

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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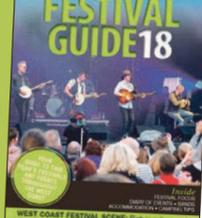
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# Oban friends' mission to find disease cure after heartbreak

## Up to 60 M&S jobs coming to Oban

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

THOUSANDS of miles could not keep two Oban best friends apart when heartbreak struck.

Kayleigh Jamieson flew 11,500 miles to Christchurch, New Zealand, to be with her school pal Jaki Aitken, whose baby girl was diagnosed with a genetic killer disease.

Jaki's daughter, Rebecca Johnson, died in December, aged just five months, from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) – a disease most people have never heard of.

Back in Oban, Kayleigh paid tribute to Jaki and partner Alex Johnson for staying strong and being 'perfect parents'.

'I don't know how they held it together. Every day was such a struggle. She was their world. At no point did Rebecca not see Jaki smiling. We don't know if she knew she was different from other babies, but for the short time she was here, it was a happy time.'

'I went out to be with them for three weeks. I got to hold Rebecca and see her little smile which will stay precious to me all my life. Jaki and Alex are the perfect couple and were the perfect parents. It is heartbreaking what they have been through. They know, because they are both carriers, there's pretty rubbish odds if they have any more children together they might have SMA too. Their only other option is to have IVF.'

Now Kayleigh, who works at Tesco, has teamed up with Jaki's mum, Edwina Aitken, a nurse in Oban, to raise awareness of the disease and funds to help researchers find a cure. Edwina



Rebecca Johnson was 'a wee trooper' despite her heartbreaking disease, says mum Jaki Aitken.

and husband Hugh flew out two weeks after Rebecca's diagnosis to have an early Christmas with her.

The SMA Trust needs £1.3 million to fund a three-year research programme, and Kayleigh is hoping Oban will do its bit to help.

'When I heard of SMA, the first thing I thought of was the baby formula. When you Google it, you see the advert for the milk saying it supports babies through their first 1,000 days.'

'Sadly, babies with SMA don't have 1,000 days. Most people have never heard of the disease but we want to change that and we can make a start in Oban.'

'One in every 40 people is a carrier of SMA. If both parents are carriers, it means there is a one in four chance of their baby being born with the disease. Ninety five per cent of babies diagnosed with it never see their second birthday. The disease

means babies can't produce the protein needed to build muscle. Some will never talk, walk, crawl or sit up. They will never be able to support the weight of their own head, which means most of them spend their short lives on their backs. They can't swallow, which risks them choking on their own saliva, and tube feeding is the only option. A common cold is fatal.'

Jaki and Alex's world 'came crashing down' when they got the diagnosis.

Jaki told us: 'They told us our baby was going to die and she would be lucky to see her first birthday. She didn't even make six months.'

'SMA is truly an awful disease for a poor wee baby to deal with. Despite all this, she was a trooper. We knew we had limited time with her so made the most of every single minute with her.'

'Losing your child is the hardest thing you can ever deal with.



Best friends Jaki Aitken and Kayleigh Jamieson with baby Rebecca.

Every single hope and dream you have is shattered. They are your life and when they are gone your life feels void.'

'Rebecca taught us both what love really is and she has taught me that I am a lot tougher than I give myself credit for. You have to be to deal with this.'

'We can't thank all our friends and family enough, both in New Zealand and back home for

the amazing support we have received.'

And she added: 'I can't stress enough the importance to raise awareness for SMA. It is the leading genetic cause of death in infants.'

'There should be screening for it. Neither I nor Alex knew we were carriers. It's crucial a cure is found for other families.'

In Oban, there are plans for

a fundraising casino and raffle night at Soroba House on Saturday July 28. Local businesses have already donated prizes, but more are still needed.

Anyone interested in helping with the July event should contact Kayleigh at kayleighjamieson@hotmail.co.uk

To find out more about The SMA Trust and how to support it, go to smasupport.org.uk



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## CalMac two ferries down as busy summer begins

CALMAC could be starting its busy summer season without two major vessels, causing disruption across its ferry network, writes Sandy Neil.

The MV Clansman is taking longer to fix, while the MV Hebrides is due for dry dock, just as the ferry operator's ageing fleet is 'stretched to its full capacity'.

A CalMac spokesman explained: 'Complications during the repair of the MV Clansman's propulsion system means there is a possibility we will be operating for a period of time without two major vessels. The MV Hebrides is due for dry dock. However, we are exploring ways to postpone this until the MV Clansman has resumed service. We are working extremely hard to get the Clansman back in service as quickly as possible.'

'In the meantime, we are developing

potential options to continue to provide lifeline services to the communities we support.'

Earlier this month CalMac's new managing director, Robbie Drummond, warned passengers they could face disruption because of its ageing fleet. The average age of the ferries serving its 49 routes is just under 22 years old. Eight are over 30 years old.

CalMac stated: 'The working life expectancy of a ferry is around 25 years, so with nearly half working these routes already beyond that milestone, the risk of mechanical failures is significant. It also takes longer to get older boats back into service when things go wrong, often due to the difficulty in sourcing parts.'

The MV Clansman, which usually serves Oban, Coll and Tiree, unexpectedly

needed extensive repairs to her propulsion system, forcing CalMac to reshuffle its fleet. The MV Hebridean Isles, which was then damaged in a docking incident at Tiree in February, was moved to the Uig-Tarbert-Lochmaddy triangle, while the MV Hebrides sailed south to service Tiree, Coll and Colonsay. But then, due to pressure in the busy Easter holiday, CalMac had to return the MV Hebrides to the Uig triangle and deployed the smaller MV Lord of the Isles to the Oban-Coll/Tiree and Colonsay services.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron said 'unacceptable' faulty ferries were causing 'utter disarray', leaving Coll and Tiree 'in limbo' and urged the Scottish Government to invest in new ferries. The next new vessel will replace the MV Hebridean Isles on the Islay route.

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## Early newspaper flight returns

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the announcement from Loganair that it is to re-introduce the morning transport of daily newspapers to Benbecula.

Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Uisdean Robertson said: 'This announcement is very good news for the Uist community. A similar move was made last year with papers arriving in Stornoway earlier in the morning and this is another good example of Loganair supporting the communities it serves.'

## Ceilidh marks new school

COMANN nam Pàrant Port Rìgh and Urras an Eilein are organising a ceilidh tomorrow (Friday April 20) at 7.30pm to celebrate the opening of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh and enable members of the community to see the new school.

The majority of people taking part are, or were, in Gaelic-medium education in Portree and John McDiarmid and Chris Deplano who were among the first Gaelic-medium pupils in Portree will be there with tea, coffee, home-baking and a raffle.

## Call for online Gaelic learning

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan is calling for Scottish Gaelic to be added to Duolingo, the world's most popular online language learning service.

Duolingo's 200 million worldwide users can choose to learn minority languages Welsh and Irish as well as fictional languages from Star Trek and Game of Thrones for free on the app, but there are no Scottish languages currently on offer.

## Jolomo turns the spotlight on Islay

A BEST-SELLING Scottish artist has unveiled striking new work focussing on one Hebridean island.

John Lowrie Morrison OBE, known as Jolomo, concentrates on the 'incredible light' of Islay in a new exhibition, *Westering Home to Islay*, which is open to the public at the Dundas Street Gallery, Edinburgh.

# Islay school in line for top marks at education awards

AN ARGYLL and Bute primary school is in line for top marks after being announced as a finalist in the Scottish Education Awards 2018.

Bowmore Primary School in Islay has been shortlisted for The Gaelic Education award – one of 15 categories in the Scottish Education Awards – and will compete against three other schools, Condorrat Primary School from North Lanarkshire, e-Sgoil from Stornoway and Greenfaulds High School from North Lanarkshire, at the awards ceremony at DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Central on

Wednesday June 6. This year's awards attracted a record 400 nominations. The Gaelic Education award recognises early learning and schools that have developed a vibrant and progressive culture of continuous innovation in relation to Gaelic-medium and Gaelic-learner education.

Bowmore Primary School was applauded for its efforts in Gaelic education through providing a provocative, language-rich environment, appropriate for all learners, with one nomination form stating: 'Continuing to build on our positive ethos,

we have a diverse approach in forging strong partnerships with parents and partner Gaelic organisations promoting inclusion and being more visible in the community.'

To reach this stage, Bowmore Primary has already been assessed by a panel of experts and endorsed by Argyll and Bute Council. All finalists will now undergo one final round, a visit from award judges, which will determine the winner.

Run by Media Scotland Events, and sponsored by the Daily Record and Education Scotland, the Scottish Education Awards

celebrate the hard work and success which takes place in education establishments throughout Scotland. The achievements of those who dedicate their lives to children and young people in classrooms across the country are recognised through the 15 diverse categories.

David Dick, editor in chief of the Daily Record and Sunday Mail, said: 'Our schools and education system is full of unsung heroes helping shape Scotland's future every day. We are delighted to honour such a key part of Scottish society.'

Alan Armstrong, from Educa-

tion Scotland, added: 'Education Scotland is delighted to support the Scottish Education Awards. Each year the awards highlight innovative and effective practices taking place across Scotland's learning establishments. The awards allow us to recognise and celebrate the successes of our children and young people, together with practitioners and all those who support their education.'

'Well done to all finalists. I look forward to meeting them and hearing about their inspirational work at the awards ceremony in June.'

## Food bank ready to open on Uist

PEOPLE hungry for food bank help on Uist should be able to get it by the end of April.

Organisations behind the project are now adding the finishing touches and its doors should be open soon.

Tagsa Uibhist Community Services Manager Murrina Naylor said: 'We hope it will be open by the end of this month. There's just a few wee bits to finish off. The community has inundated us with produce. We are all stocked up and ready to go.'

The food banks on Uist at Balivanich's East Camp and on Barra are a partnership between a number of organisations including Tagsa, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Hebridean Housing Partnership.

Exactly how many families or individuals will make use of the new food banks is unknown, but Ms Naylor said: 'There's enough for us to have got to this stage. It's very sad but there is the demand. It's just like any other community. You have a need on the mainland and we have a need on the islands. We have the highest level of fuel poverty here and jobs have been lost recently. People needing the help of food banks could be short term or long term – there's no stigma attached to it. Some people could be going through that spell of do I buy food or pay the bills? We hope to be able to help them do both.'

She added: 'The Barra project is a bit behind, but not far off. We wanted to get Uist up and running.'

The Uist food bank will open three or four times a week and be run by volunteers. More helping hands are still needed.

As part of the project, fresh supplies are being grown in eight polycarb tunnels, helped by funding, including some from Keep Scotland Beautiful's Climate Challenge Fund, so people can go and pick their own.

Previously, people needing food bank help on Uist had to wait for delivery of food parcels from Stornoway.

'People didn't always need what was in the boxes so there was the risk of waste. The idea of having our own food bank on our doorstep is that produce will be on shelves so people will be able to come in and get what they need,' added Ms Naylor.

# Volunteers' three-hour round trip to clear plastic mess from beach

A TEAM of 13 volunteers made a three-hour round trip to clean up a remote beach on Mull last week, writes David McPhee.

Shane Wasik of Basking Shark Scotland rounded up a team of helpers after spotting the 'terrible mess' a couple of weeks earlier.

'While on a tour to this amazing location to swim at the waterfall over Easter, we noticed a terrible mess on the adjacent beach,' he said.

'This coastline has towering cliffs, amazing geology, waterfalls, wildlife and stunning natural beauty. It's completely inaccessible apart from by fast boat, with the nearest point being Oban.'

'Taking people to remote areas to see our stunning coastline, it was really horrific to see such an amazing place covered in rubbish.'

Shane set up a JustGiving page to raise money to pay for transportation.

Within a week, the page had raised enough money to make the clean-up trip possible. He has now raised £1,400.

In the end, the group filled two boatloads of material, which was brought back to the mainland to be recycled.

As well as this, the team bagged remaining rubbish, which will be collected at a later date.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Shane said: 'We want to go back



A team of 13 volunteers cleaned up a remote beach on Mull last week.

and get the rest of it and get it all done and dusted.'

Discussing whether they will carry out further clean ups, Shane said: 'Certainly, the model worked really well.'

'We got a really good response. It's a good way of taking all that plastic out of the environment. Watch this space.'

Basking Shark Scotland operates boat tours around the Inner Hebrides from April to October.

The company is also running a campaign called #plankton-notplastic to help highlight the impact of plastic on the oceans.

Also making waves to alleviate the amount of plastic polluting the ocean is Mull Otter Group.

Marie Fox organised a beach clean at the remote MacKinnon's Cave, which was strewn with plastic.

A hardy gang of volunteers trekked out there, joined by

hikers, who were glad to help them gather up a monstrous pile of plastic waste.

Colin Morrison of Turus Mara helped the group by using his tour boat to remove the rubbish.

For further information about future clean-ups, visit Mull Adopt-a-Beach page on social media.

□ Islay Development Initiative held its latest beach clean at the Big Strand recently.



A big thumbs down from Lottie and Emily, two of the volunteers.

Councillor Alastair Redman, who took part in the event, said: 'Having clean and tidy beaches is not just important to our fast-growing tourist industry but also for local residents.'

'Our famous Islay beaches must not be allowed to be steadily covered in plastic debris.'

'A huge thanks goes to all of the volunteers and staff members who contributed to the beach clean.'

## Programme success sees rural women have a say in parliament

RURAL women are having their say in parliament after joining the Young Women Lead Committee.

Alexandra Stevens, Jane Morrison and Esme Leitch, from Mull, Ballachulish and Duror respectively said the programme has made them feel more empowered.

The purpose of the programme is to educate and promote the role of women in Scottish politics.

Speaking about joining, Alexandra Stevens said: 'For young women to feel empowered to speak up, and be listened to when they do, is fundamental to the drive to retain

young people in rural and island communities.'

Jane Morrison said: 'The number of rural young women participating shows how much this programme was needed.'

Nevis Radio DJ Esme Leitch said: 'After my training with the

Young Women's Movement I now feel so much more empowered and confident when speaking up about important issues.'

'For me the programme has highlighted the differences in the issues facing young rural women compared to urban ones.'

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Chambered cairn

STANDING on the slope of a low hill called Crag Mhòr at Cragabus on the Oa peninsula are the remains of a Neolithic chambered cairn which was probably built between 3,500BC and 3,000BC.

Sadly, part of the structure has been destroyed to accommodate a track which once led to a quarry. The cairn is covered with turf and its design is usually referred to as a Clyde type, a style commonly used throughout the south-west of Scotland for similar features.

This type of cairn normally consists of a semi-circular forecourt at one end, fronted by two large stones, which are described as portal stones, and the galleried grave chamber is often divided into separate compartments by vertical slabs.

The Cragabus cairn was aligned on an east-west axis with the chamber at the east end of the structure. Around three metres east of the chambered cairn is a large standing stone which measures 1.8m and specialists believe this was one of the two portal stones at the site.

This would suggest the cairn was around 26ft long and contained at least four compartments. Only one of these compartments has survived. It measures 16ft in length



The Cragabus chambered cairn on Islay dates from around 3,000BC.

and both its width and depth measure 3.5ft.

Excavations at the site, including those carried out by the eminent archaeologist and physician Dr Thomas Bryce in 1901, unearthed animal bones as well as beaker pottery and flint flakes. These finds are now held by the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Cragabus is one of seven such tombs on the island.

### Festive gin

A NEW island gin will be officially launched at Feis Ile 2018, Islay's annual music and malt festival, which runs in venues throughout the island from May 26 to June 2.

The new spirit, called Nerabus Gin, is a family-run venture operated by Drs Audrey and John Gow and is produced in premises near their home at Nerabus on the Rhinns peninsula.

The new product is made with Islay water fused with island heather. This contrasts with the other Islay-made gin, Bruichladdich Distillery's Botanist, which consists of 22 different botanicals. Lussa Gin, distilled on neighbouring Jura, features 15 botanicals.

The Nerabus launch will take place at Bruichladdich village hall at 1pm on May 28.

Other festival highlights include an appearance by comedian and broadcaster Fred MacAulay and an evening with whisky bard Robin Laing. Other performers will be Reely Jiggered, Islay High School Trad Band, Dougal's Jumper, with its cosy Celtic style and young Argyll band Heron Valley.

Regular favourite events include the whisky nosing evening at Port Ellen, the cloutie dumpling ceilidh at a new setting in Islay House Square, and a now sold out

folk night at Ardbeg Distillery. Throughout the festival week, island distilleries will hold open days with a host of activities and entertainment on offer.

Feis Ile remains the most ambitious and well-supported event on the island's social calendar.

It continues to attract worldwide support which results in the local population being almost trebled.

The festival was established in 1984 and has since gone from strength to strength. Thankfully, there is no sign of the interest and support abating.

### African trip

EVERYONE is invited to Bowmore Baptist Church at 7.30pm tomorrow (Friday April 20), to hear two local doctors, Grace Gibson and Jess Cooper, describe their recent experiences while working for the Leith-based international charity the Vine Trust in Tanzania, and particularly on islands in Lake Victoria.

This should be an interesting evening as access to health care in such regions is most challenging and very different from the medical services available in the Western Isles of Scotland.

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

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# Clampdown on misleading delivery charge adverts

NEWS that the Advertising Standards Authority is to clamp down on misleading claims around parcel deliveries to remote and rural areas has been welcomed.

Argyll and Bute and Highlands and Islands consumers are often subject to additional charges to have goods delivered, though some retailers do not make surcharges clear and upfront in their advertising.

The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP), which is part of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) regulator, has now issued an 'enforcement notice on advertised delivery restrictions and surcharges' which is applicable to all advertisers

across the UK with immediate effect. It rules that adverts which 'mislead on parcel delivery and surcharge practices' have been banned, forcing companies to be open with consumers from the outset as to how much they will need to pay in delivery costs for goods.

According to research from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), those living in the Highlands and Islands pay an estimated £33.4 million more in delivery charges each year.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara welcomed news of the enforcement notice to force firms to be more transparent.

The practice of advertising 'free UK delivery', but then

adding charges for remote areas late in the ordering process, may now be subject to enforcement action. This includes legal proceedings against any companies which persist with this practice beyond the May 31 deadline.

Mr O'Hara said: 'This is a significant first step in the fight against unfair delivery charges for many of us in Argyll and Bute. It's high time this step was taken by the regulator.'

'Free UK delivery should be free UK delivery. Why should so many people in Argyll and Bute pay so much more for delivery than anywhere else in the UK?'

'I sincerely hope those retailers and their couriers sit up and take notice of consumers in

more rural parts of Scotland. This has been a sharp practice, misleading and discriminatory to non-urban consumers.'

'More still needs to be done and in the three years I have been the Member of Parliament, this issue has come up time and time again. It's beyond belief some firms don't classify mainland Scotland as mainland UK. 'Ultimately, if companies truly value their customers in rural and northern Scotland, they shouldn't be discriminating when it comes to delivering goods.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell also welcomed the news. He said: 'My colleague Richard Lochhead has been fighting

a strong campaign against discrimination on delivery charges and I am more than aware of the real difficulty this causes through Argyll and Bute.'

'I have been providing him with information and evidence from across the area and I am glad the Advertising Standards Authority is now indicating it will not tolerate deceitful and inaccurate advertising on the matter.'

'Good as this is, there is much more to be done and I will continue to press for fair charges from every retailer which take account of real costs, not imaginary distances or complete ignorance of where customers actually live.'



Saturday night's gig by Mudslide helped smash the target for Freya's appeal.

## Kilmelford gig boosts fundraising for Freya

WELL-WISHERS have helped a family raise more than £3,000 for a special helmet to reshape a baby girl's skull.

A gig by local blues band Mudslide on Saturday in Kilmelford Village Hall raised £899, rocketing Gemma and Allan Strang's appeal over its £3,000 target.

Gemma, mum to six-month-old Freya, said: 'To all the folk who have donated for Freya's continuing treatment for Flat Head Syndrome, we couldn't do it without your help. It means so much.'

The family's JustGiving page raised £1,091.29 after an appeal featured in *The Oban Times* and another £1,000 came from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Family Support Trust. Gemma and Allan are both volunteer firefighters.

The Freemasons in Oban also made a donation and pupils at Kilniver Primary School had a pyjama day which raised £52.25 for Freya.

Money from Saturday's gig will now be split between Freya's helmet fund and Headstart4babies, a charity supporting other families

such as the Strangs. Freya has two severe types of flat head syndrome – plagiocephaly and brachycephaly.

The helmet treatment she needed was not available on the NHS and the family needed £3,000 to pay for it in instalments and to fund their travel to the special private clinic run by Technology In Motion at Bothwell Church Centre, near Hamilton. One in 25 babies are affected by the syndrome, although nine out of 10 cases, which are not classed as severe, will go back to normal without medical intervention.

Freya's diagnosis was so severe her family feared it could put her at risk of bullying and depression when she got older. Now the Strang family has the money to pay off the helmet in full, they will keep up lobbying the NHS to offer the TiMband helmet treatments across the UK.

Freya still needs to wear the helmet for another four months and is having monthly check-ups.

The tot, who has a five-year-old brother Ryan, was about four-months-old when she first started wearing it.



## New era at new school

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain welcomed pupils and staff to their new building, above, following the Easter holiday. And the new school was given a thumbs up from some of the senior pupils.

## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

### Frame damaged

THE CLIMBING frame at Tیره Community Business Centre, Crossapol, was damaged sometime between noon on Friday April 6 and noon on Sunday April 8.

### Co-op shoplifting

A MAN allegedly stole groceries from the Co-op in Tobermory, Mull, sometime between 1pm and 2pm on Monday April 9.

### Theft of back pack

A BACK pack was stolen from the common close at West Bay Flats, Oban, sometime between 5pm and 5.30pm on Tuesday April 3.

### Awning damaged

TWO AWNING ropes on a caravan at The Camping and Caravan Site at Barcaldine were cut sometime between 5pm on Saturday April 7 and 4pm on Monday April 9.

### Van stolen

A WHITE Renault Kangoo van, registration mark SY64VBX, was stolen from a

building site at Lochavullin Road, Oban, sometime between Monday March 12 and Saturday March 17.

### Careless driving

At 12.15pm on Thursday April 12, on the A816 two miles south of Kilniver, an articulated lorry crashed off the road. The male driver of the lorry, aged 45, was charged with careless driving. The driver suffered minor injuries as a result of the accident. No other vehicles were involved. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Drunk driver

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was stopped by police while driving his car on Soroba Road, Oban, at 3.05am on Thursday April 15. The man provided a positive breath test, was arrested and a blood sample was taken for analysis.

### Sheep killed

A ROTTWEILER-TYPE dog was seen chasing sheep at 2pm on Thursday April 12 in a field at McKelvie Heights, Glenshellach Road, Oban. Two sheep were found dead and another sheep was injured.

**☐ If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they should contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**

## Man disqualified for drink driving

A BENDERLOCH man has been banned from the road for 16 months and fined £400 for drink driving.

James Gunn, of 21 Beinn Lora Drive, pleaded guilty to the charge when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday April 9.

The 28-year-old was taken to hospital after he crashed his car on the A85 at the Dunbeg junction on November 3 last year at 9.25pm. A blood sample revealed he had 137 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, when the legal limit is 50 milligrammes.

In Gunn's defence, his solicitor Laura McManus said: 'On the day in question he had a day off and he tells me his grandfather

had just passed away. He chose to drink some alcohol mid-morning and said he did not feel drunk. At 9pm, he had to go out and he forgot he had drunk alcohol much earlier in the day. He deemed himself fit to drive.'

Mrs McManus added: 'There has been an accident here and there's a possibility there was a fault with the tyre. He had two weeks off as a result of his injuries.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This is a very high reading.'

'This event could have ended with a tragic outcome.'

Sheriff Hughes said the ban will be reduced by four months if Gunn completes a drink driving rehabilitation programme.

## Play park to re-open by the middle of May

OBAN Community Play Park will re-open 'by the middle of May', Argyll and Bute Council anticipates.

The park, for children aged five to 15, was closed after sections of the flooring sunk, becoming a trip hazard.

A council spokesperson said: 'We're keen to return it to use and so, while discussions with the contractor continue, we are arranging for the uneven flooring to be repaired. We anticipate this being done by the middle of May.'

## Families express thanks as fishermen return home

THREE months after the Nancy Glen sank in Loch Fyne, two fishermen lost in the tragedy have been returned to their loved ones.

Skipper Duncan MacDougall, aged 46, and crewman Przemek Krawczyk, 38, went down when the Tarbert fishing boat capsized then sank – despite the efforts of seafarers and rescue agencies who came to her aid. A third crewman, 34-year-old John Miller, was rescued from the loch by a fish farm boat.

A campaign began almost immediately to recover the vessel from its resting place 140 metres down, off Barmore Island. A fundraising campaign garnered donations from people from across Scotland and further afield, but it was only when the Scottish Government pledged support that the campaign gathered real pace.

After weeks of preparation, on the morning of the April 12 Nancy Glen was recovered from Loch Fyne. Both men were found to be on board and this week they

returned home to Tarbert. The funeral of Duncan MacDougall was held yesterday (Wednesday April 18) and a service will be held for Przemek Krawczyk on Saturday, April 21, at Tarbert Parish Church.

Central to the campaign to bring the boys home was the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA), under the chairmanship of Tarbert man Kenny MacNab. The association this week thanked the agencies involved in the operation to bring the fishermen home.

A statement read: 'There are simply too many names and organisations to list, however please be assured of our eternal gratitude to you all.'

'We would like to thank the public for the immense show of support, it has been humbling beyond words to experience the heartfelt solidarity and generosity on such a local, national and international level.'

After a complex operation to raise the vessel, the CFA added: 'We are particularly grateful Scottish Ministers agreed to

fund the cost of the recovery operation, allowing fundraised monies to go directly to the families affected by this tragedy.'

'We also thank our local elected representatives and the UK Government for their words of support.'

Through the CFA, Duncan MacDougall's family thanked everyone who helped bring Duncan and Przemek back home. They also thanked the community of Tarbert and many communities nationally and internationally who proved to be a 'tower of strength' at a difficult time.

Przemek's wife Gosia said: 'It is impossible to put into words the effect the loss of Przemek has had on our family.'

'On behalf of my family, thank you very much for the support, help, prayers coming from all over Scotland and the world. 'I would particularly like to thank the community of Tarbert and the surrounding area for their enormous help, extreme support and kind words each day for the last 12 weeks.'

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OT

# Meet Oban's new town guides

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

AFTER intensive training, Oban's new tour guides will soon be ready to show off the town to visitors – but they need your help to practice first.

When many cruise ships visited Oban over the summer, BID4Oban and the Port of Oban Cruise Group saw an opportunity to enhance visitors' experiences of the town. They planned to organise daily tours for anyone visiting Oban in the summer months, called Oban Walking Tours.

Now 12 new tour guides are coming to the end of their two-week training by Scottish Tourist Guides Association instructors Patricia Blain and Stewart Wood.

You are invited to join free trial tours around the town's history and culture to help the guides practice their patter. Those interested are asked to contact the BID4Oban office on 01631 569915.

One guide, Michelle McAnally, said: 'Oban walking tours have been a long time coming. It is such a diverse group. Everyone has something to contribute. The thing that shines through is



Most of the new town guides, left to right, Rhona McCracken, Farooq Hamid, Nan McLachlan, Ann Fraser, Fiona Morrison, Kay McDonald, Margaret Powell-Jones, Patricia Blain, Michelle McAnally. Not pictured: Rab Black, Linda Battison, Irianna Munoz and Rowan Watkins.

the passion. This group will be showcasing Oban and will be great at it.'

Another, Farooq Hamid, said: 'I love the place. Belinda Carl-

isle must have visited here before she wrote Heaven is a Place On Earth. There is so much interesting scenery, culture and heritage.'

Oban High School student Rhona McCracken said she hoped her summer job could help encourage more young people to come to the area and

appreciate its many charms, such as the music and seafood.

Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of the Port of Oban Cruise Group, said: 'These are exciting times for the cruise group and establishing Yellow Badge Certified Guides to show off our town will keep Oban one step ahead in providing an excellent tourist experience.'

Councillor Robertson added: 'This town would be in a worse state if it were not for BID4Oban. BIDs does a huge amount in the town as our [the council] budgets go down.'

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, agreed: 'Yellow Badge Guides will further enhance what Oban has to offer visitors and encourage them to stay longer in the town.'

The new guides paid a contribution towards their training, but BID4Oban funded the training of the two pupils from Oban High School.

At last month's BID4Oban annual general meeting, Mr Spence looked back over the first term's successes, including free town wi-fi, new markets, sponsored fireworks displays on Bonfire Night and Hogmanay, 1,000 hanging baskets, painting of railings and bollard in the

town and partnering with Argyll and Bute Council to put up Christmas lights.

Mr Spence also hailed more than 50 business improvement grants, the creation of town ambassadors, guides, markets and a diary, support for Oban Live, Oban Winter Festival, Motorfest and Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance, worth tens of thousands of pounds, and the recent launch of Love Oban vouchers.

Looking ahead to the next five years, following a 75 per cent yes vote securing a mandate until 2022, Mr Spence set out BID4Oban's plans to extend town wi-fi and increase its business capability, help with improvements to pavements, lighting and floral displays on George Street, Argyll Street and Gibraltar Street, enter the Beautiful Scotland Awards, improve signs to the town centre, Glenshellach and Lochavullin commercial areas, promote Oban as a conference venue and create a new BID4Oban website with a business directory.

Mr Spence also set out his hopes to increase the board of directors from all sectors and increase the number of BID-led events.

## Man guilty of uttering racist remarks

A 44-YEAR-OLD man has been found guilty of uttering racist remarks after telling a person in Oban to 'go back to Pakistan'.

Tomasz Bieka of Alderlee Guest House, Dunollie Road, Oban, was found guilty of swearing and uttering the racial remarks on December 15 last year on George Street.

Robert Pawlak, 40, of Flat D, 84 George Street, Oban, was also found guilty of shouting and swearing in a threatening or abusive manner during the incident. The pair appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday April 11, where they both pleaded not guilty.

However, Sheriff Patrick Hughes found Bieka and Pawlak guilty of their crimes and deferred the case until Tuesday May 22 for the court to obtain reports.

Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

## 'Without this place I would never have coped'

THE DOVE Centre's new men's support group, which meets every Friday morning between 10.30am to midday, cannot praise staff enough for their help, and are encouraging folk to give it a try.

Last year Oban Hospice opened the centre on Stevenson Street, which provides advice and therapies for people with life-limiting or debilitating conditions and their relatives, based on the work of Maggie's Centres.

Iain MacIntyre, who becomes chairman of its fundraising arm Friends of Oban Hospice today (Thursday), welcomed the new discussion group, saying: 'There are so many things we can help people with. The great thing is to communicate. People get a huge uplift from meeting other people.'

Oban Hospice director John MacKenzie explained: 'We based what we are doing on [Glasgow's] Beatson Centre. They had a men's group and they served bacon rolls.'

'Best bacon rolls in town,' added one of the 20 group members, Murdo, who was also baked a cake for his 70th birthday.

'It is a nice, friendly atmosphere,' he told us. 'Everyone



Murdo blows out his 70th birthday cake at the Dove Centre's men's support group.

comes from different walks of life. You are with people who are going through the same thing as you have done. What I like about it is we talk about everything else. I look forward to every Friday.'

Robert, a farmer, said: 'I like meeting other people. It is shar-

ing problems. If you live alone, you can get very isolated.'

Another group member, Bob, praised the centre for helping his recovery from cancer.

'In 2016 I had a cancerous growth removed from the bladder,' he explained. 'The treatment I had at Oban Hospi-

tal was first class. I got over it in December but I started taking panic attacks and anxiety.'

'It is harsh living like that, constant worry. I would lie in bed all day. I used to wake up at 2am with cold sweats.'

'A man always thinks he can cope. It is hard for a man to ad-

mit he suffers from depression and anxiety. My operation was 2016, but the Macmillan nurse reckoned it was post traumatic stress disorder.'

The nurse suggested he visit Oban's Dove Centre. 'My wife and I came here one afternoon and I spoke to Peter [Darling, coordinator].

Bob continued: 'I came here sceptical of hypnosis, but I have been won over. I can now do my exercises and I can control it.'

'You are never cured. It is just remission. But that does not frighten me any more. It has taught me to live today rather than worry about tomorrow.'

'I never called it cancer till I got in here. I called it my illness. The group have helped me greatly. Without this place I would never have coped. I cannot praise the place high enough. My wife and I are going to make a donation.'

'The staff are fantastic. All this treatment is free. I would love people who have had problems that I have had just to walk in the door and get some treatment. It is not easy. You first have to admit that you need help, but it costs nothing. Give it a try.'

The Dove Centre is also hoping to organise a woman's support group.

## Contents of old Oban High School sent to Somalia

HUNDREDS of chairs and tables from the old Oban High School building will be sent to schools in Somalia.

A total of 500 chairs and 300 tables, as well as textbooks, will be shipped to Mogadishu in partnership with a charity called ZOOT.

The Bristol-based charity sent a 40ft container to Oban on Thursday April 12 to collect the equipment.

Terry Donovan, secretary of Oban High School Parent Council, which organised the donation, said: 'We think it's great. We are trying to re-use as much of the furniture as possible. We are really pleased and have had a lot of support from the school.'

'A group of us on the parent council offered to help with re-using the furniture and I found this charity online that sends equipment to various countries.'

Speaking about surplus equipment, Terry added: 'A lot of it is being re-used. Primary schools have been going in, as well as community groups and some village halls.'

'So it's being used in other places around Argyll, but with the volume of tables and chairs which were not needed in the area, we were able to send them elsewhere.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Pupils can look forward to new, high quality equipment and furniture, as well as a state-of-the-art building when they move into their new Oban High School. The contents of the current school, which are not required, will be put to good use and have been offered to other schools and community groups. In addition, the Oban High School Parent Council has made arrangements for tables and chairs to be donated to a charity in Somalia.'

'Demolition of the old school will start shortly after pupils have moved into their new school.'

Discussing the shipment of equipment, Terry added: 'We are very excited these items will be re-used in Somali schools. Somalia has one of the world's lowest enrolment rates for primary school aged children – only 30 per cent of children are in school and only 40 per cent of these are girls. Further, only 18 per cent of children in rural households are in school.'

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## Ready to share Oban's long and incredible history

**KAY MCDONALD**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IF YOU happen to be reading this on the morning the paper is published, please spare a thought and a wee prayer for the 12 hardy individuals, including myself, who are in the middle of an exam to become guides taking Oban Walking Tours.

The training has been fantastic and really enjoyable, and I've been lucky enough to meet some incredible people with a real love of Oban and its history.

It's also been very hectic with lots of reading and studying, and at least one walk around the town each day. On one occasion it took four hours rather than the usual two-and-a-half.

I had thought I was familiar with Oban and some of its history, but I knew nothing. Now I do know just a little but that knowledge is expanding every day and it's fascinating.

For a wee town, we have had a lot of in-

fluent visitors and a long and incredible history and now we get to share what we are learning with others.

It will continue to be a learning experience as we gain experience as guides and continue to study and benefit from the knowledge of others.

We are offering free tours to local individuals and groups to let them experience what we do and give ourselves some practice before the busy summer season is upon us.

The exam we're sitting today will provide us with a Yellow Badge qualification from the Scottish Tour Guide Association which is recognised worldwide as a reputable training organisation and I cannot thank it enough for the guidance and encouragement it has given us, as well as the world-class training.

Fingers crossed then that 12 of us finish this morning as Yellow Badge Guides ready to take on the world and show it how great Oban is.

## WHERE IS THIS?



Last week's photograph was of the side of Oban's Regent Hotel.

## Man threatened to throw dog on fire in drunken row

A MAN who threatened to throw a dog on a fire during a drunken row has six months to prove he can behave – or face time behind bars.

Ronald Hector MacLennan, of The Summit, Glencruitten, appeared before Oban Sheriff Court facing two charges linked to an incident at a house in Seil.

The court heard how police were called by a neighbour who heard shouting and a woman's upset yells of 'Nos' and 'Ows' coming from the house on the night of January 21 this year.

MacLennan, 36, and the woman inside the house had both been drinking heavily that day but in court last Wednesday neither could recall what had started the row, which at one point involved the woman being locked outside, half-dressed.

Previously of good character, MacLennan

pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner likely to cause fear and alarm in that he had acted in an aggressive and intimidating way.

He pleaded not guilty to a second charge of assaulting the woman, seizing her body and attempting to remove a ring from her finger.

MacLennan said the cries of 'Ow' heard by the neighbour were self-inflicted by the woman running into a shut door to try to force her way into the living room, where he had a dog and was threatening to burn it.

During the trial, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty asked MacLennan if he had asked the woman to stick to a script in court. He said no.

When the woman was asked during cross-examination if she had told police

the truth in her statement taken that night, she agreed she had done so to the best of her ability but also told the court: 'I think I was being over dramatic in the cold light of sober day. I thought Ronald would have just had a telling off and that would be it,' she said.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes found MacLennan guilty of the assault charge and deferred sentencing until Tuesday October 9. He warned the defendant he would be monitored over the next six months. 'If you come back here in six months with good behaviour there will be a fine. If not, you will face custody,' he said.

Defence solicitor Kevin McGinness said his client was ashamed of his behaviour and that his remorse was 'genuine and sincere'. He also said alcohol had played a major part in the 'unpleasant episode'.

## Tower turns blue for Parkinson's

OBAN'S McCaig's Tower lit up blue last week to mark this year's World Parkinson's Day on April 11 as part of a global drive to raise awareness of the condition.

Every week 30 people in Scotland are told they have Parkinson's. It affects more than 12,000 people in Scotland – around one in 375 adults.

Parkinson's is a degenerative neurological condition, for which there currently is no cure.

The main symptoms of the condition are tremor, slowness of movement and rigidity but charity Parkinson's UK is on a mission to find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by it through cutting-edge research, information, support and campaigning.

To get advice, information and support, go to parkinsons.org.uk or call the free, confidential helpline on 08088 000303.

## ACHA completes new play parks

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) is due to complete two play parks in its new housing development at Glenshellach, Oban, which will have 107 homes when it is completed in October 2019.

ACHA has also recently finished a play park in its 32-unit new-build complex in Connel and in its 40 home development in Bowmore, Islay. ACHA has also built play parks in Dunbeg, Soroba, Salen and North Connel.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'It is important our work not only involves housing but safe areas where children can play outdoors.'

# Planners back bid for 44 more houses on Oban's Lonan Drive

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

A PLAN to build up to 44 houses at Lonan Drive, Oban, has been recommended for approval by council planners, subject to a local hearing, after 42 objections were lodged from locals and Oban Community Council.

The officers' report of handling, presented to Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee for a decision yesterday (Wednesday), advised they hold a local hearing, 'given the significant interest in the application, with many from local addresses, [and] a broad range of issues raised'.

Indicative plans, submitted

by the applicants TSL Contractors Ltd, lay out a mix of flats and semi-detached houses in 12 blocks, with 'casual' and 'equipped' play spaces, extending beyond the houses on Lonan Drive, on land currently used for 'informal recreation'.

'It is the only 'green' area within an area of housing, much of which is at high density and therefore has been an essential recreation area for the population,' wrote Oban Community Council, objecting.

Community councillors argue the road network is 'already overloaded' and 'no further development should be permitted until a solution is found'. They added developing the site, which 'soaks up a great deal of

rain', would 'create rapid run off threatening the houses below'. Access to the site was also 'too narrow to permit a minimum width road and two pavements'.

The report summarised 42 other objections, which argued 'increased traffic' on the 'already congested' road in 'a poor state of repair' could affect response times for the emergency services. Concerns were also raised about 'over development', arguing 44 units would be 'too great for the site', at odds with the surrounding low-density, detached and semi-detached housing.

The units should be relocated to more suitable sites such as the Dunbeg Corridor, they argued, 'instead of cramming them into

an already densely populated area'. Some feared the two or three-storied buildings would overlook neighbouring properties.

Others said the site is 'infested' with Japanese Knotweed 'rendering it unsuitable for building and its disturbance will cause spread to neighbouring properties'. 'The existing sewage and water infrastructure is already beyond capacity for the existing properties it serves,' others added.

'Water pressure within the surrounding area is already an issue and the addition of 44 further properties will exacerbate the situation'.

'Many of the neighbouring properties are built on the

top of a steep slope with some property's ground extending to the edge of the verge. Owners have witnessed signs of instability/slippage in certain areas and these slopes could be undermined by building works impacting adversely on existing properties.'

