

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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The Oban Times invited all our candidates to submit a statement on issues important to the people of Argyll and Bute. This week they focus on Economic Development.



Election 2016

Argyll candidates

Join the debate ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 - Argyll & Bute - at The Oban Times' first Hustings. Application form inside.



QUESTION TIME

THE OBAN TIMES' FIRST HUSTINGS

Oban hotel up for sale

A PROMINENT hotel in a commanding position on the Oban seafront has been put up for sale with a price tag of £1.2 million.

The Caledonian Hotel is being sold by its investment owners. A hotel management company is currently operating the hotel.

Estate agent Colliers said that the 59-bedroom property features an excellent range of bar, lounge, restaurant and kitchen facilities to meet the demands of not only residents, but also the high volume of 'passing footfall' from tourists and locals alike, given its seafront location.

Tiree surfing duo's success

TWO TIREE boys are riding high after taking top spots in the Scottish surfing championships.

Ben Larg, 11, and his friend Finn MacDonald, 14, won the under-14 and under-18 events at the Scottish surfing championships in Thurso last weekend.

The qualification means the two surfers will be on the Scottish National Surfing Squad, which will go on to represent Scotland at The International Surfing Awards World Championships in Portugal later this year.

Both boys are members of the Tiree Surf Club, which was started last year with the support of Blackhouse Watersports and Suds Surf School.

School pledge

OBAN High School will be open and ready for use by the Easter holidays 2018, a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee heard on Tuesday.

School construction will get under way next month, with excavation works, including drainage and the laying of a ground floor footprint done by September.

At the same time new traffic lights will be put in place at the Soroba Road junction to improve traffic flow in the area.

The £32 million school is being funded by Scottish Futures Trust, Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and HubNorth.

Stormy weather is picture perfect for reader



Oban Times reader Ron Allner sent in this photograph, which he took on Monday April 11, of the atmospheric clouds over Ben Lawers and Loch Tay. If you have a photograph you would like to share with us, email it to editor@obantimes.co.uk

Ganavanan site to go on sale

LOUISE GLEN
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A MEETING held in private by Argyll and Bute councillors has sealed the fate of land believed by many in Oban to be owned by the town.

Following the discussion at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting on Monday afternoon, a site at Ganavanan is to go on to the open market.

The Oban Times has been told there are a number of interested parties, including a sea food restaurant, a kayak centre and a community interest company building.

It is likely that only one of

these proposals will be given the lease to the toilets and land.

In the past, the land has been rented out for only part of the year.

Because the meeting was not open to the public, the full details of what was discussed have not been disclosed. The Oban Times tried to overturn the decision to exclude the press, arguing public interest in the land.

In 2015, a letter from clan chief Morag Morley MacDougall of MacDougall, sent to The Oban Times, said her forebearers sold the land to Oban town council on the proviso that it remained in the ownership of the people of Oban. To date, the council

has sold off large parts of the land. A luxury housing estate now sits where a bandstand and beach hut once sat. Fees for parking on the site are due to be increased this year.

Initially the request to hear the matter in public was backed by five of the seven Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors.

But following advice from council officers about information on private business matters, the request was turned down.

The council's deputy leader Councillor Ellen Morton, who was present at the meeting, said the information about the land should be made available to the public and financial matters

should be heard at a different time.

But officers said there was the possibility that within a verbal report to be given to councillors by economic development manager Fergus Murray, sensitive information 'could' be made available about financial matters and that should not be in the public domain.

When The Oban Times asked for a summary of what was to be discussed, Councillor Roddy McCuish said the information had only come to light that morning and was significant to the future of the land.

In his defence, Roddy McCuish said that at least three

items that would have previously been heard in private had been open to the public at previous meetings. He said: 'We want to be as open and transparent as we possibly can.'

Following the meeting one disgruntled councillor said: 'It seemed we were being asked to make a decision on excluding the press and public but in effect we didn't have any power to change anything.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed: 'Members were updated on where we are with leasing the public toilet and adjacent land at Ganavanan.'

'We will now be moving forward with advertising the site.'

Cocaine 'fell out of pocket'

A SMALL packet of cocaine was found by cleaners on the Oban train, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

It was handed over to the police and was traced to Fraser John MacKie, 34, of 17 Lunga Road, Soroba.

MacKie admitted possessing the drug at Oban Train Station on August 29 last year; he had bought the small amount, 0.5g valued at £20 when in Glasgow. His defence agent said MacKie had been 'heavily under the influence of alcohol' while partying with friends and the packet fell out of his pocket. Sheriff Colin McKay fined him £200.

Found with knife and drugs

A 34-YEAR-OLD man visiting Argyll on a fishing trip was found in possession of a knife and cocaine.

Craig Patrick Cannon, of 15 Halley Place, Glasgow, admitted the offences at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The car in which he and a friend were travelling was stopped by police and the offences discovered.

Cannon, a former chef, said he had the knife for gutting and preparing their catch.

Sheriff Colin McKay gave Cannon four months in prison for each offence, to run concurrently, because of his lengthy criminal record.

Fatal accident

A YOUNG woman has died and four have been rescued from a car that went into the water after the bridge on Loch Avich on the road to Dalavich, at around 7.30pm on Monday evening.

A police underwater team was on site as The Oban Times went to press.

No names have been confirmed at this time. The women are not believed to be local.



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Council set to start interviews for chief executive position

INTERVIEWS for the post of chief executive at Argyll and Bute Council are due to get under way this week.

The local authority says it is pleased with 'nearly 20' applications for the top job that attracts a salary in excess of £114,000 per year.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We've had a very promising response - nearly 20 applications - for the post of chief executive.'

'Our focus obviously is on finding the best person to help drive forward the work

of the council, in meeting challenges and delivering progress. We've therefore put in place a robust recruitment process.'

'Applications will be assessed by councillors and representatives of SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) in order to ensure suitability for both the role and the area.'

'Applicants short-listed for interview will be invited to demonstrate and discuss their views on how best to serve the interests of Argyll and Bute as

this council's chief executive. As well as with councillors and members of SOLACE, interviewees will meet with community planning, trade union and employee representatives.'

'We expect to be able to make an announcement on the outcome mid to end of April.'

'Our new chief executive will be warmly welcomed and supported in settling into their role and making a positive difference for Argyll and Bute.'

School build assurance

A FIRM assurance was given this week that Public Finance Initiative (PFI) schools in Argyll and Bute were not built by the construction company at the centre of school closures in Edinburgh.

Ellen Morton, deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council, told a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee on Tuesday: 'The company in Edinburgh have not been involved in any way with schools in Argyll.'

PFI arrangements for Oban Primary Campus meant it was constructed in 2008 by Barr Construction.

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Derry's famous visitor is aging west coast whale

LOUISE GLEN
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Scientists fear the West Coast Community are at risk of extinction.

A KILLER whale, that has been in the Derry area of Northern Ireland since 1977, has been revealed as part of the rare West Coast Community pod, after a case of mistaken identity had classified Comet as Dopey Dick. The notorious Dopey Dick sparked intrigue in November 1977 when he swam up the River Foyle and into Derry City, apparently in pursuit of salmon. The whale remained five kilometres upriver of Loch Foyle for two days. Amazed at the sight and confused about its intentions, locals dubbed him Dopey Dick. Nearly four decades later, it has been revealed that Dopey Dick is the killer whale known more affectionately as Comet – a

member of the highly vulnerable West Coast Community of killer whales. The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) has been documenting the group's

movements and interactions since 1994, when the charity was established. The group – four males and four females – are not known to interact with other populations

in the north-east Atlantic and since studies began, have never successfully reproduced. As a result the pod is at risk of imminent extinction.

The discovery of Comet's alias was made when old photographs of Dopey Dick were uploaded onto a Facebook page.

Comet has been photographed many times in both Scotland and Ireland by researchers and members of the public, enabling scientists to track his movements.

Killer whale expert Andy Foote and HWDT science officer Conor Ryan recognised the whale as Comet, who was last recorded by the HWDT off Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, in September 2014.

Dr Foote said: 'When I saw the photos on Facebook, I noticed that the white eye patch of Dopey Dick sloped backwards in a really distinctive fashion.

'This is a trait we see in all the West Coast Community whales, but it's not that common in other killer whale populations.

'The photographs were all quite grainy, but it was still possible to see some of the distinctive features unique to Comet.

'I couldn't believe it, he was already a full-grown male back in 1977, when I was just five years old.'

Dr Conor Ryan said: 'Most of what we know about this precariously small and isolated population comes from photographs submitted to us by members of the public. 'The population is too small to study in a targeted way, so the public have a big role to play.'

The trust encourages people to report their sightings using the online form found at www.hwdt.org. Photographs are extremely valuable when researching

whales and dolphins as they allow scientists to identify individuals through unique markings.

Sightings officer for the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Pádraig Whooley said: 'This match places Comet very much at the upper limits of the typical life expectancy of male killer whales.

'Adult males generally live to around 30 years old, but with an upper range of 50-60 years.

'So, clearly time is not only running out for this individual whale, it is equally running out for whale biologists, who may not have much time left to gather information on this unique local population of killer whales that have made the waters of the British Isles their home.'

Comet has a distinctive dorsal fin about 1.8 metre in height: it leans to the right and has a notch near the top.

Photographs confirm that he was an adult male (at least 19 years old) when seen in 1977 making him at least 58 years old.

The latest match was made possible thanks to the Scottish Orca Facebook page which shares images of killer whales in Scottish waters.

The information is significant because it confirms suspicions that some of the whales in the endangered West Coast Community are very old.

They have not produced any calves since records began.

Fears for their survival have been heightened following the discovery of toxins in the marine environment, which can cause infertility among mammals such as killer whales.

Comet has been reclassified after pictures of his adventures were shared.

Youngsters help build cool hut at play park

YOUNGSTERS are excited to have a new addition to Tobermory play park on Mull in the form of a willow igloo.

With tuition from willow expert Alexandra James, children and parents helped to build the hut over two days, bringing new enthusiasm to the project.

The tendering process for the main play equipment is now under way and it is hoped work will start over the summer.

The play park committee is grateful to everyone who continues to support the appeal and looks forward to sharing final plans for the play park soon.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Procrastination can be fatal (part II)

LAST month I mentioned the case of a patient who came to see me and ended up being hospitalised that same day.

Having an eye examination probably saved that patient's life. Thankfully, such cases are relatively rare. A more frequent occurrence is the patient who feels their vision is excellent and who drives to their appointment, only to discover their vision is woefully inadequate for driving.

This scenario happens weekly. Our brains are amazing creations. They fill in the blanks in our vision system when the optics of our eyes are below par. The result is we all feel we are able to see well when driving and, as we have never had an accident, we must be excellent drivers. The reality is different. When asked to read a number plate at 20.5 metres many of us can't manage, even with glasses. This can be a result of needing

an updated spectacle prescription or having an eye disease. More often it's when we develop cataracts. These reduce the amount of light reaching the retina at the back of our eyes. Vision gradually becomes misty or foggy, particularly in bright sunlight or when driving at night. I know many of my elderly patients avoid night driving as they can't cope with on-coming headlights.

The current system for licensing drivers relies on self-certification. We are morally and legally obliged to keep our vision up to scratch or stop driving. Regular eye examinations are not yet a legal requirement for drivers in the UK, but it is something we should all do at least every two years. None of us would want to be responsible for a car crash resulting from our poor vision. Regular eye examinations might save your life and help prevent the loss of someone else's life.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Tributes paid to John MacLellan

HEARTFELT tributes have been paid to Kilchoman Distillery's general manager John MacLellan who passed away at his Port Charlotte home on Easter Day. He was 60 years of age and had been gallantly fighting a terminal illness for the past two years.

A native of Port Charlotte, he became involved in the distilling industry when he joined the staff at Bunnahabhainn Distillery as a mashman in 1989. He went on to become the distillery's brewer before taking over the managerial responsibilities.

He became manager of the island's newest distillery at Kilchoman in 2010 and three years later was named joint Whisky Distillery Manager of the Year by Whisky Magazine.

John was an outstanding ambassador for Islay and its famed product, and earned the respect of his peers while steadfastly remaining a true Ileach.

More than 400 mourners gathered at Kilchoman Distillery to



John MacLellan was an outstanding ambassador for Islay.

celebrate his life and pay their respects to this giant of the whisky trade before the interment took place at Kilchoman parish cemetery. Among those paying tribute was Anthony Wills, founder and managing director of the Kilchoman distillery, who said: 'John brought a wealth of knowledge to

our operations and his massive following in the whisky world certainly put Kilchoman on the map. 'What I have learned from him will continue to build Kilchoman and I will always be grateful.'

As John leaves us to claim his angel's share, our thoughts are with his wife Lindy, son Sandy and daughter Rosie in their sad loss.

House on the Hill

FIRST-TIME visitors sailing to Islay are often greatly impressed by the imposing baronial mansion which commands the hilltop overlooking the approach to the ferry terminal at Port Askaig.

This is, of course, Dunlossit House, the island home of the billionaire merchant banker and local landowner Bruno L Schroder.

Originally a shooting lodge, it was converted into a more grand residence in 1868. The property was purchased in 1890 by Donald Turner Martin of Kintour, who married Isabella Martin Gilmore from the planned and now highly-protected development of Eaglesham in East Refrewshire.

Unfortunately, the refurbished building was destroyed by fire and



Dunlossit House is an impressive view when sailing into Port Askaig.

this led Martin to build the current mansion house.

Donald Martin's father-in-law came to live in the house and remained there until his death in 1905, five years after his daughter's death in Edinburgh.

This led to the Martin Memorial Cross being erected in the Dunlossit grounds and it is similar to the Martin Memorial found at the burial ground at Eaglesham Castle.

The Martin connection came to an end in 1911 when the property was purchased by W A Bankier. It was then sold on in 1918 to Nathaniel Dunlop and continued in his possession until his death in 1931.

The mansion house and estate was then purchased by Helmut Schroder in 1937 and, following his

death in 1969, it became the Islay residence of his son Bruno.

In 1997, the family purchased two cannons which had been in use as bollards at the nearby Port Askaig pier. These were restored at the Royal Armoury at Fort Nelson and one of the pair was fired at the official launch of the new Islay lifeboat 'Helmut Schroder II of Dunlossit', gifted by Bruno and his sister Charmaine Mallinckrodt in memory of their father.

Today, Dunlossit House remains a lived-in stately home with breathtaking views of the Sound of Islay and beyond.

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

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Iona to benefit from new mains water supply

RESIDENTS and holidaymakers on the island of Iona will benefit from improved security of their water supply when Scottish Water invests £1.4million in a new main.

Work is set to begin next week to provide an alternative to the ageing existing main supply, with a new 0.8-mile long main under the Sound of Iona, linking with the network on Mull.

The new main will improve the resilience of the water supply and reduce the risk of bursts affecting the customers on the island, whose population can more than treble in the summer.

Due to be carried out from mid-April for an estimated six weeks, the pipe will be laid from the back of a specialist barge, and Scottish Water will look to ensure that the switch to the new water pipe will not result in a disruption to supply.

John MacLean, convener of Iona Community Council, has commended the water supplier for its work and levels of communication with local groups.

He said: 'Scottish Water has made sure it has had open dialogue, which included a presentation to the island

community, and it is pleasing to know that it is undertaking this work behind the scenes to help the island with its supply of drinking water.

'Having fresh water is something that we can often take for granted, so as residents we fully support the work and look forward to benefiting from increased water security.'

Disruption in the area is expected to be minimal, with a small team set to carry out localised excavation work on Iona and Mull, without any need for traffic management.

Ruaridh MacGregor, regional communities manager at Scottish Water, said: 'Scottish Water is committed to investing in communities across Scotland to maintain and improve our water network.'

'This project has been widely received by the community as the new pipeline being installed will significantly improve the resilience of the island's water supply, which had suffered a burst in the past year.'

The project will see the installation of a plastic pipeline housed in a metal casing, which will be laid over the sea-bed at the Sound of Iona.

Oban Times newsdesk
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Council plea for housing

OBAN Community Council has asked that land, affordable housing and social rent levels are achieved in the area, following the publication of a housing survey.

Responding to the Scottish Government's consultation Oban community councillors asked that: 'New affordable housing is built in areas of high demand, including Oban and Lorn, with steps taken to ensure that suitable land is available to allow this to be achieved.'

'Affordable housing in each area includes a substantial number of properties available at social rent levels to match needs.'

'Those leaving the Armed Forces have priority access to suitable social housing.'

Volunteers needed

A VOLUNTEER-RUN café in Oban is in need of people to get involved and help man the business four hours per day.

Grassroots Café recently appealed for volunteers on social media to help ease the workload.

Ada Daly, who volunteers at the café, said: 'It really is a nice place, but we are in desperate need of volunteers. We just had two people leave as they found full-time work and moved away, which is lovely, but now there's only four of us. We need someone to help man the ship from noon to 4pm.'

Grassroots was broken into earlier this year and a window was smashed

Oban tradesman David Smith of DS Joinery, who replaced the window free of charge, said: 'The glazed window was donated by Hamish Hoey's and fitted by myself. The staff were really appreciative and friendly, and I admire what they do.'

To find out more or to volunteer, visit www.grassroots-oban.org.

Sentence deferred

POLICE who searched an Oban man's home found equipment used to supply cannabis, the town's sheriff court heard on Monday.

'Police recovered goods associated with supply of cannabis; a grinder, two sets of scales, bags and a list of names with numerical figures next to them,' said Kevin Docherty, procurator fiscal, adding that cannabis found in the flat had a value of more than £500.

Sheriff Colin McKay deferred sentence until May 24 for a report to be prepared on Garry Higgins, 41, of Coruisk, Corran Brae, Dunollie, who admitted being concerned with the supply of cannabis at his home on January 6, 2016.

His defence agent Kevin McGuinness said there was a medical background to the case.

Glencruitten resident hits out at unsightly rubbish

DAVID MCPHEE
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

A GLENCRUITTEN resident has complained about the amount of litter surrounding a woodland area near her home.

Empty bottles surround the site on Glencruitten Road and Ada Daly, who moved to the area last year, said she saw a syringe lying near the grass last week.

She said: 'I arrived here last year and there was litter there already and it has just been added to over time.'

'There's bed and breakfasts near by. It's disgusting that people have to look at it. You should come and see what it is like after the Oban Live concert. I am sure tourists see this mess.'

'I thought someone would have complained already – it's painful that people have to look at it or don't people care?'

She added: 'I would like it cleaned up. Can we not afford that?'

'I have thought about getting a bin bag out and cleaning it myself, but then I thought why



should I if I pay council tax? 'People may not say anything because they think no-one is

going to do anything about it. Maybe putting a bin there would help.

'We are supposed to be a lovely tourist town, but I am not impressed. We need to be proud



of our town, but we can't with this.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are not aware of any complaints about litter in this area. If people have concerns they should contact our amenity services team on 01546 605514 and they will look into it. We would ask people who enjoy the area to take pride in it, helping to look after it by keeping it clear of litter.'

'In terms of Oban Live, we have been working closely with the organisers and all the necessary arrangements will be in place.'

North Pier pontoons given the go ahead

A PLAN for pontoons on the north side of Oban's North Pier was given the go ahead at this week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

Over the next year, 36-finger-berth pontoons, for varying sizes of yachts, boats and commercial vessels, connected to the Oban Times slipway will appear in the water.

The commitment for the pontoons is seen by Argyll and Bute Council as a major step forward in the development of the town centre and its economic regeneration.

Deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council councillor Ellen Morton, who attended the meeting, called the decision 'a good news story'.

The plan has been almost 10 years in the making. It will enable boats and yachts to sail to the town centre.

Councillor Morton said: 'We will finally get the pontoons on the north side of the North Pier.'

'The pontoons in Campbeltown are fantastic and the pontoons coming into the town centre are making all the difference.'

'Members will know that when I came into post three years ago I promised that I would deliver pontoons.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson echoed Mrs Morton's words: 'I want to say a very personal thank you for all the hard work you have put in.'

The plans are part of the Oban CHORD (Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon) programme which is a publicly-funded £6.9 million project to rejuvenate Oban town centre.

Plans for a maritime quarter visitor centre was also agreed by the area committee using the 'footprint' of the current White Building on the North Pier.

Area committee chairman Roddy McCuish said: 'It is great to see this project finally come to the table. This is thanks to the hard work of many people, including Oban Bay Marine.'

A Crown Office manager, who attended the meeting, asked about a 12-month embargo on the issuing of moorings on the Corran Ledge, north of the pier in front of St Columba's Cathedral. Project manager, Ms MacDonald told him that there would be no problems with moorings rented out in that area. The pontoons project is already under way with the drilling of bore holes on the sea bed. Later this month wave studies and further work will be carried out.

It is hoped that the pontoons will be in place by July 2017.



Councillor Ellen Morton at the site of the new pontoons at North Pier. 7_t16ellen1

LORN lines

Rotary cash boosts school award work

LORN Rotary Club members enjoyed a stimulating presentation from Crawford Inglis and Lucy Girling on Oban High School's involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme.

To achieve a bronze, silver or gold award from this very demanding and diverse non-academic programme is seen by employers as an important adjunct to students' other qualifications.

The programme now forms part of the curriculum at the high school and student participation is at quite a high level.

Mr Inglis and Ms Girling, both teachers at the school,



received a cheque for £500 from Rotary President Ken Moncrieff, above, towards the cost of running the scheme which is heavily dependant on school staff volunteering.

Youngsters' dedication pays dividends

LORN Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group presented successful participants with their awards at a prize-giving last week.

Nine young people completed their bronze award and Rachel Campbell completed her award at silver level.

For the bronze award the participants have to train for and carry out a two-day expedition, camping out overnight.

They also have to devote an hour a week over a period of three to six months in each of three categories – a programme of physical fitness, a skill and volunteering. There are many benefits to taking part in the award, and anyone



Jenny McIntyre, Hazel Smith, Rowan Watkins, Eve Beaton, Rachel Campbell, Rhona McCracken, Katie Houston, Angus Campbell and James Campbell. Not present is Poppy Wilkinson.

who has achieved their award has shown a degree of commitment, organisational ability and determination.

Oban OAP jailed for 'gross breach of decency'

AN OBAN pensioner was sentenced to 18 months in jail this week, after being found guilty of sex crimes.

He will also be on the sex offenders' register and subject to strict controls.

'I think the circumstances of this case do point to a need to keep particular members of the public from harm,' said Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC as he handed down the sentence on Monday at the town's sheriff court. 'This was a gross breach of common decency which calls for a custodial sentence.'

On February 19, Stanislaw Madej, of 3 Stalcair Crescent, Oban, was found guilty by majority verdict of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour towards one girl, and guilty by majority verdict that on various occasions he committed lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour towards a second child.

The jury returned unanimous verdicts of not guilty on two other charges involving the first girl.

The offences were said to have taken place in Oban between January 9, 2008 and December 5, 2014.

Madej, aged 74, was sentenced to 18 months in custody with 18 months on an extended supervision order. He was placed on the sex offenders' register for an indefinite period, and any camera equipment storage and devices for storing still or moving images he owns must be available for police to examine at any time.

The trial had heard that Madej's crimes came to light after the first girl had sexual health lessons at her school, following which her mother and teachers noticed a change in her behaviour.

At the beginning of the trial, Stanislaw Madej pled not guilty to nine charges; he was acquitted of five of these.

Sheriff Bovey had called for a report on Madej before he passed sentence. Throughout the trial Madej maintained his innocence.

In court this week his defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'In the case of the report, he adopted the same position as at court, and throughout the case, of his innocence.'

He added that Madej had showed no empathy towards his victims, no insight and maintained his innocence.

'He has had alcohol problems for many years; this is still on going, a day-to-day situation,' said Mr Thornton.

'He has a far from rosy future; he is divorced from his family because of this. The man is in effect a loner, no friends, no family support.'

'He has accepted he has no future in Oban and when able to do so he will move to Poland to live with his wife. His future is finished in this town.'

Oban Times
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01631 568000

Kebabish win helps to put Oban on the map



Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, far left, Hashmat Ali Chaudhry and Danyal Ali Chaudhry, with their award. It is the eighth award the George Street curry house has won. 16_t16kebabish01

KEBABISH Curry House in Oban has won its eighth award, this time winning the title of Healthy Curry Provider in Scotland by the Scottish Curry Awards.

The team beat nine finalists from all over the country to win the honour. Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, Kebabish managing director, said: 'It's great to beat

everyone. All the other finalists were from big cities and most of them didn't even know where Oban was. I feel proud to represent Oban and I am proud to

be part of a team which is providing healthy food. I could not do it without my team. Well done to them for providing hygienic and healthy food to the Oban

community. I'd also like to thank the customers who have supported us throughout the year. They are the ones who nominated us for the award.'

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Care leavers invited to share experiences

YOUNG people who have recently left care in Scotland are being invited to share their experience with the National Confidential Forum.

The National Confidential Forum was set up in August 2014 to listen to the experience of anyone who spent time in institutional care as a child in Scotland, including residential care, health service and boarding schools.

What individuals share with the forum will help it to make recommendations on how care can be improved in the future.

This week, the forum has launched a campaign to target 18- to 35-year-olds who spent time in care when they were children.

To date, the forum has heard from individuals, mainly aged between 40 and 60 years old, and the team is keen to hear the experiences of those who have recently left care.

For more information on the National Confidential Forum, visit www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk or search on Facebook.

Cashing in on crime

MONEY seized from criminals will be used to support projects aimed at getting young people active, justice secretary Michael Matheson has announced.

Community organisations working with disadvantaged young people across Scotland will soon be able to apply for a share of the £2 million CashBack facilities fund to upgrade equipment and improve their facilities in a bid to get more young people involved in sport and physical activity.

To find out more, visit www.cashbackforcommunities.org

Lifeboat called out

THE VOLUNTEER crew of Oban RNLI lifeboat had their breakfast interrupted on Saturday morning when they were called out at 7.05am to assist a motor vessel adrift in Ardmucknish Bay, close to the mouth of Loch Etive.

Once on scene the volunteer crew established a tow line and took the boat the short distance to Dunstaffnage Marina.

The lifeboat was then able to return to station and was ready for service again by 8.30am



Clockwise from top left: The pupils pose for a photograph before having their hairstyles altered (16_theadshave01); A slightly more colourful group of pupils reveal their new hairstyles (16_theadshave02); Abi Spink, who is in primary one, holds up her ponytails, which she donated to charity (16_theadshave03); Ben Spink, 8, has his hair shaved by Kim MacLean (16_theadshave04).

Park pupils are 'life-shavers'

DAVID MCPHEE
dmpcpee@obantimes.co.uk

PUPILS from Park primary school recently shaved, sprayed or snipped their hair for a good cause.

The kids opted for a new style in order to raise money for Clic Sargent, a charity that helps children and their families who are dealing with cancer

and, in particular, fellow pupil Donnahall Ruairidh, who was diagnosed with Wilms' tumour last year.

The 'life-shavers' made their way to the Littlemiks Hair Salon in Dunbeg last Friday to receive a haircut by owner and Donnahall's sister, Kim MacLean.

Donna Denholme, from Oban, who organised the event, said: 'Aiden [her son] wanted to

get his hair done.

'He heard about the last group who got their heads shaved in February and he nagged and nagged until he got it done.

'We are all in a WhatsApp group, so I asked the fellow mums if anyone else wanted to do it. We raised £456 for the Just Giving page.'

Ms MacLean said: 'It's brilliant. I didn't expect there to be this many people here today.

'Donna got in touch and I said if you arrange it, I will cut their hair.'

'Clic Sargent has been absolutely great. It has been like my mum's second family.'

Ms MacLean wanted to give an additional thanks to the people and businesses that raised money with sponsor sheets – the Ark Hair and Beauty, the Studio, Dunbeg Stores, Katy Campbell, James

'Tough Guy' MacMillan, Drew MacKinnon, Josha Lane, Sean Rowan, and Aileen Clark, for all the knitting she has done for the charity.

Ms MacLean and everyone who has helped raise funds have so far achieved a total of £6,960.53, with £2,272.15 coming from sponsor sheets and knitting, and £4,688.38 has been donated online from various people and events.

Politicians canvassed as mountaineering council members consider their vote

POLITICAL parties are being asked to state their views on six priorities for Scotland's mountains to help hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers decide where to place their vote on May 5.

With one month until the Scottish parliamentary elections, the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoFS) has written to Scotland's main political parties urging they state their party's views and commitment to six priority areas for protecting Scottish mountains.

The organisation plans to share these responses with its 13,000 members and many more supporters from Scotland's hillwalking, climbing and



The MCoFS has asked politicians to state their views on the six priorities for Scotland's mountains. Photograph: Stephen Day

mountaineering community to help inform individuals' voting decisions.

Mike Watson, president of the MCoFS, explained: 'We sent our election briefing A Sustainable

Future for Scotland's Mountains to more than 250 parliamentary candidates and sitting MSPs earlier this year, and our members are now keen to hear parties' responses to our six priorities

for political focus.'

The MCoFS has highlighted six key priorities: to develop a shared vision for Scotland's uplands; to support sustainable economic development for mountain communities; enforce existing legal powers and safeguard Scotland's access rights; guaranteed planning protection for mountain landscapes, so that development is planned and regulated to enhance rather than diminish mountain landscapes and wild land; capitalise on the health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation, with these being promoted in both education and health services; and a commitment to improving safety in the mountains.

A sector-wide mountain safety group, led by the MCoFS, is developing a strategy for improving safety in Scotland's mountains, and government investment in safety services such as mountain weather and avalanche forecasts, training and mountain rescue plays a vital part in this and must continue.

The MCoFS, which is encouraging its members and supporters to hold their parliamentary candidates and canvassers to account on these six matters, will publish all the responses it receives from Scotland's political parties on its website and in a pre-election communication to its nearly 13,000 members in the run up to polling day.

Family in fresh plea over missing Jason

POLICE Scotland has renewed its appeal for sightings of a Drumnadrochit man who went missing in the middle of March and has not been seen since.

A statement from the family of Jason Gates said they want to know the 39-year-old man is safe.

The statement read: 'As a family, we're very grateful to members of the emergency services and search and rescue personnel who continue the search for Jason.'

'We'd like to thank members of the local community for their assistance and to everyone who has shared the appeal via social media.'

'It's been over three weeks since we've heard from Jason and we are increasingly anxious.'

'We'd also like to appeal to Jason directly: if you can see this message, please make contact so we know you're OK. We just want you to be safe and to be reunited as a family.'

'As the search continues, we remain hopeful Jason will be found and reiterate our thanks to everyone involved in the search.'

'Any information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, may assist in bringing Jason back to us and so we would urge anyone who can help to get in touch.'

Straight talking

TO MARK Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month NHS Highland has issued a short video in which three Highland women do some straight talking to tackle some of the 'secrecy' that surrounds the disease.

Ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cancer amongst women in Scotland, but because in the past talking about gynaecological issues has caused embarrassment, too little is known and too little is talked about the disease.

Now, the board hopes the video will put across the message that every woman should know what is normal for her and her body, and recognise that if things change they should go to see their doctor.

The video can be found on NHS Highland website at www.nhs.uk/highland.scot.nhs.uk/news/pages/video/raises-awareness-of-ovarian-cancer.aspx

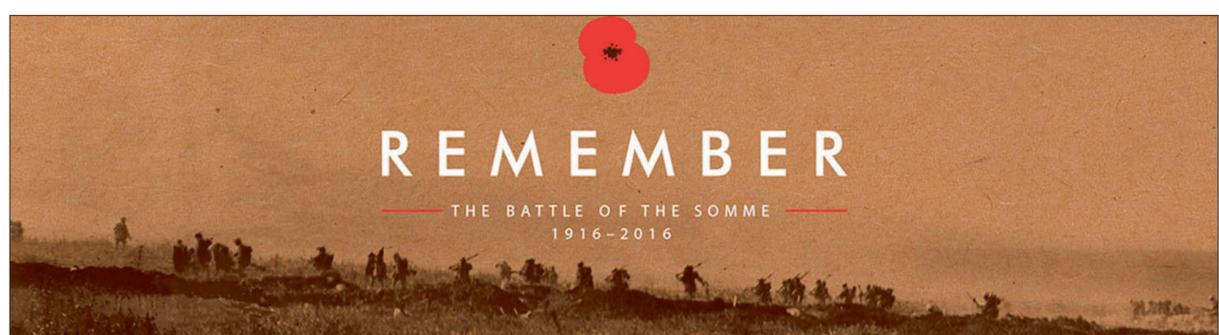
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British legion launches call for nation to remember the Somme

THE PUBLIC is being invited to mark 100 years since the start of the Battle of the Somme, the UK culture minister John Whittingdale has announced.

As so many people in the UK have a close link to the Somme, the Government and the Royal British Legion are working together to encourage communities across the country to mark the battle in their own way.

This can be through a vigil at sundown on June 30 or during July 1, or with a remembrance event on one of the 141 days that the battle raged until November 18.

The ambition is for villages, towns and cities across the UK to gather at a meaningful place or in their home, to light a candle, read a poem, listen to music or share a photo of a family member who fought at the Somme.

The vigils will mirror the apprehension 100 years ago as those in the trenches waited anxiously for the zero hour at 7.30am when they went 'over the top'.

The Battle of the Somme spanned 141 days and to help communities

host Remembrance events in their own way throughout this period, the Royal British Legion has launched a toolkit – Remember the Battle of the Somme 1916-2016.

Available to pre-order in hard copy and to download at www.britishlegion.org.uk/somme100, it features everything needed to host a Somme commemoration, including Remembrance event content ideas, a concise history of the Somme, the Act of Remembrance, a souvenir '1916' newspaper, promotional event materials, including posters and news releases and a box of poppy petals for scattering at events, among other information and tips.

Mr Whittingdale said: 'The Battle of the Somme left a deep mark on millions of families 100 years ago. I encourage communities across the country to come together to pay tribute to those who lost so much at the Somme and at home. It is important that we never forget what happened on the battlefields and honour their memory and bravery for generations to come.'

For commemorations on July 1, a key moment will be the four minutes leading up to 7.30am on July 1, which communities can recreate in their own way.

It begins with the sound of the First World War artillery fire for a few minutes, reminiscent of the week long artillery bombardment leading up to the battle, then a minute's silence, a reading in reflection and then the sound of one long whistle blow. In the afternoon and evening of the July 1, Manchester will be hosting The National Commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme. This will include a parade of military and home front organisations, a remembrance service at Manchester Cathedral, and a heritage experience and evening concert at Heaton Park.

Tickets are available for the free public commemorative evening concert, which features the Halle Orchestra, a national children's choir, film, dance and spoken word. They can be booked by visiting www.quaytickets.com/sommeheatonpark/Online/default.asp

With some 300,000 memorials and graves in the UK, no-one is very far from a place to gather to remember the First World War. Communities wishing to reconnect with the forgotten front, those who died of their injuries on home soil, can contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Living Memory project.

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO, head of remembrance at The Royal British Legion, said: 'This year we are asking communities to host or take part in events to commemorate those who fell at the Battle of the Somme, which has come to symbolise the tragic scale and futility of modern industrialised warfare.'

'The toolkit and indeed every other part of the legion's Somme remembrance activity has been designed to appeal as widely as possible, reflecting the losses that were felt by almost every community in the UK and Commonwealth.'

'Their collective sacrifice is as relevant today as ever but in this centenary year we pay special tribute to their Service.'



A clarsach class with Jennifer McKluckie. 16_tfeis09



The children copying Sileas Sinclair, conductor of the Oban Gaelic Choir, as they learn the fèis song. 16_tfeis04



Megan Day takes a shot at conducting. 16_tfeis05



A beginners' chanter lesson getting under way. 16_tfeis12



Andy Thorburn teaches a piano class. 16_tfeis11

You can order copies of these fèis photographs. Call 01631 568000.



Youngsters learning the fèis song in preparation for the participants concert on Friday afternoon. 16_tfeis02

Youngsters tune in to Gaelic arts and culture at fun Fèis Latharna

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

THE SCHOOLS may have been closed for the Easter holidays, but that did not stop 170 youngsters making their way to Oban Primary Campus last week to take part in a Gaelic arts and culture festival. The children attended classes at the Gaelic Unit, St Columba's school, Learning Centre and Rockfield school

for the 22nd annual Fèis Latharna, which ran from Monday April 4 to Friday April 8.

The Gaelic festival-goers spent the week learning and honing their skills in a variety of subjects including music, sport, drama and art.

Throughout the week they spent a portion of the day prepping for a final performance on Friday, which allowed the children to show off what they had learned to a sell-out audience of

family and friends. Ewan MacDonald, chairman of Fèis Latharna, said: 'It's been a fantastic week with loads of kids taking part and everyone enjoying themselves. I hope they all come back next year. Hopefully some of the attendees will be inspired and have enjoyed it so much they will come to the weekly Saturday class we run, where they can build on the things they have learned throughout the week.'

Joanie Garvin, a committee member,

said: 'It's been a great and busy week, with lots of visiting children from areas such as Fife, Uist, Dunblane and Glasgow. We had 30 tutors and 170 children. It's been a huge amount of work, but we have had a lot of fun.'

'We received £1,500 from the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust to support the running of the fèis. We are most grateful for the generous donation as it makes a huge difference as we are a charitable organisation.'



A beginners' class getting to grips with guitar, thanks to tutor Jamie Smith. 16_tfeis06



Youngsters getting dramatic with actress and drama tutor Debbie MacKay. 16_tfeis13



All the tutors on stage at Oban Phoenix Cinema last Tuesday evening for a group work performance at the gala concert. 07_gala07



Beginners accordion with Michael Garvin. 16_tfeis10



An art and craft class taught by Laura, left, and Nikki Currie. 16_tfeis15



Children practising pipe band drumming under the watchful eye of tutor Bobbie Davie. 16_tfeis14



Accordion players watch on as Sileas Sinclair teaches an advanced class. 16_tfeis07



Eilidh Munro plays the clarsach while Sophie Stephenson performs a step dance during the gala concert at Oban Phoenix Cinema. 07_gala02

Photographs by Katie Carabine

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Donald Cameron
Conservative Party



Argyll has so much going for it! With its small businesses and entrepreneurs; with its traditional industries of tourism, fishing, and farming; and with its world-famous food and drink production, there is a huge amount to build on.

The Scottish Conservatives under Ruth Davidson want Scotland's economy to remain competitive so that the local economy here in Argyll can benefit from increased business and greater investment.

For that reason, we should keep tax rates in Scotland in line with the rest of the UK.

Both Labour and the Lib Dems are lurching to the left on tax, promising to impose tax rises on every working person across all income tax bands.

This would not only hit the pay-packets of hardworking families in Argyll but it would also make Scotland the highest taxed part of the UK.

Greater investment will enable the local economy to thrive both on the Argyll mainland and on the islands, and will benefit existing individuals and communities.

And Argyll has a great deal to offer new businesses, visitors and prospective residents too. However, we do need to ensure our infrastructure is robust so we can compete with other parts of Scotland. If so, then the sky's the limit.



Election 2016
Argyll candidates

With the countdown to the Scottish Parliament elections having started, The Oban Times invited all our candidates to submit a statement on issues important to the people of Argyll and Bute. This week they focus on Economic Development. While Labour was invited to submit a piece, we had not received it at the time of going to press.

John Finnie
Green Party



Rural enterprise across Argyll and Bute depends on good public service provision, sound infrastructure, and the health and sustainability of our environment.

But the council struggles to afford to maintain essential facilities and services, while big business squeezes small local businesses in a race to the bottom.

Unlike the other parties, we see small business as the cornerstone of, and priority for, our local economy. So whether it's our traditional industries, or innovative new enterprise, we'll always back small business.

There also needs to be a rethink about how large economic development is managed. Currently there is a trend towards prestige projects in urban centres, but we'd rather see lots of smaller developments across the whole region, increasing the sustainability of our more remote and fragile communities.

We'll also back lifeline public services and fight against privatisation. The current tendering process of the Clyde and Hebrides ferries is causing all sorts of uncertainty about future services, job security and pensions, and wider knock-on effects. We unashamedly believe that this is a vital public service, and that the interests of islanders, tourism and the Scottish economy would be best served by these lifeline ferry services remaining in the public sector.

David Coburn
UKiP



Too often, our small businesses are not supported. Entrepreneurs who work hard and struggle to set up businesses are quite often put off by high business rates and excessive regulation. A UKiP government would lower business rates allowing companies to reinvest the money back into creating jobs.

Massive over-regulation by the European Union impacts disproportionately on smaller business. Fewer than one in 10 British businesses trade with the EU, yet 100 per cent of them must comply with thousands of EU laws. UKiP will repeal EU regulation and directives that stifle business growth. Only by leaving the EU will the Scottish and UK parliaments have the power to repeal laws introduced by the EU. Only UKiP can ensure that Scotland votes to leave the EU along with the rest of the UK.

It is vital in the modern world to have access to modern communications. UKiP would work with providers to ensure good mobile phone coverage throughout Scotland. Internet speeds in rural locations are not good enough.

In urban areas the speeds are often reduced due to overloading and high usage. UKiP would address these issues. We want to see a connected Scotland where communication is possible across the country.

Alan Reid
Liberal Democrat



Argyll has tremendous potential. The key to realising this is modern communications. We are in a digital dark age. The Scottish Government must put in the investment to provide superfast broadband to every home and business and at least 4G mobile coverage everywhere.

Argyll must be seen to be open for business in all but the most extreme weather conditions. That means upgrading the A82 and A83. A permanent solution must be implemented at the Rest and Be Thankful to stop landslides closing the road.

More investment is needed to our ferries to improve capacity, booking facilities, reliability, the age of the fleet, and the pier infrastructure.

Ferry fares for commercial vehicles are far too high. The recent Scottish Government decision to remove commercial vehicles from RET must be reversed.

Farming is vitally important. The shambles of the Scottish Government's failed computer system must never happen again. The Scottish Government's failure to pay farmers the money they owe them has caused severe cash flow problems. Farmers must be compensated for interest and bank charges incurred due to this.

The public sector should do all that it can to award contracts to local, small businesses.

Finally, bring the spaceport to Machrihanish.

Michael Russell
Scottish National Party



Argyll and Bute is a great place to live but the key to our continued economic success is connectivity.

The Highlands and Islands is home to one of the biggest broadband projects in Europe and high-speed services are already coming on line in many places. Now Nicola Sturgeon has promised that there will be 100 per cent coverage by the end of the next parliament, ensuring that every part of this constituency will have faster access and providing the backbone for better mobile phones signals too.

There has also been substantial increased expenditure on ferry services, with the budget up more than 130 per cent since 2007 and new boats being built.

There are more trains from Oban to Glasgow and the problem of the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful is being tackled with major work under way there and on the A82, and more to come.

The SNP Scottish Government has also encouraged more business start-ups, prioritised rural industries (especially food), promoted tourism and increased apprenticeships and expenditure on education, which is the best investment in our national and local future.

All of this activity is good news for our area but it needs to be matched by vigorous support from the council and HIE so that everyone is working together.

Lib Dem leader Willie Rennie gave the all-clear to back independence
SCOTTISH SUN - 23/09/15

THE ONLY LEADER CAPABLE OF LEADING AN OPPOSITION THAT CAN HOLD THE SNP TO ACCOUNT IS RUTH DAVIDSON
SCOTTISH DAILY MAIL - 05/03/16

SNP TO LAUNCH A NEW DRIVE TO BREAK UP BRITAIN
SCOTTISH SUNDAY EXPRESS - 13/03/2016

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QUESTION TIME

THE OBAN TIMES' FIRST HUSTINGS

Join the debate ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 – Argyll & Bute – at The Oban Times' first Hustings.

Oban Phoenix Cinema,
140 George Street, Oban
Thursday, April 28 - 7pm to 8pm

(Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm).
Followed by a drinks reception

The panel of candidates:

 Donald Cameron Scottish Conservatives	 David Coburn UKIP	 John Finnie Scottish Green Party	 Alan Reid Liberal Democrats	 Mick Rice Scottish Labour	 Michael Russell SNP
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Be part of our audience, have your question answered* - APPLY NOW:
ONLINE: Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings

POST: Complete the form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.**

All applications must be received by TUESDAY, APRIL 19.
Terms and conditions: Tickets are not available for purchase. Application only. Over-16s only. Seat holders must arrive no later than 6.30pm. Applications are for one ticket only. Number of seats is limited. Successful applicants will be contacted by email by 5pm Friday April 22. If you do not hear from us, please assume you have not been successful. Appropriate photo identification will be required on the door. Please note that this event will be live streamed on The Oban Times website. *A number of seat holders will be chosen to ask one of their questions, as put forward on their application form, and will be contacted in advance. Should time allow, there will be opportunities for the audience to ask the panel additional questions.

APPLICATION FORM

To help us ensure there is a broad and balanced audience at The Oban Times Hustings 2016, please complete the following application form and post it to **The Oban Times, Hustings Application, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB by Tuesday, April 19.** You can also apply online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/hustings. The information is completely confidential and will only be used for the purpose of balance. It will not be shared with any other parties.

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Daytime telephone number

Mobile number

Email

What is your first question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

What is your second question that you would like to ask?

Question:

.....

.....

To which candidate or all?:

If any, what party did you vote for in the last election?

.....

How do you think you will vote in the EU referendum?

Leave the EU Remain in the EU Don't know

If any, what political party will you most likely vote for in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 or are you undecided?

.....

Are you a member of a political party? YES NO

What is your gender? Male Female

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? YES NO

If disabled, do you require wheelchair access? YES NO

Successful applicants will be contacted by email.
Please tick here if you would rather be contacted by post.

The Oban Times may wish to send you information on other events and promotions.
Please tick here if you do NOT wish to be added to our mailing list.

Please note your voting preferences will not be stored on file on this mailing list.

Retail park planning granted

HIGHLAND Council granted planning permission for a retail park at North Road, Fort William, on Tuesday afternoon.

Developer Morbaine's director Alex Brodie said: 'I am delighted Highland Council decided to approve our planning application for a retail park at North Road, Fort William, which will include M&S Food, Home Bargains and Aldi stores.'

'Once again, I have to thank the local people and councillors for their continued patience and support over what has been a long process.'

'Whilst this application has been considered, we have been continuing our construction tendering process which has helped limit the delay and we remain hopeful of being on site this summer, with the retail park opening in mid-2017, bringing significant economic benefits and increased retail options to local people.'

Fears grow for jobs at smelter plant

JOB FEARS are on the rise in Fort William following reports that a potential buyer is interested in the Rio Tinto site - but not in the Lochaber smelter.

Managers at the plant, which employs 150 people, have already announced 'a strategic review' of the Fort William property.

Highland Council has stressed the importance of a major employer in the Lochaber economy, stating it is seven times as significant as the Tata Steel works to Lanarkshire.

Councillor Brian Murphy stated: 'The knock-on effects of any possible plant closure would be devastating for the West Highlands and could mean the loss of more than 300 jobs.'



Potholes are talk of town

Oban Times reporter David McPhee took to the town to garner opinion on the state of our roads



Malcolm Nisbet, 67, from Dunoon, said: 'We come from Dunoon and it's bad there. I don't see them spending any money either. 'I've seen some of the roads in Oban and it doesn't look too bad. We come up five to six times a year.'

Christine MacInnes, from Oban, said: 'The roads are an absolute disgrace. All this mon-

ey is being spent on this [the street works] and the roads are a state, especially outside the high school.'



Don Young, from Kinlochleven, said: 'The roads are a disgrace because of the amount of potholes you have to miss. 'They need to get a grip with the roads, it's appalling. I've never seen the roads this bad. 'Maybe if they dug the pot

holes out properly and filled them in, it might work, but they don't even fix them. They just throw tar over them.'



John Kerry, 68, from Glenorchy, above, said: 'The roads are an absolute disgrace in Argyll and Bute. The pot holes are so deep, but all they do is tip some tar in and a couple of weeks later they are the same again.'



Jake Devine, from Edinburgh, above, who is working in Oban, said: 'The whole country has bad roads. 'I don't know what I pay road tax for. All the way up from Edinburgh to Oban was rough.'

Robert Clark, 61, from Oban, said: 'What I find funny is that they have tarred a big area at Ganavan, which was made to be able to take heavy air crafts, yet

the roads are in a hell of a state.'



Robert Graham, 59, from Oban, said: 'I think it's got so bad that something has to be done, not just by Argyll and Bute council, but by the government. 'The roads are a disgrace, yet they spend all that money on new pavements, but they let the roads go.'

Foundation set for annual Orca Watch with invitation for people to get involved

EVERY May, Scotland's north coast is visited by some of the world's most iconic yet mysterious animals, the Orca or killer whale, writes *Katie Carabine*.

This year's Sea Watch Foundation Orca Watch is running from May 21 to 28 to coincide with the annual passage of killer whales in the Pentland Firth.

The north coast of Scotland is one of the best places to spot cetaceans - whales and dolphins - in the UK with species including Risso's dolphin, humpback whale, minke whale and orca seen from the shore.

This makes it an ideal location for volunteers to watch the waters for cetaceans, at the same time collecting vital data for the Sea Watch



Foundation national database. Sea Watch Foundation is a national charity that works with the public to survey and monitor cetaceans around the UK to help with their conservation and protection from threats such as fishing nets, pollution, noise disturbance, over fishing and also the possibility of rising sea temperatures as a result of global climate change.

Anna Jemmett, Sea Watch volunteer and organiser of this year's event, said: 'The aim of Orca Watch is to collect vital data on our visiting orcas and the other cetacean species in the area, whilst informing

the public about these special animals just off their shores.'

She continued: 'It is wonderfully exciting to see a whale or dolphin in the wild for yourself and although it takes both luck and patience - and many layers of warm clothes - the rewards are worth it. Seeing a cetacean is magical.'

Sea Watch will have observers stationed at Duncansby Head for six hours every day of the watch - three hours before and three hours after high tide - and the organisation welcomes anyone wishing to join them.

There will also be various other events on throughout the week of the watch, organised by both Sea Watch Foundation and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC).

No experience is needed to get involved, although there is an optional short training event on Saturday May 21 with Sea Watch and another session with WDC on May 28.

As Orcas are elusive and wild animals, there is no guarantee of seeing one during the week. Obviously the more time spent watching the better the chance, and either way there will be the beautiful Caithness scenery to enjoy and plenty to learn.

Further information and a timetable of events can be found at www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/orca-watch-2016 or on the Sea Watch Foundation's Facebook page.

The Caithness Sea Watching Facebook page will also be keeping everyone up to date with local sightings and events.

Ski centre goes green as hydro scheme goes ahead

NEVIS Range Ski Centre is going green with the development of a new hydro scheme that will provide power to the mountain gondola, the offices and the Pinemarten café at the centre's base station, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

Full construction can now start on a 1,100kW hydro scheme as £4million capital has been agreed, thanks to a loan from Close Brothers Leasing.

The project, being developed by Nevis Range Hydro Company Ltd and Green Cat Renewables Ltd, will comprise a small dam at 580m in the 'Back Corrie' of the ski centre and a turbine shed with 2 x 550kW turbines.

Once the water has been through the turbines generating electricity for Nevis Range, it flows back into the Allt Choille Rais burn, where it drops into Rio Tinto's intake and plays its part in generating power for the smelter - so it gets used twice.

Managing director Peter MacFarlane said: 'It is exciting to be part of a company that generates its own power in an environmentally-friendly way ticks all the right boxes for a ski area and visitor attraction in this beautiful location.'

Marian Austin, a director of Nevis Range Hydro Company Ltd, said: 'It has been a complex negotiation to raise money for the scheme. 'I'm very pleased this phase is over and we can progress to building it.'

The scheme is due to be up and running by the end of November in time for the next ski season.

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Colonsay

THE CHURCH of Scotland on Colonsay is holding an exhibition of arts and crafts to raise funds for repairs to the church belfry.

All items exhibited at the 'Belfry Bazaar' are on sale and have been donated by local or visiting artists.

All proceeds will be going towards the Belfry Restoration Fund, which is for repairs needed to the little 'birdcage' belfry which has become unsafe.

As of March 1 this year, the congregation still needed to raise £20,000 for these repair works so every penny raised will count.

The exhibition is running from now until May 14 and is open daily between 4pm-6pm.

There is a wide variety of original works on show and admission is free with no obligation to buy.

Unsold work will remain the property of whoever has donated it.

For more information please contact Kevin Byrne at byrne@colonsay.org.uk

Inveraray

MUSIC enthusiasts got more than just a tune at this month's Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club, as guest player Leonard Brown added in some stories and jokes between songs.

A 'good crowd' made their way to the Inveraray Inn for the event to see guest artistes Leonard Brown, from South Shields, who was crowned the Scottish accordion champion; and Malcolm Ross, from Arbroath, who played the drums.

Club stalwarts Fyne Folk also played on the night, with Nick MacFarlane on accordion, Sally Hall, Jake MacKay and Alex John MacLeod on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard.

Newcomer Myles Clark, from Lochgilphead, was on accordion, accompanied by Grant MacDougall on drums, and they played a selection of songs.

Chairman Niall Iain MacLean paid tribute to Angus Paterson from Strachur, who passed away a few days before.

Arisaig

MARCH was an unpredictable month for residents in Arisaig, with temperatures soaring as high as 20 degrees Centigrade and reaching lows of minus one.

However, the average temperature varied between 2.8°C and 11.2°C.

Rainfall for the month was slightly less than normal with 117 millimetres landing in the area, which puts the yearly figure to date just above average at 382 millimetres.

Kingussie

WOLVERINE cubs - or kits - were born in Scotland for the first time last month, but the youngsters were only spotted last weekend at their home at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park, near Kingussie.

The delighted keepers spotted the pair of kits running and playing close to their mother Tina, who arrived at the park in February 2015.

Wolverines are the largest member of the mustelidae family, which includes weasels, stoats, badgers and otters. They are normally found in the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas of Europe, Asia and North America.

There are currently only around 2,300 wolverines left in the wild in Europe and just 130 in captivity.

Vickie Larkin, carnivore head keeper at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park, said: 'We were hoping that our female wolverine Tina would give birth this year as we had observed mating last summer.'

'More recently, we hadn't seen Tina out in her enclosure for some time, which is actually a good indicator that she had possibly given birth and was nursing kits in the den.'

'Mirroring the process in the wild, it is often best to leave carnivores like wolverines completely alone for a number of weeks with their young after birth has taken place. Funnily enough, we were just about to check the dens in Tina's enclosure, as enough time had passed, when I saw a little kit dart from one den to another.'

'We estimate that the twin kits were born around the February 7 and are now almost two months old.'



The wolverines kits step out into the open to run and play with their mother Tina.



Doors open at Fort William Men's Shed

Men of all ages, and one woman, attended the grand opening of Fort William Men's Shed earlier this month. The shed gives the members a place to meet, chat and work on projects they wish to undertake. The shed is open to people of all ages. To get in touch or find out more, search 'Fort William Men's Shed' on social media.



Gilbert MacMillan and Marion Morrison from Guthan an Iar with their Epic Award. Photograph by Amber Nichols.

South Uist

A GAELIC singing group from South Uist received the peer award for excellence at this year's Epic Awards.

Guthan An Iar, which is made up of locals from the Uist community, were chosen by fellow shortlisted groups.

The Epic Awards, which was held on April 2 at Cardiff Castle, recognise voluntary arts groups from all over the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Marion Morrison from Guthan an Iar said: 'We were surprised and delighted to have been selected for this award by our peers.'

'For us this means that we will become more widely known and this will give us even greater encouragement and confidence to continue our aim of revitalising traditional singing in Gaelic and to bring it to a wider audience.'

Guthan an Iar was set up by Gillebride MacMillan in order to keep South Uist singing traditions alive.



FORMER pupils of Sgoil Lionacleit (Liniclate School) are being invited to a school reunion later this year.

The students of the very first S1 class of the Benbecula school when it opened in 1988 are to reunite for the first time since leaving school.

Also invited are pupils who joined this class in 1990 from Daliburgh or Paible schools on the Uists.

The reunion will be in

Benbecula

the school theatre from 3pm-5pm on Saturday July 30, coinciding with the Eilean Dorcha Festival in Liniclate.

This reunion has been a long time coming, as former pupil Mary Riddoch (nee MacLean) explained: 'Over the years many of us have discussed getting together, and we had thought we might try and

arrange something for the 20th anniversary, but that year came and went without any plans being made.'

'So we thought, with this being the year that the majority of our school year turns 40, it would be as good a time as any.'

'We also want to invite teachers and other school staff that were there from 1988-1993,' added another former pupil Jessie-Ann MacSween (nee MacAskill).

The organisers are keen to ensure no one is left out so if anyone recognises themselves or a family member in the photo above (from 1993), or if they were a staff member during this time, please email maryriddoch@yahoo.com.

Some people will have left school before this photo was taken, so anyone with school photos to share should please email Joan MacDonald (nee Robertson) at seonag99@yahoo.com.

MORVERN lines

Spectacular deer drive for King Edward VII in Glenquoich, 1905

GLENQUOICH, situated between Invergarry and Loch Houran, was famous once for the quality and quantity of its deer and was the inspiration for Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen*.

Great deer drives have taken place there for centuries but none more spectacular than those organised by Lord Burton for King Edward VII in 1905.

King Edward enjoyed deer stalking and seldom refused an invitation from his many friends in the Highlands to join them on the hill.

Due to a knee injury in later life, however, he was unable to walk far and preferred to have deer driven towards him while he and his hosts waited in specially positioned butts.

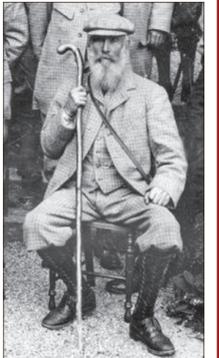
The Royal party came by train from Balmoral. They arrived at Invergarry Station on the now long-forgotten Spean Bridge to Fort Augustus line and travelled the remaining 20 miles by car to Glenquoich Lodge to join Lord and Lady Burton and their guests.

Accommodating and catering for such a large party in so remote a place for a week in these days was no mean feat. John Mackenzie, the local butcher, supplied no less than 16 hundredweight of best beef and 21 lambs.

The governor of Upper Canada sent a present of a large salmon embedded in a half ton block of ice which came by train from Southampton Docks and had to be transported by horse and cart up to the lodge.

In a letter to a friend on the eve of the Royal visit, Lady Burton wrote: 'We are quite ready for the King tomorrow. All the preparations were finished last night, even to the Royal Standard floating proudly over the top of this house. We have got a big tent at the back for the steward's room and muchly it will be wanted as the King brings so many servants. A piper has been added and a second telegraph clerk only yesterday.'

Two men arranged the drives. The first was Lord Lovat, who was not only a very fine rifle shot, but had a gift for judging ground and anticipating the movements of deer.



James Henderson.

The second was James Henderson, Lord Burton's 69-year-old head stalker, who came out of retirement to organise 200 stalkers, shepherds and ghillies who travelled from as far afield as Ross-shire to act as beaters.

The first drive had been planned for the day after the King's arrival but due to heavy rain and mist it was postponed.

The weather cleared the following day and by noon His Majesty and seven other rifles were in position near the head of Glen Kingie on the south side of Loch Quoich.

Unfortunately the wind changed direction at the crucial moment and only nine stags were killed. Lord Lovat succeeded in shooting five. Dr Scott, the King's doctor, had two and Colonel Sir Arthur Davidson, Assistant Private Secretary to the King, also managed two but His Majesty didn't get a shot.

It was a beautiful sunny morning for the second drive; the party rode on horseback up the steep winding pony path above Glenquoich Lodge to a corrie below the summit of Glouraiach.

Here, in a slight south easterly wind, the King waited in a large stone butt with James Henderson while the rest of the party concealed themselves behind temporary turf and stone walls below.

Earlier that morning, as soon as daylight broke, the beaters began moving more than 200 stags in two directions towards the waiting rifles.

All went well until one of the King's equerries, unaccustomed to seeing so many antlered 'monsters' immediately in front of him, became restless and excited. The stags saw him and broke back through the line of beaters.

His Majesty fired several shots but missed completely whereas Dr Scott and Lord Lovat were able to kill seven between them.

During his visit to Glenquoich, King Edward spent some time fishing on Loch Houran from Lord Burton's steam yacht *The Rover*.

Weeks before the inner loch had been ground-baited with offal from the deer larders attracting huge shoals of dog-fish which provided excellent sport.



King Edward VII at Glenquoich.

Before leaving the estate the King presented Lord and Lady Burton with a silver stag's head in remembrance of two visits to Glenquoich (the first was in 1904). James Henderson was given an engraved silver hip flask. Mr Duncan Grant, head gardener, as a mark of His Majesty's appreciation of the appropriate table decorations, was presented with a gold and ruby pin with the Royal monogram.

Miss Tulloch, the housekeeper and her assistant, diamond brooches, Mr F McCallum, electrical and motor engineer, got a solid silver cigarette case inscribed E VII and Sandy Campbell, the Captain of Lord Burton's yacht, was presented with the Royal Victorian Medal.

King Edward's final words to Lord Burton as they parted at Invergarry Station at the end of the week were: 'I hope I shall come back again.'

He never did. Lord Burton gave up his lease of Glenquoich that year and the King died five years later.

Today the deer have largely gone from Glenquoich and the lovely old lodge lies submerged beneath the waters of the massive Quoich dam.

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Christine Hutton, SWI chairwoman, second left, and Anne Kerr, fourth right.

SWI federation honoured with visit

LOCHABER SWI Federation was honoured with a visit from the chairman, Christine Hutton and the educational and international convener, Anne Kerr, of the Scottish Women's Institute.

Several Lochaber SWI members met the two distinguished guests over lunch in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, when a wide-ranging discussion about the organisation, its past and future, took place.

SWI will be celebrating its centenary next year, as will Fort William Institute.

Fort William and the Lochaber area played a very early role in the 'Rural'. In early July 1917, a meeting agreeing to set up the organisation locally was held in Fort William the day after a resolution to form the Women's Institute in Scotland was passed in Edinburgh. Individual

institutes in the area followed soon after the initial decision, including Fort William itself as well as Kilmallie (not defunct), Arisaig and Spean Bridge. Over the years, through war and depression, the organisation played a major roll in the lives of country women.

Many small hamlets and communities formed their own group, locally for example Trislaig, Duisky and Banavie.

Over the years the organisation served home and country well but, in recent years, with the wider choice of activities for women and changing priorities, the SWI has been struggling to compete.

It is hoped that with re-branding its image and opening it up to all women, whether town or country dwellers, it will continue and thrive in its second century.

Eleventh hour support for new sports hall

ELLIE FORBES
fort@obantimes.co.uk

AN EMERGENCY board meeting of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) heard that potential 11th-hour support for long-awaited plans for a new indoor sport facility in Fort William was in the offing.

A few weeks ago the beleaguered group heard that funding allocated by Highland Council was to be drastically cut and its plans would be unlikely to go ahead 'in the near future'.

On Tuesday night, at a meeting in Fort William Shinty Club, LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said she had become aware of an interested party in the project, after a story appeared in last week's *Oban Times*.

Mrs Blanchard explained to the busy meeting that a charitable trust with similar interests in the scheme had approached her about moving forward with a shared indoor centre.

Confidentiality did not allow Mrs Blanchard to share details of the potential new partner, but she was confident the project could be delivered.

Mrs Blanchard said: 'It is far too early to say anything about this because so much research still needs to be done.'

The meeting was told the potential new partner would

mean going back to the drawing board. For example, the desired location of Lochaber High School would be under review.

Mrs Blanchard said: 'With this new proposal we would need to look into whether the facility can still be at the high school.'

Lochaber Sports Association has been developing plans for a new multi-sport facility for seven years. Plans for the project came to a halt at the end of last year as a result of funding issues.

In October, Highland Council revealed plans to invest a maximum of £200,000 in the project. The offer came as a shock to the group as it was less than a quarter of the £845,000 previously agreed with the association towards the construction of the facility at Lochaber High School. The project will have a total price tag of £1.47million.

SportScotland has already pledged £500,000 to the development but is dependent on a certain level of support from the local authority.

Whilst Fort William area councillors support the plans, the LSA project did not receive enough votes for the budget to be increased.

A sticking point for the LSA was the fact it is not a VAT registered company, which would see it footing a VAT bill

of £240,000, adding further pressure to limited funds.

This new proposal is from a VAT registered company, which would alleviate some financial weight.

The meeting brought to light the urgent need for new committee members, as two board members stepped down from their positions. Duncan MacPhee and Leen Volwerk had planned to step down but are now considering remaining in their positions. The meeting saw two directors appointed to the board and one new committee member, who will take charge of the club's communications.

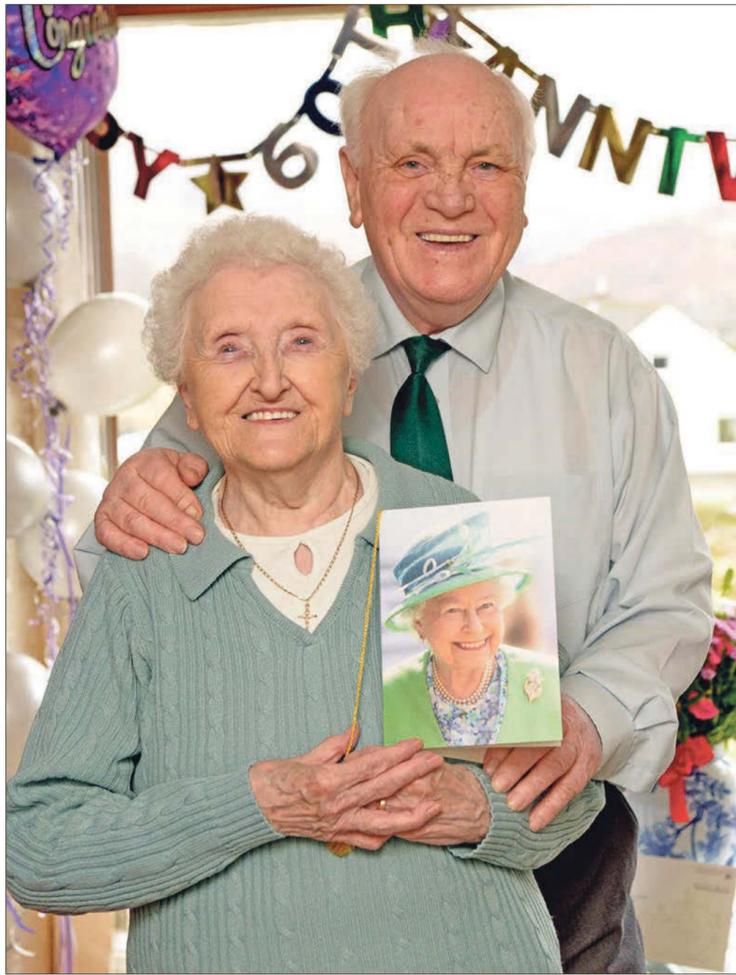
Mrs Blanchard said: 'As a board we have been struggling for seven years and we need new blood.'

Speaking after the meeting the chairwoman expressed her delight at the election of the members, saying: 'New people are hugely beneficial to the club and these new members will breathe fresh life into the project. It is a lot to ask of people who are busy working and have families, so I am pleased they came forward.'

She added: 'It was a difficult meeting because I couldn't divulge some information, but the board will need to look at ways to take the project forward.'

