thomas Iain Sun Webster

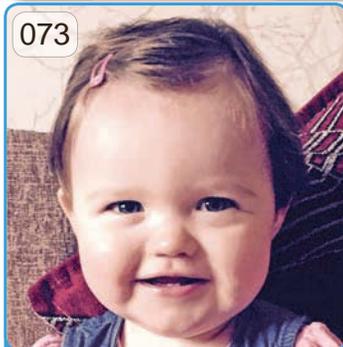
19 months Taynuilt



072

Oliver Macgillivray

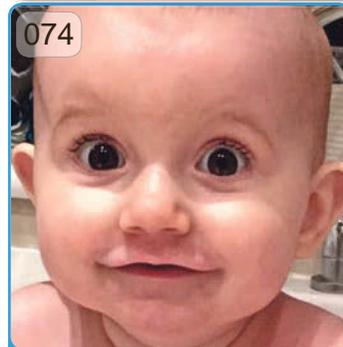
20 months Fort William



073

Sophie Ellis

13 months Tobermory



074

Ayla Mayes

23 months Dunbeg



075

Conor Ian Martin Campbell

3 months Lochgilphead



076

Honey Ann Neish

2 years Oban



077

Sonny Gilchrist

14 months Campbeltown



078

Mhairi O'Donnell

8 months Tobermory



079

Ailsa O'Donnell

2 years Tobermory



080

Ché Watson

10 months Fort William

## What's on at <sup>The</sup> Nevis Centre



### Spectrum soft play area

Suitable for children of 12 and under. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre

An Aird, Fort William

Tel: 01397 700707 [www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

### Superbowl

open everyday from  
12 noon until 10pm





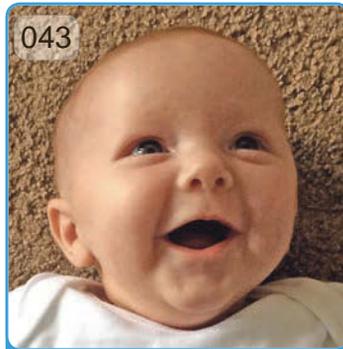
041

Tristan Leon Van Oldeniel  
12 months Oban



042

Talia Rose Allison  
12 months Oban



043

Tulah Wilson  
3 months Rothesay



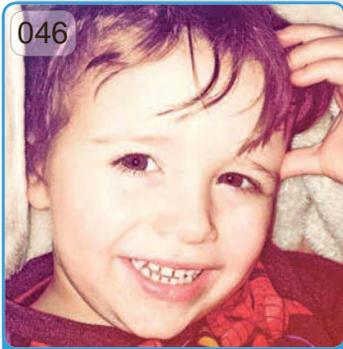
044

Amy Freitas  
20 months Oban



045

Kaya Kolodziejczyk  
20 months Oban



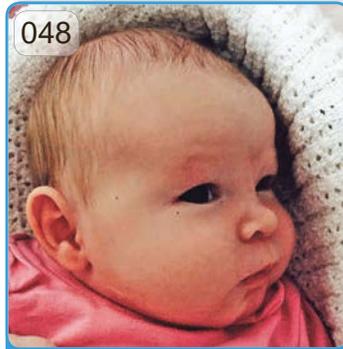
046

Aidan Tonner  
3 years Oban



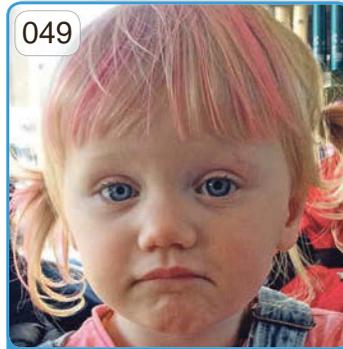
047

Lola McCartney  
4 months Lochgilphead



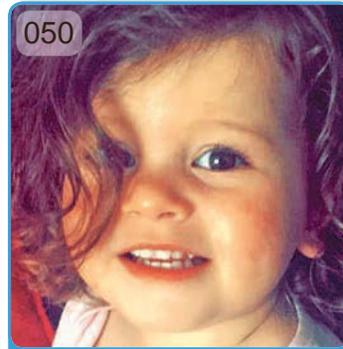
048

Kaida Faye Mackay  
2 months Lochgilphead



049

Heidi Edwards-Melville  
2 years Oban



050

Nieve Campbell  
2 years Oban



051

Lewis Aitken  
3 years Oban



052

Michael Aitken  
2 years Oban



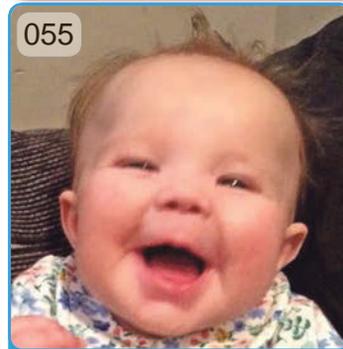
053

Tyler Aitken  
8 months Oban



054

Aidan James Dunlay-Gibb  
4 months Oban



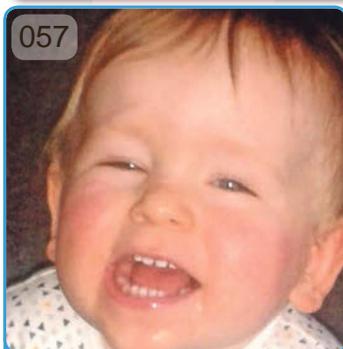
055

Hollie Smith  
11 months Oban



056

Olivia Grace Maccuish  
14 months Oban



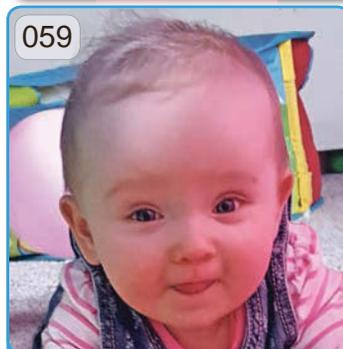
057

Lewis Butler  
19 months Oban



058

Rian MacDonald  
11 months Taynuilt



059

Niamh Kelly  
4 months Oban



060

Kelsey MacGregor  
20 months Kinlochleven



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undertaken

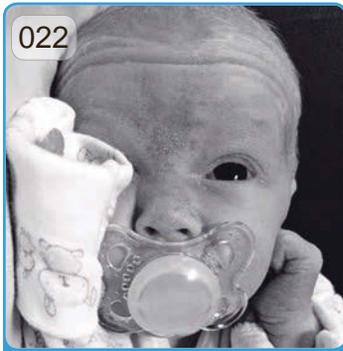
Loch Etive House, Connel, Argyll PA37 IPH

Tel: 01631 710 509



021

Arya Isabella Wilson-Shaw  
14 months Islay



022

Grace Elizabeth Gunn  
2 months North Connell



023

Seoras McNab  
5 months Oban



024

Harris Gregory  
17 months Caol



025

Tyler Ritchie  
23 months Mull



026

Jayden Ritchie  
7 months Mull



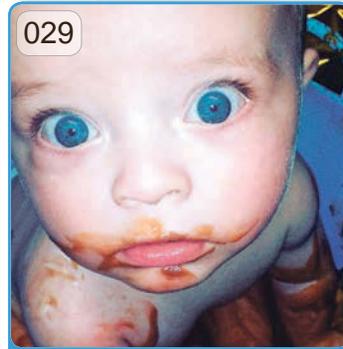
027

Harrison McKenzie  
2 years Fort William



028

Cameron Mckellar  
15 months Connell



029

Kieran Maciver  
8 months Oban



030

Riley Buchanan  
15 months Oban



031

Lily Macfadyen  
11 months Islay



032

Julius Birch  
4 months Tobermory



033

Rosie Matilda Baines  
3 years Ballachulish



034

Blake McInnes  
4 months Oban



035

Jorgie McInnes  
2 years Oban



036

Hailey MacFarlane  
8 months Oban



037

Amira Mckerron  
8 months Oban



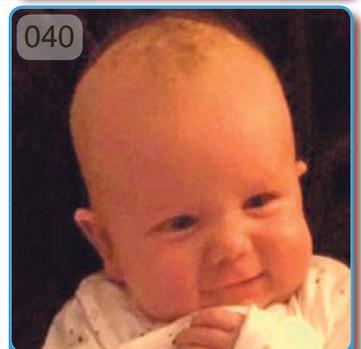
038

Angus Ronnie Maccorquodale  
4 months Dunbeg



039

Laila Smith  
8 months Oban



040

Harris-Iagan Flanagan  
4 months Oban

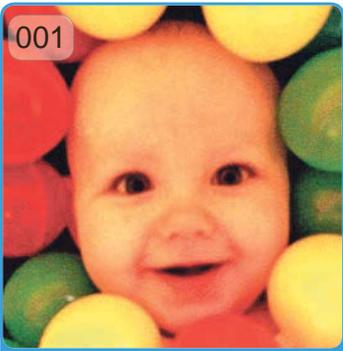
# CRAIGNURE STORES

SPAR 

01680 812301

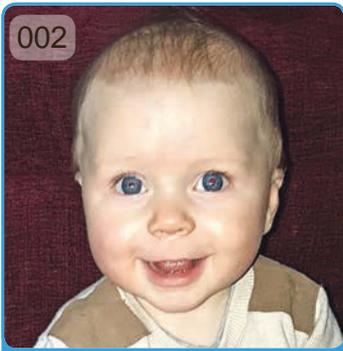
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- LOCAL PRODUCE
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001

Madison Grant  
15 months Oban



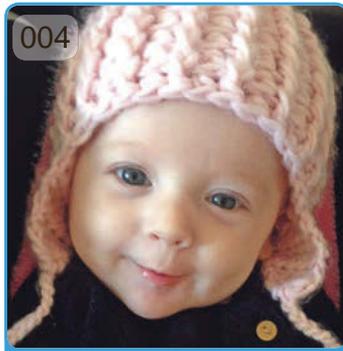
002

Noah Russell  
9 months Oban



003

Jamie Reid  
16 months Oban



004

Sofia Campbell  
5 months Oban



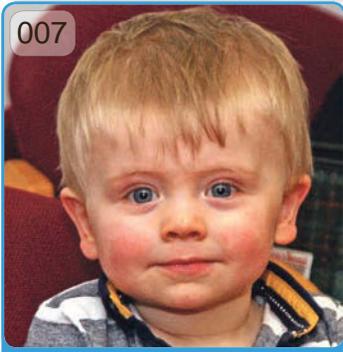
005

Emily Karpinski  
3 years Connel



006

Holly Jamieson  
15 months Oban



007

Alexander Sweeney  
22 months Connel



008

Callum Crichton  
3 years Oban



009

David Warham  
3 years Benderloch



010

Benjamin Warham  
16 months Benderloch



011

Keith Islay McLellan  
19 months Islay



012

Olivia Carson  
13 months Dunbeg



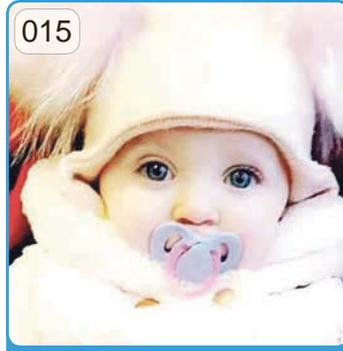
013

Fergus Blair  
7 months Oban



014

Hallie Gunn  
2 years Dunbeg



015

Daisy-mae MacInnes  
17 months Ardrishaig



016

Rhys James Muir  
23 months Oban



017

Harley McMahon  
13 months Lochgilphead



018

Bertie Toal  
16 months Spean Bridge



019

Kyra Macmillan  
2 years Connel



020

Ruairidh Macmillan  
8 months Connel



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## Letter from the Editor, Susan Windram

Welcome to our first Oban Times and Lochaber Times Bonnie Babies Competition 2017 supplement. What a fantastic way to celebrate the start of spring 2017! Firstly, a massive thank you to all those who entered their little ones from across Argyll and Lochaber. We are overwhelmed by the number of entries and have thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the adorable photographs while putting this supplement together.

Secondly, a big thank you to Tesco, Oban, for coming on board as our sponsor. The winner will receive a whopping £500 of Tesco vouchers. Just think, that could be your monthly family food shop covered or a chance to treat the family to toys, books and DVDs or even clothing and electrical goods. There will also be two runner-up prizes of £50 in Tesco vouchers each.

The most difficult part is choosing the winner and that is where you,

the reader, comes in. The Oban Times and Lochaber Times needs your help to tell us which babies and toddlers you think should win the title of bonniest baby. Readers will start by voting for their top 50 from this supplement. It will then go to top 30, top 20, top 10 and the winner will be revealed.

To vote for your favourite, simply complete the coupon, remembering to provide the number that is stated on the child's photograph and send it in. We are happy to accept multiple coupons at one time. Just remember to get them in by Friday April 14, 2017. Full instructions below. After the voting deadline, look out in future issues of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times to find out who made the top 50 when the voting starts again.

We wish all entrants the very best of luck and we hope everyone has a very happy Easter.

Susan Windram.

# bonnie babies competition 2017

In association with  
**TESCO**  
*Every little helps*

Your chance to win  
**£500**  
of Tesco vouchers!

## Vote now for your top 50!

Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 50 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Votes must be received by Friday, April 14, 2017. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers!

### VOTING COUPON

LOCHABER TIMES  
& Oban Times

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number\*: .....

Baby's name: .....

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE,  
PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

\*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.**

**You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.** competition 2017

Terms & conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is Friday, April 14, 2017. One coupon counts as one vote. Full terms and conditions at [www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies). Customer services: 01631 568000.

bonnie babies

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**LOCHABER TIMES**  
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# bonnie babies

competition 2017

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