However, officers assured that many concerns could be addressed by conditions, such as adding surface drainage and eradicating the knotweed. The report explains the applicant is seeking permission for residential development in principle only, without a specified number, layout or form of dwellings.

Any future detailed planning applications, it adds, would be 'fully assessed' against the local

development plan 'to ensure no adverse visual impact or privacy or amenity issues arise': 'Third parties will have the opportunity to comment on the detailed proposals.'

'Whilst this indicative plan illustrates a possible development of 44 dwellings, this does not mean the site is necessarily capable of being developed at that density.'

'The indicative plan has successfully demonstrated that the site is appropriate for residential development arranged along a straight, central access road with buildings either side of it and limited to the 'valley floor' without unacceptable encroachment into the steep and wooded valley sides.'

## Report praises Argyll and Bute planning department

A SCOTTISH Government report has highlighted the high quality of the service provided by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department.

The report rated the performance of the council's planning service across a range of areas in 2016/2017.

Local development services are assessed across 15 different areas of the service they provide for local residents and businesses and awarded 'green', 'amber' or 'red' ratings.

The report registered 11 'green' ratings, three 'amber' and only one 'red' rating.

## Search on for inspirational youngsters

**YOUNG Scot is calling on people across Argyll and Bute to recognise the outstanding achievements of its young people by nominating local young heroes for the Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards 2018.**

**This is a chance for inspirational young people, aged 11 to 26, to be recognised for the great work they do. The awards are across 15 different categories including community, entertainment, sport and diversity.**

**To nominate a local young person from Argyll, visit [www.youngscotawards.com](http://www.youngscotawards.com)**



Sally Knight from The Seil Bakehouse was just one of the traders at Oban's first local produce market of the year on Saturday.

## Local producers serve up a taste of Oban at market

LOCAL producers at Oban's first outdoor market of the year enjoyed brisk trade at the weekend.

From fresh baked bread to haggis, pies and crystal readings, there was plenty to tempt shoppers.

Andrew Spence from Bid4Oban, which is behind the market initiative in Station Road, said it follows last year's success.

Other market dates for this year are Saturday May 26, Saturday June 30, Saturday July 28, Saturday August 25 and Saturday September 22.

'It's got off to a really good start and we're hoping to encourage more traders to come along and join us so it gets even bigger and better,' he said. Any interested traders should visit [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk) to find out more.

ADVERTORIAL

## Argyll's only boarding school opens doors to interested families



Lomond School is a small, family school for pupils aged three to 18, positioned in the elegant suburbs of the coastal town of Helensburgh, located only 10 minutes from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

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Living at Lomond as a boarder is an enriching experience and the boarding house adds a distinctive dimension to the school. We welcome borders from the age of nine, some of whom will stay with us throughout their school career and others who will join us for a part of their educational experience.

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home away from home and is designed to ensure that pupils have a busy and rewarding life.

All our pupils are treated as individuals and our staff actively support their personal, social and educational development. Our team is strengthened by resident house-parents, teachers, tutors, matrons and a school nurse.

We offer short-term, weekly and full-time termly boarding and are happy to work around individual family circumstances.

To get a better understanding of what Lomond School can offer your child, please join us for our boarding open morning on Thursday June 7. To book your place or to request further information on boarding at Lomond, please contact our registrar on [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com) or 01436 672476.

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OT  
Taynuilt

THE DUCHESS of Argyll has shown her support for a rural emergency response charity following a presentation at Inveraray Castle.

The Duchess presented Dr Kate MacGregor, of Taynuilt Medical Practice, with a Sandpiper bag of life-saving equipment.

Dr MacGregor was announced as the latest British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) responder.

In rural areas including Argyll, responders act as volunteers when off duty, providing critical first aid and saving lives.

BASICS responders are equipped with Sandpiper bags which contain all necessary equipment required in an emergency.

Working in conjunction with the Scottish Ambulance Service, responders are located and dispatched as soon as the emergency call comes in.

This approach results in more patients being treated within 60 minutes following medical trauma or accident, during which there is the highest likelihood quick medical treatment will prevent death.

Sandpiper trustee Penny Dickson commented: 'This was a very special occasion as it followed directly from a generous offer to the Sandpiper Trust from the Duchess of Argyll to promote its work at the Best of the West Festival in 2017.'

'Dr MacGregor was prompted to volunteer and train as a BASICS responder as a result of attending the festival and her equipment was financed directly by funds raised at last year's event.'

The Sandpiper Trust has now supplied more than 1,000 Sandpiper bags to volunteer doctors, nurses and paramedics in rural areas of Scotland.

Each individual bag costs more than £1,000, but to appoint a fully equipped responder to the network can cost £4,000.

Additional items required include defibrillators, tracking devices linked to the ambulance service and protective clothing to ensure responder safety.

Go to [www.sandpipertrust.org](http://www.sandpipertrust.org).



Left to right are Taynuilt GP Dr Kate MacGregor, Dr Peter Von Kaehne and the Duchess of Argyll.

## Killin

TWO KILLIN organisations have each received £10,000 from the Your Place, Your Priorities initiative.

Killin and Ardeonaig Community Development Trust and Killin Mountain Rescue Team were awarded the cash following a public vote.

At an event in Callander, residents were put forward ideas that would improve their area.

Stirling Council and the Scottish Government backed the scheme.

Councillor for Trossachs and Teith Evelyn Tweed said: 'This was a fantastic event and it was great to hear local groups present their ideas for funding and very entertaining with one group presenting on roller skates and another singing.'

'Well done to all the local winners and commiserations to those who didn't manage to get funding this time.'

The other successful organisations were: Callander Primary Parent Council, £10,000; Callander Youth Project Trust, £6,587; Trossachs Search and Rescue Team, £9,965; Shakti Women's Aid, £10,000; Aberfoyle Parish Church, £500; McLaren Community Leisure Centre, £7,948, part funded.



Ronald MacColl with some of Lochnell Football Club's fun fours team received a new set of strips.

## Appin firm donates new strips to Lochnell FC

LOCHNELL Football Club's Fun Fours team has received a new set of strips from plant hire and contractor MacColl (Appin) Limited.

Company director Ronald MacColl presented the kit to team members at a recent training session.

Lochnell FC thanks MacColl (Ap-

## Benderloch

pin) Limited for its generosity and continued support of the club.

This latest sponsorship deal reflects the reach the club has with more than

80 primary age children from across north and east Lorn enjoying training at Lora View pitch, North Connel, on Wednesday nights from 6pm and games on Sunday mornings.

Parents of children wishing to join should message the club's Facebook page.

## Dalavich to celebrate hydro scheme opening

A £1.5MILLION hydro scheme run by Dalavich villagers officially opens this Sunday.

MSP Mike Russell has been invited to do the honours as part of the weekend's planned celebrations.

The scheme took 10 years of dreaming, five years of planning and nine months of construction to get up and running, and residents living in the former forestry village can expect to benefit by £2million in the next 20 years by selling hydro electricity to the National Grid.

Project manager Carol Thomas set up a community benefits society called Awesome Energy (Dalriada) Ltd to run it, with five people trained and paid to carry out regular checks on the hydro turbine which cost about £225,000 and was shipped in from the Czech Republic.

After a feasibility study in 2012 and planning permission being granted in 2014, the hydro finally went operational on January 31 this year. It part-



Carol Thomas.

nered up with renewable energy business Innogy, owners of Braevallich Hydro near Dalmally, which is allowing Dalavich to share their grid connection.

Mrs Thomas said: 'It's been a long development process for us to get to this stage, and as volunteers with no previous experience in this field we have faced and overcome many challenges along the way. The community is so proud to see all our hard work pay off.'

And Andy Huthwaite, director of commercial and connections at SSEN, added: 'With the scheme now operational we would like to congratulate the community on their dedication to the delivery of the project.'

## Coll

A GOOD crowd gathered at An Cridhe on Coll for an exhibition of prints by island artist Crawford Stevenson, to help raise funds for research into motor neurone disease (MND).

The collection of 27 Hebridean-inspired images includes new prints created from original artwork by Crawford, who is unfortunately debilitated by MND and no longer able to paint.

He explained: 'The ability to work on screen, producing artwork, has kept my motivation and given me an outlet for my imagination.'

Before retiring to Coll seven years ago, Crawford worked as a graphic designer and latterly taught design at a college in Glasgow.

The grandparents of Cath, Crawford's wife, were both born on the island and the couple had spent many holidays there, prior to moving.

MND Scotland carries out clinical research and supports families and people living with MND.

The exhibition can be viewed at An Cridhe on Coll during May and June, or online at [CrawfordStevensonArt@etsy](http://CrawfordStevensonArt@etsy). Prints can be purchased mounted or mounted and framed behind acrylic glass.



Coll residents raised money for motor neurone disease research at an exhibition at An Cridhe. Photograph: Ross Evans.

## Argyll

FOUR budding artists from Argyll and Bute primary schools have been successful in a national drawing competition.

Rachel Carre from Lochnell Primary School was highly commended for her entry in the John Byrne National Drawing Competition, while fellow primary seven pupil Katie Lowe was a runner-up.

Katie Gillon, a primary five pupil at Rosneath Primary School, and Aatiquah Shah of primary seven at John Logie Baird Primary, were also runners-up.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'A massive well done to everyone who took part in the competition, particularly those who were recognised.'

'Art enables our young people to be creative, to express themselves and encourages them to focus.'

'To be recognised in a competition of this level is fantastic. They should be very, very proud of themselves.'

The competition is run in partnership with Education Scotland and is open to all pupils from primary four to third year.

The award ceremony took place at Paisley Museum and Art Gallery, where an exhibition of competition entries is on display until Sunday April 29.

## Dalavich and Muckairn

■ Dalavich and Muckairn churches were recently visited by the Rev Michael Muot Put, national youth secretary in the Presbyterian church in Sudan.

He also works with refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda where people have fled because of civil war. His activities include trauma healing, peace and reconciliation counselling, HIV and Aids awareness, youth leadership, Bible study and singing.

He voiced concern about the shortage of youth in churches and elderly residents going into care homes.

■ Marlene Stanners led the meeting of Muckairn Guild on Monday April 9.

After the hymn 'Take my life and let it be consecrated, glad and free' there was a quiz on songs, hymns and characters on the theme 'Go in Love'.

After tea and the closing hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus', new Minister the Reverend Tom Telfer gave an informal talk on his life and experience.

The guild is holding a fundraising coffee morning in Taynuilt Village Hall on Saturday May 5 and a sale on Wednesday July 18.

## Oban

OBAN Viewpoint Group has received more than £2,000 from the Oban Common Good Fund to pay for a feasibility study. The group has been campaigning to build a community centre in Soroba, overlooking Oban.

In the past, volunteers have organised fundraising events, including cleaning the area where the centre will be located at the back of Shuna Terrace, coffee mornings, a penny mile and seasonal events in Soroba Community Centre.

Oban Viewpoint Group has employed SKS Scotland to carry out the study and research is under way.

## Oban

OBAN-BASED filmmaking duo Andy Crabb and James Gray – operating as Anam Dan films – were commissioned to follow the £3.5 million restoration of the Campbeltown Picture House over the past 18 months.

The result is a 30-minute lighthearted drama-documentary entitled *The Wee Pictures*, to be premiered at the official opening of the cinema today (Thursday April 19).

Magician, conjuror, engineer, vaudevilian showman and manager of cinema was the larger than life character F Rendell Burnette (played to a tee by Oban actor Roddy MacEachen), and he is the narrator and guide through the helter-skelter 105-year history of Campbeltown Picture House. Mr Burnette was the *Wee Pictures*' original manager when it first opened its doors in 1913.

Weaving together fascinating footage from the restoration and interviews with key figures from the cinema's past, archive materials and the redoubtable Mr Burnette, the film creates a 'charming, quirky and delightful' portrait of this unique and historic cinema.

Andy and James said: 'It's been a privilege to explore the journey of the *Wee Pictures* and its place at the heart of the Campbeltown community, and in our own way become a small part of its incredible story. We are both really excited to have the film's premiere at the cinema's official opening.'

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## At Random

MARTIN LAING  
[mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk)



## Delighted to back Rotary golf Am-Am

I HAD the pleasure last week of spending time having a blather with Oban Rotarians Iain MacIntyre and David Mudie.

There was a serious side to our discussion, which was that I can today officially announce *The Oban Times* is now the principal sponsor of the annual Oban Rotary Am-Am golf competition.

We are delighted to take over as the main backer of this splendid charity event, which this year will take place on Sunday June 3, at Glencruitten Golf Club as usual.

This will be the 33rd Am-Am and, down its years, it has raised a staggering amount of money for good causes. Prior to last year's event, the competition had generated more than £165,000, a whopping sum in anyone's money, including almost £11,000 in 2016 alone.

Yet again, the Am-Am has been given generous backing from dozens of local businesses, for which the Rotary club is grateful, so I am sure it will be a roaring success again this year.

If it is anything like last year, there will be around 100 sponsors and 200 players taking to the fairways dreaming of being crowned champs at the end of the day.

Last year the event was blessed with fine weather. I sincerely hope – I am, after all, scheduled to be playing in the competition – for



Oban Rotary members alongside the winners of last year's Am-Am.

at least dry conditions on June 3. However, regardless of what Mother Nature throws at us, I am really looking forward to the day ... even if I'm dreading taking on the 12th, a beast of a hole.

Oh, but Iain MacIntyre was quick to remind me when we met that he knocked in a par four last year. I'm not telling you what I managed – suffice to say it scored zero Stableford points.

## Stars at Hope Kitchen

I WAS delighted to receive a complimentary email from Lorraine MacCormick, manager of

Oban's brilliant Hope Kitchen last week. Lorraine was kind enough to write: 'I just wanted to say well done for highlighting the litter problem in your *Oban Times* column. We go out every week cleaning the beaches, or litter picking if it's high tide, and are constantly disgusted by the stuff and amounts of litter we find in Oban.'

'The more it gets mentioned, hopefully the more people will take note!'

The point of repeating Lorraine's words is two-fold.

First, she is quite right: the amounts of litter, particularly cigarette ends and chewing gum, is disgusting and we all have a

responsibility to try to address the issue. But, secondly, it gives me a chance to remind everyone of what a fantastic job the splendid people at New Hope do.

Not only do they feed the hungry, help the homeless and aid the vulnerable, they are also at the forefront of civic awareness and activity. They deserve all the plaudits.

## Oban town centre blighted by dog dirt

WHILE I'm on my high horse over littering, am I the only person who thinks the amount of dog dirt is worsening?

Avoiding all the poo while walking through Oban town centre is a real challenge. Not only is it disgusting, it poses a genuine health risk, especially to children.

I'm appealing – probably pointlessly – to dog owners to do the decent thing and clear up after their pets.

But what I don't understand is why some people go to the trouble of picking up their dog mess only then to throw the poop bags on the ground or into nearby shrubbery. If you are going to bag it, for goodness sake, bin it.

## What do you think?

WRITE to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or [TheObanTimes.com](http://TheObanTimes.com), Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB or call 01631 568021.

# Swanning around with royal protection

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

SPRING has followed winter as it always does. Lengthening days mean the call to increased activity for humans as well as wildlife.

Recently I watched a raft of 21 whooper swans alight on Loch Arienas in Morvern to rest for a while on their journey to Iceland, where they spend the summer. Later, the same day, I saw a skene of high-flying wild geese heading north in their distinctive V-shaped formation, calling to each other as they went.

Somewhere along the way they had been joined by a swan who struggled and flapped to keep up, looking like a heavy transport plane trailing behind a squadron of Concorde.

Legend has it that the absence of resident swans on Loch Sunart is the result of a doomed love affair between a Highland chieftain and a local girl. When his mother, who opposed the marriage, paid the local witch to turn her into a swan to break up the romance, the young man accidentally shot the swan while out hunting. On learning of the swan's real identity, he killed himself to join the swan at the bottom of the loch which, supposedly, is why they have shunned the place ever since.

Whatever the explanation, there is a noticeable dearth of resident swans on Loch Sunart.

Swans usually mate for life and when one dies the other appears as if in mourning and goes off alone along the coastline looking for his or her partner.

According to the Bible (Leviticus 11:18-20 King James version), it is forbidden to eat swans or other unclean fowl and birds of prey. This may provide a more cultural background, instead of the purely national reason of monarchy ownership.

But as people in our culture eat shellfish and pork, and these are also things we are told are unclean in Leviticus, I think it has to do with their



The Queen's swan marker in a traditional Thames rowing skiff bearing the badge of his office and the Queen's cipher. He wears the royal livery of scarlet and gold and sports a swan feather behind the Crown badge on his cap. Photograph: Julian Calder

ornamental value and that they've been prized for their beauty than their tough meat.

Although there are well-known Celtic and Teutonic myths of them transforming themselves into humans, I wonder if this had an effect on whether people ate swans during medieval times, for example.

There is a belief that the Queen owns all swans on the open waterways of Great Britain, which is not strictly true, although it did not stop my father urging a Polish neighbour in Glenhurich many years ago, when he turned up dragging one by the neck and offering it up as a goose, that he'd better

get it out of sight quickly before he was arrested.

Apparently six had landed in his croft and, believing them to be geese, he shot half of them. My father accepted it, and when it turned up on the table later that evening, he said we'd better make the most of it as it was unlikely we'd taste another one.

Assuming that its flesh would be as white as its feathers, I recall thinking, thank goodness, as it was dark, tough and tasteless. So much for it being a delicacy fit for a palace!

Recent attempts to revoke the unique status of swans have been overruled, and the royal household includes a

post which retains the historic tradition.

Since the 13th century, kings and queens have employed swan keepers, swan masters or swan markers, to protect these royal birds. Long ago, harsh punishments were handed out to those who harmed them.

Stealing a swan's egg, for example, brought a prison sentence of a year and a day. In some courts, killing a swan cost the perpetrator a small fortune in wheat; the bird was hung by the beak with its feet just touching the ground, then the accused had to produce sufficient grain to envelop the whole carcass. In 1895, unlicensed killing was

dealt with by seven weeks' hard labour. Nowadays, stealing a tame swan is still larceny.

There were so many stories attached to swans and their association with royalty, that their protection has become enshrined in law and more especially the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

When Edward IV became bankrupt, he applied to the City of London's Worshipful Company of Vintners for a loan. In return, a charter of 1473 granted them the right to own some swans on the River Thames on condition they marked their beaks to identify them.

A few years later, the priv-



ilege was accorded to the Dyers company with the same stipulation. Every July from that date to this the Queen's swan marker is joined by the Vintners' and Dyers' markers, who row along the Thames in skiffs between Sunbury and Abingdon. As they pass Windsor Castle, the Queen's swan marker gives the toast: 'Her Majesty the Queen, Seignuer of the Swan.'

The week is still a traditional event, but now includes conservation and education. Increased leisure activity on Britain's canals and waterways has done away with swan habitats in many areas and reduced their numbers.

'Swan upping', as it is known, provides an opportunity to monitor swan populations. The information gathered is passed to Oxford University, which surveys the health of the birds and their numbers, now that lead weights once used for fishing have been banned.

The Queen's swan marker also has a national legal responsibility, to advise on the birds' welfare.

In Celtic mythology, the swan is considered a bird of good omen. Its Gaelic name is, eala. An ancient Highland legend tells how the daughters of the sea god Lir were turned into swans for 900 years by enchantment until they were released on hearing the sound of a certain consecrated bell.

Some ornithologist historians deny the musical powers of the

swan, so often mentioned by Greek, Latin and Gaelic writers and poets. The call, or voice of the swan, is as melodious as it is haunting, especially when they, or some of their companions, are dying.

The legendary Gaelic poet, Ossian, wrote: 'Sweet was her song as the voice of the wounded swan, when she sings away her soul in death, and feels in her breast the fatal dart of the hunter.' Hence the saying 'swan song', a metaphorical phrase for a final gesture or performance given just before death or retirement.

On May 14, 1752, Colin Roy Campbell of Glenure, the government-appointed factor to the forfeited estates of the Stewarts of Appin, was shot in the back by a marksman in the wood of Lettermore near Duror in what became known as 'the Appin murder'.

Glenure had been hit, not by one bullet but two, fired from the same gun. For deliberate shooting it was an old Highland custom to load a gun with two bullets - one to fit the bore, and the other about half that size. The smaller carried further but tended to be more erratic in flight, and for this reason it was known in Gaelic as 'fear siubhail' (the wanderer) or 'the swan shot' because when it was cast it had a little tail like a swan.

Iain Thorner  
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Master tailor and former soldier Paul Salt is a new director at Oban's War and Peace Museum.

## Museum's new director helps keep up appearances

**KATHIE GRIFFITHS**  
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OBAN War and Peace Museum has appointed a former Savile Row master tailor to look after the many uniforms it puts on parades for the public.

Paul Salt, who learned his top tailoring skills in the army before working at a London tailor's in luxury suit capital Savile Row, is now one of the board of directors at the museum on the Corran Esplanade.

Mr Salt, who lives in Connel and has 30 years of tailoring experience, has been tasked with caring for all the museum's uniforms as part of his official duties.

'It's a huge honour to be a director and to be responsible for looking after all the uniforms. It's a fascinating place - there's so much history to be told,' he said.

Included in the uniforms under his care is a jacket which once belonged to Second World War Lieutenant Ivan Bagerov of the Bulgarian Royal Navy, otherwise known as Lieutenant David James

from Toronsay Castle in Mull. The cunning lieutenant had cleverly disguised the jacket with gold braiding to make it look like the real thing to help him make a bold escape from a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp to safety in France, speaking Gaelic all the way.

Mr Salt and his fellow directors are hoping a record number of visitors will pass through the museum's doors this year to discover the town's history, which also includes tales of wartime flying boats.

Numbers for 2017 stood at 30,266 and curator and chairman of the board Bill Leech is optimistic that 2018 could bring in even more.

Every inch of the museum in the old *Oban Times* building is packed with artefacts and photographs.

'After the snow, which pretty much stopped people from getting to Oban, numbers are picking up nicely and we're hoping for bigger numbers this year. We're always pleased to have tourists come to see us, but we'd be happy to see more

locals call in too,' said Mr Leech. About 30,000 visitors spread across nine months of the year is the usual count.

A loyal army of volunteers, called watchkeepers, run the museum which is now open daily, including Sundays, and has its own website at obanmuseum.org.uk. Admission is free but donations are welcome for the upkeep. The museum is part of Museums Galleries Scotland.

This May, Museums Galleries Scotland has lined up more than 100 events across Scotland as part of a Festival of Museums.

This year's programme, from May 18-20, will have something for everyone, from baby sensory events for tiny tots to dementia-friendly reminiscence sessions where visitors can relive their personal histories.

Now in its 12th year, the Festival of Museums is welcoming a number of new venues to its line-up, including Edinburgh's Jupiter Artland sculpture park, Skelmorlie Secret Bunker and St Ronan's Wells, a historic spa overlooking Leithen Valley.

Visit festivalofmuseums.com.

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## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

At last we have confirmation from Marks and Spencer that the company is to open a foodhall in Oban this summer, after months of refusing to admit it. This must have been one of the worst-kept commercial 'secrets' in history.

Everyone knew that M&S was to open in the town's former Lidl store at Lochavullin Industrial Estate.

There was a planning application lodged with Argyll and Bute Council months ago, workmen carrying out the conversion of the premises had told *The Oban Times* they were doing so for Marks and Spencer, and now

the Department for Works and Pensions in Oban has told us it has been approached by the retailer asking to use the town's JobCentre in Miller Road as a venue for interviews and induction training.

The arrival of M&S in the town is a very welcome development and one which will be greeted positively across the wider area. The news that as many as 60 jobs will be created with such a well-known and respected employer is also very good news.

Thankfully, M&S has now done the sensible thing and confirmed its plans.



## Days gone by – 1995

This week we feature some of the people who attended the Lochaber Show centenary dance held in the West End Hotel in Fort William back in December 1995.

### MacPhail

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JOINING campaigns to raise money for charity is not something I am accustomed to and, although I admire those who take on such work, I have not ever been actively involved before.

Being in a band means that requests to support groups, causes and individuals are constant and, with the wee blip in popularity that we're lucky to be having just now, the number of requests coming in has jumped a lot recently.

It is heartening to be aware of the amount of good work that volunteers and fundraisers are doing and it is very difficult to know how to approach all the requests received as nearly all are truly worthy causes close to the hearts of those involved.

Making small financial and other contributions and playing at a few discounted and some free gigs has been something we have always done, but as yet we have shied away from any other active role.

However, next month a few of the Skipinnish team will run the Edinburgh half-marathon to help raise funds for a permanent memorial to Eilidh MacLeod from Barra, who was tragically killed in the Manchester Arena bombing last year.

If the minor injuries to my ankle, as



Eilidh MacLeod.

written about in last week's article, mend on time, then, along with some of the band, their partners, Chloe our office manager and a few extras, I'll be hauling myself for 13.1 miles around the streets of the capital on May 27.

I'll also head down to Manchester to do a 10k along with the main fundraising group, Team Eilidh, the week before. We are not the fittest band on the scene so we've a lot of work to do.

There's a JustGiving link on the Skipinnish website and Facebook page and any donations large or small would be greatly appreciated.

fast food wrappers on the pavements.' **Andy MacArthur:** 'In the absence of any evidence it's difficult to quantify if it's any worse. It is, however, still an abdication of personal responsibility so indicative of the times in which we live. It's always someone else job or problem.' **John Mactavish:** 'True, but it was just as bad when we were kids in the '70's. Chewing gum and litter have always been a big problem in this area and it's not just the tourists who are responsible.' **Colin Martin:** 'Think we are missing

The first summer that we started the band, we spent most of it on Barra and from then on we've had huge support over the years from the people of Barra and Vatersay.

This is a very small gesture of just doing what we can to help in these terrible circumstances. Suzanne Whyte, who is a first cousin of Eilidh's father, is coordinating the fundraising effort and she is doing a great job of leading things.

The song, *Wishing Well*, which I composed last winter, was written as a tribute to Eilidh, though at the time I didn't want the background of it to be known.

With the family going through so much, it didn't feel right to intrude and, without their knowing, it was not appropriate for anyone else to know the origins of the song.

Last month I made contact with the family and they were very happy that their daughter was the inspiration for the song. Following on from that contact, I've added to and amended the song slightly and we'll be re-releasing the new version next month to help add to the fundraising.

Memory is one of the most powerful means of dealing with tragedy and a memorial will hopefully help the family and the island heal together.

If the song will also help this bright, talented piper and Highland dancer to be remembered, I'll be very glad.



the motorised street sweepers, not seen one for a while. 'Can't fault the litter pickers they do a great job.'

**Paul Bailey:** 'In a word yes, it's disgusting all over the new paving and walkways.'

**John Michael Gallacher:** 'I've noticed it more on the shop side of George Street, absolutely horrible on the new pavements.'

**Mairi MacDonald:** 'I'm not down the street much but I noticed there was a lot of fag ends outside the hospital the other day.'

### Social media

We asked on Facebook if the problem of discarded chewing gum and cigarette end is becoming worse in Oban town centre.

**Fergie McIver:** 'Yes, Definitely! Why are there 7 bins on the seaward side of George street between Stafford St and Stevenson st and not one on the other side? Why are there no 'ashtrays' attached to bins as there are elsewhere and why are litter dropping fines not enforced?'

'Walk down George St on a Sunday morning and you'll see all the evidence of cigarette ends, chewing gum and

### 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 timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### GPs fail to engage over new contracts

In response to the suggestion by Dr Alan McDevitt that *The Oban Times* coverage on March 22 of patients' concerns regarding the new GP contract is 'alarmist', he confidently cites public engagement about the new contract.

These were general qualitative surveys about health and social care, asking open ended questions (see Creating a Healthier Scotland and Our Voice Citizens Panel Third Survey) and were not specific to the new GP contract.

The Alliance Scotland was commissioned to deliver events informing people about the new contract after the contract had been agreed and a mere three months prior to implementation.

The majority of these events were put on in cities, but after patient pressure from rural areas, they helpfully devised facilitation packs and put extra events on to enable people in remote areas to engage.

In answer to his statement that there was 'strong support' from GPs in a poll, I would draw attention to the fact that only 39 per cent of GPs voted, demonstrating a lack of engagement from the profession on the issue. I can understand why Dr McDevitt would not want to be completely open about this.

In relation to funding, it is unfortunate that Dr McDevitt chooses to ignore the complexity of funding for rural practices.

The core funding may well stay the same for all practices, but the changes could affect local enhanced service funding, which will destabilise rural and remote practices and place them at risk.

This is a question of simple accounting and should have been addressed prior to implementation. The continuing rhetoric that no practice will lose funding is not guaranteed beyond phase one and at no time has this been guaranteed for phase two.

The promise of a Rural Short Life Working Group is welcome and acknowledges there are major problems to be reconciled. It is hoped that this is convened quickly and that there is strong representation from rural GPs and rural patients as this has not been made clear.

One of the most immediate issues to be addressed by the group is the controversial Workload Allocation Formula, designed by the London firm Deloitte.

The contract will work very well in urban areas and Dr McDevitt is right to point out the positives for these areas, but it is disingenuous to try to present it as a one-size-fits-all good news story.

People affected in rural and remote areas need to be informed of the risks to their medical cover and involved in finding urgent solutions.

Given the lack of transparency in this matter so far, it is fortunate that we live in a time where it is relatively simple to research, draw conclusions for ourselves and communicate so easily with others.

**Karen Murphy, by email.**

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

NA MO SHEASAMH AIG CARN-cuimhneachaidh Bhàilr Chùil Lodair Disathairne seo chaidh aig an t-seirbheis cuimhneachaidh a tha Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis air a bhith a' cumail bho 1924, bha caochladh smuaintean a' dol trom inntinn.

Ged a bha mòran de na ceudan a bh' air siubhal far feadh na t-saoghail gus a bhith an làthair nach robh a' tuigsinn nam briathran a bha iad a' cluinntinn, bha iad a' tuigsinn sòlaimeachd làrach a' bhàilr agus na bha nan sineadh fon talamh mun cuairt orra.

Nuair a chluich pìobaire urramach Chomuinn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Eòghainn MacCruimein, pàirt de dh'ùrlar Cumha na Cloinne bha mi fhin a' faireachadh nach b' urrainn ceòl a bhith na bu fhreagarraiche air an latha agus aig an àm. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun robh ealantas a' fhrì-chiùil a' foillseachadh eirachdas a' phuirt ainmeil aig Pàdraig Mòr MacCruimein ach bha mathair-adhbhar a' chiùil fhèin cho iomchaidh. Tha

### Community councils 'extremely dismayed'

You may be aware that the five Fort William area community councils have reconvened their partnership and met prior to last week's Lochaber Committee of the Highland Council which considered the draft local plan. We attended that Highland Council meeting and, although not permitted to speak, submitted a letter on the following lines.

'We are very concerned by what may be a proposal to rubber stamp very substantial changes to the draft local plan. Kilmallie and Caol CC deliberately ran a public consultation on the original plan and folk made comments in good faith. They now deserve to be made aware of some very significant changes.

'We were aware that the local plan was substantially delayed to allow Liberty to submit their proposals – we weren't convinced that was a proper thing to do and many were concerned that it happened.

'You are aware that council officials are already dealing with alleged planning breaches and of noise nuisance at Corpach and Annat. We are aware of some people selling and moving house because of noise. This is a real issue affecting families, not imagined.

'Now we have the possibility of a deep water berth, liquefied natural gas storage and a gas pipeline through Corpach. These are fundamental changes. You cannot possibly ignore people's right to know about these proposals and deny them the right to consider. It would be a potential affront to local democracy to ignore these changes and their implications and so we ask you to vote for 5.3, Option II and allow public consultation.

'You delayed the local plan for Liberty, so now we ask you to delay for us.'

In spite of this, the Lochaber Committee of the Highland Council decided not to respond and allow public consultation.

Instead there is proposed to be a consultation on a '2040 Vision' which is an entirely different thing; a local plan is important, has formal status and influences future planning decisions. We are extremely dismayed by this.

**Chairs of Kilmallie, Ardgor, Caol, Inverloch and Torlundy, and Fort William community councils.**

### Crash barriers give false sense of security

Since the new crash barriers have been installed on the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg, I have noticed a worrying and marked increase in traffic speed, which, paradoxically, may be down to the false sense of security given by these racing circuit-looking barriers.

However, in real life, racing drivers who crash are slowed by massive rubber-tyre barriers to soften the impact and have well-protected cars. They also do not have oncoming vehicles travelling at them from the opposite direction.

A head-on crash on the A85, even

at a moderate speed of 45mph, would produce a possible potential collision speed of 90mph.

Impacts off these barriers at high speed may catapult a vehicle into another's path, an even more dangerous scenario.

Along with double white lines, this entire length of this route should have a top speed of 40mph to avert a tragedy.

**Stephen Jones, Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.**

### Hospital staff go the extra mile to care

I write in response to your 'whistle-blower' story (*The Oban Times*, March 29).

I have been visiting a family member at the Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban for several weeks.

First, the hospital is clean. I've watched staff go to great lengths to ensure it and I've witnessed staff performing thorough inspections.

Secondly, the nursing staff are exceptional. Their attitude and willingness to assist is exemplary. Their bedside manner exceeds expectation.

It is common knowledge that the NHS has shortcomings.

My experience, however, is that the staff at this hospital deserve praise not criticism.

**David Miller, by email.**

### Appeal for help in tracing friend

I am trying to contact a Richard Flemming in Oban as I would like to get in touch with his brother, Robert.

It has been 28 years since we lost contact. We last worked together at Faslane Naval base.

If anyone can help, please contact me at catherinelavery1963@gmail.com or call 07835 348233.

**Catherine Lavery, Glenrothes.**

### Thanks from Lochaber election candidate

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the communities within the Caol and Mallaig Highland Council ward who voted for me in the recent by election held on Friday April 6 following the very sad passing of Billy MacLachlan.

My thanks to the returning officer and all his excellent staff for the efficient and engaging management of the count, to all the other candidates for a very respectful campaign and my congratulations to Denis Rixon on winning the by election.

Finally, I would like to thank the Lochaber and North Lorne SNP branch members who campaigned tirelessly with and for me throughout and through this prolonged winter spell. To them I owe a great debt of gratitude.

**Alex MacInnes, Proterra, Achintraid, Kishorn, Strathcarron.**

Ailean Caimbeul

caochladh bheachdan air dè ghluais Pàdraig Mòr gus an port a chur ri chèile, le cuid aig ràdh gun bheil e na chomharra air a chuid bròin air bàs sheachdnar mhac san aon bhliadhna, agus cuid eile den bheachd gun bheil seo mar chuimhneachan air na chailleadh de Chlann MhicLeòid aig Blàr Worcester san t-Sultain 1651.

Ach an siud cha robh e gu mòran diofar, bha sinn air ar beò-ghlacadh leis an làrach, leis an eachdraidh, agus le tiamhaidheachd an fhuinn. Bha sinn mothachail gu ìre air an uamhas a thachair an siud sa Ghiblean 1746 agus air an geur-leanmhainn brùideil a lean fad bhliadhnaichean às dèidh a' bhàilr. 'S e seo an làrach san do thòisich sgrìos an- iochdmhor nan Gàidheal, agus mar a thuir an Ceannard, Murchadh Peutan, na òraid, tha e cudromach cuimhneachadh air na thachair agus aig an aon àm a bhith misneachail a thaobh na slighe air adhart.

Bha mise a' cuimhneachadh air an t-seann eaglais ann an Hùsabost dom biodh Pàdraig Mòr a' toirt a mhic, agus an t-uamhas a ghabh mi a' faicinn mar a thog an t-uachdaran sabbhal is stàball anns a' chladh mu timcheall,

agus mar a chaidh an rathad-mòr gu ruige Bòidhreig troimhe cuideachd. Saoilidh mi gun do dh'aontaich na bha an làthair le Murchadh, agus le bàrd urramach a' Chomuinn Maoileas Caimbeul, nach fhaodar taighean a thogail air iomall làrach blàir a bha cho milleach agus cho eachdraidheil ann am beacha nan Gàidheal.

Ach 's i daonnan a' cheist an èist luchd-dealbhadhaidh ri beachd agus ruhn an t-sluaigh is còir dhaibh a bhith a' frithealadh?

CHAMPION piper Euan MacCrimmon's rendition of the Lament for the Children set the mood of the hundreds who attended the Gaelic Society of Inverness's annual memorial service at Culloden battlefield last Saturday.

Sensing the horrors which the site witnessed in April 1746, and the savage campaign of retribution which followed, there was a seemingly unanimous view that this place is sacred in the history of the Gael and that planners must protect it from developers.

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

### Your letters

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

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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



# Linda has healthy respect for Argyll's caring professionals



The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality.

Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas.

This week we look at the work of the lead for Allied Health Professionals, Linda Currie.

LINDA CURRIE is Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) lead for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs). Her professional leadership role is to support health professions in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, dietetics, radiography, podiatry and orthotics. AHPs provide treatment and help rehabilitate adults and children who are ill, have disabilities or have special needs to live life as fully as possible. They work across a broad spectrum of different settings, including the community, people's homes, schools and hospitals.

Linda's role is to provide professional assurance and governance. This means ensuring HSCP's health professionals are registered with the HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council), ensuring professional standards are maintained.

She supports staff with training, registration, returning to practice, professional development and performance, making certain Argyll and Bute HSCP services are delivered to the highest quality of standards.

Linda manages her day-to-day activities by planning and working ahead of deadlines and organising her time effectively. Linda uses video-conferencing and tele-conferencing to reduce travelling and make use of her time more productive.

Her daily challenge includes managing to fit everything in the diary and dealing with the challenge of Argyll and Bute HSCPs rurality.

Linda is proud of her career and working with colleagues to embed reablement as a normal part of our everyday business. Reablement is an approach to providing care-at-home services where AHPs work with an individual to return to the maximum level of independence in personal care and daily activities to reduce the need



for care-at-home services. Linda said: 'My values are built on a foundation of integrity, honesty, fairness, compassion, kindness and respect.'

She plans and implements the development of new services, including reshaping the way services are delivered. She is working on the roll-out of an electronic patient record system. It is the same system social workers use to improve communications.

She is also responsible for the chaplaincy (spiritual health) team managing excellence in pastoral, spiritual and religious care. The team represent many different faiths and cultures as well as people who do not have a particular religious belief but who would like someone to talk to.

Linda is also heavily involved in the work of NHS Highland to reduce the amount of people falling and the impact of falls, working with the local teams who provide falls assessments, exercise initiatives and environmental checks.

Linda said: 'A large number of people aged 65 and over experience falls for numerous reasons, including medical, physical and environmental factors. Our local teams' aims are to reduce the risk of falls among older people and patients at risk of falls in Argyll and Bute.'

'Falls are not inevitable as you grow older. However, falling increases the chance of being less able to move about easily. It is imperative to help people improve their health and mobility in order to maintain their independence for

as long as possible. The HSCP recently launched the falls number for people who feel less steady on their feet, at risk of a fall or had a fall. The falls number connects people directly to Argyll and Bute HSCP falls team who are highly trained health professionals that can help people with early intervention and preventive approaches to improve their outcomes.

'The local team and partners carry out falls assessments and make referrals to local and community services, including digital services, to meet people's needs like HSCP professional services, adaptations to make homes accessible, strength and balance exercise classes,

technology enabled care packages, digital exercise programmes to keep people safer, happier and healthier in their own homes.

'We recently launched "Flo" text messaging service to educate people on fall prevention and to support the "Super Six" strength and balance exercises.

'I just can't emphasise enough the importance of regular exercise and activity. For more information on "Flo", people can email the TEC team tecteam.ab@nhs.net or speak to their circle of healthcare professionals for more information and guidance.'

Linda also has the role of strategic leadership for carers. This involves ensuring carers are supported and empowered to manage their caring responsibilities with confidence and in good health, and to have a life of their own outside of caring, in line with the Carers Act (Scotland) 2016, which came into effect from April 1, and which requires the HSCP to provide additional support to unpaid carers, so that they may continue in their caring role for as long as they wish.

One of the local projects that Linda was involved with in the Oban area is working with the management team to increase the staffing for children's occupational therapy and physiotherapy services which has been successful.

Linda enjoys life out of work and spending time at home with her family and enjoying the beautiful area where she lives. She is a keen cyclist and enjoys walking the dog at the end of a busy day.

Linda loves working in Argyll and really enjoys being part of the strong community spirit. She feels very proud when she sees how Argyll and Bute HSCP staff, and all other partners, work so hard, with such enthusiasm to provide such great services for the people of Argyll and Bute.

Linda said: 'We are so lucky to live in a beautiful place. I am spoiled living on the cycle path that goes out to Fort William and it is definitely not to be unappreciated.'



Mary-Ann Featherstone with her cousin Geoff, who inspired and advised on the disabled friendly holiday flat on Islay.

## Where disabled can now go wild

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

A FARMING accident which left a man paraplegic 25 years ago has inspired an Islay family to create a special space in the wild for visitors with disabilities.

Mary-Ann Featherstone has had help from her cousin - who was in his 20s at the time of the accident - to turn the ground-floor of a house they bought and split with friends five years ago into a disabled-friendly holiday flat.

The flat at the Dower House, an 1800s home on the Kildaton Estate, is big enough for two people and there is also a bedroom upstairs if needed for a carer.

Mary-Ann hopes that reviews of the Dower House flat will soon make it into Euan's Guide, an online review guide helping to open up the outdoors, villages, towns and cities to disabled people.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell and *The Oban Times* have teamed up with Euan's Guide to help more Argyll businesses and organisations welcome disabled visitors, organising a networking event in the Corran Halls, Oban, on Friday April 27 from 11am-1pm.

'It must be really difficult for people with disabilities to get to wild places but we reckon this is as wild as it can get,' added Mary-Ann, who is also a Reiki practitioner.

The Featherstone family

and friends did most of the restoration work themselves, only hiring in skilled workers to complete jobs they could not.

'There's a wet room in the flat, a small kitchen, slopes instead of steps and there's a terrace at the front of the house where people can watch the seals.'

'My cousin was the inspiration for all of this and I think we've got it right thanks to his ideas and advice. He's been a couple of times and stayed for two weeks. He goes cycling on a cycleway that goes down to Port Ellen. We're thinking it would be a good place for anyone who is newly disabled.'

'It's a wild, remote spot. We are in the middle of a forest and at the edge of the sea. Seals swim right up to the shore. Our dog sits there for hours communing with the seals and we had otters there the other day,' she said.

Euan's Guide was founded in 2013 by brother and sister Euan and Kiki MacDonald after Euan became a powerchair user. After spending hours of their time making inquiries about access at places they wanted to go, Euan and Kiki realised their experience was not unique and that many disabled people had difficulty in getting the information they needed to decide on where they visited and took their holidays.

To register for the Oban Euan's Guide event or to obtain further information, email Heather Wolfe on Heather.Wolfe@parliament.scot or call 0131 348 5738.



The Dower House on Islay has a disabled-friendly flat.

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**Wed. 16 May, 2018, 1000-1300hrs, Oban**

#### BECOMING AN EMPLOYER

A workshop to help you understand the process of employing people, covering legal obligations and give an insight into good practice recruitment.

**Thu. 18 May 2018, 0900 - 1230hrs, Oban**

#### DEVELOPING AND MANAGING STAFF

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# WELCOME TO KENNACRAIG



## Purpose-built ferry terminal

This deeper berth replaced the historic pier at West Tarbert and brought bigger boats to the Islay run to handle the tourist traffic and the very precious cargo of spectacular Islay malt whiskies.

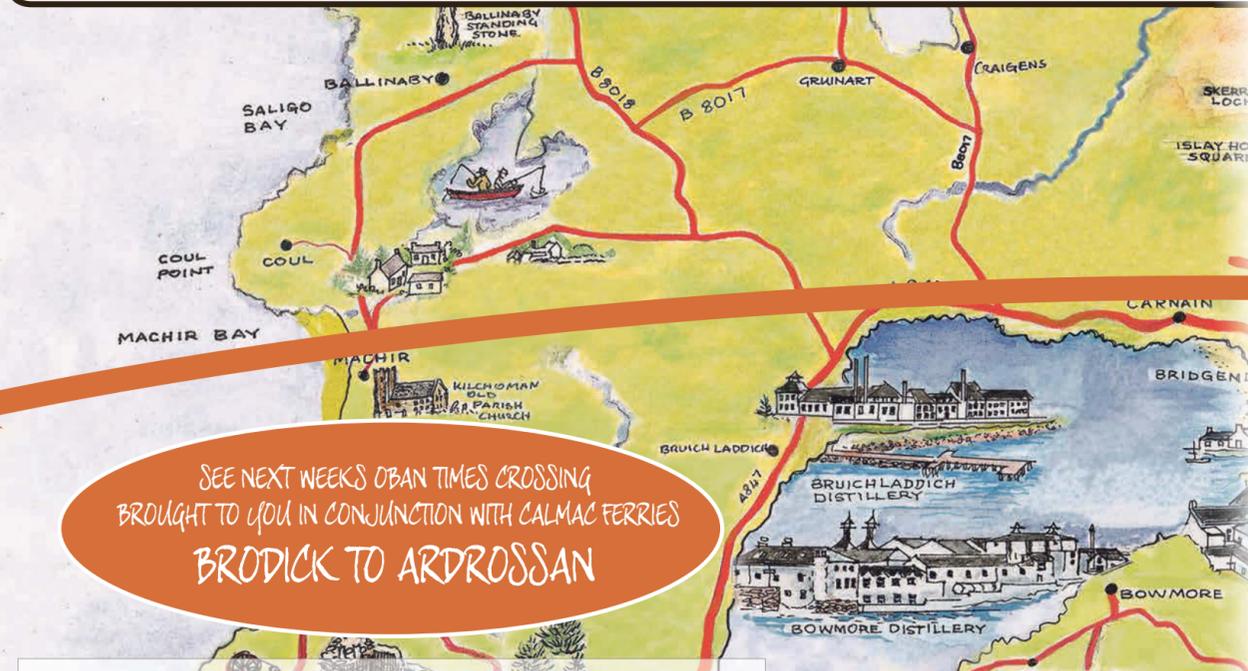
**Check out:** nearby West Loch Hotel where generation upon generation of ferry passengers have stayed. Tarbert, Loch Fyne, five miles away, is a bustling wee fishing harbour with cafes, restaurants, bars and shops.

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

**Hopscotch:** Tarbert for Portavadie and Cowal Peninsula; Claonaig for Arran; Tayinloan for Gigha; and Campbeltown for Arran and Ayrshire coast.



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**KENNACRAIG - PORT ELLEN OR PORT ASKAIG** Table 9

DAY	Kennacraig Depart	Port Ellen Arrive	Port Askaig Arrive	Port Askaig Depart	Port Ellen Depart	Kennacraig Arrive
MON	0700	0910	-	-	0700	0920
	1000	1220	-	-	0945	1155
	1300	-	1455	-	1245	1505
	1530	-	1735	1530	-	1725
	1800	-	1955	1800	-	2005
TUE	0700	0920	-	0700	-	0855
	1000	1210	-	-	0945	1205
	1300	-	1505	-	1245	1455
	1530	-	1725	1530	-	1735
	1800	2020	-	1800	-	1955
WED	0700	0910	-	-	0700	0920
	0945	-	1150	-	0945	1155
	1300	-	1455	1530	-	1725
	1800	2010	-	2045	-	2250
	0700	0920	-	-	0700	0910
THU	1000	1210	-	-	0945	1205
	1300	-	1505	-	1245	1455
	1530	-	1725	1530	-	1735
	1800	2020	-	1800	-	1955
	0700	0910	-	-	0700	0920
FRI	1000	1220	-	-	0945	1155
	1300	-	1455	-	1245	1505
	1530	-	1735	1530	-	1725
	1800	-	1955	1800	-	2005
	2030	2250	-	2015	-	2210
SAT	0700	0910	-	-	0700	0920
	0945	-	1150	-	0945	1155
	1300	-	1455	1530	-	1725
	1800	-	1955	2015	-	2210
	1000	1210	-	0945	-	1150
SUN	1300	-	1505	-	1245	1455
	1530	-	1725	1530	-	1735
	1800	2020	-	1800	-	1955

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# KENNACRAIG TO ISLAY

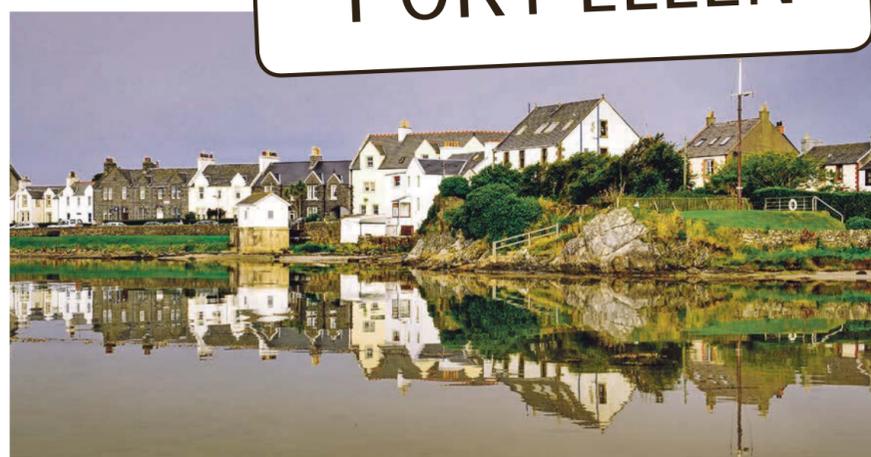
WELCOME TO

PORT ASKAIG



OR

PORT ELLEN



### Queen of the Hebrides

History, Gaelic culture, music, magnificent whisky, wildlife, golf and the annual Islay Show for the farmers. Peace and quiet or great cràic; breath-taking sea views, beaches and island landscapes . . . and lots and lots of migrating geese.

**Check out:** Port Ellen for the island's second largest place after Bowmore with several shops, hotels, restaurants and pubs. Home to many of the island's festivals, including the famous annual beach rugby tournament. Islay Hotel has been named one of Scotland's finest whisky hotels.

Port Askaig and its busy island gateway with the Isle of Jura ferry terminal, new berthing used by fishing boats and yachts alike and home to the RNLI's Islay lifeboat. Hotel, filling station and stores are at the heart of village life.

**The journey:** A846 links Port Askaig with Port Ellen, passing through Bowmore, the island capital, before ending at Ardbeg. The A847 heads to the west and the B roads 8016-8 take care of most of the rest of an island where the road signs read like a malt lover's dream.

**Hopscotch:** Port Askaig for Jura and Colonsay and Oban.



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## Dog owners are urged to keep pets under control

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

DOG owners are being urged to ensure their pets are under control when near livestock, following a spate of attacks.

Commenting on the issue of livestock worrying during the spring lambing season, Scotland's Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'Livestock worrying is a serious issue affecting the welfare of farm animals and the livelihood of farmers.'

'Dog owners who walk or keep dogs in and around farmland should act responsibly at all times when exercising their animals in the countryside and always be mindful that there may be grazing livestock nearby.'

'This is particularly important at this time of year when spring lambing season is under way.'

'The Scottish Government commends the efforts of Police Scotland to tackle this issue, and the ongoing commitment from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to take a robust approach to prosecuting offences.'

'I would encourage farmers to continue to report all incidents to the police and that the wider public remain mindful of this issue when visiting the countryside.'

Sheep farmers have been encouraged to take cover against the potential financial losses incurred by sheep worrying after the latest spate of distressing attacks, including in Argyll.

Graphic images and noticeable increase in reports of sheep worrying over recent weeks bring to the fore the constant challenge farmers face in educating the public of the potential impacts their actions can have on livestock.



Some of these sheep were injured in a dog attack at Inveraray last month.

'While dog attacks on livestock are no new thing, police are now reporting a sharp rise in incidents across the country,' said Charlotte Wilson of agricultural insurance broker Farmers and Mercantile. 'We have certainly seen an escalation in the number of claims.'

Social media is proving an effective tool to educate dog owners on the importance of keeping dogs under control

around livestock, focusing not only on the devastation that can be caused for the farmer, but also to the dog owner if the animal is shot, or later put down.

'While the first step should always be to educate the public, other steps do need to be taken to protect farmers from what now, unfortunately seems almost like the inevitable,' said Ms Wilson.

With the increasing number of houses being built in rural areas, and farm diversifications into camp sites, the chances of an attack have increased, she added.

With the unfortunate likelihood that the culprits will not be caught and brought to justice, livestock farmers are being urged to make sure their insurance protects them.

## Candidates sought for seats on National Park Authority board

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority is looking for nominees to stand in elections to sit on the National Park Authority board.

The National Park Authority board is responsible for making strategic decisions for the park and has an important part to play in helping to deliver the authority's key aims.

Elections will be taking place via postal vote later this year to recruit five board members - one for each of the five wards in the park. The election count will take place on Thursday July 5 and those elected will take up their posts as board members immediately after the result.

Anyone over the age of 21 can stand as a candidate in these elections and candidates do not have to live in the national park area but must have the written support of 10 people who live in the ward in which they wish to stand.

Board members act as champions for the national park, providing direction and overseeing the development, approval and monitoring of important plans and strategies.

The national park is a special place which is of major significance to the people who live and work in the area, as well as to Scotland as a whole.

Convener of the National Park Authority, James Stuart, is keen

to encourage nominations from a wide range of people. He said: 'This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the national park and we are looking for individuals who can bring their experience and perspective to help influence priorities and make key decisions.'

'It is important to us that our board membership reflects not only our local communities but the country as a whole, to ensure that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are represented.'

'We offer full training to all those elected to help them carry out their duties and we are also holding drop-in events over the coming weeks to offer anyone thinking of standing the opportunity to ask for help and guidance on how to be a candidate.'

'I would encourage anyone who is interested in standing for election to either come along to these drop-in events or get in touch with us to find out how they can help protect and enhance this iconic place.'

The drop-in events will take place at the National Park Authority headquarters in Balloch on Thursday April 19 from 4.30pm to 7pm and on Monday April 23 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm where there will be the opportunity to find out how to become a candidate.

## New stamps recognise species that were extinct

ROYAL Mail has unveiled a set of six stamps that celebrate the reintroduction of flora and fauna previously extinct or endangered in the UK.

The stamps feature original illustrations by award-winning artist Tanya Achilleos Lock and show the Eurasian beaver, pool frog, sand lizard, large blue butterfly, osprey and stinking hawks-beard.

It is estimated that more than 400 species of animals and plants have become extinct over the past two centuries in the UK. However, conservationists

have successfully reintroduced various species.

At present there are more than 900 native species in the UK classified as under threat, with others in significant decline.

Royal Mail spokesman Philip Parker said: 'When a plant or animal becomes extinct in a country, that does not have to be the end of the story. Our beautiful new stamps mark the skill and expertise of conservationists in reintroducing species back to their former environments.'

The stamps available now.

## First Minister invited to Highlands to learn about hares

GAMEKEEPERS in a controversial mountain hare film have sent an open invitation to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to learn about hare management on their ground.

BBC Scotland recently aired a film obtained by animal rights campaigners showing what they described as 'military style' hare culls.

The broadcast led to Ms Stur-

geon describing the practices as 'unacceptable' during First Minister's Questions.

Now gamekeepers have written to the First Minister to invite her to the Highlands to see first-hand why the hare management is carried out.

They feel it is wrong for the government to force land managers to control deer populations then leave high

populations of hares to graze the same habitats.

Records showing hares taken compared to population numbers will be made available to the First Minister, with Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham also being invited to the Highlands.

Head gamekeeper for one estate, Duncan MacKenzie, said: 'We'd really like to be able to

show the First Minister around rather than discuss these issues in Edinburgh. I think it would be beneficial for everyone to get an understanding of why the hares need to be managed.'

'We had SNH out a few years ago to see how the hare populations were being controlled. We invited them out recently also, so nothing is being hidden.'

'We have good records of the

amount of hares in comparison to the amount we have taken off the hill, covering a number of years, and there are still high numbers of hares on the ground.'

'What the footage by the campaigners showed was working people being secretly filmed carrying out a legal management activity which is no different to other forms of species management.'

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

### Thursday April 19 Ben Hiant, Ardnamurchan

This splendid hill occupies a commanding position at the N

entrance to the Sound of Mull. The route offers fine views of the land and seascape at the westernmost point of the British mainland.

Start at the watershed on the B8007, 3Km NW of Camas nan Geall CP, NM551640. There is limited parking in the vicinity.

Follow the footpath NW for 400m to the foot of the NE spur of Ben Hiant. Climb SW up the spur, which narrows to a ridge and curves W to the summit trig point, 528m.

Descend gently SW to a small

steeply down to a saddle. Climb up Sron Mhor, 311m, then turn NE over the switchback of Stallachan Dubha, across a burn to the ring-contour, 250m alt at NM540623. Descend SE, passing E of a band of crags, to reach a fence, then follow it SW down to the shore at Port a' Chamais. Follow the coast E along the shingle bays to Camas nan Geall CP. Transport required

Grade: M+; Distance: 8km; Height to climb: 600m Map(s): LR47, EX390; Meet at: Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 10.30am Leader: Rick Atkinson 07587 549731.

### Sunday April 22

#### Kerrera North Circuit, Oban

A walk around the north end of Kerrera, taking in the monument, marina, the lovely bay of Oitir Mhòr and some archaeological sites. Views across the Firth of Lorn to Mull and beyond.

From the ferry slip take the track uphill to Balliemore. Turn N at the junction. When the track curves E, leave it and continue NE over rough ground up to the summit Barr Dubh. Continue NE on the high ground for about 900m and drop steeply down to the track, avoiding the crags. Turn E and fol-

low the track past Ardantrive farm, the marina and on to Hutcheson's Monument at the N end of the island.

Head NW to find the Cashel (early medieval enclosure) at NM842312 on the raised beach NE of Port a' Bhearnaig. Head SW along the raised beach to reach the track and follow it to Oitir Mhor. Leave the track to visit the Cairn at NM820300. Head S to rejoin the track and visit the Cists at NM820296. Continue on the track, which turns S then E to re-join the outward route at Balliemore. Follow it back to the

ferry for the 1400 or 1600 sailing. Grade: L; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 250m; Map(s): LR49, EX359; Meet at North Ballachulish school at 9.20am or Kerrera ferry slip for 10.35am sailing. Leader: Alison Guest 01852 316266 or 07562 874991.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

### Saturday April 21

#### Beinn na Caillich, Beinn Dearg Mhor, Broadford, Skye

Take the path from the B8083 which leads to Coire-chat-achan, then head NW up the steep hillside to the summit of Beinn na Caillich. Follow the ridge west to Beinn Dearg Mhor and continue S around Coire Gorm to Beinn Dearg Bheag. Descend the E ridge, cross the Allt Beinn Deirge and return to Coire-chat-achan and the path back to the road.

Distance: 11km, height to climb: 1000m. Suggested and coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.

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Are you ready to get MAD with Atlantis Community Leisure?

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Entry is £10 (plus booking fee)

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

# Rockfield youngsters create their very own newspaper



Rockfield's primary seven pupils showcase their new paper alongside *The Oban Times*. 17\_T13\_Rockfieldnewspaper

PRIMARY seven pupils at Rockfield Primary School have created their own school newspaper, securing an exclusive interview with the head teacher in the process, writes David McPhee.

The paper's main aim is to keep parents and pupils informed with what's going on in the school. However, profits will be put towards leavers uniforms for the outgoing primary seven pupils.

Reporter Sophie Darrah said: 'We want to let people know about everything that's going on so they are not missing out.'

Jamie Joyce, who helps the pupils run the paper, said: 'It's my job to make

myself redundant and let them run it themselves. It's their project, it's something they wanted to do.'

'We are trying to run it as a proper newspaper and trying to raise money. Any money left over will go into something productive and beneficial for the school.'

The Rockfield Newspaper makes money by selling advertising space to businesses in the town.

The publication, now in its third edition, goes out as an email to parents, with paper copies available to buy from the school reception for 50p.

Articles include interviews with

teachers, giving pupils the opportunity to ask important questions, such as their favourite sweet – Mr Garvin's are Wham bars and Kit-Kats.

Other articles include a day in the life of a primary school pupil and opinions from people, including Dillion Calderwood, who wrote about the impact litter is having on sea creatures.

There are also important things happening in the Gaelic unit at Rockfield, with some pupils recently volunteering to take part in Oban's Big Clean Up.

Primary four pupil Alyss MacDonald said: 'This is great fun and it's nice to be doing something good for the envi-

ronment.' Fellow classmate Bethan Neil said: 'This has been the best fun ever. I'd love to do it again.'

Parent helper Susannah Hughes and principal teacher of Gaelic Rachael Deans said they would be eager for this to become a regular monthly event.

Earlier this month, Rockfield's Gaelic pupils also had an 'amazing' opportunity to meet and perform with the cast of Theatre Gu Leòr – a Gaelic theatre production.

Ms Deans added: 'This was an invaluable opportunity for pupils to engage in their history and learn more about their cultural identity.'



Rockfield Primary's Gaelic unit volunteers were happy with their Big Clean Up efforts.

# OECD conference delegates visit Dunstaffnage

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) hosted delegates from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the European Marine Science Park (EMSP) at Dunstaffnage last week.

The delegates visited the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and the neighbouring Malin House, part of the European Marine Science Park, which is a development by HIE.

The visitors from USA, Estonia, Finland, Germany, France and Sweden also met businesses Xanthella, ALEnergy and CuanTec, and heard about SAMS' world-class research projects and how HIE and Co-Innovate support business initiatives in the region.

The delegates attended the OECD's 11th Rural Development



Delegates from the OECD conference visit SAMS.

Conference in Edinburgh this week.

They were shown how world-leading marine science and

technology can work together with government to support rural innovation, business development and job creation.

Alain Dupeyras, head of regional development and tourism at OECD, said: 'At the conference in Edinburgh, we heard how innovation is supporting modern rural development policy but the value of field visits such as this is getting a concrete understanding of this innovation taking place.'

'During our visits to SAMS and Malin House, we heard several examples of innovation, such as marine renewables and algal biotechnology.'

Mr Dupeyras said he was aware of regional challenges in the Highlands and Islands, such as depopulation and demographic shifts, but added that similar rural regions within OECD countries could share more information and exchange ideas.

'I know, for example, you have a project at SAMS analysing

changes affecting the coastline and land use,' he said.

'Specific pressures in the north of Scotland are different from the issues around the French coast or Italian coast but we can learn from each other.'

The OECD is a key international organisation which helps countries around the world to support new business growth through innovation and working together to solve common problems.

HIE senior development manager Morag Goodfellow added: 'It was a pleasure to show how, with support from HIE, marine-based businesses and marine science research and education are working together at the EMSP to foster innovation and business growth, helping to deliver more quality employment opportunities to Argyll.'



Left to right: Ashleigh Ord, Lucy Anderson, manager Marie Rowan and volunteer Mary MacInnes.

# Lucy and Ashleigh jazz up Mary's Meals

TWO Oban High School pupils have been praised for their 'exceptional' help at the Mary's Meals shop, dressing its window and even teaching staff how to dance the shuffle.

'They have been an absolute joy,' the charity shop's manager, Marie Rowan, said of Lucy Anderson and Ashleigh Ord.

'They were straight into helping. They are getting great reports from their window. They have taught us how to put stuff together, and bang! it was sold.'

Both pupils, Ashleigh explained, needed to attain 60 hours of 'community achievement' as part of a course.

'They made us feel so welcome,' she said. 'We could show our arty side. We are going to carry on as volunteers here after school.'

Marie added: 'I love the fact they want to carry on and be volunteers for Mary's Meals. They are just a laugh. They were showing us how to dance. We will teach them the Highland Schottische.'

Long-time volunteer Mary

MacInnes added: 'They teach us and we teach them. We have learned from each other.'

Lucy told us: 'It is so fun. It is opening my eyes to see what we can do. It is for a good cause. It is feeding lots of children around the world who are less fortunate.'

Donated goods of all kinds come in from all over the West Coast, from strange objects such as a butcher's chainmail glove to more lucrative items such as a Harry Potter chess set which sold for £350.

The Argyll charity announced last month that, thanks to the continued generosity of its supporters around the world, it is now providing life-changing meals to 1,257,278 of the world's poorest children.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and chief executive, said: 'With 61 million children still out of school and many more too hungry to concentrate on their lessons, our work is only just beginning. Together, our journey continues – one step at a time, one meal at a time, one child at a time.'



Mary's Meals volunteers practising the shuffle.

# Investment supports jobs at Ardtornish

ONE of Scotland's well-known country estates has built its fifth hydroelectric scheme which is helping to fund land management work and support the continued employment of its 20-strong team.

Situated on the Morvern peninsula, in the village of Lochaline, Ardtornish affords a prime location for the development of hydro energy production.

Significant investment, supported by the Clydesdale Bank over the past 10 years, has delivered an enterprise with an enviable electrical energy output and strong ecological credentials.

Recent installation of a £2.3 million scheme, constituting the Socaich extension to the estate's Rannoch schemes, has brought into use a 275kW Gilkes Turgo impulse turbine and generator.

This latest scheme is one of very few in Scotland which takes water from a burn while also using a 3km leat to gather and transport water to its turbine house. The water is then introduced back into the river for further use by two other generators. The elegance and utility of the Rannoch dam arrangement allows the schemes to maximise output and ensures water is properly and safely conducted to the sea.

Tony McInnes, CEO at Ardtornish, said: 'The revenue from these impressive plants would not have been possible without the Clydesdale Bank's support and the input from its

extremely able and enthusiastic team.

'We are now working on a land management strategy to complement our work in hydro generation in the hope that we can improve the land at Ardtornish and develop it sensitively for generations to come.'

'Repairing paths, fences, waterways and other infrastructure allows for joined up thinking in land management and the proper monitoring and protection of these important features at Ardtornish.'

'I am privileged to be working with owners [the Raven family], who believe passionately in protecting the heritage of Ardtornish and indeed the wider Lochaber communities and beyond, and who want to make a difference with the revenue being generated.'

Ardtornish is a multi-enterprise business with interests in farming, tourism, events management and the traditional country sports of deer stalking and fishing.

Mr McInnes added: 'Ardtornish enjoys a location which provides exceptional opportunity for the development of hydro power generation. Rainfall and water collection opportunities are abundant.'

'With the support of the experts at the Clydesdale Bank in funding our projects, Ardtornish has enjoyed a strong working relationship with the Bank. Clydesdale Bank support has been essential in funding and supporting the projects over the past 10 years.'

# bonnie babies

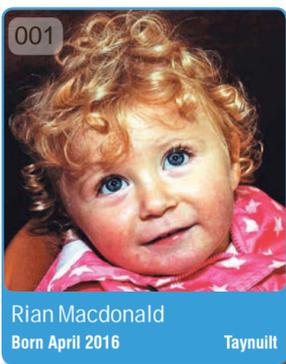
## competition 2018

Your chance to win £500 of shopping vouchers

Take a bow everyone. All you mums, dads, grans, grandpas, aunts, uncles, family and friends voted in your hundreds for your favourite tiny tots. The votes are in and counted and today we announce our wonderful top 50 Bonnies Babies. The more astute of you will notice there are actually 56 babies – amazingly we had a six-way tie for the final place! You now get the chance to do it all again and vote for the top 30. You know what to do. Complete the voting coupon this week (you will have another chance next week as well) and get your votes to us by 10am on Monday April 30. Our top 30 will then be published on Thursday May 3.

What are you waiting for? Get voting!

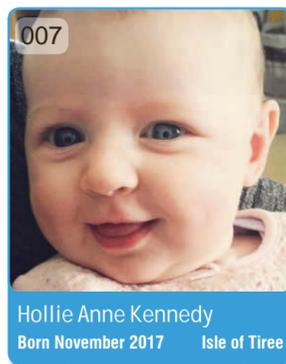
Remember, you can vote as often as you like, but coupons must come from the newspaper – photocopies or coupons printed from the website won't count.



001 Rian Macdonald  
Born April 2016 Taynuilt



002 Odinn Cumming  
Born February 2017 Taynuilt



007 Hollie Anne Kennedy  
Born November 2017 Isle of Tiree



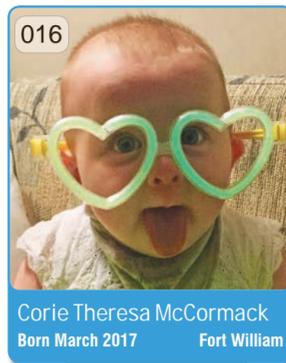
008 Iona Dickie  
Born September 2017 Kilmore, Oban



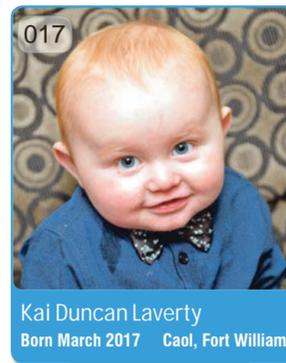
011 Naeve McNeill  
Born January 2017 Tarbert



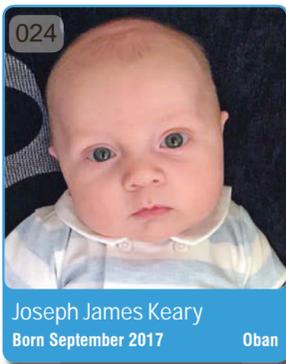
015 Poppy Maxwell  
Born August 2017 Oban



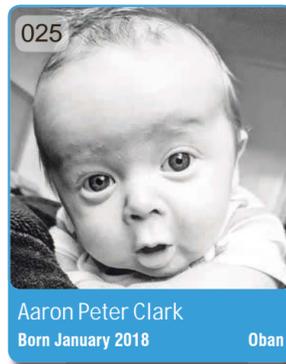
016 Corie Theresa McCormack  
Born March 2017 Fort William



017 Kai Duncan Laverty  
Born March 2017 Caol, Fort William



024 Joseph James Keary  
Born September 2017 Oban



025 Aaron Peter Clark  
Born January 2018 Oban



029 Oliver Holton  
Born September 2017 Oban



030 Esme Louise Blackwell  
Born September 2017 Lochgilphead



031 Freddie Wallace  
Born October 2017 Caol, Fort William



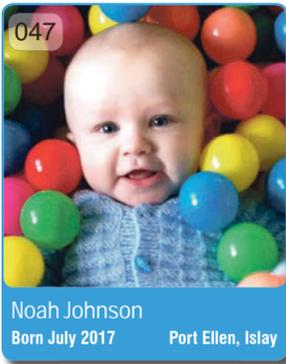
037 Karla MacGregor  
Born December 2017 Kinlochleven



045 Leo Doherty  
Born November 2017 Torlundy



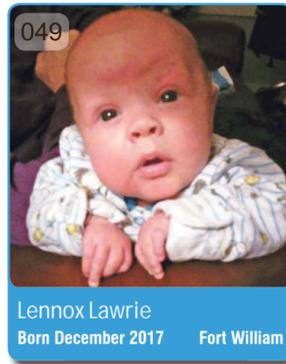
046 Ailish Melville  
Born August 2017 Fort William



047 Noah Johnson  
Born July 2017 Port Ellen, Islay



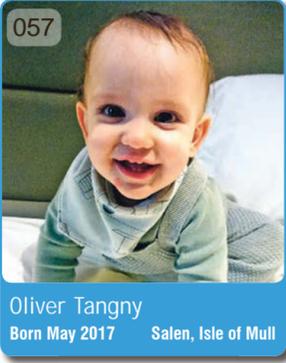
048 Holly Mackenzie  
Born July 2016 Corpach, Fort William



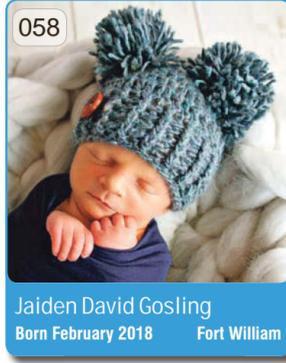
049 Lennox Lawrie  
Born December 2017 Fort William



054 Ivy-Rose Cameron-Watson  
Born December 2017 Fort William



057 Oliver Tangny  
Born May 2017 Salen, Isle of Mull



058 Jaiden David Gosling  
Born February 2018 Fort William



059 Kacper Klepajczuk  
Born January 2015 Oban



062 Darcie Kate Toal  
Born January 2018 Inverloch, Fort William



063 Logan Gary Clark  
Born February 2017 Fort William



066 Aillios MacCormack  
Born November 2016 Oban

# VOTE NOW FOR YOUR TOP 30!

067  
  
 Cara Smith  
 Born April 2017 Dunbeg, Oban

071  
  
 Dylan George Anderson  
 Born March 2017 Caol, Fort William

074  
  
 Hallie Knox  
 Born May 2015 Fort William

078  
  
 Hanna Sarkozi  
 Born August 2014 Oban

080  
  
 Aliyah Allen  
 Born August 2016 Portree, Isle of Skye

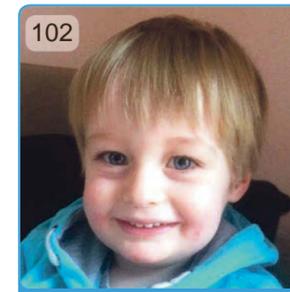
084  
  
 Mia Maisie McCartney  
 Born November 2017 Corpach, Fort William

092  
  
 Rhuaridh Dougall  
 Born January 2018 Tobermory, Isle of Mull

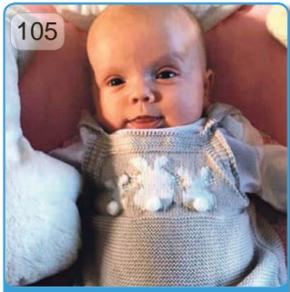
095  
  
 Orlaith Neilson  
 Born March 2018 Dunbeg, Oban

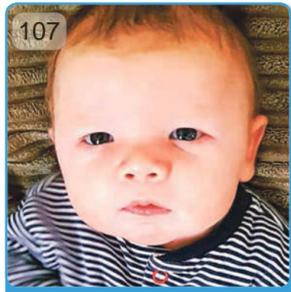
097  
  
 Hugo Daniel Mendel  
 Born March 2018 Caol, Fort William

099  
  
 Rury Reid  
 Born September 2016 Taynuilt

102  
  
 Lucas Rowsell  
 Born May 2015 Fort william

104  
  
 Seoras McNab  
 Born October 2016 Oban

105  
  
 Emily Rose Karen MacDonald  
 Born January 2018 Fort William

107  
  
 Logan Khan  
 Born February 2018 Dunbeg, Oban

108  
  
 Ellie Logan  
 Born February 2018 Lochgilhead

110  
  
 Charlotte Young  
 Born October 2017 Kilkenzie, Campbeltown

111  
  
 Chloe MacDonald  
 Born July 2015 Acharacle

114  
  
 Jesse Stansfield  
 Born February 2017 Ballachulish

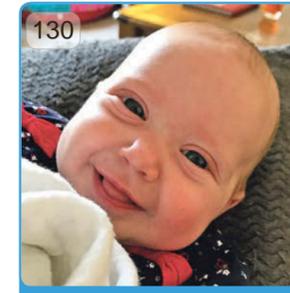
115  
  
 Natalie Gillies  
 Born October 2017 Spean Bridge

120  
  
 Lowrie Tracey  
 Born April 2017 Fort William

121  
  
 Charlie Jura Greener  
 Born July 2017 Barcaldine, Oban

123  
  
 Isla June Shevlin  
 Born February 2016 Oban

125  
  
 Ellie Paterson  
 Born May 2017 Salen, Isle of Mull

130  
  
 Evie Maclean  
 Born October 2017 Tobermory, Isle of Mull

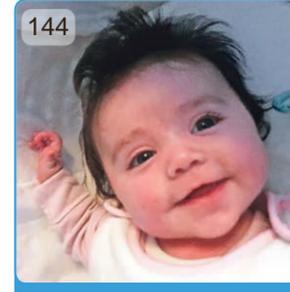
131  
  
 Grace Ellen Cooke  
 Born July 2017 Oban

132  
  
 Freya King  
 Born July 2017 Fort William

138  
  
 Cailean Eachann MacDonald  
 Born October 2017 Oban

139  
  
 Lewis Butler  
 Born August 2015 Oban

140  
  
 Cameron Maclean  
 Born Novemer 2017 Oban

144  
  
 Ivy Esme Gordon  
 Born November 2017 Appin

## VOTING COUPON LOCHABER TIMES The Oban Times & Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number\*: .....

Baby's name: .....

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

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

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote. Only original coupons printed in the Oban Times and Lochaber Times will be accepted.

You may submit multiple voting coupons in one envelope. Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday April 30, 2018



Terms & conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday April 30, 2018. One coupon counts as one vote. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000.

# Arena

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

## WHAT'S ON

### I N O B A N

In partnership with  
Oban Town Diary  
bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 19th April	Saturday 21st April	Monday 23rd April
<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Oban Health Walk</b> Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am	<b>Master Builders Lego Club</b> The Rockfield Centre 10am-12pm	<b>Tuesday 24th April</b>
<b>Song Writers' Session</b> The Rockfield Centre 7pm-9pm	<b>Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading</b> Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> Live Music from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	<b>Irish Dancing Classes</b> St Columba's Cathedral Hall 4.15pm-5.45pm
<b>Friday 20th April</b>	<b>Sunday 22nd April</b>	<b>Wednesday 25th April</b>
<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am	<b>Intermediate Food Hygiene</b> Argyll College 9am-11am
<b>Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading</b> Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team	<b>Under The Skin Camera Club</b> The Rockfield Centre 6.30pm-7.30pm
<b>Lorn Archaeological &amp; Historical Society</b> St Columba's Cathedral Hall 7.30pm-9pm	<b>Win £20 bar voucher</b> Hebrides Cruises Open Day Oban Bay Pontoons 1pm - 3pm	<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban</b> Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
<b>Live Music &amp; Entertainment @ Markie Dans</b> Live Music from 9pm Free entry Open till 1am	<b>WHAT'S ON IN OBAN</b>	<b>WHAT'S ON IN OBAN</b>

# Record number of entries signed up for Oban's Highlands and Islands festival

Thousands of visitors are expected to come to the 2018 Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in May and spend more than £2m.

Festival chairperson Breege Smyth said this year's festival is set to be a landmark event, giving tourism and the local economy a huge boost.

Figures from festival organisers estimate attendees to the event will spend £2,183,000 over the weekend. Among that is £950,000 on food and beverage, £540,000 in local shops and £13,000 on ferries, taxis and buses.

A record number of performers are getting ready to showcase their talents in 125 competitions between May 4 and 6, from Highland dancers, fiddlers, pipers, pianists, accordion and clarsach players, not forgetting woodwind and brass musicians, all at venues throughout Oban.

Organisers have also received the first entry from Germany, with other performers com-

ing from far and wide across Scotland, from places such as Campbeltown to Edinburgh, Dingwall and Skye.

The Saturday will see live music in Station Square from 11am in conjunction with local Oban FM 103.3.

This year the pipers' event will be taking place in the new Oban High School – the first public event to be held there.

Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson told organisers at a launch celebration at the Perle Hotel in Oban: 'I can hardly believe it's the 35th year. I remember the first one. It's proved to be a huge success and it's growing year on year. The numbers of entries are quite exceptional this year. It's an accolade to all those who are involved in organising it.'

'I wish you to have a very successful event, I know you will. It's not just successful from a cultural point of view but also from an economic one – bringing an extra £2 million into the town a year so thank you for that.'



Countdown starts for the 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban in May.

16\_T15\_festival01-launch

'It adds to our very vibrant town.'

The festival promotes a long tradition in music and dance but also introduces innovation through group dancing competitions and novelty from the individual.

This year's event is

being supported by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Event Directorate, for the third year.

VisitScotland's director of events, Paul Bush OBE, said: 'EventScotland is delighted to be supporting the Highlands

and Islands Music and Dance Festival, through our National Events Programme. Scotland is the perfect stage for cultural events, and the festival is a great showcase of the country's traditional talent. In 2018, we are celebrating the Year of

Young People, and it is great to see the festival giving audiences the chance to see some of Scotland's best young musicians and dancers perform.'

To book tickets, call 07510 841198 or visit obanfestival.org

# Festival goers get ready to party at Mull Music Festival

Music fans are heading for Mull for four days of festival fun.

Mull Music Festival 2018 starts today (Thursday April 19), featuring folk rock, fiddle, accordion, dance and ceilidh bands at hotel and bar venues across Tobermory.

No tickets are needed but places are expected to be crowded.

It kicks off at MacGochans tonight at 7.30pm, the line-up includes Ho-Ro.

Friday's bands start at 2.30pm with Crooked Reel, Ho-Ro again, Dun Mor Ceilidh Band and Chunks.

Saturday starts at 11.30am with the Beinn Lee Ceilidh Band continuing through the day until the last act at 11.30pm. Heron Valley, Gunna Sound and Trail West will also

be on stage. Sunday is set for another 12-hour music marathon from 11.30am. On Monday April 23, it is the Monday Club at noon with

Johnny and Jonathan Gillespie.

Bar Beag will have constant sessions all weekend from Davy Holt, Johnny and Jon-

athan, Alan Crookston and Alan Irvine.

Bands at the Tobermory Hotel are Trail West, Robert Robertson Band, Ho-Ro, Her-

on Valley, Ruairidh MacLean and other guests.

One of the festival organisers Neil Morrison from MacGochans said:

'We're in for a great weekend. We're looking forward to the crowds and back-to-back music. People can just turn up and join the party.'

on Valley, Ruairidh MacLean and other guests.

One of the festival organisers Neil Morrison from MacGochans said:

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One of the festival organisers Neil Morrison from MacGochans said:

'We're in for a great weekend. We're looking forward to the crowds and back-to-back music. People can just turn up and join the party.'



Oban-based band Chunks are playing at Mull Folk Festival this weekend.

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details  
To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Nadine or Rhona on **01631 568000**

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

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

**SIROCCO WINDS CONCERT**

Young dynamic wind quintet

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

Sun 29th Apr, 3.30pm

Cream Tea

£10 (£8 Friends) on door

**DIARDAOIN 19 GIBLEAN THURSDAY 19 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)

19.25 **Horò Gheallaidh** (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking Our Language** (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** – News

20.30 **UR | NEW: Fianais**

21.00 **Of Diabolical Purpose** (rpt)

22.00 **UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017: Tigerstyle**

22.30 **UR | NEW: Luinegan Lannsaireachd** (rpt)

23.15 **Ceòl Bho Perthshire** Amber (rpt)

23.25 **Seòid a' Chidsin** (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 20 GIBLEAN FRIDAY 20 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

18.35 **Machair** (rpt)

19.00 **An Là** – News

19.25 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)

19.30 **Alba: 1971** (rpt)

20.00 **Air an Urlar**(rpt)

**20.25 Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

**20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich**(rpt)

**21.00 Bothy Life**

**22.00 Seirm** (rpt)

**23.00 Secrets of the Moon Landings/An Rèis Diomhair Chun Na Gealaich** (rpt)

**23.50 Dhan Uisge** (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 21 MÀRT SATURDAY 21 APRIL**

16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

17.35 **Machair** (rpt)

18.00 **Scottish Premiership**

20.00 **Alba: 1972** (rpt)

20.30 **Lough Mi** (rpt)

21.00 **UR | NEW: Seirm**

22.00 **Luinegan Lannsaireachd** (rpt)

22.45 **Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)

22.55 **Scottish Premiership** (rpt)

**DIDÒMHAICH 22 GIBLEAN SUNDAY 22 APRIL**

16.00 **UR | NEW: Scottish League 1** – Alloa Athletic v Ayr United

18.20 **Ceòl Bho Perthshire** Amber (rpt)

**18.30 UR | NEW: Seachd Là** – Weekly news review

**19.30 Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)

**19.55 Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

**20.00 Fianais** (rpt)

**20.30 Fuine** – recipes for biscuits and traybakes (rpt)

**21.00 Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** (rpt)

**21.45 Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)

**22.00 Seirm** (rpt)

**23.00 Wild Yellowstone – Winter/Pàirc Yellowstone** – An Gearmhradh (rpt)

**23.50 Dhan Uisge** (rpt)

**DILUAIN 23 GIBLEAN MONDAY 23 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

19.00 **Innsean an Iar – Hebrides** (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** – News

20.30 **UR | NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich**

21.00 **Trusadh – Ceòl Chaluim** (rpt)

22.00 **Port** (rpt)

22.30 **Cluinneam!/The Switch On** (rpt)

23.30 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** (rpt)

**DIMÀIRT 24 GIBLEAN TUESDAY 24 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)

19.25 **Horò Gheallaidh Shorts** (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking Our Language** (rpt)

19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** – News

20.30 **Fuine** – recipes with seasonal fruits (rpt)

21.00 **UR | NEW: Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** – The ScotSTAR Transfer Service at work

21.45 **Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)

22.00 **Trusadh – Ceòl Chaluim** (rpt)

23.00 **Alba air Falach** (rpt)

23.25 **Dhan Uisge** (rpt)

23.30 **Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)

**DICIADAIN 25 GIBLEAN WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

19.00 **Stoidhle** (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** – News

20.30 **Lough Mi** – With guests (rpt)

21.00 **Diùth Anail: Beo Le Cystic Fibrosis** (rpt)

22.00 **UR | NEW: Seòid a' Chidsin** – The lads visit a micro brewery

22.30 **Port** (rpt)

22.55 **Of Diabolical Purpose** – (rpt)

**DIARDAOIN 26 GIBLEAN THURSDAY 26 APRIL**

17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming

19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)

19.25 **Horò Gheallaidh Shorts** (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking Our Language** (rpt)

19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** – News

20.30 **UR | NEW: Fianais** – John Morrison in conversation with Joe MacNeil about the Iranian Revolution of 1979

**21.00 Baby Killer ? Sgeulachd Jessie King** – The last woman executed, in Edinburgh (rpt)

**22.00 UR | NEW: Belladrum 2017: Vukovi**

**22.30 UR | NEW: Luinegan Lannsaireachd** – Surgeons give new hope to a young girl with bowed legs due to malnutrition

**23.10 Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)

**23.25 Seòid a' Chidsin** – the lads visit a micro brewery (rpt)

**BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER** Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

# Lady Mary's new chapter is book on Scotland's Tudor Queen

The story of how 90-year-old historian Lady Mary McGrigor became a prolific writer of royal biographies and other literary works really is the stuff of fairytales.

Growing up in a mediaeval castle in Blane, near Glasgow, surrounded by antiques and paintings ignited a lifetime fascination in history that has taken her on many a penned journey into the eventful lives of royals and other less regal worthies – including a Scottish sheep thief who became doctor to a tsar.

Still living in the family home bought decades ago for a Swallows and Amazons-style adventure with her four children on the edge of magnificent Loch Awe, Lady Mary's new offering, out in bookshops soon, will lift a lavish lid on Margaret, Scotland's Tudor Queen.

Margaret was just 13 when she was brought from England to Scotland to marry James IV who already had a rabble of illegitimate children with a string of mistresses.

All the ins and outs and intrigues of Margaret Tudor's rather racey life took the great-grandmother two years to put in the book that she wrote from her Port Sonachan home. It brings the grand total of her published works up to 18 – or thereabouts – although she admits she hasn't had the time to 'add it up lately'.

'Margaret Tudor was a rather intriguing character. Very officious, very promiscuous – a lot like her brother Henry VIII. I can't say I would have made a great friend of her. She was rather a difficult character, I think,' said Lady Mary, a witty and wise woman, savvy with

emails and a nifty user of Google.

Apparently one of Margaret Tudor's many escapades involved getting a monk to dress up in a blue gown to appear before her husband as a ghostly apparition in a bid to persuade him not to go into battle against the English. It did not stop him. He was later killed in the Battle of Flodden in 1513. She went on to re-marry – twice, before dying from a stroke in her early 50s.

Lady Mary's first history book, in 2000, was Argyll – Land of Blood and Beauty which captured a vast magical past, took 10 years to write and is still being snapped up today on Amazon.

The one after that was an edit of James McGrigor's autobiography. Not only was he Wellington's surgeon-general in Spain during

the Peninsula campaign, surviving battle, typhoid and shipwreck, to become the founding father of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was also an ancestor of her late husband, Sir Charles McGrigor.

She went on to tell of spies, admirals and princesses but her favourite account is that of The Tsar's Doctor – a remarkable true story of 'a pretty hopeless tearaway' called James Wylie born in Kincardine in 1767.

'He was up for stealing sheep but managed to hide in a hay cart to get away. He went to Russia, lots of Scots did in those days. We were much better friends with Russia 200 years ago than we are now,' she said.

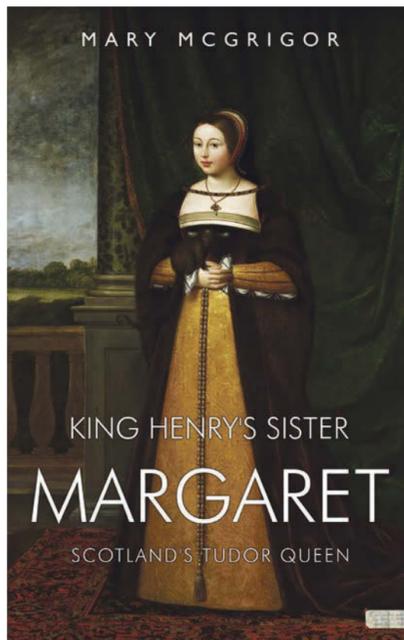
Wylie became one of the most celebrated doctors in Europe, performing the first tracheotomy operation

to be carried out in Russia on a favourite of Tsar Paul I who was so impressed he made him his personal doctor.

Taking a break from writing is out of the question for Lady Mary, whose first published work was a poem at the tender age of eight. She who wrote her first historical essay back in 1969 for a Scottish Women's Rural Institute and went on to become a regular contributor to Scottish Field magazine.

Work has already started on her next project, a book about England's King James I.

Never lost for words, Lady Mary said: 'He's called the Survivor because it took a number of attempts, including the Gunpowder Plot, to kill him. One of my ancestors was going to kidnap him at one stage but it never came off!'



Lady Mary McGrigor's new book out soon is Margaret, Scotland's Tudor Queen

# Proclaimers fans queue for hours for tickets

Around 200 Proclaimers fans queued outside the Corran Halls on Saturday when tickets for the band's Oban gig in August went on sale.

One man got there three hours before the box office doors opened at 9am with a whole line of others not far behind. Ali Martin from Benderloch was one of them and brought her friends along.

'I always hope they will play at Oban Live but

this will be the next best thing,' she said.

On Monday there were still some tickets left for the August 4 gig but they were selling fast at the venue, which can take up to 1,000 people.

Tickets on The Proclaimers website had almost sold out by the end of the weekend but more were expected to be released.

Twins Craig and Charlie Reid last gigged in Oban in 2009.



Ali Martin and friends from Benderloch were up early on Saturday to get tickets for The Proclaimers coming to Oban in August.



Proclaimers fans started queuing outside the Corran Halls from 6am on Saturday waiting for the Box Office to open at 9am.

# Kilmallie Singers joined by professionals for one of greatest classics – Mozart's Requiem

At their spring concert on Saturday April 28, Kilmallie Singers will be joined by some professional musicians to perform Mozart's Requiem, one of the great classics of the choral music repertoire.

The singers will be joined by four talented soloists, along with renowned organist Robin Verseeg, of Cairngorms Music.

This is the first time in several years that the choir has performed such a major work. A longstanding partnership with the Corran Singers of Lochgilphead came

to an end some years ago and staging such a large work since then has not been feasible.

Now, under the leadership of conductor Catherine Cameron, and with increased membership, the choir is delighted to be offering its audience the opportunity to enjoy this iconic work. As well as the Requiem, the programme in the second part of the concert will include works by Leonard Bernstein, born 100 years ago this year, and Andrew Lloyd Webber, who celebrated his 70th birthday in March.

Singing soprano is

Charlotte Sutton, who has sung with Kilmallie Singers on many occasions. Charlotte hails from New Zealand, where she trained at Victoria University before moving to Scotland. Marion Ramsay, originally from Islay, will sing the alto role. She has also sung with the choir before, while she was a student at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Marion is an acclaimed professional singer, much in demand across the UK.

Matthew McKinney and Will Frost will sing tenor and bass respec-

tively. They are currently third year undergraduate students at the Royal Conservatoire and already have extensive solo experience. They are also both winners of the prestigious Governors' Recital Prize for Chamber Music.

Kilmallie Singers are thrilled to be welcoming this wealth of talent to Fort William and to have the opportunity to perform with such fine musicians. The concert will begin at 7.30pm in the Duncansburgh church and tickets are available from members and at the door.





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**Sunday April 22nd**  
1.00pm - 3.00pm

**Oban Bay Pontoons**

An open invitation to come aboard for a tour of our vessels Emma Jane and Elizabeth G. Meet the crews and get information on our cruises

www.hebridescruises.co.uk

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



**Superbowl**  
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm



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

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

**Your local radio listings**

**OBAN FM** Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

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

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

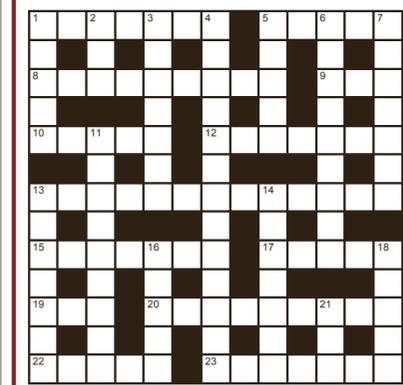
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh,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

**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

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

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

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 One who is miserly (7)
  - 5 Able to move freely with lubrication (5)
  - 8 Place of religious worship (9)
  - 9 In other words (3)
  - 10 A form of Arabic language (5)
  - 12 Work which requires a lot of effort (7)
  - 13 Shiny shoe material (6,7)
  - 15 Within the inner ear (7)
  - 17 Grandparent (5)
  - 19 They have the Stars and Stripes flag (3)
  - 20 Whirlpool (9)
  - 22 Pharaoh's land (5)
  - 23 Next to (7)
- Down**
- 1 Asian pear (5)
  - 2 Find out about a thing (3)
  - 3 Old English dialect (7)
  - 4 Picture taker (7,6)
  - 5 Watch word? (5)
  - 6 Sea monster (9)
  - 7 One who temporarily blinds (7)
  - 11 State governed by one with total power (9)
  - 13 Imagine (7)
  - 14 Memory loss (7)
  - 16 Restrict (5)
  - 18 Own up to (5)
  - 21 Move quickly (3)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

1	D	O	R	K	5	E	G	W	H	6	I	7	E	
2	I	E	T	O	E	N	A							
3	S	H	A	D	I	N	G	10	A	S	S			
4	T	L	U	M	M	Y	12	L	A	Y	O	F		
5	I	U	E											
6	C	H	10	P	P	Y	16	S	17	T	A	R	C	H
7	T	T												
8	A	T	H	20	O	M	E	21	E	S	22	T	E	R
9	G	O	V	P	U	E	S	I						
10	R	A	M	I	E	25	O	P	P	R	E	S	S	
11	I	A	R	S	S	N	E							
12	N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	27	I	S	L	E	

# Arena

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

## Comedy magic to be screened at restored Picture House

Scotland's Comedy Film Festival – SCOFF – has secured permission to screen the famous moment when two comedy legends met on film, it has been revealed.

The first edition of Scotland's only comedy film festival will take place in the restored Campbeltown Picture House over the weekend of May 11-13.

And as part of Bunker! – a programme of big screen comedy from the archives – the famous moment when Sir Harry Lauder and Charlie Chaplin met on film will be screened.

A 'short' made for cinemas in 1918, the eight-minute film sees Lauder join Chaplin in a couple of skits, including a mimicry of each other's well-known gait.

The film was made to promote a fundraising project Lauder had set up for soldiers injured during the First World War in memory of his son but the film was never finished or shown publicly.

Other films to be screened in Bunker! include classic Chic Murray visual gags, Stanley Baxter and Jimmy Logan being serious, and Rikki Fulton and Jack Milroy's brilliant Francie and Josie act.

Bunker! has been curated

by Shona Thomson from A Kind of Seeing who said: 'Scotland has an international reputation for its much-loved comedians and you can see it in the on-screen warmth between Sir Harry Lauder and Charlie Chaplin.'

'It's so exciting to be able to bring this selection of films from the collections of the National Library of Scotland, BFI National Archive, STV and The Chaplin Office/Roy Export SAS back to the big screen in the glorious Campbeltown Picture House.'

Ailsa MacKenzie, SCOFF programmer, added: 'We are delighted that we have been given the opportunity to screen the famous Lauder-Chaplin film.'

'Even more exciting, we will have live musical performance complementing the footage performed in the Picture House by acclaimed singer, BBC presenter and Lauder expert Jamie MacDougall, with Scottish Opera's Head of Music Derek Clark on piano.'

The live programme for SCOFF is headlined by Dave Johns, stand-up comic, writer and star of award-winning I, Daniel Blake, taking part in a special Desert Island Films

event with Paul Sneddon (aka Vladimir McTavish) and performing his acclaimed one-man show, I, Fillum Star, inspired by his extraordinary experience in the film world when he played the lead in Ken Loach's award-winning social drama.

Meanwhile in Spontaneous Potter, The Spontaneous Players will present an entirely new improvised Harry Potter comedy play, based on an audience suggestion of a title. An entirely new Potter adventure will be magically created on the spot – with live musical accompaniment.

Other screenings at SCOFF include Singalong Moana, Blazing Saddles, The Man in the White Suit, Bill Forsyth's That Sinking Feeling, international hit Toni Erdmann and more, along with a screening of musical Wind in the Willows starring Rufus Hound. Free events include animation and comedy workshops and drop-in screenings.

For full details and how to book visit [www.campbeltown-picturehouse.co.uk](http://www.campbeltown-picturehouse.co.uk) and follow CPH on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CampbeltownPictureHouse/> and Twitter: @CTPictureHouse



Douglas Fairbanks, Sir Harry Lauder, Sir Charlie Chaplin, Sydney Chaplin (Charlie's brother).

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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



### Small pipe class

BRIGHDE Chaimbeul, from Skye, and Alana MacInnes, from South Uist, are hosting a two-day small pipe workshop for intermediate and advanced pipers aged 12 and over for which there are still places available.

The workshops will take place on Mansfield Street between noon and 4pm on April 28 and 29 and cost £25 for the two days.

The workshops will be well worth attending for small pipe players as both Alana and Brighde are very talented young musicians.

To find out more or to book a place, contact [absipping@gmail.com](mailto:absipping@gmail.com)

### Club Film

ON TUESDAY April 24 at 7.15pm in the CCA on Sauchiehall Street,

ceol is craic are screening a film profiling the lives and music of the singing dynasty, the Campbells of Greepe.

The event is free entry and those wishing to improve their Gaelic ahead of the screening can head along at 6.30pm to a conversational class led by Gaelic tutor Janet Evans.

### Clydebank ceilidh

CLYDEBANK and District Highland Association are having their annual ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, tomorrow (Friday April 20) at 7.30pm.

The chairman for the evening is Angus MacKay and artistes are Paul MacCallum, Catriona Fair, Elspeth Davies and accordionist, Billy MacPhee.

Pipers for the evening are Robert Wood and Ian MacPhee and the accompanist is Kirsteen Grant. Admission at the door is £10, including tea, coffee and home baking.

### Donnie 'the Hearach' Campbell

LAST week I wrote about the passing of Donnie 'the Hearach' but was unsure of the details of his funeral.

I now know that, although he will be buried in his native island of Harris, there will be a Glasgow service on Wednesday April 25 in the Free Church on Crow Road.

### What's on

Friday April 20: Clydebank and Dis-

trict Highland Association ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

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

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

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

Saturday April 28: Ceòl Mòr Ostaig in the CCA at 7.30pm - an evening of music celebrating the contribution of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to Gaelic culture.

Tuesday May 8: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual general meeting at 7pm in An

Lèanag on Mansfield Square. Thursday May 10: Comunn an Tabh-an-iar annual general meeting at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club.

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

Friday May 25: Helensburgh and District Highland Association annual general meeting and dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

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

### Pub scene

Islay Inn. Friday April 20: Twist of Fate. Saturday April 21: Mookie.



South Uist piper, Alana MacInnes, pictured here at a Care for a Ceilidh event in Glasgow, will team up with Brighde Chaimbeul to host two small pipe workshops in Glasgow.

OBAN AND LORNE STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY

74th Anniversary

## FIDDLERS' RALLY CONCERT

Saturday, 28th April 2018  
Corran Halls, Oban 7.30pm

Guest Artistes  
**PAUL MACCALLUM**  
Mod Gold Medallist  
accompanied by Hamish Menzies

**RACHEL & EMMA DEANS**  
TV and Mod Favourites

Conductor: Helen Jordan      Chairman: Dugald Cameron

Tickets: £10.00    Concessions: £9.00    Family Ticket: £26.00  
available from Corran Halls Booking Office only Tel: 01631 567333

## SCOTTISH BALLET

Music by Herman Severin Løvenskjold

Limited tickets available

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MATTHEW BOURNE'S  
**Highland Fling**

29 - 30 April

ATLANTIS LEISURE, OBAN  
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## Rugby's silver Saturday

Join us for Silver Saturday at BT Murrayfield on April 28 as BT Cup finals combine with the 1872 Cup decider between Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors for the first time.

Included in the seven finals taking place on the day are Oban Lorne Ladies, who will battle for the BT Women's

Bowl against title-holders Garioch, on the BT Murrayfield back pitches at 11am.

Be there to cheer them on and enjoy a day of top-class rugby in both the club and professional games. Tickets on sale now at [scottishrugby.org](http://scottishrugby.org) or directly through Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Club.



**SILVER SATURDAY**  
28 April | BT Murrayfield

**WE'RE IN THE FINAL!**  
BT Women's Bowl Final  
**Garioch v Oban Lorne**  
11am, Back Pitches | BT Murrayfield

Tickets on sale now!  
Buy through the clubs or [scottishrugby.org](http://scottishrugby.org)

BT  
BT Murrayfield  
BT Women's Rugby

# Oban Unsigned 2018

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OBAN TIMES AND OBAN LIVE

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

OBANLIVE

## Introducing the Oban Unsigned shortlist

### WHO WILL PLAY AT THIS YEAR'S OBAN LIVE?

With the abundance of local talent right here on our doorstep, Oban Live – and The Oban Times, the event's media partner – have once again teamed up to give one local band or artist the chance to perform at Oban Live 2018. The winner will join an impressive list of artists from trad-stars Skerryvore and Skipinnish to Ireland's hottest band Hermitage Green, Sharon Shannon and more. Visit [obanlive.com](http://obanlive.com) for more details.

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

Last  
chance  
to vote!

#### Who chose the shortlist?

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

#### Finlay Wells

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

#### Campbell Cameron

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

#### Daniel Gillespie

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

#### Andy Bruce

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

#### Rory "O'B" Byrne

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

#### Kevin "K9" Irvine

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

## The shortlist

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

#### RHUVAAL

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

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



#### STEPHEN SKINN

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



#### EMMA LEITCH

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



#### NEON SHEBA

'Bringing people music that transcends genre and subtly outweighs the expectations of their listeners', Neon Sheba have become accustomed to playing Oban since their start in 2016. They recently recorded their EP in St Mary's Space in Fasnacloich, Appin, which will be released in the coming months.

They are inspired by the things they love to make understated alt-rock. Music and art is a massive part of their existence.



#### KATHLEEN ROBERTSON

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



## Vote for the Oban Unsigned winner!

There are two ways you can vote:

#### Online:

Visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/obanunsigned) to vote online. Only one vote allowed per email address.

#### Post:

Complete this voting coupon and post or hand in to: The Oban Times, Oban Unsigned Vote, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. All votes must be received by 11am, Monday April 23, 2018.

The Oban Times  
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OBANLIVE

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

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

Voting terms and conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. In the event of a tie the judging panel will decide on a winner. The deadline to receive votes is 11am, Monday April 23, 2018. One coupon counts as one vote. One vote per email address when voting online. Customer services: 01631 568000.

# BUSINESS NEWS

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

## Oban insurance broker taken over

JELF, a consultancy specialising in insurance, risk management and employee benefits – and which is part of Marsh, a major business in insurance broking and risk management solutions – announced it has reached an agreement to acquire Clark Thomson, Scotland's largest independent insurance broker.

Established in 1965, Clark Thomson is headquartered in Perth and has an office in Oban. With more than 200 employees, Clark Thomson provides insurance broking services to small- and medium-sized (SME) businesses, with particular expertise in the agriculture, renewable energy, food and drink, and retail sectors, as well as individuals and families.

Jelf is one of the UK's leading insurance brokers for mid-size and SME companies, with almost 3,000 staff serving more than 250,000 clients from over 75 locations.

Jelf will combine its existing Scottish operations and Clark Thomson into a single business unit. The combined business will, subject to regulatory approvals, be led by Ben Bailey, managing director of Clark Thomson, and a management team drawn from across Clark Thomson and Jelf.

Mr Bailey said: 'This deal is great news for our clients and colleagues alike. Through Jelf, our clients will have access to a wider range of services and solutions, while colleagues will benefit from being part of Marsh's wider global network. I look forward to bringing Jelf and Clark Thomson's operations together, and building the leading advisory business in Scotland.'

Phil Barton, chief executive of Jelf, said: 'This is a highly significant transaction that underlines Jelf's commitment to building the leading community-based advisory business across the UK. We are significantly broadening our geographic reach.'



Cruachan power station was the backdrop for the launch of Nissan's latest LEAF electric car.

## Cruachan backdrop for launch of LEAF

SCOTLAND'S biggest battery helped mark the launch of the new 2018 Nissan LEAF, amid the stunning backdrop of the southern Highlands.

Cruachan, the hidden power station, lies a kilometre below the ground with enormous turbines converting water from the nearby Loch Awe into electricity. Essentially a giant battery, it also stores water in a second man-made loch halfway up Ben Cruachan – to be released when called upon by the National Grid – and reverses the process by pumping water back up when needed to expel excess energy too.

Now it has taken on a different role as the pumped storage hydroelectric energy was used to showcase the power of the second generation Nissan LEAF.

With one new Nissan LEAF sold every 12 minutes in Eu-

rope, and more than 20,000 orders placed to date, electric vehicles are growing in popularity.

Keith Anderson, ScottishPower chief executive, explained: 'It's been great to welcome the launch of the new Nissan LEAF to Cruachan. With the popularity of electric vehicles on the rise, it's important we continue to support the demands on the National Grid and also consider where the energy comes from and how it is generated. If the aim is to reduce carbon emissions, it makes sense to generate electricity using the cleanest methods we can.'

'Although Cruachan was built more than 50 years ago, we've invested heavily in it and it's fantastically cutting-edge.'

'The proven technology works like a very large battery, storing water in a reservoir up

the mountain and releasing it to produce huge amounts of electricity in as little as 30 seconds.

'At full capacity, Cruachan can generate 440MW – that's enough electricity to power a city the size of Edinburgh. Looking to the future, demand for electricity can only grow and that's why as a utility company, we need to have generation flexibility and to be able to send power to the grid quickly when needed. Cruachan can do that very successfully, which is why we're now looking at its expansion.'

Scottish Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse added: 'This is a fantastic example which demonstrates the very important role that power stations like Cruachan can play in not only sustainably generating electricity, but also providing grid-scale storage of electric-

ity generated from renewable electricity sources, enabling it to be drawn down on demand.'

'Today's event reflects well the bold vision set out in our programme for government for mass ownership of ultra-low emission vehicles, with a target to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans in Scotland by 2032.'

'The Scottish Government's energy strategy highlights the importance for our energy system of pumped hydroelectricity storage in Scotland, and we believe that investment in expanded capacity in Scotland could greatly enhance the flexibility and resilience of our electricity network and power supplies for customers across Scotland and the wider GB network.'

'This is something we continue to actively lobby UK ministers to support.'

## Fusion Marine and Gael Force join forces

OBAN-BASED Fusion Marine and the Gael Force Group have announced they are to join forces, with Gael Force buying a 75 per cent stake in the fish farm pen manufacturer.

The deal, which is for an undisclosed sum, is on course to conclude this month, following the completion of normal due diligence.

'The companies see an excellent strategic fit which will ensure that the companies can, by combining their resource and wealth of experience, jointly invest in developing new and innovative products while continuing to provide competitive pricing and high service levels through close partnering with their respective customers.'

Commenting on the deal, Gael Force MD Stewart Graham said: 'Both our companies are friends in the market and have worked together for many years – we are delighted to have reached this agreement with Fusion Marine.'

'Our discussions have highlighted just how aligned we are and what a good fit both companies are for each other, and for our key customer offering.'

'We look forward to welcoming Fusion Marine into the Gael Force family on completion.'

'Our combined expertise, ex-

perience and product range will help both Fusion and Gael Force drive growth both in the Scottish market and in our target export markets too.'

'All of us at Gael Force are hugely excited by the growth opportunities this deal presents and look forward to working with our friends at Fusion Marine to grow our combined business.'

Fusion Marine managing director Stephen Divers said: 'It has been very clear throughout discussions that the common values and approach to business we share with Gael Force will enable both companies to combine our strengths to invest in new innovative products and solutions for the industry, and continue to deliver the best service for our customers, both in Scotland and overseas.'

'Our focus is on our customers and we have great confidence that working together in the Gael Force Group we are even better positioned to deliver value to the market in support of our long standing key customers.'

Once completed, the deal will see Gael Force further expand and develop their capabilities in end-to-end supply and manufacture of fish farming products and services.

## Interface links businesses with academic expertise

RELATIONSHIPS between business and academia have long been key drivers of economic growth and a vital part of industry innovation.

Now, more than ever, building successful, sustaining links between business and academia is crucial for the economy, and Interface is helping to forge those links for businesses and organisations across the Highlands and Islands.

Interface was established in 2005 as a central hub to connect organisations from Scotland's industries to all of its universities, research institutes and colleges. Whether it is a large international

business or a small family-owned firm, Interface can help find the right academic partner.

Local businesses such as Craine Communications, Johnnie Mac's Oysters, Staffin Community Trust and Zing Organics have all benefited from Interface's matchmaking skills.

'Interface provides a free and impartial service, open to businesses and organisations alike, wherever they are in Scotland,' said Interface business engagement executive Carol-Ann Adams.

Call Carol-Ann on 01463 245 262 or email Carol-Ann.Adams@interface-online.org.uk.

# BUSINESS MATTERS

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## Secrets on how to avoid cyber attacks

THE man behind a social enterprise servicing the IT sector in the Highlands and Islands has been advising businesses in Argyll on how to protect themselves from cyber crime.

David Massey, managing director of The Apprentice Store in Inverness, has been meeting with businesses in Oban and Lochgilphead as part of Business Gateway's Cyber Security Essentials workshops across Scotland this year.

Businesses can find themselves targeted by hackers but, through the workshops, attendees were offered advice on how to protect themselves.

They learned how to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact if their business suffers a cyber attack.

The content included pass-



David Massey with recently appointed new apprentice Nicole Macdonald.

word management, spotting phishing emails, avoiding ransom ware, antivirus software and firewalls.

Cyber Essentials is a government-backed scheme designed to protect organisations, of

whatever size, against the most common cyber attacks.

To date, Mr Massey has advised more than 100 businesses. He said: 'Cyber security is a major issue that many businesses have to deal

with at the moment. By taking just a few simple steps, you can reduce your chances of being hacked and minimise the impact if your business does suffer a cyber attack.'

'Being able to engage with businesses in Argyll through these workshops has been great and hopefully means those who took part can avoid cyber attacks.'

The workshops are part of DigitalBoost, funded by Digital Scotland and delivered by Business Gateway.

The Apprentice Store is building up its client base in Argyll with companies able to purchase 'apprentice days' to give them access to apprentices, who are supported by mentors with years of industry experience, to deliver a number of services for them, including cyber security.

## Openreach to recruit 38 trainees in Argyll

AROUND 400 trainee engineers will be hired across Scotland – including 38 in Argyll and Bute – as part of the largest recruitment drive ever undertaken by BT Openreach.

The announcement follows news that Openreach, Scotland's leading digital network business, will accelerate plans to build more ultrafast Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband across the UK.

The 38 posts in Argyll and Bute will be based in locations such as Minard, Carradale, Dalmally and Glendaruel.

Clive Selley, chief executive of Openreach, said: 'These trainee engineers will be playing a vital role in the



BT Openreach trainee engineers.

future success and prosperity of Scotland. We are already investing in upskilling our engineering team and today's announcement of new jobs underlines our commitment

to make our "Fibre First" programme a reality.'

The Scottish Government's Connectivity Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'This is very welcome news for broadband

users across Scotland, not to mention the 400 trainee engineers who will help to implement Openreach's ambitious plans. Last year when I met Openreach I was reassured by their plans to hire more engineers and today's announcement shows that they acted upon it.'

'It's particularly encouraging to see that these engineers will be based across the country, with that influx of new jobs and skilled employees set to benefit some of Scotland's more rural areas.'

To find out more about the trainee scheme, visit [www.btplc.com/Careercentre/careersatbt/openreach/Engineers/index.htm](http://www.btplc.com/Careercentre/careersatbt/openreach/Engineers/index.htm)

# FARMING NEWS

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## Crofting reform will be done in two phases

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

THE Scottish Government's plans for legislative reform of crofting have now been outlined by Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity.

This follows on from the Consultation on the Future of Crofting Legislation, which received responses up until November 20, 2017, and the subsequent analysis of the responses published on March 21, 2018.

Mr Ewing, commenting on the analysis report, said: 'The results made for interesting reading and the diversity of responses only highlighted the scale of the challenge ahead.'

'After careful consideration, there does not appear to be a consensus that would allow me to decide on specific pieces of legislative reform. I was also



Fergus Ewing MSP.

presented with a dilemma over deciding the best legislative approach to take, as the analysis highlighted almost equal proportions of support for new crofting legislation, versus making changes to existing legislation and restating or consolidating the law.

'Following the publication of the analysis report, I met with the cross-party group on

crofting to outline how I wish to take matters forward and to hear members and MSPs' views.

'I am proposing a two-phase approach to legislative reform, with a first phase in the shorter term, leading to a Bill in this parliamentary session.

'This first phase will focus on delivering changes which carry widespread support, including across the Scottish Parliament, and result in practical everyday improvements to the lives of crofters and/or streamline procedures that crofters are required to follow.

'I am keen to fully involve and engage MSPs with crofting interests to ensure that their ideas and proposals can be considered and taken forward in legislation.

'The second phase is longer term work, where I have asked my officials to continue with fundamentally reviewing crofting legislation to provide

a solution to some of the more complex and challenging issues facing crofting, and what that might mean for how legislation is developed in future. This work will begin now but will be for a future parliament to deliver.'

Crofting lawyer Brian Inkster, welcoming this approach, said: 'This seems an eminently sensible way for the Scottish Government to take legislative reform forward. It has recognised the complexities involved and that all that needs to be sorted probably can't be easily sorted in just one parliamentary term.'

'Thus splitting reform over two parliamentary terms should allow a comprehensive and considered approach to crofting reform, unlike the rushed approach that led to the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. That rushed approach created many of the problems requiring to be resolved today.'

## Around the markets

**Stirling** – United Auctions on Thursday April 12 sold 7063 prime sheep comprising of 29 new season lambs average of 298.93p and 5856 old season lambs average of 244.66p and 1178 ewes and rams.

New season lambs (29) – West Carse (Suff) £151; West Lecropt (Hamp) £150; Langside (Char) £149; 2 Keltie Bridge (X) £117. New season lambs (29) – Pyeston (Suff) £320; Langside (Char) 318p; West Lecropt (Hamp) 317p; 2 Keltie Bridge (X) 293p.

Old season lambs (5856) – Catcune (Tex) £176; Broadleys (BFL) £148; Stanley (Suff) £137; South Park (Chev) £137; Dalchirla (BF) £133; Henderston (Mule) £132; Calfward (BTEX) £126.

Old season lambs (5856) – Luckenburn (Tex) 339p; Craggan (BTEX) 315p; Southpark (Chev) 309p; Muirhouses (Suff) 274p; Kilmundie and Chamberwells (BF) 265p; Glendamp (Mule) 264p; Glendamp (BFL) 251p.

Ewes (1178) – Newton Of Collessie (Suff) £178; Glenrath and Leaston (Tex) £150; Broadleys (BFL) £145; Southfield (Char) £133; Easter Middleton (HB) £132; West Lecropt (Hamp) £132; Longcarse (Mule) £120; South Park (BF) £95. Rams – Cretelevane (BFL) £146; Middlehill (Tex) £124; Ledlation (Zwa) £120.

**Stirling** – Caledonian Marts on Thursday April 12 sold 182 cattle, comprising 81 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 79 cast cows and bulls, and 22 young calves.

Prime bullocks averaged 218p. Prime heifers averaged 228p. Young bulls averaged 193p.

Beef cows averaged 153p. Dairy cows averaged 103p. Bullocks sold to 250p from W Dandie, Learielaw, purchased by T Johnston Butcher, Falkirk and to £1783.60 from M I Wainwright, Todhall to J Hastie Butcher, Markinch.

Heifers sold to 252p on two occasions, from A Pettigrew, Faskine to D Campbell Butcher, Ancaster Square and from W Dandie, Learielaw to W W Wales Ltd, Kilmarnock, and to £1651.40 from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill to W W Wales Ltd, Kilmarnock. Young bulls sold to 225p from W Dick, Mains of Throsk and to £1568.16 from R and L McCulloch, Over Hillhouse. Leading prices

Bullocks p/kg: 248p Easter Ochtermuthill 245p Todhall and Crawtree 242p Learielaw 238p Blairhall 235p Learielaw. Bullocks per head: £1635 and £1631 Learielaw £1620 Highholm £1607 Moorfield £1597 Easter Ochtermuthill £1565 Learielaw £1543 Rathillet.

Heifers p/kg: 250p Learielaw and Todhall 248p Easter Ochtermuthill 245p Upper Spittalton (twice) and Faskine 238p Blairhall, Easter Ochtermuthill and Upper Spittalton.

Heifers per head: £1585 Easter Ochtermuthill £1542 Learielaw £1533 Upper Spittalton

£1455 Learielaw £1421 Upper Spittalton. OTM cattle sold to 182p and £1510.60 from Ferguson Bros, Gillandersland.

All classes of cows are required on a weekly basis. Contact Oliver Shearman for more information on 07730 046252. Beef cows averaged 153p selling to 190p from Glenside Farming, and to £1430 from W Dick, Mains of Throsk.

Dairy cows averaged 103p selling to 135p from W Waugh, North Bankhead, and to £900 from J and J Kinloch, Walton.

Other leading prices: Beef cows per head: £1380. Mains of Throsk and South Woodlane £1360 Easterton £1320 South Woodlane £1280 Rathillet.

Beef cows per kilo: 187p Mains of Throsk 180p Glenside and Mains of Throsk 177p Upper Spittalton 172p Glenside.

Dairy cows per head: £840. North Bankhead £830 Greenrigg £770 North Bankhead £730 East Drumlembie and Boclair.

Dairy cows per kilo: 122p North Bankhead 120p Walton 116p Greenrigg 115p Boclair. It was also the fortnightly sale of calves. A smaller show of 22 was forward, selling to a top price of £230 for a Shorthorn X Heifer Calf from D. Cowey, Feddams, Cardross.

Other leading prices: Black and white bull calves: £68. Barbeth £58 and 50 Gartentruach £42 Nyadd.

Ayrshire bull calves: £48 and £42 Newlands. The next sale of calves will be April 26. For more details, contact David Erskine on 07900 435700.

**Dingwall** – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Wednesday April 11 sold 479 store cattle and 126 breeding heifers.

Store bullocks (246) averaged 240.7p and sold to 276.3p per kg for a 380kg Charolais cross from 2 Lochend, Thurso, and £1,260 gross for a 542kg Charolais cross from Shawpark, North Kessock.

Store heifers (233) averaged 227.3p and sold to 285.1p per kg and £1,220 gross for a pair of 428kg Simmental crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Breeding heifers including HiHealth (126) averaged 245.7p and sold to 302.5p per kg for a pen of 433kg Simmental crosses from Kinnahaird Farm, Contin and £1,400 gross twice for a pen of 473kg Simmental crosses from Kinnahaird Farm and a pair of 630kg Simmental crosses from Smallburn Farms, Elgin.

Breeding cattle (3) sold to £1,900 for a Limousin cross bull from Kirkhill Farm, Alves. Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks up to 250kg – 2 Station Road, Plockton, £600, 244.9p; 251-300kg – Nottingham Mains, Latheron, £790, 271.5p; 301-350kg – Raitcastle Farm, Nairn, £920, 269.8p; 351-400kg – 2 Lochend, Thurso, £1,050, 3 Easter Kinkell, Dingwall, 272.2p; 401-450kg – 2

Kingsburgh, Portree, £1,090, Kinchyle Farm, Scaniport, 256.0p; 451-500kg – Kinchyle Farm, £1,190, 247.9p; 501-550kg – Shawpark, £1,210, 232.5p; Heifers up to 250kg – Erchite, Dores, £590, 256.5p; 251-300kg – Druid Temple Farm, Inverness, £780, 264.4p; 301-350kg – 2 Kingsburgh, £840, Raitcastle Farm, 255.0p; 351-400kg – Torgorm, £940, Whitebog, Rosemarkie, 244.5p; 401-450kg – Torgorm, £1,160, 269.8p; 451-500kg – Torgorm, £1,170, Kindeace, Alness, 243.8p; 501-550kg – Shawpark, £1,200, 230.8p; 551-600kg – Shawpark, £1,210, 212.3p; Breeding heifers including Hi Health; Druid Temple Farm, Inverness, (BRB), £1,390; Kinnahaird Farm, (SimX), £1,360; Sunnylea, Balblair, (LimX), £1,360; Kinnahaird Farm, (SimX), £1,350; Smallburn Farms, (BRB), £1,350. Prime and feeding OTM cows (19) averaged 134.8p and sold to 166.1p per kg for a Limousin cross from Croft Martin, Kingussie and £1,390 gross for a Limousin cross from Balculchaich, Nairn.

Prime and feeding bulls (2) sold to 359.3p and £1,225.96 gross for a Luining from Culmally Farm, Golspie. Other leading prices per head: Prime and feeding OTM cows: Tighnahinch, Conon Bridge, (LimX), £1,190; Tighnahinch, (LimX), £1,110; Kinnahaird Farm, (AAX), £1,070; Croft Martin, (SimX), £1,070.

Other leading prices per kg: Prime and feeding OTM cows: Bulculchaich, (LimX), 163.5p; Croft Martin, (SimX), 162.1p; Tighnahinch, (LimX), 160.9p; 1 and 2 Stenschooll, Staffin, (LimX), 158.5p.

**Stirling** – United Auctions on Wednesday April 11 sold 2080 store, native bred cattle and young bulls, 39 breeding cattle, 117 cast cows and forward cattle and 1029 store and breeding sheep.

Bullocks (1258) averaged 233.32p to 275.70p per kg for a 272kg LimX from Leoch and £1350 for a 592kg AAX from Victoria.

B & W Bullocks (43) averaged 145.20p to 168.90p per kg for a 530kg HFX from Langhill and £1050 for a 492kg HFX from Brandon.

Heifers (718) averaged 224.13p to 262.00p per kg for a 324kg CHX from Kings Arms and £1250 for a 544kg AAX from Kinaldy.

Young bulls (61) averaged 212.81p to 250.00p per kg for a LimX from Clatto and £1290 for a AAX from Dustyhall. Beef cows (98) averaged 156.35p to 206.00p per kg for a LimX from Greenbank and £1550 for a LimX from Chartershall.

Dairy cattle (7) – averaged 95.21p to 106.60p per kg for a HFX from Kaimhill and £695 for a HFX from Kaimhill. Forward cattle (12) – averaged 187.93p to 210.40p per kg for a BAX from Knockeen and £1290 for a BAX from Knockeen.



Left to right are Martin Kennedy, Jonnie Hall, David Mundell, Andrew McCornick and Clare Slipper.

## NFUS leaders meet Scottish secretary

NFU SCOTLAND leaders have met the Secretary of State for Scotland to discuss Brexit.

NFU president Andrew McCornick and vice-president Martin Kennedy met David Mundell at the NFU Scotland offices in Ingliston this month. Also present at the meeting was director of policy Jonnie Hall and political affairs manager Clare Slipper.

The topic of discussion was progress in the Brexit negotiations and NFU Scotland's newly-launched document Steps to Change: A New Agricultural Policy for Scotland.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr McCornick said: 'Today's catch-up with the

Secretary of State for Scotland is the latest in a long line of meetings the union has held with UK and Scottish governments in recent months on Brexit.

'Our constructive discussions focused on the importance of finding common agreement on a future policy framework that ensures common standards are adhered to, but allows future agricultural policies to be developed and delivered by the devolved administrations.

'As part of this, agreement on a financial settlement to fund the new agricultural policies of the UK will be paramount.

'It is clear, however, that agreement

on these two vital issues is still yet to be found between the UK and Scottish Governments and it is our hope that progress can be made in the coming weeks to allow negotiations to move to the next stage.

'NFU Scotland hopes that it can be part of this process and it is my belief that our proposals, set out in our Steps to Change document which was published last week, can form part of the solution.

'We are delighted that our document has been broadly welcomed to date and look forward to continuing these discussions with governments, parliamentarians and stakeholders in due course.'

## Farmers warned of power line risk

FARMERS are being urged to 'Look out, look up' as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) aims to raise safety awareness when working near overhead power lines and poles.

SSEN wants to highlight the possible dangers faced by the agricultural industry as farmers and contractors approach the busiest months of their year, and is sharing practical advice with the farming community to help them avoid incidents and accidents related to power supplies.

Last year, SSEN recorded more than 780 incidents on agricultural land across its infrastructure where third parties came into contact with poles, overhead lines and cables, cutting off local electricity supplies and having the potential to cause serious injury, or worse.

To ensure farmers and their teams are armed with the knowl-

edge they need to stay safe in the field this summer and beyond, SSEN is using radio, print press and online messaging as well as issuing the following advice:

□ 'Look out, look up' before you start work in any areas where electricity lines are present.

□ Be aware of the height of machinery that will be in use near lines and ensure there's plenty of clearance – remember that electricity can 'jump' if an object comes near enough.

□ If you do come in to contact with an overhead line or cable, stay in your cab or vehicle and try to avoid touching anything metal within it.

□ Call 105 immediately – this is the UK-wide single emergency number for power companies and is the quickest way to put you through to the correct network operator.

□ If the situation is too danger-

ous to stay put – ie, if the machinery is affected by fire – then it's advised that you leap out of the vehicle as high and as far as you can to avoid touching any part of the machinery or electricity network.

Richard Gough, head of safety, health and environment, said: 'The Look out, look up message encourages anyone working in the fields to take stock of their surroundings and the overhead lines that may run across or into the land, as our rural landscape changes by the season.'

Trees and hedgerows may have grown since the last time you checked and now obscure the nearby lines, intense heat in the summer can cause lines to sag slightly and working with different styles or heights of machinery may bring you closer to the lines than in previous years.'

www.ssen.co.uk/SafetyLeaflets

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THE PICK-UP PROFESSIONALS

**S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr.**  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 07831 808702

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discount Scheme call John Spicer at S&S Services on 07831 808702 or 01292 880080

NFU Scotland

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Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

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E-MAIL: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.



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

**Reporting to the IT Manager you will work with every department throughout Wyvex Media providing support, troubleshooting, repairs, advice, training and development.**

You will require:-  
An HNC/HND in computers or related suitable technical subject.  
At least 3 years experience in an IT Support Helpdesk or similar, Cpanel, Wordpress, Apache, Microsoft Office (2000 to latest version Word/Excel/Powerpoint), ISDN and IP Telephone systems (AVAYA preferred), Phone cabling/wiring/Broadband configuration. Server 2009 - 2016. Windows 7 - 10 (Some legacy OS systems and a thorough understanding of CLI or Powershell).  
A sound knowledge of networking, switches, testing routers, configuring and maintaining VPN and IP configuration/troubleshooting is essential.  
Knowledge of Survey Monkey/Wufoo/Mailchimp, building and maintaining Wordpress Websites an advantage as would some experience of Adobe Products (Indesign, Photoshop), experience with Digital SLR cameras and video equipment/editing with Adobe Premiere or similar.  
A keen interest in legacy, existing and emerging technology.  
Ability to troubleshoot and make diagnosis and repair quickly.  
Ability to work under pressure.  
Ordered working methods - and the ability to work on your own initiative when required.  
An excellent telephone manner and ability to convey technical issues clearly to members of staff, customers and 3rd party suppliers/contractors as well as clear and concise report writing.  
The right candidate will be able to help shape the use of technology and systems moving forwards within Wyvex Media in the future.  
In addition to salary we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance. A current full, clean driving licence is essential for travel to other sites, on a regular and "as required" basis.  
**Please send your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)**

## Argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

### Reporter

Here at Wyvex Media, publisher of The Oban Times, the West Highland's best-selling weekly newspaper, we pride ourselves on producing quality grassroots journalism.

A vacancy has arisen for an ambitious reporter with plenty of ideas, energy and enthusiasm to be based in our Lochgilhead office; someone who can really get under the skin of our communities to find the stories that will engage readers. Ideally you'll have passed your NCTJ diploma exams, including shorthand. You must hold a full current driving licence.

As digital plays an increasingly important part in our news coverage, ideally you will be confident in the use of social media and digital storytelling techniques.

In return, we're offering a fantastic opportunity for a qualified reporter to join one of Scotland's leading independent news publishers, with a salary and conditions that reflect this - private health care, enhanced pension and life assurance.

Please apply by email with full CV and contact details to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



### Pier Operatives

**£16,167 - £17,112 per annum** Oban Lorn & Isles Ref: ARB03039

Argyll and Bute Council require 3 Pier Operatives, to assist the Harbourmaster to ensure the safe operation of the Oban North Pier Pontoons, North Pier and other A&BC marine facilities within Oban Lorn & Isles area. These are seasonal posts with an anticipated end date of 30/09/2018. 37 hours per week to be worked on a flexible basis plus additional hours to suit the requirements of the service.

**For further information please contact Vicki McKenzie, Harbourmaster on 01631 562892.**

Closing date: 27 April 2018.  
To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

### Estate worker

A position is available on a large private estate on the Isle of Islay. Job description will include grass cutting, gardening, maintenance of river banks, assisting head gamekeeper on low ground shoot and deer management duties, carrying out non-specialist property maintenance on holiday cottages and other estate buildings. Potential for partner to work part time, assisting in housekeeping work and holiday cottage changeovers. Accommodation available.

**Enquiries and CVs to:**  
Email: [lagganproperties@btinternet.com](mailto:lagganproperties@btinternet.com)  
Tel: (01496) 810235



### Recruitment HIJOBS

#### Glencoe Village

Responsible person required for cleaning/laundry service for self-catering cottage in Glen Coe Village on Fridays. Generous rates of pay for the right applicant.

**Telephone 07530724296 or 07530727643**

### Holiday Home Sales Executive

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Competitive Salary,  
Excellent Commission, Benefits

Are you passionate about the beautiful landscapes of Scotland? Do you enjoy selling a quality product that absolutely delivers what it promises?

If you have passion, enthusiasm and selling ability this is the role for you.

Previous experience of holiday home sales is not required but a positive, energetic and ambitious personality coupled with the proven ability to broker deals is essential.

Full driving license essential.  
CVs to [hr@argyllholidays.com](mailto:hr@argyllholidays.com) or call Lorraine on 01301 705657.

### Finance Assistant

**Lochgilhead Permanent**

**£17,021 - £20,024**  
**35 hours per week**

This post requires a Basic Disclosure Scotland check.  
To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk)  
If you cannot access the website, please contact the recruitment team:  
**01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)**

**For more information, please contact Laura Henderson on 01546 605826 or email [laura.henderson@acha.co.uk](mailto:laura.henderson@acha.co.uk)**  
**Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 4th May 2018.**  
**Interviews will be held on Friday 18th May 2018 in Lochgilhead.**

RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS  
RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS

### North Argyll Carers Centre

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

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

**Administration and Finance Co-ordinator**  
24 hours a week - £20,125 pro-rata

**For an application pack or more information contact**  
**North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564 422/ 07771647290**  
**or email [morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk](mailto:morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk)**

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process.  
**CLOSING DATE: Monday 23rd April 2018**

### Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust

#### SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICE

**1 Full Time/2 Part Time Employees/Self Employed**

Fixed Term Contract - Salary/Fee Negotiable

The Trust is seeking the provision of a support service to assist it in achieving its aims and objectives as set out in the constitution. The service can be provided on a direct employment, self employed or consultancy basis. The fixed term contract will last until 31st March 2019.

The service will consist of providing general administrative support to the Board of Directors; assisting the Trust and other community organisations in seeking funding; the preparation of projects; identifying training needs; preparing an asset register and liaising with other organisations both locally and nationally.

If provided on a part time basis then one of the posts can be mainly general administration. Anyone interested in providing this service in whole or in part should email [info@tsct.org](mailto:info@tsct.org) to arrange an informal chat or to send out an information pack

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES: TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000 Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am-5pm FAX: 01631 568001 POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9-5pm, Fri 9-4pm E-MAIL: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk) Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

#### BREADALBANE STREET, TOBERMORY

- Mid-terraced house
- 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/WC
- Traditional & unique home
- Tastefully decorated
- Garden & decking area
- EPC Rating C41

**OIRO £220,000**

We are delighted to present 15 Breadalbane Street, Tobermory for sale. This fantastic mid-terraced property was tastefully renovated just 4 years ago, retaining many of its traditional features to make an excellent family home. On entering the property, you are welcomed into the open plan kitchen and lounge space. The kitchen is modern and well-equipped and has space for a dining table in the middle. The warm welcome can be attributed to the large multi-fuel stove in the lounge, which serves the radiators around the house.

#### TARBAT HOUSE, BUNESSAN

- Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Far reaching views
- Established Holiday Let
- Low maintenance garden
- EPC Rating - D68

**OIRO £210,000**

A spacious 1 & 1/2 storey 4 bedroom detached house with far reaching views near the village of Bunessan. Built 12 years ago by the current owners, the property is currently run as a holiday let averaging 25 weeks per year. The ground floor accommodation comprises a small porch, hall, modern kitchen diner complete with gas hob, a bright lounge with patio doors to the garden, utility room and two double bedrooms (1 en-suite) both with built in storage. Upstairs there are two large bedrooms with large Velux windows where far reaching views can be enjoyed towards the sea and Ardmearach peninsula.

#### CNOC-A-CHALLTUINN, OBAN

- End Terraced house
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/1 WC
- Island location close to Oban
- Manageable garden
- Well maintained
- EPC Rating F (36)

**OIEO £150,000**

5 Cnoc-A-challtuinn is in the desirable location of Clachan on the Isle of Seil. The property comprises a generous sunroom to the front which enjoys views across the Sound of Seil. A perfect spot for reading in the afternoon or entertaining guests. Through the hall is a cosy lounge/diner with windows front and back allowing plentiful natural light. The kitchen has modern fitted units and worktop with integral electric oven and hob. A back door allows access to the rear garden.

### GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON LANDLORD REGISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT

ADVERTORIAL

the 100 per cent joint owner discount and the 50 per cent multiple area discount to better reflect the administrative costs in processing applications;

Charging a fee to those who need to update the register to because of a change in circumstances to cover the cost of processing these updates;

Offering discounts to landlords who have undergone training or are members of accreditation scheme in order to reward best practice.

The consultation deadline for responding is June 7, 2018. The Scottish Association of Landlords (SAL) will be submitting a response on behalf of members and is encouraging all members to submit their own responses.

SAL has already reported to the Scottish Government concerns about enforcement of the system and the reluctance of some local authorities to use the register to disseminate information to landlords.

The Scottish Government has published a consultation on making changes to the landlord registration system. This includes considering changes in the following:

An inflationary increase in the principal fee/property fee from £55/£11 to £70/£14;

- Requiring landlords to confirm and/or evidence that they are adhering to legislation including safety certificate, EPC and legionnaires requirements in order to ensure landlords are aware of/adhering to their responsibilities;
- An extra charge (approximately £2) on the principal fee to cover the cost of running the online registration system;
- Removing the 10 per cent online application discount.

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[www.west-property.co.uk](http://www.west-property.co.uk)  
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MEMBER AGENT  
TEL NO: 01631 569 466  
TEL NO: 01397 747 123  
Zoopla rightmove

### FOR SALE Queen Street, Dunoon

**OIRO £149,500**

Lovely 3 bed end-terrace family home with front and back gardens and driveway. The end property in a row of traditional Victorian villas in popular Queen Street, a short stroll from the town centre, and boasts a spacious sitting room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, cloakroom / utility room, separate cloakroom and bathroom. Adorned with many original features such as high ceilings, cornicing, deep skirting, archways, wooden flooring, decorative door-glazing and a lovely staircase this is sure to appeal to anyone looking for a practical family house full of character with added bonuses of lovely views, gardens and a driveway.

For more information contact: 01369 701755  
[info@watersideprop.com](mailto:info@watersideprop.com) [www.watersideprop.com](http://www.watersideprop.com)

### TO LET

Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt.

2 bedroom Cottage.  
DG. Front and back Gardens

**£550**

07989416354  
01505 320131

west coast PROPERTY west coast

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Argyll and Bute Council PLANNING These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AN, 1A Manse Brae Lochlighead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk...

www.highland.gov.uk TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk or electronically at your nearest Service Point...

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 2018' Cycling Event) Order 2018 to enable the following prohibitions or restrictions to be introduced when such a restriction or prohibition is identified as applying to the whole or a part or parts of the length of road by means of one or more of the traffic signs prescribed in diagram 7105 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016(b) or by means of no waiting cones, as prescribed or authorised in section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (C1205 AONACH MOR ROAD, TORLUNDY) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2018 On 10 April 2018 The Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, in order to restrict traffic movements on the road during the UCI World Mountain Bike Cup taking place at Nevis Range, Torlundy on 1st - 3rd June 2018...

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share Sandra Teo is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the Croft at 132 Kilmorey, Ardnarmurchan and Sunart, to Edward Martin Holt in the Kilmorey Common Grazings of Kilmorey, by Acharacle, Argyll PA36 4LG.

First Registration of a Croft Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 5 (1) Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF A GRAZING SHARE Mrs Donald Cameron MacKinnon is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of Croft 9 Upper Scotstown (Share), Ardnarmurchan and Sunart to John Ehrlich Troup of Fernbank, Scotstown, Strontian, PH36 4JB.

First Registration of a Croft Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 4 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

First Registration of Crofts Archibald MacColl has registered his crofts 2 and 8 Craiginish on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share Isabel Ashcroft is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 5 Sanna, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart to Pauline Elizabeth Crerar of Sanna, Kilchoan, Acharacle, PH36 4LW.

KITCHEN GARDEN (OBAN) LIMITED Notice is hereby given that on 10 April 2018, a Petition was presented to the Sheriff at Oban Sheriff Court by Stewart Frost and Mary Frost both of Ceolnamara, Ganavan Road, Oban PA34 5TU, the directors of KITCHEN GARDEN (OBAN) LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the Companies Acts (Company No. SC287630) with their registered office at 14 George Street, Oban, PA34 5SB (the "Company") craving the Court inter alia that said Company be wound up by the Court and that Stuart Preston, Grant Thornton UK LLP, 7 Exchange Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 8AN be appointed interim liquidator of said Company...

First Registration of a Croft Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 6 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

First Registration of a Croft Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 1,2 & 3 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES (repeated five times)

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**£10,800**  
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CDTi SRi. 102140 miles. 12 month MOT, FSH, Full electric pack, EW, EM, PS, ABS, electronically adjusted seats, rear armrest and cup holder, 2 keys, DRL lights, Radio/CD player w/Aux, full climatic control AC and much more. Exceptional example, come have a look!  
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Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.  
**Contact William 07730 130284 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

**WANTED**  
All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.  
**Telephone 07546 788945**

  
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**ORKNEY LONGLINER, 16FT WITH 8HP**  
Yamaha high thrust, electric start outboard, comes with trailer, oars, rowlocks and anchor, all in excellent condition  
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**NISSAN NV200 VAN**  
2013 50k miles mot until sept Tow bar, GRP lined, 2 sliding doors, AVG 43mpg, Bluetooth, reversing camera Tayvallich  
**£5,000 INCVAT**  
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**CARS WANTED**  
Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.  
**Telephone 07759 054754**

**WANTED**  
All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.  
**Telephone 07546 788945**

**CONTESSA 28**  
Cruiser/racer 1979, recent survey, Yanmar 20 inboard diesel, No1&2 genas & jib Mainsail & 2 spinnakers. Avon dinghy, liferaft. Wintered ashore, serviced/ antifouled. Afloat Campbeltown.  
**£8,750**  
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**19FT DEVON LUGGER**  
for sale complete with trailer, 4hp engine, mainsail, furling jib and mizzen, oars and anchor.  
**£4,500**  
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All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.  
**Tel 0770 3490572 ask for Robert**

**WANTED**  
All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.  
**T: 07885 203020 or E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

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Motorhome or Campervan wanted for personal use, any make, model, mileage or condition considered.  
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These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

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17 Renault Captur DYN DCI, oyster grey/black, 25,000 miles.....£13,850	66 Renault SWD Traffic, DCI, white, 900 miles.....£13,500 + VAT	Fiat Panda
66 Renault Megan EST DYN, S-NAV DCI, Blue, 5000 Miles.....£14,595	63 Renault Traffic LUB DCI, white, 58,000.....£7,500 + VAT	Ford Fiesta
66 Renault Clio DYN Nav TCE, titanium, 7,000 miles.....£10,550		
66 Dacia Sandero Leu Dci silver, 3,000 miles.....£8,950		
66 Renault Clio S Nav DCI-90, Mars red, 6,000 miles.....£12,950		
66 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav, white, 14,000 miles.....£9,750		
64 Ford Ka Edge 1.2 Gray 31,000 miles.....£5,500		
14 Nissan Note Nectar 1.2 5dr, blue, 9,000 miles.....£8,500		
14 Ford Ka Edge 1.2 11,800 Miles.....£5,650		
61 Volvo C30 Design Coupe, red, 24,000.....£7,650		

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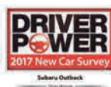
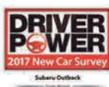
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Subaru XV

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## MACFARLANE

John and Jessie would like to say a big thank you to our family, and friends for gifts, cards and flowers received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding anniversary.  
Balindone, Taynuilt

## LAFFERTY

Fearghas and Natalie (née Graham) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second son Gregor Isaac, born on February 13, 2018 in Oban. A little brother for Murray. Eighth grandchild for Dougie and Allison Graham, Oban and third for Joe and Chris Lafferty, Dundee.

**BIRTHS**

**GRAY - MACFARLANE** - Caitlin and Cameron are delighted to announce the arrival of Freya Claire on April 10, 2018 at R.A.H. Paisley. A wee sister for Julia. Thanks to all staff. Third granddaughter for Pamela and David and Sine and Cameron.

**DEATHS**

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully at home on Saturday April 14, 2018, Ronnie in his 81st year. Dearly loved husband of Sheila and much loved father of the late Iain and the late George. Funeral service will take place from Bunessan Parish Church on Friday April 20 at 12.00 noon and thereafter to Suidhe Cemetery. Transport will be provided from the 9.50 ferry from Oban. Family flowers only please, retiring collection in aid of the R.N.L.I.

**CLARK** - Peacefully, at Raigmore Hospital, on Thursday, April 12, 2018, Ann Clark, aged 82 years. Formerly of Nevis Bank Hotel. Loving sister of Eileen. Funeral service will take place at 12 noon on Monday, April 23, 2018 in Glen Nevis Cemetery. Family flowers only please. All friends are respectfully invited. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, 01397 702128.

**HUNTINGFORD** - Stella Mary, passed away in Lynn of Lorne Care Home, on April 10, 2018, aged 89 years. Sadly missed by sister Joyce. Funeral will take place at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt, on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 1.30 p.m. to which all are welcome. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to collection in Church, to go to Muckairn Parish Church, Cancer Research UK and Diabetes UK.

**JACKSON** - At Inverclyde Royal Hospital on April 10, 2018, Ann, beloved elder daughter of the late Donald and Elizabeth Jackson, Strone and dearly loved sister of Lorna. The funeral service will be held in Greenock Crematorium on Friday April 20, at 11.00 a.m., to which all friends are invited. No flowers please.

**MACDOUGALL** - Suddenly, on January 18, 2018, near Barmore Island, aboard the fishing boat, Nancy Glen, Duncan Thomas MacDougall, aged 46 years, beloved husband of Dawn, cherished father of John and Campbell, much loved son of John and Margaret (née Aitchison), son-in-law of Alex, Wilma, Moira and Lachie, adored big brother of Alison, brother-in-law of Stephen, Alexander, Mark and David, loved uncle of Ella and Jack, and a much respected work colleague and dear friend of many. Funeral service was held at Tarbert Free Church, on April 18, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery.

**STEWART** (Invergarry) - Peacefully at home on Sunday, April 15, 2018 with his loving family, Duncan MacDonald Stewart, Bank House, Invergarry, aged 88 years. Retired Hydro Board. Dearly loved husband of Ann, much loved dad of Iain, Douglas and Ewen, dear father-in-law, granda, great-grandpa and a loyal friend to many. Sadly missed. Funeral Service on Tuesday April 24 at 1.00pm in Invergarry Church of Scotland, thereafter to Invergarry Burial Ground. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses may be given at the service or forwarded to William T Fraser & Son, Culdueth Road, Inverness.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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**WHITEHOUSE** - Roger Norman Hatley, (Kirkcudbright). Peacefully at Merse House Residential Care Home from Alzheimers. Beloved husband of Jocelyn and father of Godfrey, Christopher, Anthony and Caroline. Interment at Glenley Woodland Burial Site, Kirkcudbright on April 19, 2018.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**EAASON** - Elma and family of the late Robert Eaason, would like to thank most sincerely, all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the doctors and nursing staff of Ward 34, Ninewells Hospital, to Barbara McGilivray for her comforting service and to all who paid their last respects to Robert at the crematorium and donated so generously the sum of £250, to Myeloma Research.

**ELLIOT** - Walter would thank all relatives and friends for the many expressions of sympathy extended to him following their recent sad loss of his sister Doris. Special thanks to Belford Hospital for their exceptional care and compassion. Grateful thanks to Rev Sandy Stoddart for his comforting service, to John McLellans for their dignified funeral arrangements. Also, to the Bridge Cafe for the catering. Lastly, thanks to all those who paid their last respects at the service and at the graveside and to those who donated towards Lochaber Palliative Care, raising £699.23 in her memory.

**GRANT** - Emma and family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for the kindness, support and sympathy shown to them following the sad loss of Kenny. Grateful thanks to all the staff in Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care. Sincere thanks to Mr Donald MacKinnon of Oban Parish Church for his kind words and comforting service. A special thanks to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn Ltd for his guidance and professionalism and to the Royal Hotel for the lovely lunch provided. Finally, a thank you to everyone who attended to pay their last respects and to those who gave so generously to the retiral collection which raised £525.81 and will be donated to Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

**LYON** - Mairi, James, Sylvia, Kathryn, Janette and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many expressions of kindness, sympathy and support shown to them following the sad loss of their mum, Margaret. Special and grateful thanks to the staff at Lynn of Lorne care home, Connel surgery and Lorn and Islands Hospital for their attentive and compassionate care given to Margaret over the years. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Margaret Miller for her comforting visits to Mum and lovely funeral service. To Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn Ltd, Funeral Directors for his caring guidance, professionalism and attention to detail. To Falls of Lora for their lovely catering and service. Finally, thank you to everyone in attendance who paid their last respects and donated so generously to The Stroke Unit - Ward I at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

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

**PORTER** - Barbara, Michael and Sasha would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the following after the sudden death of John. The emergency services and all who assisted John when he took ill and family, friends, neighbours and OHS staff both past and present for cards, flowers and visits. To Moreen Gracie for the beautiful flowers, the Royal Hotel for the lovely buffet and their generous gesture, Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his professional, but compassionate service, Iain Fulton for his lovely eulogy and Donald MacKinnon and Rev Ian Miller for their comforting services. And last but not least, all those who attended the memorial service and crematorium and donated so generously to the retiral collection which raised £794.61 for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

**WALLACE** - Bobbi-Jo, Ian, Lorna and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent very sad loss of Michael. Special thanks to all at Port Appin surgery, Macmillan Day Bed Unit, District Nurses and Marie Curie for their dedicated care enabling Michael to be at home. Rev Margaret Miller for a very comforting service, Joyce Noble, organist, D.Gunn & Sons for efficient funeral arrangements. Appin Community who provided the usual wonderful catering. Lastly thank you to everyone who paid their last respects and gave so generously. The sum of £1800.00 raised will be shared between Macmillan Day Bed Unit and Marie Curie.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BUCHANAN** - Willie. In loving memory of my darling husband and great friend, who made me laugh every day. Willie died on April 23, 2011 and is sorely missed and still loved by Ann, Mary, Katy, Hugh, his mother Molly, Catherine, Archie, Colin, Ann Marie and all their own families. His beautiful soul lives on, in all of us and keeps us strong.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS  
**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear father and Grandpa, Neil Cowan Campbell, formerly of Tiraghoil, who died on April 21, 2012. Forever in our thoughts.

- Inserted by his loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian. Ardness, Tiraghoil, Bunessan, Mull.

**CAMPBELL** - Richard (Digger), passed away April 15, 2015. Never more than a thought away loved and remembered every day. Love your sister Diana, Mel, Gwen, Lorna and Jim, Ballachulish.

**CURRIE** - Remembering today and every day Caroline, died April 17, 1992. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- The Currie family, Mallaig.

**JOHNSTON** - April 22, 2015. We miss your smile every day The pain of losing you never goes away With every breath we take We take one for you You are with us in everything we do.

Sleep easy John Boy, - Love Mum, Dad, Janine, Eilidh and family xx

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of our mum, granny and great-granny Rachel, who passed away April 21, 2016. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there - Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families.

**PURDEN** - Precious memories of our son Angus. Who left us April 22, 1998.

It broke our hearts to lose you But you didn't go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home You left us precious memories and though we cannot see you You are always by our side You left a place no one can fill You're always in our hearts and thoughts son. - Mum and Dad xx.

**PURDEN** - In loving memory of my brother Angus who left us April 22, 1998. Love and miss you always. - Frances x.

**STEELE** - Precious memories of our sister Morven, who died April 20, 1984. - Morag and Alan.

**SWAINSON** - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there

On earth she toiled in heaven she rests God bless you mother You were the best.

You will always be our hero Thank God you are wind beneath our wings We miss you so much. Back in daddy's arms. - Marie and Jacqueline.

**TIMMS** - Remembering a dear dad and granddad Arthur, who passed away on April 17, 1984. May the winds of love blow softly On the place you find your rest - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

# ColumbaFest promises Dreams and Visions



Iona Abbey cloisters

**COLUMBAFEST 2018**, a weekend celebration of faith, culture politics and creativity themed this year on Dreams and Visions, starts in Glasgow on the Iona saint's feast day on June 9.

ColumbaFest is a weekend festival at the anniversary of St Columba's death. St Columba is the holy man who came from Ireland to settle on the island of Iona, and, in time, established the religious settlement there. He Christianised Scotland, and the mission work of his followers spread out from there to reach parts of central and southern Europe.

During the festival, workshops and other events will explore themes from Columba's life, such as learning, mission, exile, prayer, spirituality and political engagement. And in echoes of his and the Celtic Church's emphasis on incarnation, it will explore issues that are of importance in the contemporary context and culture of Scotland, and which have broader resonance further afield.

There'll be concerts on

Friday and Sunday evening, a ceilidh and concert on the Saturday evening and a liturgy on the life of Columba on the Sunday morning.

Gaelic musician Mary Ann Kennedy performs on the bill alongside country music ensemble Ashton Lane, and Ishbel McFarlane's one-woman show on the Scots language 'O Is For Hoolet'. Contributors this year include John L Bell, Iain Bradley, Craig Gardiner, Alison Hallet, Lorraine McIntosh, Carol Marples, Pádraig Ó Tuama, Andy Thornton, and Wilson Phipps and Robert Swinfin, Iona Community members working in the area of asylum-seekers and refugees, education and housing.

The Iona Community website explains: 'The theme for this year, Dreams and Visions, invites us to consider the protest and poetry of prophecy and apply it to our lives today. Throughout history there have been a number of prophetic voices, from those Old Testament figures crying in the wilderness, to colourful saints

such as Columba in the middle ages, and those more recently crying out for civil rights and climate justice. Prophets are varied in style and approach but they tend to be unconventional, vocal, and to speak both from and on behalf of the margins.

'There are many different kinds of prophets, but as a rule they speak truth to power even when it is inconvenient, provocative, or dangerous to do so. Prophecy often comes from the margins, the fringes, the borders. In the midst of oppression, heartache and despair prophets give us the resources to carry on, push on, or simply hang on. They allow us to protest what is wrong and celebrate what is good. They give us the poetry to lament what is awful and to grasp what is right.

'The dreams and visions of ordinary, simple people can and do change the world every day. We would love you to join us as we continue to wrestle with these themes, if you are free and able, do consider joining us at ColumbaFest 2018.'

## Thought for the week

We are in that 'in between time'. The Bible records that for 40 days after the first Easter morning, Jesus appeared to his disciples and to many others.

Forty is often used symbolically of a time between two eras. It rained for 40 days while Noah, his family and the animals were in the ark. On three occasions Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights - most notably when the 10 commandments were given. For 40 years Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt towards the promised land. Elijah the prophet walked for 40 days before arriving at mount Horeb. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness of temptation. Forty denotes a time of waiting and

expectation of new and good things to come.

It often used to be said that the British wait in a patient and orderly fashion. Maybe not so much now with the ever increasing pace of life, when everything is expected with immediacy.

Some things take time. Good things come to those who wait. Easter is a season and in our waiting is the expectation that God continues to break in to our human experience transforming all things.

**Rev Donald McCorkindale,**  
Minister at Strontian, Ardgour and Morvern Church of Scotland parishes.

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# Double up as Harry wins two senior singles tournaments

TAYNUILT'S Harry Mobey, who will be leaving school in the summer, has been training to meet the standards of the senior badminton league.

The 17-year-old competed recently in the Bath University senior men's singles tournament. As the youngest competitor out of 71 players, his main aim was to gain experience but he ended up winning the event.

Harry's crunch game came in the semi-finals where he faced a three-set match against England's Liam Bridge, one of

the top seeds. With the match standing at one set apiece, Harry was 10-7 down in the third and final set.

Harry said: 'I had to give myself a good talking to. I knew I could secure a place in the final so I just went for it, came into the second half of the match with an attack and increased the speed of the game in order to win successive points and break down my opponent.'

'I went on to win the set 21-10 and secure a place in the final.'

Harry went on to win the final

## Badminton

in a two-set victory, beating England's Timothy Scott 21-17, 21-9.

Harry then took part in another senior tournament in Cumbria on Saturday, which he also won with a three-set win over James Robertson, placing him in the top 15 of the Scottish senior rankings table and enabling him to maintain elite performance as he officially enters the university league in September.



Taynuilt's Harry Mobey in action.



A participant running in the sunshine on a hilltop near Tayvallich during last year's event.

## Date announced for Taynish Run Festival

TAYVALLICH will once again play host to the Taynish Run Festival on Saturday May 12 to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The race will finish at Tayvallich village hall, with all participants running through the picturesque Taynish National Nature Reserve on a route of their choice.

There's a 6.8-mile run along the reserve's more winding trails

or a flatter 10km run along the woodland's spinal road.

Spectacular views can be enjoyed along either route and runners may also spot some of the reserve's wildlife, including otter, deer, red squirrels and ospreys.

### Welcoming

Race organiser Colin MacFarlane said: 'We're looking forward to welcoming runners and supporters to this year's race.'

'Taynish is a special place to run in, with stunning scenery, wildlife and great routes.'

'Our local Macmillan Cancer Support group also organises a coffee morning in the village hall, which means everyone in the community can come along and support the runners and this great cause.'

Race entry is via EntryCentral and all the information needed regarding the race can be found

## Athletics

on the Taynish Run Facebook page.

Both links can be found on [entrycentral.com/Taynishrun](http://entrycentral.com/Taynishrun) festival and [facebook.com/thetaynishrun](http://facebook.com/thetaynishrun).

The race is organised by Colin MacFarlane, supported by Mid Argyll Athletics Club and run under Scottish Athletics rules.

## Mid Argyll host mini Dalriada rugby festival

MINI rugby teams from across Argyll and Lochaber gathered at Lochgilphead's Ropework Park recently. The festival was the second Dalriada mini rugby festival in recent weeks, with teams meeting previously when Oban Lorne hosted.

Mid Argyll welcomed a good turnout of teams with Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Kintyre and Highland visitors Lochaber RFC all attending, along with a few players from Isle of Mull RFC.

A mild spring day and fantastic underfoot conditions helped complement some fantastic

rugby from all of the players on the day.

Mid Argyll were fantastic hosts on the day, and thanks from all the teams were passed onto Duncan (Brochan) Aitken and his team of coaches, as well as parents at the club who offered some great hospitality.

### Next festival

The next Dalriada Festival will be hosted by Campbeltown/Kintyre RFC on Saturday April 21.

Results: P4/5 - Lochaber 3, Oban Lorne 2; Mid Argyll 6, Kintyre 1; Etive Vikings 5, Lochaber 2; Kintyre 4, Oban Lorne 5; Lochaber 5, Kintyre 1; Etive

## Mini rugby

Vikings 4, Mid Argyll 1; Mid Argyll 2, Lochaber 2; Oban Lorne 1, Etive Vikings 5; Mid Argyll 1, Oban Lorne 2; Kintyre 0, Etive Vikings 5.

P6/7 - Kintyre 3, Etive Vikings 2; Mid Argyll 3, Oban Lorne 3; Oban Lorne 1, Etive Vikings 3; Mid Argyll 4, Lochaber 1; Etive Vikings 4, Mid Argyll 4; Lochaber 2, Kintyre 3; Kintyre 4, Oban Lorne 1; Etive Vikings 4, Lochaber 1; Mid Argyll 3, Kintyre 2; Lochaber 0, Oban Lorne 5.



Mid Argyll RFC P6/7 all smiles after great performances throughout the day.

## Green Machine lose to Irvine McDade secures points win in Glasgow

Irvine	47
Oban Lorne	19
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne made the trip to North Ayrshire on Saturday to take on fellow league strugglers Irvine RFC. Both teams have failed to find any positive form in the league this season and went into Saturday's match occupying 10th and 11th places respectively in the league.

A strong Oban squad were looking for a much-needed win to close the gap to Cambuslang and Irvine above them. Oban's performances have improved in recent weeks with a 64-15 win over bottom-placed Helensburgh and a spirited 34-7 loss to league leaders Carrick.

Despite having a strong squad for Saturday's match, Oban went down 47-19 against a determined home side. Oban's efforts in the game were not aided with an exceptionally high number of injuries meaning the men in green even had to close out the game with reduced numbers despite having a full bench of replacements. Included on Saturday's injury list were Jamie Bate and Lorne MacLachlan, who are likely to miss the rest of the season, along with more minor



Oban Lorne Ladies captain Laura MacCormick and the Garioch captain pictured at Murrayfield with the BT National Bowl

injuries to Tommy Sutherland, Connor Kerr, Jack Strachan, Connor Ferris and scrum-half Chris Yuill, who was playing his first game for the club.

Although the end result was a heavy scoreline, the game itself was a mainly even contest with Irvine having to fight hard for every point they gained. Oban attacked well at times and were rewarded with tries from second row Jack Baxter, winger Calum MacLachlan and captain Craig Wright.

Saturday's loss now means that Oban sit eight points adrift of safety in the league but have two games in hand against Cambuslang above them. The task

does not get any easier for Oban Lorne this Saturday as they travel to face third-placed Garnock RFC. Garnock won a tough game 26-19 at Glencairn in the first game of the 2017/2018 season.

### BT Women's National Bowl final

Oban Lorne will be running a supporters' bus to the BT National Women's Bowl final on Saturday April 28 where Oban Lorne Ladies will be taking on Garioch RFC.

More details on plans for the final can be found on the club's Facebook page, website and on Scottish Rugby's webpages.

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club continued their build up to their next home show, at the Nevis Centre on Saturday April 28, when the club's senior light heavyweight Nathan McDade travelled to Glasgow last weekend to take part in a contest against the host club, Barn BC's John Anderson.

McDade was looking to build on the improvements he has made this season against tall southpaw Anderson but started the opening round fairly tentatively. As both boxers vied for control of the centre of the ring, they were both wary of the other's power and neither made a real stab at dominating the session. Both threw only single punches, the majority of which were out of range and thus resulted in a stalemate.

McDade, on unfamiliar territory and in front of a hostile crowd, really stepped up his game in the second round and boxed far more purposefully, almost immediately snapping back Anderson's head with a straight right, a punch which he would land with much more frequency as the bout progressed. Buoyed by this success, McDade became far more aggressive and, while still only boxing in single

## Boxing

phase attacks, clearly clinched the round.

Now in a rhythm of sorts, Nathan proceeded to force the action in the final round and, as the accumulation of shots landed, the Barn boxer began to have an effect on his reserves of stamina, the Lochaber boxer became more dominant and indeed with a little more poise McDade could have been looking to the referee to issue a count on his opponent as he began to wilt from the strong single shots landed.

On reflection, this was a great learning contest for Nathan and a good points win.

The boxing club is looking forward to the evening of Saturday April 28 at the Nevis Centre when he and his team-mates will face boxers from all over Scotland. Tickets are available from the venue or any of the coaching staff or boxers of the club.

Nathan McDade on the front foot in a fight against Ryan Malcolm earlier in the season.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



# Top 10 finish in China for Oban golfer

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre started his 2018 campaign on the Challenge Tour with a top 10 finish in the Belt and Road Colourful Yunnan Open in China on Sunday.

The 21-year-old shot rounds of 70, 69, 68 and 69 at Kunming Yulongwan Golf Club for an eight-under-par total to claim a share of seventh spot behind Finland's winner Kim Koivu. 'I played really well tee to

green, which is very positive as I was struggling late last year with my long game and to see the work starting to pay off is great news,' said Robert.

The former Scottish amateur champion was forced to delay his start to the new campaign when he missed the opening event of the Challenge Tour season, the Barclays Kenya Open, due to illness. His last competitive outing

## Golf

before the tournament in China was the Joburg Open in the middle of December.

'I am a little disappointed not to finish higher but, after so long without competitive golf, I am taking lots of positives from the week,' added the left-hander from Glencruitten Golf Club.



Oban's Robert MacIntyre was pleased with the way he played in Yunnan.



## Glencruitten

STEVEN Murphy won the Mackay Cup at Glencruitten at the weekend with net scores of 65, 61 = 126. Colin Campbell was runner-up with scores of 63, 68 = 131. Neil Armour was in third place with scores of 66, 67 = 133.

On Saturday the Britannia Cup Qualifier and Spring Eclectic Round 2 takes place.

## Taynuilt

INVERLORN Plate first round played at Taynuilt - 1 Ashley Dowell 43pts (19); 2 Samuel Hutchison 40pts (23); 3 Mark Henriksen 35pts (08).

## Tarbert

TARBERT Golf Club will be hosting a fundraising competition, barbecue and raffle in aid of the Nancy Glen appeal on Saturday May 5. For more information or to book a tee-off time, call 01880 820565.



Atlantis Leisure's new tennis courts were completed last year, but haven't yet had an opening ceremony.

# Atlantis tennis celebration brings pickleball to Oban

A CELEBRATION of tennis is taking place at Atlantis Leisure's new courts this week to thank fundraisers and mark the centre's 25th birthday.

The new tennis courts and upgraded playing facilities at Atlantis Leisure were up and running for last year's playing season, thanks to the fundraising efforts of Oban Tennis and Squash Club, Atlantis Leisure, and the West Highland Tennis Tournament.

The sum of £160,000 was needed to complete the project and support was received from a wide range of sources - local and national funders, businesses and personal donations.

The new courts have been welcomed by squash and tennis club members, junior squad players, Atlantis Playsport, West

Highland tournament players, the local community and visitors.

At the time there wasn't an official opening, but it was always the intention to recognise the contribution of everyone who supported the fundraising efforts and also those who have supported Oban tennis over many years. The timing fits in very well with the opening of the 2018 season and Atlantis Leisure's 25th anniversary.

There's a junior fun day for primary school pupils from the Oban area today (Thursday April 19), then a junior tournament for S1 and S2 secondary pupils from Oban High School on Friday.

Events on Saturday run between 11am and 1pm, with junior squad coaching, 'come and try tennis' for juniors and an

## Tennis

introduction to a new sport to Oban called pickleball.

Pickleball is growing in popularity in Scotland and is similar in many ways to short tennis but is played on a badminton court with a hard bat and ball. It is described as great fun and great exercise, and all adults are welcome.

From 2pm onwards, there will be tennis with past and present players, and come and try sessions for adults. The overall programme aims to encourage both juniors and adults to play tennis or to come and have a go. All sessions are free and take place at Atlantis.

# Oban Sportive takes place this weekend

HUNDREDS of cyclists are gearing up to take part in this year's Oban Sportive, which takes place this Saturday and Sunday.

The sixth annual event is on track to host 200 riders, who will take one of the two marshalled routes.

Mark Beaumont, who broke the world record by cycling round the world in 80 days, will also be riding in this year's sportive.

The record-holder will also give a talk on Saturday night to fellow competitors in the Argyllshire Gathering halls about his adventures.

And, for the first time, people will have the option of tackling the Ben Cruachan Hill Climb, which starts on 3pm on Saturday at the Ben Cruachan Inn.

Speaking about preparation for this year's event, organiser Steven Groom said: 'It's going really well. Hopefully, it's a nice day. We are hoping to have around 200 entrants on the day, and we are on target. The hill



Mark Beaumont will be joining riders taking part in Oban Sportive 2018. Photo: Kieran J Duncan.

climb and Mark Beaumont talk are both free for entrants.

'We are very grateful to all of our sponsors.'

Steven cycled round Oban this week collecting sponsorship money from local businesses.

Sponsoring this year's event, which is run by the North Argyll Cycle Club and Rotary Club of Oban, is Diageo, Ag-

## Cycling

gregate Industries, BID4Oban, Ben Cruachan Inn, Dawnfresh, Wild About Argyll, Oban Cycles, Oban Fish and Chips, Rusty Cycle Shed and MacQueen Bros.

To find out more, or to sign up, visit [www.obansportive.co.uk](http://www.obansportive.co.uk).

# Lochaber Table Tennis League results

FORT William's Table Tennis League is now almost concluded following recent matches played at the Nevis Centre.

In Division One, Monte Bleasdale reclaimed the title he last won in 2013-14 after he defeated nearest challenger John Grant 3-0 in their second round clash.

Grant, however, took runner-up spot following his own 3-0 second round win over Angus MacDonald.

Newcomer Lenka Rozborilova found the going tough in this division, but she will be a tougher proposition next season, along with another new entrant, Sergei Savickis.

Division Two matches were far less predictable, with a four-way battle continuing between newcomers Costi Dumitru and Jiri Sebek, with Ruth Sime and Simon Jeffrey.

The division was won by Costi after he narrowly beat Jiri 3-2 in a very close encounter. Despite this loss, however,

Jiri claimed runner-up spot following his 3-0 victory over Ruth, and a closely fought 3-1 win over Simon.

Despite their losses to Jiri, Ruth and Simon held on to joint third spot. The league also welcomed Teo Hulub into Division Two.

The paired doubles competition again proved popular, and was eventually won by Monte Bleasdale and Aileen MacFadzean who defeated the pairing of Costi and Jiri 3-1.

The final tournament was also played recently, this being the handicap singles, the

## Table tennis

final of which was contested by John Grant and Jim Hinchley. Having a +7 start, Hinchley snatched a 3-1 victory to claim the title.

Players can continue playing through most of the summer on the usual Monday nights at 6.45pm at the Nevis Centre.

Newcomers are welcome for practice sessions and coaching. For further information, contact Monte Bleasdale on 01972 500261, or see the website: [tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk](http://tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk).



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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Kinlochshiel are the team to beat

KINLOCHSHIEL, Glasgow Mid Argyll, the Newtonmore seconds and Kilmory are all table toppers following the shinty action on Saturday April 14.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kinlochshiel 5 Skye Camanachd 2**  
Kinlochshiel remain the team to beat in the Marine Harvest Premiership after they overcame Skye Camanachd 5-2 in their derby meeting at Kirkton. Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill was forced to change his keeper. With Scott Kennedy on holiday, his brother Graham Kennedy stepped up from the second team to take over in goal. Finlay MacRae continued at full back with Oliver MacRae at centre. Captain Paul MacRae was on the bench alongside Scott MacLean and Duncan 'WD' MacRae.

Skye boss John MacLeod welcomed keeper Iain MacLeod back into the squad, so Ryan Morrison returned to the second team. Stewart Grant was also back, whilst there was a place on the bench for youngster Jamie Gillies. They replaced Iain Nicolson, who had failed to recover from a hamstring problem, and Allan MacLeod. Kinlochshiel took an early grip on the game with Ali Nixon scoring after seven minutes.

Jordan Fraser added a second a couple of minutes later and Fraser got his second and Kinlochshiel's third on 16 minutes.

When Keith MacRae added a fourth on 33 minutes, Skye made changes with Ally 'Cleod' MacLeod and Ally 'Spod' MacLeod withdrawn. Iain MacLellan and Connor Gilpin came on with Will Cowie, who had a fine game throughout, going to buckshee back.

Skye created chances during the first half, with Graham Kennedy making at least three good saves.

Kinlochshiel brought Paul MacRae on at the start of the second half, with Finlay MacRae going to centre.

Skye's Jordan Murchison pulled a goal back a minute after the re-start, only for Keith MacRae to get his second on 50 minutes.

Jordan Murchison got his second to make it 5-2 on 77 minutes.

Referee Archie Ritchie awarded Kinlochshiel a penalty but Iain MacLeod saved John MacRae's effort.

### Oban Camanachd 2 Kingussie 0

Oban Camanachd posted their first league victory of the season

when they beat Kingussie 2-0 at Mossfield

In a venue re-jig, this game was a 3pm throw-up which allowed Oban Celtic to play their match against Glasgow Mid Argyll at the same venue at noon. This freed up Ganavan for the Oban Celtic seconds to reverse their game against their Bute counterparts.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay welcomed Lorne Dickie back into the side as he works his way back to full fitness. Matt Rippon, Craig MacDougall and Daniel Sloss also returned but Gavin Stobbart, David Lafferty, Aidan MacIntyre and Scott McKillop were all still out. Daniel Cameron served a one match suspension following his red card against Caberfeidh the previous week.

Kingussie had Rory MacKeachan back, but were without the experience of James Hutchison and Lee Bain as well as the injured Louis Munro. Savio Genini started up front, with Roddy Young on the bench.

Oban Camanachd took the lead on 17 minutes. The ball was played into the 'D' where there was a melee following Craig Dawson's save, but Daniel MacVicar poked the ball into the net from close range.

Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson made a brilliant point-black save from an Andrew MacCuish shot and also made a good stop to deny Daniel MacVicar a second. At the other end, Cameron Sutherland in the Oban goal was assured as he dealt with anything into his goal area.

Kingussie came back into it from the start of the second half without being able to force a leveller.

Both sides were reduced to 11 players when referee Robert Baxter had no option but to flash two red cards - to Ryan MacWilliam for a challenge on Daniel Sloss with the Oban youngster walking for retaliation.

Oban Camanachd had the better of the contest from that point and Garry Lord, who had been pushed into attack, forced another great Craig Dawson save with the ball heading for the top corner of the net.

Oban Camanachd clinched the win with 11 minutes remaining. Craig MacDougall was chopped down inside the 'D' and Andrew MacCuish crashed the penalty into the top corner of the net, beating the keeper on his left side.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay said: 'It was good to get a couple of points on the board and I felt we deserved the win. We needed the second goal to see Kingussie off but we never really felt under too much threat.'

Attention now turns to Saturday's Glasgow Celtic Society Cup tie against Ballachulish at Mossfield and Ian Hay added: 'We'll be without Daniel Sloss for that one as well as Chrissie MacMillan who did well against Kingussie. However, we'll have Daniel Cameron and David Lafferty back and it was good to see Lorne Dickie play 90 minutes on Saturday as he builds up his match fitness.'

### Newtonmore 1 Kyles Athletic 2

Rivals Newtonmore and Kyles Athletic met for the first time this season with Kyles Athletic coming from behind to win 2-1 at The Eilan.

Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald was still out and whilst Evan Menzies was free to play, he will miss Newtonmore's next two matches through suspension.

Kyles had Roddy MacDonald and Grant Irvine back with Donald Irvine also returning to take a place on the bench. Keeper John Whyte was also back, although Innes MacDonald was on the bench, primed to take over between the sticks if needed.

Newtonmore scored first with Ewan Fraser grabbing his first league goal for the side, turning a re-bound past a diving keeper, with 24 minutes on the clock.

Scotland forward Roddy MacDonald equalised following a corner on the right on 30 minutes. MacDonald won possession at the back post with two Newtonmore defenders in attendance. He moved the ball forward and, with only a quarter-swing, sent the ball past the keeper from a tight angle to make it 1-1.

Kyles took the lead on the stroke of half time. Colin MacDonald battled for the ball with Norman Campbell just on edge of the 'D' and, with Campbell falling and losing his stick, the big forward ran in, taking an other touch then tucked the ball past the keeper to make it 2-1.

There were no goals in the second half. Kyles keeper John Whyte had an injury scare but was able to run it off and continue in goal.

Kyles have a re-arranged league fixture against Kingussie at The Dell this Saturday as Tayforth have pulled out of their Glasgow Celtic Society Cup tie.

Newtonmore host Glenurquhart in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup quarter finals.

### Caberfeidh 0 Lochaber 3

Lochaber recorded their first league win of the season, beating the division's shock troops Caberfeidh 3-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Castle Leod.

Ryan MacKay was amongst several Caberfeidh absentees as he began a two-game suspension, whilst Lochaber had full forward John MacKenzie back in their side.

Lochaber took the lead on 26 minutes. After good work from the Lochaber midfield, the ball was played through to John MacKenzie. There was a bit of melee and the ball came out to Shaun Nicholson who scored from 15 yards.

Lochaber's second was a great individual effort from Shaun MacKechnie on the other, Oban Celtic proved age didn't matter as they battled away alongside full centre Ally McKerracher.

Caberfeidh had the chance to half the deficit early in the second half when referee Andy MacLean awarded them a penalty but the normally reliable Kevin Bartlett missed from the spot.

John MacKenzie clinched the win a minute from time. A ball from wide was taken down

by MacKenzie with his back to goal. The former Newtonmore man turned onto his right hand and put the ball into the bottom corner of the net from 22 yards out.

This was a good 'old school', hard fought game with both teams giving no quarter and Lochaber doing enough to deserve the win.

### Lovat 2 Glenurquhart 1

Lovat came from behind to beat Glenurquhart 2-1 at Balgate.

James MacPherson scored on 14 minutes to put Glenurquhart 1-0 ahead against his former club.

Marc MacLachlan levelled on 81 minutes and that's the way it stayed until nine minutes from time when another late Greg Matheson goal made the difference, lifting Lovat to third in the league.

### Marine Harvest National Division

#### Oban Celtic 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Match of the day in shinty's second tier was leaders Glasgow Mid Argyll's trip to play Oban Celtic in a noon throw-up at Mossfield.

Oban Celtic boss Kenny Wotherspoon was back after missing the previous week's defeat to Beaulieu. George MacMillan, Neil Carmichael, Kieran Gallacher, Lee Askev, Kieran Carnie and Rory Bruce were all missing. Fulton Ronald returned to great effect, putting in a man of the match performance, as did Iain MacKechnie and Craig MacMillan, who started up front. Daniel MacMillan was on the bench as he's not fully fit.

GMA travelled north with a full squad for the second successive Saturday.

Oban Celtic took the lead on 22 minutes when a clean ball forward from winger Iain MacKechnie was well won by Andy MacDonald on the by-line.

MacDonald cut the ball back to Daniel Madej who slotted home.

Craig MacMillan was fortunate that referee Iain Kennedy let him away with a booking for retaliation five minutes later and MacMillan was immediately substituted by manager Kenny Wotherspoon with Daniel MacMillan taking over.

GMA pressed for an equaliser but Iain MacFarlane in the Celtic goal made some great stops with one particularly fine save seeing him dive to his right to touch the ball round the post.

GMA went back on the attack from the start of the second half and another MacFarlane save with his stick prevented the ball hitting the roof of the net.

Celtic also had chances but failed to test Robert Dunning in the GMA goal.

GMA eventually got their goal on 55 minutes when Calum McLay dribbled round David Hill as the defender tried to usher the ball out for a goal-hit. There was a bit of a goalmouth scramble before McLay found the net to make it 1-1.

It was more or less a midfield battle after that and with 38-year-old Andy Hunt on one wing and 37 year old Iain MacKechnie on the other, Oban Celtic proved age didn't matter as they battled away alongside full centre Ally McKerracher.

After the match, a content Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'I'd say a draw was a fair result. We're obviously happy to pick up another point in what is a very competitive national league. We told the boys of the importance of picking up something against GMA so they were well primed.'



Oban Camanachd's Matt Rippon clears his lines during the premiership match against Kingussie at Mossfield which the red and blacks won 2-2.

Being able to pick our strongest squad week-in, week-out would be a bonus as some key players were again missing for us.

'However the boys that stepped in handled themselves well which is pleasing. Rory Bruce hasn't played this season. He's a massive miss for us but we hope to have him back soon. There are no easy games in this league and our heads now turn to our trip to Kilmallie on Saturday.'

#### Kilmallie 3 Strathglass 0

Kilmallie go third in the league after beating Strathglass 3-0 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall served the second game of a two-match ban. Ryan Stewart was also missing and Ian Robertson started at full back.

Michael Stokes, Lawrence Jones, Seth Jones and Hamish Myers were amongst the Strathglass absentees.

The game started slowly and despite play flowing from end to end, there was little goalmouth action.

Kilmallie broke the deadlock following a good move on the half hour mark.

Martin Stewart played the ball from the centre line to Michael Rodger. His powerful drive was palmed away by Strathglass keeper Ally McAdams but young Calum MacDougall was quickest to the re-bound and struck the ball into the back of the net to make it 1-0.

Kilmallie stretched their lead on 33 minutes when Scott Douglas was penalised for a double-handed reckless swing inside the 'D' and referee John Angus Gillies pointed to the penalty spot. Michael Rodger made no mistake, crashing the spot-hit to the top of the net.

Kilmallie started the second half well and Michael Rodger saw two excellent strikes saved by an on-form Ally McAdams.

Kilmallie added a third goal on 65 minutes when a good one-two between Michael Rodger and Calum MacDougall ended with the latter lashing a 15-yard shot into the bottom left hand corner of the goal.

MacDougall was very unlucky not to score a hat-trick goal on 70 minutes after going on a mazy run into the heart of the Strathglass defence, but he eventually hit the ball high over the bar.

Kilmallie claimed for a second penalty on 73 minutes when, with a crowded goal area, the goal judged flagged for an infringement but referee Gillies over-ruled and allowed play to continue with Scott Douglas eventually clearing the ball to safety.

Strathglass introduced their only substitute - Eoghan Stewart - a couple of minutes later and he got himself into a good

position but blazed his effort wide. Kilmallie's Calum MacDougall had a good game, working tirelessly before being replaced 10 minutes from the end. Jordan McPhee also played very well on the right wing.

Strathglass keeper Ally McAdams made a number of good saves over the 90 minutes. Josh Fraser and Scott Douglas also did their bit in the heart of the Strathglass defence.

#### Fort William 1 Inverness 0

Fort William go second in the division after beating Inverness 1-0 at An Aird.

Inverness had James MacKenzie free of suspension.

Alexander MacMillan scored the only goal of the game after 22 minutes. MacMillan made a late run from midfield and when Lachie Shaw sent a long ball to the back post, MacMillan controlled the ball and dribbled into the 'D' before slipping it past the keeper.

#### Inveraray 2 Beaulieu 1

Inveraray edged out Beaulieu 2-1 in their 3pm throw-up at The Winterton

Inveraray's Allan MacDonald was finally free of his five-match suspension which carried forward from the end of last season. This wasn't a match for the purists.

The game's opening goal came on 41 minutes when the ball was played to Lewis Montgomery around 15 yards from goal and he beat his marker before netting with a low drive.

Beaulieu's equaliser came a couple of minutes after the re-start after a spell of pressure. Jack MacDonald was first to react to a long ball up-field and blasted a ferocious shot past Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan, who was left beaten by the sheer pace of the ball.

The winner came on 55 minutes when Beaulieu failed to clear their lines and Lewis Montgomery fired home from 18 yards.

Both keepers - Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan and Josh Grant for Beaulieu - made good saves as the outcome hung in the balance until the final whistle.

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

#### Glenarry 1 Newtonmore 5

The top two in Marine Harvest North Division 1 met at Craigard, with the Newtonmore seconds staying top of the table after defeating Glenarry 5-1.

Duncan Gorman gave Newtonmore the lead after nine minutes and player/manager Orsten Gardner made it 2-0 on 17 minutes.

Calum Stewart added a third on 22 minutes and although Nick Dalgety gave Glenarry hope with a 38th minute strike, it wasn't enough.

Sorley Thomson restored Newtonmore's three-goal cushion a minute into the second half and the youngster got his second on 76 minutes to make it 5-1.

Newtonmore are now three points clear of second-placed Skye and the sides are due to meet in Portree this Saturday.

#### Skye Camanachd 6 Glenurquhart 0

The Skye Camanachd colts go second in North 1 after their 6-0 win over the Glenurquhart colts at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye took the lead after three minutes with Ross Gordon scoring and, when the ball fell for Gordon on 13 minutes, he got his and Skye's second.

Martin Pringle fired home a third on 34 minutes to make it 3-0 at the break.

Skye made a quick start to the second half with Stewart Taylor shooting home within a minute of the re-start.

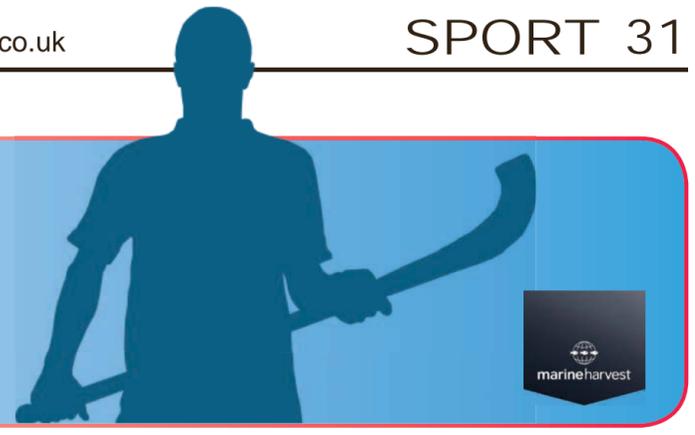
Martin Pringle thumped home his second on 72 minutes after good play from Marcus Scott and a half-turn and shot from substitute Angie MacDonald on 85 minutes rounded off the Skye win. The win means Skye



Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol and Beaulieu's Calum Morrison in a chase for the ball during last Saturday's National Division game at the Winterton. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



Lewis Douglas, Strathglass, gets his block in on Kilmallie's Ian Robertson. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

leap-frog Glengarry into second place in the division.

### Aberdeen University 0 Fort William 3

Aberdeen University's sluggish start to the season continued as they lost 3-0 to the Fort William reserves.

The match was originally scheduled for Balgownie but was transferred to Grantown Grammar School with a noon start.

Greg Kelly gave Fort William the lead on three minutes.

Mark Fraser made sure of the outcome as his late goals on 73 and 80 minutes sealed the 3-0 win.

### Kingussie 3 Kinlochshiel 3

The Kingussie seconds and the Kinlochshiel seconds drew 3-3 at The Dell.

Kinlochshiel had led 2-0 and 3-1 before being pegged back twice by Kingussie.

Lewis MacVicar, Finlay MacRae and Fraser Reid scored for Kinlochshiel, with a Kevin Thain brace and Liam Borthwick counting for Kingussie.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Tayforth 1 Lochside Rovers 8

Champions Lochside Rovers secured their biggest win of the season so far, sweeping aside Tayforth 8-1 at Levenhall Links.

Lochside's Michael MacQueen played with an eye injury which had almost closed one of his eyes. He was pitched at full forward rather than at full centre and this move paid dividends.

Tayforth went in front after two minutes with Brendan Duggan scoring from the left, on the angle. There seemed little danger as Duggan gathered the ball 30 yards from goal but, with

up Michael MacQueen for his fourth on 75 minutes, scoring with another low finish to make it 6-0.

Four minutes later, neat inter-play between Ross Campbell and Lewis Buchanan allowed Michael MacQueen the chance to fire the ball into the top corner of the net from around the penalty spot.

Lewis Buchanan got his second on 84 minutes with a bouncing 30-yard shot.

This was a good win for a young Lochside side with Gareth Evans naming himself on the bench to make up the numbers. Craig Kirkpatrick had a good game, whilst Evan MacLellan did well at centre against Rob Urquhart. Lewis Buchanan and Ross Campbell ran the show at half forward, always getting to the ball first, whilst Michael MacQueen deserves special mention for his five-goal haul.

Lochside are on the road again this Saturday as they head for Taynuilt.

### Inveraray 4 Kilmory 5

Kilmory stay top of the division on goal difference after getting past the Inveraray seconds in a nine-goal thriller at The Winterton.

This noon throw-up had it all: nine goals, three red cards and two converted penalties. Former Kilmory player Rhys Williams got Inveraray off to a perfect start when he fired a rocket into the roof of the net with five minutes played.

Inveraray's 16-year-old keeper Gregor Mather, playing his first full 90 minutes in South Division 1, had no chance with Alistair MacArthur's equaliser.

Neil Campbell put Inveraray into a 2-1 half-time lead with a well-taken goal on 30 minutes.

Kilmory started the second half the brighter and were awarded a penalty by referee



Newtonmore's Glen Mackintosh shields the ball from Kyles Athletic's Cammy Keith. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

after they beat Ballachulish 2-1 at The Jubilee Park.

Connor MacGregor missed out as he served the second game of a two-match ban.

Thomas Morrison put Bute ahead on 39 minutes, only for Stuart Robertson to level four minutes later, making it 1-1 at the break.

Thomas Morrison got his second on 68 minutes to give the islanders victory.

### Taynuilt 1 Kyles Athletic 2

Taynuilt took the lead against the Kyles Athletic second team at Taynuilt Sports Field when Gerry Kilmurray found the net after 37 minutes.

Brandon Wilson drew the Tighnabruach side level a minute into the second half.

The game's winning goal came after 55 minutes when Luke Thornton put Kyles ahead.

Kyles' Christopher Blair was sent off by referee Calum Girvan.

### Aberdour 1 Col Glen 1

Aberdour and Col Glen shared the points following a 1-1 draw in their 3pm throw-up at Silversands.

Col Glen's Connor Kennedy was banned for this one, whilst Col Glen were missing three of their four first choice forwards.

Aberdour created the better early chances and went in front on 22 minutes following a great 25-yard Angus Thorburn shot.

Col Glen capitalised on a defensive lapse to level on 66 minutes, with Neily McNaughton getting the goal.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Caberfeidh 1 Beaully 1

The Caberfeidh second team now only lead the division on goal difference after they came from behind to draw 1-1 with the Beaully second team in their noon throw-up at Castle Leod.

The first half was goal-less but Kieran MacTavish gave Beaully the lead four minutes into the second half.

Caberfeidh levelled on 55 minutes, with Ruairidh MacLennan on target.

### Lochcarron 6 Strathspey Camanachd 4

Lochcarron go level on points at the top of the table with the Caberfeidh seconds after they eventually saw off Strathspey Camanachd 6-4 at Battery Park.

Strathspey's Stuart Sloss missed out as he completed a two-game suspension.

In a match refereed by Graham Cormack, Donald Colville opened the scoring for Strathspey on four minutes.

Matthew Young levelled on 15 minutes and David Bauermeister put Lochcarron ahead a minute later.

Matthew Young got his second on 20 minutes, but Matthew Davis narrowed the deficit to a single goal on the half hour mark.

A Bruce Grant own goal on 24

minutes and a hat-trick strike from Matthew Young on 35 minutes made it 5-2 at half-time.

Strathspey mounted a second half come-back as Conor Aubrey on 55 minutes and Struan Ross on 60 minutes made it 5-4.

However, Matthew Young got his fourth goal of the afternoon on 76 minutes to give Lochcarron a 6-4 victory.

### Bute v Oban Celtic W/O

After having their game at Ganavan rescheduled last weekend, the Bute second team and the Oban Celtic second team were to meet at The Meadows.

However, an unplayable field led to a fixture reversal to Ganavan.

In the end, the Bute seconds were unable to field a team so Oban Celtic were awarded the points.

## Glasgow Celtic Society Celtic Cup - quarter finals

The big guns join the Glasgow Celtic Society at the second round stage with the ties taking place on Saturday.

Oban Camanachd should be too strong for Ballachulish at Mossfield, even without the suspended Daniel Sloss and the unavailable Chrissie MacMillan.

Inveraray, who lost out to Oban Camanachd in last year's semi-finals, travel to play lower league Col Glen.

Glasgow Mid Argyll will be tested against Bute at The Meadows. GMA were knocked out in last year's semi-finals by eventual winners Kyles Athletic.

Holders Kyles Athletic go straight through to the semi-finals though as Tayforth, who play two divisions below, have forfeited the tie.

Raymond Rennie got his second a couple of minutes later and when referee Jim Barr pointed to the penalty spot on 43 minutes, Duncan Urquhart stepped up to make it 5-0 at the break.

Lovat continued to go further ahead in the second half with Raymond Rennie taking his tally to five goals with further strikes on 67, 74 and 83 minutes.

The win lifts the Balglate side to third in the table.

Boleskine 1  
Lochaber 6

The Lochaber seconds only trail Lovat on goal difference after they beat Boleskine 6-1 at Farr.

John Fraser's Lochaber's side led 4-0 at the break before extending their advantage in the second half.

Lachlan Campbell and Pat Toal both scored twice for Lochaber with Max Campbell and Ben Delaney getting the others.

Paul Bowman countered for Boleskine.

### Inverness 0 Kilmallie 1

The Kilmallie colts picked up their first points of the season when they beat the Inverness colts 1-0 at the Bught Park.

This was only the Kilmallie colts' second game of the season - they had previously lost to the Caberfeidh colts - and Stuart Ross served a one-match ban for his red card in that match.

Peter McIntyre scored the goal that made the difference after seven minutes.

The sides remain in the bottom two positions in the division.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

### Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Strachur 1

League leaders Strachur came from behind to draw 1-1 with the Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves at Yoker.

Ross Fraser got GMA off to a great start with a goal after four minutes.

However, Iain MacLennan levelled on 28 minutes to keep Strachur top of the division.

### Aberdour 1 Glenorchy 2

Glenorchy go second after they beat the Aberdour colts 2-1 in their noon throw-up at

Silversands. Allan MacKechnie gave Glenorchy the lead on 15 minutes but Chris Bowerman made it 1-1 on 25 minutes.

Andy MacLean put Glenorchy back in front five minutes later and that's the way it stayed until the end.

Glenorchy were just that more bit clinical in front of goal and that was enough to give them the edge and both points.

### MacTavish winners in 2013 and 2014 but you have to go back to the inaugural MacTavish Final in 1898 for Skye's only success.

Fort William are the only side from outwith shinty's top flight to reach the last-eight of the competition and they play Caberfeidh at An Aird. The sides battled it out for the second promotion spot in last year's National Division; a race which went right to the wire before Caberfeidh progressed.

The draw for the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup second round is now clearer following the recent first round ties.

The only first round tie still to take place is the meeting between the Kilmallie and Lochaber second teams, with the tie now scheduled for the end of the month.

Second round:  
Bute v Skye Camanachd  
Caberfeidh v Kingussie  
Lovat v Strachur  
Kilmallie/Lochaber v Beaully  
Lochcarron v Fort William  
Lochside Rov v Kyles Athletic  
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart  
Strathglass v Inveraray

The second round ties will be played on Saturday May 5.

The 2018 Fraser MacPhee primary school age shinty tournament will take place at An Aird, Fort William, on Sunday 3 June 3.

This is always a popular and competitive event for players, family and spectators and a great turnout is assured.

As well as a trophy and medals up for grabs, there will be a skills station, a speed gun and hitting competition and hot food on offer.

Any interested clubs should contact Catriona MacPhee to register their team at cmacphee@hotmail.co.uk

## 2018 Fraser MacPhee Tournament

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As well as a trophy and medals up for grabs, there will be a skills station, a speed gun and hitting competition and hot food on offer.

Any interested clubs should contact Catriona MacPhee to register their team at cmacphee@hotmail.co.uk

## Camanachd Association plea for new referees

The Camanachd Association has issued a plea for new shinty referees.

There have been just enough referees to cover the matches played so far this season. However, as the holiday period approaches, there is a danger there won't be enough referees to cover the weekly scheduled fixtures.

Former players are particularly encouraged to come forward and full training is provided.

Referees receive match fee and travel expenses for each match they officiate.

Anyone interested should contact Astie Cameron at the Camanachd Association Office.

Aberdeen Uni 0 v 3 Fort William  
Glengarry 1 v 5 Newtonmore  
Kingussie 3 v 3 Kinlochshiel  
Skye 6 v 0 Glenurquhart

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 1 v 1 Col Glen  
Ballachulish 1 v 2 Bute  
Inveraray 4 v 5 Kilmory  
Tayforth 1 v 8 Lochside Rovers  
Taynuilt 1 v 2 Kyles Athletic

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 1 v 6 Lochaber  
Caberfeidh 1 v 1 Beaully  
Inverness 0 v 1 Kilmallie  
Lochcarron 6 v 4 Strathspey  
Strathglass 0 v 8 Lovat

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 1 v 2 Glenorchy  
Bute P v P Oban Celtic  
Bute unable to field a team, points to Celtic  
Glasgow MA 1 v 1 Strachur



Determination written over the faces of Inveraray's Neil Campbell and Kilmory's Bruce Johnston during the South Division One nine-goal thriller. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

the Lochside defence standing off him, he fired the ball into the opposite corner of the net.

Lochside drew level on 11 minutes. Michael MacQueen saw his shot saved with his feet by the home keeper, but Lennon Campbell was quickly in to make it 1-1 from the re-bound.

Lochside didn't look back after that. Lewis Buchanan put the visitors in front on 15 minutes. Evan MacLellan, back in the Lochside side following a back injury, sent a free-hit forward to Neil MacFarlane who found Lewis Buchanan outside the 'D' and he made it 2-1.

Michael MacQueen got his first goal on the stroke of half-time. Another free-hit from the middle of the park found MacQueen one-on-one with his marker and he turned before striking the ball low into the corner of the net from 15 yards out.

Michael MacQueen got his second 10 minutes into the second half. Lewis Buchanan beat a couple of players before setting up MacQueen to score.

Lochside's tactic of leaving Michael MacQueen isolated at full forward reaped further rewards as MacQueen completed his hat-trick on 68 minutes, taking a brilliant touch from a free-hit which was going wide.

He was again one-on-one with his marker and took advantage to net from 15 yards. More good play from Lewis Buchanan set

Alex MacVicar on 55 minutes which Alistair MacArthur struck well to make it 2-2.

This was Kilmory's best spell of the game and they soon added two more goals through MacArthur again on 57 minutes and Hal Jones on 67 minutes.

Inveraray gained a man advantage when Kilmory's Bruce Johnston was sent off for two bookings.

It was Kilmory who scored a fifth on 76 minutes though with Alistair MacArthur netting four times for the second successive Saturday.

The match threatened to boil over at times but referee Alex MacVicar handled proceedings well.

Inveraray's Kieran Kirkhope and Kilmory's Andrew Cunningham were both sent off following a scuffle.

Inveraray's John Mackenzie was switched up front for the latter stages and he converted a penalty on 81 minutes after referee MacVicar spotted a 'kick' inside the 'D'.

MacKenzie got his second with a fine back-post strike to make it 5-4 on 90 minutes.

Inveraray pushed hard in injury time but Kilmory's ten men held on for the win.

### Ballachulish 1 Bute 2

Bute only trail league leaders Kilmory and the Kyles Athletic second team on goal difference



Action from the Fort William v Inverness National Division match. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

## Scottish Cup dream over for Saints

'I'm really proud of the players. Two semi-finals and a quarter final in three seasons is a superb achievement'

**Goldenhill 3**  
**Oban Saints 1**  
**Scottish Cup - quarter final**

OBAN Saints' dreams of a third successive Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final appearance were crushed at the Donald Dewar Centre, Drumchapel last Saturday afternoon. Two fixtureless Saturday's in the lead up to the most important match of the season did little to help their cause and, despite an encouraging first half where they lead through a 17th minute strike from captain Donald Campbell, Saints eventually ran out of steam and found themselves on the wrong end of a 3-1 quarter-final scoreline against Scottish Amateur Premier Division rivals and deserved winners Goldenhill.

Manager Alex Craik kept up his unwanted record of naming a different starting 11 for every game this season and shuffled his pack once again for line-up number 25. Graham Douglas

lined up in goal behind a back four of Steven MacLeod, Willie Gemmell, Paul Carmichael and Scott Maitland. The midfield four comprised Kerr Newbigging, Matthew Kelly, Myles McAuley and captain Donald Campbell. Up front were Shaun MacIver and leading goal scorer Craig MacEwan.

Recently returned from a spell with Lochgilphead Red Star, Fraser MacFarlane provided the youth on an experienced substitutes bench comprising Alex Craik, Jamie Graham and Keith Millar. Late call-offs from youngsters Ruaridh Horne and James Ford left a space which was filled at extremely short notice by Dene Cassells.

Saints kicked off attacking the Linkwood Crescent end and had an opportunity to test the home defence inside the first minute thanks to a free-kick midway inside the Gowdie half won by Craig MacEwan. Unfortunately Willie Gemmell's flighted delivery from the left was too long

for Kerr Newbigging coming in at the back post and drifted harmlessly behind.

The hosts had in their armoury a tremendous weapon in the long throw of striker Daniel Gibson which they were keen to deploy at every opportunity. The Saints defence did well to repel the danger from Gibson's prodigious throws, winning vital headers to withstand Goldenhill's early pressure.

A good Paul Carmichael interception on Daniel Gibson on the edge of the Saints box set up a Craig MacEwan counter-attack on the left in the 15th minute which Jamie Grimes did well to hold up. Saints were, however, able to keep the ball in the Goldenhill half and forced a throw-in on the right level with the 18-yard line from where they would open the scoring. Kerr Newbigging and Shaun MacIver worked the ball along the line and out to Craig MacEwan on the left. MacEwan fed Donald Campbell on the corner of the box whose one-two with Matthew Kelly opened up the home defence. Campbell calmly lifted the ball high into the net over the advancing Scott Rennie and the last gasp attempted block of Matthew Moore.

From the restart Daniel Gibson was halted, unfairly in the opinion of referee James Gallagher, just outside the Saints box on the Goldenhill right. Gibson's set-piece delivery found Matthew Moore at the back post but the big defender was unable to direct a difficult chance on target and cushioned a left foot volley over the crossbar.

Saints countered again in the 25th minute, with Craig MacEwan and Myles McAuley linking up well on the left. MacEwan picked out the supporting run of Matthew Kelly racing into the box who unfortunately couldn't



Donald Campbell, No 9, gives Saints the lead. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

make a solid enough connection sending his right foot effort agonisingly wide of Scott Rennie's right hand post.

The hosts came within inches of levelling the scores in the 41st minute. James Gallagher got away from Paul Carmichael and sent in a low cross from the right. Daniel Gibson, whose good all round play must have caught the eye of watching Scottish Amateur Select manager Bruce McNaught, got the deftest of touches three yards out at the front post sending the ball across the face of goal and on to the inside of the post. The bounce favoured Graham Douglas who clutched the ball gratefully to his chest before launching another counter-attack up the left.



Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

Craig MacEwan's perseverance won a corner kick which strike partner Shaun MacIver sprinted across to take. MacIver's delivery picked out Paul Carmichael unmarked on the six yard line. Unfortunately, despite a good leap, Carmichael was slightly underneath the flight of the ball and sent his header looping high over the crossbar.

Mr Gallagher brought a first half of few chances to an end after three added minutes.

Despite being reasonably satisfied with the first half performance, Saints gaffer Alex Craik will have been disappointed not to have converted at least one more chance ahead of the inevitable second half onslaught from the hosts.

Left sided Goldenhill midfielder Marc Morrison lasted just three second half minutes before limping off to be replaced by the more attack minded Reece Syed.

Goldenhill equalised when Daniel Gibson fed substitute Syed on the left whose low cross found the unmarked Matthew Moore. Classy central defender Moore, who had remained forward after Gibson's long throw, took full advantage of the space afforded him to side foot the ball

past Graham Douglas and bring the hosts level.

Goldenhill made another early second half change bringing on winger Jonathon Dyer to replace Steven Dock on the right of midfield in the 52nd minute. Dyer's first contribution to the proceedings was to prevent Myles McAuley from taking a quick throw-in earning him a yellow card within 60 seconds of joining the action.

Dyer was quickly joined in Mr Gallagher's notebook by Daniel Gibson whose prolonged protests at a disputed throw-in exhausted the referee's patience. The hosts took the lead in controversial circumstances in the 58th minute. James Gallagher appeared to impede Graham Douglas as the two challenged at the back post for a Daniel Gibson right wing cross. Crucially, referee Gallagher saw nothing wrong with the Goldenhill striker's challenge and allowed play to continue where Jonathon Dyer prodded home the loose ball from two yards out.

Graham Douglas and Paul Carmichael were incensed at the lack of a free-kick award from Mr Gallagher who rubbed salt into the wound by booking both for their protests.

Understandably for a game of this magnitude there was a nervousness in the play of both teams, with both failing to find the fluency which had taken them to the quarter finals stage of the national cup competition. However, with their noses now in front it was Goldenhill who were in command and even a perceived sense of injustice failed to raise the Saints performance to anywhere approaching the level required to turn the tie around.

James Gallagher's pace on the break almost caught out the Saints back four in the 70th minute but assistant referee Tony McCann flagged the Goldenhill striker offside from Scott McGuire's pass.

Oblivious to the flag, Gallagher continued his run and drew a fine save from Graham Douglas before referee Gallagher halted the action with the award of a free-kick to Saints.

The Saints defence coped well with a flurry of Goldenhill corners before manager Craik rang the changes in the 75th minute. Kerr Newbigging and Shaun MacIver were withdrawn to be replaced by Keith Millar and Jamie Graham. Millar slotted into midfield with Graham going into the central defensive role vacated by Paul Carmichael who was pushed up front.

The change briefly gave Saints an attacking impetus but still without seriously testing the



Matthew Kelly takes on Goldenhill's Scottish amateur international midfielder Scott McGuire.

Goldenhill back three superbly marshaled by Jack Bennett.

As Saints pushed forward in search of an equaliser Scott McGuire won a crucial interception and sent Damon Gray and Jonathon Dyer off on a 79th minute counter-attack on the left.

Willie Gemmell made good ground to head off the danger at the expense of a corner kick, however there was to be no stopping the effort which was to follow from talismanic striker Daniel Gibson. The corner kick duties were left to James Gallagher who picked out Gibson unmarked on the edge of the box who unleashed an unstoppable shot into the postage stamp corner to double the home side's advantage.

Saints were now forced to gamble, often leaving themselves short at the back where they were again grateful to the frame of the goal which came to their rescue on two occasions. James Gallagher lifted a Scott McGuire through ball onto the crossbar in the 84th minute and Damon Gray cracked a 35-yard drive off the upright five minutes later.

In between those two let-offs manager Craik gave a first outing of the season to Dene Cassells who, in replacing Steven MacLeod at right full-back, became the 29th player used in this season's eventful cup run.

Taking the ball to the corner flags at every opportunity, hosts Goldenhill successfully ran down the time added on for stoppages by Mr Gallagher to claim a deserved victory and set up a mouthwatering semi-final clash against Bridgewater of the Central Scottish Amateur Foot-

### Football

ball League at New Douglas Park, Hamilton on Wednesday April 25.

Manager Alex Craik was bitterly disappointed with the result. He said: 'We played well in the first half and could have scored another couple of goals, but Goldenhill are a good side who play almost the same squad week in week out, while we have had to chop and change for every game this season which you just can't do at this level of the game. 'However, I'm really proud of the boys. Two semi-finals and a quarter final in three seasons is a superb achievement for a small town club like Oban Saints.'

The team will try to put the disappointment of their Scottish Amateur Cup exit behind them when they return to league action this Saturday with the visit to East Kilbride Rolls Royce in a Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash.

The game takes place at The Murray with a 1.15pm kick-off with referee Decio Esphina in charge.

Last Saturday's results involving Argyll teams in the Scottish Amateur League - Scottish Amateur Cup quarter final - Goldenhill 3, Oban Saints 1, Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU v Lochgilphead, Red Star, postponed; Tarbert 5, Cardross 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - East Kilbride RR v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Easthall Star v Lochgilphead Red Star; Tarbert v FC Argyll.



Jonathon Dyer prods home a hotly disputed second goal for Goldenhill.



Steven MacLeod heads clear at the near post.

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#### WEATHER

Thursday Sunny  
Breezy from the south south west  
Temperatures 7°C to 14°C

Friday Light rain  
Breezy from the west south west  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Weekend Cloudy with light rain  
Outlook Breezy from the south south west  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C



#### Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 19, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	01.38	0.6	07.37	3.8	13.58	0.6	19.45	3.8	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.22	0.7	08.19	3.6	14.43	0.8	20.29	3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.14	1.0	09.08	3.3	15.36	1.0	21.20	3.3	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.19	1.2	10.11	3.0	16.40	1.2	22.27	3.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.38	1.4	12.01	2.8	17.55	1.3	***	**	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.12	3.0	07.09	1.5	13.56	2.9	19.13	1.3	<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Wed	02.05	3.1	08.41	1.3	15.03	3.1	20.28	1.2	Oban to Barra/South Uist			Moderate
										Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate
										Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & Oban Times

Established 1861 No 8403

Thursday 19 April, 2018

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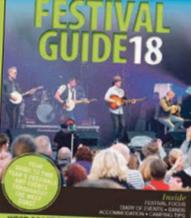
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# Fort William retailers lobby council over parking changes

**NEILL BO FINLAYSON**  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER councillors are attempting to roll back 'grossly unfair' parking charges in Fort William following pressure from retailers in the town.

The chairman of the Fort William Retail Association has welcomed an effort by councillors to reduce fees for local residents' annual permits for car parks in the town centre.

New proposals approved in the Highland Council budget in February outlined that local residents will have to pay £120 for a yearly parking permit in Fort William town centre, having hitherto been entitled to free annual permits.

However, at a Lochaber area committee meeting last Wednesday, councillors passed a motion to recommend slashing annual permits for town centre parking from £120 to £60.

The committee also voted to recommend two hours of free parking, rather than just the half an hour period proposed in the budget, for Viewforth and Middle Street car parks from November to January.

To come into effect, these recommendations must now gain the support of two-thirds of the full Highland Council when it meets again next month in Inverness.

Drew Purdon, chairman of the Fort William Retail Association, said: 'It's nice to see we stirred up some debate on it. We made the point that these car parking charges are just another levy on people in business on the High Street.'

Mr Purdon raised the issue with councillors after being shocked by the new parking charges proposed in the council budget when it was approved in February.

'I found it quite astonishing that nothing was being done about it,' Mr Purdon said. 'It seemed to us that this was grossly unfair. Anything detrimental to those businesses harms the town and the impression it has on people visiting the area. We are delighted that the councillors took our concerns on board in the spirit of cooperation.'

There was friction among councillors over some of the parking charges, however, with councillors Niall McLean and Blair Allan both voting against the motion to

industry should be better used to recoup money for the council, with visitors and tourists bearing the brunt of parking fees rather than locals.

Mr McLean also expressed his shock at the new Highland Council-wide £50 annual parking charge for carers delivering medical and domiciliary care in the town centre, and said that the council 'should be quite ashamed' of approving such fees.

He said: 'They are looking to gain money from members of staff and carers from within our community. They're putting a £50 charge where there was no charge before to try to make money from people who care for the most vulnerable in society. 'I know we're short of money, but we're not that short of money.'

The Lochaber committee chairman, councillor Andrew Baxter, responded: 'I recognise that this is a difficult issue and we are all juggling with the impact of it and trying to find ways of mitigating it.'

On the wider issues surrounding Fort William car parking charges, Mr Baxter added: 'I have been pushing for car parking review because I think it is iniquitous that outside of Inverness, Fort William is the biggest contributor to the Highlands in terms of car parking charges. Nairn, Wick, Thurso, Dingwall and all these other places are getting away with not charging residents or tourists for car parking. And that's why I pushed for these changes to the budget so strongly.'

In defence of the decision to introduce parking permit fees for locals, councillor Ben Thompson pointed to the Highland Council's £200 million backlog of road repairs as ample justification for increasing parking fees in the town centre.

vary the fees set out in the council budget on the basis that the amendments are not extensive enough to remove onerous charges on Fort William residents.

The dissenting councillors said they 'wholeheartedly disagree' with the proposals and maintained at the meeting that the £120 charge should ideally be abolished entirely.

Mr Allan expressed his dismay over the consultation process, stating that the parking charges proposals had 'neither been properly thought through nor been properly consulted on'.

Furthermore, Mr McLean argued that the booming tourist

**This is just another levy on High Street businesses**

**Drew Purdon**  
Fort William Retail Association



Ryan McBain, right, with Fort William author Barry Hutchison and the comic he launched.  
IF F16 Ryan Comics 01. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Ryan achieves comic dream

A LOCHABER school leaver with autism has achieved his dream of writing, drawing and designing his very own comic book.

Nineteen-year-old Ryan McBain, from Fort William, loves to draw and has always dreamed that one day he would produce his own comics. That dream has quickly become a reality as this month Ryan launched his first edition, which is now available at various locations throughout Lochaber.

Since leaving school last year, Ryan has been working with the Shirlye Project, a supported employment agency based in the Highlands

which helps those with support needs to find work or access further education.

The team at the Shirlye Project helped Ryan get in touch with Fort William-based author Barry Hutchison, who helped the fledgling illustrator create his very own comic.

Ryan's colourful comic can be found in a variety of locations, including doctors' surgeries throughout Lochaber, West Highland College UHI, Room 13 and The Montrose Centre.

Staff at the Shirlye Project in Fort William are delighted to see the completed comics and cannot wait for people to read them.

## Pressure mounts over road junction

THE increasingly poor condition of the junction of the A82 and A86 has been flagged up by local residents following growing pressure on road maintenance firm BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland to take action.

Residents in the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council area have raised a number of issues with local MSP Donald Cameron, who has demanded that BEAR Scotland takes urgent action on the road junction.

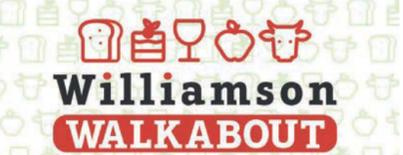
Mr Cameron had previously written to Transport Scotland to request a meeting with chief executive Roy Brannen, but no meeting was offered with the head of the public body.

In a letter to BEAR Scotland, the regional MSP expressed his frustration at how the condition of the junction has become increasingly dangerous and echoed local residents' 'justifiable concerns' that there is a lack of action being taken either by Transport Scotland or by BEAR Scotland to resolve the issue.

Mr Cameron said: 'This problem has gone on for far too long and I am thoroughly unimpressed with the lacklustre manner in which Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland are handling the issues raised by the local community council.'

'I have written to BEAR Scotland to demand urgent action on the junction, and I hope it will swiftly intervene, because it appears that too many promises have been made and not kept.'





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## Fort William FC future is secure

FEARS for the future of Fort William Football Club have been allayed this week after a 'positive' meeting on Monday night – but the club's Highland League status remains in doubt, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Players, club officials and coaching staff met with the board on Monday night to discuss the future of Fort William Football Club (FWFC) amid pressure from Highland League bosses to make a decision on the club's league status by the end of the month.

It was decided at the meeting that FWFC will continue to exist but its future may lie outwith the Highland League if it fails

to secure 'major financial investment'. As a result, the club is considering stepping down into the North Caledonian Football League.

Representatives of the club released a statement on Tuesday giving an update on the future of football in Fort William which said that ongoing talks with a new committee have been positive. That statement read: 'In recent months the future of FWFC has been in doubt following the announcement that all six current directors were resigning at the end of the season. This news resulted in two public meetings aimed at generating interested people

and ideas who would be willing to fill the void and help move the club forward. The outcome of these meetings has been positive and subsequent committee meetings, including new and existing committee along with current players and coaches, have been held to investigate the club's future.

'Without major financial investment, the Highland League is no longer a viable option and the new committee is investigating moving into the North Caledonian Football League. This would significantly reduce the financial burdens while increasing the competitiveness of the team. The committee are focused on the long-term future of the senior team and club facilities, along with and incorporating the fantastic youth system already in place.'

'The new club committee are holding one more public meeting on Tuesday April 24 at 7pm at the FWFC Social Club. This is a last opportunity for potential investors and volunteers to come forward and influence the club's future. A final decision will be given to the Highland League on Tuesday May 1.'

Anyone with an interest in the club should get in touch with a committee member and attend the meeting next Tuesday.



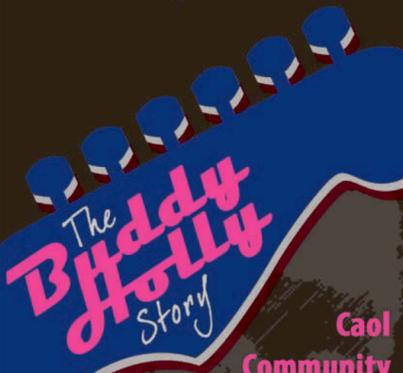
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**Saturday 21st April**



**Caol Community Centre**

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**Raymond Emmanuel**  
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Show followed by a Rock and Blues session

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FW

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

There will be a further session to help with the restoration of the Kilmallie Community Gardens on Saturday April 21, from 10am until 1pm. All welcome. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 for information.

Kilmallie Community Centre will host a grand ceilidh on Saturday April 21 at 7.30pm. The evening will be hosted by John Joe MacNeil, winner of the traditional gold medal at Lochaber Mòd 2017. Music will be supplied by Bruce Lindsay and supporting artists. Tickets at the door. Money raised will be divided between Kilmallie Community Centre and Macmillan Nurses.

Fort William Town Team is hosting its Big Spring Clean this Sunday April 22 from 2-4pm. The team is encouraging everyone to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand for an hour or two on the High Street. Meet the team on the Parade at the Town Team Hub. Tea, coffee and home baking at 4pm. To find out more call 01397 702583.

Nevis Canoe Club has organised sea kayak sessions for adult beginners and improvers. The first session is in the leisure centre pool on Friday April 27 in the water 8pm to 9pm, then there are four outdoor sessions at Outward Bound Lochail on Mondays April 30 and May 7, 14, and 21 until 8.30pm. The five sessions are supported by an instructor and equipment is provided. The fee is £25 towards costs plus a membership of £15. For further details contact Nevis Canoe Club neviscc@hotmail.co.uk.

Kilmallie Singers will perform Mozart's Requiem at 7.30pm on Saturday April 28 in Duncansburgh church. Tickets are available from members and at the door.

Friends of Nevis are holding a litter pick on Sunday April 29. Meet at Ben Nevis Highland Centre (woollen mill) at 10.30am. Come for a couple of hours or whatever time you can spare. The litter pick will finish at 3.30pm. Under-18s should be accompanied by an adult. Coffee, lunch and all equipment is provided. Please wear appropriate clothing. Register beforehand if possible - www.friendsofnevis.co.uk or contact Susan info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or 701088 or Joy pjbigin@gmail.com or 772459.



Sarah and James Kennedy on the pontoons which are ready to receive cruise ship passengers. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

# First wave of cruise visitors for 2018 head to Fort William

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

FORT William's pontoons are back in action ready to welcome the first large cruise ship of the new season.

The Astoria will be arriving next week on its maiden voyage to the town with 580 guests and 200 crew on board.

The ship is one of five cruise liners booked in for 2018 but that number will more than double for 2019 with 11 big ships already signed up.

Sarah Kennedy, one of the directors of the Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company, which runs the pontoons, was in Miami at a Cruise Expo last year to spread the word about the town as a port - and

there are plans to do more of that this year in Lisbon to boost visitor numbers even further.

Last year the volunteer-run social enterprise company made £12,500 from six visiting cruise ships and other smaller vessels - including a super yacht with a supermodel on board, said Mrs Kennedy. They also received £400 from donations.

All the money is ploughed back into the company and towards a £1 million proposed extension for the pontoons for short-stay berths for yachts, cruisers and even a seaplane to moor up and have transit berths.

News on part of the funding is expected in June but more funding bids will have to be submitted to pay for the project. This week volunteers were out

and about making sure the waterfront was looking pristine ahead of the Astoria's arrival on Wednesday April 25.

Mrs Kennedy has also been calling in at shops and businesses around the town so she can showcase what Fort William has to offer ship passengers, from special deals to attractions. She will pass on all the information to the ship so it can be shared with the guests in daily bulletins and on information screens.

And she is hoping ship captains will allow her on board to tell passengers face-to-face just how fantastic Fort William is.

'The more we can show off Fort William, the better it is for us and a better experience the passengers will have,' she said. 'It's the trickle and ripple

effect. They will go home and tell friends and family about us and then, hopefully, they will want to come and visit too - if not by ship then by bus, car or train. It's all for the good of Fort William.'

'Also, we mustn't forget that nearly half of those aboard are crew and they don't go off on excursions so they'll stay in the town and spend some money in the takeaways and local chip-pies. They all talk to each other and move on to other ships. Getting the word out as widely as we can is so important.'

Any businesses or organisations interested in getting in touch as part of the showcase, can contact Mrs Kennedy on 07768 805040 or email info@fwmssc.co.uk.



The Astoria is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday next week.



Chris Jones, front, with Harley Davidson riders from all over the area. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

## Bikers revved up for Rumble under the Ben

THE roar of Harley Davidson engines will be heard across the whole of Lochaber this weekend as dozens of bikers are expected to descend on the area for a two-day celebration of the renowned motorcycle brand.

In what is Lochaber's first Harley Davidson weekend spectacular, motorbikes and riders of all ages will make camp at An Aird shinty field in the centre of Fort William this Saturday, April 21, for a weekend of two-wheeled indulgence.

Organised by Fort William local Chris Jones, a member of the Harley Davidson Riders Club GB, the Rumble Under the Ben is being held to bring like-minded owners together for a weekend of biking fun in the glorious landscape of Lochaber.

The event builds on last year's Harley Davidson day held at the Ben Nevis Woollen Mill which included a display of around 25 bikes, mainly by local owners, but a few from further afield.

Invites to attend have gone out all over the UK and Chris hopes there will be a good uptake from fellow members across the country looking for something different in a new location.

He said: 'I am hoping for a good turn-out and that this will be the first of many. If all goes well, next year it may be an idea to link up with our

newly formed Vintage Motor Cycle Club branch and coincide it with the 65s section of six days trial, but that is no more than a thought for consideration.'

'No matter how many or how few turn out, it still promises to be a great weekend for enthusiasts and another interesting event for Lochaber people to come and see.'

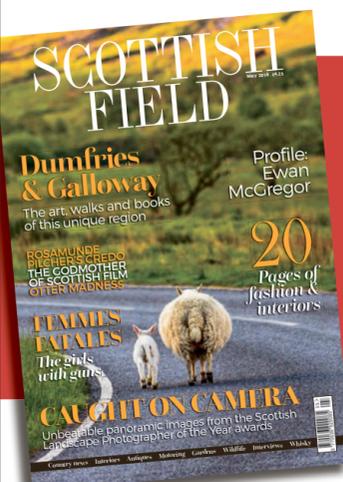
On Saturday morning there will be a display of bikes around the shinty club with about half a dozen vintage and classic bikes on show. Members of the public will be asked to vote for their favourite, with the winner being awarded a specially commissioned trophy.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a ride-out of all the bikes, taking them from the shinty club, through Middle Street, across the Corran Ferry, around Ardnamurchan and back.

Chris believes the famous roar of Harley Davidson bikes in the ride-out will be an experience to behold for local spectators.

'Hopefully, it will create a visual and audible stir in the town,' he added. 'Whenever there are this many Harley Davidson riding out at once, the sight and sound is always impressive.'

'It'd be great to get the public out to have a look at the bikes and get everyone interested in what we're doing.'



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## View from the Chamber

A BRITISH Infrastructure Group (BIG) survey published last year found that nearly two thirds of broadband connections fail to reach the government's proposed minimum standard of 10mbps.

There is a long way to go before reaching the Scottish Government's commitment to delivering 100 per cent superfast broadband access across Scotland by 2021.

In an effort to move forward, Fort William was named as one of four Highland areas to benefit from the £4.7 million funding secured by Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programme.

As a Chamber, we were delighted to have been able to contribute to this successful bid. The programme will maximise the availability of ultra high-speed broadband services to business and residential users in Fort William.

High-speed connectivity doesn't just apply to broadband. With more and more people relying on their smartphones, we need to ensure we



can keep up with demand for 4G mobile technology.

The new Scottish Government 4G Infill Programme will provide £2.5 million to fund new mobile telephone masts in locations with no existing 4G mobile coverage to improve mobile connectivity for communities and businesses.

Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, said at the launch of the programme: 'Widespread high-speed and reliable mobile coverage is just as vital as broadband, and ensures that people, communities, and businesses are able to stay connected.'

'The Infill programme will target the areas where it can make the most difference, achieving better and cost-effective connectivity in some



Fergus Ewing will attend a members' lunch on June 1.

of our most remote and challenging areas.'

There are still many businesses without sufficient digital connectivity within Lochaber, but these changes in broadband and mobile connectivity are a very positive start.

Chamber members will get the chance to discuss their business issues with Mr Ewing at a members' lunch on Friday June 1.

To join the Chamber, call 01397 705 765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

# Mobile bank cuts to hit Lochaber

**NEILL BO FINLAYSON**  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

COMMUNITY representatives in Lochaber have condemned RBS's latest plans to slash mobile bank van services in the area, with elderly residents expected to be the worst hit.

RBS revealed this week that residents in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge will see visits from mobile bank vans cut from two 45-minute visits a week to just 15 minutes.

Among other areas in Lochaber, the mobile banking van will visit Acharacle and Strontian for just 20 minutes each a week, leaving residents with more than an hour's drive,

possibly involving a ferry crossing, to the nearest RBS branch in Fort William.

Similarly, banking vans will visit Invergarry – 25 miles from the nearest RBS branch – for 30 minutes a week, down from an hour and a half.

John Fotheringham, of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, said the mobile bank service is popular in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge, especially with young mothers and the elderly.

'RBS doesn't appear to want to promote the service and its current location in Spean Bridge won't attract tourists or casual users,' he said. 'The reduction in service times appears to be a

forerunner to withdrawal of the service entirely.'

Mr Fotheringham said he has particular sympathy with Roy Bridge residents who, having recently lost their outreach postal service, are now losing their 'lifeline' banking service as well.

'Maybe if the provider was actively to promote the service there would be no reason for any reduction, particularly as Spean Bridge is likely to see new developments shortly,' he added.

A spokesperson for RBS said the cutbacks were in response to the changing ways customers are banking. The spokesperson said: 'We have reviewed the schedules of our mobile branches and added more stops. Many of these

new stops will cover areas where, unfortunately, an existing branch will be closing, but also some communities where we haven't had a branch before.

'This does also mean that in some communities we may have to spend less time, but we welcome feedback on how these services are running, and have already committed to reviewing these timetables on a monthly basis.'

However, Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said she was 'deeply concerned' by the proposals as not everybody in rural areas use online banking.

'While many people are choosing to bank online or to bank on their phone app, not everybody

is, not everybody can and not everybody will,' Ms Forbes said.

'It is absolutely vital that customers' needs shape the future banking provision in order to ensure rural Scotland is not left behind.'

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford, who is helping to lead the campaign against the Mallaig branch closure, highlighted the incongruity of cutting mobile bank services at the same time as bank branches.

He said: 'First of all, they announce their intention to close branches, many of which provide vital personal services in remote areas. They then offer mobile banks as an option, but now say there are not enough to

go round and make visits so short as to be unusable.

'The present situation of reducing the number of locations combined with ridiculously short opening times is just not acceptable.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has extended its rural banking survey by an extra two weeks to give individuals, businesses and community groups a chance to have their say.

The survey asks about the importance of being able to withdraw and deposit cash locally, experiences of using Post Office and mobile banking services, and the perceived impacts of local branch closures. The survey closes on Friday April 27.

## Plans for Kinlochleven Community Benefit Fund

RESIDENTS in Kinlochleven are being asked about the establishment of a new community fund that would help to decide how £25,000 a year is spent in the village.

A meeting to discuss the establishment of a Kinlochleven Community Benefit Fund is taking place on Monday April 23, and local residents are urged to attend to have their say.

The fund will receive community benefit payments from the new hydroelectric scheme operated by Green Highland Renewables. During construction, the local liaison group, which met as part of the scheme's planning conditions, accepted an offer of £5,000 per year per installed megawatt for the next 25 years from the company. It also agreed that the money would be paid into a new fund rather than given to an existing village organisation.

Monday's meeting will discuss how the fund will operate and invite residents to volunteer to serve on the funding panel.

The meeting takes place on Monday at 6pm in the Leven Centre. If you are unable to attend but are interested in finding out more, then contact Councillor Andrew Baxter either by email at [andrew@lochabervoice.com](mailto:andrew@lochabervoice.com) or on 07740 698173.



Lochaber independence campaigners gathered in Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach for the Aye2Aye Lochaber conference, "A Better Scotland". IF F16 Better Scotland 01. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Lochaber independence campaigners see Aye2Aye at Kilmallie conference

CAMPAIGNERS for Scottish independence in Lochaber organised a two-day conference last weekend at Kilmallie Community Centre with speakers from across the country gathering in Corpach.

The conference, A Better Scotland,

was split into two days, with a number of speakers on Saturday, while Sunday was reserved for more hands-on workshops.

Among the speakers on Saturday was author and activist Penny Cole, economist Laura MacFarlane,

economic researcher Dr Katherine Trebeck and Robin MacAlpine of the Common Weal. Recent Highland Council candidate Colin 'Woody' Wood also gave a presentation.

The day's activity was finished off with a family ceilidh where music from

Mull musicians Sorren MacLean and Hannah Fisher, new local drumming group Highland African Beats and the Argyll Ceilidh Trail.

On Sunday, a series of workshops was organised for local activists. John Gillespie, of Aye2Aye Loch-

aber, said: 'We hope those who came along enjoyed the weekend as much as we did. Thanks to all those involved in organising the conference and those involved on the day. Thanks also to those who provided food and raffle prizes.'

## Snow season at Nevis Range isn't over yet

MORE than 30,000 skiers have enjoyed the Nevis Range slopes this year and the season is still far from over.

Thanks to Mother Nature, the snow means enthusiasts are having fun for even longer.

The Nevis Range resort usually closes around mid-April but the planned last day for this year is May 7.

Nevis Range commercial manager Chris O'Brien said: 'It's been a fantastic season so far with more than 30,000 skiers on the slopes. It's great to have had so many people up on the hill and more people coming from the UK for some time now and the season just seems to be carrying on.'

Ski-Scotland said it has turned into 'something of an



Skiers and snowboarders have been flocking to Nevis Range.

epic season' at the five resorts. Chairman of Ski-Scotland Andy Meldrum said: 'Right from the start of this season we have had brilliant snow and superb support from our customers. We have had some of the best blue-

bird days I've ever experienced in Scotland with blue skies, sunshine and fresh powder.'

'With more snow forecast, the season is likely to continue into May with some, if not all, resorts open daily until cus-

tomers numbers dwindle. But the snow is likely to remain for much longer than skiers and snowboarders turn out.'

Mr Meldrum added: 'Once spring does finally arrive with warm sun and daffodils blooming, people seem to believe there's no snow left for skiing or snowboarding.'

'However, this really is the best time of year to come for a slide in the mountains with a much better chance of good overhead weather. It's also a really good time to learn, when the weather is kinder and slopes quieter. Just don't forget your sunblock.'

Skiers and snowboarders are advised always to check conditions and also opening times before heading for the slopes.

## Night closures will be 'chaos', say campaigners

OVERNIGHT road closures near Bridge of Orchy next month will mean a 24-mile diversion for drivers travelling between Tyndrum and Glencoe, adding around an extra 40 minutes to the journey.

The planned dates also clash with the Scottish Six Days Trial around Fort William, which bring in more than 1,000 visitors to the area each year.

Campaigners say unless BEAR Scotland changes the dates for the resurfacing work, it will cause 'total chaos'.

BEAR Scotland has apologised in advance for any disruption but said there was no option.

The proposed closures for essential resurfacing work on a stretch of the A82, about 5km from Bridge of Orchy, are scheduled to run from Sunday May 6 to Friday May 17 between 9pm and 7am.



Councillor Andrew Baxter.

Stewart Maclean from the A82 Partnership said: 'I'm sending a letter asking BEAR to consider changing the dates. If they don't, it will end in total chaos.'

'It seems surprising that they

didn't check the events calendar for the area.

'Overall, the fact they have to close the road for this kind of work just reflects the sheer inadequacy of the A82.'

Lochaber Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'We have had this before with BEAR. They seem to ignore the fact we have big events in the spring and summer in Lochaber. They have tried to do roadworks slap bang in the middle of a world mountain biking championship before.'

'No-one doubts that roadworks like this are important but they need to do better with their scheduling. I've been criticising them about this since I became a councillor in 2012 and they are still failing to get it right.'

Councillor Baxter said he would also be asking BEAR to change the dates.

A temporary road surface during the daytime means a 30mph restriction will also be in force while the A82 works continue.

A spokesperson for BEAR said: 'Unfortunately, due to the restricted road width within this section, we have no option but to close the road in order to ensure the safety of the workforce and members of the travelling public.'

The diversion via the A85/A828 will be signed but there is a height restriction at Connel Bridge so vehicles bigger than 4.2m will have to find a different route or they can keep going on the A82 to Tulla Cottage to wait for an escort, said a spokesperson for BEAR.

Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times and local access will be maintained when it is safe.

**THANK YOU**

I, Denis Rixson, thank everyone who supported me in my recent election to Highland Council (Caol & Mallaig ward). Whatever your politics I am here to represent you on any matter for which Highland Council has responsibility. So please feel free to get in touch.

Thank you

Denis Rixson, 8 Fank Brae, Mallaig, PH41 4RQ  
Email: [Denis.Rixson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Denis.Rixson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

**Public urged to report raptor deaths**

NON-SUSPICIOUS deaths of birds of prey in the Highlands and Islands still need to be reported to police so they can be examined by specialist vets.

The appeal comes after four raptor carcasses were found in recent weeks and reported to police.

Among these were a golden eagle found on Barra, a buzzard and a barn owl found in Ross-shire, and another buzzard found in the Strathspey area.

Tests found all of the deaths were from natural causes – both of the buzzards and the owl appear to have starved over the course of the winter.

Inspector Mike Middlehurst said: 'While there has not proved to be anything suspicious about any of these deaths, we're grateful for the information.'

'This is useful for Police Scotland and a wide variety of partners. We would continue to encourage anyone who finds the remains of a bird of prey and has concerns about it to contact us so the circumstances can be assessed.'

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FW

## Staffin trust backs organic fish farm plan

A SKYE community group has reiterated its support for two new organic salmon farms on the island after Highland councillors granted planning permission for the proposal this week.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) has welcomed the approval of plans for the new organic fish farms at Tote and Culnacnoc, and highlighted the economic and social benefits of the developments to the district, which is classed as 'fragile' by the Scottish Government.

Fourteen jobs are set to be created in the area for direct community benefit and additional infrastructure investment at Staffin's harbour.

The council's north planning committee considered the proposals, which were lodged by Organic Sea Harvest (OSH) last year, at its meeting in Inverness on April 17.

OSH will produce and package salmon in Staffin before wholesaling to major retailers as organic Skye salmon.

These processes could create up to 38 additional jobs as well as further indirect supply and service jobs.

In pointing out the differences between organic and conventional fish farm production, OSH has highlighted the lower stocking densities of fish, its intention not to use anti-foulant chemicals on nets or cages, and extended fallow periods when the cages are kept deliberately empty.

OSH has also said it will use wrasse and lumpfish (types of fish) within the cages to control sea lice.

SCT proposes to move forward with further development of the Staffin slipway and surrounding infrastructure to create opportunities for marine tourism,

fishing and the leisure industry, on the strength of this project.

To demonstrate its commitment to the community, OSH has agreed to make annual payments to the SCT, which will result in at least £140,000 becoming available for further investment in this community.

A representative from the trust said: 'As a coastal crofting community, Staffin has a rich affiliation with the sea but has now seen a generation who have not benefited from employment associated with fishing.'

'This development presents a real and exciting opportunity for the community to re-establish those ties and create sustained economic growth for years to come.'

SCT says it views this as a fantastic opportunity to use these potential jobs to lure people who were brought up in Staffin back home, attract new families and employ people from neighbouring communities in Kilmuir, Uig and Portree.

It went to say that Staffin 'cannot be overly reliant on one market, such as tourism' and the diversification of the local economy is key to the community's sustainability.

The trust also said that the plans should be considered positively as they offer an opportunity to 'empower this community to achieve its untapped potential'.

The representative continued: 'Community empowerment sets out guidance for communities to seek and engage their own destiny by encouraging decision makers, such as the council, to fully consider their wishes and desires and encourage local autonomy.'

Skye MP Ian Blackford and MSP Kate Forbes have also supported the fish farm plans.

## Cannabis worth £38,400 recovered in Broadford

A QUANTITY of cannabis, valued at £38,400, was recovered by police during a search of a property near Broadford.

Officers from the Portree and Kyle of Lochalsh local policing teams conducted a search of the premises on Saturday April 7 in response to information received from the community. A four-figure sum of money was also seized during the operation.

A 57-year-old man has been charged in connection with these recoveries and is expected

to appear at court at a later date.

Constable Jani Kari-Koskinen, who led the operation, said: 'Yet again the Skye community has shown its commitment to working with us to remove controlled drugs from our streets and I wish to thank those who shared the information.'

'There remains no place for drugs in the Skye, Lochalsh and Applecross area, and I encourage anyone who has information to contact us on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

# Skye group calls for urgent review of ferry services

NEILL BO FINLAYSON  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A SKYE transport group has called for an urgent 'root and branch' review of ferry services across the West Coast.

Sleat Transport Forum (STF), on Skye, is urging the Scottish minister for transport and the islands Humza Yousaf and Transport Scotland to conduct a review of CalMac Ferries Ltd following recent disruption to the services network in the Clyde and Hebrides area.

Roddy Murray, chairman of STF, said: 'Communities across the West Coast and islands of

Scotland have seen unprecedented disruption to services caused, in part, by a catastrophic programme of winter vessel dry-docking, and decisions to redeploy vessels on routes only for these to be reversed following understandable public and political pressure.

Mr Murray claimed that the 'long-troubled' Mallaig-Armdale route is about to enter its 'third season of disruption' after the news that a back-up vessel to the MV Loch Fyne has been delayed by a further two weeks.

Mr Murray continued: 'Business in south Skye, Mallaig and Lochaber are now experiencing

significant reductions in visitor numbers and one popular attraction in Sleat has reported a 25 per cent drop in visitor numbers compared to 2017 and a 50 per cent coach cancellation rate so far this season as a result of the ferry cancellations which by April are expected to total 125 in the first 25 days of the summer.'

CalMac responded to Mr Murray's concerns and said that this is an ongoing situation.

A spokesperson said: 'Due to technical issues outwith our control, we are currently operating with one major vessel in the fleet down. This has a knock-on

effect across our network which we have to manage as best we can within the resources we have available, to continue to provide lifeline services to all communities we support in as fair and equitable a way as we possibly can.'

In a statement last month, new interim managing director at CalMac, Robbie Drummond, said that he was 'acutely aware' of the scale of the challenge that lies ahead over the next seven months as CalMac's 'ageing fleet' prepares for what it is expecting to be the company's busiest summer on record.

However, STF chairman Mr

Murray sees this as a warning of further disruption across the network this summer.

'The disruption both in recent weeks, and for several years, is now beginning to jeopardise the economic viability of some communities across the region and is seriously affecting the travel plans of the hundreds of thousands of visitors on whom these communities heavily depend,' he said.

'The time for talking and apologies is over. The Scottish Government needs to assess its priorities for West Coast and islands ferry services and invest now in vessels and ports.'

## Kyleakin ladies win war of words



Molly Sangster, honorary treasurer of the SWI, presents the winners of the national final 'variations on a theme' competition trophy to members of the Kyleakin Scottish Women's Institute, left to right, Margaret Scott, Margaret Govier and Ann Hickey. Missing from the picture is fourth team member, Jackie Sheddon. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

THE KYLEAKIN branch of the Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) won a national speaking competition held by the institute in Lochaber last week.

Eight teams travelled to

Lochaber last week to take part in the SWI national final of the 'variations on a theme' competition, which was held in Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach on Saturday April

7. Various talks were given by members of each team, with eventual winners, Kyleakin, performing A Celebration of Life.

The event was hosted by

Lochaber federation and the judge was Dr Russell Boyce and chairman was Anne Howat, convenor of the SWI education and international committee.

## Police appeal as Portree pedestrian bridge damaged

POLICE on Skye are appealing for information after a wooden bridge was dismantled on a public path near Portree.

The bridge carries the path across a burn, allowing access from Viewfield Road to the Forestry Commission walk at Shullishader.

It is believed the damage was caused sometime between the evening of April 9 and the morning of April 10.

Police Constable Lesley Campbell said: 'The walk is frequently used by a large amount of dog walkers, joggers and cyclists, and this dismantling of the bridge

has caused a considerable amount of upset in the community.'

Anyone who has any information is asked to contact Portree police station on 101, quoting reference number NP1859/18. Alternatively you can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Skye food festival returns to Portree

A TWO-DAY celebration of the best food and drink Skye and Lochalsh have to offer takes place again this summer.

Held in the Aros Centre, the Skye Food and Drink Festival returns to Portree in June for a series of cookery masterclasses, produce sampling and live music, including a céilidh each evening.

Inside the popular artisan producers' market, there will be a wide variety of quality locally-produced food and drink.

Chefs will be cooking up a storm in the food theatre marquee, with demonstrations from some of Skye's most celebrated chefs, including Lady Claire MacDonald, Scott Davies and Calum Munro, along with patisserie chef of the year Helen Vass, as they showcase their culinary skills and give invaluable tips.

Festival-goers will also be able to explore the 'taste trail' and visit numerous eateries and hospitality outlets in the area and discover more locally grown and handcrafted goodness.

Cate Devine, food writer from The Herald, will host the festival and will chair the Kitchen Corner Question Time.

The festival takes place on June 13 and 14 between noon and 11pm on both days.

Further details are available at [www.skyefoodanddrinkfestival.com](http://www.skyefoodanddrinkfestival.com)

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Having their say in parliament are, left to right, Jane Morrison, Alex Stevens, Emily Davis, Esme Leitch and Aileen McKay.

## Rural women take on parliament

DAVID MCPHEE  
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk

RURAL women are having their say in parliament after joining the Young Women Lead Committee.

Alexandra Stevens, Jane Morrison and Esme Leitch, from Mull, Ballachulish and Duror respectively, said the programme has made them feel more empowered.

The Young Women Lead programme (YWL) is run by YWCA Scotland and is made up of 38 young women aged between 15 and 30 residing in Scotland. The purpose of the programme is to educate and promote the role of women in Scottish politics.

The organisation has launched a campaign into gender-based bullying and sexual harassment in Scottish schools. A meeting will take place tomorrow (Friday April 20), where evidence will be presented.

Speaking about joining, Alexandra said: 'Not only have I met an incredibly inspiring and supportive group of women, I've been enabled and encouraged to represent a young, female islander's voice in parliament.'

'For young women to feel empowered to speak up, and listened to when they do, is fundamental to the drive to retain young people in rural and island communities.'

Jane said: 'YSL is promoting the voices of so many under-

represented Scottish young women and I'm delighted to be one of them. The number of rural young women participating shows how much this programme was needed.'

'Women from remote communities have a lot of knowledge and experience they can bring to the table, as well as drive, resilience and commitment to create change.'

'After growing up in a small Highland village, I wasn't sure how much of a difference I could make in politics but YWL has shown me that anyone can if the right opportunities are there.'

Nevis Radio DJ Esme added: 'After my training with the Young Women's movement,

I now feel so much more empowered and confident when speaking up about important issues.'

'For me, the programme has highlighted the differences in the issues facing young rural women compared to urban ones.'

'Rural areas also have a larger gender pay gap and problems such as less flexible, affordable childcare, making it harder for women to go back to work after having children, which feeds back into the encouragement of gender roles and women staying at home.'

'There are great female role models in the Highlands but still it's not enough and change needs to happen.'

# Revised Cameron Square canopy plans await approval

**NEILL BO FINLAYSON**  
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SHELTERING from the rain in Fort William has been an age-old problem for people in the town but a community group is attempting to make the High Street that bit more appealing in wet weather.

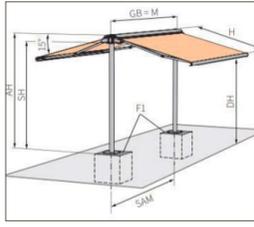
Fort William Town Team (FWTT) has resurrected its ambitions to build a permanent retractable canopy across the busy square to keep shoppers and musicians dry, after members' original ideas were turned down by the planning department last year.

At a meeting last week, the group revealed that a revised design, which will allow for canopy to be folded away when not in use, have been submitted to

Highland Council for approval with a decision expected from planners in the coming weeks.

The permanent 'goal-post'-shaped structure will be concreted into Cameron Square, from which two folding-arm awnings can be extended out to provide shelter above. The awnings will be retractable, both electrically and manually. Town team chairwoman Moira Robinson added: 'It will be opened all the time when it's got to be used but obviously during the winter when we're not actually using the square, it will be neatly folded away and retracted.'

If the plans are approved, FWTT will seek funding to pay for the installation, initial quotes for which were around £19,000 – significantly less than



the original plans for a permanent canopy which was quoted at £95,000.

FWTT withdrew its original plans for the High Street canopy last year on the advice of the Highland Council planning department following concerns from business owners who feared it could cause obstructions.

The suggestion was first put

forward following the inaugural visit by a cruise liner to Fort William in 2016 after FWTT grew frustrated that one of the only public entertainment spaces that could be used for events in the town was open to the elements and less appealing to passengers.

The proposals have proved popular with music groups in Lochaber, who support the new designs in the hope the new canopy will allow them to perform in public come rain or shine.

Willie Evans, of Glen Mhor Pipe Band, said the design would give a 'fresh look' to Cameron Square and the canopy would allow the band to practice outdoors more often.

He said: 'I think this is a great idea, and one that should give the street a focal point. With the

sound of pipes being very susceptible to weather, this would greatly improve our practice or street performance options.'

Moira Robertson, of Lochaber Pipe Band, also said a covered facility in the town centre would be welcomed as they have cancelled a few performances due to bad weather. However, she did raise concerns over whether there would be sufficient cover for spectators.

Regular public performers in any weather, Lochaber Community Wind Band added that the idea was 'fantastic' and could become 'a great asset to the town'.

Lochaber Access Panel also offered its support of the plans, but only as long as 'the needs of the elderly and disabled members of the public are met'.

## Delivery charges clampdown welcome

AN ADVERTISING watchdog has decided to clamp down on misleading claims around parcel deliveries to remote and rural areas.

Highland consumers are often subject to additional charges to have goods delivered, though some retailers do not make surcharges clear and upfront in their advertising.

The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP), which is part of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) regulator, has now issued an 'enforcement notice on advertised delivery restrictions and surcharges' – which is applicable to all advertisers across the UK with immediate effect.

It rules that adverts which 'mislead on parcel delivery and surcharge practices' have been banned, forcing companies to be open with consumers from the outset as to how much they will need to pay in delivery costs for goods.

According to research from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), those living in the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency – which also includes Dingwall, the Black Isle and the Great Glen – pay an estimated £3.8 million more in delivery charges each year – and the figure for the entire Highlands and Islands is a whopping £33.4 million.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes

welcomed the news last week. She said: 'After years of frustration and anger in the Highlands and Islands at the higher delivery charges consumers pay, it's great to see some tangible action.'

Ms Forbes praised the sustained campaign to put pressure on the UK Government and individual companies to stop charging rural consumers more or refusing to deliver at all.

'This is particularly difficult to stomach when businesses advertise free or cheap delivery,' she continued.

'This intervention is very welcome and I hope it goes some way to change unfair business practices that disadvantage businesses and consumers in the Highlands and Islands.'

Lochaber-based Highland regional MSP Donald Cameron said this was a 'big step forward' in protecting consumers from misleading delivery advertising.

He added: 'All too often, people who live across the Highlands and Islands attempt to buy products online in good faith that they will receive free delivery, only to find out after entering their postcode that punitive charges will be imposed.'

'I welcome this intervention by the Advertising Standards Authority, and hopefully we can continue with the wider campaign of ditching discriminatory delivery charges for good.'

## Olympian opens new Aldi in Fort William

RIO Olympics rowing star Polly Swann set aside her oars for the day as she officially opened Aldi's new Fort William store last Thursday.

Polly, who won silver in the women's eight event at Rio 2016, cut the ribbon to officially open the new store and helped welcome the first 30 shoppers in the queue who all received a complimentary bag of fruit and vegetables from Aldi's range.

The new North Road store has created 18 new jobs in Fort William.

Store manager Arnas Lukosevicius said: 'It's been great to have Polly with us this morning. Everyone was in good spirits



and there was a great buzz around the store – a successful morning all round. We'd like to thank everyone who came down to take part in our grand opening and we look forward to meeting new customers in the coming weeks and months.'



Polly and Arnas, left, open the store before she meets the staff. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Free trade show for Lochaber

TRADERS from the Lochaber hospitality and catering businesses are being invited to a free trade show in Fort William on Wednesday April 25.

The event is being organised by Williamson Foodservice, which supplies more than 3,000 food and drink product lines across the Highlands and Islands.

Around 40 of the company's top suppliers will be at The Moorings Hotel to promote their products from artisan cheese and dairy to craft beers, soft drinks and essential kitchen supplies and cakes.

Attendance is by ticket only and early booking to guarantee places is recommended. Visit [foodwalk.co.uk](http://foodwalk.co.uk) or call 0345 450 8888.

ADVERTORIAL

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**Kilmallie**

RESIDENTS met on Monday March 16 for the monthly Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) meeting. Duncan Mackison, chief executive of Jahama Highland Estates, discussed Liberty plans that may affect Kilmallie. A report of these discussions was published in the March 29 edition of the Lochaber Times.

Other items discussed included:  
 ■ Pedestrian crossings on A830 through Kilmallie: Following an engineering study and initial discussions, Transport Scotland had requested comments on a proposed design for a pedestrian crossing at Corpach. KCC had suggested reducing the speed limit to 20mph and extending the kerb to improve sight lines, but neither of these suggestions had been taken forward.

The current proposals would involve moving the bus stop 60 metres east of its current location on the north side of the A830 meaning the bus would stop on the carriageway. The required sightlines for the crossing could then be achieved with six parking spaces being retained for west bound traffic and five being lost and three spaces being retained and five spaces being lost for eastbound traffic. It was agreed further consultation was needed to gather views on this option. There have been no proposals from Transport Scotland to address the situation at the Banavie Swing Bridge.

■ Noise from Annat: The environmental health service (EHS) has accepted the findings of a report from BSW which details the work it is doing to reduce noise emissions from its premises to comply with planning permission. EHS has also proposed installing noise monitoring equipment properties currently being affected. EHS had asked KCC to seek volunteers to host this equipment. Two volunteers, Colin Wood and Norman Clark, came forward and their details will be passed on to EHS. EHS has also started an investigation into noise emissions from the Boyd Bros site following complaints.

■ Smell from Duisky landfill site: SEPA reported that investigations were carried out to find the source of the odour last year which appeared to be because the current cell was reaching full capacity and was more open to the elements. The operator had agreed to increase the cover over the site at the end of each day. This seemed to work as there have been very few complaints to SEPA since.

■ Banavie War Memorial: The lettering on the war memorial has become difficult to read. KCC had contacted Alf Leslie, the project co-ordinator for war memorials, about this and he had confirmed he had requested a quotation for cleaning the memorial and painting the letters black. He will decide what can be done once he has received the quote.

The next community council meeting will be at 7.15pm on Monday April 23 at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach.

**Fort William**

A SUPPORT group for people with sight loss based in Fort William has joined forces with leading national sight loss charity the Macular Society.

Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired has agreed to become an affiliated Macular Support Group. Run by local volunteers, with support from the Macular Society, the group will offer information, encouragement and friendship to people affected by macular disease and other sight loss conditions.

Maureen Dempsey, chairwoman of the Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired, said: 'We're delighted to affiliate our group with the Macular Society and reach out to anyone who is visually impaired with the promise of a warm welcome.'

The Macular Society is the national charity for anyone affected by central vision loss. It provides free information and support to improve lives and ensure no-one has to face macular disease alone. With more than 350 support groups around the UK, the Macular Society helps people adapt to life with sight loss.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) affects the central vision and is the most common cause of sight loss in the UK, affecting more than 600,000 people. More people are affected as our population ages. The Macular Society's work in Scotland is generously supported by grant funders, including the RS Macdonald Charitable Trust. The first meeting of the newly-affiliated group will take place on Thursday April 19 at the Lochy Bar, Caol, at 12.30pm for 1pm. The group will then meet on the third Thursday of each month at various local venues. For more information about the group, contact Maureen Dempsey on 01397 700097.



Attendees at the launch of VIBES - Scottish Environment Business Awards. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

**Green business awards launched in Lochaber**

SEVERAL local businesses attended an event at Blas Restaurant in Fort William last week to celebrate the launch of the 2018 VIBES - Scottish Environment Business Awards.

The VIBES awards aim to recognise and reward all businesses that are championing sustainability by identifying ways to tackle the impact on the planet by reducing consumption on its resources.

During the event, there was the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers, including Nevis Range,

Lochaber Environment Group, Blas Restaurant as well as previous local VIBES champions, Glenuig Inn.

Commenting on the awards, Steve Macfarlane, director of Glenuig Inn, said: 'The awards are a fantastic way for businesses to get recognition for the steps they are taking to benefit the environment as part of achieving their overall business objectives. We would encourage any business thinking about entering the awards to do so, the opportunities it offers are fantastic and having the chance to

measure yourself and learn from other businesses is hugely worthwhile.'

Applications for the 2018 awards close at 5pm on Friday April 27.

This year there are nine award categories: management large, management SME, green team, sustainable and active travel, circular economy, environmental product or service, innovation, hydro nation water innovation and a micro business award.

For more information or to obtain an application form, visit [www.vibes.org.uk](http://www.vibes.org.uk).

**Strontian**

FIVE hundred bales of straw have helped create one of Lochaber's most energy efficient holiday homes.

The eco-friendly Jill Strawbale House, which sits in an elevated position above the manse in Strontian, uses straw bales as its main form of insulation and exports five times more power than it imports. Helping to reduce the impact of a holiday on the environment and offering greater self-efficiency, the property gets most of its power from two micro hydro generators. The owners also encourage guests to recycle and use public transport wherever possible throughout their stay, as well providing

eco-friendly cleaning solutions. With a background in tropical forest management, the owners Robert and Justine Dunn worked with a local architect to help finalise plans and gain the necessary permissions for the property but did most of the construction themselves.

Mr Dunn said: 'Despite having no experience of the building industry, Justine and I were keen to create the holiday home ourselves.'

The pair said they have always been passionate about the environment and knew the holiday home had to be eco-friendly and energy efficient. 'Many people do not realise straw is one of the cheapest and most



The Jill Strawbale House in Strontian uses straw bales as its main form of insulation.

sustainable forms of insulation. Covered inside and out with lime, it also makes the house breathable, allowing moisture in the air to move from the inside of the house to the outside. This helps to cut energy bills, boost home comfort and promote healthy indoor air.'

**Kinlochleven Community Council minutes**

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Council (KCC) met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday April 4.

The following issues were discussed:

■ Marie Law, Lochaber district manager for the NHS Highland, addressed the meeting about Kinlochleven becoming a dementia-friendly village. The village of Helmsdale offers this holistic approach to care in its community. The Leven Centre already offers 'you time', postal staff check on residents and neighbours helping.

With the backing of a multi disciplinary team, KCC hopes it can make

getting older a little less daunting.

■ Mini-bus: KCC thanked Julie MacDonald and Stuart Grant for the work they have put in to sort out this debacle. Investigations are still on-going.

■ Trees on Wades Road: Residents who have lived in near darkness for decades will now see the light. No-one supports the wanton destruction of trees, but these fir trees had become too tall and too dangerous. There is still an issue with the broad leaf trees that line the road.

■ Community Christmas tree: The

plan is to have a sole representative to locate and purchase a tree of a certain height. New eco-lights will be bought from proceeds of car boot sales.

■ A new business venture called Kinlochleven Together Local involves independent accommodation providers getting together to offer a more cohesive approach to hospitality in the village.

■ There was a joint meeting of KCC and Kinlochleven Community Trust on March 14. The minutes will be published once ratified.

**Fort cadet travels almost 800 miles to pass instructor course**

A DEDICATED Fort William army cadet can now instruct fellow cadets after spending part of her Easter break completing the senior cadet instructor course.

Cadet Sergeant Kathryn Kelly, aged 16, from 1st Battalion the Highlander's Fort William Detachment, made an 800-mile round trip to East Yorkshire to complete the senior instructor course, held at Driffield.

The nine-day course, conducted by 4 Infantry Brigade, saw Kathryn learn skills alongside army cadets from across the north of England.

The Inverness Company cadet was one of three cadets from the Highland Battalion and one of only four cadets from Scottish cadet units who took part.

The majority of the course is theory based, however end of course



Sergeant Kelly, centre, proudly showing her pass certificate with fellow 1 Highlanders, Corporal Michael McBride from Elgin and Lance Corporal Ross Brown from Forres.

assessments require the students to teach three different lessons from the cadet syllabus to their fellow students.

After the cadets had

completed their teaching practice they completed a short fieldcraft exercise to further hone their skills. The course ended with a parade.

**Ballachulish**

FOLLOWING the annual general meeting of Ballachulish Community Association on Sunday April 8, Rob Malpas has been elected chairman alongside his role as secretary.

Brian Dickie remains the vice chairman, Isobel Robertson, treasurer, while Judy Bigham has been appointed bookings

secretary. The remaining trustees are Sheila McLean, Sandy Stoddart, Marjie Thornton and Donella James Macdonald.

Jo Watt will continue to manage the Ballachulish Village Hall Facebook page.

The community association congratulates Mr Malpas on being elected to his new role.

**RETRO Roamer**

**More items from the Retro Roamer columns of 30 years ago**

□ Residents in the Claggan houses, which back onto the new 'advance factory' on the moor, have a message for the Highlands and Islands Development Board and its contractors.

The burglar alarms on the – as yet – unlit new building definitely and deafeningly work. At two in the morning, and three, four, five and 6am. Sometimes in between those hours as well. The most charitable comment I've heard from the Clagganites is that it's a great pity the alarm can't be heard in Inverness.

□ The number of people claiming to have seen the now famous 'Old Inverloch Castle Ghost' has snowballed in the past week.

Descriptions have varied from it being a praying monk to a kilted Highlander.

I suppose it's possible those who reckon they've seen the wraith didn't hang around long enough to identify the tartan.

□ Senior citizens in Fort William are sorry to witness the disappearance of yet another local landmark. Aye, the old Post Office in the High Street. In the early 1900s, Fort William Post Office was open for business six days a week from 7am till 10pm and on Sundays from 9am till 10am for the sale of stamps.

□ The Playhouse may not have been the most architecturally inspiring building in the High Street, but now it is blighted by a boarded-up, bill-stuck, messy shop front. Highland Region Council's planning supremes make great play of 'resisting the introduction of non-retail facilities into shop fronts in town'. Nothing tangible is happening here, so I would think this is a classic case of 'non retail activity'.

□ Good to hear that the 'GR' – inscribed tablets on the stone gateposts at the entrance to what most locals had hoped would always be Fort William Town Park, are to be preserved. They will be tastefully incorporated into the wall of the Craigs on the other side of the road.

□ Here is the first offering of a three-part poem by Johnny Wilson, entitled 'I knew them all in Corpach'.

**'The Provost was Dr MacG**  
 A cocky robin bird was he.  
 Hotel keeper was MacPherson,  
 A corpulent, bulky person.  
 The Bogey, of the Cameron Clan  
 A chew and spit black tobacco man.  
 Tommy wi' his wuddy-wuddy  
 Was a funny Corpach buddy.  
 Terror of Corpach, Peter Black Jeck,  
 Rough indeed and stuck out his neck  
 When slapping Provost in the face,  
 'Twelve months probation in your case'.  
 John MacKinnon had a boat.  
 Tar – and luck – kept it afloat.  
 Happy-go-Lucky fellow, John,  
 What a loss now he has gone.  
 Who'd forget stout Don MacMaster?  
 No athlete in his day ran faster.  
 Won a race up mighty Ben  
 An elder he, among worthy men.  
 Edward Wilson led the praise  
 In Free Church's palmy days.  
 In his even tenor voice  
 The congregation would all rejoice  
 Neil saw Corpach's feet all right.  
 Made sure their boots were watertight.  
 His cheery Ann made fruity duff  
 And on your plate she piled enough.

The Pinder's Circus advertising posters are showing the venue for its two week visit to Fort William as 'An Arid'. Perhaps Pinder's know something we don't?

□ A clean up of 'Obscenity Underpass' at the Transport Centre is weeks overdue. The writing on the walls is rapidly making Fort William a rival to Glasgow in graffiti terms – except our scribbles aren't interesting or educational.

How about a clean-up by, say, the Job Creation Scheme? Within the week, the hint dropped in the Roamer column seems to have worked, as the underpass is, at last, to get a facelift. So, more power to the efforts of the community services Agency.

□ Ambulance comes down the Earl of Inverness Road into the village. Driver turns round quickly at the Police House and heads back up to the road end. Colleague jumps out and quickly and quietly picks up a couple of 'casualties' – two cartons of milk which had fallen out of the ambulance just down from the railway bridge.

□ A notoriously slow Mallaig car driver was heading along the Khyber when he observed Lachie striding out towards the Seagull City Centre. Driver winds down the window. 'Want a lift Lachie?' he asks. 'No thanks,' came the reply, 'I'm in a hurry.' Rather similar to the progress being made up 'Hill Road' to the Plantation by an elderly driver in an equally elderly van. Man and van were passed going up the brae by a cyclist who shouted through the window: 'Can't you go any faster?' The response was pretty quick, considering: 'Yes, but I'm not allowed to leave the van.'

□ Then there was the reverent gentleman out in his Lochaber manse garden, ably assisted by a female member of his flock. Along came the inevitable local wag. 'Oh look,' he cried. 'It's Adam and Eve.'

□ I'd never heard of Highland Regional Council refusing money. But it appears they are doing so by not emptying the local car park coin boxes.

Worse, the poor, frustrated 'towrists', who try to be honest, are coming back to a different 'ticket' when they leave their cars without the machine ticket.



The legendary post-war Argyll Rovers.

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**THE OBAN TIMES**

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## Viewpoint



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

## LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

There is, understandably, no let up in the outpouring of anger at the Royal Bank of Scotland over its plans to close branches – and now to reduce mobile bank van services in Lochaber.

Civic leaders are quite right to be up in arms at the news we report this week in relation to the mobile bank vans. For the van to call at Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge for a risible 15 minutes per week is simply not good enough.

Among other areas in Lochaber, the mobile banking van will visit Achacra and Strontian for just 20 minutes

each a week, leaving residents with more than an hour's drive, possibly involving a ferry crossing, to the nearest RBS branch in Fort William.

Also understandable is the concern voiced by John Fotheringham, of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, that 'the reduction in service times appears to be a forerunner to withdrawal of the service entirely'.

RBS is treating its customers in Lochaber with utter derision. We support the condemnation of RBS from across the region.



## Days gone by – 1995

This week we feature some of the people who attended the Lochaber Show centenary dance held in the West End Hotel in Fort William back in December 1995.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



JOINING campaigns to raise money for charity is not something I am accustomed to and, although I admire those who take on such work, I have not ever been actively involved before.

Being in a band means that requests to support groups, causes and individuals are constant and, with the wee blip in popularity that we're lucky to be having just now, the number of requests coming in has jumped a lot recently.

It is heartening to be aware of the amount of good work that volunteers and fundraisers are doing and it is very difficult to know how to approach all the requests received as nearly all are truly worthy causes close to the hearts of those involved.

Making small financial and other contributions and playing at a few discounted and some free gigs has been something we have always done, but as yet we have shied away from any other active role.

However, next month a few of the Skipinnish team will run the Edinburgh half-marathon to help raise funds for a permanent memorial to Eilidh MacLeod from Barra, who was tragically killed in the Manchester Arena bombing last year.

If the minor injuries to my ankle, as



Eilidh MacLeod.

written about in last week's article, mend on time, then, along with some of the band, their partners, Chloe our office manager and a few extras, I'll be hauling myself for 13.1 miles around the streets of the capital on May 27.

I'll also head down to Manchester to do a 10k along with the main fundraising group, Team Eilidh, the week before. We are not the fittest band on the scene so we've a lot of work to do.

There's a JustGiving link on the Skipinnish website and Facebook page and any donations large or small would be greatly appreciated.

fast food wrappers on the pavements.' **Andy MacArthur:** 'In the absence of any evidence it's difficult to quantify if it's any worse. It is, however, still an abdication of personal responsibility so indicative of the times in which we live. It's always someone else's job or problem.'

**John Mactavish:** 'True, but it was just as bad when we were kids in the '70's. Chewing gum and litter have always been a big problem in this area and it's not just the tourists who are responsible.'

**Colin Martin:** 'Think we are missing

The first summer that we started the band, we spent most of it on Barra and from then on we've had huge support over the years from the people of Barra and Vatersay.

This is a very small gesture of just doing what we can to help in these terrible circumstances. Suzanne Whyte, who is a first cousin of Eilidh's father, is coordinating the fundraising effort and she is doing a great job of leading things.

The song, *Wishing Well*, which I composed last winter, was written as a tribute to Eilidh, though at the time I didn't want the background of it to be known.

With the family going through so much, it didn't feel right to intrude and, without their knowing, it was not appropriate for anyone else to know the origins of the song.

Last month I made contact with the family and they were very happy that their daughter was the inspiration for the song. Following on from that contact, I've added to and amended the song slightly and we'll be re-releasing the new version next month to help add to the fundraising.

Memory is one of the most powerful means of dealing with tragedy and a memorial will hopefully help the family and the island heal together.

If the song will also help this bright, talented piper and Highland dancer to be remembered, I'll be very glad.



the motorised street sweepers, not seen one for a while.

'Can't fault the litter pickers they do a great job.'

**Paul Bailey:** 'In a word yes, it's disgusting all over the new paving and walkways.'

**John Michael Gallacher:** 'I've noticed it more on the shop side of George Street, absolutely horrible on the new pavements.'

**Mairi MacDonald:** 'I'm not down the street much but I noticed there was a lot of fag ends outside the hospital the other day.'

### Social media

We asked on Facebook if the problem of discarded chewing gum and cigarette end is becoming worse in Oban town centre.

**Fergie McIver:** 'Yes, Definitely! Why are there 7 bins on the seaward side of George Street between Stafford St and Stevenson St and not one on the other side? Why are there no 'ashtrays' attached to bins as there are elsewhere and why are litter dropping fines not enforced?'

'Walk down George St on a Sunday morning and you'll see all the evidence of cigarette ends, chewing gum and

### Press policy

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



### GPs fail to engage over new contracts

In response to the suggestion by Dr Alan McDevitt that *The Oban Times* coverage on March 22 of patients' concerns regarding the new GP contract is 'alarmist', he confidently cites public engagement about the new contract.

These were general qualitative surveys about health and social care, asking open ended questions (see Creating a Healthier Scotland and Our Voice Citizens Panel Third Survey) and were not specific to the new GP contract.

The Alliance Scotland was commissioned to deliver events informing people about the new contract after the contract had been agreed and a mere three months prior to implementation.

The majority of these events were put on in cities, but after patient pressure from rural areas, they helpfully devised facilitation packs and put extra events on to enable people in remote areas to engage.

In answer to his statement that there was 'strong support' from GPs in a poll, I would draw attention to the fact that only 39 per cent of GPs voted, demonstrating a lack of engagement from the profession on the issue. I can understand why Dr McDevitt would not want to be completely open about this.

In relation to funding, it is unfortunate that Dr McDevitt chooses to ignore the complexity of funding for rural practices.

The core funding may well stay the same for all practices, but the changes could affect local enhanced service funding, which will destabilise rural and remote practices and place them at risk.

This is a question of simple accounting and should have been addressed prior to implementation. The continuing rhetoric that no practice will lose funding is not guaranteed beyond phase one and at no time has this been guaranteed for phase two.

The promise of a Rural Short Life Working Group is welcome and acknowledges there are major problems to be reconciled. It is hoped that this is convened quickly and that there is strong representation from rural GPs and rural patients as this has not been made clear.

One of the most immediate issues to be addressed by the group is the controversial Workload Allocation Formula, designed by the London firm Deloitte.

The contract will work very well in urban areas and Dr McDevitt is right to point out the positives for these areas, but it is disingenuous to try to present it as a one-size-fits-all good news story.

People affected in rural and remote areas need to be informed of the risks to their medical cover and involved in finding urgent solutions.

Given the lack of transparency in this matter so far, it is fortunate that we live in a time where it is relatively simple to research, draw conclusions for ourselves and communicate so easily with others.

**Karen Murphy,**  
by email.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



NA MO SHEASAMH AIG CARN-cuimhneachaidh Bhàilr Chùil Lodair Disathairne seo chaidh aig an t-seirbheis cuimhneachaidh a tha Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis air a bhith a' cumail bho 1924, bha caochladh smuaintean a' dol trom inntinn.

Ged a bha mòran de na ceudan a bh' air siubhal far feadh na t-saoghail gus a bhith an làthair nach robh a' tuigsinn nam briathran a bha iad a' cluinntinn, bha iad a' tuigsinn sòlaimeachd làrach a' bhàilr agus na bha nan sineadh fon talamh mun cuairt orra.

Nuair a chluich pìobaire urramach Chomuinn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Eòghainn MacCruimein, pàirt de dh'ùrlar Cumha na Cloinne bha mi fhin a' faireachadh nach b' urrainn ceòl a bhith na bu fhreagarraiche air an latha agus aig an àm. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun robh ealantas a' fhrì-chiùil a' foillseachadh eirachdas a' phuirt ainmeil aig Pàdraig Mòr MacCruimein ach bha mathair-adhbhar a' chiùil fhèin cho iomchaidh. Tha

### Community councils 'extremely dismayed'

You may be aware that the five Fort William area community councils have reconvened their partnership and met prior to last week's Lochaber Committee of the Highland Council which considered the draft local plan. We attended that Highland Council meeting and, although not permitted to speak, submitted a letter on the following lines.

'We are very concerned by what may be a proposal to rubber stamp very substantial changes to the draft local plan. Kilmallie and Caol CC deliberately ran a public consultation on the original plan and folk made comments in good faith. They now deserve to be made aware of some very significant changes.

'We were aware that the local plan was substantially delayed to allow Liberty to submit their proposals – we weren't convinced that was a proper thing to do and many were concerned that it happened.

'You are aware that council officials are already dealing with alleged planning breaches and of noise nuisance at Corpach and Annat. We are aware of some people selling and moving house because of noise. This is a real issue affecting families, not imagined.

'Now we have the possibility of a deep water berth, liquefied natural gas storage and a gas pipeline through Corpach. These are fundamental changes. You cannot possibly ignore people's right to know about these proposals and deny them the right to consider. It would be a potential affront to local democracy to ignore these changes and their implications and so we ask you to vote for 5.3, Option II and allow public consultation.

'You delayed the local plan for Liberty, so now we ask you to delay for us.'

In spite of this, the Lochaber Committee of the Highland Council decided not to respond and allow public consultation.

Instead there is proposed to be a consultation on a '2040 Vision' which is an entirely different thing; a local plan is important, has formal status and influences future planning decisions. We are extremely dismayed by this.

**Chairs of Kilmallie, Ardgor, Caol, Inverloch and Torlundy, and Fort William community councils.**

### Crash barriers give false sense of security

Since the new crash barriers have been installed on the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg, I have noticed a worrying and marked increase in traffic speed, which, paradoxically, may be down to the false sense of security given by these racing circuit-looking barriers.

However, in real life, racing drivers who crash are slowed by massive rubber-tyre barriers to soften the impact and have well-protected cars. They also do not have oncoming vehicles travelling at them from the opposite direction.

A head-on crash on the A85, even

at a moderate speed of 45mph, would produce a possible potential collision speed of 90mph.

Impacts off these barriers at high speed may catapult a vehicle into another's path, an even more dangerous scenario.

Along with double white lines, this entire length of this route should have a top speed of 40mph to avert a tragedy.

**Stephen Jones,**  
Burnside Place, Millpark, Oban.

### Hospital staff go the extra mile to care

I write in response to your 'whistle-blower' story (*The Oban Times*, March 29).

I have been visiting a family member at the Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban for several weeks.

First, the hospital is clean. I've watched staff go to great lengths to ensure it and I've witnessed staff performing thorough inspections.

Secondly, the nursing staff are exceptional. Their attitude and willingness to assist is exemplary. Their bedside manner exceeds expectation.

It is common knowledge that the NHS has shortcomings.

My experience, however, is that the staff at this hospital deserve praise not criticism.

**David Miller,**  
by email.

### Appeal for help in tracing friend

I am trying to contact a Richard Flemming in Oban as I would like to get in touch with his brother, Robert.

It has been 28 years since we lost contact. We last worked together at Faslane Naval base.

If anyone can help, please contact me at catherinelavery1963@gmail.com or call 07835 348233.

**Catherine Lavery,**  
Glenrothes.

### Thanks from Lochaber election candidate

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the communities within the Caol and Mallaig Highland Council ward who voted for me in the recent by election held on Friday April 6 following the very sad passing of Billy MacLachlan.

My thanks to the returning officer and all his excellent staff for the efficient and engaging management of the count, to all the other candidates for a very respectful campaign and my congratulations to Denis Rixon on winning the by election.

Finally, I would like to thank the Lochaber and North Lorne SNP branch members who campaigned tirelessly with and for me throughout and through this prolonged winter spell. To them I owe a great debt of gratitude.

**Alex MacInnes,**  
Proterra, Achintraid,  
Kishorn, Strathcarron.

Ailean Caimbeul

caochladh bheachdan air dè ghluais Pàdraig Mòr gus an port a chur ri chèile, le cuid aig ràdh gun bheil e na chomharrar air a chuid bròin air bàs sheachdnar mhac san aon bhliadhna, agus cuid eile den bheachd gun bheil seo mar chuimhneachan air na chailleadh de Chlann MhicLeòid aig Blàr Worcester san t-Sultain 1651.

Ach an siud cha robh e gu mòran diofar, bha sinn air ar beò-ghlacadh leis an làrach, leis an eachdraidh, agus le tiamhaidheachd an fhuinn. Bha sinn mothachail gu ìre air an uamhas a thachair an siud sa Ghiblean 1746 agus air an geur-leanmhainn brùideil a lean fad bhliadhnaichean às dèidh a' bhàilr. 'S e seo an làrach san do thòisich sgrìos an- iochdmhor nan Gàidheal, agus mar a thuir an Ceannard, Murchadh Peutan, na òraid, tha e cudromach cuimhneachadh air na thachair agus aig an aon àm a bhith misneachail a thaobh na slighe air adhart.

Bha mise a' cuimhneachadh air an t-seann eaglais ann an Hùsabost dom biodh Pàdraig Mòr a' toirt a' mhic, agus an t-uamhas a' ghabh mi a' faicinn mar a thog an t-uachdaran sabhal is stàball anns a' chladh mu timcheall,

agus mar a chaidh an rathad-mòr gu ruige Bòidhreig troimhe cuideachd. Saoilidh mi gun do dh'aontaich na bha an làthair le Murchadh, agus le bàrd urramach a' Chomuinn Maoileas Caimbeul, nach fhaodar taighean a thogail air iomall làrach blàir a bha cho milleach agus cho eachdraidheil ann am beacha nan Gàidheal.

Ach 's i daonnan a' cheist an èist luchd-dealbhadhaidh ri beachd agus ru'n an t-sluaigh is còir dhaibh a bhith a' frithealadh?

CHAMPION piper Euan MacCrimmon's rendition of the Lament for the Children set the mood of the hundreds who attended the Gaelic Society of Inverness's annual memorial service at Culloden battlefield last Saturday.

Sensing the horrors which the site witnessed in April 1746, and the savage campaign of retribution which followed, there was a seemingly unanimous view that this place is sacred in the history of the Gael and that planners must protect it from developers.

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

### Your letters

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

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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



Top three finishers (l-r): third-placed Ricky Lightfoot, from the Lake District with John Yells and winner Ewan Thorburn (both from Lochaber).  
Photo: John O'Neill.

## Lochaber duo top Aonach Mor uphill race

### Athletics

FIFTY-SIX runners turned out for the Aonach Mor uphill running race on Saturday to face the gruelling challenge of racing to top gondola station at Nevis Range.

The weather turned out fine for the field of runners who completed the uphill course which saw them climb around 500 metres over 5km.

Ewan Thorburn (Lochaber Athletic Club) retained his title by finishing first over the line in a time of 27 minutes and 46 seconds, in front of team-mate John Yells and visiting athlete Ricky Lightfoot, from the Lake District.

#### First lady

First lady home was the Lisette Walker in 38 minutes and 26 seconds, also racing for Lochaber Athletic Club. Karen Lyon from Highland Hill Runners was second and also first female veteran, while Victoria Leiper from Shekleston finished third.

Special prizes were awarded to the eight runners who completed both the new Fort William Park Run (5km) in the morning followed by the 5km uphill race in the afternoon.

The club would like to thank all those who turned out on a beautiful day and say well done to all those who helped to make this race a success, including Nevis Range who provided free gondola return to the bottom station for all the competitors, marshals John and Pat Henderson along with Robert and Isla Cant. Thanks also to Tom McInally from Hoka who brought trainers for runners to try.

The next uphill running race is on June 9 at Glencoe Ski Centre. More information at offbeatbikes.co.uk.

# Fort earn point at Wick in week of mixed results

Wick Academy	2
Fort William	2
Highland League	

GOALKEEPER Martin MacKinnon was the hero for Fort William last Wednesday night as Fort William picked up just their third point of the season after a well-deserved draw

away to Wick Academy. The young stopper put in a man-of-the-match performance, which included a second-half penalty save, to help secure a valuable point for the Lochaber club.

The Fort set the tone of the match early on and looked to cause Wick problems right from the kick-off, evidenced

### Football

by defender Lewis Campbell's booking after just three minutes.

From then on, Fort William exerted their influence on the match and kept the Wick forwards at bay.

The first goal of the match came after 20 minutes when Fort forward John Treasurer broke free to score.

Following the half-time break, Wick Academy almost got a breakthrough after winning a penalty.

Wick forward Richard Macadie stepped up to take the penalty kick but was denied by a great save from MacKinnon to keep the score at 1-0.

It wasn't long before MacKinnon was called into action again and had to be at his best to make a double save from Wick's Craig Gunn.

On the 77th minute mark, forward Steven Andersen finally made the breakthrough for Wick.

Andersen quickly doubled his tally to put the home side in front just two minutes later.

Fort William were not ready to give in, however, and, just five minutes later, Michael Gillespie scored their second goal of the game to level the score.

That goal secured a hard-fought draw for the Fort, a result which will give them some confidence going into the final stages of the season.



Martin Munro outruns Wick's Andrew Hardwick.  
Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Fort William	0
Formartine United	6
Highland League	

FORT William were unable to build on their midweek heroics away to Wick as they slipped to a six-goal defeat at home to this year's Highland League cup winners Formartine on Saturday.

The Fort were forced into a few changes to their starting line-up, most notably they had to do without goalkeeper Martin MacKinnon. Robin Harvey deputised between the sticks.

A five-minute spell in the first half dashed the Fort's hopes of an upset. Scott Barbour scored

a double for the visitors in the 24th and 28th minutes, before Graeme Rodger made it three just a minute later.

With the score remaining at 3-0 for the rest of the first half, there was always a slim chance of a Fort William comeback but Formartine's in-form forward line weren't finished for the day.

Barbour secured his hat-trick just under 10 minutes into the second half, while Conor Gethins got his name on the scoresheet before the hour mark. Andrew Greig rounded off the scoring for United and made it 6-0 to the visitors.

The Fort are away to Formartine again this Saturday, April 21, for the return fixture.



Jack Lingard closes down a clearance from the Formartine defence. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

# Lochaber lose close game to Bishopton

Lochaber	10
Bishopton	19
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER fell to a nine-point league defeat on Saturday to second-placed Bishopton in their final home game of the season.

It took the Renfrewshire club until the last minutes of the game to secure the points after quelling a gutsy second-half comeback from Lochaber.

Coming into the game, both teams would have felt confident of the win with Bishopton only losing three games all season and Lochaber having won six out of eight home games.



Lochaber's Callum Boyd runs at the Bishopton defence. Photo: Abrightside Photography.

And it was a tight affair with Bishopton getting the first real chance of the match with a line-out just five metres out.

They went for a driving maul but were unable to get it set and vice-captain William Stewart managed to get hold of the ball and win the turnover.

Bishopton were the first to break the deadlock, however, with a converted try soon after.

Lochaber were fairly dominant at scrum time and were able to put Bishopton under a bit of pressure. But in the second half Bishopton made a substitution which helped shore things up in their front row.

Lochaber got their first points



Another attacker is outnumbered by defenders.

from the boot of Jonathan McCook to make the score 3-7.

Bishopton were next to score after they were awarded a penalty and Lochaber were reduced to 14 men. The visitors opted to run and, after being held up short repeatedly, they spread the ball wide to score in the left hand corner to make it 3-12.

Not long after the restart, replacement prop Innes Ireland almost got Lochaber's first try when he picked the ball up and

forced his way over the line but a last-ditch tackle prevent him from grounding the ball and scoring.

From the restart, Lochaber number eight Conor Taylor picked the ball up from the back of the scrum, breaking multiple tackles to get the five points. With McCook kicking the conversion, the game was balanced on a knife edge at 10-12 with less than five minutes left.

Bishopton were then able to

### Rugby

work their way into the corner and score their third try with a minute to go. The conversion meant that Lochaber would miss out on a losing bonus point with the game ending 10-19.

Lochaber's next match is away to Cowal on April 28. The club will be organising a coach for this game if any supporters would like to travel with the team please contact the club.

## 10-pin bowling singles results

### 10-pin bowling

AFTER week three of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William Brian Johnstone still leads the scratch league with 43 points followed by Pam Weller with 37 points and Iain Gregor in third place with 32 points. The handicap league is still led by Iain Gregor with 38 points followed by Jacob Payne and Steve Day both on 37 points.

Brian Johnstone still leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1361 pins followed by Pam Weller second with 1301 and Iain Gregor in third with 1268 pins.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Pam Weller with a 176 whilst Iain Gregor had the top handicap game with 221. The highest 3 game scratch series of the week came from Brian Johnstone with 468 followed by Pam Weller with 437 and Ben Weller with 420. Brian Johnstone also had the best 3 game handicap series of 600 followed by Jacob Payne with 583 and Steve Day Steve Day with 582.

## Lochaber club lotteries

### Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 1, 4 and 19. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for will be £300 for the draw today (Thursday April 19).

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 4, 6 and 7.

There was no winner this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £600.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 13, 15 and 19. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £700.

## Oban Saints in Scottish Cup quarter final ko

### Football

OBAN Saints' dream of making the Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finals for the third year in a row were dashed on Saturday when they went down 3-1 away to Goldenhill.

The Oban side led 1-0 at half time thanks to a Donald Campbell goal and could have been further in front with both Matty Kelly and Paul Carmichael missing good chances.

The home side fought back and scored two quick goals at the start of the second half to take a 2-1 lead.

Saints battled away but didn't really create a clear-cut scoring chance in the second half and Duntocher side killed the game off with ten minutes remaining when they netted an absolute screamer to make the final score 3-1.

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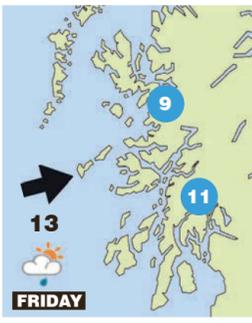
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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER	
Thursday	Sunny Breezy from the south south west Temperatures 7°C to 14°C
Friday	Light rain Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 7°C to 11°C
Weekend	Cloudy with light rain
Outlook	Breezy from the south south west Temperatures 8°C to 13°C



**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday April 19, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	01.38	0.6	07.37	3.8	13.58	0.6	19.45	3.8	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.22	0.7	08.19	3.6	14.43	0.8	20.29	3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.14	1.0	09.08	3.3	15.36	1.0	21.20	3.3	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.19	1.2	10.11	3.0	16.40	1.2	22.27	3.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.38	1.4	12.01	2.8	17.55	1.3	***	**	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.12	3.0	07.09	1.5	13.56	2.9	19.13	1.3	<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Wed	02.05	3.1	08.41	1.3	15.03	3.1	20.28	1.2	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)									Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

# FESTIVAL GUIDE 18

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