Mrs Blanchard has agreed to continue to support the group.

Diamond wedding couple celebrate 60 happy years



DIAMOND couple Mark and Kitty McCann, of Fort William, celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss at the beginning of April.

The pair were married in St Monica's Church, Coatbridge, on April 4, 1956.

Mr McCann made his first trip to Fort William in 1959 as temporary shop manager of the former Black and Campbell's store in High Street, returning to take up the permanent post in 1961.

They lived above the shop for many years and brought up a family of four – Paul, Ro-

seann, William and Sandra, all of whom, plus grandchildren, joined them in the celebrations at their home in Cromarty Crescent where amongst many gifts was a card of congratulations from HM The Queen.

Mr McCann said: 'We have had a wonderful marriage, with its ups and downs like everyone else, but we are still the same as we were when it all started. We love one another very much. After you have been married for 60 years, you forget what it is you've even done.'

Photo by Iain Ferguson.

TIMESLINE

Fishermen named after boat sinks

TWO MEN who died after a fishing boat sank off the coast of Mingulay on Saturday have been identified as Martin Johnstone, aged 29, from Halkirk, and Chris Morrison, 27, from Stornoway.

Paul Alliston, 42, from Lochs, remains missing at sea. Another crew member was rescued after swimming ashore and was later airlifted to hospital.

Volunteers from the RNLI and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency continue to search for Mr Alliston. The Police Scotland Air Support Unit is also on scene with the support of Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd which has re-opened the airport in Benbecula to help in the search.

Chief Inspector Alastair Garrow said: 'Police Scotland has an enquiry team working alongside other agencies and the known circumstances will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.'

'There will be further investigations to fully establish what has happened.'

Police Scotland has said: 'Our thoughts are with the loved ones of the men who sadly lost their lives as a result of this tragic incident.'

Planners block Onich home plan

HIGHLAND Council's South Planning Applications Committee has refused permission for a new three-bedroom house in Onich, Fort William.

The applicant was seeking permission for a one-a-half-storey house on the plot.

The committee rejected the application after objections by Nether Lochaber Community Council.

It insisted the house would have 'a detrimental impact on the character of the village'.

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Lifeboat to the rescue of stranded ferry

A RNLI lifeboat was called out last Thursday to help a ferry which had ran aground during an extremely low tide.

The Kyle of Lochalsh volunteer crew were launched around 1.30pm to aid the Glenelg Ferry, Glenachulish, after Stornoway Coastguard requested help.

The lifeboat crew arrived five minutes later, by which time the 10 passengers and crew had made it safely to shore.

No-one was injured and no further assistance was needed. The RNLI crew stood down after 2pm as it would be some time before the ferry would begin to float again on the incoming tide.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Election Fever



Forget Donald Trump and Holyrood's usual suspects, the election that matters will soon be taking place in Oban when nominations open later this week for the Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) depute president for Argyll College UHI.

Argyll College UHI has more than 1,500 students based at local centres throughout Argyll and Bute and Arran.

HISA represents both further and higher education students, giving them a voice to drive change at a regional level. It also provides access to local clubs and events which help students get to know each other and make the most of the college experience.

Outgoing HISA depute for Argyll College Charlotte Collins, who has spent three years at Argyll College and is set to complete an HNC Horticulture later this year, said:

'My first experience of Argyll College UHI was through a Skills for Work class at Oban High School. I didn't consider myself particularly academic, but in the Skills for Work course in rural skills, I found I was able to achieve something and that I was a valuable member of the group. I would like every student to feel this when they come to Argyll College.'

Outgoing HISA depute president for Argyll College, Charlotte Collins.



'I've spent a wonderful three years at college and one of the best things is being able to study whilst staying close to home. The college has a really welcoming atmosphere and a great mix of students and staff, but being able to stay in Argyll with the support of family and friends has been perfect. I would encourage school leavers to come to college and to realise there is another option to success they can access locally.'

Any current Argyll College student can nominate themselves for election.

If successful, their job will be to represent all students on relevant college committees and at board level and to help to create an environment where students drive their own

learning and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Argyll College Principal Fraser Durie said: 'Here at Argyll College we are passionate about providing a student-centred experience. Our students are at the heart of everything we do and each decision we make and having an Argyll HISA depute president gives us an effective channel to communicate with the student body and, I hope, gives our students confidence we are listening to their opinions. Charlotte has done a wonderful job as our first HISA depute president and has also been an invaluable student member on our board of governors. She is well respected by staff and students and although I'll be sorry to see her leave office later this year, I'm also confident we can find an equally committed student to fill her shoes.'

Argyll College UHI is now accepting applications for courses starting in September 2016. College bursaries and EMA payments are available in many instances for students applying for full time further education courses. Higher education students should contact the Student Awards Agency Scotland for information on funding for course fees and student loans. Staff in the local Argyll College centre will be happy to provide advice – visit www.argyllcollege.ac.uk



Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

A meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee this week voted to go ahead with the marketing of a site at Ganavan, which will be leased or sold on the open market.

However, there appears to be a lot of public disquiet about what is happening at the site.

What is clear is that the people of Oban feel very protective of Ganavan and its beach. It is an area where people bring their children to play and where they walk their dogs, taking in the fantastic scenery and the relative quiet, away from the busy town centre. But the

fact that the council sold off land for luxury housing, is planning to raise parking charges, and at the same time lease or sell more land has many people worried.

All the more reason why the council should discuss any such moves in public, something that could be done without disclosing any sensitive financial information.

By discussing such matters in public, not only does it give the people of Oban the opportunity to have their say, it stops speculation in its tracks.

While it is right at times to hear some matters in private, that should be the exception, not the rule.



First class performance from pupils at Lochaber Festival – March 1976

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times: Forty years ago: March 1976 and Lochaber Festival time; pupils trained by Mrs Isabel Henderson gave an outstanding performance of a Russian folk song. Adjudicator Mr David Griffith described it as 'splendidly Russian' and a 'first-class performance'. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Glasgow Letter

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

Morino Day success in Glasgow's Park Bar

THE PARK Bar in Glasgow was mobbed on Sunday for the bi-annual Morino Day – when dance music enthusiasts from all over the country flock to the pub to celebrate the famous Hohner Morino accordion.

Some of the best musicians in Scotland were there to join in the session and the top-notch music didn't stop from 3pm right through until midnight.

Matthew MacLennan did a great job on the microphone getting players up to contribute and keep the tunes going.

At dinner time, there must have been about 2,000 steak pies consumed which the Park Bar kindly made for everyone who had played.

The atmosphere in the pub got better as the day went on and, by the end, the dance floor was filled for a Scottische, a barn dance and, finally, a waltz.

It was easy to see why the Morino Day is so highly anticipated every time and why it is always so busy

It was a fantastic afternoon and evening.

Choir says farewell to conductor

GOVAN Gaelic Choir is holding a traditional ceilidh to say 'thank you' and 'goodbye' to its conductor Donald Feist, who has given up the choir for personal reasons.

It will be held in the Crawford Halls, Beith Street, Partick, on Friday April 22 at 8pm.

Everyone is welcome to go along to enjoy the hò-ro-gheallaidh.

Erskine ceilidh

CLYDEBANK Highlanders had a great night on Friday night at their ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital.

Six veterans from the hospital came along with their carers and went home laden with raffle prizes.

John Morrison was the chairman, introducing the veterans to the audience and, in the centenary of the opening of the hospital, gave details of the work being done in caring for these remarkable people to whom we owe so much.

The singers, Paul MacCallum, Sheena Walker, Ainslie Hamill, and Angus MacKay, delighted the

audience with their songs and the dynamic duo, Billy and Iain Macphee, entertained on accordion and pipes.

The association piper, Robert Wood, got the ceilidh off to a grand start and the accompanist was the wonderful Kirsteen Grant.

The association thanks everyone who contributed to what was a very special evening.

What's on

Saturday April 16: Ceòl Mòr Ostaig with Ceòl is Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street.

Friday April 29: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Friday April 29: An evening with Stirling Gaelic Choir, a celebration with Chic Bonar, with Pink Champagne and Fiona Johnston, at 7.30pm in the Victoria Hall, Dunblane.

Saturday April 30: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Spring Concert (Wee Skye), Crawford Hall.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Friday April 15: Deoch 'n' Dorus. Saturday April 16: Robert Robertson.



Great tunes for Morino Day in the Park Bar. Left to right: Craig McFadyen, Nicky McMichan, Neil Mitchell and Aidan Frost.

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Amount of litter in Oban 'embarrassing'

Sir, I have read with interest the comments of readers in response to *The Oban Times*' request for views on the new pavements in Oban.

It's good to see Argyll and Bute Council is improving the look of the pavements in George Street and Station Square, despite the £6.5 million cost, though stories that the new slabs have come from China are rather disquieting and the loss of the trees is a great pity.

I watched the replaced slabs being tipped into the back of a lorry recently and wondered if an opportunity to recoup some of the cost by selling these to the public had been lost.

I am more concerned, however, that this huge sum is being spent when some of Oban's iconic tourist attractions are becoming less than attractive.

I find it frankly embarrassing to stand among the tourists on the viewing platform at McCaig's Tower and look down at the bottles, cans and carry-out cartons spread out below.

Visitors walking up Jacob's Ladder en route to the tower will be similarly aware of the litter thrown down the bank behind the distillery from the site of the two seats and a walk along to the Hydro ruins will reveal piles of similar rubbish.

There are many other places in town where the mess is really quite disgusting, such as at the edge of the car park alongside the Black Lynn.

I am aware there are a number of public-spirited residents who regularly take it upon themselves to clean up rubbish but surely in a town which depends so heavily on visitor income this should be a council priority.

There has to be more emphasis on education so that everyone is aware of the importance of keeping our town beautiful.

So come on Oban – can we collectively do something about this and show the world we're proud of our lovely town?

Maurice Wilkins, Oban.

Proposed request for scenic area status

Sir, An article in *The Oban Times* of March 31 about the proposed request for the establishment of a National Scenic Area (NSA) for Loch Awe was headlined 'Communities divide over Loch Awe status'.

To avoid any unfortunate assumptions being made relating to the recent view taken by Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, it is important to establish there is no conflict between the community councils quoted because the initial enquiry was made privately, not from Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, which will be discussing it fully in due course.

This is at a proposal stage only; no application to any authority has been made.

Community councils remain, however, 'as one' with our local communities, residents, businesses,

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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CHAN EIL FIOS 'AM carson a chuir e iongnadh orm cluinntinn gun robh luchd-naidheachd bho cheud is seachd meur de na meadhanan, ann an seachdais is sia dùthaich, air còrr air bliadhna a chur seachad a' sgrùdadh aon deug gu leth millean pàipear a chaidh a ghoid bhon chompanaidh Mossack Fonseca à Panama, mun do nochd iomradh poblach.

Nochd a' mhòr-chuid den fhiosrachadh far puist-dealain, ach bha cuideachd dealbhan de chùmhannan-tan is dearbhaidhean de gach seòrsa, a' buntainn ri dà cheud is ceithir deug cùis a ghabh àite eadar 1977 agus Dùbhlachd na bliadhna an-uiridh.

Ged a tha Mossack Fonseca gu nàdarra air an tàmaitheachadh leis mar a dh'èirich dhaibh, tha iadsan ag ràdh gum bheil iad air a bhith ag obair le dichill fad ceathrad bliadhna agus nach d' rinn iad dad ceàrr.

Gu ìre 's dòcha gum bheil sin ceart oir tha laghan cuid de dhùthchannan a' tairginn tèarmann-chisean agus mar a bhiodh dùil, tha buidhnean proifeiseanta gan stèidheachadh gus seirbheisean a libhrigeadh dhan fheadhainn a thig gan iarraidh.

Tha e furasta gu leòr a thuigsinn gum bheil eadar-dhealachadh ciall

visitors and certainly the wider area involved about the need to have high levels of protection for our vulnerable environments and economies.

For those who consider the proposed request justified, and to enable Loch Awe to experience the same benefits as Lismore and Appin NSAs, letters/emails stating support are welcome and can be sent to Christine72@mail.com.

Support for the idea must be proven to exist to allow progress to the next stage.

Christine Metcalfe, Loch Avich, Taynuilt, Argyll.

Tax hike required on second homes

Sir, With David Cameron having to defend his tax affairs, he said on the April 5: 'I get a salary, I have some savings, I have a house I rent out while I'm living in No. 10 and that is it.'

I wonder why he forgot to mention his holiday house/spare house/second home, call it what you want, on the Isle of Jura.

His party brought in the bedroom tax which tried to force people out of their council houses. Two thirds of those people are disabled.

David Cameron and his colleagues, who own the one million-plus spare houses throughout the UK, who overspent buying them causing the 2007 credit crunch as the banks ran out of our money to pay for them, should be taxed out their 'spare houses' and scrap the bedroom tax.

More than a million spare houses lying empty the majority of the year is morally repugnant when we are in a housing crisis.

Colin M Campbell, Port Charlotte, Islay.

Tax havens cause global imbalance

Sir, The row over the offshore tax havens revealed by the Panama Papers extends well beyond their use by those such as multi-nationals and the Prime Minister.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revealed such havens have led to developing countries, the UK among them, losing 20 per cent of tax revenues.

However, the problem is greater than this, with corrupt elites in developing countries funnelling wealth offshore, while these countries are mired in poverty.

Oxfam estimates tax havens cost poor countries £170 billion in lost revenues every year, with rich Africans having £500 billion stashed away in offshore countries.

To put this into perspective, that's enough to save four million children's lives and pay for education for every child in the continent.

The UK has an opportunity to change this, should it desire to do so, by closing down our network of 17 tax havens in the crown dependencies and territories we have an opportunity to take a moral lead.

Banks must also be made to open

their books and reveal the true beneficiaries of shell companies. International companies should be pursued for the tax they avoid.

The current controversy extends well beyond holding a few rich individuals and corporations to account.

It strikes at the very heart of the current global imbalance and the complicity of the west in ripping off the global south.

Let's use this as an opportunity to curtail this distortion and end a situation that sees the wealth of the few imperil the livelihoods of the many.

Alex Orr, Edinburgh.

Jackal thwarted from escaping in Kippen

Sir, I was interested to read about the *Beast of Barrisdale*, Morvern Lines, March 17, being a hyena which had escaped from a circus.

The story reminded me of an incident in Kippen concerning a jackal.

According to the *Stirling Journal* of September 15, 1899, a travelling menagerie and circus was performing in Kippen when the jackal slipped out of its cage.

The report stated that the 'show being well crowded at the time, the screams of the female portion of the audience and the yells of the frightened animal caused great excitement for a few minutes'.

However, unlike the Barrisdale hyena, the Kippen jackal did not become a local legend. Further escape was thwarted by a quick-thinking member of the audience, a Mr George Hay.

He caught the jackal's tail and kept turning until a sheet was thrown over it and it was recaptured, doubtless to the great relief of the audience and Kippen residents.

I was always surprised that a jackal had been in Kippen at all and wondered what kind of life it had, either as an exhibit or as a circus performer.

Flora Petrie.

Affordable housing vital on islands

Sir, I welcome the news that Argyll Community Housing Association is planning consultations on the need for housing in the many smaller villages of Islay.

While it is immensely important that the various housing associations continue to build housing in the larger villages, including Bowmore and Port Ellen, it is equally important Islay's smaller villages are not forgotten about. In some cases these villages have not had any new social housing built for more than 20 years.

Housing is also much needed on Jura and Colonsay.

It is well known that both Islay and Jura contribute a huge amount of tax revenue to the exchequer despite our small populations. So it is only fair our needs are not overlooked by our local council and both the Scottish and UK governments. Supply of local affordable housing is just one of many areas that need improvement on our islands.

Alastair Redman, Islay.

Ailean Caimbeul

gum bheil 'comhairle bhuan nach d' fhuair eadhadh agam' ann an tòrr den chop a tha a-nise a' nochdadh bho luchd-poilitigs agus luchd-naidheachd.

Ach gun teagamh sam bith tha eisimpleir Dhaibhidh Chamshron a' dearbhadh nach eil ciall feuchainn ris an fhìrinn a chleith ann an suidheachadh den t-seòrsa san d' fhuair ean e fhèin. Nochd ceithir tionndadh eadar-dhealaichte air a' cheangal phearsanta a bh' aige ri seuglachd Phanama mun cuala sinn gun robh earrannan air a bhith aige an seilbh an sin, agus ged a bha e air an cur bhuaite mun deach e na Phrìomhaire 's e mo bheachd gun d' rinn e cron air earbsachd fhèin le bhith cho fada a' seachnadh soillear-achadh ceart a thoirt seachad. Ach an d' rinn e cron air a' Phàrtaidh aige cuideachd?

MANAGING grey areas between tax avoidance and tax evasion has helped build internationally respected companies. But as the Panama papers apparently prove there are inevitably opportunities, and temptations, to bend the rules!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Your letters

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not 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.

Dispute breaks out over plan to relocate village war memorial

KATIE CARABINE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

BALLACHULISH Community Council members are against a proposal to relocate the Ballachulish War Memorial into the village, despite overwhelming public support for the project.

The dispute has led to Mel MacAskill, a former community council chairman, resigning from the project and saying he wants nothing more to do with the present community council.

There have been two public meetings, one just a few weeks ago, held in relation to the monument and flyers were also distributed to every household in the area to gather public opinion, which was largely in support of the move.

A new home for the monument was found in front of the Ministry of Defence's Joint Service Mountain Training Centre. The army, which owns the land it was to be moved to, was happy for it to be moved, as was Highland Council.



A heavy truck thunders by the memorial, which is situated on the edge of the busy A82. Photograph by John Paul Peebles, Abridgeside Photography.

“The community council is ignoring the community's wishes”

Mel MacAskill

‘After getting it all done, and thinking we were moving forward, the community council decided to do its own ballot, which was what the flyers had been for,’ said Mr MacAskill, who had been asked to take the project forward when he stepped down from the community council. ‘In my opinion there are a couple of people in the community council who don't want it moved so they have delayed it.’

‘I had a heated phone call with the chairman about this

and his lack of leadership. I said to him I believed he had a different opinion depending on who he was talking to,’ he said. ‘It's sad because, while not in immediate danger, there's a lot of water coming down off the hill and there's landslides constantly on the hills around Ballachulish and with the increased traffic on the A82, it's really putting the monument at risk and it has to be moved.’

‘It's taken nearly two years of work and I feel, if these people get their way, it won't happen and there is limited time to get grants etc and with the water coming off the hill people want to distance themselves from it.’

‘The community council is ignoring the community's wishes because they don't match their own.’

Mr MacAskill added: ‘I have withdrawn myself from it as I feel they are working to their own agenda, working against it. I feel now, without support for this project, it's not going to go any further and I don't feel I can trust the people involved in it.’

Police files

POLICE have issued an appeal for information following a number of incidents in Fort William.

Suspects are being sought after five benches were damaged in the play park in Kennedy Road between March 28 and April 4.

Two handbags were also taken from the Volunteer Arms in the High Street, Fort William, between 11.45pm on Saturday April 10 and 1.30am on Sunday April 11.

The handbags were later recovered by police in a doorway at the back of the pub, but money and a mobile phone were missing.

Later on Sunday April 10, a black Gary Fisher 19ins ladies pedal bike was taken from behind the BA bus shelter on North Road. The bicycle was last seen between 12.15pm and 7pm.

The same day at around 3.10pm, several items of clothing were reported stolen from the Mountain Warehouse store on the High Street.

Meanwhile, walkers have also been urged to report any suspicious behaviour after animal body parts were found in Glencoe.

Believed to be from deer, the remains were discovered near the waterfall viewpoint at The Gorge and Coire Gabhall, an area where poaching has been reported.

If anyone has any information, the police can be contacted on 101 or via Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Climbing couple laid to rest

THE FUNERAL for a young couple who died on Ben Nevis recently took place in Fort William on Wednesday April 6.

Rachel Slater, 24, and Tom Newton, 27, were reported missing after failing to return from a Valentine's day hike on the mountain.

After weeks of searching by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT), the couple were found buried under snow on the North Face on March 23. It is believed they were hit by an avalanche.

A private service was held in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, where there was a collection for LMRT, before the couple were laid to rest together in Glen Nevis cemetery.

Members of LMRT acted as pall bearers and two members played laments on the bagpipes at the burial.

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Growing frustration over lack of reliable broadband in Morvern

BROADBAND provision in the West Highlands is again under scrutiny with users in Morvern telling of mounting frustration at patchy service and long waiting times for repairs.

The Oban Times has learned that the problems have been particularly acute around Lochaline since Christmas, with users complaining of intermittent internet and phone connectivity.

Ongoing problems with ageing infrastructure seem to have been exacerbated by the variety of different service providers supplying broadband and telephone services through lines and exchanges managed by BT Openreach.

Customers are finding that faults have to be raised with service providers first, which then have to liaise with BT Openreach to resolve matters. Community members say this system is complicated, lacks clarity and it can take three to four weeks to have complaints addressed. It is understood that a petition put up in Lochaline GP surgery recently, calling for more accountability from BT on the issue, has gained more than 100 signatures.

Local historian Iain Thornber has long experience of campaigning for better broadband in Morvern. He told The Oban Times: ‘For almost a week recently there was no internet connection with the outside world occasioned, we believe, by a gust of wind moving a microwave dish by a few

millimetres at the local exchange. It seems odd that while one nation can put a robot on Mars 140 million miles away, another is incapable of aligning two basic bits of equipment six miles apart across the Sound of Mull.’

He added: ‘To some who use the internet now and again for social purposes, the interruption was probably neither here nor there. To others who depend on it for their livelihood, it amounted to significant inconvenience and loss of earnings. Super fast broadband for Morvern. What a joke!’

Under the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme, the Scottish Government and partners including BT have committed to extending high speed fibre broadband to around 84 per cent of homes and businesses in the Highlands and islands by the end of 2016.

Customers in Lochaline are not yet eligible for the upgrade, but according to BT, should be able to access estimated line speeds of between 3.5Mbps-7.5 Mbps - theoretically fast enough to watch streaming TV services such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix.

As well as the impact on leisure and businesses, the issue has potential consequences for NHS patients.

According to Lochaline GP Dr Susan Taylor, much of the work of doctors in rural and remote areas now needs reliable broadband connections.

As well as being able to make electronic referrals to hospitals, send ECGs for immediate reporting and allow email access to colleagues, video conferencing is also increasingly being used so patients can see and speak to hospital consultants based in Inverness or Fort William, avoiding the need for long journeys.

Dr Taylor said: ‘When connections are poor, we can waste a great deal of time making sure information has been sent correctly - if you are creating a long referral letter and the system keeps crashing, you may have to wait a day to complete a simple task. There is no point having excellent IT systems in our surgeries if we are not connected to reliable speedy broadband links.’

A spokesman for BT said: ‘If you're experiencing problems with service, then report it to your service provider, and that will mean the fault will be investigated. We do take every fault that's reported to us seriously, and we will look into them.’

On the roll-out of fibre optic connections, he added: ‘We will not just meet our phase one target of 84 per cent coverage before the programme ends, we're pushing hard to exceed it. Our ambition is to work with local communities to agree a suitable and affordable option to bring fibre broadband to an area where the Digital Scotland programme may not be going. We are also looking at alternative technologies which could benefit the most remote areas.’

Judges reject human trafficking conviction appeal

AN APPEAL by the former owner of a Highland hotel to have his conviction for human trafficking overturned has failed.

Shamsul Arefin was sentenced to three years in jail after treating four Bangladeshi workers as ‘modern-day slaves’ at the Stewart Hotel, near Appin, Argyll.

Appeal judges Lord Carloway, Lord Menzies and Lady Cosgrove rejected legal arguments made by Arefin's lawyers.

The written ruling, issued on Monday, stated: ‘The offences here were callous, deliberate and planned for the purposes of gain. As a result, considerable hardship was suffered by the complainants and, no doubt, their families.’

‘The jury had held that there had been no intention to pay the men in terms of the offers of employment. The anticipated wages of around £18,000 per annum were simply

not realised. There were very substantial deposits, obtained from the men, which were never returned.’

‘It is not without significance that the appellant's previous convictions include, not only an assault upon his wife from 2007, but two sexual assaults upon hotel employees, who had come from abroad, in 2013.’

‘Although these are not directly analogous, they have some bearing on sentence.’



Ferry returns to Knoydart

The Western Isles has won back its contract with Highland Council and will once again be providing a regular ferry service to Knoydart.

Spean Bridge hosts haggis celebrations

A CELEBRATION of Scotland's national dish will take place in Lochaber next week.

The Highland Haggis Festival will celebrate one of Scotland's best-known foods, in attempt to attract visitors from across the country.

The community project, which is supervised by the Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism Marketing Group, is due to take place on Saturday April 16 and Sunday April 17 in Spean Bridge.

Celebrations will begin in Spean Bridge Community Hall from 7pm, with a chance to fill up the country's best haggis and dance to the Sileas Sinclair Band.

Donald Cameron of Locheil will open the main event of the weekend at Spean Bridge

Primary School from 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. With a series of events to suit everyone, the festival gives the chance to sample and take home some of the finest haggis.

Culinary demonstrations will be provided by some of the most innovative chefs in the area, including Scott Kelly of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Allan Donald from Laroch Restaurant, Ballachulish and Spean Bridge's own Ben Martin of the Station Bar and Restaurant.

Other events will include a haggis-flinging competition and a haggis hunt around Spean Bridge. In the run up to the weekend's events, youngsters have the chance to win a competition designing their own Cordon Bleu dish.

Action group's anger over link road report

ONGOING concerns about Highland Council favouring Inverness over Fort William have been refuelled after the local authority published a paper saying the proposed Caol link road was unnecessary and too expensive.

The paper states: ‘It is noted from historic traffic data that traffic levels on the urban section of the A82 in Fort William have remained relatively flat since 2006.’

Duncan Brown, chairman of community action group For Lochaber, responded: ‘So there you have it. Traffic through the Fort hasn't increased in 10 years. How lucky we are to live in the only part of the entire UK that hasn't experienced increased traffic levels since 2006?’

The paper estimates the proposed 2.27km long link road would cost between £54.2 million and £78 million.

Mr Brown pointed out this means it would cost more than the Inverness West bypass which was estimated to cost £54 million in 2014.

‘Of course, along with this bypass, Inverness also gets a new

£10 million sports hub at Torvean.’ This comes after Highland Council decided to renege on its funding offer to Lochaber Sports Association, which Fort William and Ardnamurchan Councillor Brian Murphy called a ‘disgraceful decision’.

Mr Brown continued: ‘Why can Highland Council assemble the will-power and finance for a bypass and new sports facilities in Inverness, but effectively deny these facilities to Fort William?’

‘Is it because Highland Council gives priority treatment to Inverness and the Inner Moray Firth, and other parts of the Highlands receive the crumbs from the table?’

‘Highland Council must give a form of ‘home rule’ to Lochaber so that our councillors can take decisions in Lochaber and make these for the best interests of Lochaber and its people.’

A Highland Council spokesperson said: ‘The paper has been removed from the council's website at the request of Lochaber councillors whilst the indicative Caol link road costs within it are verified,

after which it will be put back out for public consultation.

‘The purpose of the paper and plan is to stimulate local discussion and comment so please read the available material and make formal written comment. This can be done at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal/westplanmir>. Everyone will have until June 10 to do so.’

‘We expect to receive many written comments both for and against retention of the Caol link road safeguard and it will be for Lochaber councillors to decide whether to confirm the safeguard in the next stage of the plan.’

‘The plan will be re-issued next year, this time for formal objections, and if Lochaber Area Committee resolves to retain the safeguard then it may attract objections from adversely affected landowners and Caol residents in close proximity to its line.’

‘If there are objections then the final plan content is decided by a Scottish Government Reporter, who will consider objections but also how feasible and implementable the road scheme is.’

Bogus car part warning issued

TRADING Standards have issued a warning for both consumers and businesses to exercise caution when buying replacement parts for vehicle repairs, particularly when doing so at a distance.

This warning comes after concerns were raised about several businesses specialising in supplying reconditioned and/or second hand engines.

These businesses are enticing customers with cheap online deals and often the parts are not reconditioned as advertised.

There is information to suggest that consumers are not being given statutory contractual information including, where applicable, notice of the 14-day right to cancel certain contracts.

There have also been reports of customers experiencing significant delays to repair services and of having vehicles or components kept without consent.

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● the issues
● the back story

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There is something special about...
...and you can't miss it either!

Macaulay Cup
match report and photos
from the 2015 final

Nicola's a class act say pupils as school visit leaves them on a high

TIMELINE
Annual review on the cards for NHS

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Arena



Hebridean queen excited to be playing Oban Live

GAELIC folk singer Julie Fowlis has told *The Oban Times* she is looking forward to playing with the unique line up at the Oban Live festival in May, writes Sandy Neil.

The open-air concert at Oban's Mossfield Stadium on May 13 and 14 also features Skippinich, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Hunter and the Bear, JJ Gilmore, We Banjo 3, Wolfstone and Blair Douglas.

On Saturday night, Julie will perform alongside KT Tunstall, Skerryvore and Capercaillie.

'It's a lovely line-up to be involved in,' she said. 'We're going to be up on stage with friends: with your peers and people you look up to so much, especially Karen Matheson of Capercaillie. You'll probably never see these four acts on the same stage together again and that's what's magical about these festivals.'

The singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist has performed live on stages around the globe, from Highland and island village halls to theatres in Paris and New York – and at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, in front of a TV audience of more than one billion.

'Oban is one corner we haven't played for a long time,' she said. 'When you're playing Highland songs away from home, ironically those corners are hardest to get back to, where you learnt

your craft.'

Julie, 35, grew up in a Gaelic-speaking community on North Uist, where her parents ran a hotel.

'Music was part of the fabric of growing up on North Uist,' she remembered.

'Gaelic music was visual and audible in everyday life as, or if not more, important as the other music I was hearing in the charts.'

Later she expanded her Celtic song repertoire, studying the Gaelic language and traditional Scottish music at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye, and working as a music development officer with Fèis Rois in Ross-shire.

'When I started singing professionally, I didn't know what else to sing,' she said. 'I didn't have a store of English songs I felt interested in, or moved enough to record and perform, whereas with the Gaelic songs I did.'

Nevertheless, Julie's 'crystalline' and 'intoxicating' vocals became most recognised for two English songs, *Touch the Sky* and *Into the Open Air*, from the BAFTA-winning animated film *Brave* in 2012.

Throughout her career, she has aimed to research and revive Gaelic songs, gathered from libraries and on tour at home and abroad.

She explained: 'It's a mix of learning songs from other peo-

ple, their stories and how they learned the songs, so you feel like you're a link in the chain.'

Today Julie presents the BBC Alba TV show *Port*, in which she and Nic Amhlaibh travel around Scotland and Ireland highlighting local folk musicians and cultures.

Scotland's traditional music scene is 'definitely healthier' than when she grew up, she said, which she attributes to growing opportunities for tuition, popular events like the Fèis and Mòd – the annual festivals of Scottish Gaelic song, arts and culture – and to BBC Alba which, she says, 'makes Gaelic every day and makes it accessible'.

Currently Julie lives in Dingwall with her husband, the bouzouki and fiddle player Eamonn Doorley, and their two daughters Éabha and Niamh.

Describing the couple's musical style, she explained: 'We have our own sound, my own voice and my husband's style of bazouki playing. Songs start with the two of us, our two voices at the heart of it and the other music layers on top of that.'

In Oban they will be performing some songs from their latest album *Gach Sgeul* ('Every Story'), but asked to reveal more of their playlist, she decides to keep it a surprise, saying: 'We're playing in Germany next week and I barely know what we'll be singing then.'



MacPhail's
MUSIC

The cycle of the sea

THE SEA has always been a strong part of Highland music and song.

This is reflected in the subject matter, the language, the metaphors, the symbolism and the stories told in so many songs of the tradition. This is to be expected, as in the coastal communities and islands of Gaelic-speaking Scotland the sea is a constant presence. It is our road to the world, it is our path to home, it encompasses beauty and power in equal measure, it is a provider of livelihoods and it is sadly the taker of lives. Last week we felt again the cruel nature of life at sea.

Our lives on earth are unpredictable but for those who work on the sea, the fickle nature of our existence is accentuated.

We don't know what caused the fishing vessel *Louisa* to sink while at anchor on the east side of Mingulay and we don't know why the boat's life-raft did not inflate properly. Both these events would probably have been caused by something simple and unpredictable. When these unforeseeable and potentially minor incidents occur, the response of the sea as it was in this case can be swift, ruthless, uncaring and irreversible.

The lyrics below are from an

unfinished song that I composed many years ago following the Iona tragedy of 1998. As with the sad events of last week, four fit, young and able men were on the sea and with a slight turn of fate three lives were cut short and one man will be affected for the rest of his days by what he thankfully lived through.

Our attraction and love of the ocean is deep and powerful but the sea will never be tamed. While we live and work on it we will experience the bounties, the hardships and tragedies borne by the powerful and eternal cycle of the sea.

The Heartless Ocean

The moving of the tide
The golden sun on a sparkling ocean
Beauty hides the cruel side
And power of the sea

Chorus

It gives and takes away,
Dear the toll we pay.
The poles of life will be -
Uncaring is the sea.

The rhythm of the waves
The sound of surf on a distant shoreline
Pulls you in your heart to win
Enchanting is the sea

See tranquil waters calm
See violent wrath of a sea in anger
A giving well to a raging hell
From saint to Satan's curse

The ruthless hand of fate
Encompassed both in its power and plenty
The sea is blind, not cruel nor kind
But holds you at its will

Four men sailing home
All young men who were able seamen
By the dawn three men were gone
All taken by the sea

It cares not for your love
No quarter moved for a grieving parent
Worse the hell a child to tell
Your dad's not sailing home.

