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OBANLIVE

Who will take to the stage? Find out inside

Two-year-olds among hidden young carers in North Argyll

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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TWO-YEAR-OLDS could be among hundreds of hidden young carers in North Argyll, a charity has warned.

According to government estimates, there could be as many as 547 young carers and young adult carers aged eight to 25 in Oban, Lorn and the Isles – but North Argyll Carers Centre is working with just 104 of them. The others are off-radar and could be much younger.

Now the charity, based in Oban's Albany Street, which works with eight-year-olds upwards, is urging people to do more to help identify young carers early so those in need can get support, saving some of them from years of heartbreak and crisis – just like Linda.

Linda, not her real name, was 13 by the time concerned teachers referred her to North Argyll Carers Centre for help. She had already been her mum's main carer for five years, going out to buy electricity and food while her mum watched cartoons and ate sweets at home.

It was only when she stopped going to school – anxious, depressed and with no friends – that she was finally identified as needing help. Her mother has learning difficulties, physical disability and mental illness.

One of the main reasons she was identified so late was that Linda and her family were worried she would be taken into care or her mum would be hospitalised, said Arlene Colewell, co-ordinator of North Argyll Young Carers Service.

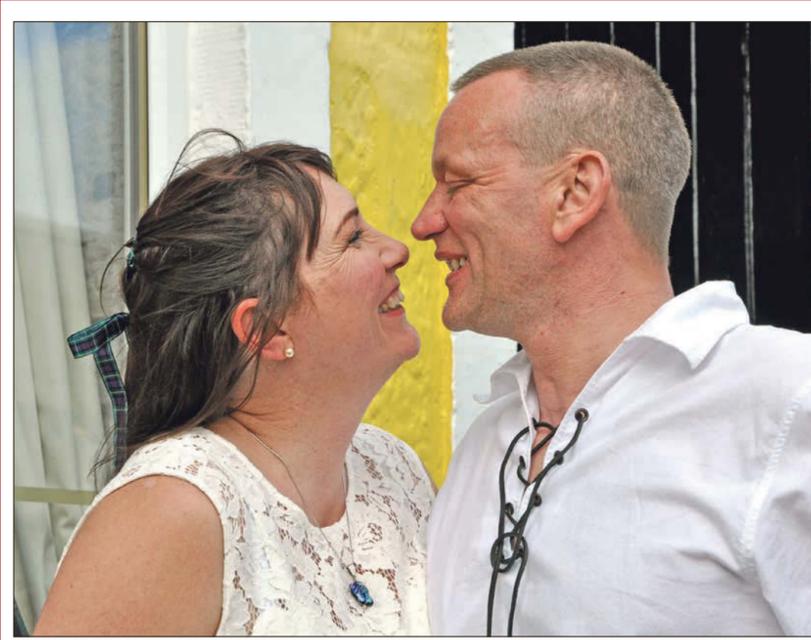
'She often felt like she was the parent and worried about her mum's safety constantly. She didn't understand that her mum was unwell and was often frightened by her mum's behaviour. She tried to pretend everything was okay at home because she wanted to protect her grandparents from any stress,' added Ms Colewell, who has worked with the charity for more than 14 years.

Eventually Linda's mum was admitted to hospital and she stayed with her grandparents until her mum went back home and she started being her carer again – this happened many times over the years.

Ms Colewell continued: 'Unfortunately, there is still stigma attached to mental illness and disability. Although living in a small community can have many advantages in terms of social support, everyone in school knowing who her mum was made it more difficult for Linda to fit in.'

'Each time her mum came home from hospital she and her family hoped it would be the last but they were fully aware there was very little hope of a full recovery, just periods of stability on medication with darker times of severe and crippling illness including alcoholism and suicide attempts.'

Linda had 'almost completely given up' by the time she got help from the charity, but with guidance, including regular one-to-one intensive support from her key worker at North Argyll Young Carers, she turned her life around, going off on outdoor activity trips with other young carers, making friends for the



A marriage made on Mull

HAPPY couple Jacqui and Jason Flather, left, were married at Mull Music Festival at the weekend. The new Mr and Mrs Flather travelled to Tobermory from their home in Staffordshire with a group of family and friends to tie the knot and enjoy the ready-made party. It was the first wedding at the Mishnish Hotel, on the colourful seafront, and the sun shone for the wedding party and all the other festival goers who descended on the lively town last weekend for the celebration of music. For full coverage and photographs of Mull Music Festival, turn to pages 12 and 13.

first time in her life, going on a youth exchange to Spain and getting back to school.

North Argyll Young Carers also helped get her mental health first aid training and other skills to help her support her mum safely.

Now 18, Linda has still had some 'turbulent times', including bereavement, housing issues and family conflict but she has stayed strong and had the charity's help to cope with it. She is working full-time and last year her support worker got funding for her

to have driving lessons. She has now passed her test and plans to take her mum away on a short break.

'She still sees her support worker regularly but no longer needs the intensive support she did a few years ago. She is very grateful for the help and support she has received from the service but wishes she had been offered it when she was much younger,' said Ms Colewell.

North Argyll Carers Centre hopes Linda's story will encourage more professionals working

with children as well as friends and relatives to pick up on the signs so youngsters and teens needing its help can be reached sooner.

'We need to raise awareness that there are hidden young carers out there, some incredibly young. They could be as young as two-year-olds. People need to keep their eyes and ears open to pick up on signs and not to worry about over-stepping the mark or causing offence.'

'These are the hidden young carers. Often they hide their car-

ing role because they are scared of social workers, but we need to break down that stigma. We still have a duty of care if we have concerns. We have to do what we have to do but we are not here to judge and cause problems. We are here to help – the earlier the better,' said Ms Colewell.

To contact North Argyll Young Carers Service for advice call 01631 564422 or email arlene@northargyllcarers.org.uk Read more on the work of North Argyll Young Carers Centre in next week's *Oban Times*.

Glen Creran appeal rejected

PLANS to build a sand and gravel quarry at Glasdrum in Glen Creran have been quashed after the Scottish Government rejected the appeal on Tuesday.

The original application, which was unanimously refused by councillors, received 1,359 public objections including Appin, Archattan, Duror and Kentallen community councils. This led the applicant, A&L McCrae, to lodge an appeal with the Scottish Government.

But the government reporter said: 'I conclude the proposed development does not accord overall with the relevant provisions of the development plan and that there are no material considerations which would still justify granting planning permission.'

Tony Kersely, spokesman for the anti-quarry protest group, said: 'Thank you to all my friends and family who have helped with this two-year-long campaign and to the fantastic support and help of the wider community which I believe made such a huge difference in getting this stopped.'

'Glen Creran is a special place and should be protected, and hopefully will be here unspoiled for years to come.'

'I would also like to thank our ward councillors and other Argyll and Bute councillors and the politicians who stood up. A great community effort by all.'

At the time of going to press, A&L McCrae was unavailable for comment.



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Teenagers praised for helping injured woman

A GROUP of Oban teenagers has been praised after helping an elderly woman who fell last Friday night and broke both her arms, writes David McPhee.

The woman had travelled from Kippen to celebrate her 50th anniversary with her husband when she fell in Oban's Station Square.

Youth engagement officer Claire Brown said she had spoken to the husband of the injured lady and he said his wife had broken her arms.

PC Brown explained that one of her Police Scotland youth volunteers, Nyomi MacPhee, 14, was among the teenagers who helped the woman.

She said: 'I spoke to the husband. He said there were other children there, but Nyomi was the leader and if it was not for Nyomi comforting her, it would have

been a lot worse.' PC Brown added: 'She saw this woman fall, she went over, took her jacket and her jumper off and sat with the woman holding her hand until the ambulance came. I am delighted to hear Nyomi has come to her rescue, though I am not surprised. She is very kind-hearted.'

Peter Howe witnessed the event unfold. While driving home from work, he came across the youngsters at the station and noticed someone on the ground.

Initially, he thought one of the youngsters had maybe had something to drink, but upon further inspection he noted it was an elderly lady who had fallen.

'These teenagers had gathered round her to help and give first aid as best they could,' Mr Howe said. 'And what a job they did. They had taken their jackets off

and put them over the lady, called 999 and were calming down the woman and her husband.'

Mr Howe added: 'The teenagers did everything right – from calling the ambulance to keeping themselves and the people calm. I'm very proud of these [teenagers] and what they did tonight. And I'm sure [their] families are too.'

Mr Howe shared this story with a public social media page and the post was inundated with praise for the teenagers.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Ambulance Service confirmed: 'We received a call at 2201 hours on Friday April 20 to attend an incident at Station Road, Oban. We dispatched one ambulance to the scene and one female patient in her 70s was transported to Lorn and Islands Hospital.'

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TIMESLINE



Norman A Macdonald and Colin Crichton from the Taqa Cormorant Alpha Platform Charity Fund.

Iolaire group given charity cash boost

Taqa Cormorant Alpha Platform Charity Fund has presented a cheque for £200 to the Iolaire Working Group which is organising a range of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Iolaire disaster.

Working group chairman Norman A Macdonald said: 'The impact of the loss of HMY Iolaire off the Isles of Lewis and Harris cannot be overstated. The tragic circumstances still haunt many villages and it is only now at the time of recognising 100 years since the disaster that people are beginning to speak about family connections and the depth of distress suffered when 201 men lost their lives only a few yards from shore.'

The working group is also looking at a remembrance event on December 31, 2018, and a service on January 1, 2019, hopefully both at the Iolaire memorial.

Public given their say on transport

ISLAND communities will have the opportunity to have an input into the Outer Hebrides Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance study commissioned by Transport Scotland in late 2017.

There will be public drop-in sessions from 4pm-8pm at:

□ North Uist and Benbecula: Tuesday May 15, Carinish Hall.

□ South Uist and Eriskay: Wednesday May 16, Southend Community Hall, Daliburgh.

□ Barra and Vatersay: Thursday May 17, Castlebay Community Hall.

□ Harris: Wednesday May 23, Tarbert Community Centre.

□ Lewis: Thursday May 24, Caladh Inn, Stornoway.

Members of the public are invited to come along, find out about the study and have an informal discussion.

CalMac ferry woes continue after repair complications

SANDY NEIL
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COMPLICATIONS during the repairs to the propulsion system of CalMac's MV Clansman means the vessel will now be out of service for longer than first anticipated.

To minimise any disruption CalMac has agreed an extension to the MV Hebrides' operating licence – which was due to enter dry dock – with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for a further three weeks.

CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond apologised for the 'highly regrettable situation', saying: 'Our first priority is to continue to provide lifeline service to island communities.'

The timetable arrangements we have now put in place for the period of disruption are the best options we have available.'

CalMac will run an amended timetable until the return of all major vessels, expected May 31.

On the Islay service, the MV Finlaggan will deliver a single vessel timetable from April 26, supplemented by the MV Isle of Arran, delivering shared timetable between Islay and Arran.

The Mallaig to Lochboisdale sailing will be cancelled with the MV Hebridean Isles providing a service from Lochboisdale to Oban. Passengers should check calmac.co.uk before travelling.

Communities have expressed frustration at the ferry disruption. At CalMac Community Board's

last meeting comments included: 'There was huge frustration that when at peak times and periods of full capacity the service is at serious risk if even one vessel is out of action.'

The Isle of Jura Development Trust also voiced its 'extreme concern' to Argyll and Bute's MP and MSP and Scotland's transport minister, stating the amended timetable was 'deeply stressful for residents and visitors.'

'All businesses, large and small, will be affected. Whether it's receiving goods to sell or use, or exporting, businesses are going to have their flow of goods in and out throttled.'

'Tourism is our economy's life blood and this reduced service, at one of our busiest times of year,

will significantly affect Jura and Islay's performance and reputation for the worse. We anticipate revenue for all businesses to be low for this time of year as a result.'

'Everything comes in from the mainland – food, fuel, goods, tradesmen and contractors – and at such a significantly reduced service over such a long period of time, this is going to inhibit day-to-day activities for all industries and residents. The backlog and knock-on effects will continue throughout the summer.'

'On a more personal level, these reductions wreak havoc on our lives. People will miss long-awaited hospital appointments, directly affecting their health and wellbeing, not to mention adding

significant distress. People will be out of pocket as sailings are cancelled and people need to find and pay for extra accommodation, childcare and take unplanned days off work.'

'Once again, as we have seen over and over in the past, the extreme fragility of this absolutely vital lifeline service has been exposed. It cannot be allowed to continue. These ferries are the route through which living here is possible, in every sense. Without a reliable and adequate service, everything here is at risk.'

At Oban Community Council on Monday, Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Not even a year after getting the contract, they [CalMac] cannot fulfil their contract, and we are near peak time.'

Misaks visit Mull, Eigg and Skye

COMMUNITY leaders from the indigenous Misak people of Colombia are visiting Mull, Eigg and Skye to share their experiences of the Plan de Vida (Life Plan), and learn about Scotland's journey towards land reform and community empowerment.

The Misak, from the Cauca region, were displaced from their lands and almost disappeared as a people.

Over the past 40 years, they have reclaimed their territory, their culture and their futures against all odds. They did this by developing the Plan de Vida, an exceptional approach for communities to re-envision and take control of their futures.

Pioneered by the Misak in the 1980s, this approach has been adopted by hundreds of indigenous peoples across South America and beyond.

Misak leaders Jeremias Tunubala and Liliana Pechene Muelas will be holding events with communities in Mull, Eigg, Skye, Bute, and a closing event at the Scottish Parliament on May 8.

As Eigg celebrates the 21st anniversary of its community buyout, and people on Ulva and north-west Mull take steps to bring the former island into community ownership, these events will offer valuable insights on rebuilding community, reclaiming cultural identity and collective visioning.

'We hope to share our experiences with Scottish communities engaged in reclaiming memory, reviving knowledge, and rebuilding community,' said Liliana.

The tour is being organised by LifeMosaic, a Scottish-based charity that works with indigenous peoples around the world to help build the capacity of communities and movements to protect their rights, cultures and territories.

All events are open to the public. For more information and a complete itinerary, go to <http://www.lifemosaic.net/eng/news/the-scottish-plan-de-vida-tour/>

The Misak leaders were in Mull earlier this week and will be on Eigg tomorrow (Friday April 27) and Saturday. Friday, Eigg Village Hall 6pm-9pm and Saturday, Eigg Village Hall 10am-noon and 2pm-4pm. They will be on Skye on Wednesday May 2, at Camuscross, and Thursday May 3 at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (Gaelic College).

Leverburgh takes delivery of new £2 million lifeboat



The crew and support staff with the new lifeboat and, inset, Highland dancers entertain the crowd, including residents from Leverburgh Care Home.

LEVERBURGH RNLI has welcomed its brand-new Shannon-class lifeboat, RNLB Stella and Humfrey Berkeley to the station.

The state-of-the-art, £2.1 million vessel arrived in Leverburgh on Saturday at 1.25pm, timed in recognition of the boat's side number 13-25.

All Shannons are given the number 13, as they are 13m in length. The '25' in Leverburgh's side number shows it is the 25th Shannon to be built by the RNLI.

The arrival of the Shannon at Lever-

burgh RNLI brings with it a host of benefits to the life-saving capabilities of the station.

She's the first modern all-weather lifeboat to be propelled by waterjets instead of traditional propellers, making her the RNLI's most agile and manoeuvrable all-weather lifeboat yet, a feature which will be particularly beneficial when working in the challenging waters of the Sound of Harris.

Furthermore, the Shannon is almost 50 per cent faster than Leverburgh's

current Mersey-class lifeboat, RNLB The Royal Thames, with a top speed of 25 knots – a crucial factor when lives are at risk.

A vast amount of work has been undertaken by the volunteer crew at the station in order to train and prepare for the arrival of the new Shannon. Various crew members have spent time at the RNLI's college in Poole, Dorset, familiarising themselves with the new, more advanced systems on board the boat.

Several crew members have also spent

the past fortnight on a long journey by sea, from Poole, taking the RNLB Stella and Humfrey Berkeley home to Leverburgh. This journey – which has contributed to their training – has comprised of many stop-offs along the way and the station would like to thank everyone who showed them such warm hospitality as the crew sailed north.

Chris Ross, Leverburgh lifeboat operations manager, said: 'The arrival of the Shannon in Leverburgh is a momentous occasion in the history of our station.'

Numbers have to be capped for 10k and half-marathon

TIREE'S 10k and half-marathon race has been oversubscribed yet again with organisers having to cap numbers at 250.

Funds raised will be going to Oban Mountain Rescue Team, said organiser Will Wright.

Children's races on Saturday May 5 start at noon, with the main event beginning at 2pm. Event HQ will be at An Talla and the cafe will be open all day.

Island resident and fitness instructor Will said: 'Once again, the event's popularity has made it hugely oversubscribed and, with numbers this year capped at 250, it's been a hard job squeezing folk in. The start lists are now complete and runners just need to sign in and get themselves to the start line on time.'

The island's first 10k and half-marathon

were in 2006. 'We hope to deliver an event that contributes to island life and shares many of the things we love about Tiree.'

'We try our best to minimise any disruption, but as always it does mean a lot of runners out on the roads around the west end of the island between 2pm and 4.30pm.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience, and if there are any comments, feedback or ideas about how we can run the event more smoothly, please do get in touch.'

'For people not taking part, please do come out and support the runners – we always need extra help in the event team, and it's a fun way to be involved, so let us know if you can help,' added Mr Wright.

Email will@tireefitness.co.uk or go to tireefitness.co.uk to find out more.

A taste of a nip around Islay

ONE of the rarest blended malts in the world, created by the world's first circum-navigational swim of the 100-mile coastline of Islay, has been released, and VisitScotland believes this will encourage visitors to make their own adventures to the island.

Explorer's Cask, made up of whisky from all eight of Islay's operational distilleries, has officially been launched.

The whisky was made after three adventurers swam around the Isle, stopping at distilleries along the way to create a unique cask.

Supported by VisitScotland, Explorers Club members Chad Anderson and Justin Fornal, along with fellow swimmer Johnnie Mundell, completed the expedition in July 2017 in just eight days.

With a quarter cask in tow, they started at Ardbeg Distillery and made their way clockwise around the island, taking in seven more distilleries, before returning to Ardbeg to celebrate their historic achievement.

A film crew followed the explorers and a documentary will be released later this year. The national tourism organisation hope



Left to right, Johnnie Mundell, Chad Anderson and Justin Fornal.

the film and the unique blended malt will showcase the Isle of Islay's remarkable whisky offering, wildlife and dramatic coastal seascapes to visitors across the world.

Marrying for nine months, the whisky is now on sale with 145 bottles available to those who enjoy the taste of adventure. All money raised from the sale of the whisky will go to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Go to www.singlecasknation.com/products/great-islay-swim-explorers-cask-quarter-cask



Kirsty, left, and Kerry MacPhee are going to the royal wedding.

Cycling sisters are off to royal wedding

CYCLING sisters Kerry and Kirsty MacPhee from South Uist will represent the Western Isles at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding next month.

The siblings, who have established their names at national and international levels of the sport as well as at the Island Games, were 'totally surprised' to get the invite to the wedding of the year at Windsor Castle on May 19.

Western Isles Lord-Lieutenant Donald Martin was asked by the palace to put forward suitable ambassadors for the honour.

He said: 'I am delighted that Kerry and Kirsty are able to accept the invitation for this special event and I am sure they will enjoy the experience as well as being excellent ambassadors for our community.'

Kerry told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a total surprise. We're expecting the official invite to arrive this week. We're not expecting to be at the top table

on the day ... I think we'll be in the garden! It's such an honour for us to represent the Western Isles. We will be part of history going to the wedding. It's really special.'

'Kirsty and I are absolutely honoured to be asked. We are both extremely proud to come from the Western Isles and it is a community that has got behind us in all our endeavours.'

'We very much look forward to the opportunity to once again represent our beautiful islands at the forthcoming royal wedding.'

Kerry, 31, who has taken part in Scottish, British and European cycling championships as well as the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, is still racing at events. At the weekend she took part in the British Series Cross-Country event at Dalby, Yorkshire. Two days a week she works for a renewable energy company in Stornoway when not training.

Kirsty, 28, is a teacher in Dunblane.

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First for Oban as Rockfield Centre launches share scheme

A COMMUNITY share scheme will be launched this summer to help turn Oban's old Rockfield Primary School into a £3m community hub.

Last month Oban Communities Trust received a £420,000 grant towards its goal and it is hoped the share scheme will take the project to the finishing line.

Director Graham MacQueen told Oban Community Council on Monday: 'What is happening behind those closed doors is very exciting. We are making huge inroads. This is exactly what we propose the Rockfield Centre will be for: the community.'

'Around December this year we hope the building work will start. We have the bulk of the funding in place.'

Chairman Gordon McNab said the trust's status has been changed to a Community Benefit Society, or 'Bencom', so it can now raise money by selling community shares.

'Planning permission has been approved,' he said. 'The project is £3m. We have two thirds of that. The last push is offering community shares in the building. It is a new concept in Oban. We are testing the waters.'

The trust was encouraged by a similar share offer in the smaller town of Strontian which raised £800,000 and the recent successful Dalavich hydro scheme.

Interest would be paid on every share, depending on the centre's income. Each share costs £50, with a minimum buy-in of five shares at £250, to a maximum of 2,000 shares worth £100,000.

Mr McNab said they hoped to start the share scheme in the middle of June and start building before the end of the year.

Kitchen Garden asks court for firm to be wound up

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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THE OWNERS of Oban's Kitchen Garden have handed a legal petition to the Sheriff Court asking that the business be wound up and that an interim liquidator be appointed.

The deli and coffee shop in George Street shut without warning in March leaving customers stunned and the premises is now up for let.

A balance sheet available to view on the Companies House website showed as at January 31 2017, Kitchen Garden owed its creditors, falling due within one year, £137,949.

News of its sudden closure had prompted more than 190 Facebook comments.

Customers turning up at the shop, which also sold beer, wine



The former Kitchen Garden premises is up for let.

and spirits, were faced with a simple handwritten note stuck on the door saying 'Sorry we are closed until further notice'.

A post on Kitchen Garden's

Facebook page later read: 'Dear all, we are very sorry to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to close our coffee shop/delica-

tessen. We want to say a big thank you to all our customers throughout the years and we are very sorry to disappoint you like this. We are extremely grateful to all of you and we have made life-long friends throughout these years.'

'We will miss you dearly and wish you all the best.'

However, an advertisement appeared in last week's *Oban Times* giving notice that Kitchen Garden directors Stewart and Mary Frost of Ceol na Mara, Ganavan Road, Oban, had presented the petition to Oban Sheriff Court asking that the company be wound up by the court and that Stuart Preston of Grant Thornton, Exchange Crescent, Edinburgh, be appointed interim liquidator.

David Alexander of Gilson Gray, Rutland Square, Edin-

burgh is the Frost's solicitor. He said his clients did not want to comment.

Facebook posts from disappointed customers at the time it shut included 'What a shock', 'Great tragedy', 'So sorry to hear about this, hardly any independent shops left on the main street', 'Will miss being able to pop in and enjoy the delights inside' and 'Big loss to Oban for sure'.

One of its suppliers, Wild Island Botanic Gin, had also put up a post in March saying: 'That is very sad news indeed. We would like to thank Stewart and Rose for being such great supporters of Wild Island Botanic Gin and Colonsay Brewery over many years.'

'We will also miss the cheese counter.'

'Good luck folks.'

Bridge crash lorry driver fined £1,000

A DRIVER who hit the Connel Bridge with his lorry, causing £10,000 worth of damage and the crossing to be closed, has been fined £1,000.

Mihai-Alexandru Barbu, 28, of Freeman Street, Grimsby, pleaded guilty to careless driving, for failing to comply with a height restriction sign and colliding with the A828 Connel Bridge, causing it and his vehicle damage on December 20 last year.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday Barbu was driving an HGV on a delivery to Connel when 'he struck the bridge, which blocked traffic in either direction for some considerable time, and damaged the bridge'.

The lorry was two to three inches taller than the bridge, Mr McGinty said: 'The repairs to the bridge cost over £10,000.'

Defence agent Laura McManus added: 'His belief was that he passed under this bridge before with no difficulty. He was at a loss to explain why the trailer this time hit the bridge. He appears before you with no previous convictions.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This is a serious error. It has cost considerable inconvenience and expense. It is a serious fault, but it is inattention on your part, which can be described as carelessness.'

Sheriff Hughes imposed six penalty points on his licence and fined him £1,000, reduced from £1,500, to emphasise to lorry drivers 'the importance their loads are appropriate for the bridge they are passing through'.

The Oban Times becomes principal sponsor of Am-Am

THE OBAN Times has become the principal sponsor of the annual Rotary Club of Oban Am-Am golf competition.

The newspaper's group finance director George Graham and group operations director Keith McIntyre last week handed over a £650 cheque to Rotary president Tommy McQuade, joined by senior vice president Iain MacIntyre and Rotarian David Mudie.

The winners of the popular competition will be presented with *The Oban Times* Trophy after the event at Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday June 3.



Angus Macleod memorial lecture

THIS year's Angus Macleod memorial lecture will take place Thursday November 8 in South Lochs, a few days before Remembrance Sunday which will mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The speaker will be Dr Angus Macmillan from Lemreway, a member of The Lochies folk group and a consultant clinical psychologist in Dumfries, where he lives. He is a published poet and co-editor of literary magazine *Southlight*.

The evening lecture will be broadcast live to other locations and over the internet. Attendance is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Thieving carer sentenced to 200 hours unpaid work

A CARER who stole jewellery from an 83-year-old woman has been ordered to pay back £1,000.

Rosemarie Morrison, 36, of 10 Marine Court, Dunbeg, admitted stealing jewellery from the woman's home, while acting as her carer, between April and July last year.

Sentence had been deferred for reports.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Morrison 'has taken responsibility and expressed shame and remorse' for 'this nasty and mean conduct'. She is in deep financial problems. It has been decided

that at the first opportunity she will leave the area. She will be relinquishing her tenancy to join her husband.'

Mr Thornton asked Sheriff Patrick Hughes not to impose a custodial sentence at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday, so she can 'make a go of her life'. Sheriff Hughes told Morrison: 'This offence forms part of a larger course of conduct. Two other complaints have come before the court, for which you received custodial sentences.'

He ordered her to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work over 12 months and to pay compensation of £1,000.

POLICE FILES with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Bike stolen

A CHILD'S black mountain bike was stolen from Rockfield Primary School, Oban, sometime between 3.20pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday March 21.

Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Woman arrested

A WOMAN, aged 44, was arrested and charged for behaving in an abusive manner at 3.25pm on Monday April 16, in Lismore Crescent, Oban.

Police have submitted a report to the procurator fiscal.

Drugs found

AT 9PM on Wednesday April 18, on Miller Road, Oban, a man, aged 32, was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of heroin and diazepam.

He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Street fighters

TWO WOMEN, aged 37 and 19, were charged by

police for fighting in Shore Street, Oban, at 9.35pm on Thursday April 19. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Careless driving

THE DRIVER of a Fiat campervan which collided with a parked BMW in an Oban car park then drove off has been traced by police.

The Fiat driver, a man aged 67, has been charged with careless driving and failing to stop and report a collision.

A report into the incident, in Tesco's car park at 2.50pm on Saturday April 21, will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Window kicked

A SHOP window in Superdrug, George Street, Oban, was damaged after it was kicked at 11.20pm on Saturday April 21. Police are investigating.

Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Sharing the good news on Ramsay Street

NEIGHBOURS fan and *Oban Times* reader Helen McNeill from Taynuilt likes to keep in touch - even when she is 10,500 miles away on holiday.

The outreach worker at SAMS in Dunbeg took her copy of *The Oban Times* to Ramsay Street in Melbourne because she thought it would make a fun photograph back home.

'I've watched *Neighbours* for most of the 33 years it's been on TV and it's my little bit of Aussie sunshine on a grey Argyll day. Even when there's a murder, they're firing up the barbie!' she said.



Helen reads all about it...in Ramsay Street.

And Helen added: 'Getting to Ramsay Street was top of my bucket list. We got to see some of the film set as well as the street, and we got to meet the actress Kym Valentine who played Libby Kennedy.'

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New Dunbeg homes could be 'most inclusive'

IF PLANS for 300 new homes at Dunbeg stick to a code of practice meeting the needs of people with disabilities, it will be North Argyll's most inclusive development to date, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Oban Disability Forum has sent Argyll and Bute Council planners a letter of 'strong support' for the development by Link Group Ltd on land near Mains Farm. Ken Johnston from the forum said members were delighted to note 'extensive references' in the planning application to using inclusive design principles.

And he said if, as stated in the application, a particular design code of practice meeting the needs of people with

disabilities was applied across the housing scheme, it would be 'the most inclusive development ever in North Argyll'.

'It will create an environment where disabled people can contribute to and be involved in their community, can be independent and can fulfil their potential.'

'The forum congratulates the architect for adopting an inclusive design to his development.'

The forum has asked that at least 10 per cent of the housing stock is disabled-friendly and that other ground floor homes can be readily adaptable.

It also wants to see the footpath to the development made suitable for wheel-

chairs and buggies and have benches and perch stools along the way. From its own remit, the forum is strongly supportive of this development and would be happy to offer feedback to be involved on a phase by phase basis,' added Mr Johnston.

Link and representatives from West Highlands Housing Association, Argyll and Bute Council and Transport Scotland have started consultations and attended a Dunbeg Community Council event to hear and respond to concerns from locals.

Anyone wanting to look at the plans in detail can go online at publicaccess.argyll-bute.gov.uk/online-applications and search 18/00375/PP

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Priorities outlined at Atlantis AGM

UPGRADED changing areas, new lights and modernised systems are Atlantis Leisure's top priorities this year.

At the organisation's annual general meeting on Monday April 16, chairman Neil Matheson highlighted the centre's 25th anniversary.

He said: 'Major milestones in life often present useful opportunities for perspective and renewed focus. It's helpful to stop and take stock of what's been, before beginning to look forward to what's next.'

After some reflection, the plans for the future were revealed.

Neil said: 'Our wet and dry changing areas are a particularly high priority after years of intense use. We are currently exploring funding options to help.'

With help from Resource Efficient Scotland, a plan has been created to upgrade all of the centre's LED units and modernise the systems that control its water and air distribution.

A number of upcoming events were also discussed, including Muddy Atlantis Day (MAD). MAD will see members of the public tackle a 10k cross country assault course on Saturday May 19.

Classic car drivers hit the road

OBAN car enthusiasts celebrated Drive It Day 2018 by taking a trip to Tyndrum in their classic vehicles.

Members of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club met Perth club members at the Green Welly Stop.

Ian Sabell was one of the Oban members who braved the poor weather conditions in his MGB GT 1998.

Before setting off, he said: 'Regardless of the weather I'm looking forward to it.'

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club posted on its social media page: 'In spite of poor weather there was a reasonably good turnout of vehicles from the clubs.'



Ian Sabell and his MGB GT 1998. 15_T17_classiccar01

Lonan Drive house plan objections force hearing

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A PLAN to build up to 44 more homes on Lonan Drive, Oban, will go to a local hearing, Oban councillors decided last Wednesday, given the weight of local objection.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning chief said it was one of the 'most challenging' sites left to develop, because most of Oban had already been turned into housing.

Indicative plans, submitted by applicants TSL Contractors Ltd, show a mix of 44 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'.

Forty two objections have been lodged by local residents and Oban community councillors, who argued it was the 'only green area' within an area of high density housing, with an 'already overloaded' road network and a 'too narrow' entrance.

Planning officers recommended Argyll and Bute Council approve the plan, subject to a local hearing. Their report stated:

'While 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 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.'

The Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee met at Kilmory Castle last Wednesday to decide.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'If we are having a hearing at this stage, where we are only going for the principle, will we have another hearing

time for the hearing,' he said. 'We are left with the most challenging sites. Much of Oban has already been developed. Oban is under pressure with regards to the three remaining areas.'

'Is this site suitable for residential development? It is local residents who have objected. Is there sufficient open space to serve Soroba and Nant Drive, both heavy density areas without much open space?'

Councillor George Freeman said: 'Any detailed application would have to come back to the committee.'

The committee unanimously agreed to hold a local hearing, the date of which is still to be set.



Des Macmillan with See Me champions at a Walk a Mile event in Galashiels.

Oban to host first Walk a Mile event

OBAN is to host its first major walk to help change the way people think about mental health.

The Walk a Mile event is being arranged by Des Macmillan, a community champion for See Me, the national programme to end mental health discrimination.

The aim of the event, on Sunday May 20, is to show mental health can be a topic of everyday conversations and everyone is responsible for creating positive attitudes around it.

Thousands of people have already taken part in walks across Scotland, bringing together health professionals, carers, people with experience of mental health problems or anyone who cares about tackling mental health discrimination, to break down barriers as they walk a mile in each other's shoes. This event will go even further though as Des, together with Tina Jordan from ACUMEN, are putting on a day of events in the town, while doing the first two-mile walk.

Music will be provided at Station Square and guest speakers will be talking about their

stories after the walk. Des, from Oban, said: 'We have put together a day which will give the people of Oban a better insight to the effects of mental health problems. We have not had an opportunity before to show that Oban will take a stand and go that extra mile to challenge the stigma and discrimination associated with mental health.'

'There are people all around us who are coping with some sort of mental illness. Yet we, as a society, choose to silence them.'

'It's time for us, as a community, to stop putting our hands over our ears and start listening. You will find you know lots of people who have experienced a mental illness and their stories need to be heard.'

'For me, it took years to understand my mental health but it was only when I opened up to the outside world that I started to accept my illness and start my road to recovery.'

The walk begins at noon at Station Road, Oban. To find out more contact Des. Macmillan@seemechampion.org or visit www.seemescotland.org.

Volunteers brave weather to improve Oban garden

FOUR volunteers donned their waterproofs on Sunday to improve Oban's Millennium Garden, beside Atlantis Leisure.

Despite persistent rain, helpers from Friends of Oban Community Playpark and Keep Oban Beautiful moved several large shrubs to give them space to grow and to block unofficial paths in the flower beds.

Maurice Wilkins of Keep Oban Beautiful said: 'It's Earth Day today and though in all seriousness the day is dedicated to changing attitudes and behaviour about plastics, earth is something we were covered in this morning.'

'We'll be returning to carry out more planting when the weather allows. Thanks go Kinlochlaich Garden Centre, Appin, and Home-base Oban for donating plants and materials to help the work.'

The garden was planted to celebrate the millennium and was intended to be a place of relaxation for everyone.



Volunteers helped improve Oban's Millennium Garden on Sunday. 15_T17_Obanplaypark01

New parking charges delayed until signs arrive

OBAN'S new parking charges have been delayed until Argyll and Bute Council puts up signs.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for roads, told Oban Community Council on Monday: 'We are way behind. The machines are in. They have been white lined.'

The changes were due to come into force in March, the meeting heard. Exasperated community councillor Stewart McIver, an organiser of next week's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, said: 'There was nothing to say it

wasn't happening. I am trying to keep our website updated to tell visitors where to park.'

A council spokesperson explained: 'We are currently awaiting the arrival of new parking signs, after which we will implement the new charges. We expect to have these erected within the next few weeks.'

'Pay and display charges help maintain the availability of spaces, increases the economic viability of the town and contributes to the safe management of traffic.'

The changes, agreed by councillors in December, include

giving drivers the first 30 minutes free, but also charging on Sunday afternoons, alongside the usual 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday. The first two hours will also be free in Ganavan, Longsdale and Lochavullin car parks, but all three will be year-round pay and display.

There's more disabled parking spaces, but blue badge holders can park free in any bay for an unrestricted period, apart from a marked disabled bay with a time restriction. The Corran Halls number one car park will remain seasonal and Mossfield remains free.

In more detail, the Traffic Regulation Order proposed, for on-street parking, introducing the first 30 minutes free to bays on George Street, Corran Esplanade, William Street, Queen's Park Place and Argyll Square, with standard charges applying thereafter. It also introduced parking charges on Gallanach Road (sailing club to Brandy Rock) and Ganavan Road (from Glenrigh to the war memorial), Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and on Sunday between 1pm and 6pm, which will also apply to all existing pay and display bays.

