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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Warning as figures reveal babies are among the homeless in Oban

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'UNACCEPTABLE' figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act reveal 30 young people – including babies – were officially homeless around Oban earlier this year.

Seventeen of those registered as homeless with Argyll and Bute Council were aged from birth to 16, living in 12 families.

Rough-sleeping data requested by *The Oban Times* also showed that, on March 12 this year, there were 13 known homeless people aged 16 to 24 in the Lorn area.

Alison Watson, deputy director of Shelter Scotland, warned that being homeless can have a serious impact on young people's life chances.

'This is concerning as homelessness has a real impact on children's health, education and life chances. Living in temporary accommodation can be a life in limbo – waiting for a real place to call their home.'

'At the heart of the problem is that demand for truly affordable housing outstrips supply. To tackle the shortage, Scotland needs to build enough social and truly affordable homes to meet that demand and ensure no child wakes up homeless in 21st-century Scotland. It also needs to ensure there is a minimum standard of temporary accommodation so that people's wait for a permanent home isn't spent in poor quality, inappropriate housing,' she said.

Argyll and Bute Council said it proactively helps the homeless by offering support, mediation and advice services, liaising closely with the Health and Social Care Partnership and

also works with registered social landlord partners to find people permanent accommodation and to continue to build new social housing.

Councillor Kieron Green said: 'I find it utterly unacceptable for those of any age, but especially children and young people, to be left without a home of their own.'

He added: 'I welcome plans that housing associations have for delivering hundreds of new houses and flats for social renting locally and look forward to this being delivered as quickly as possible.'

On Friday, West Highland Housing Association put in a planning application to build 300 homes on land west of Dunstaffnage at Mains Farm, Dunbeg.

And Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has just announced plans to invest £24.5 million in its existing stock and its new-build programme during 2018/19.

Its director of investment and regeneration, Kirsteen McGinn, said its development programme recognises the housing needs of those on the council's HOME Argyll list, which will mean that some homeless families will be rehoused either in the new properties or properties vacated by tenants moving into them.'

Currently Blue Triangle Housing Association, with just 32 beds, is the council's sole provider of temporary accommodation in Oban for the homeless and it has nothing available for families with children.

The charity Carr Gomm, which supports people, said getting a secured tenancy is taking up to two years for those families and four years for the single



Pipe band's New York tribute to Barra girl Eilidh

Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, made up of secondary school students from Uist and Barra, pictured in New York after taking part in the city's famous Tartan Week. It is the first time the pipe band has attended the event and the motivation came when tragedy hit the island's small community. Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band member Eilidh MacLeod was one of 22 victims of the Manchester bombing in May 2017. Gaelic media company MacTV has been following the pipe band since it started fundraising for its trip, which has taken members 5,000km away from the islands they call home. For more photographs and MacTV's video, visit www.obantimes.co.uk

homeless in Oban. 'There has always been a lack of permanent accommodation in Oban,' said Carr Gomm service manager Susan Colin.

'Legislation determines that if someone is deemed priority homeless, the council has a duty to accommodate them in the local authority area but, because there is a lack of temporary accommodation in Oban, often they are offered another area of

Argyll and Bute instead, such as Helensburgh, Campbeltown and Rothesay.'

'It's been a big issue for years. People are being offered housing miles away from their social network and particularly the younger ones often don't want to go.'

'Instead they sofa surf or sleep rough on the streets.'

According to the FoI figures, the council dealt with 88 home-

less applications across Lorn between February 1, 2017, and January 31 this year.

Since May last year, the number of people turning to Oban food and friendship charity New Hope for help has doubled – and many of them are homeless or sofa surfing, says its service manager Lorraine McCormick.

'We continue to give out tents and sleeping bags to rough sleepers when needed and we

welcome everyone into our service, no matter what their circumstances.'

'Over the winter it is particularly difficult to see people rough sleeping.'

'People are dying on the streets of Scotland every year from hypothermia and other illnesses associated with homelessness.'

'We don't want to see anyone die in our town so we open our doors to all.'

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OT

TIMESLINE**MP asks regulator to intervene on ATM**

WESTERN Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil is calling on the Payment System Regulator (PSR) to intervene over the ATM in Tarbert on the Isle of Harris following concerns about the cashpoint's reliability.

Mr MacNeil contacted Cardtronics, the company with responsibility for the ATM on numerous occasions to report disruptions to the cashpoint.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Once again, the ATM in Tarbert is out of action and Cardtronics continues to ignore the pleas from the community.'

There has been no response from Lloyds Banking Group to my communication. Despite assurances that they wanted the Isle of Harris to receive an improved and more consistent service, it appears to have washed its hands of this ATM. A wall of silence continues from Cardtronics.'

MP and MSP welcome grant

NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR MP Angus Brendan MacNeil and MSP Alasdair Allan have welcomed the announcement from the Scottish Land Fund that Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath has been awarded £100,586 to buy the Old Carinish School and adjoining school house.

Funding has been provided for Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath to relocate its important collections from Benbecula, to make these accessible and to become an active community hub for the Gaelic language, for learning, family history and the welcoming of visitors.

Call for smart meters in islands

SCOTLAND'S island communities cannot be 'at the back of the queue' as smart meters are rolled out, Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan has said.

One of Mr Allan's constituents was initially denied a smart meter as there were no trained engineers in the area.

The constituent was told he would have to wait until 2020 before he could get one. The company eventually agreed to send an engineer on a ferry from the mainland to install a meter for this single customer.

Dr Allan said: 'Energy companies should be prioritising rural communities. Scotland's islands can't be left at the back of the queue.'

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HOLIDAYMAKERS heading to Tiree are being invited to help maintain the island's pristine beaches after volunteers cleared 20 tonnes of marine litter from its shores.

Islanders are now looking at enlisting the help of tourists arriving on CalMac ferries to litter-pick while they are visiting the island, including those coming for July's Tiree Music Festival and the Tiree Wave Classic in October.

Last month more than 110 residents waged war on beach litter over one weekend to tidy Tiree before the start of the big tourist rush.

Teams of all ages bagged a square of coastline marked out on a map co-ordinated by island ranger Stephanie Cope to help rid the island of washed-up

debris – in all, the volunteers covered about 60 per cent of the shoreline taking before and after photos.

Beachcomber Craft Cafe put up a prize meal to the team that collected the most, won by Claire Vale and company.

'We had not anticipated that amount of litter so it was a challenge to lift it.'

'It turned into a monster. We expected to come away with lots of plastic bottles but in the main it was fishing gear that made up the vast majority of what we collected, which was disappointing – creels, tangled ropes. There were plastic bottles and that type of waste but it was less prevalent,' said Ms Cope.

The map helped litter pickers focus on more remote areas not usually covered by regular beach-cleans and help from businesswoman Willie Angus who runs Wild Diamond Watersports on

the island was 'a life-saver' with his four-wheel drive and trailer that could get onto the beach, added Ms Cope.

'Tiree is spectacular. It's a wonderful place to live and visit. It's a bit of a shame we've got to ask visitors for this kind of help while they are enjoying their time here but it's a lovely thing for them to give back to the island, helping keep the beautiful beaches tidy.'

'We hope they will happily get involved and pledge their support before they arrive.'

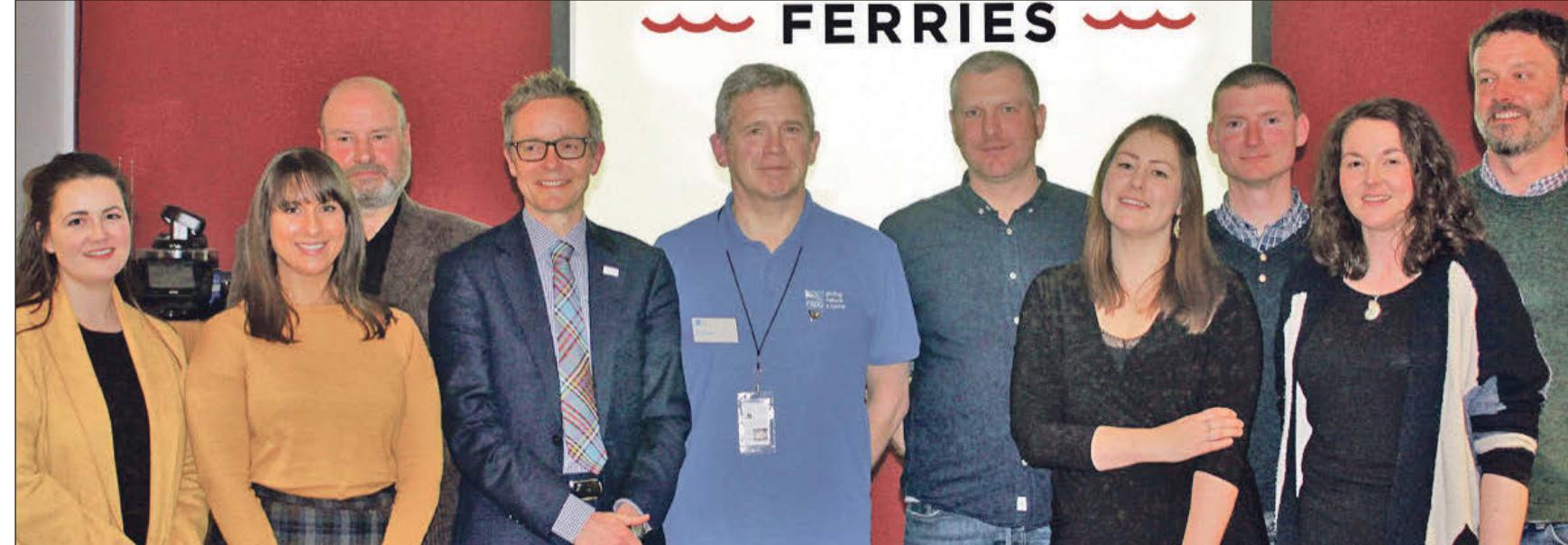
Ferry operator CalMac has a full-time wildlife officer to help educate crew and passengers about marine life along the West Coast.

'We would love to set up a system involving CalMac,' said Ms Cope.

To keep in touch with Tidy Tiree go to facebook.com/Isle-of-Tiree



Volunteers recently cleared 20 tonnes of marine litter from Tiree's beaches.

CalMac partnership set to boost marine awareness

Some of the marine awareness partners at the launch event in Oban.

WEST COAST ferry operator CalMac has teamed up with 14 conservation bodies in a bid to better protect the environment it sails in.

The company's new Marine Awareness Programme outlines specific actions it will take to help passengers get the most from the environment they are travelling through and to better understand the wildlife in its area of operations.

Working with bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland, actions outlined include using CalMac vessels to undertake marine biodiversity monitoring, passenger engagement and education to raise marine environment awareness with

both visitors and locals and to facilitate better information sharing between conservation agencies.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'Knowledge is a major part of protecting the environment for future generations. By finding out what wild resources we have, we are in better position to take steps to help conserve them.'

'Our commitment to the monitoring, education and information sharing activity outlined in this programme will help ensure we continue to build knowledge about the seas we sail.'

Mr Drummond pointed out that the marine environment on the West

Coast is among the most diverse in the world, supporting over 6,500 complex and 40,000 single cell species of plants and animals.

He said the seas are among the richest in Europe for marine mammals, with Scotland holding about 70 per cent of Europe's population of grey seals and 35 per cent of common seals, along with numerous species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, and seabirds.

CalMac's 14 partners are Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine Scotland, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, British Trust for Ornithology, Capturing Our Coast, Field Studies Council Millport, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust,

MARINElife, ORCA, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

'CalMac understands how important the environment we work in day to day is to our communities,' added Mr Drummond. 'The natural environment and the wildlife within it are central to attracting visitors and helping to grow the economies within the areas we serve.'

He continued: 'We want to help stimulate this economic growth wherever we can by delivering reliable services. However, it is crucial that we balance this with protecting the environment.'

Worldwide interest in flag contest

ENTRIES for the Tiree flag competition are coming in fast from places as diverse as Switzerland and Canada, as well as from South Uist and the island itself.

Tiree decided last year to develop a flag, following successful campaigns for flags on Barra and South Uist. The competition runs throughout April, with details on the competition website www.tireeflag.com.

Dr John Holliday, chairman of the competition committee, told *The Oban Times*: 'It has been fascinating to see how different people have approached the design. It sounds easy, but it's not: taking the essence of the island and creating a simple, original and striking flag. We've already been sent some very interesting flags from people all over the world with an interest in Tiree.'

'With the competition ending on Tuesday May 1, there is still plenty of time to send in your ideas.'

Designs for Iona's new village hall

Crùbh Community Hub and the White House at Grishipol on Coll, and is currently designing the new visitor centre for the Fort Bridges World Heritage Site.

The new single-storey building, in the same spot next to the library and nunnery, incorporates a courtyard, main hall with improved stage, a foyer/gathering hall, kitchen, toilets, meeting room with space for 20 around a table, an outside shelter and two disabled parking spaces.

Trustee Joanne MacInnes welcomed the 'brilliant' designs: 'These designs are the culmination of five years of consultation with island residents, businesses and visitors. We are really excited to bring them to fruition. Our biggest challenge will be raising £1.2m by the end of 2018 – no mean feat for a group of volunteers and less than 170 residents.'

Move to have spaceport located in North Uist

WESTERN Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil, representatives from QinetiQ and the leader and officials from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar welcomed Scotland's Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy Paul Wheelhouse MSP to Uist to discuss having a spaceport in the Hebrides.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Uist is the lead site in the UK for a vertical take-off facility to be located, not least because of the local expertise which could launch and successfully guide, monitor and control such a rocket.'

'Last year during the maritime exercise Formidable Shield, Hebrides Range in Uist became the only place

in the UK to have fired a rocket into space. It was the heaviest, largest and highest rocket launched into space from the British Isles.'

'Currently, the UK has no sovereignty in this area but countries as diverse as Kazakhstan, Algeria, Morocco and India do. A lot of the work in this area goes to India. Many in this field feel a UK capability would be helpful to say the least.'

'The UK government wants to have about 10 per cent of the annual global space market, which is around £40 billion. Any spaceport site would be based in Colpaig in North Uist with a firing take-off angle about 85 degrees

towards the north-west, going high between Iceland and the Faroe Islands. It would not be going over any land and be higher than aircraft altitudes within 20 miles.'

'Further, given the track record of Hebrides Range in being able to conduct technical launches with an excellent safety record, there can be nowhere better to bring this work than to Uist.'

Council leader Roddie Mackay added: 'The narrative we have heard from QinetiQ is why the spaceport proposal in North Uist is a serious proposal and it is why it's the leading vertical take-off option for the UK.'

Minister makes Islay ferry pledge

ISLAY will be next in line for a new ferry to support the island's growing economy, Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf has pledged.

Transport Scotland officials are investigating the potential design of the new vessel with Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) and CalMac Ferries.

Mr Yousaf said: 'The next vessel procurement exercise will be for a new ferry for Islay to replace the MV Hebridean Isles. This will maintain our investment programme.'

Council submits bid for tourism cash

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR intends to submit an Outer Hebrides-wide application for the Scottish Government's £6 million Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. The timescale for the initial expression of interest is April 27, with full applications to be submitted by July 27.

Rise in registered births on Uist

RESEARCH conducted by members of the community suggest the registered births in Uist for 2015, 2016 and 2017 show a 67 per cent increase compared to a decade ago.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said: 'This is a very positive piece of research. It is also good to see that more families with young children are choosing to settle in Uist. With wide open spaces, stunning beaches, machair land and much more, Uist is a fantastic place to live and bring up children.'

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POLICE FILES

with Sergeant
Iain MacNicol
Man arrested

AT 3.15PM on Tuesday April 3, police responded to a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman in George Street, Oban. A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drug possession

A man, aged 17, who was stopped and searched by police at 11.05pm on Wednesday April 4 in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, was found in possession of cannabis. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Quad bike theft

SOMETIME between 6.30pm on Wednesday April 4 and 6.45am on Thursday April 5, a red Suzuki 500cc quad bike, registration SF17 AAY, was stolen from a farm in Ardchattan, near North Connel. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for anyone in North Connel, Ardchattan or on the B845 road over to Barcaldine who may have dash cam or other footage, or with any information, to contact them quoting incident number 0525 of 05/04/18.

Break-in try

A PADLOCK on an agricultural shed door on the Moss Road, Ledaig, was damaged in an attempted break-in sometime between 5pm on Wednesday April 4 and 8am on Thursday April 5.

Cannabis found

AT 2AM on Saturday April 7, in Barcaldine, a man, aged 34, was stopped and searched by police and was found in possession of cannabis. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

Window smashed

A WINDOW in a house on Soroba Road, Oban, was smashed at 2am on Saturday April 7.

Breach of bail

AT 12.30PM on Saturday April 7, in George Street, Oban, a man, 24, breached bail conditions imposed by the court by entering a licensed premises. Police attended and found the man behaving in an abusive manner in George Street. The man was arrested and charged, was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Car damaged

A SILVER Peugeot 308 had its windscreen chipped and damaged by stones sometime between 11.30am and 1.30pm on Saturday April 7, in William Street, Oban.

Theft of tools

A Ford Transit van was left in a lay-by a mile east of Dalmally on the A85 sometime between 4pm on Saturday April 7 and 5.45pm on Sunday April 8. The van was discovered on fire at 5.45pm on Sunday April 8. Firefighters put out the blaze and the owner reported tools had been stolen.

Man warned

AT 11.50PM on Sunday April 8, in Victoria Crescent, Oban, a man, aged 55, was issued with a recorded police warning for abusive behaviour.

Speeding drivers

A MAN, aged 29, was stopped for speeding at the weekend near Tyndrum and was charged with dangerous driving.

Another two men, aged 32 and 41, were stopped for speeding in the same area and on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, a man, aged 54, was stopped for speeding.

Anyone with information on the above, or any incident, should call police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Concern over faulty Oban town centre defibrillator

DAVID MCPHEE

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AN 'UNAVAILABLE' defibrillator caused concern in Oban last Friday morning after a person collapsed at the train station.

Before an ambulance was on scene, an effort was made to access the defibrillator positioned at the clock in Oban's Station Square.

However, the operator was unable to grant access to the life-saving piece of equipment.

It was reported on social media that while waiting for the emergency services to arrive, two train passengers, one of whom was a doctor, administered first aid.

Sean MacIntyre, chairman of Dunbeg Community Council, witnessed the incident.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'As far as I could tell, someone collapsed and two guards went round to gain access to

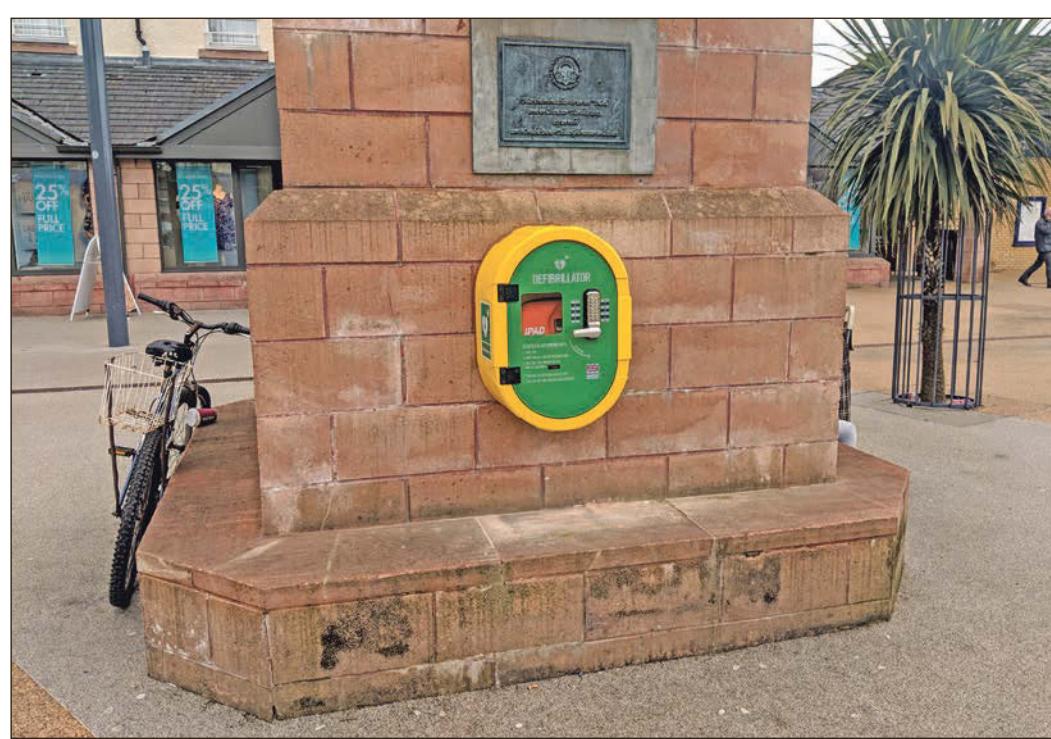
the defibrillator attached to the clock. They phoned the number on it – it tells you to phone 999 and an operator will give you the code – but they could not gain access to it.'

A spokesperson from the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'We were on the scene within six minutes and transferred the patient to hospital.'

'At the time of this incident, this public access defibrillator was showing as unavailable and we will be fully investigating the circumstances with the local community.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'This is extremely concerning and I am sure the powers-that-be will ensure this is rectified.'

'These are lifesaving pieces of equipment, but they are only of use if they are able to be accessed quickly. What we have to be sure of is that the rest of the defibrillators are checked so this does not happen again.'



The defibrillator in Oban's Station Square.

Future of Jura and Islay in summit spotlight

THREE Scottish Government ministers were in Bowmore last Wednesday discussing long-term economic plans for Islay and Jura.

Attending the summit, which was organised by Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, were Humza Yousaf, minister for transport and the islands, Fiona Hyslop, responsible for culture, tourism and external affairs, and MSP Michael Russell, Bute minister.

Alongside the chief executives of Highland and Argyll and Bute Councils, they discussed 'how

to build a strategic, long-term plan for sustainable economic growth' on the islands.

Representatives from Islay and Jura community councils were in attendance, as were the Ferry Users Group, the Tourism and Marketing Group and various spokespeople from the whisky industry.

They were joined by senior management from CalMac, Transport Scotland, VisitScotland and Mundell's Hauliers.

Opening the summit, Mr O'Hara said: 'As MP for Argyll and Bute and as the chairman

of the all-party group on Scotch whisky at Westminster, everyone I speak to talks about their plans to increase spirit production on these islands and the rise in tourist numbers that will inevitably follow.'

'At the same time, I know the people of Islay and Jura are at the end of their tether over crumbling roads and the huge challenges posed by a ferry service that is very often unreliable and occasionally bursting at the seams.'

'So I just couldn't see how increased spirit production,

coupled to the inevitable rise in visitor numbers, would be possible given the already huge demands on the roads and the ferries.'

'It seemed everyone was happily ploughing their own furrow, without any strategic overview or a long-term plan for sustainable economic growth.'

'That couldn't go on and I felt it essential that all the stakeholders, from community to national government got together to arrive at a shared vision for the future wellbeing of Islay and Jura.'

Following the meeting, he said: 'I am absolutely delighted at the announcement by Transport Scotland that Islay will be the first in line in the next vessel procurement exercise to replace the MV Hebridean Isles.'

'I am also delighted everyone present at this summit is in agreement about the need for better and more collaborative working, and I welcome Humza Yousaf's commitment to do everything practically possible to ensure the challenges are met and the islands' potential is realised.'

First prize for old into new creation

FURNITURE upcycler Julie Ruddock has won a meal for two after turning shelves into a handy box seat.

Her entry into a competition run by Oban's LORI and Oban Re-use Initiative impressed artist Liz Gaffney-Whaite who runs the Heartfelt Studio at Dalmany Station and was invited to pick the winner.

Five pieces of furniture donated to LORI for re-use at its Moleigh site were offered up to the first five people up for the challenge.

Julie from Taynuilt chose the wooden shelf unit and with a bit of imagination, woodwork, embellishing skills and old curtains to upholster it – turned it into a chair.

The finished piece will now go on sale at LORI's shop at Moleigh, open 9am until 4pm Mondays to Fridays and from 11am to 4pm on Saturdays.

Julie said: 'I was surprised to win. Doing this kind of thing is a hobby of mine, so is listening to heavy metal while crocheting!'

She makes memory bears, sells her own handcrafted cards and is currently working on revamping some old mirrors, giving them



Julie Ruddock.

an organic look, dressing them up with bits of bark.'

Julie's meal for two prize was donated by Loch Melfort Hotel at Arduaine.

Liz Gaffney-Whaite also donated bottles of prosecco to Rhona Larkin who came second and the rest of the upcyclers who took part – Rolinke Bremer, Stephanie Summers and Heather Maclean – in recognition of their hard work and creativity.



Stuart Craig, left, and Gordon Law of the Clyde River Steamer Club joined CalMac's small vessel technical superintendent, Jonathan Davies, for a last look around the vessel.

End of an era as CalMac ferry retires

THE MV Eigg, the last Island-class ferry in the CalMac fleet, is retiring from west coast service.

The eight-strong Island-class were introduced from 1972, with the Eigg launched in 1975. At 75ft long and 21ft wide, she is capable of carrying 75 passengers and five cars.

Although her main route was Oban-Lismore, she was occasionally to be found operating out of Largs, Lochranza, Tobermory, Iona, Raasay and Lochaline. She also served as the Kilchoan-Tobermory ferry from 1996 to 1998 and was latterly relief vessel on a number of shorter routes.

The Island-class vessels opened up new routes for CalMac to Arran and Mull and,

being virtually interchangeable, they greatly increased the flexibility of the fleet. They also improved services to the communities on Gigha, Iona and Lismore.

Jonathan Davies, CalMac's small vessel technical superintendent, said: 'The MV Eigg is the oldest vessel in our fleet and she is the last of the Island-class. It is the end of an era with her leaving the fleet. She has served the company for more than 40 years and has been an unstinting servant to the people of Lismore in particular.'

MV Eigg has now been handed back to owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) which is expected to announce a buyer for the vessel shortly.

Mull man had indecent images of children

A 38-YEAR-OLD man from Tobermory has pleaded guilty to possessing indecent images of children and sending 'graphic and horrifying' messages.

Douglas Wright, of 17 Druimfin Gardens, Tobermory, appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday April 10.

Police searched his property on July 26, 2017. It was later revealed his computer contained 51 category A still images, 42 category B and 16 category C. He also had two category A moving images, one category B and two Category C. Also discovered during the analysis of Wright's computer was a social media conversation between him and a suspected alias used by another person.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'This conversation involves violent and distressing references to child abuse. The consensus is, even among professionals who unfortunately have to deal with this type of material, that the level of depravity exhibited with these messages is simply unparalleled.'

During the police interview [Wright] admitted to downloading the images, although he claimed he did so out of a 'morbid curiosity' as to how individuals could commit such acts on children and infants. He also denied being sexually attracted to children in any way.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This is a very serious offence and custody is a real option.'

The case was deferred until Tuesday May 22 for reports.

Until then Wright will remain on bail, though a notification requirement will be put in place.

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OT

Oban North Pier Building officially handed over

SANDY NEIL
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THE OFFICIAL handover of the keys to a new maritime visitors' centre on Oban's North Pier took place last Friday.

The centre is part of a £3.1 million CHORD investment in Oban and provides a changing area with toilets, showers and lockers, a harbour master's office and commercial space on the ground floor for rent.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council and policy lead for economic development Councillor Aileen Morton said: 'This wonderful new facility complements the pontoons and will benefit the whole of the west coast marine industry.'

'The pontoons are already having a positive impact, with approximately 5,000 visitors coming ashore during the first two months of operation, despite being the end of the season.'

'Not only has this benefited local businesses, but it has also shown Oban to be a first-class destination for cruise passengers and other marine tourism. It is great to see everything coming together.'

Depute leader of the council and policy lead for finance Councillor Gary Mulvaney, agreed: 'There has been a substantial investment in Oban over the past few years, with the

regeneration of the town centre and the maritime development. This has been a seamless example of partnership working with a local company, bringing the project in on time and in budget.'

'The new North Pier Harbour Building will add to Oban as a key sailing destination look forward to reaping the financial benefits it will bring in the years ahead.'

Chairwoman of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'This is an exciting time for Oban. The town is already seeing the benefits of the new pontoons, with hundreds of visitors coming ashore and spending money in our shops and restaurants.'

'The opening of this wonderful new North Pier Harbour Building will strengthen that and will encourage even more visitors to the area.'

TSL contractors general manager John Forbes said projects such as the maritime visitors centre provided much-needed local opportunities enabling the business to thrive and provide well-paid jobs to more than 120 skilled technical and managerial staff.

'The project presented some unique challenges and key to the success was being able to work closely with the council and their professional project team,' he said.



Back left to right: Councillor Roddy McCuish, John Forbes, TSL Contractors general manager, and Robert Forbes, TSL operations manager hand the keys to the new maritime centre to Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.



Bishop McGee with pupils at the special service recently.

100 years of 1918 Education Act celebrated at cathedral service

THE DIOCESE of Argyll and the Isles recently celebrated the centenary of the 1918 Education Act in Scotland which saw Catholic schools funded by the state and open to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Pupils from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, St Columba's Primary School, Caol, Lochaber, and others from St Mun's in Dunoon and St Andrew's in Rothesay joined school staff, parents, councillors, council representatives and

Bishop Brian McGee at the end of last month for a Mass of Thanksgiving in a packed St Columba's Cathedral, in Oban, to celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Education Act. Parishioners and Scottish Catholic Education Service representatives were also in attendance.

Bishop McGee welcomed everyone and thanked them all for the important role they play in supporting state-funded Catholic schools.

They gathered to celebrate the posi-

tive impact this important partnership between church and state has had for the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and for Scotland.

In his homily, the bishop spoke with the children about the importance of Holy Week and encouraged everyone to gaze upon the recently commissioned Icon of Jesus the Teacher displayed in the cathedral.

The bishop suggested Catholic schools don't just tell facts about Jesus but actu-

ally introduce people to Jesus, helping them to form a relationship with Jesus. He went on to say such faith schools not only develop their pupils academically but help them to bring Christ's love into the world – and this is why faith schools benefit everyone. Throughout 2018, the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles will rejoice in the academic, cultural, civic and social achievements of pupils who have attended Catholic schools in the last 100 years.

Gardener Billy's tool legacy nurtures vegetable project

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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THE WIDOW of a prizewinning gardener well-known for growing giant organic veg has gifted his beloved tools to students creating a new garden in his name.

When Danielle Hay read a story in *The Oban Times* about SAMS students wanting to turn an overgrown corner on their Dunbeg campus into an organic vegetable garden, she knew what to do.

Her late husband Billy Hay, who was just 52 when he died suddenly in 2015 from an aortic aneurysm, had been the proud owner of a huge and treasured collection of hoes, spades, other long-handled tools, wheelbarrows and even a hydroponics system where he grew veg in water rather than soil.

Mrs Hay, who lives in Oban and whose twins were just 16 and her older son was 23 when Billy died, said she messaged the students with the offer of his tools to help them get their gardening project off the ground.

'Billy would be happy about that. He was well-known for



SAMS students Daniel Haan and Cameron Stewart at the Billy Hay garden.

being a gardener. I've had to simplify our own garden since he died. He did so much. He even had a hydroponics system and polytunnels out the back.

He used seaweed water a lot and never used chemicals so he would've approved of what the students are wanting to do. It's fitting they should have his tools

and put them to good use again,' she said.

Former Oban High School pupil Billy, who died in his sleep 35 years to the day he started

working with CalMac, was a regular at local horticultural shows, winning prizes for his 4ft long leeks, 6ft carrots and parsnips and football-sized onions. His talents were not only confined to the garden as he also played bowls for Scotland and took part in the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

'Losing Billy was devastating. He'd been absolutely fine, he'd just passed his medical for work. He passed away in his sleep. The pathologist told me he wouldn't have felt a thing. It could have happened at any time,' Mrs Hay continued.

'It was a horrible time for me and the children. The twins Ryan and Iona were only 16 at the time. Ryan's been following in his dad's footsteps. He's studying horticulture at Argyll college and he'll soon be applying to do marine biology at SAMS, so he'll have an opportunity to keep up his gardening there, using his dad's old tools.'

SAMS student Cameron Stewart said: 'It'll be our pleasure to name the garden after Billy. We'll do our best to create a garden he would have been proud of.'



Megan Evans with Etive sommelier David Lapsley at a winetasting event in aid of her volunteering trip to Chile.

Fundraising toast to volunteer Megan

OBAN teenager Megan Evans said 'cheers' to restaurant owner and sommelier David Lapsley for organising a wine tasting night in aid of a volunteering mission to Chile.

The evening on Easter Monday at the Etive restaurant in Stevenson Street, Oban, helped raise £160 towards Megan's trip in August when she will fly out to teach English

to disadvantaged youngsters. She needs £6,000 and so far has raised about £2,000 but has plans for more fundraising, including a bingo night.

'It was a great night at Etive. Everyone enjoyed it. I'm very grateful to David for giving his support,' said Megan.

To make a donation go online to Virgin Money Giving and search Megan's Year In Chile.

Get out and enjoy the extra hours of daylight

KAY MCDONALD

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NOW THAT mornings and evenings are brighter, it seems possible to cram much more into each day.

I often hear people commenting 'it's 9 o'clock and still daylight' with delight in their voices and I have been known to say it myself.

After a long dark winter, the extra hours of daylight are so welcome. It also made a recent train journey to Glasgow so much better as I was able to see the countryside I was travelling through and it was amazing.

I'm a creature of habit and usually sit on the same side of the train each time but this time I didn't and what a difference it made. I've taken this journey so many times over the years and not paid attention to so much of it. It really is a spectacular trip and on a train full of people who perhaps hadn't been on it before it was lovely to see their expressions as they saw the snow-capped mountains and lochs.

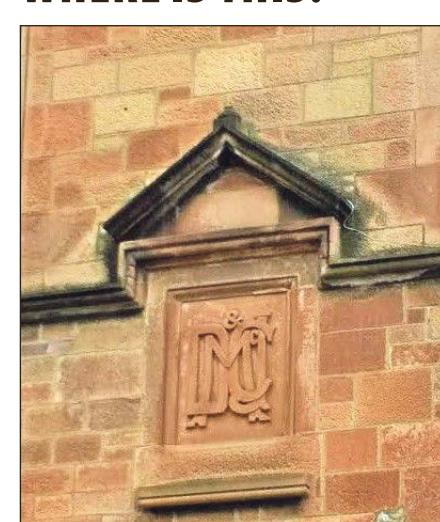
Seeing it through someone else's eyes makes you appreciate it all the more and we were lucky enough to have a guard who pointed out some of the sights for everyone.

It's not just the train journey to Oban that is spectacular. However you choose to travel, each method has its own highlights. The bus and car journey have their own delights and nothing beats turning the corner at the top of the Bealach an Righ and seeing Oban before you. I know I just sigh and think 'home'.

Perhaps one of the best though is sailing into Oban Bay, even when I've just been to Mull for the day. It just gladdens your heart to see the town nestled in the hills and crowned by McCaig's Tower. So my suggestion is, get out there, take a boat trip for the day or afternoon or take the train to Taynuilt or Lochawe for a wee walk and lunch before you get the next one back.

We often don't appreciate what we have round us when we see it all the time, but pretend you've not been here before and you'll see it in a whole new light.

WHERE IS THIS?

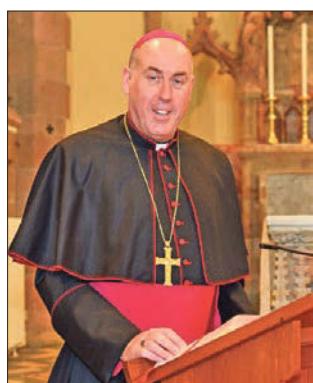


Last week's photograph was of the building which houses 'The Ark' in Airds Crescent taken from Stevenson Street. This week's will take you on a nice wee walk.

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Right Rev Brian McGee,
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

Training first for Argyll churches

CATHOLIC leaders in churches across Argyll are the first in Scotland to get compulsory safeguarding training.

The Bishops of Scotland have issued a new safeguarding manual called *In God's Image* and at a Clergy Assembly in Oban last month, Bishop of Argyll, the Rt Rev Brian McGee signed a decree making it compulsory for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to be taught across the diocese.

Clergy who were at the two-day assembly were given training in the new manual by the Church's National Safeguarding Officer Tina Campbell.

And those present were also introduced to Veronica McKenna, the new Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

A spokesman for the Catholic Church said: '*In God's Image* is a new safeguarding manual which provides comprehensive guidance and instruction on every aspect of safeguarding in the church.'

Clergy, parish volunteers and anyone working with children and vulnerable adults will get the training which has already started in Argyll and the Isles and will be extended across Scotland this month and next.

The spokesman said training from the new manual would apply to all of its dioceses, parishes and congregations in Scotland.

Residents and MSP power ahead with pylon protest

KATHIE GRIFFITHS

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RESIDENTS fighting plans for more pylons in one of Scotland's most scenic villages want to see the new power line go underground or under the loch instead.

There was a majority show of hands in favour of these alternative options at a public meeting in Dalmally last week.

The meeting came after Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council asked Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to carry out a 'fairer consultation' process.

Villagers know power needs to be taken out of Argyll but don't want to see their community, already scarred by existing pylons, disfigured even more as part of a proposed 'super highway' link.

Michael Russell MSP was at Thursday's meeting to hear locals strongly reject plans by SSE to run a high voltage transmission line of pylons through their village – no one from SSE was available to attend.

There was harsh words from residents about SSE's consultation efforts so far, with villagers saying they felt ignored.

One woman said the first she knew of plans to put two new pylons on her land was when



Anti-pylon campaigners in Dalmally with Michael Russell MSP.

two men knocked at her door and asked to look round: 'To say we've been consulted is a nonsense,' she said.

Another resident said: 'We are being viewed as a junction box. We need to fight this strongly and we need to be united about what we are fighting for.'

Pylons would be a catastrophe.' People also complained no one from SSE made any records or wrote down any comments when officials met with residents last month to outline their proposals.

There was also a feeling other options of taking the power line underground or under the

loch had been looked at but not considered by SSE and the only option the power company was 'broadcasting' was the pylon option - the cheapest one.

Mr Russell said he was not in a position 'to wave a magic wand' for campaigners but believed more pylons would be 'an over-

load on the landscape' and said he would be opposing it.

He said there was a need to take power out of Argyll but the question was 'Is this the right way? Does it have to be a large industrial structure?'

The MSP urged residents to keep making their views clear to SSE, get publicity about their campaign, make use of local councillors, himself and other parliamentary representatives as well as build up their anti-pylon petition, already signed by more than 300 people and get every household signed up.

'People have the right not to live surrounded by pylons and cables, and if the whole community says that, it's very powerful,' he said, adding that he hoped SSE would do the 'sensible' thing. He now plans to write to SSE and arrange a meeting.

SSEN wants to build a new 275/132kV Creag Dhubb substation; a new 275kV overhead line between the proposed North Argyll substation and the existing Dalmally substation; rebuild the existing 132kV overhead line between Taynuilt and the proposed Creag Dhubb substation and decommission a 132kV overhead line between Taynuilt and the proposed Creag Dhubb substation.

The consultation closing date is Friday April 27.

Plans to spend £24.5m on housing

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) plans to invest £24.5 million in its existing stock and its new-build programme during 2018/19.

The budget approved by ACHA's board will see £16.2 million spent on the association's existing 5,150 homes and £8.2 million on building new homes.

The investment in ACHA's existing homes will cover capital investment of £10.5 million, day-to-day repairs at £3.8 million, planned maintenance of £1.6 million and aids and adaptations work of £315,000.

In terms of capital investment, ACHA will prioritise energy efficiency investment in existing homes and a continuing programme of heating and rewiring, and window and door installation.

ACHA's new-build programme will continue to provide homes in Oban, Connel, North Connel, Islay and Heliensburgh, with plans in place to build in Inveraray and Garelochhead.

The 2018/19 new-build programme is part of ACHA's ongoing partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government to build 250 new homes by 2021.

ACHA will also invest £350,000 in information technology to improve service provision to its tenants.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'The association's 2018/19 budget will invest in our existing stock and in providing new homes to meet housing need.'

'Our plans are about more than bricks and mortar. The association's investment plans of £24.5 million will support jobs, apprentices and the supply chain in Argyll and Bute.'

'Through our new-build programme, we want to tackle housing need where it exists in Argyll and Bute communities.'

Supporting communities fund open to votes

BIDS to use books to bridge the generation gap in Benderloch, buy horse feed and shoes for a riding for the disabled carriage driving group, and to purchase tartan kilts and ties for a primary school choir in Oban – these are just some of the community initiatives hoping for a share of £28,893.

People in Oban, Lorn and the Isles have until the end of April to vote on how they want the money spent in their area.

Earlier this year, local groups and organisations posted their

project ideas on a website created specifically for Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund.

Members of the public can vote for as many projects as they like, up to the total value of funding available in their area.

Bookends Book Festival Bridging The Gap project has put in the smallest bid for £495 to pilot a scheme to open up the Reading Room at the village's Victory Halls one day a month to bring people of all

ages together with books as the common link.

'The excuse is books. People enjoy coming here so much we want it to happen more often, bringing all ages from the community together,' said Joy Cameron.

Other bids include Rockfield Primary School wanting £850 to buy tartan kilts and ties, Oban Youth Cafe wanting £2,000 for its Monday Club, Argyll Riding for the Disabled Association's Carriage Driving Group hoping to get £2,052, and Oban and

Mull Army Cadets asking for £2,500 to pay for a First World War battlefield tour.

The council's policy lead for communities Councillor Robin Currie said: 'This is a unique opportunity for people to vote for projects that could make a huge difference to communities across Argyll and Bute.'

'It's a chance for residents to stand up and have a say on what the Supporting Communities Fund will be spent on in their area and I would urge them not to miss out on this opportunity.'

The voting website went live on April 3 at abpb.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Alternatively people can vote at drop-in sessions, including Tiree Community Trust office on Wednesday April 18 from 10am to noon; the Customer Service Point in Tobermory on Wednesday April 25 from 11am to 1pm; Dalmally Primary School on Tuesday April 24 from 3.30pm to 5pm, and Kilniver Primary School on Thursday April 26 from 3.45pm to 5pm.

Sad end for sheep rescued by divers from cliff



Divers Stef Cooper, left, and Alin Burlan with the rescued sheep.

A RESCUED sheep that went missing from an Oban shed last week has been put down by an animal welfare charity.

The diver who saved the sheep said the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) stepped in and had to put the animal 'out of its misery' after it went days without food or water before being rescued.

Diver Stef Cooper spotted the animal stranded on a cliff near Easdale, which he says is not unusual, but when he returned three days later and saw the sheep in the same position he and his colleagues decided to take action.

Stef and Ian Radu scaled the rockface and brought the sheep down to the water before helping it into their boat.

While making efforts to get in touch with

the owner, Stef kept the sheep in his shed in Oban's Breadalbane Street. However, when he went to check on the animal the following morning, it was gone. It was later revealed the SPCA had taken the animal and after speaking to the owner the decision was made to put it to sleep.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Stef said: 'There was a bit of a delay with them taking the sheep and telling us. We got a note through the door saying we have your sheep, call us.'

[The sheep] had been days without food or water and it was not in great shape, but we thought we would give it a try and help it out, but sadly it was too far gone.

'I am sure anyone else would have done the same. I wish we had got there sooner. It's a shame.'



Oban Times reader Ivor wins whisky prize

OBAN Times competition winner Ivor Clark has collected a prize bottle of 14-year-old whisky from editor Susan Windram.

Mr Clark was one of many readers who entered a competition run with Oban Distillery, asking: 'How many Oban Distillery malts are currently produced?'

His correct answer, chosen out of all the entries at random, was three.

Planning committee agrees to save Seil hut



Graham MacQueen, second right, with his wife Morven and son Mark, centre, celebrate outside a local hearing at Oban's Corran Halls, which agreed to save a hut he built without permission.

not giving the meeting the respect it deserves. I act solely as the voice of the planning authority. I have to set aside sympathy. It has not been easy for me or my team of officers. This is a planning decision that must be made and made properly. This decision is not about personalities. It cannot be about disability. It must be made solely and simply on material considerations, with a necessary disregard for personal circumstances of the applicant and his family.

'They have to be weighed, but they do not tip the balance in this case. It may be the easier path to attach

a greater weight to personal circumstances. Such action would be wrong, no matter how unpalatable that might be.'

In the debate, Councillor Richard Trail began: 'Retrospective planning applications are the bane of this committee's life. I am sympathetic to the planners. They look at these planning applications objectively. The circumstances of the MacQueen family are extraordinary. Sometimes the human need overrides the cold hard logic of plans and the law.'

Councillor George Freeman said:

'There is no criticism of the planning officers. They have carried out what they are required to do.'

Councillor Robin Currie disagreed with the officers' conclusions, saying: 'I am very comfortable with the hut. It really fits into the countryside and it can only be seen by someone paddling a canoe.'

Oban Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Sometimes things are morally correct and technically wrong. I will be wholeheartedly supporting this application.'

Mull Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'I would be looking for a competent motion to accept this as an exceptional case.'

Councillor Graham Hardie thought: 'This is an exceptional case. The strength of feeling shows that.'

The committee agreed to draw up a competent motion, to be considered when it next meets on Wednesday April 18.

Argyll and Bute Council's head of governance and law Charles Reppe said: 'The council is not in the business of making technically wrong decisions.'

Afterwards Mr MacQueen said: 'It is obvious there are huge difficulties for the planning officers. I apologise for this. It has been a very difficult process for them. The support from the public has been outstanding and the members of the planning committee have almost all expressed a desire to support my application.'

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Natural intelligence of the Gael

MORVERN LINES
IAIN THORNER
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A FEW weeks ago I wrote in these columns of an extraordinary man called Alastair Cameron (North Argyll) from Loch Sunart-side, whose formal education was limited to seven years in his local primary school.

No heated classroom, no school transport, no internet, no all-weather pitch or fitness room, and no meals for this pupil, yet, when he grew up, he received an honorary degree from Edinburgh University—the sixth oldest educational institution in the English-speaking world.

How did he do it? First, local and Highland history was taught in primary schools engendering a sense of pride and belonging which, sadly, is missing today and, secondly, there existed in Alastair's generation, native people with a great natural shrewdness, curiosity and intelligence who, to some extent, have also gone.

A reader writes: 'I have found, particularly, many of the Camerons, MacGillivrays and others in the Sunart, Morvern and Moidart area, to be very clever, able people, who would be good at anything.'

Praise indeed for the individual, and for 88-year-old Miss Susan MacNaughton who taught Alastair and was present to see her pupil of 60-odd years before he was 'capped' in Edinburgh by principal and vice-chancellor Professor Swann.

Space in my initial article about Alastair Cameron prevented me from saying more of his literary achievements or providing a sample of his writing. On top of his exceptional contribution to *The Oban Times*, Alastair had four papers printed in English between 1937 and 1941 in the Transactions of the prestigious Gaelic Society of Inverness.

There were many contributions to the defunct Strontian Magazine and The Speaking Chip, An Gaidheal, Gairm, the Glasgow Herald, the Weekly Scotsman and nine major

Alastair Cameron (North Argyll) and his dog Eachern, and, right, his gravestone beside Strontian Parish Church. Photographs: Iain Thorner



articles in the Scots Magazine between 1938 and 64.

Alastair's standalone books, all printed and illustrated by *The Oban Times*, were: *Loch Sunartside Memories*; *Annals and Recollections of Sunart*; *St Finan's Isle – Its Story*; *The Floating Church of Strontian*; and *The Lochaber Drover – Corrychoille*.

He was official seannachie to Clan Cameron – an honour bestowed on him by the late Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel – through which he was able to provide Camerons all

over the world with information on their family roots long before the days of the genealogical search engines which we now take for granted.

He took part in a BBC radio programme called *Interested in the Universe*, which was broadcast on July 10, 1969. In this lively broadcast, Alastair gave his opinion on crofting and its future, forestry, education, tourism and his own philosophy on life.

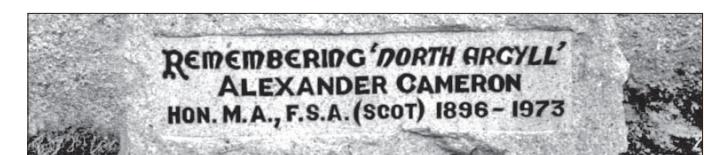
In 1961, he was singled out by the editors of the nationally important *Third Statistical*

Account of Scotland, to write the chapter on Strontian for the County of Argyll.

Alastair's interests were not confined to the past. In 1962, when it became obvious that many jobs were going to be created with the opening of the pulp mill and paper factory at Corpach, he penned a letter to the editor of *The Oban Times* asking if Ardnamurchan would be better off in Inverness-shire to share in this new development. Alastair argued that the county boundaries of Ardnamurchan should be constituted

on what was the best economic proposition for the area. Joining Inverness, he claimed, would bring greater employment and commercial benefits if the administrative, postal and health services came from the north and not from Oban.

The subject reached the front page of *The Oban Times*, creating a flurry of comments from local politicians and others. Mr John Fraser, the district councillor for Strontian, thought the proposal was a good one because, in the past 25 years, Argyll County Council had



built only three miles of new road in Ardnamurchan which the local people felt was not good enough. There was some huffing and puffing from Argyll but the seeds were sown and eventually they lost to what is now Highland Council.

Being an able man with a pen and familiar with crofting law, Alastair was often called on by his friends and neighbours to deal with officialdom, usually the Department of Agriculture, which owned more land around Strontian and Morvern than it does today.

One of his letters to *The Oban Times* on the sale of Fiunary Farm in Morvern, dated March 1955, was so well crafted and hard-hitting it is worth reading in its entirety not only for its style but because it stopped the sale dead in its tracks.

'Sir, Recently the arable portion and a small area of hill grazings of Fiunary Farm, Morvern, which the Department of Agriculture for Scotland took over from the Forestry Commission some years ago, was advertised for sale.

'Is this acquisition of land by the Secretary of State for Scotland, as recognised head of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, and then offering of for sale to the highest bidder, not somewhat contrary to the purpose for which the Department was created? Was it not one of the primary purposes to acquire land and carry out schemes of land supplement whereby the aspiring landholder of small capital could become one? Of course so little has been done by the Department in this respect since 1939 that one is inclined to forget about it.

'The indications for the future do not appear very hopeful, and matters in the opinion of the Secretary of State may have changed, yet it hardly justifies a policy of catering for the capitalist. The new Crofters'

Commission Bill will probably get its final reading before the Easter recess. Likely the members of the Commission will be more concerned in maintaining a crofter population among the boggy, rocky patches to which their ancestors were sent by landlords' factors, and an acquiescing Government ready enough to take their services to prevent a Napoleonic invasion, but indifferent to their position when driven from their homes, than in restoring to their descendants some of the land of which they were deprived.

'I am etc North Argyll.'

When Alastair realised he was going to lose his sight altogether, he asked some friends in Oban to take him by car round his beloved Sunart on a last nostalgic journey. He may not have been able to see all of his favourite haunts physically, but the places were real enough in his mind's eye and, what he recalled later, formed the basis of one of his final articles which was taken down by an *Oban Times* reporter.

At Strontian, he remembered a story about one of the village storekeepers, who got a telling off from the unpopular estate factor. After he had released his bale on Donald, the storekeeper said to him: 'Do you know who you are speaking to?'

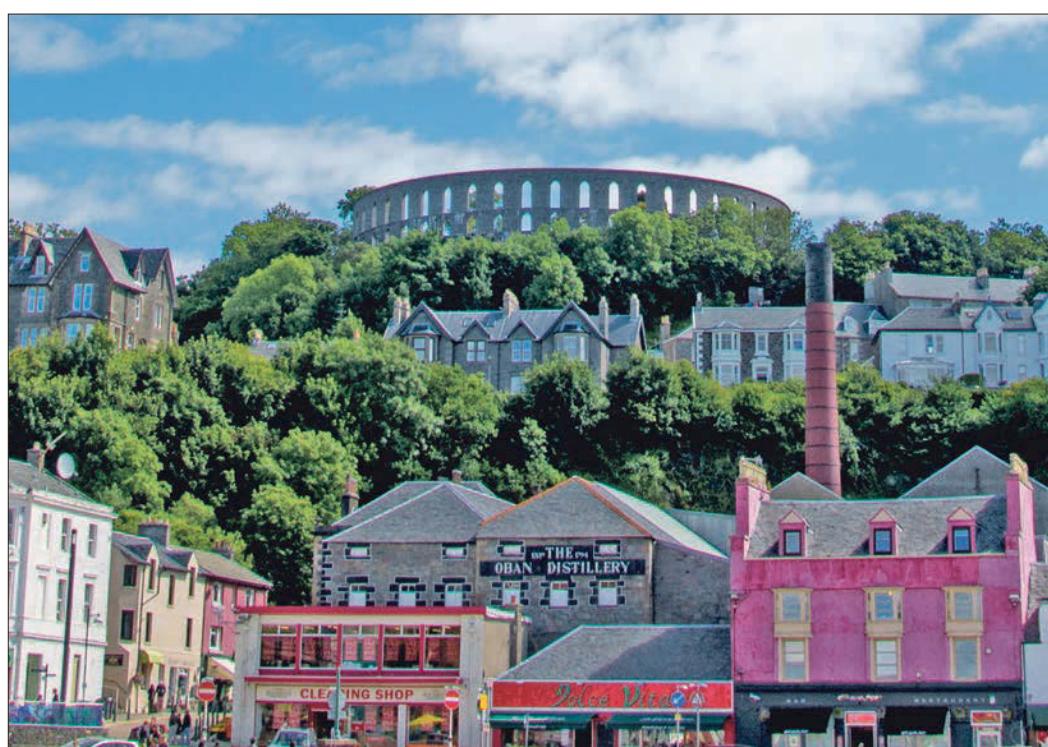
'Yes, well enough,' replied the factor.

'Well,' said Donald, 'if you did, you would not have been speaking in such a manner.'

'How's that?' inquired the other.

'Do you know,' came the answer, 'that in addition to being postmaster and storekeeper, I am also a ship-owner and have a master mariner's certificate for foreign service? Can you name another in Argyll with all these qualifications?'

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McCaig's Tower will be the focus of an episode of *The People's History Show*.

Oban features in new history series on TV

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FASCINATING stories from across Scotland, including Oban, will feature in a new series of STV's *The People's History Show*, which returns Monday April 16 at 8pm.

The popular show kicks off with a must-see episode for Beatles fans, telling the story of the local promoter who coined the phrase 'Beatlemania' when the Fab Four played Caird Hall in Dundee in 1963, and featuring seldom-seen Beatles footage from the STV archive.

Fronted by STV viewers' favourite Angus Simpson and returning host Sarah Mack, and with David Farrell bringing features from across the country, *The People's History Show* looks back in time to discover the places and people that make up Scotland's shared history.

The new episodes explore

a host of fascinating events, places and personalities from Scotland's past, including a look at McCaig's Tower in Oban, one of the country's most unusual buildings; the story of world-famous transatlantic liner the Queen Elizabeth 2, which was built and launched in Clydebank in 1967; and a chance to learn more about Aberdeen writer and poet Nan Shepherd, whose picture can be seen on Scottish £5 notes.

The series pays tribute to iconic Edinburgh author Muriel Spark to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth and looks back at Muhammad Ali's visit to Paisley in 1965, when the heavyweight champion was still known as Cassius Clay.

In a special episode, STV celebrates Glasgow's iconic Citizens' Theatre, which in its 70 years has established itself at the heart of the local community.

The series will also be available to watch live or on catch-up on the STV Player.

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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The real and present scourge of homelessness continues to blight the Oban and Lorn area and remains an intractable problem.

According to statistics provided following a Freedom of Information request by *The Oban Times*, the level of the problem is surprising. Indeed, the number of people who are registered as homeless in the area has been described as 'unacceptable'.

As Alison Watson, from the charity Shelter Scotland, said, 'being homeless can have serious impact on young people's life chances'. She added that 'at the heart of

the problem is that demand for truly affordable housing outstrips supply.'

In fairness, this is being addressed, with Argyll Community Housing Association having just announced plans to invest £24.5 million in its existing stock and its new-build programme during 2018/19, and West Highland Housing Association planning to build 300 homes near Dunstaffnage.

For those without a permanent home, these initiatives will seem to take too long to bear fruit, but there is, unfortunately, no short-term solution.



Days gone by – 1938

Iain Thorner from Morvern submitted this photograph of farm workers using old foot ploughs for digging in the potatoes on Skye in 1938.

MacPhail



ANGUS MACPHAIL
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INJURIES of any kind, even minor ones, are never pleasant to experience, but a recent jogging mishap that meant a visit to the Accident and Emergency department at Glasgow Royal Infirmary led to a very inspiring glimpse of those working at the harsh coalface of the NHS.

Witnessing people performing well at any job is an educational experience, and seeing the skills of others being displayed in their own domain is one of the most effective ways to gain both perspective and motivation for learning and improvement.

However, to see skills being shown in the most trying circumstances in a work environment that is relentlessly difficult and in an organisation that is being constantly criticised and being pulled politically from pillar to post was most impressive.

I had made the mistake of starting a 12-week half-marathon training programme five weeks late.

Full of ignorant enthusiasm, I thought I would be fine to fire straight in at the 'seven weeks to go' stage without the gradual build-up to the

increasingly rigorous timetable. I was feeling determined and I managed a similar run last year without much preparation but the extra year of ageing must be affecting me.

Anyway, a combination of being stiff from the previous few days' running, coupled with an uneven pavement, caused me to give my left ankle a bend and a wallop that had me hopping like a one-legged hare doing a Highland Schottische.

Luckily, it happened right beside a taxi rank so I was able to hop and flop in the black cab's door with a flurry of unprintable vocabulary.

I've only been to A&E in Glasgow once before, and that was around 20 years ago, so I didn't really know what to expect.

As soon as I entered reception, it was apparent that there would be a long wait and that most of my fellow patients comprised those most vulnerable in society.

It was apparent that severe drug and alcohol problems and related issues were the cause of most attending, with many who may well have been homeless, and there perhaps just to have somewhere warm to sit for a few hours.

This was around 11pm on a Thurs-

day, and would by no means have been a peak time for admissions.

It was not a pleasant environment, but the experience was genuinely impressive. Yes, there was a long wait, but the staff were dealing with everyone as fast and as well as they could with kindness and efficiency.

Given what they had to deal with, their manner and attitudes were hugely positive. I felt guilty taking up their time with what, after some prodding and poking – and making me wince – turned out to be just minor ligament damage.

It is clear A&E departments are bearing the burden of much of the worst of the country's deprivation but from the receptionists to the nurses to the consultants and cleaners, the staff were getting on with it with a smile and with what seemed like real empathy and caring for all, regardless of circumstance.

Whatever the issues of NHS funding and management, and of wider society's problems that lead to so many people being in the depths of deprivation, it is clear we are very lucky in the calibre of workforce who take on the job of helping those in need.

From last Thursday's experience, they certainly have my respect.



being very ill which I'm sure donating some of the excess money would be a tremendous help to them for the same reason like traveling and accommodation. Glad ur wee 1 is home safe and well!

There was a mixed reaction to the news that councillors had agreed to allow a hut at Seil to be saved.

Fiona MacMillan: 'So pleased it was allowed to stay seems our councillor's can sometimes do the right thing.'

Minnie Moo: 'Disappointed but not surprised at the councillors' poor decision. And having made such a poor decision they have to have another meeting to try to justify it so it is less likely to be challenged.'

Claire Oswald: 'Congratulations Nikki. Jacqueline Macallister: 'There is also another Oban family who are down in Glasgow recently due to there wee one

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Gaelic is used as political football

Two items of importance for the future and survival of our Gaelic language, culture and bloodlines have emerged which give me cause for concern.

First, was John Swinney's announcement of another plan for the language and its objectives, as well as the money that will be thrown at it.

Throwing money at things is not an answer. If a language is being taught parrot fashion outwith its cultural base, it's already a wasted effort.

I also heard of some more propaganda coming from Scottish rural affairs minister Fergus Ewing saying that the crofting recommendations were almost complete, but not quite, sort of thing.

Both the language and crofting aims are more than a little loose and not geared towards genuine islanders. Allowing people in Edinburgh or elsewhere to take charge of your cultural ID and tell you what to do through a cheque book is wrong. It is our language that is daily being used and abused as a political football, and that's very wrong.

**Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearradh na Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.**

Tough decisions on how we pay for care

Headlines over the past month have highlighted significant concerns, expressed by communities, staff and politicians, related to the potential changes which the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership have considered in order to balance their budget.

It is right that these issues are flagged up and communities feel ownership of the precious services which exist to support people in their local areas.

It is also essential that those faced with making the difficult decisions about prioritisation of public finances listen to those who use services and to local communities.

I worked in NHS Highland until May 2017 and I am aware of how challenging it is for service managers to meet the growing costs of health and social care from existing budgets. Continuous efforts are made to address areas of harm, waste and variation in the systems of care and some of these yield significant financial benefits – for example, reducing the number of people who fall and sustain injuries is beneficial primarily for the people themselves, but it also reduces the financial costs of hospital stays and surgery.

Nonetheless, the growing need for care cannot be ignored and neither can the growing costs of care. The current health and social care budget in Scotland is insufficient to cover the costs of delivering the kind of care we would like.

Service managers are faced with daily challenges about how the available budget is allocated for those with the greatest need.

Having worked with these manag-

ers, I know the level of commitment and hard work each dedicates to the provision of care.

In the same way that the frontline teams of care at home staff, social workers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals work for the good of the people of Argyll and Bute, so too do those who are less visible to the public but who are nonetheless focused on doing the right thing.

Rather than vilifying the providers of services in Argyll and Bute, we must find ways to work together to ensure our communities' needs are met in the best ways possible.

Argyll and Bute's communities hold many of the answers, are committed to sustainable and resilient futures, and are keen to work in collaboration with the statutory service providers.

This will require more active and meaningful engagement by the Health and Social Care Partnership with communities, so the voices of those who use, and of those who need, the services are not only heard but also attended to.

By forging new relationships we can find innovative and creative solutions to the challenges.

We need to consider what kind of health and social care services we want and whether we are willing to pay more for them.

We must address the issues which cause people in more deprived areas to have poorer health, and we must increase the investment in primary and community care to help people to stay independent and well.

We must also invest in social care and develop a career structure that recognises the contribution of carers to sustaining people in their own homes. All of this will require a greater percentage of our GDP than we currently pay.

**Pat Tyrrell,
Co-convenor,
Argyll and Bute Greens.**

Mull roads are in a dreadful state

I'm glad to read in *The Oban Times* that Councillor Alastair Redman from Islay recognises it is we drivers who are paying the price for Argyll and Bute Council's failure to maintain our roads properly.

I have paid out quite considerably over the past few months for car repairs which I (and my expert garage man) know to have been caused or exacerbated by the shocking state of Mull's roads. I am currently seeking compensation from the council for all this expenditure but I am not holding my breath.

I'm pleased the council is now proposing to spend £15 million over the next two years (and I've been told by Councillor Hugh MacGregor that work is due to start on a particularly notorious stretch here on Monday April 23 but I'll believe it when I see it) but I wonder why nothing's been done before.

Another Mull resident started a roads group a couple of years ago. Councillor Roddy McCuish came over for discussions, told us that something

should and would be done, and went away again. Result? No action.

Councillor MacGregor told me there had been no money for roads over the past few years (magically, there now seems to be some). This argument is untenable and outrageous. I also have no money, but I still have to get my car mended and maintained.

We pay taxes (and councillors) and are fully entitled to a safe and satisfactory built environment, including our roads infrastructure.

As well as affecting island residents (delays, road closures, diversions and general mayhem), I feel that many of our spring/summer visitors will turn tail and disappear as soon as they arrive, rather than risk their tyres, exhausts, suspension etc etc.

I should also say that I've been in touch with Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara about this, and I hope to meet with him during his constituency visits and surgeries during the Easter recess.

In the meantime, anything more you can do to highlight this issue would be welcomed. Thank you.

**Sarah Palmer,
Creach, Kiliemore, Aros,
Isle of Mull.**

Hospital story upset staff and patients

I am extremely disappointed and dismayed by your front page article in the paper ('Whistleblower says hospital staff stressed and overworked', *The Oban Times*, March 29) relating to Lorn and Islands hospital.

Your decision to print an anonymous letter detailing a number of inaccurate allegations not only damages the morale of the hard-working staff within the hospital but also damages the reputation of a local paper which is meant to accurately reflect the views of the people who live and work in Oban.

We are also frustrated that you chose to only partially publish our statement and omitted to include the first sentence which highlights the fact that our staff deliver a high standard of care for patients.

Our staff in Lorn and Islands Hospital not only work in the Oban area but they live there as well and they are dedicated, hard-working and always have patients as their first priority. Many of them have expressed to me their anger and dismay about this article.

An added consequence of articles such as this is that it also damages the image of the area as a desirable place for health and social care professionals to work and makes it much more difficult for us to recruit staff.

We would therefore ask that you think twice in future before printing articles based on unsubstantiated allegations and we would ask you to also remember that by printing scaremongering stories such as this you needlessly upset not only our staff but the many patients and their families who use our hospital on a regular basis.

**Caroline Henderson,
Local area manager,
Lorn and Islands Hospital.**

Ailean Caimbeul

furasta a thugisinn carson a bhiodh daoinne feargach a bhith a' faicinn "dion" den t-seòrsa seo ga dhèanamh air mèirleach a bha air cròn milteach a chur an gniomh air dachaigh neach eile.

An dèidh breithneachaidh tha e coltach nach eil an lagh dol a thoirt casaidh sam bith an aghaidh Osborn-Brooks, ach tha an tachartas seo a' dùsgadh na ceiste as ùr a thaobh ire nan "còiréachan" a' tì agus dàchaidh a leòr anns a dhèanamh air fear a bh' air briseadh a stàigh dhan a-staigh dhan dachaigh aige airson mèirleach a dhèanamh.

Gun teagachd tha an lagh a' ceadachadh dha neach sam bith neart reusanta a chleachadh dus iad fhèin is an dachaigh a dhòn, ach tha agus bithidh daonnaid ceist annu mu dè tha "reusanta" gu bhith a' ciallachadh agus gach suidheachadh fa leò.

Ma tha dearbhadh ann gun robh am mèirleach a' teicheadh aig an àm san deach ionnsaigh a thoirt air, tha an lagh dol a pheanasachadh an neach a rinn sin a dh'aindeoin 's ged a bha an t-eucorach air briseadh a-staigh dhan dachaigh gu mi-laghail!

Saoioidh mise gum bheil e nàdarra gu leòr gun biodh an dà chuid eagal

agus fearg a' bualadh neach sam bith a lorgadh cuideigin taobh a-staigh an dachaigh gun chead.

Fearg gun robh ionnsaigh ga thoirt air an cuid tèarainteachd agus fior eagal gun robh iad an cunnart am beatha bho chuideigin a rinn leithid sin de chron. Beagan is dà bhliadhna air ais cho-dhùin an Ard Chùirt gum faodadh daoinne ire mhi-chothromach de neart a chleachadh a' dion an faraidheanach fhèin agus 'neonach mur e seo a chuir stàd air cuis an aghaidh Osborn-Brooks.

THERE was understandable widespread support for Richard Osborn-Brooks following his arrest after a burglar in his home suffered an injury which led to the intruder's subsequent death.

The fact that no further action will be taken against Osborn-Brooks may be due to a 2016 High Court ruling that residents may now use 'disproportionate' force to protect themselves in their homes.

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

Your letters

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

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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

For press freedom with responsibility





Peninsula Trikes can help visitors with disabilities get more out of their time in Argyll.

On their trikes to help improve disabled access

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kg Griffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A TRIKE business inspired by a couple's profoundly disabled son is revving to go with an online guide helping disabled visitors get more out of their stay in Argyll.

Helen and Craig Findlay, who run Helensburgh-based Peninsula Trikes, taking people out on chauffeur-driven rides through some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery, struck on the idea after struggling to go on family days out together with their son Caleb, now 15, who has a complex form of cerebral palsy.

They will be at an event in the Corran Halls, Oban, on Friday April 27 from 11am-1pm, which is open to local businesses, community organisations and representatives from tourist destinations throughout Argyll and Bute interested in finding

out more about a disabled access review website called Euan's Guide.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell and *The Oban Times* have teamed up with Euan's Guide to put on the event and help Argyll businesses welcome disabled visitors.

The guide was founded in 2013 by brother and sister Euan and Kiki MacDonald after Euan became a powerchair user.

After spending hours trying to find out about disabled access at places they wanted to go, they realised their experience was not unique and that lots of others had difficulty in getting the information they needed to decide on where they visited and went on holidays.

Euan's Guide is now a digital charity helping to open up countryside, villages, towns and cities to disabled people.

Helen and Craig are bringing Caleb to the Oban event on one

of their trikes. Peninsula Trikes came about after Helen had to give up her own motorbike and Caleb gave up his job to care for Caleb together. The family got so much interest when they were out and about on the roads with people wanting 'a shot' of their Billy Connolly-style trike that they decided to turn it into a business – and haven't looked back since.

'Caleb loves it on the trike. It's liberating. He adores the sense of freedom. Wherever there's an okay road, we can go. It's something fun for everyone, disabled or not,' said Helen.

Peninsula Trikes now has two trikes and offers bespoke tours for people wanting to experience the freedom of the road. The trike trips can be short or long, travelling around the west coast of Scotland taking in the mountains, glens and lochs, and are easy to access for people with disabilities.

'We've got first-hand experience through our own profoundly disabled son. We are fully insured and fully licensed to carry passengers. We know the importance of plenty of toilet stops, and we have all the harnesses to keep people safe on the trike. There are three-seats so room for a carer to come too. We can suit people's needs, whatever they are.'

'We found it difficult to get information about places to go with Caleb, so something like Euan's Guide can only be a good thing. It's something we want to be a part of and to use ourselves. People with disabilities should have the same choice of things to do and places to go as those who don't have disabilities,' said Helen.

To register for the Oban event or for information, email Heather.Wolfe@parliament.scot or call 0131 348 5738. Visit peninsulatrikesscotland.co.uk

University town project puts Oban on the map

IAIN GATWARD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

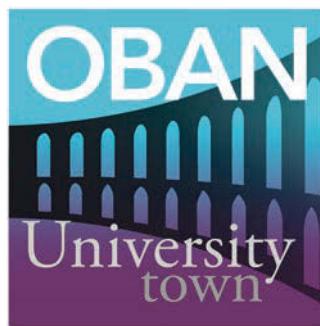
ON MARCH 1, the Oban as a University Town project was officially launched at the Corran Halls.

The project has taken shape over the past couple of years and currently has 10 organisations involved in a collaborative effort to take the vision forward to the next stage.

Having had all this work going on in the background, the launch event provided an opportunity to put the project 'on the map', letting members of the public know more about what is happening and allowing them to get involved wherever possible.

As highlighted in *The Oban Times* feature on March 8, the event was a huge success, with around 300 people passing through the door on the day. Although many travelling from elsewhere in the country were unable to make it due to the heavy snow at the time, a key success of the day was how the local representatives and community pulled together and made it work ... with a little bit of help from modern technology when needed.

This will be at the core of the project in the future, as it builds on strong local foundations with industry, community and



leading educational institutions all having an important part to play.

A major success on the day was the opportunity for everyone at the event, as well as staff and students from Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI and Oban High School, to choose from four potential options for a project logo.

The logo displayed here was a clear winner, with 336 votes from 717 forms received. After a few final tweaks, the logo will start to be rolled out on the website and other project materials over coming months, so please keep an eye out for it. A big thank you to those who let us know their favourite.

The involvement of around 120 P6/7 students from local schools was also a great success. It was fantastic to see them all so excited and putting their hand to some amazing tasks, learning about studies and careers that could lie

ahead for them in the area. Since the event, there has been a real buzz about some of the displays showcased on the day.

Oban High School musicians kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon, the Argyll College UHI catering team put on a mouthwatering visual display (which also kept everyone well fed) and the day was topped off with an incredible performance from Ballet West students.

The event has provided a hugely successful start, marking the beginning of an exciting and busy time ahead.

A five-year activity plan is now being developed in line with the vision and objectives, to ensure the project is constantly looking ahead and growing the opportunities for Oban as a University Town.

The project has teams working on academic opportunities, infrastructure requirements, student and business engagement and communications, and the website is now live.

There will also be a monthly feature in *The Oban Times* to keep readers updated with progress and activities.

The door remains open to others who want to get involved or find out a bit more.

Please visit the website at [www.obanunitownt.org](http://obanunitownt.org) to contact the team directly.



Traditional music students from Oban High School entertained at the launch. Photograph: Kenny Ferguson.

ADVERTORIAL

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come and see for yourself what your local college has to offer you.

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The early education and social care sectors, the hospitality trade and the computing and digital media industries are only some of the areas recruiting heavily for a qualified workforce in our area. We can support you to achieve a wide range of qualifications right up to degree level – all in Fort William

and our other college centres which will be highly sought-after. Many of these can be studied full- or part-time. We also have business and IT qualifications, construction, a growing creative arts department where you can study fashion and music or, if you are interested in a life in the maritime sector, then you can find out more about our courses based in Mallaig.

If you are up for an adventure, then our School of Adventure Studies offers four degrees and access courses, all equipping you to work and excel in this fast-growing international industry. Where better to study adventure, surrounded by magnificent mountains and ready access to rivers and the sea?

Many of our courses are delivered in all 10 of our college centres using networked learning in a 'virtual classroom'. Many are also flexible, making it possible to combine work and family commitments with study. You need never be far away from college.

So whatever your interest is, whatever stage of life you're at, please come along, bring your friends and family – you'll all be welcome.



Professional Cookery students in Fort William

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Portree Sat 21st April

Fort William Sat 28th April

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Oilighigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an lar

Arena

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

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with
Oban Town Diary
bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday
12th April
Easter Camps (P4-P7 2nd April - 13th April)
Atlantis Leisure
Full Day 9am-4pm
Half Day 9am-12noon / 1pm-4pm

Junior Multi Sport Sessions (P1-P3 2nd April - 13th April)
Atlantis Leisure
10am-12pm

Intermediate Food Hygiene
Argyll College
9am-11am

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

Friday
13th April
Pool Inflatable Fun Sessions (3-5 yrs Every Mon, Wed, Friday)
Atlantis Leisure
11.15am-12noon

Intermediate Food Hygiene
Argyll College
9am-11am

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Scratch Choir #18 - Aretha Franklin
The Rockfield Centre
8pm-10pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Live Music from 9pm
Free entry. Open till 1am

Saturday

14th April

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Argyll College
9am-11am

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Master Builders Lego Club
The Rockfield Centre
10am-12pm

Slow Session #4

The Rockfield Centre
2pm-3.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Live Music from 10pm
Free entry
Open till 2am

Sunday

15th April

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Argyll College
9am-11am

Womens Group - First Meet

The Rockfield Centre
1pm-3pm

Spring Tea Dance

Argyllshire Gathering Halls
2pm - 5pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Monday

16th April

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Argyll College
9am-11am

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall

All Day

Pre-School Sessions (3-5 yrs Every Tuesday & Thursday)

Atlantis Leisure
12.15pm-1pm

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Argyll College
9am-11am

Irish Dancing Classes

St Columba's Cathedral Hall

4.15pm-5.45pm

Wednesday

18th April

Intermediate Food Hygiene

Argyll College
9am-11am

Machine Sewing Boot Camp

The Rockfield Centre
7pm-9pm

Under The Skin Camera Club

The Rockfield Centre
6.30pm-7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

Lorne Pub Quiz

Starting at 9pm
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

Events may charge. Please visit

www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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

Spring Tea Dance featuring That Swing Sensation

with 'Oban Community Singers'

Sunday 15th April

2pm - 5pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban. Tickets £6 which includes afternoon tea

Tickets are available from Oban Music, Argyll Square, Oban, The Wee Gallery, Stafford Street, Oban, Argyll & Bute TSI 21 High Street Oban or call Maggie on 01631 564839 or maggie@argylltsi.org.uk

M&A ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 12 GIBLEAN

THURSDAY 12 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt)

19.25 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)

19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

20.30 Brigh a' Chìùl – Return to the Voice (rpt)

21.00 All That Lies Behind Me – Sgeulachd Donald Merrett (rpt)

22.00 ÚR | NEW: Belladrum 2017: Torridon

22.30 ÚR | NEW: Luingean Lannsaireachd – Medics changing lives in West Africa (rpt)

23.15 Ceòl Bho Perthshire Amber – Music from Dougie MacLean

23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 13 GIBLEAN

FRIDAY 13 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

18.35 Machair (rpt)

19.00 An Lá – News

19.25 ÚR | NEW: Pro 14 Live

Rugby – Glasgow v Connacht
21.30 Dealbhan Fraoch – A drawing of Neil Campbell in his blackhouse (rpt)

22.00 Seirm (rpt)

23.00 Bog Mummies/Cuirp sa Pholl-mhònach (rpt)

23.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

20.30 Brigh a' Chìùl – Return to the Voice (rpt)

21.00 All That Lies Behind Me – Sgeulachd Donald Merrett (rpt)

22.00 ÚR | NEW: Belladrum 2017: Torridon

22.30 ÚR | NEW: Luingean Lannsaireachd – Medics changing lives in West Africa (rpt)

23.15 Ceòl Bho Perthshire Amber – Music from Dougie MacLean

23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 14 MÀRT

SATURDAY 14 APRIL

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.30 Machair (rpt)

19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

20.00 Alba: 1971 (rpt)

20.30 Leugh Mi – With guests Carina MacLeod and Hannah McKirdy (rpt)

21.00 ÚR | NEW: Seirm – Featuring Dàimh and Lau

22.00 Luingean Lannsaireachd – A teenage boy arrives with a neurofibromata tumour which covers half his face (rpt)

22.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)

23.00 Bothy Life – Bothan nam Beann (rpt)

24.00 Tiree Music Festival 2016/

Fèis Chìùl Thiriadh 2016 (rpt)
DIDÒMHNAICH 15 GIBLEAN

SUNDAY 15 APRIL

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

18.30 Seachd Là

19.30 Sorchar nan Reul – Spiritual music and song with a Celtic flavour (rpt)

19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

20.00 Brigh a' Chìùl (rpt)

20.30 Fuine – Recipes for puddings (rpt)

21.00 Scottstar: Teasairginn Èiginneach – The ScotSTAR Transfer Service at work (rpt)

21.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)

22.00 Seirm – Music from Rory Butler and Coyne Byrne & Doyle (rpt)

22.30 Secrets of the Moon

Landings/An Rèis Diomhair Chun Na Gealach – Untold stories of Apollo 11 (rpt)

23.50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)

DILUIN 16 GIBLEAN

MONDAY 16 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

19.00 Insean an lar - Hebrides – Julie Fowlis narrates (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

20.30 ÚR | NEW: Dealbhan Fraoch – Heather Dewar draws broadcaster Catriona MacPhee

21.00 ÚR | NEW: Trusadh – Tha Aonachadh Gar Marbhadh – A moving and thought provoking look at loneliness (rpt)

22.00 Port – Julie and Muireann explore their musical roots in Glasgow (rpt)

22.30 Gladys (rpt)

23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 17 GIBLEAN

TUESDAY 17 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

Students join in islands creative project

Students from the Outer Hebrides and Shetland are about to embark on an exciting inter-island creative industries placement, giving them a great new opportunity to learn and develop their creative practice in a different and inspirational environment.

Devised to encourage collaboration between the creative talent of the Northern and Western Isles, An Lanntair's Between Islands initiative has produced a number of innovative ventures to date. These have included two musical projects – with a third due to premiere at the Hebridean Celtic Festival this July – and the publication of a book of short stories.

Earlier this year An Lanntair Arts Centre in Stornoway, on Lewis, put out a call for film or textile students from across the Western and Northern Isles to apply for this pioneering inter-island exchange scheme. Between Islands co-ordinator and head of performing arts and cultural projects for An Lanntair, Alex Macdonald, explains: 'The Year of Young People encourages those up to

the age of 26 to take part, so we saw it as a great opportunity to include our creative industries university and college students. This year we will focus on film-making and textiles, but it would be wonderful if these types of exchanges could expand in the future to include other disciplines.'

Student applications were invited earlier this year, and the successful Western Isles participants, Kate Macleod and Zoe Macinnes, will be travelling to Shetland in June, where they will spend a week making a short film about the area.

Alex adds: 'The help and support of a network of people across the island groups is essential, and we are grateful to Shetland Arts Development Agency for their practical assistance with the visit.'

Bryan Peterson, Shetland Arts' head of creative opportunities, said: 'Between Islands is an excellent project which has fostered strong cultural links between the islands groups, and we very much look forward to welcoming Kate and Zoe to Shetland.'

The demand for placements

from Shetland was really encouraging, so much so that four textile students will be travelling to the Isle of Lewis in July this year. Rebecca Baxter, Rhea Kay, Helen Laurenson, and Megan Smith will be taking a look at the success of the Harris Tweed industry, and examples of the work produced by both sets of students will be featured at Las! Ignite!, An Lanntair's Year of Young People festival in October 2018.

Alex is hopeful that further funding can be found to develop the idea in future. 'The beauty of all the Between Islands projects is that they encourage collaboration, and it would be wonderful to make these types of exchanges a natural part of what we all do, sharing knowledge and encouraging our young creatives to work from their island bases.'

'The creative industries are also an important part of our economic future, so involving our students is essential, not only as a means of keeping us all connected, but also to showcase what an incredible bank of talent we have collectively.'

Pictured: Zoe Macinnes.



Lisa-Marie Parkinson, left, tutored participants in Highland dancing.



Next up were the fiddlers.



Ruaridh Morrison taught accordion at this year's Fèis.



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email: studio@obanfm.org.uk
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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McCullie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

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

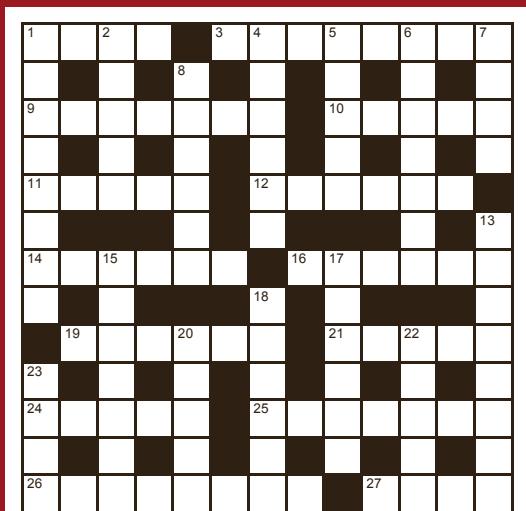
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00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

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

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

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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



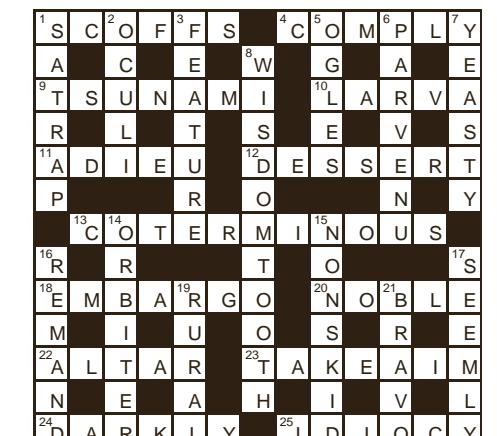
Across

- 1 Uncool one (4)
- 3 Clear liquid that turns white when cooked and contains albumin (3,5)
- 9 Respite from the sun (7)
- 10 Softens (5)
- 11 Type of gin to play? (5)
- 12 Break from activity (6)
- 14 Rough sea (6)
- 16 Carbohydrate (6)
- 19 Not out (2,4)
- 21 Compound formed from reaction between an acid and alcohol (5)
- 24 Fibre used to make textiles from an Asian plant (5)
- 25 Crush (7)
- 26 Prime number between the two ages of coming of age (8)
- 27 Land at sea (4)

Down

- 1 Region in town (8)
- 2 Field of activity (5)
- 4 Stare at (6)
- 5 Pathetic (5)
- 6 To such an extent (7)
- 7 Simple (4)
- 8 Clear away (4,2)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Arena

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

The Proclaimers are coming to the Corran Halls

The Proclaimers are on their way to Oban's Corran Halls.

The gig is on Saturday August 4 and tickets go on sale this Saturday from the venue on the Esplanade at 9am.

There will be a maximum of four tickets for each person and a queue is expected.

A limited number of tickets will also be available online from proclaimers.co.uk.

Special guest will be Glasgow songwriter Daniel Meade.

Twins Charlie and Craig Reid are best

known for their songs I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles), Sunshine on Leith, I'm On My Way and Letter from America.

This week the Scottish Government released a short film starring TV presenter Carol Smillie performing CPR in a garden while singing a version of the Proclaimers' 500 Miles tune with the lyrics altered to give CPR advice.

The campaign is part of a five-year plan to teach 500,000 Scots CPR and save 1,000 lives by 2020.

Craig and Charlie Reid, The Proclaimers.
Photo by Murdo Macleod.



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Donnie 'the Hearach' Campbell

I was deeply saddened to hear last week of the death of Donnie 'the Hearach' Campbell, aged 72, who was a much loved west coast figure down here in Glasgow.

I have written about Donnie once or twice in the Glasgow Letter – most recently during Celtic Connections, when I spent some happy hours in his company.

He was an avid reader of this column and was always so grateful when I mentioned his name – which was part of the reason I did

now and again. A man of remarkable energy, he was often to be found dancing and singing his heart out just in front of the Park Bar stage. Chi mi 'n Tir, the anthem of his native Isle of Harris, was the song he always requested, and an evening in the Park was never complete without the sound of Donnie's trademark 'Oh ho!' (always accompanied by his hands clapping above his head) ringing out between tunes and songs.

I was in the Park Bar for a pint at the weekend and those I was with all commented that the famous small dance floor will take a bit of getting used to without Donnie in its midst. Trail West posted a fitting tribute to Donnie on Facebook last week in which they wrote: 'Donnie very rarely missed a gig of ours in the Park and each time he walked through the door, we would greet him with an "Oh ho!" over the mic, much to his enjoyment.' The word 'enjoyment' epitomises Donnie. His zest for life was infectious and his love and passion for West Coast music and craic rubbed off on all generations and everybody around him.

As popular a man as he was, my first thoughts at this

time are, of course, with his family.

He will be greatly missed by so many.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been confirmed.

What's on

Saturday April 14: Ceilidh dance in the Partick Burgh Hall at 8pm.

Friday April 20: Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Friday April 27: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

Friday April 27: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance in the Crawford Hall at 9pm.

Saturday April 28: Glasgow Skye Association annual spring concert (Wee Skye) at 7.30pm in the Crawford Hall.

Tuesday May 8: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual general meeting at 7pm in An Lèanag on Mansfield Square.

Thursday May 10: Comunn an Taobh-an-iar annual general meeting at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club.

Thursday May 17: Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu annual general meeting at 7.30pm in the Glasgow Gaelic School.

Friday May 25: Helensburgh

and District Highland Association annual general meeting and dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm

Thursday May 31: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting at 7.30pm in Lourdes Secondary School.

Pub scene

Islay Inn

Friday April 13: The Keelies. Saturday April 14: The Raggaeals.

Park Bar

Friday April 13: Eriskay Lilt. Saturday April 14: Gunna Sound.

Sunday April 15: No music due to football.



Donnie 'the Hearach' Campbell, with Seonaidh MacIntyre, left, and Ian Smith in the middle of his trademark 'Oh-ho!' in the Park Bar.



Bonnie Babies clarification

Owing to a technical error, there was a mistake in last week's special pull-out Bonnie Babies 2018 section.

The entry numbered 28 was captioned as Ivy Rose Gordon, born in November 2017 and coming from Tobermory, Isle of Mull. The caption should have read Ivy Esme Gordon,

born November 2017 and coming from Appin.

Both babies have been given new numbers: Ivy Esme is now 144, while Ivy Rose is now 145.

Family and friends of both girls can now vote for their favourites.

We apologise for the error.



Vote now for your top 50!

Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 50 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Votes must be received by 10am, Monday April 16, 2018. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting (as printed in last week's Oban Times Bonnie Babies supplement). Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers! Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

VOTING COUPON

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

Terms & conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday April 16, 2018. One coupon counts as one vote. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000.



competition 2018

PHIL MCINTYRE | ENTERTAINMENTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH VIVIENNE SMITH MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

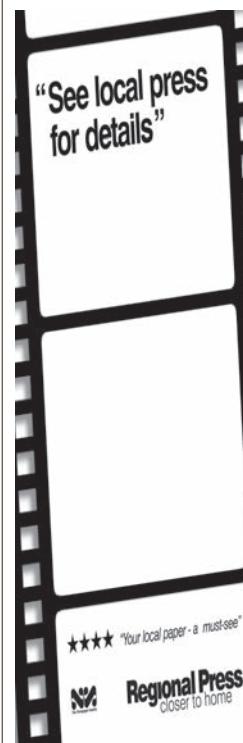
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What's on at The Nevis Centre

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

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

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

Oban Unsigned 2018

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 once again teamed up to give one local band or artist the chance to perform at Oban Live 2018. The winner will join an impressive list of artists from trad-stars Skerryvore and Skipinnish to Ireland's hottest band Hermitage Green, Sharon Shannon and more. Visit obanlive.com for more details.

Performing to thousands at Argyll's biggest live music event, taking place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, June 8 & 9, the winning act will get their very own slot on the line-up 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 artistes:

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 Tiree Music Festival and Oban Live.

Andy Bruce

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

Rory "O'B" Byrne

Rapper, guitarist and singer songwriter, originally from Oban and now based in Glasgow with his band Busker Rhymes.

Kevin "K9" Irvine

Started rapping in 2004 and since then he has released several EPs. An advocate of new music in and around Oban. Winner, along with rap partner Rory O'B, of Oban Unsigned 2017.

The shortlist

Now it is up to the general public to vote for who they think should play at Oban Live this June. Here is your shortlist:

RHUVAAL

Hailing from Argyll, Rhuvaal are a young folk-based traditional band consisting of five members. Playing modern traditional music with a variety of instruments and songs, they have built up a solid following in Kintyre, Oban and Lorn.

As well as playing in a group, the band work diligently as solo musicians to be the best they can be while finding their own sound. They play local west coast tunes, music and folk songs from all over Scotland and other Celtic countries, as well as a lot of original compositions and songs.



STEPHEN SKINN

Solo singer/songwriter Stephen has, for the best part of a decade, penned many big-chorused songs. Stephen has spent the vast majority of his life in Oban, releasing his debut album, *Living Off Dreams*, in September last year.



EMMA LEITCH

Towards the end of 2017, solo singer/songwriter Emma achieved her long-held dream of recording her own EP Aurora in Oban, receiving airplay on BBC Radio nan Gaidheal and local radio. Emma has also supported Gary Innes in concert.



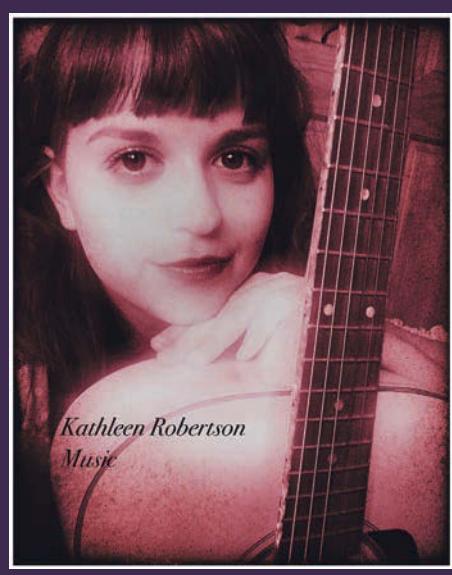
NEON SHEBA

'Bringing people music that transcends genre and subtly outweighs the expectations of their listeners', Neon Sheba have become accustomed to playing Oban since their start in 2016. They recently recorded their EP in St Mary's Space in Fasnacloich, Appin, which will be released in the coming months. They are inspired by the things they love to make understated alt-rock. Music and art is a massive part of their existence.



KATHLEEN ROBERTSON

Nineteen-year-old solo singer/songwriter Kathleen is a live performing musician and a passionate vocalist with a unique sound. Her performance and vocal skills developed while studying an HNC Music Performance course at West Highland College.



**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 23, 2018.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

OBANLIVE

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

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

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 23, 2018. One coupon counts as one vote. One vote per email address when voting online. Customer services: 01631 568000.

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Mull Eagle Watch flies to new location to find birdies

EVERY golfer's dream to get a 'double eagle' ... and that's what could be in store this summer for those playing at one of the world's most scenic coastal courses on the Isle of Mull.

This year, the nine-hole course, which was first laid out in 1895, will host the award-winning Mull Eagle Watch project.

A pair of white-tailed eagles, Britain's largest birds of prey, nest adjacent to the golf course and helps keep it clear of geese and rabbits.

Mull Eagle Watch will run guided tours to see the eagles from a safe distance and income from the trips will help boost golf club funds to buy much-needed golf course maintenance equipment and to allow improvements to the clubhouse.

The eagles have nested successfully at their prime golf course location since 2009.

Volunteers and golfers, working with Police Scotland, have helped to protect the birds from disturbance and egg thieves.

The eagles are used to activity on the golf course and are more focused on raising their chicks and catching their prey from the sea and nearby islands in the Sound of Mull.

Rangers from the Mull and Iona Community Trust and RSPB will run daily visits from the clubhouse to a forward viewing area to get privileged views of the eagles at their nest.

Walks to view golden eagles at the nearby Forestry Commission Scotland's Scallastle trail will also be introduced to the calendar of summer events and the rangers are part-funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Chairman of Craignure Golf Club Johnny Paton said: 'We are excited to host the prestigious Mull Eagle Watch this year and look forward to welcoming



Mull Eagle Watch is organising visits to see the eagles, inset, which are nesting close to the golf club. (Inset picture: Iain Erskine)

visitors to our stunning course overlooking the Sound of Mull.'

Moray Finch, general manager of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, said: 'Extending the Mull Eagle Partnership to support a local community golf club makes perfect sense and is a great example of how a social enterprise can work.'

Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull officer, said: 'Mull Eagle Watch has continuously evolved and moved around the island and has helped countless local projects over the years.'

'This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the extinction of sea eagles in Scotland and it's wonderful now to see these majestic birds back in our midst and their presence being embraced by island communities.'

Mull Eagle Watch is a species protection project and a five-star VisitScotland-rated wildlife experience. It has been a successful partnership since 2000 between the Mull and Iona Community Trust, RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and Police Scotland.

Trips must be booked via the Craignure Visitor Information Centre on 01680 812556. Guided walks will run at 11am and 2pm, Sunday to Friday (closed Saturdays). Public transport via the West Coast Buses to Tobermory will bring passengers on foot and day visitors to the clubhouse stop.

The walks cost £8 for adults, £4 for under-16s, with families of four for £20. Residents of Mull can visit for free.

Donations also welcome towards the work of Craignure Golf Club and Mull Eagle Watch.

Mountaineering Scotland makes key new appointment

THE body which represents climbers, mountaineers, hill walkers and snowsports tourers in Scotland is to have a new hand at the helm from Monday.

Mountaineering Scotland has appointed Stuart Younie as chief executive, replacing David Gibson, who is retiring after

more than a decade at the head of the organisation.

Stuart comes to Mountaineering Scotland from Live Active Leisure in Perth, where he was business development and programming manager. He brings a wide range of senior management experience, including

strategic planning, business development and operational delivery.

He is also passionate about the outdoors, having skied and walked in the Highlands since his childhood, and rock climbed since his university days.

He has been a member of

Mountaineering Scotland for many years.

Stuart has a BA Honours degree in recreation management specialising in countryside studies and is keen to promote the health benefits of an active lifestyle. He managed the sports development and outdoor ed-

ucation services for Perth and Kinross Council for eight years, working closely with volunteers, local clubs and schools. For the last six years he has been a voluntary director of the Scottish Sports Association and was appointed vice-chairman in 2017.

Height to climb: 1050m; Map(s): LR50, EX376/384; Meet at North Ballachulish school at 8.30am or Longdale Road car park, Oban, at 8.30am for start of walk at 9.15am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

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

Sunday April 15
Gulvain / Gaor Bheinn, Loch Eil

Follow the track up the east side of the Fionn Lighne river, which crosses the river after about 2km.

Continue on the track for about another 4km, and cross the Allt a' Choire Reidh.

Then ascend the south ridge of the hill to a craggy knoll at 855m, and carry on past the trig point. From here head NNE, dropping 60m to a saddle, and then climb the narrowing ridge to the summit.

Return by the same route.

Distance: 23km, height to climb: 1350m. Suggested by Robert Paterson; coordinated by Toril Frantzen.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Thursday April 12 Glen Scaddle, Ardgour

An interesting there and back walk in Ardgour, on a good and mainly level track, following the

River Scaddle which flows from W to E.

Start from the A861 at Inbhir Scaddail where parking is available near the end of an estate track at NN022686. Head SW on the main road to cross the River Scaddle and turn W on to the track past Aryhoulan.

Head W in to Glen Scaddle on S side of the river. At NM985682, a footbridge gives access to the ruins of Creagbeithieachain on the N side. Return to the track, continue E and pass through some mixed woodland. After about 4km, the track emerges from the woodland to cross the river on a bridge. It is

possible to return on the N side as far as Creagbeithieachain and cross the bridge to rejoin the track, but the path is wet and there are some minor burns to ford. Alternatively, retrace steps back to Inbhir Scaddail. The walk may extended to the Bothy at Tighnacomaire, an additional 2km.

Grade: L; Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 150m Map(s): LR40/41, EX391; Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 9.45am sailing. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Sheila McKenzie 07880 891262.

**Saturday April 14
Beinn Sgulaird, Glen Creran**

Beinn Sgulaird rises from the

sea at the head of Loch Creran. A traverse of its high-level undulating ridge affords splendid views of both coast and hills intertwined in this fascinating landscape.

Start from the lay-by near Druimavuic at NN008451. Take the track which leads around the back of Druimavuic Ho, through a wood and on to the open hillside. Stay on the track, climbing to about 160m alt at NN014445. The route now ascends the SW ridge to a small summit at 488m then continues rising E to a summit at 863m. The ridge turns NE to Meall Garbh at 848m and curves N up to

the main summit of Beinn Sgulaird at 937m. Descend NE at first. The ridge twist and turns, then heads E down to a small lochan on a col, then up to the small summit of Stob Gaibhre, 684m, 690m.

Continue the descent E for about 1.2km to a ring contour at NN075467 then head N down a steep spur to reach the track in Glen Ure. Follow the track W down Glen Ure to the bridge at NN045480. Cross the bridge and follow the track around Glenure Lodge to the estate approach road, then NW to finish at Elleric CP. Transport required

Grade: S; Distance: 13km;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entry is £10 (plus booking fee)

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

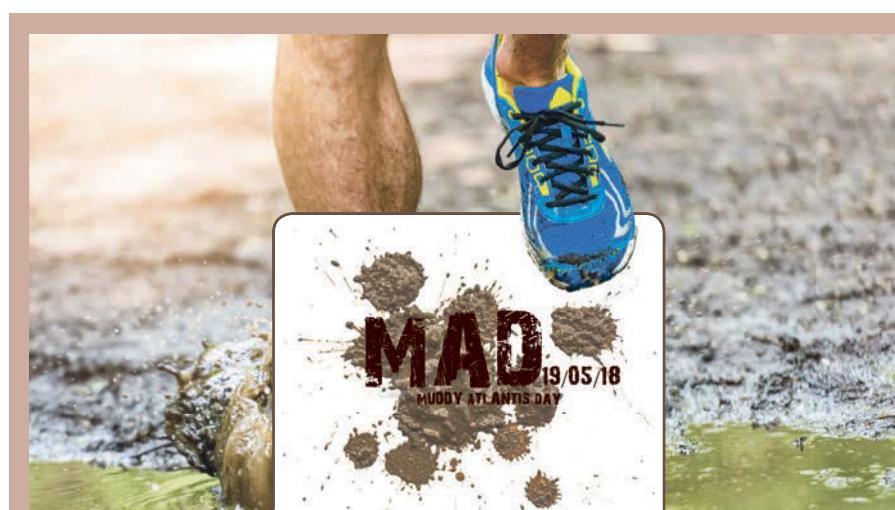
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2018 west highland calendar

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Signs of spring at last after extreme winter

Ewen Campbell
SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre
research farms manager

I DON'T like to tempt fate, but it looks like the temperature is finally going to rise and, with a bit of luck, spring will be just round the corner.

As I explained in last month's article, this has been an extreme winter for livestock to cope with and it looks like the press and the politicians are finally catching on to just how desperate the situation is for some farmers.

Despite what has been thrown at us, we managed to gather the ewes for their pre-lambing vaccination.

Given some of the poor results we have had at scanning, we have also taken blood samples from some of our ewes, to check their metabolic status. Particularly, we were looking at magnesium, copper, urea, albumin and beta hydroxybutyrate (BOHB) – all compounds in the blood that give an indication of the animal's nutritional status. That should help us understand which ewes had issues or not.

Calving has been going well, with 21 calves from 21 cows with three still to calf. We have also had our first calf from our Highland cows and he's a



The sheep feeding intake trial has helped to collect valuable data.

real character with an enviable turn of speed.

I also wanted to tell you more about some recent activity we have had on the farm.

Our SRUC colleagues in Edinburgh received government funding last year from the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL) to purchase portable equipment that can tell us more about feed efficiency in sheep. The equipment is for recording feed and water intake of individual sheep, alongside changes in their live weight,

using EID technology.

We have been testing it here at Kirkton with some of our Auchtertyre finishing lambs in the shed. The kit arrived mid-January, and was set up with help from BioControl, the Norwegian company which designed it.

After some trial and error, including water pipes and feed nuts freezing (when the first wave of snow and ice hit us!), we got it working. We have collected valuable data, giving us insights into the variation in

feeding behaviour, and feed and water intake between sheep.

We hope to use this system in several future sheep trials at SRUC, to investigate the genetics of feed efficiency, as well as for finishing feeding trials.

This pilot trial has certainly attracted a lot of attention from all our visitors since January. Another interesting example of how technology can be adapted to, and useful for, hill farms.

We also had our first grassland group meeting of the year here on the farms, organised by Robin Mair from Stirling SAC Consulting. Eight people attended, and we concentrated our discussions on bracken control and in particular how we are going to manage the areas of bracken we sprayed last year.

We discussed various ideas including the use of cattle grazing to break up the bracken litter; the application of lime and fertilizer to encourage grass growth; and the introduction of clover and grass seed. We also had a look at our recently reseeded by-bye fields and discussed future management.

That's it until next time, when lambing will be upon us, with, I hope, some nicer weather in store for us.

Around the markets

STIRLING – United Auctions on Thursday April 6 sold 4432 prime sheep comprising of 16 new season lambs selling to an average of 292.7p & 3678 old season lambs selling to an average of 272.5p & 738 ewes and rams. New season lambs (16) – West Carse (Suff) £158; Langside (Char) £150; Wallacetton (Zwa) £132; Wood (Dors) £130.

New season lambs (16) – Langside (Char) 319p; Chalmerton (Suff) 316p; Wood (Dors) 283p; Wallacetton (Zwa) 267p.

Old season lambs (3678) – Luckenburn (BTex) £166;

Wester Upper Urquhart (Suff)

£154; Nether Strathkinnes & Dullomuir & Strone (Tex) £147;

Newmains (Chev) £147; Kilmundie (X) £144; Assloss (Mule) £136; Dunruchan (BF) £138.50; Wester Kepdowrie (Char) £138.

Old season lambs (3678) –

Luckenburn (BTex) 377p; Mount Stewart (Tex) 329p; Mid Seat (Chev) 317p; Muirhouses (Suff) 314p; Denside (X) 292p; Denside (Mule) 291p; Holehouse (BF) 291p; Fintalach (Char) 270p

Ewes (738) – Chalmerton (Suff) £196; Langside (Tex) £176; Boorach Beg (X) £154;

Wester Upper Urquhart (Mule) £121; Blarnavaid (BFL) £116;

Kilmundie (BF) £99.50; West Meikle Pinkerton (Zwa) £106;

Mill of Inverarity (Chev) £74.

Rams – Langside (Char) £130;

Highholm (Suff) £120; Lochend (BTex) £100; South Mid Frew (Tex) £76.

DINGWALL – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Thursday April 5 sold 5,066 sheep of all classes including the annual spring sale of ewe lambs.

Ewe lambs (3,426) averaged £69.82 and sold to £138 gross for a pen of Beltex crosses from Simpson's Croft, Scotsburn.

Wedder lambs (1,293) averaged £58.88 and sold to £103 gross for a pair of Zwartbles from Druid Temple Farm, Inverness.

Ewes (267) averaged £47.81 and sold to £148 gross for a pair of Texel crosses from Burnside Croft, Jamestown.

Breeding (12) sold to £110 gross for a pen of lamb ewes from the dispersal of 12 Airdens, Bonar Bridge.

Rams and feeding sheep (68) sold to £100 gross for a Zwartble ram from Druid Temple Farm.

Other leading prices per head:

Ewe lambs: SuffX – Carn Raineach, Applecross, £126, £125; Chev – Tighnabinch, Aleraig, £113, Cairnlea, Edderton, £104, £100, Shieldaig, Strathcarron, £98; TexX – Clachan Farm, Ullapool, £101, Balnabruich, Ardgay, £100, 3 Balnaben, Conon Bridge, £96; Mule – Gaich Farm, Grantown on Spey, £91;

BeltX – Mid Gruinards, Ardgay, £88; BF – Mid Gruinards, £82, 13 Peinchorran, Portree, £80;

Cross – 9 Sasaig, Sleat, £80.

Wedder lambs: Chev – 186

Midgale, Bonar Bridge, £100, Bogburn Farm, Duncanston,

£82, Polly Estates, Inverpolly, £81; BeltX – Braes of Coulmore, North Kessock, £99, 6 North

Brager, Isle of Lewis, £81; TexX – Eissich Farm, Inverness, £90, 3

Camusnagaul, Dundonnell, £88; SuffX – Lochlait, Abriachan, £89, Upper Bogrow, Edderton, £85; Ballone, Abriachan, £85; Cross – Newhall House, Balblair, £80, Pitmain Estate, Perth, £80, Allanglaich, North Kessock, £77.

Ewes: BDM – Tighnabinch, £130;

Chev – Tighnabinch, £104, 186

Middale, £89, Kintail, Mulbuie, £81; TexX – 12 Airdens, £93;

BeltX – Braes of Coulmore, £89.

Rams and feeding sheep: TexX – Ardgyhill, Ardgy, £90; Chev – Ardgyhill, £80, 13 Lochside, Lairg, £78; SuffX – Katewell, Evanton, £68; BF – 37 Vatisker, Isle of Lewis, £68.

Other leading prices
Beef cows per head: £1480
Broombrae £1470 Templehall
£1440 Bolfornought £1330 Nether
Glims £1300 Templehall
Beef cows per kilo: 188.5p Tallant
(Islay) 180p Hattrick 178p and
174p Tallant (Islay) 172p and 170p
Glenside
Dairy cows per head: £1030
Bonnyhill £1020 North Bankhead
£1000 Carneil £980 North
Bankhead £890 Carneil
Dairy cows per kilo: 139p
Sgriob-Ruadh (Mull) 131p
Wester Lochdrum 128.5p Carneil
127.5p Barbet 126p Gibblaston
and North Bankhead.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Wednesday April 4 sold 1378 store cattle and young bulls at their April show and sale of store cattle sponsored by Rural Finance also 79 cast cows and 2180 store and breeding sheep. Bullocks (718) averaged 238.01p to 305.10p per kg for a 272kg LimX from Balgowan and £1430 for a 686kg CHX from Netherton.

B & W Bullocks (74) averaged 160.22p to 179.80p per kg for a 481kg BFX from Middleton and £865 for a 486kg BFX from High Branchal.

Heifers (543) averaged 231.60p to 275.90p per kg for a 290kg CHX from Hawthorn and £1350 for a 588kg LimX from Lochend.

Young bulls (43) averaged 239.96p to 285.10p per kg for a LimX from Clatto and £1115 for a LimX from Clatto.

Beef cows (67) averaged 157.17p to 192.20p per kg for a SimX from Blackburn and £1530 for a SimX from Blackburn. Dairy cattle (12) averaged 122.40p to 154.90 per kg for a BFX from Tighenfraeoch and £1170 for a BFX from Wester Lochburn.

Bullocks: 0.250kgs- Home Farm Haughton £640, Gateside 287.7p; 251-300kgs- Balgowan £830, 305.1p; 301-350kgs- Dyke £970, 284.5p; 351-400kgs- Stacks £1070, blairmore 279.9p; 401-450kgs- Stacks £1195, 269.1p; 451-500kgs- Lochend £1220, Ashfield 264.9p; 501-551kgs- Middleton £1300, Hattrick Farms 247.6p; 552-601kgs- Nether South Bar £1310, Home Farm Haughton 231.0p; 602-651kgs- Netherton £1380, 221.4p; 652-701kgs- Netherton £1430, 208.5p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Glenkillin £605, Gateside 252.1p; 251-300kgs- Balgowan £830, 305.1p; 301-350kgs- Dyke £970, 284.5p; 351-400kgs- Stacks £1070, blairmore 279.9p; 401-450kgs- Stacks £1195, 269.1p; 451-500kgs- Lochend £1220, Ashfield 264.9p; 501-551kgs- Middleton £1300, Hattrick Farms 247.6p; 552-601kgs- Nether South Bar £1310, Home Farm Haughton 231.0p; 602-651kgs- Netherton £1380, 221.4p; 652-701kgs- Netherton £1430, 208.5p.

Young bulls: Up to 250kgs- Clatto £670, 285.1p; 251-300kgs- Clatto £805, 280.9p; 301-350kgs- Clatto £890, 258.7p; 401-450kgs- Clatto £920, 227.7p; 501-551kgs- Clatto £1085, 203.2p; 552-601kgs- Clatto £1115, 198.0p.

Ladies dominate Mull sticks competition



The Isle of Mull carvers pose with their sticks, above; Mull champion crook maker, Mari Kluczynski from Torloisk, below right; and Emma Morgan from Pennyghael, with her daughter Katy Roberts, eight.



Anger from NFUS as new entrant grants close

NFU Scotland has written to the Scottish Government asking that it looks at the rules surrounding the definition of new entrants, following announcement that Young Farmers' Start-Up and New Entrants' Start-Up grants will not be re-opened to future applications.

Both the NFUS Next Generation working group and SAYFC's Agri-Affairs Committee have expressed deep concerns as, under the existing interpretation and implementation of the rules surrounding the definition of new entrants, a significant number of

genuine new farm businesses are being shut out of the National Reserve as well as the New Entrants' Start-Up grant and other capital schemes.

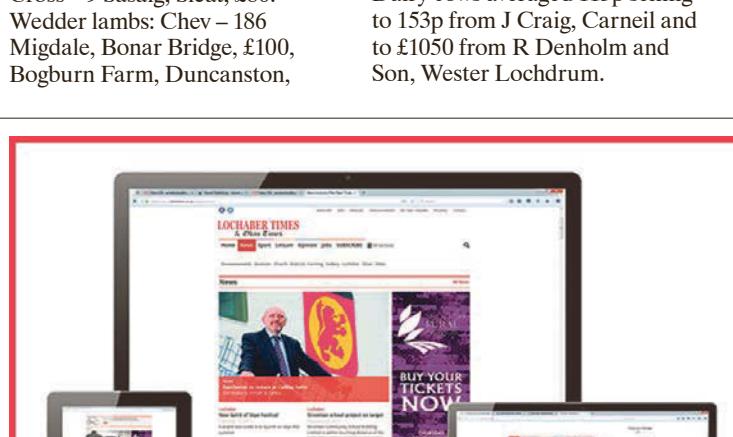
The interpretation of 'new entrant' eligibility criteria currently deems individuals as being 'active' for more than five years because of the previous years before they were properly established as businesses in their own right being counted.

It is NFU Scotland's concern that many future farmers who already have valuable experience are being sidelined, while

others of less experience who are eligible can more readily access support.

In the letter to rural affairs secretary Fergus Ewing, NFUS Next Generation chairman Mark Donald said: 'The Scottish Government has often talked of the great importance of new entrants to agriculture in the past.'

'However, the recent news that due to budgetary constraints the Scottish Government would not re-open the Young Farmers' Start-Up and New Entrants' Start-Up grants for future applicants is hugely disappointing.'



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The journey: A83 to Inveraray and Lochgilphead with stunning sea loch views, crossing Crinan Canal at Ardrishaig. A83 to Campbeltown Atlantic coast with breakers, passing Gigha and Jura, is magnificent. A816 to Oban weaves between sea and inland through historic Kilmartin with church, standing stones and museum.

Hopscotch: Kennacraig for Islay boats; Claonaig for Arran; Tayinloan for Gigha; and Campbeltown for Arran and Ayrshire coast; Oban, heart of CalMac operation for Hebrides.



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The West Loch Hotel dates from circa 1780, retaining many of its original features.

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A FAMILY AFFAIR AT WEST LOCH FYNE AS NEW OWNERS TAKE OVER

West Loch Fyne has gone under new ownership, bringing along new changes including tailored tariffs for guests, a minibus service and new editions to the popular menu.

New owner Alison Mulholland says: 'Our plans include expanding the back of the hotel to include a lounge area.'

'We are very much a family business, with my three sons working at the hotel also. We hope to cater for passengers who are going to and from the Islay ferry, offering tailored tariffs for single occupancies, and cheaper tariffs for those who are leaving earlier in the morning.'





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	1015	1040	1045	1045	1110
	1115	1140	1145	1145	1210
	1215 B	1240 B	1245 B	1245 B	1310 B
	1315 B	1340 B	1345 B	1345 B	1410 B
	1415 B	1440 B	1445 B	1445 B	1510 B
	1515	1540	1545	1545	1610
	1615	1640	1645	1645	1710
	1715	1740	1745	1745	1810
	1815 C	1840 C	1845 C	1845 C	1910 C

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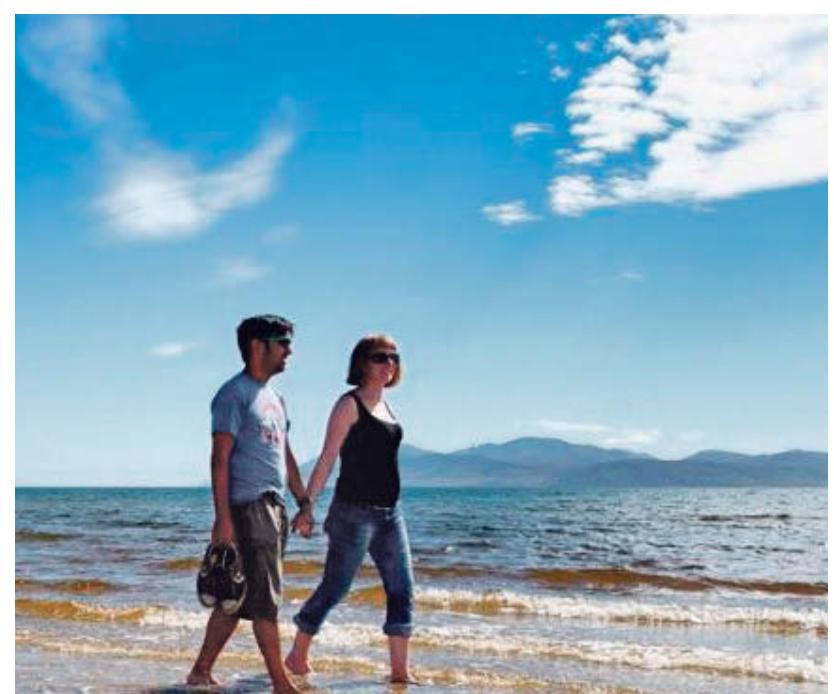
A world-class 'wow-factor' destination

Disastrous plans to build oil platforms here collapsed, leaving an abandoned construction yard eyesore. Step forward the Bulloch family, who transformed it into a marina and accommodation with restaurants and spa.

Check out: Acclaim and awards continue to pour in to Portavadie, voted best accommodation provider in this year's Scottish tourism awards; perfect for exploring the Cowal Peninsula, the 'secret coast' of Argyll.

The journey: stunning views around every corner. B8000 – west side of the peninsula. A8003 – the east, meeting in Tighnabruaich with post office, store, hotel and tea room. Kames also has a post office and store. Other single-track roads just beckon to be explored.

Hopscotch: Colintraive for Bute ferry via A886. Dunoon via the B836 – a magical route to the A815 and the Clyde services.



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An excellent opportunity has arisen for an IT Support Technician based in our Oban office but travelling to Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Edinburgh, Arran and Fort William as required.

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You will require:-

An HNC/HND in computers or related suitable technical subject. At least 3 years experience in an IT Support Helpdesk or similar, Cpanel, Wordpress, Apache, Microsoft Office (2000 to latest version Word/Excel/Powerpoint), ISDN and IP Telephone systems (AVAYA preferred), Phone cabling/wiring/Broadband configuration. Server 2009 – 2016. Windows 7 – 10 (Some legacy OS systems and a thorough understanding of CLI or Powershell).

A sound knowledge of networking, switches, testing routers, configuring and maintaining VPN and IP configuration/troubleshooting is essential.

Knowledge of Survey Monkey/Wufoo/Mailchimp, building and maintaining Wordpress Websites an advantage as would some experience of Adobe Products (InDesign, Photoshop), experience with Digital SLR cameras and video equipment/editing with Adobe Premiere or similar.

A keen interest in legacy, existing and emerging technology.

Ability to troubleshoot and make diagnosis and repair quickly.

Ability to work under pressure.

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North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction, on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support.

We are seeking to recruit a committed individual who will be able to provide full administrative and financial support to the Manager and Management Board. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a team that works together to meet the needs of carers.

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North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process.

CLOSING DATE: Monday 23rd April 2018



Transition Project Manager

Mid Argyll Community Pool has been successful in securing a generous grant from The Scottish Land Fund to purchase land and buildings adjacent to the Pool. These will form the basis for an ambitious project to expand and improve the facilities at MacPool.

We are now seeking an experienced Project Manager to lead the next phase of this exciting development. The successful candidate will manage all aspects of the project including acquisition of the assets, securing funds for the redevelopment and community and stakeholder communication and engagement.

We are offering a full time, 18 month Fixed Term contract initially, with remuneration of £30,000 per annum.

This post is fully funded by the Scottish Land Fund.

To find out more about this opportunity and to download an application form, please visit www.macpool.org.uk

Closing date 30th April 2018

The Scottish Land Fund is funded by the Scottish Government and made available through The Big Lottery Fund. The Scottish Land Fund is being delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government by a partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. There are no lottery funds used in the Scottish Land Fund.



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2 Plumbers (Non Gas)	East & West Argyll	£26,208
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For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website www.acha.co.uk

CVs are not accepted.

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team: Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 20th April 2018

Interviews will be held during May / June 2018 across Argyll & Bute

Harvesting Contracts Managers



Location: Argyll/Lochaber

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Mid Argyll Community Pool

Transition Project Manager

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RECRUITMENT HIJOBS

Electrical/Electronics Engineer

Fort William, Highland

Logic Alarm Systems require the services of a Lochaber based engineer who has an electrical or electronics background. The successful candidate will receive comprehensive training in all aspects of fire and security systems to full British Standards.

Logic Alarm Systems is based in Beauly, but has had one Lochaber based engineer for many years and due to ever increasing workload this engineer requires the support of a second, competent, professional, dedicated and reliable engineer.

All replies with CV to:

Alan MacDonald (General Manager)
Logic Alarms Systems
Shore Street, Beauly, IV4 7DB
Email: alan@logicalarms.com



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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING
(LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
18/00209/PP	Demolition of warehouses 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, filling store, welfare block and garage, erection of replacement filling store, installation of draft malt intake, alterations to existing courtyard distillery buildings, warehouse 5, existing pumphouse and paint store buildings, provision of cask storage area, associated car parking, hard and soft landscaping and ancillary works	Bunnahabhain Distillery Bunnahabhain Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RP	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
18/00690/LIB	Internal alterations to form new shower room on upper floor and associated works	The Muckairn Manse Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HW	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
18/00319/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 15 metre high telegraph pole, associated works and formation of vehicular access	Land At Layby (approx 220M South East Of Ardura Lodge) Ardura Estate Ardura Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
18/00642/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of ground mounted solar array and conversion of existing steading for use as a domestic store/workshop	Steadings North East Of Sheepknock House Buinessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Buinessan Isle of Mull
18/00707/PP	Temporary change of use from residential dining room to cafe	The Abbey Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SN	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
18/00768/PP	Retention of temporary access track formed in association with 275kV overhead line refurbishment	Land Off The B6077 Adjacent To Electricity Sub Station Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
18/00764/PP	Change of use of shop (Class 1) to coffee shop (Class 3)	2 Gibraltar Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4AY	Oban Area Office
18/00761/LIB	Erection of 2 fascia signs with associated external lighting	Queens Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 SAG	Oban Area Office
18/00613/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Site West Of Mill House Flora Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
18/00210/LIB	Demolition of warehouses 2, 3, 4 and 6, alterations to existing courtyard distillery buildings and warehouse 5 in the form of external improvements and upgrading works	Bunnahabhain Distillery Bunnahabhain Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RP	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
18/00729/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/02838/PP - Alterations, extension and change of use of existing outbuilding to form holiday accommodation	Tartbert House Shore Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7LB	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
18/00337/PP	Formation of access track	Gallanach Farm Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
18/00375/PP	Residential development comprising 300 dwellings, ground re-modelling, new roads, infrastructure, biomass energy centre, open space, landscaping, community woodland and area for community facilities	Land West Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dunbeg

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earrá - Gháidheal agus Bhóid

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMSEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

J MacLachlan
2 Unachan, Kilmonivaig
2.24 ha – General Purpose
88207

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 10/05/18. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

S J MacNaughton
51, 53 & 55 Banavie, Kilmallie
76335
0.3 ha

Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground Condition – With fencing conditions.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (C29 KILMELFORD-KILCHRENNAN ROAD AND C30 FORD-KILMAMA-BARNALINE ROAD) (TEMPORARY 10 TONNES MGW WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2018

On Monday 9th April 2018, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle whose maximum gross weight exceeds 10 tonnes, on the lengths of road indicated in the schedule below.

SCHEDULE – 10T MGW Weight Restriction

1. Kilmelford-Kilchrennan Road (C29) from its junction with the Lochgilphead-Oban Road (A816) at Kilmelford, via Lochavich, to its junction with the Barcadine – Taynuilt – Taychreggan Road (B845).
2. Ford-Kilmaha-Barnaline Road (C30) from its junction with the East Lochaweside Road (B840) at Ford, via Kilmaha, to its junction with the Kilmelford-Kilchrennan Road (C29) at Druumdarroch.

The restriction which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near those lengths of road will be effective when indicated by signs between 0001 hours on 14th April to 2359 hours on 2018 April 2018.

The prohibition imposed by this Order does not apply to:

- a vehicle being used for carrying out the remedial works;
- a vehicle being used in the service of the Council in pursuance of their statutory powers or duties;
- a bus operating a local service;
- a vehicle undertaking essential domestic deliveries; or
- a vehicle being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes.

Jim Smith, Head Roads & Amenity Services,
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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Comhairle Earrá - Gháidheal agus Bhóid

Argyll and Bute Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

Speciality Drinks Ltd, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising New Distillery at Land to East of Port Ellen.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Blyth and Blyth Consulting Engineers Ltd, Cornerstone, 60 South Gyle Crescent, EH12 9EB.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at The Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen on Wednesday 25th April 2018 between the hours of 3pm and 8pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Blyth and Blyth Consulting Engineers Ltd, Cornerstone, 60 South Gyle Crescent, EH12 9EB. Before Noon on 13th June 2018.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
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www.hightland.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.hightland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.hightland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/01472/FUL	The Holdfast, Pier Road Kilchoan, Acharacle	Erection of house, formation of access

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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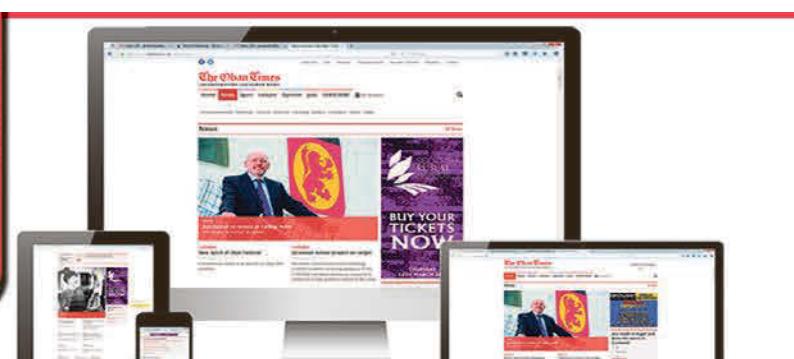
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im@helensburgh.toyota.co.uk



Car Scappage Saving

Model	Scappage Saving	Model	Scappage Saving
AYGO	£1,500	Avensis	£3,500
Yaris	£2,500	Prius	£2,000
Auris and Auris Hybrid	£3,000	GT86	£2,000
Verso	£3,500	Land Cruiser	£4,000
RAV4 and RAV4 Hybrid	£2,500	Hilux	£2,000
C-HR and C-HR Hybrid	£1,000	PROACE	£2,000

Terms & conditions ^If you trade-in any car or commercial vehicle that was registered up to and including 30th June 2010 you can receive between £1,000 and £4,000 (saving dependent on model chosen and incl VAT) scappage saving off the Recommended On The Road Price of a New Toyota. Offer available on all new Toyota passenger cars and commercial vehicles, excluding base grades (Active and X) and Yaris GRMN. New Toyota vehicle must be ordered and registered between 3rd April 2018 and 1st July 2018. To qualify for the scheme the owner of the trade-in vehicle must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5) and have owned the trade-in vehicle for a minimum of 6 months before the new Toyota order date. The new vehicle must be registered in the same name. Offer not available in conjunction with any other customer saving programme, Free Servicing offer or finance deposit allowance. Available to retail customers only. Participating centres only and subject to availability. For further information please contact your local Toyota Centre.

HELENSBURGH TOYOTA ARE HELPING YOU START YOUR NEW CAR EXPERIENCE

TOYOTA is helping more motorists make the move to cleaner cars through our scappage scheme. It's open to vehicles that were registered up to and including June 30, 2010, and held by the current owner for at least six months.

Qualifying customers can enjoy savings of up to £4,000 on a new Toyota with the scheme running from April 3, 2018, to July 1, 2018. The offer covers almost the entire Toyota passenger car and light commercial range, from the AYGO city car to Land

Cruiser and Hilux. The new scheme adds to a wide choice of attractive offers across the Toyota line-up.

Toyota's unmatched hybrid range includes the C-HR Hybrid crossover and the British-built Auris Hybrid hatchback and Touring Sports wagon. New Prius is the pre-eminent example of Toyota's latest full hybrid technology, while the hybrid RAV4 has quickly become the best-selling version of the popular compact SUV.

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Together, these processes will meet the legal requirement of a minimum 95 per cent recycling by vehicle weight.

For full details and terms and conditions of this new scheme, contact **Helensburgh Toyota** on 01463 672779. Why not check out our scappage offers or book your test drive today?



WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

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Motorhome or Campervan wanted for personal use, any make, model, mileage or condition considered.

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All 4x4 vehicles, all makes and models wanted. Guaranteed best price, no hassle, free collection anywhere. Land Rover Defender, Discovery, Freelander Range Rover, Vauxhall Brava, Toyota Hilux, Land Cruiser, Mitsubishi, Shogun, L200, Pajero, Nissan Navara, Terrano, Patrol, X Trail, Isuzu Trooper, Rodeo. + All other 4x4 Vehicles, 4X4 Pickups, etc. Single vehicles or fleet purchases. Any age nearly new or old, any conditions from perfect to written off, non runners, rotten, no MOT, high mileage, blown engine, overheating etc. Cash in hand, no hassle, best cash price guaranteed.

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ISUZU D-MAX TRIUMPHS AT THE PROFESSIONAL PICKUP & 4X4 AWARDS

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max builds on its continued successes as 'Most Reliable Pickup' at the inaugural Professional Pickup & 4x4 Awards.

JUDGED by a panel of twelve 'Pick Up Professionals', judges tested the Isuzu D-Max both on and off-road and were impressed by the strong build quality and renowned workhorse character.

Launched in 2017, the new generation Isuzu D-Max introduced a brand new 1.9 litre turbo diesel engine, which retains the 3.5 tonne towing capacity and over 1 tonne payload whilst providing a quieter, more refined and economical driving experience.

Professional Pickup & 4x4 Editor Liam Campbell commented on the win: "Isuzu has been held in high regard for build quality and reliability right back to the Trooper days, and our study confirmed this. In the end, 407 pickup truck owners were surveyed, and the D-Max came out on top."

important issue for pickup truck owners, many of whom are owner-operators and rely on their vehicle for multiple uses".

Isuzu UK Managing Director, William Brown commented: "We're really proud to receive this award as it strengthens the D-Max's position as the most reliable vehicle in the sector. It's really pleasing that professionals from a number of industries have recognised all the hard work that has gone in at Isuzu UK to make such a great product."

"We make pickups for real professionals, and this award is testament to that fact".

The reliability award follows a successful year for the new generation D-Max, which claimed 'Pick Up Of The Year' at the 2018 WhatVan? Awards.

For more information contact S & S Services web: www.sandsservices.co.uk tel: 01292 880080 / 01292 880440 / 07831 808702 or visit them at Tesco Oban Road Show next weekend.



ENGAGEMENTS

CLARK - RUSHWORTH - Both families are very happy to announce the engagement on April 7, 2018, of Fiona, only daughter of Alex and Sandra Clark, Gavanav, Oban, to Allan, youngest son of Janet and the late Fred Rushworth, Saltaire, West Yorks.

DEATHS

BRADY - Suddenly, at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, surrounded by his family, on April 8, 2018, aged 61, John (Jacky) darling partner to Janette, dearly respected role model to Gregor and George, adoring papa to his grandchildren, a dear brother and uncle. Taken too soon. Funeral will take place from Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on Monday April 16 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Muckairn Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Motor Neuron Disease and Macmillan cancer support.

WALLACE - Peacefully at home with his family, on Sunday April 8, 2018, Michael Iain Wallace, Appin, beloved husband of Bobbi-Jo, loving son of Ian and Lorna and fun loving brother to David, Robert, Fiona and Lorna. Sorely missed. Funeral service will take place Friday April 13, at 1pm in Appin Parish Church, Appin. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie and Oban Macmillan Day Bed Unit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GILLIES - Janet and family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them following their sad loss of Archie. Special thanks to Fr Roddy McAuley and Iain MacLeay for their comforting Mass. Grateful thanks to Scott at John McLellan Funeral Directors for his personal and dignified service, thanks to Caoil Community Centre for providing the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who attended Mass and generously donated £607.94 which will be divided between the Parish of St. John's and Craig Nevins Surgery.

GRANT - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on April 4, 2018, in his 79th year, Kenny, beloved husband of Emma, much loved father of Yvonne, Josephine and Duncan, grandfather to Emma, Zoe, Freya and Cameron, father-in-law to Robert and Lynn. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday (today), April 12, at 1 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Coronary Care Unit, Golden Jubilee Hospital.

LYON - Peacefully, on April 3, 2018, surrounded by her son and daughters, at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, in her 88th year, Margaret Christina MacPhail, Appin View, Barcaldine, beloved wife of the late James Lyon, a dearly loved mother, granny and great granny.

MACCALMAN - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on April 7, 2018, Archibald (Archie), aged 75 years, beloved husband of the late Margaret Weir and much loved father of Alex, Donald John, and Christine. And proud grandfather of Jessica, Kate and Lucy. Funeral service on Saturday April 14, 2018 in Kilmeny Church at 11.30 a.m. followed by interment in Kilmeny Cemetery, Islay.

MACDOUGALL - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on April 7, 2018, Grace MacDougall (née Hutton), beloved wife of the late Alex, much loved mum of Alex, Robert, the late Mairi and Patricia. R.I.P. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Tuesday April 17 at 10.00 a.m. Thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery, Balvicar. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

MACKENZIE - Mary. Peacefully, at Garthnavel Hospital, on March 30, 2018, Mary (née MacIntyre), beloved wife of Alasdair, loving mother to George and Grant and much loved gran to Eilidh, Ross, Cameron and Lauren. Funeral service at St. David's Church, Knightswood on Friday April 13 at 12.30 pm. Thereafter to Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar, arriving 1.30 pm all welcome. Family flowers only please, donations, if so desired to Alzheimer Scotland.

REID - Christina (Chrissy). In Forth Valley Royal Hospital on March 30, 2018, Chrissy, née Lamont, aged 90 years of Callander, formerly Portmore Place, Tobermory, wife of the late Frank Reid. Funeral service will take place at Falkirk Crematorium on Saturday April 21, 2018 at 11.15a.m. to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Donations in lieu of flowers to any animal charity. Christina's ashes will be interred at the old graveyard, Tobermory, date to be advised.

RYAN - Nick, Master Innholder, died April 14, 2018 in Edinburgh, aged 76, beloved husband of Frances, adored father of Julie and Ross, unrivalled grandfather of Archie and Jock. There will be a private service at St Andrews Church, Ravelston, Edinburgh, donations if desired to Feedback Madagascar. A celebration of Nick's life will be held at Crinan Hotel on June 29, 2018 to which all friends will be welcome (details to follow later).

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Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24940 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ

Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

SPREADBURY - Suddenly but peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on April 5, 2018, in her 76th year, Moira, beloved wife of the late Charles Spreadbury, adored mum of Deirdre, Charles and the late Donna, a much loved mother-in-law, nana and great nana. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Wednesday April 18 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection/donations if desired for Motor Neuron Disease and Macmillan cancer support.

WALLACE - Peacefully at home with his family, on Sunday April 8, 2018, Michael Iain Wallace, Appin, beloved husband of Bobbi-Jo, loving son of Ian and Lorna and fun loving brother to David, Robert, Fiona and Lorna. Sorely missed. Funeral service will take place Friday April 13, at 1pm in Appin Parish Church, Appin. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie and Oban Macmillan Day Bed Unit.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - Cherished memories of my dear son Richard, who died April 15, aged 58. You will always be by my side Richard.

MACDONALD - Precious memories of my darling Mass. Grateful thanks to Scott at John McLellan Funeral Directors for his personal and dignified service, thanks to Caoil Community Centre for providing the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who attended Mass and generously donated £607.94 which will be divided between the Parish of St. John's and Craig Nevins Surgery.

MACISAAC - Mary and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many expressions of sympathy they received on Finlay's passing. They have been overwhelmed by the amount of cards, the visits, phone calls and baking they received. Special thanks to staff at Glen Mor Medical Practice, Nicola and Sandra who cared for him during his final days. Our sincere thanks to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their guidance and professionalism and to the staff of the Railway Club for the lovely lunch. Grateful thanks to Rev Morag Muirhead for her lovely service and thanks also to piper Sandy MacKenzie. The collection of £376.87 raised will go towards a palliative care bed for Lochaber.

MACDONALD - In fond and loving memory of our brother, brother-in-law and uncle Archie MacDonald, who passed away April 15, 2017. May the winds of love blow softly On the place you find your rest.

- Alistair, Rosalin and family, Glencoe and Grantown-on-Spey. **MACEWAN** - Remembering today and every day my beloved husband Callum, who died suddenly April 12, 2007. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- From your loving wife Joan and family.

MACINTYRE - Ever lasting memories of our dear parents. Duncan, died December 19, 1981 and Betsy April 16, 1988, also family members no longer with us. Sweet is the word remembrance, so dear are our memories of them.

We thank God for the happy years, he gave to us in them. Forever young

- Inserted by the family, late of Kilvaree, Connel and Cruachan, Strathyre.

MONTGOMERY - In loving memory of Neil (Monty), devoted husband and father who passed away April 10, 2016. Forever in our hearts.

- Pauline and family.

PENMAN - In loving memory of Catherine (née Douglas), devoted wife and mum, mother-in-law, nanne and gran-gran, who passed away on April 9, 2017.

Loved, missed, and in our prayers and thoughts every day since God took you back – Hallelujah.

- Your loving husband Jim along with Andrew, William, Elaine and Theresa and all the family.

PROSSER - MAXWELL - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne, went to Heaven April 6, 1989, aged 3 years. Always in my heart xx

- Love daddy

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS 23

Obituary – Christine Stone



Christine Stone.

Sitting here in Christine's flat in Fort William, literally at the end of the path up Ben Nevis, seems to me to be a fitting place to write a tribute about our dear friend. A slightly down at heel place, in a small housing scheme, it seems a most unlikely last home for a Cambridge graduate, a highly influential educator and a recipient of the OBE. Yet somehow, it sums up all that Christine was and stood for.

The flat's interior is sparse. The entire bathroom's contents are a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bottle of shampoo and a bar of soap. Her clothes, which seem uniformly faded grey/brown in colour would not even fill one bin bag.

The only thing there is a lot of, is books. Novels, children's books, books of games, maps, flower and bird identification books and weighty academic tomes such as Europe's Tragedy. A new History of the Thirty Years War and The Neolithic of Mainland Scotland.

Christine never had a television, a smart phone or social media. She rarely invited anyone round, liked her own company and could not care less about her appearance.

She seemed to live on cabbage and custard and kept her beloved collie as skinny as she was.

She was an expert on everything, would happily talk over you and give you a stern telling off whether you were a university professor or a fading violet.

Yet, despite all this, Christine was respected and loved by, literally, hundreds upon hundreds of people.

Why? She spent her whole life serving others, usually the poorest and most vulnerable.

A committed Christian, she followed Jesus to where the need was greatest.

Born in Australia into a forces family in 1942, she lived in Germany, Belgium and Cyprus before finally

settling in Newcastle Under Lyme.

Christine was an avid learner. Even in her last days she was trying to access the University of Highlands and Islands remote learning digital link up from the Invernevis Care Home to continue her archaeology course. Bet that was a first.

Going through her things, we discovered two certificates from Lancashire University in the study of cosmology and astronomy, both courses she must have undertaken when in Nepal.

She modelled what it was to thoroughly enjoy learning which was probably the key to her success as a teacher. She enjoyed learning which meant she made learning so much fun.

After studying Natural Science at Girton College, Cambridge, in 1962, Christine went on to Bristol University to train as a teacher and later through Trinity College London added a TEFL qualification.

She taught first in Abbeydale Grammar School in Sheffield for six years and then moved to teach in

an international boarding school in Eritrea.

In 1972, she arrived at Thorntoun School in Kilmarnock, a school for senior boys with severe behavioural needs, to teach maths, science, geography and adventure activities. It was there that my family met Christine and she became lifelong a friend of us all, and our home became hers when she returned from overseas.

Her next adventure took her as a teacher to Tristan da Cunha, a remote volcanic island in the South Atlantic with approximately 200 inhabitants.

As a child, I vividly remember 20 or 30 airmail letters arriving all at once as there was only a boat twice year, full of entertaining tales of pillow dances; islanders holidaying at the potato patches; the mad padre; walks to the top of the crater and collecting seagull eggs.

While there Christine took part in a study of Rockhopper penguins by a university in South Africa.

But her legacy is mostly in the work she undertook

alongside the Nepali government providing teacher training throughout the country and writing text books.

'Christine basically wrote Nepal's secondary science curriculum,' one colleague remembers.

Another wrote: 'She was in enormous demand, and the teacher training took her all over Nepal, on a schedule that only Christine could have coped with.'

She was also involved in training of volunteers with Teach for Nepal, Fulbright, and similar organisations.

Christine was awarded an OBE by the British government in the 1990s for services to education in Nepal.

She influenced generations of students and teachers, with her practical, fun, and enormously effective approach to teaching and learning.

When she finally 'retired' to live near us in Fort William, I thought she might at last rest and enjoy herself.

Not a bit of it. She threw herself into volunteering, ranging from taking the elderly shopping to teaching children in care.

I lost count of the number of things she was involved with. In her spare time she studied archaeology and European history.

When finally she was hospitalised by the colon cancer with which she had battled since she returned to the UK, I was privileged to get a glimpse of the legacy she was leaving behind her.

Every day visitors poured in to visit her, testifying to how much they loved her and how she had inspired them. People of all ages wrote, rang and visited to wish her well on her last, and greatest, adventure.

She died on March 17, 2018, at 77, perfectly content with her lot and leaving me feeling it was an honour to have known her.

Deborah White

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

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The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week



Oban BJJ's Gregory Black, centre, with his gold medal.

Eric is the big shot at Glendaruel

THE SPRING Trophy shoot took place recently at Glendaruel and Colintonrae Gun Club.

A total of 21 guns took part in this competition. It was a very cold, dry day with an odd flurry of snow. High gun for the day went to Eric MacAllister, Killin, on 145 out of 150; 2nd Paul

Chalmers, Cairndow, on 143; 3rd Gordon Griffiths, Garelochhead, on 136 and 4th was Ted Blakeway on 135.

Hamper

Along with the high gun trophy, Eric MacAllister also received a lovely hamper donated by Andy McMaster of Argyll



Left to right are Richard Deane, Paul Chalmers, Eric MacAllister, Gordon Griffiths and Ted Blakeway.

Big turnout for first Lochaber parkrun

Athletics

run with an eye to starting their own version in the Cairngorms.

Many of the travelling entrants stayed to ski or take part in other activities in the area over the weekend.

Of course, there was a great turn-out from local runners.

Organiser Helen Smith said:

'With it being such a relaxed run, it was a great way for those wanting to get back into running to enjoy the social side of it with so many others but under no pressure to race.'

The feedback from many who attended thought it was the best route or one of the top three in Scotland. This will quickly spread through the parkrun community I am sure and we will see us being a popular tourist run for many.'

The organisers anticipate that the Lochaber event will become a popular mainstay on the parkrun calendar.

There were also a number of runners who came from Fife,

Edinburgh and Alloa especially

for the weekend, eager to take

part in the first Lochaber

parkrun.

Closer to home, a group from

Aviemore took part in Saturday's



Eight time Ben Nevis Race champion Finlay Wild cuts the ribbon with organiser Helen Smith to start the first Fort William parkrun.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate

THE IKKU Perth club has organised a beach training session on April 28 in St Andrews, and members of the Oban and Lochgilphead clubs will be attending this event. A junior tournament is being planned for late in May and preparations are under way for the Irish Open at the end of June in Dublin.

No beginners are being taken on at this time until the end of June to allow those already training to concentrate on their syllabus work for the next grading, which will be held in June.

If you would like more information about Kyokushinkai Karate classes, contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikk.co.uk.

Kickboxing

By the time this goes to print Jessica McCulloch, Robbie, Billy and Adam Bratton, Cody and Henley McCulloch, Logan Galbraith and Lewis May will have fought in the full contact Kyokushin Cup at the ARC Gym in Glasgow. Full account and photos in the next report.

Meanwhile, training continues as normal with juniors at 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 11am on Sundays, seniors are 6pm on Wednesday and Fridays, women-only sessions are 1pm on Sundays and Kick-Fit Mondays at 6pm. Beginners are always welcome, first session is free and there are discounts for multiple session.

Find us on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or

contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07588 513 618.

Shukokai Karate

The students are currently being put through their paces getting ready for the grading test and tournament at the end of the month.

Anyone looking for more details should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ

Oban BJJ travelled to Glasgow Warriors stadium in Glasgow with two debutants, Gregory Black and Paul McGhee.

Gregory was up first in the nogi section and, after a tough opening fight victory against a far more experienced opponent, he went on to dominate and win gold in his division. In the gi section he can count himself unlucky to just get a bronze after showing composure and patience in taking the third place.

Paul McGhee was beaten on points to take silver and can be proud of himself for not getting submitted after escaping various tough positions during his final.

Three medals from two virgin competitors shows how the club continues to produce very good level practitioners in ever tougher competitions where the level of opponents continue to improve.

Classes are every week day at 7.30pm.



Paul McGhee with his BJJ Scottish Open silver medal.



Rotary Club of Oban president Tommy McQuade hands over a cheque for £1,000 to Glencruitten captain Alan Jamieson.

Rotary Club cheque for junior golf development

IN RECOGNITION of the tremendous support which the Rotary Club of Oban receives from Glencruitten Golf Club in regard to putting on its annual golf charitable Am-Am, which is Rotary's main fundraiser for supporting local good causes, Rotary president Tommy McQuade is seen here presenting a cheque for £1,000 to golf club captain Alan Jamieson as a donation

towards junior golf development at the club.

The majority of the golfers on the day are members of Glencruitten Golf Club, who, in the interests of charity, are paying for the privilege of playing on their own course and this only serves to underpin the generosity of the town and district at large.

The 2017 Rotary Am-Am raised in excess of £11,000, all of which goes towards assist-

Golf

ing local good causes with the highlight in the past year being Oban Rotary's contribution of £4,000 per annum for three years in support of local young carers.

The photograph also includes members of Rotary and the golf club.

Invincibles top Glensanda mini-squash team league

THE FIRST round of the Glensanda annual squash tournament kicked off recently at Atlantis Leisure. The six Oban teams taking part provided a great night of exciting matches.

Thanks to everyone for helping, especially Keith Oversby for giving up his time to referee

Squash

matches and also to Donald MacLean for sponsoring the balls.

First round results: The Hot Shots 13, Paul's Nickers 6; Invincibles 15, Kelly's Heroes 4; The Magnificent 7 11, Willie's Wonkas 8; Paul's Nickers 6; Kelly's Heroes 8.

LEAGUE TABLE as at March 20

	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Invincibles	15	4	+9	No	15
The Hot Shots	13	6	+7	No	13
The Magnificent 7	11	8	+3	No	11
Willie's Wonkas	8	11	-3	No	8
Paul's Nickers	6	13	-7	No	6
Kelly's Heroes	4	15	-11	No	4



Indoor league winners, back row: Alan Love, Dave Forbes, Callum Boyd, Darren Quigg, Neil Cameron, Andy Martin. Front row: Darren Duncan, Martyn Cameron, Lewis Birrell and Stevie Stewart.

Thistle win indoor title after shootout

THE INDOOR winter football came to a dramatic conclusion on Sunday night at the Nevis Centre after a penalty shootout was needed to decide this year's title winners.

Doghouse Thistle were crowned champions of Sammy's Indoor Winter League after a nail-biting penalty shootout against title rivals Fiorentina Turner.

With both teams joint top of the league on 60 points after 21 rounds of fixtures this winter, league organisers set up a winner-takes-all final for the league title.

After the match ended in a 2-2 draw, Thistle held their nerve to score two out of their three penalties, making

Fiorentina pay for their missed spot-kicks. Winning captain and the league's top scorer, Dave Forbes, was presented with the trophy by league organiser Bobby MacMillan on behalf of sponsor Sammy Cameron.

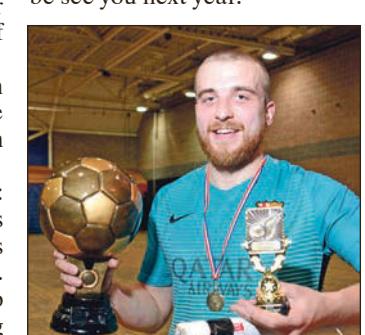
This was a fitting finish to an exciting winter indoor league which this year saw 12 in action since October.

Bobby MacMillan said: 'Cheers to all the other teams that stuck it out to the end as well to allow the league to finish. Well done Dave Forbes on top scoring again and for helping out with league tables.'

'Thanks again to Stirling Cairns for taking the thankless task of refereeing and to Sammy for sponsoring and Nevis Centre

Indoor football

for the hall. Well done all. Maybe see you next year.'

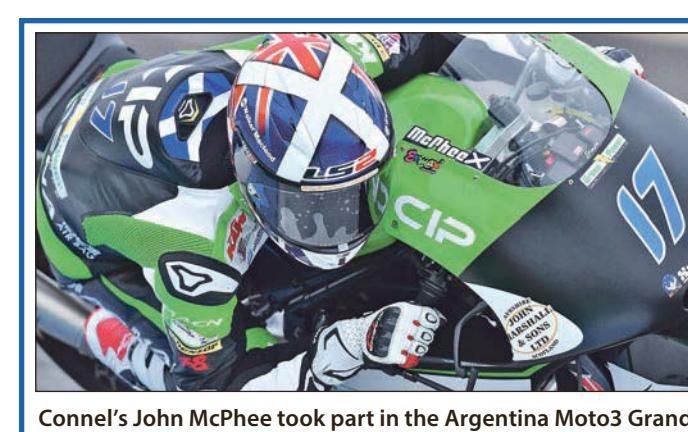


Top goal scorer for the season and Thistle captain, Dave Forbes.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image



A strong field of 81 participants set off on the first parkrun in Lochaber. Photos: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Connel's John McPhee took part in the Argentina Moto3 Grand Prix held at the Autodromo Termas de Rio Hondo circuit last Sunday and finished in 17th place. After the race John said: 'It was a bad race for me after a difficult weekend. I was not happy with my final placing but after lots of issues it was difficult to do much more. We have the pace, and will definitely come back fighting and stronger in the next race in Texas on April 22.'

Saints take on Goldenhill for a place in Scottish Cup semi-final

Goldenhill
Oban Saints
Scottish Cup - quarter final

THE LATEST instalment of Oban Saints' Scottish Amateur Cup adventures takes them this Saturday to the Donald Dewar Centre, Drumchapel, where they will face current Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division leaders Goldenhill in a quarter-final tie. Kick-off is 1.15pm.

Goldenhill's maximum points haul of 24 points from their eight fixtures, coupled with a goal difference of plus 28, makes them most onlookers' favourites to claim their first ever Premier Division championship trophy.

The Gowdie's scintillating league form has been repeated in the various cup competitions where only Scottish Amateur Cup draws with Tullibody Community and Sandys, and their solitary defeat of the season so far to Dumbarton Academy FP in the West of Scotland Amateur Cup, has briefly threatened to derail the Gowdie juggernaut.

Recognition for Goldenhill's impressive displays has come in the form of an international

call-up for central midfielder Scott McGuire, who played a key role in the Scottish Amateur Football Association select's Graham Harkness Memorial Trophy victory over Ireland's Leinster Senior League at Lesser Hampden last Saturday.

The call-up for McGuire kept Saints waiting another week for their trip to Drumchapel, where they will have to be at their very best if they are to keep alive their hopes of a Scottish Amateur Cup final appearance at Hampden Park on Sunday May 20.

Taking charge of proceedings is experienced referee James Gallacher, from Dumbarton. Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football, the Scottish Amateur Cup includes replays, therefore a re-match will follow at Glencruitten in seven days if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

Following a first round bye, Goldenhill's Scottish Amateur Cup campaign began with a short hop across the Erskine Bridge to Renfrew to face Newshot.

The hosts hold the distinction of being the last winners of the

West of Scotland Amateur Football League before the sad demise of the world's oldest amateur football league. Unfortunately for the Erskine men, they were no match for Goldenhill and wound up on the wrong end of an 8-2 scoreline.

The third round draw also handed Goldenhill an away tie, this time with a considerably longer journey to Aberdeen to face Division Three title hopefuls Monymusk. The Gowdie boys returned from the chilly north-east with an emphatic 10-0 victory under their belts.

Round four saw Goldenhill bag another 10-goal haul, this time at home to Lothian and Edinburgh FA's intermediate division title favourites Edinburgh Star.

The Gowdie were on the road again in round five, travelling to Strathclyde Park where Blantyre Celtic of the Central League Division 1B were dispatched 3-1.

The Central Scottish AFL also provided the sixth round opposition where Division 1A Tullibody Community became the first team to hold Goldenhill this season with a 2-2 draw at the Donald Dewar Centre.

The replay seven days later in Clackmannanshire was a far more straight forward affair which saw the Gowdie put five past their hosts without reply to book a seventh round match against Lothian and Edinburgh AFA Premier Division title contenders Sandys.

The seventh round tie against Sandys had all of the thrills and spills which typifies the Scottish Amateur Cup. After snow wiped out the first attempt to play the match at Sandys home park, a waterlogged pitch forced the half-time abandonment of the second attempt seven days later with the home side leading through a Kevin Stewart goal.

Another postponement followed before Sandys tight grass park recovered sufficiently to allow a keenly contested match to proceed where the home side salvaged a late draw to take the tie to a replay in Drumchapel.

Sandys brought a large support to cheer them on at the Donald Dewar Centre on



Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan congratulate Willie Gemmell after he slots home Saints second goal against Yoker from the penalty spot to set up the quarter-final against Goldenhill.

Photo and match preview: Derek Black

Garscadden Road but it was Goldenhill's home faithful who were cheering at the end after a hard-fought 3-2 win.

Saints started their Scottish Cup campaign with a 4-0 home win over Mauchline United in the first round thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan (3) and Shaun MacLver.

This was followed by a convincing 6-0 home win against Plains in round two. Donald Campbell (3), Fraser MacFarlane, Scott Maitland and Paul Carmichael were on target for the Oban side.

It took Saints two hard games to get past an impressive Falkirk side in round three, the first game ending in a 3-3 draw at Alva Academy. Donald Campbell (2) and Craig MacEwan were Saints' scorers. The replay in Oban a week later saw Saints edge through 3-2 thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan, Willie Gemmell and Myles McAuley.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side then took

on old rivals Greenock High School in the fourth round and came away with a creditable 2-2 draw from Battery Park with a depleted squad.

Bad weather and the festive break meant the replay didn't take place until Saturday January 6 when manager Alex Craik had a full squad of players to choose from.

The Oban side turned in a top class performance to win 2-0 thanks to goals from Ally McKerracher and Donald Campbell.

The fifth round saw the Oban side travel to take on East Kilbride Rolls Royce and they returned home with a well deserved 4-2 victory thanks to goals from Scott Maitland (2), Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan.

Kilwinning Sports Club was the venue for the sixth round encounter with Kilbride Thistle and again the Oban side had to come from behind to win a cracking game 3-2 with goals from Craig MacEwan, Donald

Football

Campbell and young Daniel MacCuish.

Saints progressed to the quarter-finals of the national competition with a hard-fought 2-0 home win over Yoker United thanks to goals from Donald Campbell and a last-minute penalty from Willie Gemmell.

Saints gaffer Alex Craik watched Goldenhill's win over Sandys and was very impressed by the Duntocher outfit.

He said: 'It will be a difficult game for us and all the lads will have to be up for the challenge right from the first whistle.'

'The game will be played at a furious pace and we will have to be ready for everything that Goldenhill throw at us but I'm sure the boys will be ready, and looking forward to try to reach the semi-final for the third year in a row and hopefully go one better by reaching the final at Hampden Park on May 20.'



Glencruitten

THE WINNER of the par three competition held at Glencruitten on Saturday was Alan Garret with a score of 59 - 8 = 51. Phillip Murphy, James Muir, Ian McCuish and Willie McAdam were in second place with net scores of 52. On Saturday, the first round of the MacKay Cup/Spring Eclectic round one takes place with the second round of the Mackay Cup on Sunday along with the Captain's Prize.

Taynuilt

ARC TROPHY first round: 1 Michael Wardrop 38 points (14); 2 Andrew Diggory 35 points (6); 3 Samuel Hutchison 35 points (23).

Captains Prize first round and medal - 1 Mark Hernicksen 71-8=63; 2 Michael Wardro 78-13=65; 3 Jim Carmichael 75-9=66.

Dalmally

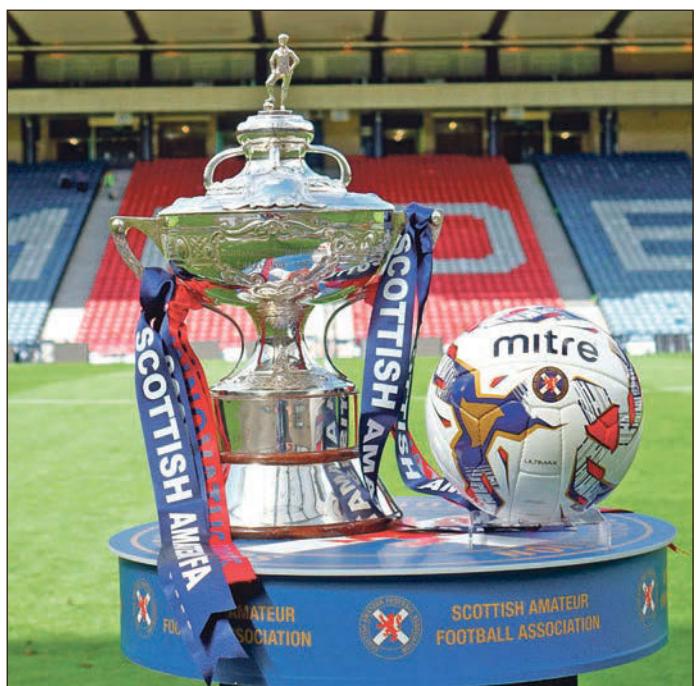
THE INAUGURAL event of the 2018 season at Dalmally Golf Club, the John MacKechnie Quaich, was appropriately launched on Sunday April 8 with an all-members' competition.

It is the second year in which the club has commemorated former treasurer and voluntary greenkeeper John MacKechnie, who died suddenly in December 2016. John made an outstanding and unforgettable contribution to the club and the event, now dedicated annually in his name, is a fitting tribute to his love of golf, his commitment to, and passion for, the club as well as his kindness and generosity.

With a mixed-foursome Stableford format, 24 players, aged from nine to 80, took to the course in warm sunshine and in good, if somewhat damp, ground conditions.

After lunch and tributes, John's son and fellow golfer, Allan, presented the John MacKechnie Quaich to the winners on the day, Graeme MacKechnie – also John's son – and his partner, June Boden.

With 36 points, Graeme and June were ahead of runners-up, Terry Macnair and Janet Buchanan (34 bih), Willie Dougal and Catriona O'Keeffe (34pts) and James MacMillan and Alison Livingstone (34pts).



The Scottish Amateur Cup final will be played at Hampden Park on May 20.

Wave of Tiree titles at surfing championships

Surfing

TEENAGE Tiree surfer Ben Larg triumphed at the Scottish National Surfing Championships at Sinclair's Bay in Caithness over the Easter weekend.

Ben, 13, was crowned Scottish Surfing Champion in the under-16s, and Tiree's own Finn MacDonald, 17, also came second in the under-18s. Ben's sister, Robyn, 11, came in third in the under-18 girls.

The Scottish Surfing Federation (SSF) reported: 'The highlight of everyone's weekend was the junior finals at Sinclair's bay and in particular the rivalry between Craig McLachlan and Ben Larg, who were absolutely tearing the small clean surf apart.'

While Ben and Robyn lost to

Craig, who competes for the Thurso-based North Shore Surf Club, in the under-14s contest, Ben 'would get his revenge' in the U16 division.

'Ben dominated this heat from the outset and, although Craig was chasing him but Ben would remain in front going into the last five minutes of the heat with first priority meaning he could prevent Craig from getting another crack of the whip on any good ones.'

'The crowd was astounded by the level of surfing by the two lads and there were roars of cheers and applause as the finalists battled it out.'



Ben Larg in action.

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.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3950

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 Wyrex 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.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results:

Oban Saints no game; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 2, Port Glasgow 0; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star 9, East End United 0; Tarbert 1, Busby 4.

This Saturday's fixtures:

Scottish Amateur Cup quarter final - Goldenhill v Oban Saints, Donald Dewar Sports Centre, kick-off 1.15pm. Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU v Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert v Cardross.



Pictured are the winners Graeme MacKechnie, left, and June Boden with Allan MacKechnie.



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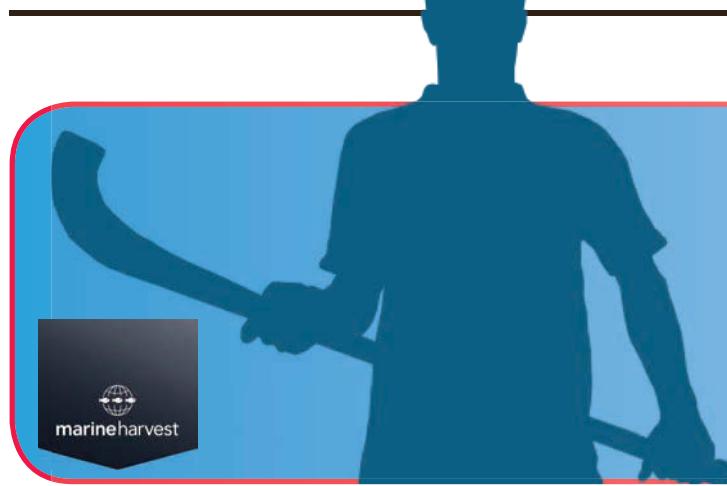
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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Oban

J Pearson
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Oban



SHINTY

Best for all shiny news, results and fixtures

Marine
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2016

League defeats for Oban teams

cottages.com
MacTavish Cup – first round

Lovat 3
Kingussie 1
Lovat booked the remaining place in the cottages.com second round when they beat Kingussie 3-1 at Balgate.

Drew Howie returned for Lovat, but Martin Mainland remained injured whilst Callum Cruden was on holiday.

With manager John Gibson and his assistant Barrie Dallas unavailable, Ally MacLeod and Ronald Ross looked after Kingussie. Lee Bain and Rory MacGregor returned and both started on the bench. Fraser Munro was back in the side after injury and started at full forward, whilst Calum Grant made his first appearance this term in place of Rory MacKeachan who was on holiday.

Lewis Tawse set up a chance for Greg Matheson following a great move after three minutes. Kingussie goalie Craig Dawson must have seen Matheson's powerful shot late but did well to parry the ball with the back of his stick.

Kingussie's James Falconer was hit in the throat after 10 minutes and had to come off, although he returned to the field of play later. Rory MacGregor came on in his place.

Lovat took the lead on 18 minutes when Lewis Tawse got on the end of a tempting ball from the right and, from inside the 'D', steered the ball past the keeper.

Kingussie had a let-off on 35 minutes. A Marc MacLachlan effort was saved by Craig Dawson and the rebound fell for Greg Matheson who looked sure to score. Matheson directed the ball goalwards but it hit a bump on the turf and came back off the post.

Craig Dawson showed great agility, using his foot to keep out a Greg Matheson shot on 58 minutes.

Kingussie introduced Lee Bain on 64 minutes, with Rory MacGregor coming off, and Bain gave Kingussie a different dimension.

It was Lovat who extended their lead on 73 minutes though when Marc MacLachlan, with his back to goal at the edge of the 'D', turned the ball into the net to make it 2-0.

Lovat manager Fraser Galacher moved Marc MacLachlan to full centre and Danny Kelly to wing centre. Thomas Fraser came on in attack, Greg Matheson took over from MacLachlan and Bailey MacKay was withdrawn.

Kingussie, with Savio Genini now in attack, looked more dangerous and Lee Bain hit a shot from distance on 78 minutes and Ruairidh Anderson just missed getting a touch to the ball which would have seen it end up in the net.

A minute later, Lovat's Craig Mainland limped off, to be replaced by Chris Johnston.

Kingussie got the goal they wanted on 83 minutes from a rasping Savio Genini shot from left of centre, almost 30 yards from goal, with Scott MacKenzie just unable to get a block in. The ball was likely past keeper Stuart MacDonald before he saw it.

There was to be no leveller though and it was left for Greg Matheson to score another late goal as he made it 3-1 on 89 minutes. Marc MacLachlan fired in a shot from distance which was well-saved with his stick by Craig Dawson. The ball was cleared out of defence, but only as far as Greg Matheson who sent a fierce shot into the net.

Kingussie came good towards the end, but Lovat deserved the win and their prize is a second round trip to Skye where they have already won in the league this year.

Lovat turned in what was probably their best performance of the season and but for some fine reflex saves from Craig Dawson, the winning margin could have been greater.

Brothers Danny Kelly at centre and Mark Kelly in defence were very good for Lovat.

Kingussie looked good in the wing centre positions with Ryan MacWilliam and wing forward Roddy Young combining well down the right.

Kingussie did have possession in attack but didn't test Stuart MacDonald enough.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - first round

Kingussie 4
SCOTS Camanachd 0

The Kingussie seconds, beaten



Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar and Blair Morrison from Caberfeidh in action during last Saturday's premiership match at Castle Leod. (Photograph: Stephen Lawson)

finalists in 2017, safely negotiated their Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup first round tie against Forces side SCOTS Camanachd, winning 4-0 at The Dell.

Another Kevin Thain hat-trick and a Russell Menzies strike counted for the young Kingussie side.

The Kingussie colts now travel to play the Caberfeidh colts in round two.

Skye Camanachd 4

Kinlochshiel 0

Skye came out on top in the west coast reserve team derby, beating Kinlochshiel 4-0 at Pairc na Laoch.

The match was originally scheduled for Kirkton but a failed Saturday morning pitch inspection led to a change of venue to 40 miles up the road.

Skye manager Kenny MacLeod was forced to make a number of changes to his squad as Connor Gilpin, Martin Pringle, James Pringle and Jamie Gillies were all on holiday and Chris Rose was also unavailable. Youngsters Calum Robertson and Stewart Taylor were added to the squad whilst there were also places for Iain Nicolson and Iain MacLellan.

Kinlochshiel boss Willie MacRae included Calum MacLean and Scott MacLean for their first appearances of the season,

but full back Ewan Falconer was a Saturday morning call-off through work commitments.

Throw-up was delayed by 15 minutes to allow additional time for a couple of Kinlochshiel players who travelled to the game from Glasgow.

Skye went on the attack from the start and Ruairidh MacLeod took a Ross Gordon pass before blasting home the opener on 13 minutes.

Skye would have been much further ahead at the break had it not been for some outstanding saves from Kinlochshiel keeper Graham Kennedy.

Ruairidh MacLeod got his and Skye's second four minutes into the second half when he steered the ball home, low from the left of the 'D'.

A superb Daniel Morrison finish made it 3-0 on 63 minutes and Iain Nicolson added a fourth, scoring direct from a shy on the Skye left on 73 minutes.

The Skye seconds now travel to play the Bute seconds in the next round.

Fort William 5

Glenorchy 0

The Fort William reserves were 5-0 winners against Glenorchy at An Aird.

Fort William took a two-goal lead into the break with Scott Knox scoring on 20 and 25 minutes.

Greg Kelly made it 3-0 on 65 minutes before two late goals put gloss on the win.

Greg Kelly got his second on 88 minutes, with Mark Fraser making it 5-0 on the stroke of full time.

Lochearron at Battery Park now await Fort William in the next round.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Caberfeidh 5

After extra time It took extra time to separate the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts and Caberfeidh colts at Yoker.

This is believed to be the first meeting between the clubs' reserve sides and whilst GMA were more along usual lines, it was a much-changed Caberfeidh side which journeyed south.

Caberfeidh enjoyed some early pressure but didn't take the lead until 32 minutes when substitute Ruairidh MacKinnon, who replaced Stuart Krzyzanowski who had to leave the field for a period after taking a blow to the nose, turned his marker before running in on goal and hammering the ball home.

GMA started to come more into the tie and levelled on the stroke of half-time when Seb

MacMillan gathered a ball before turning and tucking a low shot into the net.

Another turn and shot from Seb MacMillan put GMA 2-1 ahead on 53 minutes and this seemed to rattle the visitors.

Caberfeidh made changes which worked in their favour, however, and a patched up Stewart Krzyzanowski turned home a loose ball to make it 2-2 on 72 minutes.

With no further scoring, referee Ted McDonald took the tie into extra time.

Caberfeidh continued to press but GMA were always dangerous and would have re-gained the lead had it not been for a brilliant diving save from Iain MacColl in the Caberfeidh goal.

It was Caberfeidh who got

their noses in front on 94 minutes when Ruairidh MacLeman made it 3-2.

A well-engineered Callum MacKinnon effort made it 4-2 on 108 minutes.

Ruaridh MacKinnon then set up Stuart Krzyzanowski to bag his second a couple of minutes from the end of extra time.

GMA never gave up and it took a fine Ian MacColl save with his foot to keep out another Seb MacMillan effort, denying the former Kilmallie man a hat-trick.

Strachur's reward is a trip to Balgate to play Lovat in the next round.

Lochside Rovers w/o v Aberdour

Holders Lochside Rovers received a first round walk-over at the start of their trophy defence

as the Aberdour second team were unable to field a team for the tie at Mossfield.

Lochside can now look forward to a home meeting with the Kyles Athletic second team, who received a first round bye.

Kilmallie P

Lochaber P

The tie between the Kilmallie second team and the Lochaber second team was postponed as The Canal Parks was unplayable and switching venues wasn't an option.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh 3

Oban Camanachd 1

Newly-promoted Caberfeidh climbed into an impressive third place in the table after they beat Oban Camanachd 3-1 at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh's Martin MacDonald was still out with a hand injury. Liam Symonds was also missing so Kenneth MacKenzie started at wing centre. Ryan MacKay was free to play for Caberfeidh, however, he will miss his side's next two games as his booking in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup win over Strathglass the previous week takes him over the disciplinary threshold.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay was without Matt Rippon and Daniel Sloss who were on holiday. Craig MacDougall was working, whilst injury ruled out Gavin Stobart, Scott McKillop, Aidan MacIntyre and Lorne Dickie. Michael MacQueen played at full forward until he was replaced by young Lewis Buchanan 10 minutes from time.

Caberfeidh took the lead on 35 minutes when the ball ran past Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron and Kevin Bartlett did just enough to tap it over the line from close-in.

Kevin Bartlett continued his superb scoring streak when he added a second five minutes later, sending a shot on his left side in off the post with Daniel Cameron diving full length to try and get a block in.

Oban Camanachd created several good chances during the first half. Malcolm Clark hit a good shot from 20 yards whilst Andrew MacCuish, twice, and Daniel MacVicar from close in were unable to score.

Oban Camanachd went back on the attack from the start of the second half and referee Deek Cameron awarded them a penalty on 55 minutes when David Lafferty was tumbled by Ally MacLennan and keeper Ewen Pilcher inside the 'D'. Lafferty turned the ball into the net but the whistle had already

blown.

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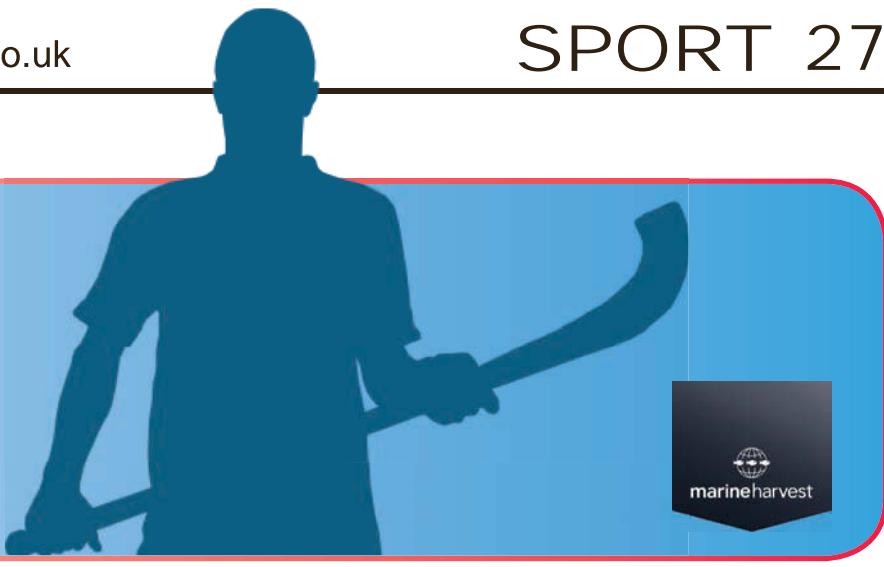
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Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



marineharvest

blown. Andrew MacCuish converted expertly from the spot, sending the ball head-height to the keeper's left.

Caberfeidh restored their two-goal cushion a couple of minutes later though. Two Oban defenders both went for a long shy into the danger area. The ball went over them both and the visitors were unable to clear their lines allowing Caberfeidh substitute Colin MacLennan to drive the ball home to make it 3-1.

Oban Camanachd full-back Daniel Cameron, who had been booked in the first half, was shown a second yellow card for retaliation following an initial challenge from Kevin Bartlett.

Oban Camanachd created a couple of late chances with Andrew MacCuish sending one effort into the side-netting from the angle.

At the other end, Cameron Sutherland in the Oban Camanachd goal made a good stop to deny Kevin Bartlett a hat-trick.

Lochaber 1 Kinlochshiel 4

Kinlochshiel are now three points clear at the top of the table after beating Lochaber 4-1 at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber were without former Newtonmore player John MacKenzie, whilst Kinlochshiel had Scott Kennedy in goals. But he will miss this Saturday's derby against Skye Camanachd when his brother Graham Kennedy will deputise.

Keith MacRae opened the scoring on 28 minutes when a Jordan Fraser shot spun up and hung in the air.

MacRae went up one-handed with his marker and Lochaber goalie Ally MacDonald and the Scotland forward knocked the ball into the net.

Jordan Fraser made it 2-0 a couple of minutes before the break when he controlled the ball and took it on the half volley, sending it through a ruck of players, low into the net.

Lochaber gave themselves a chance when Ryan Johnstone made it 2-1 a couple of minutes into the second half.

Johnstone fired in a shot from distance on the right and keeper Scott Kennedy looked to have the ball covered. However, he pulled his stick away, hearing a shout that the ball was going wide, but the ball crept into the net.

Keith MacRae got his second on 67 minutes to extinguish any chance of a Lochaber fight-back. The ball broke to MacRae just over 20 yards from goal and he showed good control before sending a half-volley, mid-height, past the keeper's right shoulder.

John MacRae sealed the win on 74 minutes when he made enough space to the right of the penalty spot to hit a hard, low shot past the keeper's feet to make it 4-1.

Glenurquhart 1 Newtonmore 5

Newtonmore recovered from going a goal down to beat Glenurquhart 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

Daniel MacKintosh gave Glenurquhart the lead on seven minutes, but two goals in three minutes turned the score in Newtonmore's favour.

Glen MacKintosh made it 1-1 on 21 minutes and Evan Menzies put the visitors in front three minutes later.

Drew MacDonald netted on 38 minutes and got his second on the stroke of half-time to give Newtonmore a comfortable 4-1 advantage at the interval.

There was no further scoring until Evan Menzies got his second in the final minute to set Newtonmore up nicely for Kyles Athletic's visit to The Eilan this Saturday.

Marine Harvest National Division

Beauly 4 Oban Celtic 1

Oban Celtic were knocked off top spot in the Marine Harvest National Division when they lost 4-1 to Beauly at Braeview Park.



Lovat's Lewis Tawse squeezes the ball past Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson for the first goal during their cottages.com MacTavish Cup tie held at Balgate last Saturday which the home side won 3-1.

Beauly went into the match looking for their first league win of the season after three attempts.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon was on holiday, so Davie Hamilton looked after the side and was pleased to welcome Ally McKerracher and Neil Carmichael back. However, Fulton Ronald, Daniel MacMillan, Ian MacKiechnie, Dylan Cooke, Rory Bruce and Lee Askew were all missing. New signings Kieran Gallacher started on the wing and Craig MacMillan was on the bench.

Robbie Brindle got Beauly off to a positive start, netting after two minutes with a neat half-volley from just outside the 'D'. GMA made a blistering start to the game and were three goals up after six minutes.

Craig Anderson set them on their way with a goal after two minutes and Calum McLay added a second just a couple of minutes later.

John McNulty made it 3-0 on six minutes with what was probably the pick of the afternoon's goals.

The ball was played across to an onrushing McNulty around 28 yards from goal and he crashed the ball into the top corner of the net.

Craig Anderson got his second on 20 minutes and Calum McLay did likewise a couple of minutes later to make it 5-0.

Jamie McFadyen added a sixth when he ran the ball up the right wing before striking a waist-high shot from a tight angle, with the ball going into the net off the far post.

David Campbell, who had moved from full back to full forward earlier in the game, pulled a goal back for Inverness on 36 minutes but it was the Glasgow side who led 6-1 at the interval.

Daniel Palombo pulled another goal back 10 minutes after the re-start but it wasn't going to affect the final outcome.

Referee Martin MacLean awarded GMA a penalty on 69 minutes, penalising Inverness keeper Allan MacLeod for a 'kick' and Craig Anderson converted to complete his hat-trick.

Craig Anderson notched his fourth goal of the game with 15 minutes remaining and John McNulty got his second on 78 minutes to round off the 9-2 win.

This was at times a very feisty affair and GMA's superior fitness made a difference. All their goals were emphatic finishes, leaving home keeper Allan MacLeod helpless.

Inveraray P Kilmallie P

The meeting between Inveraray and Kilmallie was postponed on Friday afternoon when it was clear The Winterton would be unplayable.

Inveraray are due to host Beauly in the league this week with Allan MacDonald finally free of his five-match ban.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall will miss this Saturday's home league match against Strathglass as he completes his two-match suspension.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University P Glengarry P

The match between Aberdeen University and Glengarry at Balgownie was a Friday afternoon postponement because the wet weather led to an unplayable pitch.

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

in their 2pm throw-up at Strontian. Lorna MacRae scored five times, Caitlin MacLean netted four and Christina MacDonald grabbed a hat-trick.

Jenna Beaton and Ilana Patterson both netted twice whilst Helen Lamond got the other.

Skye have now netted 47 goals in their opening three league games.

Badenoch 3 Lochaber 0

Badenoch dented Lochaber's title hopes, winning 3-0 in their 1.30pm throw up at The Dell.

Megan Ralph scored twice, whilst Zoe Reid got the other.

Strathspey 1 Aberdour 3

Aberdour defeated newly-promoted Strathspey 3-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

Lauren Dobbie scored for Strathspey but Katie Booth's double and a Katy Smith goal gave Aberdour the win.

Glasgow Mid Argyll W/O v Fort William

Glasgow Mid Argyll were awarded the points when Fort William were unable to raise a team for their game at Yoker.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – second round Draw

The draw for the cottages.com MacTavish Cup second round was made at Balgate on Saturday April 7.

The draw took place at half-time during the final first round tie between Lovat and Kingussie, which the hosts won 3-1.

Stuart Walkden, owner Acquisition manager from cottages.com and his colleague Mark Whitehouse joined Camanachd Association president Keith Loades to make the draw.

Camanachd Association President Keith Loades said: 'The first-round results for the cottages.com MacTavish Cup saw a strong start to the competition by a number of Premiership sides and today's match between Lovat and Kingussie was an exciting match to conclude the first round.'

'The second-round draw makes for some fascinating ties and is sure to bring a number of top sides together competing for one of shinty's most coveted trophies.'

Stuart Walkden from cottages.com added: 'After a fantastic first draw, we're delighted to have announced the second draw teams today and wish everyone competing for this prestigious cup the very best of luck.'

Kinlochshiel v Lochaber
Skye Camanachd v Lovat
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
Fort William v Caberfeidh
The ties will be played on Saturday April 21.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Ardnamurchan 0

Skye Camanachd 17

Skye Camanachd beat newly-promoted Ardnamurchan 17-0



David Hill from Oban Celtic shields the ball from Beauly's Sean Stewart during their National Division game at Braeview Park.

Photograph: Donald Cameron

Fixtures

Saturday April 14

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh v Lochaber
Andy MacLean - 3pm
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Archie Ritchie
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Martin MacLean
Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic
Lachie Wood
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William v Inverness

Graham Cameron

Inveraray v Beauly

Deek Cameron - 3pm

Kilmallie v Strathglass

John Angus Gillies

Oban Celtic v Glasgow MA

Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest North Division

Aberdeen Uni v Fort William

Calum Girvan

Glenarry v Newtonmore

John Wood

Kingussie v Kinlochshiel

Steven MacLachlan

Skye v Glenurquhart

Scott McNeil

Marine Harvest South Division

Aberdour v Col Glen

Graham Fisher - 3pm

Ballachulish v Bute

Des McNulty

Inveraray v Kilmory

Deek Cameron - Noon

Tayforth v Lochside Rovers

TBA

Taynuilt v Kyles Athletic

Alex MacVicar

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Lochaber

John Matheson

Caberfeidh v Beauly

John Matheson - Noon

Inverness v Kilmallie

Neil MacDonald

Lochcarron v Strathspey

Ronnie Campbell

Strathglass v Lovat

TBA

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Glenorchy

Graham Fisher - Noon

Bute v Oban Celtic

Euan Pearson

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Strachur

Ewan MacDonald

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Saturday April 7

Cottages.com

MacTavish Cup

1st round

Lovat 3 v 1 Kingussie

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

1st round

Kingussie 4 v 0 SCOTS Caman

Inverness 0 v 1 Lovat

Glenurquhart 2 v

Ladies head for Murrayfield final

Oban Lorne Ladies 29
Howe of Fife Harlequins 5
BT Women's Bowl semi-final

OBAN Lorne Ladies took to the field on Sunday in the biggest game of their 15-year history as they welcomed National Division 1 side Howe of Fife Harlequins for the much anticipated BT National Bowl semi-final.

For Oban, this game has been the reward for what has already been a hugely successful 2017/18 season with the team securing the National Division 2 title in style by winning all 10 fixtures played so far and only conceding two tries in the process. The Bowl competition has offered the team a chance to take on higher league opponents and challenge for a national final place at BT Murrayfield on Silver Saturday, April 28.

A large home crowd gathered at Glencruitten as the teams were piped onto the field on a fantastic spring day. Oban Lorne coach Corrie Louw and team manager Darrell Williams had a full squad to choose from with the strong contingent being led by captain Laura 'America' MacCormick.

Oban made a strong start to the game and were eager to get on the scoreboard early to ease some of their pre-match nerves. Italian centre Erika Skofca had a strong run early in the game giving Oban a great attacking platform to play from. Unfortunately, the ball was knocked on near the line, gifting Howe a reprieve in the form of a five-metre scrum.

A handling mistake from Howe's stand-off at the tryline was gathered up by Oban inside centre Kirsty Sinclair, who made the visitors pay for their mistake touching down for an early try. Oban led 7-0 after a straightforward conversion from Lucy Stewart.

Despite going ahead so early on, this was not to be a one-sided fixture, as has been the case in

the majority of Oban's fixtures this season. Howe Harlequins possessed a big physical presence and were competing very well at the breakdown thanks to their impressive blindside flanker and second row.

The visitors enjoyed a strong spell in the game during the first 20 minutes but were undone at times with some fantastic Oban tackling. Ailsa MacLachlan was having a storming start to the game with her work rate in defence being particularly impressive. Impressive, too, was a big hit from winger Ellen Barlow, who managed to hold back a promising Howe attack.

The visitors hit back on the scoreboard after around 20 minutes as a quickly taken free kick was finished off over the line reducing the deficit to two points at 7-5 to Oban.

It was the visitors who controlled the majority of possession and territory during the first half but were limited in scoring opportunities down to a fantastic defensive attitude by the whole Oban team.

Oban, when in possession, looked the more promising side in attack and broke upfield on a couple of occasions with runs from try scorer Kirsty Sinclair and captain Laura MacCormick.

The reward for Oban's superb defensive display was a second try that was scored just five minutes before the half-time break. Rachel MacDonald's run upfield gifted Oban possession close to the tryline. Some clever play by scrum-half Audrey Barr allowed prop Ellie MacNiven to power over the line and extend Oban's lead to 12-5.

Both sides played out a largely uneventful closing to the first half as Oban went in to the break as narrow leaders.

Oban's efforts were dealt a blow early in the second half with prop Ellie MacNiven being removed from the field due to a concussion. MacNiven



The Champagne flows as Oban Lorne Ladies celebrate after their 29-5 win over Howe of Fife Harlequins in the BT Bowl semi-final. Photos: Stephen Lawson

was replaced by Nienke Van Geel who proved to be a very strong replacement, impressing at scrum time throughout the second half.

It took Oban 15 minutes of the second half to orchestrate a promising attacking move. Stand-off Lucy Stewart broke free from her own half and had a timely offload to the onrushing Erika Skofca, who raced clear and touched down for Oban's third try of the game. This extended the score to 17-5 as a tricky conversion bounced back off the uprights.

Oban were now looking very dangerous every time they had the ball in hand, with notable good plays from full-back Kelly Lamont and winger Ellen Barlow. Unfortunately, Barlow had been carrying an injury from around half-time and she was replaced by Lyndsay Waterson coming off the bench.

The home side were starting to dominate and were unlucky not to score their fourth try of the game after some good forward play resulted in the ball being held up over the line.

From a five-metre scrum,

Oban found their fourth try and a bit of breathing space that came along with it.

The hugely impressive Ailsa MacLachlan just managed to touch down underneath the posts, a big reward for her hard work through the game as she extended her team's lead to 24-5.

Oban could now relax a little and were looking very confident with the ball in hand. Further good runs from Erika Skofca, Kelly Lamont, Kirsty Sinclair and Rachel MacDonald were putting the tiring Howe defence under pressure.

With 10 minutes remaining, Oban pressed for their final try of the day. Some clever play by Rachel MacDonald and Lyndsay Waterson allowed the ball to be spun from left to right across the pitch, eventually finding the determined Erika Skofca, who finished off her second try of the game putting the result out of sight at 29-5.

Despite being behind in the game, huge credit must be given to Howe Harlequins who never gave up and had a very strong finish to the match.

Key players for Oban on the day such as Laura MacCormick and the centre pairing of Sinclair and Skofca contributed well to the win but nobody could come close to emulating the efforts of flanker Ailsa MacLachlan, who simply put in an outstanding performance.

As the final whistle was blown there were celebrations all round Glencruitten as Oban Lorne Ladies now progress to the BT National Bowl final at BT Murrayfield on Saturday April 28.

Despite the celebrations, Oban were very respectful of Howe



Oban Lorne scrum-half Audrey Barr collects the ball from a line-out.

Women's rugby

Harlequins, who were without doubt the most impressive side Oban have played against this season. Sunday's game could at one stage have gone either way and a 29-5 scoreline does not reflect how the majority of the game was played.

Oban Lorne Ladies will be taking on Garioch RFC Women in the Bowl final, after they had a convincing 55-0 against Orkney in the other semi-final game. Tickets for Oban Lorne's final on Silver Saturday can be purchased via the Scottish Rugby website with supporters being encouraged to choose Oban Lorne from the list of available clubs to receive commission from the gate receipts.

More details for the final will be announced by the club in due course.

The ladies' team would like to thank the Regent Hotel in Oban for their fantastic team breakfast on Sunday as well

as Tommy Sutherland from Bespoke Hotels who provided a buffet and aftermath meal for the team and supporters. Thanks must also go to the long list of ongoing sponsors and supporters who made the event on Sunday go extremely well.

Oban Lorne Ladies:
L. MacCormick ©, S. Keppie, E. MacNiven, V. Speirs, G. Mitchell, R. Sims, A. MacLachlan, C. Leslie, A. Barr, L. Stewart, K. Sinclair, E. Skofca, E. Barlow, R. MacDonald, K. Lamont.

N. Van Geel, C. MacPherson,

H. Cringles, H. Bean, S. Rosinski, L. Waterson, L. Comer.



Camila Leslie on the charge.



The teams were piped onto the pitch by John MacLeod and Iain MacPherson.

Green Machine lose to league leaders

Oban Lorne 5
Carrick 34
BT West Division One

OBAN Lorne took on league leaders Carrick RFC at Glencruitten on Saturday with the Green Machine looking to make amends for the 87-18 loss suffered away to the same side only a couple of weeks ago.

Confidence in the Oban team has been buoyed following last weekend's thumping 64-15 win over already-relegated Helensburgh RFC. Some key matches are coming up that are must wins for Oban, given the lowly league position the club currently occupy.

Carrick extended their lead mid-way through the half to 12-0 with their second try of the day. Oban, though, dominated the remainder of the first 40 and found themselves camped on

the visitors' tryline. The much needed try never arrived as Carrick managed to clear their lines after an Oban knock-on.

The league leaders extended their lead with further tries in the second half to race into a 29-0 lead. This was possibly not reflective of the efforts that Oban had put in throughout the game.

Prop Tommy Sutherland had been denied a certain try midway through the half with the referee being ill positioned to view the touchdown.

The team also had to play late on with 14 men with centre Graham MacEachan's sin-binning. MacEachan managed to make amends on his return as

he intercepted a sloppy Carrick pass to offload to Oban captain Craig Wright, who scored a late consolation for the men in Green. Carrick added a further late score to run out in the end comfortable 34-5 winners.

Saturday's spirited loss means that Oban Lorne still remain in the relegation zone, five points adrift of 10th place Irvine, who entertain Oban Lorne this Saturday.

This is a must win game for Oban if they have any ambitions of reaming a Division 1 side next season. Saturday's game in Irvine kicks off at 3pm.

Rugby



Erika Skofca scores her first try.

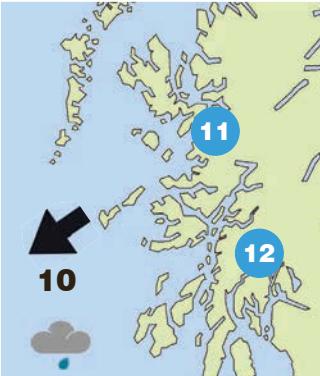


The teams were piped onto the pitch by John MacLeod and Iain MacPherson.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Cloudy Breezy from the east Temperatures 7°C to 12°C
Friday	Cloudy with light rain at times Breezy from the east north east Temperatures 7°C to 12°C
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy with light rain Breezy from the south east Temperatures 9°C to 13°C



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 12, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	03.37	3.3	09.55
Fri	04.14	3.5	10.31
Sat	04.50	3.7	11.04
Sun	05.26	3.9	11.36
Mon	05.57	4.0	12.08
Tues	00.21	0.5	06.28
Wed	00.58	0.5	07.00

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



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Oban to Coll/Tiree
Kennacraig to Islay

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GFG estates boss in push for community engagement

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

THE chief executive of the company overseeing more than 100,000 acres of estate lands in Lochaber says he is keen to start hearing back from more communities on how they see its raft of planned new hydro schemes benefiting them.

Duncan Mackison, chief executive of Jahama Highland Estates, the property arm of Lochaber smelter owners, GFG Alliance, was speaking after GFG unveiled plans last week to make a further £60 million investment over the next two years to boost hydro-power capacity in Scotland after acquiring a Highland renewables firm.

The group announced its intentions after sealing its acquisition of Green Highland Renewables, which will now be known as SIMEC Green Highland Renewables (SIMEC GHR).

The deal triggers a programme to build or upgrade 12 hydro schemes in the Highlands by 2021, some of which will be on GFG's 114,000 acres of estate lands across Lochaber.

Mr Mackison says the company is now keen to develop a model of community benefit for its hydro schemes in the same way it is doing for its £150 million wind

farm project at Glenshero, near Laggan.

SIMEC is currently consulting with communities in that area on its designs for a 164 MW wind farm, a project which will be Britain's first large-scale subsidy-free wind farm.

'What we want to do now is put it out there about community benefits and start getting into discussions with those communities,' he told the *Lochaber Times*.

GFG is reviewing offering ownership opportunities to local communities as part of its broader community involvement.

Hydro power is integral to GFG's strategy to expand its total UK green energy capacity for industry to one gigawatt over the next three years.

Mr Mackison added: 'GHR will have 11 hydro schemes

across the estate lands, with two of these up and running already and benefiting local communities.'

On the wider issue of transfer of land ownership to community bodies, Mr Mackison said any such land transaction would need to look at the sustainability of the land use in question.

'Hydro schemes are a pretty good way for communities to benefit - so hydro is definitely in the mix and that will inform the debate in the future.'

He added that the company is already looking at several

opportunities to offer long leases on sites in return for peppercorn rents to help support community-based initiatives.

'If it is expeditious, we will look at such long lease for peppercorn rent-type deals.

'As for the transfer of ownership, we are still very much talking about that and how that

could be done side by side with these other elements.'

'Ownership opportunities for communities are still definitely on the agenda.'

During the negotiations of SIMEC's purchase of the Lochaber smelter in 2016, the community-driven East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust sought

to take control of large portions of land on the smelter's estate.

Although its bid to buy the estate was unsuccessful, the trust says it will continue to pursue its aim of achieving a significant land transaction in favour of the community.

In response to Mr Mackison's call for community engagement,

chairman of the East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust John Hutchison said: 'We are still in discussions with GFG and we still have ambitions to own the land on behalf of the community.'

'Securing opportunities to generate electricity is essential to future revenue streams, so we will continue to engage with GFG.'

Former teacher Rixson wins by-election



Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate Denis Rixson is the new representative for the Caol and Mallaig area at Highland Council after winning a by-election last week. Mr Rixson has been a resident of Mallaig for 42 years. Full story – page five.

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Lochaber transport head blasts Stagecoach

THE head of a Lochaber transport group has underlined the importance of a reliable bus service to 'the elderly, disabled and people on low incomes' in the area, after Stagecoach announced last week it will close its Fort William depot, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Brian Murphy, chairman of the Lochaber Transport Forum, said he is not surprised by the company's decision to pull out of Lochaber, with customers having faced years of 'dirty' and 'unreliable' buses. Now he has called for significant improvements to be made to this 'vitally important' service.

He said: 'The travelling public in Lochaber have been badly let

down by Stagecoach and their decision to pull out of the local area. Frankly, it didn't come as much of a surprise because their services have been the target of many complaints to the Lochaber Transport Forum going back a number of years.'

'We have heard numerous protests about services not showing up, dirty and leaking buses, a few unhelpful drivers, and unreliable ageing vehicles that were long past their sell-by date.'

'Over the past year and a half, we had so many complaints that we had to set up special meetings just for bus users.'

Stagecoach, which runs eight vehicles and employs 16 staff in

Fort William, will operate its final Lochaber services from its depot in Caol on June 30.

Mark Whitelocks, managing director for Stagecoach North Scotland, said the closure of the depot had been a very difficult decision and the company will continue to support staff as they work towards the depot closure.

Mr Murphy continued: 'I hope the staff will be able to secure other employment locally as Lochaber can't afford to lose these jobs.'

'I also hope that the discussions going on between council officers and other bus operators will bear fruit because these services are vitally important to the local population, especially the

elderly, disabled and people on low incomes. In the long-term there needs to be a better way of financing loss-making routes than expecting the hard-pressed council to cough up a subsidy every time the operator says they can't make a service pay.'

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford said he was saddened by Stagecoach's decision but finding another provider 'must now be a priority'.

He added: 'I am more than happy to work with the local authority, Scottish Government and any other interested parties in ensuring the bus service does not lapse and suitable employment is secured for those who work in the area for Stagecoach.'

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Saturday 21st April

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Caol Community Centre
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £10 (conc £8)

National singing star Raymond Emmanuel in association with Nevis Radio sings a tribute to BUDDY HOLLY and friends Show followed by a Rock and Blues session Tickets available from Caol Community Centre and Nevis Radio or pay at the door Licensed bar

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

The Aonach Mor Uphill Race will take place on Saturday April 14. The route is 5km and uses the red downhill mountain bike track at Nevis Range for an uphill running race. Registration opens at 2pm and the race starts at 3pm. Entries on the day.

Aye2Aye in Fort William will be holding another 'A Better Scotland' conference on Saturday April 14. Speakers include Robin McAlpine, director of Common Weal, and Katherine Trebeck, director of research at Wellbeing Economics Alliance. The conference is from 10am to 4pm at the Kilmallie Community Centre (Kilmallie Hall) in Corpach. A ceilidh will follow the day's conference from 7pm.

On the following day, Sunday April 15, Aye2Aye will also be hosting a workshop on grassroots activism at Kimballie Community Centre. The workshop runs from noon until 4pm.

Representatives of Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be making an outreach visit to Ballachulish on Monday April 16. Staff and volunteers from the Caol-based organisation will be at Abbeyfield Care Home from 10.30am until 12.30pm. The team will offer free help and advice to anyone with a sight loss or hearing loss – residents and members of the public. They will also provide NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tubing. No appointment is necessary.

There will be a further session to help with the restoration of the Kilmallie Community Gardens on Saturday April 21, from 10am till 1pm. All welcome. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 for information.

Kilmallie Community Centre will host a grand ceilidh on Saturday April 21 at 7.30pm. The evening will be hosted by John Joe MacNeil, winner of the traditional gold medal at Lochaber Mòd 2017. Music will be supplied by Bruce Lindsay and supporting artists. Tickets at the door. Money will be divided between Kilmallie Community Centre and Macmillan Nurses.

Nevis Canoe Club has organised sea kayak sessions for adult beginners and improvers. The first session is in the leisure centre pool on Friday April 27 in the water 8pm to 9pm. The sessions are supported by an instructor and equipment is provided. The fee is £25 towards costs plus a membership of £15. For further details contact Nevis Canoe Club neviscc@hotmail.co.uk.



Sasha McKinlay's business sells Fairtrade goods from around the world.

Emporium conjures a world of the exotic

MARK ENTWISTLE

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AS YOU climb the small winding staircase to the first floor of 68 High Street in Fort William, you begin to register faint exotic scents that conjure up far away lands and colourful market places.

The term 'shop' does not really do Sasha McKinlay's new Fairtrade business justice and that is why she christened it with the magnificent moniker of The Emporium of Wordly Goods.

The business sells everything from clothing and incense to homewares and jewellery from around the globe, with recycled products a speciality.

There is even a zero waste toiletries section where customers have a choice of vegan, cruelty-free shampoo and conditioner refills, biodegradable and sustainable personal care products, and unwrapped soaps.

As to how the Emporium of Wordly Goods came into being, it was thanks to Sasha and husband Rob's shared love of travel and experiences from living in various places around the world.

'That's what inspired us to bring all the things we love to the community in Fort William. We believe that one of the best ways to reduce poverty globally is through Fairtrade, and supporting our producers generates sustainable income for families and communities,' Sasha told *Lochaber Times*.

Regular orders from our producers ensure that workers are able to maintain a steady, fair income.'

Sasha, who worked in senior HR management for 15 years prior to opening the Emporium, explained: 'Moving here was a no-brainer as we wanted to maintain an outdoor lifestyle, away from the city.'

'As for why this kind of shop, it's to do with where I grew up, my experiences travelling in particular, living on Sumatra when I was a teenager, as well as studying anthropology at university – all of that has really influenced my world view.'

'I've always loved and appreciated crafts, jewellery and clothing from other countries, but it's obvious in many cases that what is available is not being produced with workers' rights or economic stability in mind.'

'The more I started researching and supporting Fairtrade and zero waste, the more I realised that I might be able to create a business that I could feel good about, that could help cut down on environmental pollution, and that could potentially create jobs in our community in addition to supporting good standards of living in the global community, particularly for women and children.'

As for future plans, Sasha says a larger shop is an ambition. 'I'd love a bigger shop to incorporate a wider variety of stock than I'm able to now, as well as expand our zero waste offerings.'

'I'd love to work with some other local businesses to create a co-op at some point ... living the hippie dream!'

'And, if all goes well, I'd like to be able to work on sourcing products directly, travelling out to places like Nepal, India, Vietnam, Tibet, Mexico and Peru, and meeting makers in order to expand the opportunities for those individuals and build relationships with them.'

The Emporium is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, and Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

Ardnamurchan High School holds annual partnership evening

A GOOD turn-out of partners, parents and the wider community gathered at Ardnamurchan High School last Wednesday to hear about the impact partnership working has on the curriculum and wider achievement for young people.

A presentation by head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig and deputy Simon Patterson showcased the wide range of partnership working at the school.

This includes working with associate primary schools, community volunteers, Highland and Skills Development Scotland.

There was also a focus on the

voluntary time staff, parents and the wider community give to enhance opportunities for young people, which is the key focus for the annual Iain Cameron Award.

This year, in recognition of the extensive lunchtime and after-school sporting activity offered, and her drive to make physical activity as inclusive as possible, the panel presented the award to Wendy Green.

An excellent finger buffet, provided by West Highland College partner Michael Campbell and pupils from Ardnamurchan High School, was served and appreciated by everyone.



Louise Cameron presents the Iain Cameron Partnership Award to Wendy Green in recognition of her dedication to after-school sporting activity.

Lochaber Food Bank sees numbers soar

AFTER Lochaber Food Bank opened in 2013, it handed out enough food for 1,727 meals in its first five months in operation.

By the end of last year, that figure had rocketed to a staggering 14,052 meals feeding 1,171 people.

The past five years of helping those in crisis has seen the Fort William-based charity give out 42,838 meals, equivalent to 29,000kgs, or almost 30 tonnes, of food.

Lochaber Food Bank opens for two hours, three days a week and is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks supported by the Trussell Trust. It operates on a referrals basis, with vouchers exchanged for meals for a set number of days.

In the run-up to Christmas, foodbank manager Alex McConachie had praised what he called the 'wonderful generosity' of local residents and businesses that have kept pace with

the growing demand by donating even more items and cash.

Giving an update to the *Lochaber Times* this week, Mr McConachie says while some of those aided by the foodbank are classed as homeless, the majority are those struggling to cope on low incomes, while others have problems with delayed wages or benefit changes – and the introduction of Universal Credit has made the situation worse.

'The good news is donations from the generous businesses and people of Lochaber is keeping pace with demand, but the downside is demand continues to grow,' he explained.

'Many of those we help are in employment but a lot are in poorly paid part-time jobs, maybe working just 16 to 20 hours a week.'

'Sadly, I don't see an end to the need for a food bank in Lochaber any time soon.'

View from the Chamber

AS LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce's recent trade mission to Canada shows, international links are becoming ever more important to our business landscape.

At our recent chamber members' business breakfast, Charlotte Wright, CEO of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), highlighted the importance of 'internationalisation' as one of the agency's key themes for economic development.

Chambers of Commerce can play an important part in forging connections between international markets.

As Tim Allan, president of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, said back in January: 'By using our connections to forge business to business relationships in Europe and beyond, our chambers network will leverage the power of the international chambers organisation to match member companies with the clients, suppliers and partners of the future.'

While several local businesses already trade goods and services internationally, an upcoming HIE business event hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce aims to inspire and assist more local companies

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to think beyond our borders and explore the potential of overseas trade.

If you haven't considered doing business overseas before or have limited experience of selling to international markets, now is a great time to find out more about potential opportunities.

HIE's Three Steps to Successful Selling Overseas seminar in Fort William on Wednesday April 25 is a great place to start.

Come along for practical advice, as



Charlotte Wright addressed the chamber at a members' breakfast event.

well as sources of support and expertise, and gain a clear understanding of how to successfully sell your products or services overseas. Book online at www.eventbrite.co.uk.

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we're committed to helping our members achieve their business goals.

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Ospreys back at Loch Arkaig

NEILL BO FINLAYSON

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OSPREYS Louis and Aila returned to their nest at Loch Arkaig over the weekend.

After a winter spent in Africa, the pair have returned to the nest almost three weeks earlier than last year, with dozens of wildlife enthusiasts from around the world streaming the live webcam feed of the birds.

Keen osprey enthusiasts from as far a field as Canada and Australia have been following the activity of Louis and Aila as they carried out some necessary repairs to the nest this week.

In 2017, their novice year, they

laid three eggs and successfully raised one chick, Lachlan.

George Anderson, of the Woodland Trust Scotland, explained that various ospreys started making brief appearances at the nest on Friday.

'There appears to have been a bit of competition and it is tricky to work out who was who,' George said, 'but on Sunday morning Louis and Aila were firmly in residence and starting to titivate the nest with moss and sticks. We are looking forward to spending another glorious summer watching an osprey family grow.'

More than 200,000 people streamed the live footage of the nest last summer, a figure

that might be surpassed this year. Two new osprey platforms were constructed ahead of this year's season. These are not on camera and it is not yet known if ospreys have settled on them. Two more platforms will be built later in the year.

Loch Arkaig pine forest, one of the most significant remaining fragments of Caledonian pine forest, was bought last year in a partnership between the Woodland Trust and local group Arkaig Community Forest.

Live video feed from the nest camera can be viewed at woodlandtrust.org.uk/ospreycam. The live feed is also being shown in the shop window of the *Lochaner Times*.



A screenshot of the osprey pair back at the nest in Loch Arkaig.

Lochaber children celebrate centenary

THE Diocese of Argyll and the Isles recently celebrated the centenary of the 1918 Education Act in Scotland which saw Catholic schools funded by the state and open to scrutiny by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Pupils from Lochaber joined school staff, parents, councillors, council representatives and Bishop Brian McGee at the end of last month for a Mass of Thanksgiving in a packed St Columba's Cathedral, in Oban, to celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Education Act.

Bishop McGee welcomed everyone and thanked them all for the important role they play in supporting state-funded Catholic schools.

The pupils, from St Columba's Primary, Caol, joined those from their namesake in Oban, as well as others from St Mun's in Dunoon and St Andrew's in Rothesay, along with friends of the schools, parishioners and Scottish Catholic Education Service representatives.

They gathered to celebrate the positive impact this important partnership between church and state has had for the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, and for Scotland.

In his homily, the bishop spoke with the children about the importance of Holy Week and encouraged everyone to gaze upon the recently commissioned icon of Jesus the Teacher displayed in the cathedral.

The bishop suggested Catholic schools don't just tell facts about Jesus but actually introduce people to Jesus, helping them to form a relationship with Christ.

He went on to say such faith schools not only develop their pupils academically but help them to bring Christ's love into the world – and this is why faith schools benefit everyone.

Throughout 2018, the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles will rejoice in the academic, cultural, civic and social achievements of pupils who have attended Catholic schools in the past 100 years.



Bishop McGee with pupils from St Columba's Primary in Caol at the special service recently.

Funding limit is removed

WITH just under a year left to commit funds of £258,000, the Lochaber Local Area Partnership has removed the maximum upper limit that a group can apply for.

LEADER aims to promote economic and community development within rural areas. Groups and organisations can apply for funding towards a wide range of projects.

John Fotheringham, chairman of the Local Area Partnership said: 'LEADER is a great source of match-funding to enable a wide range of projects to be delivered. As well as removing the upper limit of £50,000, applicants can now apply for funding of up to 75 per cent of project costs.'

'LEADER funds must be committed by March 2019, with projects completed by October 2019. We would encourage as many projects as possible to come forward to benefit from EU funds while they are still available. With funding allocated on a first come, first served basis, now is the time for groups to get in touch to find out how LEADER can help.'

Caol Play is one of the groups to successfully secure funding with an award of £75,000 from LEADER.

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Fort Greenpeace stages first demo

LOCHABER'S newest environmental activism group, Fort William Greenpeace, sprung into action last week as it launched its inaugural campaign by staging its first protest on the town's High Street.

Donning penguin masks and armed with banners, a group of campaigners took to the street last Thursday to protest against the sale of krill-based products, such as krill oil and omega-3 pills, by pharmacies and other outlets, which they say threatens the entire Antarctic ecosystem.

The newly-formed Fort William branch of Greenpeace, which held its first meeting last month, surveyed 91 local customers outside Boots in Fort William and found that the majority of customers in the town oppose the shop selling of krill-based products.

According to the campaigners, krill underpins the entire Antarctic ecosystem and the tiny, shrimp-like creature is the bedrock of the food chain



Members of the newly formed Fort William Greenpeace group staged an eye-catching protest last Thursday on the town's High Street. **FW** Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

there, providing vital sustenance for larger Antarctic life such as whales and penguins.

Deanna, a local Greenpeace volunteer, said: 'I'm really concerned that industrial krill fishing is taking place in a sensitive area under consideration to become an ocean sanctuary.'

The campaigners say that the protest allowed residents of the town to send a clear message: stop endangering the

Antarctic's ecosystem and get on board with plans to protect the Antarctic Ocean.

Deanna continued: 'We were overwhelmed with how many people wanted to know more about the issues around the Antarctic and krill fishing, and it's clear that customers want Boots to join the likes of Holland and Barrett, Morrisons and Superdrug, who have discontinued this devastating product.'

Fort William Greenpeace environmental group meet monthly in The Wildcat, Fort William High Street. The group is looking for new members, so if you'd like to get involved join greenpeace.org and search for Fort William Greenpeace.

Olympic medallist opens new Aldi store

OLYMPIC silver medal rower Polly Swann will officially open Aldi's new Fort William store today (Thursday April 12) at 8am.

Swann, who marked her Olympic debut by winning silver with the women's eight at the Rio de Janeiro games in 2016, spoke ahead of the Fort William store opening when she said: 'I can't wait to open the new store and welcome excited local shoppers.'

'Aldi has been a great support to Team GB for over five years now, so it's great that I can help give back to the communities its stores are part of.'

In a welcome boost to the local economy, 18 jobs have been created with the launch of the new North Road store, which spans more than 1,140 sqm of

retail space, and has the use of 240 shared car-parking bays.

The first 30 shoppers to arrive on the morning will each receive a complimentary bag full of delicious fruit and vegetables from Aldi's Super 6 range, as part of Aldi's Get Set to Eat Fresh initiative, which encourages children aged five to 14 to develop their understanding and love of fresh, healthy food.

Store manager Arnas Lukosevicius told us: 'We're thrilled that Polly will be joining us to welcome local shoppers to the new store. We've got some fantastic opening week special buys on offer, as well as some excellent prices on fresh British products, so we look forward to opening our doors to everyone on April 12.'

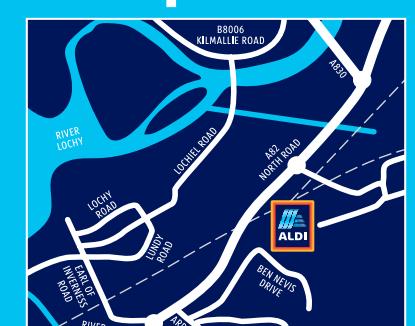


Aldi area manager Zoe MacPherson and Fort William store manager Arnas Lukosevicius. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



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FW

First affordable homes in Staffin for 20 years agreed

NEILL BO FINLAYSON

nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS to build affordable houses in a north-east Skye community – the first in almost 20 years – have received the green light.

Highland Council has approved a planning application for six new three-bedroom houses on a common grazing tenanted by the Stensholl crofting township in Staffin.

It comes after the community had suffered a significant population decline and shrinking primary school roll in recent years.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) is working in partnership with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) to deliver the new

affordable homes, which would be the first built in Staffin since 1999.

The development, on land near Staffin Primary School, includes business units and a storage facility. Talks have been held with NHS Highland about the potential relocation of the Staffin surgery to the site.

Portree-based architects Rural Design produced the development drawings and the planning application was lodged in April last year.

The Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund (RHF) and the Scottish Land Fund funded the design and feasibility work. There is still plenty of work ahead of SCT and its partners before construction work starts.

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie said: 'The granting of this planning permission is a significant

step in what is a game-changing project for the Staffin community. Affordable housing is at the heart of any rural community and this development will kickstart future plans to reverse the population decline and build a community with growth, aspiration and stability.'

An economic report carried out for SCT highlighted that Staffin's population recorded a 6.6 per cent decline between 2009 and 2013, from 608 residents down to 568 people.

Portree, 17 miles south of Staffin, has had a significant number of affordable homes built in recent years, and grown by 11 per cent in the past decade.

HSCHT chief executive Ronnie MacRae said: 'HSCHT is delighted that SCT has persevered and acquired planning permission for this exciting mixed-use project. The process

has been a lengthy one but will now deliver much-needed affordable housing through a range of tenures along with other economic and social elements to strengthen the community.

'SCT is delivering an exemplary project which is demonstrating strong partnership working that will benefit the wider community while also leading the way in enacting the benefits of Scottish Government's new community empowerment initiatives.'

SCT has already received several expressions of interest in the new homes. Two of the properties would be owned by SCT, two by HSCHT and two by LSHA.

Lachie MacDonald, LSHA chief executive, added: 'We are pleased that real progress is now being made to bring this much-needed housing project to reality and we will actively

work with all the parties to achieve our mutual objectives.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes, who wrote a letter in support of the planning application, said that this news was 'tremendously good'.

'Everybody knows that housing is one of the greatest pressures on Skye,' she said. 'Staffin Community Trust recognised that population decline was, in part at least, due to the lack of affordable housing. I think the work that they have done to take the community with them and apply for planning permission has gone exceedingly well.'

'Despite occasional setbacks, I think there has been a lot of hopefulness that this project will be successful. I have supported it from the start and look forward to seeing the first family move into one of these affordable homes.'



Overall winner Angus MacColl with Rod Macleod from Calgary, left, and Kenny Dan Macdonald, from Point and Sandwick Trust.

Wind farm charity secures future of piping competition

ONE OF the world's most prestigious piping events, the Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition, has been secured in its home town of Stornoway for the next few years thanks to a lifeline donation from a wind farm charity.

The Point and Sandwick Trust, which runs the community-owned turbines at Beinn Ghrideag, has pledged £5,000 to the competition every year for five years.

It means the annual competition, which is organised by the Lewis and Harris Piping Society, can continue to be held in Stornoway, instead of having to relocate to somewhere such as Glasgow to reduce costs.

The competition costs a lot of money to stage – around £11,000 – because the piping society foots the bill for the air fares and accommodation for all the pipers taking part, as well as the judges.

Increasing financial pressure could have meant the piping society moving the competition to the mainland to cut the size of its travel and accommodation bill. With many of the usual competitors living in the Glasgow area, moving the competition to the city would have been the obvious choice.

Point and Sandwick Trust chairman Angus McCormack said he was delighted to help keep it at home. 'We have a strong ethos of supporting arts and cultural activities on the island,' he said. 'Piping is an

integral part of our culture and we are very pleased to be able to help the piping society in its efforts to continue this prestigious annual competition in Stornoway.'

This year's competition took place in the Caladh Hotel on Friday last week and was followed by a ceilidh at night and a workshop for pipers on Saturday.

The competition – which celebrates its 25th year – celebrates the musical legacy of PM Donald MacLeod, one of Stornoway's most famous sons.

Donald was an outstanding player who won all the major competitions, some of them several times. He was also a tutor and a Seaforth Highlander but it was for his prolific compositions, including 26 piobaireachs, that he is best remembered.

The Donald MacLeod Memorial Competition was created to honour his memory and celebrate his music. The competition is split into two sections – the 'Céol Mór' (piobaireachd) and the Céol Beag (march, strathspey and reel) – but most of the tunes played are Donald MacLeod ones.

The pipers who took part this year were Finlay Johnston, Ben Duncan, Niall Stewart, Roderick MacLeod, Craig Sutherland, Iain Speirs, Glenn Brown and Angus MacColl.

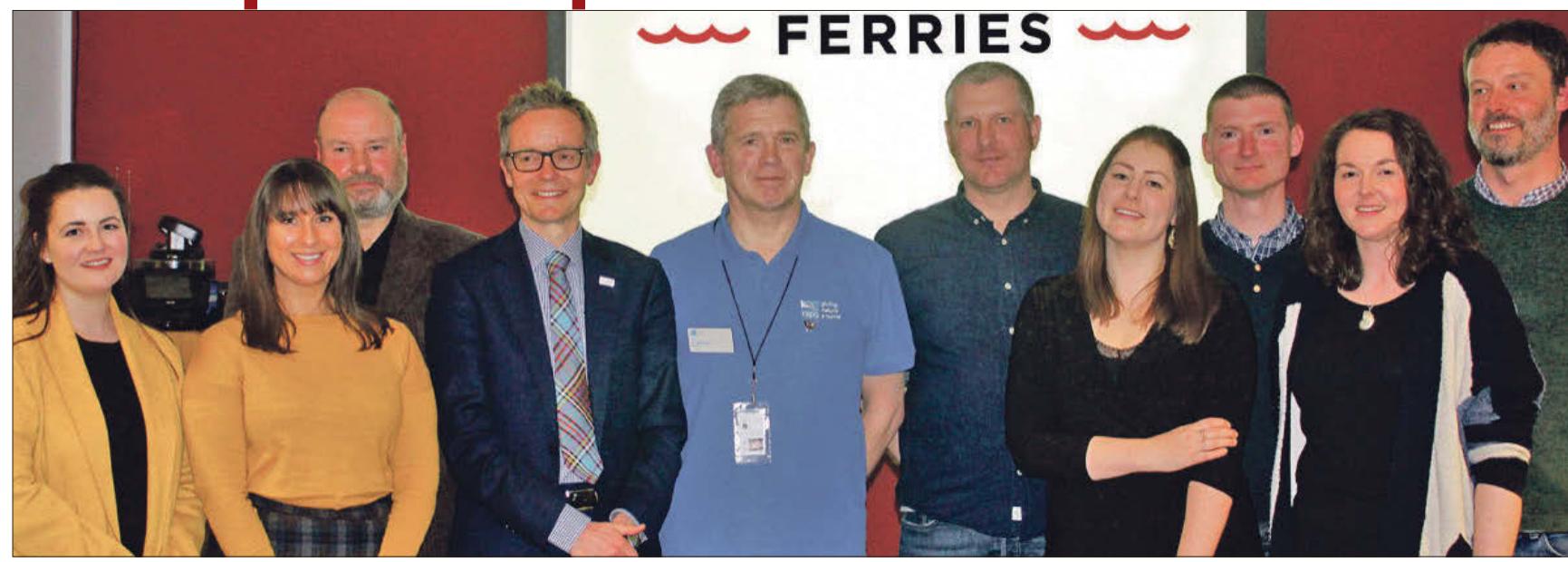
The judges were Dr Angus MacDonald, Iain MacFadyen and William Morrison. Fear a Tighe is John Wilson.



Point and Sandwick Trust chairman Angus McCormack, left, with representatives from the Lewis and Harris Piping Society – committee member and piper Finlay Macleod and chairman John Kennedy.

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

CalMac partnership set to boost marine awareness



Some of the marine awareness partners at the launch event in Oban.

WEST COAST ferry operator CalMac has teamed up with 14 conservation bodies in a bid to better protect the environment it sails in.

The company's new Marine Awareness Programme outlines specific actions it will take to help passengers get the most from the environment they are travelling through and to better understand the wildlife in its area of operations.

Working with bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland, actions outlined include using CalMac vessels to undertake marine biodiversity monitoring, passenger engagement and education to raise marine environment awareness with both visitors and locals

and to facilitate better information sharing between conservation agencies.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'Knowledge is a major part of protecting the environment for future generations. By finding out what wild resources we have, we are in better position to take steps to help conserve them.'

'Our commitment to the monitoring, education and information sharing activity outlined in this programme will help ensure we continue to build knowledge about the seas we sail.'

Mr Drummond pointed out that the marine environment on the West Coast is

among the most diverse in the world, supporting over 6,500 complex and 40,000 single cell species of plants and animals.

He said the seas are among the richest in Europe for marine mammals, with Scotland holding about 70 per cent of Europe's population of grey seals and 35 per cent of common seals, along with numerous species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, and seabirds.

CalMac's 14 partners are Scottish Natural Heritage, Marine Scotland, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, British Trust for Ornithology, Capturing Our Coast, Field Studies Council Milport, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust,

MARINElife, ORCA, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

'CalMac understands how important the environment we work in day to day is to our communities,' added Mr Drummond. 'The natural environment and the wildlife within it are central to attracting visitors and helping to grow the economies within the areas we serve.'

He continued: 'We want to help stimulate this economic growth wherever we can by delivering reliable services. However, it is crucial that we balance this with protecting the environment.'

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Harris Tweed marks 10th birthday at Glasgow awards

HARRIS Tweed was the centrepiece of the glittering Scottish Style Awards held in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday March 31.

The 10th birthday of Harris Tweed Hebrides, the Shawbost-based company credited with pulling the industry back from the brink, was celebrated with a stunning fashion show which confirmed the style and versatility of the fabric.

It was the first in a series of events to mark 10 years of Harris Tweed Hebrides, which took over a derelict mill at Shawbost when the industry was at its lowest ebb and now gives employment to around 250 mill-workers and weavers in Lewis and Harris.

Over the decade, Harris Tweed Hebrides has won numerous awards for both the quality of its product and for exporting.

Around two thirds of output goes overseas with Japan, Germany, Italy and North America as the biggest markets.

Harris Tweed Hebrides guests for the evening a fortnight ago included Scotland rugby star Finn Russell, who has become a great ambassador for the Harris Tweed look.

Chief executive Ian Angus Mackenzie said: 'Every client is important to us but it is crucial to the status of the fabric that we continue to work with top-end clients who add to the richness and diversity of Harris Tweed's reputation.'

Ian Angus has led the compa-



Scotland rugby star Finn Russell, right, was a guest at the showcase, pictured with Harris Tweed creative director Mark Hogarth.

ny from its inception along with principal investor Ian Taylor and former UK trade minister and HTH chairman Brian Wilson, who said: 'It has been a great journey and a credit to everyone involved. The age profile of weavers and mill-workers has been transformed, new markets opened up and Harris Tweed now has a great future as well as a glorious past.'

Stromferry bypass to close for three months

DRIVERS using the Stromferry bypass in Wester Ross face overnight closures of the route later this year, leaving them with a 140-mile diversion.

Major remedial works to the slope to the west of the avalanche shelter near Attadale are planned to take place from September 3 for 12 weeks.

The rock slope in this section is very close to the A890 road and the railway line so to enable these works to be carried out safely the road will need to close.

Highland Council is currently working with Network Rail to design a bypass which will allow cars and light vehicles to use the railway between the scheduled timetabled trains.

This Monday, April 16, the annual inspection of the rock face adjacent to the Stromferry bypass, which is part of the A890 route along the south shore of Loch Carron, will take place. The works should take five days to complete and will require traffic lights, which could cause delays.

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Lochaber MSP says tackling climate change is 'everyone's responsibility'

MARK ENTWISTLE

mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

In special interview with the *Lochaber Times*, MSP KATE FORBES talks about her views on climate change and the developing world, and how this squares with Scotland's continuing economic dependence on the North Sea oil and gas industry.

IT WAS a fact-finding trip earlier this year to Nepal that reinforced Kate Forbes's belief that everyone has a part to play in tackling climate change.

Her visit to the Himalayan country, one of the world's poorest, let her see up close the consequences of climate change on farmers in Nepal, many of whom are subsistence farming and all depend on the productivity of their fields to feed their families.

But with so many Scottish jobs still dependent on the oil and gas industry, we asked the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch how she rationalises that important economic situation for Scotland with the accepted international scientific consensus that the burning of such fossil fuels is the main driver of climate change.

'I believe that all countries should be taking responsibility for carbon emissions,' Ms Forbes told us.

'In Scotland, we are making the transition from dependence on fossil fuels to investing in renewable energy, although it is worth remembering that energy is a reserved matter and so the Scottish Government's efforts will always be hampered by Westminster's policies.'

'A lot of jobs still depend on the oil and gas industry and so it is wise to make the transition gradually, building up skills and attracting investment in renewables.'

'However, our electricity generation from renewable energy is displacing millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.'

'Renewable energy is a great opportunity, particularly for the Highlands, as renewables not only reduce carbon emissions but drive economic growth and employment.'

'Since 2007, the total output of renewable electricity has more than doubled and almost 60 per cent of our electricity comes from renewables –



Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes's trip to Nepal reinforced her commitment to help tackle climate change.



which is more than the original target of 50 per cent by 2015.'

'Back in 2009, the Scottish Government set world-leading targets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 42 per cent by 2020, and this target was delivered six years ahead of schedule in 2014.'

'Last year, the Scottish Government increased the target for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to 50 per cent as a result, and the head of the UN's climate body has hailed Scotland's ambition as "exemplary".'

'I believe that all communities and

households should play their part, motivated by the fact that climate change is causing hardship among the most impoverished, deprived and vulnerable people worldwide.'

'The £10 million Climate Challenge Fund provides community-led projects in Scotland with funding to improve their environment and drive down carbon emissions.'

'We are all global citizens and cannot ignore how our decisions here in Scotland have an impact on people across the world.'

'People in Nepal who lead projects

on climate change adaptation, such as building longer irrigation channels to make up for erratic rain or planting new crops, told me how thankful they are for Scotland's Climate Justice Fund.'

'Through this fund, the Scottish Government has spent £6 million to help some of the world's poorest communities adapt to the challenges of climate change.'

However, we asked Ms Forbes if it was not a case of Scotland wanting to 'have its cake and eat it' by trumpeting our impressive domestic renewable

energy consumption rise but while still encouraging more investment in the North Sea oil and gas fields, which sees Scottish fossil fuels being burned elsewhere in the world.'

She said: 'First, energy is a reserved matter and that means that any efforts made by the Scottish Government to shape energy policy in the North Sea would only be as successful as the UK Government wanted to make it.'

'We've been very clear that we want to move away from carbon intensive energy sources to renewables, and that is why we've done so much work to attract investment in renewables.'

'On the other hand, the UK Government has cut support for renewables and their energy policy continues to prioritise oil and gas. We cannot restrict exports and we cannot shape the UK Government's energy policy.'

'If we are to tackle climate change, no single country can do it in isolation. That is why international agreements are so important, particularly the Paris Agreement.'

'Scotland needs to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but needs to do it in partnership with others.'

Lib Dem Rixson wins in Caol and Mallaig by-election

NEWLY-ELECTED Caol and Mallaig ward councillor Denis Rixson says he's looking forward to promoting the area after he won the Highland Council by-election last week, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The Scottish Liberal Democrat joins councillors Allan Henderson (Independent) and Ben Thompson (Independent) in representing ward 11 on the council after emerging as the winner at the fifth stage of the count.

The by-election was called following the death of the SNP councillor Billy MacLachlan earlier this year.

Following the count on Friday

at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, Councillor Rixson thanked all the candidates for a respectful campaign and the Highland Council staff who ran the count.

He said: 'I would like to thank all the candidates for a respectful campaign, the Highland Council staff for efficiently running the count and I now look forward to working for everyone in the ward.'

Mr Rixson, a resident of Mallaig for 42 years, is a former school teacher at both the high school and primary school in the village and also ran his own business in the form of a small bookshop.

Speaking to the *Lochaber*

Times after his victory, Mr Rixson praised the support he received on the campaign trail. He said: 'I'm very fortunate that members of the Liberal Democrats have been supporting me all over the place. It's been wonderful support.'

'The weather has been interesting to say the least. The Beast from the East certainly made campaigning challenging.'

He outlined that two of his main priorities will be to improve affordable housing for young people and protect care for the elderly.

The prices for plots for sale

are simply out of reach for most

young people. If you want young people to stay here, then you have to have places for them to live,' he said.

On care for the elderly, he added: 'We need to look at the problem and work out what the requirements are. People don't want to be taken away from their home area.'

Being a local historian and having published a number of books on the area, Mr Rixson said he is looking forward to being able to use his position to promote the history and heritage of Lochaber.

Before that, however, he is still 'very much the new boy' and his

first priority will be to 'learn the ropes'.

The results were as follows:

Ronald Campbell (Ind) was eliminated after the first round of voting with 98.

Catherine MacKinnon (Ind) was eliminated after the second round of voting with 176.

Ian Smith (Con) was eliminated after the third round with 200.

Colin Wood (Ind) was eliminated after the fourth round of voting with 580.

Alex MacInnes (SNP) was eliminated after the fifth and final round of voting with 737.

Denis Rixson (Lib Dem) was elected with 968 votes.



Denis Rixson.

Anger boils over on continuing roads issues

FRUSTRATION is growing over what is claimed is a continuing lack of action by roads maintenance authorities to tackle outstanding potholes and other problems on the Lochaber trunk roads network.

At last week's April meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, held at Kilmonivaig Church Hall, chairman John Fotheringham revealed that both the boss of local haulage firm and one of the area's MSPs have now offered to get more involved in helping tackle the issue.

Mr Fotheringham told the meeting the haulage operator concerned has offered to speak to Scottish Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, while local MSP Donald Cameron had also offered to request an urgent meeting with Transport Scotland over the issue.

The moves stem from mounting frustration that, despite pledges by trunk roads operator BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland, stretches of the area's vital roads are continuing to deteriorate at an alarming rate.

Transport Scotland and BEAR's representatives met the community council in February, and heard a catalogue of complaints about the local trunk road network.

BEAR has carried out remedial work on various sections of the A82 between Fort William and Spean Bridge this year as weather conditions



Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry chairman John Fotheringham. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

allow but Mr Fotheringham told the council meeting that it was not good enough.

Mr Fotheringham proceeded to read out the list of potholes and damaged road sections which had been notified to BEAR months ago as needing urgent attention and which had still not been tackled, including the junction of the A82 and A86 in Spean Bridge and the blocked culvert that has affected the village's woollen mill.

'It is just wholly incompetent and even if it means having to go to Holyrood to speak directly to Transport

Scotland, I'm quite happy to do that,' said Mr Fotheringham.

One local B&B operator told community councillors that some recent Canadian visitors, who had been coming to the area for a decade, commented how much noticeably worse local roads were this year than in previous years.

And Mr Fotheringham added: 'The problem is, if you write to the Transport Minister, you get a reply back from a civil servant – but I don't want a reply from a civil servant. I want a reply from the person elected.'

In his letter of last week to BEAR

and Transport Scotland in his capacity as community council chairman, Mr Fotheringham said he appreciated BEAR had been working on local trunk roads during the winter.

But he went on to say that work is progressing far too slowly on tackling the outstanding potholes and other issues which BEAR has previously pledged to fix. 'Now a local haulage CEO [chief executive officer] has offered to speak to the Transport Minister on our behalf and we have accepted his offer,' he writes. 'Maybe then you will take us seriously and deliver what you promise.'

£320,000 worth of drugs seized

DRUGS with a street value of more than £320,000 have been seized from communities throughout the Highlands and Islands during March.

Officers have carried out targeted activity aimed at ridding our streets of illegal drugs - with a variety of class A and B drugs among the seizures.

More than £21,000 in cash has also been recovered during searches.

The recoveries are the latest to be made as part of Operation Ram, which is specifically targeting the trade in drugs in the region.

As a direct result of the activity last month, five people have appeared in court and a number of other individuals are expected to be reported as a result of further inquiries.

During the month, 33 search warrants were executed, while more than 100 positive searches of people on the street and vehicles also took place.

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Sutherland said: 'All of this activity in the past month is a direct result of community intelligence being shared by members of the public who clearly will not tolerate illegal drugs being supplied in their communities.'

'Nobody knows better than local residents what is happening in their neighbourhood and I would like to thank the public for their continued support.'

'Every piece of information you give us shapes and directs our operational activity.'

Cameron Highlanders' Association

IN A report of a cheque handover involving the Cameron Highlanders' Association in the March 29 edition of the *Lochaber Times*, it was said that the Cameron Highlanders' Association had been disbanded.

This is incorrect – it is just the annual Lochaber reunion luncheon which has disbanded and not the entire association.

Lochaber Cameron Highlanders held its annual reunion lunch in Fort William for the last time in October last year, after 30 years of activity.

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FW

Plockton

A LARGE crowd attended the Plockton's open-air church annual Easter service on Sunday April 1.

The service was conducted by Pastor Fred MacFarland and Rev Roddie Rankin. Bacon rolls were served at the close.

THE ANNUAL spring bulb and baking show, organised by Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society, was held in Plockton Hall on Saturday March 31. Entries and attendance were up this year.

SAMANTHA Donnellan of Plockton has been awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to work on multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in South Africa.

After finishing at Plockton High School, Samantha studied at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities and is now working at the world's oldest institute for tropical medicine in Liverpool, focusing on TB and HIV.

In 2016, Samantha completed a PHD researching the use of Nan medicines for the treatment of TB at Heriot-Watt University/Moredon Research Institute in Edinburgh. Along with Isobell MacInnes, a nurse from South Uist who is to study Lyme Disease, they will receive grants of almost £75,000.

A GAELIC play called Ceilidh, written by Mary-Jane Campbell and her daughter Catriona Lexy Campbell from Plockton, was performed at Plockton hall on Wednesday March 21. There was a good attendance of more than 60 people who all enjoyed the evening. The play is on tour, performing at 15 venues from Glasgow to Barra.

THE SOUTH West Ross District Annual Scottish Community Drama One-Act Festival was held at Plockton High School on Friday February 23 and Saturday February 24.

The winners were Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society (south team) with its play 'Thank You for Protesting' by Paul Adam Levy. Producer was Gill James with stage manager Joe Heavside and sound manager Dougie Pincock. They went forward to the area finals in Nairn on Friday March 23 and came second so now go forward to the Scottish Finals at East Kilbride on Saturday April 21.

THERE was only 2.5 inches of rain in Plockton in March, making it the driest month since May last year. There were 16 dry days. It was also the coldest with the highest temperature 10.3C. The coldest night was -4.2C. Last year it was 14C in January, 13C in February and 16C in March.

Nether Lochaber

Left to right: Jan Hamilton, Eileen Blair and Hazel Cocker at the quilt display in Nether Lochaber Village Hall. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Quilt exhibition success

MORE than 100 people visited Nether Lochaber Village Hall, North Ballachulish, in March to see a colourful display of craftsmanship.

Nether Lochaber Sewing Group held an exhibition of quilts, made by members, from Friday March 23 to Sunday March 25.

The group was pleased with the turnout and delighted with the nice comments about the quilts.



Participants in the project serve up some of the cakes, bread and soup they made for the final cafe. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

AHA Futures hosts final cafe at rural complex

MEMBERS of the Active Health Achieving Futures project recently held their last cafe at the Lochaber Rural Complex on what was an emotional day for everyone involved in the initiative.

The Fort William-based charity, which helped 15- to 20-year-olds with

autism or a similar communication disability, closed earlier this month after its funding stopped.

Launched in 2016, the charity aimed to support young people and their families in the transition from leaving high school to adult life and provided them with a range of experiences,

including running a community shop in Ardgour and operating a cafe at the Lochaber Rural Complex.

The project was a partnership between the Highland Council, NHS Highland and third sector and voluntary partners, who awarded £25,000 of funding for a three years.

Spean Bridge**New artwork in the making for centre**

A NEW Room 13 Spean Bridge (13SB) artwork is in production for the community centre in Spean Bridge.

It is part of the Sustainable Spean Bridge project that has so far seen developments in the community including a polytunnel and food growing at Spean Bridge Primary School, cooking workshops and seed and plant swaps.

There are new windows, lighting and insulation at the community centre and a separate heating system is being installed in May/June.

In one of the final events, Alison O'Rourke from Sustainable Spean Bridge contacted Ali Berardelli who, along with Jen Deschenes, is working with Spean Bridge Primary School on a visual arts programme using the model of Room 13 International, a thriving community of young artists from around the globe.

The management team from 13SB has created a giant artwork, using recycled material kindly donated by All Round Signs, which illustrates local scenery with an environmentally friendly

message. 13SB was established in Spean Bridge Primary School in November 2017. The artists working alongside the pupils have been visiting regularly and the team has started to fund raise for their own project work.

The challenge to create a giant artwork has involved many people from the local community who came along on Good Friday to help.

Ali Berardelli, an artist involved with the project, said: 'Room 13 Spean Bridge spent a day at the community centre designing all the ideas that the group had and on another day families came along to help complete the artwork. Getting a lot of people involved is the aim of the project. Everyone enjoys contributing to the final design which groups using the community centre will hopefully enjoy for years to come.'

Funding for the Sustainable Spean Bridge project has come from the Climate Challenge Fund and the Scottish Government Greener Scotland.

Inverlochy

Left to right: Emma Jane Henderson and Rhuaraidh Kennedy from D Kelly designs present a cheque for the adventure bagpacks to teacher Carole Graham.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Toddlers try out new backpacks on picnic

INVERLOCHY nursery recently held a 'teddy bear toddler' and picnic in Glen Nevis.

The event, on Tuesday March 27, gave the children a chance to try out their new adventure backpacks, bought with funds kindly donated by D Kelly Designs.

Emma Jane Henderson and Rhuaraidh Kennedy from the architectural design firm presented nursery staff with the funding for the bags last month.



Lochaber Community Wind Band at their recent concert at the Kilmallie Community Centre. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Wind band musical weekend

LOCHABER Community Wind Band was joined by more than 20 musicians from all over Scotland for an educational weekend on Saturday March 24 and Sunday March 25.

Guest director and educator for the weekend was Alan Fernie, regarded as one of the finest musical arrangers of his generation with brass and wind bands all over the world playing his music.

After rehearsals on Saturday and Sunday, the band performed a Scottish-themed concert to an appreciative audience at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach. Further educational weekends are being planned.

Lochaber Community Wind Band aims

to provide an outlet for the musical talents of amateur players throughout Lochaber and to contribute to the cultural diversity of the area by performing at community venues – indoors and outdoors, large and small.

Members come from all over Lochaber and represent a wide variety of age groups, musical backgrounds, preferences and levels of experience.

Anyone who plays a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, whether they own one or not, is welcome to join the band. Call Robin Gillies on 07809 258 759, John Whyte on 07811 554 127 or email lcwb2018@aol.co.uk for more information.

RETRO Roamer**More items from the Retro Roamer columns of 30 years ago**

Congratulations to two small boat owners (it's the boats that are small – not the owners) who have both named their Loch Linnhe craft 'Roamer'.

A gale swept and rain lashed Claggan Park on Saturday. In the grandstand, I suppose it just had to be Neeny Ross who came out with the words: 'I'm only here to escape from Hurricane Helen! As a measure of the ferocity of the weather, it has to be said this was a first under-cover manoeuvre for Neeny who can usually be seen under an umbrella on the terracing.'

Public notice: Muir-Duncan. Eventually, at the Railway Club, Inverlochy, on Saturday last, from Crombie to Dally – a half of whisky. The first in six years. Both recovering.

Names cannot be used in this item because I'm sure to get someone's goat. It appears messages were flashing all round ScotRail's electronic listening systems at the weekend, to the effect that a billy goat was wandering on the line between Spean and Roy. Higher authority and local officials had to go goat hunting. All drivers and guards were instructed to keep a keen lookout. Meanwhile, the wags were enquiring as to whether the goat was just out for a dander and looking for Paddy McGinty. A query from an unknown source as to whether the goat was wearing railway uniform received no reply. However, the goat has never been seen again – leaving officialdom on the horns of a dilemma.

Quite a few gems in the tourist office – apart from the staff, that is. 'The internal Register of Visitors' Queries' continues to provide much mirth. Such as 'Excuse me, where is Fort William?'; 'Where do you catch the train for Ben Nevis?'; 'What are the big hairy things, with horns, in the fields?'; 'What time does Ben Nevis open?'; 'How can I get a bucketful of snow back to the States?'; 'Where exactly is the Opera House in Mallaig?'; 'Where, in your area, am I most likely to catch a Red Admiral butterfly?'; 'Is the bridge to Skye at Mallaig or Kyle?' Possibly the most crazy query received by tourist office staff was from a 'tourist' standing under the sign which reads 'Information' who enquired: 'Excuse me – where's the tourist office?'

I note the region's land and administration department has advertised a compulsory purchase order for the car park and service area at the Station Hotel. Now, I know the region has been taking its time in providing the 'service road extension', but I didn't realise it was that far back. I then spotted this little regional gem. 'Highland Regional Council invites applications from contractors for works at Inverie Primary School, Moidart'. Everyone in Lochaber, including primary school pupils, knows Inverie is on Knoydart. So, why doesn't the region? As Lochaber District Councillor Alister Rodger said at last week's development committee meeting: 'The Highland Regional Council starts in Inverness – and ends in Inverness'.

Katie from Caol started to make a pot of soup one day last week. Discovered she had no parsley. Norrie was away out and Katie hadn't time to run over to the Co-op. So, for once, the soup would have to be parsley-less. After putting the pot on the stove, she nipped out to the phone box to give her daughter a ring. On entering the kiosk, Katie couldn't believe her eyes. There, on the wee shelf where the directories used to be kept, was a cellophane-wrapped bunch of parsley. Providence or coincidence? Katie had a quick look round and, as there was no-one about, she decided it was, indeed, 'providence' and went back home with the parsley. By this time Norrie had returned. 'I'm just back from the phone box and you'll never guess...', Katie began. Norrie interrupted her then. 'Oh hell, speaking of phones, Jan gave me a bunch of parsley from the garden, knowing how much you like if for the soup and I left it in the phonebox!' Norrie eventually found out why Katie fell about laughing. And the providential parsley certainly sooped up the soup.

Group of Caol Primary School pupils at the Fort v Clach game at Claggan. It poured most of the time, so they all sat in the stand with their respective families. Midway through the second half, one wee fella inevitably wanted a wee wee. The pavilion was pointed out to him, with the explanation the toilets were at the side. Off he went. He came back shortly after, looking a bit distressed. 'I wasn't able to go in,' he announced, near to tears. 'The door has a big 'G' on it.' Fortunately, before there was an accident, his dad convinced him that the 'G' was for 'Gents' and not for 'Girls', as on the door of the school toilets.

Elderly housewife doing early morning shopping. Brought herself to Menzies. There was a demonstration in there, with a lassie handing out samples of special biscuits. Iced and crunchy, they were. 'Would you like to try one?' The reply from elderly shopper was: 'I'd enjoy it better if I had my own teeth.' Back came the lassie: 'Whose teeth have you got, then?' Not to be outdone, the housewife replied: 'They're my father-in-law's actually.' Bearing in mind the lady was of advancing years, it must say wonders for her youthful appearance that the lassie responded in all seriousness: 'They're not, are they?'

Meanwhile, across the street in Low's, another cameo was in progress. A French 'tourist' came in – there are a lot of them about just now. He espied Bob Christie in his eyrie and beckoned to him. Bob came down courteously. Said the cross-Channel customer: 'Have you batteries?' However, he pronounced it 'butteries'. Beaming, Bob escorted the Frenchman to the bakery fixtures. 'Here you are, Monsieur, a packet of butteries.' Monsieur took a look then said: 'Non, non, butteries for my radio.' Exit Bob. Bemused, bewildered and buttered.



The hydro power in Lochaber.

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LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

There are still a number of people implacably opposed to the generation of renewable energy from wind, tidal and hydro schemes.

However, these technologies are here to stay and will continue to form an integral part of our power generation going into the future.

Thankfully, the majority of people support the principle of renewables, even if there are some who would question the location of some projects and the subsidies that are available.

GFG Alliance, the Lochaber smelter owner, has now

announced a further £60 million investment to boost hydro-power capacity in Scotland after acquiring Highland company Green Highland Renewables.

Jahama Highland Estates, GFG's property arm, is trying to encourage community groups across Lochaber to be involved with an exercise to discuss how these planned hydro schemes could benefit them.

All over the country, communities have been benefiting from renewable schemes. This is a welcome attempt to engage with local communities and we would urge anyone in a position to do so to embrace the idea.



Days gone by – 1938

Iain Thorner from Morvern submitted this photograph of farm workers using old foot ploughs for digging in the potatoes on Skye in 1938.

MacPhail



ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

INJURIES of any kind, even minor ones, are never pleasant to experience, but a recent jogging mishap that meant a visit to the Accident and Emergency department at Glasgow Royal Infirmary led to a very inspiring glimpse of those working at the harsh coalface of the NHS.

Witnessing people performing well at any job is an educational experience, and seeing the skills of others being displayed in their own domain is one of the most effective ways to gain both perspective and motivation for learning and improvement.

However, to see skills being shown in the most trying circumstances in a work environment that is relentlessly difficult and in an organisation that is being constantly criticised and being pulled politically from pillar to post was most impressive.

I had made the mistake of starting a 12-week half-marathon training programme five weeks late.

Full of ignorant enthusiasm, I thought I would be fine to fire straight in at the 'seven weeks to go' stage without the gradual build-up to the

increasingly rigorous timetable. I was feeling determined and I managed a similar run last year without much preparation but the extra year of ageing must be affecting me.

Anyway, a combination of being stiff from the previous few days' running, coupled with an uneven pavement, caused me to give my left ankle a bend and a wallop that had me hopping like a one-legged hare doing a Highland Schottische.

Luckily, it happened right beside a taxi rank so I was able to hop and flop in the black cab's door with a flurry of unprintable vocabulary.

I've only been to A&E in Glasgow once before, and that was around 20 years ago, so I didn't really know what to expect.

As soon as I entered reception, it was apparent that there would be a long wait and that most of my fellow patients comprised those most vulnerable in society.

It was apparent that severe drug and alcohol problems and related issues were the cause of most attending, with many who may well have been homeless, and there perhaps just to have somewhere warm to sit for a few hours.

This was around 11pm on a Thurs-

day, and would by no means have been a peak time for admissions.

It was not a pleasant environment, but the experience was genuinely impressive. Yes, there was a long wait, but the staff were dealing with everyone as fast and as well as they could with kindness and efficiency.

Given what they had to deal with,

their manner and attitudes were hugely positive. I felt guilty taking up their time with what, after some prodding and poking – and making me wince – turned out to be just minor ligament damage.

It is clear A&E departments are bearing the burden of much of the worst of the country's deprivation but from the receptionists to the nurses to the consultants and cleaners, the staff were getting on with it with a smile and with what seemed like real empathy and caring for all, regardless of circumstance.

Whatever the issues of NHS funding and management, and of wider society's problems that lead to so many people being in the depths of deprivation, it is clear we are very lucky in the calibre of workforce who take on the job of helping those in need.

From last Thursday's experience, they certainly have my respect.



being very ill which I'm sure donating some of the excess money would be a tremendous help to them for the same reason like traveling and accommodation. Glad ur wee 1 is home safe and well!

There was a mixed reaction to the news that councillors had agreed to allow a hut at Seil to be saved.

Fiona MacMillan: 'So pleased it was allowed to stay seems our councillor's can sometimes do the right thing.'

Minnie Moo: 'Disappointed but not surprised at the councillors' poor decision. And having made such a poor decision they have to have another meeting to try to justify it so it is less likely to be challenged.'

Claire Oswald: 'Congratulations Nikki. Jacqueline Macallister: There is also another Oban family who are down in Glasgow recently due to there wee one

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Gaelic is used as political football

Two items of importance for the future and survival of our Gaelic language, culture and bloodlines have emerged which give me cause for concern.

First, was John Swinney's announcement of another plan for the language and its objectives, as well as the money that will be thrown at it.

Throwing money at things is not an answer. If a language is being taught parrot fashion outwith its cultural base, it's already a wasted effort.

I also heard of some more propaganda coming from Scottish rural affairs minister Fergus Ewing saying that the crofting recommendations were almost complete, but not quite, sort of thing.

Both the language and crofting aims are more than a little loose and not geared towards genuine islanders. Allowing people in Edinburgh or elsewhere to take charge of your cultural ID and tell you what to do through a cheque book is wrong. It is our language that is daily being used and abused as a political football, and that's very wrong.

**Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearradh na Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.**

Tough decisions on how we pay for care

Headlines over the past month have highlighted significant concerns, expressed by communities, staff and politicians, related to the potential changes which the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership

have considered in order to balance their budget.

It is right that these issues are flagged up and communities feel ownership of the precious services which exist to support people in their local areas.

It is also essential that those faced with making the difficult decisions about prioritisation of public finances listen to those who use services and to local communities.

I worked in NHS Highland until May 2017 and I am aware of how challenging it is for service managers to meet the growing costs of health and social care from existing budgets. Continuous efforts are made to address areas of harm, waste and variation in the systems of care and some of these yield significant financial benefits – for example, reducing the number of people who fall and sustain injuries is beneficial primarily for the people themselves, but it also reduces the financial costs of hospital stays and surgery.

Nonetheless, the growing need for care cannot be ignored and neither can the growing costs of care. The current health and social care budget in Scotland is insufficient to cover the costs of delivering the kind of care we would like.

Service managers are faced with daily challenges about how the available budget is allocated for those with the greatest need.

Having worked with these manag-

ers, I know the level of commitment and hard work each dedicates to the provision of care.

In the same way that the frontline teams of care at home staff, social workers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals work for the good of the people of Argyll and Bute, so too do those who are less visible to the public but who are nonetheless focused on doing the right thing.

Rather than vilifying the providers of services in Argyll and Bute, we must find ways to work together to ensure our communities' needs are met in the best ways possible.

Argyll and Bute's communities hold many of the answers, are committed to sustainable and resilient futures, and are keen to work in collaboration with the statutory service providers.

This will require more active and meaningful engagement by the Health and Social Care Partnership with communities, so the voices of those who use, and of those who need, the services are not only heard but also attended to.

By forging new relationships we can find innovative and creative solutions to the challenges.

We need to consider what kind of health and social care services we want and whether we are willing to pay more for them.

We must address the issues which cause people in more deprived areas to have poorer health, and we must increase the investment in primary and community care to help people to stay independent and well.

We must also invest in social care and develop a career structure that recognises the contribution of carers to sustaining people in their own homes. All of this will require a greater percentage of our GDP than we currently pay.

**Pat Tyrrell,
Co-convenor,
Argyll and Bute Greens.**

Mull roads are in a dreadful state

I'm glad to read in *The Oban Times* that Councillor Alastair Redman from Islay recognises it is we drivers who are paying the price for Argyll and Bute Council's failure to maintain our roads properly.

I have paid out quite considerably over the past few months for car repairs which I (and my expert garage man) know to have been caused or exacerbated by the shocking state of Mull's roads. I am currently seeking compensation from the council for all this expenditure but I am not holding my breath.

I'm pleased the council is now proposing to spend £15 million over the next two years (and I've been told by Councillor Hugh MacGregor that work is due to start on a particularly notorious stretch here on Monday April 23 but I'll believe it when I see it) but I wonder why nothing's been done before.

Another Mull resident started a roads group a couple of years ago. Councillor Roddy McCuish came over for discussions, told us that something

should and would be done, and went away again. Result? No action.

Councillor MacGregor told me there had been no money for roads over the past few years (magically, there now seems to be some). This argument is untenable and outrageous. I also have no money, but I still have to get my car mended and maintained.

We pay taxes (and councillors) and are fully entitled to a safe and satisfactory built environment, including our roads infrastructure.

As well as affecting island residents (delays, road closures, diversions and general mayhem), I feel that many of our spring/summer visitors will turn tail and disappear as soon as they arrive, rather than risk their tyres, exhausts, suspension etc etc.

I should also say that I've been in touch with Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara about this, and I hope to meet with him during his constituency visits and surgeries during the Easter recess.

In the meantime, anything more you can do to highlight this issue would be welcomed. Thank you.

**Sarah Palmer,
Creach, Kiliemore, Aros,
Isle of Mull.**

Hospital story upset staff and patients

I am extremely disappointed and dismayed by your front page article in the paper ('Whistleblower says hospital staff stressed and overworked', *The Oban Times*, March 29) relating to Lorn and Islands hospital.

Your decision to print an anonymous letter detailing a number of inaccurate allegations not only damages the morale of the hard-working staff within the hospital but also damages the reputation of a local paper which is meant to accurately reflect the views of the people who live and work in Oban.

We are also frustrated that you chose to only partially publish our statement and omitted to include the first sentence which highlights the fact that our staff deliver a high standard of care for patients.

Our staff in Lorn and Islands Hospital not only work in the Oban area but they live there as well and they are dedicated, hard-working and always have patients as their first priority. Many of them have expressed to me their anger and dismay about this article.

An added consequence of articles such as this is that it also damages the image of the area as a desirable place for health and social care professionals to work and makes it much more difficult for us to recruit staff.

We would therefore ask that you think twice in future before printing articles based on unsubstantiated allegations and we would ask you to also remember that by printing scaremongering stories such as this you needlessly upset not only our staff but the many patients and their families who use our hospital on a regular basis.

**Caroline Henderson,
Local area manager,
Lorn and Islands Hospital.**

Ailean Caimbeul

furasta a thugisinn carson a bhiodh daoinne feargach a bhith a faicinn "dion" den t-seòrsa seo ga dhèanamh air mèirleach a bha air cròn milteach a chur an gniomh air dachaigh neach eile.

An dèidh breithneachaidh tha e coltach nach eil an lagh dol a thoirt casaidh sam bith an aghaidh Osborn-Brooks, ach tha an tachartas seo a' dùsgadh na ceiste as ùr a thaobh ire nan "còiréachan" a' tigh laitheann agus a' tigh leis an dèidh dhaochadh a león anns an àraicheadh.

Gun teagachd tha an lagh a' ceadachadh dha neach sam bith neart reasanta a chleachadh dus iad fhèin is an dachaigh a dhòn, ach tha agus bithidh daonnaon ceist annu mu dè tha "reusanta" gu bhith a' ciallachadh agus gach suidheachadh fa leò.

Ma tha dearbhadh ann gun robh am mèirleach a' teicheadh aig an àra san deach ionnsaigh a thoirt air, tha an lagh dol a pheanasachadh an neach a rinn sin a dh'aindeoin 's ged a bha an t-eucorach air briseadh a-staigh dhan dachaigh gu mi-laghail!

Saoiadh mise gum bheil e nàdarra gu leòr gun biodh an dà chuid eagal

agus feart a' bualadh neach sam bith a lorgadh cuideigin taobh a-staigh an dachaigh gun chead.

Feargach gun robh ionnsaigh ga thoirt air an cuid tèarainteachd agus fior eagal gun robh iad an cunnart am beatha bho chuideigin a rinn leithid sin de chron. Beagan is dà bhliadhna air ais cho-dhùin an Ard Chùirt gum faodadh daoinne ire mhi-chothromach de neart a chleachadh a' dion a mìan faraidheanach fèin agus 'neonach mur e seo a chuir stàd air eu cùis an aghaidh Osborn-Brooks.

THERE was understandable widespread support for Richard Osborn-Brooks following his arrest after a burglar in his home suffered an injury which led to the intruder's subsequent death.

The fact that no further action will be taken against Osborn-Brooks may be due to a 2016 High Court ruling that residents may now use 'disproportionate' force to protect themselves in their homes.

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

Your letters

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

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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



Big win for Mallaig in league debut

Mallaig	11
Kyle	2
Skye and Lochalsh AFA	

MALLAIG Football Club started life in the Skye and Lochalsh AFA league in spectacular fashion on Saturday with an emphatic 11-2 victory over Kyle. The Lochaber-based side sit top of the William Wilson League after the first match of this their inaugural season in the league after securing a double-figure victory the Lochalsh side.

Mallaig FC were admitted to the Skye and Lochalsh AFA league following a ballot held at the association AGM in February after a push to secure the future of a football team in the village.

And the team could not have opened the season in a more convincing manner.

After a somewhat indifferent pre-season, the Mallaig forwards certainly had their shooting boots with them on Saturday and made light work of a Kyle team that played well in patches but failed make any real impact on the match.

In a man of the match performance, Andy Cunningham was the standout player for the Lochaber outfit, as not only did he score a hat-trick but was a thorn in the side of the Kyle defence all afternoon.

There were plenty of positive performances in the Mallaig midfield and forward line, with stand outs being Aaron Milligan, Jaimie Young, Ross Douglas and Angus MacNaughton.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* about the club's new venture into the Skye and Lochalsh league, manager Jamie MacGregor said: 'It's positive for the club. It's been a long year without competitive football so the lads are desperate to get back out and playing.'

The club would like to thank The Steam Inn for the post-match hospitality as well as their other sponsors – Mallaig Harbour Authority and Mallaig Fisherman's Co-op. Next up for the Mallaig side is a home fixture against Sleat and Strath on Saturday April 14, which will be a big test for the team.



Fort captain Iain Foggo sits between guest speakers Alan Rough, left, and Chick Young, joined by the rest of the team at the club's sportsmen's dinner held in the Moorings Hotel last Saturday. IF F15 Fort Dinner 01. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Fort William FC hold a sportsmen's dinner

FORT William Football Club held their annual Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday night, April 7, which was hosted by two of Scottish football's most familiar faces.

Veteran sports broadcaster Chick Young and former Scotland goalkeeper Alan Rough kept the Fort William players and officials entertained during

the celebratory dinner at the Moorings Hotel.

A representative of the club said: 'Thank you to everyone who attended and for making it all worthwhile. We hope you all had an enjoyable evening and were suitably entertained by our fabulous speakers, Chick Young and

Alan Rough. Thanks must also go to our MC on the night, our good friend Dave Edwards, who set off on the road to Fort William straight from his Highland League reporting duties at Inverurie.'

The club would also like to thank its supporters, its many sponsors and all the local businesses who very generously

Gutsy Fort William push Nairn County close

Nairn County	1
Fort William	0
Highland League	

FORT William came to close to causing an upset away to mid-table Nairn County after a first-half strike proved enough for the home side to claim victory at Station Park last Wednesday night, April 4.

Inches

Nairn had the early pressure but it was Fort William who were inches away from opening the scoring on 15 minutes.

John Treasurer had the time to get the ball under control and lift his head some 20 yards from

goal and his curling effort flew just past the postage stamp.

Nairn then called Fort goalkeeper Martin Mackinnon into action on 23 minutes with Dylan Mackenzie pulling down a high ball wide on the left and cutting on to his right foot but his 18-yard grounder was easily held by the visitors' number one at his near post.

County broke down the Fort resistance on 38 minutes after Tom MacLennan sent an in-swinging cross over from the left to Dylan Mackenzie at the far post.

The striker headed the ball back across goal and Max Ewan

was on hand to bundle it in from a few yards.

Ewen Urquhart almost grabbed his first Nairn County goal when he stepped on to Ewan's lay-off just inside the box but his low shot drifted narrowly past the right-hand post.

Cohen Ramsay ran on to Callum MacLean's clipped pass forward on 51 minutes but his shot from 18 yards flew just past the near post.

Despite their number of chances, County were unable to hit the target, keeping the scores at 1-0 at the half-time break and giving visitors, Fort William, some hope of an upset.

The Fort broke forward on 53 minutes with Treasurer feeding Aidan Taylor but his attempted loft over Hoban dropped just over the crossbar.

Then, three minutes later, the ball dropped invitingly to the unmarked Barna Tot 15 yards out at the far post off a cross from the left but his first time effort fizzed just wide of the target.

Fort almost found an equaliser on 72 minutes but Farquhar MacRae could only send a cross from the left sailing off target at the far post.

Despite creating some of the better chances in the second

Football

donated items towards the raffle and auction on the night, as well as the Moorings Hotel and their attentive staff who looked after everyone throughout the evening.

Football

half, the Fort were unable to capitalise. Although frustrated by what could have been, the team will take heart from their gutsy performance.

Fort William's home match against Keith on Saturday was postponed on Saturday, April 14.

The Fort's were in action last night (Wednesday April 11), after the *Lochaber Times* went to print, and will be in action again on Saturday April 14, as they welcomed Formartine United to Claggan Park.

10-pin bowling singles results

10-pin bowling

AFTER week two of the 10-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Brian Johnstone still leads the scratch league with 28 points followed by Gary Cowan with 25 points with Pam Weller in third place with 23 points. The handicap league is led by Iain Gregor with 26 points followed by Steve Day on 24 points with Jacob Payne in third place on 23 points.

Brian Johnstone still leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 893 pins followed by Gary Cowan second with 875 and Pam Weller in third with 864 pins.

The top individual scratch game this week came from John Weller with a 190. The highest three-game scratch series of the week came from Tommy McKnight with 454 followed by John Weller with 449 and Brian Johnstone and Gary Cowan both with 432. John Weller had the best three-game handicap series with 611 followed by Tommy McKnight with 607 and Iain Gregor and Steve Day both with 595.

Lochaber club lotteries

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 7, 17 and 19. There were no winners this. The jackpot for will be £200 for the draw today (Thursday April 12).

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 1, 11 and 20. There was no winner this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £400.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lottery numbers for this week were 4, 5 and 18. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £600.



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Mallaig FC after their emphatic home victory against Kyle in the first match of their debut season in the William Wilson League. NO F15 Mallaig Kyle 01.

Fort William club nets Marine Harvest sponsorship

Netball

FORT William Netball Club have recently invested in a range of training gear and new sets of kit thanks to their new sponsors.

Marine Harvest are the new sponsors of the Lochaber netball team, who have recently got a new sets of kit.

They were also able to purchase new match balls, practice balls and also an electric pump with the new sponsorship money, as well as a crazy catch net which helps the players practice moving around the court and catching a ball from different angles.

The team train on Tuesday nights at Lochaber High School from 7pm to 8pm. All abilities welcome, although you must be aged 16 or over.



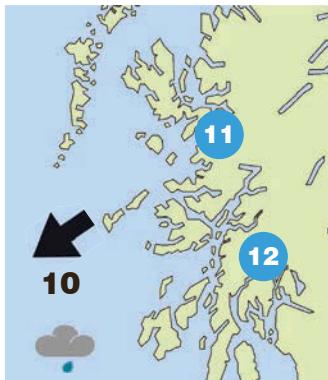
Fort William Netball Club would like to thank Marine Harvest for funding new strips and equipment.



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Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 12, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date am pm Thur 03.37 3.3 09.55 1.5 15.58 3.2 22.10 1.3 Fri 04.14 3.5 10.31 1.2 16.32 3.4 22.44 1.1 Sat 04.50 3.7 11.04 0.9 17.04 3.6 23.16 0.8 Sun 05.26 3.9 11.36 0.7 17.34 3.8 23.47 0.6 Mon 05.57 4.0 12.08 0.6 18.02 3.9 *** * * Tues 00.21 0.5 06.28 4.0 12.42 0.5 18.31 3.9 Wed 00.58 0.5 07.00 4.0 13.18 0.5 19.06 3.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25 Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55 Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16 Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30 Lochboisdale +0.30

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist

Oban to Coll/Tiree

Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate Moderate Moderate

Moderate Moderate Moderate

Moderate Moderate Moderate

WEATHER
Thursday Cloudy Breezy from the east Temperatures 7°C to 12°C Friday Cloudy with light rain at times Breezy from the east north east Temperatures 7°C to 12°C Weekend Outlook Cloudy with light rain Breezy from the south east Temperatures 9°C to 13°C