Oban five-piece narrowly miss out on summer festival slots



OBAN Celtic rock band Angus Smith and North 56 made it through to the CalMac Culture Music 2016 competition final in Glasgow last week, but just failed to make the festival cut, writes Sandy Neil.

Aspiring original singer-songwriters competed for just a handful of slots at music festivals around Scotland in the third annual contest run by ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne.

Over the last few months, 96 entrants were whittled down to nine, to win a place in the live final in King Tuts Wah Wah Hut on Thursday March

31, where they performed in front of judges from eight Scottish music festivals who each chose an act to perform on their stage.

James Edwyn and the Borrowed Band won most slots at Oban Live, Best of the West, Tìree Music Festival and Hebridean Celtic Festival, while Dumb Instrument were selected for the Iona Music Festival and Mull of Kintyre Festival. ButeFest picked four: Kat Healy, Bella Gaffney, Tom Vevers and The Begbies.

Angus Smith and North 56 were disappointed not to be chosen, alongside two other

acts, Whitehill Grove and Alex Maxwell.

Angus, a singer-songwriter in Gaelic and English, told us: 'We were up against a lot of good acts. We didn't fit the bill of what the promoters were looking for.'

However the group, named after Oban's latitude at 56 degrees north, is looking forward, releasing its first album, *Seo* ('Here'), this June. The album has been recorded at Oban studio Nutshell Music.

CalMac event organiser Amanda Burns praised the quality of the acts, saying: 'We had almost 100 entries and the standard was so high.

Narrowing down a shortlist of finalists was very hard and the nine singers and bands which made it through should be really proud.

'We had a great crowd turn out for the final and all the acts played brilliantly. The choices are then down to the judges, one judge from each festival.'

'And they had a really hard time making their decisions. One or two found it so difficult they chose more than one act, which was unexpected, but great news.'

'We would like to thank all the fantastic bands and singers who took part.'

Arena

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

Cancer Trust's third 'walk this road together' concert hits all the right notes for charities

MORE than 750 people 'walked this road together' and attended a sell-out charity concert last week, raising around £13,000 in the process.

DMI Cancer Trust's third annual We'll Walk This Road Together concert featured three traditional Scottish music bands - Mánran, Trail West and Skipinnish.

Neil 'Nonnie' MacInnes, a founder

of DMI Cancer Trust, said: 'Tonight has been amazing. Everyone is turning out as they know the money is going to good local causes.'

'There are quite a lot of people who are suffering in our own area and this money will go towards helping them.'

'Tonight has been exactly the same as the previous two years. The bands are the best you can get.'

'They absolutely love playing here as

they know it's one of the best gigs to play - the crowd are so up for it.'

'The money will be split between Marie Curie Highlands and Cancer Research UK so people in this area get the immediate care.'

'We raised £13,000 on the night and have raised £43,000 in total for the charities.'

The night was also a special one for Skipinnish. The band played together

for the last time with lead-singer, Robert Robertson and keyboard player Ross Wilson and welcomed new additions - singer and guitarist Norrie MacIver; Jonathan Gillespie on keyboard and Rory Grindlay on drums.

Robert Robertson said: 'First and foremost, the night was about a really wonderful cause. People gathered 750 strong to support DMI cancer Trust

and it was a privilege to have been part of that. I'm full of admiration for the work Nonnie and his team put into the event.'

'It was a lovely night for me. It was one last chance to have a tune and good craic with the Skipinnish boys at a big gig and we all made the most of that and enjoyed ourselves.'

'It was also great to perform again in front of a big Oban crowd, many of

whom had travelled quite a distance, and who were all really responsive and supportive as always.'

'I also very much enjoyed hearing the new Skipinnish line-up and I wish the boys all the best for the future.'

'Although playing music is still totally what I'm going to focus on, I'll always have brilliant memories of playing with Skipinnish and this Oban gig was one of the very best.'



Skipinnish kept the ceilidh going and took the stage midway through the night last weekend. 17_t16dmiconcert08



The crowd put their hands in the air and sing along with Skipinnish. 17_t16dmiconcert06



Mánran entertain the crowd at the sell-out charity concert. 17_t16dmiconcert11



Right: Event organiser Neil 'Nonnie' MacInnes with Sandy Woods, one of the 750 people who bought a ticket for the concert. 17_t16dmiconcert03

Left: Members of the audience pose for a photograph before the final band, Mánran, performed. 17_t16dmiconcert10

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 - 11 Austrian bake (7)
 - 13 Assess (5)
 - 15 Neither here nor there (5)
 - 17 Loose hair (7)
 - 20 Doorless (4-4)
 - 21 List of jobs (2-2)
 - 22 Side cramp (6)
 - 23 Immense (6)

- Down
- 1 Urge (6)
 - 2 Blockage (4)
 - 3 Made certain (7)
 - 4 Sleep on it (5)
 - 5 May make decisions when given (4,4)
 - 6 Good-for-nothing (3,3)
 - 12 City dweller (8)
 - 14 Special title (3,4)
 - 16 Attribute to undesirable (6)
 - 18 Compose (6)
 - 19 Beginning (5)
 - 21 Clothing (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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CalMac enlists the unlikely help of the 'Eejits' to show millennials what they are missing



Brian Ferry hands out wisdom to the 'Eejits' as they tour some of Scotland's islands – kicking off at the Park Bar in Glasgow, before making their way to the ferry.



CALMAC'S campaign for summer 2016 has firmly stuck on a fun badge to challenge the doubting millennial visitor to head for the isles. So hold on to your (woolly) hats!

Two slightly doubting 'Eejits', under the guide of CalMac's 'handy' representative – Brian Ferry, a rather swanky Harris Tweed clad being – go undercover on a series of adventures with

Scotland's favourite ferry folk. What those 'Eejits' lack in general savvy, though, they make up for in enthusiasm, throwing themselves into everything from historical immersion on Bute to Segway riding on Arran, having a laugh and discovering that there's more to the islands than they thought.

And they also find that, with reduced fares as a result of the final rollout of RET across the whole

network, it's fantastic value and there's more left over for a good time (fun, food and beer) than they could ever have imagined.

CalMac's head of commercial Graeme MacFarlan said: 'Research has shown that our traditional campaigns work for audiences well-versed in who we are as a company and what we do. But they seem to mean less to younger audiences who are, after

all, the new generation of customers across the network.

'We know this campaign is not going to appeal to everyone, but the objective of the Eejits was to create an edgy online presence that was creative and would attract the elusive millennials – the 18-35-year-olds. It is a fresh, modern and memorable approach which showcases a snapshot of the range of activities, destinations

and value-for-money on offer across our network. And we are confident it will be a hit.'

Keep an eye open across CalMac's social media channels and website for the 'Eejits' in a series of four instalments, which are out now.

The two 'Eejits' are, in fact, the BAFTA Scotland-nominated Something Something duo of Ian Greenhill and Jordan Laird.

Young artists hit the trail with wildlife works

A TILE trail of wildlife artworks by Argyll schoolchildren has been laid at Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve near Bellanoch, one of Europe's rarest and most threatened natural wildlife habitats.

Young artists from Lochgilphead high and Kilmartin and Glassary primary schools, helped by local artist Lesley Burr and Kilmartin Museum's Madeleine Conn, con-

tributed to the series of ceramic tiles, inspired by the diversity of plants and animals that live on the raised bog, such as hen harriers, otters and the rare marsh fritillary.

Using the themes of absence and presence, the trail also celebrates Moine Mhor's cultural heritage, remembering the people who once lived and worked in the area.

The display is laid along the

reserve's appropriately named Tileworks Nature Trail, near the former Tileworks Cottage. The tile works was set up by Poltalloch Estate in the early 19th century to make drainage pipes for farmland and bricks and roof tiles for the new town of Kilmartin.

At nearby Taynish National Nature Reserve, wildlife artist Jane Smith begins a year-long stint as

artist in residence this week. Having travelled the world making wildlife films for the BBC and National Geographic, Jane is now settled on Scotland's west coast where she produces wildlife art using paint and a variety of print-making techniques. A book of her work and studies - Wild Island - a Year In The Hebrides - was published in March. Jane said: 'I'm really looking

forward to getting out into Taynish. Being a temperate rainforest, the wood is looking wonderfully green and luscious after the wet winter.'

Through a series of events over her residency, Jane will use her knowledge of Taynish's wildlife to capture the many unobserved dramas which happen every day on the reserve. Jane plans to host her first event on the reserve towards the end of May.



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15 April - 21 April

Batman v Superman: (12A)

Daily Except Sat, Sun: 17:45, Sat: 17:30, Sun: 16:30

Fearing the actions of Superman are left unchecked, Batman takes on Superman, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs. With Batman and Superman fighting each other, a new threat, Doomsday, is created by Lex Luthor. It's up to Superman and Batman to set aside their differences along with Wonder Woman to stop Lex Luthor and Doomsday from destroying Metropolis.

Kids Club: Pocahontas (U)

Sat: 11:00

Children's Classic: An English soldier and the daughter of an Algonquin chief share a romance when English colonists invade seventeenth century Virginia. Adults and children £2 entry.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 (12A)

Daily Except Sat, Sun: 20:45, Sat: 20:30, Sun: 19:30

The long-awaited follow-up to the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time. Written by Academy Award(n) nominee Nia Vardalos, who stars alongside the entire returning cast of favourites, the film reveals a Portokalos family secret that will bring the beloved characters back together for an even bigger and Greeker wedding.

The Jungle Book (PG)

Fri, Mon, Wed: 12:30,14:30, Sat: 12:30,15:00, Sun: 12:00,14:00, Tue, Thu: 14:30,17:30

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

The Jungle Book is an all-new live-action epic adventure about Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi), a man-cub raised in the jungle by a family of wolves, who embarks on a captivating journey of self discovery when he's forced to abandon the only home he's ever known.

The Witch (15)

Daily Except Sun: 20:00, Sun: 19:30

New England, 1630: William and Katherine lead a devout Christian life, homesteading on the edge of an impenetrable wilderness, with five children. When their newborn son mysteriously vanishes and their crops fail, the family begins to turn on one another. 'The Witch' is a chilling portrait of a family unraveling within their own fears and anxieties, leaving them prey for an inescapable evil.

Zootropolis (PG)

Daily Except Sat, Sun: 12:00,15:00, Sat: 12:30,15:00, Sun: 11:30,14:30

In the animal city of Zootropolis, a fast-talking fox who is trying to make it big goes on the run when he's framed for a crime he didn't commit. Zootropolis's top cop, a self-righteous rabbit, is hot on his tail, but when both become targets of a conspiracy, they're forced to team up and discover even natural enemies can become best friends.

Coming Soon

Kids Club: The Prince of Egypt (U)

23/04/2016

Children's Classic: An Egyptian prince learns of his identity as a Hebrew and, later, his destiny to become the chosen deliverer of his people.

Kids Club: Toy Story 2 (U)

25/04/2016

Children's Classic: When Woody is stolen by a toy collector, Buzz and his friends vow to rescue him, but Woody finds the idea of immortality in a museum tempting.

The Huntsman: Winter's War (12A)

22/04/2016

As two evil sisters prepare to conquer the land; two renegades - Eric the Huntsman who previously aided Snow White in defeating Ravenna, and his forbidden lover Sara set out to stop them.

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<p>ARGYLL ANIMAL AID at Congregational Church Hall Saturday 16th April 11am until 3pm Home Baking to buy Bits and Bobs Books • Bric a Brac Pop in and support us</p>	<p>Cancer Research Committee Oban Branch BINGO NIGHT in the Masonic Hall Albany Street, Oban on Friday 15th April 2016 7.30pm Raffle</p>	<p>Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group COFFEE MORNING Glencruitten Road Church Hall 23 April, 10am - 12 noon All the usual stalls Any donations gratefully accepted</p>
<p>Oban & Lorn Strathspey & Reel Society Fiddlers Rally Concert Saturday 23 April 2016 Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm With Robert Robertson & Ross Wilson Of Skipinnish and Maurice Duncan, Champion Fiddler. Tickets £8 and £7.50 from Corran Halls, 01631 567333</p>	<p>SOUP LUNCH Glencruitten Church Hall Saturday 16th April 12pm-2pm Donations on the door ** All proceeds to funds for Oban Gaelic Choir</p>	<p>Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times</p>

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WIN PLUS 2 VIP tickets to Oban Live worth £99 each!
A pair of 2-day standard tickets for a runner up

The Oban Times has teamed up with Oban Live to offer one lucky winner a pair of VIP tickets to the two-day, open air concert at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on May 13 and 14. The VIP tickets, worth £99 each, include check-in at the VIP arrivals desk, access to the VIP bar and luxury toilets, an exclusive Oban Live VIP lanyard and free entry to the after party at Skipinnish Ceilidh House, May 13 and 14. There is also a pair of two-day standard tickets for one lucky runner up, worth £60 each.

Oban Live will see headline act and Grammy Award-nominated songstress KT Tunstall take to the stage, preceding a list of exciting live acts, including Skerryvore, Capercaillie, Julie Fowlis, Wolfstone, Hunter and the Bear, Skipinnish and many more. Visit obanlive.com. Tickets are also available to buy from the Bid4Oban office on Stevenson Street, Oban.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Oban Live competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday April 26, 2016.

Question: Which 2012 Disney film included the song Touch the Sky by Julie Fowlis on its soundtrack?
a) The Lion King b) The Little Mermaid c) Brave

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

Please tick here if you would NOT like to receive any information on events and promotions from The Oban Times.
 Please tick here if you would like us to share your details with Oban Live so they can contact you with further information.

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday April 26, 2016. All tickets are subject to Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at www.obanlive.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



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

THIS photograph could have been taken in the 1940s. The Clyde puffer Kaffir is beached at Iona and is being unloaded into a trailer pulled by a Ferguson TE series tractor. The MacBrayne steamer King George V glides past on her way to Staffa.

In fact this famous picture by [David] Webster of Oban could have been taken as recently as the 1970s. An estimated one million Wee Grey Fergies were produced in Coventry and Detroit between 1946 and 1956 and a great many of them are still in service today. Significant numbers of surviving machines are to be found in the highlands and islands of Scotland – a testimony to the simplicity, functionality and reliability of the original design. I learned to drive on a 1956 model, but my dad preferred his 1947 one with the Perkins diesel engine conversion. They were sold locally after he died, but those farmers are also long gone, so the whereabouts or condition of these particular tractors is sadly not known.

The Clyde Puffer Kaffir (an offensive word by today's standards, but quite acceptable two generations ago) and her sister ship Boer were built by Hay's of Kirkintilloch in the 1940s for their own fleet to

service the coastal trade. This colourful maritime business, the 'trade', immortalised by Inveraray's Neil Munro in his Para Handy Tales, television adaptations and the Ealing comedy film *The Maggie*, transported any and every cargo imaginable between the mainland and the islands from the 1920s to the 1990s.

The design originated in the late 1800s and early vessels were meant for canal use only. Later developments improved seaworthiness so the vessels we are familiar with today were capable of longer and more challenging passages.

In 1941, the Ministry of War Transport commissioned the first batch of Victualing Inshore Craft (VICs) to service Royal Navy ships and requisition vessels and command posts around the coast. They were almost identical to the pre-war puffers, including the twin cylinder compound steam engines even as diesel propulsion systems had established themselves worldwide. The most famous of these survivors is VIC 32, based on the Crinan Canal. She is owned and operated by the Puffer Preservation Trust, and available for live-aboard cruises on the west coast.

The Kaffir was stolen by her engineer from Ayr harbour in 1974, run aground and sunk.

The wreck is still visible at low tide, just north of the harbour entrance. The majority of the remaining puffer fleet was effectively retired in the late 1970s, as shipping companies increased the capacity and range of their fleet vessels. Modern cargo ship designs also significantly improved conditions for their crews.

Turbine Steamer King George V was built in Dumbarton by William Denny and Brothers (on the site of the Scottish Maritime Museum Denny Test Tank) for Turbine Steamers Ltd in 1926, passing to David MacBrayne in 1935 and Caledonian MacBrayne in 1973. She was in service on Inveraray and Campbeltown routes until 1935 when she cruised from Oban to Iona, Staffa and Fort William.

During WWII she served as a troop ship and evacuated 4,300 men from Dunkirk in 1940. Returned to Clyde service in 1946, she ran the Ardrishaig mail service until 1947 when she sailed the Oban route until the service was withdrawn in 1974. TS King George V did some charter work until she was broken up in 1984.

Scotland's maritime heritage is world famous, and efforts to preserve and celebrate it are to be applauded and supported. Ships and boats and the



building of them sustained whole communities for two centuries. Brave, adventurous and talented men and women sailed them across the globe

and protected these islands in two world wars. Many, many people have lost their lives at sea in active service and in the merchant marine and

this week's reminiscence is dedicated to their memory. And as for Wee Grey Fergies, I salute those dedicated enthusiasts who keep them

going. The landscape of the highlands and islands would be poorer without them.

Bodach

WIN
Dinner, bed and breakfast
at the **Taynuilt Hotel**



The Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant is rapidly developing a nationwide reputation as a dining destination and we're offering Oban Times readers the chance to sample it for free.

Our competition winner and partner will find out what all the fuss is about with a night's courtesy dinner, bed and breakfast at this historic coaching inn, recently voted the best place for informal dining in the Lomond and Argyll region in the 2016 Scottish Hotel Awards. The lucky couple will also enjoy aperitifs on the house!

Head Chef/Patron John McNulty uses the best locally sourced produce to deliver high quality dishes that would grace any restaurant in a major city centre.

From meat and game to seafood and exciting vegetarian dishes, everything is prepared from scratch, including home-cured and home-smoked meat and fish. Nestling at the foot of Ben Cruachan between Loch Etive and Loch Awe, it was awarded its first AA Rosette for culinary excellence last year.

Under the guidance of General Manager and sommelier David Lapsley, the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant is also renowned for its wines selection and stocks around 100 malt whiskies and 50 gins. In 2015 it launched a specialist wines and spirits shop, The Drammery.

It is perfectly situated as a base for exploring the Hebrides and west coast. The hotel's 10 bedrooms are named after Scottish lochs, and feature antique beds and other furniture and fittings.

The Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant is open Wednesdays to Sundays inclusive for lunch and dinner. To make a reservation call 01866-822437 or email enquiries@taynuilthotel.co.uk.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Taynuilt Hotel Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday April 26, 2016.

Q. Near which mountain is the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant situated?

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

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday April 26, 2016. Prize must be taken by October 30, 2016. Accommodation is subject to availability.

Tayvallich model maker sets sail for Glasgow exhibition



A MAN from Tayvallich will show off his model ships at an exhibition in Glasgow this weekend.

John McNulty, who builds his models when he is not working as a pharmacist, will show them off at the Ship Ahoy event in the city's Riverside Museum.

Mr McNulty's ships are 11ft in length and are remote controlled, travelling at 'walking pace'.

He said: 'It's good to be invited to the exhibition. Last year it was in Irvine and there were quite a number of groups taking part in it. It's quite a get together.'

'It was well attended and considered to be a success. This is the fourth or fifth year they have run Ship Ahoy.'

'It's to raise awareness of our maritime heritage, which is very strong in the west coast of Scotland.'

The event will host a variety of exhibitors and will take place on Saturday April 16 from 10am-4pm. Entry is free for everyone.



John McNulty with one of his models.

New tanks and seal hospital at sea life sanctuary

THE SCOTTISH Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine is to undergo a £325,000 redevelopment with new tanks, a new seal hospital and a new interactive display being

introduced. The sanctuary, the oldest in the Sea Life network, will close for two weeks from Monday April 18 to Friday April 29 as part of a plan to modernise and

improve facilities. Sanctuary manager Kathryn Angel said: 'We're hoping these improvements will allow us to care for and protect our marine environment for another 37

years to come. We're also going to be building a new seal hospital for 2017, which will allow us to rescue and rehabilitate even more seals in the future.'

Cruise firm launches new ship

A NEW island cruise ship was launched last week with a splash of whisky by actress Barbara Rafferty, best known as Ella Cotter in the TV series *Rab C Nesbitt*, at Holy Loch Marina near Dunoon.

The Glen Etive, built on the Clyde at Ardmaleish Boatyard on the Isle of Bute, will transport up to 12 guests on six- or 10-night cruises to far-flung Hebridean islands such as the Shiantis and St Kilda.

The purpose-built luxury boat was commissioned by Scottish cruising company The Majestic Line, to join its sister mini-cruise ships, the Glen Massan and Glen Tarsan, which are converted wooden-hulled fishing trawlers.

Ewan Ferguson, managing director of Ardmaleish Boatyard, said: 'The building of the Glen Etive required many specialist skills and has kept the workforce fully employed, especially giving valuable experience to our apprentices.'

'We have also involved local trades in the interior fit-out.'

'We are proud to demonstrate what can be achieved by building boats on the Clyde.'



The Majestic Line co-owner Andy Thoms and Barbara Rafferty name the Glen Etive with a splash of whisky on her hull.

Oban and Ullapool set to welcome tall ships

Tall Ship Wylde Swan is returning to Ullapool and will be offering sailing trips to local school children as well as paying guests.



TWO tall ships are making their way to Oban and Ullapool in the coming weeks.

Tall Ship *Tecla* will visit Oban first before setting sail on April 25 for Ullapool.

Meanwhile Tall Ship *Wylde Swan* will be sailing from Ullapool to Oban from May 15-19, with a return leg from May 20-26.

Ullapool harbour's association with tall ships dates back to 2011 when 16 vessels visited the village during that year's cruise in company leg of the Tall Ships' Races. The

weekend was a huge success; an estimated 10,000 visitors enjoyed on-board ceilidhs, marquee dances, barbecues, day sails, island cruises, market stalls and performances by Ullapool and District pipe band.

The welcome was so warm and friendships so well established that since then the association has enjoyed annual return visits from *Wylde Swan* and other magnificent schooners - *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, *Christian Radich* and *Tecla*. The sight of these sturdy, beautifully-crafted vessels sailing into and out

of the harbour is breathtaking.

The local community has benefited in many ways. For the past six years, the harbour trustees have sponsored more than 250 school children to undertake day sails and longer sailing adventures to Norway, Denmark, Finland and beyond. Hundreds more paying guests have enjoyed superb voyages around the islands, with trips to St Kilda proving immensely popular.

Harbourmaster Kevin Peach, who has worked tirelessly to promote tall ship activities on the west coast,

said: 'It's almost impossible to overrate the experience of sailing around our incredible coastline on a tall ship.'

Yet again, fantastic sailing trips have been planned for this year, including a series of one-, three- and six-day sails.

This will be *Wylde Swan*'s last visit to Ullapool for the foreseeable future, so 2016 is a great opportunity to sail aboard the world's largest top sail schooner.

Tecla has even more adventurous plans, including a trip through the

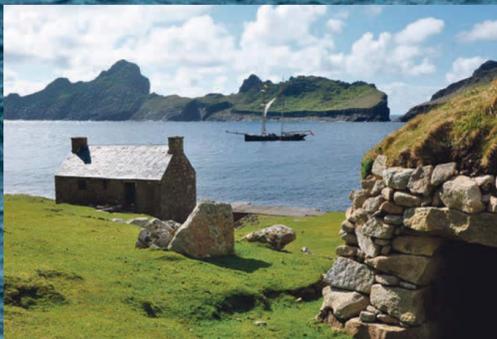
Caledonian Canal, sailing down Loch Ness, and a voyage to Iceland.

Tecla is a classic 100-year-old original tall ship owned and run by a Dutch family, with mother, son and daughter the skippers. A former herring drifter, she's furnished with eight two-person cabins and her small, friendly crew are hugely keen sailors. *Tecla* arrives in Ullapool on April 25, while *Wylde Swan* arrives on May 10.

For more information about sailing trips out of Ullapool, visit www.ullapool-harbour.co.uk/events.



Tall Ship Tecla

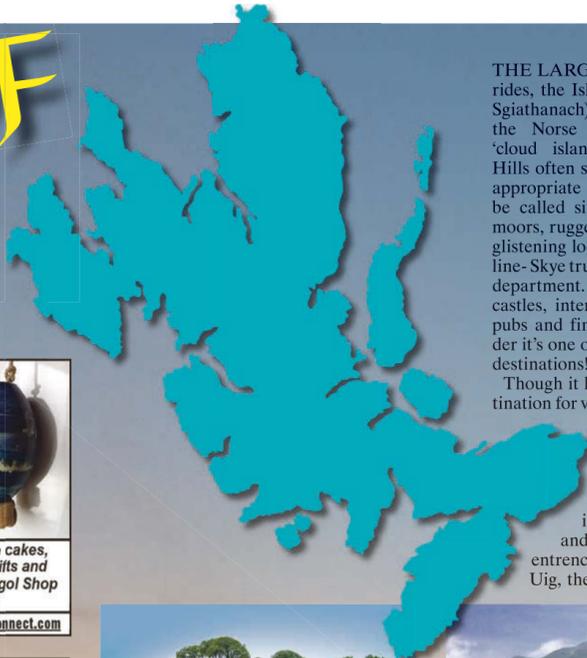


Tall Ship Wylde Swan at St Kilda



Ullapool students enjoy day sail adventure on board Wylde Swan

isle of SKYE



THE LARGEST of the Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Skye ((an t-Eilean Sgiathanach) takes its name from the Norse 'sky-a', which means 'cloud island.' With the Cuillin Hills often shrouded in mist, it's an appropriate name, but it could also be called simply magical. Verdant moors, rugged cliffs and mountains, glistening lochs and stunning coastline - Skye truly has it all in the nature department. Add to that enchanting castles, interesting museums, lively pubs and fine restaurants, no wonder it's one of Scotland's top holiday destinations!

Though it has been a popular destination for visitors for centuries, the opening of the Skye Bridge in 1995, and the end of the tolls a decade later had a profound effect on the island, boosting trade and tourism and helping entrench the importance of Uig, the island's northern port,

as a key point of access to the Outer Hebrides.

Though there is plenty to do in the inhabited parts, the most profound rewards come from close encounters with the seascapes and landscapes, from little Talisker Bay - which shares its name with the island-produced Talisker whisky - to the Trotternish Ridge, guarded by the imposing rock tower of the Old Man of Stoor.

Those seeking culture will find lots to love in Skye. Charming Portree is the capital, but there are plenty of other quaint villages to explore, such as Dunvegan, Edinbane, Staffin and Armadale. History buffs can't miss Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland - it's been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years. The magnificent 20,000 acre Clan Donald Skye estate offers a memorable experience, with historic gardens, woodland trails, a

castle and museum. The brooding ruins of Knock Castle on the east coast of Sleat are a lovely spot for a picnic and photo op.

Skye is most famous for its natural scenery, with plenty of opportunities to spot wildlife and get out in the pristine air. White tailed sea eagles, whales, dolphins, otters, seals and red deer are just some of the species that can be viewed on the island. Those eager to walk and climb will find Skye to be a world class destination. The Cuillin Range and Trotternish Ridge offers challenging scrambles. For those who prefer to enjoy a stroll, there are many great walks.

The famous Fairy Pools are at the foot of the Black Cuillins near Glenbrittle. These crystal clear azure pools attract brave swimmers (the water is cold!) and photographers from around the world.

From dynamic culture to bucolic tranquility, the Isle of Skye promises the holiday of a lifetime.



Open Mon - Sat, 10am to 5 pm for homemade cakes, coffees, soups and sandwiches. Groceries, gifts and local art work. We also have "a wee slice" of Elgol Shop at the pier open when the sun shines!

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must visit for foodies! There is a wealth of great quality products available from some small artisan producers and we are delighted to support them by gradually expanding on our ranges to meet customer demands. We have a map of Scotland on our wall which indicates where our stock comes from and makes for some interesting viewing!

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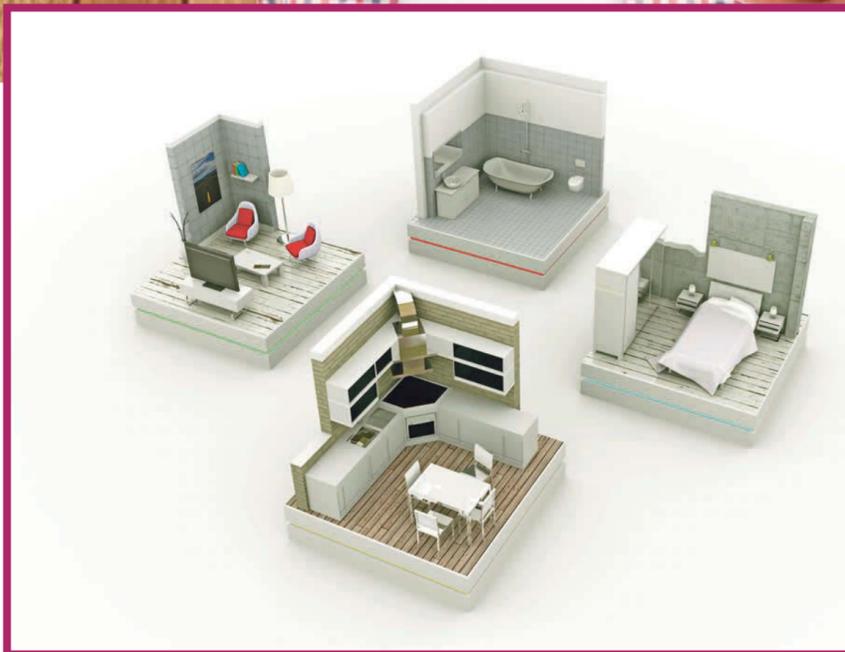
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Home &



April is Home Improvement Month

HOME Improvement Month aims to inspire, educate and empower the UK to make the most of their homes. This April, choose a room in your home to start a home improvement revolution. This is your chance to finally take on that project, see it through and feel proud of the results.

DIY

Research has shown that when it comes to home improvement, we'd much rather do our own overalls, get out the old paintbrushes and crack open the tins of paint ourselves.

This Home Improvement Month, eight in 10 say they would rather do DIY themselves, and a further 85 per cent would also rather do their own decorating, over hiring a professional to do it.

There are many different pros and cons to doing DIY yourself. The increasing cost of professionals combined with the easy access to purchasing your own DIY equipment mean it has never been easier to spruce up your home

yourself. As we're a judgemental lot, and 25 per cent of us admit to judging the appearance of people's homes, we've put together some top tips to make the best out of doing it yourself, making small improvements to your home in the best ways you can.

Small Storage Solutions

Storage can often be a problem, particularly if you live in a small

house or flat. You have to be imaginative when making the most out of your home. Dead space underneath stairs can often be a good area to begin; you can add shelves, shoe racks or even a desk for a mini home office.

Revive Old Furniture

Updating your furniture can seem daunting. It can be tempting to go out and buy completely new

furniture, however, sometimes it's easier to look a bit closer to home. Renovating your own furniture can be cheap and easy. An old, worn, wooden chest of drawers can be instantly improved with a lick of paint and some new handles.

Painting

There's no better way of refreshing your home than a quick lick of

paint. To give your living spaces a quick and clean update. Make sure you buy a good quality paint that is an exact (or close) match to your original colour, this way you avoid doing a fully-fledged redecorate.

Hiring a professional

Perhaps your home improvement revolution dreams are a bit bigger. Finding a qualified professional remodelling contractor doesn't have to be a difficult task. We have some helpful tips to guide you in finding the best remodeller for your project during Home Improvement Month.

Employ a contractor with an established business

Research names and the background of qualified remodels that may have been supplied by neighbours and friends to verify licensing and certifications.

Discuss your project with a couple of contractors. Call a few from your list to talk about your project. Describe what you envision for the home remodel - styles you like, your estimated budget, and other ideas for the remodelling work. Ask them for references, and

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Garden

Here's what the experts suggest for April's gardening 'to do' list:

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...RHS

Your garden soil is likely to be in poor condition right now, after the wet winter has washed away many of its nutrients. So one of the very first jobs to do, now that the weather has warmed up, is to get the soil up to scratch - then it can nurture all your plants, just as they're starting to grow. Alan Titchmarsh

Climbing plants will start to grow rapidly now, so make sure they have enough support for the new growth. Extend your trellis or add more wire to arches and tripods as necessary. Gently encourage new shoots sideways as they grow. This sends growth hormones along the length of the shoot, rather than just to the tips which will encourage flowering all over the plant. David Domoney

For 'grow your own' gardeners, vegetable growing really kicks off this month. Chit and plant out second early potatoes in the first half of the month, main crop potatoes in the second half. It's also time

to sow seed outdoors such as beetroot, carrots, Swiss chard, summer cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, radish, turnip, spring and pickling onions, peas and perpetual spinach in well-prepared soil. Asparagus crowns and Jerusalem artichoke tubers can also be planted out.



check out their website or brochure that describes their experience and accomplishments.

Ask questions about the contractor's business

Asking questions can help ensure you hire the best professional. Do they have a licence? Do they have general liability insurance in case of an accident on the job? Ask to see a copy to verify coverage. Do they guarantee their work? How do they handle any problems that may arise on the project? Having these answers in advance will prevent future problems and nail down the best professional for the job.

Don't make the selection on price alone

Many people are lured by the lowest price to their remodelling project, thinking that they have found a great deal. But be sceptical of unusually low prices. These bids may be more cost more in the end - especially if the contractor is cutting corners, not pulling permits, not calculating certain costs, or is inexperienced. Beware that the lowest price may not ultimately provide the best value for your home remodel.

Spring is here and it's gardening time!

THE GARDEN really comes alive in April and the number of tasks to be carried out is considerable. Making the best use of the lengthening days is a bonus and, providing the weather stays good, it can be a brilliant gardening month. In addition to dead-heading spring bulbs, now is the time to get planting and some seeds can be sown directly into the ground or into containers.

It's also the time of year that you see the first leaves beginning to unfurl on early shrubs and trees such as Japanese maples. An ideal choice of tree for any small, compact or courtyard garden, Japanese maples are great for creating a focal point in the garden and their natural shape and growing habit of branches make them perfect for growing in large patio pots. Different leaf shapes, sizes and range of colours from deep greens to yellow, gold, purple or even variegated patterns gives gardeners a huge variety to choose from. Japanese maples are *Plant of the Moment* in garden centres and nurseries around the UK which means you can add a little maple magic to your garden this month that will put on a show from early spring to late autumn.

Don't forget to mulch any new plantings with compost. In fact you should start mulching and feeding all plants from now on and throughout the summer. The weeds that have been dormant over the winter will now start bursting into life so now is a good time to take control - and the same applies to the lawn, which will need some care and attention and repair of any bare patches.



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61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles..... £5,250

11 Renault Clio DYN, T/tom DCI Est 1.5, Blue, 52,500 miles..... £6,250

11 Peugeot 308 Access SW HDI Est, 1.5, Black, 46000 Miles..... £5,995

60 Renault EXP, 1.5 DCI, 5Dr, Blue, 51,000 Miles..... £4,450

10 Ford Focus Zetec, 1.6 Sdr, Black, 59,000 miles..... £5250

58 Citroen Berlingo 1.6, M-SP VTR 90, Silver, 76250 Miles..... £3,750

07 Renault Clio DYN, 1.4 5Dr, Grey, 67,500 Miles..... £3,250

COMMERCIALS

15 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI, White, Delivery Mileage, Choice of 2. POA

11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles..... £4,250+VAT

60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van..... £7,000 plus VAT

08 Renault Master SWB, White..... POA

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Dacia Sandero = from £5,995*

Dacia Sandero Stepway = from £8,395*

Dacia Duster = from £9,495*

Logan MCV Estate = from £6,995

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate Tce 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate DCI 110 4X2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

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15/15 Defender 110 2.2d XS Manual Havana, 16,500 miles	£38,950
12/62 Freelander 2 2.2 TD4 GS Auto Indus Silver, 26,000 miles	£16,950
12/62 Freelander 2 2.2 SD4 XS Auto Mauritius Blue, 25,266 miles	£20,000
14/64 Freelander 2 2.2 SD4 SE Tech Auto Orkney Grey, 17,608 miles	£25,000
15/15 Discovery Sport 2.2 SD4 HSE Auto Loire Blue, 3,100 miles	£34,950
15/65 Discovery Sport 2.0 TD4 HSE Manual Corris Grey, 5,300 miles	£35,300
15/15 Discovery Sport 2.2 SD4 HSE Auto Corris Grey, 8,650 miles	£35,950
13/13 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure Manual Mauritius Blue, 34,015 miles	£24,850
13/13 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure Manual Baltic Blue, 17,339 miles	£25,500
12/61 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Prestige Auto Orkney Grey, 46,405 miles	£26,450
12/12 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Dynamic Manual Fuji White, 28,676 miles	£26,950
13/13 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure TECH Manual Indus Silver, 14,203 miles	£28,750
14/64 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure TECH Manual Orkney Grey, 13,459 miles	£28,950
15/15 Ranger Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure TECH Manual Fuji White, 10,012 miles	£30,000
14/14 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure TECH Auto Firenze Red, 18,073 miles	£30,500
15/65 Range Rover Evoque 2.0 TD4 SE Tech Manual Santorini Black, 5,273 miles	£32,950
15/65 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Pure TECH Auto Loire Blue, 6,000 miles	£33,450
14/64 Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Dynamic Manual Santorini Black, 8,763 miles	£33,950
15/15 Range Rover Sport 3.0 SDV6 HSE Dynamic Auto Corris Grey, 20,035 miles	£60,950
15/15 Range Rover 4.4 SDV8 Autobiography Auto Loire Blue, 5,450 miles	£88,950

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Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its mission to generate sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

(managing High Growth and Development accounts) Lochgilphead
£33,305 - £39,008 per annum, excellent benefits package **JOB REFERENCE: 576**

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced Account Manager. Working as part of a small team this is a pivotal role in providing intensive account management support to a defined portfolio of clients with the ambition and potential to achieve significant business growth and impact on the wider economy. You will work productively with businesses to develop a more intensive engagement with a focus on accelerating business growth and development.

To be credible in this role you will bring excellent relationship building skills, a strong interest in economic development coupled with a successful track record of business development. A strong knowledge of the Argyll business community and the sectoral opportunities present within the area is essential.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

(managing Locally Significant accounts) Lochgilphead
£26,229 - £29,907 per annum, excellent benefits package **JOB REFERENCE: 574**

We have an exciting opportunity for an Account Manager. In this role you will work as part of the Argyll Area team to provide account management support on a mainly reactive and transactional basis in order to achieve business growth and impact in the local economy. Support will be mainly through the appraisal of projects which will require you to demonstrate a business case for HIE investment and support.

To be credible in this role you will bring relationship building skills, communication and report writing skills as well as a strong interest in economic development. A good knowledge of the Argyll business community and the sectoral opportunities present within the area is essential.

TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT: www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

PLEASE QUOTE THE JOB REFERENCE YOU ARE APPLYING FOR.

CLOSING DATE: 24 APRIL 2016

INTERVIEWS: 29 APRIL 2016

We encourage online applications but if you are unable to apply online please contact us for an application pack, e-mail recruitment@hient.co.uk or call 01463 244 414.

Mull and Iona Community Trust VACANCY

Pontoon Manager

Mull and Iona Community Trust is recruiting a self motivated Pontoon Manager. This is a new position created to manage the installation of the Ulva Ferry Pontoon and then the operation for the first season. The applicant will have a good understanding of managing projects plus experience of marine and boat operations and will have good communications skills to provide a warm welcome to visiting yachts and supporting local marine users.

The position will be full time for 37.5 hours per week. The contract will run for 8 months starting 1st May 2016. The ability to work on your own initiative is essential.

To view the job description visit www.mict.co.uk, contact Moray Finch, General Manager of the Community Trust enquiries@mict.co.uk for an application pack; Closing date for applications: Thursday 21st April 2016.

MULL AND IONA COMMUNITY TRUST
Company Limited by Guarantee registered in Scotland Reg. No. SC172897
Scottish Charity Number SC025995
VAT Registration Number 125 5083 32

Senior Investment & Planned Maintenance Officer

Lochgilphead
35 hours per week
Salary £30,707 - £36,126

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact David McColl, Investment Manager on 01546 605842.

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Wednesday 4th May 2016

Painter

Mid Argyll & Kintyre
37.5 hours per week
Salary £20,753 - £24,414

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Andy Read, Planned Preventative Maintenance Manager on 01546 605919

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 22nd April 2016

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment
If you are unable to access the website, please contact:
Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Lead Exercise Professional

Full time, Fixed term contract 1 year initially Oban, with some travel throughout Argyll.
Salary: circa £25K, dependent on qualifications.

An exciting opportunity has arisen within our successful team for a Lead Exercise Professional who will provide a valued specialist service and be empathetic to our clients needs.

Our programme is designed to support a wide range of individuals with varying physical & mental health conditions to enable & support them in changing their lifestyle & to become more active. You will work closely with health professionals across a wide range of disciplines who provide support, mentoring & who understand the importance of physical activity & life style change for their client's health & well-being. You will be responsible for all aspects of the exercise programme delivery. There may be opportunities to manage wider aspects of Healthy Options programmes.

Healthy Options is a dynamic community health initiative working in collaboration with health professionals. This is a unique opportunity to help this exciting & successful programme continue & develop to meet the needs of the population of Oban and Argyll.

Successful Candidate will have: • S/NVQ Level 3 GP referral qualification or equivalent • S/NVQ Level 4 exercise specialist qualifications (desirable) • REPS registration • Experience in designing & delivering activity programmes for clients with chronic conditions.

For job description & further details contact:-
Lorn & Oban Healthy Options Ltd.
info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk
Reg. in Scotland No. SC383167 Reg. Charity No. SC041998

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION Ltd

Customer Services Assistant

EVH Band 3 [£16,210] from 1st April 2016
Temporary Position For A Period Of 1 Year

The Association is seeking to recruit a temporary Customer Services Assistant for a period of 1 year. The main purpose of this post will be to provide excellent front line customer service to tenants, applicants, owners and other stakeholders as well as administrative support to other sections of the Association.

Applicants should possess general administration experience in a busy office environment. Must be a good communicator and be fully competent in the use of Microsoft Office.

EVH conditions of service and contributory pension scheme are offered.

We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from all sectors of the community. We are a Scottish Charity No SC017357.

Application packs are available from Iona Smith, Housing & Customer Services Officer. Please email iona@westhighlandha.co.uk for a pack
Closing date for Applications will be Wednesday 20th April 2016, with interviews being held week commencing 25th April 2016.

Bridge of Orchy Village Hall Trust

Registered Charity SCO46194

Project Officer for Climate Challenge Fund Project

Full Time based in Bridge of Orchy
£25,000 p.a. gross pro rata.
Fixed term ending 31st March 2017

The project includes the delivery of an inspiring programme of events to raise awareness of climate change issues, including the insulation and re-opening of the Village Hall, composting and food waste, a transport project, a home efficiency project, vegetable growing, amongst others.

The project officer will have responsibility for the administration of the project and liaising with existing funders, as well fundraising and researching further grant applications. Social media and website skills are also required.

Apply with CV to glenorchy8074@gmail.com
BOOVHT, Arichastlich, Glen Orchy, Argyll, PA33 1BD.

Polytunnel Assistant

Working in connection with the above Climate Challenge Fund Project we require an experienced, yet practical gardener/horticulturalist to work in the community polytunnel, to help and to encourage novice growers. Initially for 3 weeks (35 hours per week) to set up the project, thereafter for 1 day (7.5 hours) per week until 31st March 2017 at the rate of £9 per hour gross. There will be other landscaping duties and hours may be extended depending on the success of the project.

Apply with CV to glenorchy8074@gmail.com
BOOVHT, Arichastlich, Glen Orchy, Argyll, PA33 1BD.

Surfacing Operatives

Concrete Batcher

Oban area

Breedon Aggregates is the largest independent aggregates group in the UK, employing over 1250 people in more than 130 quarries and plants throughout Scotland, England and Wales. The group supplies crushed rock, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete and mortar to the construction, road-building and specialist aggregates markets.

Surfacing Operatives

We are now keen to employ skilled Surfacing Operatives to carry out a variety of roles, from operating mobile plant & equipment, i.e. machine paver, roller, Tractaire and Streetmasters to general surfacing operations. You will ideally be able to be able to operate more than one piece of machinery, hold a driving licence and CSCS card. Previous experience of working in machine resurfacing teams on highway works is preferred but not essential as training will be given to ensure individuals can carry out a variety of tasks within the team. You will display a proactive attitude to Health & Safety, making suggestions to reduce or remove any identified risks; attend and understand the content of the daily briefing, toolbox talks and any site specific induction prior to commencing work on site. Please email your CV to malcolm.cullen@breedonaggregates.com or send to Contracting Commercial Manager - West, Dunbeg Quarry, Oban, Argyll & Bute, PA37 1PX

Concrete Batcher

An opportunity has arisen for a Concrete Batcher based at our Benderloch Quarry. You will be responsible for the operation of computerised batching systems in order to produce concrete to required customer specifications and technical standards, and for the day-to-day safe and efficient running of the concrete plant.

The successful candidate will have a general mechanical/electrical background, preferably within the concrete plant environment, and be able to identify faults and report accordingly. It would be an advantage if you had experience in a similar role and hold a fork lift/telehandler licence, however, training will be provided. You will be a practical individual, time orientated in the way you work with a 'can do' attitude.

You will display a proactive attitude to Health & Safety, making suggestions to reduce or remove any identified risks in line with Company rules and expectations, as well as any legal obligations.

Please email your CV to adrian.howe@breedonaggregates.com or send to General Manager - West, Dunbeg Quarry, Oban, Argyll & Bute, PA37 1PX

For both the above roles the ability to communicate effectively, work as part of a team and be polite and courteous to colleagues, clients and the general public is essential. In return, we offer a competitive salary and other benefits associated with a progressive employer. You must be able to provide evidence of your right to work in the UK.

ainsley smith+co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Accounts Assistant/Bookkeeper Required

Accounts Assistant/Bookkeeper required for our Oban office. Training given as required. Salary dependent on experience. Ability to work with SAGE software an advantage.

This is an opportunity to join an expanding, busy general practice with clients from all over Argyll and Highlands and Islands, the appropriate candidates will be able to work on their own initiative and be able to have a good relationship with clients and other staff.

Please email CV to Jean Ainsley CA
jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk

CLYDE MARINE

SKIPPER

We have a vacancy for the above in Oban from June to August 2016.

Candidates must be enthusiastic, self motivated, flexible, and be in possession of RYA Yachtmaster with commercial endorsement and provide high levels of customer service.

To apply, please forward your CV and certificates by post or email to:
Clyde Marine Services Ltd,
Victoria Harbour, Greenock, PA15 1HW.
admin@clyde-marine.co.uk

Care Assistants

Full and Part Time Positions Available

We are currently recruiting for Full and Part Time Care Assistants to join our experienced team at Lynn of Lorne Care Home.

You will be responsible for implementing the provision of quality care for elderly residents, ensuring they each retain their dignity and individuality. You'll also be closely involved in the general activities of the Care Home and responsible for maintaining a safe and secure environment for residents, staff members and visitors.

Applicants will have experience and a genuine interest in working with elderly residents within a caring environment. GCF/NVQ in Care is not necessary for this post, however candidates should be willing to participate in Vocational Training Programmes.

Applicants should be able to communicate effectively at all levels and be comfortable working in a Team. Satisfactory Police check and PVG check applies to this role.

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME

To apply, contact lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com or call Home Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278.
Benderloch, By Oban PA37 1QW • www.mckenziecare.com

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ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

FORESTRY/Crane OPERATORS

We are currently recruiting for experienced Forestry/Crane Operators based in Argyll.

All applicants must have an HGV licence, previous driving experience (preferably a minimum of 2 years) and a DQC. Previous experience within the forestry industry, including hauling roundwood timber and forestry crane operations is required. Training can be provided for the right candidates.

Rates of pay up to £10.90 basic and £12.51 overtime depending on experience. Aggregated holiday pay, company pension scheme and bonus structure also in place. Full PPE and workwear provided.

Posts also available in other locations please contact for more details.

If you would like to apply for this position or for further information please contact Human Resources:
Integrated Freight Facility, Annat, Corpach, PH33 7NN T: 01397 773840 E: hr@fergusontransport.co.uk

D.A. MACDONALD

Contractors Ltd.

Have a vacancy for a

HGV Driver

Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience to
Donald MacDonald
Site 15a, Kilmory Industrial Estate,
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email address: donald@damacdonald.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Production Manager

Organic Salmon Farm in Co. Galway, Ireland

Bradán Beo Teo., an established organic salmon farming company in the west of Ireland is seeking to fill the position of Production Manager. Reporting to the General Manager, the successful candidate will have responsibility for all the day to day operations of a marine sea cage salmon farm. They will oversee the safe and efficient deployment of staff, seek to achieve high levels of stock survival, fast growth and efficient feed conversion, all with minimal environmental impact and in full compliance with all relevant legislation.

The role requires the following key abilities:

- High calibre leadership and interpersonal skills;
- Effective management of operational staff including responsibility for Health & Safety;
- Ensuring that fish health and welfare is prioritised at all times;
- Ensuring that stock performance in terms of key efficiency ratios is achieved to an agreed standard;
- Regular monitoring of the fish health;
- Ensuring compliance at all times with the relevant regulations governing the operations of an organic salmon farm in Ireland;
- Providing timely and accurate production reports to management;

An attractive remuneration package including bonus based on the biological performance of the stock. The job will be based in County Galway.

Please submit CV and application letter by Friday 29 April 2016 to:
Robert Kerr, Bradán Beo Teo, Lettermullen, Co. na Gaillimhe
bobby@bradanbeo.ie

CARPET & FLOORING SERVICES (OBAN)

Apprentice Floor Layer required

Training will be provided for all types of Floor Coverings (Carpets, Design Flooring and Contract Flooring)
Please apply by email carpetservoban@btconnect.com

DALRIADA VETS

Receptionist Required

Full Time, Mon-Fri
Please apply in writing to:
Dalriada Vets, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead,
Argyll, PA31 8QX
dalriadavets@btconnect.com

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public notices

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office: Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30- 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office: 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00708/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land West of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss Parish Church Church Street Portnahaven Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
16/00633/PP	Erection of wind turbine (11 metres to hub height)	Shuna Farm Shuna Island Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DH	Sub Post Office Connel
16/00772/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Kinachreacan Forest Stronmickhan Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
16/00761/PP	Erection of 1300mm high screen wall to outdoor seating area	The Atlantic Islands Centre Cullipool Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TX	Sub Post Office Cullipool
16/00857/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (amended design relative to planning permission reference 15/03010/PPP)	Garden Ground of Caberfeidh Polvinster Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5IN	Oban Area Office
16/00975/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North of The Old Manse Seaview Terrace Ellenabeich Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
16/00911/PPP	Renewal of planning permission reference 13/00416/PPP (Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses)	Land South of Railway Station Tainuill Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuill

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

Frances Weatherhead is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to sublet part of the croft at Machir, Iona to John G MacInnes of Culbhuirg, Iona for 10 years. If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Margaret Thomson Heads & Mrs Catherine Elizabeth Campbell have registered their croft, Arivouhallum, Kildalton & Oa on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 16th December 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2480

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

Notice under regulation 7(2)(b) Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant. Proposed development at vacant land to the north of A85 and south west of Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, for mixed use commercial. A public event will be held at the Dunbeg Primary School between 4pm and 7pm on Friday 22nd April 2016. Further information may be obtained from Houghton Planning, 102 High Street, Dunblane, Stirling, FK15 0ER Tel: 01786 825575 E: paul@houghtonplanning.co.uk Persons wishing to comment on the proposal should do so in writing by Friday, 29th April 2016 to Houghton Planning, 102 High Street, Dunblane, Stirling, FK15 0ER, or by email. This notice does not relate to a Planning Application. Comments should not be made to Argyll and Bute Council. Any comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Planning Authority. If a Planning Application is subsequently submitted to Argyll and Bute Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time. The plans presented at the above event may change before the proposals are submitted as a Planning Application to the Council

LOCHINDAAL TRADING LIMITED

On 30 March 2016, a petition was presented to Campbeltown Sheriff Court by the Advocate General for Scotland for and on behalf of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs craving the Court inter alia to order that Lochindaal Trading Limited 82 Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, PA48 7TX (registered office) (company registration number SC387414) be wound up by the Court and to appoint a liquidator. All parties claiming an interest must lodge Answers with Campbeltown Sheriff Court, Castlehill, Campbeltown within 8 days of intimation, service and advertisement. N MacDonald Officer of Revenue & Customs HM Revenue & Customs Debt Management & Banking Enforcement & Insolvency 20 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh for Petitioner Ref: 623/1074311/DBS

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
16/01143/FUL	Oak Lodge, Muirshearlich, Banavie, Fort William	Proposed alterations to dwelling house
16/01360/FUL	Residential Accommodation, Kingshouse Inn, Glencoe, Ballachulish	Temporary change of use of part of the existing staff accommodation block to a cafe/bar
16/01366/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe, Ballachulish	Erection of single storey ancillary building and service yard for the hotel, car parking and recycling yard, replacement bridge and removal and rejuvenation of clumps of trees
16/01367/FUL	White Corries Ski Centre, Kingshouse, Glencoe, Ballachulish	Proposed workshop and garage to support resort's plant vehicles
16/01371/FUL	Land at Glenuig Estate 500m NE of Glenuig Jetty, Glenuig	Relocation of the power house and lower penstock route to avoid ancient woodland (14/03097/FUL)
16/01372/FUL	Site 110m South East of Lios Mhoire, Tigh A Phuirt, Ballachulish	Proposed part conversion to form residential accommodation
16/01373/FUL	Land on North East of Croft 8, Ardastang, Strontian	Alteration and improvement of existing road access and installation of access road
16/01380/FUL	Sheraton Homes Development Site, Lochside, Fort William	Re-submission of planning application: 15/04076/FUL - conversion of retail space
16/01398/FUL	Site 90m North West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house - plot no.1 - variation to red line of application site
16/01399/FUL	Site 65m South West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house - plot no.3 - variation to red line of application site
16/01526/FUL	Land at Cameron Square, Fort William	Erection of a replica Model T Ford car cast in bronze

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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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

D M Colthart
 12 Kinlochlaich, Lismore & Appin
 0.026 ha - Hydro Electric Scheme
 4.86.63555
 Conditions: 1, 3b, 4

D Grant
 Hill Park Croft, Kilchrenan & Dalavich
 0.7298 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.62332
 Conditions: 1, 2, 3c, 4, 7

A J Maclean
 19 Reef, Tiree
 0.1 ha - Veterinary surgery
 4.86.63237
 Conditions: 3b, 4, 8

Conditions

- (1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.
- (2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
- (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
 - (a) the proposed development completion
 - (b) acquisition
- (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
- (7) An application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted to the Crofting Commission for forwarding to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland within the 5 year period
- (8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL give notice that they have made The Highland Council (A82 Trunk Road And Other Roads, Inverness Area) (Temporary Prohibitions Of Traffic And Temporary Speed Restrictions During The 'Etape Loch Ness' Cycling Event) Order 2016 to enable the following prohibitions or restrictions to be introduced:

1. To temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from:
 - (a) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with Bught Drive, Inverness, and its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, from 06:00hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (b) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, Inverness, and its junction with the A831 Drumadrochit - Cannich - Beauly Toll Road, from 05:35hrs to 08:05hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (c) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the A831 Drumadrochit - Cannich - Beauly Toll Road and its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle, from 06:35hrs to 08:15hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (d) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle and its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, from 06:20hrs to 09:05hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (e) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road, from 07:00hrs to 09:35hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (f) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores Inverness Road between its junction with the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road and its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road, from 07:10hrs to 10:55hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (g) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road between its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road and its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:05hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (h) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road between its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:55hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (i) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road between its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge - Foyers - Inverfarigaig - Dores Road and Holm Roundabout, from 08:15hrs to 12:25hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (j) Travelling in a northbound direction on the B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness - Leys - Inverarnie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (k) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk, Inverness, between its junction with Young Street and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 08:45hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (l) Travelling in any direction on Ardross Terrace, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk and its junction with Bishops Road, from 08:45hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (m) Travelling in any direction on Bishops Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 23rd April to 15:00hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (n) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Bishops Road and its junction with Ballifeary Lane, from 05:30hrs to 08:00hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (o) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Ballifeary Lane and its junction with Bught Road, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 23rd April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (p) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Bught Avenue, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 23rd April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (q) Travelling in any direction on Bught Avenue, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Road and its junction with Bught Drive, from 06:00hrs to 07:10hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
 - (r) Travelling in any direction on Bught Drive, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road, from 06:00hrs to 07:10hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.
2. To temporarily restrict any motor vehicles from exceeding a speed limit of 20 miles per hour on:
 - (a) The B862 Fort Augustus - Whitebridge - Torness - Dores - Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness - Leys - Inverarnie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 12:40hrs on Sunday 24th April 2016.

The Order, which is required to ensure the safe passage of participants taking part in the 'Etape Loch Ness' Cycling Event, will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

Emergency services' vehicles, being used in an emergency for ambulance, coastguard, fire brigade or police purposes, and vehicles employed to ensure the safety of the event participants are exempt from the restrictions detailed in the Order.

Vehicles driven under escort are exempt from the restrictions detailed in the Order.

Special forces' vehicles, when driven by a member of the special forces in response to a national security emergency, are exempt from the restrictions detailed in the Order.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available for viewing at the following address:
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Home improvements for increased value and comfort

WITH an ever-increasing number of DIY programmes on the television, more and more people are taking it upon themselves to conduct improvements to their home with a view to increasing the value.

Not every idea is a good one - before deciding to carry out improvements, think carefully about your motivation for doing so. Ultimately big initiatives around the home should be a lifestyle choice. Take into consideration the average price of properties in the local area; this will dictate the maximum price your property can achieve. Even building an extension is unlikely to increase the value of your home much above this threshold.

Be inoffensive - when it comes to luxury items such as swimming pools or hot tubs, bear in mind that these could in fact alienate families who consider this a safety concern, hence affecting the resale value of the property. These types of improvements are only ever likely to be worth the amount they cost to put in; the real value is in the lifestyle choice.

Weigh up your costs against the added value

of your modifications - If you want to increase the value of your property, update your kitchen and bathroom. Many people consider these to be the key rooms in a home; modernising these areas will certainly help boost both value and saleability of your property.



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Inveralt Cottage, Barcaldine, PA37 1SF
A traditional and charming extended, detached cottage situated in a quiet rural setting. Inveralt Cottage offers adaptable accommodation across one floor including: entrance vestibule, lounge, hall, kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, rear fenced garden and parking opposite the property. Due to its rural location, the property will appeal to a variety of purchasers. The cottage has undergone various stages of refurbishment since 2012. This work includes the installation of engineered oak flooring in the hall, lounge and both bedrooms, new good quality floor tiles in the kitchen, rear porch and bathroom and a major over haul of the pitched and flat roof (including new slates, fascia boards, guttering etc). The car parking area has also been improved with the addition of a gravel and hard core mix base. The property is situated in a scenic rural area, close to Barcaldine Marine and is within easy travelling distance of Oban (11 miles).

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Big changes ahead as Private Housing (Tenancies) Bill is passed

A major landmark for the private rented sector in Scotland was reached when Parliament passed this bill on the March 17. The bill will be enacted later, expected in December 2017, and is in addition to changes expected this year to regulate lettings agents.

The main points of the bill are:

New model tenancy - the private residential tenancy

If enacted, all PRS lettings in Scotland will be on a new model tenancy agreement named in the bill as the private residential tenancy (PRT). This tenancy will replace the assured and short assured tenancies.

Social housing, shared ownership and student lettings by education institutions are excluded from being PRTs.

An open-ended tenancy

It will be open-ended. The no-fault ground for ending a tenancy will not be available to landlords if the tenant wishes to continue with the tenancy. A landlord could only end the tenancy by proving one of the prescribed grounds for eviction to end the tenancy. One new prescribed ground for ending a tenancy is intended to make recovery easier after abandonment by the tenant.

Statutory terms of the PRT
Model terms to be incorporated into all PRTs will be prescribed in law. One prescribed term will be that any subletting will require the landlord's approval.

Prescribed information to be given by landlords at start of a PRT

A landlord must provide a written tenancy agreement no later than the start date of the tenancy. Regulations may prescribe other additional information that must be supplied.

Restrictions on charges by landlords and lettings agents

No charge may be made for providing a tenancy agreement or any other prescribed documents. No charges may be made to tenants for service or administration fees relating to the commencement, renewal or continuation of a PRT. It is likely, therefore, that landlords and agents will seek to pass on costs through increased rents.

Restrictions on rents

Rents of PRTs may only be increased once every 12 months and notice of increase must be a minimum of three months. Regulations may prescribe the form of notice. Tenants can refer a rent increase to the Rent Service Scotland, and either the tenant or landlord can appeal a rent officer's



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Properties for sale

Atlantic House, West Hynish, Isle Of Tiree

- Extended 1 storey croft house with granny flat.
- 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Currently sub divided into 2 self-contained holiday lets
- Panoramic sea views
- EPC Rating C - (73)

OIEO £375,000

Atlantic House an extended 1 storey croft house situated on the stunning Isle of Tiree. The property is currently divided into two self-contained holiday lets, one 3 bedroom and one 2 bedroom and 1 bedroom detached granny flat.

Abbey View, Fionnphort, Isle Of Mull

- Spacious Detached 1 Storey House
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Popular Island Location
- Stunning Views of Iona
- 888 / Holiday Rental Potential
- EPC Rating - D(66)

OIRO £265,000

Abbey View - A generous detached 5 bedroom 1 and a half storey house enjoying stunning views across the Sound towards Iona, the Abbey and Treshnish Isles. Built approx. 15 years ago, the property is nestled in a row of houses within Fionnphort on the Ross of Mull.

Corraur, Barran, By Oban

- Detached Bungalow
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Quiet Residential Area
- Double Garage
- Manageable Garden
- Close to Oban amenities
- EPC Rating - D(66)

OIEO £235,000

Corraur is a spacious 4 bedroom bungalow situated within the small residential area of Barran close to the town of Oban. The property comprises a bright and airy porch which leads through to the spacious central hallway.

Cuan Ferry, Cuan Cottage, Isle Of Seil

- Detached Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Sea Views
- Large garden
- Beautiful island location
- EPC Rating G (01)

OIEO £175,000

Cuan Cottage - A charming 2 bedroom cottage on the Isle of Seil set within a large private garden and enviable sea views across the Cuan Sound. Though this property requires some modernisation it offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a traditional cottage, set in a generous garden with sea views.

51 Rockfield, Tobermory

- Ground Floor Flat
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Situated in a popular residential area
- Private front and rear garden
- Excellent first time buyer property
- EPC Rating - E (40)

OIRO £115,000

51 Rockfield Road offers excellent family sized accommodation within easy reach of Tobermory town centre. Situated a short walk from the Main Street, the ground floor flat has a lounge, kitchen/diner, 3 double bedrooms and a family bathroom.

6 Polfearn House, Taynuilt

- First Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Lovely views
- Rural, quiet location
- Factored building
- EPC Rating - C (68)

OIRO £75,000

No. 6 Polfearn House - A well proportioned one bedroom flat which enjoys views of Loch Etive. The flat is accessed via a communal carpeted stairwell and comprises hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.

Farming

Sponsored by NFU Mutual Oban, call Euan Warnock and Donna MacDougall on 01631 567 036 for your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

Chips are down for Scotland's farm dogs



A dog being chipped in Campbeltown at a free session in February. 04_c09dogstrust03_dogstrustvetsmicrochipping

FAITHFUL farm collies more than eight weeks old in the West Highlands should have been micro-chipped.

The deadline for all dogs in Scotland to be chipped and registered on an approved database passed on Wednesday of last week.

National Farmer's Union of Scotland (NFUS) had asked the Scottish Government for working dogs to be excluded but the only exemptions permitted are for individual animals under veterinary certification for welfare reasons.

That means for the vast majority of farm dogs, chipping is now a requirement. In addition, the database must be kept up to date with owner details and notified of any change in owner, address or contact details.

Litters of pups and dogs must be chipped and registered before pups are sold or ownership changes, and any pups or dogs entering Scotland must be chipped and registered within 30 days of arrival.

NFU Scotland's animal health policy manager Penny Johnston said: 'With many farmers and shepherds in the throes of the lambing season, this is a deadline that may have slipped the mind but it is one they need to address when they get the chance.'

'While the union supported the principal of compulsory microchipping in a bid to improve the control of dogs and help address the growing issue of sheep worrying, we had requested an exemption for working dogs.'

'We believe farmers and working shepherds are likely to be disproportionately impacted by this regulation, as they tend to have more dogs than most pet owners. Also, working farm dogs rarely leave their owner's farm, which we hoped would have negated the need for microchipping.'

These arguments were not taken up and no exemption exists for farm dogs. Ms Johnston added: 'That means,

with few exceptions, all dogs will need to be chipped.

'Costs are thought to be in the region of £30 per dog depending on the veterinary practice.'

'We think there is merit for members with several dogs to discuss a discount with their vet and also consider asking the vet to chip any farm dogs whilst out on the farm performing other duties.'

On purchasing a pup or adult dog, it will be the new keeper's responsibility to notify their details to the database on which the dog's details are recorded, unless the previous keeper has already done so.

If bringing a dog into Scotland, the onus is on the new owner to determine if the dog is already chipped.

If it has been chipped, then the database must be updated with the new details.

If the dog has not been previously chipped, then owners must have the dog chipped and registered within 30 days of arrival.

Market Report

Islay market report

UNITED Auctions held its annual April sale at Islay Auction Mart when it had a catalogue entry of 801 grazing cattle.

A good selection of grazing type cattle sold well at the sale last Saturday whilst stronger short keeping types proved harder to cash.

Bullocks sold to average £832.05 per head whilst heifers levelled out at £740.16. The following are the averages per kilo:

Bullocks: AA X - 209 pence (p), BRB X - 213p, Charolais X - 230p, Limousin X - 220p and Simmental X - 216p.

Heifers: AA X - 204p, Charolais X - 219p, Limousin X - 212pence and Simmental X - 204pence.

Bullocks sold to a top price per head of £1,050 for BRB X from Dunlosit Farms.

Knocklearach and Tallant Farm led the kilo prices at 281p for Limousin Crosses. Limousin X Heifers from Coillabus (Carmichael) sold to £1,080 whilst Tallant led this section per kilo, with Charolais Crosses selling at 264p. Principal lots and prices,

top prices per head: Bullocks: AAx: £1,020 (4), £980 (14), £970 (3), £960 (6) and £920 (11) - Craignens: £920 (3) - Octomore. BRBx: £1050 - Knocklearach. CHARx: £1030 and £1010 - Craigfad: £1,000 - Kintra: £930 (6) and £900 (2) - Craigfad. HERx: £820 - Kilchiaran. LIMx: £1040 (2) - Lossit: £1,030 - Craigfad: £980 (7) - Lossit: £970 (5) - Kilchiaran: £960 - Brybrich: £940 - Knocklearach: £900 (2) - Lossit. LUINGx: £770 (2) - Duich. SIMx: £970 (2) and £930 (2) - Craigfad: £910 (7) - Cladville: £910 - Corrary. Heifers: AAx: £940 (2) - Burnside, Jura: £930 (2) - Craignens. CHARx: £1070 - Tallant: £980 - Craigfad. LIMx: £1,080, £1,040, £1,030 and £980 - Coillabus (A Carmichael): £950 - Craigfad: £930 - Coillabus (A Carmichael) . SIMx: £860 (2) - Cladville.

Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: AAx: 246p (3) - Burnside, Jura: 215p (2) - Tallant: 211p (12) - Octomore: 210p (13), 209p (17), 208p (14) and 207p (6) - Craignens: 206p (23) - Octomore: 202p (4) and 201p (6) - Craignens. BRBx: 231p - Knocklearach: 223p, 214p, 213p (2) and 209p - Six Bayview. CHARx: 247p (6) - Island: 244p and 235p - Kinna: 234p (6) - Craigfad: 231p - Craigfad (5) and Tallant: 222p - Craigfad:

218p (2) - Mansefield: 211p (3) - Craigfad. LIMx: 281p (2) and 271p - Tallant: 260p (2) - Mansefield: 258p (14) - Duich: 252p (8) - Ballmartin: 247p - Island: 243p (3) - Corrary: 242p (2) - Lossit: 241p (2) - Duich: 236p (2) - Kintra: 235p - Kilbride (8) and Lossit (3): 233p (7) - Ballmartin: 231p (5) - Kilchiaran: 230p - Ballmartin (5), Eorrrabus (3) and Corrary (3): 228p - Ballychattrigan (9), Eorrrabus (3) and Grulnibeg: 227p (6) - Duich: 224p - Brybrich: 223p (5) - Ballmartin: 222p - Craigfad: 221p - Kilchiaran (8) and Knocklearach: 220p (2) - Island. LUINGx: 257p (9) - Duich. SIMx: 250p - Corrary: 243p (3) - Kilbride: 228p - Corrary: 222p (4) - Cladville. Heifers AAx: 221p (3) and 220p (3) - Craignens: 219p (2) - Burnside, Jura. CHARx: 264p (2) - Tallant: 227p (12) - Craigfad: 220p - Tallant. LIMx: 245p - Tallant: 244p - Tallant: 240p (2) - Eorrrabus: 239p - Lossit: 237p - Kintra: 237p (4) - Kinnabus: 236p (4) - Tallant: 234p - Lossit, Mansefield (4) and Duich (15): 232p - Eorrrabus and Tallant (2): 230p - Corrary (3) and Coillabus: 228p (6) - Kilbride: 224p - Eorrrabus and Kilbride (2): 221p - Ballmartin. SIMx: 223p (3) - Cladville.

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PERSONALS

GRAHAM - Ross and Liane (née Fisher)

Are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Ruairi James Dougal Graham, born at home on 17th March, 2016. A little brother for Emily, fifth grandchild for Dougie and Allison, Oban and third grandchild for James and Ali Fisher, Bunessan.

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BIRTHS

CLYDESDALE - Stephen and Eilidh are delighted to announce the birth of their son Ruairidh Peter, on March 19, 2016. A wee brother for Anna and grandson for Peter and Geraldine MacIntyre, and the late Isobel Clydesdale and a welcome nephew for Julie.

FISHER - Shaun and Gemma are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter Olivia Kathryn, born on March 17, 2016 at the RAH Hospital, Paisley. Granddaughter for Brian and Margaret Thompson, Tobermory and James and Alison Fisher, Bunessan.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

FISHER - CAMPBELL - At St. Conan's Church, Lochawe, on March 29, 1966, by Rev. Dr M. K. MacLeod, M.A., Matthew Pearson, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Fisher, 51 Kirkland Street, Glasgow, N.W., to Margaret, only daughter of ex-Provost and Mrs John Campbell, Relief Land, Inveraray, Argyll. Currently residing at 39 Southview Drive, Bearsden.

DEATHS

DONNELLY - Christina (née Craik), born in Barrachlain, Glen Orchy. Peacefully on April 10, 2016 at Perth, aged 95. Dearly loved by all of her family.

MACDONALD - On April 5, 2016, Aline (née MacKichan). Beloved wife of Iain, loving mother, granny and mother-in-law. Dearly loved sister of Margaret and Anne and the late Neil, Jenny and Catherine.

McCALLUM - Suddenly in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, on April 9, 2016, William McCallum, in his 88th year, 78 Longrow, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of the late Margaret Morrison Martin, much loved and respected father of Morag and William, dearly loved and loving granda of Claire, Andrew, Kirsty, Hailey and Scott, great granda of Jessica, and beloved brother of Hugh. Service in the Highland Parish Church on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retail collection will be held in aid of the Macmillan Nurses Kintyre Locality.

McNEILL - Suddenly but peacefully at home on April 9, 2016, aged 75 years, Wilma, beloved wife of Seamus. Sadly missed by many. Funeral will take place at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Tuesday April 19 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection/donations if desired for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (A.B.C.D.).

PAGET - Robert (Bob), died peacefully on April 5, 2016, aged 92, in Islay Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind his beloved wife Mary and five children, Robert, Susan, Gill, Hilary and Judith. A dearly loved husband, dad, grandpa and brother.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HAGGARTY - Karen (née MacKinnon). I would like to thank everybody who came to my daughter Karen's requiem mass and for the lovely flowers and cards I received. God bless you all. - Mrs May Finnie (MacKinnon)

MACKECHNIE - Iain Charles, Ian Phillips and Mary Sampson would like to thank all those who attended cousin Iain's funeral at the church and at the graveside. Special thanks go to Billy McClymont for his efficient and sympathetic arrangement of the funeral, to the Rev John Paton for conducting such a warm and personal service, to Elizabeth Jack for playing so beautifully, Sergeant Jamie Toal, the staff of Park Lodge Hotel and to George and Moira MacQueen for all their assistance and help and for the friendship they showed Iain over many years. The excellent sum of £1050 was collected in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research.

SIMMONDS - Bridie and family would like to express sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Brian. Thanks to friends and former colleagues who travelled from far and wide. Special thanks to Dr Ewan Glen and all the nurses for the care and Katrina Flannigan for her kindness and home visits. Thanks to Colin Felgate caterers, thanks also to Angus McColl for beautiful piping to Moreen Gracie for beautiful flowers. To Catriona at Hamish Hoey for funeral arrangements. To Fr Roddy McAulay and Monsignor James MacNeil for spiritual support. Finally thank you to all who paid their respects at the Cathedral and graveside. Moran Taing.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of my dear son Richard, who passed away April 15, 2015 after a long illness. Though the tides forget to turn

And no longer rivers run You will be remembered with love my dear son.

CAMPBELL - Richard (Digger), passed away April 15, 2015. Gone are the days we used to share

But in our hearts you're always there.

- Your sister Diana, Mel, Gwen, Lorna and Jim, Ballachulish.

CAMPBELL - Richard, passed away April 15, 2015. Big brother, brother-in-law and uncle, sadly gone but never forgotten, always in our hearts.

- Marina, David, Davina and Iona.

CURRIE - Remembering today and every day Caroline, died April 17, 1992.

Life's not measured by the years you lived But by the love you gave and the things you did

Will those who think of her today A little prayer to Jesus say.

- Mum, Dad and family.

HOWIESON - Fond memories of Billy my dear husband, passed away April 13, 2014.

Always in my heart. - Sandra x

MACEWAN - Remembering today and every day my dear husband, father and grandfather who died April 12, 2007.

Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay. - Joan and family xx

MACINTYRE - Remembering with love our dear parents, Duncan who died December 19, 1981 and Betsy on April 16, 1988. Also remembering dear ones gone before and after.

Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day.

- Inserted by the family, formerly of Kilvaree Farm, Connel and latterly Cruachan, Strathyre.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dearly loved and missed parents and grandparents, Isabella, died April 15, 2011 and John, died March 11, 2006.

Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Will take them away. Together forever in God's loving care.

- Donald John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.

PROSSER - MAXWELL - In loving memory of my daughter Yvonne, died April 6, 1989, 3 years old. An angel in Heaven, always in my heart. - Love Daddy x

TIMMS - Treasured memories of a dear dad and grand-dad Arthur, who passed away April 17, 1984. Also remembering all other loved ones.

Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that last for ever.

- Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

Obituary - Rev Dr Sandy McDonald 1938 – 2016



Former Moderator of the Very Rev Dr Sandy McDonald.

The Very Rev Dr Sandy McDonald, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland from 1997-98, has died, aged 78, after a long battle with lung disease at the Erskine Care Home for ex-servicemen in Bishopton. Dr McDonald was a beloved figure in the church widely admired for his fearlessness, generosity and irrepressible high spirits. A natural media personality, Dr McDonald co-presented STV's religious magazine programme *That's the Spirit* during the 1980s, and was a guest on other religious shows. Later on he also appeared with his actor son, David Tennant, as a guest on a cookery programme and in a cameo role on *Dr Who*.

In early 2015 Dr McDonald disclosed he was fighting the degenerative lung disease pulmonary fibrosis. He spoke out for the right to die, despite the church's official position against the proposal. Dr McDonald was married to Helen, daughter of footballer Archie Mcleod, for more

than 40 years until her death in 2007.

Their strong marriage was widely seen as a true partnership of distinct individuals who loved one another and also cared deeply about the lives of those around them.

The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood, Dr McDonald's lifelong friend and his minister in Renfrew North parish since his retirement to Paisley, Renfrewshire, said: 'Sandy didn't just preach. 'He put his whole self into it— his arms, his voice, his whole body went into his sermons,' she said, 'People loved it when he preached. 'He was a great pastor and he held parish ministry at the heart of the church.'

As Moderator Dr McDonald's friendly and outspoken manner left behind some of the formality that had characterised the role, setting a new tone that heralded the 21st century.

As General Secretary of the Church of Scotland's Board of Ministry, from 1988 until his retirement in 2002, Dr McDonald was an advocate for ministers.

During his tenure ministers' stipends were raised, benefits were improved and ministers

were encouraged to see themselves as uniquely qualified professionals.

Born in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, to Jessie Helen Low and Alexander M. McDonald, Dr McDonald worked in the timber industry as a trainee manager from 1952-1958.

During that time he took a two-year break when he was called up to do national service, enlisting in the Royal Air Force where his duties included operating ground radar for the 617 Dambusters.

He worked in the timber trade from 1958 till 1962 when he responded to God's call and decided to train for the ministry. Dr McDonald studied theology for the ministry at the University of Glasgow and Trinity College, graduating later with a BA from the Open University, which subsequently granted him a Doctorate, in honour of his work as Moderator of the General Assembly.

He served as an assistant minister at Merrylea Parish Church in Newlands, Glasgow,

before being called as minister to St David's in Bathgate, in 1968.

As chaplain to the town's British Leyland plant, he spoke out for workers during a period of industrial action.

In 1974 Dr McDonald went to become minister of St Mark's Oldhall Parish Church, Ralston in Renfrewshire, Paisley, where he helped found a young ministers' fraternal group that still meets today as part of the Presbytery of Paisley. He served as President of the Glasgow and Paisley Battalions of the Boys Brigade, and had a BB badge on every jacket he owned.

Dr McDonald is survived by his three children: Karen, a schoolteacher; Blair, a music industry executive; and David, the actor who works under the name David Tennant; and by nine grandchildren.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BAPTISAM



Holly Victoria Jamieson Was baptised in Oban Parish Church on Sunday April 3. She is pictured with her great grandfather Allan Munro. Both Holly and Mr Munro were baptised, 90 years apart, in the same christening gown. Indeed the gown is 200 years old and has been used for baptisms throughout that time in this area. Mum Vanessa hopes that someday wee Holly will have her children baptised in this gown too.

Worship led by Muckairn Guild stalwart at annual general meeting

MUCKAIRN Guild's last meeting of the session was held in the church in tainuill on April 4.

The theme was Go in Peace.

Members read two playlets and the hymns Make Me a Channel of Your Peace and Look Forward in Faith were accompanied on the piano by Ann MacCallum.

Stella Huntingford led the worship and Marlene Stanners read from St John's Gospel on peace.

'Tea and the annual general meeting followed.

Office bearers were elected as follows: convener - Marlene Stanners; treasurer - Stella Huntingford;

secretary - Rev Robert Brookes; press secretary - Mary Scott. Stella was warmly thanked for her long and dedicated service to the guild.

A coffee morning will be held in Tainuill Village Hall on Saturday May 7 in aid of the charity Care for the Family's *Let's Stick Together* project.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

The annual guild rally is to be held in Tainuill this year, on Saturday June 25.

Thought for the week

Jacob 'dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.'

WE all need sleep, and, whether or not we remember them, we all have dreams.

Dreams can be odd or scary, but they can also be healing.

Their meaning may be obvious or may need interpretation. It can't be assumed that messages contained in them come from God, but God's will for good can sometimes be discerned from them.

The Bible has many stories of people responding to dreams and visions, and of appropriate interpretation.

Think of Joseph (of technicolour dreamcoat fame), or Joseph, husband of Jesus's mother Mary.

The wise men dreamed that they should avoid

Herod and go home by another way.

Peter and Paul in the days of the early church received significant guidance from visions when praying and during the night.

It's not a good idea to rely solely on dreams for decision-making, and any 'instruction' which most would interpret as wrong is likely to be wrong, and therefore not from God.

But it would be dismissing a God-given gift to reject the understanding of life which can come from being aware of dreams.

Rev Liz Gibson Mull

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Missed chances prove costly as Saints draw away at Finnart

Finnart 3
Oban Saints 3
SAFL Premier Division

SAINTS travelled to Glasgow Green last Saturday in search of three precious points to keep their Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division hopes alive.

Injuries, holidays, and work commitments robbed the travelling party of five of the squad that had slipped agonisingly out of the Scottish Amateur Cup on Saints' last outing. With long term injury victim Martin Bonar and the suspended Dene Cassells also unavailable, manager Alex Craik's options were stretched to the limit.

A mix-up with pitch lets meant a late switch from 3G to grass and a delay to the kick off while a Glasgow City Council groundsman marked out the long but extremely narrow park.

Saints fell behind in the third minute. Finnart left full back Andrew Robertson made a terrific run on the left wing and forced his way into the box past David McArthur and Marc MacCallum before cutting back on to his right foot and curling a delightful shot into the postage stamp corner giving Thomas McCulloch no chance.

The home side doubled their advantage in the 14th minute with a long ball over the top catching out Dougal Graham and allowing right winger Andrew Forrest to run in behind and dispatch a fierce right foot shot past a hopelessly exposed McCulloch.

Saints produced their best move of the first half in the 17th minute with Allan Mackay and

Donald Campbell linking up well to set up Scott Maitland for a right-foot shot from the edge of the box which had Brian Paton at full stretch to tip round his left hand post for a corner kick.

Ross Maitland flighted over the corner kick from the right which the Finnart defence could only partially clear. Campbell gathered the loose ball just inside the box and deftly volleyed the ball over a ruck of players into the postage stamp corner squeezing the ball in between the cross bar and the head of Ryan McLean on the goal line to half the deficit.

Dougal Graham picked up the first yellow card of the afternoon in the 20th minute for a foul on Forrest leaving the Saints full back with no margin for error in his battle with the lively winger.

Forrest was quick to exploit this advantage outpacing Graham on the right wing before sending in a tempting cross to which Daniel Taylor was quickest to react getting across Paul Kerr to bullet a header past McCulloch to restore the home side's two goal advantage.

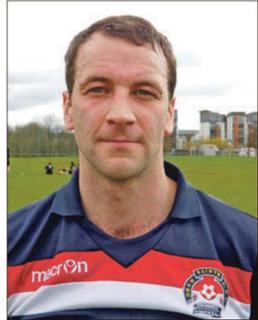
The 3-1 score line at this stage was very harsh on Saints who were playing some decent football but full credit to Finnart who ruthlessly punished any mistake from the new-look Saints back four.

The visitors pulled a goal back when Campbell took a throw-in from the left which Mackay flicked on at the near post to the waiting Ross Maitland who reacted quicker than his marker Ben Mills to prod the ball home from six yards to once again bring Saints back to just one goal behind.

There was no further scoring

in the first 45 minutes but the feeling in the Saints camp was that they were creating plenty of chances and the second goal should give them a platform to build upon in the second half.

Saints were quickly out the traps for the second 45 and straight from the kick-off Campbell strode forward holding off several challenges before curling



New signing Craig Campbell scored on his debut

a right foot shot from the edge of the D inches wide of the junction of post and crossbar.

Saints continued their good approach play with Ross Maitland and McArthur combining well on the right for Ross Maitland to send in a deep cross which Philip McCabe headed behind at the back post for a corner kick.

Manager Alex Craik made his only change of the afternoon in the 58th minute withdrawing MacArthur, who had been struggling with a back injury, replacing him with new signing Craig Campbell. He returns to the club following the unfortunate demise of Oban Athletic and will be a

valuable addition to the squad for the title and Jimmy Marshall Trophy run-in.

The woodwork came to the home side's rescue in the 68th minute after Ross Maitland again made good ground on the right.

McCabe got across well to halt the wee man's run at the expense of a throw-in. Saints had profited from a similar situation in the first half and very nearly repeated the trick when Craig Campbell flicked on namesake Donald's throw-in to the back post where an under pressure Graham stabbed out a foot but only succeeded in turning the ball onto the cross bar with the home defence scrambling the loose ball behind for a corner kick.

With 15 minutes remaining Saints midfield anchorman Keith Millar joined the attack to good effect working a one-two with Donald Campbell to open up the Finnart defence for Ross Maitland who was thwarted just as he was about to pull the trigger by a last ditch saving tackle by Andrew Robertson.

There was a definite feeling on the sidelines that it just wasn't going to be Saints day as first Mackay and then Donald Campbell squandered good chances which nine times out of 10 they would have gobbled up.

Good work on the left from Scott Maitland and Dean Smith set up Mackay in the box but he delayed too long allowing Paton to narrow the angle and smother Mackay's tame shot with a frustrated Donald Campbell screaming for a square pass and an easy tap-in.

Saints kept the pressure on and were eventually rewarded for their persistence with just



Allan Mackay shields the ball from Finnart's Andy Robertson.

six minutes remaining. Finnart repelled yet another Saints attack but only as far as the half way line where Marc MacCallum won a foot race with Ryan McLean to swing in a deep cross from the right to the corner of the Finnart box where both Mackay and Craig Campbell made well-timed runs to beat the Finnart offside trap.

Craig Campbell calmly chested the ball down and volleyed into the bottom corner of the net past Paton's despairing dive to mark a memorable debut with a vital goal.

Football

At the final whistle there was a sense of disappointment that Saints hadn't managed to turn their second half domination into more goals. However, given Finnart's recent excellent results against St Joseph's FP and Goldenhill, a share of the points from this tricky away fixture is by no means a bad result.

Saints were due to play Clydebankaway in the Marshall Cup last night (Wednesday). They don't have a game on Saturday.



Donald Campbell lines up a volley which flew into the back of the Finnart net for Saints' first goal

Lancaster A keep the pressure on

Pool

RESULTS: April 7 - Lochavullin's Cellar 11-1 Wide Mouthed Frog; Lochnell 5-7 Lancaster A; Markie Dans A 8-4 Lochavullin; Outreach 1-11 Lancaster B; Gluepot 9-3 Markie Dans B.
Fixtures: April 14 - Lochavullin's Cellar v Lancaster A - Oban Filling Station Cup Final; Gluepot v Markie Dans A - League.

OBAN POOL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Lancaster A	16	14	1	1	150	42	108	29
2 Lochavullin's Cellar	16	14	1	1	137	55	82	29
3 Lochnell	16	13	1	2	144	48	96	27
4 Markie Dans A	15	8	3	4	110	70	40	19
5 Lancaster B	16	9	1	6	111	81	30	19
6 Gluepot	15	8	0	7	93	87	6	16
7 Markie Dans B	16	4	1	11	76	116	-40	9
8 Lochavullin	16	3	0	11	65	127	-62	6
9 Wide Mouthed Frog	16	2	0	14	40	152	-112	4
10 Outreach	16	0	0	16	20	172	-152	0

Plenty of aerial action at Ingliston Tarmac rally

ROUND two of the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship took place at Ingliston Showground on Saturday with mixed results for the Argyll crews who made the trip. The eight competitive stages at Ingliston are held in the shadow of the control tower at Edinburgh Airport - which was handy as the course has two big jumps where crews

would have been justified in having to request permission for take-off.

Dunfermline Car Club, which also hosts the Mach 1 Stages at Machrihanish in July, once again provided a stern test of man and machine and ran the day's action like clockwork.

Mid Argyll's Donald Bowness, who would normally be driving his little

red Nova, took to the co-driver's seat in a very quick MkII Escort driven by Chris McCallum, a title contender from recent championships. Technical difficulties stopped the pair from registering a result - but the day certainly reinforced Bowness's love for the old Fords

His normal co-driver, Ian Parker,

was also out in a MkII Escort, with Alex Adams at the wheel.

A cracking day's driving saw the Escort record some very competitive times and snatch 16th overall and second in class four.

The last of the Argyll crews competing were mother and son duo Lois and George Fell from Glenbarr in their

Ford Puma. This was a decent run out for the pair, with George Fell getting neater and quicker with every stage mile completed.

The event was won by John Marshall and Scott Crawford in their brand new Teg Sport Subaru Impreza with Gary and Gordon Adam taking second in their MkII Escort, and Alistair and

Rallying

Colin Inglis completing the podium in their Lotus Exige.

All eyes now turn to Crail in Fife, where the next round of the championship - the Summer Stages - will be held in June.



Chris McCallum and Donald Bowness take to the air in their MkII Escort.



Alex Adams and Ian Parker also in a MkII Escort finished second in Class 4.



Mother and son George and Lois Fell in their orange and black Ford Puma.



Winners John Marshall and Scott Crawford in their Subaru Impreza.



Gary and Gordon Adam finished second in their MkII Escort.



Alistair and Colin Inglis completed the podium in their Lotus Exige.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2450

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Cameron, Inverlochty

J Petrie, Lochybridge

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name
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Camanchd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup

SHI
Best for all shinty new

Oban Camanchd top the Premiership after narrow 1-0 win over Kinlochshiel

Oban Camanchd 1 Kinlochshiel 0

Oban Camanchd moved to the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership with a hard-fought 1-0 win over tough opponents Kinlochshiel which included a vintage performance from Gavin Stobbart in goals for the red and blacks.

Despite heavy overnight rain,

Mossfield passed an 8am pitch inspection following hard work by ground staff.

The visitors started brightly and were posing problems for the home side who were finding it difficult to settle into their normal expansive game that has served them so well this season.

However, the defensive unit of Garry Lord, Scott McKillop,

Gary McKerracher and the impressive team captain James MacMillan looked comfortable at the back dealing with the lively visiting forward line.

Somewhat against the run of play, wing centre Aidan MacIntyre shot home a 20-yard drive into the corner of the net to give the home side a lead their play barely deserved.

Kinlochshiel pressed forward but found keeper Gavin Stobbart in terrific form, bringing off two fine saves.

Team manager Ian Hay made the first change 10 minutes before half-time withdrawing Malcolm Clark and bringing on Andrew 'Papa' McCuish to bolster the ineffective forward line which was finding life difficult against the close marking of the Kinlochshiel defence.

Whatever was said at half-time

seemed to have the desired effect with Camanchd enjoying their best spell at the start of the second half.

The combination up front of Lorne Dickie, Connor Howe and Willie Neilson was now posing problems for the Kinlochshiel defence and with the midfield of Scott MacMillan, Daniel Cameron and Aidan MacIntyre finally controlling their area, the home side thought they had scored again,

Saved

But Willie Neilson's net-bound volley was saved spectacularly by the Kinlochshiel keeper.

Further substitutions by the home side saw youngsters Daniel MacVicar and David Lafferty on in an effort to secure the win that would take Camanchd to the top of the premier league.

However, it was Kinlochshiel

who pressed in the last 15 minutes looking for the equaliser and the home side has keeper Gavin Stobbart to thank with a string of fine saves that ensured victory for the home team.

There was much relief for the home support when referee Graham Cameron blew for full time.

Team manager Ian Hay said: 'While we didn't play particularly well, we have ground out a result against difficult opponents which was pleasing.'

'We have keeper Gavin Stobbart to thank for some really excellent saves.'

With Daniel Cameron's wedding celebrations taking priority this weekend no fixture has been allocated for this Saturday.

The following weekend Camanchd travel to Glendaruel to play an in-form Col Glen in a difficult Glasgow Celtic Cup Tie.

Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanchd	4	3	1	0	9	4	7
Lovat	4	3	0	1	12	8	6
Newtonmore	3	2	1	0	12	2	5
Kyles Athletic	3	2	1	0	13	7	5
Kingussie	5	2	1	2	7	8	5
Kinlochshiel	4	2	0	2	8	6	4
Skye	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Glenurquhart	4	1	0	3	5	13	2
Lochaber	5	0	2	3	5	16	2
Fort William	4	0	0	4	4	11	0

The Shinty Round Up - Saturday April 9

Wet weather continued to blight the start of the new shinty season although the majority of games did beat the elements on Saturday.

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - first round

Glenorchy P Oban Celtic P

The final Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup first round tie between Glenorchy and Oban Celtic was postponed for the third time of asking as Mart Park was unplayable.

The teams will try again this coming Saturday and they have still to meet in the first round of the Balliemore Cup, with that tie to be played in Oban.

Balliemore Cup - first round

Inveraray 0 Kilmallie 1

The tie of the Balliemore Cup first round was the 3pm throw up

between Marine Harvest National Division title rivals Kilmallie and Inveraray. This encounter was originally scheduled for Canal Parks but was switched to the Winterton on Saturday morning because of an unplayable field.

Kilmallie were without Craig MacIsaac, Peter Carmichael, Liam Cameron and Liam MacDonald in their RBS MacTavish Cup first round defeat to Skye last weekend and all but the injured MacDonald returned for this one.

Mark MacPherson's squad was tested though as Duncan Rodger and Steven McAllister were missing, as was Ryan Stewart who suffered a hamstring injury against Skye.

Inveraray boss Ruairaidh Graham fielded a strong side, including the returning Garry MacPherson. David Robertson was back from injury and he started on the bench alongside Fraser Watt.

The pitch was soft but playable and Kilmallie took the lead after 12 minutes when Michael Rodger, who had been well-shadowed by Ally Munro, got away from his marker to score a well-taken goal.

Referee Lachie Wood showed an early yellow card to Kilmallie defender Craig MacIsaac who was eventually moved up front in the first half.

Inveraray had a chance to level when wing centre David

MacPherson got away from Innes Blackhall but his back-post shot rose over the bar.

Inveraray deployed Nicolas Crawford in attack and he found himself one-on-one with Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies who made an excellent save.

Shane Gillies was called into action once more just before the break and he made a fantastic stop from a Garry MacPherson shot.

Inveraray player/manager Ruairaidh Graham came on for an injured Grant Griffin in the second half and, on another day, he could have scored a couple of goals.

Inveraray goalie Scott MacLachlan was also busy in goals, although his saves were more of a routine nature.

Both defences were solid and Kilmallie moved Michael Rodger back into their rear-guard to help protect their lead.

David Robertson's return from a back injury is a boost for Inveraray, but they are finding goals hard to come by.

Kilmallie are one of the fancied teams in this tournament and they will be at home to Ballachulish or Glasgow Mid Argyll in the quarter-finals on Saturday 21 May 21.

Strathglass 1 Bute 1

(after extra-time - Strathglass won 1-0 on penalties)

Another tie which caught the eye was the 3pm throw up between Marine Harvest North Division 1 table-toppers Strathglass and Bute from the Marine Harvest National Division.

This one could hardly have been closer and it eventually took penalties to separate the sides.

Bute's Arran Dunn was free of suspension.

James Craig put Bute ahead after 35 minutes. However, Barry John Phimmister drew Strathglass level on 41 minutes.

With no goals in the second half, referee Archie Ritchie took the tie to extra time.

There was no further scoring so the outcome was settled by a penalty shoot-out. After ten spot-hits, Strathglass stalwart Donald Fraser was the only player to score, mainly because of some very good goalkeeping.

Strathglass will now host Taynuilt in the quarter-finals.

Caberfeidh 2 Inverness 1

Caberfeidh progressed in the Balliemore Cup after they beat Inverness 2-1 in their 3pm throw up at Castle Leod.

Inverness defender David Campbell sat this one out as he served the second match of a two game ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Craig Nicholson returned following a hand injury and came on as a substitute for the last 15 minutes of the game.

The sides met at the same venue on league duty on the second Saturday of the shinty

season with Cabers running off 4-1 winners.

This, in comparison, was a much closer affair.

Martin MacDonald gave Cabers the lead after 19 minutes after a move, which started in the midfield, cut open the Inverness defence.

Ally MacLennan scored a crucial second just a minute before the interval. A rebound fell perfectly for the Cabers talisman and he couldn't miss.

James Cameron pulled a goal back for Inverness with 10 minutes remaining. Cameron held the ball up, turned the full back, before hitting a hard, waist-high shot past the keeper to make it 2-1.

There was to be no comeback though, so Cabers won the day.

Inverness co-managers Drew McNeil and Allan MacRae will have taken great heart in the performance of young wing centre William MacKinnon who had an outstanding game.

Aberdour 3 Col Glen 1

A powerful first-half performance helped Aberdour to a 3-1 win over Col Glen in their 3pm throw up at Silver Sands.

Col Glen made a good start but Angus Thorburn put Aberdour in front with a goal after 20 minutes.

A Roddy MacColl brace on 26 and 32 minutes made it 3-0 at half time. Kevin Latimer set up McColl's first before the prolific scorer added a second shortly after.

McColl had a chance to complete his hat-trick in the second half when referee David Mitchell awarded the home side a penalty for a kick. However, the Aberdour danger-man didn't hit the ball as he would have liked and the chance was gone.

Scott MacVicar pulled a goal back for Col Glen with a fierce strike a couple of minutes from time but it's Aberdour who go forward to meet Caberfeidh at Castle Leod in the last eight of the competition.

Ballachulish P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The tie between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Ballachulish was postponed on Saturday morning as the Jubilee Park was unplayable.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - first round

Glenurquhart 2 Lochside Rovers 1

(after extra time)

There was an eye-catching Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup first round tie between the Glenurquhart's second team and Lochside Rovers at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart were forced to take the field without six of the players who played against the Kinlochshiel second team the previous weekend. Stuart Reid,

Calum Smith, Arran MacDonald, Rory MacLean, James MacPherson and Cairn Urquhart were all part of the 22-player squad which made the trip to New York City to take part in Tartan Week on Saturday April 9, playing an exhibition shinty match at Dyckman Soccer Field on Sunday April 10.

They were able to give Connor Golabek the number 9 shirt though and he was to make a telling contribution.

Lochside Rovers' Jordan Kerr started his two-match ban for his red card in the team's last outing - a 2-0 defeat to Oban Celtic on Saturday March 19 - but there were places for Iain MacMillan, Keith MacMillan and Robert Alexander.

Lochside Rovers stuck first with Keith Burnett giving the Oban side a 32-minute lead.

Connor Golabek got the Glen back on level terms when he found the back of the net on 59 minutes.

And that's the way it stayed until referee Martin MacLean's final whistle, so the tie went into extra-time.

The winning goal came on 103 minutes when Connor Golabek got his second to clinch a second round spot at home to Lochearon.

Caberfeidh 7 SCOTS Camanchd 2

The Caberfeidh reserves and forces side SCOTS Camanchd took part in the first match of the day; a noon throw up at Castle Leod.

There was an early exchange of goals as Gavin McLaughlan put Cabers ahead after four minutes only for Colin Irving to level on eight minutes.

Two goals in a couple of minutes then gave the home side the edge.

Former Inverness player Brian Mackain got his first goal since his pre-season switch on 23 minutes and Gavin McLaughlan got his second 60 seconds later to make it 3-1 and the home side took this lead into the break.

Cabers started to pull away in the second half with Gavin McLaughlan completing his hat-trick on 61 minutes and Stuart Kryzanowski making it 5-1 on 70 minutes.

The SCOTS showed plenty fight though and former Skye Camanchd player Ian Munro pulled a goal back to make it 5-2 with 10 minutes remaining.

Two late goals put gloss on the final outcome. Stuart Kryzanowski got his second just three minutes from time and James Rolfe rounded off the scoring a minute before referee Daniel MacRae's full time whistle to make it 7-2.

The Caberfeidh colts will now host the winners of next weekend's tie between the Kyles Athletic and Fort William second teams in the next round.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Skye Camanchd 3

Skye Camanchd seconds beat Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds 3-0



Kingussie's Gary Munro tries some gymnastics during last Saturday's Pre

Photo: Ne

in their 2pm throw up at Yoker. Skye showed no ill-effects from their early start and long journey south as John Angus MacInnes got onto the end of a Ryan Morrison pass to give his team the lead with just three minutes on the clock.

Former Skye player David Nicolson lined up at full back for GMA but he had to come off after taking a knock in a challenge from John Angus MacInnes.

He came back on later in the game at full forward where he was marked by Skye captain David Grant.

Skye thought they were about to score a second but referee Jon Gallagher blew the half time whistle just as John Angus MacInnes was about to shoot.

On a difficult surface, Skye had to wait until the tail-end of the tie to wrap up the win.

Iain MacLellan pushed forward from wing centre to make it 2-0 after 87 minutes. MacLellan played a one-two with James Pringle and his shot took a deflection off a defenders leg on the way into the net.

Two of Skye's young substitutes combined to get their team's third goal a minute from time. Ross Gordon sent a shot from distance on target and whilst the keeper saved his effort, Ruairaidh MacLeod followed up to score from the rebound.

Skye's third young sub, Sam MacPhee, came on during the second half to make his debut at reserve team level.

Skye will now travel to the Eilan to face the Newtonmore seconds in the next round.

Inverness 0 Lochaber 6

Lochaber's second team are through to the next round of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup after they beat the Inverness second team 6-0 at Bught Park.

Stuart Matheson put Lochaber ahead on eight minutes and Danny Delaney made it 2-0 on 20 minutes.

The match then belonged to Keith Neville who scored one of the Spean Bridge side's goals in their 4-1 league win over Glenurquhart the previous weekend.

Neville netted four times in the first half on 22, 25, 36 and 42 minutes to make it 6-0 at the break.

Surprisingly, there were no goals in the second half and the

Lochaber colts have an away-day against Tayforth to look forward to in the next round.

Oban Lorn 1 Lewis Camanchd 1

(after extra-time - Oban Lorn won 2-0 on penalties)

Oban Lorn and Lewis Camanchd met for the first time in a 3.30pm throw up at Ganavan.

The Oban pitch passed a Saturday morning inspection so the tie went ahead.

Oban Lorn's Calum MacLean and Daniel MacKinnon were both free of suspension.

Keeper Graham Cay was still missing for Lewis so Eoghan Stewart continued to deputise in goal.

Lewis forward Scott MacLeod forced an early save and although the visitors had the ball in the net a couple of minutes later, the effort was ruled out by referee Iain Kennedy for a kick.

Oban Lorn then enjoyed a period of pressure before play switched to the other end and Paul Duke sent a strike just past the post after Scott MacLeod saw his initial effort well saved.

Glenurquhart game in the B

GLENURQUHART'S 2015 RBS MacTavish Cup winning side headed off for the trip of a lifetime to New York last weekend where they took part in the 18th Annual Tartan Day Parade down 6th Avenue.

For Glenurquhart club president Garry Mackintosh, the invitation to his club to strut their stuff on the streets of Big Apple came as a massive surprise - but a very welcome one at that. 'Just after our RBS MacTavish Cup triumph over Newtonmore last June I was contacted by Alan L Bain, President of the National Tartan Day New York Committee, who suggested we take the side across, march in the parade and also showcase Scotland's indigenous sport with an exhibition match in Central Park.

'Clearly they had noted our historic victory in the media - our first success in the MacTavish in over a century of trying - and I suppose the idea of a team of shinty players from the shores of Loch Ness caught the American imagination. The Loch and its monster are, after all, a global brand.

'We sat on the idea for a while but



Craig MacPhail, SCOTS is tackled by Caberfeidh's Robert Macreadie during last weekend's Sutherland Cup tie at Strathpeffer which the home side won 7-2. Photo: Neil Paterson

SHINTY

News, results and fixtures

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



Premiership game against Lovat - but the dog doesn't look too impressed.
© I Paterson

the Aberdour and Kingussie seconds so the teams will try again this coming Saturday with the winners travelling to Craigard to play Glengarry.

Aberdeen University P Kinlochshiel P

Aberdeen University's Balgowrie pitch was deemed unplayable on Saturday morning so the Students tie with the Kinlochshiel reserves was postponed. The sides will now meet this coming weekend.

Kilmallie P Lovat P

The Kilmallie colts and the Lovat colts were left disappointed as their noon throw up at the Canal Parks was an early casualty of the wet weather. The match will now take place this Saturday.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lovat 3 Kingussie 2

After an action-packed closing 15 minutes, Lovat finally fought off Kingussie to win 3-2 at Balgate.

Lovat were without Calum MacAulay, Drew Howie, Martin Mainland and Callum Cruden - all out injured - whilst Ryan Ferguson and Lorne Mackay were unavailable.

Craig Mainland returned, as did Michael MacKenzie and there was a place at wing forward for Graeme MacMillan. Young Scott MacKenzie kept his place in defence.

Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson returned for his first match of the season after injury and this allowed Rory MacGregor to play at wing forward. Rory MacKeachan was also back, but Lee Bain was still out.

James Hutchison came off injured at Mossfield last weekend but he was fit enough to start at full forward where he was closely marked by James Grieve.

Greg Matheson got Lovat off to the perfect start when he netted after two minutes.

A Lovat corner from the left was missed by the Kings defence and the ball fell nicely for Matheson to score.

Fraser Munro moved forward unmarked on six minutes and he collected the ball on left side of the box. Despite two attempts, though, he couldn't get a shot on target.

Lovat's Craig Mainland was forced off injured after 36 minutes.

Bailey MacKay came on in his place and Danny Kelly dropped back to buckshee back.

A couple of minutes later, a good save with his stick from Craig Dawson, just inside the post, denied Kevin Bartlett.

Kingussie made a brighter start to the second half and on 53 minutes, Thomas Borthwick turned Danny Kelly and his fierce shot flew past the post with some supporters thinking the ball was in the net.

The resulting goal hit was swiftly moved up-field to Graeme MacMillan and his low shot was pushed away with his stick by Craig Dawson.

Thomas Borthwick's aerial shot from a shy on 63 minutes produced a good save from Stuart MacDonald.

With 20 minutes remaining, Kingussie made a switch as James Falconer replaced Savio Genini, who was having a quiet game.

Lovat's Mark Kelly came on for Graeme MacMillan on 73 minutes.

With 15 minutes remaining, the game hadn't been a great spectacle and it lacked goalmouth action.

That was all about to change. First, Thomas Borthwick ran in on goal and was impeded by Lovat goalkeeper Stuart MacDonald.

Borthwick picked himself up to score with a well struck penalty to make it 1-1.

Kingussie introduced Ryan MacWilliam in place of Jake MacPherson on 83 minutes.

Craig Mainland had come back on during the second half at wing centre and he sent a long shy down to the right corner to Lewis Tawse.

Tawse's cross-ball was well dealt with by Craig Dawson at the expense of a corner.

The resultant corner fell nicely for Kevin Bartlett and he scored with a low shot to put Lovat back in front with just four minutes remaining.

A minute later, a Lovat defend-

er kicked the ball at the edge of the 'D'.

A short free-hit was slipped into the path of the onrushing Thomas Borthwick who rocketed the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-2.

There was a frantic end to the game with both teams pushing forward for a winning goal.

The drama peaked when the Kings' defence cleared the ball up-field and Craig Mainland collected possession in the middle of the park with no other player near him.

From fully 40 yards out, and to the delight of the Lovat support, Mainland steadied himself and his powerful shot went high over the Kings' defence and dropped just under the crossbar for a spectacular winning goal.

There was only time left for referee John Angus Gilles to throw the ball up between the full centres and blow the final whistle.

Thomas Borthwick was best

Saturday morning, but Lochaber officials monitored the condition of the pitch before a noon inspection gave the game the green light.

The pitch was very soft in places, which wasn't a surprise considering the recent rainfall. This made it difficult for the teams to play fluent shinty.

Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson was without the injured Brian MacDonald, whilst full centre Neil MacDonald was ruled out with a hamstring injury sustained against Kyles Athletic the previous week.

Newtonmore were without a fixture last weekend and Michael Ritchie continued in goal as Owen Fraser served the second match of a two game ban.

Manager Paul John MacKintosh had Paul MacArthur missing and Jamie Robinson was called into the squad after his appearance for the reserves the previous week.

Newtonmore took the lead on

and Fraser MacKintosh bobbled the ball over the goal line from a yard out whilst falling to his knees.

Newtonmore went 3-0 ahead following a corner on 73 minutes. Evan Menzies showed good control as he took the ball down and slipped it past Lochaber keeper Callum MacDonald from inside the 'D'.

Lochaber put up a great fight and keeper Michael Ritchie came to his team's rescue on a few occasions.

The match was scrappy at times and both teams have displayed better hitting. Norman Campbell was outstanding at full centre for Newtonmore. He will play in the RBS MacTavish Cup semi-final against Skye Camanachd this coming Saturday before having planned knee surgery which will keep him out for at least six weeks.

This make's Jamie Robinson's return all the more timely.

Third place Newtonmore are ahead of Kyles Athletic and Kingussie on goal difference, whilst Lochaber stay in ninth spot, trailing Glenurquhart and Skye Camanachd, again on goal difference.

Skye Camanachd P Fort William P

Skye Camanachd's Pairc nan Laoch pitch was playable on Friday evening but overnight rain led to the postponement of their meeting with Fort William.

The option of a fixture reversal to An Aird was looked at, but it was also unplayable.

Skye Camanachd have had a frustrating start to the new term, having only managed to play on three of the six Saturdays of the new shinty season.

Fort William will try to notch their first league point when they welcome Kinlochshiel to An Aird this coming Saturday in the Marine Harvest Premiership's only scheduled fixture.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Strathspey Camanachd 0 Lochcarron 4

Lochcarron collected both points with a 4-0 win over Strathspey Camanachd at Grantown Grammar School.

The west coast side led 1-0 at the break, before clinching the points in the second half.

Nick Dalgety scored twice with Peter MacKenzie, back in the side following a shoulder injury, and Lachlan Dean Morrice getting the others.

The win lifts Lochcarron into third place in the table, ahead of the Lochaber seconds on goal difference.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute P Tayforth P

The meeting between Tayforth and the Bute seconds at the Meadows will be rescheduled for a later date.

Key shinty dates confirmed

A few important shinty dates are listed below for the diary. Please note there is only one international match planned for the senior men against the Irish this year, to be played in Inverness on Saturday October 22.

Saturday June 11: RBS MacTavish Cup Final, Bught Park, Inverness

Saturday June 25: Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final, Sports Field, Taynuilt

Wednesday June 29: Camanachd Association Area Consultation Meeting, Fort William

Wednesday July 6: Camanachd Association Area Consultation Meeting, Strathpeffer

Wednesday July 13: Camanachd Association Area Consultation Meeting, Oban

Saturday July 16: Balliemore Cup Final, venue tbc

Wednesday 20th July: Camanachd Association Area Consultation Meeting, Glasgow

Saturday July 30: Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final, venue tbc

Saturday August 27: Womens Finals Day (Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup Final and Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final), Sports Field, Taynuilt

Saturday August 27: U21 Caol Cup, venue tbc

Saturday September 3: Artemis Macaulay Cup Final, Mossfield Stadium, Oban

Saturday September 10: Strathdearn and Bullough Cup Finals, venues tbc

Saturday September 17: Camanachd Cup Final, An Aird, Fort William

Friday October 21: Marine Harvest National Shinty Awards, Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

Saturday October 22: Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International (Senior Men, Senior Women & U21 Men) Bught Park, Inverness.

Friday November 25: Camanachd Association Annual General Meeting, Fort William

for Kings with Kevin Bartlett and Craig Mainland shining for Lovat.

The final outcome was harsh on Kingussie who didn't deserve to leave Balgate empty-handed but the points lift Lovat to second spot in the league.

Lochaber 0 Newtonmore 3

Newtonmore moved up to third place in the table after they beat Lochaber 3-0 at Spean Bridge.

There were concerns that the match might be called off on

13 minutes. Evan Menzies played in Glen MacKintosh down the 'More left wing. MacKintosh cut the ball across the 'D' where Fraser MacKintosh poked the ball home for what was a well-made goal.

Fraser MacKintosh, who spent the pre-season in India, has been in fine form since his return and his second goal on 59 minutes came at a good time for the visitors.

A ball into the Lochaber defence caused the problem. The home side failed to deal with it



Glenurquhart's Finlay Ralston shields the ball from Lochside Rovers' Gary Kirkpatrick during the Sutherland Cup tie at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit. The home side won a close game 2-1 after extra time. Photo: Donald Cameron



Fixtures

Saturday April 16

RBS MacTavish Cup 2nd round

Strathglass v Kingussie
Calum Girvan
Skye v Newtonmore
Evan MacRae
Beaully v Lochaber
Archie Ritchie - 3pm
Caberfeidh v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Cup 1st round

Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
Innes Wood
2nd Round
Kyles Athletic v Bute
Robert Baxter - noon
Aberdour v Inveraray
David Mitchell - 3pm

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st round

Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel
Brian MacKay
Aberdour v Kingussie
Alan Harrison - Noon
Kilmallie v Lovat
Martin MacLean
Kilmory v Inveraray
Scot McNeil - 2pm
Kyles Athletic v Fort William
Ewan MacDonald - 3pm

Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William v Kinlochshiel
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness v Kilmallie
John Angus Gillies - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaully v Newtonmore
Willie MacDonald - noon
Glenurquhart v Skye
John Matheson

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers v Col Glen
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Strathspey
Daniel MacRae
Inverness v Glengarry
Andy MacLean
Lochaber v Lewis
Alex MacVicar
Lochcarron v Caberfeidh
John Wood

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon v Tayforth
Jon Gallagher
Oban Lorn v Bute
Ross Brown
All throw ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday April 9

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup 1st Round

Glenorchy P-P Oban Celtic
Unplayable field

Balliemore Cup 1st Round

Strathglass 1-1 Bute
Strathglass won 1-0 on penalties
Inveraray 0-1 Kilmallie
Caberfeidh 2-1 Inverness
Ballachulish P-P Glasgow MA
Aberdour 3-1 Col Glen

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Caberfeidh 7-2 SCOTS Caman
Oban Lorn 1-1 Lewis
Lorn won 2-0 on penalties
Aberdeen Uni P-P Kinlochshiel
Unplayable field
Kilmallie P-P Lovat
Unplayable field
Inverness 0-6 Lochaber
Beaully 6-0 Caithness
Kilmory P-P Inveraray
Unplayable field
Glenurquhart 2-1 Lochside
after extra time
Aberdour P-P Kingussie
Unplayable field
Glasgow MA 0-3 Skye

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lovat 3-2 Kingussie
Lochaber 0-3 Newtonmore
Oban Caman 1-0 Kinlochshiel
Skye P-P Fort William
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Strathspey 0-4 Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute P-P Tayforth
Unplayable field

play an away ig Apple

then having been joined in the venture by several strategic sponsors we realized we could seize the opportunity of a lifetime.

'We brought on board tartan specialist Scotkilt Ltd which supplied us with our kilts for the trip, Alan Macpherson of Tanera Camans who provided our shinty sticks, Tomatin Distillery, Ark Estates (Scotland) Ltd and Highland Council, all of whom saw our trip as a positive boost for the Highlands.'

Returned

A party of 30 players and officials, accompanied by the current president of the Camanachd Association, Glenurquhart native Jim Barr, left Drumnadrochit for New York on Friday April 8 and returned to the Glen on Monday

Glenurquhart Shinty Club wish to thank the generous sponsors without whom this event would not have been possible: Scotkilt Tomatin Scotch Whisky Distillery; Tanera Camans; The Highland Council; NYC Tartan Week; Loch Ness Inn Drumnadrochit; MackintoshJoinery and ARKEstates.

well saved by Eoghan Stewart.

This one could have gone either way before Iain Kennedy signalled for a penalty shoot-out.

In the end, David Martin and Charlie Spreadbury scored from the spot to give Oban Lorn a 2-0 win.

Oban Lorn will now travel to play the winners of the tie between Kilmory and the Inveraray second team.

Beaully 6 Caithness 0

The tie between Caithness and Beaully's second team was reversed to Braeview Park during the week as Viewfirth Park, Thurso, was waterlogged.

And it was the home side who won through to the second round with a 6-0 win in this 1.30pm throw up.

Robbie Brindle gave Beaully the lead on five minutes and the same player added a second on 19 minutes. Young Brindle was proving to be too hot to handle for the non-league side and he completed his hat-trick to make it 3-0 with five first half minutes remaining.

It was Brindle again on target on 53 minutes and on 77 minutes to score his and Beaully's fifth goals of the afternoon and round off a terrific individual display.

Rory Campbell rounded off the 6-0 win with a strike on 87 minutes.

Beaully will now travel to Smith Park to play Boleskine, who won their first round tie against Bute last weekend, in the second round.

Caithness have ambitions of joining Marine Harvest North Division 2 and they can be pleased with how they fared against Marine Harvest North Division 1 opposition.

Inveraray P Kilmory P

The tie between Kilmory and the Inveraray second team was switched to Strachurmore on Friday afternoon as MacRae Park was unplayable.

But Strachurmore failed a Saturday morning pitch inspection so the tie has been rescheduled for this coming Saturday.

Aberdour P Kingussie P

An unplayable field at Silver Sands led to the postponement of the noon encounter between

Shawlands have no answer to high-flying Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute	58
Shawlands	5
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL and Bute RFC recorded one of their best wins of the season with a 58-5 thumping of third-placed Shawlands RFC.

The two teams had met in early January with Shawlands running out narrow 24-18 winners as Argyll played the whole game with only 14 men.

This time around Argyll had a much stronger squad available and could call upon five dual registered Oban Lorne players with their game against Cambuslang being postponed.

Another positive on Saturday was the re-opening of the Glen 1 pitch at Glencruitten for only its second game of rugby in 2016.

Argyll and Bute kicked off through stand off Andrew Abraham, who deputised for the team while home for his Easter holiday from university.

Within five minutes the home side were ahead with a try on the left hand wing from Steven Parr.

Argyll took the score to 12-0

shortly after as Andy MacDougall powered over from 20 metres out, battling off several defenders to touch down under the posts.

The home side scored three further first half tries from Roddy Morrison, Vasil Borisov and Abraham for a convincing half time lead.

Five changes were made at the break with the coaching team keen to give as many players as possible some valuable game-time.

Bringing on so many new faces at the half time break aided Argyll's scoring efforts in the second half as they ran in further scores from Morrison, Andy MacDougall, Andrew Johnston, Matias El Snachez, Rufus Stones and Dan Broderick to seal a convincing 58-5 win with Shawlands hitting back with a deserved consolation try.

The bonus point win lifts Argyll into contention for finishing in second place in the league, a major feat for a team only formed 18 months ago.

This Saturday Argyll welcome League Champions Police Scot-

Rugby

land RFC to Glencruitten. Kick off 3pm.

BT West Division one Oban Lorne P Cambuslang P

OBAN Lorne's West Division 1 clash with relegated Cambuslang RFC was postponed on Saturday for a second time in recent weeks with Cambuslang failing to raise a front row for the game.

This left a strong Oban Lorne squad very frustrated after Cambuslang had postponed the game two weeks ago deeming the playing surface at North Connel to be unsafe.

With four games remaining this season Oban Lorne have secured fourth place in the league.

This Saturday the Greenmachine travel to take on Argyll and Bute rivals Helensburgh RFC.

Oban recorded a narrow 8-3 win at Glencruitten in October and will be hoping for another positive result to end the season on a high. Kick off 3pm.



Roddy Morrison seizes his opportunity and drives over the line to score for Oban Lorne. 17_rugby03

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results:
Premier Division - Finnart 3, Oban Saints 3; Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed
Premier Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star 0, Easthall Star 2; Dunoon 5, Drumchapel 3;
Premier Division Two - Tarbert 2, Strathaven Dynamo 2.

This Saturday's fixtures:
Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Campbeltown Pupils v Finnart; Premier Division One - Ferguslie Star v Dunoon; Neilston v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Dumbarton Wanderers v Tarbert; Division One - Dunoon Athletic v Paisley.

Oban Saints' youths results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Baljaffray v Under 14s postponed; Under 15s v Loch Lomond, postponed
Port Glasgow v Under 16s; Under 19s 5, Milngavie 2. Scoring for Saints were Alan Buchanan, Fraser MacFarlane (3) and Daniel Croarkin.

This weekend's fixtures:
Kilbowie Union v Under 13s; Under 14s v Ardencaple; Under 15s v Broomhill; Under 16s v Port Glasgow; Under 19s no game.

Ann appointed county vice-captain



Ann Colthart

DUMBARTON and Argyll County Ladies Association has appointed Dalmally Golf Club ladies' captain Ann Colthart as its vice captain.

Ann, who lives in Connel and taught at Oban High School, previously held the post of treasurer after serving on the committee for a number of years. The association says it is delighted to have someone with Ann's experience and organisational skills playing such an important role, and Dalmally Golf Club wished her every success.

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The upgraded tennis courts at Atlantis Leisure should be completed by June. 17_tennis03

Atlantis tennis courts being upgraded

THE TENNIS courts at Atlantis Leisure in Oban are currently in the process of being upgraded, which will allow players to compete on a level playing field.

A community campaign was kick-started in December last year in order to raise money to improve the sloping courts.

The upgrade is scheduled to be completed by the middle of June, with the finished product consisting of three competition standard tennis courts and an additional multi-sports area.

Neil Matheson, chairman of Atlantis Leisure, said: 'We've made a positive start and the courts should be finished by mid-June in time for the summer tennis season, just before Wimbledon, and in time for the West Highland tennis competition.'

'I'm absolutely delighted to get the contract underway after all the time and effort that everyone has made. I hugely appreciate the effort and contribution of everyone.'

'We would like to thank



Tennis

SportScotland, Tennis Scotland, the Robertson Trust, Atlantis Leisure, Oban Tennis and Squash Club and everyone who donated. We have got enough funds to complete the original plans, but still need more money to do more improvements.'

Lynda Oxland, chairwoman of the tennis and squash club, said: 'It's been a long 18 months, but we have finally got there thanks to the community, Atlantis Leisure, past members, The Oban Times and Oban High School which did some fundraising.'

'I'm delighted. I'm trying to keep on top of all the fundraising. The community have been really good and generous as Oban always is.'

'I'm looking forward to being able to play on a level surface.'

'It's been hard work, but we got there in the end. Atlantis Leisure has worked really hard to get the funding and I'd like to give a special thanks to Nick Weasely and Neil Matheson and everyone who has helped or donated.'

End of season for Oban Curling Club

NOW THAT the winter has come to an end Oban Curling Club can look back on a very successful season.

It started with a game against Braehead Wheelchair club as part of the Grand Match organised by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club where clubs from all over the north of Scotland compete against clubs from the south at ice rinks throughout the country. Although Oban won their match as part of the north

team, the overall winners were the south.

The club also played regularly at The Waterfront Ice Rink, Greenock against other teams in the Argyll Province winning the Esses Cup, Inveraray Shield and the John Noble Cup and in January participated in the Argyll Championships at Braehead Ice Rink coming third with the winners being the Dunoon Argyll club.

In March a team played for the

Curling

Strathcona Cup at Greenacres Ice Rink against teams from Lochaber and Glenorchy Curling Clubs and Oban Rotary Club.

This prestigious trophy has been played for by clubs in the Lochaber and North Argyll areas for more than 100 years and was originally played on outside ice. This year the Oban team won with Lochaber coming second.

Gearbox problems for MacPhee in Texas

ANY HOPES of John McPhee turning in a second top 10 finish on the trot were dashed by a gearbox glitch in the Grand Prix of the Americas Moto3 race.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed Peugeot MC Saxoprint rider - who made it through to seventh from 28th on the grid at the previous round in Argentina - had to settle for 21st from 17th on the grid this time around in Texas.

Embroided

While team-mate Alexis Masbou was able to hold position on the opening lap, McPhee dropped to 22nd where he soon became embroiled in a back-of-the-field scrap with Platinum Bay Mahindra rider Karel Hanika, Honda Team Asia's Hiroki Ono and Red Bull Ajo's KTM-mounted rookie Bo Bendsneyder.

That changed at mid-distance

after Ono was served with a ride-through penalty for taking out Drive M7 SIC's Adam Norrodin on the second lap and Hanika who took himself out on lap 11.

The early retirements - along with the corner-by-corner trading of places - set up an end-of-race tussle between McPhee, Bendsneyder and Honda Team Asia's Khairul Idham Pawi for the last of the top 20 places.

Pawi hung on to that by two-tenths of a second leaving a dejected and gearbox-hampered McPhee to cross the line in 21st, just over a second clear of Bendsneyder.

McPhee's fellow Mahindra-powered Peugeot rider Masbou dropped a place to finish 16th.

'It was a far from easy race for me,' the disappointed Scot lamented. 'I got a decent start and

Moto 3

got to the front of my group but had massive gearbox problems from very early on which made it impossible to make progress through the pack.

'I felt my riding was not so bad and that I could have been fighting with guys like my team-mate Alexis at least.'

Dangerous

'But when changing gear I kept finding neutral and the gearbox jumped out many times which made it quite dangerous. In fact I nearly crashed several times as a result of the problem.'

'Fortunately we know that Peugeot and Mahindra are working hard to resolve the issue so I hope we come back stronger and make it back into the points at the next round at Jerez.'



Connel's John McPhee, No 17, in action at the recent Argentina Grand Prix

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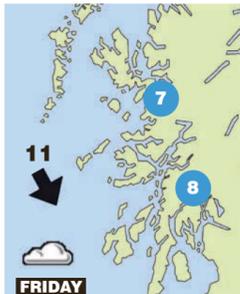
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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Sunny intervals on Sunday
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 14, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.10 1.4 11.19 2.8 17.22 1.4 23.25 2.9	
Fri	06.33 1.6 13.25 2.7 18.34 1.5 **** *	
Sat	01.23 2.8 08.21 1.6 14.49 2.8 19.56 1.5	
Sun	02.45 3.0 09.28 1.5 15.35 3.0 21.05 1.4	
Mon	03.26 3.2 10.12 1.3 16.01 3.2 21.56 1.2	
Tues	04.00 3.4 10.48 1.2 16.30 3.4 22.37 1.0	
Wed	04.35 3.6 11.19 1.1 17.02 3.6 23.13 0.9	

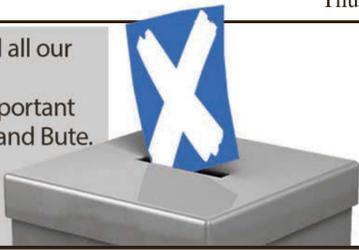
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times invited all our candidates to submit a statement on issues important to the people of Argyll and Bute. This week they focus on Economic Development.



Election 2016
Argyll candidates

Join the debate ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016 - Argyll & Bute - at The Oban Times' first Hustings. Application form inside.



QUESTION TIME

THE OBAN TIMES' FIRST HUSTINGS

Eleventh hour support for new sports hall

ELLIE FORBES
fort@obantimes.co.uk

AN EMERGENCY board meeting of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) heard that potential 11th-hour support for long-awaited plans for a new indoor sport facility in Fort William was in the offing.

A few weeks ago the beleaguered group heard that funding allocated by Highland Council was to be drastically cut and its plans would be unlikely to go ahead 'in the near future'.

On Tuesday night, at a meeting in Fort William Shinty Club, LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said she had become aware of an interested party in the project, after a story appeared in last week's *Oban Times*.

Mrs Blanchard explained to the busy meeting that a charitable trust with similar interests in the scheme had approached her about moving forward with a shared indoor centre.

Confidentiality did not allow Mrs Blanchard to share details of the potential new partner, but she was confident the project could be delivered.

Mrs Blanchard said: 'It is far too early to say anything about this because so much research still needs to be done.'

The meeting was told the potential new partner would

mean going back to the drawing board. For example, the desired location of Lochaber High School would be under review.

Mrs Blanchard said: 'With this new proposal we would need to look into whether the facility can still be at the high school.'

Lochaber Sports Association has been developing plans for a new multi-sport facility for seven years. Plans for the project came to a halt at the end of last year as a result of funding issues.

In October, Highland Council revealed plans to invest a maximum of £200,000 in the project. The offer came as a shock to the group as it was less than a quarter of the £845,000 previously agreed with the association towards the construction of the facility at Lochaber High School. The project will have a total price tag of £1.47million.

SportScotland has already pledged £500,000 to the development but is dependent on a certain level of support from the local authority.

Whilst Fort William area councillors support the plans, the LSA project did not receive enough votes for the budget to be increased.

A sticking point for the LSA was the fact it is not a VAT registered company, which would see it footing a VAT bill

of £240,000, adding further pressure to limited funds.

This new proposal is from a VAT registered company, which would alleviate some financial weight.

The meeting brought to light the urgent need for new committee members, as two board members stepped down from their positions. Duncan MacPhee and Leen Volwerk had planned to step down but are now considering remaining in their positions. The meeting saw two directors appointed to the board and one new committee member, who will take charge of the club's communications.

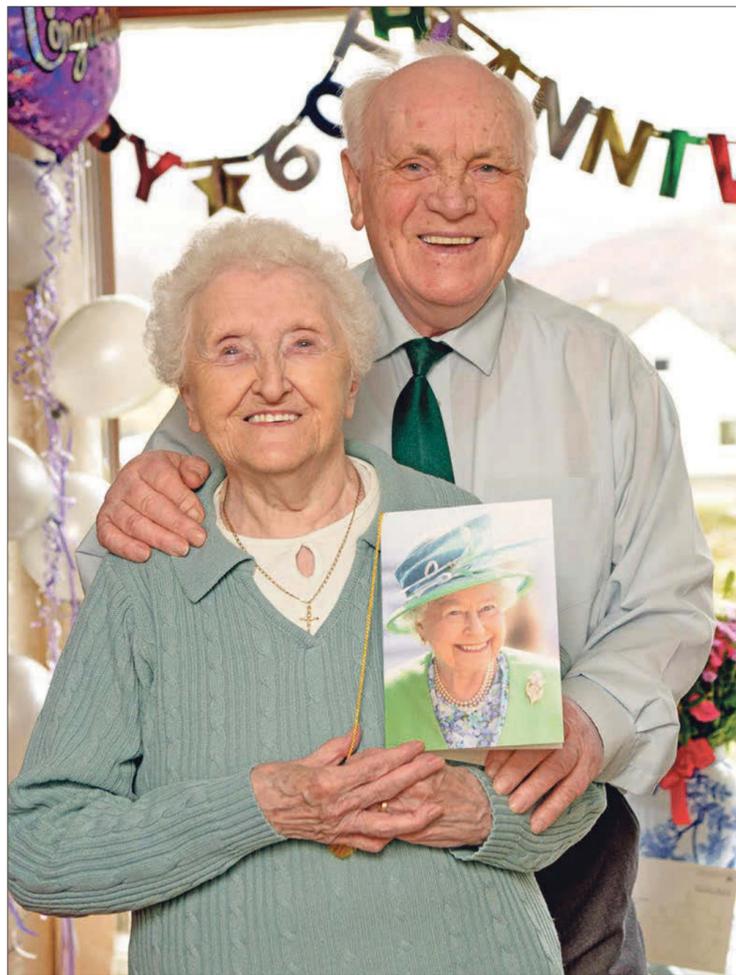
Mrs Blanchard said: 'As a board we have been struggling for seven years and we need new blood.'

Speaking after the meeting the chairwoman expressed her delight at the election of the members, saying: 'New people are hugely beneficial to the club and these new members will breathe fresh life into the project. It is a lot to ask of people who are busy working and have families, so I am pleased they came forward.'

She added: 'It was a difficult meeting because I couldn't divulge some information, but the board will need to look at ways to take the project forward.'

Mrs Blanchard has agreed to continue to support the group.

Diamond wedding couple celebrate 60 happy years



DIAMOND couple Mark and Kitty McCann, of Fort William, celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss at the beginning of April.

The pair were married in St Monica's Church, Coatbridge, on April 4, 1956.

Mr McCann made his first trip to Fort William in 1959 as temporary shop manager of the former Black and Campbell's store in High Street, returning to take up the permanent post in 1961.

They lived above the shop for many years and brought up a family of four - Paul, Ro-

seann, William and Sandra, all of whom, plus grandchildren, joined them in the celebrations at their home in Cromarty Crescent where amongst many gifts was a card of congratulations from HM The Queen.

Mr McCann said: 'We have had a wonderful marriage, with its ups and downs like everyone else, but we are still the same as we were when it all started. We love one another very much. After you have been married for 60 years, you forget what it is you've even done.'

Photo by Iain Ferguson.

TIMESLINE

Fishermen named after boat sinks

TWO MEN who died after a fishing boat sank off the coast of Mingulay on Saturday have been identified as Martin Johnstone, aged 29, from Halkirk, and Chris Morrison, 27, from Stornoway.

Paul Alliston, 42, from Lochs, remains missing at sea. Another crew member was rescued after swimming ashore and was later airlifted to hospital.

Volunteers from the RNLI and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency continue to search for Mr Alliston. The Police Scotland Air Support Unit is also on scene with the support of Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd which has re-opened the airport in Benbecula to help in the search.

Chief Inspector Alastair Garrow said: 'Police Scotland has an enquiry team working alongside other agencies and the known circumstances will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.'

'There will be further investigations to fully establish what has happened.'

Police Scotland has said: 'Our thoughts are with the loved ones of the men who sadly lost their lives as a result of this tragic incident.'

Planners block Onich home plan

HIGHLAND Council's South Planning Applications Committee has refused permission for a new three-bedroom house in Onich, Fort William.

The applicant was seeking permission for a one-a-half-storey house on the plot.

The committee rejected the application after objections by Nether Lochaber Community Council.

It insisted the house would have 'a detrimental impact on the character of the village'.



Lifeboat to the rescue of stranded ferry

A RNLI lifeboat was called out last Thursday to help a ferry which had ran aground during an extremely low tide.

The Kyle of Lochalsh volunteer crew were launched around 1.30pm to aid the Glenelg Ferry, Glenachulish, after Stornoway Coastguard requested help.

The lifeboat crew arrived five minutes later, by which time the 10 passengers and crew had made it safely to shore.

No-one was injured and no further assistance was needed. The RNLI crew stood down after 2pm as it would be some time before the ferry would begin to float again on the incoming tide.

Work to start on new council HQ

WORK on Highland Council's new Fort William offices is to start later this month after a £5.7 million contract was agreed with construction firm Robertson Northern.

Administrative and professional staff from across Lochaber and the West Highlands will be based at the Grade B listed former senior secondary school in Achintore Road when renovations are completed in summer 2017.

Built in 1876, the council-owned building has fallen into ruin since being replaced by Lochaber High School in 1960.

The council says having a single base will save it around £400,000 a year - with additional space being made available to other public sector organisations in a bid

to further reduce operating costs.

Lochaber area leader councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'I am delighted that the contract has been awarded and we can look forward to bringing life back to a gateway building on the A82.'

'Not only will the new offices allow us to deliver our services more cost-effectively and efficiently, but this project creates jobs and supports the local economy at a time when other sectors are struggling.'

Robertson Northern's Frank Reid added: 'This project will be a significant development for Fort William and wider Lochaber, and will revive a much-loved building that's close to many people's hearts.'



The former school which is to be transformed into Highland Council's new Fort William offices.

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Dispute breaks out over plan to relocate village war memorial

KATIE CARABINE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

BALLACHULISH Community Council members are against a proposal to relocate the Ballachulish War Memorial into the village, despite overwhelming public support for the project.

The dispute has led to Mel MacAskill, a former community council chairman, resigning from the project and saying he wants nothing more to do with the present community council.

There have been two public meetings, one just a few weeks ago, held in relation to the monument and flyers were also distributed to every household in the area to gather public opinion, which was largely in support of the move.

A new home for the monument was found in front of the Ministry of Defence's Joint Service Mountain Training Centre. The army, which owns the land it was to be moved to, was happy for it to be moved, as was Highland Council.



A heavy truck thunders by the memorial, which is situated on the edge of the busy A82. Photograph by John Paul Peebles, Abridgeside Photography.

“The community council is ignoring the community's wishes”
Mel MacAskill

‘After getting it all done, and thinking we were moving forward, the community council decided to do its own ballot, which was what the flyers had been for,’ said Mr MacAskill, who had been asked to take the project forward when he stepped down from the community council. ‘In my opinion there are a couple of people in the community council who don't want it moved so they have delayed it.’

‘I had a heated phone call with the chairman about this

and his lack of leadership. I said to him I believed he had a different opinion depending on who he was talking to,’ he said. ‘It's sad because, while not in immediate danger, there's a lot of water coming down off the hill and there's landslides constantly on the hills around Ballachulish and with the increased traffic on the A82, it's really putting the monument at risk and it has to be moved.’

‘It's taken nearly two years of work and I feel, if these people get their way, it won't happen and there is limited time to get grants etc and with the water coming off the hill people want to distance themselves from it.’

‘The community council is ignoring the community's wishes because they don't match their own.’

Mr MacAskill added: ‘I have withdrawn myself from it as I feel they are working to their own agenda, working against it. I feel now, without support for this project, it's not going to go any further and I don't feel I can trust the people involved in it.’

Police files

POLICE have issued an appeal for information following a number of incidents in Fort William.

Suspects are being sought after five benches were damaged in the play park in Kennedy Road between March 28 and April 4.

Two handbags were also taken from the Volunteer Arms in the High Street, Fort William, between 11.45pm on Saturday April 10 and 1.30am on Sunday April 11.

The handbags were later recovered by police in a doorway at the back of the pub, but money and a mobile phone were missing.

Later on Sunday April 10, a black Gary Fisher 19ins ladies pedal bike was taken from behind the BA bus shelter on North Road. The bicycle was last seen between 12.15pm and 7pm.

The same day at around 3.10pm, several items of clothing were reported stolen from the Mountain Warehouse store on the High Street.

Meanwhile, walkers have also been urged to report any suspicious behaviour after animal body parts were found in Glencoe.

Believed to be from deer, the remains were discovered near the waterfall viewpoint at The Gorge and Coire Gabhall, an area where poaching has been reported.

If anyone has any information, the police can be contacted on 101 or via Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Climbing couple laid to rest

THE FUNERAL for a young couple who died on Ben Nevis recently took place in Fort William on Wednesday April 6.

Rachel Slater, 24, and Tom Newton, 27, were reported missing after failing to return from a Valentine's day hike on the mountain.

After weeks of searching by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT), the couple were found buried under snow on the North Face on March 23. It is believed they were hit by an avalanche.

A private service was held in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, where there was a collection for LMRT, before the couple were laid to rest together in Glen Nevis cemetery.

Members of LMRT acted as pall bearers and two members played laments on the bagpipes at the burial.

The Oban Times newdesk
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Ferry returns to Knoydart
The Western Isles has won back its contract with Highland Council and will once again be providing a regular ferry service to Knoydart.

Spean Bridge hosts haggis celebrations

A CELEBRATION of Scotland's national dish will take place in Lochaber next week.

The Highland Haggis Festival will celebrate one of Scotland's best-known foods, in attempt to attract visitors from across the country.

The community project, which is supervised by the Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism Marketing Group, is due to take place on Saturday April 16 and Sunday April 17 in Spean Bridge.

Celebrations will begin in Spean Bridge Community Hall from 7pm, with a chance to fill up the country's best haggis and dance to the Sileas Sinclair Band.

Donald Cameron of Locheil will open the main event of the weekend at Spean Bridge

Primary School from 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. With a series of events to suit everyone, the festival gives the chance to sample and take home some of the finest haggis.

Culinary demonstrations will be provided by some of the most innovative chefs in the area, including Scott Kelly of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Allan Donald from Laroch Restaurant, Ballachulish and Spean Bridge's own Ben Martin of the Station Bar and Restaurant.

Other events will include a haggis-flinging competition and a haggis hunt around Spean Bridge. In the run up to the weekend's events, youngsters have the chance to win a competition designing their own Cordon Bleu dish.

Growing frustration over lack of reliable broadband in Morvern

BROADBAND provision in the West Highlands is again under scrutiny with users in Morvern telling of mounting frustration at patchy service and long waiting times for repairs.

The Oban Times has learned that the problems have been particularly acute around Lochaline since Christmas, with users complaining of intermittent internet and phone connectivity.

Ongoing problems with ageing infrastructure seem to have been exacerbated by the variety of different service providers supplying broadband and telephone services through lines and exchanges managed by BT Openreach.

Customers are finding that faults have to be raised with service providers first, which then have to liaise with BT Openreach to resolve matters. Community members say this system is complicated, lacks clarity and it can take three to four weeks to have complaints addressed. It is understood that a petition put up in Lochaline GP surgery recently, calling for more accountability from BT on the issue, has gained more than 100 signatures.

Local historian Iain Thornber has long experience of campaigning for better broadband in Morvern. He told The Oban Times: ‘For almost a week recently there was no internet connection with the outside world occasioned, we believe, by a gust of wind moving a microwave dish by a few

millimetres at the local exchange. It seems odd that while one nation can put a robot on Mars 140 million miles away, another is incapable of aligning two basic bits of equipment six miles apart across the Sound of Mull.’

He added: ‘To some who use the internet now and again for social purposes, the interruption was probably neither here nor there. To others who depend on it for their livelihood, it amounted to significant inconvenience and loss of earnings. Super fast broadband for Morvern. What a joke!’

Under the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme, the Scottish Government and partners including BT have committed to extending high speed fibre broadband to around 84 per cent of homes and businesses in the Highlands and islands by the end of 2016.

Customers in Lochaline are not yet eligible for the upgrade, but according to BT, should be able to access estimated line speeds of between 3.5Mbps-7.5 Mbps - theoretically fast enough to watch streaming TV services such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix.

As well as the impact on leisure and businesses, the issue has potential consequences for NHS patients.

According to Lochaline GP Dr Susan Taylor, much of the work of doctors in rural and remote areas now needs reliable broadband connections.

Judges reject human trafficking conviction appeal

AN APPEAL by the former owner of a Highland hotel to have his conviction for human trafficking overturned has failed.

Shamsul Arefin was sentenced to three years in jail after treating four Bangladeshi workers as ‘modern-day slaves’ at the Stewart Hotel, near Appin, Argyll.

Appeal judges Lord Carloway, Lord Menzies and Lady Cosgrove rejected legal arguments made by Arefin's lawyers.

The written ruling, issued on Monday, stated: ‘The offences here were callous, deliberate and planned for the purposes of gain. As a result, considerable hardship was suffered by the complainants and, no doubt, their families.’

‘The jury had held that there had been no intention to pay the men in terms of the offers of employment. The anticipated wages of around £18,000 per annum were simply

not realised. There were very substantial deposits, obtained from the men, which were never returned.’

‘It is not without significance that the appellant's previous convictions include, not only an assault upon his wife from 2007, but two sexual assaults upon hotel employees, who had come from abroad, in 2013.’

‘Although these are not directly analogous, they have some bearing on sentence.’

Action group's anger over link road report

ONGOING concerns about Highland Council favouring Inverness over Fort William have been refuelled after the local authority published a paper saying the proposed Caol link road was unnecessary and too expensive.

The paper states: ‘It is noted from historic traffic data that traffic levels on the urban section of the A82 in Fort William have remained relatively flat since 2006.’

Duncan Brown, chairman of community action group For Lochaber, responded: ‘So there you have it. Traffic through the Fort hasn't increased in 10 years. How lucky we are to live in the only part of the entire UK that hasn't experienced increased traffic levels since 2006?’

The paper estimates the proposed 2.27km long link road would cost between £54.2 million and £78 million.

Mr Brown pointed out this means it would cost more than the Inverness West bypass which was estimated to cost £54 million in 2014.

‘Of course, along with this bypass, Inverness also gets a new

£10 million sports hub at Torvean.’ This comes after Highland Council decided to renege on its funding offer to Lochaber Sports Association, which Fort William and Ardnamurchan Councillor Brian Murphy called a ‘disgraceful decision’.

Mr Brown continued: ‘Why can Highland Council assemble the will-power and finance for a bypass and new sports facilities in Inverness, but effectively deny these facilities to Fort William?’

‘Is it because Highland Council gives priority treatment to Inverness and the Inner Moray Firth, and other parts of the Highlands receive the crumbs from the table?’

‘Highland Council must give a form of ‘home rule’ to Lochaber so that our councillors can take decisions in Lochaber and make these for the best interests of Lochaber and its people.’

A Highland Council spokesperson said: ‘The paper has been removed from the council's website at the request of Lochaber councillors whilst the indicative Caol link road costs within it are verified,

after which it will be put back out for public consultation.’

‘The purpose of the paper and plan is to stimulate local discussion and comment so please read the available material and make formal written comment. This can be done at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal/westplanmir>. Everyone will have until June 10 to do so.’

‘We expect to receive many written comments both for and against retention of the Caol link road safeguard and it will be for Lochaber councillors to decide whether to confirm the safeguard in the next stage of the plan.’

‘The plan will be re-issued next year, this time for formal objections, and if Lochaber Area Committee resolves to retain the safeguard then it may attract objections from adversely affected landowners and Caol residents in close proximity to its line.’

‘If there are objections then the final plan content is decided by a Scottish Government Reporter, who will consider objections but also how feasible and implementable the road scheme is.’

Bogus car part warning issued

TRADING Standards have issued a warning for both consumers and businesses to exercise caution when buying replacement parts for vehicle repairs, particularly when doing so at a distance.

This warning comes after concerns were raised about several businesses specialising in supplying reconditioned and/or second hand engines.

These businesses are enticing customers with cheap online deals and often the parts are not reconditioned as advertised.

There is information to suggest that consumers are not being given statutory contractual information including, where applicable, notice of the 14-day right to cancel certain contracts.

There have also been reports of customers experiencing significant delays to repair services and of having vehicles or components kept without consent.

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Oban hotel up for sale

A PROMINENT hotel in a commanding position on the Oban seafront has been put up for sale with a price tag of £1.2 million.

The Caledonian Hotel is being sold by its investment owners. A hotel management company is currently operating the hotel.

Estate agent Colliers said that the 59-bedroom property features an excellent range of bar, lounge, restaurant and kitchen facilities to meet the demands of not only residents, but also the high volume of 'passing footfall' from tourists and locals alike, given its seafront location.

Tiree surfing duo's success

TWO TIREE boys are riding high after taking top spots in the Scottish surfing championships.

Ben Larg, 11, and his friend Finn MacDonald, 14, won the under-14 and under-18 events at the Scottish surfing championships in Thurso last weekend.

The qualification means the two surfers will be on the Scottish National Surfing Squad, which will go on to represent Scotland at The International Surfing Awards World Championships in Portugal later this year.

Both boys are members of the Tiree Surf Club, which was started last year with the support of Blackhouse Watersports and Suds Surf School.

School pledge

OBAN High School will be open and ready for use by the Easter holidays 2018, a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee heard on Tuesday.

School construction will get under way next month, with excavation works, including drainage and the laying of a ground floor footprint done by September.

At the same time new traffic lights will be put in place at the Soroba Road junction to improve traffic flow in the area.

The £32 million school is being funded by Scottish Futures Trust, Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and HubNorth.

Stormy weather is picture perfect for reader



Oban Times reader Ron Allner sent in this photograph, which he took on Monday April 11, of the atmospheric clouds over Ben Lawers and Loch Tay. If you have a photograph you would like to share with us, email it to editor@obantimes.co.uk

Ganavan site to go on sale

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A MEETING held in private by Argyll and Bute councillors has sealed the fate of land believed by many in Oban to be owned by the town.

Following the discussion at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting on Monday afternoon, a site at Ganavan is to go on to the open market.

The Oban Times has been told there are a number of interested parties, including a sea food restaurant, a kayak centre and a community interest company building.

It is likely that only one of

these proposals will be given the lease to the toilets and land.

In the past, the land has been rented out for only part of the year.

Because the meeting was not open to the public, the full details of what was discussed have not been disclosed. The Oban Times tried to overturn the decision to exclude the press, arguing public interest in the land.

In 2015, a letter from clan chief Morag Morley MacDougall of MacDougall, sent to The Oban Times, said her forebearers sold the land to Oban town council on the proviso that it remained in the ownership of the people of Oban. To date, the council

has sold off large parts of the land. A luxury housing estate now sits where a bandstand and beach hut once sat. Fees for parking on the site are due to be increased this year.

Initially the request to hear the matter in public was backed by five of the seven Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors.

But following advice from council officers about information on private business matters, the request was turned down.

The council's deputy leader Councillor Ellen Morton, who was present at the meeting, said the information about the land should be made available to the public and financial matters

should be heard at a different time.

But officers said there was the possibility that within a verbal report to be given to councillors by economic development manager Fergus Murray, sensitive information 'could' be made available about financial matters and that should not be in the public domain.

When The Oban Times asked for a summary of what was to be discussed, Councillor Roddy McCuish said the information had only come to light that morning and was significant to the future of the land.

In his defence, Roddy McCuish said that at least three

items that would have previously been heard in private had been open to the public at previous meetings. He said: 'We want to be as open and transparent as we possibly can.'

Following the meeting one disgruntled councillor said: 'It seemed we were being asked to make a decision on excluding the press and public but in effect we didn't have any power to change anything.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed: 'Members were updated on where we are with leasing the public toilet and adjacent land at Ganavan.'

'We will now be moving forward with advertising the site.'

Cocaine 'fell out of pocket'

A SMALL packet of cocaine was found by cleaners on the Oban train, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

It was handed over to the police and was traced to Fraser John MacKie, 34, of 17 Lunga Road, Soroba.

MacKie admitted possessing the drug at Oban Train Station on August 29 last year; he had bought the small amount, 0.5g valued at £20 when in Glasgow. His defence agent said MacKie had been 'heavily under the influence of alcohol' while partying with friends and the packet fell out of his pocket. Sheriff Colin McKay fined him £200.

Found with knife and drugs

A 34-YEAR-OLD man visiting Argyll on a fishing trip was found in possession of a knife and cocaine.

Craig Patrick Cannon, of 15 Halley Place, Glasgow, admitted the offences at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The car in which he and a friend were travelling was stopped by police and the offences discovered.

Cannon, a former chef, said he had the knife for gutting and preparing their catch.

Sheriff Colin McKay gave Cannon four months in prison for each offence, to run concurrently, because of his lengthy criminal record.

Fatal accident

A YOUNG woman has died and four have been rescued from a car that went into the water after the bridge on Loch Avich on the road to Dalavich, at around 7.30pm on Monday evening.

A police underwater team was on site as The Oban Times went to press.

No names have been confirmed at this time. The women are not believed to be local.



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Election Fever



Forget Donald Trump and Holyrood's usual suspects, the election that matters will soon be taking place in Oban when nominations open later this week for the Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) depute president for Argyll College UHI.

Argyll College UHI has more than 1,500 students based at local centres throughout Argyll and Bute and Arran.

HISA represents both further and higher education students, giving them a voice to drive change at a regional level. It also provides access to local clubs and events which help students get to know each other and make the most of the college experience.

Outgoing HISA depute for Argyll College Charlotte Collins, who has spent three years at Argyll College and is set to complete an HNC Horticulture later this year, said:

'My first experience of Argyll College UHI was through a Skills for Work class at Oban High School. I didn't consider myself particularly academic, but in the Skills for Work course in rural skills, I found I was able to achieve something and that I was a valuable member of the group. I would like every student to feel this when they come to Argyll College.'



Outgoing HISA depute president for Argyll College, Charlotte Collins.

'I've spent a wonderful three years at college and one of the best things is being able to study whilst staying close to home. The college has a really welcoming atmosphere and a great mix of students and staff, but being able to stay in Argyll with the support of family and friends has been perfect. I would encourage school leavers to come to college and to realise there is another option to success they can access locally.'

Any current Argyll College student can nominate themselves for election.

If successful, their job will be to represent all students on relevant college committees and at board level and to help to create an environment where students drive their own

learning and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Argyll College Principal Fraser Durie said: 'Here at Argyll College we are passionate about providing a student-centred experience. Our students are at the heart of everything we do and each decision we make and having an Argyll HISA depute president gives us an effective channel to communicate with the student body and, I hope, gives our students confidence we are listening to their opinions. Charlotte has done a wonderful job as our first HISA depute president and has also been an invaluable student member on our board of governors. She is well respected by staff and students and although I'll be sorry to see her leave office later this year, I'm also confident we can find an equally committed student to fill her shoes.'

Argyll College UHI is now accepting applications for courses starting in September 2016. College bursaries and EMA payments are available in many instances for students applying for full time further education courses. Higher education students should contact the Student Awards Agency Scotland for information on funding for course fees and student loans. Staff in the local Argyll College centre will be happy to provide advice - visit www.argyllcollege.ac.uk



Council plea for housing

OBAN Community Council has asked that land, affordable housing and social rent levels are achieved in the area, following the publication of a housing survey.

Responding to the Scottish Government's consultation Oban community councillors asked that: 'New affordable housing is built in areas of high demand, including Oban and Lorn, with steps taken to ensure that suitable land is available to allow this to be achieved.'

'Affordable housing in each area includes a substantial number of properties available at social rent levels to match needs.'

'Those leaving the Armed Forces have priority access to suitable social housing.'

Volunteers needed

A VOLUNTEER-RUN café in Oban is in need of people to get involved and help man the business four hours per day.

Grassroots Café recently appealed for volunteers on social media to help ease the workload.

Ada Daly, who volunteers at the café, said: 'It really is a nice place, but we are in desperate need of volunteers. We just had two people leave as they found full-time work and moved away, which is lovely, but now there's only four of us. We need someone to help man the ship from noon to 4pm.'

Grassroots was broken into earlier this year and a window was smashed

Oban tradesman David Smith of DS Joinery, who replaced the window free of charge, said: 'The glazed window was donated by Hamish Hoey's and fitted by myself. The staff were really appreciative and friendly, and I admire what they do.'

To find out more or to volunteer, visit www.grassroots-oban.org.

Sentence deferred

POLICE who searched an Oban man's home found equipment used to supply cannabis, the town's sheriff court heard on Monday.

'Police recovered goods associated with supply of cannabis; a grinder, two sets of scales, bags and a list of names with numerical figures next to them,' said Kevin Docherty, procurator fiscal, adding that cannabis found in the flat had a value of more than £500.

Sheriff Colin McKay deferred sentence until May 24 for a report to be prepared on Garry Higgins, 41, of Coruisk, Corran Brae, Dunollie, who admitted being concerned with the supply of cannabis at his home on January 6, 2016.

His defence agent Kevin McGuinness said there was a medical background to the case.

Glencruitten resident hits out at unsightly rubbish

DAVID MCPHEE
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

A GLENCRUITTEN resident has complained about the amount of litter surrounding a woodland area near her home.

Empty bottles surround the site on Glencruitten Road and Ada Daly, who moved to the area last year, said she saw a syringe lying near the grass last week.

She said: 'I arrived here last year and there was litter there already and it has just been added to over time.'

'There's bed and breakfasts near by. It's disgusting that people have to look at it. You should come and see what it is like after the Oban Live concert. I am sure tourists see this mess.'

'I thought someone would have complained already – it's painful that people have to look at it or don't people care?'

She added: 'I would like it cleaned up. Can we not afford that?'

'I have thought about getting a bin bag out and cleaning it myself, but then I thought why



should I if I pay council tax? 'People may not say anything because they think no-one is

going to do anything about it. Maybe putting a bin there would help.

'We are supposed to be a lovely tourist town, but I am not impressed. We need to be proud



of our town, but we can't with this.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are not aware of any complaints about litter in this area. If people have concerns they should contact our amenity services team on 01546 605514 and they will look into it. We would ask people who enjoy the area to take pride in it, helping to look after it by keeping it clear of litter.'

'In terms of Oban Live, we have been working closely with the organisers and all the necessary arrangements will be in place.'

North Pier pontoons given the go ahead

A PLAN for pontoons on the north side of Oban's North Pier was given the go ahead at this week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

Over the next year, 36-finger-berth pontoons, for varying sizes of yachts, boats and commercial vessels, connected to the Oban Times slipway will appear in the water.

The commitment for the pontoons is seen by Argyll and Bute Council as a major step forward in the development of the town centre and its economic regeneration.

Deputy leader of Argyll and Bute Council councillor Ellen Morton, who attended the meeting, called the decision 'a good news story'.

The plan has been almost 10 years in the making. It will enable boats and yachts to sail to the town centre.

Councillor Morton said: 'We will finally get the pontoons on the north side of the North Pier.'

'The pontoons in Campbeltown are fantastic and the pontoons coming into the town centre are making all the difference.'

'Members will know that when I came into post three years ago I promised that I would deliver pontoons.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson echoed Mrs Morton's words: 'I want to say a very personal thank you for all the hard work you have put in.'

The plans are part of the Oban CHORD (Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon) programme which is a publicly-funded £6.9 million project to rejuvenate Oban town centre.

Plans for a maritime quarter visitor centre was also agreed by the area committee using the 'footprint' of the current White Building on the North Pier.

Area committee chairman Roddy McCuish said: 'It is great to see this project finally come to the table. This is thanks to the hard work of many people, including Oban Bay Marine.'

A Crown Office manager, who attended the meeting, asked about a 12-month embargo on the issuing of moorings on the Corran Ledge, north of the pier in front of St Columba's Cathedral. Project manager, Ms MacDonald told him that there would be no problems with moorings rented out in that area. The pontoons project is already under way with the drilling of bore holes on the sea bed. Later this month wave studies and further work will be carried out.

It is hoped that the pontoons will be in place by July 2017.



Councillor Ellen Morton at the site of the new pontoons at North Pier. 7_t16ellen1

LORN lines

Rotary cash boosts school award work

LORN Rotary Club members enjoyed a stimulating presentation from Crawford Inglis and Lucy Girling on Oban High School's involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme.

To achieve a bronze, silver or gold award from this very demanding and diverse non-academic programme is seen by employers as an important adjunct to students' other qualifications.

The programme now forms part of the curriculum at the high school and student participation is at quite a high level.

Mr Inglis and Ms Girling, both teachers at the school,



received a cheque for £500 from Rotary President Ken Moncrieff, above, towards the cost of running the scheme which is heavily dependant on school staff volunteering.

Youngsters' dedication pays dividends

LORN Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group presented successful participants with their awards at a prize-giving last week.

Nine young people completed their bronze award and Rachel Campbell completed her award at silver level.

For the bronze award the participants have to train for and carry out a two-day expedition, camping out overnight.

They also have to devote an hour a week over a period of three to six months in each of three categories – a programme of physical fitness, a skill and volunteering. There are many benefits to taking part in the award, and anyone



Jenny McIntyre, Hazel Smith, Rowan Watkins, Eve Beaton, Rachel Campbell, Rhona McCracken, Katie Houston, Angus Campbell and James Campbell. Not present is Poppy Wilkinson.

who has achieved their award has shown a degree of commitment, organisational ability and determination.

Oban OAP jailed for 'gross breach of decency'

AN OBAN pensioner was sentenced to 18 months in jail this week, after being found guilty of sex crimes.

He will also be on the sex offenders' register and subject to strict controls.

'I think the circumstances of this case do point to a need to keep particular members of the public from harm,' said Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC as he handed down the sentence on Monday at the town's sheriff court. 'This was a gross breach of common decency which calls for a custodial sentence.'

On February 19, Stanislaw Madej, of 3 Stalcair Crescent, Oban, was found guilty by majority verdict of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour towards one girl, and guilty by majority verdict that on various occasions he committed lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour towards a second child.

The jury returned unanimous verdicts of not guilty on two other charges involving the first girl.

The offences were said to have taken place in Oban between January 9, 2008 and December 5, 2014.

Madej, aged 74, was sentenced to 18 months in custody with 18 months on an extended supervision order. He was placed on the sex offenders' register for an indefinite period, and any camera equipment storage and devices for storing still or moving images he owns must be available for police to examine at any time.

The trial had heard that Madej's crimes came to light after the first girl had sexual health lessons at her school, following which her mother and teachers noticed a change in her behaviour.

At the beginning of the trial, Stanislaw Madej pled not guilty to nine charges; he was acquitted of five of these.

Sheriff Bovey had called for a report on Madej before he passed sentence. Throughout the trial Madej maintained his innocence.

In court this week his defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'In the case of the report, he adopted the same position as at court, and throughout the case, of his innocence.'

He added that Madej had showed no empathy towards his victims, no insight and maintained his innocence.

'He has had alcohol problems for many years; this is still on going, a day-to-day situation,' said Mr Thornton.

'He has a far from rosy future; he is divorced from his family because of this. The man is in effect a loner, no friends, no family support.'

'He has accepted he has no future in Oban and when able to do so he will move to Poland to live with his wife. His future is finished in this town.'

Oban Times
newsdesk
01631 568000

Kebabish win helps to put Oban on the map



Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, far left, Hashmat Ali Chaudhry and Danyal Ali Chaudhry, with their award. It is the eighth award the George Street curry house has won. 16_t16kebabish01

KEBABISH Curry House in Oban has won its eighth award, this time winning the title of Healthy Curry Provider in Scotland by the Scottish Curry Awards.

The team beat nine finalists from all over the country to win the honour. Shaukat Anwar Chaudhry, Kebabish managing director, said: 'It's great to beat

everyone. All the other finalists were from big cities and most of them didn't even know where Oban was. 'I feel proud to represent Oban and I am proud to

be part of a team which is providing healthy food. 'I could not do it without my team. Well done to them for providing hygienic and healthy food to the Oban

community. I'd also like to thank the customers who have supported us throughout the year. They are the ones who nominated us for the award.'

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Agenda: the people, the issues, the back story

THIS WEEK Mike MacKenzie

Macaulay Cup match report and photos from the 2015 final

Nicola's a class act say pupils as school visit leaves them on a high

TIMESLINE Annual review on the cards for NHS

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Fort travelled to Lossiemouth for HOME game against Cove

'Cove dominated from start to finish, while we were living off scraps throughout'

Fort William	0
Cove Rangers	3
Highland League	

WITH Claggan Park again unplayable last Saturday's match between Fort William and Cove Rangers was switched to Grant Park, Lossiemouth.

Cove Rangers need only one point from their remaining two away games, at Clachnacuddin and Turrieff United, to reclaim the Press and Journal Highland League title.

Two goals inside the opening 15 minutes from Johnny Smith and Jamie Watt sent the Aberdeen side on its way to a comfortable victory and it would have been more but for the woodwork and fine goalkeeping.

Cove went ahead in the second minute when Scully's cross from

the right found Smith in space in the box and the Liverpoolian scored in style.

It was 2-0 soon afterwards when Watt was quickly on to a through pass and the veteran carefully placed his shot past goalkeeper Douglas MacLennan.

Scully ran the Lochaber side's defence ragged in the opening period. He had already hit the crossbar before the second goal and later in the half also rattled the underside of the woodwork.

MacLennan also made great saves from Scully and Blair Yule while Watt had a goal chalked off for offside.

Within two minutes of the resumption the crucial third duly arrived when Watt ran on to a pass from Harry Milne, jinked for space in the box and coolly chipped over the goalkeeper. The

Football

scoring was completed midway through the half by Sam Burnett with a low, left-footed curler into the net.

Cove manager John Sheran said: 'Getting the two early goals settled everybody down a bit.'

'Credit to Fort William, they were well organised, made it hard and kept working to the end.'

Fort manager Ally Ewan had no complaints about the outcome and said: 'There were a lot of positives to take, although we had wanted to contain Cove as long as we could. If we had done that there was a chance. It was only a matter of time though. Cove are a very good side, certainly the best we've faced. They dominated from start to finish, while we were living off scraps throughout.'



Katie Small from Kinlochleven won the female ski title in the Scottish Freedom Series. Inset: Fort William's Dave Biggin won the male event.

Freedom Series comes to an end

AFTER an amazing day at Nevis Range, the 2016 Scottish Freedom Series is now over for another year.

The fourth and final event, the Corrie Challenge, took place in Summit Gully and the face delivered in spades with 10cm of fresh snow on top of the firm base.

After check-in and briefing in the Snowgoose Restaurant, the riders took a skidoo tow ride across the summit plateau to the start area for the com-

petition, and then right on cue at noon the mist cleared ready for all competitors to have their two judged runs in brilliant sunshine.

Winners

The event winners were: Jo Slater - female board; Steve Fletcher - male board; Katie Small - female ski; Rob Kingsland - male ski.

This was the last event in the 2016 series and every competitor who entered was keen to rank as high as possible in order

Skiing

to notch up a few extra series points to add to their ever-increasing series totals.

Ultimately, once the event ranking was determined, the overall 2016 Scottish Freedom Series Champions were: Jo Slater - female board; Robbie Paton - male board; Katie Small - female ski; Dave Biggin - male ski.

Lochaber no match for Deeside

Lochaber	0
Deeside	53
Caledonian League - Div 2 North	

LOCHABER hosted Deeside this weekend with the visitors looking to secure the league title with one game left.

Despite being at home, Lochaber were struggling for numbers and at one point on Friday night they weren't sure they would be able to field a team. But long term stalwarts and Lochaber legends Gary Hendrie and Robin Morgan stepped in to lend some

experience to a young squad.

Both teams started well and there was back and forth action between the two 22m lines. Deeside eventually opened the scoring and didn't look back. They were dominating the lineouts and were turning over a lot of ball.

The second half saw Lochaber up their defensive efforts and man-of-the-match Callum Boyd put in two big hits in quick succession.

Lochaber managed to get back into the game and get some good possession and territory which

Rugby

unfortunately didn't materialise into any points. The final score was Lochaber 0 - 53 Deeside.

That was enough for Deeside to be crowned Caledonian Division 2 North Champions.

Results elsewhere meant Lochaber dropped to last in the table, one point behind Stornoway but have three games in hand over the islanders, who have now completed all their fixtures.

Lochaber's next game is away to Ellon this Saturday, 3pm kick off.



Action from the Lochaber versus Deeside match



Donald MacRae of Lochaber up against Newtonmore's Michael Russell. See full shinty coverage on pages 28 and 29. Photograph: JohnPaul Peebles, Abrightside Photograph

Yacht club holds fitting out supper and first race of the season for the Frostbite Trophy

LOCHABER Yacht Club held its annual fitting out supper at the clubhouse recently, where the members enjoyed an excellent meal, and a talk given by John Grant from Ballachulish.

Grant gave an interesting account of his ocean-going sailing adventures over a number of years, ranging from South America to New Zealand.

Sunday March 27 saw the first dinghy race of the season, aptly named the Frostbite Trophy.

Yachting

Nine dinghies took part in a fresh south easterly wind, which certainly blew away the cobwebs.

Keelboat racing starts on the evening of Monday May 2, while club nights are held every Thursday evening from April 21.

Club nights are a good opportunity for members and non-members alike to try out sailing under supervision.



Competitors prepare for the Frostbite Trophy race.

Calum picked to represent Scotland

Sailing

CALUM Reid, who has been sailing at Plockton Sailing Club for about three years, has been picked to represent Scotland in the Eric Twiname Championships at Rutland Sailing Club in May.

In the last few years he has had training weekends at Chanony and Lochcarron sailing clubs which have helped immensely.

He raced well in junior and adult events last year, winning topper events in Lochcarron and Gairloch.

Lochcarron Sailing Club encouraged Reid to participate in the Scottish zones which were held last September at Loch Tummel where he finished 11th out of nearly 40 Toppers.

Reid attended the topper academies in various parts of Scotland over the winter with the Lochcarron Sailing Club trust and Plockton Sailing Club helping financially; without this it would not have been possible.

Reid sailed at the Winter Championships in Largs, where he finished ninth, with more than 30 toppers competing.

He has worked his way up through the academy groups, sailing the last two events at Dalgety Bay with Scottish and GBR squad members, which led to him being selected to sail for Scotland.

He will also take part in the spring championships at Loch Venacher at the end of this month and hopes to attend other events including the UK topper National event in August.

He thanked Plockton, Lochcarron and Chanony sailing clubs for their continued support.



Calum Reid in action

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light east north easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Sunny intervals on Sunday
Winds moderate northerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 14, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.10	1.4	11.19	2.8	17.22	1.4	23.25	2.9
Fri	06.33	1.6	13.25	2.7	18.34	1.5	***	**
Sat	01.23	2.8	08.21	1.6	14.49	2.8	19.56	1.5
Sun	02.45	3.0	09.28	1.5	15.35	3.0	21.05	1.4
Mon	03.26	3.2	10.12	1.3	16.01	3.2	21.56	1.2
Tues	04.00	3.4	10.48	1.2	16.30	3.4	22.37	1.0
Wed	04.35	3.6	11.19	1.1	17.02	3.6	23.13	0.9

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	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate