

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Dad blasts council failure to carry out PVG checks

LOUISE GLEN
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COUNCILLORS who have not passed vital suitability checks may have been given access to information about vulnerable people, contrary to national guidelines.

Angus Files, whose son lives with severe autism, says the situation is 'horrendous' and has insisted that Argyll and Bute Council staff should have stopped councillors attending meetings until paperwork was in place. Mr Files is demanding to know why this has been allowed to continue for a number of years.

Mr Files, whose 18-year-old son Geoffrey has a mental age of two, is concerned that confidential information about his son has been passed to councillors who are potentially not fit to serve.

Mr Files said: 'Geoffrey has low functioning regressive autism. I don't want anyone having his confidential information unless they are suitable to have it. I don't think the council can guarantee that. This is horrendous.'

'While I am sure it is not the case, potentially these councillors could have convictions for offending against people. The worst case could be that they are on the sex offenders' register with

access to sensitive information.

'While legislation exists to protect vulnerable people, Argyll and Bute Council seems to have decided to ignore this and has allowed two councillors to attend meetings without the checks. These people may not be suitable to do the job - we do not know. That's a terrible situation to be in.'

'The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) legislation is there to protect people who need extra support. It is unacceptable that two members of the Community Services Committee have never returned the paperwork.'

A Freedom of Information

request outlined the current situation. The head of law at the council, Charles Reppke, said: 'It is only the members on the Community Services Committee who require to be PVG checked, as this committee deals with the provision of education, accommodation and social services to children and protected adults on behalf of the council.'

'I am able to confirm that [one councillor] was first contacted by email on June 4, 2014, following the Community Services Committee being set up. The councillor was also sent [four] further emails asking her to confirm the position as it related to her.

'On February 5, 2016, [another] letter was sent enclosing an application to join the PVG scheme and an existing PVG scheme member form, and she was asked to complete whichever was applicable.'

Further reminder emails [were sent] on May 16, 2016, and October 5, 2016.

'[a second councillor was sent an email] on May 16, 2016, following appointment to the committee to find out whether or not [they] were already a member of the scheme.'

'[The councillor] never replied and was sent the two sets of forms by post on October 6, 2016, and

asked to complete whichever was applicable.

'[The councillor] was handed the forms again within the past fortnight but has not yet returned either of them.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council added: 'When councillors are appointed to the Community Services Committee they are advised that they should register under the PVG scheme.'

Both councillors in question were approached by *The Oban Times* and said the forms had been returned. In one case, the forms had gone missing and in the other case the forms have now been completed.

TIMESLINE

Fatal crash drunk driver imprisoned

A DRUNK driver who killed a Mull vet after downing cider and whiskey and speeding at 95mph in his hired Maserati was jailed for 12 years at Glasgow High Court last week.

Thomas Wainwright, 27, who was on the wrong side of the road, ploughed into a Berlingo van driven by Theresa Wade, 29, on the A849 at Craignure on October 28, 2015. Wainwright tried to blame Ms Wade for the crash.

Sentencing, Judge John Morris QC said he had difficulty finding any mitigating factors, branded him 'arrogant', and also banned Wainwright from driving for 15 years.

Theresa's partner Charles Pease, paid an emotional tribute to her, saying: 'I have too many happy recollections of Theresa to let Thomas Wainwright spoil them.'

HES turns up heat at historic sites

AN HISTORIC iron furnace in Tanyul has once again opened its doors for this year's summer season.

Bonawe Furnace is one of more than 30 historic sites across the country that have opened for the summer.

Castles, cairns and brochs across Scotland will welcome visitors as the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology gets into full swing.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is encouraging tourists and locals alike to get up close and personal with history in 2017.

For further information on opening hours, access and locations, visit: www.historicenvironment.scot/

Tasting the Big Apple

TALENTED young musicians from Oban High School Pipe Band were given a taste of the Big Apple when they took part in the famous Tartan Day parade through New York City.

The boys and girls from Oban joined celebrities, politicians and members of the public on the parade along Sixth Avenue on Saturday, organised by the St Andrews Society of the State of New York.

The schools pipes and drums were well-received by the New Yorkers, who turned out in droves to witness the sea of tartan and all things Scottish.

The Oban band was among 30 pipe bands from the US, Scotland and other parts of Britain taking part.



Date set for inquiry into fatal sinking

THE date of the fatal accident inquiry (FAI) into the foundering of the Speedwell with the loss of life of a solo crewman has now been set for the first week in June.

Scott MacAlister, 40, from Seil, was lost at sea on April 25, 2013, when the boat he was working on sank near Innish and Seil islands.

But the boat, which the family believe to have been defective, will not form part of the physical evidence in the FAI.

Scott's father, Peter, and brothers Andrew and Glen, have been determined to bring information about the boat to the hearing.

Peter said: 'The result of the article in *The Oban Times* last week is that a date for the FAI

has been intimated as June 5, 6 and 7. Unfortunately, the main information in regard to the sinking of Speedwell [with a Cygnus hull] will be provided by the report published by the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB). Therefore it is likely to be a sham. The hearing will find my son at fault.'

'Andrew and I have a long history of working in the marine industry and we have found inaccuracies in the MAIB report. Our findings are backed up by a renowned marine consultant, who had the benefit of official Cygnus drawings and photographic evidence provided by the owner of a similar hull.'

'For four years, the family have

asked the MAIB to revisit its investigation but we have been met with total refusal. This, we believe, is a face-saving exercise.'

'The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the authority charged with policing the fishing fleet, has concluded that no-one will be prosecuted. How can this be when an official statement in the MAIB report stating "the vessel was not seaworthy" should surely make the need for some culpability for either the MCA or the owner of the vessel?'

'The evidence for anyone to see, and included in the official MAIB report, is that lifejackets had no record of service, the liferaft had no record of service, the pump in the hold was not work-

ing, the alarm in the hold was not working, the engine-room pump required the crew to enter the engine room and attach wires to the engine room, it is suspected that the alarm in the engine-room was not working and the flare pack was out of date. Any one of these would render the vessel not to comply with the MCA code.'

'When the vessel was last tested by the MCA in 2009 the faults were believed to have been rectified to the satisfaction of the MCA and yet the faults were reported to still be there in 2013.'

'No paperwork or information regarding how this was done has been provided by either the owner or the MCA.'

The MCA made no comment.

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Does this job have the best perk in the land?

PEOPLE often think of bar jobs as at the bottom of the pile when it comes to forging a career, but a businessman who runs two multi-award-winning island pubs has put an end to that by offering an incredible staff bonus.

Neil Morrison, 39, who runs 'Scotland's Friendliest Bar', MacGochans in Tobermory, and the Isle of Islay's Lochside Hotel in Bowmore, offered two lucky staff members trips of a lifetime as a bonus.

The incentive scheme is under the guise of improving customer service in his hotels by allowing staff members the chance to see how the hospitality industry works in other areas of the world.

Mr Morrison said: 'Eilidh Daroch from the Lochside Hotel and Rebecca Armstrong from MacGochans were chosen by their work colleagues as the most deserving employees of 2016 to win the trip of a lifetime.'

'I travelled out with the pair and we were staying in a condo above the Hilton in downtown Miami.'

'We had a friend pick us up at the airport and give us the full city tour before hitting the hotspots along Miami Beach.'

He continued: 'This sort of incentive works great to motivate the staff throughout the year, and gives them a taste of American service standards and customer friendliness, which are first class. We had a fabulous time.'



Neil Morrison is offering two members of staff the holiday of a lifetime if they win the support of their colleagues.

CalMac vessels targeted by lasers

TWO CalMac ferries were targeted by 'a powerful laser beam' within 24 hours of each other as they were docking last week.

The MV Argyle and MV Bute were impacted by the green laser as they were berthing at Wemyss Bay.

The first incident took place at 8.15pm on Friday March 31, when a beam was targeted for a prolonged period directly into the bridge during docking manoeuvres. This forced the master to reduce speed further than usually required.

A similar incident took place the following evening at almost the same time, 8.10pm.

On both occasions the crew remained professional and were able to berth the vessel safely and without any injuries.

CalMac's director of service delivery, Robbie Drummond, said: 'I cannot emphasise enough how dangerous such utterly irresponsible behaviour is.'

'As well as posing an issue of immediate harm to our crews, these actions are illegal and an offence under the Merchant Shipping Act. They also have the potential to jeopardise the safety of passengers on board and, ultimately, the vessels.'

'That may be blunt, but it is absolutely a fact and we condemn the actions of this reckless person or persons in the strongest terms.'

'I commend our highly experienced crews for dealing with both incidents with consummate professionalism and expertise.'

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: 'We can confirm that Police Scotland is investigating these incidents, which are utterly reckless. Thankfully, no-one was injured during these incidents.'

'Those who carry out this type of act should be aware of the danger that they pose.'

Dead body at roadside

THE body of a man was left lying on the roadside at the entrance to a busy island car park after an ambulance crew were mistakenly stood down.

Last Friday, on Mull, an elderly male visitor to the island suffered a suspected fatal heart attack and died outside shops in Tobermory.

On Tuesday, Mull Community Council heard that while a GP, on holiday on the island, worked on the man with a defibrillator, buses full of passengers slowed down with people staring at what was happening.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said the situation was distressing for everyone involved and, while no-one should be blamed, a protocol was needed for situations such as this, including having something to cover up a body if required.

'Biggest ever' Highlands and Islands festival enjoys launch

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THE 34th Highlands and Islands Festival of Music and Dance launched in the CalMac ferry terminal in Oban on Monday, promising more than 100 competitions from April 28 to May 1.

Organisers say on the website that, '2017 is going to be our biggest year yet with new venues, over 1,100 participants, 125 competition classes in 11 disciplines and new fringe events to be announced.'

Organisers hope to attract more than 3,000 visitors to boost the local economy over the May bank holiday, with an estimated economic impact of £3 million.

This year more dancers than ever are expected and the choreography is expected to focus on themes of History

and Heritage, and 'Scotland - A spirit of its own'. Dancing is not the only event on the bill, with piano, clarsach, woodwind, brass, fiddle, accordion and piping attracting some of the best musicians around, from as far as the US, Ireland and the central belt.

The festival opens at Oban's Corran Halls which hosts the Scottish Choreography Challenge as well as the action songs, choirs, ensemble, recorder and singing on Friday April 28, the same day as St John's Cathedral sees the accordion and fiddle masters.

The next day features the family dance 'Festival Fling' in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, and Highland dancing for the Scottish area finals and pre-premier age groups at Atlantis Leisure, which continues on Sunday April 30 for the premier age groups.

The volunteer committee are keen to grow the feis and workshops, bringing in new blood to learn from some of the best, through workshops and also letting people see and try something new. The festival programme will also entertain visitors with a ceilidh in Skipinnish, and live stages in Stafford Street and Station Square over the four days.

Festival organiser Kathryn Wilkie, an education officer for expressive arts at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'Something must be right to reach 34 years. What has been successful?'

Why do people come to Oban to dance, to play, to sing, to compete, to take part?'

'Well, this festival has something for all. The more established dance, the fling, the sean triubhas, and then there's the creativity - the Scottish Choreography Challenge. An



Musicians entertained passengers waiting at Oban's CalMac ferry terminal on Monday, at the launch.

eclectic choice in music - classical, show, trad, the ever popular action song, choirs, duets - it goes on.

'Accordions, pipes, fiddles, pianos, clarsachs, trumpets, recorders, drum pads, the list is

very long and many vocal mixes too. And for all ages - you don't have to be young to take part. Music and dance are good for the soul, at any age.'

'The festival is important: it is a characteristic of our com-

munity, as are the people who work hard all year to ensure it happens. Let's continue to work hard, dance hard and play hard to enable all the community, old and young, performers and audience, to reap the benefits.'

Loss of 20,000 salmon could hit company for around £100,000

THOUSANDS of farmed salmon, worth in excess of £100,000, have escaped from a fish farm off the Isle of Mull in one of the industry's biggest breaches.

Around 20,000 Atlantic salmon escaped from a Mull fish farm at Bloody Bay, run by Scottish Sea Farms (SSF), on March 25,

according to figures released on Scotland's Aquaculture website.

It cites a 'predator' as the reason for the salmon escape, and for the release of 1,300 wrasse, used as a 'cleaner fish' to control lice, on the same day.

Scottish Sea Farms blamed a tear to a net wall, most probably

caused by a seal, which was 'fully repaired within hours of notification. SSF typically use acoustic deterrents,' a spokesperson explained, 'but on a precautionary principle their use is prohibited at this specific location.'

The cost is 'likely to exceed £100,000 in stock value,' she

said, adding: 'This loss is deeply regretted by farm staff and SSF.'

The breach is the biggest in Scotland since 300,000 salmon escaped from a site in the Outer Hebrides last May, according to Scotland's Aquaculture.

The escape could have environmental consequences for the

Sound of Mull, but the impact was 'unclear at this point', the SSF spokesperson added. She said: 'The fish were young and in excellent health and most likely to head directly to the deep sea.'

'Records show a very high level of containment compliance over the years,' adding

that fish escapes of this size are 'extremely unusual within SSF'.

Scotland's environmental watchdog SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) said 'an escape may result in pressures on local water environment, in respect of interactions with wild salmon'.

MSP urges BT to 'up its game'

A WESTERN Isles MSP has called on BT to improve its services to the island communities.

MSP Alasdair Allan wrote to BT's head of service in Scotland following a 'catalogue of complaints made to his constituency office in Stornoway in the past few months'.

He asked for BT to address the issues that islanders have been facing, ranging from persistent installation delays to intermittent network service.

Mr Allan said: 'As the Scottish Government continues to invest in broadband services across Scotland, it's time for BT to up its game in the Western Isles.'

'The number and the nature of the complaints I have received to my constituency office is not acceptable.'

'In the 21st century, a reliable broadband service is not a luxury, but an essential part of everyday life.'

'In rural communities such as ours, many rely on their broadband services to run their local businesses or maintain contact with friends and family on the mainland.'

'The Scottish Government has bold and ambitious plans to invest in ensuring that 100 per cent of premises across Scotland can reach a superfast connection by 2021.'

'BT must also show some ambition for our islands and address the faults that have affected too many service users.'

A BT spokesman said: 'Engineers from Openreach, BT's local network business, are working hard to extend fibre coverage to around 95 per cent of Scottish premises, through the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project, by the end of this year and customer service is the organisation's number one priority.'



The air ambulance will be flying more hours and get an extra paramedic.

Extra hours for air ambulance

THE country's only charity-funded air ambulance will help to save more lives as it has extended its operational hours.

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) will operate a 12-hour shift each day - adding two hours to its current service.

SCAA, supported by pub-

lic donations, has secured £150,000 in funding to cover its first year. This includes the cost of recruiting a sixth paramedic to support crew shifts.

SCAA chief executive David Craig said: 'Since 2013, SCAA has responded to hundreds of time-critical emergencies across

the whole of Scotland, 10 hours a day, seven days a week. When a shift ends, however, so does our response capability.'

'Thanks to the generosity of a very supportive public in Scotland, we now have the resources to extend our crew's shift to their maximum 12 hours.'

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Man admits to assaulting multiple Oban police officers

A GLASGOW man has pleaded guilty to assaulting multiple police officers in an Oban licensed premises.

Darren Brown, of 1 Bracadale Grove, was involved in a 20-person fight at the premises in the early hours of August 28 last year.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday April 10 that Brown punched a man and a woman, before he grabbed a police

baton and repeatedly kicked a policeman on the head.

The 27-year-old also admitted to punching and kicking a female constable on the body.

Procurator fiscal Emma Thomson told the court that at 12.30am a fight broke out between the accused and another male.

And when another man attempted to break this fight up, Brown began to act aggressively

towards him in that he kept asking the man to fight him.

The man's girlfriend then came over and Brown punched her on the head.

Brown was then restrained by the man and wrestled to the ground, but as he waited for a bouncer to come over and assist him, Brown was able to break free and punch the man on the head.

He was subsequently pulled

off by door security and a call to the police was made reporting a large-scale fight involving in excess of 20 people.

When the first two police constables arrived, several of those involved were reported to have been hostile towards them.

The constables then used their batons in order to create space.

However, several males, including Brown, acted aggressively and pushed towards

them and attempted to grab their batons.

Brown then took hold of a baton and moved towards the police. Another constable witnessed him kick the policeman to the body and this caused him to fall to the ground, where Brown repeatedly kicked him on the head.

Another officer and a doorman managed to get control of Brown, before more officers

showed up to handcuff the 27-year-old.

Brown was then kept in overnight at Oban Police Station and released the following morning.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson said: 'I must say it fails my understanding that he was not charged and cautioned.'

Sentencing has been deferred until May 23 for social work reports.

Woman's racist remark

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman from Dunbeg has been found guilty of making a racially-aggravated remark after a night out in Oban.

Adele MacIntyre, of 50 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, pleaded not guilty to using a racial remark in the early hours of January 15.

MacIntyre appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday April 11, and after all the evidence was heard, Sheriff Ruth Anderson was satisfied that MacIntyre did utter the remark, saying: 'It was used in a racially-offensive way.'

Sheriff Anderson reiterated what witnesses had said - that racism should be against anyone's beliefs and that this is 2017 and comments like this should not be happening.

The incident occurred on George Street after everyone involved had been out drinking.

Procurator fiscal Martina McGuigan called on two witnesses, who revealed that MacIntyre was speaking to the victim's friend, when the victim said that if she had anything to say, she should say it to her.

This resulted in MacIntyre calling the victim a number of names, including the racially-offensive term.

This led the victim to complain to police, who subsequently arrested MacIntyre and kept her in Oban police station overnight.

MacIntyre denied using the word and said that it was a back and forth argument, where they both insulted each other.

However, Sheriff Anderson said: 'I trust that you did use that word and I hope you are utterly ashamed of yourself.'

Sentencing has been deferred until June 21 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Eight-year-old is saving the world 'one bottle at a time'

DAVID MCPHEE
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ANEIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy from Soroba is doing his part to tackle Oban's rubbish problem.

Ryan Cain has come up with a solution to reduce the amount of clear glass placed in the communal bins - and make some money for himself at the same time.

The Colonsay Terrace youngster collects glass from his neighbours and takes it to be recycled at Tesco every week.

He created a number of handmade leaflets, and posted them through his neighbours' doors, which read: 'Do you have clean glass for recycling? Help the planet. I would like to collect it from you for 50p. I can come round every Thursday.'

Ryan, who now has 10 'clients', told The Oban Times: 'I do it to save the world one bottle at a time.'

He is currently saving any money he makes for his holiday to Turkey in July.

Ryan's mum, Diane Maxwell, helps him with his rounds. She ensures that he doesn't touch the glass until he is placing it into the recycling bins - after she has checked it.

She said: 'He just decided to make the poster and went round the closes. He was doing litter and stuff in school.'

'He said he wanted to do it, but I didn't want him to go to strangers' doors.'

'I think it is amazing. I think more people should do it. If more adults did, it would be brilliant.'

'There is a wee boy in Seil doing it as well. All it takes is for the children to do it and the generation to come will follow.'

There have been a number of issues with overflowing rubbish and even rats in Soroba since Argyll and

Bute Council moved from a fortnightly bin uplift to a three-weekly collection in November last year.

With no space left, especially in communal bins, some residents have contaminated the blue recycling bins with general waste.

Diane added: 'I don't go near the doors. He goes and chaps them. He does not touch the glass apart from putting it in the bin after I've checked it. He chaps the doors and speaks to the neighbours, but I come behind him and put it in the car for him.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), said: 'This is a wonderful example of initiative from someone so young. Not only do we see a degree of enterprise but a conscious attempt to positively recycle for the future.'

'ACHA congratulates Ryan on his endeavour.'



Ryan Cain has been recycling ... and making some holiday money for himself on the side.

Pensioner Ann is 'moving on' after housing blunder



Ann Colthart said it required a 'fiasco' to get action taken.

COUNCIL planners have sought to draw a line under a blunder which led to a house being built too close to a pensioner's home in the village.

Connell Community Council (CCC) reported 'universally critical' residents had 'lost confidence' in Argyll and Bute Council's planning department, and deemed it 'not fit for purpose', in a letter to the council's executive director of development and infrastructure Pippa Milne late last year.

The council had apologised

and admitted two errors processing the planning application in 2014, in relying on out-of-date Ordnance Survey maps and not undertaking a site visit, contrary to established practice.

Last Thursday community councillors hosted a question and answer session with planning officers in Connell Village Hall, who wished to 'restore faith and trust of local residents in the local planning system'.

Introducing the officers, convener Sandy Dunlop sought to set the tone for the evening.

'We must go forward,' he said. Development manager Peter Bain admitted 'a shortcoming in recording previous site visits', and promised 'any gap in officer experience and knowledge will be addressed'.

The council's head of planning and regulatory services, Angus Gilmour, also acknowledged: 'There are lessons to be learned, and we recognise and apologise for the failings.'

'It will take time on our part, but this is a start. The acid test will be what we do.'

Ann Colthart, the pensioner who said her life had been blighted by the planning error, commented: 'It is unfortunate that it takes a fiasco to make this happen. If this was dealt with two years ago, this would not have happened, but I appreciate it is time to move on.'

'It is a step in the right direction, so that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else.' But, she added: 'Actions speak louder than words.'

Ms Colthart asked the officers for reassurances that their site

reports and the rules on overlooking properties are adhered to.

Secretary Roger Ashforth asked if there would be a review of old cases to see if the mistake was replicated. Mr Gilmour replied: 'I am confident this was a one-off.'

Among the lessons learned, he said, officers will now visit sites before and during construction, and they cannot sign off an application unless there is a record of photographs of these site visits.

Apology

The Oban Times apologises for the misrepresentation of the views of David Gallant in the headline of a story that appeared in the newspaper on March 24, 2017, in regard to podiatry services.

In a headline, the newspaper misrepresented Mr Gallant's view of the importance of personal care provided by the local authority. The newspaper claimed in the headline that Mr Gallant's view was that his toenails were more important than Christmas. He did not say this. In fact he was making a serious point about priorities in local government spending.

What's happening in and around Oban

I CAN'T believe that it's Easter already, although I have noticed a definite buzz about the town - it's amazing what a few rays of sunshine can do, writes *Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald*.

The first Bid4Oban local market was a great success and I'm already looking forward to the next one on May 27.

We've also got a few of the smaller cruise boats starting this weekend - the Stockholm will be visiting and Glen Tarsan and Glen Massan of the Majestic Line will be starting their cruise programmes from Oban, and we'll also welcome back the Lord of the Glen the following week. It's lovely to see the bay busy with all shapes and sizes of boats.

If you'd like to earn your chocolate this weekend, there will be an Easter dawn service at 6am at McCaig's Tower, followed by bacon rolls and an egg hunt led by St John's Cathedral, an Easter sunrise service at 8am at the Pulpit Hill viewpoint followed by bacon rolls in the Congregational Church, or Easter breakfast and egg rolling at Glenclruitten Church.

If you've any room left after all the bacon rolls, then head up to the egg hunt and duck race at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine, at 1pm or visit the Sealife Centre at 12.30pm for its egg hunt.

After the hurly-burly of Easter, we have the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival to look forward to on April 28.

It's another busy weekend for the town with a full programme that includes something for everyone, from the highly skilled competitions to learning

to Strip the Willow in Station Square with Oban FM and Campbell Cameron, which promises to be good fun.

The hotels and pubs will also be offering live music and dancing all weekend, so look out your dancing shoes.

Did you figure out where last week's photo was taken?

Have a wee look in the lane between the Royal Hotel and the Clydesdale Bank, and then eyes up to find this week's location.

It's just a bit of fun but remember to see next week's *Oban Times* for the answer.

WHERE IS THIS?



POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Drunk driver

ABOUT 11.05pm on Wednesday April 5, on Soroba Road in Oban, a 66-year-old man was arrested for alleged drunk driving. The man was subsequently charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Possession of knife

ON SATURDAY April 8, a report was received around 12.30am concerning a disturbance in Bridge of Orchy. Police attended and a 40-year-old man was arrested for alleged abusive behaviour, possession of a knife and vandalism. The man was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drug search

ABOUT 6.55pm on Thursday April 6, a house in Rhuvall Road, Oban, was searched by police. A 31-year-old man was allegedly found to be in possession of a small amount of diamorphine. He was charged with being concerned in the supply of drugs and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive behaviour

FOLLOWING a report of a person behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman at a house in Miller Road, Oban, a 25-year-old man was detained at 10.25am on Friday April 7. The man was later arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Damage to play park

BETWEEN Wednesday and Thursday, April 5 and 6, the play park at Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was vandalised when the children's slide was damaged. Police are investigating and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Careless driving

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for alleged drunk driving at about 11.30pm on Saturday April 8, on the A85 near Connell, following an incident where a car crashed off the road. The man was later charged with careless driving and failing to provide a blood sample. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Disturbance

ABOUT 4pm on Sunday April 9, following a report of a disturbance in Craignure, a 43-year-old woman was arrested. The woman was later charged with abusive behaviour, being drunk in charge of a child and vandalism. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Speeding offences

On April 5, 7 and 8, at various places on the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum, six motorists (five men and one woman) were stopped and charged with driving at excessive speed. All were the subject of reports to the procurator fiscal.

If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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OT



Keen photographers snap up prizes at Oban club's annual dinner

Members and friends of Oban Photographic Club met last week in the Regent Hotel for their annual dinner and prize-giving ceremony. The well-established club meets regularly on Monday nights during the winter months and enjoys guest speakers, tutorials and competitions. Our picture shows the various competition winners, who were, left to right, Bob McCulloch, David Williams, Mairi Fleck, Neil McDougall, Maurice Wilkins and president Graham Cameron.

Driver was over limit and already banned

A 46-YEAR-OLD Oban man has admitted driving while disqualified and under the influence of alcohol.

Mark Johnston, of 5e Colonsay Terrace, Soroba, also pleaded guilty to driving without insurance at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday April 10.

Johnston said that he impulsively decided to drive the car home after his wife had parked it at a supermarket.

At around 11.40am on April 6, police suspected that the driver of the car might have been disqualified in the past.

After stopping the vehicle as it turned into Colonsay Terrace, and searching a police database, their suspicions were confirmed.

Johnston was then found to be driving over the drink-drive limit when the sample of breath he provided registered 30 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath, when the limit is 22 micrograms per 100 millilitres.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson said: 'You were disqualified from driving only three months ago. This is clearly a considerable concern to the community and the court.'

'I am looking at all options. I will continue your bail and consider a forfeiture of the vehicle.'

Sentencing was deferred until April 25.

Obstetric scanning for Oban

FROM this week women in Argyll and Bute accessing the obstetric scanning service can be scanned closer to home thanks to a new service in Oban.

The new service, which started on Monday April 10 is run from Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and has been a much longed-for facility in the area.

Jaki Lambert, consultant lead midwife for the area, explained that women would previously

have travelled to Glasgow to be scanned and the team is excited now to be able to offer this in the local area.

Jaki said: 'Ante-natal scanning has developed and progressed with the improvements in technology so it requires a much higher level of expertise and training.'

'Local women have told us that this is a service they want locally and we are pleased to have a great team that has the

skills to enable these services to be offered.'

This new service will allow women to access all the planned diagnostic and screening services that are now recommended in pregnancy and have never been offered before in the area, such as first trimester screening, detailed scans and growth scans.

Unplanned care – for example, early pregnancy scans – will continue to be provided in

Glasgow as current recommendations require that they need to be within a designated early pregnancy service.

The new team is made up of Helen Payne and Becky Brown. Helen is a sonographer with nine years of experience in obstetric and general scanning, as well as a postgraduate degree in diagnostic ultrasound. She also works as a part-time guest lecturer in obstetric ultrasound

at the University of Cumbria and is a mentor and assessor for the university.

Becky is also qualified in obstetric ultrasound having completed a full postgraduate certificate and brings her wealth of midwifery experience in Campbeltown and understanding of rural midwifery to enhance the service.

Jaki added: 'This has come about after much team work and

collaboration between midwifery, radiology and management teams across the Health and Social Care Partnership in Argyll and Bute, as well as support from Greater Glasgow and Clyde and across NHS Highland.

'This is an exciting time for everyone involved in setting up the new service, which will be continuously audited to make sure we are meeting the needs of Argyll and Bute families.'

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New club offers a chance to get snapping



A CAMERA CLUB has been launched at the Rockfield Centre. Under the Skin is aimed at those interested in creative photography and developing skills with like-minded people – from beginners to those with experience.

Feedback from the recent Inspired? sessions run by Solvejg Craig identified creative photographers looking for something like this to take part in.

Solvejg explained: 'You don't have to be a pro to join this club. It's all about learning photography.'

'All you need is enthusiasm and a little creative flair. And a digital camera will help but is not essential. The club will not be led by a professional photographer, although if it's felt this could be useful, a tutor may be brought in for a session.'

The group will be skill-sharing, setting weekly challenges and encouraging each other to get out and 'under the skin' of various subjects, themes and techniques.

The club will run for eight weeks over April, May and June, building individual



Last year's exhibition was a real success – now artists are invited to submit their work again.

portfolios, learning new tricks, sharing and talking about results with each other and aiming towards showcasing work at an Under the Skin exhibition at the centre in June.

Artists wanted

OBAN Communities Trust is inviting local artists to submit their work for the second Oban Open Art Exhibition showcasing local creativity.

Submissions are also welcome from those who were brought up in the area but who may now be living elsewhere. As part of Voluntary Arts Week 2017, the Rockfield Centre aims to share and celebrate the wide range of artistic creativity in the community, from any age of artist, in the new community arts space at the Rockfield Centre hut.

The exhibition will run from May 5 to 7. To receive a copy of the artists' brief and the submissions form, contact solvejg@therockfieldcentre.org or download from the website.

On the fiddle

THE Oban Fiddle Workshops (OFW) are proving popular, with the next meeting on April 29 with well-known local tutors Joanie Garvin and Donald Harrison.

Taking inspiration from the successful Glasgow and Lochgoilhead fiddle workshops, OFW consist of monthly sessions for players of mixed abilities where tunes can be learned as a group by ear. Future dates are May 20 and June 17 from 2pm to 4pm at the community huts. If you don't have a fiddle and

would like to play, get in touch with Rhona at arts@therockfieldcentre.org.uk.

Classic chance

THE popular Scratch Choir's next get-together on April 14 will tackle the Madonna classic, *Like A Prayer*.

The idea behind scratch choir is that anyone can come along with no experience and everyone learns a song together from scratch in two hours.

An informal event, the emphasis is on fun rather than musical precision. Those who can be asked to make a donation to the Rockfield Centre on the night, but the sessions are free to those who can't.

All information about events and activities is at www.obancommunitiestrust.org and the Facebook page.

WHITE VAN Man

Praise for those who bring Hope

HOPE Kitchen is an organisation offering a very important service and all provided by volunteers.

At lunchtime every day, Hope (Help Our People Eat) Kitchen provides meals for 36 to 40 people.

At teatime it all starts again, providing meals for 15 to 20 people.

But it's not just food Hope provides. It provides company for many people who live



alone. Company is so important - a friendly smile, just someone to listen, someone to talk to, someone to share a very lonely life with.

This service is so important,

with volunteers reaching out to some 93 people in the community. Hope is their contact with the outside world.

After dinner cash bonus
Former Prime Minister David Cameron is moving into the after-dinner speaking circuit, making as much as £120,000 a time.

Former Chancellor George Osborne stands to earn more than £1.8 million in his first year out of office – from his six jobs, including editing London's Evening Standard, and he is still a full-time MP. This is simply capitalism

at its worst. Two people who told the common worker of this country that 'times ahead would be hard'.

They told us austerity was a condition we would all have to live with.

Political personalities such as Cameron, Osborne and former PM Tony Blair would not know austerity if it hit them in the face.

The fact is I congratulate our volunteers who work in the community so that those less fortunate than ourselves benefit from their help.

George Berry

Sign our petition for new action to improve safety on killer A85

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

WITH three near-misses reported to *The Oban Times* in the past week alone, the need for improved driving and safety on the A85 has never been more pronounced.

That is why *The Oban Times* this week launches its petition – Stay Alive on the A85 – and asks readers and visitors to the area to sign up.

The petition is asking transport minister Humza Yousaf MSP to consider measures

to make the road safer, with the campaign calling for improvements to the road through a series of legislative, infrastructure and network improvements.

The campaign has gained the support of the Oban Community Council transport sub-group, with its chairman David Gallant saying: 'This is a campaign the whole community should get behind.'

Former councillor Neil MacKay, who was attending the transport meeting held last Thursday, said: 'What springs

to mind is the speed of vehicles coming onto the Bealach an Rìgh.

'I live near the road and we will not walk on it because the path is narrow and the traffic is far too fast coming into town.'

Mr Mackay's words were echoed by reader Stuart Twort, who witnessed an accident on the road that still haunts him.

Mr Twort, who lives on a house at the side of the A85, said: 'I was travelling home from Oban and wanted to pull into my property.

'I was aware that there was a car following me. I am always cautious because of where my house is.

'The cars started climbing the hill past the short-cut to Dunollie.

'But I put my brakes on and I put my indicators on and, just at the last minute, the other driver started overtaking.

'What resulted was an accident that closed the road for four hours. The woman was charged and pleaded guilty to driving carelessly.

'It is clear to anyone who uses

the road that there should be a slowing down range as you drive into town. This accident could have been avoided.

'In most places – and even in Taynuilt and Connel – there is a 30mph zone preceded by a 40mph zone to slow traffic down as it is coming into town.

'I have no idea why we don't have the same thing as we come into Oban.'

The Oban Times petition – Stay Alive on the A85 – is on Change.org and can be found by following this link: [https://www.change.org/p/humza-](https://www.change.org/p/humza-yousaf-stay-alive-on-the-a85-oban-to-connel-and-beyond)

[yousaf-stay-alive-on-the-a85-oban-to-connel-and-beyond](https://www.change.org/p/humza-yousaf-stay-alive-on-the-a85-oban-to-connel-and-beyond).

Within hours of starting the petition dozens of people had offered support, adding stories to the campaign.

To speak to a reporter about your experiences on the A85, phone Louise Glen, Sandy Neil or David McPhee on 01631 568000 or contact them by email on editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Next week: how business is affected by road closures on the A85.

Have a say on future of Argyll

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being asked to fill out a survey and help shape the future of the area.

Argyll and Bute Council is seeking the views of the people with regard to public transport, housing, recreation and access to jobs.

The survey is called The Place Standard and it has been developed by the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland as a way of assessing places.

Argyll and Bute Council is using it to gather information that will help to develop economic and community initiatives, and the area's local development plan.

The local development plan sets out how land is used to support the quality of life and economy of Argyll and Bute.

Both questionnaires run until April 21. You can complete them by following the links on the council website – www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/how-good-your-place and <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/consultations/call-ideas>

STAY Alive on the A85

The Oban Times this week launches a petition for safety improvements on the A85.

People in North Argyll have lost far too many friends and family in heartbreaking accidents on the A85 between Oban and Connel. The Oban Times is campaigning to improve safety on the dangerous road. The campaign has one aim: to make the road safer.

IF YOU SUPPORT US, PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name.....
Address..... Tel.....
..... Email.....

and send to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB, or sign the petition online at www.change.org/p/humza-yousaf-stay-alive-on-the-a85-oban-to-connel-and-beyond

High praise for buildings staff

THE Scottish Government has given top marks to Argyll and Bute Council's building standards.

Ministers have re-appointed all 32 Scottish local authorities as 'verifiers', who can grant building warrants, under Section 7 of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 from May 1, 2017. The period of appointments differ (six years, three years or one year) depending on past performance of the individual local authority.

Argyll and Bute Council has performed well and has shown

“The team has been in the top three”

Angus Gilmour
Head of planning

strong turnaround times and customer satisfaction', alongside 16 other councils, including Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Head of planning and regulatory services Angus Gilmour said: 'Our building standards team works very hard to support developers in ensuring that new homes and other buildings are safe for use.

'Their focus is on protecting public safety in timescales that support the ambitions of developers and this is reflected in the high level of customer satisfaction the team is achieving.

'Over the past three years, the team has been in the top three in Scotland for customer satisfaction with building standards services.

'This appointment as verifiers, for the maximum period possible of six years, recognises the high quality of the work they are carrying out for residents and developers across Argyll and Bute.'



Gary gets his girl

WITH more than 500 guests and some of the top performers in traditional music in one massive tent on the shinty pitch in Taynuilt – this was going to be the wedding of the century in the village.

Lochaber's Gary Innes and Taynuilt's Hannah Matheson tied the knot last Saturday.

Gary plays with Celtic super group Manran and presents Radio Scotland's Take the Floor. Hannah comes from one of Scotland's most influential musical families.

The event was the talk of the village, with one or two hardy souls even sitting on the sidelines of the pitch to listen to the outstanding singing of Robert Robertson.

Residents urged to do screening

ONLY 60 per cent of people in the Highlands complete bowel cancer screening

People in the Highlands are being urged to complete their bowel cancer screening.

On average, only 60 per cent of people living in the Highlands who are sent the test for free in the post actually complete it.

Bowel Cancer UK, the UK's leading bowel cancer research charity, is encouraging people living in the region to take part in the screening programme as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in April.

In this month alone more than 300 people in Scotland will be diagnosed with bowel cancer and in excess of 130 people will die from the disease.

However, bowel cancer is treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early.

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Formal complaint lodged over damning report into education

COUNCILLORS have backed a formal complaint to Scotland's schools watchdog following its damning report of education in Argyll and Bute.

After its inspection in September, Education Scotland (ES) graded Argyll and Bute 'weak' – second from the bottom in a six-point scale – in four 'quality indicators': 'leadership and direction', 'leadership of change and improvement', 'improvement in performance', and 'delivering and improving the quality of services'.

The report, entitled Strategic Inspection of the Education Functions of Local Authorities, also marked it 'satisfactory' in a fifth, 'impact on children, young people, adult learners and families'. However, Argyll and Bute Council evaluated itself 'satisfactory' in all five.

The report stated that school-leavers' attainment and progress in literacy and numer-

acy' was lower than average, and 'attainment in national qualifications has declined' also 'below' or 'well below' average.

The council, in its response read by community services executive director Ann Marie Knowles to the Community Services Committee on April 6, acknowledged the report presented 'very negative evaluations' of its 'education provision'.

But she also voiced 'serious and significant concerns' with the 'process and conduct' of ES's inspection, which are now the subject of a formal complaint.

Specifically, the council cited the 'unusual' timing of ES's notification on June 28, 'the day before the start of the summer holidays', an 'extraordinary lack of inclusion of senior officers', and criticisms of 'short notice'. Furthermore, it said ES's 'revised set of quality indicators' were 'not tested, consulted on or even published prior to their

engagement with [the] council'.

'The report appears to feature inspection gradings that are not based on verified evidence,' it added, and the inspection team did not include any 'associate inspectors routinely used to moderate from the perspective of current practitioners'.

Citing concerns and a 'large number of factual inaccuracies', the council's chief executive requested ES delay the report's publication on March 21, but 'he was advised it would be published because ES had no reason not to'.

A special meeting of Argyll and Bute councillors was held at Kilmory Castle the following day to discuss the report.

Councillor Rory Colville, the administration's policy lead for education and lifelong learning, proposed a motion noting the report's 'positive aspects', including above average attendance rates and numbers

of school-leavers moving into employment, but also 'serious concerns raised by council officers ... regarding the process and conduct of the inspection'.

It also detailed an action plan to address the inspection's conclusions and a report on its success.

Leader of the opposition SNP group Sandy Taylor tabled an amendment asking councillors to withdraw the formal complaint. However, the motion was carried by 17 votes to nine.

Education Scotland, which promised to continue supporting Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'HM Inspectors followed a rigorous and robust independent inspection process. Argyll and Bute Council had the opportunity to comment on the draft report and to provide any additional evidence. However, the final published report is the independent evaluation of HM Inspectors who are appointed to carry out this statutory function.'

Obanites urged to write for new book

CALLING all poets and writers: an Oban literary group is creating a new book and is on the hunt for submissions from members of the public.

The Wurdplay writing group is creating a book of poems and stories, which can be submitted via email.

People can submit up to two poems of no more than 20 lines

each, or a story of up to 1,200 words.

The Wurdplay writing group meets every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm in the Hope Kitchen and everyone is welcome to attend.

Jamie Livingstone, who helps run Wurdplay, said: 'You can write under your own name or anonymously.'

'You can write in any voice

you want. It doesn't have to be standard English. Literacy learners are also more than welcome to submit their work.

'Go on. I dare you.' Jamie self-published his first poetry book last year, which features original artwork by his sister, Eilidh.

His book, *Puddle Rainbows Missed*, is filled with poetry

that Jamie has written over the years. His expressions cover issues such as mental health.

The majority of the poems in the book are accompanied by an original piece of art created by his sister Eilidh Livingstone, who is also a photographer.

People can send their pieces of writing to wurdplaywriting@gmail.com.

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OT

Killin

AN ANNUAL fundraising auction to help raise much-needed cash for local organisations from Killin to Tyndrum will take place over the Easter weekend.

The generosity of the area has once again produced more than 300 lots which will come under the hammer on Saturday April 15 in the McLaren Hall, Killin. Viewing is from 4.30pm and the bidding gets under way at 6pm prompt.

The items on offer include many useful helpful things for the kitchen, decorative plates, modern and mid-20th century furniture, along with collectibles and a selection of paintings and prints.

There is one quite special lot which is a Flying Scotsman cuckoo clock, which has never been set up and still has all the various bits all carefully wrapped together with an authentic certificate.

Snacks and the refreshments will be available.

Western Isles

ISLANDERS competing at this year's NatWest Island Games will be announced this week and the Scottish Salmon Company has confirmed it will continue as the team's main sponsor.

The company will sponsor the Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) which will compete against 23 other countries in Sweden.

The week-long international event is being hosted by Gotland this year between June 24 and June 30.

WIIGA will take a squad of 90 to 100 people to the games including athletes, coaches and a medical team, and expects to be accompanied by family members.

The games provide an opportunity for island athletes to compete at a high level in an international event.

The Gotland organisers expect more than 3,000 people to participate.

Islay

PUPILS from Bowmore Primary School on Islay enjoyed a visit to Skye's Gaelic College.

Funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the trip provided primary five, six and seven pupils with the chance to immerse themselves in the Gaelic language and see how the college operates.

As well as learning, the children enjoyed sailing in open canoes, playing shinty and swimming.

Head teacher Maureen MacDonald said: 'The trip was beneficial and enabled pupils to see there are lots of learning opportunities for people with an interest in Gaelic, both at the college and by distance learning.'

'We stayed in the student accommodation which was beautiful and the children were given the opportunity to use the broadcast and recording equipment. This created a lot of excitement.'

'It was a wonderful experience and I would like to thank Bòrd na Gàidhlig for making it possible.'

Stornoway

LEWIS CASTLE in Stornoway made it through to the final of the Great British Buildings Restoration of the Year in the Victorian category, featuring on the Channel 4 programme after impressing judges with its Gothic-style restoration.

The castle fell into disrepair after sitting empty for decades, until Comhairle nan Eilean Siar led a £19.5 million regeneration project.

Travel and leisure company Natural Retreats has played a significant role in the project through a partnership with the comhairle.

The council received financial support from the National Lottery, Historic Environment Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise the Scottish Government, European Regional Development Fund and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Campbeltown

TWO HISTORY pupils from Campbeltown Grammar School took part in a once-in-a-lifetime trip to France to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Arras.

Organised by WW100 Scotland, S3 students Abdullah Abdulkareem and Ruairidh Wallace were among 72 pupils representing each local authority in Scotland.

The Scottish pupils were joined by French and Canadian students at a memorial service at the Faubourg d'Amiens Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Arras on Sunday April 9.

They laid a wreath on behalf of the nations that fought together and placed poppy crosses on graves.

Dalmally golfers pay tribute to much-loved club stalwart

MEMBERS of Dalmally Golf Club and guests remembered a long-time and much-loved club stalwart at a special season opening event.

Thirty-five players took to the course to play in a competition dedicated to the memory of former greenkeeper and club treasurer John MacKechnie, who sadly and unexpectedly died on Boxing Day.

John, who tended the greens and cared for the course for many years, would have been proud of the splendid condition of the course, prepared for the event by his successor, Angus MacGillivray, and club volunteers.

Lush greens and finely cut fairways welcomed the competitors, who enjoyed a stableford pairs competition in John's name, followed by lunch in the clubhouse and a fitting tribute.



Graeme MacKechnie presents the John MacKechnie Quaich to Dalmally Golf Club members June Sutherland and John McClelland.

Past-captain Billy McKay marked the commitment John gave to the club over a long number of years, reminding members and guests of his kindness, generosity and willingness to help in all matters, never knocking anyone back when a job needed done, whether behind the bar,

tending to the course or carrying out repairs.

Ladies captain Ann Colthart added her gratitude for all John had done over the years for the ladies section. Ann noted how John had always been there when needed, with nothing ever too much trouble, even down to cleaning the

clubhouse after a long day's golfing.

John will be remembered not just for the work he immersed himself in on the course and around the clubhouse, but also as a fine player, having hit his first ball in earnest during the club's inaugural year in 1987 and then going on to win many trophies.

After the lunch and tributes, John's son and fellow golfer Graeme presented the John MacKechnie Quaich to the winners on the day, Dalmally members June Sutherland and John McClelland.

A splendid photograph of John was then presented to the club by the MacKechnie family. The photograph, in remembrance of a great friend of the club, will rightly assume pride of place in the clubhouse.

Match report, turn to page 25.

Ardfern charity committed to helping Zimbabwean orphans

DESPITE turbulent times in Zimbabwe, the Pelandaba Orphans Charity remains steadfast in its commitment to educate the children of the African country.

The small charity, based in Ardfern, aims to raise funds solely for the purpose of paying the school fees of orphans living in and around Pelandaba, a suburb of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

With a severe drought causing disaster last year and elections coming up in 2018, the Pelandaba charity will have to overcome serious hurdles to do so, and with that aim is hosting a series of events this year.

It is currently paying for the education of 45 primary and secondary children and is managing to get money through to Zimbabwe Senator Mike Carter and charity co-ordinator Sandra Gumede



Charity founder, Cindy MacDonald, with a group of orphans in Pelandaba.

to ensure these children continue to get a chance to succeed.

Cindy Macdonald, who founded the charity, visited the children last year and was impressed by their dedication to learning in order to improve things for others. She said: 'Their appreciation and gratitude for all those who are

helping them was humbling. They have no expectations, but are still happy and wanting others to benefit in the same way. Any continued support for these children is greatly appreciated and it makes a huge difference in their lives.'

To find out more about the charity visit www.zane-pelandabaorphans.co.uk

Argyll is the perfect place to enjoy 'rose tree' splendour

GARDENS throughout Argyll are taking part in a nationwide celebration of a bloom some describe as Scotland's second national flower – the rhododendron.

Organised by Discover Scottish Gardens and supported for the first time this year by VisitScotland, the Scottish Rhododendron Festival will run until May 31.

Coming hot on the heels of the increasingly popular Scottish Snowdrop Festival, the Scottish Rhododendron Festival will include public



Rhododendrons, like this example in Crarae Garden, are coming into full magnificent bloom.

gardens and castle grounds all over the country.

A host of gardens that make up the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute, including Crarae Garden, Benmore Botanic Garden, Arduaine, Inveraray Castle and Ardkinglas Gardens, are taking part.

The festival was launched by Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute in 2015.

After a successful first year, Discover Scottish Gardens extended the festival across the country and, in 2017, nearly 60 Scottish

sites, including public and private gardens, are taking part. They will be offering horticultural events, guided tours and exclusive openings in celebration of this exotic Asian spring shrub that thrives so well in Scotland.

From the ancient Greek for 'rose' and 'tree', there are more than 1,000 species of rhododendron, which are famous for their vibrant colours. More than half of the participants are opening their gardens to raise money for national charity organisation Scotland's Gardens.

David Adams McGilp, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'We hope people of all ages will be inspired to get out and about to enjoy these colourful, vibrant flowers around some of Argyll's most stunning gardens.'

Peter Baxter, curator of Benmore Botanic Garden and chairman of Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute, said: 'The rhododendron season is already well under way but many more will still flower in April and May. It is not only a sight to behold as

aromatic foliage is another bonus in rhododendrons which can come as something of a pleasant surprise to the uninitiated.

'The west of Scotland has a particularly good climate for growing this spectacular group of plants, which prompted the Glorious Gardens of Argyll to instigate the initial festival in Scotland in 2015.'

To see the full list of participating gardens in the Scottish Rhododendron Festival, go to www.visitScotland.com/bloom.

MSP welcomes news HIE is to retain its own board

AN ISLANDS MSP has welcomed the news that Highlands and Islands Enterprise is to retain its own board.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan said he was pleased the concerns of his constituents had been taken on board.

The announcement was made in a ministerial statement to the Scottish

Parliament by cabinet secretary for economy, jobs and fair work Keith Brown MSP.

Mr Allan commented: 'I, and my Highlands and Islands SNP colleagues, have met Keith Brown several times on this subject and raised a number of concerns about this issue. I am pleased to see the

cabinet secretary has taken on board those concerns and responded so positively.'

'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 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 it provides to us.'

At Random

Thomas Wainwright

SO, THOMAS Wainwright has been jailed for 12 years for causing the death of much-loved Theresa Wade in a dreadful road accident.

There was an immediate response on our Facebook page after we published details on Friday of Wainwright's sentencing for causing the horrific smash on Mull in 2015.

What surprised me was the polarisation of the comments. I had expected across-the-board welcoming of the prison term, with perhaps the only negative comments being that the 12-year tariff was not enough.

Instead, there were a number of comments saying that the term was, in fact, too harsh.

For what it is worth, I think the jail sentence is just about right. I had thought he might be given eight to 10 years, though I had hoped for longer.

I very much agree with the judge's words when he condemned Wainwright by saying: 'You have shown no remorse for your actions – quite the contrary. Your arrogance in giving evidence and in the social inquiry report is quite staggering. In your evidence you sought to put the blame on Miss Wade knowing full well that her family were in the court listening to you.' Indeed,

Wainwright's callous disregard for Theresa's family and loved ones in a feeble attempt to get off with the crime is execrable and surpassed only by his attempt to blame Theresa for the tragedy.

If anything, 12 years is the very least Wainwright could have expected. I hope he spends every day of it contemplating what he has done and finds some sense of remorse.

Wonderful NHS

LAST week was one of the rare occasions I required to access the superb services provided by the NHS.

Following a somewhat embarrassing kitchen injury (okay, I admit it, I lost a square go with a tin of corned beef), I presented myself on Wednesday evening to accident and emergency at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

The staff there could not have been better. Yes, it seemed like a quiet evening as I arrived around 9pm, but everyone was unfailingly cheerful, polite and helpful.

I was swiftly 'checked in' at reception and treated brilliantly by nurse Tim, an affable

Londonder who was just beginning his night shift.

Within 40 minutes of arrival I had been processed, had the wound cleaned and dressed, had an anti-tetanus jab administered, was provided with advice and was on my way home again.

Cracking treatment from a great team.

Roadworks not before time

AT LAST the road surface through Taynuilt is to be repaired.

The A85 through the village has been in a shocking condition – and deteriorating – for a considerable time.

Now BEAR Scotland is finally about to begin an upgrade. Work is scheduled to start on Tuesday next week (April 18) and will mean closures overnight while the resurfacing is carried out.

I have no doubt there will be some drivers who bump their gums about the inconvenience caused by the closures.

To them, I would say, the long-term gain is more than worth the short-term pain.

This stretch has been described as the worst road in Argyll. It's much worse than that.

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Join the Cadbury Egg Hunts



The Easter bunny has hidden clues at oodles of National Trust for Scotland places. Collect your map, follow the clues, solve the puzzle and claim your delicious Cadbury treat!

Here are just some of the places you can join in the fun ...

Balmacara Estate

Arduaine Garden

Crarae Garden

Glencoe

For details on all hunts, dates and times, hop over to nts.org.uk

Cailleach

Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

This week, *The Oban Times'* resident Cailleach (Gaelic: old woman and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks back on the islands' vital links

When it comes to transport, it seems little changes

BACK in the mists of time, links between the West Coast of Scotland, its islands and Ireland were among the main transport routes for commerce in Europe.

Archaeological remains seem to point to trade throughout Europe and into Africa. That, more than any other reason, was why St Columba – or plain old Columba as he was known in AD563 – ended up on the island of Iona.

Adonoman, of course, the first great journalist of the West Coast people, then told his story and in it embellished the war, the killings, and the deaths.

Our transport links were self-propelled and most people would have had a boat in which to navigate from A to B and back again – a curruch or coracle.

Things changed when the world moved on and funding was made available for transport links – with one person paying the ferryman. Today in our part of the world that is CalMac.

Angus MacPhail wrote about the power of the ferry company



It seems bleak but we all know this place is extra special

in his column for *The Oban Times* last week – and I had a notion to look into the archives to find the reasons behind route choices.

A little, often voiced, phrase struck me: 'The Earth belongs unto the Lord,

'And all that it contains, except the Kyles and the Western Isles as they are all MacBrayne's.'

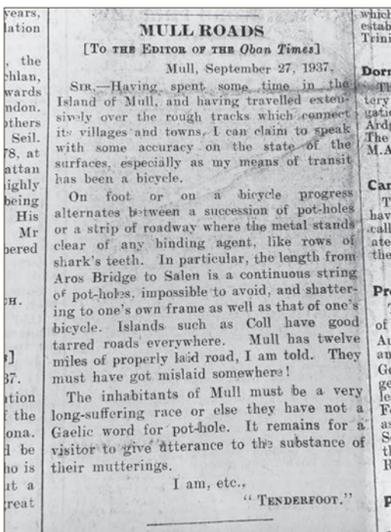
There is no doubt that the person who chooses the ferry links or indeed to build a bridge (or change a bridge from rail to road, as in the case of the Connel Bridge) can fundamentally change a community, not least because, with the linking of a bridge, an island or peninsula become part of a landmass and alters its accessibility overnight.

What is clear from *The Oban Times* archive is a lack of consultation in the past about what



Men from Sir William Arrol and Co Ltd pictured during preparatory work on Connel Bridge this week.

The conversion of a bridge from rail to road fundamentally alters the community it serves; above; while a letter to the editor in 1937 indicates similar problems to those moaned about today; and the frequency of services ferries remains puzzling.



communities might want. This is probably due to the entrepreneurial nature of boat owners through the centuries, then the buying power of David MacBrayne.

The planning of boats and particular routes since the government took over their running, it could be argued, are based on what is best for the purse-strings for the central belt executives rather than the people who run the services on the West Coast.

I mean, who would cut off a ferry to the isle of Iona at 6pm, making it almost impossible to have a day in the city and come home – including for a hospital appointment or to have a meal out on the Ross of Mull? Or a ferry route that only once a year allows people living on islands right next door to each other to visit each other directly?

It will come to pass that the control of individual services will return to the communities they serve. This should be the way of it.

If communities had real control over ferries, we would not be stuck with the travel-limiting policy of reducing ferry fares for everyone, and not just those people who live and work on islands. I am talking of course of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET).

RET could be considered a bit of a disaster if its intention was to make the mainland more accessible to people living on the islands.

Islanders often report how difficult it is to book a car onto a ferry in the summer months despite more sailings.

Often I hear that all the RET has managed to achieve is an increase in tourists using the boats, with the number of people accessing public transport beginning to stagnate, and on some islands decrease, because if you have four in your car it is easier and cheaper to drive.

A common theme in the Oban Times archive is that of the area's roads.

A letter to the editor in September 1937 shows the state of some of the roads to be in a similar condition to the way some describe them now.

It seems a bit bleak, that nothing will ever change, but we all know that this place is extra special despite – and often because of – its difficulties. And we all like a good moan about CalMac.

The new front door for number 8 has arrived...



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MORVERN lines

From donkeys to zebras and from squires to maharajas

LAST week I wrote about Squire Cheape of Tironan. Today my subject is Lady Meux (pronounced 'mews') from Alladale, near Bonar Bridge in Ross-shire, who came from an altogether different background.

At the same time as Mrs Cheape was introducing donkeys to Mull, the colourful and beautiful socialite, Lady Meux, was driving herself around in a four-wheeled carriage drawn by a pair of zebras.

Lady Meux was born Valerie Langdon in 1847. She was the daughter of a Devon butcher and worked as an actress and a banjo-playing barmaid before marrying Sir Henry Meux, 3rd baronet (1856-1900). According to her obituary in the *New York Times*, she met Sir Henry while performing in Brighton.

Some sources give another slant to her career although, in her defence, Valerie maintained: 'I can very honestly say that my sins were committed before and not after marriage.'

The colossal Meux wealth came from brewing. Henry's father, the 2nd baronet, married into the Marquess of Ailesbury's family. Needless to say, they were not enamoured by the arrival of this flamboyant cuckoo in their midst and, typical of the unpleasant snobbery of the time, shunned Henry, as he was in trade, and Valerie because of her background.

Thumbing her nose at them all, Valerie made her indifference known by regularly driving past the Ailesburys' fashionable London house



Lady Meux in pink by Whistler and, right, Sir Henry and Lady Meux at Alladale.



with her zebras. She also sat for James McNeil Whistler – an American and one of the most acclaimed society painters of the day.

Lady Meux and her husband improved and enlarged Theobalds, their property in Hertfordshire, by adding an indoor roller-skating rink and a swimming pool. At her request, Henry bought Christopher Wren's Temple Bar (one of the eight gates that surrounded the old city of London) and rebuilt all 400 tons of it as a new gateway to Theobalds.

There, in its upper chamber, Valerie allegedly entertained guests, including the Prince of Wales and Winston Churchill.

Bitten by the Victorian bug for Highland life and scenery, Sir Henry and Lady Meux took a lease for Alladale, one of the best known deer forests in Scotland. It belonged to Sir Charles Ross, inventor of the

famous Ross rifle, who lived at nearby Balnagowan Castle which, incidentally, is now owned by the locally popular Mohamed Al-Fayed of Harrods fame.

In 1360, Alladale was called 'Freevater' or Walter's Forest, after one of Sir Charles's ancestor who was killed at Bannockburn. Here they provided stalking, fishing and grouse shooting for their friends on a grand scale.

After Henry's death, when he was only 44, Alladale was taken by the fabulously wealthy Maharaja Holkar of Indore, who brought such a large entourage with him that an extension had to be added to the rear of the lodge to accommodate them. Undeterred by widowhood, Lady Meux continued to enjoy life to the full, and well she might, inheriting an income of £240,000 a year from her husband's estate.

She owned a string of race

horses, entering them under the assumed name of 'Mr Theobalds', and won the Derby in 1901. She collected ancient Egyptian artefacts; the legendary Egyptologist Wallis Budge published a catalogue of more than 1,700 of her items, including 800 scarabs and amulets. She wanted to leave the collection to the British Museum, but the trustees declined the bequest (because, she said, they were apparently idiots) and it was sold.

Valerie didn't always fritter away her husband's money. During the Boer War she was so impressed by the heroics of the British Army at the Battle of Ladysmith in 1899 she bought six 12-pounder naval cannon and sent them out to South Africa.

When Sir Hedworth Lambton, the commander of the naval brigade at Ladysmith, returned to London, he called on Lady Meux to thank her

for her generosity. She was so taken with his charm that she made him the chief beneficiary of her estate on condition that he took the surname Meux (she and Sir Henry had no children).

When she died on December 20, 1910, he changed his name and inherited Theobalds and a substantial interest in the Meux Brewery.

Although the Meuxs, the maharaja and the distinguished guests, disappeared down the glen decades ago, there is still a quixotic aura about Alladale. The estate now belongs to Paul Lister, heir to the MFI furniture fortune, who courted controversy by turning it into a wilderness reserve intended for wolves, bears and other large predators.

Since 2003, a million trees have replaced most of the wild red deer and talk of a huge 50,000 acre, Colditz-style compound, has drawn criticism from neighbours, hillwalkers and lawyers as it could contravene principles of open access enshrined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

From inside wooden stockades, a few moose and angry European bison glare and stamp their feet at passers-by but the howl of the wolf and the growl of the grizzly bear have yet to be heard on the braes.

Gone, too, from the lodge stables are the zebras and Lady Meux's stylish high phaeton.

Iain Thornber
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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

As a society, we are almost all of us thoroughly reliant these days on our cars for personal transport and the independence they offer.

But with that reliance comes the problem of where to park and the thorny dilemma of how much we should pay. Our local authorities, including Argyll and Bute Council, provide car parks in our town centres, complete with meters to allow us to stump up for the privilege.

Until now, apparently. At present, many of the pay-and-display meters are unable to accept the new £1 coins that have very recently been introduced by the

Royal Mint as a means to combat an increasing problem of fraud. There is also a problem in using the new coins in vending machines and supermarket trolleys.

One reader of our Facebook page has said parking meters in Oban town centre – outside the police station, to be precise – do not accept the new coins. Why has this been allowed to happen? The introduction of the new coins was signalled well in advance, so has the council been caught on the hop? And what happens in the meantime? We assume motorists will not be punished by being issued with fixed penalty fines.



Days gone by – Rockfield School?

We came across this photograph of a group of children but we have no information about it. It has been suggested it is a class from Rockfield School. Can any readers enlighten us as to who it is, where it was taken and when? Let us know by the usual methods to the addresses at the top of this page.

Macphail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Very special men

THE lasting effect that some people leave on life after they are gone can be significant and last week two of the best were buried.

On Tuesday, Nonny MacInnes was laid to rest in Oban and on Thursday Bernie Smith was given a fitting send-off on Tiree. Never have I attended such large funerals in their respective locations and never have I been aware of such positive feelings expressed so widely as for these two giants of the West Coast.

Both fought bravely with terminal illness and both passed away with the dignity and positivity that reflected their approach to the lives they led.

There are so many common clichés used to praise those who die and, in many ways, that is a strong part of the grieving process, but these two men really were exceptional human beings who are absolutely worthy of the huge amount of praise and loving thoughts and comments that have been shared over the past week.

None of us knows how long we have left in this life and in the grand scheme

of existence, when we go, I don't think is particularly relevant.

What is important is the impact we have when we are alive and the peace and happiness we can feel before we travel on.

To be loved by those we want to be loved by, to be respected by those we want to be respected by and to have led a life that can be looked back on with joy and satisfaction – these are the dreams of life for which we all should strive, and both Bernie and Nonny epitomised those who totally conquered these great and rich achievements.

The following lyrics are from one of the older Skipinnish songs and as both Nonny and Bernie were musicians and generous supporters of music, the theme is fitting.

Many a late night of music, good company and fellowship so many of us had with these two very special men, and the memories of their warmth and great characters will, like love and music, live for ever.

Farewell

We now must say farewell, but with

*warmth I will tell
Our meeting will stay with us till the end;
So fill the parting glass, this song must be our last,
In the glowing hope we'll someday meet again.*

*Chorus
We sat that night till the morning
singing 'Mairidh gaol is ceòl.'
If love and music live we may never die at all.*

*Many winters have passed on since
those summer nights have gone
But our lives are richer for the time we've had;
And in the evening of our days,
though our time was soon away,
We'll recall those olden glories and be glad.*

*Our destinies divide and, therefore,
live we all
All live to die, and rise to fall;*

*No sadness now or blame but a
memory and a flame
To burn beyond the passing of us all.*



Social media

There was a significant amount of comment on the 12 years' imprisonment and 15-year driving ban handed down to Thomas Wainwright for causing the death of Mull vet Theresa Wade in an accident in 2015. Claire Louise criticised: 'Not long enough, it wasn't his first offence and he didn't even have the decency to plead guilty.' Muriel Searl wrote: 'Arrogant and conceited ... deserves every second of his sentence.' Denice Addison posted: 'This guy is having 12 years (which he will probably do 6 at most) of his life taken away from him! Poor Theresa has had the rest of hers taken and her family will be heart-broken for the rest of theirs! I think the sentence was very well deserved! I

know people make silly decisions but trying to blame the girl you have killed for the accident really is the lowest of the low!'

Jacqueline Douglas blasted: 'Anyone driving a car drunk, is prepared to take the risk to kill someone. I call that ice cold murder.'

John Lamont said: 'He'll not regret it unfortunately, if he had any remorse he'd have pleaded guilty and not try and pervert the course of justice with his passenger, who said Ms Wade was at fault for the accident.'

Mark Robertson said: 'Sorry but his act was so gross and reckless that there was a serious risk to others ... he got what he deserved!'

David Williamson suggested: 'I bet you wish you could turn the clock

back!!! But you need to do your time. You will unfortunately be out with good behaviour in less than your sentence, which personally is wrong. You will regret this every day of your life.' Shawn Hooper offered: '12 years?! Wow! I know the USA is pretty messed up, but he would have gotten more time here.'

Marlyn Scanlon wrote: 'He does NOT deserve sympathy. A car is a lethal weapon in the wrong hands.'

Tj Telfer posted: 'Scum! Hope the family have some sort of closure. Rest in peace Theresa.'

Iain Brown wished: 'Hope the 15 year ban starts when he is out of jail.'

Elda Rowan lamented: 'Disgraceful sentence, Not nearly enough!'

Nathalie Porter said simply: 'Good!'

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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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.

Rubbish is piling up for tourist season

Sir, Well, it is that time of year again, and the foliage on our highways and byways has died back and there it is, laid bare for all to see - rubbish and yet more rubbish.

It is everywhere, and there is more and more every day. Coffee cups, sandwich wrappers, crisp packets, cigarette ends, plastic bottles, drinks cans, dead animals, detritus from road repairs and bits of crashed cars.

I don't know about you, but I was always taught to take my rubbish home and put it in the bin, not to litter the countryside. There really is no excuse.

I know there are cutbacks in services but, for the most part, this rubbish is obviously thrown from car windows, or it is the remains of the fish supper on the way home, or it may be the remains of the picnic, albeit tied up neatly in a carrier bag and left at the side of the road.

Why is it that some of us, who live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world, allow all this litter to accumulate? What makes people think it is acceptable to deposit litter at the side of the road, with a notion that someone else will pick it up, and no consideration for the wildlife in our countryside?

We rely so much on tourism in Scotland, and I feel ashamed of the way we portray our countryside to the many foreigners who visit. They probably leave our shores with the vision of a dirty, unkempt place, which no-one seems to care about.

It seems to me that the SNP leaders, who claim such pride in this wonderful place, should get out on to the roads of Argyll to see for themselves what a mess it is in.

It has got worse over the past two years. How on earth can they think about becoming independent if they can't even keep the housekeeping done properly? It is the most basic of duties.

Nicola Holt,
Burnside, Carradale.

Community hall deserves support

Sir, Most communities in Scotland have community centres - bigger towns, bigger centres, and villages have village halls. The general view is that they should be self-supporting.

Over the past number of years Ardgour Memorial Hall has gone from the dismal picture of perhaps having to close, to the present day when the hall has been completely renovated, except for the provision of new toilets.

Despite the hard work of the committee, £10,000 to £15,000 is still required to complete the renovation. It is just a pittance really when you think of its neighbours eight miles away, the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

There was some wringing of hands when the Highland Council's committee (ECAS) decided funding would be slashed from £166,000 to just £91,000 for the year 2017-18. The council has been subsidising the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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CHAILL SINN SÀR GHÀIDHEAL nuair a chaochail Ailig "Hearach" Dòmhnallach bho chionn ghoirid, agus b'fhàil air a' mhàin an Ruis, a' fàgail an uilc seo an urra ri riaghaltas Shiria.

Ged a tha na faclan 'sàr Ghàidheal' bitheanta chan eil tomhas mion-aideach air dè a tha a' fàgail neach seach neach eile a' dèanamh a' chòir na dhòigh. Tha mi moiteil clach a chur air càrn caraid.

'S cinnteach gur e na rinn duine de "mhath" dha daoine eile tè de na slatan-tomhais a bhiodh nàdarra ann am measadh air sàr neach sam bith, agus tha sin a' togail na ceiste an e sàr dhuine a th' ann an Ceann-suidhe Ameireagaidh a loisg urchraichean air an ionad-adhair ann an Siria bhon d' fhalbh na bomaichean gas a thuit air baile Khan Sheikhoun air an t-seachdain seo chaidh.

A rèir aithris chaidh faisg air ceud

Nevis Centre to the sum of £166,000 per annum.

But there is more: the Highland Council has agreed that £250,000 be used for urgent repairs to the roof of the building. The chairperson of Linnh Leisure, which operates the centre, states: 'The building is more than 20 years old and at the end of its useful life.'

The Ardgour Memorial Hall committee has ensured the hall has been self-sufficient year after year and it was successful in raising the money required to renovate the hall, falling short by just £10,000 to £15,000.

Surely when the Highland Council can see fit to subsidise the Nevis Centre it would be willing to encourage a committee which has shown such enterprise and grant it even a fraction of the money required to finish the project.

As the Lochaber Times of Thursday March 30 pointed out, the community hall on Raasay find themselves in need of £18,000 to fund repairs. The importance of community and village halls cannot be over-stated and I would like to think that it could be a comfort to the committees of these enterprises that the Highland Council's committee (ECAS) considers it prudent to subsidise one community centre in such a magnanimous gesture.

John Maitland,
St Monace, North Corran,
Ardgour.

Are water babies heading our way?

Sir, I was intrigued to learn from one of the recent electioneering pamphlets that a maritime visitors' centre and 'transit birthing facility' are to open in the summer!

I guess the mums will have to be happy with water births. Let's hope that some of the new arrivals will stay in the Oban area and boost our declining population.

Fiona Wylie,
Traighuaine Ard,
Arduaine, Oban.

Postal workers could make home visits

Sir, Despite the huge increase in the number of elderly people being forecast 30 years ago, politicians of all colours failed to plan and budget for a different society.

Keeping people in their own homes is great but how can we ensure they are all monitored and have regular personal contact?

It costs £100 for a GP to make a home visit and £50 for a nurse. It is still £25 for a social worker, which is why here in the UK governments could be paying postal workers £5 to check on elderly residents and reduce the need and expense for crisis care.

A quick smile and a chat for an isolated pensioner living alone is good medicine – and cheap medicine. In these days of declining mail vol-

umes, £5 a visit would bring welcome new revenue to the Post Office as well as helping our communities.

Helping voters and saving money are seemingly no longer important, though, as COSLA and Holyrood politicians focus on their own hot air.

Mike Foster,
Sannox,
Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Thanks for making conference a success

Sir, Aye2Aye Lochaber would like to thank everyone involved in making such a success of our conference, A Better Scotland.

Huge thanks to Paul Kavanagh (and the wee ginger dug), Cat Boyd and Robin MacAlpine, our three main speakers.

Thanks also to our local speakers, Lorraine Wheelan (Re-Act), John Hutchison (ELLCT), Donna Darnbrough (Lochaber School Bank) and Carol Anne Campbell (Lochaber Women for Independence).

Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes and homebaking and to the committee for providing lunch.

Thanks also to Marie, the owner of Aye2Aye's premises – we are all very grateful the use of your shop.

Big thanks to Woody from Linnh Lochside holidays and Morag P Aitken for accommodating Robin, Cat, Paul and Ginger, and the guys from Independence Live.

Thanks also to everyone who attended, and for your wonderfully positive feedback. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Thanks to Jimmy from Kilmallie Community Centre for a great venue and your all your help on the day.

John Gillespie,
Aye2Aye, High Street,
Fort William.

Failed policy on travelling community

Sir, Councils are being urged to work together to deal with unauthorised traveller sites following new Scottish Government guidance.

What a cheek! It was Alex Salmond who instructed the police not to get involved and leave it to local authorities and land-owners.

This meant that those affected had to take legal action. The travellers eventually moved on, leaving piles of filth which had to be cleared away at considerable cost.

Until there are harsh penalties, the travelling community will continue to set up camp wherever they like.

Stopping welfare benefits would be a start.

Only with such pressure will the travellers then use the specially provided council facilities paid for by the taxpayer.

This decades-long problem is another Scottish Government failure – not the councils.

Clark Cross,
138 Springfield Road, Linlithgow.

Ailean Caimbeul

a mharbhadh agus ceudan an leòn nuair a spreadh an gas sarin bho na bomaichean agus tha dùthchannan an t-saoghail, ach a-mhàin an Ruis, a' fàgail an uilc seo an urra ri riaghaltas Shiria.

Tha Bashar al-Assad air na casaidean sin àicheadh ach tha fios gun do cheadaich e an aon seòrsa ionnsaigh faisg air Damascus mu cheithir bliadhna air ais, a' marbhadh mìle is ceithir cheud neach, a' fàgail teagamh mòr na chuid onarachd. Chuir dealbhan chloinne a' tachdadh le dìth analach sgreabh air daoine cearta feadh an t-saoghail agus fhuair Dòmhnall Trump moladh airson ionnsaigh a thoirt air an ionad bhon tàinig na bomaichean.

B' e atharrachadh barail a bha seo dha Trump air gnothaich a ghabhail ri Siria agus rinn ionnsaigh air iomairt anns am bheil an Ruis nam pàirt cron cuideachd air a' chàirdeas eadar cinn-suidhe Ameireagaidh agus an Ruis.

A dh'aindeoin a' mholaigh a fhuair e bho chuid de dhùthchannan, tha dragh air eòlaichean eadar-nàiseanta

nach eil poileasaidh neo innleachd mhionaideach sam bith air chùl na rinn Trump, neo gu dearbh a' cumail stiùir air a' mhaoidheadh aige air Corea a Tuath. Ach mar a thuirr am feallsanaiche Edmund Burke, 's e dìomhanas dhaoine matha a cheadaicheas buaidh an uilc, agus tha sinn a' tilleadh chun cheist an e sàr dhuine a rinn dìoghaltas às leth na dh'fhuiling ann an Khan Sheikhoun?

Air neo am bu chòir faighneachd dè an t-eadar-dhealachadh a th' anns gach marbhadh a th' air a bhith a' dol fad sia bliadhna a-nise ann an Siria, 's gun choltas crìche air.

Saoidh mise gum bheil am fear bàn astar mòr bho inbhe shàr Ghàidheal fhathast.

IF, AS BURKE SAID, all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing, does Trump's intervention in Syria make him a 'good man'? Or was this a knee-jerk reaction without coherent strategy?

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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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.

Pupils face walk along danger road

CHANGES in the way school children in Acharacle are picked up and dropped-off has sparked anger among parents this week.

The *Lochaber Times* has learned that parents of children at Acharacle Primary School were informed two days before the end of term that their children, who are currently collected from their homes, will now be forced to walk along a dangerous single track road to be picked up.

At present children in Arivegaig, Ardtoe, Newton, and Kentra receive free transport from home to school.

Residents contacted Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Andrew Baxter about the changes after receiving a note from the current transport operator.

Mr Baxter contacted the council to say: 'Other than being appalled by the apparent lack of consultation and communication with parents on this matter, I have serious concerns about the risk to safety following these changes.' He added: 'During winter months we will expect children to walk along a dark, unlit and dangerous road. This is unacceptable. I would urge a reconsideration of this change.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The school transport policy does not commit the council to door-to-door transport. There are many cases where pupils will be expected to make their own way to a pick-up-point.'

The council added this is an application of school transport policy which does not require consultation and it is 'normal practice' to ask contractors to communicate with pupils on their transport list.

Communities ready to take a stand over planning process

ELLIE FORBES and MONICA GIBSON
fort@obantimes.co.uk

COMMUNITY councils across Lochaber say they are ready to take a stand over a perceived lack of transparency in the local authority's planning process.

At their meeting on April 10, Caol Community Council (CCC) voiced its intention to write to the Highland Council's (HC) planning department as they feel its thoughts and suggestions are falling on deaf ears.

John Gillespie pointed out that despite HC putting the onus on community councils to hold consultations, engage with the public and report back any issues which arise, more often than not applications are given the green light without further notification.

Donald Elder agreed and said: 'There have been at least 20 amendments to the Lochside development since the planning sessions were held here [Caol Community Centre]. Roads, flooding, the zebra crossing being moved - loads of things have changed since planning closed and we were never informed. Changes were recently made to

the orientation of the houses. Householders received letters but the community council doesn't seem to have been kept in the loop.'

It was suggested that unless a change is classed as 'major', the council does not have to come back to anyone who has raised a concern or commented.

John Gillespie added: 'There is a difference between statutory requirement and common courtesy. It makes you think what is the point of putting your concerns forward?'

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council chairman John Fotheringham told the *Lochaber Times* there is no explanation as to why the council comes to the decisions it does on plans, it just does. He continued: 'About three-and-a-half years ago we objected to camping pods at Gairloch which went to the south planning application committee and we got about 11 seconds of discussion on it. We threatened to pull out of the planning process and the HC

almost had kittens. They then sent down a top planning official to see us.'

There were similar discussions at the latest Duror and Kentalen Community Council meeting where members decided to write to the ombudsman after feeling 'ignored' by the council on a planning application.

Despite objecting to a six-house development in the village, the planning application was granted earlier this year.

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said: 'The Highland Council is going to have to pay greater attention to what communities have to say about planning.'

Another community councillor commented: 'The community council won't just sit back and do nothing.'

A HC spokesperson said: 'We do try and work with all contributors to ensure they have the opportunity to participate. We will always take on board positive suggestions on how we can improve our service and continue to support the development of Lochaber and Highland.'

The *Lochaber Times* also understands there are plans for the Lochaber Area Committee to have increased powers and asked HC if planning would be included in this.

HC responded: 'The current position is that relevant planning applications are reported to two planning applications committees - North and South. It is not intended to change this at the current time.'



Banavie pupils get creative for Easter

BANAVIE Primary School pupils got creative with their Easter celebrations when they took part in a Hats and Eggs competition run by the pupil council.

Working at home, some made Easter bonnets featuring bunnies and chicks and other spring designs. Other children made tableaus using real eggs. Keen young skier Drew Drysdale, right, made one entitled 'Neggis Range', complete with an egg on skis carefully negotiating a snowy mountain slope.

The entries were judged by the manager of the Caol Co-op, which supplied the Easter egg prizes, and Ainsley Burns. The children then had a special Easter Assembly to round off the festivities. Head teacher Maxean Dunham said: 'It is always amazing to see the quality of design and the inventiveness of the children in all aspects of the competition.'



Caol crash driver arrested

THE MAN who crashed a stolen Audi A4 in Caol and then fled the scene almost four weeks ago has been arrested.

The collision happened at 10.15pm on Sunday March 12 and the driver and passenger made off from the vehicle which then caught fire. The passenger was detained shortly after and was said to be assisting police with inquiries.

The Audi had been reported stolen from a local address and was seen on Torlundy Road prior to the collision.

On March 23, the *Lochaber Times* confirmed the driver had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

At the Caol Community Council meeting on April 10, Constable Marina MacDonald said the driver had been arrested last weekend.



New cost for pre-planning advice

THE council may begin charging for the advice it gives on building plans later this year.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning department currently offers people free advice before they submit planning applications, but its popularity is putting pressure on reduced resources.

Development manager Peter Bain, speaking at Connel Community Council on Thursday last

week, said the planning budget had seen a service cut of 25 per cent over the past two years.

'We have had more than 2,000 formal applications submitted over 2016,' he said, with 1,200 written submissions for pre-planning advice in 2016-17.

Angus Gilmour, head of planning and regulatory services, said an introduction is likely in the summer this year, but there will need to be 'a lead-in time

so we do not spring it on the public'.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson later told *The Oban Times*: 'Like all local authorities, we are having to make changes to how we work to protect services as much as possible from the impact of significantly reduced funding.'

'The council took the decision at last year's budget-setting meeting to introduce charges for

pre-application advice in preparing planning applications.

'We are developing the level of advice available without charge on our website. As planning applications vary in complexity, we are establishing a sliding scale of fees so that, where people still need advice from us, cost is matched fairly to the scale of the planning application.'

'We expect charges to be introduced in the summer.'

Rise to the walking challenge

NHS HIGHLAND launched its annual community walking challenge 'Rise and Shine' this month, alongside other cycling and jogging challenges called 'Challenge Myself'.

The aim is to get fit, stay healthy and have fun with friends. Each area in Argyll and Bute has been entered into the walking challenge league to compete against each other.

The champion area for 2016 was

the Isle of Mull, with Jura, Bute and Oban hot on their heels. Which will be the first area to reach one million steps in 2017?

The participating areas in this year's walking challenge are Cowal, Bute, Kintyre, Tiree, Helensburgh, Mull, Jura, Oban, Gigha, Mid Argyll and Colonsay. So far, the Isle of Mull has let its crown slip, with Isle of Bute being strides ahead.

Competitors can also enter

Argyll and Bute's cycling and jogging challenges, and compete against each other to win the titles of 'Cyclist of the Month' and 'Female and Male Jogger of the Month'. All competitors' miles will be accumulated to reach an overall target of 6,000 miles by September 2017.

If anybody wants to set up their own challenge, contact Elaine Booth at elaine.booth3@nhs.net.

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Argyll and Bute Council participatory budgeting scheme

ABPB.CO.UK

Deadline 6th May

How would you spend £15,000?

This is your chance to get involved! Through participatory budgeting, you can decide how £15,000 of funding is spent on community improvements to help grow and strengthen Gaelic in the Argyll and Bute area.

Anyone who lives in Argyll and Bute and is at least 16 years old can vote online, even if you're not registered or eligible to vote in electoral elections. It's your future, you decide!

For more information and to vote, please visit **www.ABPB.co.uk**

Participatory Budgeting scheme by Argyll and Bute Council in conjunction with The Scottish Government

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Oban Unsigned

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OBAN TIMES AND OBAN LIVE

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

OBANLIVE

Introducing the Oban Unsigned shortlist

WHO WILL PLAY AT THIS YEAR'S OBAN LIVE?

With the abundance of local talent right here on our doorstep, Oban Live and The Oban Times, the event's media partner, have teamed up to give one local band or artist the chance to perform at Oban Live 2017. The winner will join an impressive list of artists from trad-stars Skerryvore and Skipinnish to '80s legends Hue And Cry. Visit obanlive.com for more details about the line-up. Performing to thousands at Argyll's biggest live music event, taking place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, on Saturday June 3, the winning act will get their very own half-hour slot to showcase their talents.

YOU DECIDE VOTE TODAY

Who chose the shortlist?

Thanks to our local panel who had the difficult job of selecting a shortlist from a whole bundle of talented local bands:

Finlay Wells

Owner of Nutshell Music in Oban, guitarist for band COAST, record producer, tutor in guitar, bass and audio engineering.

Campbell Cameron

Presenter on Oban FM's Wednesday Drivetime Show, former director and chairman of Oban FM, founder director and former chairman of Oban Phoenix Cinema, supporter and promoter of local music and events.

Daniel Gillespie

Founder member and accordion player with Skerryvore, co-founder of Tíree Music Festival and Oban Live.

Andy Bruce

Production Manager at The Oban Times, lead singer and bassist for local band Signal Fires.

The shortlist

Now it is up to the general public to vote for who they think should play at Oban Live this June. For more information and links to live performance footage, visit www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned.

CRACKIN' CRAIC



Crackin' Craic are a local, energetic three-piece band consisting of Scott Sinclair on lead vocals and guitar, Ruairidh Allan, vocals and guitar, and Liam MacLean on drums. They have been gigging in Oban the last few years and in 2016 released their first self-titled five-track EP, which consisted of four self-composed songs. Lead singer Scott Sinclair said: "We always get a great attendance at our local gigs and are overwhelmed by the support. We would love to play at Oban Live, to perform in front of such a big crowd and showcase our local talent." Visit www.facebook.com/crackincraic.

K9 KEV & RORY O'B



K9 Kev and Rory O'B have been making music together as a duo for more than six years. Solo artists in their own right, they bring their own mix of rap, hiphop, and folk, with anything else in between. They make music that is true, catchy and accessible to the public. Using their own accents, they have strayed away from the typical rap cliches and stay true to their local roots. Their recent live show at Cuan Mor was sold out. Their material is original but also fused with current sounds. Kevin Irvine (aka K9 Kev) added: "Our EP *Vocal Heroes* is out on May 27. Oban Live would be a dream come true, playing to such a big audience. It would be amazing to promote our album further and this platform would be a great help in pushing our profile in Scotland. We would bring diversity and something different to the table. If we got picked, we have some of the best local musicians in town willing to learn our set-list and play our songs live with live instrumentation." Visit www.facebook.com/obk9kev.

ANGUS SMITH AND NORTH 56



With quality songs performed by experienced and talented musicians, Angus Smith and North 56 are known for their lively and dynamic sets. Their debut album *One Day* was recorded in Oban and released in December 2016. Angus Smith said: "We entertain and engage festival goers, make an impression and leave them with that feel-good factor. Our music is ideal for Oban Live - a fusion of rock, trad, folk and Americana, with some songs in Gaelic reflecting the cultural roots of the area. Our material is new and original." He added: "The band are totally ready for this. All six members come from Oban. Angus is a Mod Gold Medalist and award-winning songwriter. The band performed last year at King Tuts, Glasgow, in the CalMac Culture Music 2016 final. Oban Live is the perfect platform for us to launch our music to a wider audience." Visit www.angusmithmusic.com.

Vote for the Oban Unsigned winner!

There are two ways you can vote:

Online:
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned to vote online. Only one vote allowed per email address.

Post:
Complete this voting coupon and post or hand in to: The Oban Times, Oban Unsigned Vote, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. **All votes must be received by 11am, Monday April 24, 2017.**

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

OBANLIVE

I would like to vote for
(please state one band from the shortlist you would like to vote for)

Your name:.....

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You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.
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Voting terms and conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. In the event of a tie the judging panel will decide on a winner. The deadline to receive votes is 11am, Monday April 24. One coupon counts as one vote. One vote per email address when voting online. Customer services: 01631 568000.

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Taking the next step towards better health

Organisations team up to offer safety message

OVER the past few weeks, *The Oban Times* and *Lochaber Times* have looked at health walks and ramblers easy-leisurely walks, but what if you want to take things a step further?

Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers, the local Ramblers' Association group, offers a range of longer walks at different levels, starting with easy-leisurely and building up to strenuous.

This means that you can find walks to suit your level of fitness and enthusiasm.

Building on from easy-leisurely (6km-8km and two to three hours, usually with a cafe at the end), there are leisurely day walks which tend to be between 10km and 12km and require you to bring a snack, drink and lunch. These walks are aimed at people with some country walking experience. They are mostly on paths with ascents less than 250m and are done at a leisurely pace.

The next level up is moderate, which are between 12km and 20km and with ascents of up to 500m. These are done at a moderate pace and some include steep or rough ground in open country.

Moderate-plus walks tend to include lower hills or passes between higher hills and are often pathless on steep or rough ground. The have ascents generally above 500m and up to 700m and take place at a brisk pace.

The final level, strenuous, includes big hills with rough terrain and some steep and/or sustained climbs to summits with ascents of more than 800m. They are done at a brisk pace and require strength and stamina.

Each walk, at any level, is led by an experienced walker who can advise on appropriate footwear and clothing for safety and comfort.

These are, of course, group walks, but there is always space to walk on your own and take in the views and surroundings if you don't feel like chatting.

Full information and contact details are available on the website www.lochaberandlornramblers.org.uk.

KATIE CARABINE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

MOUNTAINEERING Scotland and Scottish Mountain Rescue have joined forces to offer spring safety advice for hill walkers and mountaineers.

The organisations are working together to warn people heading out on the hills about the hazards that remain, even after the weather turns warmer.

With some people already enjoying an Easter break in the region and others looking forward to it in the coming week, more people are getting ready to spend time in the mountains.

The milder than usual winter means that many paths are already clear of snow and conditions are generally good.

However, experts are reminding people that wintery spells are still possible well into spring.

Icy snow, sudden changes in weather, and general fitness can all lead to problems for people intending spending time on the hills.

Mountaineering Scotland's mountain safety adviser, Heather Morning, said: 'What snow is still about in the mountains can vary from being quite



A day that tempts people down to shorts and a t-shirt can very easily change to blizzard conditions, so walkers are being warned to prepare if they plan to go out on the hills.

sugary and easy to kick steps in, to being hard and icy and an absolute death trap if you don't have crampons and an ice axe. And the same patch of snow can change in consistency as conditions change through

the day; a patch can be hard and icy in the morning but softer in the afternoon.'

She added: 'The weather can catch you out at this time of year too. A day that tempts people down to shorts and a T-shirt

can very easily change to blizzard conditions. Substantial falls of snow can happen right up until May.'

Information about mountain conditions can be found on the Scottish Avalanche Information

Service blogs at www.sais.gov.uk.

Its avalanche forecasts have ended for this winter, but the service will continue to monitor weather and snow conditions leading up to and during the Easter holidays.

Scottish Mountain Rescue chairman Kev Mitchell added: 'A lot of people will have had a break over the winter and will now be eager to get back into the mountains, but they should think about taking it easy for the first couple of trips, to get back into the swing of things and get fitness levels back up.'

'It's great to see so many people so keen to get out into the mountains and enjoy themselves - we're just the same - but if you're a beginner or have been away from it for a couple of months, a little caution always pays dividends.'

In the event of an accident, people should dial 999 and ask for police and then mountain rescue.

More information on what to do in an emergency can be found on the Mountaineering Scotland website: <https://www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills/essential-skills/mountain-rescue/calling-for-help>.

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We want you to seize the day and take up our Landscape Champion Mountain Guides on their offer of a free guided experience on Ben Nevis. We're talking getting away from it all and exploring the quieter side of the mountain, for free, with a professional guide.

The catch? You must do a little bit of volunteering beforehand or donate £25 to Nevis Landscape Partnership to do it for you. When you consider the cost of professional mountain guides is usually upwards of £150, this is a bargain and a chance to really help a landscape under a lot of pressure.

'All the classics are on offer here and I loved getting the opportunity to climb Ben Nevis using a route I wouldn't have been able to on my own. Max, our guide, was engaging, informative and the whole day was a great opportunity to learn about Ben Nevis.'

Marta Panek, Carpe Diem Participant 2016

Three of our five trips are fully booked but we still have spaces for a mountain biking adventure and an amazing hike along Carn Mor Dearg Arête. If you think you would like to take your adventures to the next level and do a bit of good while you're at it, get in touch!

Carpe Diem is proudly delivered by Fort William Mountain Festival and Nevis Landscape Partnership to encourage everyone to celebrate the wild with help from our Landscape Champions; Atlas Mountaineering, Kirkhope Mountaineering, Lochaber Guides, Mudrock Adventure and Hunter Mountaineering.

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Care needed around nests during breeding season

AS NESTING season begins for many birds, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW Scotland) are reminding the public to be aware that birds are vulnerable at this time of year and destroying or damaging a nest while in use is illegal.

Birds' nests are damaged by tree felling or pruning as well as building work. Blocking entry holes to nests within houses is another common threat, as is damage to nests

in house eaves or on sites being cleared for development. Dogs can be a risk if not under control.

Penalties for destroying, damaging, taking, obstructing or interfering in any wild bird nest while it is being built or in use can be a fine of up to £5,000 and/or six months' jail.

Andy Turner, SNH's wildlife crime officer, said: 'Birds are very vulnerable during spring and summer, so we'd urge people to be very careful and check for nests before beginning any

major garden or building work. With many of our garden bird species declining, a few simple checks or changing the timing of works to avoid the bird breeding season can help conserve birds and prevent offences from being committed.'

Ian Francis, RSPB conservation manager for East Scotland, added: 'In the past 12 months, the RSPB has received more than 2,000 inquiries from the public about potential wildlife crime, of which at least 300 related to possible destruction

of nests and around 90 related to possibly destroying nesting habitats such as hedges and trees.'

'This is a matter that concerns many people, and we urge home owners and anyone managing land or buildings to follow the available guidance and avoid harming nesting birds.'

Any suspected offences in relation to birds (or any other wildlife crime) should be reported to Police Scotland as soon as possible on 101.



Estate's bid to block public access to national park land kicked out

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority has welcomed an appeal decision to uphold public access rights at an estate within the national park.

The decision was in favour of the park authority's argument that the owners of Drumlean Estate within the park were blocking the public access rights as set out in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

This will mean the estate owners will have to comply with an enforcement notice issued by the park authority in 2013.

Gordon Watson, chief executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, said: 'The national park authority has a duty to uphold the right to responsible access granted to

the public by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, so we are delighted with this decision.'

'We took legal action against the estate in 2013 following complaints from members of the public that access to an area between Ben Venue and Loch Ard was being blocked by locked high gates and prohibitive signage, and after repeated attempts by us to resolve the issue with the owners directly.'

'The initial judgement in 2015 found against the park authority and held that there had not been a breach of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.'

'The park authority immediately lodged an appeal against that decision which, if it had been allowed to stand, would have undermined the legisla-

tion and set an unhelpful legal precedent for access rights in Scotland.'

'It has been a long road to get to this point but we are delighted with this decision for the clarification it provides to other access authorities but, most importantly, for the public who can continue to enjoy their access rights within this area of the national park.'

Brendan Paddy, director of Ramblers Scotland, said: 'This excellent ruling ensures walkers, cyclists and others can make the most of the countryside around Ben Venue and Loch Ard - including the beautiful Drumlean Estate.'

'We welcome the national park's efforts to secure this result, which serves as an important reminder that landowners

using locked gates, high fences and prohibitive signs to block responsible access should be a thing of the past.'

'We believe it is vital that authorities always challenge attempts to block walkers, campers or other recreational users - so that everyone can enjoy the health and social benefits of Scotland's wonderful outdoors.'

The full decision is expected to be published on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals website in the coming weeks, visit: www.scotcourts.gov.uk/search-judgments/sheriff-appeal-court---civil.



Increase in horse road accidents

TWENTY-SEVEN road incidents in Scotland resulting in the death of a horse have been reported to the British Horse Society (BHS) in the past year.

The largest equine charity in the UK has launched its Dead Slow campaign to educate drivers on how to safely pass a horse on the road.

The campaign urges drivers to slow down to a maximum of 15mph when they meet a horse and rider on the road, and to leave at least a car width between them, passing wide and slow without engine revving or sounding their horn.

The BHS has partnered the Department for Transport to produce a 'THINK!' video as part of the campaign.

Call to pupils to design helmet

PRIMARY school-aged children across Scotland are being encouraged to be creative and enter a bicycle helmet design competition.

Fuchs Silkolene has teamed up with children's safety charity Cycle-Smart to launch the contest.

The winner will have their design made into a real helmet which they can keep.

They will also have five-times British and European Trials Champion Danny Butler's Extreme Mountain Bike Show team visit their school or club to perform a fantastic BMX show.

Added to this, there will be prizes for second and third place, including a cycle safety talk from Cycle-Smart.

Sally Travis, marketing

manager at Fuchs, said: 'For the second year running we are holding the Tour of the Potteries cycle ride, setting off from the Fuchs Silkolene headquarters in Stoke-on-Trent on June 25.'

'As part of this event we are proud to launch the Design a Cycling Helmet competition in conjunction with Cycle-Smart.'

'Danny Butler and his team put on a fantastic show, so that is an amazing prize for the winner. We'll also have goodies for the runners-up.'

To enter, visit: www.silkolene.com/potteries-competition/ to download a helmet template. Children can use any materials they wish to make their design stand out but all entries must be received by Friday April 28.

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Gaels are blown away by Easter arts fest



OBAN'S Easter Fèis continues to be a popular choice for youngsters in the holidays.

More than 170 children and teenagers, aged between eight and 18, attended the Gaelic arts and culture festival this year.

The festival, which was held at Oban Primary campus from April 3-7, gives pupils the chance learn and hone skills in a variety of subjects including music, sport, drama and art – taught by 30 tutors from all over the country.

Throughout the week, the festival-goers attended four classes per day, as well as spending a portion of their morning prepping for a final end-of-week performance.

The final concert allows them to show off the new skills they have learned in front of their friends and family.

Ewan MacDonald, chairman of Fèis Latharna, said: 'We are delighted that everyone is having such a good time. There's a lot of good music happening and a lot of learning.'

'We are glad it is so busy and we are trying to find out how we can continue to accommodate the growing num-

bers. We are at capacity, so we closed bookings.

'The week is going really well. We have 60 high school pupils here as well.

'Something that we try to focus on is getting the best tutors from all over the country so even advanced pupils will still come here.

'So it's not just children trying things out for the first time – it's for a variety of abilities.

'We are grateful to have support from Argyll and Bute Council and Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Without them, it would not be possible.'

Committee member Audrey MacFadgen, said: 'We are getting a lot of families from the islands and from other parts of the country and they are making this their Easter holidays. 'We try to have something for everyone.'

Ewan added: 'We had our first Feis music session on Monday night in the back of Cuan Mor.'

Around 25 musicians consisting of tutors and advanced pupils were jammed into in the newly refurbished restaurant.

Some of this year's Easter Fèis tutors. 17_t15Feis15



The pipe band drumming class show off what they have learned. 17_t15Feis14



Can you guess what it is? The drama students act out an unusual wedding. 17_t15Feis13

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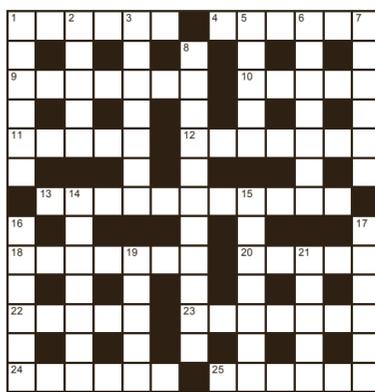


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Across

- 1 Fame (6)
- 4 Horned antelope (6)
- 9 Troughs to wash ore (7)
- 10 Fairy tale character (5)
- 11 Not our (5)
- 12 Peak of house (7)
- 13 Reactors (6,5)
- 18 Derogatory term used for non-Jewish women (7)
- 20 Base (5)
- 22 Parting word (5)
- 23 Uninvolved (7)
- 24 Human spirit (6)
- 25 Irritated (6)

Down

- 1 Money back (6)
- 2 Elbow (5)
- 3 Tungsten (7)
- 5 Subway (5)
- 6 One of twelve disciples (7)
- 7 Tilted (6)
- 8 Excluding (11)
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- 15 Gate-crash (7)
- 16 Steep slope (6)
- 17 Thin soup (6)
- 19 Pole position? (5)
- 21 Language spoken in western Siberia (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 13 April – Thursday 20 April 2017

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 **Tearmann** – Home from Home (rpt)
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **Ar-a-mach na Càisge** – Easter Rising (rpt)
23.20 **Piobairean Bhòirnish** – Pipers

of Bornish (rpt)
23.30 **Mànan** – Quay Sessions (rpt)
DIHAOINE 14 GIBLEAN
FRIDAY 14 APRIL
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** – News
19.15 **Binneas – Na Trads**
19.25 **Pro 12 Live Rugby** – Glasgow v Zebre
21.30 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep8
22.00 **Seirm** – music from Celtic Connections (rpt)
23.00 **Seòid a' Chidsin** – The Kitchen Coves – S1 Ep4 (rpt)
23.30 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
DISATHAIRNE 15 GIBLEAN
SATURDAY 15 APRIL
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
17.05 **Scottish Championship** – Ayr Utd. v Dundee Utd.
19.30 **Pro 12 Live Rugby** – Munster v

Glasgow
19.20 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)
19.30 **Machair** (rpt)
19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.00 **UR | NEW: Breabach Beò**
20.25 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.30 **Alba: 1999** (rpt)
21.00 **Seirm** – music from Celtic Connections (rpt)
22.00 **Scottish Pemiaship Highlights** – St. Johnstone v Aberdeen
23.00 **Balaich Iasgach Alasga** (rpt)
23.40 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** – Pub quiz (rpt)
DIDÒMHAICH 16 GIBLEAN
SUNDAY 16 APRIL
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.00 **A' Bhriogais Cheàrr** – Wallace & Gromit in The Wrong Trousers (rpt)
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)
20.00 **Chi mi 'n Tìr** – From Harris with Love (rpt)

20.30 **Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep4 (rpt)
21.00 **Ceòl Country** – 100 years on from the Battle of Arras (rpt)
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Dundee v Hamilton
23.00 **Ar-a-mach na Càisge** – Easter Rising (rpt)
23.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
DILUAIN 17 GIBLEAN
MONDAY 17 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
20.15 **Sgeul Slàinte** – Nurse's postwar stories
20.30 **UR | NEW: Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep9
21.00 **Trusadh – Geansaidh a' Phàpa** – The Pope's Eriskay Jumper (rpt)
22.00 **Taghadh Bho Na Trads** (rpt)
22.30 **A' Ghàidhealtachd** – Scotland's

wild heart – The Highlands (rpt)
23.30 **Seòid a' Chidsin** – The Kitchen Coves – S1 Ep4 (rpt)
DIMÀIRT 18 GIBLEAN
TUESDAY 18 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 **Sàr-sgeòil** – Sunset Song (rpt)
21.00 **Ceòl Country** – Country Music (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh – Geansaidh a' Phàpa** – The Pope's Eriskay Jumper (rpt)
23.00 **Latha Bha Siud** (rpt)
23.25 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

DICIADAIN 19 GIBLEAN
WEDNESDAY 19 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 Tìr** – 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 Ep5
23.00 **Taghadh bho Na Trads** (rpt)
23.00 **Tearmann** – Home from Home (rpt)

DIARDAIN 20 GIBLEAN
THURSDAY 20 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 – Ep5
21.00 **Dith Anail** – Living with Cystic Fibrosis (rpt)
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **Cuir sa Pholl-mhònach** – Bog Mummies (rpt)
23.20 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
23.25 **Breabach Beò** (rpt)
23.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)



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Friday 14 – Thursday 20 April

AKONG: A REMARKABLE LIFE | U | 96 MIN

Tue: 18:30
AKONG: A REMARKABLE LIFE is a documentary about Chöje Akong Tulku Rinpoche, a pioneer of Tibetan Buddhism in the West.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | PG | 150 MIN

Fri: 12:30, 17:00, Sat: 17:15, Sun: 17:00, Mon: 12:30, 17:00, Tue: 15:45, Wed: 12:30, 17:00, Thu: 17:00
"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.

GET OUT | 15 | 124 MIN

Fri: 20:00, Sat: 20:00, Sun: 19:00, Mon: 20:00, Tue: 21:00, Wed, Thu: 19:45
When a young African-American man visits his white girlfriend's family estate, he becomes ensnared in a more sinister real reason for the invitation. Now that Chris and his girlfriend, Rose has reached the meet-the-parents milestone of dating, she invites him for a weekend getaway upstate with Missy and Dean.

KIDS CLUB: SING | U | 108 MIN

Sat: 11:30
A koala named Buster recruits his best friend to help him drum up business for his theatre by hosting a singing competition.

KONG: SKULL ISLAND | 12A | 138 MIN

Sun: 19:45, Tue: 18:30
Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30
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: 19:45, Sat: 20:00, Mon: 19:45, Tue: 21:00
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.

NT LIVE: ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD | 12A | 200 MIN

Thu: 19:00
Daniel Radcliffe, Joshua McGuire and David Haig star in Tom Stoppard's brilliantly funny situation comedy, broadcast live from The Old Vic theatre in London. Against the backdrop of Hamlet, two hapless minor characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, take centre stage. As the young double act stumble their way in and out of the action of Shakespeare's iconic drama, they become increasingly out of their depth as their version of the story unfolds.

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

Fri: 12:00, 15:15 Sat: 12:00, 13:30, Sun: 12:30, Mon: 12:00, 15:15, Tue: 14:00, Wed: 11:30, 15:15, Thu: 11:30, 12:30
Join Peppa for 1 hour of fun in an exciting cinema experience for Peppa fans. Featuring 9 Brand New Episodes including a visit to London, an Australian Holiday and a trip to the Zoo.

POWER RANGERS | 12A | 144 MIN

Fri, Sat: 14:00, 17:00, Sun: 13:00, 16:00, Mon: 14:00, 17:00, Tue: 13:00, 16:00, Wed: 13:30, 16:15, Thu: 13:30, 14:15, 16:15
SABAN'S POWER RANGERS follows five ordinary teens that must become something extraordinary when they learn that their small town of Angel Grove — and the world — is on the verge of being obliterated by an alien threat.

SILVER SCREEN - MOONLIGHT | 15 | 130 MIN

Sun: 14:30
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 in Miami.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET: COPPELIA | 12A | 135 MIN

Wed: 19:00
A sparkling tale of magic and mischief, Coppélia has everything a good story ballet should: a touch of enchantment, a dash of romance and masses of sumptuous costumes.



Michael Garvin taught a class of pupils to play accordion at this year's festival. 17_115Feis03



Murray Willis stands alongside his accordion playing students. 17_115Feis04



Children give Clare Jordan's piano class the thumbs up. 17_115Feis06



Jennifer McKlueckie and Becky Hill were teaching the clarsach. 17_115Feis05



The arts and craft pupils show off their mirrors and diplomas in Laura and Nikki Currie's class. 17_115Feis08.



Tutor Jamie Smith and co get ready to play the guitar. 17_115Feis07



Stephen Kilbride, Sarah Cameron and Alice Jackson practice their timing in their pipe band drumming class. 17_115Feis11



The percussion pupils group together to play a song. 17_115Feis12



Angus John MacColl and his chanting class. 17_115Feis09.

Hebrides Cruises

An open invitation to come aboard our mini-cruise vessels, Proud Seahorse and Elizabeth G

Saturday April 22nd
12.00noon - 4.00pm
Dunstaffnage Marina, nr Oban

You are invited to view our two mini-cruise vessels offering wildlife adventure cruises to the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides. Come on board to meet the crew and have a tour of the vessels

www.hebridescruises.co.uk

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

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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 Macoll, 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 Cosher, 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.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

LOCHNELL FOOTBALL CLUB
New block starts
Wednesday 19th April
North Connel Pitch, Lora View from 6pm
New members, boys and girls P1-P7, welcome
Phone 07867318583 for details

OBAN FIDDLERS RALLY CONCERT
Saturday 22 April 2017
Corran Halls, Oban. 7.30pm
Fiddlers and accordions with Donald Black, Rachel & Emma Deans and Maurice Duncan.
Tickets from Corran Halls only £8 adults, concessions £7, Family ticket £20
Tel. 01631 567333

New Exhibition Histories from Seil & Easdale
Friday 21st April
Saturday 22nd April
Sunday 23rd April
Monday 24th April
10.30am - 5pm
Seil Island Hall, Easdale
Entry Free

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

Arena

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

Successful month for Taynuilt's Ballet West

It's been a successful month for the Taynuilt-based Ballet West, with two students making it to the final of a national televised competition and a teacher winning a prestigious award.

Two of the final five competitors in the BBC Young Dancer competition were Uyu Hiromoto and Oscar Ward – both students at the ballet school.

Ballet West entered three students in total, who all reached the final 10.

Ballet West teacher Natasha Watson also racked up some success by receiving a Phyllis Bedells Award for choreography.

Ballet West first-year student Hortense Malaval performed the piece written by Natasha at the

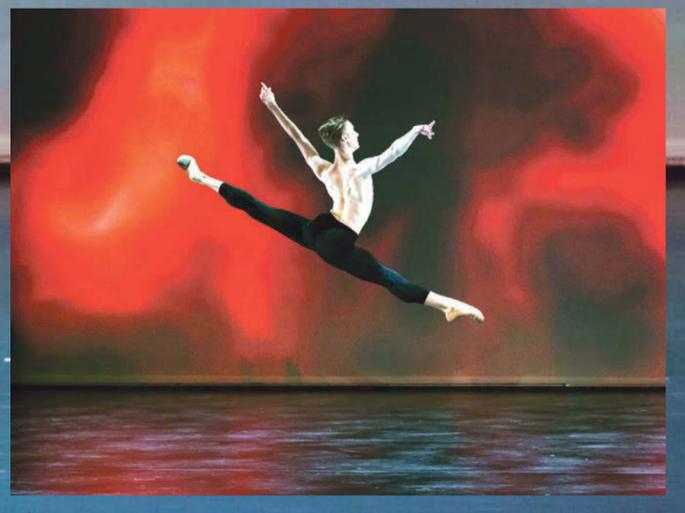
competition and was recognised for her performance.

Natasha also received a contract with English National Ballet – performing in their production of Cinderella.

This is her second contract with the company. She will return to Ballet West to perform the role of Giselle in Ballet West Scottish tour next January and February.

A spokeswoman for Ballet West said: 'It's pretty amazing, I think, to have two of the five finalists in that competition. It says a great deal about the school and about the training, as well as the dancers themselves.'

'Winning that award is also pretty fantastic.'



Gaelic music stars rally to the cause

The guest artiste at this year's fiddlers' rally is the internationally acclaimed Scottish Celtic harmonica player, Donald Black.

Being a native of Benderloch, Donald has been firmly steeped in the West Highland bagpipe and Gaelic traditions but his repertoire extends well beyond this to embrace the idioms of Ireland, the Shetland Isles, Cape Breton/Nova Scotia and mainstream Scotland.

His international acclaim extends to tours of many countries. Having delighted audiences throughout the UK and Europe he has played in many venues from Kansas to Moscow. Donald is firmly established as 'the instrument's foremost exponent in Scottish traditional music'.

His fifth album, Bho m' Chridhe (From My Heart), showcases his skills with a well-chosen selection of material from his wide Celtic music repertoire. On this occasion he will be

accompanied by his long-time friend Donnie MacKenzie, from Lewis, on guitar and Winnie McNicol on keyboard.

The rally is also delighted to welcome Rachel and Emma Deans who are well known to Mòd audiences both at the National Mòd and TV recordings. The duettists are exponents of popular Gaelic songs and will bring a new dimension to Gaelic singing at the rally.

Rounding off what will be a great night is Maurice Duncan, who will entertain the audience with his virtuoso performance on fiddle.

As usual the rally will be attracting visiting players from all parts of Scotland to join the local Strathspey and Reel Society, resulting in an orchestra of around 70 players.

As ever, the rally will be held in the Corran Halls in Oban on April 22 and tickets can be obtained from the venue.

Shinty – The Memories Project

Three national sporting bodies and two national sports museums have come together to set up a network of over 100 volunteers to deliver a community based and nationwide sports reminiscence project for vulnerable people living with memory loss or experiencing loneliness and isolation.

The Sports Heritage Scotland project will take place over 2017-18 and is a collaborative reminiscence project to create and establish a minimum of 30 reminiscence groups for shinty, golf, rugby and cricket.

These groups will be supported by the already established Football Memories Scotland network.

At the same time a digital programme will create an archive for golf, shinty, rugby and cricket to supply resources to the reminiscence project while preserving and safeguarding sports heritage for future generations.

If you have any images which you think could contribute to the memories project and could be included in the sports archive, relating to 1940-90 in the first instance, please contact Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan on hughdan.maclennan@sportsheritagescotland.co.uk or Lindsay Hamilton on lindsay.hamilton@sportsheritagescotland.co.uk.



Lismore exhibition celebrates life of artists

The late Henry Edward (Ted) and Elizabeth Odling lived and worked on the West Coast of Scotland throughout their artistic careers of some 50 years, latterly on the Island of Lismore, near Oban.

A retrospective exhibition of their artwork is being held on the island, in the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre, from April 1 to October 31.

More than 70 works are on display in the exhibition including paintings, drawings, prints, a viola and quilt and

a short film, representing the wide span of their creative output. This retrospective show has been curated by Douglas Breingan of Paisley Museum and Noelle Odling, their daughter.

From 1949 to 1982, Ted was a member of staff at the Glasgow School of Art and both he and Elizabeth worked as freelance artists for, among others, the BBC and the National Trust for Scotland. Ted's painting was informed by his keen interest in science and technology. Elizabeth's work is marked

by her close attention to detail seen in her drawings and engravings.

Throughout their careers, Ted and Elizabeth often worked as a team producing murals for the Burns Club in Irvine, Chatelherault Country Park and others.

In 1982, they moved to Lismore, where they spent 22 years working as freelance artists. During this time, Ted built up a large collection of landscape paintings, particularly of Lismore, and Elizabeth created detailed drawings of

subjects from nature, as well as embroidery and quilts.

The Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre on the Island of Lismore lies just over two miles from Achnacroish which can be reached by car ferry from Oban, and three miles from Point which can be reached by passenger ferry from Port Appin. A shuttle bus service is being operated by Explore Lismore on Wednesdays which will meet the hourly ferry from Port Appin between 10am and 4pm.

Spring Group Show & Seeking Stillness Solo Show by Anna Raven

@Resipole Studios

Saturday 15 April - Friday 26 May 2017

Private View - Friday 14 April 2017 6pm - 9pm

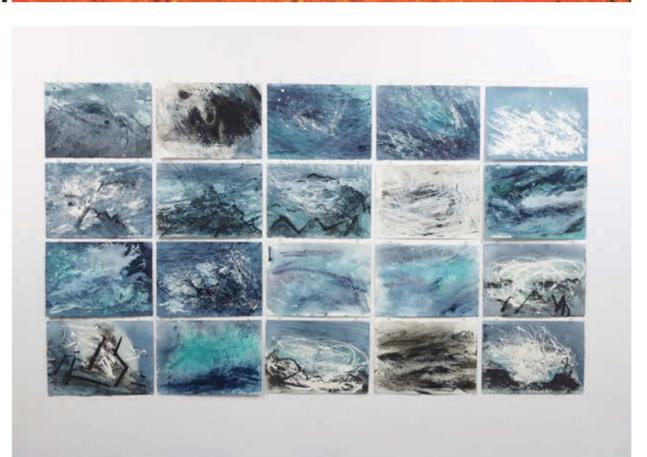
Resipole Studios is kicking off 2017 with its annual spring group show and a solo show by Anna Raven, Seeking Stillness, which will be on display in the gallery's White Room.

Resipole Studios is delighted to host its second solo show by Ardgour-based artist, Anna Raven. Seeking Stillness is a collection of mixed-media artworks, produced during her residencies in Shetland and Eigg in 2016, that look at the relationship between the interior self and its exterior elements.

From years living in the Highlands of Scotland and travelling to these isolated islands, Raven's relationship with the outdoors has become an integral part of her practice. 'Over the past two years my life has developed a rhythm, something of my own internal

weather.' She has embarked on a process of submission and explains that she wants 'the place to work on me so that I can find a voice to represent what it has to say'. Her artist residencies are spent in complete solitude, so she can experience the exterior environment, by looking out and better understand her own interior landscape, by looking in. Seeking Stillness presents a series of works that combine a style of abstraction and representation, visually combining the objective with the subjective and symbolising the binary between the artist and the elements.

Seeking Stillness runs in accordance with Resipole Studios' Spring Show, the annual group exhibition of gallery artists, which will be on show in the main gallery.



OBAN AND LORNE STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY



73rd Anniversary

FIDDLERS' RALLY CONCERT

Saturday, 22nd April 2017
Corran Halls, Oban 7.30pm

Guest Artistes

DONALD BLACK

World Famous Harmonica Player

Rachel & Emma Deans

TV and Mod Favourites

Maurice Duncan

Champion Fiddler

Conductor: Helen Jordan

Chairman: Dugald Cameron

Tickets: £8.00 Concessions: £7.00 Family Ticket: £20.00

Glasgow Letter

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



Clydebank Association ceilidh for Erskine

The Clydebank Association continue their wonderful work fundraising for Erskine care homes with a ceilidh on Friday April 21 in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

Erskine was established in 1916 and is now Scotland's foremost provider of care for veterans - offering nursing, respite, residential and dementia care in four homes in Scotland.

The chairman for the evening is the charity's chaplain, the Rev Jonathan Fleming, and the singers are Norman MacKinnon, Sheena Walker, Beth Street and Eilidh Cormack. Alasdair MacPhail from Luss will play the accordion and Robert Wood and Iain McPhee will both play the pipes. The evening's accompanist is Kirsteen Grant.

Admission at the door is £8, which includes teas and coffees as well as home baking - proceeds of which go towards this extremely noble cause.

Stirling Gaelic Choir

If you enjoy a choir who put a smile on the faces of the audience, then An Evening with Stirling Gaelic Choir in the Victoria Hall, Dunblane, on Friday April 28 at 7.30pm, is for you.

When it comes to injecting a sense of fun into performances, Stirling Gaelic Choir are among the best in the business. I performed at their annual concert some years ago and the choir performance was full of personality - particularly once the concert was over and the horo ghealaidh began backstage.

More recently, I sang at a ceilidh in Perth for An Comunn Gaidhealach and the Stirling Gaelic Choir were in attendance. They invited me to join their ranks for a song or two and, once again, were adamant that I should attend a party afterwards - although this time I unfortunately had to give it a miss.

Head along to this concert if you want to be royally entertained by great music and craic. Just be careful to avoid the after-party.

What's on

Saturday April 15: The Highlanders' Club Easter ceilidh dance with Susan MacFadyen's Band from 8pm until 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.

Friday April 28: An Evening with Stirling Gaelic Choir in the Victoria Hall, Dunblane, 7.30pm-10pm.

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

Thursday May 11: Comunn-an- Taoib-an-lar 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 14: Iain Angus MacLeod.
Saturday April 15: Iain Angus MacLeod.

Sunday April 16: Morino Day, Islay Inn.
Friday April 14: Deep River.
Saturday April 15: The Raggaeils.
Sunday April 16: Mooki.



Stirling Gaelic Choir will provide great entertainment.

Rising star of literary world drops into Oban Library

New Scottish writer Kellan MacInnes visited Oban Library's meeting of the Scottish Book Trust on Monday, touring his novel *The Making of Mickey Bell*.

Kellan, a mountaineer who has lived with HIV for 25 years, read excerpts from his second book, which narrates 'two pivotal weeks in the life of Mickey Bell: HIV, on the dole, living in the high flats in Drumkirk'.

The Highland publisher Sandstone Press continues: 'Mickey's got a secret - he's been climbing Scotland's highest mountains - the Munros. When Mickey's psychotic ex, Jonnie, grasses him to the benefit fraud

hotline, Mickey runs away. Accompanied by Tyke, a wee collie dog, and pursued by an investigator from the Department for Social Security, Mickey sets out to climb his last Munro.

'With the background a celebration of the beauty of the Scottish Highlands, Mickey's personal journey from a life on benefits to a brighter future mirrors Scotland's journey towards independence.'

Kellan's own website explains: 'Diagnosed with AIDS-related cancer in the late 1990s and given just six months to live, he did what HIV positive people did back then - he packed

in his job in social work, cashed in his pension, went home and waited to die. Only he didn't ...

'As the years passed and treatments improved, Kellan was able to return to work. In 2012, Kellan was awarded a grant by Creative Scotland to help research his next book and to fulfil his ambition to become a writer.'

His first book *Caleb's List*, short-listed for the 2013 Saltire Society Scottish First Book Award, tells the story of the Victorian mountaineer Caleb George Cash who compiled a list of the 20 Scottish mountains visible from Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh, and Kellan's challenge to climb them.



Author Kellan MacInnes, right, reads *The Making of Mickey Bell* to a meeting of the Scottish Book Trust in Oban Library, hosted by John Keay.

16_T15_Kellan MacInnes book_01

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College firmly establishes a new French connection

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

THE cows have all finished calving now, with only the heifers left to calf over the coming few weeks.

We have had 22 calves so far from 22 cows, which all managed to calf without any help. The cows and heifers all went to a shorthorn bull and the calves are very robust-looking with a good coat on them.

The 'cow-cam' has helped our management tremendously, allowing us to be more efficient and save labour but, just as importantly, ensuring we could keep a watchful eye on the cows in case anything was going amiss. Thankfully, nothing did this year, but it was a comfort knowing we had the ability to check the cows remotely all times of the day or night.

But now it is time to turn our attention to the sheep, and lambing preparations are now in full swing. At scanning time, the ewes were carrying 797 lambs in our Kirkton research flock and 526 lambs in our high hill flocks in Auchtertyre and the Corrie. As always, the challenge is to keep as many of these lambs alive as possible - not an easy task.

Lambing is scheduled to start on April 20 for the Kirkton flock and the week later for the Auchtertyre and Corrie sheep, so we are going to be very busy in the coming weeks.

Just as well we have some additional help. A French student, Agathe Malzac, has arrived from sunny Bordeaux in the south-west of France, to spend five months with us. Agathe is a student at AgroParis-Tech, a university which trains students to Master of Science level in agriculture and agronomy.

Agathe has already worked on a number of different farms



The French farmers touring Scotland were struck by the amount of rainfall.

in France, including sheep farms in the Southern Alps, and is keen now to understand and experience the Scottish hill sheep system.

Agathe will help us at lambing time to tag and record the lambs being born in the Auchtertyre and the Corrie flocks, to see if we can shed some light on our lamb mortality rates and the Blackloss issue we are facing there.

It will be labour demanding but, hopefully, we will get vital information as to how many lambs are actually being born. We will then be able to compare these numbers with what we got at scanning, and with what we will find later on in the year at marking and weaning.

Once lambing is finished, I am sure we will find more tasks for Agathe to do, as we are never short of activities here.

This has been a very French month for us. As well as Agathe arriving, we also hosted a visit for a group of 20 French farmers from the south-west of the country (near Carcassonne and Toulouse).

This visit has been organised via our EU-funded project SheepNet, in which my colleague Claire Morgan-Davies, from SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre, is involved.

This group of French farmers, which calls itself Robustagno (robust lamb), is an EU operational group, which aims to discuss and tackle specific problems about lamb mortality. It is being coordinated by the French Livestock Institute.

The group was composed of farmers, but also advisers and trainers, co-operative

representatives and vets. They spent one (very wet) evening at Kirkton and Auchtertyre, where we showed them our handling facilities and where we discussed the issues facing hill farmers. We had a very long discussion about weaning rates and Blackloss, as well as our sheep systems in general.

They were very impressed by the scale of our hill farms in Scotland, and surprised at our average 2.5 metres of annual rainfall.

In south-west France, their issues are more to do with the very high and low temperatures, especially in the sheds where their animals spend the winter and where they lamb before being turned out onto pasture in the spring. They also often have three lambings over two years.

Claire Morgan-Davies, and

Poppy Frater, SAC consulting's sheep specialist, then took the group to visit three more sheep farms - one at Arnprior 12 miles west of Stirling, one near Galashiels and the final one near Lanark. Although these farms are not as extreme as ours here, it was still interesting for them to compare and contrast with their situation.

They also visited Castlewart, the SRUC upland farm just south of Edinburgh, and the SRUC CT scanning unit. They were full of questions about Scottish sheep farming in general, and the way we manage lambing in particular.

It was a very busy but enriching three days. They might be able to reciprocate such a visit, and I probably would not mind spending three days in the south of France myself.

Argyll farmers asked for views on training

THE views and opinions of members in Argyll and the Isles are being collated by NFU Scotland to improve the provision of training and access to courses.

A local survey was launched on March 29 following concerns raised by members over the past 12 months regarding cost and accessibility to courses. The survey results will allow NFUS to approach training providers about what members would like to see.

Training is often required for those working in agriculture requiring employers to provide their employees with information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonable practicable, safe working practices. The

self-employed also have a duty to ensure their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their working activities. Other courses might be needed to meet more practical requirements.

NFU Scotland's regional chairman for Argyll and the Isles, John Dickson, said: 'Training is integral to any agricultural business, and it should be easily accessible and affordable to allow businesses to comply with health and safety provisions. The diverse geography of Argyll and islands can create added complexities, with poor broadband, longer travel and higher costs than may be seen elsewhere, and this is something that should be taken into consideration.'

Change to recording of BVD instances in screened cattle

Cattle herds where an animal has tested positive for bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) virus saw their BVD status change from not-negative to positive on Monday (April 10).

This positive status only applies to holdings where there is evidence of a live persistently infected (PI) animal in the herd.

Once the PI has been removed from the holding, or the animal has been re-tested, allowing the presence of the virus to be ruled out, the BVD herd status will revert to not-negative.

BVD control is centred on the identification of PI animals and the removal of these cattle from the herd. Introducing a BVD 'positive' status makes the eradication scheme easier to

understand, the Scottish Government claims, and highlights herds that pose a higher BVD risk for those purchasing or moving cattle.

Penny Johnston, animal health and welfare policy manager for NFU Scotland, said: 'While this doesn't actually introduce any additional controls for those herds now designated as BVD positive, it is an important step in recognising that any herd which retains a live PI status is known to have BVD so must be considered a positive herd and cannot hide behind a more ambiguous not-negative status.'

'It is a small change but one which we hope will make people think twice before holding onto a PI animal. If we are to get on

top of BVD in Scotland, all PI animals need to be removed from herds as soon as possible.'

'The BVD advisory group, which NFU Scotland sits on, will be meeting later this month to look at what new sanctions and controls are needed to help tighten up some of the gaps in the current programme and help us move that bit closer to a BVD clear national status.'

The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (Scotland) Order 2013 has a mandatory annual screening requirement for breeding herds to establish whether or not a herd has been exposed to BVD. Cattle keepers can check the BVD status of their holding on the ScotEID website at www.scoteid.com/lookup.

Around the markets

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd (Thursday April 6) sold 150 comprising 80 prime bullocks and heifers, six young bulls, six OTM cattle, 58 cast cows and bulls and 12 young calves.

Prime bullocks averaged - 204p Prime heifers averaged - 212p Young bulls averaged - 190p Due to the good weather conditions, numbers forward were a lot less however trade would be considerably dearer.

Taking into consideration the quality bullocks sold to 230ppkg (twice) for Limousins from R Cook, Kinneil Mill, Linlithgow, and J Watson, Canderma, Stonehouse, purchased by T Johnston, Butchers, Falkirk, and to £1640 from Ferguson Bros, Gillandersland, Linlithgow, purchased by WW Wales Ltd, Butchers, Kilmarnock.

Heifers sold to 248ppkg for a Limousin from A Orr, Lomond Muir, Kinross, to H A Black and Sons, Butchers, Lanark, and Armadale and to £1543 from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie, Tibbermore, again to H A Black and Sons. Young bulls sold to 216ppkg for a Limousin from J Smith, Lorn, Lochgilhead, to J F Finlay Ltd.

Leading prices. Bullocks p/kg: 225p Dullmuir 220p Highholm 218p Todhall and Dullmuir 215p Canderma and Mains of Cultmalundie 212p Blackhill 210p (twice) Spittal (Gardner) and Dullmuir.

Heifers p/kg: 240p Kinneil Mill 230p Todhall and Spittal 228p Rathillet and Gillandersland 225p Turniemoon, Todhall, Highholm, Mains of Cultmalundie, Nether Longford and Rathillet 222p Turniemoon 220p Spittal, Blackhill and Rathillet 218p Whiteside

Bullocks per head £1552 Mains of Cultmalundie £1445 Nether Longford and Gillandersland £1443 Highholm £1430 Canderma £1426 Dullmuir and Gillandersland Heifers per head £1490 Todhall £1443 Rathillet £1433 Lomond Muir £1404 Todhall £1359 Highholm, Rathillet and Turniemoon

Also forward were 58 cast cows and bulls. A lot more could have been sold to sellers advantage with a very big demand for all cows. Beef cows sold to 160ppkg for a Limousin from Hume of Overton, Overton, Denny, and to £1200 for a Limousin from I Stevenson, Bowridge, Denny.

Dairy cows sold to 125ppkg from J and I Wilson, Carskerdo, Cupar, and to £1040 from the same home. Other leading prices.

Beef cows per head £1180 Bowridge £1150 Lomond Muir £1120 Wester Braco £1070 and 1020 Overton. Beef cows p/kg 157ppkg Lomond Muir 147ppkg Overton 145ppkg Wester Braco 143ppkg Turdees 140ppkg Rathillet

Dairy cows per head £970 Blackhill £850 and £830 Blairmains £770 Carskerdo Dairy cows p/kg

117ppkg Blairmains 115ppkg Blackhill 111ppkg Carskerdo 110ppkg Blairmains and Inchgall Bulls sold to £1200 for an Aberdean Angus from M Bell, Wallaceton, Cardross, and to 134ppkg for a Limousin from WM and JD Gibson, Sawerston, Mauchline. A good show of 12 calves today, both beef and dairy black and whites more could have been sold to suit buyers requirements.

Top price of the day, £305 for a Limousin x Heifer Calf from G W Paterson, Barbeth.

Leading prices. Dairy black and white bullocks £74, £66 and £60 - Barbeth £48 and £42 - Plean.

Bull beef £290 and £270 - Barbeth Heifer beef £290 - Barbeth

The next sale of calves will be April 20 please contact Laura Bailey - 07561305922 for more information.

STIRLING - United Auctions (Thursday April 6) sold 4831 prime sheep including 45 new season lambs to an average of £101.40 and 3713 hogs selling to an average of 169.1ppkg and 1077 ewes and rams

Spring lambs (45) - Lochend (Suff) £112; Longside (Char) £122; Whitehouse (Zwa) £105; Wood (Hamp) £93; Balgoner (Dor) £105.

Hogs (3713) - Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Suff) £90; Luckenburn (BTex) £117.00; Netherton (Chev) £87.50; Ballechin (Tex) £99; Kilmundie & Chamberwells (BF) £81; Shoestanes (Chev/Mule) £84.50; Easter Buckleyvie (Mule) £78.

Hogs (3713) - Luckenburn (Btex) 268p; Ballechin (Tex) 215p; Snaudon (Chev) 200p; Clunebeg (Suff) 196p; Dunruchan (BF) 189p; Shoestanes (Chev/Mule) 169p; Gartvaigh (Mule) 167p.

Ewes (1077) - Barbarfield (Suff) £127; West Whitefield (Tex) £108; Humeston (Char) £106; Balnacree (Chev) £101; Dullmuir and Chamberwells (BF) £91; Humeston (Char) £84; Drummie (Tex) £80.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd (Tuesday April 4) had forward 2274 prime hoggets, ewes and tups.

Top price of the day went to DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, for a pen of 19 Beltex X hoggets at £100. Top price per kilo went to Mr Taylor again for 5 Beltex X hoggets at £45 at 222ppkg.

Overall sale average for 1984 sold 158ppkg (-21.7p on the week) included in the sale was 986 Blackface hoggets averaging 147.5ppkg selling to £80 from Glenturret Estates.

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Preparing for a job interview

An interview is a discussion in person, by phone or online, between you and an employer.

The employer wants to see if you're the right person for the job. You'll get the chance to make a good impression and show the employer what you have to offer. You can also see if the job is one you want.

Types of interview

The most common types of interview are:

Competency-based – focusing on the skills and personal qualities you need, you'll have to relate your skills and experience to the job.

Technical – usually for technical jobs in areas like IT or engineering, you'll have to display your technical knowledge of a certain process or skill.

Face-to-face – in person.

Panel interview – one person usually leads the interview and other panel members take it in turns to ask you different questions.

Telephone or online – could be the first stage of the interview or the only stage, and you should prepare in the same way as for a face-to-face.

Informal chat – in some areas like the creative industries you'll have an informal, work-focused discussion about your

experience and career aims, usually somewhere like a cafe. Group discussion – with other candidates, you'll have to show you can get along with people, put your ideas forward and be respectful of others.

Before the interview

To help you prepare, you can think about which areas of your CV or application form the interviewer might ask you to talk more about, and how you can relate them to the role. Prepare some answers about why you want the job, what your strengths and weaknesses are, and your relevant work and life experience. Think of some questions to ask about the role and the company at the end of the interview, but don't ask about pay yet.

Try to relax the night before the interview. Doing lots of last-minute work could make you more anxious and reduce your sleep time.

What to wear

When it comes to what to wear, plan what you're going to wear before the day of the interview. Find out what the company's dress code is and wear clothes that suit the company that's interviewing you. Don't wear clothes that you're uncomfortable in, or shoes that you'll

struggle to walk in and don't wear too much strong perfume or aftershave.

Getting to the venue

Check in advance how to get to the interview venue, and how long it'll take. On interview day, make sure you leave plenty of time to get there and aim to arrive a little early.

Get settled and ready to begin

Just before the interview starts, make sure your phone is turned off ask for water if you haven't already been given some. Don't let your nerves show too much – use breathing techniques and try to remember a few nerves are normal.

During the interview

When answering the questions, take your time when thinking of your answer – it's fine to say you need a moment to think. Look alert and attentive, speak clearly and confidently, and don't swear or use slang. Give full answers, don't just say 'yes' or 'no'. Give examples of when you've used the skills they're asking for.

If you're asked about your experience, talk about the situation you were in, the task in front of you, the action you

took, and the result of your action (STAR technique). Be positive about your experiences – avoid negativity about yourself or any previous roles you've had.

Make sure you fully understand the questions you're asked – ask for more explanation if you need to. Avoid mentioning salary or company benefits unless asked. Don't lie – the interviewer may see through you and, even if you get the job, your employer can dismiss you if they find out you've been dishonest.

If you're asked about a work skill you don't have, you could say what you'd do in a certain situation or use an example from your personal life, and also explain that you're a fast learner. Don't be arrogant and assume you've got the job – employers don't like disrespectful or over-confident candidates. Don't bring up topics like religion or politics where people can have strongly-held personal beliefs.

Difficult questions

If you're asked about being made redundant from your previous job, try to stress it was a business decision and describe how you've responded positively since.

If you were fired for misconduct or poor performance, try

to explain why your standards dropped on that occasion but that you have learned from it and have since improved.

If you've been out of work for a long time and get asked about it, describe any positive steps you've taken such as voluntary work, courses, networking, industry events, keeping fit, community roles, keeping yourself up to date with your field.

If you left your last job by choice and are asked about it, you could make it clear you were grateful for the opportunity and learnt a lot, but you wanted a fresh challenge.

When the employer contacts you after the interview:

After the interview. If you're offered the job, thank them and agree things like start date and what to bring on the first day.

If you are expected to negotiate salary, find out beforehand what the usual rate is for the job but then start high and meet in the middle.

If necessary, ask for feedback on your performance if you weren't successful.

Use their comments to improve for next time.

If you're offered a job and decide you don't want it, thank the employer politely, as you may want to work for them in future.



Processing Operative Staff

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To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date: Friday 21st April 2017

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argyll community housing association

Repairs Assistant Lochgilphead

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Iain McLeod on 01546 605 807

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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.

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing date for all posts: 12 noon on 21st April 2017

CVs are not accepted.

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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.

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ACHA
argyll community housing association

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Renault is helping customers to save money this month with the gift of a complimentary three-year/30,000 mile Renault service plan* – saving up to £459 – as well as a

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The free Renault service plan is available to customers of the New Clio, Captur, Kadjar and All-New Mégane, All-New Mégane Sport Tourer, All-New Scénic and All-New Grand Scénic purchased using Renault finance (HP and PCP) before May 15, 2017, at any of the French manufacturer's official nationwide UK dealerships.

Even better, the service plan offer is in addition to any of Renault's latest finance customer offers, ensuring that customers enjoy even more value.

Just one of these latest offers is the three-year 0% APR Selections PCP finance package available on New Clio, Captur, Kadjar and All-New Mégane, All-New Mégane Sport Tourer, All-New Scénic and All-New Grand Scénic.

For example, the stylish New Clio with a refreshed exterior and enhanced interior and equipment can be driven away from only £129 per month on the three-year 0% APR PCP Selections package.

The offer on the Play 1.2 16V 75 version also includes a manufacturer deposit contribution of £1,500.

In addition to this, Renault is offering insurance from just £99 for customers purchasing a New Clio or Captur using Renault finance before June 30 this year**.

Cash buyers also benefit from the limited time offers. Notably, there are sizeable savings across the innovative, rear-engined, rear-wheel drive Renault Twingo range with prices starting from £8,325 for the Expression SCE 70 – representing a saving of £1,550 on the normal list price up to savings of £2,420 on the Dynamique S TCE 90 Auto, which is now available from £11,695.

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On top of a free*** 7kW Wall-Box home charger, WhatCar?'s Electric Vehicle of 2017 – the ZOE Dynamique R90 Z.E 40 – is available with a three-year

3.9% APR representative Selections PCP package. The ZOE – now with a 250-mile (NEDC) range – can be purchased with a deposit of £2,299 and monthly payments of £249 (including battery hire).

The complimentary Renault service plan provides customers with the reassurance that their future routine servicing costs are taken care of and that their new car will only be worked on by Renault-trained technicians using genuine parts and lubricants.

Customers will also benefit from the Renault 4+ warranty and Renault assistance vehicle scheme, which comes as standard with every Renault and provides the ultimate peace of mind for four years or 100,000 miles.

For further details on the offers, including full terms and conditions, and Renault's extensive model range, please visit www.renault.co.uk/offers.

Helensburgh Motor Sales is an independent, privately-owned company having traded for 40 years.



It has represented the Toyota brand since inception and is consistently recognised for excellent customer care in Scotland and the UK. In July 2015 it was honoured to represent the Subaru marque. From its two sites in Helensburgh, it covers the Argyll and Bute and Dunbartonshire areas with a one-stop shop for new and used car sales, service, parts and Kitemark approved accident repair centre.

SO WHAT DO OUR CUSTOMERS SAY?

******* 5 out of 5 stars. • 4 months ago**
I use Helensburgh Motors without hesitation. After 15 years of great positive experiences in both repairs and sales, I have found the team friendly, honest, customer focused and precise to the max. Always a pleasure, no dramas, no surprises, just outstanding.

******* 5 out of 5 stars. 20 days ago**
Excellent service, helpful, friendly advice. Now bought five cars from Helensburgh Motors.

******* 5 out of 5 stars. • 4 months ago**
This is the third Toyota that I have purchased from

Helensburgh Motors. I travel some 40 miles to use this dealership. The reason? The friendly efficient staff – great team from sales, servicing and parts. An ongoing pleasure to deal with.

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helensburgh-subaru.co.uk

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SUBARU SUV RANGE Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.2-41.5 (11.2-6.8); Extra Urban 40.4-61.4 (7.0-4.6); Combined 33.2-52.3 (8.5-5.4). CO₂ Emissions 197-141g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.
*1 years interest free finance offer is available until 30.06.17. Terms of offer: 50% deposit followed by one final payment of 50% balance 1 year after deposit paid. This credit offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. This credit offer is only available through Subaru Finance. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Subaru Finance. We can introduce you to Subaru Finance and a limited number of other lenders to provide funding. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Finance is available to UK residents aged 18 years and over, subject to status. Available at participating dealers only. For further details please contact your nearest Subaru dealership. Subaru Finance is a trading style of International Motors Finance Limited, registered office at Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester, Cheshire, CH68 3AN. Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year/60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. Vehicles shown are the Subaru XV 2.0i SE, OTR price of £22,495, the Subaru Forester 2.0D XC, OTR price of £28,495 and the Subaru Outback 2.0D SE Premium, OTR price of £32,995 plus special paint finishes all at £550. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. #Award judges gave the Outback Lineartronic models a Highly commended accolade in the 'best safety innovation'

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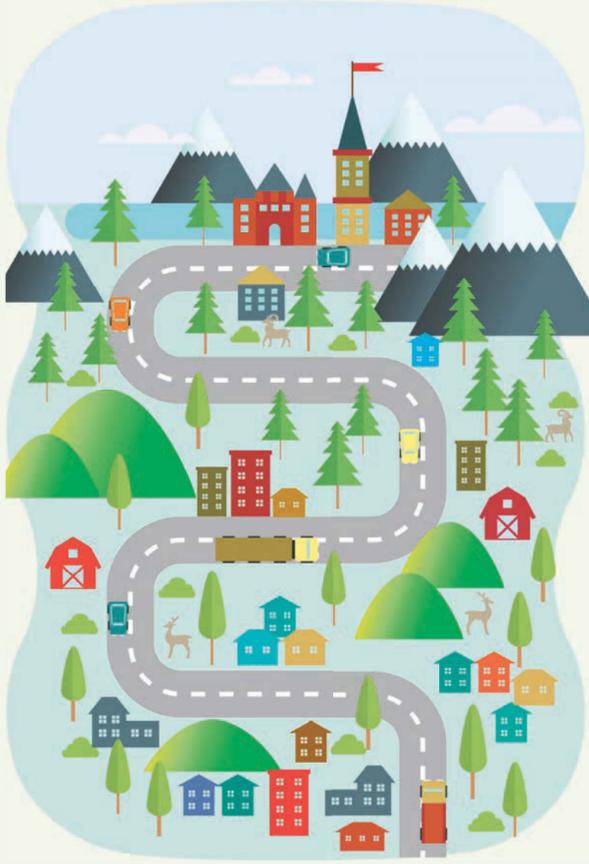
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SUBARU FORESTER Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.2-39.8 (11.2-7.1); Extra Urban 40.4-57.6 (7.0-4.9); Combined 33.2-49.6 (8.5-5.7). CO₂ Emissions 197-148g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. SUBARU WRX STI 2.5i Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 20.2 (14.0); Extra Urban 33.6 (8.4); Combined 27.2 (10.4). CO₂ Emissions 242 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

THE LIFETIME OF HOME BUYING IN SCOTLAND REVEALED



The average homeowner in Scotland bought their first home aged 27, will live in eight different properties and will spend £25,213 on redecorating during their lifetime, according to new research.

Scots will typically move out of their parental home at 21 years old and reside in two rental properties before getting on the property ladder for the first time. A typical Scottish homeowner will end up living approximately 60 miles away from their childhood home, and will live in only two cities their entire life. The average mortgage will take 20 years and 10 months to pay off – one month above the UK average. This will cost a total of £113,207, which is £21,658 lower than the typical national spend. While a total of £14,183 will be spent on hiring removal vans, paying the legal fees and paying the stamp duty. This is only £45 above the UK average.

The research of 2,000 UK homeowners was commissioned by Origin, manufacturer of bespoke aluminium bi-folding doors, residential doors, windows and blinds. It looked at the different stages of property buying for the average British homeowner and how property aspirations change over time. Ben Brocklesby, director at Origin, said: 'With the cost of moving so high, we have seen that families now choose to improve their current homes, rather than move.

'Many years ago, a home would be for life, but that changed and people started moving as their needs changed – whether it be as a result of new job or starting a family.

'However, today we are seeing a resurgence of people choosing to renovate and improve their current property so it fits with their needs without incurring moving costs.'

Typically, it takes four months and three weeks to get settled into a new home – while over half of adults described moving home as the most stressful thing they've ever done. On average, respondents will contribute towards two separate mortgages over their lifetime, and will typically look to downsize age 56. The average UK property is estimated to be worth £249,127 on average among those polled – while the typical mortgage is £542.41 per month. Of those who have ever had a mortgage, 39 per cent have paid it off, with the largest proportion of them – 27 per cent – aged 55 and over. Of those surveyed, more people – 29 per cent – live in properties built before the 1950s than from any other period.

The average UK home has three bedrooms, while eight in 10 adults own a home with off-road parking and over half own a house with a garage.

The most popular style of interior is 'modern' followed by 'English country' and 'minimalist'. Seven in 10 homeowners jointly own their property with their partner and a fifth received money from their parents to help them get on the property ladder. A third of home owning Brits currently live in a semi-detached property, over a quarter live in a detached house and 15 per cent live in a terraced home. The research also explored what UK homeowners of different demographic groups consider to be most important about their homes.

TEN FACTS ABOUT THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNING BRIT:

- Bought first home aged 26
- Will live in seven different properties throughout their life
- Spends four months and three weeks settling into a property
- Will spend £26,295 redecorating
- Will take 20 years and nine months to pay off their mortgage
- Moves out of their parental home aged 21
- Will have two mortgages
- Downsizes at 56 years old
- Will live in two different cities
- Will spend £134,864.82 paying off their mortgage

FOUR STAGES OF BEING A HOMEOWNER:

Ben Brocklesby said: 'By speaking to homeowners of all ages through the research, we have identified five distinct homeowner stages that we most commonly go through. Each shapes the composition of the home that we live in now, and our home aspirations for the future. "The homeowner profiles: the Penthouse Pretenders, Multi-Space Renovators, Dynasty Dwellers, Zoneowners and Full Spec Finders, each have different priorities for the layout, style and function of their homes.'

PENTHOUSE PRETENDERS

For young couples with no children, also known as 'Penthouse Pretenders', a private garden, big bathroom and lots of natural light were among the most important things about where they live currently.

Homeowners in this stage want a nicely decorated home with big windows, period details and great views.

DYNASTY DWELLERS

'Dynasty Dwellers', families with multiple generations living under one roof, said that having a separate living area for children and having a granny annex are key aspects of what they like about their home.

ZONEOWNERS

For 'Zoneowners', families with teenage children, separate work space was a must, while having more than one bathroom was also considered important.

FULL SPEC FINDERS

And having a separate dining room, double glazing and a downstairs loo are among the important things to 'Full Spec Finders', retired couples whose children have flown the nest. This homeowner group know what they want from their homes, with experience of home buying on their side having lived in at least eight properties. To find out more, visit www.origin-global.com/buyers-timeline.

FOR SALE



£450,000

BURNSALL, NORTH CONNEL

- Spacious Detached House with Annex
- Private Garden
- 5 Bedroom / 5 Bathroom
- Highly sought after location
- Stunning views of Loch Etive
- EPC - E52
- Driveway parking for multiple vehicles



FOR SALE



OIEO £480,000

MOORCROFT NORTH CONNEL

- Exceptional detached 5 bedroom home
- Gardens & paddock - 2.5 acres
- 1 Bedroom letting annex
- Superb lifestyle opportunity
- Includes building plot with planning permission
- EPC Rating - F(34)



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TIPS ON SAVING FOR YOUR FIRST PROPERTY DEPOSIT



work can add up to big savings that can go into your deposit fund.

3. Have a goal. Set aside a percentage of your paycheque each month and commit to it. Set up standing order at your bank so that the money goes into a separate savings account before you see it and have a chance to spend it.

4. Save smart. Where you keep your deposit money is very important if you plan to save for a few years. Talk to your bank about what type of savings account is best for your goals, such as a current account or Help-to-Buy ISA.

5. Make a contingency plan. If you are putting money aside each month for your home, it may be difficult to set even more aside for other emergencies. That way, if something comes up, you won't have to raid your house fund.

The number of first time home buyers is rising, and while purchasing your first house is one of the most exciting times of your life, it can also be stressful. Saving enough money for a deposit is one of the major hurdles potential property owners face, but with a bit of patience and resolve, you can grow your nest egg and get your foot on the property ladder. Here are some tips to get started.

1. Start now. The sooner you begin to put money aside, the sooner you will achieve your goal. Plus, a bigger deposit means a better choice of mortgage options, so don't wait.

For more tips on saving for your first home, or for help in finding a dream home that is within your budget, give us a call.

info@west-property.co.uk

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

SCALLSTLE, CRAIGNURE

- 3 Exceptional serviced plots
- Close to Craignure
- Stunning panoramic views
- Ranging from 0.5 to 1.1 acres
- Services on site
- Access road completed

OIEO £90,000

3 Exceptional plots offering an excellent opportunity to purchase a sizable plot with beautiful panoramic views across countryside to the nearby hills and north towards the Sound of Mull. PLOT 1: SOLD. PLOT 2: 0.5 Acres - OIRO A£90,000, PLOT 3: 1.1 Acres - OIEO A£90,000, PLOT 4: 1 Acre - OIEO A£100,000

CNOC-A-CHALLTUINN, OBAN

- End Terraced house
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/1 WC
- Island location close to Oban
- Manageable garden
- Well maintained
- EPC Rating F36

OIRO £160,000

5 Cnoc-A-challtuinn is in the desirable location of Clachan on the Isle of Seil. The property comprises a generous sunroom to the front which enjoys views across the Sound of Seil. A perfect spot for reading in the afternoon or entertaining guests. Through the hall is a cosy lounge/diner with windows front and back allowing plentiful natural light. The kitchen has modern fitted units and worktop with integral electric oven and hob. A back door allows access to the rear garden.

DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN

- Delightful detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Convenient location
- Garden to front and rear
- Excellent Family Home
- EPC Rating D61

OIRO £195,000

Griaran - A unique opportunity to purchase a sizable family home within in easy walking distance of Oban's local amenities. The property comprises a cosy lounge with wood burning stove and patio doors out onto a large covered to the front of the house, ideal for sitting and enjoying the view or even drying washing on those showery days! Adjacent to the lounge is a bright and generous dining room, perfect for family meals and entertaining guests. Book your viewing today!

CRAIGNURE BAY HOUSE, ISLE OF MULL

- Large Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms/3 Bathrooms
- Spacious Contemporary Layout
- Successful Holiday Let
- Stunning Sea Views
- EPC Rating: C72

OIEO £295,000

Featuring MODERN and SPACIOUS architect designed house presents a rare opportunity to purchase a contemporary island getaway, conveniently located in Craignure within walking distance of the island's main ferry terminal. Craignure Bay House is a successful and well-established holiday achieving 50% return custom year on year. The accommodation is arranged over two floors. The kitchen is fitted with modern units in a practical layout. Stunning sea views through large windows.

CRAIGARD ROAD, OBAN

- One bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Town centre location

£460 PCM

Cosy one bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property comes unfurnished with white goods and a large standing double wardrobe in the bedroom. It is freshly painted and has carpets throughout. The property is within walking distance to the leisure centre and local shops. Electric Heating throughout. Deposit and references required. EPC - E(49). Council Tax Band B. Landlord Registration: 440359/130/08551. AVAILABLE END APRIL.

GLENCRUITTEN DRIVE, ARGYLL

- Two Bedroom
- Fully furnished
- Side and front garden

£575 PCM

Modern 2 Bedroom first floor flat on Glencruitten Drive. Plentiful storage, and there are carpets, fresh paint and homely decor throughout. Modern electric gel heating system fitted throughout. On street parking. This property is located in a popular area including access to Glencruitten Woods. Rent excludes Utilities (Electric) and Council Tax (Band B). Deposit (1m Rent) and References Required 439759/130/01451. (EPC D55). AVAILABLE SOON!

LORNE TERRACE, OBAN

- One Bedroom studio
- Semi-furnished
- Shared parking area

£430 PCM

One bedroom studio flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom. The property comes semi-furnished with fridge and cooker. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band A) and utilities. Deposit and references required. Landlord Registration: 221337/130/15001 AVAILABLE MID APRIL

ALBANY STREET

- One bedroom flat
- Town centre location
- Part furnished
- On street permit parking is available

£450 PCM

Homely 1 Bedroom Flat in Oban Town Centre. This property is freshly renovated and newly painted. There is a spacious double bedroom with basic storage, shower and WC room and cosy lounge. The kitchen has all white goods available and a basic inventory. On street permit parking available. Rent excludes utilities (electric heating) and council tax (band B). EPC E48. Double glazing throughout. Landlord registration: 79400/130/07590. AVAILABLE NOW!

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New Terminal Building, Fishnish

On the instruction of CMAL



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:

Contact: Andrew Brass
Tel: 07803 896 939
E-mail: Andrew.Brass@g-s.co.uk
Contact: Omar Khan
Tel: 0141 567 5399
E-mail: Omar.Khan@g-s.co.uk



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11C MILLER ROAD, OBAN
GUIDE PRICE £90,000

EPC D66

The property comprises a neutrally decorated and well-proportioned two bedroom first floor flat in a purpose built block close to the town centre. The accommodation comprises a well-proportioned living room, modern kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, and a shower room. The property is equally well suited to full time occupation or to buy-to-let. Having been let out in recent years, the property meets current regulatory requirements and has been well maintained.

- Well presented 2 bedroom flat
- Neutral decor
- Close to town centre



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01631 566122
oban@bellingram.co.uk



20 LONGSDALE TERRACE, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000

EPC E44

Although in need of a little modernisation the well laid out accommodation comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom. Situated within easy reach of local facilities, the property is ideally located and would make a lovely permanent family home or buy to let opportunity.

- Excellent location
- Practical layout and accommodation
- Viewing highly recommended

PUBLIC NOTICES



NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:

Type of Property: Land
Name: Achaglachgach
Area: 9.45 ha.
Grid ref.: NR 800 629
Location: Achaglachgach, by Torinturk, Argyll

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website for more information on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr & Mrs Smith are applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Lochdonhead to Mr John Goodfellow of 11 Barrmor View, Kilmartin. If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of the 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

James Caldwell and Jacqueline Caldwell have registered their croft 78, 79, & 82, Portuairk, Ardnamurchan and Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by September 29, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3488.



First Registration of a Croft

Dr Moira Rosalind Milne has registered their croft 1/43 and part 45 Banavie, Kilmallie 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 27th December 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3468.

First Registration of a Croft

Donald MacIsaac and Karen MacIsaac have registered their crofts Smirisary, 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. The crofts registration numbers are C3888, C3890, C3891

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Susan Mary MacKenzie MacDonald has registered their croft 9 Dalnabreck, Dalnabreck, Arisaig and Moidart, C3825 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. The croft registration number is 71075

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

W Lawson Annie's Croft, Colonsay 0.092 ha – Site for a dwelling house 77816
Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 11th May 2017 – Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

S Reid 1 Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail 76333 0.102 ha
Reason – Site for a dwelling house
Condition – With fencing conditions
G MacCormick Sithean, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon 77189 0.14 ha
Reason – Site for a dwelling house
Condition – With fencing conditions
A Fletcher & C Fletcher 15 & 16 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman 77803 0.1529 ha – Existing croft house site and garden ground
Condition – With fencing conditions
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011 AMENDMENT ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Highland Council propose to make an Order entitled as above in terms of Sections 32(1) and 45(2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

When the Order comes into effect the Order will create parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles only on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 1 hereto and delete parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 2 hereto

Copies of the proposed Order, as drafted, together with a copy of the relevant plans, a copy of the Authority's Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order and a copy of the Orders to be amended, can be inspected at the Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street Fort William on weekdays during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders should write to the undersigned specifying the Order to which objection is being made, and the grounds of the objection. All letters of objection must be received by the undersigned within 21 days from 13 April 2017

13 April 2017 Mrs Lesley Howie, Legal Manager, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness

SCHEDULE 1 PROVISION OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES

Town	Street	Area of road designated as a disabled persons' parking place	No. of places	Manner of standing in Parking Place
Spean Bridge	Altour Road	On the south side of the street, outside No. 15 For a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Lochyside Fort William	Castle Drive	On the north side of the road, opposite No. 5 Castle Drive 2.5 metres or thereby	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Lochyside Fort William	Castle Drive	On the south side of the road outside No.1 Castle Drive, extending in a easterly direction of a distance of 6 metres or thereby,	1	Parallel to kerb line
Caol Fort William	Camaghael Road	On the west side of the street, outside No.13. For a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Plantation Fort William	Douglas Place	On the north side of the street, commencing at the west boundary wall of 22 Douglas Place for a distance of 6 metres or thereby	1	Parallel to kerb line

SCHEDULE 2 REVOKE/REMOVAL OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES

Town	Street	Area of road designated as a disabled persons' parking place	No. of places	Manner of standing in Parking Place
Banavie Fort William	Crown Cottages	On the north side of the road, opposite number 8, for a distance of 2.4 metres or thereby	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Claggan Fort William	Carn Dearg	On the west of the road, opposite number 43 for a distance of 6.6 metres or thereby	1	Parallel to kerb line
Fort William	Alma Road	On the north-west side of the road, opposite No.27 for a distance of 6.6 metres or thereby	1	Parallel to the kerb line

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/01036/FUL	Allanbreck, Lettermore, Ballachulish	Erection of house, amendment to 09/00283/FULLO
17/01549/FUL	Glenmorven, Union Road Fort William	Change of use from house to guest house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

69%

of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



Regional Press closer to home

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 Lochgilhead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/00751/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land Adjacent To Ben Hiant View Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
17/00714/PP	Formation of 40 pitch campsite including hub buildings and associated access and drainage works	Land South Of Pier Cottage Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JB	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
17/00820/PP	Sub-division of existing dwellinghouse to form dwellinghouse and holiday letting unit	Bragleenbeg Kilniver Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UU	Oban Area Office
17/00781/PP	Partial change of use from croft to caravan park including erection of office/reception, toilet/shower facilities and 10 ecopods (including 4 retrospective ecopods). Installation of sewage treatment plant and infiltration area to replace existing septic tank	Highfield 3 Kiel Crofts Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1QS	Sub Post Office Connel
17/00856/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Ardochavaig Cottage Usken Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnasan Isle of Mull
17/00812/PP	Erection of craft distillery/retail building, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Tigh Nan Uruisg Upper Kilchattan Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YR	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
17/00640/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Ballinaby Farm Grunart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bridgend
17/00822/PP	Renovation of store/outbuilding to form 2 self catering holiday units and erection of shed/ancillary store (retrospective)	The Big Nest And The Wee Nest Back Road Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 2DR	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
17/00787/PP	Change of use of workshop to form holiday letting unit	Caol Ila Cottage Caol Ila Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RJ	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
17/00852/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land West Of Bonded Stores Stanalane (Phase 3) Moss Road Bommore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Bommore Area Office Isle of Islay
17/00680/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Bunn-Na-Scaribh Bunnahabhain Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RW	Sub Post Office Bridgend

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Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Barcaldine Forest Land Management Plan Consultation Tuesday 25th April 2017, Benderloch Victory Hall, 2-7pm

West Argyll Forest District is currently reviewing the Land Management Plan for Barcaldine Forest. A drop-in public consultation is taking place and we would welcome your input on the draft plans for the forest.

Documents relating to the draft plans are available online at http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/plans-and-strategies/land-management-plans/consultations/1613-barcaldine



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BIRTHS



BLUE

Robert and Roisin are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Donal Robert on March 28, 2017, at Royal Jubilee Hospital, Belfast. A wee brother for Cormac and Orla, third grandchild for Bobby and Joan and sixth for Laurence and Marie.

ENGAGEMENTS

OGILVY-WEDDERBURN - CADZOW - Mr P.R.A. Ogilvy-Wedderburn and Miss K.E. Cadzow. The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn, Alyth, Perthshire and Gillian, Lady Ogilvy-Wedderburn of Edinburgh and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Shane Cadzow of the Isle of Luing, Argyll.

RUBY WEDDING

MACCOLL - At Achnaba Church on April 15, 1977 by the late Rev. Norman MacDonald, Ronnie to Mary (née MacGillivray). Present address: Stalker Cottage, Appin.

DEATHS

GILLIES - Surrounded by love and kindness Catherine (Kay), née MacPhail, formerly of Appin View, Barcaldine and Scotstoun, Glasgow, peacefully passed away on April 8, 2017. She leaves a deep hole in the hearts of her whole family. Funeral service shall take place on Wednesday 19, April, Co-op Funeral Parlour, Riverside, Stirling for 12.45p.m., to which all friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Dementia Scotland.

KELLY - Suddenly and peacefully on Friday April 7, 2017, aged 86 years, Pauline Fabian Kelly (née Campbell), beloved wife of the late James Kelly, much loved mum to Evelyn, James, Joyce and the late Kenneth, a treasured granny, mother-in-law, sister and auntie. Sorely missed, our hearts are broken.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on April 6, 2017, aged 73 years, Mary Craigie Addison MacDonald (née MacLaren). Treasured mother to Sharon and her

partner Kenny, loving granny to Josh and Zak and dear sister to Alison, aunt to Sandy and Janice, great aunt to Scott and Craig, and a good neighbour and friend to many. Will be sorely missed.

MORANS - On April 4, 2017, peacefully, at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Edward (Eddie) Morans, in his 89th year, beloved son of the late Edward and Margaret Morans, much loved brother of Katie, Rose and the late Margaret, John and Archibald, and a much loved uncle and grand uncle. Funeral service was held at Tarbert Free Church, on Wednesday, April 12, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery.

PENMAN - Catherine (née Douglas). Peacefully at home, on Sunday April 9, 2017.

Cathie, dearly loved wife of James, devoted loving mother of Andrew, William, Elaine and Teresa. A loving mother-in-law, adored nannie and gran-gran, and a much loved sister and auntie. Funeral mass will be held at the Sacred Heart Church, Penicuik on Wednesday April 19 at 11.00 a.m., thereafter at Seafeld Crematorium at 1.00 p.m. Family flowers only please, a collection for Marie Curie will be offered. Cathie will be received into church on Tuesday April, 18 at 5 p.m. RIP.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Margaret Ann and Colin wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for many kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to them following the sad loss of Duncan. To the staff of Ward 1, Belford Hospital and Moss Park Nursing Home for their care and attention. Grateful thanks to Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear for his visits and comforting service. Special thanks to Scott Greenlees at J McLellan & Co for his professionalism and caring manner. Many thanks to all who attended the funeral service and paid their last respects at the graveside. The retirement collection for Dementia Scotland and Moss Park Nursing Home raised £670.20.

MACFADYEN - The family of the late Mary MacFadyen would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy. Sincere thanks to doctors and nursing staff, ambulance and air ambulance crew at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Special thanks to Catriona and Hamish Hoey and Sons Ltd for funeral arrangements, to Martin and John who conducted the service and to Elizabeth

for her kind words. Thanks also to Oban Bay Hotel for catering arrangements and a big thank you to all who attended the graveside service at Pennyfuir.

MACLEAN - Ann, Morven, Kathleen and all the family of the late John Allan MacLean would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness and expressions of sympathy shown to them after their recent sad loss. Hamish Hoey and Son for their assistance and professionalism with the funeral arrangements, all who attended the service and the Rev Dr Ken Ross for his comforting words. Many thanks to Winnie Robb for her choice of music and playing so beautifully at the church. Thanks also to Moreen at the Flower Basket for the beautiful flower arrangement. A special thank you to the staff of Eadar Glinn for their loving care to John. The total raised for the Eadar Glinn Care Home Residents Comfort Fund was £430.00. Thank you to all for their kind donations.

NEWTON - Sincere thanks to Amy's friends, neighbours and extended family for calls, cards and flowers received on Amy's passing. Thanks to those who attended the evening Church Service in Oban - the sum of £157.30 was raised for the staff of Ward I and sincere thanks go to all of the staff for the tender care given to Amy during her time with them. Many thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service and also to Colin Felgate and staff of The Olive Garden for excellent catering and finally immense thanks to Ian and staff at D & A Munn, for guidance throughout and very efficient, compassionate professional services, both here in Oban and at Thornhill. Thanks to everyone once again - Ann.

MEMORIALS

ALLAN - In loving memory of my dad Jimmy, who passed away April 12, 1967, aged 45. Fond memories. - John.

BINNIE - The Binnie family are remembering Lance Corporal Donald C Binnie and his friend Harry Stott, both of Durham Light Infantry, who were killed in action in The Battle of Arras, April 13, 1917.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear wife and mum, Linda, who died April 14, 2007. Loved and remembered every day. - William and William xx

MACEWAN - Remembering today and every day my beloved husband, father and grandfather Callum, who

died suddenly April 7, 2007. Our thoughts are always with you
Your place no one can fill
In life we loved you dearly
In death we love you still.
- Joan and family.

MACINTYRE - In memory of our dear parents Betsy, who passed away on April 16, 1988 and Duncan, on December 19, 1981.

Deep in our hearts lies a picture
More precious than silver or gold
It's a picture of our parents dear
Whose memory will never grow old

- Inserted by the family,
late of Kilvaree Farm, Connel, latterly of Cruachan, Strathyre, Perthshire.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Archie, died April 11, 1998. Always remembered.
- Family in Inveraray and Canada.

MONTGOMERY - In loving memory of Neil (Monty), devoted husband and dad who passed away April 10, 2016. Loved and remembered every day.
- Pauline and girls.

SCOBIE - Roy, passed away 20 years ago on April 16. Fondly remembered.
- By Ailsa, Roy and Rona.

WILLIAMSON - James Stewart (Jimmy, Scrap Metal Merchant, Fort William), died April 12, 1997. It's twenty years since you've been gone
But precious memories linger on.
- Linda, Richard and family.

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'Spectacular' send-off for Fort woman in horse-drawn hearse

THE first of its kind in more than 60 years, a horse-drawn hearse made its way through Fort William last Friday in what was described as a 'spectacular send-off' for a Lochaber lady.

Mother-of-three Sandra Gemmill was just 36 when she died at the end of last month and on Friday April 7 a private service was held in St Mary's Church, Fort William, before she was laid to rest at Glen Nevis cemetery.

It was at the request of Sandra's family to have the horse-drawn hearse as she was part of the travelling community.

The service was conducted by Fort William funeral directors John McLennan

& Co. Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, director Scott Greenless said: 'The service was the first of its kind in Lochaber for many years. The last one was probably between 60 and 80 years ago.'

'Of course, years ago they would have to use a horse and cart but it's been a long time since that has happened here.'

Scott said the horses, Spot and Toby, who belong to Biggar Shiels carriages, were well behaved on the two-mile journey through town. He added: 'They parked up at Glen Nevis cemetery and then the horses came through the town.'

And although the horses are used to busy roads and

lots of traffic, Scott said the animals 'managed very well', and that drivers in the town were very patient and respectful. 'We had a lovely trot through the town and up to Glen Nevis. The horses did well because it can be quite tight through the cemetery.'

'It was a lovely service and a nice send-off for Sandra.'

Scott said he thinks he might see more horse-drawn processions in Fort William now people have seen it can be done. 'People often think, "We are in Fort William - we can't have that", but if that's what people want or families wish for, then they can. I have no doubt we will have more because it really is beautiful.'



Members of Muckairn Parish Church Guild enjoy a themed musical quiz

IN Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt, on April 3, members of the guild enjoyed a musical quiz with the theme 'Go in Joy'. The AGM followed by

tea and chat, closed the session - one of a three year theme: 'Be Bold, Be Strong'.

The guild will hold a coffee morning on May 6

to raise money for the Haiti project.

All are welcome to the village hall for that and to the guild annual sale, which will be held on July 19.



Thought for the week

Lamentations 3:22-27 - 'It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.'

'THEY are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

'It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.'

V 22. No matter what our state is, what we are going through, we are not yet beyond the reach of hope. We should also note the boundless compassions never fail. Fear not because the Lord is with us in every step we take.

V 23. We had new mercies this morning, and we have had fresh

mercies this evening. God has not forgotten us. The very breath in our nostrils is a proof of his goodness to us; let us, therefore, still hope for yet further favours from him. We are so lucky up here in the Western Highlands we can drink in the beauty of God's creation all around us and marvel at His goodness to us.

V 24-25. The Lord is asking, 'Can you get a hold of this blessed truth, any of you troubled ones who are here? Broken-hearted sinner, can you get a grip of this comforting assurance? If so, there will soon be peace for you.' That peace that only He can supply that passeth all understanding, a deep peace that calms our soul.

V 26-27. For this yoke, though it

may seem to be very heavy for a time, when it has humbled us, and brought us to Christ, will bring us innumerable blessings. We look forward to God's great love for us at Easter when He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for you and me.

John 3: 16 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

This is the promise to you and me this Easter and every day until we come and follow him and get that great faith, hope, love and peace.

Bill Harvey, Argyll Convention.

Coll hoard

DEPOSITED in a watery place on the Isle of Coll 3,000 years ago and re-discovered in 2015, these precious objects include a spearhead and sword fragments, and the socket from a knife.

These artefacts are now in the care of Kilmartin Museum and need conservation work so these 13 Bronze Age pieces can be displayed.

To do this, Kilmartin has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise the money. There exclusive rewards for donations. To find out more, go to <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/coll-hoardconservation>



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Scottish Cup semi-final preparation does not go to plan for slack Saints

Oban Saints 2
Motherwell Thistle 3
SAFL Premier Division

LAST Saturday Saints warmed up for their impending Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final against Colville Park when they welcomed first-time visitors Motherwell Thistle to Glen-cruitten.

With rivals East Kilbride FC Amateurs and Goldenhill slipping up elsewhere, Saints had an ideal opportunity to make up ground in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division title race. However, Saints Scottish Amateur Cup form sadly deserted them and saw tamely surrendering the points to their visitors and giving them a massive boost in their battle to avoid relegation to Premier Division One.

Craig MacEwan and Willie Gemmell were unavailable, as was the injured Paul Kerr, so it was a welcome sight for manager Alex Craik when Matthew Kelly reported fit for duty after shaking off his recent ankle injury.

Elsewhere, the gaffer sprang a surprise by giving Scott Maitland an attacking role alongside Donald Campbell and Ross Maitland. Scott's usual left-back berth was filled by Jamie Graham, with David McArthur, skipper Marc Maccallum and Dene Cassells making up the rest of the back four in front of keeper Thomas McCulloch.

The three-man midfield of Brian Mackay, Myles McAuley and Paul Carmichael completed the starting line-up. The returning Kelly joined Martin Bonar, Kerr Newbigging and Dean Smith on the bench.

Saints started well and were rewarded for their early endeavours in the sixth minute. A deep David McArthur free-kick from the halfway line was headed out to the Saints left by Thistle skipper Stuart Hunter. Donald Campbell picked up

the loose ball and drove into the box chased by William McMaster. Donald's chipped left-foot cross from just short of the bye-line took a deflection off McMaster which sent it spinning away from Paul Aiton in the Thistle goal and into the net, giving Saints the lead.

Saints continued to move the ball around well and, after a brief stoppage for some treatment to the injured right ankle of Thistle full-back David Knight, forced two good openings in quick succession. Ross Maitland steered a right-foot effort from 18 yards towards the bottom corner but without the power necessary to seriously trouble Paul Aiton. Shortly afterwards, the keeper was beaten down to his left when Scott Maitland latched onto a Donald Campbell lay-off but, unfortunately, Scott's well-struck shot shaved the outside of the post.

Saints' good early work was undone in the 13th minute when, seemingly under no pressure, goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch misplaced a hurried pass from the edge of his box straight to the feet of Thistle striker Mark Begg, who gleefully curled the ball past Thomas and into the empty net.

Worryingly, the setback severely jolted Saints' confidence with passes no longer finding their men and Thistle's good pressing making life extremely difficult for Saints' midfield.

Despite this, Saints can count themselves extremely unfortunate to be denied a goalscoring opportunity by a bad offside decision from referee Mr Dickinson. Ross Maitland's 15th-minute ball over the top sent Donald Campbell spinning in behind the Thistle defence and through on goal. Donald's run appeared to be perfectly timed but Mr Dickinson, without the benefit of an assistant, blew for offside much to the frustration of the Saints' bench.



Donald Campbell goes close with a header during last Saturday's game against Motherwell Thistle. Photos and match report: Derek Black

Paul Carmichael's perseverance on the left won a 19th-minute corner which Ross Maitland whipped in right-footed looking for Donald Campbell on the six-yard line. Donald beat Christopher McEwan in the air and flicked on to Paul Carmichael who couldn't get the necessary purchase on his header and sent his effort from four yards wide of target.

Thomas McCulloch went some way towards redeeming his previous error when he produced a good save in the 21st minute to deny Thistle striker James Faughnan.

In an attempt to introduce some much-needed craft to the midfield, manager Alex Craik swapped Donald Campbell and Paul Carmichael. The change briefly gave Saints some fresh impetus with Paul Aiton producing a good save to his left to hold a Donald Campbell shot after an overlapping run and cross from Jamie Graham on the left.

A heavy challenge on Paul Carmichael by James Gibbons gave Saints a deadball opportunity 25 yards out and slightly left of centre. Ross Maitland rolled the ball short to Donald Campbell, who sent a good effort just wide of Paul Aiton's left-hand post.

The visitors capitalised on a bizarre free-kick award by referee Mr Dickinson on the right touchline midway inside the Saints half. The ball was stopped from going out for a throw-in by a spectator. Instead of a drop ball, Mr Dickinson awarded Motherwell a free kick. Still complaining about the decision, Saints missed several chances to clear with Colin Gillies eventually forcing his way into the box via a lucky break off Dene Cassells. With only the keeper to beat, Gillies curled a delightful left-foot finish past Thomas McCulloch's right post and into the net to give Thistle a 36th-minute lead.

Saints rallied briefly after this second cheaply conceded goal with Donald Campbell making a good run into the box to meet a deep Scott Maitland cross from the right on the penalty



Paul Carmichael, on ground far left, nets Saints' second goal.

spot. Donald climbed well to out-jump James Gibbons but sent his header inches wide of Paul Aiton's left post.

With five first-half minutes remaining, Paul Aiton produced the save of the match to deny Donald Campbell. Jamie Graham made a good run on the left and cut back to Donald, who controlled on his right foot and from 12 yards fired a left-foot shot towards the postage stamp corner which Aiton at full stretch finger tipped over his crossbar.

An error-strewn first half from Saints ended with another misplaced pass being collected by Colin Gillies, who cut in from the right and curled an effort from 25 yards over the crossbar.

Attacking the Mossfield end in the second half, Saints looked eager to put a poor first 45 behind them and started brightly. Paul Carmichael cut in from the left and curled a 47th-minute shot just over the junction of post and bar.

Saints came forward again on the right in the 51st minute, with Scott Maitland and David McArthur combining to win a throw-in. David took the throw and picked out Scott with his back to goal 16 yards out. Scott's overhead kick brought another fine save from Paul Aiton diving to his left to clutch Scott's spectacular effort.

Aiton quickly launched the ball upfield where Christopher McEwan beat David McArthur rather too easily on the corner of the Saints' 18-yard box. McEwan made for the bye-line

pursued by McArthur and cut back for the unmarked Mark Begg whose good left-foot finish made it 3-1 for the visitors.

Trying to find some inspiration for his shell-shocked troops, manager Craik turned to his bench, sending on Matthew Kelly and Dean Smith to replace Jamie Graham and Ross Maitland. While Saints were adjusting to the positional



Matthew Kelly.

changes Thistle sent another ball over the top where Marc Maccallum had to make a vital interception to deny second-half substitute Antony Mitchell.

On the hour mark, a driving run by Myles McAuley opened up a shooting opportunity for the Saints midfielder. Thistle captain Stuart Hunter blocked McAuley's shot with his chest and then brought down Myles

down on the edge of the D before he could get another shot away. Donald Campbell once again took responsibility for the deadball but couldn't find a way past the four-man Thistle wall.

Saints forced their way back into the match in the 65th minute when Matthew Kelly and Dean Smith linked up to create an opening for Paul Carmichael. Matthew closed down and dispossessed second-half substitute Daniel Young on the halfway line and raced forward on the right. Matthew picked out Dean Smith's run into the box but the retreating Thistle defence prevented Dean from getting a shot away. Instead, he found Paul Carmichael eight yards out who turned and lashed a right-foot shot into the postage stamp corner giving Paul Aiton in the Thistle goal no chance.

Manager Alex Craik made his final changes before the restart, replacing David McArthur and Myles McAuley with Martin Bonar and Kerr Newbigging. Matthew Kelly and Martin Bonar combined well on the right in the 69th minute but from the corner of the 18-yard line Martin took on a difficult shot which curled high over the crossbar when a cross to Paul Carmichael at the back post looked to be the better option.

Two corners in quick succession from the Saints' left were dropped into the six-yard box by Donald Campbell but keeper Paul Aiton showed excellent handling under pressure to take the heat off his defence.

Football

Saints had the ball in the net again in the 83rd minute when Paul Carmichael turned home a Dean Smith through ball but Mr Dickinson correctly ruled Paul to be in an offside position.

In the first of five added minutes, Colin Gillies cleared a Donald Campbell shot off his own goal-line after a Matthew Kelly corner from the Saints right.

This turned out to be Saints' last chance of a disappointing afternoon as Motherwell Thistle played out the final minutes in relative comfort to claim the points and doing their survival hopes no harm at all. Full credit to Thistle who worked hard all afternoon and took their chances well to run out deserved winners.

Saints must now lift themselves for their biggest match of the season this coming Saturday when they travel to New Douglas Park, Hamilton, to face the might of Colville Park in the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final.

Manager Alex Craik was not happy with this team's performance. He said: 'This was our worst performance for a long time.'

'There was a lack of energy about everything we did. Our passing and work rate were poor and the running of the ball was non-existent.'

'If we play like that against Colville Park on Saturday, we will be in for a very difficult 90 minutes.'



Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final COLVILLE PARK v OBAN SAINTS
New Douglas Park, Hamilton
Saturday April 15 - kick-off 2pm

Impressive away win for Lorne Ladies

Lismore Ladies 0
Oban Lorne Ladies 71
BT Women's National League 2

A SUNNY Sunday on April 9 saw 15 Oban players travel across to Edinburgh to take on Lismore Ladies in their penultimate league game of the season.

The ladies have typically struggled to muster a full squad for away games, so the match started off on a good foot, and with Lismore only turning out with 13 players this left Oban with some substitutes to utilise.

The opening try of the game came within roughly 60 seconds of Lismore's kick off, with stand-off Lucy Stewart initiating the points, converting her own try to open the scoring at 0-7.

The first half carried on in this thread, with five tries scored by the half-time whistle despite Lismore's best efforts to put pressure on the Oban attack.

Stewart scored once again, as

did front row Georgia Mitchell, with winger and recent addition, young Ellen Barlow, also scoring twice.

Throughout the game Oban were consistently playing well as a whole unit, supporting each other and successfully putting into practice what they have been working on in training recently.

As the second half unfolded, it was clear that Oban had the upper hand in the match. Lismore were struggling with injuries and as the game played out there was increasing stoppage time to allow their players to receive treatment.

The match was eventually down to the minimum of 10 players aside.

Since the scrums were uncontested for the duration of the game, this allowed the usual front row players to move out of position. Prop Mitchell found herself playing in the centre of the back line, where she took to it like a natural, scoring an impressive second try of the

game off an Oban scrum using a rehearsed set play.

Hooker Laura MacCormick moved to second row and managed an impressive run through three tackles up a large portion of the pitch before generously offloading to afford Barlow her hat-trick try.

Stewart scored another three tries in the second half, bringing her total to five for the match which, alongside eight successful conversions, meant she contributed a very impressive 41 of Oban's final 71 points.

The other try scored in the second half was achieved by woman of the match Selina Keppie, who reliably featured in breakdown after breakdown, performing a great supporting role throughout the game in both defence and attack.

A special mention goes to Karina Devlin, who had a sterling performance on the wing during her first rugby match. Each and every player contributed to an impressive

Rugby

whole team game, with every lady contributing to the overall Oban domination.

The ladies only have one game left of the 15s season, where they will travel to Annan for the last game in the league.

This is currently scheduled for May 7. The teams have met twice this season so far and, with one close win apiece, this final game is bound to be an exciting grudge match.

Supporters are very much welcome and encouraged to attend. Annan are yet to play current league leaders Howe of Fife next weekend, but it is likely this final match will also decide who finishes second in the league, putting even more pressure on the result.

The ladies train from 6pm-7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with beginners and experienced players welcome alike. Details can be found on the Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Club Facebook page.



Oban Bowling Club opened on Saturday April 8, with president Helen MacLean welcoming old and new members to the green. Her grandson, Connor MacLean, delivered the first jack of the season. Following this, 44 members played the annual President versus Vice-President's game with the President's team taking the honours this year.

MacTavish Cup final – match day sponsors

THE Camanachd Association is pleased to announce that Anderson Shaw & Gilbert, solicitors and estate agents in Inverness, will be the match

day sponsors for the MacTavish Cup final to be held at the Bught Park, Inverness, June 10. The second round ties in the MacTavish Cup will be played

Shinty

this Saturday April 15 leading to the semi-finals on Saturday May 13.

Disc golf classic on the Isle of Mull this weekend

THE Isle of Mull has had a full-time disc golf course at Fanmore since 1992. This year sees the 25th anniversary of the Isle of Mull Classic with players from nine countries competing on both the International Euro tour event and the National British Disc Golf Association event.

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf. Instead of a ball and clubs, however, players use a flying disc, or Frisbee®. The sport was formalised in the 1970s, and shares with 'ball golf' the object of completing each hole in the fewest strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws). A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target which is the 'hole'. The hole can be one of a number of disc golf targets – the most common is called a Pole Hole®, an elevated metal basket.

The Mull event is ripe with history – from its inception in 1981 through to the first event in 1992, moving from snow posts as targets to metal

Disc golf

baskets, surviving the foot-and-mouth year and where many overseas players as well as British and Euro tour players have graced the slopes of Gremlin's Croft to battle for the Mull Craich. This year, in honour of 25 years and as part of the Euro tour, the Isle of Mull Classic will see the full championship course in action and prize money offered for the first time.

The course at Fanmore is set over steep croft land, with outstandingly beautiful coastal and mountain views all around – and totally exposed to the weather.

There are few trees, but with the elevation changes and wind, the course provides a huge challenge to players, the likes of which you will not experience anywhere else on the British or Euro tour.

The event has attracted some of the best European players,



A competitor in action during a recent Isle of Mull Disc Golf Championship. Photos: Angus Bruce

including veterans from Holland and young players from Germany and Denmark. British national champion James Luton is favourite to retain his open Mull title from last year and grandmaster and multiple Mull winner Derek Robins makes a welcome return to the island. Scotland is well represented from both on and off the island.

Mull is established as an essential part of the BDGA tour and is delighted to be in-

cluded in this year's Euro tour. The opportunity to visit one of Scotland's most beautiful islands – to experience Mull time, the hospitality of locals, their food, drink and generosity – as well as play a few holes of golf should not be missed.

Spectators are more than welcome. The final rounds will take place at 1pm 4pm on Sunday April 16 with awards and a raffle for local community causes immediately after the end of play.



Determination written all over the face of this competitor as he aims for the basket.



Glencruitten

A THREE-MAN Stableford was played at Glencruitten on Saturday, the winners being Philip Murphy, James Muir and Steven Murphy with 107 points.

In second place were Alistair MacLean Jnr, Gavin Owens and Robert MacIntyre with 100 points.

In third place were Alan Jamieson, George MacKenzie and Steven McCuish with 93 points.

On Saturday the first round of the MacKay Cup takes place. The second round is on Sunday together with the Captain's Prize; and on Tuesday there will be the weekly Stableford.

Taynuilt

LADIES section results: Coronation Foursomes – 1 Jill Stewart and Sandra Elliot 24pts; 2 Mairead Sim and Moira MacVicar 23pts (bih); 3 Anne MacCalman and Alice MacCalman 23pts.

Gents: Captain's prize plus medal – 1 Mark Cringean 79 (20) 59; 2 Alan Wilson 73 (9) 64; 3 David Howie 68 (3) 65.



Haulage firm swaps HGVs for two wheels ahead of Etape Loch Ness cycling challenge

STAFF from Highland firm JBT are a driving force in haulage as they deliver goods across the country in their fleet of HGVs. But they are leaving behind the comforts of their cabs and switching to another mode of transport as they saddle up for the challenge of Etape Loch Ness.

A 12-strong team from JBT will take part in the epic 66-mile cycle around the iconic loch later this month, and will be one of the biggest contingents on the course. The com-

pany is a long-term partner of the popular sportive, and staff from the Inverness depot feel a real affinity for the event.

JBT provides logistics services to Etape Loch Ness – as well as its sister event, the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running – providing key logistical support in the build-up to and during the event.

JBT staff first caught the cycling bug in 2012 when Robert Gordon and fellow directors Michael Beveridge and Ian Wilson took part in a mammoth

cycle from Land's End to John o' Groats. Their enthusiasm for the sport has been infectious, with more and more staff getting on their bikes.

Team JBT will be led out on April 23 by Michael and Ian and many staff will be adding their support as spectators. They will be among thousands of cyclists taking part in Etape Loch Ness – many of whom will be raising money for good causes, including the event's charity partner, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Cycling

Riders in Etape Loch Ness will set out from the centre of Inverness at 6.15am on April 23, and onto the north side of the loch. They will pass through Fort Augustus onto the south side for the most challenging leg of the course – King of the Mountain – a 4.8-mile climb which rises to 380m in height.

The route then continues around the water's southern edge before returning to the event village at Eden Court.



Team JBT has been taking part in Etape Loch Ness for the past four years and will be one of the biggest contingents later this month.



Photographed Left to right – John's son, Graeme MacKechnie presenting the John MacKechnie Quiaich to winners June Sutherland (who founded the ladies section in 1995) and John McClelland (a new member, playing in his first match, and one to watch).

Dalmally Golf Club pays tribute to John MacKechnie

KIND temperatures, sunshine and good course conditions on Sunday April 2 welcomed 32 players to the first event of the Dalmally golf season.

With a mixed foursome Stableford format, the match was organised to commemorate former club treasurer John MacKechnie, who died suddenly in December 2016. The John MacKechnie Quiaich challenge will become the inaugural fixture in the calendar.

John, a founding member of the club, made an outstanding and unforgettable contribution over the past 30 years. He was a linchpin, not only in

Golf

his role as treasurer but also as greenkeeper. He will be very sadly missed, as testified in the warm tributes paid to him on behalf of all his friends and fellow members by past captain, Billy McKay, and ladies captain, Ann Colthart.

Result: 1 June Sutherland and John McClelland 34 pts; 2 Barbara Robertson and Andy McLean 33 pts; 3 Graeme MacKechnie and Alison Livingstone 31pts.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1400

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

W MacNeil, Oban

&

N Noddings, Rothessay

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Cammanachd Cup preliminary round

CABERFEIDH, Kilmory and Skye all made Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup progress, whilst Oban Camanachd moved in to second place behind league leaders Kingussie in the Marine Harvest Premiership following the shinty action on Saturday April 8.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - preliminary round

Beaulieu 2
Skye Camanachd 4
Skye Camanachd will play Aberdeen University at Balgownie in the first round of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup after they came from two goals down to beat Beaulieu 4-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Braeview Park.

Beaulieu had only played twice this season and they gave a starting position to Ross Forbes who had been on a scoring run with their second string.

Skye's Calum Gibb began a two-match suspension but keeper Iain MacLeod was back having recovered from a hand injury. Steven Morrison, Neil MacVicar and Ruairidh MacLeod remained sidelined through injury for the islanders but captain Kenny Campbell and Will Cowie returned.

The tie was played on a fiery pitch and Beaulieu could hardly have got off to a better start, taking the lead in the opening minute. A low shot from Robbie Brindle was saved by Iain MacLeod but Ross Forbes was quickly onto the rebound to guide the ball into the net.

It could have been even better for Beaulieu just moments later when Jack MacDonald set up Conor Ross but his effort hit the frame of the goal.

Beaulieu scored again on 28 minutes. Conor Ross sent the ball in from the left and Colin MacDonald picked up possession before running in to score.

Skye came more into the game late in the first half with Will Cowie shooting wide and Jordan Murchison seeing a shot saved by Beaulieu goalie Josh Grant but it was the home side who took a 2-0 lead into the break.

Beaulieu's Robbie Brindle shot wide shortly after the re-start and Ross Forbes tested Iain MacLeod but what could have been a crucial third goal eluded Beaulieu.

Skye were starting to control the midfield area, with wing centre Iain Nicolson in excellent form, and they pulled a goal back on 61 minutes. Beaulieu defender Ewen Campbell did well to clear a Jordan Murchison effort off the goal line but the home side couldn't fully clear the danger and Will Cowie drove the ball low and hard into the net on his back-hand from a tight angle.

Skye levelled on 67 minutes. There was a melee in the home goal and Danny Morrison did well to knock the ball over the line as he was falling to the ground, taking a knock in the process which eventually led to his substitution.

Will Cowie's switch to full forward was paying dividends for Skye and Cowie got his second on 70 minutes to put the islanders ahead for the first time in the tie. Cowie won possession from Ryan Tillman and beat Liam Girvan and Ewen Campbell as he cut in from the left before steering the ball past Josh Grant, just inside the keeper's post, to claim a superb individual goal.

Skye were rampant and their fourth goal in a devastating spell came on 72 minutes. Kenny Campbell was the provider as he ran at the home defence and when keeper Grant saved Campbell's shot, the rebound fell for Cowie who claimed his hat-trick to make it 4-2.

Skye saw out the remainder of the game to win a place in the first round of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup.

Inverness 2

Caberfeidh 7
Caberfeidh are also through to the next round, beating Inverness 7-2 in their 3pm throw-up at the Bught Park.

William MacKinnon was still sidelined for Inverness and with boss Drew McNeill attending the wedding of former Fort William and Scotland team mate Gary Innes, his assistant Callum McLeod looked after the side. The home side's resources were so stretched that Kenneth Loades, David Campbell and Matthew Ross, who all played for the Inverness seconds earlier in the day, occupied the first team's substitute bench, whilst Allan MacLeod kept goal for both games.

Caberfeidh's influential full centre Craig Morrison served the second game of a two-match suspension.

Inverness took the lead through James Cameron but Caberfeidh's forward play started to pose problems for the home defence and Cabers led 2-1 at the break through Kevin Bartlett and Martin MacDonald.

Caberfeidh turned the screw in the second half when they went on a scoring blitz, netting five times in 20 minutes. Kevin Bartlett and Martin MacDonald both scored again and Colin MacLennan was also on target. The other two goals went into the net off home players Allan MacLeod and Jason McLeod.

A second James Cameron goal made it 7-2, but it is Caberfeidh who now travel to Bute to play in the first round of the competition.

Kilmory 5

Glenorchy 1
Kilmory overcame Glenorchy 5-1 in their 2pm throw-up at MacRae Park.

Alistair MacArthur put Kilmory ahead on 11 minutes and Alex Cunningham made it 2-0 on 35 minutes.

When Hal Jones scored a vital third goal on the strike of half time, Kilmory had one foot in the next round.

Alistair MacArthur went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 60 and 75 minutes



Oban Camanachd and Glenurquhart players observe a minute's silence before their Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield in memory of former Camanachd captain 'Nonny' MacInnes. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

before Conor Sartain's counter for Glenorchy 10 minutes from time.

Kilmory now look forward to a home tie against Taynuilt.

Balliemore Cup - preliminary round

Col Glen 4
Aberdeen University 5
Aberdeen University's strong start to the season continued but they had to battle all the way to beat Col Glen 5-4 in their Balliemore Cup preliminary round tie at Otter Ferry.

Willie MacVicar, former Kinlochshiel player Aedan MacRae and two from Neilly MacNaughton all counted for the home side.

However a Jamie Beaton hat-trick and a Gregor Cushnie double means Scott Moffatt's Aberdeen University side will have home advantage against Caberfeidh in the Balliemore Cup first round on Saturday April 22.

Sutherland Cup - first round

Newtonmore 3
Kilmallie 0
Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup holders Newtonmore seconds are safely through to the second round after they beat the Kilmallie seconds 3-0 at the Eilan.

John MacKenzie gave 'More the lead in nine minutes with David Cheyne making it 2-0 on 20 minutes.

Orsten Gardner, now back in the Newtonmore ranks, rounded off the 3-0 win a minute before the break.

Kingussie 1

Skye Camanachd 0
2016 beaten finalists Kingussie colts are through to the next round courtesy of a 1-0 win over the Skye Camanachd colts in their 3pm throw-up at The Dell. Kingussie were without Ronald Ross and Kevin Thain, whilst Garry Munro started at full forward.

Callum Grant made his first appearance of the season for Kingussie, having rejoined the club from Tayforth, and he was deployed at full centre.

Skye had Ryan Morrison back in goal after a couple of games for the first team but their absentees included the injured Jamie Gillies as well as Stewart Grant, Ally 'Cleodli' MacLeod and Iain MacLellan who were all with the first team.

Liam Borthwick scored the goal that made the difference, with his effort coming on the half hour.

Skye had chances to take the tie into extra-time with Ross Gordon, who was probably the pick of the visiting players, twice going close but Kingussie held out for their second win over Skye this season.

Beaulieu 0

Lochside Rovers 2
Lochside Rovers defeated the

Beaulieu second team 2-0 in their noon throw-up at Braeview Park.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up to remember Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes as this was Lochside's first match since his passing.

This was only Lochside's third game of the season and, playing with the wind at their backs, they quickly clicked into gear, taking the lead after 20 minutes. Craig MacDougall took possession just outside the 'D' and his turn and shot had the visitors in front, with the ball crashing high into the net.

Some of Lochside's forward play was a joy to watch and, after a spate of corners, Lewis Buchanan added a second on 37 minutes. Craig MacDougall played in a corner and Buchanan took the ball down before slamming it home from the edge of the 'D'.

Beaulieu came more into the game after the break but Lochside ended the tie as deserved winners.

Lochaber 6

Inveraray 2
(after extra-time)
It took extra-time before the Lochaber seconds got past the Inveraray seconds, winning 6-2 at Spear Bridge.

Lochaber fielded a strong side with Brennan MacDonald at full back and Ben Delaney also involved.

Inveraray also bolstered their pack with Garry MacPherson playing his first game since last season's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final. Experienced defender Andrew McMurdo also played, as did veterans John Smylie and Douglas Watt.

Keith Neville and Douglas Watt exchanged goals to leave the sides level at 2-2 after only 16 minutes.

Neville got the opener in the first minute but Watt got Inveraray back on level terms on six minutes.

Neville again on 11 minutes and a second from Watt on 16 minutes made it all-square again.

That was the end of the scoring during the regulation 90 minutes although Inveraray's Campbell Watt saw a great shot well saved and referee John Wood took the tie into an extra 30 minutes.

The extra-time period was just a step too far for Inveraray and Lochaber went on to put the tie to bed.

Finlay MacDonald made it 3-2 with a screamer on 100 minutes with the ball cannoning off the back stanchion.

Ben Delaney extended Lochaber's advantage on 104 minutes.

Finlay MacDonald again a couple of minutes later and a second from Ben Delaney a couple of minutes from time rounded off the 6-2 win.

Lovat 1

Kyles Athletic 6
The Kyles Athletic reserves were too strong for the Lovat reserves, winning 6-1 at Balgate. Craig Martin gave the Tighna-

buaich men the lead on 27 minutes and they went on to rattle up a five-goal lead in a prolific 12-minute period.

Kyle Macmartin made it 2-0 on 30 minutes and George Thomson added a third a couple of minutes later.

Connor Giudici added two more goals on 36 and 39 minutes to make it 5-0 and end the tie as a contest.

Cameron MacMillan gave Lovat some consolation with a goal on 66 minutes but Craig Martin got his second four minutes later to make it 6-1.

Lovat's cause wasn't helped when Duncan Collings was red carded by referee John Matheson.

Inverness 3

Lewis Camanachd 2
(after extra-time)
A Stuart MacRae double helped the Inverness second team to a 3-2 extra-time win over Lewis Camanachd in their noon throw-up at Bught Park.

Kenny Murray and Will Church had shots well-saved by Inverness goalie Allan MacLeod before Kenneth Loades sent the ball low into the net on 41 minutes to give Inverness a 1-0 half time lead.

Another low strike, this time from Stuart MacRae, made it 2-0 on 57 minutes.

Will Church reduced the deficit on 63 minutes, with Scott MacLeod providing the assist.

Lewis drew level six minutes later through a powerful strike from distance from their captain Peter Gomez.

Despite Inverness hitting the woodwork, it remained 2-2 and referee Steven MacLachlan took the tie to extra-time.

The winning goal came on 98 minutes when Stuart MacRae got his second following a corner.

Strathglass 1

Caberfeidh 2
The Caberfeidh reserves did just enough to beat the Strathglass reserves 2-1 at a sunny Cannich.

Caberfeidh opened the scoring on 27 minutes when Stuart Krzyzanowski drove the ball home.

Stuart Harvey, back with Strathglass after a spell in Ireland, made it 1-1 with a smart finish on 67 minutes.

The Caberfeidh forward line was missing the influence of Jamie Matheson who was out with a hamstring problem, as they passed up chances to add to their tally.

Strathglass also had chances to win it, but Iain McCall in the 'Cabers' goal was equal to their threat.

Stuart Krzyzanowski saw a penalty brilliantly saved before the winning goal eventually came with Stuart Krzyzanowski scoring in the final minute to send 'Cabers' through for a home meeting with the Inverness reserves.

Lochcarron W/O v

Glasgow Mid Argyll
Lochcarron were given a walk over as Glasgow Mid Argyll's

second team were unable to raise a team for their tie at Battery Park. Lochcarron now travel to The Eilan to play the Newtonmore second team in the next round.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie 0

Lovat 0
League leaders Kingussie shared the points with Lovat after a scoreless draw in their 1pm throw-up at the Dell.

James Falconer, Savio Genini and captain Ryan Borthwick were all missing for Kingussie but Martin Dallas, who scored both Kingussie goals in their 2-0 win over Lochaber a week earlier, was, despite doubts, able to play. Chris Holleyson started at full forward with Alexander Michie at wing centre.

Mark Kelly was Lovat's only absentee as he awaits an operation on his wrist.

Both defences were on top form in this game with keepers Craig Dawson and Stuart MacDonald rarely tested.

James Hutchison marshalled a Kingussie defence which has been largely unchanged this season whilst young Danny Kelly caught the eye in the Lovat full back position.

Kingussie have only lost one goal in five league matches and are two points clear at the top of the table.

Oban Camanachd 5

Glenurquhart 0
Oban Camanachd go second in the league after they beat Glenurquhart 5-0 at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd had Gary McKerracher and Scott MacMillan back and both started in defence.

'Glen' stand-in goalie Garry MacKintosh, who has been

covering Stuart MacKintosh's injury absence, was unavailable so there was a call-up for reserve team goalie Cameron MacLennan. There were other 'Glen' absentees including Fraser Heath, John Barr and Andrew Corrigan.

The players wore black armbands and gathered around the centre circle ahead of throw-up as a mark of respect following the passing of Oban Camanachd great Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes.

The home side took the lead on 18 minutes. Daniel MacCuish sent a shy into the circle and Andrew MacCuish ran in and took a touch before despatching the ball low into the corner of the net.

Oban Camanachd had the chance to double their lead when referee Lachie Wood awarded them a penalty but Cameron MacLennan saved Matt Rippon's spot hit.

Malcolm Clark made it 2-0 on 27 minutes however. Aidan MacIntyre broke down the wing before sending a 30-yard shot goalwards. Keeper MacLennan saved his effort but Malcolm Clark was first to the rebound and he shyed the ball downwards into the net.

Daniel MacVicar added a third three minutes into the second half with the goal again coming from a re-bounce off the keeper.

Oban Camanachd were awarded a second penalty on 55 minutes when Daniel MacVicar was tripped inside the 'D'. This time Aidan MacIntyre stepped up and he struck the ball hard and low into the net to make it 4-0.

Andrew MacCuish rounded off the scoring on 82 minutes. MacCuish beat two players before putting the ball into the net but he had been tripped on his way to goal and referee Lachie Wood had already blown, pulling play back for a free-hit.



Law Jones of Strathglass gets his block in against Inveraray's Grant Griffin during last weekend's National Division match at the Winterton which the away side won 2-1. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



Kyles Athletic's Sandy MacKenzie tackles Kilmallie's Callum MacDougall during their Marine Harvest Premiership match which the Tighnabrauch side won by the odd goal in three. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



Oban Camanachd's Mattie Rippon takes a tumble in the 'D' in the game against Glenurquhart. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Aidan MacIntyre touched the free hit to Andrew MacCuish who tucked the ball home to eventually get his second goal and make it 5-0.

Cameron MacLennan made a number of good saves in the visiting goal and Oban Camanachd will be happy with the win which takes them to second place in the league.

One concern for Iain Hay's side is that Willie Neilson picked up an ankle knock which required a hospital visit. Oban defender Gary McKerracher and 'Glen' forward Callum Smith tussled for the ball and with Willie Neilson coming in to help, he was caught by Smith's swing and although he played on for five minutes he had to be replaced by Scott MacKillop.

Neilson is now off to Spain for a week's holiday and Oban Camanachd face an anxious wait to see if he will be fit enough for this Saturday's Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup tie against Marine Harvest South Division 1 league leaders Tayforth at Musselburgh.

Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay's attentions now turn to the Tayforth tie. 'Willie Neilson is an injury doubt for that game,' he said. 'Scott MacMillan is working but Scott MacKillop did well when he came on against Glenurquhart so we are covered there. Garry Lord is still two to three weeks away but he will train this week as he makes his way back to fitness.'

'This will be a tricky tie against Tayforth. They are going well in South 1 and it reminds me of last season when we played Col Glen away in a cup tie and had to work very hard for our goals. It will be the same situation again on Saturday.'

Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Newtonmore 1

Newtonmore got back on their winning ways in the league as they defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll 1-0 at Yoker.

GMA were without Craig Anderson and Stuart Reid whilst 'More travelled without Norman Campbell, Drew MacDonald and Andy MacKintosh who served the second game of a two-match suspension. Paul MacArthur was back after a groin injury.

The only goal of the game came after 21 minutes when Glen MacKintosh cut the ball back from the touchline to Fraser MacKintosh who was just outside the 'D' and MacKintosh fired a shot into the top right hand corner of the net.

The win lifts Newtonmore to fourth in the table.

Kilmallie 1 Kyles Athletic 2

Kyles Athletic made it three wins out of three when they beat Kilmallie 2-1 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Michael Rodger was free of his two-match ban but Craig MacIsaac served the second game of a three-match suspension and Jordan MacPhee and Innes Blackhall both served one-game bans for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. There were other Kilmallie absentees which prompted a break from

retirement by former Scotland forward John Stewart. Kyles, who went into the match with a 100 per cent record, travelled without defender Donald Irvine.

Gordon Whyte put Kyles ahead after 35 minutes. Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies saved a low Sandy MacKenzie shot and Whyte was in quickly to bundle the re-bound over the line.

Their lead only lasted five minutes though before Mark Graham made it 1-1.

A clever, scooped pass from John Stewart out-foxed the Kyles' defence and Graham nipped in ahead of keeper John Whyte to score.

The first half had been close but Roddy MacDonald scored what proved to be the winner



Beaulieu keeper Kyle MacDonald tries to block this effort from Lochside Rovers' Craig MacDougall during the Sutherland Cup tie which the Oban side won 2-0. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

with a smart, volleyed finish three minutes into the second half. Kyles could have added to their tally but for some great saves by Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies.

The pick of the stops saw Gillies dive to parry one effort before leaping to his feet to block the re-bound when it looked certain Grant Irvine would score.

Kilmallie showed they will cause problems for any visiting team. As well as keeper Gillies, Allan MacDonald played very well at full back.

Kyles, with Andy King excellent at the back, always carried a threat and the win lifts them to third place in shinty's top flight.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Inveraray 1
Strathglass 2**
Inveraray missed the chance to go top of the Marine Harvest National Division when they lost 2-1 to Strathglass in their 3pm throw-up at The Winterton.

Inveraray were without the instrumental Allan MacDonald and half back Ally Munro. Grant Griffin returned to the forward line after recovering from a rib injury and Ally MacDonald started after missing the previous weekend's draw with Inverness because of work commitments.

From the first whistle, Strathglass looked the hungrier side

and they were first to the majority of loose balls.

This seemed to unsettle Inveraray and the visitors took the lead after just five minutes when Archie Wotherspoon scored. Inveraray dominated forward play for spells in the first half but the Strathglass back line defended well and absorbed the pressure.

With co-managers Ruaridh Graham and John Montgomery lending their experience from the touchline, Inveraray's new generation lacked the necessary composure to get back on level terms and Strathglass took their 1-0 lead into the break.

Inveraray's Ally MacDonald suffered a head knock early in the first half and another home blow followed when a long ball from Ryan Balharry deceived Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan to make it 2-0.

The goal seemed to inspire Inveraray though and they dominated play for the final 30 minutes.

With all the pressure, something had to give and John Kennedy found the net with a tap-in from two yards out with only five minutes remaining.

With three minutes of injury time, an equalising Inveraray goal was on the cards but Strathglass held out to take the points. Strathglass, who host Skye in the Balliemore Cup this Saturday, now go fourth.

Their early season form justifies their decision to make the step up from Marine Harvest North Division 1 at the end of last season.

Despite the defeat, Inveraray will be delighted with the form of 18-year-old Robert Wood who came on as a substitute and had a great game in defence.

Finlay Stark drew Tayforth level on 18 minutes.

Hamish Anderson gave Tayforth a 2-1 lead with a shot from a tight angle on 33 minutes; with the home side claiming the ball had entered the goal through the side-netting. Aberdeen, who had the majority of the pressure in the second half, had a chance to level when referee Ross Brown awarded them a penalty after Alec Mitchell was impeded. Roddy MacColl was unable to convert from the spot though.

The win means Tayforth now leap-frog Aberdeen at the top of the table.

Ballachulish 1 Bute 3

Bute started the season on minus eight points following their late decision to drop down from the National to Marine Harvest South Division 1 but they got their league season off to a winning start, beating Ballachulish 3-1 at Jubilee Park.

All the goals came within the first half hour of the match.

Lorne Brown put Balla' ahead after six minutes but Craig MacKay levelled on 14 minutes.

Franco Devlin then scored twice on 24 and 28 minutes to give Bute a 3-1 win.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

There were no scheduled games in this division.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Bute 2
Oban Lorn 2**
Oban Lorn finally got their season under way with a 2-2 draw against the Bute second team at The Meadows.

Oban Lorn duo Calum McLean and Shaun MacIver served a suspension carried forward from the end of last season.

Chris McGowan and Andrew MacLachlan scored for Bute but a Ewan MacCorquodale double earned the Oban side a point.

WCA round-up

Top Women's Camanachd Association teams were back in action on Sunday April 8.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

**Aberdour 5
Fort William 1**

Aberdour recorded their first win of the season, beating Fort William 5-1 in their 2pm throw up at Silversands.

The Aberdour goals were scored by Dawn Ryan, 2, Mhairi Bryson, Katie Booth and Niamh Donnelly, whilst Fort William's counter was an own goal.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 5 Badenoch 4

Glasgow Mid Argyll won for the first time in the league this season, edging out Badenoch by the odd goal in nine in their 1pm throw up at Yoker.

Zoe Reid scored twice for Badenoch with Kirsty Deans and Eilidh Ross getting the others. However doubles from Lindsay Michie and Kirsty Gray and a Katie Drain goal gave GMA victory.

Skye Camanachd P Lovat P

The match between league leaders Skye Camanachd Ladies and Lovat Ladies at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday April 8 was postponed.

Both teams have agreed to reschedule the match for a later date.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Lochaber 5
Strathglass 0**

The Lochaber second team go second in Marine Harvest North Division 2 after they beat Strathglass 5-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Claire Delaney bagged a



Skye's Will Cowie completes his hat-trick in the game against Beaulieu in the preliminary round of the the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

double with Stephanie Walsh, Alison MacVicar and Sarah Davie also on target.

Youth shinty round-up

2017 Tulloch Cup - South

Seven primary school teams from across the south district took part in the first round of the Tulloch Cup - South at Mossfield on Thursday March 23.

Rockfield, Park, Taynuilt, Strachur/Tighnabruaich, Rothesay, Glasgow Gaels and Inveraray played in a round robin tournament over the course of the afternoon.

Taynuilt came out on top following a close set of fixtures.

There will be a second round of games at Strachur on Thursday May 11 as the teams compete to see who progresses to the Tulloch Cup national final.

After the Oban event, Camanachd Association Regional Development Officer - West Euan McMurdo said: 'I was delighted to see both an increase in the number of teams participating from last year's competition and the competitiveness of all the games.'

Shinty kit for Strachur primary school

Strachur primary and pre-schools received a batch of first shinty sticks and balls from Strachur and District Shinty Club as part of their recent good health week.

The young shinty players also had an enjoyable first shinty coaching session led by Ally Mirrlees and Gerry Gibson from Strachur Shinty Club.

Strachur and District Shinty Club, who made their return to

senior shinty this season after a 12-month absence, thanked the staff at Strachur school for their support and Camanachd Association Development Officer - West Euan McMurdo for his guidance.

Revised Camanachd Cup first round draw

The 2017 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round is now known following the preliminary round ties played on Saturday 8 April.

First Round
Saturday May 6
Fort William v Oban Celtic
Aberdeen Uni v Skye
Bute v Caberfeidh
Kilmory v Taynuilt
Inveraray v Tayforth
Strathglass v Ballachulish

The ten premierships clubs, including holders Newtonmore, enter the competition at the second round stage which is played on Saturday May 27. That draw will take place on Monday 8 May, following the first round ties.

The final takes place at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday September 30.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Draw Update

The Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup draw is clearer following the first round ties:

Second round
Saturday April 29
Fort William / Kinlochshiel v Oban Lorn
Caberfeidh v Inverness
SCOTS Camanachd / Bute v Caithness
Aberdour v Kingussie
Lochaber v Glengarry
Kyles Athletic v Lochside Rovers
Newtonmore v Lochcarron
Glenurquhart v Boleskine

The 2017 Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Final will take place on Saturday July 29 and the venue has yet to be confirmed.



Kyles Athletic's Cairn Limbert shields the ball from Lovat's Rory Campbell during last weekend's Sutherland Cup tie at Balgate. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Fixtures

Saturday 15 April MacTavish Cup 2nd Round

Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel
Archie Ritchie
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh
Neil Ferguson
Glenurquhart v Lovat
Graham Cameron
Kilmallie v Inverness
Evan MacRae

Gregor Cameron Celtic Society Cup 2nd Round

Bute v Inveraray
Deek Cameron
Glasgow MA v Glenorchy
Robert Baxter
Kyles Athletic v Kilmory
Lachie Wood
Tayforth v Oban Camanachd
David Mitchell - 3pm

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Fort William v Kinlochshiel
Ross Brown - noon
SCOTS Camanachd v Bute
David Mitchell
Noon throw up at Musselburgh

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William v Oban Celtic
Ross Brown - 3pm
Strathglass v Skye
Calum Girvan - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie v Beaulieu
John Matheson
Skye v Newtonmore
Ronnie Campbell

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Taynuilt
Euan Pearson
Ballachulish v Kyles Athletic
Innes Wood
Lochside Rovers v Col Glen
John Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Boleskine
Des McNulty
Lovat v Kilmallie
Brian Mackay
Lochcarron v Lewis
Scott McNeil
Strathglass v Caberfeidh
Calum Girvan - noon
Strathspey v Inverness
Iain Kennedy - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Inveraray v Aberdour
Alex MacVicar
Oban Lorn v Dunoon
Jim Innes
Strachur v Glasgow MA
Neil MacDonald
(Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Results

Saturday April 8

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round

Kilmory 5 v 1 Glenorchy
Beaulieu 2 v 4 Skye
Inverness 2 v 7 Caberfeidh

Balliemore Cup 1st round

Col Glen 4 v 5 Aberdeen Uni

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st round

Beaulieu 0 v 2 Lochside Rovers
Inverness 3 v 2 Lewis
Kingussie 1 v 0 Skye
Lochaber 6 v 2 Inveraray
Lochcarron P v P Glasgow MA
Glasgow MA unable to field a team. Walkover to Lochcarron
Lovat 1 v 6 Kyles Athletic
Newtonmore 3 v 0 Kilmallie
Strathglass 1 v 2 Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA 0 v 1 Newtonmore
Kilmallie 1 v 2 Kyles Athletic
Kingussie 0 v 0 Lovat
Oban Cam 5 v 1 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray 1 v 2 Strathglass

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glenurquhart 0 v 2 Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 1 v 2 Tayforth
Ballachulish 1 v 3 Bute

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 2 v 2 Oban Lorn

Second podium finish in a row for John McPhee in Argentina

JOHN McPhee has taken another incredible podium finish at Termas de Rio Hondo in Argentina, as the British Talent Team rider fought for the win from his impressive pole position set on Saturday.

Launching a last-lap attack on eventual winner Joan Mir, McPhee was just unable to make it through – but took another rostrum finish in P2, consolidating his early second position in the points standings.

Just losing the lead to Jorge Martin off the line, McPhee kept calm and carried on as he battled in the front group – escaping in the top group of five and staying in podium and victory contention throughout.

On the final lap, the Connel rider was in second and was able to close in on leader Joan Mir – but couldn't quite get through as it came down to the final complex of corners, on the final lap.

The incredible start to the year sees McPhee two for two on podiums – both second places – and the championship top three remains the same following the replicated podium at Termas de

Moto3

Rio Hondo: McPhee in second with 40 points, just 10 off the top after the first two races of the season.

Next it's time to saddle up for Texas and the Circuit of the Americas, as Moto3 get ready for round three – with track action beginning in just under a fortnight.

John said: 'It was definitely an exciting race and well done to Joan because he rode a fantastic race the whole way through and set the pace – to be honest I wasn't expecting the pace to be that fast all the way through, and he was the one doing the hard work.'

'I knew I had the advantage on the brakes and I tried to line it up thinking maybe I could get a fast run in on him and do a block pass in the final turn, but he braked so late, I went in a bit too hot and both of us went a little bit wide – I was lucky to stay on but it's good to get more points on the board. I'm a bit frustrated not to get the win but it's a long season and we've got some really good points.'



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Argentina Grand Prix at Termas de Rio Hondo.

Bus to the Scottish Cup semi-final Football

OBAN Saints will be taking a 49-seater coach to the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final in Hamilton on Saturday April 15.

A couple of seats are still 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

THIS Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup, third round – Houston v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Pupils have withdrawn from the cup; Premier Division – Oban Saints 2, Motherwell Thistle 3; Premier Division One – Dunoon 1, Kings Park Rangers 3; Premier 2A – Lochgilphead Red Star 5, Millbeg 0; Premier 2B – Arkleston 4, Tarbert 0.

Due to the Easter holiday weekend, the only game involving an Argyll and Bute team is the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final between Colville Park and Oban Saints taking place at New Douglas Park, Hamilton, kicking off at 2pm. Referee is Ross Holms.

Saints Under-16s are league winners Youth football

OBAN Saints Under-16s lifted the Dunbartonshire Football Development League championship with a resounding 4-1 win away to Broomhill SC last Sunday.

Scoring for Saints were Cameron Kerr (2), Keir MacLean and Nathan Allan.

Due to the Easter school holidays, Oban Saints Under-13s, 14s, 15s and 17s had no fixtures last weekend.

This weekend's fixtures: Under-13s, no game; Under-14s, no game; Under-15s v Dumbarton United Blacks; Ardencaple v Under-16s; Under-17s, no game.

Kilmore are bowls champions Indoor bowls

THE LAST game of the Lorn Carpet Bowling League was played on Thursday March 30 in Kilmore between Cairnbaan and Kilmore.

Cairnbaan had the advantage being on 72 points to Kilmore's 66 points. At the end of play Kilmore secured eight points in a nail biting finish to pip Cairnbaan by two points to win the title.

Club	Played	Points
Kilmore	12	74
Cairnbaan	12	72
Benderloch	12	55
Easdale	12	46
North Connel	12	42
Connel	12	31
Taynuilt	12	24

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Some of the players photographed before the start of the new mini squash league.



AK puts Saints put through their paces at Atlantis

In preparation for their Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final on Saturday, some Oban Saints players were put through their paces at a circuit training session taken by Abdelkabar Hatim (AK), a former Saints player himself, at Atlantis Leisure last week. The club would like to thank Atlantis and AK for the session.

Glensanda mini squash league gets under way

The squash section at Oban Tennis and Squash Club has started a mini league tournament which has attracted players from Fort William to join in, along with the Oban players.

It is the first time the club has done something as big as this. Fifty players, male and female, have signed up to take part and the first team matches were

Squash

played on Sunday April 2. The league will run from April to December with matches played every six weeks. The club would like to thank Glensanda for their support in sponsoring this event. The next fixture date is Sunday May 14.

LEAGUE TABLE

	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Paul's Nick-ers	18*	16	+2	Yes	18
Norfolk-in-Chance	16	18	-2	Yes	16
Martin Heath Team	15*	4	+11	n/a	15
The Hot Shots	12*	7	+5	n/a	12
The Magnificent Six	7	12	-5	n/a	7
J's Ball Breakers	4	15	-11	n/a	4
Kelly's Heroes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

An asterisk* means four bonus points have been awarded as the team won three matches against their opponents. When a joker is played, double points are awarded for the match. A joker can only be played once per team during the tournament.

Magnus Bradbury wins top award

MAGNUS Bradbury from Oban was presented with the Sir William Purves quaiach by the donor himself.

This quaiach is awarded annually by the Friends of Scottish Rugby to the 'young player most likely to make it into the national team'. Magnus travelled to the Caledonia Club in Belgravia, London, for the event.

A former pupil of Oban High School, Magnus secured a scholarship to study at Merchiston Castle School, during which time he made his Scotland under-18 international debut, coming off the bench against England in March 2013 and making the starting XV in the victories over Ireland and Wales. He represented Glasgow at under-16 and under-17 levels, Edinburgh at under-18 and Scotland at under-17 and under-18.

Rugby

His international under-20 debut came against the Irish in Athlone, in January 2014 and he scored his first try against Argentina in the final play-off game in the 2014 Junior World Championship in Auckland.

He took on captaincy duties for the 2015 Six Nations Championship, leading Scotland to a 17-10 defeat of Ireland in the final game of series. Magnus was selected for his second World Rugby Under-20 Championship (formerly the Junior World Championship), in 2015, and started in four of the five ties.

Magnus actually made his full debut for Scotland at Murrayfield against Argentina in November.



Magnus is pictured with Sr William Purves.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with some light rain
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Sunny on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

FRIDAY

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 April 13, 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	00.55	0.7	06.42	3.9	13.21	0.9	19.03	3.9	Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.28	0.9	07.13	3.8	13.52	1.1	19.33	3.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.00	1.1	07.43	3.7	14.23	1.2	20.04	3.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.34	1.3	08.12	3.5	14.56	1.5	20.38	3.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.10	1.5	08.43	3.2	15.34	1.7	21.17	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.55	1.8	09.20	3.0	16.26	1.8	22.06	3.0				
Wed	04.58	1.9	10.14	2.8	17.34	1.9	23.24	2.9				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Pupils face walk along danger road

CHANGES in the way school children in Acharacle are picked up and dropped-off has sparked anger among parents this week.

The *Lochaber Times* has learned that parents of children at Acharacle Primary School were informed two days before the end of term that their children, who are currently collected from their homes, will now be forced to walk along a dangerous single track road to be picked up.

At present children in Arivegaig, Ardtoe, Newton, and Kentra receive free transport from home to school.

Residents contacted Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Andrew Baxter about the changes after receiving a note from the current transport operator.

Mr Baxter contacted the council to say: 'Other than being appalled by the apparent lack of consultation and communication with parents on this matter, I have serious concerns about the risk to safety following these changes.' He added: 'During winter months we will expect children to walk along a dark, unlit and dangerous road. This is unacceptable. I would urge a reconsideration of this change.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The school transport policy does not commit the council to door-to-door transport. There are many cases where pupils will be expected to make their own way to a pick-up-point.'

The council added this is an application of school transport policy which does not require consultation and it is 'normal practice' to ask contractors to communicate with pupils on their transport list.

Communities ready to take a stand over planning process



Banavie pupils get creative for Easter

BANAVIE Primary School pupils got creative with their Easter celebrations when they took part in a Hats and Eggs competition run by the pupil council.

Working at home, some made Easter bonnets featuring bunnies and chicks and other spring designs. Other children made tableaus using real eggs. Keen young skier Drew Drysdale, right, made one entitled 'Neggis Range', complete with an egg on skis carefully negotiating a snowy mountain slope.

The entries were judged by the manager of the Caol Co-op, which supplied the Easter egg prizes, and Ainsley Burns. The children then had a special Easter Assembly to round off the festivities. Head teacher Maxean Dunham said: 'It is always amazing to see the quality of design and the inventiveness of the children in all aspects of the competition.'



ELLIE FORBES and MONICA GIBSON
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COMMUNITY councils across Lochaber say they are ready to take a stand over a perceived lack of transparency in the local authority's planning process.

At their meeting on April 10, Caol Community Council (CCC) voiced its intention to write to the Highland Council's (HC) planning department as they feel its thoughts and suggestions are falling on deaf ears. John Gillespie pointed out that despite HC putting the onus on community councils to hold consultations, engage with the public and report back any issues which arise, more often than not applications are given the green light without further notification.

Donald Elder agreed and said: 'There have been at least 20 amendments to the Lochside development since the planning sessions were held here [Caol Community Centre]. Roads, flooding, the zebra crossing being moved - loads of things have changed since planning closed and we were never informed. Changes were recently made to

the orientation of the houses. Householders received letters but the community council doesn't seem to have been kept in the loop.'

It was suggested that unless a change is classed as 'major', the council does not have to come back to anyone who has raised a concern or commented.

John Gillespie added: 'There is a difference between statutory requirement and common courtesy. It makes you think what is the point of putting your concerns forward?'

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council chairman John Fotheringham told the *Lochaber Times* there is no explanation as to why the council comes to the decisions it does on plans, it just does. He continued: 'About three-and-a-half years ago we objected to camping pods at Gairloch which went to the south planning application committee and we got about 11 seconds of discussion on it. We threatened to pull out of the planning process and the HC

almost had kittens. They then sent down a top planning official to see us.'

There were similar discussions at the latest Duror and Kentalen Community Council meeting where members decided to write to the ombudsman after feeling 'ignored' by the council on a planning application.

Despite objecting to a six-house development in the village, the planning application was granted earlier this year.

Chairman Jonathan Baxter said: 'The Highland Council is going to have to pay greater attention to what communities have to say about planning.'

Another community councillor commented: 'The community council won't just sit back and do nothing.'

A HC spokesperson said: 'We do try and work with all contributors to ensure they have the opportunity to participate. We will always take on board positive suggestions on how we can improve our service and continue to support the development of Lochaber and Highland.'

The *Lochaber Times* also understands there are plans for the Lochaber Area Committee to have increased powers and asked HC if planning would be included in this.

HC responded: 'The current position is that relevant planning applications are reported to two planning applications committees - North and South. It is not intended to change this at the current time.'

Caol crash driver arrested

THE MAN who crashed a stolen Audi A4 in Caol and then fled the scene almost four weeks ago has been arrested.

The collision happened at 10.15pm on Sunday March 12 and the driver and passenger made off from the vehicle which then caught fire. The passenger was detained shortly after and was said to be assisting police with inquiries.

The Audi had been reported stolen from a local address and was seen on Torlundy Road prior to the collision.

On March 23, the *Lochaber Times* confirmed the driver had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

At the Caol Community Council meeting on April 10, Constable Marina MacDonald said the driver had been arrested last weekend.



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Post Office problems ripple out across Lochaber

PROBLEMS with a Fort William Post Office are more far reaching than first thought.

Inverloch's Post Office closed temporarily on January 10 for 'operational reasons' as reported by The Oban Times earlier this year. It has now come to light that services at Glencoe and Roy Bridge, which were operated by the Inverloch postmaster, also ceased operating on January 10.

Michael Tonks is the caretaker of Roy Bridge Village Hall, where the host post service had been operating from. He described the situation as a nuisance personally and a headache commercially.

The 76-year-old told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The nearest service to me now is in Spean Bridge but I don't like doing banking there because it is a busy shop so

that means we have to drive into Fort William. The community council received a letter dated March 27 from Post Office saying the service closed temporarily on January 10, which is quite comical really. The cable for where the postmaster used to connect to the postal service is still in the hall but we don't know what to do. Should we rent it out or wait for them to come back? At the moment the hall is losing money and the building is sitting idle, which is far from ideal.'

David Gillies says his 94-year-old mother who stays in Inverloch is fortunate because family can drive her into Fort William Post Office.

'Instead of my brother's partner just taking mum to Caol every Thursday, she now stops off in Fort William as well. But there must be so many other pensioners

in the area who need to get their pension or access another service who don't have anyone to run them around.'

Mr Gillies said he is amazed more people have not spoken out about the situation. He added: 'The Post Office might say they are working hard but you can't tell people the service is closing temporarily and then go AWOL for four months.'

A Post Office spokesperson added: 'We would like to reassure customers that we continue to work hard to restore the services to the communities as soon as possible and are committed to maintaining services in the area. In the meantime, customers can access Post Office services at Fort William Post Office and Caol Post Office.'

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FW

Historic Eigg milestone marked

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS of a Hebridean island are celebrating the 20th year since its historic purchase by the community.

Eigg is owned and managed by Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust (EHT), a partnership of residents, the Highland Council (HC) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). Prior to 1997, the island was owned by 'absentee' German landowner Dr Maruma.

Under the previous landlord system, residents suffered from a lack of home and business security and poor housing conditions. Unemployment on the island was high with only seasonal working available. The infrastructure was also poor and there was no mains electricity supply.

The community felt the only way the island could develop in



Members of the Eigg community on April 4, 1997, the night they found out their buyout bid had been successful.

a sustainable way was through a community buyout. A major fundraising campaign was launched by EHT with the

support of the HC and the SWT. Members of the general public donated the entire purchase price of £1.5 million and High-

lands and Islands Enterprise gave the buyout a grant of £17,000.

The deal officially went

through on June 12, 1997, but there were celebrations in the Sound of Eigg on April 4 as that was the night the island's then 63 residents were told the good news.

Mark Foxwell is a trustee of EHT and reserves manager for the Highlands and Islands with SWT. He told the Lochaber Times that Eigg is now a shining example of what can be achieved when people are allowed to take control of their own destiny.

He added: 'Eigg really was on its knees with the problems of unemployment and poor infrastructure but now it has this energy and is really quite stimulating.'

'Eigg was pre-land reform and pre-community ownership. At that time (1997) there was no established model of how or if this would work but when you visit you see how compelling a place it now is. The population

has gone up from 60 to 70 to more than 100, the schools have enough children to make them viable and people are working.'

Animals living on the island have benefited too. He added: 'There are three or four pairs of Hen Harriers which live on the island.'

'In the north of England there are not any, even though the land is suitable for them. This is because of islanders' consideration towards nature. In most other places these birds are persecuted because they are predators and they eat the things you maybe don't want them to but Eigg has found a way to let them stay in a sustainable fashion. You can sit in the restaurant and watch them hunting and it really is a joy to watch.'

The community of 2017 will have a ceilidh on the island to mark 20 years of ownership on June 17.

Work to remove hedgehogs continues

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) says its plans to remove hedgehogs from the Western Isles are 'on-going'.

The Uist wader research project was started in 2000 in response to declining numbers of the internationally renowned birds in north Uist because of hedgehogs which feed on the bird's eggs.

To date more than £2,679,000 million has been invested in the programme with 2,441 hedgehogs removed. In 2011, the project started a new four-year research programme into the islands' breeding wader populations. SNH has developed the techniques required to capture hedgehogs and is now investigating sources of funding for a large scale removal project.

Hedgehogs are non-native and are believed to have been introduced to the islands in the 1970s.

A spokesperson for SNH said: 'Our rigorous work on developing a removal plan for hedgehogs in the Western Isles is ongoing. We are at an extremely early stage in developing further proposals to tackle the issue of the hedgehogs.'

David MacLennan, SNH's unit manager for Argyll and the Outer Hebrides, said: 'Our work has successfully removed almost all introduced hedgehogs from North Uist. The key challenge for us now is to secure funding to deliver a large scale project to remove all the hedgehogs from the Uists and enable recovery of the internationally important wader populations. Work in this regard is ongoing.'



Lesley Hellon and Emma MacLeod at the 'Your Scottish Parliament' conference in March.

Breaknish student represents college at Holyrood event

A STUDENT from Skye acted as an ambassador for a Highland college in the Scottish Parliament recently.

Emma MacLeod, from Breaknish, represented West Highland College UHI when she travelled with the college's student liaison officer Lesley Hellon to Holyrood last month.

As part of the trip, Emma took part in a conference entitled 'Your Scottish parliament', which was attended by around 110 college students, aged between 16 and 19 years, from across Scotland.

During the morning session, Emma and her peers were hosted by presiding officer Ken McIntosh MSP in the

Parliament Chamber where they heard presentations on a range of topics including moving from school to college and how to tackle bullying. Students were also encouraged to contribute their comments to the discussion.

Emma who studies child health and social care said: 'The workshops were based around bullying and harassment, moving from school to college and voting and elections. I was able to raise all concerns and questions I had such as transportation and IT issues in remote areas and the funding difference between over and under 18-year-olds.'

Emma said she enjoyed meeting other students who had

similar thoughts and feelings to her but also realised some had not been as lucky to receive the level of support she has enjoyed at college.

She added: 'I would definitely recommend this experience to any student who is given the opportunity as it was a brilliant day seeing the parliament building, being in the front row seats of the debating chamber, attending workshops and meeting some of the leading MPs in Scotland.'

Myra McCabe, head of student support at the college, commented: 'We are delighted Emma felt she could act as an ambassador from the college and I know she provided excellent feedback to them on various student issues.'

Patients face 60-mile round trip to dentist after island closure

SOUTH Uist residents requiring dental work face a 60-mile round trip after the health board deemed Lochboisdale Dental Clinic a lost cause.

NHS Western Isles said the decision to close Lochboisdale clinic was due to a range of failings identified during a recent audit by its infection prevention and control team.

The move has been met with anger among local residents who now have to travel as far as Linncliate Dental Clinic, Benbecula, for treatment. The motive behind the decision has also been questioned.

Callum MacMillan, an SNP candidate for Barra, Vatersay, Eriskay and South Uist in the

forthcoming council elections, claimed: 'This has clearly been done to coincide with the current plans for the dental hub in Benbecula. These have been rejected by communities in Uist at every opportunity, yet officials in Stornoway continue to persist with them.'

'If the building is genuinely unfit for purpose, why has it been allowed to operate in this condition for the last three years? Why was so little notification given to staff or patients? Why are patients now being expected to take round trips of up to 60 miles just to see a dentist?'

Donald Manford, also a council election candidate, described the situation as a stark illustration

of what is currently wrong with the provision of public services the length of the Western Isles and said that communities need to be at the forefront of decision making; they should not be viewed as obstacles to be sidestepped.

He added: 'Ignoring community needs insults locality group objectives and disregards grassroots-up requirements, bringing Integrated Joint Board principles into disrepute.'

A spokesperson from NHS Western Isles refuted the claim needs had been ignored, saying that money had been earmarked for the clinic years ago. The original plan was to build a second surgery but assessments

carried out ahead of the project highlighted that no amount of spending could bring it up to modern required standards.

She added: 'Further work on Lochboisdale was therefore halted pending a full review of dental service delivery in the Uists, as investment and modernisation had also been planned for the Uist and Barra Hospital. In the case of Lochboisdale, even if the board had spent substantial sums to refurbish the existing building, it still wouldn't have met all the modern standards for a dental facility as there is physically not enough space in the building. The risk associated with the building has now, following

further assessment, passed the point of being assessed as manageable. All school children are and will continue to be treated at Linncliate Dental Clinic and pre-school children also attending are always accompanied. Our experience is also that frail elderly patients are invariably accompanied. Some patients will have to travel further and some less so, although these distances are no more than in other parts of Lewis and Harris. We will be alert to difficulties that may arise and will examine specific cases to see how we might alleviate any problems. Our current dental team will continue to contribute to the services locally.'

Communing with Skye

A NEW book capturing the nature and topography on Skye was launched on Monday by a Scottish landscape photographer.

Allan Wright's *Skye - A Photographic Communion* was unveiled to the public at an official event at the Aros Centre, Portree, with Mr Wright on hand to give the audience a presentation about the inspiration behind the photographs.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Ian Blackford also attended the launch, giving a short presentation to the audience.

Allan said: 'I've always been drawn to Skye's magical scenery and in 2014 I made the decision to invest a lot more time there. Photographing Skye was inspiring, fun and a fantastic artistic journey. I hope visitors, businesses and islanders enjoy the images captured in this book for many years to come.' Ian Blackford said: 'We are so lucky to live and work in such a beautiful area, able to experience daily the sights and scenes captured by Allan. I am delighted people across the world will be able to enjoy these wonderful images and perhaps be encouraged to visit.'

Mental health charity's windfall delight

A WESTERN Isles mental health charity has received a welcome cash boost of £2,500.

Wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust donated the money to The Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH).

WIAMH says the money will help pay for activities at its Catch-23 drop-in service and retain three support workers.

Del Gunn, WIAMH manager, said the timing of the funding was 'fantastic' with the end of the financial year fast approaching.

He said: 'It gives us a level of flexibility. If we have got a new idea then we can run with it straight away instead of having to chase the money.'

'It's an absolute godsend because we can plan now. It enables us to retain staff who are in recovery themselves from mental health issues.'

Western Isles Association for Mental Health is the largest service user group of its kind in the Outer Hebrides and recently celebrated its 20-year anniversary. The main



Point and Sandwick Trust chairman Angus McCormack, right, with Del Gunn, Western Isles Association for Mental Health manager, and Cathy MacArthur, WIAMH chairwoman.

project run by WIAMH is Catch 23, a recovery-based, drop-in that caters for people with mental health conditions and addictions. It receives around 5,500 drop-ins every year and is open six days a week, from noon till 4pm, Monday to Friday, and 11am to 3pm on Saturday.

Most of the activities organised by WIAMH take place under the banner of

Catch 23. These include two arts groups, a writers' group and an addiction support group, as well as gardening sessions and social events.

The donation to WIAMH is the first instalment of £5,000 a year support, depending on the profits from Point and Sandwick's community-owned Beinn Ghrideag wind farm.

It is also part of a jigsaw

TIMESLINE

Road to the Isles race fully booked

THE ROAD to the Isles Half Marathon 2017 is fully booked.

The race will take place on Saturday April 29, with all proceeds going to the Mallaig Pool and Leisure refurbishment programme.

There are still some spaces left in the 10k, 5k and Walk on the Wild Side events.

A pool spokesperson said: 'If you would like to get involved without pulling on trainers, we would love to hear from any volunteers who would like to help out and marshal along the route. There's a free t-shirt and some paella in it for you.'

Firm continues to back athletes

WITH the Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) due to announce its final squad next week, The Scottish Salmon Company has confirmed it will continue as the team's main sponsor.

The team will travel to compete at the NatWest Island Games in Sweden this summer between June 24 and 30. The games will be hosted by Gotland, one of the 24 member islands.

The games give island athletes a chance to compete at a high level, international event.

Green light for Skye fish farm

PLANS for a new Atlantic salmon fish farm on Skye have been approved by the Highland Council despite objections from the community council and local fishery board.

Councillors at the North Planning Applications Committee agreed the Scottish Salmon Company's application for 10 cages at the site, referred to as the Outer Portree Fish Farm, in the sound of Raasay. Site access will be via Portree Harbour. Objections ranged from visual and landscape concerns and impact on the harbour, to potential effect on other marine animals.

Popular comic on island in spring

POPULAR stand-up comedian George Egg is bringing his award-winning show to Skye as part of the Skye Events for All (SEALL) spring programme.

George will be appearing at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Wednesday April 19 at 8pm.

George said: 'I've never been north of Glasgow or Edinburgh before so have been doing a lot of research on the Isle of Skye, Gairloch and Boat of Garten, where I'll be performing. The places look amazing.'

His sell-out *Anarchist Cook* show won him a Spirit of the Fringe Award in 2015.

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Parking meters not ready for new £1 coin

DRIVERS won't be able to use the new £1 coin in Fort William or Skye parking meters for the next three months. It came to the attention of the *Lochaber Times* last Thursday, April 6, that the parking meters in Highland Council car parks in Fort William are not accepting the new 12-sided £1 coins after a member of staff helped a lady trying to buy a ticket for the Viewforth car park by exchanging an old £1 for her new one. As it was before 9am, the car park was fairly empty and most nearby shops would not have been open or able to help.

The *Lochaber Times* asked the Highland Council if this issue had been taken into consideration and, if not, why not and what were they doing to fix it? A spokesperson said: 'Highland Council parking meters will accept new £1 coins with the exception of meters in Fort William and Skye where new upgraded machines are required.'

'These have been ordered but will take at least three months for delivery and installation.'

The new 12-sided coins came into circulation on March 28 to replace the round coins because of its vulnerability to sophisticated counterfeiters. According to the Royal Mint, approximately one in 30 £1s in circulation was a fake.

People who have round £1s are being encouraged to bank, spend or exchange them at Post Offices. From October 16, 2017, businesses are under no obligation to accept the round coins and should no longer distribute them.



It will be three months before these machines accept the new £1 coins.

A82 road summit planned

ELLIE FORBES
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A SUMMIT to discuss the notorious A82 is to be held in Fort William in June.

Transport Minister Humza Yousaf called for the meeting which will bring together various groups that have an interest in the operation of the trunk road which links Glasgow to Fort William and beyond to Inverness. MSP for Lochaber, Kate Forbes, has welcomed news of the meeting which will look at the need to upgrade and improve the A82.

Ms Forbes told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It is clear that if we upgrade the A82, we will unlock huge potential for jobs in Lochaber. However, lots of different groups have different priorities for the road. That is why I asked the Transport Minister to bring together all the different stakeholders so that we can have one constructive conversation and see faster progress.'

The MSP highlighted rising pressures on the A82 as tourism and heavy industry in Lochaber increases, saying: 'We need a road that is fit for purpose. I hope we'll see concrete plans as

a result of this summit to alleviate congestion in Fort William and along the A82.'

The Scottish Government said £82 million has been spent on maintenance on the A82 in the last 10 years, with more than £11 million in the last financial year. Mr Yousaf said: 'The A82 is a lifeline route for many and I know some stakeholders and communities have concerns about the way it operates. This forum will allow everyone involved to get together and have their say. I have already had discussions with the A82 Partnership and Lochaber Chamber of

Commerce and the summit will include stakeholders and key partners such as Police Scotland and local authorities. With all of the key organisations around the table, I am looking forward to a constructive discussion about potential actions which can be taken forward for the A82.'

Stewart MacLean of the A82 Partnership said any focus on upgrading the A82 should be welcomed. Mr MacLean said he hopes the summit will bring the announcement that the width of the road from Tarbet to Inverarnan will be increased to 7.3 metres, something the group has

been campaigning for. He said the partnership's next priority is getting the Onich to Fort William stretch of road upgraded. He is also anticipating that work to create two lanes for traffic at Nevis Bridge will be on the agenda.

Mr MacLean added there will be 'no quick fix for traffic congestion in Fort William' until the issue of a bypass is tackled.

Ms Forbes added there is still a lot of work to be done on the A82 and said: 'I hope this meeting will produce a clear plan of action that we can all get behind.'



Damian MacDonald and Kirsty Kyle first revealed plans for the play area in Caol in 2015. Photograph: The Write Image.

Play park campaigner looks to Caol community for support with plans

COMMUNITY support is being sought to help build a new play park in Caol which has already been two years in the making.

Damian MacDonald, who has been campaigning for improved play areas in Caol since 2015, has now asked Caol Community Council to give plans to build a park at Banavie Road its seal of approval.

At the community council meeting on April 10, Mr MacDonald said a feasibility report had been carried out and that £50,000 was available from the Highland Council. The hope is that sum will be matched through LEADER funding.

Mr MacDonald told the meeting the £50,000 would allow phase 1 of the project to be completed, providing a play area for children aged up to five.

He added: 'We had planned to have two phases but now we think splitting the project into

three phases costing around £100,000 each is more realistic because funding is so tight.'

Mr MacDonald said he felt the project was very close to making significant progress, but obtaining the deeds for the land has proved difficult and the initial 25-year lease offered by the Highland Council was off-putting.

He said Highland Council had also insisted they visited schools to ask the children's opinion of where they would prefer a park to be and that they also had to have a presence at last year's Caol Gala Day.

John Gillespie from the community council suggested the matter could be looked into and discussed at the next meeting in May. In the meantime, social media could be used to further gauge public opinion and give community members the opportunity to join in the conversation on May 8.

Call for bus bosses to amend new timetables

A LOCHABER councillor has demanded bus operators meet to discuss 'inconvenient changes' to timetables.

Anger over the new timetables, to be introduced on Monday April 24, was mounting on Monday night as south Lochaber residents voiced their concerns at the Duror and Kentallen Community Council meeting.

As reported in the *Lochaber Times* on March 30, residents are feeling cut off as a result of poor bus services. Those feelings were echoed by more south Lochaber residents and two women who had travelled from Oban to the meeting on Monday night.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter pledged to demand a bus summit between Stagecoach and West Coast Motors to discuss the timetabling of buses on the entire length of the journey between

Inverness, Fort William and Oban, 'to see if some common sense can prevail, meaning that the inconvenient changes to the Fort William to Oban service are not needed'.

Kentallen resident Sally Morris highlighted concerns about West Coast Motors changing its 918 service from Fort William to Oban from April 24.

Currently a bus leaves Fort William at 7pm but because of 'insufficient demand' the service is being withdrawn, to be replaced with a 5.10pm bus.

At the meeting she said she was 'really upset' about the change and hoped something could be done to stop changes. Mr Baxter said he would talk to the council about supporting an occasional Duror to Ballachulish service to connect with the 44 Kinlochleven to Fort

William service. He said he would also talk to Stagecoach about the possibility of 'adding a loop' into some journeys on the existing 44 service to reach other south Lochaber areas. Residents highlighted that the services to Fort William and Oban are a lifeline.

One woman said: 'We are really stuck where we live if services change. This is my access to a pint of milk.'

'A taxi is a dear do and there are many elderly people in this community who can't drive or don't want to drive, but have to get to a shop.'

Mr Baxter told the *Lochaber Times* he will be writing to the Transport Minister to highlight the problems rural communities in North Argyll and Lochaber are facing when dealing with bus companies operating commercial contracts but ignoring customers.

Town Team hits 'brick wall' over boat

FORT WILLIAM Town team has hit a brick wall when it comes to trying to have a beached boat removed from the shore front near the Old Fort.

The 'Holly Rose' fishing boat has been sitting on the shore since February 2, 2016 and the Town Team has growing concerns over the eyesore becoming a potential safety hazard as it rots away.

Town Team secretary Sue Keen told members at their meeting on Monday April 10 that she had been trying for some time to contact the relevant bodies to have the boat taken away.

She said she had contacted the government's Receiver of Wreck, the body responsible for dealing with salvaging wrecked vessels, but they told her she would need to contact the boat's owner as it was his responsibility to remove the boat.

A Receiver of Wreck spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have no power of wreck removal

and we don't have the staff or resources to remove the boat. The responsibility lies with the legal owner.'

She added there was some statutory power for the boat to be forcibly removed if it became a navigational hazard or impeded other vessels.

She said if the boat starts to break down and debris starts to fall off and becomes hazardous it could come within the realms of impeding navigation but it would be down to an authority such as a harbour master to remove it.

In a case like this, where the boat is on privately-owned land, the land owner - Transport Scotland - has some power, she added.

Ms Keen told team members Transport Scotland was not taking any responsibility for the wreck, and neither is the boat's owner. She said she had 'hit a brick wall' with this issue. Town Team member Norrie MacLean told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The Holly Rose is going to fall apart and become a hulk.'



The Holly Rose has been beached on the shoreline by the Old Fort for over two years and is rotting away. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

Town canopy plans progressing

FORT William Town Team is moving forward with plans for a canopy over the town's Cameron Square.

At a meeting of the Town Team on Monday April 10, it was revealed members of the team met outdoor furniture company Broxap, which has agreed to prepare four different design options for the canopy.

Town Team secretary Sue Keen said she is hoping to have the designs by the end of this week, at which point local stakeholders can be consulted about which design they would like to use.

The plan now is to have a canopy covering only the top part of the square, where performers will be protected, in the hope this will be less controversial and have less opposition from businesses than the original plan, which had to be withdrawn.

Town Team chairwoman Moira Robinson said: 'We need to compromise.'

Ms Keen added they have been advised by Broxap to keep the canopy design quite low.

The first design is a canopy covering only the back of the square. The second

is similar to the original design that the council nearly got permission for. There will also be a more traditional canopy, based on the one currently in House of Bruar, and the final option will resemble the canopy at Gretna Green outlet village.

The Town Team, in conjunction with the Highland Council, is also looking into getting specialist paint and re-painting the Chesterfield furniture set in Cameron Square because treasurer Jackie Clifford said it had 'attracted some negative comments'.

TIMESLINE

Councils organise election hustings

TWO LOCHABER community councils are teaming up to hold a hustings for the upcoming Highland Council elections.

Kilmallie and Caol community councils have invited all the candidates standing in ward 11, Caol and Mallaig, to the hustings on Wednesday April 26 at 7.30pm in Kilmallie Community Centre. People are invited to go along to ask candidates questions, hear their answers and help decide who you vote for. Sixteen and 17 year-olds are especially encouraged as they will be able to vote in the election on May 4. For further information email info@kilmallie.org.uk

Fort centre works with university

THE UNDERWATER CENTRE in Fort William has teamed up with Robert Gordon University to run a commercial diving course.

As part of the university's MSc Subsea Engineering and MSc Offshore Oil and Gas Engineering courses, The Underwater Centre is delivering theory sessions including diving physics, diving physiology, gases and diving systems and diving regulations.

Two students visited the centre last month to complete the week-long course.

Student Felix Daboner commented: 'The facilities and equipment they have at the centre are all exactly like you would find offshore so it was great to be able to get hands-on experience.'

Steve Ham, commercial director at The Underwater Centre, added: 'We're delighted to provide hands-on, realistic exposure to the subsea industry. By partnering with universities, like Robert Gordon, we can provide important experience that helps further the students' training.'



Robert Gordon University MSc students Felix Daboner and Joseph Adele on site at The Underwater Centre.

Highland voters urged to register

VOTERS in the Highlands are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote on polling day, Thursday May 4.

The call comes as the Electoral Commission launches a national voter registration campaign to encourage as many people as possible to register ahead of the council elections. Voters need to register by Monday April 17 otherwise they won't be able to take part in the elections.

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FW

Consultant optimistic about future of rural health care

MONICA GIBSON
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A CONSULTANT who spent more than 20 years working in a Lochaber hospital says a collaborative approach is needed to keep rural hospitals viable.

Dr Sedgwick, who is originally from Cumbria but moved to Lochaber in 1992, said: 'There has been a change in thinking towards medical training. The trend was too far down the super specialist route and not enough general practitioners.'

'What is really needed is a collaborative approach where patients can get routine treatment in or near their home town and only have to travel for more complicated procedures.'

Dr Sedgwick's comments come as the NHS Highland board agreed a capital programme for a new hospital to be built in Fort William.

At the NHS Highland board meeting on March 28, it was decided £400,000 will be set aside in 2018/19 and £1 million in 2019/20 for design and site works.

A further £9 million in 2020/21 and £9.5 million in 2021/22 has been agreed to build the new hospital on the Blah Mor site.

Board member Dr Michael Foxley said this confirmation of the timescale for building the new hospital was excellent news, although he believed more money would be needed.

He added: 'During 2017, as a community, we have to discuss the future service needs of the new hospital, especially with the major developments planned by Liberty at the British Aluminium site.'

David Sedgwick now spends time in Syria and Rwanda



Sue Macfarlane, vice principal academic affairs, David Sedgwick, Mairi Penny, Business, Enterprise, Solutions, Training (BEST), Roddy MacPhee, Business Development Manager, BEST, at a talk organised by BEST at West Highland College UHI.

“The trend was too far down the super specialist route”

David Sedgwick

teaching basic surgical skills and coaching practitioners on how to deal with trauma and hernia care.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I have been to Palestine probably on seven occasions now.'

'When people undergo these kind of treatments in the UK, they are planned procedures but because medical help is so limited over there, they are often emergencies and this has

a huge impact on the mortality rate. Our aim is to equip more people with the tools for dealing with emergencies but also to try and get treatment earlier.'

Dr Sedgwick said he is optimistic about the new hospital and says with a collaborative approach, where specialists are supported by generalists, people in rural areas can be confident in any treatment they may need in the future.

Last month Dr Sedgwick held a talk at the West Highland College in Fort William entitled: 'Life as a Highland Surgeon'.

The father of six explained: 'I hope I have given an idea of what can be done in this profession in a rural area.'

'There is more chance of being able to come back to work in a place like this if that's what the students want.'

'There are obviously large numbers of people being trained in the city but small communities need to be channeling through skilled people who then need to be supported if they want to be able to use their skills at home.'

'We don't want to lose all our highly trained young people.' Dr Sedgwick had been in receipt of some treatment himself after falling off his bicycle just before he was due to do his presentation on March 30.

He said: 'I have broken my right leg and injured my left thumb. I came off just near Inverloch roundabout.'

'Passers-by kindly picked me up so I thankfully didn't need blue lights. I was taken to the Belford and experienced the health service from the sharp end.'

'I will need to go to Raigmore for some specialist testing but that is a classic example of how things work well with a collaborative approach.'

Dr Sedgwick is also part of a group called Viking Surgeons, of which there are six in Scotland. He said: 'Of course there are differences with how patients are treated in the city and in the Highlands, but when we meet it is clear there are things doctors from the cities can learn from rural doctors and the other way around.'

WHAT'S ON IN LOCHABER

KILMALLIE Community Company is appealing for volunteers to help repair paths and clean up litter in the Pine Wood on Saturday April 22 from 10am.

Meeting at Farrow Drive, the main job will be shifting gravel to repair paths. Anyone able to help is asked to take along a wheelbarrow and shovel. As well as the path work, there will be a litter pick. Rubbish bags and a trailer will be provided but volunteers are asked to take their own gloves.

THE NATIONAL TRUST for Scotland will open its new **Steadings Gallery** at **Balmacara Square, Kyle of Lochalsh, this Easter weekend.** The first exhibition, by **Helen L Robertson, opens on Friday April 14 and runs until Thursday April 20. It will be open daily from 10am to 5pm and admission is free. For more information contact Iain Turnbull at iturnbull@nts.org.uk or on 01599 566325.**

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit the Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on Monday April 17.

From 10.30am till 12.30pm, the LSC representatives will offer help and advice to anyone living with a hearing loss or sight loss, residents and members of the public. The team will supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain the hearing aids.

MAIRI MACINTYRE'S is hosting a **bake sale today, Thursday April 13, from 11am to 3pm to help raise money for Kat Mac's Glasgow Chil-**

dr's Hospital Charity. Kat, 26, from Kinlochleven is celebrating being 10 years free of leukaemia later this month and has raised more than £1,000 for the hospital so far.

A SEED and plant swap will be held on Tuesday April 18 at the Lochaber Rural Education Trust with Becky Darce of Shielfoot Organics. Take along your seeds, packets, plants, cutting and tubers from 11am to 1pm. The event has been organised as part of the sustainable Spean Bridge project.

HIGHLAND Council countryside rangers are holding an Easter family fun day at Glen Nevis visitor centre on Saturday April 15 from 1pm-3pm. Enjoy the Easter fun and see if you can solve the riddle hunt. Children, £3.50, and adults go free when accompanied by a child. To book call 01397 705922.

THE **MOORINGS** Hotel is hosting an Easter Fun day on Saturday April 15 from 12pm to 3pm.

There will be face painting, Easter games, colour your own Easter picture and an egg hunt at 2.30pm. Collect as many eggs as possible and the top three will win a prize. Entry is £1 for the hunt and all children will receive an Easter egg.

ROLL UP at the **Snowgoose restaurant and bar at Nevis Range on Sunday April 16 to collect your free hard boiled egg, colour it in and see how far you can roll it down the slopes of Aonach Mor. There will also be a chocolate egg hunt, face painting and badge making.**

Tell us what's on. Call the Lochaber Times on 01397 703003.

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in p i f t

Disability access panel to hold hustings

LOCHABER Disability Access Panel is to host a hustings for candidates standing for election in the two Lochaber council wards.

The hustings, on Wednesday April 19 in St Andrew's Church, Fort William, will focus on issues relating to disabled and elderly residents and will follow the BBC's Question Time format.

The event will be led by questions from the floor and those submitted in

advance to Lochaber Disability Access Panel lochaber.access@valochaber.org or lochaberdap@hotmail.co.uk by 5pm on April 17.

Maurin MacDonald, the panel's vice-chairwoman, said: 'We had several requests following the successful hustings we hosted last year, asking us to do the same thing again for the Highland Council elections. Hustings such as this one play a vital role in highlighting to

the candidates the issues which arise for people living in rural and remote areas.'

Although the panel's work is centred on elderly and disabled residents, the results also benefit the wider community as the introduction of automatic doors, access ramps and dropped kerbs all help shoppers, parents using prams and pedestrians with wheeled luggage.

The hustings will run from 7pm until 9.30pm.

View from the Chamber

OCUK to put visitors firmly in the frame



STUNNING new videos to inspire visitors to 'connect to their adventure' in Fort William and Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK), and to encourage them to share their holiday experiences online, are to be created thanks to a £40,000 grant from VisitScotland.

Launched in the spectacular surroundings of Glen Nevis, the campaign will include online films to be shared on the OCUK's website and social media channels.

The videos will show that Lochaber not only boasts an outstanding array of outdoor activities, such as mountaineering, walking, snow and water sports and mountain biking, but also stunning wildlife and fascinating heritage, including the Glenfinnan Viaduct, The Old Fort, as well as top class food, drink and welcoming accommodation. The videos will also show how accessible the OCUK is for everyone, with visitors from throughout the UK able to 'connect to their adventure' via the Caledonian Sleeper.

Scotland's national tourism organisation VisitScotland has match-funded the OCUK's exciting new digital campaign through its Growth Fund, while OCUK will also benefit from £20,000 from the Highland LEADER Programme.

The digital campaign will target UK-based consumers, including 20-something single travellers who are looking to wow their social media followers with spectacular images and video; families looking for a holiday that offers multiple activities and members of the 'Baby Boom' generation who have a high-level of income and enjoy self-guided tours



John Fotheringham, left, chairman of the Lochaber local area partnership, The Highland LEADER Programme, and Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland's regional director for the Highlands, put Jodie Fraser and Chris O'Brien of the Outdoor Capital of the UK in the 'frame' at the campaign launch. Photograph: John Paul/VisitScotland.

and sampling locally sourced food and drink.

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland's regional director for the Highlands, said: 'We are thrilled to give this Growth Fund award to the Outdoor Capital of the UK, so that the group can continue its excellent work in promoting all that this stunning part of the world has to offer. I'm sure the new digital campaign will prove a great success and inspire many more people to enjoy an unforgettable break in Lochaber.'

Visitors to the region will be encouraged to share their experiences on social media using the hashtag #myoutdoor-

capital. Using the hashtag will also give adventurers the opportunity to win breaks in Lochaber and other fantastic prizes throughout the year.

Chris O'Brien, destination manager of Outdoor Capital of the UK (Lochaber Chamber of Commerce), said: 'VisitScotland, LEADER and a huge number of local businesses have given us the opportunity to put together a digital campaign that will reach millions of people and share with them the stories of Lochaber, inspiring them to join us in the Outdoor Capital of the UK for a wee adventure and to add to our tales by using the hashtag #myoutdoorcapital.'

Debate rages over bus stops

PLANS to remove signs banning coach tours dropping off holiday-makers at bus stops close to Fort William High Street are being opposed by some councillors less than a month before they stand down.

The signs, which say 'No stopping except local buses' have been in place on bus stops in Middle Street since October last year after a decision made in Inverness without consulting local councillors or any of the businesses on the High Street which benefit from having visitors being dropped-off close to their premises.

A Highland Council spokesperson said the signs are regulatory, traffic enforcement signs and are part of the council taking over parking enforcement.

Fort William and Ardnachurchan councillor Andrew Baxter has been in discussions with local business owners and the council's traffic management team, resulting in what he believed to be an agreement to have the signs removed. Councillor Baxter said: 'I thought we had agreed they would be removed/amended but it seems my fellow councillors think it will cause problems for regular bus routes and made it sound like chaos will fall upon Fort William town centre.'

'I will ask the council to suspend or cover the signs for the moment so we can consult with business owners, bus companies and coach operators to see if we can find a way forward. It's important not send out a message to coach companies not to come here.'

Drew Purdon, owner of the House of Clan Jamfrie said: 'For 25 years, there have been around 20 coaches a day dropping people off at these stops. Why stop them now?'

'The future of the town is being decided by three councillors who won't be here in three weeks time. What a legacy to leave.'

Councillor Bren Gormley said 'It's fine for the stops to be used occasionally by coaches but there are a number of situations, more often when they are picking up, that they sit for an extended period at the stop, and at these times service buses can't get in and have to sit in the middle of the road which is hazardous.'

Councillor Brian Murphy said he was pushing to have a meeting between councillors to find a solution.

Man walks free from court after five-day assault trial

COURT REPORTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A MAN has been acquitted on charges of threatening behaviour and assault towards his then girlfriend after a five-day trial and hours of jury deliberation at Fort William Sheriff Court.

The jury was instructed by the sheriff to return an unanimous verdict of not guilty for the charge of threatening behaviour, and they returned a majority verdict of not proven for the assault charge.

Jeffrey Kell, from Canada, had

been charged with assaulting his then girlfriend and choking her to the point of her losing consciousness at a hotel in Fort William on May 20, 2016.

The complainant claimed he had 'snapped' and started attacking her during an argument. She told the court they had started 'bickering' after having a few drinks and engaging in sexual activity.

She told the court the argument became physical and he jumped out the window onto a roof below before returning to the room where further violence ensued and it was at this point

she became unconscious. Kell, however, said he only acted aggressively to defend himself against her attacks. He also told the court he choked her twice on her request as part of sexual activity, which she denied, and twice more to defend himself against her choking him. He denied she lost consciousness at any point.

Kell also said the complainant pushed him out of the window. He said he wouldn't jump as he is still recovering from serious injuries after being in a road accident in 2008.

The complainant admitted

to the court she had retracted her original statement and accusations, through an affidavit, which she then told the court was a false account of events, meaning she had lied under oath, as she had it authorised by a lawyer in Canada.

In his closing speech, defence solicitor Gerry Sweeney asked the jury if they could trust such a liar, while procurator fiscal deputy David Morton closed by pointing out that after coming out the window, Kell had an opportunity to escape which he didn't take, which he said means it cannot be classed as self-defence, as for that there must be no reasonable way of escape.

Over the course of the trial, the court also heard evidence from the night porter at the hotel, two other guests who were staying in the hotel at the time of the incident, and police officers involved in the case.

They also saw medical evidence and photographs of the scene and a recording of Kell being charged, originally with attempted murder.

None of this was enough to satisfy the jury that Kell was guilty and he is now free to return to Canada.

Easter fun at An Drochaid

CLAGGAN residents got together at the weekend for a fun-filled Easter event.

Claggan Residents Association organised a children's Easter fun night at An Drochaid last Friday to raise money for the group which aims to promote the interests of residents on matters including housing and the environment.

Committee member Armando Barcenas told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It was absolutely fantastic and I think the youngsters really

enjoyed themselves. By holding the Easter party for the children, we were able to introduce ourselves to the community to make sure people know what the association is and that it is there for them. We wanted to tell them to come along and find out what we can do for them. It was a good opportunity to talk to them. There were people who said they were keen to have a youth club. That is a project we could do if we were able to get the confidence of the parents in

the community. Everything is about volunteering and we need to get everyone involved to see how we can make Claggan an even better place to live.'

The group raised more than £70 from the raffle and thank everyone who donated. The committee, made up of 12 Claggan residents, meet on the first Monday of the month at An Drochaid. 'Once we have more money and can apply for funding we might look at developing the play area,' said Armando.

With a few private landlords on the committee, Armando said the group hopes to help with housing problems.

Armando said: 'Our main project just now is cleaning up Claggan.'

'We are trying to entice people to take their wheelie bins back behind their flats rather than leaving them on the pavement, which makes it difficult for people to walk past. It makes it tidier looking too.'



Easter egg fun at the Claggan event. Photograph Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Above, left to right, Caroline MacDonald, Armando Barcenas and Leona Jones of Claggan Residents Association.



Left: Three-year-old Eiona McIntosh concentrates on painting her egg at the Easter fun night.



Rotary President Paula Ross with James Taylor, right, and some of those who attended the meeting.

Creativity and innovation in spotlight as speaker addresses joint gathering

MEMBERS of Lochaber Rotary Club, Fort William Town Team and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce gathered last Wednesday to hear a presentation by international conference speaker James Taylor.

Mr Taylor is an author, coach and consultant on creativity and innovation.

He believes in the power of good ideas. According to his website, he has been teaching a variety of professionals, from entrepreneurs to corporate

leaders to rock stars, how to 'build innovative organisations and design the creative life they desire' for more than 20 years.

He is the founder of C-School and host of The Creative Life Podcast and television show.

Rotary club member David Anderson described the talk as 'fascinating', saying Mr Taylor told them how creativity historically flourished in cities which were open to the import of goods, as ideas were also imported this way.

At question time, there were discussions about how his principles could be applied to Lochaber.

Past rotary president David Mee thanked Mr Taylor, saying the talk was 'truly inspirational'.

Mr Mee also thanked Fort William Town Team and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce for the work they do locally and said he hoped there would be many more joint meetings and ventures between the three organisations.



Raghall MacKinnon from Roybridge won a specialised bike through his Big Pedal efforts. He is pictured with Fiona Beattie.



Lochaber Piping Society held its annual junior piping competition at Lochaber High School, Fort William, on Saturday April 8.

High standards at annual piping contest praised

LOCHABER Piping Society held its annual junior piping competition at Lochaber High School on Saturday April 8.

This year's adjudicators were Rona Lightfoot, Euan MacCrimmon and Dougie Beck. Mr Beck said: 'It's heartening to see the standard young musicians are achieving. The fantastic developments in traditional music over the past 20 years mean younger pipers have a plethora of options to engage with their music. However, it is evident the skills and discipline required to take part in events such as this are valued. A lot of hard work went in on the part of the pipers, their tutors and their parents and they should all be congratulated.' Results: Chanter 10 years and under - March - 1 Shaughn Paul Dunlop; 2 Aidan Paterson. Chanter 11-13 years - March - 1 Jac Currie; 2 Elise Thomson; 3 Brandon Watson. Chanter 14 years and under - March - 1 Hector Finlayson; 2 Grace Kelman; 3 Jac Currie. Bagpipers

- Novice March - 1 Ronnie MacIntosh; 2 Andrew Orr. Bagpipers - Novice Slow Air - 1 Andrew Orr. Bagpipers 16 years and under - March - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Laura Robertson; 3 Ben Fulford. Bagpipers 16 years and under - Slow Air 1 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 2 Finlay Cameron; 3 Ciaran Kellett. Bagpipers under 15 - years - March - 1 Archie MacLean; 2 Ciaran Kellett; 3 Archie Clark. Bagpipers under 15 years - Strathspey and Reel - 1 Ciaran Kellett; 2 Archie MacLean; 3 Eòsaph Caimbeul. Bagpipers under 15 years - Ceòl Mòr - 1 Eòsaph Caimbeul; 2 Archie Clark; 3 Archie MacLean. Bagpipers 18 years and under - March - 1 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 2 Finlay Cameron; 3 Archie Drennan. Bagpipers 18 years and under - Strathspey and Reel - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 3 Eoghainn Peuran. Bagpipers 18 years and under - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 3 Archie Drennan. Bagpipers 18 years and

under - Ceòl Mòr (ground only) - 1 Ben Fulford; 2 Laura Robertson; 3 Ruaraidh Drennan. Bagpipers under 15 years - Jig - 1 Ciaran Kellett; 2 Archie MacLean; 3 Laura Robertson. Bagpipers 18 years and under - Jig - 1 Archie Drennan; 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 3 Martin MacRae. Bagpipers - Donald Macleod Ceòl Mòr - 1 Finlay Cameron; 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee; 3 Archie Drennan. Youngest Competitor - Grace Kelman. Lochaber boy with highest points in events 1, 2 and 2a - Jac Currie. Lochaber boy with highest points in events 3a and 3b - Andrew Orr. Lochaber girl with highest points in all events except chanter/novice - Laura Robertson. Lochaber boy with highest points in all events except chanter/novice - Finlay Cameron. Lochaber competitor with highest points in Ceòl Mòr 18 years and younger - Finlay Cameron. Lochaber competitor with highest points in jig competitions - Laura Robertson.

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FW

Spean Bridge

A MEETING of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council took place on Tuesday April 4. Among the items discussed were:

Thanks: The meeting agreed that chairman John Fotheringham should write to Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark, who is not standing for re-election in the Highland Council elections, to thank him for his support and guidance.

Transport Scotland/BEAR: Mr Fotheringham read two letters he had received from Transport Scotland. One was to resident Jonathan Binny, rejecting his proposal to reduce the speed limit between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge, and a proposal to place double white lines on the A86 at Inveroy. The letter did say, however, that Transport Scotland intends to carry out a study of the road between the two villages. A Transport Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We assess the safety performance of the trunk road network annually. From this, the A86 between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge has been identified for further investigation this financial year to understand if any road safety measures may be appropriate.'

Highland Council: Michael Tonks reported that 14 potholes in Roy Bridge Square had been filled in.

Coach services to Inverness, Fort William and Glasgow: Mr Fotheringham itemised the new Shiel Buses timetables as they affect the Fort William to Roy Bridge and Inverness to Fort William services. It had been agreed the 7.35pm from Raigmore Hospital would divert to Roy Bridge on request. Mr Fotheringham had suggested to Citylink that some summer services to Glasgow could be re-routed via Stirling, Callander and Lochearnhead to allow speedier journey times to Edinburgh and the east coast. A Citylink spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We are actively considering the suggestion and, if it is possible, we will make it work.'

Reports: Dominic Sargent reported there had been no first responders calls in the last two months but he did not know if it was due to changes in the call-out procedure by the Scottish Ambulance Service. The Fire and Rescue Service has had one call-out to a road accident on the A82 at the Great Glen Water Park on the last day of March.

The next date in the diary for community council members is the annual general meeting on Tuesday June 13 in Spean Bridge Primary School. There will be no meeting in May.

Fort William



'SAIR Feet' is known by Fort William residents and visitors as the fellow sitting at the end of the town's High Street rubbing his weary toes.

But more recently the statue, which marks the end of the West Highland Way, seemed to be more concerned about his hair as he was spotted sporting a fetching tartan shawl. Were you the kind passer-by who helped one of Fort William's favourite characters shelter from the April showers? Or perhaps you have a picture with the man himself which rivals this one?

Get in touch by phoning 01397 703003, email fort@obantimes.co.uk or call into the Lochaber Times office on High Street, Fort William.



Caol Primary School youngsters enjoyed rebuilding Fairyland after receiving letters from the friendly dragon.



Pupils and staff worked hard to research and make these great ancient Egyptian costumes as part of their topic.



This class were awarded a pyjama party but the head teacher said they might have taken the fun too far!

Fairytales and family fun at Caol Primary School

PUPILS in Lochaber had an exciting last week of term with everything from castles to Cleopatra playing a part in their lessons.

Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 at Caol Primary in Fort William had a Fairytale Ball to finish

off their project. Pupils received letters from the friendly dragon asking them to rebuild Fairyland and they had lots of fun doing it. The boys and girls made some fantastic Fairytale houses with help from mums and dads. Pupils, parents, grandparents,

aunties, sisters and staff then had a magical time at the ball.

Primary 3 pupils have been engrossed in their Ancient Egypt topic all term, and in the build up to the Easter holidays the class was unrecognisable, with Egyptian nobles, Queen Cleopatra

and Nefertiti replacing the usual faces.

Throughout the term, head teacher Steven Hamilton awards stickers to deserving classes who can then request a reward. One class opted for a pyjama party and gadget day which they

enjoyed last week. Head teacher Steven Hamilton described the past term as one of the busiest yet and said while pupils and teachers were looking forward to their break, the positive buzz about the school remained. He added: 'Enjoy your Easter holidays.'

Kinlochlovin is the perfect match

A KINLOCHLEVEN charity which helps vulnerable and disadvantaged young people has received £1,000 match funding.

Kinlochlovin, which aims to help improve the future of young people by encouraging them to take part in social activities, was awarded the money through the Change-maker Fund, part of Santander's new flagship community project.

Launched last year as part of a collaboration between Santander and a rewards-based crowdfunding platform, Kinlochlovin was the perfect match.

The Lochaber group teaches young people entrepreneurial skills through craft

workshops, with their finished products being sold in the community.

The additional funding will enable the project to renovate a retro caravan into a mobile shop to help support the student enterprises and enable them to sell their products in the wider community.

Anna McBride, Kinlochlovin chairwoman, commented: 'Through the Change-maker Fund, we have been able to invest in our new mobile shop, enabling the young people to sell their products in the wider community, travelling to other rural villages where they can create more business activity and learn new skills.'



Some of the Kinlochlovin' crew.



The children at Kinlochleven fire station.

Nursery pupils enjoy fire station visit

PUPILS from two Lochaber nursery schools enjoyed a visit to Kinlochleven fire station recently to learn all about a day in the life of a firefighter.

St Brides and Kinlochleven nursery children visited the fire station on Friday March 31 as part of their project about the skills required for different jobs.

The children were shown around the fire station, given a talk on the skills needed to become a firefighter and were allowed to sit in the fire engines. They also tried on firefighter helmets and tried out the water hoses.

Kinlochleven head teacher Heather Thomson said: 'We would like to thank the staff at Kinlochleven fire station.'

Loch Gairloch

A REFURBISHED lodge on the shores of Loch Gairloch has opened a new centre in the hope of keeping the medieval arts of archery and falconry alive.

Shieldaig Lodge launched its new falconry and archery centre, Shieldaig Falconry, earlier this month. The centre features a wide variety of birds of prey including, falcons, hawks, buzzards, eagles and owls, and offers archery programmes for beginners.

General manager Imit Antepli said: 'Shieldaig Lodge is a beautiful setting for learning falconry and archery. We hope locals and visitors will enjoy the special experience of flying these birds.'



The centre will focus on developing solid archery and falconry fundamentals.

Lundavra

LUNDAVRA Primary School pupils were rewarded for their quick litter-picking with some fast food last week.

Primary 6/7 students joined staff from McDonald's in Fort William on a litter pick last Tuesday.

They collected 12 bags of rubbish in 45 minutes on the path behind McDonald's and around An Aird. Naomi Lawrie, shift manager of McDonald's, took the lead on the litter pick and the youngsters were treated to a 'happy meal' for their hard work. Laura Forbes of McDonald's said the fast food chain holds the litter picks a couple of times a year to be more eco-friendly and keep the town tidy and they try to get schools involved.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

Join the Cadbury Egg Hunts

The Easter bunny has hidden clues at oodles of National Trust for Scotland places. Collect your map, follow the clues, solve the puzzle and claim your delicious Cadbury treat!

Here are just some of the places you can join in the fun ...

- Balmacara Estate
- Arduaine Garden
- Crarae Garden
- Glencoe

For details on all hunts, dates and times, hop over to nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity. SC007418



The children dressed up to show friends and family what they had been learning about the Titanic.

Duror Primary School has Titanic open day

DUROR Primary School pupils have been showing family and friends what they have been learning about the passenger ship Titanic.

All the children dressed up as their chosen character from the film and parents, families and community members were invited along to hear and see the children's presentations on the topic.

The school thanked the parents for supporting and encouraging their children throughout the project.

A school spokesperson said: 'This was a very interesting topic which motivated the children from the start. Everyone who attended wrote positive comments about the event on evaluation sheets provided by the children.'

The open afternoon was well attended, with tea, coffee and cakes provided. Special thanks to parent Mrs MacNeill who baked Titanic-themed cakes.'

Children jump to it to raise funds

CHILDREN supported by Lochaber Autism Awareness Group raised more than £500 for the organisation by taking part in their annual sponsored bounce on Saturday April 1.

Fort William Bouncy Castle Hire supplied the group with an inflatable and the children bounced to raise £540.20.

Amie-Louise Wallace from the group said: 'This is the one time of the year when the children get to raise money for themselves. It gives them a real sense of achievement and team work.'

The Lochaber group has so far raised £835 during April which is Autism Awareness Month.

Schools and businesses in the area have been supporting the campaign to help people have a better understanding of the condition.



The children enjoy their sponsored bounce. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

People flock to Lochaber to discuss future of Scotland

MONICA GIBSON

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'SUPER majorities' and 'grass-roots responsibility' were some of the hot topics discussed at a conference about Scotland's future.

Aye2Aye Lochaber presented 'a better Scotland' at the Kilmallie Community Centre last Saturday.

Robin McAlpine, director of the Common Weal, 'Wee ginger dug' with help from blogger Paul Kavanagh, and Cat Boyd, the co-founder of Radical Independence Campaign and Scottish Left Project, were billed as the main speakers at the all-day event.

John Hutchison from East Laggan and Lochaber Community Trust also shared some insight on how the trust is progressing ahead of its extraordinary general meeting scheduled for later this month.

Representatives from Lochaber Common Weal and ReAct Lochaber made presentations in the morning, and Donna Darnborough spoke on behalf of Lochaber School Bank and Carol Anne Campbell, Lochaber Women For Independence, in the afternoon.

The event coincided with The National roadshow coming to Fort William. More than 30 cars arrived by convoy on Friday as part of the pro-independence paper's second anniversary celebrations.

Some 75 people attended an evening with Paul Kavanagh on Friday night put on by The National and for Aye2Aye's event on Saturday, the room was packed.

The majority of the conversation was in support of a second



Speakers, left to right, were John Hutchison, ELCCT; Eddie Morgan, Aye2Aye Lochaber; Cat Boyd; Gordon Cuthbertson, Lochaber Common Weal; Robin McAlpine; Paul Kavanagh; Lorraine Wheelan, Re-act Lochaber; and Donna Darnborough, Lochaber School Bank. Picture: Iain Ferguson

independence vote in Scotland, highlighting what mistakes were made during and since the previous campaign, how to avoid making them again and what progress has been made since 2014.

Cat Boyd told the Lochaber Times it is crucial people realise that when the next referendum happens, the environment is entirely different from 2014.

But also it is vital from people go out and have a conversation with others who are undecided or would lean towards the No side as, essentially, there is no point in preaching to the con-

verted. Cat said she is striving for 'super majorities'.

She added: 'We don't want just 51 per cent or for it to come down to the last few thousand votes. This time we want there to be absolutely no doubt that this is what the people of Scotland have voted for.'

Robin McAlpine was keen to stress that the vote in 2014 was seen by many as a choice between status quo or change and change scared people but, because of the actions by Westminster, a second referendum 'is ours to lose'.

He also admitted there was a great deal of heartache regarding the previous vote but focusing on that aspect was as useful as complaining about the rain.

'There is no point talking about it, he said. 'We shouldn't be where we are, but we are where we are. Let's just get on with it.'

Robin also stressed the importance of strong white papers and creating a Scotland that works for everyone.

He said: 'We need to make sure the day after the yes vote we have a road map. The substance

of the content is much more important than the process. If we start talking about the process, about being treated unfairly then we have already lost.'

Paul Kavanagh said for Scotland to become independent, people's mindset is as important as anything.

He said: 'We need to believe that Scotland is equally as capable of being an independent nation and act as if we are. Independence is self-determined, it begins within you. If you can think independently, you can be independent.'



Members of the the 'freedom convoy' outside the Kilmallie hall.



Members of the ELCCT, left to right, are John Hutchison, Patricia Jordan and Christine Hutchison, explain the concept to 11-year-old Connor Peebles. Picture: Iain Ferguson

MORVERN lines

From donkeys to zebras and from squires to maharajas

LAST week I wrote about Squire Cheape of Tironan. Today my subject is Lady Meux (pronounced 'mews') from Alladale, near Bonar Bridge in Ross-shire, who came from an altogether different background.

At the same time as Mrs Cheape was introducing donkeys to Mull, the colourful and beautiful socialite, Lady Meux, was driving herself around in a four-wheeled carriage drawn by a pair of zebras. Lady Meux was born Valerie Langdon in 1847. She was the daughter of a Devon butcher and worked as an actress and a banjo-playing barmaid before marrying Sir Henry Meux, 3rd baronet (1856-1900). According to her obituary in the New York Times, she met Sir Henry while performing in Brighton.

Some sources give another slant to her career although, in her defence, Valerie maintained: 'I can very honestly say that my sins were committed before and not after marriage.' The colossal Meux wealth came from brewing. Henry's father, the 2nd baronet, married into the Marquess of Ailesbury's family. Needless to say, they were not enamoured by the arrival of this flamboyant cuckoo in their midst and, typical of the unpleasant snobbery of the time, shunned Henry, as he was in trade, and Valerie because of her background.

Thumbing her nose at them all, Valerie made her indifference known by regularly driving past the Ailesburys' fashionable London house



Lady Meux in pink by Whistler and, right, Sir Henry and Lady Meux at Alladale.



with her zebras. She also sat for James McNeil Whistler - an American and one of the most acclaimed society painters of the day.

Lady Meux and her husband improved and enlarged Theobalds, their property in Hertfordshire, by adding an indoor roller-skating rink and a swimming pool. At her request, Henry bought Christopher Wren's Temple Bar (one of the eight gates that surrounded the old city of London) and rebuilt all 400 tons of it as a new gateway to Theobalds.

There, in its upper chamber, Valerie allegedly entertained guests, including the Prince of Wales and Winston Churchill.

Bitten by the Victorian bug for Highland life and scenery, Sir Henry and Lady Meux took a lease for Alladale, one of the best known deer forests in Scotland. It belonged to Sir Charles Ross, inventor of the

famous Ross rifle, who lived at nearby Balnagowan Castle which, incidentally, is now owned by the locally popular Mohamed Al-Fayed of Harrods fame.

In 1360, Alladale was called 'Freevater' or Walter's Forest, after one of Sir Charles's ancestor who was killed at Bannockburn. Here they provided stalking, fishing and grouse shooting for their friends on a grand scale.

After Henry's death, when he was only 44, Alladale was taken by the fabulously wealthy Maharaja Holkar of Indore, who brought such a large entourage with him that an extension had to be added to the rear of the lodge to accommodate them. Undeterred by widowhood, Lady Meux continued to enjoy life to the full, and well she might, inheriting an income of £240,000 a year from her husband's estate.

She owned a string of race

horses, entering them under the assumed name of 'Mr Theobalds', and won the Derby in 1901. She collected ancient Egyptian artefacts; the legendary Egyptologist Wallis Budge published a catalogue of more than 1,700 of her items, including 800 scarabs and amulets. She wanted to leave the collection to the British Museum, but the trustees declined the bequest (because, she said, they were apparently idiots) and it was sold.

Valerie didn't always fritter away her husband's money. During the Boer War she was so impressed by the heroics of the British Army at the Battle of Ladysmith in 1899 she bought six 12-pounder naval cannon and sent them out to South Africa.

When Sir Hedworth Lambton, the commander of the naval brigade at Ladysmith, returned to London, he called on Lady Meux to thank her

for her generosity. She was so taken with his charm that she made him the chief beneficiary of her estate on condition that he took the surname Meux (she and Sir Henry had no children).

When she died on December 20, 1910, he changed his name and inherited Theobalds and a substantial interest in the Meux Brewery.

Although the Meuxs, the maharaja and the distinguished guests, disappeared down the glen decades ago, there is still a quixotic aura about Alladale. The estate now belongs to Paul Lister, heir to the MFI furniture fortune, who courted controversy by turning it into a wilderness reserve intended for wolves, bears and other large predators.

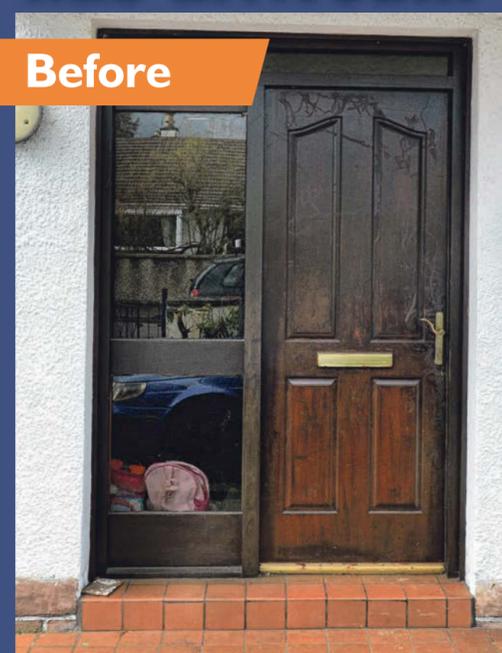
Since 2003, a million trees have replaced most of the wild red deer and talk of a huge 50,000 acre, Colditz-style compound, has drawn criticism from neighbours, hillwalkers and lawyers as it could contravene principles of open access enshrined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

From inside wooden stockades, a few moose and angry European bison glare and stamp their feet at passers-by but the howl of the wolf and the growl of the grizzly bear have yet to be heard on the braes.

Gone, too, from the lodge stables are the zebras and Lady Meux's stylish high phaeton.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

The new front door for number 8 has arrived...



Before

Ah Lisa I'm delighted

Me too, it's stylish, attractive & secure - no more draughts for us

We got what we wanted. Great job, no hassle, no fuss. You wouldn't even know they had been.

After



1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU
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#MeetTheCairns

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

As a society, we are almost all of us thoroughly reliant these days on our cars for personal transport and the independence they offer.

But with that reliance comes the problem of where to park and the thorny dilemma of how much we should pay. Our local authorities, including the Highland Council, provide car parks in our town centres, complete with meters to allow us to stump up for the privilege.

Until now, that is. As we report today, at present the pay-and-display meters in Fort William and Skye are unable to accept the new £1 coins that have very recently

been introduced by the Royal Mint as a means to combat an increasing problem of fraud.

A spokesperson for the Highland Council has said new parking meters have been ordered but will take at least three months for delivery and installation.

Why so long? The introduction of the new coins was signalled well in advance, so has the council been caught on the hop?

And what happens in the meantime? We assume motorists who find their coins being rejected will not be punished by being issued with fixed penalty fines.



Days gone by – Rockfield School?

We came across this photograph of a group of children but we have no information about it. It has been suggested it is a class from Rockfield School. Can any readers enlighten us as to who it is, where it was taken and when? Let us know by the usual methods to the addresses at the top of this page.

Macphail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Very special men

THE lasting effect that some people leave on life after they are gone can be significant and last week two of the best were buried.

On Tuesday, Nonny MacInnes was laid to rest in Oban and on Thursday Bernie Smith was given a fitting send-off on Tiree. Never have I attended such large funerals in their respective locations and never have I been aware of such positive feelings expressed so widely as for these two giants of the West Coast.

Both fought bravely with terminal illness and both passed away with the dignity and positivity that reflected their approach to the lives they led. There are so many common clichés used to praise those who die and, in many ways, that is a strong part of the grieving process, but these two men really were exceptional human beings who are absolutely worthy of the huge amount of praise and loving thoughts and comments that have been shared over the past week.

None of us knows how long we have left in this life and in the grand scheme

of existence, when we go, I don't think is particularly relevant.

What is important is the impact we have when we are alive and the peace and happiness we can feel before we travel on.

To be loved by those we want to be loved by, to be respected by those we want to be respected by and to have led a life that can be looked back on with joy and satisfaction – these are the dreams of life for which we all should strive, and both Bernie and Nonny epitomised those who totally conquered these great and rich achievements.

The following lyrics are from one of the older Skipinnish songs and as both Nonny and Bernie were musicians and generous supporters of music, the theme is fitting.

Many a late night of music, good company and fellowship so many of us had with these two very special men, and the memories of their warmth and great characters will, like love and music, live for ever.

Farewell

We now must say farewell, but with

*warmth I will tell
Our meeting will stay with us till the end;
So fill the parting glass, this song must be our last,
In the glowing hope we'll someday meet again.*

*Chorus
We sat that night till the morning
singing 'Mairidh gaol is ceòl.'
If love and music live we may never die at all.*

*Many winters have passed on since
those summer nights have gone
But our lives are richer for the time we've had;
And in the evening of our days,
though our time was soon away,
We'll recall those olden glories and be glad.*

*Our destinies divide and, therefore,
live we all
All live to die, and rise to fall;*

*No sadness now or blame but a
memory and a flame
To burn beyond the passing of us all.*



Social media

There was a significant amount of comment on the 12 years' imprisonment and 15-year driving ban handed down to Thomas Wainwright for causing the death of Mull vet Theresa Wade in an accident in 2015. Claire Louise criticised: 'Not long enough, it wasn't his first offence and he didn't even have the decency to plead guilty.' Muriel Searl wrote: 'Arrogant and conceited ... deserves every second of his sentence.' Denice Addison posted: 'This guy is having 12 years (which he will probably do 6 at most) of his life taken away from him! Poor Theresa has had the rest of hers taken and her family will be heartbroken for the rest of theirs! I think the sentence was very well deserved! I

know people make silly decisions but trying to blame the girl you have killed for the accident really is the lowest of the low!'

Jacqueline Douglas blasted: 'Anyone driving a car drunk, is prepared to take the risk to kill someone. I call that ice cold murder.'

John Lamont said: 'He'll not regret it unfortunately, if he had any remorse he'd have pleaded guilty and not try and pervert the course of justice with his passenger, who said Ms Wade was at fault for the accident.'

Mark Robertson said: 'Sorry but his act was so gross and reckless that there was a serious risk to others ... he got what he deserved!'

David Williamson suggested: 'I bet you wish you could turn the clock

back!!! But you need to do your time. You will unfortunately be out with good behaviour in less than your sentence, which personally is wrong. You will regret this every day of your life.' Shawn Hooper offered: '12 years?! Wow! I know the USA is pretty messed up, but he would have gotten more time here.'

Marlyn Scanlon wrote: 'He does NOT deserve sympathy. A car is a lethal weapon in the wrong hands.'

Tj Telfer posted: 'Scum! Hope the family have some sort of closure. Rest in peace Theresa.'

Iain Brown wished: 'Hope the 15 year ban starts when he is out of jail.'

Elda Rowan lamented: 'Disgraceful sentence, Not nearly enough!'

Nathalie Porter said simply: 'Good!'

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.

Rubbish is piling up for tourist season

Sir, Well, it is that time of year again, and the foliage on our highways and byways has died back and there it is, laid bare for all to see - rubbish and yet more rubbish.

It is everywhere, and there is more and more every day. Coffee cups, sandwich wrappers, crisp packets, cigarette ends, plastic bottles, drinks cans, dead animals, detritus from road repairs and bits of crashed cars.

I don't know about you, but I was always taught to take my rubbish home and put it in the bin, not to litter the countryside. There really is no excuse.

I know there are cutbacks in services but, for the most part, this rubbish is obviously thrown from car windows, or it is the remains of the fish supper on the way home, or it may be the remains of the picnic, albeit tied up neatly in a carrier bag and left at the side of the road.

Why is it that some of us, who live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world, allow all this litter to accumulate? What makes people think it is acceptable to deposit litter at the side of the road, with a notion that someone else will pick it up, and no consideration for the wildlife in our countryside?

We rely so much on tourism in Scotland, and I feel ashamed of the way we portray our countryside to the many foreigners who visit. They probably leave our shores with the vision of a dirty, unkempt place, which no-one seems to care about.

It seems to me that the SNP leaders, who claim such pride in this wonderful place, should get out on to the roads of Argyll to see for themselves what a mess it is in.

It has got worse over the past two years. How on earth can they think about becoming independent if they can't even keep the housekeeping done properly? It is the most basic of duties.

Nicola Holt,
Burnside, Carradale.

Community hall deserves support

Sir, Most communities in Scotland have community centres - bigger towns, bigger centres, and villages have village halls. The general view is that they should be self-supporting.

Over the past number of years Ardgour Memorial Hall has gone from the dismal picture of perhaps having to close, to the present day when the hall has been completely renovated, except for the provision of new toilets.

Despite the hard work of the committee, £10,000 to £15,000 is still required to complete the renovation. It is just a pittance really when you think of its neighbours eight miles away, the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

There was some wringing of hands when the Highland Council's committee (ECAS) decided funding would be slashed from £166,000 to just £91,000 for the year 2017-18. The council has been subsidising the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHAILL SINN SÀR GHÀIDHEAL nuair a chaochail Ailig "Hearach" Dòmhnallach bho chionn ghoirid, agus b'fhàil air a' mhàin an Ruis, a' fàgail an uile seo an urra ri riaghaltas Shiria.

Ged a tha na faclan 'sàr Ghàidheal' bitheanta chan eil tomhas mion-aidheach air dè a tha a' fàgail neach seach neach eile a' dèanamh a' chòir na dhòigh. Tha mi moiteil clach a chur air càrn caraid.

'S cinnteach gur e na rinn duine de "mhath" dha daoine eile tè de na slatan-tomhais a bhiodh nàdarra ann am measadh air sàr neach sam bith, agus tha sin a' togail na ceiste an e sàr dhuine a th' ann an Ceann-suidhe Ameireagaidh a loisg urchraichean air an ionad-adhair ann an Siria bhon d' fhalbh na bomaichean gas a thuit air baile Khan Sheikhoun air an t-seachdain seo chaidh.

A rèir aithris chaidh fàgail air ceud

Nevis Centre to the sum of £166,000 per annum.

But there is more: the Highland Council has agreed that £250,000 be used for urgent repairs to the roof of the building. The chairperson of Linnh Leisure, which operates the centre, states: 'The building is more than 20 years old and at the end of its useful life.'

The Ardgour Memorial Hall committee has ensured the hall has been self-sufficient year after year and it was successful in raising the money required to renovate the hall, falling short by just £10,000 to £15,000.

Surely when the Highland Council can see fit to subsidise the Nevis Centre it would be willing to encourage a committee which has shown such enterprise and grant it even a fraction of the money required to finish the project.

As the Lochaber Times of Thursday March 30 pointed out, the community hall on Raasay find themselves in need of £18,000 to fund repairs. The importance of community and village halls cannot be over-stated and I would like to think that it could be a comfort to the committees of these enterprises that the Highland Council's committee (ECAS) considers it prudent to subsidise one community centre in such a magnanimous gesture.

John Maitland,
St Monace, North Corran,
Ardgour.

Are water babies heading our way?

Sir, I was intrigued to learn from one of the recent electioneering pamphlets that a maritime visitors' centre and 'transit birthing facility' are to open in the summer!

I guess the mums will have to be happy with water births. Let's hope that some of the new arrivals will stay in the Oban area and boost our declining population.

Fiona Wylie,
Traighuaine Ard,
Arduaine, Oban.

Postal workers could make home visits

Sir, Despite the huge increase in the number of elderly people being forecast 30 years ago, politicians of all colours failed to plan and budget for a different society.

Keeping people in their own homes is great but how can we ensure they are all monitored and have regular personal contact?

It costs £100 for a GP to make a home visit and £50 for a nurse. It is still £25 for a social worker, which is why here in the UK governments could be paying postal workers £5 to check on elderly residents and reduce the need and expense for crisis care.

A quick smile and a chat for an isolated pensioner living alone is good medicine - and cheap medicine.

In these days of declining mail vol-

umes, £5 a visit would bring welcome new revenue to the Post Office as well as helping our communities.

Helping voters and saving money are seemingly no longer important, though, as COSLA and Holyrood politicians focus on their own hot air.

Mike Foster,
Sannox,
Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Thanks for making conference a success

Sir, Aye2Aye Lochaber would like to thank everyone involved in making such a success of our conference, A Better Scotland.

Huge thanks to Paul Kavanagh (and the wee ginger dug), Cat Boyd and Robin MacAlpine, our three main speakers.

Thanks also to our local speakers, Lorraine Wheelan (Re-Act), John Hutchison (ELLCT), Donna Darnbrough (Lochaber School Bank) and Carol Anne Campbell (Lochaber Women for Independence).

Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes and homebaking and to the committee for providing lunch.

Thanks also to Marie, the owner of Aye2Aye's premises - we are all very grateful the use of your shop.

Big thanks to Woody from Linnh Lochside holidays and Morag P Aitken for accommodating Robin, Cat, Paul and Ginger, and the guys from Independence Live.

Thanks also to everyone who attended, and for your wonderfully positive feedback. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Thanks to Jimmy from Kilmallie Community Centre for a great venue and your all your help on the day.

John Gillespie,
Aye2Aye, High Street,
Fort William.

Failed policy on travelling community

Sir, Councils are being urged to work together to deal with unauthorised traveller sites following new Scottish Government guidance.

What a cheek! It was Alex Salmond who instructed the police not to get involved and leave it to local authorities and land-owners.

This meant that those affected had to take legal action. The travellers eventually moved on, leaving piles of filth which had to be cleared away at considerable cost.

Until there are harsh penalties, the travelling community will continue to set up camp wherever they like.

Stopping welfare benefits would be a start.

Only with such pressure will the travellers then use the specially provided council facilities paid for by the taxpayer.

This decades-long problem is another Scottish Government failure - not the councils.

Clark Cross,
138 Springfield Road, Linlithgow.

Ailean Caimbeul

a mharbhadh agus ceudan an leòn nuair a spreadh an gas sarin bho na bomaichean agus tha dùthchannan an t-saoghail, ach a-mhàin an Ruis, a' fàgail an uile seo an urra ri riaghaltas Shiria.

Tha Bashar al-Assad air na casaidean sin àicheadh ach tha fios gun do cheadaich e an aon seòrsa ionnsaigh faisg air Damascus mu cheithir bliadhna air ais, a' marbhadh mìle is ceithir cheud neach, a' fàgail teagamh mòr na chuid onarachd. Chuir dealbhan chloinne a' tachdadh le dìth analach sgreabh air daoine cearta feadh an t-saoghail agus fhuair Dòmhnall Trump moladh airson ionnsaigh a thoirt air an ionad bhon tàinig na bomaichean.

B' e atharrachadh barail a bha seo dha Trump air gnothaich a ghabhail ri Siria agus rinn ionnsaigh air iomairt anns am bheil an Ruis nam pàirt cron cuideachd air a' chàirdeas eadar cinn-suidhe Ameireagaidh agus an Ruis.

A dh'aindeoin a' mholaigh a fhuair e bho chuid de dhùthchannan, tha dragh air eòlaichean eadar-nàiseanta

nach eil poileasaidh neo innleachd mhionaideach sam bith air chùl na rinn Trump, neo gu dearbh a' cumail stiùir air a' mhaoidheadh aige air Corea a Tuath. Ach mar a thuirr am feallsanaiche Edmund Burke, 's e dìomhanas dhaoine matha a cheadaicheas buaidh an uile, agus tha sinn a' tilleadh chun cheist an e sàr dhuine a rinn dìoghaltas às leth na dh'fhuiling ann an Khan Sheikhoun?

Air neo am bu chòir faighneachd dè an t-eadar-dhealachadh a th' anns gach marbhadh a th' air a bhith a' dol fad sia bliadhna a-nise ann an Siria, 's gun choltas crìche air.

Saoidh mise gum bheil am fear bàn astar mòr bho inbhe shàr Ghàidheal fhathast.

IF, AS BURKE SAID, all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing, does Trump's intervention in Syria make him a 'good man'? Or was this a knee-jerk reaction without coherent strategy?

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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Dad blasts council failure to carry out PVG checks

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCILLORS who have not passed vital suitability checks may have been given access to information about vulnerable people, contrary to national guidelines.

Angus Files, whose son lives with severe autism, says the situation is 'horrendous' and has insisted that Argyll and Bute Council staff should have stopped councillors attending meetings until paperwork was in place. Mr Files is demanding to know why this has been allowed

to continue for a number of years.

Mr Files, whose 18-year-old son Geoffrey has a mental age of two, is concerned that confidential information about his son has been passed to councillors who are potentially not fit to serve.

Mr Files said: 'Geoffrey has low functioning regressive autism. I don't want anyone having his confidential information unless they are suitable to have it. I don't think the council can guarantee that. This is horrendous.'

'While I am sure it is not the case, potentially these councillors could have convictions for offending against people. The worst case could be that they are

on the sex offenders' register with access to sensitive information.

'While legislation exists to protect vulnerable people, Argyll and Bute Council seems to have decided to ignore this and has allowed two councillors to attend meetings without the checks. These people may not be suitable to do the job - we do not know. That's a terrible situation to be in.'

'The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) legislation is there to protect people who need extra support. It is unacceptable that two members of the Community Services Committee have never returned the paperwork.'

A Freedom of Information

request outlined the current situation. The head of law at the council, Charles Reppke, said: 'It is only the members on the Community Services Committee who require to be PVG checked, as this committee deals with the provision of education, accommodation and social services to children and protected adults on behalf of the council.'

'I am able to confirm that [one councillor] was first contacted by email on June 4, 2014, following the Community Services Committee being set up. The councillor was also sent [four] further emails asking her to confirm the position as it related to her.

'On February 5, 2016, [another] letter was sent enclosing an application to join the PVG scheme and an existing PVG scheme member form, and she was asked to complete whichever was applicable.'

Further reminder emails [were sent] on May 16, 2016, and October 5, 2016.

'[a second councillor was sent an email] on May 16, 2016, following appointment to the committee to find out whether or not [they] were already a member of the scheme.'

'[The councillor] never replied and was sent the two sets of forms by post on October 6, 2016, and

asked to complete whichever was applicable.

'[The councillor] was handed the forms again within the past fortnight but has not yet returned either of them.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council added: 'When councillors are appointed to the Community Services Committee they are advised that they should register under the PVG scheme.'

Both councillors in question were approached by *The Oban Times* and said the forms had been returned. In one case, the forms had gone missing and in the other case the forms have now been completed.

TIMESLINE

Fatal crash drunk driver imprisoned

A DRUNK driver who killed a Mull vet after downing cider and whisky and speeding at 95mph in his hired Maserati was jailed for 12 years at Glasgow High Court last week.

Thomas Wainwright, 27, who was on the wrong side of the road, ploughed into a Berlingo van driven by Theresa Wade, 29, on the A849 at Craignure on October 28, 2015. Wainwright tried to blame Ms Wade for the crash.

Sentencing, Judge John Morris QC said he had difficulty finding any mitigating factors, branded him 'arrogant', and also banned Wainwright from driving for 15 years.

Theresa's partner Charles Pease, paid an emotional tribute to her, saying: 'I have too many happy recollections of Theresa to let Thomas Wainwright spoil them.'

HES turns up heat at historic sites

AN HISTORIC iron furnace in Tanyul has once again opened its doors for this year's summer season.

Bonawe Furnace is one of more than 30 historic sites across the country that have opened for the summer.

Castles, cairns and brochs across Scotland will welcome visitors as the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology gets into full swing.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is encouraging tourists and locals alike to get up close and personal with history in 2017.

For further information on opening hours, access and locations, visit: www.historicenvironment.scot/

Tasting the Big Apple

TALENTED young musicians from Oban High School Pipe Band were give a taste of the Big Apple when they took part in the famous Tartan Day parade through New York City.

The boys and girls from Oban joined celebrities, politicians and members of the public on the parade along Sixth Avenue on Saturday, organised by the St Andrews Society of the State of New York.

The schools pipes and drums were well-received by the New Yorkers, who turned out in droves to witness the sea of tartan and all things Scottish.

The Oban band was among 30 pipe bands from the US, Scotland and other parts of Britain taking part.



New cost for pre-planning advice

THE council may begin charging for the advice it gives on building plans later this year.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning department currently offers people free advice before they submit planning applications, but its popularity is putting pressure on reduced resources.

Development manager Peter Bain, speaking at Connel Community Council on Thursday last

week, said the planning budget had seen a service cut of 25 per cent over the past two years.

'We have had more than 2,000 formal applications submitted over 2016,' he said, with 1,200 written submissions for pre-planning advice in 2016-17.

Angus Gilmour, head of planning and regulatory services, said an introduction is likely in the summer this year, but there will need to be 'a lead-in time

so we do not spring it on the public'.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson later told *The Oban Times*: 'Like all local authorities, we are having to make changes to how we work to protect services as much as possible from the impact of significantly reduced funding.'

'The council took the decision at last year's budget-setting meeting to introduce charges for

pre-application advice in preparing planning applications.

'We are developing the level of advice available without charge on our website. As planning applications vary in complexity, we are establishing a sliding scale of fees so that, where people still need advice from us, cost is matched fairly to the scale of the planning application.'

'We expect charges to be introduced in the summer.'

Rise to the walking challenge

NHS HIGHLAND launched its annual community walking challenge 'Rise and Shine' this month, alongside other cycling and jogging challenges called 'Challenge Myself'.

The aim is to get fit, stay healthy and have fun with friends. Each area in Argyll and Bute has been entered into the walking challenge league to compete against each other.

The champion area for 2016 was

the Isle of Mull, with Jura, Bute and Oban hot on their heels. Which will be the first area to reach one million steps in 2017?

The participating areas in this year's walking challenge are Cowal, Bute, Kintyre, Tiree, Helensburgh, Mull, Jura, Oban, Gigha, Mid Argyll and Colonsay. So far, the Isle of Mull has let its crown slip, with Isle of Bute being strides ahead.

Competitors can also enter

Argyll and Bute's cycling and jogging challenges, and compete against each other to win the titles of 'Cyclist of the Month' and 'Female and Male Jogger of the Month'. All competitors' miles will be accumulated to reach an overall target of 6,000 miles by September 2017.

If anybody wants to set up their own challenge, contact Elaine Booth at elaine.booth3@nhs.net.

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Argyll and Bute Council participatory budgeting scheme

ABPB.CO.UK

Deadline 6th May

How would you spend £15,000?

This is your chance to get involved! Through participatory budgeting, you can decide how £15,000 of funding is spent on community improvements to help **grow and strengthen Gaelic in the Argyll and Bute area.**

Anyone who lives in Argyll and Bute and is at least 16 years old can vote online, even if you're not registered or eligible to vote in electoral elections. It's your future, you decide!

For more information and to vote, please visit **www.ABPB.co.uk**

Participatory Budgeting scheme by Argyll and Bute Council in conjunction with The Scottish Government

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FREE HOLIDAY West Highland

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EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES YOUR GUIDE TO THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS DAY TRIPS AND BOAT TRIPS

Silver medal for Lochaber Phoenix boxer

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's Cameron Whyte came back from the GB Junior Boxing Championships with a silver medal last weekend after an explosive two bouts of boxing in Sheffield.

Cameron's opponent in his semi-final was Michael Brook of England who came to the ring with the reputation of being an aggressive, high volume punching boxer.

Brook lived up to this reputation in the opening round as he bolted out of the traps like a greyhound throwing combination after combination in an effort to wear down Whyte.

Cameron for the most part stood his ground and threw with Brook in what was a wildly exciting round of boxing as neither fighter gave ground and fired more punches at each other in one round than some boxers do in an entire contest.

Whyte now has a wealth of interna-

tional experience and called on that in the second as, realising he needed to create some distance from his opponent, he began to set trap after trap for Brook to fall into and the English boxer duly obliged as he walked onto one eye-catching shot after another as the Lochaber boxer produced probably the best round of his career.

Brook found he could no longer catch the elusive Whyte and the English camp knew they had to change tactics.

Successful international boxers must have the ability to adapt and change tactics during a bout and Brook attempted this in the last round by standing at long range and attempting to outbox Whyte but Cameron was now in the zone and dominated the session and clinched the victory.

The final the next day pitted Whyte against the ultimate schoolboy opponent in any weight in Europe as he

faced England's Barney Docherty, who not only won the European title last year in Russia at the weight above Cameron but won the boxer of the tournament trophy also.

To make things just a little more difficult, Docherty came with an enormous vocal travelling support from the famed Repton boxing club.

Both boxers vied for position at the start of the final and feints were high on the menu as, understandably when boxing at this level, any mistake will be punished.

After exchanging a few straight shots the boxers settled into a pattern that would be the basic premise for the entire contest. Whyte would stalk and Docherty would move, trying to steal punches as he retreated.

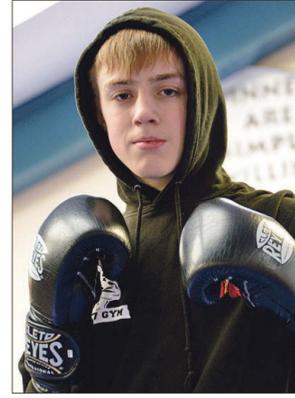
Knowing Docherty had edged the opener, Whyte tried to lure him forward but to no avail so at various times Cameron would attempt differ-

ent manoeuvres to catch Barney and, although he had success, the English boxer landed a few more single shots to edge the rounds.

The decision went to Docherty but these are the kind of bouts that will enable Cameron to improve and become an even better and more successful boxer.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club have also been boosted by the incredible news that reigning IBF World Champion Lee Selby and his brother Andrew, the former amateur world number one and now successful professional, are both visiting the club on Friday April 21 to meet the local boxers, where among other things Lee and Andrew will both pose for photos and autographs.

There will also be lots of Selby autographed goods on sale. Anyone who would like to meet the boys are urged to get in touch with the club.



Cameron Whyte won a silver medal at the GB Junior Boxing Championships in Sheffield.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Pam leads the chase for high pin trophy

10-pin bowling

AFTER week four of the 10-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Pam Weller continues to lead the scratch league with 60 points.

She is followed by Brian Johnstone with 52 points and Ben Weller on 47 points.

Brian Johnstone leads the handicap league with 54 points followed by Pam Weller on 36 points and Wendy Brooke on 45 points.

Pam Weller leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1,901 scratch pins followed by Brian Johnstone in second with 1,717 and Nick Brooke in third with 1,604.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Gary Cowan with 200. Gary also rolled a 171. Also this week John Weller rolled a 177.

The top three-game scratch series of the week were bowled by Gary Cowan with 503, followed by Pam Weller with 454 and Ben Weller with 442. Gary Cowan also rolled the top three-game handicap series with 629 followed by John Weller with 599 and Tommy McKnight with 588.

Heavy defeat for rugby team

Rugby

LOCHABER rugby club travelled to Ellon for their last away game of the season on Saturday but suffered a 78-0 defeat.

Missing 10 first-team players, it was a very under-strength team.

Things didn't get any better as Ellon opened the scoring in the first couple of minutes and, from the resulting kick-off, Lochaber went down to 14 men after a red card.

A spokesperson for the club said: 'That was pretty much it for the rest of the game for Lochaber. Their only lineup jumper sent off and, with a winger and a scrum-half playing in the scrum, things weren't going well.'

Ellon finished their season top of the bottom half, winning the game 78-0.

Lochaber will be looking to put that game behind them when they host Shetland on Saturday April 22 at Banavie at 3pm for their last game of the season.

Lottery numbers

Lottery

THERE is £1,000 up for grabs in this week's Ballachulish shinty lotto draw on Sunday. Winning numbers for the draw on April 9 were 5, 6 and 10.

Winning numbers for Caol regeneration lotto draw on April 6 were 1, 2, and 13. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £500 for the draw on April 13.

Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week draw on April 9 were 1, 11 and 19. There were no winners this week so the jackpot is up to £200.



Pupils took part in the 10th annual competition. Photos: Abrightside Photography.

Ballachulish win dodgeball festival

Dodgeball

A TEAM of pupils from Ballachulish Primary School have won the 10th South Lochaber Primary Schools Dodgeball Festival.

Organised by High Life Highland's Active Schools coordinators, Kim Boa and Jane Bruce, the friendly event is always fiercely contested.

Forty-eight pupils took part in the competition on Tuesday April 4 from Ballachulish, Kinlochleven, Duror, Glencoe and St Brides primary schools, with teams of six children, from P4-P7 who will compete for the top spot.

It was a close-run match but in first place was Ballachulish Yellow, second were Glencoe Primary School, third were Kinlochleven Primary, fourth Ballachulish Green, fifth St Brides, sixth was a tie with Ballachulish Red and Ballachulish Blue, seventh were Duror Primary School.

A spokesperson said: 'Thanks to the volunteer students, parents and teachers who have been running practice sessions in each school in preparation for this.'

The dodgeball competition is part of the wider Lochaber Active Schools PE programme of festivals, with the aim of encouraging children to try and take part in a range of different sports and activities.



There was fierce competition this year from the 48 pupils who took part.



Ballachulish, Kinlochleven, Duror, Glencoe and St Brides primary schools all entered.

Fort William win penalty shoot-out

Fort William	3
Lossiemouth	3
North of Scotland Cup	

Fort William won 4-1 on penalties FORT William secured a home victory last weekend after beating Lossiemouth 4-1 on penalties in the North of Scotland Cup.

Top goalscorer Scotty Davidson put the Fort in front, netting in the third minute, before making it a double just 15 minutes later.

Lossiemouth pulled a goal back in the 24th minute and they quickly brought the teams level at 2-2 going into the break.

Fort's Michael Corbett put the home side back in front in the 73rd minute, but six minutes later the visitors equalised from the penalty spot.

With the score tied at 3-3 after 90 minutes the teams geared up for the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

There was some confusion between the referee and members of the Fort William club about extra time rules but, after consulting the North of Scotland Cup rule book, the ref agreed with the Fort that no extra time should be played, and the match went straight to penalties.

After Lossie missed three spot kicks the Fort held on to win 4-1.



Man of the match was Fort goalkeeper Stephen Foster.



Fort William's Iain MacIntyre stretches to toe the ball away from Lossiemouth's Ryan Farquhar. Photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Fort's Alasdair Stark sweeps the ball away from his team's goalmouth, with Lossiemouth's Ross Archibald in pursuit.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with some light rain
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Sunny on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 13, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Thu	00.55 0.7 06.42 3.9 13.21 0.9 19.03 3.9		Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	01.28 0.9 07.13 3.8 13.52 1.1 19.33 3.8		Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	02.00 1.1 07.43 3.7 14.23 1.2 20.04 3.7		Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	02.34 1.3 08.12 3.5 14.56 1.5 20.38 3.5		Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	03.10 1.5 08.43 3.2 15.34 1.7 21.17 3.2		Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Tues	03.55 1.8 09.20 3.0 16.26 1.8 22.06 3.0		Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Wed	04.58 1.9 10.14 2.8 17.34 1.9 23.24 2.9		Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	