Finally heading in the right direction

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

JUST as I was beginning to think things were warming up, I had to put my winter boots on to walk the dog!

At least we are getting spells of nicer weather now and the sight of lambs and primroses show we're heading in the right direction.

In my head I know it's not the wrong weather just the wrong clothing but my heart is desperate to go for a walk without having to take layers to cover every eventuality - including hailstones.

The weather doesn't seem to bother the visitors. Each time I comment on it, I'm reassured that for many of them a wee bit of rain is actually a pleasure.

I am trying to think that way myself, but after the third day of rain it's not easy.

This weekend we have the excitement of Scottish Ballet staging its *Highland Fling* in Atlantis Leisure. And there's a quiz in aid of Cancer Research in the Masonic

Lodge, Albany Street. This is always good fun and a great fundraiser.

Dunollie has events on for children this weekend and they sound intriguing.

Have a look on the Town Diary for all of these and more.

We have a lot to look forward to in May. The first of the bigger cruise ships is due to arrive and we're getting organised for that.

It's almost time for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival as well, which means the town will be bulging at the seams with dancers and musicians plus their families.

I enjoy watching some of the competitions and I'm always in awe of the talent of these young people. I would encourage you to try and see some of the performances. You will be impressed.

Last week's photograph was taken at the top of George Street so have a wander up and see if you can spot it.

This week's is closer to home, at least for me.

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What's on at The Rockfield Centre, Oban

ANOTHER jam-packed few weeks is on the cards at The Rockfield Centre with lots of events featuring artists and musicians from near and far.

Scottish Ballet hosts a talk today (Thursday April 26) entitled Stage Secrets: Focus on Design, which will give an insight into how it created the look for its new production, Matthew Bourne's *Highland Fling*, being held at Atlantis Leisure Centre this Sunday and Monday.

Rockfield Centre art tutors Val Hamilton and Val Leckie will be leading a sold-out life drawing class on Monday April 30 while dancers prepare for their performance.

Booker prizewinning writer James Kelman is the featured performer on Saturday May 5 at the return of 'Wurdplay'. This is the spoken word open mic night, run in collaboration with Hope Kitchen's writing group. Open slots are available for local writers and rappers. Kelman will also be hosting a writers' bletcher the same day. Anyone interested in writing, regardless of experience, is welcome to go along. Free places can be booked via the Rockfield Centre website.

Musicians can perform this Friday, April 27, at the regular Let's Make a Scene open mic night. On Saturday April 28, there's also the chance to take part in a new singers' session, Songshare, which focuses on folk, traditional and contemporary song.

Those interested in singing can also join the monthly Scratch Choir nights, on the second Friday of every month, where a group of assembled singers of varying abilities learn a song from scratch in two hours. May's song will be the Beatles classic *Let It Be*. If you fancy something more traditional, there's the monthly Slow Session for folk music players. May's Slow Session will be on Saturday May 5 to coincide with the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The Rockfield Centre will also be hosting acclaimed musicians and composers Chris Stout and Catriona McKay, fresh from their BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for best duo. The pair will be playing an intimate gig at The Rockfield Centre on Wednesday May 16. Tickets are limited, so get in quick to guarantee your spot.

More information on all the events at The Rockfield Centre can be found at www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk

Care cuts could return says councillor

SOME of the savage cuts to Argyll and Bute's health and social care could come back in 'a different form', despite being rejected last month.

Intense public pressure caused health and care chiefs to think again after their plans to cut council-run care homes, day care and learning disability centres were leaked. For people who work within and use these services, re-design means closure and more than 400 potential job losses.

The Health and Social Care Partnership's most controversial proposals were rejected by the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). But the IJB's vice chairman councillor Kieron Green told Oban Community Council on Monday the deficit had not gone away.

'We have been left with a £2.4 million budget gap for this year,' he said. 'It is incumbent on us to deliver a balanced budget.'

'Some aspects of the ones rejected may come back in a different form. There was an ongoing review of the disability service. The demand for health and social care is outpacing what the council or government can keep up with.'

They have until their meeting on Wednesday May 30 at Kilmory to plan another solution.

New funding for Gaelic dictionary

THE SCOTTISH Government has announced a £2.5 million investment in the next phase of the first comprehensive dictionary of Gaelic. The funding will be managed by the Scottish Funding Council.

Euan's Guide backers gather to promote tourism initiative

BUSINESSES and organisations backing a new initiative aimed at improving disabled visitors' experience in Argyll get together in Oban tomorrow.

The Oban Times has teamed up with Michael Russell MSP and disabled access review website Euan's Guide to make sure visitors with disabilities get maximum access to accommodation and attractions in the area – as well as information to get the most out of their visit.

The networking event in the Corran Halls, which runs from 11am to 1pm, hopes to get more people involved in and to be aware of Euan's Guide and what it can achieve.

The guide takes away the fear of the unknown and inspires disabled people to try out new places.

It was started in 2013 by brother and sister Euan and Kiki Macdonald after Euan became a powerchair user. After spending hours making enquiries 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.

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

Michael Russell MSP, who met

Euan and Kiki at the Scottish Parliament after submitting information to the guide about some of the places he represents, said: 'Euan Macdonald is an inspirational individual who is determined to ensure the best possible services and welcome for disabled tourists everywhere in the country.'

'Argyll and Bute is already doing well making sure venues are accessible and that tourist providers think about all their

guests whatever their needs. I am pleased to support Euan and his guide by giving local businesses another chance to learn from best practice and share their experiences, and I am grateful to The Oban Times for its generous backing for Euan and this event.'

A Euan's Guide spokesperson said: 'We are delighted this event is taking place as there is a huge potential for Argyll and Bute to become a top accessible tourism destination in Scotland.'

'The draw of its many islands and outstanding natural beauty can only be enhanced by promoting its accessible highlights to disabled visitors, whether that is accessible accommodation, wheelchair friendly boat tours, disabled access information online, clear signposting or simply a warm welcome.'

To find out more about the event, email Heather Wolfe on Heather.Wolfe@parliament.scot or call 0131 348 5738.



Emma, far left, with family, friends and crew at the renaming on Sunday.15_T17_Boatnaming02

Hebrides Cruises names vessel after daughter

THE OWNER of Hebrides Cruises has renamed one of his vessels after his daughter Emma Jane.

The ceremony took place on Sunday April 22 at Oban Pontoons. The ship and all future crew and guests were then blessed by Emma's uncle, Pastor Donald Kirsop.

For the past four years Emma MacGregor has helped build the company, taking responsibility for sales, marketing and shore management.

Owner Rob Barlow popped a bottle of champagne and Emma named the ship Emma Jane by splashing the alcohol over the hull.

Speaking afterwards Emma said: 'I feel very honoured my dad would choose to have his vessel named after me. It's a combined celebration for the whole company.'

The family-run company runs wildlife cruises out of Oban to the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides.

Council finds way to save hut built for disabled family

COUNCILLORS found a way to approve a recreational hut built without permission near Seil's Bridge over the Atlantic by a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Argyll for his disabled family.

Graham MacQueen's retrospective planning application drew significant public interest, including 16 objections and 120 expressions of support.

At a packed public hearing in Oban's Corran Halls on April 5, almost all councillors on the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) supported Mr MacQueen's application, despite the officers' recommendation it be refused.

But they didn't know exactly how to approve it and adjourned until their next meeting on April 18 to work out a competent motion.

In Argyll and Bute Council's Kilmory Castle chambers, Councillor Rory Colville said

the 'small scale recreational development [acts] as an essential respite opportunity for the applicant who has carer responsibility for several close family members and who seeks to use the development as a respite for himself and as a place of therapy for his family'.

Councillor Colville then summed up their decision, in one epic sentence, saying: 'While it is acknowledged that the proposed development would introduce an element of alien geometrical built form representing a sporadic development within an area of panoramic landscape quality, which would ordinarily be to the detriment of the existing undeveloped settlement pattern and to the unspoilt, undeveloped and largely natural character of the landscape, it is considered that the impact of the proposed development would, in this specific case, be mitigated by its relatively small

scale, by its largely inaccessible location and by an appropriate scheme of landscaping to be secured through the use of planning conditions and to include the removal or reduction in size of several of the existing and unlawful engineering operations.'

'Any adverse landscape impacts of the development would be further outweighed by the unique personal circumstances of the applicant, such that the development would be acceptable.'

'The planning merits of the case are, contrary to the advice of officers, finely balanced such that members may attach a significantly greater weight to the personal circumstances of the applicant and his family members than they might otherwise.' Mr MacQueen said afterwards: 'I am overwhelmed by the support of the planning committee and the public, but also my friends and family.'

ADVERTORIAL

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OT Appin

APPIN SWI held its annual general meeting on Thursday April 12 in Port Appin Hall. When the business meeting ended, the fish and chip-themed evening sprang into life with fancy dress and 'fishy' games. Everyone then thoroughly enjoyed the delicious fish suppers from Tralee Bay Fish and Chips. Linda MacLeod thanked the tellers and Betty Jackson and Irene MacCorquodale presented the prize for best costume to Beth and Jane Parkin.

The annual trophies were awarded as follows: Housewives: 1. Brenda MacLeod; 2. Catriona MacKenzie. Handicraft: 1. Brenda MacLeod; 2. equal Barbara Carmichael, Alison MacCorquodale and Jessie MacKenzie.

Taynuilt

STUDENTS from Michigan's Alma College Choir will make a 3,400 mile trip to perform in Taynuilt Village Hall. The college was founded by Scots and has maintained strong links with the country. The choir aims to tour Scotland every four to six years. The performance starts at 7.30pm on Friday May 4.

Audrey Paterson of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir said: 'Choir director Will Nicols first contacted us in 2002 to see if we could help set up a concert in Taynuilt. They had such a fabulous time on that first visit that he has asked if they could come back, and they have sung here every time they have toured Scotland since then. It's always a super concert. They have a varied repertoire through sacred music, folk songs, classical and African-American spirituals. Will said he was especially pleased to have them sing with us 'oldsters' because he likes them to see how you can enjoy singing for the whole of your life.'

North Uist

THE AWARD-WINNING film by Mike Day *The Islands and the Whales* will be screened at Taigh Chearsabhagh tomorrow, Friday April 27, at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at the door priced £8 and £6 concessions. Seats are limited so reservations advised. Email andy@taigh-chearsabhagh.org. In their remote home in the North Atlantic, Faroe islanders have always eaten what nature could provide, proud to put local food on the table. The land yields little, so they have always relied on harvesting their seas. Hunting whales and seabirds kept them alive for generations and gave them the way of life they love; a life they would pass on to their children. But today they face a grave threat to this tradition. A short illustrated talk by Alasdair MacEachean entitled *Looking Beyond the Whales* follows the screening.

Oban

AN ORGANISATION that helps with pain management will be holding a monthly meeting in the Oban Bay Hotel and Spa. Pain Association Scotland runs professionally-led monthly groups for people with all forms of chronic pain. The organisation helps to address the non-medical issues which impact on people's lives, with the focus on self-management. A variety of topics are covered at the sessions, including understanding chronic pain and managing flare ups. The focus of the meetings is on building skills that help people gain control and live more effectively with their pain, and is also a chance to meet others in the same situation. The event will take place on Monday April 30 from 1-3pm in the Oban Bay Hotel and Spa.

Connel

FREE story, song and rhyme Bookbug Sessions for babies, toddlers, pre-school children and their families will be held tomorrow (Friday April 27) from 2.15pm at Achaleven Primary School, Connel.

 Subscribe for as little as 56p a week www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions



Brownies back annual Connel village clean-up

The annual Connel village clean-up took place earlier this month. Residents teamed up with members of the Brownies to reduce the amount of rubbish in the area.

Forestry plan seeks public feedback

A NATURE trail for people with disabilities was just one of the ideas put forward at a public consultation about the future for forests around Taynuilt. Other suggestions put forward at the one-day land management event hosted last week by the Forestry Commission, included more signs and recreational routes to help people get even more leisure use from the forests at Fearnoch, Inverawe and Glen Nant. The early-doors consultation at Taynuilt Village Hall, marking the start of a major consultation to create a new, 10-year plan for the forests, attracted a good turnout of residents. All three forests are mainly commercial conifer forests with some attraction for recreation seekers. Glen Nant is a native woodland recognised as a site of special scientific interest, while Inverawe – planted by English landscape architect Dame Sylvia Crowe – on the western slope of Beinn Cruachan is highly visible. The other forest in Glen Lonan forms

part of a public water supply catchment. The main goals of the new plan include commercial conifer timber production, restoration of ancient woodland sites, landscape reappraisal and protection of designated features. People at the consultation on Wednesday April 18 looked at maps of the forests and talked with foresters, including planning manager Donald McNeill. Residents also sought assurance their water sources through the forested areas would be protected. All the ideas and views from locals, as well as feedback from other stakeholders, including Argyll and Bute Council, community councils and industry, will be put into a draft of the new plan which will then go back out to the public for another consultation round before going forward for final approval from Forestry Commission chiefs. It should be ready by the end of this autumn, said Mr McNeill.

It will replace a previous 10-year plan and will be reviewed again in five years. 'People want to know what's happening in their forests. What trees are going to be felled and when. A lot of people are interested in the natural woodland. The plan is about striking a balance between production and landscaping, and meeting our conserve and social objectives,' added Mr McNeill. Community council chairman David Sloss said: 'It's a massive estate the Forestry Commission has and they could do more to encourage more access to it. One thing that's not been done is a trail where people with mobility issues could follow. More signs with more information would also be good.' He added: 'The good thing with the Forestry Commission is that they are community-minded. We welcome the fact they are looking for our opinion.'

Dalmally

TODAY, Thursday April 26, there's a Knit & Natter at Dalmally Community Centre from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Dalmally Golf Club is holding an open day on Saturday, April 28, from 10am to 4pm. Everyone welcome. Meet the coaches, officials and members. Tea, coffee, homebaking and bar.

Loch Awe

FRIENDS of Saint Conan's Kirk will present the young, versatile and dynamic quintet Sirocco Winds in concert on Sunday April 29 at 3.30pm. Tickets on the door are £10 or £8 for Friends. The music will be followed by a cream tea.

Loch Lomond

A NUMBER of Argyll businesses recently exhibited at the Visit Scotland Expo at the Glasgow Scottish Event Campus. More than 300 Scottish businesses showcased their products to 600 tour operators and travel agents from all over the world. Cruise Loch Lomond and FabULUSS Loch Lomond were visited by Visit Scotland chairman Lord Thurso.



Visit Scotland chairman Lord Thurso visited the FabULUSS Loch Lomond stand. Photograph: Chris Watt.



Ardrishaig

OBAN business TSL Contractors Ltd has been awarded a £1.4 million contract to develop the former Egg Shed building in Ardrishaig into a maritime hub and community space. This comes after the company completed work on the Oban Maritime Visitors Centre in Oban, above, for Argyll and Bute Council. Works has now started on the Ardrishaig site and it is anticipated local businesses and tradesmen will be involved in the construction.

Inveraray



Inveraray Castle head guide Kenneth Whyte; chief executive Elizabeth Crabill; and castle manager, Jane Young.

Castle wins excellence award

INVERARAY Castle has won an Award of Excellence based on customer feedback. The award was presented by Irish coach tour operator CIE Tours International, which recognises the quality of the UK's hotels and visitor attractions by awarding a merit award to those who have received a greater than 90 per cent customer satisfaction rating.

Law firm appoints new partners

FORT William law firm MacPhee & Partners has announced the promotion of solicitors Jeremy Benfield and Keith Falconer to company partners. Jeremy joined the firm in 2001, having worked as a solicitor in England since 1986, and now heads up the crofting law department. His expertise in crofting law was recognised in 2011 when he was accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in crofting law. Jeremy undertakes work on behalf of tenants, owner occupiers, landlords and grazing shareholders, as well as representing clients at hearings before the Crofting Commission and in cases in the Scottish Land Court. Keith has been with the firm since 2007, having previously been the area solicitor with the Highland Council and clerk to Lochaber Licensing Board. Keith has many years' experience of domestic and commercial conveyancing and licensing and deals with domestic and commercial property sales/purchases, leasing and licensing work. Managing partner Duncan MacPhee said: 'We are delighted to welcome Jeremy and Keith to the partnership. It is a reflection of their commitment to the firm and of their sound knowledge and specialist experience in their respective areas of law.'



Jeremy Benfield, left, and Keith Falconer have been appointed as partners of MacPhee & Partners.

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At Random

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A thrilling experience

I HAD an absolutely thrilling time on Saturday. My wife Dorothy and I were flown in a light aircraft - first time for me - out of Oban Airport courtesy of the splendid people at Fly Scenic Scotland. It was spectacular. We took off in stunning weather - it was clear and sunny and, I think, the warmest day this year - and climbed out over the Firth of Lorn, over Duart Castle and Craignure on Mull, before cruising over Lismore, the Isle of Eriska, Port Appin and on up to Appin and Castle Stalker. We then turned and headed south back past the airport and did a leisurely circle over Oban and Kerrera before heading back to North Connel for a soft landing after a fascinating half an hour. It was stunning and the views were breathtaking. At the controls was the affable Donald Cameron, an Oban man who is also a firefighter in the town. An avid aviation enthusiast, Donald is not only a pilot for Fly Scenic



Martin and Dorothy with Bruce Millar, left, and pilot Donald Cameron.

Scotland, an offshoot of Border Air, but also has his own aircraft which he built himself over a period of two years. However, our flight was in a Cessna 172, a sturdy little four-seater which is ideal for the scenic tours as the wings are above the fuselage, thereby allowing virtually uninterrupted viewing. Prior to setting off, we were taken through a safety briefing by flight operations manager Gra-

ham Dawson and helped into the plane by operations co-ordinator Bruce Millar, whose connection with Oban Airport dates back to 1992. Donald was a mine of information as we cruised at around 100 knots (the equivalent, I was informed, of about 115mph), pointing out the major geographical sights and local landmarks along the way. The flight was part of a media day held at Oban

readers a few weeks ago, I have continued to press the case for improved safety on the road between Oban and Connel, as outlined in our long-running campaign Stay Alive on the A85. I emailed Mr Yousaf on April 9 saying: 'Dear Mr Yousaf, I am still concerned about safety issues on the A85, especially on the stretch between Oban and Connel, the reason for the petition I passed to you last year when we met in Oban. You indicated at that time that you would respond by announcing what action if any could be taken by this spring and we are now well into that period. Are you in a position to let me know what the situation is at present?' Apparently he is not. I have not even had the courtesy of an acknowledgement. What do you think? WRITE to me at miaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB or call 01631 568021.

Sound of silence on A85

What do you think?

Ballyhennan remembered

MORVERN LINES
IAIN THORNER
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A FEW weeks ago I visited a part of Argyll less familiar to me than many others, and found an old graveyard containing numerous stones of interest to members of the MacFarlane clan at Ballyhennan – a settlement too small to be called a village, lying half way between Tarbert on Loch Lomond and Arrochar on Loch Long.

It appears on General Roy's military map of 1750 where it is shown as Killchenn, whose first element indicates an early church site. Baile is a Gaelic word meaning a farm or village, but the origin of 'hennan' has been lost, perhaps it was a saint's name.

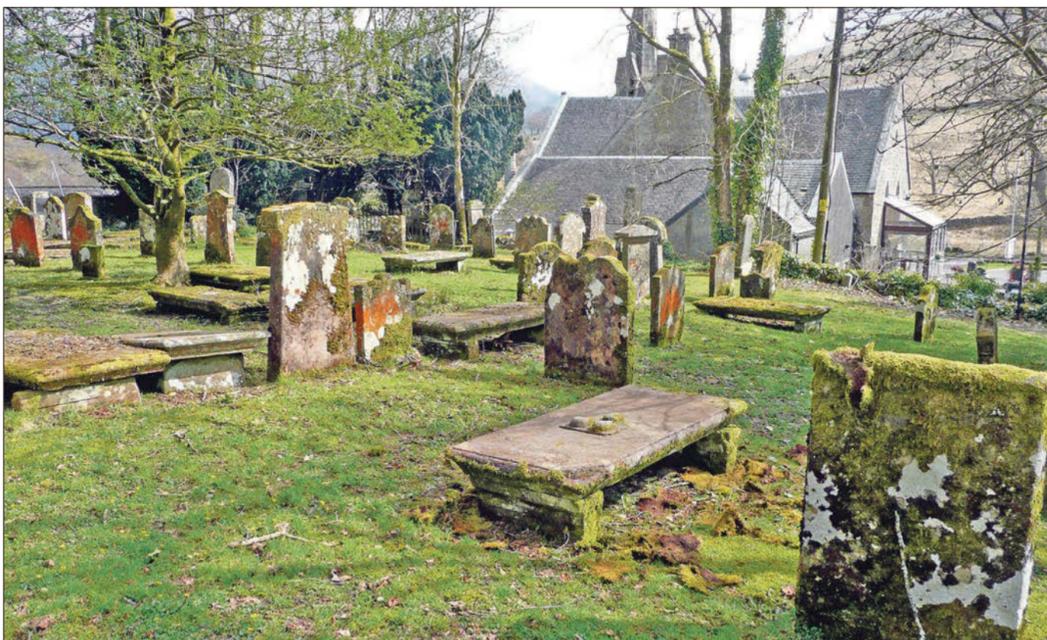
The adjacent church, now a restaurant, was built as a Free Church in 1844. With the exception of one slab containing a sword and fretwork, which may have been carved in the 1500s, most of the gravestones in the graveyard date from the early to mid-1700s and include a number of carved table tombs consisting of heavy horizontal slabs supported by four or six stone legs.

These were expensive to produce by hand and generally mark the last resting places of the area's most prominent and wealthiest families and tradesmen who could afford to engage professional masons.

The predominant surname is MacFarlane, which is hardly surprising as they owned the lands around Arrochar from 1225, when it was granted to them by the Earl of Lennox.

An area near Ballyhennan Church is believed to have been the site of a fight between the MacFarlanes and Haco's Vikings, who pulled their boats across this short isthmus, though the exact site has not yet been identified.

In 1785, the MacFarlanes were forced to sell their lands to help pay their debts and, today, most of the surrounding land is owned by the Colquhouns of Luss.



BEYOND THIS WALL ARE BURIED
SOME OF THE 37 MEN WHO DIED
IN THE PARISH OF ARROCHAR
WHILE FULFILLING THE WEST
HIGHLAND RAILWAY LINE
1890 - 1894
ERECTED BY ARROCHAR WEST
HIGHLAND RAILWAY CENTENARY
COMMITTEE
1994

The peaceful setting of Ballyhennan graveyard with the former Free Church in the background; the plaque marking the mass graves of 37 men who died near Arrochar; and a table-tomb commemorating an early 18th century MacFarlane family.
Photographs: Iain Thornber

The MacFarlanes had a reputation as cattle rustlers, who would hide their booty in the mountains near Loch Sloy, hence the clan's battle cry: 'Loch Sloy!' As their rustling was generally done at night, a full moon was known locally as 'MacFarlane's lantern'.

Later, Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth were on the busy drove routes along which cattle from Argyll and Inverness-shire were driven to the great fairs, or trysts, at Falkirk and Dumbarton. These traditional routes were later improved by General Wade and his colleagues who were charged by the government with building a road system throughout the Highlands to allow the easy movement of troops, following the defeat of Prince Charles Edward Stewart and his Jacobite army at Culloden in 1746.

Although most of the stones in Ballyhennan have been photographed and plotted on a plan, many inscriptions have not been taken down. Where stones

date to a time before statutory records began, it is important they are noted before they are lost to wear and tear from grass-cutting machinery, frost, snow and rain. The MacFarlane clan society would be doing its members a great service in the future by employing someone to do this.

According to the Arrochar, Tarbet and Adlui Heritage Group, the great surge of evangelical fervour which poured forth in Scotland as a result of the Disruption in 1843 divided the Church of Scotland.

Money poured in for a general building fund, and after an open-air communion service on the first Sunday of August 1843, it was decided to petition the Free Church Presbytery for approval to build a church and call a minister.

Application was made to Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, the proprietor of Arrochar, for a site, which was readily granted, close to the burying ground of

the parish at Ballyhennan. This proximity to a burial ground by a Free Church is unusual.

A contract for erecting the church was given to Dunoon builder Alexander Stewart. It was to seat 250 at a cost of £240; the members of the congregation to cart all materials. The work commenced on January 10, 1844, and, incredibly, it was finished on April 11 the same year, and the contractor fully paid.

Colin Mackenzie, who was then the minister of Sheidag, but had been 'outed' by his laird, accepted the call to the Free Church, Arrochar, and was inducted on April 18, 1844, one week after the church was completed.

The session records of Arrochar Free Church do not record when he left, but on December 8, 1882, his death is noted and he is referred to as senior minister.

In 1869, the second minister of the Free Church was ordained.

He was a Mr Kippen, who ministered there until his death on October 26, 1881. A set of stained-glass windows at the rear of the nave of the church commemorates his ministry.

On April 13, 1882, John Robson Elder, was translated from Cromarty to Arrochar Free Church and ministered there until his death in May 1897.

He was succeeded on October 21, 1897, by the Rev A P Telfer, during whose time the Free Church union with the United Presbyterians took place and, from November 4, 1899, the local church became the United Free Church and a member of the Dumbarton United Free Presbytery.

On May 5, 1904, it is recorded that the last issue of communion tokens by Arrochar Free Church took place. The Rev Richard D E Stevenson, during whose ministry the basis and plan of union between the United Free Church of Scotland

and the Church of Scotland was submitted and approved.

In September 1929, at a joint meeting with the parish church, it was agreed that the new names of the churches would be (Parish) Tighness and (United Free) Ballyhennan.

Mr Stevenson was the last minister of the Ballyhennan Church. From 1947, both the United Free and the parish church were ministered by him. The United Free Church was closed in 1966.

Access to the area became easier with the building of the West Highland Railway line between 1890s and 1894 though this 'progress' came at a price: a total of 37 navvies died near Arrochar, Tarbet or Ardlui during the construction of the railway. They were buried, not in the graveyard, but in a piece of ground which is little short of a mass grave outside the north-east wall, presumably because their names and religion were unknown at the time of death.

It was not until 1994 that their

existence was even acknowledged and marked by a plaque erected by Arrochar West Highland Railway Committee.

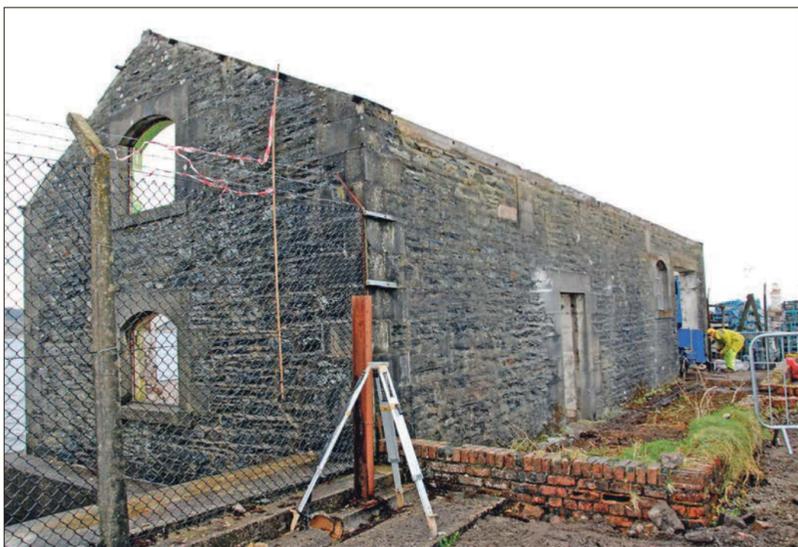
The Victorian era also saw a steady stream of paddlesteamers bringing visitors up Loch Long from Glasgow to Arrochar, from where they could visit the local hotels, or travel across to Tarbet to catch another steamer to explore the scenery of Loch Lomond.

Loch Long has influenced local fortunes further, once part of a thriving herring-fishing industry and, more recently, as the site of a torpedo-testing range which closed in 1986.

The villages of Arrochar, Tarbet, Succoth and nearby Ardlui have a thriving and active heritage group, which they are to be admired for.

What a pity more communities in Argyll wouldn't follow this encouraging example.

Iain Thornber
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TSL workers were getting stuck into the Egg Shed redevelopment. 06_a16ArdrishaigEggShed01

Old oil depot to become Crinan heritage gateway

COLIN CAMERON
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WORK has started to turn a derelict industrial site into a 'fantastic' new hub for visitors to Mid Argyll.

The £1.5 million project will create a heritage and community centre at the former Gleaner Oils site beside the A83 trunk road through Ardrishaig.

The Scottish Canals-led project will see the transformation and extension of the derelict building known locally as the 'Egg Shed' into an interpretation centre telling the story of the canal and the communities on its banks.

From the ancient Gaelic kingdom of Dalriada to the tale of Queen Victoria's journey on the Crinan Canal, the new centre will display the unique history of Mid Argyll through interactive exhibits and interpretation material.

The revamped Egg Shed project includes space for

community activities – from art installations to pop-up exhibitions – and opportunities for social enterprises and community groups.

There are also plans to create new viewpoints and walkways around the building and new access with Ardrishaig centre.

The work, the first phase of the re-development of the Gleaner site, is expected to be complete early next year.

Christopher Breslin, head of regeneration and development at Scottish Canals, said: 'Over the past few years, we've worked with our partners and the local community to develop a shared vision for the future of the Crinan Canal corridor.'

'The redevelopment of the Egg Shed will help deliver a sustainable future for Ardrishaig, creating a fantastic tourist destination and a vital community resource that will bring jobs and economic benefits to the area. We're grateful to our funders and the local community for

their support and look forward to welcoming them to the new hub in early 2019.'

The project is funded by the Scottish Government, European LEADER money, Scottish Canals, Argyll and Bute Council's Tarbet and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund, SUSTRANS, Shanks, the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund and Ardrishaig Community Trust.

Argyll-based construction firm TSL won the contract for the project and started work on site this week.

Aileen Morton, policy lead for economic development at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'The redevelopment of this site is all about working with the local community to create jobs and boost the local economy and the project was championed by local people.'

'The council has agreed to contribute up to £250,000 as part of our wider work to regenerate Mid Argyll.'

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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

There are few more worrying stories of recent times than that which we publish this week regarding the number of hidden young carers in North Argyll.

It is, in fact, shocking to learn that there are more than 100, and possibly as many as 547, young carers and young adult carers aged eight to 25 in Oban, Lorn and the Isles - but only 104 of them has been referred to North Argyll Carers Centre for help.

The case study we describe this week reveals something of the enormous complexity of this issue and the challenges faced by the charity North Argyll Carers

Centre, whose staff are striving to cope with such a daunting problem.

Now the charity, based in Oban's Albany Street, which works with eight-year-olds upwards, is urging people to do more to help identify young carers early so those in need can get support, saving some of them from years of heartbreak and crisis - just like Linda, the focus of our report this week.

Given these heart-rending revelations, it is obvious we all have a role to play in trying to identify these vulnerable youngsters. We urge everyone to be vigilant.



Days gone by – 1983

This week we turn the clock back to August 1983 and this photograph of the gentlemen who competed for the heaves title at Tainuill. Do you recognise any of the faces? Let us know, email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

MacPhail

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We must all learn to keep Gaelic alive

LAST Monday, saw the new Gaelic-medium primary school in Portree - Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh - opening its doors to pupils for the first time.

This is one of five dedicated Gaelic-medium schools in the country and is a significant step forward in the survival of the Gaelic language.

In very basic terms, there are two paths that the future may hold for the Gael.

One will involve the language, identity, music and culture of Gaelic Scotland slipping irrevocably into oblivion - and, make no mistake, without the foundation of language, all the music in the world will not matter a jot.

The other involves the population taking control of its own destiny and ensuring a thriving population long into the future.

Put starkly, one is death and one is survival.

The new school in Portree is a strong indicator that the path to survival is possible.

Gaelic-medium education is, of course, not the only factor in ensuring recovery and a real living language must exist in a much deeper and wider context than only in school. However, it is certainly one of the most important and tangible means of supporting the language - and the work and continued years of effort to bring this to fruition is to be applauded.

There is no doubt that being part of a population whose future survival is uncertain brings with it a psychological burden that is peculiar to that position.

Of the various dark dogs that affect my mind from time to time, it is certainly one of the most common.

My own position is in many ways representative of exactly the type of individual situation that Gaelic-medium education can alleviate. Both my parents were native Gaelic speakers and, until he went to school, my eldest brother, who is four years my senior, was fluent in Gaelic.

When English became his main language - as it was in school - it took over as the language of the house.

In that tiny window of time, when my

parents took their eye of the ball and weren't quick enough to act, Gaelic as a first language in our family was lost.

As frustrating as this is, I bear them no blame. They were victims of the bombardment of non-Gaelic environment - and while, yes, they could and should have been quicker and more decisive to act - what occurred was a reflection of the time.

Had Gaelic-medium education existed then, losses of language like this would have been less likely to occur.

What I, and tens of thousands of others in my situation can do to help reverse that depletion of which we are part is simple - not easy, but simple. We must learn to speak Gaelic to a fluent level and, if we have children, bring them up speaking Gaelic and allow them the option to be educated in their own language.

Gaelic schools are a vital part of healing the wounds caused by centuries of persecution and marginalisation suffered by the Gael. We cannot change the past and should not allow potential bitterness relating to it to prevail, but we can change the future and allow survival, excitement and fulfilment to prevail.

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh is at the forefront of this exciting future.



Social media

Following our report on the Advertising Standards Authority clampdown on misleading delivery charges to remote areas such as Argyll, and the Highlands and Islands, we asked for readers' experiences.

Pam Baker: 'Several websites have simply refused to deliver to the 'Highlands and Islands'. Some carriers just leave things on the (Luìng) ferry. I have got round it with small items by just quoting my address as Oban and the postcode, which is strictly speaking correct. However, some won't even deliver to Oban. Non-delivery of white goods to the island is a problem I, my neighbour and many others have experienced.'

Kevin Irvine: 'When it comes to buying records it can be £3.50 or upwards to £5 for a single item. Anything that is "next day delivery" you're talking £10 and upwards.'

Rosslynn Gemmill: 'I've had delivery refused as you are an offshore island!'

Michelle Mac: 'Refusing to deliver to Pa. post codes.'

Adam Cakebread: 'I get annoyed when you buy on eBay and it says free UK mainland delivery to discover any north of Arrocher is not considered mainland. Now I understand that there has to be some extra as it does cost that extra little bit to deliver but I do find the charges excessive most cases.'

Mogie Gallagher: 'I bought a cot for my grandson. I was quoted £14 for delivery to me in Oban. When I changed the address so it would be delivered straight to my son's house in Helensburgh it was free of charge. On many occasions I have been refused delivery at all as I live on a remote Scottish island. It's about time some of these firms actually looked at a map.'

Fiona Robertson: 'Sainsbury's refused to deliver clothes to a Benderloch address.'

Lou Errington: 'B&Q won't/don't deliver here even though it's via Royal Mail. We had an item delivered from Oban to Kilchrenan and they charged us £30 delivery as it was so far away.'

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.

Mull will have £1m spent on its roads

In response to Sarah Palmer's letter in *The Oban Times*, April 12), I agree with her regarding the state of the roads on Mull but I feel it is unfair to say that I came over last year to meet with the roads group and no action was taken. I found the roads group very useful and informative and this helped me and the other ward councillors get more expenditure for the roads on Mull.

I am pleased to say that Mull will receive more than £1 million of capital investment this year and that is down to the work of all four ward councillors in recognising the situation of the roads in Mull.

This will go some way to address the problem but is nowhere near enough and if Ms Palmer could come up with any solutions to lever any more funding into our crumbling roads structure, I would be delighted to hear them.

Councillor Roderick McCuish, Depute Provost, Policy Lead for Roads and Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council.

HSCP chief officer should stand down

The Caucus of Community Councils for Cowal unanimously object to and unanimously oppose the draconian cuts to health and social care which Christina West, chief officer of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, put forward to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) last month.

The closure of dementia day centres, the withdrawal of support for those with learning disabilities, the privatisation of all council care home provision in Argyll and Bute were, we understand, only some of the completely unacceptable proposals made by Ms West and her management team.

However, we are also aware that previous rounds of cuts, proposed and implemented by the same team, have failed to meet their targets.

What was being put forward was, therefore, a failed policy which was simply to be repeated and its effect broadened in a desperate attempt to make up for severe management failings.

This approach is in dereliction of Ms West's duty to deliver high quality health and social care to the people of Argyll and Bute. In addition, it would have led directly to some 400 hard-working and dedicated staff being made redundant.

The reputation of the management of the IJB is at an all time low, as is the reputation of the board itself.

We have no faith in either management or board members to act in the best interests of the area and ensure that the most vulnerable are looked after.

We also fear for the future of all health and care services in the area, particularly if the IJB remains unchanged. We, therefore, express

Beachd Ailein

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ÀM CUR A' BHUNTÀTA agus bidh mòran fhathast a' cleachdadh tractor beag glas agus na h-innealan aig Harry Fearghasdan a thug a leithid de chothrom dha croitearan.

Bha ginealaichean de shluagh na dùthcha seo an urra ris a' bhuntàta mar phrìomh bheathachadh, agus nuair a' bhuail an gaiseadh cha b' iongnadh iad a bhith nan èiginn.

"Bidh sinn beò an dòchas air deagh thoradh" chanadh mo sheanair nuair a rachadh an siol-cura mu dheireadh dhan talamh agus a chuireadh e am putair air falbh san t-sabhal airson bliadhna eile.

Fhad 's a bha an cothrom aige bhiodh Ailean Alasdair a' slaodadh brùchd bhon chladach ann an cliabh toiseach a' gheamhradh agus a' sgaoleadh mar mhathachadh dhan ghrund na choinneimh cur bhuntàta na-h-ath-bhliadhna.

San earrach bha na bh' air fhàgail den fheamainn ga ràcadh agus ga losgadh, agus bha an talamh an uairsin air a ruamhar gu cùramach is am

ourselves as having lost confidence in Ms West's leadership and urge you to step down from your current position immediately.

Thereafter there should be a restructuring of the IJB to make it more responsive to local need and more accountable to local people.

Conveners of the following community councils: Dunoon, Sandbank, Strachur, Ardentinn, Kilmun, Colintrave and Glendaruel, Hunters Quay, South Cowal and Lochgoilhead.

Islanders have been let down by CalMac

We on Islay are once again suffering disruptions to our ferry service at one of our busiest times of the year. How many more times will this have to happen before a solution is found?

The hard-pressed taxpayers have been subsidising the CalMac ferry service for decades yet these problems with our service seem to be increasing as time goes on.

Our economy is growing on Islay in both heavy industry and tourism alike but that growth is being stifled by the frankly inept management of CalMac.

The latest disruptions are by no means the fault of CalMac's hard-working front-line staff but their management structure needs to be held responsible for this. Tens of thousands of pounds are lost from potential tourist revenue every year on Islay and Jura due to these disruptions.

Aside from the financial cost to Islay and Jura's businesses, local residents are being hit unfairly with travel disruptions and huge inconveniences through no fault of their own.

CalMac's management has for far too long taken its monopoly of our ferry service for granted.

Perhaps public patience has been tested for the last time.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

Supporting people with Parkinson's

This month marked World Parkinson's Day. With more than 145,000 people estimated to be living with Parkinson's in the UK, I'd like to take a moment to tell your readers why we're passionate to do everything we can to be there for people in need of our support.

We understand that living with Parkinson's can present daily challenges for the people affected and for those they hold close. We also understand that having the reassurance of knowing help is at hand can make all the difference.

I work for Revitalise a charity that provides respite holidays for disabled people and carers all across the UK. We welcome guests with over 150 different conditions every year.

To find out more about Revitalise, our breaks, or ways we may be able

to support you, visit: www.revitalise.org.uk or call: 0303 303 0145.

Stephanie Stone, Revitalise.

Rhododendrons are unfairly maligned

Page 12 of the *Lochaber Times* and *The Oban Times* (April 5) had an article about a rhododendron festival. It started well with correct information about the 1,000 different species. However, after the first five paragraphs it descended into the usual ill-informed 'invasive species' and 'eradication' theme.

This continued through the rest of the article painting rhododendron as an unwanted, damaging, invasive species.

At no point do you stress that it is Rhododendron ponticum that is to blame and all those other species are beautiful garden plants with magnificent flowers and gorgeous evergreen foliage and, importantly, with no invasive tendencies.

Gardeners can plant rhododendrons with confidence knowing that they are not going to jump the fence and be an environmental disaster of the type you describe. It is such a shame you did not take the opportunity to balance your article with the correct information.

The invasion of Rhododendron ponticum has taken a long time, and landowners have chosen to ignore it until it has become a severe problem.

Forestry Commission Scotland is one of the largest landowners in Scotland, and is as guilty as anyone. Now it has woken up to the problem, the costs are high, and success depends on commitment to keep on top of it.

John Roy, Editor, Scottish Rhododendron Society, Brecklet House, Ballachulish.

Glorious displays are to be seen in Argyll

Your article ('West Coast in bloom for rhododendron festival', April 5) invited the public to visit 20 gardens in Argyll to enjoy the spring flowering, rightly said to start in February and run through to August.

Unfortunately, you then go on to say that rhododendrons are invasive and can damage our native ecology.

This is one particular rhododendron - R ponticum - planted originally by landowners to form shelter, and not the rest of this huge family of more than 800 species and countless hybrids that can be grown in Scotland.

Visit one of the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute (gardens-of-argyll.co.uk) and see these plants for yourself in all their beauty - flowers, trunks, habit, leaves and scent - during the festival.

Sue Thornley, Secretary, Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute.

Ailean Caimbeul

buntàta ga chur le putair. Ged a bha sinne a' cur às dèidh a' chruinn, an toiseach leis an each agus an uairsin leis an tractor, b' fheàrr le mo sheanair agus cuid de a' chomhaoisean an t-seann dòigh agus bha sin ag obair glè mhath dhaibh.

Bha rudeigin car sòlaimte mun dòigh san robh iad "beò an dòchas", bha e cha mhòr mar sheòrsa de dh'ùrnaigh a' sìreadh deagh fhàs air an t-sìol a chuireadh. Bidh mi tric a' cuimhneachadh air sin agus cuideachd a' liuthad uair a' chuala mi daoine air ràdh nach robh fhios cò bhuaicheadh air na chuir iad. Bha mise glè fhortanach nach tàinig gairm orm gu cogadh mar a thachair dha ginealaichean m' athar is mo sheanar, agus gu deimhinne bha iadsan uile "beò an dòchas" tro na h-uamhasan a chunnaic is a dh'fhuing iad, agus thèig an dòchas cuid aca.

An dèidh còrr air trì fichead bliadhna de dh'aimhreit is maoidheadh air a chèile nach iongantach an naidheachd gum bheil deàlradh dòchais sìthe air nochdadh ann an Coirea, agus nach b' iomchaidh dhan t-saoghal a bhith beò an dòchas gun

tig aonta mhaireannach. 'S neònach cuideachd mur a bi mòran a' cur a' bhuntàta air an cuid chroitean am-bliadhna is ceist mhòr nan inntinn a thaobh dè tha an dàn dha croitearachd a' leantainn Brexit, 's gun ach nas lugha na bliadhna chun an tig an dealachadh aig Breatann leis an Aonadh Eòrpach.

Saoidh mi nach uilear dhuinn uile bhith beò an dòchas gun lean taic dha obair-àiteachais agus croitearachd neo fàsaidh coimhearsnachdan an iomail fiù 's nas laige na tha iad.

My grandfather regularly described himself as 'living in hope', whether for a successful fishing outing or a good potato harvest.

Planting my potato crop this past week, I was reflecting on the many reasons I have for living in hope at this time, including the prospect of a historical lasting peace in Korea and the wish for crofting to be enabled to survive Brexit now less than a year ahead.

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

Your letters

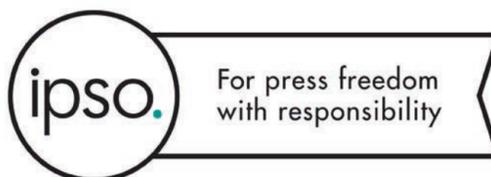
THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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.

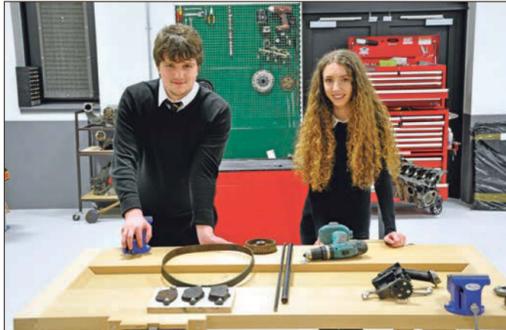
Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.



Inside Oban's new £36m high school



Head teacher Peter Bain at the multi-purpose area.



Angus MacLean and Lauren Moore like the new equipment.



Pupils will be able to benefit from the fully-equipped gym.



A class full of pupils are making the most of their hi-tech environment.

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

AS PUPILS settled in to Oban's new high school, *The Oban Times* was invited in for a look round.

The £36 million building boasts a beauty and hair salon, three games halls, two dance studios and a fully-equipped gym.

The school has a green and purple colour theme, representing grass and heather.

As soon as you walk through the main doors, you can't miss the glowing trophy cabinet that is positioned on the back wall. Head teacher Peter Bain said the cabinet is better than Barcelona football team's.

He said: 'When we sat down with the architects, they asked if we wanted a display cabinet. I said, to be honest, I would rather build one from scratch

and showed them a video of the Nou Camp. They said they could do it.

'The difference is, theirs is lit all white, but we can change the colours.'

Peter explained that when there's no assembly on, the cabinet illuminates a heather purple, but when there is an assembly, it emits one of the clan colours.

Speaking about the new school, head girl Mila Bicanova said: 'Coming back to a brand new school after the Easter holidays was very exciting - a chance for a new start with fresh motivation for the forthcoming exam period.'

'The new school looks amazing and modern, with plenty of natural light, new hi-tech facilities, such as the gyms, dance studios, fitness rooms and sensory rooms, and a fantastic entrance and foyer area.'

'The new school looks like a bit of a tardis, but it has plenty of space for everyone, including two new dining areas, which means there will be less time spent queuing and more time for study.'

Mr Bain added: 'Being able to start from scratch and produce facilities that are really 21st-century is amazing.'

'There's much more space and it's a more pleasant environment for them.'

'The booths are the most popular. This is also where we have the breakfast club, where we offer free toast and tea every morning from 8.30am until 9pm. It's open to everyone and it's sponsored by D & K Lafferty. We help them with their home work as well.'

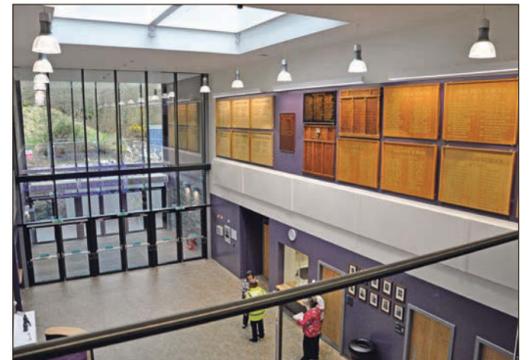
'It's important to remember that it's a fantastic building, but the school is all about the people inside.'



The trophy cabinet is said to be better than Barcelona's.



One of the two dance studios in the new Oban High School.



The history of the old school was brought into the new one.

Argyll College – Think Again



You may think you have a good idea of what Argyll College is and what we have on offer, but did you know that in the past five years we've introduced more than 45 new qualifications and, as a student at Argyll College UHI, you'll be able to study in a convenient location, get recognised qualifications and improve your chances of getting your career on the right track.

If you love life in Argyll but think you're going to have to move away to get the qualifications you need - think again. Whether you want to get those Highers you missed out on at school, take your first steps into higher education or retrain for a whole new career, we can help you achieve your goals.

NC Outdoor Adventure Sports is a one-year course overseen by one of the country's most experienced outdoor activity instructors - Andy Spink, of Oban-based Hebridean Pursuits Ltd (HPL).

Andy says: 'This course will be a fantastic way for anyone who's keen on adventure sports and outdoor activities and thinks they might want to pursue a career in that area to get themselves onto the first rung of the ladder. Who knows where that ladder might lead?'

Andy has spent nearly 30 years running HPL, and is passionate about outdoor education. He will be teaching adventure sports (canioning, gorge walking and coasteering), rock climbing, paddle sports, and summer and winter hillwalking.

If the outdoors aren't for you, our HNC Applied Sciences course will provide you with a broad base in general science, with topics including biology, chemistry, genetics, ecology, ecosystems and microbiology. The classroom element is delivered at Argyll College UHI's Oban centre, with practical elements carried out at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI base at Dunbeg.

Tutor Sophie Hall said the SAMS UHI link means not only that students have world-class science facilities at their disposal, but also that they get a valuable taste of what university life is like.

'This is the perfect course for anyone who is interested in science but not sure what particular area they might like to concentrate on in terms of further study or employment,' Sophie said.

'It gives a broad grounding in all the basic elements, plus students can choose from a range of other units depending on their individual interests.'

If you want to get back into education, our brand new Access to Business, Administration and Computing is an ideal entry route to a number of HNC programmes and will allow you to get to grips with full-time study, perfect for those contemplating a career change, or for students who've been away from education for a while. Successful students are guaranteed an interview for HNC programmes.

As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, we also give you access to over 50 degree and post-graduate programmes, all available to study at your local learning centre. The professional Graduate Diploma in Education is available for both primary and secondary routes, in English and Gaelic-medium. The PDGE consists of 18 weeks study in our Oban Learning Centre plus 19 weeks of work placements in schools close to your home.

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WELCOME TO

ARDROSSAN



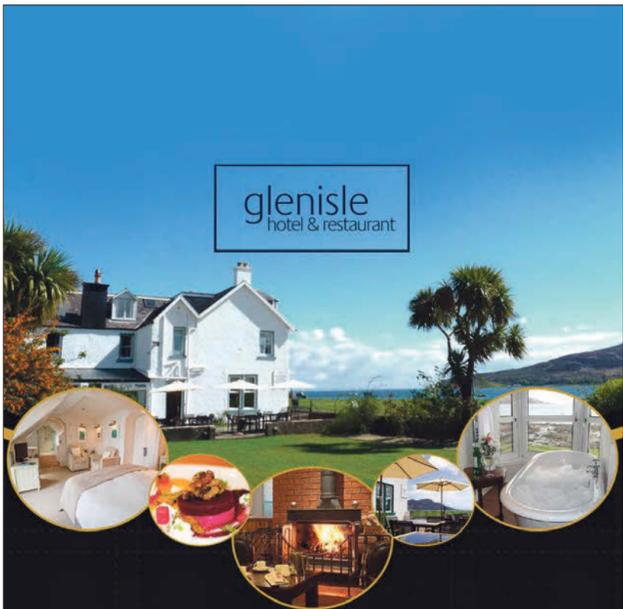
ARDROSSAN

An industrial town and historic port now reinventing itself as a leisure and tourism destination.

Check out: The marina, with the port's old power house now transformed into a restaurant and two great beaches – the North Shore and South Beach, which is buzzing with eating places and great picnic spots.

The journey: M77 and A77 from Glasgow; A78 a glorious coastal drive, north and south; A71 through Ayrshire countryside from the east. The railway station is right on the harbour.

Hopsotch: also Ardrrossan sailings to Campbeltown for Kintyre; Wemys Bay for the Isle of Bute; Largs for the Isle of Cumbrae.



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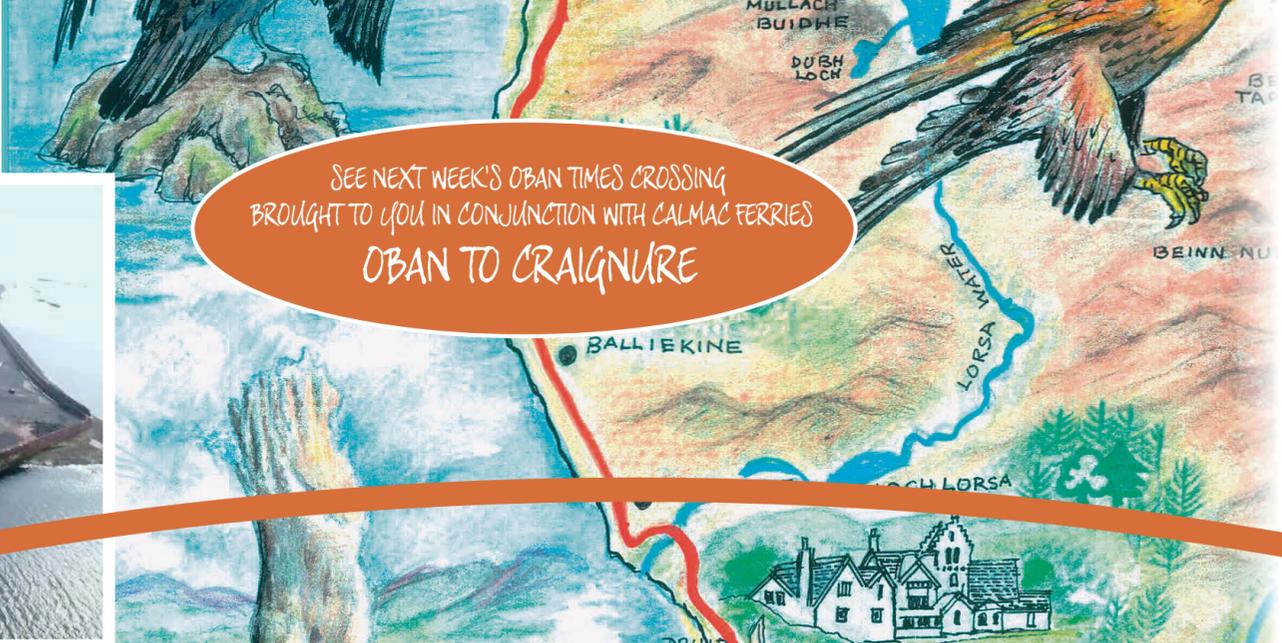
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ARRAN								TEXT CODE 05
ARDROSSAN - BRODICK								Table 5
DAY	Glasgow Central Depart	Ardrrossan Harbour Arrive	Ardrrossan Depart	Brodick Arrive	Brodick Depart	Ardrrossan Harbour Arrive	Glasgow Central Arrive	
MON-WED	0645	0735	0820 A	0915 A	0820	0915	0936	1020
	0833	0920	0945	1040	0945 A	1040 A	1136	1222
	0918	1002	1105 A	1200 A	1105	1200	1236	1321
	1118	1205	1230	1325	1230 A	1325 A	1336	1419
	1218	1304	1350 A	1445 A	1355	1450	1536	1621
	1418	1504	1520	1615	1515 A	1610 A	1636	1722
	1518	1603	1640 A	1735 A	1640	1735	1807	1851
	1649	1736	1800	1855	1800 A	1855 A	1931	2021
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	1418	1504	1520	1615	1515 A	1610 A	1636	1722
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	1418	1504	1520	1615	1515 A	1610 A	1636	1722
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1218		1304	1350 A	1445 A	1355	1450	1536	1619
1418		1504	1520	1615	1515 A	1610 A	1636	1721
1518		1603	1640 A	1735 A	1640	1735	1807	1849
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	1655	1740	1800	1855	1920	2015	2030	2113

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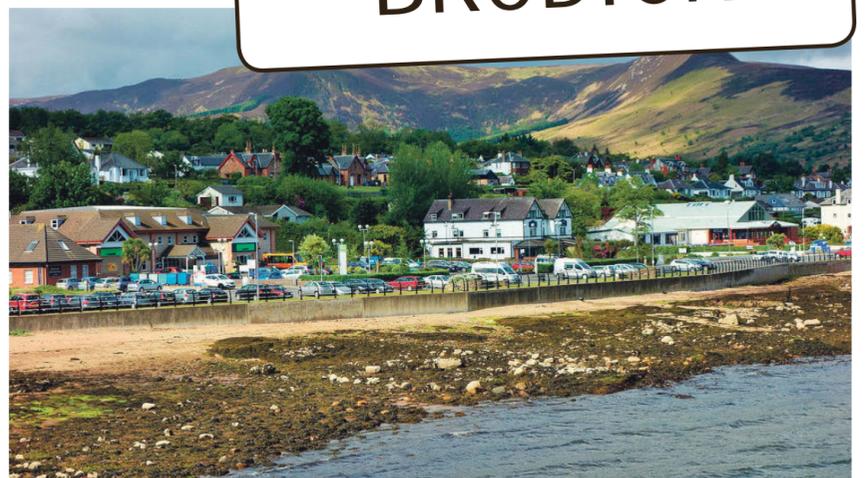
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ARDROSSAN TO BRODICK

WELCOME TO

BRODICK



BRODICK

Scotland in miniature, the Highlands and Lowlands on one island.

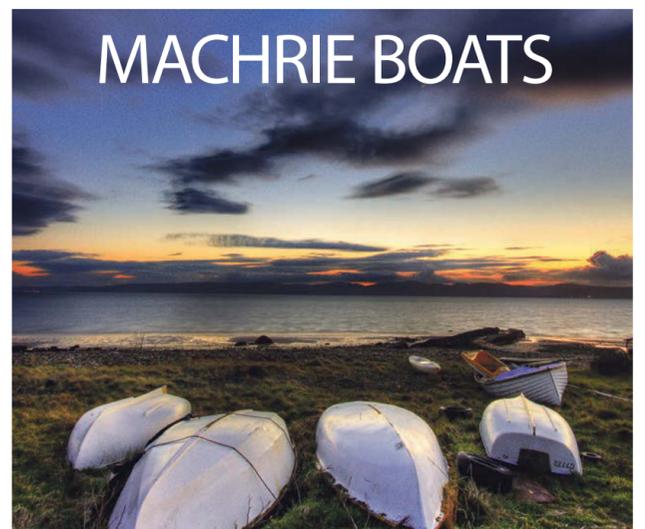
The bustling heart of Arran, an island with a strong sense of community which offers everything: from sandy beaches to mountains, and holidays from boutique hotels to hostelling. History, geology, wildlife and countryside that never disappoint, thanks to Arran sitting on the Highland boundary fault.

Check out: Brodick is the commercial centre of the island where most of the shops and services are found; there are a wide range of eateries, accommodation and always a warm welcome. Set against a backdrop of the famous Goatfell.

The journey: The A841 circles the island and is its only A-road, a circuit of 55 miles; the B880, the 'String Road', is tied across the island's waist. Both roads reward you with magnificent scenery. The stops for island bus services and tour coaches are all at the ferry terminus.

Hopscotch: Brodick for Campbeltown and Kintyre; Lochranza for Claonaig and onto Gigha, Islay and Tarbert, Loch Fyne.

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WHAT'S ON

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Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
26th April Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am Oban Health Walk Oban Congregational Church Hall. 10am - 11.30am FREE workshops Selling with confidence West Highland Housing Association 10am-1pm To book a place, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604030 Scottish Ballet Costume & Set Design Talk The Rockfield Centre. 5.30pm - 6.30pm Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY	28th April Silver Saturday - Garioch v Oban Lorne Women's Rugby Back Pitches, Murrayfield 11am Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College, 9am-11am Master Builders Lego Club The Rockfield Centre 10am-12pm Coffee Morning Glencruitten Road Church Hall 10am-12pm Fiddlers Rally Concert Corran Halls 7.30pm Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Crackin' Craic from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	29th April Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win £20 bar voucher Monday 30th April Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am Life Drawing Scottish Ballet The Rockfield Centre 2.45pm-4.15pm Scottish Ballet - Matthew Bourne's Highland Fling Atlantis Leisure 7.30pm- 9.30pm
Friday 27th April Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College. 9am-11am Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day Cancer Research Quiz Night Masonic Hall. 7.30pm Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society St Columba's Cathedral Hall 7.30pm-9pm Lets Make a scene #18 The Rockfield Centre 8pm-10.30pm Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Sandra Macbeth from 9pm Free entry Open till 1am	Sunday 29th April Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am Hill Walk Cairngorms All Day Sirocco Winds Concert Young dynamic wind quintet St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe 3.30pm Scottish Ballet - Matthew Bourne's Highland Fling Atlantis Leisure 7.30pm- 9.30pm	Tuesday 1st May Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am Irish Dancing Classes St Columba's Cathedral Hall 4.15pm-5.45pm Wednesday 2nd May Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am Loch Eck Orienteers Tralee 8pm-8pm Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Ruairidh Maclean was back by popular demand at the Tobermory Hotel with his Midi'd accordion.



Big party weekend at Mull Music Festival

Mull Music Festival celebrated its 42nd birthday with back-to-back partying – and a wedding. Jacqui and Jason Flather travelled with 12 family and friends all the way from Stone in Staffordshire to tie the knot at Tobermory's Mishnish Hotel on the colourful seafront. Their Just Married caravan was one of many other vans and campers that turned the town's main car park into camper city over the weekend. Other festival-goers

who filled the town's pubs and hotels had further to trek or taxi uphill to their campsites, including a group of over-70s from Kishorn on Skye who were staying in a yurt. All weekend, foot-stomping bands, including energy-fuelled Heron Valley, lined-up for this year's Oban Live, whipped up the fun-seeking crowds who could not get enough of the music, with revelling rolling on into the early hours. For Mull Music Festival stalwart Janice

Duffy, it was her 10th time. 'It's my favourite weekend of the year. It's the friendliest place. You make new friends every year and get to see the ones you've made here before. I love it!' Jenny Laurie and pal Jillian Black were sleeping in a tiny tent perched on top of their car, while Ullapool musician Ruairidh Maclean was back at the Tobermory Hotel by popular demand with his Midi'd accordion, knocking out his own take of hits from the likes of The Levellers to

Fleetwood Mac – even a rendition of Duelling Banjos. 'I played here last year and then they asked me back again,' said Ruairidh, who added; 'It's great to be back.' Mull and Iona Pipe Band paraded through the town's main street on Saturday, calling in at all the pubs with a bucket collection raising band funds. Newly-married Jason Flather, who first came to Mull to dive 10 years ago, said there was no other place he and his bride Jacqui wanted to

wed than at the festival. 'We're the first wedding at the Mishnish and, as far as we know, we could be the first at the festival. There's no chance we'll ever forget our anniversary because the festival will always be on our calendar,' he said. Business was booming for local shops, cafes and eateries as well as the pubs. Tobermory Hotel's Robert MacLeod, whose grandfather Bobby MacLeod started the festival 42 years ago, said the weekend

is loosely structured by himself and Neil Morrison from MacGochans with support of the community. 'It's been another brilliant festival. Thanks to all the bands and to the people who keep coming back for more ever year – the first-timers too,' he said. Even a downpour on Sunday failed to put people off from enjoying themselves, keen to make the festival last as long as they possible could before packing up and heading home – until the next one.

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details
To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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 Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



Mull Music Festival stalwart Janice Duffy from Port Glasgow says it's her favourite weekend of the year.



Dancing 'King' at MacGochans.

<p>DIARDAOIN 26 GIBLEAN THURSDAY 26 APRIL 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt) 19.25 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fianais 21.00 Baby Killer ? Sgeulachd Jessie King – The last woman executed, in Edinburgh (rpt) 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017: Vukovi 22.30 ÙR/NEW: Luinegan Lannsaireachd 23.10 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt) 23.25 Seòid a' Chidsin – the lads visit a micro brewery (rpt)</p>	<p>Stapleton (rpt) 19.30 Alba: 1972 (rpt) 20.00 Air an Urlar – a musical showcase from 2005 (rpt) 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich – Heather draws mountaineer Ewan MacKinnon (rpt) 21.00 A gu U: Na Thadhail Thu? (rpt) 22.00 Seirm (rpt) 23.00 Wild Yellowstone – Winter/ Pàirc Yellowstone – An Geamhradh (rpt) 23.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree) (rpt)</p>	<p>Amanda Millen and Seonaidh Charity (rpt) 21.00 ÙR/NEW: Seirm 22.00 Luinegan Lannsaireachd (rpt) 22.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt) 23.00 Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Kilmarnock (rpt)</p>
<p>DIHAIROIN 27 GIBLEAN FRIDAY 27 APRIL 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 18.35 Machair (rpt) 19.00 An Là - News 19.25 Binneas – Na Trads – Robyn</p>	<p>DISATHAIRNE 28 GIBLEAN SATURDAY 28 APRIL 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 17.30 Machair (rpt) 18.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Kilmarnock 20.00 Alba: 1973 – some of the stories hitting the headlines in 1973 (rpt) 20.30 Leugh Mi – With guests</p>	<p>DIDÒMHNAICH 29 GIBLEAN SUNDAY 29 APRIL 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 18.30 ÙR/NEW: Seachd Là – Weekly news review 19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt) 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 20.00 Fianais 20.30 Fuine (rpt) 21.00 ÙR/NEW: Call air Cladach Ile 22.00 Scottas: Teasairginn Eiginneach (rpt) 22.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt) 23.00 Seirm (rpt)</p>
<p>DILUAIN 30 GIBLEAN MONDAY 30 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 ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich 21.00 ÙR/NEW: Trusadh – An Tinneas Tuiteamach (Epilepsy) – 22.00 Port (rpt) 22.30 Dith Anail: Beo le Cystic Fibrosis (rpt) 23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p>	<p>DIMÀIRT 01 CÈTEAN TUESDAY 01 MAY 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt) 19.25 Horò Gheallaidh Shorts (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Fuine (rpt) 21.00 Sgiobair nan Taig-</p>	<p>hean-solais (rpt) 22.00 Trusadh – An Tinneas Tuiteamach (Epilepsy) (rpt) 23.00 Alba air Falach (rpt) 23.25 Dhan Uisge (Loch Loyne) (rpt) 23.30 Sorchar nan Reul – (rpt)</p>
<p>DIARDAOIN 03 CÈTEAN THURSDAY 03 MAY 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt) 19.25 Horò Gheallaidh Shorts (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fianais 21.00 A gu U: Na Thadhail Thu ? (rpt) 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes 22.30 ÙR/NEW: Luinegan Lannsaireachd 23.15 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt) 23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)</p>	<p>DICIADAIN 02 CÈTEAN WEDNESDAY 02 MAY 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Stoidhle (rpt) 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt) 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt) 21.00 Ceum Air Ceum (rpt) 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Seòid a' Chidsin 22.30 Port (rpt) 23.00 Baby Killer ? Sgeulachd Jessie King (rpt)</p>	<p>DIARDAOIN 03 CÈTEAN THURSDAY 03 MAY 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt) 19.25 Horò Gheallaidh Shorts (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fianais 21.00 A gu U: Na Thadhail Thu ? (rpt) 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes 22.30 ÙR/NEW: Luinegan Lannsaireachd 23.15 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt) 23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)</p>

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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John 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 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, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 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



Ho-ro at the Tobermory Hotel.



Mull and Iona Pipe Band.



Camping crowd at Mull Music Festival.



Grace Gillies and Neil Sweeney at this year's festival.



Jack Jin and Colette MacDougall with flower-power fuelled Bobo On Tour.



Happy campers Jenny Laurie and Jillian Black perched their tent on top of their car.



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THE OBAN TIMES
GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE
CROSSWORD

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8				9		
10				11		
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17		18		19	20	21
22				23		
24				25		

Across

- 1 An ability (7)
- 5 Blouse ruffle (5)
- 8 Winning (2,1,4)
- 9 Last (5)
- 10 Parenthetical comment... (5)
- 11 ...public speaking (7)
- 12 Knotted then coloured fabric (3-3)
- 14 Representative of the pope (6)
- 17 Remedy for all illnesses (7)
- 19 Subject of calculations (5)
- 22 Monastery head (5)
- 23 LXX (7)
- 24 Lord of the feudal system (5)
- 25 Moderately slow tempo (7)

Down

- 1 Plants (5)
- 2 Ring-tailed animal (5)
- 3 Not tightly fixed (7)
- 4 Sunflower colour... (6)
- 5 ...orange (5)
- 6 Colourless crystalline acid (7)
- 7 Get ready for the off! (5-2)
- 12 Cloth set above the gaff (7)
- 13 Dignify (7)
- 15 Showing no emotion (7)
- 16 Shrub which produces senna (6)
- 18 Sweet one (5)
- 20 Part of some wooden joints (5)
- 21 Pizazz (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

N	I	G	A	R	D	O	I	L	E	D		
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Cancer Research Committee
Oban Branch
Quiz Night
in Masonic Hall, Albany Street
on Friday 27th April 2018
At 7.00 for 7.30pm
Quiz Master: Tony Cave
Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Maximum 6 per team
Refreshments available
Admission £3.00 per person
Pay at the door

SIROCCO WINDS CONCERT

Young dynamic wind quintet
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Lochawe
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Cream Tea
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Glasgow Letter

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



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students come to Glasgow

On Saturday night, Ceòl is Craic are looking forward to welcoming students from the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig music degree course to the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street after their recent successful trip to the Pan Celtic Festival.

Ceòl Mòr Ostaig has become a highly anticipated annual event and is a great opportunity for the music students to showcase their talents and the work they've been doing in the college to a new audience in Glasgow.

The event this year is extra special because the college is now in its 45th year and, therefore, the line-up is enhanced by a host of artists with strong connections to the college.

Mary Ann Kennedy is a multi-award-winning musician, singer, broadcaster, conductor, composer, and producer who has long been a mentor and inspirational figure to students at the college.

Ceòl Mòr Ostaig will see Mary Ann perform favourites from her

extensive back catalogue alongside tracks from her newly released solo album, *An Dùn*.

Also featuring that evening will be SIAN – a celebration of the legacy of the female bardic tradition made up of Eilidh Cormack, Ellen MacDonald, and Ceitlin LR Smith, three of the finest singers on the contemporary traditional music scene. They will be joined for this concert by Craig Irving of Mànran on the guitar.

Spoken word poet Murdo L MacIver will debut his latest work, which promises to challenge the audience perception of the power of the spoken word. Among the subjects

covered by his poetry are relationships, love, technology, language and life as a poet on the edge.

Tickets are £12, or £10 for concessions, and are available on the Ceòl is Craic website. The evening begins at 7.45pm.

Also on that evening is the Glasgow Skye Association's annual spring concert (known as the Wee Skye), which is sure to be a great night in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, starting at 7.30pm.

What's on

Friday April 27: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance in the Commo-

dore 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 Léanag on Mansfield Square.

Thursday May 10: Comunn an Taobh-an-iar annual general meeting

at 7.30pm in the Ellan-gowan 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 27: Deep River.

Saturday April 28: Bad Influence.

Limited tickets left for Scottish Ballet show in Oban



Scottish Ballet Flying High With Loganair ready for their Highlands and Islands tour, which includes two performances in Oban.

Tickets have sold out for Scottish Ballet's first performance of Matthew Bourne's *Highland Fling* in Oban this weekend.

But there are still some limited tickets left for the Monday show – go to basket.scottishballet.co.uk.

Affectionately known as a romantic wee ballet, this is a classical

show set in modern-day Glasgow with a humorous dark twist.

It has been described as Bourne's interpretation of *La Sylphide* for the *Trainspotting* generation.

The first performance at Atlantis Leisure is on Sunday, followed by a second showing on Monday April 30.

It is the first time Scot-

land's national dance company has taken a full-scale production to Highland and Island locations and is being helped with the logistics by Loganair.

Christopher Hampson, CEO/artistic director at Scottish Ballet, said: 'We are really excited to be bringing *Highland Fling* to local communities across Scotland, who

are often unable to experience our full-scale productions.'

Highland Fling has many Scottish references particularly the set and costumes designed by Lez Brotherston, who gives a comical nod to The Krankies and Sean Connery, and sees the dancers wearing kilts, leather jackets and biker boots.



The music students of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig performing at the International Pan Celtic Festival this month. They are due to perform in Glasgow this Saturday night.

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Corran Halls, Oban 7.30pm

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RACHEL & EMMA DEANS
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Conductor: Helen Jordan Chairman: Dugald Cameron

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Highland Fling

29 - 30 April

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

bonnie babies

competition 2018

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*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

competition 2018

Silver Chanter piping competition moves to Glasgow



Silver Chanter 2017 winner Cameron Drummond.

The Skye Piping Society and the National Piping Centre have announced that from this year the Silver Chanter competition will continue in Glasgow.

Cailean Maclean, chairman of the Isle of Skye Piping Society, said: 'While the Skye Piping Society is disappointed that due to ris-

ing costs and diminishing income we have had to sever our connection with the Silver Chanter competition, we are delighted that, through the support of the

'William Grant Foundation and the National Piping Centre, a way has been found of ensuring the event's continuation at least for the next few

years. It is wonderful that this prestigious piping event has not been lost and we wish every success to the National Piping Centre in its stewardship of the Silver Chanter competition.'

Roddy MacLeod, principal of the National Piping Centre, added: 'The National

Piping Centre is pleased to take on the running of this landmark event in the piping calendar, which has been a high point in the solo piping season for the last 50 years.'

'Through the generosity of the William Grant Foundation and with the support of the Isle of Skye Piping Society,

we aim to preserve the traditions of the event which celebrates the music of the MacCrimmon composers.

'In 2018, the event will be held on August 4 at the National Piping Centre and from 2019 the event will be brought into the Piping Live! festival's portfolio of events.'

New single will benefit homeless charity

Singer-songwriter James McGarrity is set to release his latest single *The Shamrock and Tartan* with all proceeds donated to The Simon Community in Ireland and Scotland.

James is a member of well-known band Keltic Storm, and tours throughout Scotland on a regular basis.

It was during a recent trip to Newcastle that James realised the problems faced by the homeless.

He said: 'There were so many young ones fighting in the streets as they all wanted the warmth of the shop doors. When the doors shut for the day there's a bit of shelter and

heat in the doorways. It just hit me and it's not right that people live like this.'

'We were on our way to perform at the Carrbridge Festival for St Patrick's weekend and I had an idea to write a song, something that would connect Scotland and Ireland, as I think we are similar. I sat down and wrote *The Shamrock and Tartan* in about 30 minutes.'

He added: 'I had the song finished on time for the festival on St Patrick's Day and, when I sang it, we received a very good reaction. Some people in the audience were in tears - it was quite something.'

The single, which will be

released on iTunes April 30, costs only 99p to download and every penny spent will go towards The Simon Community.

With a background of bagpipes, the haunting tune is accompanied by a video, which will be released on April 28.

The video was shot on Murlough Bay with breathtaking views of Scotland in the background, and at various locations across the Antrim Coast.

James is appealing for everyone to get behind the band and download the single so they can raise as much as possible for The Simon Community, which helps the homeless.



Oban Unsigned winner is Lochaber waitress

Oban Unsigned 2018

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OBAN TIMES AND OBAN LIVE

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
OBANLIVE



Kathleen Robertson
Music

Waitress Kathleen Robertson is this year's winner of Oban Unsigned.

The 19-year-old solo singer songwriter from Strontian, is hoping her exciting win will be the lucky break she has been waiting for.

Her win means she gets to perform at Oban Live in front of massive crowds of festival goers at the two-day music event in June.

Kathleen sent in YouTube footage which impressed a panel of judges so much she was shortlisted with another four local acts before the final say went to a public vote.

'Nice one,' she said when she was told the news.

Kathleen, who studied an HNC Music Performance course at West Highland College last year, told judges as part of her pitch to win: 'I believe I was made to create and perform music.'

'I believe in myself, I

just need someone to believe in me.'

Oban Unsigned is run in association with Oban Live and *The Oban Times*, to tap into new talent on its doorstep.

Her name will now be on the bill along with award-winning acts Skerryvore and Skipinnish, Blazin' Fiddles and Ireland's hottest band Hermitage Green among others.

Thousands are expected to head for Argyll's biggest open-air live music event at Mossfield Stadium in Oban, on Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9.

'It's going to be a big thing. I'm a little nervous but hopefully it will get me a few more gigs and some recognition. It's nice to know I've got the community behind me,' said Kathleen.

As well as performing her own 'easy-going' and acoustic work, she plans to include some covers and a few Gaelic songs as part of her Oban Live showcase, she added.

Last year's winners of Oban Unsigned were Oban's Scottish rap duo K9 Kev and Rory O'B.

Kevin Irvine and Rory O'Byrne kick-started the party on the Saturday with tracks from their EP *Vocal Heroes* as well as songs they had written over the past decade.

Speaking in one of Oban Live's #10DAYS campaign films, Rory O'Byrne said winning Oban Unsigned in 2017 was 'massive' and gave them 'great exposure'.

'We got to meet loads of amazing people and got some gigs out of it. We even sold some CDs!'

The pair joined this year's judging panel which also included Daniel Gillespie, Skerryvore/Decade Events; Campbell Cameron, Oban FM; Andy Bruce, *The Oban Times*, and Finlay Wells, musician and composer.

Tickets for Oban Live are on sale now at obanlive.com.

Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9, Mossfield Stadium, Oban

OBANLIVE



Last year Rose MacInnes, seven, from Oban played Over The Sea To Skye. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Fiddle_01



Competitors and judges of the Accordion and Fiddle Masters at St John's Cathedral in 2017. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Accordion and Fiddle Masters_02

Wylie & Bisset are delighted to support the Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival

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Best of luck to all competitors at this year's event

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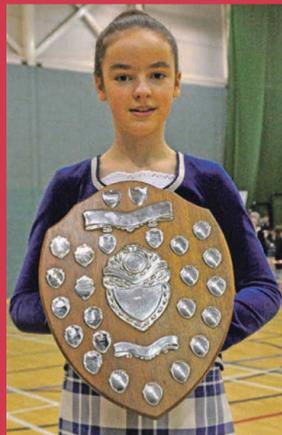
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Left to right, Robbie MacKay, Musashi Miller and Andrew MacPhail, all from Oban. 16_T18_H&I M&D Fest_Piping & Drumming junior section_01_U15 solo



Annie MacNeil, 11, from Fort William at last year's event. 17_t18highlanddancing06a



The highest ranking senior dancers of 2017 from left to right in order of position. 17_t18highlanddancing09

Countdown is on for Oban's 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Oban is bracing itself for next month's 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Volunteers behind the celebrated event have been working round the clock to make sure the tradition of showcasing great talent carries on.

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.

With a record number of performers signed up to take part in 125 competitions across May 4-6 and thousands of visitors expected to descend on the bustling town, excitement is building.

The number of entries in woodwind and brass have increased this year and the accordion section has also gone up with John Burns, a previous winner, returning to the masters.

Entries for the piano category include entries from County Tyrone, with organisers wanting to make it an even bigger section for 2019.

New fiddlers are coming from Mull. As always, performers from Skye, Braemar, Mid Lothian will have a big presence.

For the first time, a female piper is travelling from Germany to join the many musicians. Another first will be the pipers' event taking place in the new Oban High School – the first public event to be held there.

Dancers from Canada and Australia will also be heading to Oban – and that section has attracted a grand total of 410 entrants.

This year the event's Fringe Committee has 'piggybacked' on the expertise of the traditional music school and Argyll Ceilidh Trail to come up with a line-up for the outdoor showcase in Station Square from 11am on the Saturday. Oban FM 103.3 will also be broadcasting live.

A festival spokesperson said: 'This selection of talent is a fantastic way of showing off our local talent. All the performers are part of the traditional music school and/or are studying traditional music or, as in the case of Neon Sheba, will add some variety to the line-up.'

'The showcase is an opportunity for them to perform to a wider public audience.'

Organisers are still on the hunt for fresh-faced talent to fill in the small open mic slots between the acts. Anyone interested should go to obanfestival.org.

Those already taking part on the Saturday include Anna Garvin and Callum

MacLroy, Lora and Turas (Ruairidh and Holli), Neon Sheba and Helensburgh Colquhoun Pipe Band.

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, contact marketing@obanfestival.org

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Proud to support Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival



The 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival



2017 piping prize-winners with Ailsa MacEwan from sponsor John MacAlister Ltd, were, left to right, Andrew Ferguson, 15, from Dollar; Lewis Russell, 16, Livingston; Robert Allen, 13, Glasgow; Thomas Young, 14, Dunoon; Christopher Happs, 13, Gorebridge; and Brodie Watson-Massey, 14, Edinburgh. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Junior Solo Piping, Chanter and Drumming_03



Chewin' the Fat.

16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Choreography_03



Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band at last year's festivities.

16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Pipe Band Parade_02_Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band

Oban Rotary backs festival with funding



The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival to be held in Oban over May 4 to 6 now enters its 35th year and is going from strength to strength with more than 1,100 participants taking part this year across 125 competition classes.

What's more, the organising committee anticipates announcing new fringe events shortly.

The Rotary Club of Oban has been a long-time supporter of the event and President Tommy McQuade is seen here at Connel Hall handing over a cheque for £600 to treasurer Margaret Farmer to assist with running costs. Also in the picture is Isla Munro, who runs the Sinclair School of Dance, with some of her pupils.



Adin Graham, 20, didn't have enough hands to carry all the trophies that he won back to Fife in 2017.

17_T18Accordian02b



Programme of events

Thursday 3rd May

7:00pm

McCraig's Tower Piping Performance – Lions Club

Friday 4th May

9:30 – 3:00pm

Corran Halls

Schools Day – Action Song

7:00pm

Corran Halls

Scottish Choreography Challenge

7:00pm

St John's Cathedral

Accordion & Fiddle Masters

7:00pm

Perle Hotel

Live Music

8:00pm

Oban Inn

Live Music

9:00pm

Markie Dans

Live Music

9:00pm

Tartan Tavern

Live Music with Ron Johnston

Saturday 5th May

8:30am

Atlantis Leisure Centre

Scottish Area Finals

9:00am

Oban High School (New)

Piping Competitions

9:15 – 3:00pm

Regent Hotel

Fiddle

9:30 – 3:00pm

Church Centre

Singing

9:30am

St John's Cathedral

Piano & Clàrsach

10:00am

St Columba's Cathedral Hall

Accordion

10:00am

Congregational Church Hall

Woodwind & Brass

12:00 – 4:00pm

Rockfield Centre

Slow Fiddle

12:00 – 4:00pm

Station Square

OUTDOOR SHOWCASE

with live music from Argyll Ceilidh Trail, Neon Sheba, Lora MacLeod, Turas and more in our open mic session!

Saturday 5th May cont.

12:00 – 4:00pm

Station Square

Oban FM Live

2:45pm

Corran Halls

Scottish Choreography Challenge

3:00pm

Atlantis Leisure Centre

Highland Dancing

3:00pm

Corran Halls

Pre-Premier Competition

8:00pm

Royal Hotel

Piping Parade

8:00pm

Olive Garden

Scottish Show

8:00pm

Oban Inn

Live Music

8:30pm – Late

Argyllshire Gathering

Live Music

9:00pm

Markie Dans

Family ceilidh

9:00pm

Tartan Tavern

music by Ceilidh's Homet

Live Music

Live Music with Alan Frew



Sunday 6th May

9:00am

Atlantis Leisure Centre

Highland Dancing Premier Competitions

2:00pm – 5:00pm

The Barn Bar

Live Music Session

2:30pm

Dunollie Castle & Museum

Piping at the Castle

Festival Family Dance
Festival Fling
 with Ceilidh's Homet
Saturday 5th May 2018
 Argyllshire Gathering Hall, 8.30pm

Tickets available at the door £5.00.
 Family Ticket £15.00 (2 adults & 2 children) or Tel. 07510 841198




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Volunteers are needed to 'drive' riding for disabled



Carriage driving for people with disabilities at Benderloch. 17_T17_carriage01-Benderloch

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

MORE volunteers are needed to help cut a waiting list for people with disabilities wanting to try out the thrill of carriage driving.

Benderloch-based Argyll Riding for the Disabled Carriage Driving Group gives people the opportunity to learn how to drive horse-drawn carriages but needs to increase its number of volunteers so even more people can get the chance.

Davina Plank, 85, from Ballachulish, is a regular at the centre on the way to South Shian, previously visited by HRH the Princess Royal, president of Riding for the Disabled.

'I like carriage driving because it keeps my brain working. You should see the look on other people's faces when

they come back from a drive. They are smiling from ear to ear,' she said.

Chloe Clarkson comes once a week. Her carer, Mary Bowman, said: 'She loves it - she always gets rosy cheeks.'

Enjoying the fresh air and the scenery is just part of the experience, says Michael Hawke, chairman of the trust that runs the group, co-ordinated by Jane Issac, who lives on site and is also a senior coach for Riding for the Disabled Association.

The group was given £9,500 funding to buy two hi-tech and lightweight carriages, which are pulled by resident ponies Red and Dixie.

The new open-plan carriages have plenty of room for wheelchairs to be lifted on and off, a volunteer sits up at the front with the driver, who is given specially adapted reins or a bar to hold,

while a second volunteer stands on the back-step and cyclist helpers ride alongside.

Mr Hawke got involved to make himself useful after bringing wife Juliet, who broke her back in a riding accident, to the group.

'There was no point in me sitting around or going back home to wait, so I decided to make myself useful and volunteer. We need more trustees and more volunteers. People don't have to be horse experts - I'm a sailor.'

'The fact is that the more volunteers we have, the more we can do. We've got a waiting list of people wanting to come and drive. If we had more helpers, we could offer more opportunities - we really want to do that.'

Helper posts include everything from being welcoming hosts, making tea and

coffee, mucking out the stables and learning to drive the carriages. And no horse experience is necessary because training will be given, says Mrs Issac.

Word of mouth usually brings referrals to the group. Some come from Oban's Lorn Resource Centre, and the volunteers are hoping to build more links with pupils from Oban High School to get more helping hands.

'It's much more than coming to ride and drive. It's a social event for all of us,' said Mr Hawke, adding that another highlight of the year is a beach picnic.

Members of the group also take part in competitions, with colourful rosettes taking pride of place at the group's meeting shed.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call 07990 612781 or email janeisaac@outlook.com



Lochaber residents have turned food waste into compost.

Food waste feeds into environmental project

LOCHABER Environmental Group has launched a new project - Go, Grow and Glow.

Over the past year the group has helped people in the area to turn their food waste into compost as part of the Lochaber Energy and Waste Project.

The new project will continue to offer home composting starter kits and will run from now until March 2020, again funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund project.

The Lochaber Energy and Waste Project saw more than 80 households received a free home composting starter kit,

with each household composting, on average, 180kg per year, diverting nearly 15 tonnes of food waste from landfill.

Each year this saves 10 tonnes of CO2 from being released into the atmosphere, which, in real terms, is equivalent to the amount carbon absorbed by 1,800 trees in a year.

One participant said: 'I take satisfaction from seeing the bin fill and the material break down. It will be rewarding to grow my own veg from my own compost.'

The Go, Grow and Glow project will not only help people grow their own food, it will also teach them how to repair bikes and save energy at home.

For a free home composting starter kit, get in touch with Lochaber Environmental Group by phoning 01397 700090 or email: info@lochaberenviron.org.uk

Daily sailings all year on Loch Katrine vessels

THE steamship Sir Walter Scott and vessel Lady of the Lake have been given a much expanded cruising schedule on Loch Katrine for this year and next.

Sailings on either the Sir Walter Scott or Lady of the Lake are being increased by more than 50 per cent and are now available on a daily basis throughout the year - and with increased frequency during the period April to October.

A series of 45-minute cruises are also being introduced to cater for the growing number group tour organisers offering year-round

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park day tours on time-pressed itineraries.

Gordon Allan, managing director of the steamship company, said: 'We are now gearing up to develop Loch Katrine as a major year-round destination in the heart of the national park and the Great Trossachs National Nature Reserve with a major step change in the breadth and appeal of our offers.'

'We now offer over 2,300 sailings on the historic steamship Sir Walter Scott or the MV Lady of the Lake annually.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Thursday April 26

Stob Coir' an Albannaich and Meall nan Eun, Glen Etive
Although only a few kilometres from the head of Loch Etive, these two fine Munros sit on the

watershed between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, above a web of remote corries and glens.

Start on the Glen Etive Road near the end of the Collettir Fm track at NN137468.

Limited parking is available in the vicinity.

Follow the track E to cross the River Etive.

Turn N at the junction and continue to the bridge across the Allt Ceitlin. Stay on the S bank of the burn and follow it upstream for 150m.

Turn SE up through a patch of woodland and climb the NW ridge of Beinn Chaorach to its summit

at 850mLR. Continue S, curving E around the rim of Coire Glas and up the slope to reach the rim of Coire Leacach. The summit of Stob Coir' an Albannaich, 1044m sits close to the edge of its impressive headwall.

Descend the E ridge until it levels after 0.5Km and locate a small cairn at NN174442, 886m alt. This marks the top of the route N down a steep rocky rib that more or less follows the administrative boundary line represented on the map, on a bearing of 3540G.

From the col, which is sprinkled with tiny lochans, climb ENE to the summit of Meall Tarsuinn, 877m. Continue ENE down to a col and

up the slope ahead to the rim of Coire Gaineamhach. Turn SE and follow the rim up to the summit of Meall nan Eun.

Return NW and follow the ridge down, curving N to the col, Lairig Dhochard, 632m. Turn WNW and descend in to Glen Ceitlin.

Cross to the N side of the Allt Ceitlin and follow a path down to the bridge at the foot of the Glen. Follow the outward route back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 1,310m Map(s): LR50, EX377/384; Meet at: Glencoe village car park at 8.45am sailing. Start of walk at 9.30am Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788264007.

Saturday April 28

Sgurr an t-Sasannaich and Sgurr an Albannaich, Arisaig

Two small but interesting hills with a vista of islands and famous mountains.

Start from the CP opposite the Post Office in Arisaig village, NM659864. Follow the B8008 N for about 1km, past the Ch and Sch. Turn NE on to a track that continues beyond the A830 to Kinloid Fm. 300m beyond the farm at a junction, turn right, under the railway and follow the track SE up to a telecommunications mast at NM669873. From here, follow an indistinct path NE to the summit of Sgurr an t-Sasannaich, 351m.

Follow the rocky crest of the escarpment NNE for about 1km to a small summit, Creag Mhor 350m before turning SE to climb to the summit of Sgurr an Albannaich, 394m. To return, walk SW over the moorland towards Arisaig. Eventually, after crossing the Allt na Loraiche Moire and the Allt a' Ghreusaiche, a path develops that leads to the Stn. Cross the A830 and walk down Clanranald Place to the Post Office.

Return trains dep Arisaig 1621 and 1831, arr Fort William 1728 and 1937 respectively.

Grade: M; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 459m; Map(s): LR40, EX398; Meet at Fort William

station for 8.30am departure to Arisaig or Fort William woollen mill at 9am. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday April 29
Ben Macdui, Cairn Gorm, Beinn Mheadhoim, Cairngorms

Route to be decided on the day. Coordinated by Gerry 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.

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Creamery turns sour for First Milk

MARK DAVEY
editor@obantimes.co.uk

WORKERS at Campbeltown and Arran creameries heard this week that First Milk (FM), a farmer-owned mutual, has put the factories up for sale.

Currently the site employs 26 people but has been 'financially challenged', according to First Milk.

Local dairy farmer Linda McLean said: 'The potential for Campbeltown creamery, with its award-winning cheese and provenance, is something to be shouted about, rather than any negative headlines which are no help to the local area in the long run.'

A spokesperson for First Milk said: 'We believe new ownership is the best option for these businesses to grow and become more profitable.'

FM chief executive officer Shelagh Hancock, who was in Campbeltown last week,



First Milk's Campbeltown Creamery.

said: 'Following a review, we have determined our branded consumer-facing businesses in Campbeltown and on Arran are not a strategic fit for First Milk.'

'A sale would enable us to continue with our focus on developing our major creameries in Haverfordwest and the Lake District.'

According to a source, who preferred not to be named, bosses told creamery workers

that the farmer-owned co-operative is pulling out of Kintyre. The spokesperson for FM added that the review identified there is undoubtedly a market for the premium Mull of Kintyre and Isle of Arran brands.

The spokesperson said: 'However, both require significant investment for activity that is not core to our strategic direction.'

'We are confident that with the right focus and investment

under new ownership the businesses would prosper.

'Campbeltown and Arran creameries will continue to run as normal during this sale process and we will be working closely with prospective buyers to ensure a smooth transition.'

'We appreciate this decision will affect some of our colleagues, but we hope that under new ownership the sites will thrive, offering good employment prospects for the future.'

The Campbeltown creamery was acquired in 1997 (initially as a JV) and the business was purchased outright in 2007.

The FM spokesperson added: 'In terms of the asking price, our focus is on seeking a buyer who will invest and provide the right focus, ultimately securing a positive future for the business and so the asking price will be a matter of discussion, based on what a potential buyer is prepared to pay.'

Around the markets

ISLAY - United Auctions held a collection of all classes cattle and sheep at Islay Auction Mart on Tuesday April 17. 79 cattle and 428 sheep were presented. The following are the principal lots and prices obtained for the stock presented.

Cast cows per head:
Aberdeen Angus Cross: 1010 - Gartacharra; £900 Mansefield British Blue: £950 and £930 - Octofad
Charolais: £1270 - Gartacharra
Limousin: £1510 - Lossit; £1215 - Carrabus; £1160 - Octofad; £1110 - Ardbeg; £1100 - Lossit; £1000 - Claggan and Lossit
Simmental: £1000 - Mansefield
Cast cows per kilo:
219p - Ardbeg; 186p - Gartacharra; 180p - Lossit; 168p - Octofad; 163p - Lossit; 156p - Ardbeg; 154p, 150p - Octofad; 151p - Carrabus; 147p - Gartacharra; 145p - Claggan; 143p - Paire-a-chlassain; 140p - Craigens, Octofad and Lossit; 139p - Claggan; 138p - Mansefield
Sheep
Suffolk hogs: 16 West End (Woodrow) £94; Achnaclach £70
Cross hogs: Balinabby (McHarrie) £80 and £75
Blackface hogs: Upper Craggabus (Tup Hoggs) £73
Rams: Craigens £100 and £82
Ewes: Laoigan Place (McGillivray) £116; Craigens £85; Ardbeg and 16 West End £70; Octofad and Tormisdale Croft £65; Lossit

- Lossit : £1000(4) - Kilchiaran : £990(2) - Corrary : £980(8) - Tallant : £980(9) - Ballimartin : £960(2) - Octomore : £950(8) - Ballychatrigan.
SIMx: £1180 - Island Farm : £990(4) - Corrary.
Heifers
AAx: £980(10) - Octomore : £950(2) and £900(3) - Craigens : £900(8) - Octomore.
BRBx: £840(5) - Sunderland.
CHARx: £1050 - West End : £910 - Tallant.
LIMx: £1100 and £960 - Coillabus : £950(5) - Lossit : £940(2) and £920(7) - Kilchiaran : £920 - Ballychatrigan : £920(6) - Lossit : £900(2) - Corrary.
SIMx: £800(2) - Kilchiaran.
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks
AAx: 297p and 263p(2) - Tallant : 252p(6), 249p(5) and 248p(5) - Craigens : 246p(14) - Octomore : 245p(14), 244p(4), 243p(11) and 242p(5) - Craigens : 242p(7) - Ballimartin : 240p(14) - Craigens.
BRBx: 246p(2) and 243p(7) - Mansefield.
CHARx: 297p(8) - Tallant : 279p(2) - Ballinaby : 268p - Tallant : 265p(3) - Ballinaby : 254p(11) - Craigfad : 252p - Craigens : 247p(3) - Craigfad(3) : 245p - Craigens.
LIMx: 297p(12) - Tallant : 274p - Achnaclach : 273p - Duich : 271p(2) - Lossit : 269p(10) and 268p(5) - Kilbride : 267p(2) - Mansefield : 266p - Lossit : 264p(4) - Tallant : 261p(9) - Ballimartin.
Luinx: 269p(2) - Duich.
SIMx: 251p(4) - Corrary.
Heifers
AAx: 249p(2) - Craigens.
CHARx: 276p(5) and 267p - Mansefield : 265p(6) and 264p(6) - Ballinaby : 260p(3) - Tallant.
LIMx: 276p(3) - Tallant : 267p(7) - Mansefield : 261p(6) - Tallant : 259p(3) - Kilbride : 258p(6) - Lossit.
LUNGX: 254p(4) - Duich.
SIMx: 240p(2) - Kilchiaran Farm.

Lemken 4F Rev. Plough; £1,200
Ritchie Feed Mixing Bucket; £1,100
Haybob; £1,000
Honda Fourtrax Quad Bike; £1,000
Cambridge Rollers; £900
Cattle Crush; £850
Cultivator; £800
Amazon Fertiliser Spreader; £780
Anderson Cement Mixer; £550
Albut Shear Grab; £450
Tusk Log Splitter.
Next plant and equipment sale will be held on Friday June 15. For more information contact David Erskine on 07900 435700 or Oliver Shearman on 07730 046252

DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts on Thursday April 19 sold 1,251 sheep of all classes.

Lambs (981) averaged £54.24 and sold to £106 gross for a pen of Texel crosses from 10 Earlish, Uig.
Ewes (212) sold to £111 gross for a pen of Suffolk ewes from Whitebog, Rosemarkie.
Rams and feeding sheep (58) sold to £124 gross for a Texel ram from Woodlands, Dingwall.

Other leading prices per head:
Lambs: Chev - Kintraddwell Estate, Brora, £100.50, Kenmore, Shieldaig, £90, Blackmuir, Heights of Docharty, £78; TexX - 3 Balnabeen, Conon Bridge, £100, 2 Corbett Terrace, £90, 6/10 Airdens, Bonar Bridge; Cross - Kintraddwell Estate, £89, 3 Totescore, £65, Satran, Carbost, £58; SuffX - Easter Springfield, Balblair, £86, Culligan, Beauly, £78, Old Mill Croft, Teanluick, £76; BeltX - Lower Geanies, Fearn, £85, Loanreach, Ardrross, £84, Glenurquhart Farm, Cromarty, £65; BF - Drumgask, Laggan, £79, £60, Mid Fearn, Ardgay, £60; CRX - Culligan, £77, £68; Mule - Easter Springfield, £69; Ker - Old Mill Croft, £63; ZWB - 11 Airdens, Bonar Bridge, £60.

Ewes: BeltX - Lower Geanies Fearn, £99; CHM - Lower Geanies, £98; DSX - Cypress, Achterneed, £97; TexX - 2 Corbett Terrace, £96, Clachan Farm, Inverbroom, £90; Chev - Glenurquhart Farm, £94; Woodlands, £90; BFL - Whitebog, £89; SuffX - Fanblair Farm, Kiltarity, £83; Mule - Lower Geanies, £79; Brae of Coulmore, £75.
Rams and feeding sheep: BDM - Tighnahinch, £115; Chev - Tighnahinch, £110, West View, Inverness, £101; Tex - 6/10 Airdens, £98, Clachan Farm, £91. TexX - 5c Balnabeen, Conon Bridge, £90.

Next generation line up to take over bull sales



The next generation of United Auctions and Galbraith, the all-year sponsors of the Stirling bull sales, are left to right, Raymond Kennedy, Al Christie, Isla King, Ross Fotheringham, Isla Shaw and Murray Rainnie. Photograph: Whyler Photos

UNITED Auctions is putting an experienced team of rising star auctioneers at the helm of the Stirling bull sales next month.

In a nod to 2018 being the Year of Young People, a trio of next generation auctioneers - Ross Fotheringham, 27, Raymond Kennedy, 27, and Murray Rainnie, 30 - will, between them, lead the sales of 283 pedigree bulls and females at the May event.

The Stirling bull sales take place at Stirling Agricultural

Centre on Sunday and Monday, May 6 and 7.

United Auctions' commitment to succession planning and advancing people from within the company is shared by its strategic partner Galbraith, the leading independent property consultancy. Galbraith became the sole, all-year sponsor of the Stirling bull sales this year.

At the two-day May event, no fewer than eight pedigree breeds will be on show and sale. Judging will take place on

Sunday May 6 for Charolais, Simmental and Aberdeen-Angus and on the morning of Monday May 7 for Limousin, Beef Shorthorn, Salers, Highland and Hereford breeds. All sales will be held on the Monday.

This year sees a record entry of Simmental bulls forward, reflecting the growing popularity of the breed in the sale ring.

John Roberts, United Auctions' group sales director, said: 'It's great to see another breed record entry for Sim-

mentals and we're delighted to have the support of so many pedigree breeders who recognise the value of being part of the May bull sales.'

'Handing the gavel for this set of sales to our next generation of leaders is a huge tribute. They may be young in years but they have solid experience of both pedigree and commercial sales under their belts, and it shows just how much confidence we have in them by letting them take the mantle of such an important event.'

ISLAY - United Auctions held their second sale of 571 grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart on Saturday April 14. A good selection of grazing type cattle sold to a good turnout of mainland buyers. Bullocks sold to average 246.17 pence per kilo or £916.60 per head (+ 4.34 per kilo or £44.07). Heifers sold to average 235.35 pence per kilo or £790.93 (+ 3.6 per kilo or £13.34 per head). Bullocks from Tallant sold to 297 pence per kilo whilst Island Farm led the prices per head in this section at £1180. Heifers sold to 276 pence per kilo, also from Tallant and Coilabus (Carmichael) sold their Heifers to £1100.00
Principal lots and prices
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks
AAx: £1110(5) and £1090(5) - Craigens : £1060(8) - Ballimartin : £1040(5) - Craigens : £1030(11) - Octomore : £1000 - Ballimartin(7), Sunderland(2) and Craigens(7) : £990(5) - Ballimartin : £980 - Craigens(9) and Tallant : £970(6) - Craigens : £960(14) - Octomore : £940(5) - Craigens.
BRBx: £940(3) - Sunderland.
CHARx: £1020(11) - Craigfad : £1000 - Craigens : £990(7) and £980 - Tallant : £970 - Craigens.
LIMx: £1100 - Island Farm : £1100 - Octomore : £1070 - Coillabus (A Carmichael) : £1060(2) - Corrary : £1030 - Lossit(5), Octomore and Corrary : £1020 and £1000(2)

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd held their sale of plant, equipment and small tools on Friday April 13. Despite the poor weather conditions, over 450 lots were forward, with a 91% clearance. Most lots were keenly bid for and sold past vendors expectations. Many more items could have been sold to vendors advantage with a high demand for second hand equipment.

Topping the sale was a John Deere 6930, 2011 Registered Tractor complete with Trima Loader selling to £30,000.
Leading prices:
Tractors: £27,000 Massey Ferguson 5410
Implements: £11,500 - 16T Gardner Grain Trailer; £7,000 42ft Artic Transport Box; £4,300 John Deere Gator; £3,500 Browns Grass Seed Harrows; £3,000 K-Two Dung Spreader; £2,400 Amazone AD302 Drill Star; £2,200 Ifor Williams Stock Trailer; £1,500 Rabie Power Harrow; £1,400 Master Cut Topper; £1,300

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 ("the 2009 Act") AND
THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES, POTENTIALLY
VULNERABLE AREAS AND LOCAL PLAN DISTRICTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS
2010 ("the 2010 Regulations")
CAOL AND LOCHYSIDE FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2018

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 60 and Schedule 2 of the Act and Parts II, III & IV of the Regulations, that the Council proposes to make the above flood protection scheme. This constitutes a notice under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the Act and under Paragraph 7 of the Regulations.

The effects of the operations proposed under the Scheme will be:

- To generally reduce the risk of flooding to residential, community and business properties along the shoreline in Caol through the establishment of a raised flood embankment.
- To generally reduce the risk of flooding to residential, community and business properties along the northern bank of the River Lochy west of Castle Drive in Lochside through the establishment of a concrete flood wall.
- To generally reduce the risk of flooding to residential, community and business properties in Caol and Lochside through the provision of a secondary surface water management system to provide storage and a managed pumped surface water drainage system.

The scheme documents can be inspected during the period from 30/04/2018 to 28/05/2018 inclusive at:

- The Highland Council, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.
- Caol Library, Glenkingie Steet, Caol, PH33 7DS, Monday 14:00 - 17:00; Tuesday 10:00 - 13:00, 16:00 - 19:00; Wednesday 14:00 - 17:00; Thursday 10:00 - 13:00; Friday 17:00 - 20:00.
- At Caol Community Centre, Glenkingie Steet, Caol, PH33 7DS, on Wednesday 16th May, between 2:00pm and 7:00pm. This will take the form of a drop-in session with Council Officers available to answer queries about the scheme.
- Online, at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1226/emergencies/80/flood_alleviation_schemes/5

Any objection to the proposed scheme must be in writing and include the name and address of the objector and must be accompanied by a statement of reasons for the objection. Where an objector has an interest in any land on which the proposed operations are to be carried out or which may be affected by any of the proposed operations or by any alteration in the flow of water caused by any of the operations that person's objection must include details of the land in which the objector has an interest, disclosure of the nature of the objector's interest in the land, and details of which aspects of the proposed operations affect the objector. If no valid objections are made to the scheme, then the Council must make the final decision to confirm or reject the proposed scheme. If, however there are objections which are not valid objections under Paragraph (3) (2) of Schedule 2 of the Act, the Council may make a preliminary decision and hold a hearing to consider the proposed scheme, before confirming or rejecting the scheme. Where valid objections are made to the scheme, the Council will consider the objections and make a preliminary decision to either (a) confirm the proposed scheme without modification, or (b) confirm the proposed scheme with modifications, or (c) reject the proposed scheme. Where an objection is received from a relevant objector, who is a person to whom paragraph 5(6) of Schedule 2 of the Act applies, the Council must notify Scottish Ministers of the preliminary decision. The Scottish Ministers must then decide whether to consider the scheme or not. If the Scottish Ministers decide to consider the scheme and valid objections remain, then the Scottish Ministers must cause a Public Local Inquiry to be held. After considering the outcome of the Public Local Inquiry, the Scottish Ministers must make the final decision to: (a) confirm the proposed scheme without modification, or (b) confirm the proposed scheme with modifications, or (c) reject the proposed scheme. Following the outcome of the hearing, the Council must make the final decision to (a) confirm the proposed scheme without modification, or (b) confirm the proposed scheme with modifications, or (c) reject the proposed scheme. Notification of the final decision, whether made by the Council or the Scottish Ministers will be given.

Any objection to the scheme must be made during the period 30/04/2018 to 28/05/2018 inclusive to: Garry Smith, The Highland Council, Development & Infrastructure Service, Project Design Unit, Drummuie, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6TA or by email to garry.smith@highland.gov.uk

Any queries or clarifications regarding the Scheme can be obtained by emailing caol&lochside.fps@highland.gov.uk or telephoning 01408 635 313.

Stewart D. Fraser,
 Head of Corporate Governance, The Highland Council
 30/04/2018

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
18/01661/FUL	Ben Nevis Public Bar	103-105 High Street Fort William	Use of the public footpath as a seating area
18/01524/FUL	Land 40M SW Of Old Police Station House	Glencoe	Erection of 8m smart metering streetworks pole with associated antennae and ground cabinets
18/01735/FUL	Land 85M North Of Coinachan Cottage	Spean Bridge	Erection of House, installation of treatment plant
18/01042/FUL	Land 1620M NW Of Sanda Cottage	Inversanda Ardgor	Installation of antennas and dishes on 15m tower, satellite dish on 2.4m high pole, cabinets and associated works, within fenced compound
18/01514/FUL	Rhu Bhan	Salen, Acharacle	Demolition of house, erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
18/00889/PP	Erection of 10 dwellings and formation of vehicular access	Site Of Former Dunaros Care Home Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JF	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
18/00799/PP	Erection of 12 storage units	Site 4 Business Park Port Ellen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA42 7BF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
18/00691/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of 15 Keills Cottages Keills Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
18/00810/PP	Replace external stair of the same style and finish, re-render 2 elevations and install replacement front doors	Swimming Pool School Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JS	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
17/02757/PP	Engineering works involving removal of earth to infill garden area (part retrospective) and regrading of hillside, further infilling of garden area (including the earth from the removal of unauthorised infilling of track), erection of gate and gateposts (retrospective)	Port A Reidleinn Claddach Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SY	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
18/00592/PP	Erection of residential annexe and installation of sewage treatment plant	Rudha A Chruidd Kerrera Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SX	Oban Area Office
18/00859/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Croft 3 Ichrachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
18/00828/PP	Proposed private burial site including upgrade of existing access track	Land North East Of Glengorm Castle Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

<p>First Registration of Crofts</p> <p>Archibald MacColl has registered his crofts 2 and 8 Craiginish on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.</p> <p>Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 4th January 2019.</p> <p>Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration numbers are C4958 and C4956.</p>	<p>First Registration of a Croft</p> <p>Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 6 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.</p> <p>Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 13, 2018.</p> <p>Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4875.</p>	<p>First Registration of a Croft</p> <p>Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 4 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.</p> <p>Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 13, 2018.</p> <p>Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4873.</p>
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<p>First Registration of a Croft</p> <p>Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 5 (1) Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.</p> <p>Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 13, 2018.</p> <p>Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4874.</p>	<p>First Registration of a Croft</p> <p>Mrs Ann MacPhee Bowman has registered their croft 1,2& 3 Duiskey (Apportionment), Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.</p> <p>Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 13, 2018.</p> <p>Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4872.</p>	<p>Proposed Apportionment of a Common Grazings</p> <p>Donald Cameron is applying for an apportionment of part of the Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael and Lochyside Common Grazings extending to 0.2023 ha for the purpose of the erection of a dwelling house.</p> <p>Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8N, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by May 24, 2018.</p>
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Argyll and Bute Council

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended
ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER
Planning Permission for Erection of two self-contained holiday chalets at Isle of Erika Hotel, Isle of Erika, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll and Bute
REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/02470/PP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council has made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.

The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to The Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 24th May 2018.

If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 7th June 2018 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.

Date: 26th April 2018
 Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law
 Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

Comunn Gàidhealach An Òbain Coinneamh Bhladhnaid A.G.M
Wednesday 16th May 7.30pm
 Furan Gaelic Centre Corran Halls, Oban
 Everyone most welcome

Oban Hospice Ltd (The Dove Centre)
 Our AGM is to take place in Glenruitten Church Hall, Oban, on 14/5/18 at 730pm.
 The Meeting will also consider a Special Resolution to extend the maximum term for Board Members from six years to nine years.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

R Martin of Ladyfield, Dalmally Road, Inverary, PA32 8XJ is applying to create a new croft. 85447.

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
 Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW
info@crofting.gov.scot

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

First Registration of a Croft

Marjory Elizabeth Dennison has registered her croft 1/2 43, 44 & part 45 Banavie (share), Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by January 4, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4997.

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PEUGEOT 3008 SUV WINS GOLD IN CAR OF THE YEAR CATEGORY IN THE AUTO EXPRESS DRIVER POWER SURVEY

PEUGEOT 3008 SUV wins gold in overall Car of the Year category at the Auto Express 16th Driver Power 2018 awards with an overall satisfaction score of 93.88 per cent.

The PEUGEOT 3008 SUV was also awarded gold in the Mid-Size SUV category.

PEUGEOT 3008 SUV rated the highest across all vehicle classes in the Exterior category and Safety Feature category.

These accolades mark the 45th award the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV has won globally since it was launched in late 2016.

Driver Power is the UK's largest and most in-depth automotive customer satisfaction survey, with participation from more than 80,000 UK car owners.

The owners ranked the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV as the best performing Mid-Size SUV in five of the nine Driver Power judging categories: Exterior, Practicality and Boot Space, Ride and Handling, Safety Features, and Reliability and Build Quality.

The victory did not stop there as the 3008 SUV was rated as the best vehicle in the Exterior category and the Safety Feature category, across all of the vehicle classes.

Since it launched in late 2016, the 3008 SUV has been a huge success for the PEUGEOT brand, with 350,000 sold worldwide and 23,000 in the UK.

It demonstrates the latest technology with the state of the art PEUGEOT i-Cockpit®, which offers a more intuitive and engaging driving experience with a compact multi-function steering wheel, 12.3" head-up digital instrument display and 8.0" capacitive touchscreen with Mirror Screen® functionality, comprising: Android Auto, Apple CarPlay™ and Mirror Link®.

In addition, the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV has a five-star NCAP safety rating and offers a host of safety features as standard on all trim levels, including: AEBs – Automatic Emergency Braking System, CDS – Dynamic Stability



Control and ASR – Electronic Anti-skid System and a Driver Attention Alert System.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief of Auto Express and Carbuyer, said: 'This is a fantastic result for PEUGEOT and the 3008 SUV. It's a car that has already won multiple awards from both Auto Express and Carbuyer, and now owners have confirmed what we've been saying all along – it's a great

car that's really satisfying to own.'

Wesley Lang, senior research manager at Driver Power, commented: 'The PEUGEOT 3008 SUV is the best performing Mid-Size SUV in five of the nine Driver Power judging categories: Exterior, Practicality and Boot Space, Ride and Handling, Safety Features, and Reliability and Build Quality.'

'The 3008's performance proves that SUVs can excel in many judging categories long thought to be the domain of smaller vehicles. What is especially notable is that overall the 3008 SUV ranks third in Ride and Handling and fifth in Reliability and Build Quality across all ranked vehicles.'

David Peel, managing director at PEUGEOT UK, said: 'It is an outstanding achievement for the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV to have won gold in the Car of the Year and Mid-Size SUV categories in the UK's largest car satisfaction survey. With the addition of these two accolades, the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV has now won an incredible 45 awards globally since launch.'

'In a segment with fierce competition, these accolades are especially meaningful as they are decided by our valued customers and are a real testament to the hard work and innovation of our talented teams of designers and engineers.'

'I'd like to thank Auto Express and the entire Driver Power team for their support and hard work in bringing such a valuable survey to the industry.'

To find out more about the PEUGEOT 3008 SUV, please visit: <http://www.peugeot.co.uk/showroom/3008/suv/>

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PERSONAL

EDWARDS - HAY

Silver Anniversary

On Saturday April 24, 1993 in Oban Old Parish Church, Doreen Edwards to Iain Hay. May you have many more happy years together. Love from all the family.

LAFFERTY

Feorghas 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.

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ENGAGEMENTS

HANNAH - LAMOUDI - George and Julia Hannah, of Seil are delighted to announce the engagement of their son Robert to Maya, daughter of Atman and Bernadette Lamoudi of Algiers.

DEATHS

BELL - Dr. David Bell died in April 2018, in his 75th year. He spent much of his professional life, continuing into retirement, in Public Health in Argyll and Bute. He leaves Anne Margaret McPherson Speirs, his son Gerard Michael and step-daughter Dr. Helen Jean Loudoun Speirs, and four grandchildren. His funeral will be on April 28, 2018, in St.Marnock's Kirk, Fowls Easter, DD2 5SB. At his request, any attending are asked to wear a yellow buttonhole. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to either Family Holiday Association or Practical Action.

BROTHERSTON - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, April 18, 2018, Helen Paulson Stuart Brotherston (née Axon) of Lerags Glen in her 88th year. Much loved wife of the late J.G. Brotherston, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Loved by family, friends and neighbours near and far. Grateful thanks to all doctors, nurses and staff in Oban. May she rest in peace. Funeral for family and close friends at Cardross Crematorium 12.15 p.m. on Friday April 27 and afterwards 4pm at Kilmore Hall. No flowers please. Donations to Argyll Animal Aid.

DUNLOP - Suddenly, but peacefully, in the Inverclyde Royal Hospital, on Sunday April 22, 2018, Margaret Catherine Dunlop, née MacCorquodale (Meg), aged 88 years, formerly of 3 Shuna View, Port Appin and latterly of Eader Glinn, Oban. Wife of the late James Dunlop (Jimmy), devoted mother of the late Madge, Sandy and James, mother-in-law of Moira and Debbie, loved nana of David, Sean, Joy, Andrew the late Nicole, Nathan, Callum and Ruairaidh, nana-in-law to Vivienne and great-grandmother to Isla, Iona and Fallon. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

JAMES - Margaret Elisabeth, died peacefully on April 4, 2018, at home, Skipness House, surrounded by family. Interment took place on April 11 at Kilbrannan Chapel, followed by a thanksgiving service in St Brendan's Church, Skipness. The family would like to thank the Rev. Catriona Hood and Stan Lupton and also Campbeltown Palliative Care. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Care and or Sunshine Room, Campbeltown Hospital.

KERR - Peacefully at her home in Lynn Court, Oban on April 19, 2018, aged 72, Elspeth, sister and sister-in-law of the late Emma and Archie MacFarlane, a dear aunt to Donald, John, Eileen and their families. Fondly remembered and sadly missed.

MACALLISTER - Alex passed away peacefully at the Mull and Iona Community Hospital, Craignure, Isle of Mull on Monday April 16, 2018 in his ninetieth year. Funeral service will take place at Tobermory Parish Church at 11.30 a.m., on Friday April 27, 2018 and all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Retiring collection in aid of Cancer Research and Macmillan Cancer Support.

MACEWAN - Suddenly and tragically at home Alexander Elliot (Sandy) of Oban and Glencoe. Much loved son of the late Alex and Mary. Wonderful father of Billy, adored brother of Rae. Beloved and respected nephew, uncle and brother-in-law. A friend and strength to many. Funeral arrangements will be intimated in due course.

PENROSE - Peacefully, on Sunday April 22, 2018 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, in his 65th year, Tommy, dear husband to Linda and dad to Donna, Martin, Mark, Ross, Neil and Aileen and the late Colin, a loving grandpa to his grandchildren. Dear son of Jean and the late Jack and brother to Marion and Richard.

TINDALL - Peacefully in the loving care of his family at 7 Glencruitten Rise, Oban on Monday April 23, 2018, aged 97 years, Ian, beloved husband of the late Mairi (née Currie), much loved father to Frank, Betty and Joan, father-in-law to Helen, Ricky and Sandy, devoted grandfather to James, Andrew, Alexander and Iain and loving GGP to Alasdair. Grandfather-in-law to Karen, Katherine and Fiona. Respected uncle and great-uncle and friend to many. Ian will be sadly missed by all. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church on Wednesday May 2 at 1.00 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir cemetery. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOGLE - The brothers, sisters and all their families of the late Mary Bogle (née MacKay), Garryhallie, South Uist would like to thank neighbours and friends for all the beautiful cards, flowers and words of sympathy received on the sad occasion of Mary's passing. Mary was dearly loved and will be very sorely missed. From all the family in Australia, Fort William, Garryhallie, Gerinish and Benbecula. R.I.P. Mary.

BRADY - Janette and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy received during their recent loss of Jack. Thanks also to Rev Tom Telfer for his uplifting service, Masonic Lodge and Brander Lodge for first class service, also Moreen Gracie for beautiful flowers, also Catriona at Hoey and Son for her professionalism. All who attended to pay their respects, the sum of £468 was collected for the Coronary Care Unit at the Golden Jubilee Hospital.

CAMPBELL - Sheila and family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy and generosity shown to them following the sad loss of Ronnie. They have been overwhelmed by the amount of cards, visits and phonecalls received. Special thanks to Dr Frank at Bussan Surgery, the medical team and the dedicated ladies who cared for Ronnie at home. Sincere thanks to Reverend Duncan MacDonald for a lovely and comforting service, to Jim Corbett and John Gillies for their personal contributions, to Billy McClymont, Mull Funeral Service for his caring guidance and professionalism, to Linda Cameron for the lovely catering provided, the beautiful flowers from both Elizabeth MacLean and Moreen Gracie; Ronnies great niece Kimberley Campbell for piping and RWM Alistair Scarlett and Brethren of Lodge Tobermory St Mary 1310. Finally a huge thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and donated so generously the sum of £1,137 for the RNLI.

IRONSIDE - Dalla and family would like to convey their heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of kindness and sympathy received following their sad loss of Elliot. Grateful and sincere thanks to all staff at Mallaig Health Centre, our local paramedics, cardiology wards at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Rev. David Anderson for his comforting service, Allan Henderson for his fitting tribute, Ingrid, Allan and Ewen for their lovely music, Scott Greenlees of John MacLellan for funeral arrangements, West Highland Hotel for a lovely buffet. Lastly our sincere thanks to all who paid their last respects to Elliot at the church and graveside and who generously donated to the retiring offering. £1350 has been sent to Cardiology Endowment Fund at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

MACDOUGALL - The family of the late Duncan MacDougall of Tarbert would like to thank all family friends, (especially John "Toof" MacDougall, Ann and family), the community of Tarbert and further afield for their love, support, cards, flowers, food and baking at this very sad time. Special thanks to Matthew Ramsay of the Fishermen's Mission for his very fitting and moving tribute to Duncan, and to the Rev Robert MacLeod for his constant support throughout. Thank you to Kenny and Bruce for their readings on behalf of the family, and to Pipe Major, John Hunt, for his excellent piping for Duncan, which he would've loved. A special thank you to Ms Keli MacDougall of Fyne Flowers for her beautiful floral arrangements. Thanks also to Stan Lupton, Kenny, Neily and Cameron for their professionalism and support at a very difficult and emotional time, and to the Tarbert Hotel for their hospitality. Finally, a sincere thank you to all those who attended the church and graveside for Duncan's last journey through his beloved Tarbert. A retiring collection raised £2,400 for Tarbert Free Church and The Fishermen's Mission.

SPREADBURY - Deirdrie, Charles and families would like to thank all family and friends for the many messages, cards and phone calls following the sudden passing of our beloved mum, Moira. Special thanks to Oban Ambulance Service, to ward A, Lorn and Islands hospital and grateful thanks to Carol at ward 23, R.A.H., Paisley for being with mum in her final moments, and showing us such kindness and compassion. Special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his beautiful words and comforting service, and all the kindness he has shown us. To Catriona and staff at Hoey's for professional services and to Catriona herself for her help with everything. To Moreen Gracie for beautiful floral tributes, to Gemma and Donald at Soroba House for excellent catering services and special thanks to Carol MacIntyre for being my rock. And finally to all who travelled near and far to pay their final respects to mum both at the church and Pennyfuir and to all who gave so generously to the retiring collection. The sum of £615.00 will be split between Motor Neurone Disease Scotland and Macmillan cancer support. Mum and Dad are now 'together again'.

STEWART - The family of the late Mary Stewart would like to sincerely thank friends for their kind cards and messages and all those who attended the funeral service. We would also like to thank the Rev Christine Fulcher for her comforting service, Catriona and the staff at Hamish Hoey Funeral Directors for their sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements, and Moreen Gracie for the lovely wreaths. £214 was very generously donated for the North Argyll Carers Centre.

MEMORIAMS

BLACK - Precious memories of my dear husband Donnie, who passed away on April 26, 2016, loving dad of Carol and Andrew, dear grandfather and great-grandfather. We think about you every day. - Inserted by his loving wife Jean.

BROWN - Memories of a dear wife and mother Rena, who died April 26, 2013. We can't have old days back When we are all together But secret tears and loving thoughts Will be with us forever. - Donald, Colin, Donna and families.

DEMPSTER - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert Dempster, who passed away on May 23, 2010, John Ignatious who died February 1, 2017 and also remembering Jimmy Conolly. Your love is always with us Your place no-one can fill In life we loved you dearly In death we love you still. - Jessie, John, Marie, Cathy and Donald John and all the Dempster family.

GILLIES - In loving memory of Ronnie, a dear dad, papa and great grandfather, who passed away April 26, 2003. Deep are the memories Precious they stay No passing of time Shall take them away. - Love Theresa, Anne, Angela and families.

KERR - Precious memories of our darling son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle Jamie, who died April 30, 2015, aged 25. Our lives will never be the same again. - Love Mum and Dad, John and Danielle and Jack, Amanda and David, Jordan, Ashleigh. xxx

MACKAY - In loving memory of Archie, died April 11, 1998. Always remembered. - Family in Inveraray and Canada.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dear parents, John, died at Kilmalieu on April 29, 1972 and Catherine MacCallum, who died March 6, 1953. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories always stay. - Inserted by their loving family.

ROBERTSON - Remembering my cousin John (Lochaline), who died April 28, 2008. - Catherine, Stonehaven.

STEWART - A much loved dad and grandpa Jimmy, who died April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

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Police wellbeing event raises healthy sums for charities

ARGYLL police officers attended a health and wellbeing event back in January at the Red Cross Hall in Lochgilphead. This week they returned to share the proceeds from the fundraising.

Officers and civilian staff within Argyll and Bute were invited to the event, which was sponsored by local businesses. There was fundraising during the day with prizes generously donated by Scottish Police Recreation Association and Portavadie Spa and Leisure, with proceeds raised donated to the British Red Cross and Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland to help with the great work they do.

On Tuesday (April 24), PC Michelle Rusden, who organised the wellbeing event, and Inspector Julie McLeish, from Lochgilphead, presented a cheque for £120.10 to Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, below.

Hazel Hamilton (stroke

co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute) and Jackie Gilmour (cardiovascular nurse for Mid Argyll and Kintyre) accepted the cheque. PC Rusden and Inspector McLeish also presented a cheque for £120.10 to the British Red Cross, which was accepted by Margaret MacInnes and Agnes Glencross from the Red Cross Shop in Lochgilphead.



Above, Inspector Julie McLeish and PC Michelle Rusden present the cheque for £120.10 to Margaret MacInnes and Agnes Glencross, while left, they present a cheque to representatives of Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

Thought for the week: A bruised reed He will not break, and a smouldering wick He will not quench, till He brings justice and a just cause to victory - (Matthew 12:20)

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Beaumont says Oban Sportive is the toughest he has ridden

MORE than 130 cyclists took part in this year's Oban Sportive, including world record holder Mark Beaumont.

The event, which incorporates 56 and 87 mile courses, took place on Sunday April 22.

Taynuilt man Willie Neilson



Alexander Dent won the 87-mile course in 4:35:24.

completed the shorter course the fastest in a time of 3:22:01.

Willie, who plays shinty for Oban Camanachd, will be cycling from Land's End to Oban later this year to raise money for three charities close to his heart.

The fastest time for the 87-mile course was 4:35:24 by Alexander Dent, who belongs to the Spokes Racing Team, based in Fife.

Gavin Blainey, a member of Oban Camanachd's 1996 Scottish Cup winning team, also recorded a good time for the long route, finishing in 4:57:45.

Great fun
Posting on his social media account after the event, Mark Beaumont, who broke the record by cycling round the world in 80 days, said: 'That was a pretty wet and very hilly ride, but great fun and probably the toughest sportive I've ridden - so if your tough enough, get involved for 2019.'

He added: 'Superb weekend of cycling around Oban - and a cracking community event. Well done all riders and volunteers.'

Sportive

As well as the main event on Sunday, there was an additional challenge this year: the Ben Cruachan Hill Climb.

This was followed by a 'motivational talk' by Mr Beaumont on Saturday night in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Tribute
Oban Rotary president Tommy McQuade paid tribute to everyone who helped with the organising and marshalling of the event, with a special thank you to the ladies of Inner Wheel who provided baking for the feeding stations.

President Tommy also expressed gratitude for the support the event received from Diageo (Oban Distillery), Dawnfresh Seafoods, the Oban Fish and Chip Shop, the Rusty Cycle Shed, Atlantis Leisure, Bid4Oban, Aggregate Industries, Wild About Argyll and MacQueen Brothers.



Taynuilt cyclist Willie Neilson completed the shorter course in 3:22:01. Inset: Willie meets Mark Beaumont at the 'motivational talk' in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.



Isle of Seil

ISLE of Seil Golf Club members gathered at the home of Isobelle Smith for the annual presentation of the club's silverware for the season 2017-2018.

Most successful member was Geo Adam, who collected five trophies, followed closely by John Morgan, who collected four, and Ian Galloway, who picked up three.

Biggest cheer of the evening was for young Lewis Campbell, who won the Isle of Seil Boatyard Winter League Cup, his accumulated top eight scores resulting in victory over all the senior member competitors who also played throughout the winter in the league.



Lewis Campbell won the Boatyard Winter League Cup.



Taynuilt's Euan Sim on the podium in the Isle of Man.

Euan leads British championship after success in the Isle of Man

AFTER two rounds of the ACU Acklams Beta British Solo Youth Trials Championship, C Class Medium Wheel, Euan Sim from Taynuilt leads the British Championship.

Rounds one and two were held on the Isle of Man on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14.

He was first in the first round at Scarlett, a stone's throw away from the Irish Sea on the Saturday, and took third place in the second round at King's Forest,

Trials

Greeba on the Sunday. Euan was the British and Scottish Champion last year in his category on an Oset electric bike but has moved on to a petrol bike this year where he can expect the routes and terrain to be more challenging.

The next round will take place at Low North Park, Harwood Dale, near Scarborough on Sunday June 3.

Oban Bowling Club offers free sessions

FOLLOWING Scotland's bowling success in the Commonwealth Games, Oban Bowling Club is hoping to attract new players with an open day this Sunday.

The event will run from noon until 4pm at the club, near Atlantis Leisure, and there will be something for everyone.

John McLaren said: 'I have been coming since 2008 and it's one of the best things I have ever done. I wish I started sooner.'

'It's perfect exercise for me and I have MS and heart problems.'

Helen MacLean said: 'I want people to understand this is a game that everyone can play at whatever level they want to.'

'Sunday is an introduction to the game. We will have targets and things.'

However, Helen said if people want to play a match, that can be arranged.

Oban Bowling Club promotes

Bowls

casual play as well as organised competitions.

To find out more, contact Helen on 01631 570988.



Vice president Isabel Boyd throws the first Jack of 2018 season.



Oban Bowling Club hopes to attract new members by holding an open day on Sunday.

Trophy winners 2017/2018

Curly Cup - Mary Phillips; Salmon Centre Trophy - Geo Adam; JR Trophy - Ian Galloway; Captain's Prize - Geo Adam; 28-hole Stableford Competition - Geo Adam; Highland Arts Burns Crystal Trophy - Geo Adam; Isle of Seil Sports Club Trophy - Gordon McColl; Campbell Cunningham Cup - John Morgan; Colin Campbell Monthly Medal Shield - Donna Campbell; Away Day Trophy - Geo Adam; Highland Arts Shortbread Cup - John Morgan; Graham Hunt Trophy - Ian Galloway; Ian Fullarton Memorial Trophy - John Morgan; Wrinkly Cup - Ian Galloway; Ne'er Day Trophy - Bill Clark; Winter Wednesday Stableford - John Morgan; Isle of Seil Boatyard Winter League Cup - Lewis Campbell

The trophies were presented by club captain Mary Phillips, who thanked the members for attending and Isobelle for once again hosting the event.

A quiz 'How well do you know your golf club?' proved very popular with the members, with John Taylor proving to be the most knowledgeable claiming the prize for most correct answers.

The members are now looking forward to May 5 when the club holds its open day welcoming non-golfers to come and give golf a try and golfers from other clubs to try the Seil course in a special five-hole Stableford competition for the Captain's Invitation Shield.

Glencruitten

LEADING qualifiers for the Britannia Cup held at Glencruitten on Saturday were James Muir 62-2=60, Alan Garret 72-11=61, Alistair MacLean Jnr, Steven O'Rourke, Martin Rae and Colin Campbell with net 63.

On Saturday the Stokes Qualifier and Spring Eclectic round three takes place.

Taynuilt

CAPTAIN'S Prize second round played on April 22. 1 Alex Needham 76-14=62; 2 Robbie MacLarty 71-08=63; 3 Callum Munro 72-09=63.

Captain's Prize 2018 winners 1 Mark Henricksen 63+65=128 Winner; 2 Alex Needham 69+62=131; 3 David Howie 67+65=132.



Abi Evans.

Oban's Abi hopes to repeat history and win at Murrayfield Women's rugby

OBAN rugby player Abi Evans will be hoping to repeat history this weekend and win the Sarah Beaney Cup.

Abi's team, Hillhead Jordanhill, will be playing in the final against Watsonians at Murrayfield at 2.10pm on Saturday.

Speaking about the upcoming match, Abi said: 'I'm really excited. It's going to top off our season. We have already won the league and this was our goal - to win the double.'

Last year, Hillhead Jordanhill won the match in the dying minutes and one of Abi's tries was voted BT Try of the Month.

'I'm really looking forward to it,' Abi added. 'It's good having it on the main pitch. I'm hoping to have a competitive match.'

Joining Abi at Murrayfield will be Oban Lorne Ladies, who will play in the BT National Women's Bowl final on Saturday morning against Gairloch RFC.

Tobermory rally driver wins Speyside Stages

MULL rally driver Alasdair Currie, 20, dominated the McDonald and Munro Speyside Stages Rally last weekend to come home with four category wins.

Currie and new co-driver Grant MacNiven, 23, from Oban, quickly adapted to each other and delivered a dominant performance on the second round of the Scottish Rally Championship in Elgin. The duo had a tough start to the season after rolling the car on the opening round in February.

Currie and MacNiven bagged 1st in Class, 1st Junior crew, 1st Front Wheel Drive and 1st Fiesta ST Cup in Saturday's event.

This has set the championship assault in the right direction for the team after retiring on the Snowman Rally, and admittedly showed their worth in the

Rallying

Scottish Rally Championship after competing in England and Wales last year.

Alasdair said: 'This is a top result for us. We could not have wished for anything better. Grant and I are delighted and we hope to continue our success throughout the season.'

'I was feeling the pressure in the morning and drove all day, being cautious and kept out of trouble. We need to focus on reliability and clean runs now. With one retirement already haunting our championship hopes, we need to deliver top results all season.'

Round three sees the west coast team head to Dumfries for the Scottish Rally on Saturday May 10.



Alasdair Currie in action.



Atlantis Leisure coach Ben Pollock sets a 'keepie uppie' challenge for the youngsters.

Three-day celebration of tennis at Atlantis Leisure, Oban

TO MARK Atlantis Leisure's 25th anniversary and the upgraded tennis courts, Oban Tennis and Squash Club held a programme of events to celebrate.

The celebration started on Thursday April 19 when Oban primary school pupils took part in a junior fun day.

This was followed by a junior tennis tournament on Friday with S1 and S2 pupils from Oban High School.

The programme culminated on Saturday, when past and present players, including the 1986 West Highland Tennis Week champion Blane Dodds, who is also chief executive officer of Tennis Scotland, were present.

This was followed by a come try session and the introduction of pickleball - a game similar

Tennis

to tennis, but played on a badminton court with a hard bat and ball.

Speaking about the events, Mary MacLean of Oban Tennis and Squash Club, said: 'It went really well on Saturday. The weather helped. The courts were full in the morning with young people playing. The pickleball went really well. Everyone enjoyed it. I think Atlantis are thinking about offering it as a new sport.'

The tennis courts at Atlantis Leisure received a revamp last year after £160,000 was raised to complete the project. Money came from local and national funders, businesses and personal donations.



Saints rev up to rattle Rolls Royce

East Kilbride Rolls Royce 0
Oban Saints 3
SAFL Premier Division

A RARE goal from player/manager Alex Craik sent Saints on their way to a three-goal victory over East Kilbride Rolls Royce last Saturday.

Standing in at left-back for the unwell Scott Maitland, the gaffer's first half header from a Willie Gemmell throw-in gave Saints a deserved first half lead in the sunshine at Kirktonholme Recreation Area, East Kilbride. Second half goals from Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell sealed a well-deserved three points for the visitors.

With Matthew Kelly, Scott Maitland, Jamie Graham, Keith Millar and Kerr Newbigging unavailable, match day 26 brought starting line-up number 26 and the burning question now is can Saints go through an entire season without naming the same starting line-up twice?

The gaffer took Scott Maitland's left-back berth, joining Ruaridh Horne, Steven MacLeod and Paul Carmichael in the back four in front of keeper Graham Douglas. Willie Gemmell anchored the midfield three flanked by Myles McAuley and Captain Donald Campbell. Up front were Craig MacEwan, Shaun MacIver and James Ford.

On the sparsely populated substitutes bench was Fraser MacFarlane, itching to make his first appearance since rejoining the club from Lochgilphead Red Star.

The hosts kicked off attacking the pavilion end on a tight, bumpy grass surface which would make passing football difficult for both teams. The narrow park gave the long throw of Willie Gemmell an added potency and Paul Carmichael was inches away from connecting with one in the fifth minute.

Spectacular

Operating on the right of the front three, James Ford's direct running was posing problems for the 'Rolly' defence in the early exchanges. A surging ninth minute Ford run, ended unfairly by Keiron Miller, gave Willie Gemmell a chance to put the ball in the danger area with his deadly right foot. Gemmell's delivery was met by a spectacular overhead effort from Shaun MacIver which was blocked by the chest of Ross Moore on the six yard line.

Donald Campbell collected a 13th minute Ruaridh Horne throw-in from the right and sent a diagonal ball up to Craig MacEwan on the edge of the 'Rolly' box. Unable to find a way through, MacEwan retained possession and worked the ball across to Myles McAuley whose clipped cross onto

the six-yard line was headed narrowly wide by James Ford. Ford tried again in the 14th minute, this time sending a drive from 22-yards over the 'Rolly' crossbar.

Two minutes later, good work on the left by Craig MacEwan set up Shaun MacIver for a shot from 18-yards which Connor Flannagan, at full stretch, did well to finger tip around his left hand post.

Another Willie Gemmell long throw caused panic in the 'Rolly' box in the 18th minute with Keiron Miller eventually forcing the ball clear after a stramash on the six-yard line.

Saints eventually capitalised on the threat from Gemmell's long throw in the 26th minute after Ross Moore had cut out a Donald Campbell through ball looking for Craig MacEwan. Alex Craik beat Moore in the air to help Gemmell's throw out of the reach of Connor Flannagan and into the post-age stamp corner to give Saints the lead.

A failure to gamble at the back post cost Saints a two-goal half-time cushion as Alex Craik flicked on another Gemmell throw across the face of goal. Much to the frustration of the gaffer, there were no takers in navy for what would have been a simple tap-in.

The half-time interval arrived with Saints good value for their single goal advantage and look-



Alex Craik's header flies into the net to open the scoring.
Match report and photographs: Derek Black

ing solid at the back in snuffing out the home side's threat on the break.

The home side showed more adventure at the beginning of the second half but it was Saints who continued to carry more of an attacking threat.

In the 47th minute, good work on the left by Craig MacEwan sent Shaun MacIver in behind the 'Rolly' defence with Connor Flannagan reacting quickly to come off his line and block MacIver's shot.

Glancing header

A flowing Saints move from the back, started by Paul Carmichael, saw Myles McAuley win a 50th minute corner on the left.

Willie Gemmell's head height delivery picked out Craig MacEwan's near post run perfectly with MacEwan's glancing header being headed off the goal-line by Greig Kinnaird guarding the far post.

An exquisite touch and turn from James Ford from an Alex Craik ball out from the back opened up space for a shot from 18-yards which flew inches wide of Connor Flannagan's left hand post.

A swift Saints counter attack from a 'Rolly' corner kick headed clear by Paul Carmi-



Donald Campbell, on ground, slots home Saints' second goal.

chael saw James Ford beat the advancing Connor Flannagan on the corner of the six yard box before sending his low finish agonisingly the wrong side of the post and into the side netting.

Saints doubled their advantage in the 69th minute when Donald Campbell rounded off an excellent move through the middle involving Craig MacEwan, Myles McAuley and Shaun MacIver. The skipper's cool finish from 12 yards was a just reward for an influential performance in the middle of the park.

Gaffer Alex Craik made his only change with 30 minutes remaining when Fraser MacFarlane replaced Shaun MacIver in attack.

Campbell came within a flicker of inches of adding a third in the 77th minute curling a delicious effort just wide of Flannagan's left hand

post after good work by Craig MacEwan and James Ford. Fraser MacFarlane was denied a goal on his return to the side when his 77th minute effort was blocked by Connor Flannagan. It was Flannagan to the rescue again 60 seconds later when the 'Rolly' keeper stood up well at his near post to parry away Craig MacEwan's left foot shot from the corner of the six yard box.

At the other end a long range effort from 'Rolly' striker James Banks was easily dealt with by Graham Douglas who had a reasonably comfortable afternoon in the Saints' goal.

With five minutes of the 90 remaining, Craig MacEwan was sent sprawling in the 'Rolly' box but Mr Espinha, who was well up with play, ruled the offence had occurred outside the box and awarded Saints a free-kick in perfect Willie Gemmell territory.

Football

The Saints dead-ball expert didn't disappoint, curling the free kick around the five man 'Rolly' wall and inside the post agonisingly out of reach for Connor Flannagan who did well to get close to Gemmell's perfectly placed free-kick.

Gemmell came within inches of a fourth for Saints in the 88th minute sending a Donald Campbell lay-off wide of Flannagan's left hand post after good work on the right from Ruaridh Horne and Fraser MacFarlane.

Mr Espinha, who handled proceedings well, brought an entertaining encounter to an end after three added minutes.

The teams will meet again in the reverse fixture at Glen-cruitten this Saturday, kick-off 2pm. Referee in charge is the experienced Pat O'Donnell.



Willie Gemmell bends it like Beckham round the Rolly wall for Saints third goal.

MARTIAL ARTS
WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate

A junior tournament has been arranged for Saturday May 19 in Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead.

This is open to all clubs and entry forms are available from Iain Rodger.

Preparation work is under way for the Irish Open in Dublin with only one fighter, Jodie Robertson from Lochgilphead, likely to come from the Scottish clubs.

No beginners are being taken on until the end of June to allow those already training to concentrate on their syllabus work for the next grading in June.

If you would like more information about Kyokushinkai Karate classes, contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Kickboxing

Robbie Bratton took third place in the 14/15 year old section at the Kyokushin Cup tournament in Glasgow.

Training continues as normal with juniors at 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 11am on Sundays. Seniors are at 6pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Women only sessions are at 1pm on Sundays and Kick-Fit Mondays are at 6pm. Beginners are always welcome. The first session is free and there are discounts for multiple sessions.

Find us on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07588 513618.

Shukokai Karate

Argyll Martial Arts are holding their grading test on Saturday 28th April at Dalmailly Community Centre, we wish all those talking part the best of luck. The afternoon following the test will be taken up by a junior tournament for club members.

Anyone looking for more details should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ

On Saturday April 14, Oban BJJ hosted a workshop with current European IBJJF champion John Nicolson, head of the Dunit Sports Hub.

John is a multiple time champion at BJJ and MMA, as well as a qualified wrestling instructor, so his presence at the academy is of high value to all students wanting to improve their game.

The first half of seminar was nogi, covering back attacks and finishing chokes. This was filled with small details that make all the difference in a sport where closing or opening an extra few millimetres of space can be the difference between a choke or an escape.

The second half focused on taking opponents to the ground, confirming your position on top then finishing. Again there was attention to details, making things that much stronger and sharper. Everyone really enjoyed the day and John was impressed with the attitude from the students who showed a thirst to learn and improve.

Coach Coogie Potter said: 'We are delighted to say John will now be a regular in Oban helping with seminars. Between Marcos and John coming bi monthly, the team should continue to improve and grow. If anyone wants to learn BJJ don't hesitate to get in touch with us.'

Classes are every week day at 7.30pm. For more info contact Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com



Members of Oban BJJ who attended the recent workshop. Back row, left to right: Dawid Loukil, Calum Galbraith, Mateusz Grabiec, Ruaridh Black, Calum Weir and Paul Byrne. Front row, left to right: Paul McGhee, Niall Adam, John Nicolson, Coogie Potter, Drew MacCallum, Ewan Weir and Russell MacLennan.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4050

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

MacTavish Cup holders suffer a scare before making it through to semi-finals

THE FAVOURITES all eventually made it through to the cottages.com MacTavish Cup and Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals following the shinty action on Saturday April 21.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – quarter finals

Newtonmore 2 Glenurquhart 2
After extra-time. Newtonmore won 5-4 on penalties.

Holders Newtonmore suffered a scare before reaching the last four of this year's competition with a penalty shoot-out win over Glenurquhart following their 2-2 draw at The Eilan.

Newtonmore's absentees included the suspended Evan Menzies as well as Drew MacDonald, Paul MacArthur, Craig Ritchie and Jamie Robinson. Rory Kennedy returned to the starting line-up, whilst there was a call-up for Calum Stewart.

Glenurquhart fielded a young centre line with Fraser Heath starting in attack.

Newtonmore went in front when Glen MacKintosh beat Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh with a rasping 35-yard shot on 38 minutes.

Glenurquhart drew level on 41 minutes when Fraser Heath scored following good play between Daniel MacKintosh and Connor Golabek.

With no scoring in the second half, referee Calum Girvan took the tie into extra-time.

Fraser Heath, who looked to be back to his best form, put Glenurquhart in front with a half-volley on 107 minutes.

Glenurquhart were just a couple of minutes away from a place in the next round when Glen MacKintosh made it 2-2 following a goalmouth scramble and the ball may even have taken a slight deflection as it rose high into the net.

The sides were still level after the first ten penalties, so the shoot-out went to sudden death. Iain Robinson scored the winning penalty that sent Newtonmore through to the last four of the competition.

Skye Camanachd 1 Lovat 2

Two first half goals helped Lovat edge out Skye Camanachd 2-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Paic nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye manager John MacLeod was still without the injured Iain

Nicolson. Ruaraidh MacLeod also missed out after suffering a knock when playing for the club's U17 side during the week and Stewart Grant was working.

Lovat boss Fraser Gallacher was minus Scott MacKenzie and Chris Johnston whilst Thomas Fraser was a late call-off. Duncan Davidson started on the bench alongside Jamie Buchan.

Skye opened well but it was Lovat who took the lead following their first real attack on five minutes. Callum Cruden launched a high free-hit forward. Marc MacLachlan's shot was deflected into the path of Lewis Tawse who made it 1-0.

Skye suffered a blow when they lost full back Ally MacDonald with what looked like a serious knee injury, so Will Cowie came back into defence with Ross Gordon coming off the bench.

Lovat doubled their lead on 41 minutes when Marc MacLachlan used his strength to hold off a defender and keeper and force the ball home to make it 2-0 at half-time.

Skye rallied in the second half and pulled a goal back with 10 minutes remaining. Iain MacLellan released Martin Pringle down the Skye left and, with his first touch of the ball after coming on as a substitute, Pringle cut the ball back for Jordan Murchison, who lost his marker at the edge of the D, and he made no mistake, scoring his third goal in two games.

Lovat's best players were at the back, particularly Drew Howie, with the whole defensive unit, also including Daniel Grieve, Mark Kelly and Callum Cruden, working tirelessly to frustrate Skye.

Will Cowie was best for Skye, with Danny Morrison and Kenny Campbell also doing well in midfield.

Fort William 0 Caberfeidh 5

Fort William were the only side from outwith shinty's top flight to reach the quarter-finals but they went down 5-0 to a slick Caberfeidh side in their 3pm throw-up at An Aird.

Fort William were without Arnan MacPhee and Sean Cruickshank started on the bench.

Caberfeidh had players back from the side which lost to Lochaber in the league the previous week but Ryan MacKay was unavailable as he completed a two-match suspension.

Caberfeidh also had Martin MacDonald back, but the match

was only a minute old when he required treatment for an eye injury. From the re-start in the Caberfeidh half, the ball fell to Blair Morrison who struck a fine clearance to the left wing forward area where Kevin Bartlett found Craig Morrison who unleashed a powerful shot into keeper Paul MacKay's bottom left-hand corner of the net.

Both teams settled and Fort William should have equalised when JD MacMaster had a chance from close range but he sent his effort over the bar.

The home defence played well for the next 25 minutes but a Sean Cameron mistake saw Kevin Bartlett unmarked near the 'D' and he was found by Craig Morrison. Bartlett had time to pick his spot before blasting the ball home.

Caberfeidh's Colin MacLennan cracked a shot off the bar before his team got a third on 39 minutes with an almost carbon copy of their second goal. The Bartlett - Morrison combination worked well again as Kevin Bartlett slipped the ball into an empty space where Craig Morrison had time to push the ball into the net from close range.

The second half was again mostly all Caberfeidh and on 56 minutes a fine ball from full centre Ally MacLennan found Kevin Bartlett on the right side and he turned his marker before placing the ball low past the keeper.

Graham Campbell had a chance to pull a goal back but his shot went wide of the post.

Kevin Bartlett completed his hat-trick on 70 minutes when he drilled a shot into the net from 20 yards.

Caberfeidh's Jamie Matheson came off the bench but, worryingly for boss Jodi Gorski, he limped off with what looked like a recurrence of a hamstring injury which had troubled him in recent weeks.

There were no bookings issued by referee John Angus Gillies and Calum Shepherd and Lachie Shaw did well for Fort William in midfield with Graham Campbell working tirelessly up front.

Blair Morrison shone for Caberfeidh, clearing everything in defence. Ally MacLennan had a good game and man of the match Kevin Bartlett was at his best up front.

Kinlochshiel 7 Lochaber 2

Kinlochshiel found safe passage to the semi-finals with a 7-2 victory over Lochaber at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel had Scott Kennedy back in goals, whilst Lochaber's Brian MacDonald was free to play. He will miss this Saturday's match against Lovat at Spean Bridge though as he serves a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Kinlochshiel took the lead through John MacRae on 28 minutes.

Keith MacRae added a second a couple of minutes later and made it 3-0 with four first half minutes to go.

Stuart Callison gave Lochaber hope with a goal on the stroke of half-time to make it 3-1 at the break.

There was a quick exchange of goals as Keith MacRae completed his hat-trick on 50 minutes, only for Shaun Nicolson to make it 4-2 a couple of minutes later. Ali Nixon restored Kinlochshiel's three-goal cushion when he made it 5-2 on 54 minutes.

Ali Nixon got his second on the hour, whilst the impressive John MacRae did likewise with eight minutes remaining.

The winning margin may have flattered Kinlochshiel but they are the form team ahead of Thursday's semi-final draw.



Fort William's Padraig McNeill, left, and Lachie Shaw deal with Caberfeidh's Jack Pilcher. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup – quarter finals

Oban Camanachd 9 Ballachulish 0

Oban Camanachd were too strong for Ballachulish, from two divisions below, running out 9-0 winners at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Sloss was banned for this one but Daniel Cameron returned following his suspension and David Lafferty also returned.



Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay.

Ballachulish's Connor MacGregor was free of a two match ban and the visitors travelled with just 13 players.

Oban Camanachd took the lead after just 45 seconds. The hosts worked the ball forward from the throw-up and, following a goalmouth melee, Daniel Cameron tapped in from close range.

Daniel MacVicar on five minutes, Andrew MacCuish on 10 minutes and Craig MacDougall a couple of minutes later made it 4-0, with all three goals bagged from close in.

Andrew MacCuish got his second a minute after the re-start and completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes later with a fine, looping 30-yard shot.

Daniel Cameron got his second on 51 minutes when he sent a rocket shot high into the roof of the net from a tight angle.

Craig MacDougall added an eighth with his second goal on 75 minutes and Daniel MacCuish made it 9-0 on 77 minutes with the last two goals again netted from close range.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay reflected on the match saying: 'We were on a hiding to nothing really as everyone

expected us to win the game. I thought things got a bit congested in the first half so we changed formation to a diamond in the second half and that helped spread the play.

'We are off to league leaders Kinlochshiel this Saturday in a re-arranged match which will be difficult. We'll still be without Daniel Sloss but Willie Neilson should be available.'

Col Glen 0 Inveraray 7

Inveraray ran out 7-0 victors over Col Glen at Glendaruel.

Inveraray were without Nicholas Crawford, whilst Col Glen had to do without Sandy Paterson, Jamie MacVicar, Donnie McDermid and Connor Kennedy.

Allan MacDonald gave Inveraray the lead after 28 minutes and Lewis MacNicol added a second.

Fraser Watt and Allan MacDonald again made it 4-0. Three quick goals put gloss on the win. Fraser Watt got his second before Craig Taylor made it 6-0.

Fraser Watt completed his hat-trick, adding Inveraray's seventh with the final tally harsh on a battling Col Glen side.

Inveraray now travel to Mossfield to play Oban Camanachd in the semi-final on Saturday May 19.

Bute 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 6

Four first half goals helped Glasgow Mid Argyll beat Bute in their 3pm throw-up at The Meadows.

Innes MacMillan gave GMA the lead on seven minutes, but John MacCallum made it 1-1 on 20 minutes.

Bute only stayed level for 60 seconds though as top scorer Craig Anderson put GMA back in front.

Seb MacMillan on 33 minutes and a second from Innes MacMillan on 41 minutes made it 4-1 at the turnaround.

GMA emphasised their higher league status as a second from Craig Anderson on 69 minutes and a Calum Mclay goal four minutes later rounded off the 6-1 triumph.

Kyles Athletic W/O v Tayforth

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup holders Kyles Athletic were given a bye into the semi-finals, where they will travel to Glasgow Mid

Argyll, after Marine Harvest South Division 1 forfeited their tie at Tighnabruach.

This allowed Kyles to play a re-arranged league match against Kingussie at The Dell.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie 1 Kyles Athletic 3

Kyles Athletic cut Kinlochshiel's lead at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership to a point following their 3-1 win over Kingussie in a 3pm throw-up at The Dell.

James Hutchison returned for the Kingussie but injury continued to rule out Lee Bain and Louis Munro, whilst Ryan MacWilliam was banned.

Kyles Athletic keeper John Whyte showed no ill effects following his return from an ankle injury the previous week, so he continued in goal.

Roddy MacDonald opened the scoring on 14 minutes when he took down a Dunkie Kerr corner from the right before beating keeper Craig Dawson with a deft finish from close range.

Kyles got a crucial second goal on the stroke of half-time when Roddy MacDonald pushed the ball home from close range after Colin MacDonald had taken the ball by the keeper.

Ruaraidh Anderson got the Kingussie back in the game on 79 minutes when he sent a powerful shot inside the keeper's right post following a well-struck shy from the Kingussie right.

Kyles clinched the win with five minutes remaining. A long Callum Miller free-hit sent Scott MacDonald racing down the inside left channel and he sent the ball low into the net to make it 3-1.

Kyles now only trail table toppers Kinlochshiel by a point, although the league leaders have a game in hand.

Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie 4 Oban Celtic 3

Kilmallie go top of shinty's second tier after eventually beating Oban Celtic 4-3 in a thrilling match at The Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall was free of a two-match ban and Liam MacDonald started on the bench.

Oban Celtic were missing Iain MacKechnie, Rory Bruce, Kieran Gallacher and Daniel MacMillan but Neil Carmichael returned.

Kilmallie looked to have taken an early grip of the game, getting themselves 2-0 in front.

Innes Blackwell opened the scoring on 22 minutes, forcing the ball home following a goalmouth scramble, and an absolute peach of a Michael Rodger shot from a very tight angle made it 2-0 on 32 minutes.

With Iain MacFarlane again doing well in goals, Oban Celtic looked to have been dealt a blow when Ally McKerracher suffered a hit on the knee so manager Kenny Wotherspoon moved him to full forward with Neil Carmichael going to centre. Both players did well in their new positions.

Oban Celtic pulled a goal back on 36 minutes when Ally McKerracher flicked the ball to Daniel Madej who scored with his shot going low to the keeper's right. Ally McKerracher then turned scorer when he made it 2-2 a minute into the second half with a low drive on the run which beat Kilmallie goalie Shane Gillies. Celtic turned the match on its head when Ross MacMillan made it 3-2 following a goalmouth scramble three minutes later.

Oban Celtic then faced a Kilmallie onslaught. The visiting defence were very good but Michael Rodger found the back of the net with a low drive on 52 minutes, his second goal of the game, to make it 3-3.

Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson sent on Liam MacDonald and he scored what proved to be the winning goal on 65 minutes. MacDonald's shot on the turn crashed into the roof of the net.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'There are a lot of positives to take from the game. We played Kilmallie last year in a friendly match and suffered a 7-1 defeat.

'This close encounter is just another sign that we are heading in the right direction. It was a great game for the neutral and I'm proud of our boys. They could have thrown the towel in at 2-0 but they didn't. They fought back and made a game of it and I thought we were very unlucky not to take something from a strong and physical Kilmallie side.'



Fort William's JD McMaster battles for the ball during the cottages.com Mactavish Cup match at An Aird. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

**Inverness 3
Strathglass 1**
Inverness recorded their second league win of the season, after two late goals saw off bottom side Strathglass 3-1 at The Bught Park.
James MacKenzie put Inverness ahead on 32 minutes with the only goal of the first half.
Scott Douglas got Strathglass back on level terms on 55 minutes and that's the way it stayed until three minutes from time.
Charlie MacDonald put Inverness back in front on 87 minutes and James Cameron sealed the win on the stroke of full time.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Skye Camanachd 1
Newtonmore 2**
The top two in North 1 met in a noon throw-up at Pair nan Laoch, Portree.
Kenny MacLeod's Skye side were without Allan MacLeod who was called up to cover first team absentees.
Orsten Gardiner travelled without Calum Stewart, who was also on first team duty, but was able to call on Danny MacRae who played for the first time this season.
Newtonmore pegged Skye back for the opening quarter of the game but all they had to show for their efforts was a Danny MacRae goal after 16 minutes.
The former Scotland forward hammered the ball home from wide on the left, into the net off the far post.
An unlikely Skye equaliser came on 33 minutes with Ross Gordon scoring following a David MacInnes free-hit.
Late in the first half, Skye keeper Ryan Morrison had to dash from his line to thwart an on-rushing Danny MacRae, who had earlier hit the crossbar.
Newtonmore regained the lead 10 minutes after the re-start when substitute David Fraser scored. Ryan Morrison had made a save but Danny MacRae, on the Newtonmore left, resisted the temptation to shoot goalwards, instead playing a measured pass to an unmarked Fraser who rolled the ball into the empty net.
Skye's Angie MacDonald had a late effort ruled out for a push and Newtonmore did just enough to earn the win.
The Newtonmore seconds went into the match with a three point lead at the top of the table and they are now four points better off than second-placed Glengarry who have a game in hand.

**Kingussie 0
Fort William 0**
The Kingussie reserves and the Fort William reserves shared the points following their 0-0 draw in their noon throw-up at The Dell.

**Glengarry 5
Kinlochshiel 0**
Glengarry beat the Kinlochshiel colts 5-0 at Craigard.
Glengarry raced into an early 3-0 advantage through Nick Dalgety's double on 15 and 17 minutes and George Henderson's strike on 19 minutes.
When Nick Dalgety completed his hat-trick on 32 minutes, there was only going to be one winner.
Kenneth Henderson made it 5-0 with 57 minutes on the clock.
The win means Glengarry regain second place in the division from Skye.

**Glenurquhart 1
Aberdeen University 6**
Aberdeen University were 6-1 winners against the Glenurquhart second team in their noon throw-up at Blairbeg.
Glenurquhart took the lead on 20 minutes through Ross MacAulay.
Gregor Cushnie levelled a minute later and Alex Duncan made it 2-1 on 23 minutes.
Gregor Cushnie got his second on 37 minutes and the students led 3-1 at the break.
Glenurquhart, who are without injured full back Paul MacKintosh, were finding Aberdeen full forward Gregor Cushnie a



Ally Clarke, Ballachulish, and Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar fight for the ball during the Celtic Society Cup match at Mossfield. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

handful and the former Lochcarron player took his tally to four goals with strikes on 67 and 70 minutes.
Alex Duncan got his second with five minutes remaining to make it 6-1.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1
Kilmory 1
Kyles Athletic 3**
The Kyles Athletic second team go a couple of points clear at the top of Marine Harvest South Division 1 after they beat Kilmory 3-1 in a match reversed to MacRae Park.
Kilmory duo Bruce Johnstone and Andy Cunningham both served one-match-bans.
Kyles Athletic's Chris Blair started a two-match suspension following his red card against Taynuilt a week earlier.
Kyles Athletic's Sandy MacKenzie on 16 minutes and Luke Thornton four minutes later gave the visitors a 2-0 lead in this 2pm throw-up.
Sandy MacKenzie got his second on 85 minutes.
Steven Gilmour pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later but the Tighnabruach men took the points.
The match also marked referee Ross Brown's return from injury.

**Taynuilt 1
Lochside Rovers 1**
Taynuilt and Lochside Rovers couldn't be separated, drawing 1-1 at Taynuilt Sports Field.
Taynuilt went into the game without full backs Alec Dunning and James MacLaren, who were both unavailable.
Lochside lost three players, including Evan MacLellan, to senior side Oban Camanachd, so Ewen Logan and manager Gareth Evans were their only substitutes.
Ewen MacCorquodale has just joined Lochside from Taynuilt but the clubs agreed he wouldn't play in this match against his former club.
Lochside created a scoring chance following a free-hit on 20 minutes but it came to nothing.
Lewis Buchanan gave the Oban side the lead a minute later. A terrific Scott Robertson shy from the centre line was taken out of the air by Michael MacQueen who found Lewis Buchanan who, having run off his marker, he drove a 30-yard shot into the net.
Lewis Buchanan and Michael MacQueen linked up well and with keeper Brian Logan coming off his line, MacQueen sent his effort the wrong side of the post.
Lochside had chances during the first 45 minutes but they weren't clear-cut.
Taynuilt came back into the match during the final 10 minutes of the half and Lochside had keeper Brian MacCallum to thank for a good save.
Taynuilt substitute Mark

**Beauly 1
Lochcarron 1**
It was honours even between the Beauly seconds and Lochcarron at Braeview Park.
Daniel Lamont put Beauly in front a couple of minutes before the interval.
It stayed that way until nine minutes from time when Andrew Ford scored to make it 1-1 and earn Lochcarron a point.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2
Beauly 1
Lochcarron 1**
It was honours even between the Beauly seconds and Lochcarron at Braeview Park.
Daniel Lamont put Beauly in front a couple of minutes before the interval.
It stayed that way until nine minutes from time when Andrew Ford scored to make it 1-1 and earn Lochcarron a point.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Aberdour 1 v 5 Glasgow MA
Bute 0 v 5 Glenorchy
Oban Celtic 0 v 2 Strachur**

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Bergant got his side level four minutes into the second half. Bergant's 30-yard shot from wide on the left flew into the opposite top corner of the net for a great goal.
Lochside pressed to regain the lead but Taynuilt looked the hungrier side.
Best for Lochside were Graham Morrice, full back Josh Rippon and forwards Lewis Buchanan and Ross Campbell.
Taynuilt were well-served by Steven Parr and Stephen Campbell.
The sides also contested the JC Trophy, played in memory of John Cameron who played for Taynuilt and Oban Camanachd.
With the match finishing 1-1, the teams agreed on a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner.
The penalties were almost all of the highest standard and Lochside ran out 4-3 winners.
Their keeper Brian MacCallum, who himself scored from the spot, saved from Liam Higgins and Josh Rippon stepped up to net the winning penalty.
John's father Dougie Cameron presented the trophy to Lochside captain Craig Easton.
Speaking after the game, Lochside Rovers boss Gareth Evans said: 'After such a good performance against Tayforth the week before, this was the polar opposite.
'It was a frustrating first half. We made changes at the break but they didn't have the desired effect. We are away to Kilmory in the league and at home to Kyles Athletic in the Sutherland Cup over the next two Saturdays so I'll be looking for a marked improvement in these games.'

**Lochaber 7
Lewis Camanachd 1**
The Lochaber reserves were 7-1 winners against Lewis Camanachd in their 1.15pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.
Ben Delaney scored four times for Lochaber, whilst Max Campbell, Lachlan Campbell and Rolands Freimanis got the others for John Fraser's side.
Crisdean Macrae bagged a consolation strike for Lewis.
The win lifts Lochaber to fourth in the division.

**Boleskine 2
Kilmallie 2**
Boleskine came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with the Kilmallie seconds at Smith Park.
Kilmallie's Stuart Ross was free of a one-match ban.
Kilmallie led 2-0 at the break with Pater McIntyre netting after 15 and 24 minutes.
Boleskine's Hamish Stoddart pulled a goal back after 53 minutes and the equaliser came 10 minutes from time when Duncan MacPherson scored.

**Loval 12
Inverness 0**
The Loval second team continued their free-scoring run with a 12-0 victory over the Inverness second team at Balgiate.
Having scored 23 goals in their last three matches, including an 11-0 Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup victory over the Inverness seconds a fortnight earlier, Loval were favourites in this one.
Martin Mainland returned from injury to line-up for Loval and they went in front on 16 minutes through Ryan Ferguson.
Raymond Rennie scored on 20 and 35 minutes, either side of a 25th minute Cameron MacMillan strike.
Two goals on the stroke of half-time from Graeme MacMillan

and Ryan Ferguson made it 6-0 at the break.
Loval continued to dominate and Cameron MacMillan got his second on 52 minutes.
A second from Graeme MacMillan on 58 minutes and a hat-trick goal from Ryan Ferguson on 65 minutes made it 9-0.
Raymond Rennie took his tally to four goals with two quick-fire efforts on 68 and 69 minutes.
Graeme MacMillan completed his hat-trick with eight minutes remaining to complete Loval's dozen.
Loval now climb to second in the division.

**Strathspey Camanachd 0
Strathglass 0**
Strathspey Camanachd and the Strathglass colts shared the points in a 0-0 draw in their 1.30pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.
Strathspey's Stuart Sloss was available again following suspension.

**Strathspey 4
Fort William 0**
Strathspey beat Fort William 4-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.
Karen Hodges, Beth Rodgers, Jessica Hart and Jane Moodie got the goals.

**Aberdour 5
Ardnamurchan 0**
Aberdour beat Ardnamurchan 5-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Silversands.
Katie Booth scored four times, with Rosie Mulligan getting the other.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Oban Celtic 0
Strachur 2**
Strachur stay top of the league after they beat the Oban Celtic seconds 2-0 at Ganavan.
Strachur's Iain MacLennan scored the only goal of the first half after 20 minutes and Steven Bulloch added a second 10 minutes from time.
This was only Oban Celtic's second fixture of the season so far and they showed up well against the league leaders.

**Bute 0
Glenorchy 5**
Glenorchy stay second after they defeated the Bute colts 5-0 in their noon throw-up at The Meadows.
John Sartain, a Conor Sartain hat-trick and Iain Livingstone counted for the visitors.

**Aberdour 1
Glasgow Mid Argyll 5**
The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts returned from Silversands with both points after beating the Aberdour colts 5-1.
Brandon Marshall scored for the hosts but a brace from Angus MacInnes and strikes from Connor MacLeod, Ross Fraser and Graeme Love gave GMA the win.

WCA round-up
Skye Camanachd and Badenoch were top flight winners following the Women's Camanachd Association action on Sunday April 22.

**Marine Harvest
National Division 1
Lochaber 1
Skye Camanachd 7**
Champions Skye and Lochaber contested a title race to the end last year and the teams met for the first time this season in a 1pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.
Lochaber's only blemish this term was a forfeited match against Fort William in which they fielded an ineligible player.
Skye went into the game on

the back of three wins in which they'd scored a stunning 47 goals. And despite Natalie MacDonald scoring for the hosts, a Lorna MacRae hat-trick and doubles from Caitlin MacLean and Jenna Beaton gave Skye a 7-1 win.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 0
Badenoch 5**
Badenoch maintained their title push with a 5-0 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll in their 12.30pm throw-up at Yoker.
Zoe Reid scored twice, whilst Eilidh Ross, Mairi Stewart and Roma Fraser got the others.

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Fixtures
Saturday April 28
Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup 1st round
Aberdeen Uni v Beaully
Archie Ritchie
Ballachulish v Col Glen
Scott McNeil
Fort William v Inveraray
Martin MacLean - 3pm
Glengarry v Bute
Brian MacKay
Kilmallie v Tayforth
Iain Kennedy - 3pm
Oban Celtic v Aberdour
Deek Cameron
Strathglass v Glasgow MA
Calum Girvan - 3pm
Taynuilt v Inverness
Graham Fisher

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st round
Kilmallie v Lochaber
Des McNulty

Marine Harvest Premiership
Caberfeidh v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies
Lochaber v Lovat
Lachie Wood
Skye v Kingussie
Graham Cameron
Kinlochshiel v Oban Cam
Andy MacLean - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Fort William v Glenurquhart
Ewan MacDonald - noon
Kinlochshiel v Skye
John Wood - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory v Kyles Athletic
Sandy MacKenzie
Kilmory v Lochside Rovers
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Inverness v Beaully
John Matheson
Lovat v Lewis
Steven MacLachlan
Strathglass v Caberfeidh
Ronnie Campbell - noon
Strathspey v Boleskine
Neil MacDonald - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Ross Brown
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy
Alex MacVicar
Strachur v Aberdour
Ted McDonald
Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results
Saturday April 21
Cottages.com MacTavish Cup 2nd round
Kinlochshiel 7 v 2 Lochaber
Skye 1 v 2 Lovat
Newtonmore 2 v 2 Glenquhart
Newtonmore win 5-4 on pens
Fort William 0 v 5 Caberfeidh

Glasgow Celtic Society Celtic Cup 2nd round
Col Glen 0 v 7 Inveraray
Kyles Athletic P - P Tayforth
Walkover to Kyles Athletic
Oban Cam 9 v 0 Ballachulish
Bute 1 v 6 Glasgow Mid Argyll

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kingussie 1 v 3 Kyles Athletic

Marine Harvest National Division
Kilmallie 4 v 3 Oban Celtic
Inverness 3 v 1 Strathglass

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Glengarry 5 v 0 Kinlochshiel
Glenquhart 1 v 6 Aberdeen Uni
Kingussie 0 v 0 Fort William
Skye 1 v 2 Newtonmore

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Taynuilt 1 v 1 Lochside Rovers
Kilmory 1 v 3 Kyles Athletic
Inveraray 1 v 1 Aberdour

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Beaully 1 v 1 Lochcarron
Boleskine 2 v 2 Kilmallie
Lochaber 7 v 1 Lewis
Lovat 12 v 0 Inverness
Strathspey 0 v 0 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 1 v 5 Glasgow MA
Bute 0 v 5 Glenorchy
Oban Celtic 0 v 2 Strachur



Kilmallie's Craig Maclaasac, centre, gets away from Boleskine's Ewen MacKinnon and Steve Bone. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

Oban Lorne defeat Dumfries to win under-18 bowl final

Oban Lorne	21
Dumfries Saints	15
West Region Bowl U-18 final	

OBAN Lorne Rugby Football Club welcomed Dumfries Saints to Glencruitten on Saturday.

To allow the Saints to make the long journey up, kick off was pushed back to 2.30pm.

The Oban team, led by Kieron Morrison and Euan Shearer, were missing captain Lorne Sinclair as he was racing in the British Quad Championships but their number had been bolstered by the addition of a number of players from Lochaber Rugby club since Christmas and all the replacements would be required in what was sure to be a tough competition.

A vocal support had turned out to support the 18s as Willie Malone got the game under way.

Oban received the kick off and used their forwards to break the Saints' line defence. Craig Cook and Euan Shearer were proving difficult to stop and Oban held much of the possession in the opening exchanges.

When Dumfries got the ball they looked sharp and the full back caused problems when running in the loose. Excellent tackling from Finn Charlton and David Cameron halted Dumfries, but an early penalty 30m out gave them the opportunity to take the lead.

The penalty was kicked and Dumfries took the lead 3-0. Oban then got in to the swing of things and applied lots of

pressure in the defence, leading to a number of knock ons by the Saints who were still trying to get the journey out of their legs. Oban knew they had to capitalise on the slow start and David Cameron caused problems in the centre. James Divers was making good ground at 10 and feeding Cameron, Cook and Morrison with the offloads. The forwards were knocking on the door and twice the Oban team were judged to be held up over the line.

The pressure paid off as Kieron Morrison opened the scoring for Oban. Andrew Ritchie added the extra points making it 7-3 for Oban. Oban received the restart and went back to work. Strong running from Divers at stand off and the centres of Jack Hamilton and David Cameron were linking well. A kick chase from Cameron resulted in a bad injury and he was forced to retire early.

Coaches Gordon Shearer and Murray Hamilton were forced to make changes around the park to accommodate the loss of Cameron. Oban were keeping possession again and making the most of the ball. Dumfries were starting to look dangerous but knock ons and the Oban defence were keeping them at bay.

A great drive from the forward pack created space on the right wing and Morrison popped up to get the back and made a 20 yard break getting over the line for a second score. Ritchie converted the points making the



Oban Lorne celebrate winning the Under 18 bowl.

score 14-3 to the home side.

Big defensive hits from Dumfries closed out the half and Charlton was forced to leave for a blood injury which was a big blow for the Oban pack.

Alasdair Lilley stepped up and was playing his best game of the season. Stuart MacQueen from Lochaber and Ian Barlow proved solid at the scrum which provided a good platform for Sandy Bavington and Divers to launch the Oban attack.

It was a different start to the second half and with a much changed starting 15 the Oban team found themselves under pressure. Dumfries started to click and the journey was clearly long forgotten about. This time it was Oban who had to put in the defensive cover. A number of kicks were fielded well by the back three of Ritchie, Fulford and Gordon. Angus Moss was working well at the breakdown to secure possession for Oban but Dumfries were experienced and gained penalties by beating the local side to the tackle.

The pressure on Oban was high and a mis-timed kick from the line allowed the Saints to strike a blow. They recovered the ball and, despite the best efforts of the defence, Dumfries scored again and converted making it 14-10 to Oban. This was now

proving a real test for the Oban team and players across the park stepped up. Stuart MacQueen had a great solo break, supported by Craig Cook and Kieron Morrison. Morrison made the final yards before offloading to Angus MacLeod who powered over for Oban's third try. It was Ritchie again who stepped up and made the conversion 21-10.

Dumfries rallied in the final 10 minutes of the game and nerves were showing from the Oban players. Changes were made and the time it took to settle allowed Dumfries to get the upper hand. Penalties at the break down allowed Saints to get in to the Oban 22 where they sneaked in at the corner to score. 21-15 now with the conversion from the touchline. The kick was a great effort but just sailed under the bar.

With only two minutes left on the clock, Oban had to restart and give the ball back to the Saints then defend for their lives. The young Green machine held their composure and an excellent turn over by Euan shearer gave the Oban side possession. Still requiring to run the clock down, the young team showed great composure with Moss, MacLeod, Shearer and Cook all taking the ball in and keeping things tight. A break down the



Kieron Morrison receives his man of the match award from Oban Lorne club president Sandy Rokitta.

left wing opened up and Oban took their chance to finish the game but a knock on halted proceedings. That was enough though and Mr Malone called full-time and the Oban team celebrated a much-deserved victory against a very powerful Dumfries side.

Man of the match was Kieron Morrison who surely has caught the eye of the senior coaches watching the match. A number of these players will now go on to represent the 1st XV.

'The coaches are extremely proud of how hard the boys have worked all season and their level of commitment is second to none.'

'I am delighted for them. I'd also like to thank the new shirt

Under 18 rugby

sponsors Stoddarts, volunteers at the club and the ground staff who made this pitch perfect for the match today,' said Murray Hamilton, U18's coach, when summing up the event.

Sandy Rokitta, Oban Lorne RFC president, presented the team with their trophy from the SRU.

Thanks go to Dumfries for making the long journey up to Oban.

The season is now finished for the 18's and it has finished on a high.

Hopefully these boys will be playing 1st XV rugby in the near future.



Kieron Morrison opens the scoring for Oban.

Green Machine suffer heavy defeat

Garnock	63
Oban Lorne	0
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne travelled away from home to take on promotion chasing Garnock at their Lochshore ground on Saturday.

The teams met in the first match of the 2017/2018 season at Glencruitten with the visitors recording a narrow 26-19 win.

Oban have struggled since, while their North Ayrshire opponents have impressed, sitting third in the league and still have aspirations of catching top placed Carrick RFC.

Oban fielded a much changed team yet again and welcomed Daniel Broderick, Matt Walker, Ben MacFarlane Barrow and Roddy Morrison into the team.

Also returning for Oban were Bulgarian internationals Radostin Maksimov and Vasil Borisov who played in their country's 53-0 win over Montenegro last weekend.

Determined

Garnock were expected to win Saturday's encounter and were made to work hard by a determined Oban team. Despite the men in Greens efforts, the home side led 21-0 at half time with three converted tries. Oban, though, were well in the game at the 40 minute mark and had a few spells of pressure on the home tryline, without success.

Fitness and a couple of second half injuries proved to be Oban's downfall as the home side dominated the second half, running in a further six converted tries to

Rugby

end up convincing 63-0 winners.

The result means Oban still sit eight points adrift of tenth placed Cambuslang but have a game in hand on their Glasgow rivals.

This Saturday Oban Lorne will play their scheduled home league match against Stewartry RFC at Meggetland, the home of Bourroughmuir RFC in Edinburgh.

Oban Lorne have opted for this neutral venue to allow the 1st XV to travel to Murrayfield and support the Oban Lorne Ladies in their bowl final against Garioch RFC.

Kick off for the 1st XV will be 3pm.

Oban Lorne Ladies	
Garioch	
BT National Women's Bowl final	

OBAN Lorne Ladies will look to make history on Saturday as they play their first National Bowl Final, taking on Garioch RFC from Inverurie as part of Scottish Rugby's 'Silver Saturday'.

For Oban victory at this national level would be a fitting end to what has already been an outstanding season for the team who have won their league title with matches to spare.

The team have only conceded two tries in 11-league games which is testament to their outstanding defensive play which was also evident in the 29-5 victory over Division 1 side in

the Bowl Semi Final. Along with their defensive efforts, the team possess several dangerous attacking threats that has helped the side score 613 points.

Saturday's opponents Garioch RFC will be a tough test for Captain Laura 'America' Mc-

Cormick and her side who have been preparing well for the final.

Under the guidance of coach Corrie Louw and team manager Darrell Williams training sessions have gone to five nights a week to prepare the squad as best they can for the final ap-



Oban Lorne Ladies could make history on Saturday if they win the National Bowl final at Murrayfield.

Women's rugby

pearance. Saturday's fixture on the BT Murrayfield back pitches kicks off at 11am with tickets still available on the SRU website.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 5°C to 9°C
Friday	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 4°C to 10°C
Weekend	Sunny on Saturday
Outlook	Sunny on Sunday Breezy from the north east Temperatures 5°C to 11°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 of **Thursday April 26, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	03.08 3.3 09.43 1.1 15.52 3.3 21.30 1.0	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.55 3.6 10.29 0.9 16.29 3.5 22.20 0.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	04.33 3.8 11.08 0.8 17.01 3.7 23.05 0.6	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	05.09 3.9 11.43 0.7 17.33 3.9 23.46 0.6	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	05.43 3.9 12.17 0.7 18.05 3.9 *** **	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	00.25 0.6 06.15 3.9 12.51 0.8 18.37 3.9	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	01.02 0.7 06.47 3.8 13.24 0.9 19.08 3.9	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)

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VOTING COUPON INSIDE PAGE 14 OBANLIVE Who will take to the stage? Find out inside

Fire service moves to allay hydrant fears after blaze

Glen Creran quarry rejected

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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EIGHT weeks after two homes were destroyed by a fire in Ardour, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has attempted to allay residents' fears this week as it confirmed there were no faults with the hydrants at the site.

Four fire engines were called to North Corran, Ardour, on Thursday March 1 as flames ripped through one semi-detached house before spreading to a second. Firefighters eventually managed to extinguish the blaze before leaving the area just before 7pm that evening.

As reported in the March 15 edition of the *Lochaber Times*, eyewitness accounts told how firefighters appeared to have difficulty maintaining water pressure from the hydrants and were forced to use water from nearby Loch Linnhe.

However, the fire service has now said there were, in fact, no issues with the fire hydrants on the site and sourcing additional supply from neighbouring bodies of water is a routine procedure.

Rab Middlemiss, the local senior officer for the Highland area, said: 'Due to the large volumes of water required to tackle such a significant fire, crews sourced additional water supplies from Loch Linnhe using portable pumps.'

'As previously highlighted, this decisive action was taken to augment the level of water already in place from the hydrants - not because of any fault with the hydrants.'

Scottish Water, which is responsible for the water supply to

the hydrant, also confirmed that there was no fault with the hydrants on the day of the incident.

A spokesperson said: 'Following a request from a local resident, a Scottish Water network service operator attended on March 9 to carry out flow testing on the hydrants in Ardour. No issues were identified as a result of these tests and the hydrants would have been available to SFRS to use, if required.'

In the weeks following the blaze, firefighters carried out a number of fire safety and reassurance visits to residents in the Ardour area and provided advice to help local residents stay safe in their homes.

Despite these assurances, however, some in the community remain concerned over the safety of homes in the village.

Resident Naomi Westwood, who lives next door to the burned out houses, said that while the community acknowledges the hard work of the fire service and the fact that they did eventually get the fire under control in difficult circumstances, the fire service is still 'unwilling to address the issues that are worrying the community'.

She told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The two issues that remain unanswered are why there was some problem with the water from the engines - which seemed to be gushing onto the road more than coming from the hoses - and then the delay in finding the correct up-to-date water hydrants.'

'Both of these issues meant that the destruction was greater than perhaps it should have been as the blackened ruin next door to me reminds us every single day.'

Ardour Inn owner Luke

Youngsters star at Glenfinnan for festival opener



Members of the Lochaber High School Brass Band opened this year's Loch Shiel Spring Festival last Thursday with an open-air concert under the Glenfinnan Viaduct. From Sunart woodlands to Glenuig sands, the four-day festival showcased a number of internationally renowned musicians in some of the most stunning venues found in Lochaber. Glenfinnan Church hosted the closing concert on Sunday night, followed by a festival dinner and after party at the Prince's House Hotel. Pictured here are, left to right, Jo Barr Moir, Kaleigh Howden, Freddy Fullord and Ewan Anderson. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

Alexander, who first alerted the emergency services to the fire, shared Ms Westwood's concerns. He also questioned why, if the hydrants were working properly, there were 'significant periods of time' when there was little or no water coming out of the hoses.

Even after fire safety visits from firefighters, Ms Westwood said

that many in the community would still like to meet with the fire service so they can be reassured that all firefighting procedures for the Ardour area have been reviewed in the aftermath of the blaze and that all resources are up to date.

'No one wants a blaming exercise,' she added. 'It's simply a

matter of people in a remote area having confidence that the systems in place to protect us from devastating fires are actually working as well as they can.'

Mr Middlemiss once again praised the work of the fire crews on the scene, who, he said, responded 'effectively' to the fire. 'I would like to praise the response

of our firefighters who, as always, worked extremely hard and with the utmost professionalism in arduous weather conditions at this, and every incident,' he continued.

'I am proud of all our firefighters and wish to thank our partners for their assistance in bringing this incident to a safe conclusion.'

PLANS to build a sand and gravel quarry at Glasdrum in Glen Creran have been quashed after the Scottish Government rejected the appeal on Tuesday.

The original application, which was unanimously refused by councillors, received 1,359 public objections, including Appin, Archattan, Duror and Kentallen community councils.

This led the applicant, A&L McCrae, to lodge an appeal with the Scottish Government.

But the government reporter said: 'Taking all matters into account, I conclude that the proposed development does not accord overall with the relevant provisions of the development plan and that there are no material considerations which would still justify granting planning permission.'

Tony Kersely, a spokesman for the anti-quarry protest group, said: 'Thank you to all my friends and family who have helped with this two-year-long campaign and to the fantastic support and help of the wider community which I truly believe made such a huge difference in getting this stopped.'

'Glen Creran is a special place and should be protected, and hopefully will be here unspoiled for years to come.'

'I would also like to thank our ward councillors and other Argyll and Bute councillors and the politicians who stood up. A great community effort by all.'

At the time of going to print, A&L McCrae was unavailable for comment.



Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Wed 25 - Sat 28 April

Peter Rabbit (PG) 95 mins
Beatrix Potter's bunny with attitude.
"altogether lively and funny" Guardian
25/04 at 5.30pm, 28/04 at 2pm

The Greatest Showman (PG) 105 mins
Hugh Jackman stars in feel-good musical drama.
"up-to-the-minute razzmatazz" Variety
25/04 at 8.30pm, 26/04 at 5.30pm, 28/04 at 5.30pm

Finding Your Feet (12A) 111 mins
Romantic comedy drama starring Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley and David Hayman.
"The cast lend charm to the feel-good fairytale" Times
26/04 at 2pm, 26/04 at 8.30pm, 27/04 at 5.30pm

You Were Never Really Here (15) 90 mins
Joaquin Phoenix stars in psychological drama directed by Lynne Ramsay. Heavy on violence and with a child sex abuse theme. "Ramsay's filmmaking is impeccable and diverse" Empire
27/04 at 8.30pm

Isle of Dogs (PG) 101 mins
Wes Anderson follows up The Grand Budapest Hotel with a stunning stop-motion animation about a dystopian Japanese island to which all dogs are banished. Suitable for older kids and adults too.
"If you're looking for cute, cuddly Wes Anderson, you're barking up the wrong tree." Telegraph
28/04 at 8.30pm

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults.

Six months' curfew for Fort man

A FORT William man has had his liberty restricted after a sheriff ordered him to remain in his home between 7pm and 7am for the next six months.

Malcolm Watson, of Lochaber Road, appeared at the town's sheriff court before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald for sentencing after previously pleading guilty to five charges.

These were that, on March 31 this year in a street in Fort William, he had behaved in a threatening or abusive manner likely to place someone in a state of fear or alarm by shouting threats of violence through someone's letterbox and gesturing in an abusive manner; breaking a kitchen window in

the same property with a stone and then breaking a living room window with a brick.

Watson, who is 32 today (Thursday), also admitted that on the same day in a police vehicle in Fort William, he had behaved aggressively towards officers by shouting and swearing, uttering threats of violence and striking the walls of a cell at Fort William Police Station with his head.

Watson also admitted that later the same day he had assaulted and hindered two nurses at Fort William's Belford Hospital by adopting an aggressive manner, uttering threats and abusive remarks, and preventing them from carrying out a medical

assessment. Watson had also pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer at Fort William Police Station later the same day by attempting to bite him.

'When he was placed in the police vehicle, the accused's behaviour varied between acting limp to becoming aggressive towards police officers,' said procurator fiscal Robert Weir.

Watson had become covered in what Mr Weir described as a 'huge' amount of blood from injuries incurred as a result of banging his head off the walls of a cell and also sustained fractures and cuts to his hands.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had been drinking and accepted his

behaviour had been unacceptable, and Watson had written to police and hospital staff to apologise, adding: 'At the time, Mr Watson had clearly been drinking too much and it followed his attendance at the funeral of a close friend the day before.'

Issuing the restriction of liberty order for six months, which will see Watson forced to wear an electronic tag and be supervised, Sheriff MacDonald described the offence as 'very unpleasant and serious', telling Watson he already had a significant record of offending.

'I am only just persuaded to deal with this by a community-based disposal,' she said.

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(Pics courtesy of Douglas Barr)

FW

MSP takes up ferry issue with minister



MV Lord of the Isles has been removed from the Skye route.

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

LOCAL MSP Kate Forbes has written to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf to highlight the need for an urgent solution for CalMac on a popular ferry route from Skye to Lochaber. Following CalMac's decision to remove the MV Lord of the Isles from the route in March, in order to move ferries around the network, the Mallaig to Armadale crossing has been plagued with cancellations and local businesses are reporting a substantial drop in visitors compared to the same period last year.

While the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch welcomed CalMac's decision last week to introduce a second, albeit small, vessel on the route later this month, she made clear that 125 cancellations in 25 days was 'simply not acceptable'. 'On Monday (April 23), the Mallaig to Armadale crossing will have seen 125 cancellations in the first 25 days of the summer timetable because of the domino effect of moving vessels about,' Ms Forbes told us. 'This is having a seriously adverse impact on the local economy, with one popular tourist attraction in the south of Skye reporting a 25 per cent



Kate Forbes MSP.

drop in visitor numbers and a 50 per cent coach cancellation rate compared to the same

period in 2017. We all recognise the challenges of the ageing fleet, but there are people here whose daily lives are being affected. 'I am sure the transport minister will agree that this is deeply concerning and we cannot lurch from summer to summer with growing uncertainty about this route.' Regrettably, because the remaining vessel on the route, the MV Loch Fyne, cannot operate in low tides, a tidal timetable has been in operation. Ms Forbes added: 'While it is helpful to know a second, albeit smaller, vessel is coming to serve the route soon, we

shouldn't be in this position in the first place. Businesses and residents have already taken a hit from CalMac's movements of vessel around the network. 'We have been here before in the summer of 2016, and it is deeply unfortunate that we're here again - in perhaps an even worse situation. 'The bottom line is that people need to live, work and travel, and for the past month there has been far too much uncertainty hanging over the Mallaig to Armadale route. 'Notwithstanding the significant impact already, this has got to be fixed before the height of the peak tourist season.'



An attraction for all ages as visitors try out the driving seat, left to right, Christina Calder, Keiran Mathieson, Adriana McCulloch, Amarah Mathieson, Aniyah Mathieson and Laura MacLeod. IF F17 Harley Rally 03. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Harley Davidson bikers rumble through Lochaber

FORT William's first Harley Davidson motorcycle rally took place last weekend with bikers from across the country coming together for a roaring weekend of riding at the Rumble Under the Ben.

Basing themselves at An Aird shinty pitch for a camping weekend, a group of about 15 Harley Davidson enthusiasts made the

most of the glorious sunshine on Saturday to show off their bikes both on and off the road. On Saturday morning there was a display of bikes around the shinty club which included about half a dozen vintage and classic motorcycles on show. Members of the public were in awe of the bikes as they were given the chance to get up close to some exquisite

examples of Harley Davidson, a name synonymous with motorcycling. This was followed by a ride-out of all the bikes, taking them from the shinty club, through Middle Street, across the Corran Ferry, around Ardnamurchan and back. Organised by Fort William local Chris Jones, a member of the Harley Davidson Riders' Club GB,

the Rumble Under the Ben was a success in bringing like-minded owners from as far as Stonehaven and Glasgow together for a weekend of biking fun in the glorious landscape of Lochaber. Mr Jones said that the event proved highly popular and he already has an eye on next year's event, which he hopes will be bigger and better.



On their bikes and ready to Rumble Under the Ben are local riders Chris Jones, left, and Billy MacLeod. IF F17 Harley Rally 01. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Rumbling along Middle Street on their ride out to Ardnamurchan. IF F17 Harley Rally 02. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

- Local crafts will be on sale at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William today (Thursday April 26) from 11am to 3pm. Contact Chris on 07900 928515 for more details.
- Nevis Canoe Club has organised sea kayak sessions for adult beginners and improvers. The first session is in the leisure centre pool tomorrow (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 fee is £25 towards costs plus a membership of £15. For further details contact Nevis Canoe Club neviscc@hotmail.co.uk.
- There will be a free film screening and clothes swap, 6pm to 8.30pm, in the Highland Bookstore in Fort William, tomorrow night (Friday April 27). In support of Fashion Revolution Week, The Emporium of Worldly Goods is presenting a free screening of

the acclaimed film *RiverBlue*, followed by a clothes swap with Lochaber Environmental Group. Fashion Revolution is a global movement that works towards changing the way clothes are sourced, produced and consumed, so that it is made in a safe, clean and fair way.

□ The Nether Lochaber craft fair will take place on Saturday April 28 at Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich, from 10am to 4pm. Come and support local craft producers. Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

□ At their spring concert on Saturday April 28, Kilmallie Singers will perform Mozart's Requiem, one of the classics of the choral music repertoire. The singers will be joined by four talented soloists, along with renowned organist Robin Verseeq, of Cairngorms Music. Under the leadership of conductor Catherine Cameron, and with increased membership, the choir is delighted to be performing this iconic work alongside some high-calibre

professional musicians. The concert begins at 7.30pm in the Duncansburgh church and tickets are available from members and at the door.

□ Friends of Nevis are holding a spring 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 pjbiggin@gmail.com or 772459.

□ Staff and volunteers from Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be making an outreach visit to Mallaig on Tuesday, May 1. From 1.30pm until 3pm the LSC representatives will be at Mallaig Medical Centre to offer advice and assistance to anyone with a sight

loss of hearing loss. The team will also provide NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain the hearing aids as required. No appointment required.

□ Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club will host a musical evening featuring local artists on Tuesday May 1, at 7.30pm, at the Railway Club in Inverloch. All welcome. Admission £5. Tea and raffle extra.

□ Lochaber Yacht Club in Fort William is inviting all ages and families to come and try sailing for free on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13 from 2pm to 5pm. Starting at 2pm each day, there will be sailing 'taster sessions' for all ages, in dinghies and yachts, led by experienced club members. Refreshments will be available in the LYC clubhouse. Booking via the following email would guarantee a sail in a boat - sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk. For full details about what's going on at Lochaber Yacht Club visit lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.

View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce, which represents all business sectors in the region, has launched a new-look website this week. The updated website will help businesses connect with one another, add value to members and better promote member businesses, business events in the area and news.

Chamber chief executive Lesley Benfield said: 'Our new-look website has been updated to work seamlessly on PCs, mobiles and tablets, and makes it much easier to connect with the Chamber. 'Visitors to the site will discover an attractive and easy-to-use hub that makes it easy to find out about mem-



bers, keep up to date with business news, book Chamber events and join up online.' She added: 'Tourism is crucial to our local economy in Lochaber, and that's why we promote the area as a tourism destination under the Outdoor Capital of the UK brand. 'We also host the Developing the



Young Workforce programme that works with employers, schools and colleges across Skye, Wester Ross and Lochaber. The new website will bring all three elements of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce together for the first time. 'We hope our members and other visitors to the site enjoy the new look

and will use the website regularly as a valuable online business resource.' Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's goal is to enhance and encourage economic growth and the creation of jobs. It also works to ensure the collective business voice is heard by those decision-makers who matter, both politically and in industry. The Chamber represents businesses, regardless of size or sector, in connectivity, infrastructure (road, rail and sea), tourism, workplace development, education and public policy. Go to www.lochaberchamber.co.uk. If you'd like to become a member of the Lochaber Chamber, call Lisa or Jessica on 01397 705765.

Fort man in school roof stand-off

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A SHERIFF heard this week how police officers spent seven hours trying to persuade a Fort William man who climbed onto the roof of a former school in the town to come down and give himself up.

Jack Salter, of the town's Lochaber Road, had previously admitted that, on December 3 of last year, he had behaved in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear or alarm by climbing onto the roof of the

former school property in Upper Achintore, walked to the edge of the roof, refused to come down, shouted, swore and uttered threats of violence and repeatedly struck the roof with a metal implement.

His plea of not guilty to a further charge that he had been found in the grounds of the school with the intent to commit theft had been previously accepted by the Crown.

Appearing back at court before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald this week for sentencing following the compilation of a criminal justice

social work report, Salter, aged 20, listened as procurator fiscal Robert Weir read out details about the incident.

Mr Weir said police had been alerted by a member of the public around 5.30pm on the Sunday in question.

'The member of the public reported seeing someone climbing onto a wheelie bin and in through a window of the school,' Mr Weir told the court.

'When police officers arrived at the scene they noted the wheelie bin and the broken window and a cordon was placed round the

building and a police dog handler sent for.'

However, Mr Weir said the initial search of the premises found nothing. But some time later Salter had been spotted on the roof of the building hiding behind a chimney stack.

Mr Weir continued: 'The accused was seen to walk close to the edges of the roof and would not come down when asked to do so by police officers.'

'A police negotiator then attended about 11pm but the accused still repeatedly refused to come down.'

'His behaviour became aggressive and volatile while on the roof and he threatened to rip open the police dog if it came near him. He also had a metal bar which he was banging off the roof. This all continued for several hours.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Salter's explanation had been that he didn't think he had been doing anything wrong.

'He said he didn't want to come down because he thought he would be arrested and that is what led to this stand-off,' explained Mr Melrose.

Mr Melrose said he had dealt

with Salter on a number of occasions over the years and said he could be 'quite difficult to get through to' when it came to communication. 'But he has always had the support of his mother and his long-time girlfriend,' added Mr Melrose.

Ordering Salter to do 126 hours of unpaid work in the community as a direct alternative to custody, Sheriff MacDonald said it had been an 'alarming' way to behave: 'You engaged the police service for a good number of hours unnecessarily in what was quite strange and alarming behaviour.'

Steering group formed for fund

NINETEEN Kinlochleven residents have volunteered to form a steering group to kickstart the establishment of a community fund for the area.

At a meeting on Monday night a number of locals agreed to form a short-term steering group to set up the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Association (SCIO) required to manage the Kinlochleven Community Benefit Fund, draft funding criteria, decide the application process and confirm a constitution.

The work of the steering group will then be presented to another village meeting in the next month or so for agreement. This will then lead to a general meeting to elect the first group of trustees.

The community benefit 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.

Kinlochleven-based councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'A big thank you to everyone who attended the briefing meeting this evening. Such a big turnout demonstrates the widespread potential this fund has to benefit the village.'

'If you weren't able to be there but would like to volunteer, let me know.'

The steering group will meet for the first time on Monday April 30 at 6pm in the Leven Centre to discuss an interim constitution.

High Street is cleaned before busy summer

FORT William Town Team got to work on the High Street last weekend as more than 20 volunteers turned out for their annual Big Spring Clean.

From power washing and weed removal to litter picking and planting flowers, the teams of volunteers have brightened up the centre of the town just before the start of the busy summer season.

Sue Keen, town team secretary, said: 'Thank you so much to more than 20 volunteers who came out in the pouring rain today to help with the Big Spring Clean.'

'Teams of volunteers tackled the vennels leading off the High Street by the library and Semichem. Weeds have been removed, moss scraped away, the paths swept and random shrubs have been taken out. We've litter-picked round the library and the Parade and MacIntosh steps have been swept.'

'The bus station got cleared of weeds and moss, and the underpass has been given a wash down and swept. Cameron Square has been planted up with colourful primulas and the Rotary Club of Lochaber joined in, weeding and tidying the sundial garden in the parade.'

The team gave a big thanks to all the volunteers and local businesses who helped them throughout the day.



Fort William Town Team volunteers at the group's community hub on the Parade in the centre of the town.

Man fined £480 for hammer offence

A SHERIFF told a Kinlochleven man this week that a 'very silly and stupid' incident to get involved in has now seen him end up with a criminal conviction for possession of an offensive weapon.

Alastair Bryden-Henderson, of Oakbank Chalet, Kinlochleven, had pleaded guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to having an offensive weapon, namely a hammer, in his possession at the McDonald's restaurant car park at An Aird in Fort William, on October 10, 2016.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald listened as procurator fiscal Robert Weir told how police had been called to the car park on the day in question because of an altercation.

'At some point the accused had removed a hammer from the boot of the car and stood staring towards one of the witnesses in this case,' said Mr Weir.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said the incident involving Bryden-Henderson, 24, who works for a local haulage company, had been very much out of character.

'Mr Bryden-Henderson was in the front passenger seat of a car being driven by his girlfriend at the time of the incident,' Mr Melrose told the court.

'It was at Onich that another car had pulled up behind them at some speed, overtook them and then proceeded to drive

slowly in front of them - at one point braking so sharply that Mr Bryden-Henderson's girlfriend had to make an emergency stop to avoid a collision.'

Mr Melrose went on to describe how both cars had finished up in the McDonald's car park in Fort William, at which point there had been an exchange of words between the two parties with Bryden-Henderson still seated in the car.

'This culminated in the other driver punching the bonnet of the vehicle in which Mr Bryden-Henderson was sitting, causing a dent. That person then went into the McDonald's and was visible through the large window.'

Mr Melrose said it was at this point his client had gone to the boot of the car he had been travelling in and picked up the hammer.

'He then walked toward the window of McDonald's and simply stood there with the hammer at his side. It was a form of gesture and nothing was said.'

'He then returned to his vehicle. He now realises he should not have acted in that way.'

Fining Bryden-Henderson £480, Sheriff MacDonald told him: 'This was a very silly and stupid incident to be involved with and means you now have a conviction on your record for possession of an offensive weapon.'



The Gallery in the Glen was opened by Ian Blackford, centre. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Gallery breathes new life into mortuary

A NEWLY-OPENED art gallery has resurrected a former mortuary situated in the middle of scenic Glen Nevis.

Gallery in the Glen officially opened last Friday, with the help of Lochaber MP Ian Blackford, to unveil the completely revamped morgue which has now begun life as an art studio and exhibition space.

The former mortuary was purchased recently by the owners of Gallery in the Fort, Gillian Sloan and Gwyn Moses, which has a more orthodox premises on Fort William High Street.

After working out some legal

details of the purchase, the pair are pleased to finally have the gallery refurbished and ready to go.

Speaking about the opening of the new Glen Nevis gallery, Mr Moses said: 'The former mortuary has been extensively refurbished, with much of the work done by local Grant Wallace of Kando construction.'

'It is now opening as a studio and art gallery, run and managed by Lindsey Jarrett, a Lochaber artist who has returned to the area following time spent as a police inspector in the south of England.'

Lindsey, who was unable to attend the opening, is a modern artist who paints mostly in acrylics, but also in mixed media.

The former mortuary in Glen Nevis was built in the 1960s to cope with the increasing population of Fort William. However, following the increase in mortuary facilities in the Belford Hospital, it was never fully utilised.

It was then occasionally used by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team for casualties, but remained under-used. A local undertaker leased the property for a few years before the council

decided to sell the property.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Ian Blackford said: 'The new gallery looks great, so bright and cheerful, and is clearly a complete transformation from the building's previous use. It will be a great venue for local artists to display their work and be a great chance for visitors to take a real piece of Lochaber away with them.'

'I was sorry that Lindsey was unable to be there, but delighted to perform the opening ceremony. With the great local art on display, I wish her and the new business well.'



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FW

Skye arts charity secures lottery funding

AUDIENCES in Skye and Lochalsh will continue to enjoy year-round quality live events thanks to a new allocation of cash from Creative Scotland.

In last month's round of open project funding awards, performing arts charity Skye Events for All (SEALL) was awarded £54,500 from the National Lottery to support its year-round programme and will allow organisers to continue to bring world-class performing arts in music, theatre, dance, literature, comedy and children's shows to venues across the island.

Based in offices at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, SEALL is the largest rural touring promoter in the Highlands and also produces the Fèis an Eilein, the Skye Festival, which takes place between July and August each year.

At the opening of the organisation's new cultural hub at the college last year, cabinet secretary for culture, tourism and external affairs Fiona Hyslop MSP said: 'SEALL is an inspiration to what can be achieved in terms of support for Scotland's culture.'

'Over the years, SEALL has become one of the best rural performing arts promoters in Scotland with a great reach and range of events.'

SEALL's creative director, Duncan MacInnes, was 'delighted' with this year's award through Creative Scotland.

He said: 'This award will fund 40 per cent of the programme costs and allow us to bring the best quality shows to more venues across Skye and Lochalsh as well as sustain, enhance and improve the delivery of our service.'

'We are committed to striving for cultural excellence in our work year-round and to create accessible experiences in top quality performing arts to as many communities as we can, no matter how remote.'

Until this year, SEALL events have taken place mainly at venues in Sleat.

The Creative Scotland award will allow the programme to reach the wider communities of Skye and Lochalsh.

Skye Piping Society severs link with historic contest

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE SKYE Piping Society and the National Piping Centre have announced that from this year, the famous Silver Chanter Competition will have a new home in Glasgow.

Rising costs and diminishing income have forced the change which severs a link stretching back more than half a century with Skye.

The event began after Dame Flora MacLeod, honorary president of the College of Piping, met Seumas MacNeill and John MacFadyen in 1966 to try to find a way of encouraging pipers to compete at the Skye Gathering.

However, Cailean Maclean, chairman of the Isle of Skye Piping Society, said while the society is disappointed it has had to sever its connection with the Silver Chanter Competition, it is still delighted



The Silver Chanter winner last year was Cameron Drummond.

Photograph: Derek Maxwell/William Grant Foundation.

that through the support of the William Grant Foundation and the National Piping Centre a way has been found of ensuring the event's continuation for the next few years at least.

'It is wonderful that this prestigious piping event has

not been lost and we wish every success to the National Piping Centre in its stewardship of the Silver Chanter competition,' Mr Maclean added.

The Silver Chanter competition was founded in 1967 and was contested at Dunvegan

Castle in Skye. The date of this year's contest will be Saturday August 4, with the venue being the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.

Roddy MacLeod, the principal of the National Piping Centre, said the competition is a landmark event in the piping calendar and a high point in the solo piping season for the past 50 years.

'Through the generosity of the William Grant Foundation and with the support of the Isle of Skye Piping Society, we aim to preserve the traditions of the event which celebrates the music of the MacCrimmon composers,' he said.

'In 2018, the event will be held on August 4 at the National Piping Centre and from 2019 the event will be brought into the Piping Live! festival's portfolio of events.'

And Nick Addington, chief executive of the William Grant Foundation, explained the

foundation remains committed to supporting piping as part of its increasingly broad charitable interests.

'Alongside ongoing funding for the Glenfiddich Piping Championships we continue to support a number of other solo piping competitions,' he said.

'At the request of both organisations, we are pleased to transfer the funding we had already pledged for this year's Silver Chanter to allow the National Piping Centre to organise a successor competition in Glasgow on the traditional date.'

'We have pledged funding for three years, subject to a review after year two.'

'The William Grant Foundation is interested in supporting a thriving contemporary cultural scene in Scotland rooted in its unique heritage and is pleased to enable this next chapter in the story of the Silver Chanter competition.'

Extra cash for crofters and farmers welcomed

SKYE MSP Kate Forbes has said the Scottish Government's additional £250,000 support for farmers and crofters following the harsh winter will help relieve pressure on the farmers and crofters based in the Highlands.

This funding will help farmers and crofters offset the cost of retrieving fallen livestock as well as address feed and fodder shortages resulting from the adverse weather conditions over the past few months.

The SNP Government is also supplementing this with additional funding for farm charity RSABI (formerly the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution) to help it provide vital practical and emotional support to people working in the agriculture sector.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'The SNP government's £250,000 funding package will be a great help to farmers and crofters in the Highlands who are dealing with the knock-on effect of the prolonged wet and severe weather over the past few months.'

'Crofters and farmers face a lot of emotional and practical challenges, particularly during the winter months and as the lambing season starts.'

'It is difficult – and lonely work – and that's why I'm pleased that the SNP government is also giving additional funding to the RSABI to help them provide emotional, practical and financial support across Scotland's agricultural sector.'

'As an MSP for the Highlands, it is good to see the SNP government listening to the concerns of the Scottish agricultural community at a time when they are rightly worried about the Tory government's Brexit "at all costs" policy.'

'While the Tories think they can do whatever they want to Scotland and get away with it, the SNP will get on with providing the necessary support after a difficult winter.'

Wheely good effort helps Lewis pupil Connor

INCLUSION was the watchword when Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) gave money to Sgoil an Rubha and Sandwick Learning Centre to help buy specialised cycling equipment for children with additional support needs, after donating a total of £500, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

At Sgoil an Rubha, PST was helping pupil Connor Macleod, who received the gift of independent cycling from his classmates after they organised a sponsored cycle to buy him a specialised bike.

Point and Sandwick Trust made sure the fundraising got off to a flying start by putting £250 in the pot. Now Connor, from Upper Bayble, has his own perfect set of wheels.

This donation towards the cost of the £900-plus bike is a further boost for inclusion in Point.

Connor is in principal teacher Anne Macphail's P3/4/5 composite class, who explained the idea for the sponsored cycle had come from the children themselves, saying: 'The whole class wanted to do something for Connor that shows he's included. It wasn't about the money. It was about giving him the same rights that they have. The kids absolutely adore Connor. They were very



Around 24 children took part in the Sgoil an Rubha cycle; and, below, Eric Macleod, Active Schools co-ordinator, Donald John MacSween, PST general manager, Connor's mum Donna Macleod, Sarah Marnock, Connor's one-to-one, and Angus McCormack, chairman of PST.

Photographs: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

enthusiastic about doing something for their classmate.'

Anne did not want the children to feel under pressure to raise a lot of money themselves, though, so she went to Point and Sandwick Trust for some help. She said it was 'a real feelgood story', where 'the kids all came together and the community helped us'.

In the end, the children raised £608, with Point and Sandwick

Trust more than happy to help. PST representatives Angus McCormack and Donald John MacSween came along on the day to cheer on the children. Angus McCormack said it was a 'wonderful' moment.

PST also donated £250 to the Sandwick Learning Centre, which enabled its staff to buy a second disability trike for their youngsters.



New Gaelic primary school opens in Portree

PUPILS, parents and teachers celebrated the start of the summer term last week at the newly opened Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh – Portree Gaelic Primary School.

The new school is the third dedicated Gaelic school in the Highlands, along with Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (Caol) and Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness).

The build was part of an overall capital investment programme in conjunction with the Scottish Government, including the formation of a new access road to the school, and refurbishment of the former Elgin Hostel building to create a new pupil residence for Portree High School.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, chairman of Highland Council's care, learning and housing committee, said: 'This is a historic day for the develop-

ment of the Gaelic language in the Highlands and the Gaelic heartland of Skye.'

'Comann nam Pàrant Port Rìgh, who campaigned for a Gaelic school, can be proud of this momentous achievement as Highland Council is also.'

Bill Alexander, the council's director of care and learning, welcomed the opening of the new school, saying: '173 children are attending Highland's third dedicated Gaelic school in the region. This clearly demonstrates the council's ongoing commitment to the development of the Gaelic language since we opened Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis in 2007 and Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar in 2015.'

One hundred and thirty primary pupils started the new term at Portree Gaelic School and 40 children are attending nursery.



The new school is the third dedicated Gaelic school in the Highlands.

Islanders to have say on new transport study

ISLAND communities will have the opportunity to have a say on the Outer Hebrides Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) study commissioned by Transport Scotland in late 2017.

The consultants leading the study – Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) – will be hosting public drop-in sessions at the following times and locations:

■ North Uist and Benbecula: Tuesday May 15, 4-8pm, Carinish Hall.

■ South Uist and Eriskay: Wednesday May 16, 4-8pm, Southend Community Hall, Daliburgh.

■ Barra and Vatersay: Thursday May 17, 4-8pm, Castlebay Community Hall.

■ Harris: Wednesday May 23, 4-8pm, Tarbert Community Centre.

■ Lewis: Thursday May 24, 4-8pm, Caladh Inn, Stornoway.

Members of the public are invited to go along to find out about the study and have an informal discussion with the consultants at any point between 4pm and 8pm.

At this stage of the study, the focus is on gathering views and factual information on the problems and opportunities associated with all aspects

of the ferry service, including (but not limited to) vessels, ports, capacity, punctuality and reliability, timetables, booking and connecting public transport.

The team would also welcome any initial thoughts on options to be considered in the subsequent appraisal.

The public exhibition information boards will be available on the comhairle website prior to the events.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said: 'It is vital that Western Isles communities make their views known on the issues surrounding ferry services to, from and within the islands.'

'These lifeline services not only contribute to the needs of travellers to and from the islands but are also vital for the economy and the sustainable growth of the islands.'

'We have seen significant disruptions to some services this year and there is already anticipation that there will be serious capacity issues over the summer.'

'It is therefore incumbent on us all to feed into this survey and to shape the future of ferry services for the islands.'

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The winning team in the S2 Green Energy competition at Kinlochleven High with judges and staff. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Pupils impress at green energy expo

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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LOCHABER pupils presented their ideas to elected representatives and businesses on how the region can better harness its green energy potential. Kinlochleven High School hosted its very own energy expo last Friday as S2 students launched their own green energy manifestos and used Lego models to showcase their ideas for how they believe green energy can be used to transform the area. The judging panel consisted of MSP Kate Forbes, MP Ian Blackford and Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter. Local businesses, parents and staff from the school were also in attendance. The winning team, who built a wind-powered funicular railway, secured the top prize of a trip to

London to the Royal Society, who sponsored this project, and to the Houses of Parliament. The initiative was sparked by the pupils' visit last year to the new two-megawatt Loch Eilde Mor hydro scheme being built by Green Highland Renewables. Since then, project manager Colin Gilmour has been helping the school with STEM projects, and he got pupils thinking about green energy and how important it is in the local economy. Head teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'It has been amazing to watch the young people's creativity and imagination in action, using the Lego to build their prototypes and try out their blue-sky thinking. 'As always, I am very proud of them and all the hard work they have put in. We are also very grateful to the Royal Society for this amazing grant and to Green Highland Renewables for its

support. It really has engaged our youngsters with STEM subjects and to think about STEM careers at a very young age.' The expo builds on recent success for Kinlochleven High S1 pupils who won the Scottish schools' robotics race challenge as they made the fastest self-powered Lego robot in the UK in the process. Although the team didn't win the 'Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics Challenge UK' final, they have been invited to attend the Scottish Big Bang event in Perth in June as one of three Scottish champions. Ms Forbes added: 'I have visited Kinlochleven High School several times and each time the pupils and teachers have amazed me with their creativity, work ethic and enthusiasm.' Mr Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, who was one of the judges at the event,

also said he was 'incredibly impressed' by the pupils' presentations. He said: 'These young people who are in S2 showed very successfully that they could perform tasks normally undertaken by pupils much further on in their education. 'My congratulations to everyone who took part, but especially to the winning team who now go on to a further heat to be held in London next December. As an addition to the prize they won today, I have also invited them to visit me in parliament when they are down, tour the Palace of Westminster and, if they have time, to sit in on a session in the House of Commons.' Councillor Baxter said: 'Rebecca Machin and her team lead a small school that achieves big things and this is another example of how they are engaging and inspiring pupils.'

Delight is voiced as Caol play park contract awarded

IT IS now full steam ahead on the first phase of the planned new play park for Caol, with news that the construction contract has now been awarded. It has taken three years for those behind the initiative to get to this stage, but Damian MacDonald, from the organising committee of charity Caol Play, has confirmed that the contract to build phase one has been awarded to Wicksteed, one of the UK's premier playground equipment suppliers and installers. Mr MacDonald said Wicksteed is hoping to start work

on the £190,000 first phase on the site, just off Banavie Road near to the Gaelic school, in the middle of next month. 'The hope is that work will be completed in time for the school summer holidays, although there might be the chance construction runs on until mid-July,' Mr MacDonald told the *Lochaber Times* this week. 'It's been a long journey but it is fantastic to finally get the contract for phase one awarded - although I still won't believe it myself until I see it start coming out of the ground.'

Mr MacDonald said the first phase of the project will have areas for all ages from toddlers through to older children, with the plan to expand the play park in the future. And he added: 'I have to thank LEADER [rural development support group] for help with the funding and the Highland Council and WREN [the FCC Scottish Action Fund which offers funding of between £2,000 and £100,000 to projects through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund] and also everyone who has supported this for the past three years.'



Kate Forbes MSP, front row centre, met with members of the Fort William Retail Association last Friday. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Retailers meet MSP over High Street

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes met members of the Fort William Retail Association last week to discuss ways in which she can help small businesses on Fort William High Street. They discussed topics such as the increase in car parking charges in the town centre, the economic impact of coach trade in Fort William and the group's

marketing plans for the coming year. Ms Forbes said: 'I met several retailers from Fort William High Street to discuss their aspirations and frustrations. 'I want to see all the businesses on the High Street prospering, because the High Street should attract visitors. 'We discussed the importance

of having a really positive vision for the High Street, in an effort to attract more people to shop there. 'The choices are always increasing as bigger chains open and online retail becomes cheaper. In order to overcome these challenges, I want to champion the small businesses on the High Street.'

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Fort William

COMMUNITY councils across Lochaber are looking for residents' views on a new document detailing upcoming developments in Fort William.

At the Lochaber area committee meeting on Wednesday April 11, the West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan was passed by Highland councillors and includes, as an appendix, the Fort William 2040 vision document.

The Fort William 2040: Development and Assets future vision map – which is currently being formulated by stakeholders and was approved as a work in progress – will be a graphical representation of the future investment intentions of public and private agencies in the area.

Issues including the Liberty's factory plans, A82 realignment, the new Belford Hospital and tourism infrastructure form part of the plan.

The document is now out for community consultation and community councils in Lochaber want to hear people's feedback.

Caol Community Council and Kilmallie Community Council have shared the 2040 map on their Facebook pages and are inviting comments before their meetings in May, where the document will be discussed.

The 2040 vision document can also be found on Highland Council's website.

Lochaber

A NEW service to help rural communities in Lochaber tackle housing problems has been launched by the national charity Rural Housing Scotland (RHS).

A newly-appointed development officer for Lochaber, Argyll and Arran will help rural communities address local housing needs and build sustainable rural communities.

The officer will help communities quantify housing need and develop practical solutions.

Cameron Anson, the new development officer, said: 'There's not enough affordable housing is an all too common comment heard throughout rural Scotland. It's heard regularly where I live on Mull and in many more communities. Taking on this development officer role is a hugely exciting opportunity to work with rural communities throughout the west coast.'

The post will help communities take advantage of the Scottish Government's £30m Rural and Islands Housing Fund to deliver affordable housing.

Derek Logie, chief executive of RHS added: 'We are delighted to launch a dedicated service to help rural communities in the West Highlands tackle the lack of affordable housing. We have more than 20 years' experience helping secure housing in Gigha, Colonsay, Mull and Iona. We look forward to helping more communities.'



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High school pupils get on their bikes



Pupils from Lochaber High School are taking part in the 10-day cycling initiative.

LOCHABER High School is encouraging children, teachers and parents to jump on their bikes for the Sustrans Big Pedal 2018, a UK-wide cycling event for young people, backed by world record-breaking cyclist Mark Beaumont.

Sustrans Big Pedal 2018, which runs until Friday May 4, is already under way and has seen pupils, parents and teachers across the country leave their cars at home and get on their bikes for their journeys to and from school.

The Big Pedal is also being well-supported by Fort William businesses. Off Beat Bikes offered a free bike check-up on Sunday for pupils to get their bikes ready before the challenge started on Monday. Other businesses have donated daily prizes and Nevis Cycles will be donating a new bike, the winner of which will be drawn out of a hat at the end of the challenge.

During the 10 days, participating primary and

secondary schools will compete with one another to make the most journeys by bike or scooter.

Yvonne Clark, department head of physical education at Lochaber High School, said: 'We're really excited to be taking part in the Sustrans Big Pedal again this year. We hope that by encouraging our children to walk and cycle to school, we will be helping pupils feel healthier and happier. Many of the teachers got involved last year too, so we are hoping to beat our numbers and get even more people on bikes.'

Endurance cyclist Mark Beaumont, who holds the Guinness World Record for cycling around the world in 78 days, is backing the Big Pedal.

He said: 'Encouraging young people to cycle and scoot from an early age not only boosts physical and mental health, it also helps build good habits for independent and active travel into teenage and adult life.'

Fort William law firm appoints new partners



Jeremy Benfield, left, and Keith Falconer have been appointed as partners of MacPhee & Partners.

FORT WILLIAM law firm MacPhee & Partners has announced the promotion of solicitors Jeremy Benfield and Keith Falconer to company partners.

Jeremy joined the firm in 2001, having worked as a solicitor in England since 1986, and now heads up the crofting law department.

His expertise in crofting law was recognised in 2011 when he was accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in crofting law. Jeremy undertakes work on behalf of tenants, owner occupiers, landlords and grazing shareholders, as well as representing clients at hearings before the Crofting Commission and in cases in the Scottish Land Court.

Keith has been with the firm since 2007, having previously been the area solicitor with the Highland Council and clerk to Lochaber Licensing Board. Keith has many years' experience of domestic and commercial conveyancing and licensing, and deals with domestic and commercial property sales/purchases, leasing and licensing work.

Managing partner Duncan MacPhee said: 'We are delighted to welcome Jeremy and Keith to the partnership. It is a reflection of their commitment to the firm and of their sound knowledge and specialist experience in their respective areas of law.'

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met on Tuesday April 3 at Kilmornaig Church Hall.

The following matters were discussed:

Highland Council: The chairman reported work at Clunes had been completed.

Roads: The secretary is to write to request remedial work on roads which have deteriorated severely in Spean Bridge (Altour Road, Altour Gardens and Spean Crescent) and in Roy Bridge (Glen Spean Park, Keppoch Terrace and Mulroy Terrace). The secretary will copy councillor Alan Henderson into correspondence.

Bins: The secretary is to request

a blue and a green bin for Kilmornaig Church.

Coire Glas pumped storage scheme: The chairman is due to meet with Corrina Scholes to discuss the proposal. Councillor Allan Henderson suggested the community council seek assurance over the level of community benefit available during the construction phase.

Stagecoach North of Scotland and Citylink: The chairman reported Stagecoach's Caol garage is to close with the last service on Saturday June 30. Councillor Henderson advised Stagecoach would be keeping Citylink services.

Following this news, concerns

were expressed about the vulnerability of the 41 service and its link to Roy Bridge and Nevis Range. It was decided the chairman would write to Citylink, Shiel Buses and Highland Council to clarify the situation.

Fire and Rescue Service: It had been agreed last month the community council would examine the fire service review. The chairman had researched the current position. He had spoken to area manager Rab Middlemas who had agreed to address the community council next month.

The local population has increased significantly since 2001 and is likely to continue its upward climb for the foreseeable

future. An elderly rapid response vehicle, confined to attendance at wild fires, road accidents and community fire safety talks was not thought to be the best use of committed volunteers.

Given this is the largest community council area in the Highlands, the community council agreed it would seek an upgrade to allow the Spean Bridge crew to attend fires, flooding and help ambulance crews.

Railways: Ian Langley reported that Scotrail is exploring upgrading its current fleet of carriages to install more luggage/sport equipment space. Two seats per carriage would be lost. The potential upgrade would not include air

conditioning, but seals would be fixed to stop draughts. Another option was to add a class 153 unit to the 156 carriage to create more luggage/bike/sports equipment space and a viewing observatory.

The chairman reported he was hoping Duncan Mackison, chief executive officer of Jahama Highland Estates, might address the May meeting about Jahama's plans for investment in the area. Brian Donald wondered if there would be time for both the Fire and Rescue Service and Jahama, but with the annual general meeting being held in June, it was agreed to go ahead with both in May.

Next meeting Tuesday May 1.

Morar River Bridge project complete

A BRIDGE maintenance project worth more than £1m on the A830 Morar River Bridge was finished last week.

Essential maintenance had been taking place since November on the bridge that carries the A830 over the Morar River.

The work involved removing the bridge's existing paint, which was in poor condition, and applying a new specialist paint to all the elements of the bridge's structural steel

frame, helping to prevent rust and deterioration.

Teams worked from scaffolding suspended beneath the bridge deck throughout the project.

The final phase of work involved dismantling these temporary structures that have provided safe access throughout the project, with the last of the scaffolding removed last week.

Commenting on the project, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative, said: 'We're pleased teams

have completed the bridge project which began at the end of last year.'

'The maintenance means that Morar River Bridge will be protected against the elements, meaning it will function safely for years to come.'

'Teams have removed the complex scaffolding which had been in use during the project, with the final section removed this week.'

'We thank road users and local residents for their patience while we've worked on this project.'

MSP in committee reshuffle

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes will serve on the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee following a reshuffle of backbench MSPs.

Kate Forbes MSP will also sit on the Health and Sport Committee but will no longer be part of the Environment and Standards committees.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, will continue to be Parliamentary Liaison Officer

for Cabinet Secretary for Finance Derek Mackay.

She told *The Lochaber Times*: 'I have really enjoyed my time on the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, particularly because of the importance of those issues to my constituency.'

'It will be a shame to leave, but there are new opportunities on the Health and Sport Committee and the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee. 'Through these commit-

tees, I hope to strongly represent the issues that are important to my constituents and, indeed, all of Scotland.'

The Health and Sport Committee is currently reviewing scrutiny of NHS health boards as well as investigating care home sustainability. The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee is considering salmon farming, transport and issues around stage two of the new Islands (Scotland) Bill.

RETRO
Roamer

More items from Roamer columns of 30 years ago

□ Have you seen the 'ice-cream van convoy' dotting about Lochaber? Quite interesting to watch them hunting in pairs. 'Stop us and buy two,' indeed.

□ Mustered in Corpach Post Office and shop were the combined talents of the female staff as they tried to help a couple of 'towrists' find 'Benview'. 'Benview', Corpach, that is, not the long-established Fort William one. Then a queen of suburbia resident was accosted by a couple of visitors with the question: 'Can you tell us where the Croit Anna Hotel is, please?' Looks like Corpach needs a tourist board branch.

□ So you thought Lochaber District Council was in recess, did you? Not so for one member in particular – supercharged councillor Tommy Brogan. Last Saturday morning, with his mind on matters official rather than bowls, Tommy jumped out of bed and stood, with all his weight, on an upturned electric plug. It wasn't very funny and the Corpach councillor had to go to accident and emergency for treatment. He still managed a bit of bowling later in the day, though, and got plenty sympathy from his clubmates. Like 'Did you light up when you stood on the plug, Tommy?' and 'Did you think you were a pop-up toaster, Tommy?'

□ As the 'season' continues, I hear from a local professional man that the electronic signboard outside the Milton advises that the tariff there is - '£25 ONO'.

□ I hear they had 'lift off' at the Lochaber Show. The gents toilet tent was blown over the hills and far away. Fortunately it wasn't 'engaged' at the time.

□ A proposed entry for the Guinness Book of Records has been passed to me. It reads: 'At 4.15pm last Thursday, I managed to drive straight out of the A830 and onto the A82 at Lochy Bridge.'

□ Who received a birthday card last week with a very striking message? The senders had chosen one with the inevitable funny figure on the front, with the inside wording: 'A moderate intake of alcohol stimulates mind and body'. It was duly delivered. However, the words should have been checked out as the rest of the message read: 'To the most stimulated body we know' and, needless to say, none of the senders accepted responsibility for that.

□ For two weeks, Gus MacLennan was 'Gaffer Gus' in 'en-tyre' charge of National Tyres. In his own inimitable words Gus told me: 'I couldn't leave the office at all and my dinner time piece from Nevis Bakery next door had to be delivered by Archie.'

□ Second part of 'I knew them all in Corpach' by Johnny Wilson:

Jack the Jutland Battle man,
Head of all the Capstan Clan,
An artist, he could paint the scenes
For Kilmallie's community drama teams.

A list to port had 'Sandy 'Teek',
A chew forever in his cheek,
One day he spat – without a doubt,
And sizzled my glowing fire out.

To the Superstore for all your wants
You went for braces, shirts and pants.
Colquhoun sold all from A to Z,
And so the Corpach multitudes he fed.

A curly chiel was Johnny Beag,
All ready wit and chaff.
In my ear still sounds so clear,
His sister Shessag's laugh.

Jolly Tailor, up the hill,
A soldier brave was he,
Died on Flanders Field
To gain – for Scotland – victory.

The Caddie, in the Dardanelles,
Fought the Turk in hellish spells,
He never spoke of fighting days –
Preferred to talk of lightsome ways
Final six verses next week.

□ Dougie Grant was working at Roy Bridge with Willie MacLeod, senior. Off for half-an-hour, they decided to try a few casts in the river – for the pot, you understand. Going along the bank towards a nice pool, Dougie stopped in his tracks. There, with his back against a tree, was Bishop Kenneth Grant – Dougie's brother – writing out the finishing touches to his Sunday sermon. Dougie didn't wait to ask if it was about the loaves and fishes. So he and Willie retraced their steps before the Bishop spotted them.

□ It was 'music while you work' at the east end of town, from buskers, as well as local and visiting entertainers. Even the windows of Lochaber House were opened to catch the free show from below. The strains of 'Away Up In Clachan' on the fiddle, 'Donald Where's Your Troosers' on accordion and 'Within A Mile O' Edinburgh Town' must surely have sent the Lochaber District Council work rate soaring. Meanwhile, a wee bit farther afield, outside the government buildings, a fiddler on the hoof was ensuring Her Majesty's civil servants didn't get left out of all this High Street culture. But the nose of the resident one man band in the underpass must surely have been out of joint.

□ A gentleman, not unconnected with the teaching profession, has been regaling me with some of the interim results of a project he had set for his pupils on the history of Fort William. He assures me the following extracts are from the essays handed in: 'Originally Fort William was called Merryburgh' and 'Lochaber and Ben Nevis are named after local pubs'.

□ I'll finish with the council – if you'll pardon the expression. I did appreciate the caustic comment by one elected member who, in the quote of the week, advised: 'We are not to be used by officials as rubber stamps for their decisions!'



Monarchs of the Glen of Weeping.

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Viewpoint



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LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

There were highly dramatic images published in the *Lochaber Times* back in March following the devastating fire at Ardgour.

At the time, as we reported, there were serious concerns raised by residents of the village about their safety amid stories of failed fire hydrants and the firefighters who attended having to draw water from Loch Linnhe.

The photographs we published appeared to back up the claims from residents, who are understandably worried about the situation and the possibility of a repeat blaze causing similar levels of destruction. That concern has

now been investigated by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), which has attempted to allay residents' fears this week as it said there were no faults with the hydrants at the site.

The SFRS, indeed, goes on to say that taking water from the loch was a routine procedure given the large volumes of water required.

It is a fact of life that remote communities take longer to reach in the event of such an emergency but the SFRS still has some way to go to convince residents that they can have confidence in the systems in place.



Days gone by – 1983

This week we turn the clock back to August 1983 and this photograph of the gentlemen who competed for the heaves title at Tainuill. Do you recognise any of the faces? Let us know, email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

MacPhail

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We must all learn to keep Gaelic alive

LAST Monday, saw the new Gaelic-medium primary school in Portree – Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh – opening its doors to pupils for the first time.

This is one of five dedicated Gaelic-medium schools in the country and is a significant step forward in the survival of the Gaelic language.

In very basic terms, there are two paths that the future may hold for the Gael.

One will involve the language, identity, music and culture of Gaelic Scotland slipping irrevocably into oblivion – and, make no mistake, without the foundation of language, all the music in the world will not matter a jot.

The other involves the population taking control of its own destiny and ensuring a thriving population long into the future.

Put starkly, one is death and one is survival.

The new school in Portree is a strong indicator that the path to survival is possible.

Gaelic-medium education is, of course, not the only factor in ensuring recovery and a real living language must exist in a much deeper and wider context than only in school. However, it is certainly one of the most important and tangible means of supporting the language – and the work and continued years of effort to bring this to fruition is to be applauded.

There is no doubt that being part of a population whose future survival is uncertain brings with it a psychological burden that is peculiar to that position.

Of the various dark dogs that affect my mind from time to time, it is certainly one of the most common.

My own position is in many ways representative of exactly the type of individual situation that Gaelic-medium education can alleviate. Both my parents were native Gaelic speakers and, until he went to school, my eldest brother, who is four years my senior, was fluent in Gaelic.

When English became his main language – as it was in school – it took over as the language of the house.

In that tiny window of time, when my

parents took their eye of the ball and weren't quick enough to act, Gaelic as a first language in our family was lost.

As frustrating as this is, I bear them no blame. They were victims of the bombardment of non-Gaelic environment – and while, yes, they could and should have been quicker and more decisive to act – what occurred was a reflection of the time.

Had Gaelic-medium education existed then, losses of language like this would have been less likely to occur.

What I, and tens of thousands of others in my situation can do to help reverse that depletion of which we are part is simple – not easy, but simple. We must learn to speak Gaelic to a fluent level and, if we have children, bring them up speaking Gaelic and allow them the option to be educated in their own language.

Gaelic schools are a vital part of healing the wounds caused by centuries of persecution and marginalisation suffered by the Gael. We cannot change the past and should not allow potential bitterness relating to it to prevail, but we can change the future and allow survival, excitement and fulfilment to prevail.

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh is at the forefront of this exciting future.



Social media

Following our report on the Advertising Standards Authority clampdown on misleading delivery charges to remote areas such as Argyll, and the Highlands and Islands, we asked for readers' experiences.

Pam Baker: 'Several websites have simply refused to deliver to the 'Highlands and Islands'. Some carriers just leave things on the (Luìng) ferry. I have got round it with small items by just quoting my address as Oban and the postcode, which is strictly speaking correct. However, some won't even deliver to Oban. Non-delivery of white goods to the island is a problem I, my neighbour and many others have experienced.'

Kevin Irvine: 'When it comes to buying records it can be £3.50 or upwards to £5 for a single item. Anything that is "next day delivery" you're talking £10 and upwards.'

Roslynn Gemmill: 'I've had delivery refused as you are an offshore island!'

Michelle Mac: 'Refusing to deliver to Pa. post codes.'

Adam Cakebread: 'I get annoyed when you buy on eBay and it says free UK mainland delivery to discover any north of Arrocher is not considered mainland. Now I understand that there has to be some extra as it does cost that extra little bit to deliver but I do find the charges excessive most cases.'

Mogie Gallagher: 'I bought a cot for my grandson. I was quoted £14 for delivery to me in Oban. When I changed the address so it would be delivered straight to my son's house in Helensburgh it was free of charge. On many occasions I have been refused delivery at all as I live on a remote Scottish island. It's about time some of these firms actually looked at a map.'

Fiona Robertson: 'Sainsbury's refused to deliver clothes to a Benderloch address.'

Lou Errington: 'B&Q won't/don't deliver here even though it's via Royal Mail. We had an item delivered from Oban to Kilchrenan and they charged us £30 delivery as it was so far away.'

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Mull will have £1m spent on its roads

In response to Sarah Palmer's letter in *The Oban Times*, April 12), I agree with her regarding the state of the roads on Mull but I feel it is unfair to say that I came over last year to meet with the roads group and no action was taken. I found the roads group very useful and informative and this helped me and the other ward councillors get more expenditure for the roads on Mull.

I am pleased to say that Mull will receive more than £1 million of capital investment this year and that is down to the work of all four ward councillors in recognising the situation of the roads in Mull.

This will go some way to address the problem but is nowhere near enough and if Ms Palmer could come up with any solutions to lever any more funding into our crumbling roads structure, I would be delighted to hear them.

Councillor Roderick McCuish, Depute Provost, Policy Lead for Roads and Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council.

HSCP chief officer should stand down

The Caucus of Community Councils for Cowal unanimously object to and unanimously oppose the draconian cuts to health and social care which Christina West, chief officer of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, put forward to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) last month.

The closure of dementia day centres, the withdrawal of support for those with learning disabilities, the privatisation of all council care home provision in Argyll and Bute were, we understand, only some of the completely unacceptable proposals made by Ms West and her management team.

However, we are also aware that previous rounds of cuts, proposed and implemented by the same team, have failed to meet their targets.

What was being put forward was, therefore, a failed policy which was simply to be repeated and its effect broadened in a desperate attempt to make up for severe management failings.

This approach is in dereliction of Ms West's duty to deliver high quality health and social care to the people of Argyll and Bute. In addition, it would have led directly to some 400 hard-working and dedicated staff being made redundant.

The reputation of the management of the IJB is at an all time low, as is the reputation of the board itself.

We have no faith in either management or board members to act in the best interests of the area and ensure that the most vulnerable are looked after.

We also fear for the future of all health and care services in the area, particularly if the IJB remains unchanged. We, therefore, express

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



ÀM CUR A' BHUNTÀTA agus bidh mòran fhathast a' cleachdadh tractor beag glas agus na h-innealan aig Harry Fearghasdan a thug a leithid de chothrom dha croitearan.

Bha ginealaichean de shluagh na dùthcha seo an urra ris a' bhuntàta mar phrìomh bheathachadh, agus nuair a' bhuail an gaiseadh cha b' iongnadh iad a bhith nan èiginn.

"Bidh sinn beò an dòchas air deagh thoradh" chanadh mo sheanair nuair a rachadh an siol-cura mu dheireadh dhan talamh agus a chuireadh e am putair air falbh san t-sabhal airson bliadhna eile.

Fhad 's a bha an cothrom aige bhiodh Ailean Alasdair a' slaodadh brùich bhon chladach ann an cliabh toiseach a' gheamhraidh agus a' sgaoleadh mar mhathachadh dhan ghrund na choinneimh cur bhuntàta na-h-ath-bhliadhna.

San earrach bha na bh' air fhàgail den fheamainn ga ràcadh agus ga losgadh, agus bha an talamh an uairsin air a ruamhar gu cùramach is am

ourselves as having lost confidence in Ms West's leadership and urge you to step down from your current position immediately.

Thereafter there should be a restructuring of the IJB to make it more responsive to local need and more accountable to local people.

Conveners of the following community councils: Dunoon, Sandbank, Strachur, Ardentinn, Kilmun, Colintravae and Glendaruel, Hunters Quay, South Cowal and Lochgoilhead.

Islanders have been let down by CalMac

We on Islay are once again suffering disruptions to our ferry service at one of our busiest times of the year. How many more times will this have to happen before a solution is found?

The hard-pressed taxpayers have been subsidising the CalMac ferry service for decades yet these problems with our service seem to be increasing as time goes on.

Our economy is growing on Islay in both heavy industry and tourism alike but that growth is being stifled by the frankly inept management of CalMac.

The latest disruptions are by no means the fault of CalMac's hard-working front-line staff but their management structure needs to be held responsible for this. Tens of thousands of pounds are lost from potential tourist revenue every year on Islay and Jura due to these disruptions.

Aside from the financial cost to Islay and Jura's businesses, local residents are being hit unfairly with travel disruptions and huge inconveniences through no fault of their own.

CalMac's management has for far too long taken its monopoly of our ferry service for granted.

Perhaps public patience has been tested for the last time.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

Supporting people with Parkinson's

This month marked World Parkinson's Day. With more than 145,000 people estimated to be living with Parkinson's in the UK, I'd like to take a moment to tell your readers why we're passionate to do everything we can to be there for people in need of our support.

We understand that living with Parkinson's can present daily challenges for the people affected and for those they hold close. We also understand that having the reassurance of knowing help is at hand can make all the difference.

I work for Revitalise a charity that provides respite holidays for disabled people and carers all across the UK. We welcome guests with over 150 different conditions every year.

To find out more about Revitalise, our breaks, or ways we may be able

to support you, visit: www.revitalise.org.uk or call: 0303 303 0145.

Stephanie Stone, Revitalise.

Rhododendrons are unfairly maligned

Page 12 of the *Lochaber Times* and *The Oban Times* (April 5) had an article about a rhododendron festival. It started well with correct information about the 1,000 different species. However, after the first five paragraphs it descended into the usual ill-informed 'invasive species' and 'eradication' theme.

This continued through the rest of the article painting rhododendron as an unwanted, damaging, invasive species.

At no point do you stress that it is Rhododendron ponticum that is to blame and all those other species are beautiful garden plants with magnificent flowers and gorgeous evergreen foliage and, importantly, with no invasive tendencies.

Gardeners can plant rhododendrons with confidence knowing that they are not going to jump the fence and be an environmental disaster of the type you describe. It is such a shame you did not take the opportunity to balance your article with the correct information.

The invasion of Rhododendron ponticum has taken a long time, and landowners have chosen to ignore it until it has become a severe problem.

Forestry Commission Scotland is one of the largest landowners in Scotland, and is as guilty as anyone. Now it has woken up to the problem, the costs are high, and success depends on commitment to keep on top of it.

John Roy, Editor, Scottish Rhododendron Society, Brecklet House, Ballachulish.

Glorious displays are to be seen in Argyll

Your article ('West Coast in bloom for rhododendron festival', April 5) invited the public to visit 20 gardens in Argyll to enjoy the spring flowering, rightly said to start in February and run through to August.

Unfortunately, you then go on to say that rhododendrons are invasive and can damage our native ecology.

This is one particular rhododendron – R ponticum – planted originally by landowners to form shelter, and not the rest of this huge family of more than 800 species and countless hybrids that can be grown in Scotland.

Visit one of the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute (gardens-of-argyll.co.uk) and see these plants for yourself in all their beauty – flowers, trunks, habit, leaves and scent – during the festival.

Sue Thornley, Secretary, Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute.

Ailean Caimbeul

buntàta ga chur le putair. Ged a bha sinne a' cur às dèidh a' chruinn, an toiseach leis an each agus an uairsin leis an tractor, b' fheàrr le mo sheanair agus cuid de a' chomhaoisean an t-seann dòigh agus bha sin ag obair glè mhath dhaibh.

Bha rudeigin car sòlaimte mun dòigh san robh iad "beò an dòchas", bha e cha mhòr mar sheòrsa de dh'ùrnaigh a' sìreadh deagh fhàs air an t-sìol a chuireadh. Bidh mi tric a' cuimhneachadh air sin agus cuideachd a' liuthad uair a' chuala mi daoine air ràdh nach robh fhios cò bhuaicheadh air na chuir iad. Bha mise glè fhortanach nach tàinig gairm orm gu cogadh mar a thachair dha ginealaichean m' athar is mo sheanar, agus gu deimhinne bha iadsan uile "beò an dòchas" tro na h-uamhasan a chunnaic is a dh'fhuing iad, agus thrèig an dòchas cuid aca.

An dèidh còrr air trì fichead bliadhna de dh'aimhreit is maoidheadh air a chèile nach iongantach an naidheachd gum bheil deàlrach dòchais sìthe air nochdadh ann an Coirea, agus nach b' iomchaidh dhan t-saoghal a bhith beò an dòchas gun

tig aonta mhaireannach. 'S neònach cuideachd mur a bi mòran a' cur a' bhuntàta air an cuid chroitean am-bliadhna is ceist mhòr nan inntinn a thaobh dè tha an dàn dha croitearachd a' leantainn Brexit, 's gun ach nas lugha na bliadhna chun an tig an dealachadh aig Breatann leis an Aonadh Eòrpach.

Saoidh mi nach uilear dhuinn uile bhith beò an dòchas gun lean taic dha obair-àiteachais agus croitearachd neo fàsaidh coimhearsnachdan an iomail fiù 's nas laige na tha iad.

My grandfather regularly described himself as 'living in hope', whether for a successful fishing outing or a good potato harvest.

Planting my potato crop this past week, I was reflecting on the many reasons I have for living in hope at this time, including the prospect of a historical lasting peace in Korea and the wish for crofting to be enabled to survive Brexit now less than a year ahead.

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.

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Fort William concede 12 goals as Formartine cruise to victory

Football

Formartine United	12
Fort William	0
Highland League	

FORT William were on the receiving end of a double figure defeat for the fourth time this season on Saturday as their trip to North Lodge Park ended in a bruising defeat.

In a week where off-field discussions over the future of the club have gathered pace and uncertainty looms over their Highland League future, the team were looking to build on some good recent on-field performances after picking up two draws in their last three outings.

However, it was a weakened Fort William side that travelled to Formartine, with only one named substitute in the match day squad, while midfielder Stephen Lopez was forced to don the gloves and deputise in goals. With this in mind, the task of taking points off a team pushing for second spot in the league was always going to be tough.

It only took the hosts seven minutes to open the scoring through marksman Conor Gethins, followed by a Graeme Rodger strike on 11 minutes. Scott Barbour followed up on this early scoring to net twice, making the score 4-0 before 20 minutes had been played.

Hat-trick
Barbour completed his hat-trick after 35 minutes, before Andrew Greig and Gethins increased the margin. Another Barbour strike just before half time took the score to 8-0 before the break.

With the game well and truly beyond them at this stage, the Fort were now looking at damage limitation and salvaging a consolation goal.

The team tightened up the defence in the second 45 and held off Formartine for 15 minutes spell at the start of the half.

However, with legs beginning to tire, Formartine struck again with Kieran Lawrence netting his first and only goal of the afternoon before Gethins completed his hat-trick just after the hour mark to take Formartine into double figures.

Ten minutes later, Barbour got his fourth of the game in what was a fruitful afternoon for the forward.

And with just two minutes remaining, Graeme Rodger finished off the day's scoring.

Fort William have four points for the season but now have a goal difference of -144, having conceded 169 goals so far this season.

They team didn't have long to dwell on this result, however, as they took on Deveronvale at home last night (Wednesday, April 25) before the *Lochaber Times* went to print.

Fort William are at home this Saturday to Turiff United. Kick-off 3pm.

Mallaig out of Highland Cup at first attempt

Bellmac	5
Mallaig	2
Highland Amateur Cup	

Football

MALLAIG Football Club's first appearance in the Highland Amateur Cup ended in defeat at the Bught Park on Saturday as they were beaten 5-2 by Bellmac FC.

The club can be proud of its debut match in the competition, however, as the Lochaber side pushed a strong Bellmac team close in a well-fought match.

A tight first half saw Mallaig go into the break 2-1 down after being level 1-1, Matthew Cunningham with the goal.

Soon after the half time break, Mallaig found themselves 3-1 down and heading out of the competition.

However, the match wasn't over as captain Jaimie Young scored a terrific goal from a

corner to make it 3-2. Mallaig went all out to grab the goal that would force extra time but their push for goals left them short at the back and they were hit with two goals on the counterattack to finish the tie and secure victory for Bellmac.

More worrying for Mallaig was the amount of injuries picked up, adding to an ever-growing list.

Despite being dumped out of the cup, manager Jamie McGregor was pleased with a number of performances from the players, especially man of the match Jaimie Young, but did mention the growing injury concerns in the squad.

He said: 'We hope the lads don't face too long on the side lines. We wish Bellmac the very best in the next round.'

Bellmac FC go through to the



Mallaig FC after their defeat to Bellmac FC at Bught Park in Inverness on Saturday.

next round of the cup where they face Inverness Thistle.

Mallaig are back to league duty this Saturday when they take on

GA United at Plockton High School.

Lochaber rugby star sets sights on African trip

YOUNG Lochaber rugby star Ryan Davies is a step closer to embarking on a dream trip to the rugby fields of southern Africa to share his love of the game.

Thanks to funding from the Rotary Club of Lochaber, Lochaber Rugby Club player Ryan Davies is close to securing his place on a trip of a lifetime as he hopes to fly out to southern Africa to teach school children how to play the game.

Ryan, 19, has been invited by the Bhubesi Pride Foundation to coach rugby at schools in South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana.

Ryan, who has been playing rugby since primary three, is

the Lochaber club's community coach and works with the Scottish Rugby Union to promote and coach rugby locally.

Tool for education
However, next month he will leave all that behind to join a team of committed coaching volunteers for a nine week stint in Africa during which he will be part of a 'coaching expedition, using the sport of rugby as a tool for education and development in Africa'.

Ryan, from Caol, said: 'I have been given a fantastic opportunity through Bhubesi Pride to go out to Africa to teach rugby in schools. I am sure it will be an amazing trip and I will get to share my love and knowledge of

Rugby

the game.'

Ryan needs to raise £5,000 for flights and expenses, as well as a fee to join the foundation team, which covers costs of food, water, training kit and travelling across southern Africa. He has planned fundraising events to get him over the line.

The Bhubesi Pride Foundation assembles qualified and dedicated teams of volunteers to carry out annual coaching expeditions, supporting rugby and community development in schools and community centres in nine countries across east and southern Africa.



The Rotary Club of Lochaber donated £500 to Ryan's trip and is happy to help Ryan with his funding.

Ryan Davies is hoping to make a dream trip to the rugby fields of southern Africa next month.



Lochaber High School basketball team have a new set of kits sponsored by Marine Harvest. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Basketball team unveils new sponsors

LOCHABER High School basketball players have been boosted by new sponsorship from Marine Harvest.

The high school team, which boasts a strong squad this year, has received new kits bought with money from the aquaculture company.

Head teacher Scott Steele said: 'At Lochaber High School we want to work with all our partners in the community,

Basketball

which includes local businesses and agencies, and I thank Marine Harvest for their sponsorship, which I am sure has contributed to making our basketball team as successful as they have been this year.'

First jack thrown in new season

THE NEW season at Fort William Railway Bowling Club officially started last weekend in front of a good crowd.

Lyn Donald threw the first jack to open Fort William Railway Bowling Club's green at a well-attended start to the season, which was rounded off with a friendly triples game.

Two-minute silence
At the start of the event, club president Allan MacDonald called for a two-minute silence for members who had died during the year.

Bowls

Afterwards he praised members who had worked hard over the closed season to lay paths and clean up the green. It is hoped improved drainage will enable more games to be played as the extremely wet season last year meant many games had to be cancelled.

Anyone interested in trying bowls is welcome to the club's green in Inverlochty to give it a try.



Lyn Donald throws the first jack to open Fort William Railway Bowling Club's green for the new season. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

10-pin bowling singles results

10-pin bowling

AFTER week three of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre, 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 1,361 pins, followed by Pam Weller second with 1,301 and Iain Gregor in third with 1,268 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 three-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 three-game handicap series of 600, followed by Jacob Payne with 583 and Steve Day with 582.

Lochaber club lotteries

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 6, 10 and 19. There were no winners this week. The jackpot will be £400 for the draw today (Thursday April 26).

Balachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 9, 13 and 17.

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 12, 14 and 19. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £800.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 3, 6 and 18.

There were no winners this week so the jackpot for next week will be £200.

Thistle put ten past North Kelvin Football

North Kelvin 0 South Lochaber Thistle 10 Spring Cup section 4

SOUTH Lochaber Thistle cruised to a double figure victory against North Kelvin Sports AFC on Saturday in the Spring Cup competition.

A hat trick from Martin Munro and braces from Danny Macintosh and Keir Kennedy secured the emphatic win for the Lochaber side.

Sean Noble and Paulo Novotny also got on the scoresheet, with a North Kelvin own goal helping the side edge into double figures.

Thistle take on Glasgow side John Street in round three of the Bobby Thomson Challenge Cup this Saturday, April 28, at Glasgow Green.

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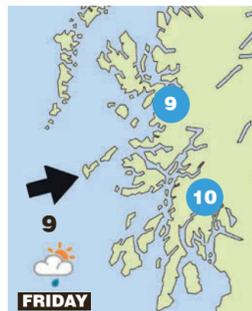
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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 5°C to 9°C
Friday	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 4°C to 10°C
Weekend Outlook	Sunny on Saturday Sunny on Sunday Breezy from the north east Temperatures 5°C to 11°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 26, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm			
Thur	03.08	3.3	09.43	1.1	15.52	3.3	21.30
Fri	03.55	3.6	10.29	0.9	16.29	3.5	22.20
Sat	04.33	3.8	11.08	0.8	17.01	3.7	23.05
Sun	05.09	3.9	11.43	0.7	17.33	3.9	23.46
Mon	05.43	3.9	12.17	0.7	18.05	3.9	*** **
Tues	06.25	0.6	06.15	3.9	12.51	0.8	18.37
Wed	01.02	0.7	06.47	3.8	13.24	0.9	19.08

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate