

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8353

Thursday 4 May, 2017

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

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# Parents fear for safety of children on danger road

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

PARENTS at Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch are calling for a 'dangerous' crossing across the busy A828 trunk road to be made safer, before a 'terrible' accident occurs.

One parent, DJ Barr, spoke up at last Thursday's local election hustings at the Victory Hall in Benderloch, asking candidates to support 'an official crossing to ensure the safety of our children', which drew applause from the audience.

'We have a problem of children having to cross a main trunk road to get to their school,' he said. 'The school itself has 123 pupils - 54 of them are walkers, plus 26 children in the nursery, so that makes a possible 160 movements of children across a main trunk road every day, and we have not got anything there to ensure their safety.'

Previously, when the school was smaller, parents dropping off and collecting children by car could use the car park outside the school, but staff grew uneasy at the safety risks of vehicles driving in and reversing, and children arriving from all directions.

Now parents must use the car park on the opposite side of the A828 and escort their children along the pavement of the busy route between Oban and Fort William to a crossing point marked only by narrow railings.

Argyll and Bute Council explained: 'Following discussions with the school's parent council, it was agreed parents would escort their children across the road at the start of the day.

Children are escorted from the school by staff at the end and taken across the road by their parents.'

One mum of two, Emma MacGregor, told of her 'nightmares' about the daily school run, saying: 'I worry something will happen to my children when they cross the road, and I know I am not the only one. I have two young children - one in P1 and one in nursery - here for the next eight years.'

Her biggest worry was for her youngest, she said: 'He does not know to stop, look and listen: he will just go onto the road. There is no barrier by the pavement. Cars do not follow the 30mph speed limit. There is not even a zebra crossing. You have young children waiting with you while there is a child on the other side of the road. We can be waiting for ages.'

'When you see other schools, they have crossings and we ask, "Why don't we?" It is going to take something terrible to happen for them to put something in place.'

Mr Barr's wife, Kirsten, told *The Oban Times*, as she dropped off two of their three children at Lochnell nursery: 'I am petrified of crossing the road with my children. I do not think the car drivers are paying attention. Some are going more than 20mph or 30mph.'

A mum of two, who did not wish to be named, added: 'I have seen a few near misses with very small children stepping into the road and parents having to pull them off. It's horrendous. There is nowhere safe for children to cross. The roads are busier and the school is busier.'

Another mum of four said: 'They come round the corner too fast, not realising it is a school. [The children] could trip onto the road and that would be it.'

A third mum of three, who said 'massive HGVs are not sticking to the speed limit', called for longer barriers.

A mother of four said a driver who stopped to let a child cross was then overtaken, adding: 'They did not know there is a crossing,' she said. 'If there had been a kid there ...'

A mum of two added: 'We are having to be really vigilant. Some of the nursery kids are very quick. I have seen a couple of near misses. One kid ran out from the tree and his mum did not have time to get to him, but another parent got to him. I think that was when people started talking.'

Argyll and Bute Council responded: 'We have met BEAR Scotland, who manage and maintain the road, and the crossing arrangements in place are considered appropriate. The volume of traffic does not justify additional crossing measures.'

Transport Scotland pointed to its £60,000 upgrade of a zebra crossing in Benderloch to a new signalised puffin crossing.

A spokesman said: 'Our accident statistics do not highlight a specific safety issue on the A828 at Lochnell Primary School and we are not aware of any recent requests for a pedestrian crossing at the school.'

He added that Transport Scotland would 'continue to monitor the safety of the trunk road'.



## Tiny dancer takes to the street

Katiya Ballantyne, three, was enjoying the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban at the weekend. Katiya, from Alloa who was visiting her grandparents in Oban, dances 'only in the street' according to mum Helen. Full report, results and picture special inside.

INSIDE YOUR  
OBAN TIMES  
THIS WEEK

### Marina plans

THE new owners of Oban Marina at Kerrera have outlined their ambitions for the business over the next two to three years.  
Full story - page two.

### Plans approved

THE Dunbeg masterplan - which proposes hundreds of new homes for the area - has been approved by the council.  
Full story - page three.

### Lifeboat dramas

OBAN'S volunteer lifeboat crew had their busiest day of the year to date at the weekend, with three call-outs and a major exercise.  
Full story - page five.

### Stay Alive on A85

REGULAR road users explain why they are backing the *Oban Times* campaign to improve safety on the A85.  
Full story - page five.

### £10,000 boost

BID4OBAN has awarded Oban Live music festival a grant of £10,000. Oban Live is the biggest live music event in Argyll and Bute and takes place on June 2 and 3.  
Full story - page 11.

### Football festival

MORE than 500 children from across Argyll and further afield were in Oban at the weekend for a football festival.  
Full story and picture special - back page.



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## Arran, seven, gives £500 to ship

AN OBAN schoolboy surprised restorers of Scotland's last surviving turbine steamship, the TS Queen Mary, on his seventh birthday by donating a cheque for £500, writes Sandy Neil.

Boat-mad Arran Budge, a pupil at Rockfield Primary School, asked his parents, Norman and Karen, to visit the 1930s steamship in Glasgow for a birthday present, and a surprise was hatched.

The 250ft Clyde-built steamer, which gave its name to the ocean liner Queen Mary, once carried more than 2,000 passengers from Glasgow to Arran, Rothesay, Inveraray and Campbeltown. Retired in 1977, she languished



Arran with Captain Ayad Isoud and Iain Sim.

as a floating restaurant in London, until the Friends of the TS Queen Mary, backed by actor Robbie Coltrane, launched a campaign to raise £2 million to restore and berth her back on the Clyde as an arts and education

venue. Arran's dad Norman said: 'She was destined for the breakers but they managed to raise money to buy and save her, and last May returned her to the Clyde.'

Arran's family secretly organised a birthday tour, and raised money from local businesses to donate to the cause.

Trustee Iain Sim said: 'Arran came to Glasgow for a birthday treat - ostensibly an overnight stay in the city. What he didn't know was that the very next day he was going to get to step aboard Queen Mary for a private tour with Captain Ayad Isoud.'

'What we didn't know was that Arran had been raising money for his favourite ship. We were

absolutely bowled over when he presented us with a cheque for £500!

'Afterwards Arran declared the day "the best birthday ever".'

'Queen Mary is a special ship and we know that so many loved sailing on her all those years ago. However, a whole new generation now has the chance to fall in love with her also.'

Norman, whose father was Oban's harbour master and piermaster for 30 years, added: 'The captain said hopefully Arran will one day go to sea and become a captain. He just loves it and is desperate to go back. It's a beautiful ship...and he's a happy lad.'

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# Plans for marina are revealed

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

OBAN Marina's new owners, Gary Adams and Catherine Peat, have revealed big plans for their new £800,000 purchase of the Kerrera site, which is now open for business.

The sailing couple moved up from Surrey to a little cottage on Kerrera in just one day, after suddenly sealing the deal in February, and they are now settling in to island life and the long task of improving the marina's facilities.

'We have spent the past two years on a yacht sailing the Adriatic,' Gary told *The Oban*

*Times*. 'Catherine and I both took part in a clipper race. The clipper gave us more of a sense of adventure. We were looking around Scotland, and then the marina came up.'

Peter Weir, managing director of The North Ledaig Company Ltd, which bought the marina opposite Oban on Kerrera's north tip in 2012, announced in January 2016 it was going back on the market for offers over £975,000, 'as a result of many issues of which we were unable to control', he wrote on its website, listing problems with the spring water and diesel supply, ferries and wifi speed.

'It was a protracted negoti-

ation, but we eventually got it over the line,' Gary said. 'We would have liked to have taken it over in November, but we got it in February. Within a day the deal was done. We moved from Weybridge in one day. It was an interesting few days.'

Gary and Catherine are joined by six full-time employees, including a chef who started on Monday at the Waypoint Bar and Grill, with hopes to open the bar by the end of this week, and fully open the restaurant by June 1. Director of operations Oliver Cotterell, assistant director Amy Dickinson and a yard manager and two workers also join the team.

'The marina has been neglected in the past,' Gary added. 'Before it may have been concentrating on the bar and grill at the expense of the berth holders. We want to bring it back to a sailing marina. The uniqueness is that it is an island, but with that comes issues. We are trying to address the concerns, [which] were always water, fuel and broadband.'

They have already fitted extra water storage and a new supply of broadband, with a new fuel pump to be installed this week. 'We have cleaned the site up,' he added. 'We have refurbished the toilet facilities. Next year we will put new shower facilities in.

We are going to invest in the sheds.

'Everything we intend to refurbish and rebuild. There are many changes that need to be done, but you have to take it slowly. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. It will take us two to three years to get it where we want it to be.'

'There are also challenges being so close to your office. We did not want to be absentee owners. I like to understand a business from the roots up. We love it [on Kerrera] ... the tranquillity at night and it is very beautiful.'

'It was a lifestyle choice, and a legacy which we would like to pass on to our children.'



Gary Adams and Catherine Peat love the tranquillity of Kerrera.

## St Kilda goes digital

ST KILDA has been painstakingly recreated on the model of the best-selling video game Minecraft as part of Scotland-wide World Heritage Day celebrations.

An introduction as part of the new digital recreation for St Kilda has been recorded by Na H-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan.

It gives gamers the opportunity to explore the archipelago without ever having to set foot there. It will also form part of the learning resources available in both English and Gaelic to Scotland's schools.

The map features abandoned houses and boats and will cover six stories, from a kidnapped and incarcerated noblewoman to an archaeological dig. Players will be able to travel from site to site and 'unlock' these tales, voiced by volunteers such as Mr Allan. He said: 'While I have to admit not having been the most avid Minecraft gamer, I am very impressed by how accurately the team behind the project have recreated St Kilda.'

## Population on the rise

THE population of Argyll and Bute increased by 240, or 0.3 per cent, last year, according to the latest statistics.

The National Records of Scotland figures show that the area's population grew to 87,120 by the end of June 2016.

Cleland Sneddon, Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, said: 'This is really welcome news. As a council, our focus is on creating jobs, opportunities and growing our economy.'

'Change is always possible and it is extremely pleasing to see that our hard work and efforts to reverse the recent population decline and to create a vibrant economic future for the area by encouraging people and new business activity to come here, stay here and return to Argyll and Bute have been a real success.'

## Tree-planting leaves lasting legacy on Islay

CHILDREN at Bowmore Primary School on Islay have been busy planting trees in their grounds as part of a national campaign from Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and Clydesdale Bank.

Pupils were visited by the Wild About Scotland bus last week and given 15 trees.

It is hoped more than 420 trees will be planted across the country over the next 12 months.

A recent addition to the Wild About Scotland campaign, this initiative aims to help leave a lasting green legacy with schools across Scotland, with the additional bonus of offsetting carbon emissions against the mobile education centre currently touring the country.

An estimated 60 trees are required to grow in order to offset the Wild About Scotland bus's carbon footprint. To plant 420 means the campaign would offset emissions from the bus seven times over.

Wild About Scotland educates the next generation of conservationists about the importance of protecting wildlife.

The bus visited the various schools throughout the week to teach pupils about Scottish native species, their habitats and environments and what they can do to protect them.

Sessions are delivered by a dedicated education team from the RZSS on board a customised double-decker, which has been transformed



The Wild About Scotland bus visited the youngsters at Bowmore Primary to teach them about Scotland's native species and wildlife.

from a Stagecoach bus into a fully functional mobile classroom, with capacity for up to 26 children.

At the end of the lessons, pupils were given

trees native to Scotland to plant in the school's grounds.

The trees have been donated by the Woodland Trust.

To find out which schools and other venues the bus is visiting or to book a visit to a primary school for the next term, visit: <http://www.cbonline.co.uk/wildaboutscotland>.

## HOW BUSINESS GATEWAY HELPED

### Paul's new venture take flight

A former fire fighter has turned his lifelong hobby of falconry into a popular business hoping to teach others about the importance of birds of prey conservation.

Paul Finnigan from Oban, set up Finn Falconry with his wife Lynn and Zoologist daughter Jen who share Paul's passion for wildlife.

Finn Falconry provides flying displays at shows and fairs, talks and lectures, hands-on hawk walks, bird abatement, hunting experiences as well as photography workshops.

Paul said: 'I've had a passion for falconry since I was a young boy and although I joined the fire service it was always at the back of my mind that I would love to one day set up my own falconry business. Once I had completed my service I knew starting Finn Falconry was the right thing to do.'

'Whilst I knew about falconry I didn't know the ins and outs of setting up and running a business, but Business Gateway has been a real source of advice and in particular when it came to Public Liability Insurance and invoices.'



“My Business Gateway adviser continues to be a fantastic help”

Paul Finnigan,  
Finn Falconry

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## Lismore playpark plan wants bags of help

LISMORE Community Trust is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to community projects.

Greenspace Scotland is working with Groundwork to provide support to communities in Scotland.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant. Lismore Community Trust is one of the groups on the shortlist.

The project entails the creation of both a new playpark adjacent to the school in Achnacrois, and an all-weather pitch for ball games. It has been developed by the parent coun-

cil, and the project has been a long-held ambition for those with younger children within the community.

'It's a great project all round,' said Mary Walker of the parent council and community trust. 'It's a real boost for the children, and a chance to offer all youngsters opportunities that they haven't had before. We really hope everyone will assist us realise our ambitions for the young on the island.'

Voting is open in stores

throughout May and June. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them in store.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered more than £28.5 million to more than 4,000 projects up and down the UK.

Tony McElroy, from Tesco, said: 'We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for May and June. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists.'

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Caol Ila Distillery

CAOL Ila Distillery, on the north-east coast of the island, takes its Gaelic name from the fast-flowing strait of water that separates Islay from neighbouring Jura and is known as the Sound of Islay.

The distillery is the largest of its kind on the whisky isle and was set up in 1846 by distiller Hector Henderson, a former owner of the Littlemill Distillery near Glasgow, and the Union Distillery in the Kintyre peninsula at Campbeltown.

The distillery was not a success under Henderson's tenure and changed hands in 1854 when it passed into the control of Norman Buchanan, who also owned the distillery on Jura. It also had mixed fortunes during the Buchanan period and, in 1863, it was acquired by the Glasgow whisky traders Bulloch, Lade and Co.

Among the early managers employed by Bulloch, Lade and Co was one Duncan Johnston, a nephew of John Johnston of Lagavulin, and a cousin of the noted Johnstons of Laphroaig. Bulloch, Lade and Co pulled out all the stops at Caol Ila and by the start of the 1880s in excess of 147,000 gallons of whisky were being annually produced at the distillery.

With strong Christian convictions, as well as producing vast quantities of the hard stuff, the spiritual needs of their



Caol Ila Distillery is the biggest on the whisky isle.

employees were also a matter of concern.

This led the company to build a small chapel at Caol Ila and every Sunday a Glasgow-based divinity student would arrive at the distillery and preach the gospel to the workforce and their families. Attendance at such acts of worship was compulsory.

Throughout the 1870s the Bulloch, Lade company carried out a massive programme of expansion at Caol Ila, with all the whisky produced being shipped backed to the company's Glasgow headquarters.

Eventually, things began to turn sour and the company went into voluntary liquidation in 1920. This led a group of businessmen to form the Caol Ila Distillery Company Ltd before the Distillers' Company acquired a controlling interest in 1927. Three years later

views from its coastal location on the Sound of Islay. And the whisky also has much to commend it.

### Bowled over

BIGS and bias were banded about when the Bridgend Bowling Club officially opened its new season on April 30.

The green is now in tip-top condition following months of preparatory work by volunteers and club members. Their lot was made easier through the use of mower equipment refurbished by the generosity of the Community Benefit Fund.

The green is directly across from the Bridgend Hotel and is open daily. Fees can be deposited in the on-site honesty box.

### Post Office change

BOWMORE postmistress Alyson MacGillivray has announced that she is shortly to give up operating the village post office at the top of the main street. Advised of Alyson's decision, the Post Office confirmed that it is committed to maintaining a post office in the village and local retailers who may be interested are asked to pursue the matter with the Post Office authorities.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street,  
Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX.  
Tel: 01496 810 658.

# Plans for 600 new homes at Dunbeg are given go-ahead

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

DUNBEG'S dream of a Kirk Road upgrade and a new A85 roundabout came a bit closer when councillors approved a blueprint for 600 houses north of Oban, but hopes for a new primary school still seem a long way off.

Councillors unanimously approved the 'ambitious' Dunbeg Corridor Strategic Masterplan at Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee meeting on April 26. The wish-list would allow for 605 houses, plus shops, businesses and playparks, to be built between Dunbeg and Ganavan, subject to planning applications being submitted and granted.

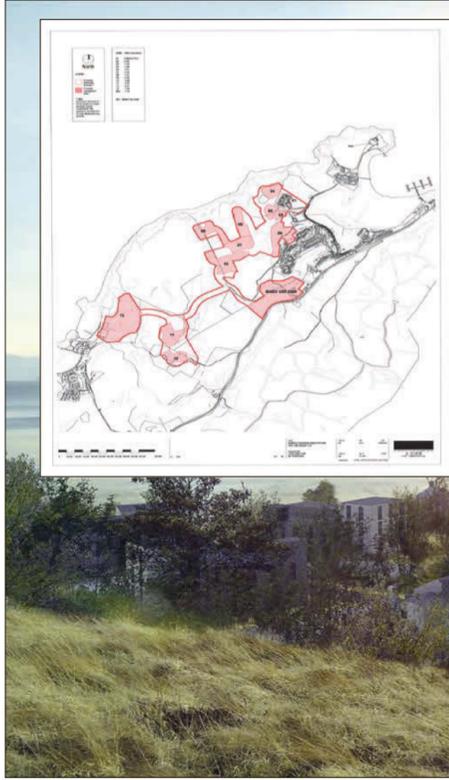
Phase one includes 300 homes to be completed over the next six years. The Link Group and West Highland Housing Association have already finished the first 75 affordable homes on the site, including 50 intermediate rent-to-buy properties, and 25 social rent homes. At least 25 per cent of the completed development will be affordable housing.

The Dunbeg Corridor Strategic Masterplan is part of the council's Local Development Plan, which outlines major infrastructure proposals for Argyll and Bute for the next five years.

Fergus Murray, the council's head of economic development, said: 'It is of vital importance in delivering much-needed housing to this area. The boost in the number of affordable homes will make a real difference to the lives of many local residents.'

'We have listened to the views of people living in the area on these proposals and taken their comments on board. The council is committed to continuing to do so as plans progress. We are committed to growing our economy and attracting people to live and work here.'

In February, angry Dunbeg residents voiced their determination to oppose any new houses until there was a new roundabout and school, coupled with



An artist's impression of how the new housing might look and, inset, a detailed map showing their location.

better roads. The council said it has engaged in 'extensive consultation'.

Council planning officer David Moore told the meeting: 'Phase one will be 300 houses accessed off Kirk Road. Kirk Road needs to be widened and upgraded. There is a feeling the road is not fit for purpose.' Phases two and three, he added, would be an access roundabout on the A85 and the housing development at Ganavan.

Councillors voiced residents' calls for a new primary school to cope with the increase in population. Mr

Moore responded: 'The education department are satisfied they can accommodate the primary children [for the 300 houses]. We have a profound commitment there will not be an issue for child spaces as the development progresses.'

The capacity for Dunbeg Primary School is 141, and the current roll is 78, according to council figures.

A spokesperson said: 'In the short term, the modest level of population growth in the Dunbeg catchment area will be addressed by ensuring there

is provision in the existing primary school. This will be monitored and consideration will be given to any identified requirement to increase the current school capacity.'

The council added that funding for the new homes and associated works such as road improvements will be sought from the Scottish Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund.

'The development will be supported by infrastructure improvements, including to roads and education.

'Retail and commercial development

is also proposed for subsequent phases of work, but in the meantime safe and convenient pathways will be created to link the 300 new homes with the existing shops in Dunbeg.

'The Kirk Road improvements will be a boost to the European Marine Science Park at Dunstaffnage, which was opened in 2014 by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

'All works are subject to planning permission, and proposals submitted to the council must meet the master-plan vision.'

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

FOLLOWING three recent fire-raising incidents at a derelict property and grassland at the rear of Glencruitten Hostel, Oban, two boys, aged 13 and 14, have been charged with the offences.

**ABOUT 11.20am on Monday April 24, at Argyll Square, Oban, a Kia car allegedly drove through a red light at a pedestrian crossing causing pedestrians to get off the road quickly. Subsequently, the driver of the car, a man aged 66, was traced and charged with the offence. A report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.**

ON SATURDAY April 29, at about 12.30am in George Street, Oban, a disturbance occurred and a man and a woman were assaulted. A 42-year-old man was charged with assault and abusive behaviour and a woman, 42, was charged with assault. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

**BETWEEN April 10 and 29, there was an attempted break-in at a caravan situated near to Dalmally fire station. Some damage was caused but no entry was gained and nothing was stolen. Police are investigating and appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.**

ABOUT 4.55pm on Sunday April 30, following a minor collision at Fishnish Pier on Mull, a 61-year-old man who was driving a van, was arrested for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol. The man was held for court.

**ON APRIL 28, 29 and 30, at various places on the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum and on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, seven motorists (six men and one woman) were stopped and charged with speeding.**

■ Contact police on 101, or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Online film tells of inspiring family

THE inspiring story of a Skye family's experience of cystic fibrosis is highlighted in an online film.

The Macqueen family from near Portree featured in the main film created for The Leanne Fund by MG ALBA last month, but a more detailed account of their story is now also online.

Liam, 12, and his two-year-old sister Aila both have cystic fibrosis and the film outlines how keeping healthy fits into their busy lives.

Mary, their mother, talks about some of the challenges of family life and how The Leanne Fund has helped them to provide special treats for the children. She said: 'Cystic fibrosis is an invisible illness and you would never suspect there was anything wrong with them - and I'm grateful for that - but I don't think people understand how much hard work it takes to keep them looking so well and keeping so well. It's a very strict routine that you have to stick to.'



Mary Macqueen, left, with Aila, explains the family's strict regime which lets Liam and his sister lead normal lives.

Liam, a keen shinty player, explains his daily routine of medication and physiotherapy, while Mary explains what that means for Aila, who is too young to take tablets.

'We just want them to lead a full and happy life and get on with things just as their friends

would do and we want them to be as active as they can be,' she said.

'It is great that there is lots of fundraising for research but The Leanne Fund gives us something for fun and to make things easier which is really nice.'

View the film at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uX-wYPLiYHY> and the main film which features the family and others across the Highlands and Islands at <http://www.theleannefund.co.uk/news/1/watch-our-new-cystic-fibrosis-awareness-film>

## Only a month to go until Oban Live

ANOTHER busy weekend over and only another month before Oban Live hits town, writes Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald.

Time to draw breath and get all my ducks in a row before things get hectic again.

The fringe events for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival certainly added a wee buzz to the usual activities. I really enjoyed having music while I worked on Saturday and watching the fantastic Adele Askew dancers in Stafford Street. If anybody missed it there are clips on the LoveOban Facebook page, including Helensburgh Pipe Band performing *Highland Cathedral* - always one to bring a tear to a glass eye.

The next event on a much smaller scale is the arrival of the Ocean Nova cruise ship on May 11 and, although it is one of the smaller liners, it is lovely to meet the passengers

and help them decide what to do with their time in Oban.

I always envy people seeing Oban for the first time from the

sea. It really is beautiful and hearing it from other people makes you appreciate it anew. One of the best ways to make

the most of living here, in my opinion, is to spend the odd day doing things a visitor to the town would do. Walk up to the tower and take photos, visit Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds (it is always changing), tour the distillery or go on a boat trip to see the seals. Even taking a trip to Kerrera for a walk makes you feel as if you're away for the day and it's amazing how many people haven't done some of these things.

Have a look at the Facebook pages for Oban Town Diary and LoveOban if you're looking for ideas. It is amazing what we have on our own doorstep.

Which brings me to our photo from last week: it's the doorway to Macarthur Stewart, between Nancy Black's and Bell Ingram, which is Boswell House.

For this week, something a little different. I don't know how many times I've walked by and not noticed this.

## WHERE IS THIS?



## May Madness is back!

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OT

# Oban causes cash in on fund

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A POT of cash for Oban projects has seen a flurry of money given to more than 13 initiatives since the year began.

Addition service Oasis, Glen-cruitten Cathedral of Trees and Oban Wind and Wave Club were all beneficiaries of the Oban

Common Good Fund – one of the biggest pots of charity cash available to town causes.

A Freedom of Information request to Argyll and Bute Council shows that as of February 10, 2017, the Oban Common Good Fund was worth £289,265.

Trustees can only disburse the income received from the investments held, which varies

with market conditions. This financial year the total for distribution was £35,000.

It was confirmed that there are no outstanding commitments for funding from the Oban Common Good Fund.

Minutes show that over the past five years of the Common Good Fund chairperson Elaine Robertson has tried to raise the

profile of the group and encourage a larger number of people to apply for funding.

Mrs Robertson has also invited non-elected members onto the group and allowed access to the public for information.

Projects funded and reported in late 2016 early 2017 are as follows:  
Oban Communities Trust,

Argyllshire Gathering, £1,500; BID4Oban, £600 for banners and bunting; Hope Kitchen, £3,000; Oasis, £2,600; Glen-cruitten Cathedral of Trees, £2,500; Grab Trust, £3,000 for a van; North Argyll Carers' Centre, £750 for arm-chairs; Oban Music Society, £300 towards a piano; Hope to Oban, £2,200; a Mod Acad-

emy, £1,500; the MS Centre, £2,227.50; Oban High School New York Experience, £1,800; Oban Wind and Wave Club, £1,000; Soroba Community Enterprise, £761.98; Oban Hockey Club, up to £750.

A decision on an application from the Argyllshire Gathering was moved to a meeting after May.

## Accused threw plant pot at man

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to 240 hours of unpaid work for assaulting another man with a plant pot.

Luke Gordon, 21, of 24 Combie Court, Oban, admitted assaulting and injuring the man by throwing a plant pot at his head on New Year's Day this year.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday April 25 that Gordon had shouted at the man: 'You touched my girlfriend,' before confronting him. 'They grappled one another,' Mr McGinty said, 'then they broke up.'

'The accused picked up a metal plant pot and threw it directly at the complainant. This cut him directly above his eye. He began to bleed profusely. He received a number of stitches.'

Mr McGinty said police traced Gordon and searched his home, finding a blood-stained shirt. Gordon told officers: 'I did not mean to hit him with it, but I just kind of threw it at him.' Mr McGinty told the court they were standing directly in front of one another.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson told Gordon: 'You are going to be one of those young men who spend their time in and out of custody if you do not regulate your behaviour. There is a direct relationship between your violent behaviour and consumption of alcohol.'

Sheriff Anderson imposed a community payback order on him of 240 hours to be completed within nine months, as a direct alternative to custody. 'If you breach this order,' she warned, 'you go into custody.'

## Council fund up for grabs

COMMUNITY groups in Argyll and Bute are being invited to bid for a share of a cash pot to help improve their local areas.

Argyll and Bute Council has £50,000 for environmental action plans with up to £5,000 available to organisations.

Applications should be made by July 30 and awards will be made in September.

It is part of a wider £200,000 investment being made by the council on sustainable environmental improvements.

Eligible projects are those which will deliver long-term benefits to the environment and amenity of local communities.

To apply, contact lissa.brackley@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

## Fire crews are back up to full strength

OBAN'S full-time fire crew is back up to strength, officials say, after reports that it had to rely on retained firefighters to respond to an emergency.

Oban Community Council's George Berry told the April meeting he was made aware of a call-out where full-time firefighters had to pull in a retained firefighter to crew an appliance. 'The full-time should have full coverage,' he said.

Oban Community Fire Station manager Derek Wilson and John McShane, service delivery manager for Argyll and Bute Council, reassured community councillors there would always be a 24-hour, seven-day emergency response.

Mr McShane said a minimum number of five firefighters were needed to send an engine to an emergency. 'We would never put an appliance out the door without five, and we have never not been able to put out an appliance,' he said. 'It will always be available 24/7. We always find a solution and make sure

an appliance gets out the door.' Oban fire station, Mr Wilson added, 'has six on the watch so we can guarantee that 24/7 cover. We can move personnel between stations. But at Oban we do not have that luxury, because the nearest full-time station is two hours away in Helensburgh.'

'The incident where we had to bring in a retained firefighter is very rare. That was because we had long-term sickness which reduced the watch from six to five, and then we had short-term sickness reducing it from five to four. We used one of our 14 retained staff. We are through that and we have filled those gaps. [We have] pushed our numbers right up to our maximum number of six per group.'

Mr McShane further assured that 'retained staff are trained with the exact same skill sets as full-time staff', and that the chief officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had made a commitment not to close any stations.



## Firm faces ruin if phones are cut off

AN OBAN company claims it faces ruin if its phone and internet are not reconnected - three weeks after they were cut off while trying to change provider.

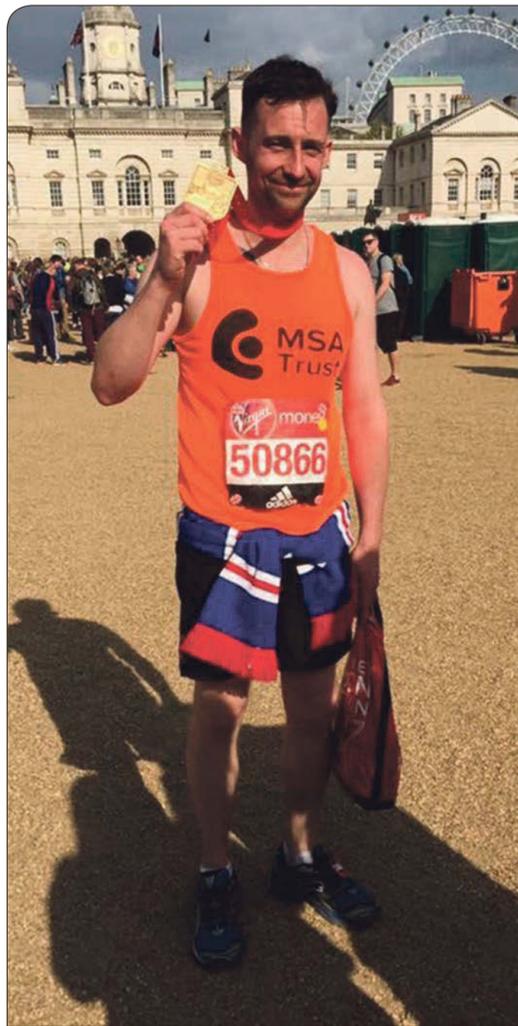
Trial West Caravan and Trailer Centre, which repairs and rents motorhomes and trailers, has been trying to continue its business without calls or emails since April 12, when the change-over was due to take place.

Andrew Macdonald, who runs the company which employs three people, said: 'We have now been running three weeks without anyone contacting us.

Anyone phoning is given a message to say that phone is not receiving calls. It seems the old company is very reluctant to release the number. It is one way to take a busy business to its knees.

'This is the busiest time of year for us. We are 75 to 80 per cent down. We have not had to lay off staff. If it destroys our rental income for the summer, that will do long-term damage. It could end the business. We cannot go on like this.'

An alternative line has been set up on 01631 562865.



David MacLennan proudly shows his medal for running the London marathon last month.



## Oban runner helps to raise £32,000

AN OBAN man who ran in the London marathon to raise awareness of a rare condition has helped to raise £32,000.

David MacLennan ran in the annual race and finished in five hours and 36 minutes.

Sister Eilidh MacLennan said: 'My mum, Mary MacLennan, had multiple system atrophy.' This is a progressive neuro-degenerative disorder with a combination of symptoms affecting

both the autonomic nervous system (the part that controls involuntary action such as blood pressure or digestion) and movement.

Eilidh continued: 'Between himself and the rest of the MSA Trust team of runners, they have managed to raise around £32,000 for the charity.'

'David was supported massively by a number of local businesses and received donations from all over.'

'It was a good way to raise awareness for the condition in the local area and also it shows something positive coming from our mother's death.'

Back in March the family nominated Dr Kate MacGregor from Tainuill Medical Practice for GP of the Year which she went on to win.

Dr MacGregor was congratulated on her 'outstanding care of a patient with a rare, terminal neurological condition'.

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## Family business is now cruising along

A FAMILY from Connel has added an additional small cruise ship to its fleet – complete with a hot tub.

The Proud Seahorse was introduced to the public at an open day late last month at Dunstaffnage Marina, near Oban. The luxury vessel will join Hebrides Cruises' other small ship, the Elizabeth G, and take passengers to the remote islands of the Hebrides.

The Proud Seahorse has ensuite cabins. Both vessels hold around 10 guests and both are served by four crew: a skipper, chef, bosun and a wildlife guide.

Speaking at the open day, Emma MacGregor said: 'It's a



Daughter and dad Emma MacGregor and Rob Barlow.

family-run business. We employ up to 15 people. My dad is the skipper and owner and I do all the marketing. My gran makes

all the scones for people coming on board.'

Owner and skipper Rob Barlow added: 'It's the remote

islands that we specialise in. St Kilda is probably the most popular attraction.'

Guests can stay on the Proud Seahorse for anywhere from four to 10 nights.

Rob is hopeful that his business, Hebrides Cruises, and everyone else who makes a living on the water will be able to benefit from the pontoons that are scheduled to be built in Oban bay.

He said: 'It will be a great thing. It will help big time for all of us. We used to live on Mull and we saw the great things that the harbour did for Tobermory and it could do the same thing here.'

## WHITE VAN Man

AS EACH of us grows older, and having crossed the 60 barrier myself – I know, you don't believe it – we are more inclined to contemplate life.

We read almost every day about care in the community or, in some cases, the lack of it.

Efforts by councils and the NHS are designed to enable us to remain in our own homes but it is proving to be almost impossible.

Health care workers are hard-working – in some cases they are over-worked and under-paid – and have to follow a very tight time schedule which limits how long they can spend with each client.

So what of the future for care of the elderly? Caring for older



people requires consideration of social needs, emotional as well as physical needs, and cultural and spiritual wellbeing.

When I look at some private sheltered housing complexes, I wonder if the system works. In the evening there are no wardens and, in some cases, no staff at all after 6pm.

Some older people find themselves having as little as a 10-minute visit each day. Some people I have spoken to tell me if you have mobility problems, you are stuck in your room all night and sometimes during the day because of a lack of carers.

Is this care in the community? No, in my opinion.

This is disgraceful. Some sheltered housing establishments offer very little in the way of a social programme and, in some cases, none at all.

Where does this leave those living alone in their own homes or in care homes?

The social needs of these people are really important. It is all very well saying a carer calls three times a day for 10

minutes but what about the rest of the day and night?

Private care homes should have a social structure in place to let people enjoy each other's company or entertainment.

Sheltered housing complexes should always have wardens. It might be time for the local authority to become involved.

If you live alone, there is nothing better than knowing that, if something goes wrong, a warden is only minutes away. When I grew up in Miller Road in Oban, it was noticed if an older person had not been seen for a wee while. Neighbours checked up on them. If you have an elderly neighbour, call in on them.

George Berry

# Road users have their say on A85

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE response to *The Oban Times*' Stay Alive on the A85 campaign has started to build a body of evidence about accidents and near misses on the road.

This week we hear from readers, alongside launching aerial video footage of the section of road together with a commentary written by an instructor in crash scene management.

Tourist Yves Loisel, from France, who heard about the on-going *Oban Times* campaign told of his concerns, saying: 'On holiday in Scotland last June for a couple of weeks, I can witness that Scottish roads are narrow, winding and rather bumpy.'

'Drivers must be very careful and look both at the road ahead of them and at other cars rather

## STAY Alive on the A85

than at the beautiful scenery around them.

'Unfortunately, I noticed that too many people drove far too fast for the kind of roads the country has. It is true of the A85 and also of many other small roads which would badly need repairing properly.'

And road watcher Stephen Jones, from Oban, said: 'I was hit on the arm by a slow moving vehicle near the Bealach-an-Righ. It is the second time this has happened near the A85.'

'Both drivers were elderly and going slow but please be vigilant

– the A85 from Oban to Connel has had many serious accidents in the past and a tragedy is waiting to happen.

'There is a narrow path which is now a foot wider and more easy to walk two abreast, more safe to walk on. Joggers should always run towards the direction of the oncoming traffic so they have a chance of avoiding an accident if possible.'

'The road is very scenic but there are many potholes and some of the storm drains are blocked causing an excess of rain water onto the carriage-way.'

'In some areas, a hazard to vehicles travelling at speed, some verges and paths are under a state of slight subsidence, embankments are steep and unguarded by safety barriers in some areas. Speed is a great factor in all accidents.'

'More signage is required, and

a speed reduction along with double white lines.

'I keep seeing drivers using their mobiles and on-board computer diaries while driving, a distraction on such a road that has had so many accidents.'

'I, when driving towards Connel at Pennyfuir, had to mount the path to avoid a head on collision with a vehicle that was overtaking a HGV. I just managed to avoid and brake before missing a woman and small

child in a pram. On average there is a fatality every year and many are injured. There are, they say, many hundreds of nuts that hold a vehicle together, but the biggest one holds onto the steering wheel.'

'A tragedy is waiting to happen. Don't let it be you.'

Next week: the woes of those who have found themselves waiting up to 15 minutes before they are able to turn on to the A85.

### The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

People in North Argyll have lost far too many friends and family in accidents on the A85 between Oban and Connel.

IF YOU SUPPORT US, PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

Name .....

Address .....

Tel .....

Email .....

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



The Oban lifeboat crew take part in the airport training exercise, which saw the combined emergency services respond to a simulated plane crash.



## Lifeboat responds to three emergencies after exercise

A MAJOR multi-agency emergency exercise took place at Oban Airport on Saturday – only to be overtaken by real-life incidents for the town's lifeboat.

Members of the emergency services were at the airport and in the sea nearby to test emergency responses, as was required by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Civil Contingencies Act.

But it was a busy day for real for the RNLI team with three separate incidents on what turned out to be the lifeboat's busiest day of the year so far. The day began at around 10am with

the multi-agency exercise simulating a crashed aircraft. The Mora Edith MacDonald returned to station at just before noon only for Stornoway Coastguard to request, an hour later, the lifeboat to rendezvous with Tobermory lifeboat Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey in Loch Aline.

Two divers had made a rapid ascent while diving near Calve Island close to Tobermory.

They were suspected of suffering from decompression sickness, or the bends.

The divers were to be transferred to Oban lifeboat, which would then take

them for treatment.

The Mora Edith MacDonald was alongside the pontoons in Loch Aline at 1.45pm awaiting the arrival of Tobermory lifeboat when Stornoway Coastguard requested Oban lifeboat depart the loch for Fort William where a passenger vessel had reported a suspected fire in its engine room.

Tobermory lifeboat took the two divers into Oban and transferred them to a waiting ambulance.

Meanwhile, the Oban vessel was travelling at full speed towards Fort William but, fortunately, the vessel

had managed to make its own way back and was met by Fort William Coast Rescue Team and the fire service. Oban lifeboat started to return to Oban by 2.30pm but 15 minutes after being stood down was tasked once again by Stornoway Coastguard to respond to a mayday call.

A three-metre inflatable vessel with two people on board was struggling in adverse weather conditions one mile south of the Isle of Kerrera.

Stornoway Coastguard also tasked Tobermory lifeboat and broadcast a mayday relay resulting in two CalMac

ferries also diverting to the scene, along with several private vessels.

The two people were recovered to Tobermory lifeboat at 3.05pm but were transferred to Oban lifeboat shortly afterwards.

It then took the two people and their boat to Easdale where they were able to make their way to shore.

Oban lifeboat then returned to station and was ready for service again at 5.15pm.

The three call-outs totalled 60 nautical miles and more than four hours at sea for the volunteer crew.

## Man ran at police

A MAN has been fined £500 for resisting officers who found him walking drunk in the middle of the A85.

Roy English, 41, of 61 Hillhead Crescent, Hamilton, admitted struggling violently with two police officers, and then running at them, on the A85 near Dalmally on September 3, 2016. He also pleaded guilty to acting aggressively and uttering threats of violence en route to Oban police station.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday April 25 that English was seen at 8.20pm that night 'clearly under the influence' walking in the centre of the road. 'There were no street lights,' Mr McGinty added. 'He was extremely aggressive and began to shout and swear at police.'

'He grabbed one of the officers by his body armour and began to struggle. The accused managed to run off. The accused then ran at the police officers. Both of them sprayed the accused.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC asked: 'What were you doing putting yourself and others in danger by walking in the centre of the A85 on a dark and wet night?'

'No explanation, your honour,' he said.

Sheriff Anderson asked if the court would get an apology. 'Yes,' he replied, 'sorry.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Anderson said: 'This is a particularly nasty complaint,' and fined English £500.

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## JEWSON



Jennifer Gracie and Anne Gunn with the fellowship award.  
Photograph: www.clarkjamesdigital.com.

## Double awards triumph for Skye hotel owners

SKYE hotel group Sonas is celebrating a double triumph at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards, with owners Anne and Ken Gunn picking up two top prizes.

The pair were honoured for their 'outstanding contribution to the industry', winning the annual Fellowship Award.

And Sonas' newest member retained its title of best hotel in the islands.

Speaking after the ceremony in Glasgow, Anne said: 'We are delighted to have been given this accolade which is a culmination of Ken and my vision for Sonas.'

'We wanted to create a small group of boutique hotels offering the highest standards combined with style, creativity and the best of Highland hospitality.'

In 2011, the Gunns were voted Scotland's Hoteliers of the Year.

Skeabost House Hotel near Portree, which Anne and Ken acquired in

2015, was named Island Hotel of the Year for the second year in a row.

The first Sonas hotel, Toravaig House at Sleat, has won the Island Hotel of the Year category several times.

Its neighbour, Duisdale House, has also captured many major titles in the Catering in Scotland Awards and the annual competition organised by VisitScotland.

Anne added: 'It is also the result of a great deal of hard work throughout the years by our family and staff, all of whom have shown enormous dedication as well as skill.'

Anne's daughter, Jennifer Gracie, Skeabost's general manager, said: 'There are so many wonderful hotels throughout the islands of Scotland that being chosen as the best of them twice in a row is a remarkable achievement, especially since it has only been in the group for a relatively short time.'

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OT

**Loch Awe**



Police hope this image of Joachim Brolly's boat will jog the memories of people in Loch Awe on Thursday March 9.

POLICE Scotland has released an image of the boat that missing man Joachim Brolly was last seen getting into on Loch Awe on Thursday March 9.



Police are still searching for Joachim Brolly who has been missing for weeks.

Mr Brolly, 59, was seen at the Torran Bay Hostel at the south end of Loch Awe at around 3pm, before getting into his boat. Officers hope the image will help jog the memories of people who were in the area that day.

Mr Brolly is described as white, 5ft 6in tall, of medium build, with short grey hair and clean shaven. He was wearing navy trousers, a navy fleecy and a navy jacket.

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'Extensive searches involving police and fire services along with the coastguard have been carried out in an attempt to locate Mr Brolly.'

'Police divers are still conducting searches in the loch and we would welcome any new information. If you were in

the area of Loch Awe on Thursday March 9 and may have seen Mr Brolly, or the boat, please get in touch.

'We would particularly like to speak to anyone who was out in a boat on Loch Awe that day.'

'Anyone with information is asked to contact officers at Lochgilhead Police Station via 101.'

**Appin**

MEMBERS of the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) met in Port Appin Hall on Thursday April 20 for their annual general meeting and SWI centenary birthday party.

After business was completed, the party started with the cutting of the birthday cake, the candles having been blown out by Honorary President Chrissie MacNeill. Everyone then enjoyed a lovely tea, provided by the committee.

President Doreen Evans thanked Morag MacKenzie and Lorna Wallace for being tellers for the evening and Chrissie Malone for always having the hall ready for meetings.

Competition trophy winners for the year were: Housewives – 1 Myra MacDougall; 2 Jessie MacKenzie. Handicrafts – 1 Doreen Evans; 2 Linda MacLeod.

President for next session Brenda MacLeod thanked Doreen for her work over the last year and wished everyone a happy holiday.

**Kilmore**

MEMBERS of the Kilmore branch of the Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) met on Wednesday April 12, when president Anne Ferguson welcomed 18 members.

Business was discussed and noted before members welcomed guest speaker Sheen Nimmo who gave a talk on breast care.

Competitions winners: Arrangement with daffodils - 1 M Nicholson; 2 A Tully, 3 A Stewart. Jar of lime marmalade, 1 A Ferguson; 2 H MacGregor, 3 S Stewart.

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**Kintyre**

AN ARMY reservist from Kintyre will race almost 100 miles in less than two weeks to raise money for jailed ex-paratrooper Billy Irving.

Colour Sergeant Robbie Semple, 46, of the 7th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, took part in the 2017 Virgin London Marathon on Sunday April 23 and hopes to complete the 73-mile Kintyre Way Ultra mountain bike race on Saturday (May 6).

Robbie, inspired by an *Oban Times* report, plans to raise money through sponsorship for fellow reservist Billy Irving, who was educated in Campbeltown.

Billy is serving a five-year sentence in Puzhal Prison, near Chennai, in India, alongside five other ex-servicemen.

'The Chennai Six', as they have become known, were working on US anti pirate ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio, which was held under



Robbie Semple, left, with Billy's fiancée Yvonne McHugh and brother Jamie Irving.

firearms charges in October 2013. Yvonne MacHugh, Billy's fiancée, is organising a peaceful protest for the

Chennai Six at the High Commission of India in London at 7am on Friday June 16.

To sponsor Robbie, visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/robert-semple99milesforBilly](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/robert-semple99milesforBilly).



Youngsters from Islay and Jura have been going 'Wild about Argyll'.

**Scottish wildlife in primary classroom spotlight**

PUPILS from Small Isles Primary School on Jura and Port Charlotte and Keills primary schools on Islay recently enjoyed interactive Scottish wildlife sessions with the 'Wild about Scotland' team.

The programme has been

**Islay and Jura**

developed by the Royal Zoological Society for Scotland (RZSS) in partnership with the Clydesdale Bank to support conservation across Scotland. The pupils

took part in fun sessions on Scottish native species, their habitats and environments.

Port Charlotte Primary School pupils were given 15 tree saplings to plant in

their grounds. It is hoped more than 420 trees will be planted across the country in the next 12 months.

A recent addition to the Wild about Scotland campaign, this is a great way for schools to leave a lasting green legacy.



Bikers are invited to the third Bike Fyne motorcycle safety event at Loch Fyne Oysters on Sunday (May 7).

**Cairndow**

LOCH Fyne Oysters is hosting a third Bike Fyne motorcycle safety event on Sunday May 7 between 10am and 4pm.

Ducati Glasgow will be headlining the event, which aims to reduce the number of accidents involving motorcyclists on the A83 by educating bikers through training sessions and demonstrations provided by representatives from the motorcycle industry.

Visitors can take part in free BikerDown emergency care training sessions and improve riding confidence and road skills through a variety of demonstrations.

The Institute of Advanced Motoring will also be providing observed rides on a number of routes throughout Argyll. The British Horse Society, Scotservs, MARTYS and Scottish Air Ambulance will also be in attendance.

Further information can be obtained from [www.lochfyne.com/events](http://www.lochfyne.com/events), [info@lochfyne.com](mailto:info@lochfyne.com) or 01499 600 471.

**Campbeltown**

A CHINA business trade summit being organised by Brendan O'Hara MP has had to be postponed following the decision to hold a UK general election on Thursday June 8.

Mr O'Hara had been working with the China British Business Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Development International and Argyll and Bute Council to bring the event to Campbeltown on June 22.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Accessing and exporting into new markets is vital if Scottish business and local economies such as ours are to flourish. Businesses that export are usually more profitable, have greater productivity and are more financially secure, thereby creating more jobs and greater prosperity.'

'However, only 11 per cent of UK businesses export and a mere seven per cent of UK exporters target high growth economies such as China.'

**Kilmartin**

KILMARTIN House Museum is looking for volunteers to carry out market research as part of its re-development project.

This will involve talking to visitors and asking a questions on a visitor exit survey. The data gathered will help test the proposals for activities and interpretation for the new re-developed museum.

This may prompt questions about the re-development project so the volunteers would need to learn the background and proposed changes to the museum.

The role also includes researching marketing opportunities to boost fundraising for the project. For more details contact [cameron@kilmartin.org](mailto:cameron@kilmartin.org)

The museum is also looking for six individuals who live in Kilmartin, Ford and Glassary who would be willing to take part in a research project led by David Atherton on behalf of Aberdeen University.

The project aims to record information from the group including where they originate from, what they currently do and what their aspirations are for the future. Tea and cakes will be provided.

Meetings are planned for the afternoons of May 17, 18 and 19 in the museum library.

If you would like to take part in the project, email Julia at [julia@kilmartin.org](mailto:julia@kilmartin.org) or phone the museum 01546 510278.

**Helensburgh**

A VICTORIA Cross paving stone has been laid in Cardross in honour of a soldier from Helensburgh.

The unveiling of the commemorative stone at Cardross War Memorial comes 100 years after Lieutenant John Reginald Noble Graham's gallant conduct was recognised.

Lieutenant Graham, who grew up in Darleith in Cardross, served in the 9th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He and his machine gun section were seconded to the Machine Gun Corps serving in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).

The commemorative stone for Lieutenant Graham was unveiled at Cardross War Memorial by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Dunbartonshire, Rear Admiral Michael Gregory OBE. Lieutenant Graham's son and other members of his family were also present.

Lieutenant Graham died in 1980. His VC is held at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum in Stirling.

**Harris**

ANGUS MacNeil MP and Alasdair Allan MSP met with The North Harris Trust, Scottish Water and community representatives regarding the future of a major water mains upgrade between Tarbert and Hushinish.

Mr MacNeil said: 'A frank, fair and respectful exchange of views with some clearly obvious frustrations were vented during the meeting.'

'Scottish Water said it is currently working on a report on possibilities for the water pipeline.'

'It is hoped the report will be completed by the end of May. The solution might have to be delivered in two stages but we need to see progress.'

**Benderloch**

PUPILS at Lochneil Primary School, Benderloch, are to benefit from a new 3G sports pitch.

Argyll and Bute Council gave the go-ahead last week and a tender process will now take place.

**At Random**

**Emergency services deserve high praise**

SATURDAY was, as we report today on page five, the busiest day of the year so far for Oban lifeboat.

The volunteer RNLI crew responded to three call-outs in rapid succession after taking part in a multi-agency emergency exercise in which the combined services responded to a simulated plane crash at Oban Airport.

It brings into sharp relief the superb work done by all our emergency services. They race towards trouble when it strikes while the rest of us run away.

The emergency services are rightly hailed as heroes.

But it is perhaps the RNLI crews who are especially deserving of our gratitude given that the vast majority of them are volunteers.

The coxswain of Oban's lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, Richard Johnson and mechanic Tom Kennedy are salaried senior members but the rest of the crew, from operations manager Billy Fortheith down, risk their lives all too regularly purely out of a sense of public duty and a desire to aid those in trouble.

Indeed, very often they put to sea in the most appalling conditions – conditions in which anyone else would avoid



Tom Kennedy, left, Billy Fortheith and Richard Johnson.

setting sail altogether. We are all exceedingly lucky to have such selfless individuals among us.

**Highest of praise**

LET'S give credit where it's due.

The splendid staff at the registry office in Argyll and Bute went beyond what could reasonably be expected of them when approached by Rob Everitt, 36, and Rebecca Holdstock, 29, from Dartmoor, who wanted to be married on the top of Ben More – the highest mountain and only Munro on Mull.

Registrar Andrew Penny made the English couple's day by donning his hiking boots and all-weather gear and climbing the ben to officiate at the ceremony.

In the end, because of the prevailing conditions, the small wedding party – which was augmented by Sarah and John from Mull to act as witnesses – couldn't reach the summit but had got as

high as a plateau 650m up, where the marriage was completed. Andrew told us the registrars' motto is 'It's your day so we do it your way'. They certainly lived up to it. Well done.

**Fight for A85 action**

OUR campaign for improved safety on the A85 between Oban and Connel continues to gather support and is being given new momentum this week.

We are releasing an excellent video produced by Neil Owen of Argyll UAVs, an aerial filming company, that explains very clearly the hazards and shortcomings of this stretch of road.

As Neil, who has a background in law enforcement, says: 'The section between Dunbeg and Oban has been a particular road safety issue since the 1960s and 1970s, with an all-too-regular accident rate involving fatalities and serious injuries.'

'A particularly hazardous location is the curved section at the entrance to Pennyfuir cemetery.'

'A 60mph car from the first point of visibility on the curve will afford a pedestrian crossing the road exactly six seconds to complete the traverse.'

That brings the real need for changes to this road into stark relief.

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

Double white lines along this stretch, a reduction in the speed limit and a layby at the cemetery are desperately needed. Please sign the petition in this week's paper or do so online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85).

If enough of us keep shouting loudly enough, we will shame the government into action.

**Hale and arty**

THE 34th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival was held over the weekend and was a wonderful showcase for the talented competitors and performers.

It provided a fabulous few days of entertainment for those tourists and residents fortunate enough to take in some of it. There were competitions and performances all over town, including outdoors at Station Square and with a main highlight being the parade of pipers on Saturday afternoon.

And, of course, none of it would have happened at all without the selfless efforts of the volunteer organisers. Well done to everyone involved.

**What do you think?**

WRITE to me at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB, or by email to [milaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:milaing@obantimes.co.uk).

# Surprising discovery on a hunt through history

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

YOU never know what a search into your family history might find.

Ten months ago James Hamilton, erstwhile weel-kent face of the Stornoway to Ullapool CalMac ferry and Tarbert's Corner House bistro, embarked on a new venture – the West Coast Whisky shop on Harbour Street, as the last stop for whisky lovers before they board the ferry to Islay at Kennacraig.

It was while hunting for secret love children of a family 'rogue' who disappeared in Africa a century ago that James happened upon the court papers of an earlier Arran ancestor and 'businessman'.

Like James, Daniel Cook also embarked on a career in the whisky trade, but, unlike James, on the wrong side of the law, and he left a 200-year-old mystery leading right up to the door of the Isle of Arran's new distillery.

James' voyage of discovery began by trying to please his mother. Catherine Hamilton (nee Stewart) is 88, still on Arran and 'as sharp as a tack'. Her great-grandfather John Stewart was 'a bit of a rogue', to put it mildly.

John, an 'errant' blacksmith at Lamlash smiddy, left his wife Mary and five children, with another baby on the way, to start a new life in South Africa in 1902, sending back no word or money for many years, and possibly fathering relatives for James to track down. 'I wanted to find out some answers for mum,' he said, 'as to where this old b\*\*\*\*d was.'

John's granddaughter Georgia, less than charitably, continued the story in a document discovered by James: 'John Stewart decided to emigrate to South Africa, hoping to become rich but leaving his wife and children destitute in Arran. We understand he promised that once he was established, he would send money so that they could all join him.'

'However, this never materialised, leaving another deserted family to struggle on as best they could. As he had been an unfaithful and errant husband in Arran, grandmother doubted



James Hamilton is convinced there is a missing cask of whisky 'maturing' underground on Arran.

that he would change his ways in South Africa.' True to form, John is listed on the Aberdeen Line steamship from London to Port Natal on May 28, 1902, as a 31-year-old 'single' male.

Back on Arran, Georgia continued: 'The thought of being deserted with small children in a country where [my grandmother] had neither friends or relatives made her think that it would be a much safer option to remain in Arran where she was surrounded by both. However, as no money was ever sent, she never had the opportunity to make a decision to go or stay.'

'My grandmother then had to earn money by working in the fields for the various farmers and when she worked on root crops, the two babies, including my mother, were left wrapped up in blankets in clean potato creels at the end of the drills.'

“They buried three casks in the peat but they only recovered two” James Hamilton

One son, Jimmy, 11 years old when his father disappeared to South Africa, worked on the baker's delivery van to earn some money. 'Each day the baker would give him a slice of iced gingerbread to take home and this he divided in two, giving the two babies half each,' Georgia wrote. 'Naturally my mother

always thought Jimmy was the kindest person in this world.'

Eventually, after 10 years of nothing, John was guilt-tripped into sending some loot by his sons, who traced him to Vereeniging, a district of Johannesburg, where he was working as a foreman. 'I was going to put an advert in the local newspaper,' James said, 'to ask if anyone had Scottish ancestry. If Georgia had ever got hold of him in South Africa, he would not have had any more kids. She would have sorted him out with a large hammer.'

Then, while rifling through the drawers of family documents, James found papers detailing the trial in Inveraray of another relative, Daniel Cook, an illicit distiller accused of the 'heinous' crime of 'assaulting, beating and violently maltreating' Brodick customs officer James McGre-

gor, on the highway between Lagg and Benecargan, Arran, in March 1807.

McGregor caught Cook driving a horse and cart containing 'two' casks, McGregor suspected, of 'smuggled or contraband aquavita'. McGregor 'required him to stop', but, 'instead of doing so, Cook violently seized McGregor by the collar and threatened to knock him down with a bludgeon'.

When McGregor expressed his intention to seize the casks and carry them off, 'Cook again violently laid hold of McGregor, and after attempting to throw him upon the ground, struck his right leg so violently with one of his feet, as to break or fracture the leg about three inches below the knee. McGregor was forced to abandon his seizure, and Cook instantly drove off with his horse and cart.'

As a warning for eternity, the crown advocate argued Cook 'ought to be punished to deter others from committing like crimes in all time coming'. Twelve witnesses were cited to give evidence against him, at a cost of £41 and four shillings, worth approximately £1,400 today.

Cook, however, gave the 'it wiznae me' defence, declaring he was at his brother's house three-quarters of a mile away, with his cart laid up in a loft. Painting a wholesome picture, he added that he and Daniel Murphy, another farmer at Benecargan, had 'ploughed together on the said day and wrought as long as they could see, with the day light, to turn a furrow'.

Eventually Cook was exonerated, because 'the exciseman had no-one to corroborate his story'. James reported: 'I think he was just unlucky. There were illicit stills right through Arran and Kintyre.' But Cook left us a tantalising mystery: that there were not two casks of whisky, but three, secreted in haste after the incident.

'My mum always tells me they buried three casks in the peat, but they only recovered two, so it was said there is a hidden cask, maturing,' James recounted. 'This took place on the south end of Arran, where they are building the new distillery. It's right at the entrance.'

The distillery at Lagg is due to open in 2018.

## Lisa & Mike have been to one of the Cairngorm's renowned steak nights

What a great night Mike! I think I'm in love... that beautiful German model. I couldn't stop looking. Strong and sleek, smooth to the touch...



Hang on, what?



The German kitchens silly! I was talking to a couple who'd just installed one, and they couldn't speak highly enough about the quality and finish. I think we should get one...



Looks like we're paying Cairngorm another visit



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Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY  
Tel: 01343 545315

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG  
Tel: 01847 894956

Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk  
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#MeetTheCairns

## MORVERN lines

### Welcome the cuckoo's return

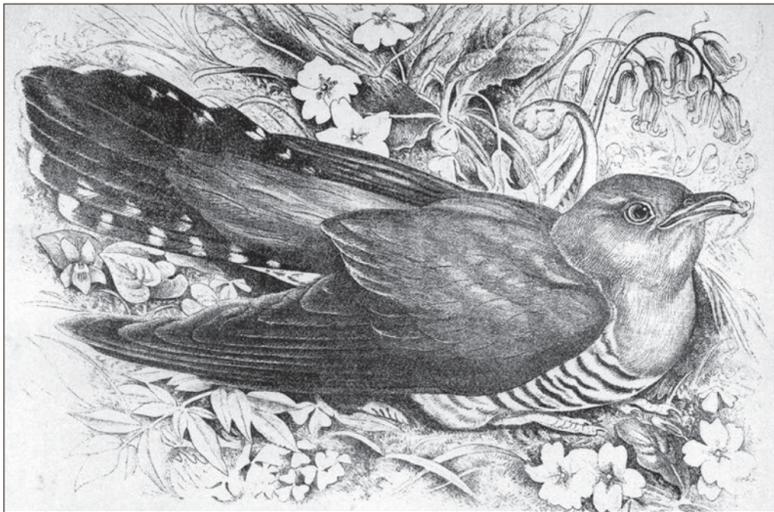
EVERY spring a minor miracle happens in Argyll – as it does elsewhere in the country.

No, not the council filling in potholes or resurfacing narrow, dead-end roads which have become beaten and broken highways, but the arrival, so sure and regular that we scarcely notice it, of thousands of birds, large and small, familiar and unrecognisable, songsters and silent, who find their way to and fro across thousands of miles guided by that mysterious something called instinct.

Among them all, there is none so popular or as welcome as the cuckoo. Although our knowledge about nature and our connection with the land is less than it used be, the call – 'cuc-koo, cuc-koo' – ringing through the woods reminds those of us who still happen to be hefted to the countryside that spring is really here at last, and summer not so very far away. It is an event which Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy (1804-74) portrayed so well in his famous Gaelic song, *Do'n Chuthag* – a welcome to the cuckoo.

Unlike many other so-called harbingers of spring, the cuckoo is seldom premature. The March cuckoo, it has been said, appears first 'in the newspapers' – that is in the days when rural communities vied with each other to be the first to give notice of their arrival in the local press.

Although cuckoos do occasionally come in March, April



A cuckoo from a sketch by Mrs Hugh Blackburn (1923-1909), who lived at Roshven.

is certainly well on its way before the familiar call is heard with any regularity.

I have a note of one being heard on February 10, 1882, at Kinlochleven and Rannoch Moor and in Appin the following day, but these must be exceptional as records for that time and place indicate the weather was wetter and colder than average.

The earliest I have a note of in Morvern this year is the middle of the month at Laudale on the south shores of Loch Sunart; since then others have been heard at Drimnin, Savary, Lochaline, Doirenamairt and Ardslnigh in Ardnamurchan. An old rhyme describes the cuckoo's time in Britain: 'In April I open my bill, in May

I sing night and day, in June I change my tune, in July far far I fly, in August away I must.'

It is said to leave Uist on St Peter's day, June 29. Some years ago I heard a cuckoo calling at Old Ardnornish in September and wrote to a well-known London newspaper announcing this unusual phenomenon. My letter was not published but the editor was kind enough to send me a personal note saying that, as it was some time since he stopped publishing letters about the first cuckoo, he was not about to start recording the last.

What is it about the cuckoo that attracts so much attention? First, for those who are technically minded, they are a

member of the order Cuculus canorus belonging to a family of birds called passerines, that is perching birds, but, unlike typical passerines, they have what is known as a zygo-dactyl foot, ie, one in which the toes are two and two instead of only one hind toe.

Secondly, this handsome bird, which is often mistaken for a kestrel or a merlin, is a brood parasite. It lays its eggs in other birds' nests and leaves the host birds to incubate and rear its young but not before mother and fledgling murder the lawful occupants.

As an aside, golden eagles of course build their own nests but occasionally, if two eaglets hatch, the first – usually the largest – will either peck its

sibling to death or push it out of the nest.

Thirdly, and perhaps the main reason, is that deep down cuckoos somehow remind us of our prehistoric past, witches, ghosts, supernatural powers and rituals of the traditional calendar. When thick snow lay on the low ground last week in Argyll, I was constantly reminded by my farming friends of two old sayings: 'The cuckoo snow' and 'The lambing snow'; there is another snow which falls in early May but its name escapes me for the moment.

A cuckoo calling from the roof of a house meant the death of one of the occupants within the year – a saying which probably dates from a time when most dwellings were thatched, as I have never seen a cuckoo sitting on galvanised ridging or a slate roof.

In bygone times an older generation, on going to bed for the night, would put a bit of bread, called the 'cuckoo piece', under their pillow because of the following omen: 'I heard the cuckoo without food in my belly, I saw the foal with its back to me, I saw the snail on the bare stone slab and I knew that the year would be bad for me.'

The Irish put it rather more strongly: 'You don't want to be looking at the ground when you hear the first cuckoo, it means that you will be below it before it returns next year'. In Scandinavia, the number of times you hear the first cuckoo indicates the years that you have left in this life.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

OT

## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There is no denying the fact that the Oban area requires more homes – including affordable social housing – as its economy and population continue to expand.

Where to locate that housing has proved to be an intractable problem for a considerable time. Proposals for new homes at Glenshellach have been controversial, as have those for what is known as the Dunbeg corridor.

Last week saw Argyll and Bute councillors rubber-stamp an application for around 600 new homes between Dunbeg and Ganavan, a move initially opposed by residents of Dunbeg, who fear the infrastructure in

the area would not be able meet the demands placed on it by such an influx of new people.

These concerns are valid. Such a large number of new homes will impact on the school, roads and other amenities.

However, according to senior planning officers at the council, these issues have been addressed, with a project to upgrade Kirk Road, assurances that the village school has capacity for the extra children and the possibility of a roundabout on the A85. We trust that these improvements will be implemented.



## Days gone by – flower power in 1997

This week we travel back to June in 1997 and a photograph of youngsters from Fort William Primary School who were planting new flower beds at the town's leisure centre.

Following our picture of April 20, reader Hughie McNeill wrote to say: 'The photo was taken at the launch of the Colonsay Disco Club. The adults at the back row are the late Laura Rose, Kate Bowman and myself. We, along with John Campbell and a few others, were the founding members of the club. It was started to provide something for local children to do at weekends. The children make up the rest of the photo and I can put names to all but one of them. At that time, weekly ceilidhs were held on a Thursday night so we decided that Saturday night would be disco night. The club was a great success and ran for many years. I took over as "head DJ" when John Campbell left. I used to listen to the new pop chart being announced on a Tuesday afternoon then telephone Douglas' Record Shop in Oban and put in an order for the week's new hits. They would post the records off to us and they would arrive on Friday afternoon in time for the Saturday night disco. The discos were mostly held in the village hall (then at Kiloran) and occasionally out-of-season ones would be held in the games room at the hotel. They were very popular with local kids and, after 10.30pm, some of the "young at heart" would arrive from the pub and keep the dancing going into the wee hours. It was a highly enjoyable time and after we had raised money to buy our decks and lighting we continued to raise funds via sponsored walks etc which we donated to various charities. Happy days!'

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



'FALBH!' ars' an rìgh. 'Fuirich!' ars' a' ghaoth. ('Go!' said the king. 'Wait!' said the wind.)

It's an ill-wind that blows no good, and while the strong south-easterly gusts of last weekend disrupted our boating plans for getting back from the Tíree half-marathon, a run among the spectacular views of Glen Nevis and a great night of celebration was a good alternative.

We had planned to head back to Mull with Pal Grant on Saturday afternoon, but, due to the poor weather, that voyage was cancelled. I had to be in Kilmiver for a christening at which I was godfather on Sunday and the ferry would be too late, so there was no option but reluctantly to pull out. After all the sweat and swearing in the training process, and having promised to run, we decided to do the event on the mainland and then at least we couldn't be accused of dodging the difficult part.

Two of our team had to stand down due to minor injuries – Ania with a sore hip and Andrew with a foot strain

(probably from kicking my tòn too often with it!).

So three of us, a dog and two supporting cyclists headed up the beautiful valley of Glen Nevis to undertake the 13.1 miles of punishment.

Of the three running, I was most definitely the beginner. Chloe, the Skipinnish office boss, runs up Ben Nevis for fun and is doing an ultra marathon (40 miles) in a few weeks, and Maciek, Ania's brother, was a junior Polish international 400 metres hurdler.

Running along with these two created a scene like a walrus and two gazelles on a day out. They were very kind and stayed with me, which was nice but as they were obviously not under any strain they kept trying to talk to me, which was like the dentist asking questions when you're getting a filling. They were having great craic, but I did not have oxygen available to waste on conversation.

There was a fair amount of uphill terrain in the first half, which did not agree with my legs and lungs, but the stunning scenery of the outward run

was very effective in distracting me from the battle to keep moving.

The 13.1 miles was conquered steadily and we finished in two hours and 17 minutes. It must take a fair dose of fuel to move 18.5 stone that distance and, according to my Fitbit, I burned 2,500 calories.

We were very happy to hear later that Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner of Watercolour Music and Peter Griffiths of CalMac, the team Skipinnish runners who actually reached Tíree, all had a successful event too.

A boat on the sheltered waters of Loch Lochy, a feast to refill us with calories and a viewing of the original *Whisky Galore* film were our means of celebration. The film was a fitting prelude to the christening celebrations in Oban the next day where the more familiar 'half' marathon was undertaken with vigour.

We were disappointed not to make it to Tíree but the wind is an unpredictable and stern master. As the Gaelic saying goes 'Falbh!' ars' an rìgh. 'Fuirich!' ars' a' ghaoth.



### Social media

A video on *The Oban Times* Facebook page which shows a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by a car coming out of Connel prompted comment.

Laurie Cameron posted: 'The idiots on the roads that cause the problems as myself and my son witnessed first hand this morning!! I was sitting waiting to pull out of Dunbeg when some idiot in an Astra overtook a pickup towing a boat right at the junction. First of all, it was busy due to the time of day, school time, but he crossed the double white lines proceeding to overtake in the filter lane for Dunbeg!! people take stupid risks all the time.'

Paul Smith recounted: 'Had a Merc blind overtake me and a camper heading east on the Poppies corner last summer in the face of oncoming traffic. If I hadn't stood on my brakes he would have had nowhere to go and folk would have died. Idiot is an understatement. You only see the police with blues and twos on the way to an accident! Where are they?'

Sarah Ann Rodgers wrote: 'There have been enough fatalities on this road caused by reckless driving; the silver car barely got back into his lane and is a prime example of bad driving!'

Gordon Frame said: 'The problem with

dangerous speeding drivers on most roads in the UK is down to three things. There is not a big enough deterrent! People who drive like this have no self-discipline or respect for the Highway Code and finally there are not enough traffic police out there to enforce the law! Make speeding fines a minimum of £1,000 then you might see them slow down. I read once that the automobile is the safest means of transport ... until you put a human behind the wheel then facts and figures show it then becomes the most dangerous! See the video and read the full story at <https://www.obantimes.co.uk/a85>

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](mailto: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.

### Appalled by onslaught against humanists

Sir,  
I was appalled and saddened by Donald J Morrison's undignified onslaught against a humanist funeral in Inverness (Letters, *The Oban Times*, April 20).

As an elder of the Church of Scotland for some 30 years, I am aware that Christ asks us to love thy neighbour and show understanding and forgiveness.

I have attended a number of humanist funerals and one humanist wedding. In each case, no mention was made of Christianity but in each case many of the qualities of the teachings of Christ were expressed. Indeed, I am of the understanding that hymns can be included if so wished.

What will the grieving next of kin think should they read Mr Morrison's hurtful and aggressive letter? He says: 'We are all sinners'. If so, we should shun sin and profess peace and understanding to all mankind.

It appears to me that such an insular attitude causes disrespect between the various religions, causing many wars.

I forgive Mr Morrison for his hurtful statements under the banner of Christianity.

Donald Fraser,  
Aberfeldy.

### Christian services are not for everyone

Sir,  
Donald J Morrison (Letters, April 20) claims he met 'Christians and non-Christians' who attended a humanist funeral and were appalled.

He adds that 'no mention was made of God, Jesus Christ, sin or the after-life' and bemoans the Bible not being read, no prayer heard, nor psalms sung.

I fail to see why non-Christians should have a problem with any of that. And if one of the mourners called it the 'worst funeral I have ever attended', then that speaks volumes for his mindset. Did he go expecting to be entertained?

My own father believed in God but was not a Christian. My sister and I arranged for a humanist celebrant at his funeral, and I could not have asked for a better send-off for the old man. Yes, we cried and we laughed, we remembered dad for the loving father and wonderful human being he was. It was a celebration of my father's life.

The celebrant read the moving poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye, *Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep*, which asks us not to mourn, but rather to remember our loved ones in all we see and do. That is surely a better way to celebrate the lives of those we love.

When I compare that to my mother's funeral, officiated over by a Kirk minister who talked nonsense about a woman he had never met and knew nothing about, the difference could not have been more marked.

This is where Mr Morrison makes

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)



A' RUAMHAR ANNS A' GHÀRRADH an latha roimhe bha mi a' cuimhneachadh air faclan agus air gnathasan-cainnte air an robh mi cho èòlach nam òige ach a th' air an ìre mhath a' dhol à bhith an-diugh, agus gu dearbh a tha an cunnart a dhol à cuimhne.

Tuigear mar a dh'fhaodas leithid sin tachair far an robh faclan a' mineachadh gnìomhan agus innealan an lùib obair shònraichte san dachaigh, air a' chruith, neo fiù 's ann an obair làitheil sam bith far am bheil seann dòighean obrach air falbh agus innleachdan ùra aig daoine air an son.

Mar eisimpleir saoil cò mhead duine an-diugh dham b' aithne each a bheartachadh airson obair-cairteach neo gus a dhol a threadhadh neo a liuthadh rud eile ris am bithe gun cleachdadh nuair a bha mise òg. Tha faclan mar srian; srathair; briogais; dromanach; agus greallag, agam fhathast ach tha mi air ainm mòran de dh'achfainn nan each a chall thar nam bliadhnaichean.

Thachair sin ri linn gun d' fhuair sinn tractar agus gun d' fhalbh an t-each bann nu d'fheireadh a bh' againn. Bha sinn ga ionndrainn gun teagamh oir 's e peata a bh' ann ach aig an aon àm bha sinn cho moiteil às an inneal ùr a bha cho goireasach agus cho cuideachail le obair na cruite! B' e seann Ferguson Brown a' chiad tractar a fhuair m' athair agus rinn e a' chùis dhuinn airson grunn bhliadhnaichean chun an d' fhuair e am Fergie beag glas, TEF20 diesel agus abair gun robh am beathach sin math. Ann am beachd mhòran eòlaichean bha an tractar seo cho math ri gin a chaidh a thogail riagh agus chan eil teagamh nach do dh'atharraich e saoghal chruitearan agus luchd-obrach thuathan beaga an t-saoghal.

Bha e cumhachdach gun a bhith throm agus bha e beag agus sùbailte ann an àiteichean obrach cumhang, agus bha na h-innealan a chruithach Harry Fearghasdan airson an tractair innleachdach da-riribh. 'S eibhinn leam a bhith smaoinachadh air mar a chithear mòran de na tractaran

his most derisory comment, by calling humanist funerals 'idolatry'. Excuse me? With an ordained minister officiating over a funeral, full of the pomp and circumstance of Christianity, saying how wonderful the person was even if they were not all that wonderful, and he has the gall to call humanism idolatry?

I shall borrow a Christian line in response to Mr Morrison's claims of idolatry, and suggest he removes the beam from his own eye before he attempts to remove the mote from a brother's.

And, no, humanists do not avoid the question of death, and some do not even ignore the possibility of an afterlife, as not all humanists are atheists.

It may surprise Mr Morrison to learn we do not all follow or want his faith.

We have freedom of religion, and enforcing the faith of some upon others is a breach of human rights, even if the individual happens to be dead.

Finally, I will agree with Mr Morrison that Nietzsche was wrong in saying that 'God is dead' – for the simple fact that no god ever existed in the first place.

Leslie Thomson,  
2 Moredunvale Green, Edinburgh.

### Custodians of Mull land have responsibilities

Sir,  
In response to the letter from Tim Liddon of Tilhill Forestry (*The Oban Times*, April 27), many pesticides that are now banned – for example, organophosphates – were once authorised and approved by government and scientific authorities.

Neonicotinoids are already banned in some European countries and are shortly to be banned by the EU.

Pesticides are designed to kill, and neonicotinoids destroys acetylcholine in nerves and the brain.

The hazards for the neonicotinoid pesticide Gazelle (which is an acetamiprid) are:

1. highly water soluble
2. very persistent in aquatic systems
3. moderate mammalian toxicity
4. high potential for bioaccumulation
5. highly toxic to birds and earthworms
6. toxic to aquatic organisms
7. contaminates other plants, which depend on insect pollination, by the fungal mycorrhizal association from the systemic treated trees. (I invite readers check for yourself about acetamiprid.)

Yes, we enjoy the forests, but also for their wildlife and flowers. Mull has one of the richest variety and concentration of wildlife in Europe – golden eagles, a flourishing hen harrier population (which is declining in the rest of UK) and insects not found anywhere else.

Tilhill Forestry has a responsibility, as custodian of the land for future generations, to ensure that this wonderful diversity of wildlife and flowers (which depend on insect pollinators, such as bees) are protected.

Wildlife tourism is also a major factor in Mull's economy.

Michael Shilson,  
Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

### EU is unfair to non-Europeans

Sir,  
I refer to the article about a Canadian couple who set up a business at Laggan and are soon to be deported (*The Oban Times*, April 20).

Sadly, this is typical of the racial discrimination we have had to endure since we joined the European Union.

We have two elections coming up, so we have the opportunity to vote against candidates who are members of parties that support the EU, including members of SNP, Greens, Lib-Dems, and the Blairite wing of Labour, all of whom support the EU's racist immigration laws.

I voted leave because I am opposed to racial discrimination, for the same reason I think we should refuse to negotiate any trade deal with EU and should insist on a hard Brexit. Once we have left EU, we should refuse to trade with EU members and should impose a total ban on all imports from EU countries.

This is our moral duty in order to protest against EU immigration laws that discriminate against non-Europeans. At present we have to discriminate against Canadians because they are not Europeans.

David Gallant,  
Oban.

### Double white lines won't stop overtaking

Sir,  
With regards to the safety of the Oban to Connel stretch of the A85, there are a number of points not mentioned in previous editorials and correspondence.

First, double white lines do not stop drivers or motorcyclists from overtaking. I have seen drivers overtake on double whites, north- and south-bound, on the section just north of Pennyfuir. Similarly, overtaking takes place at the Dunbeg junction, crossing into the red shaded areas, again both north- and south-bound.

The second point is that cyclists need a safer way to travel along this road. I have gasped at how close some vehicles have come to knocking the cyclist into the gutter, while overtaking at speed. Other drivers who have sensibly slowed right down, then proceed to pass, giving the cyclist a wide berth, then find themselves facing oncoming fast traffic on blind bends.

Finally, for our very slow-moving visitors or locals, who are oblivious to 'normal' or 'sensible' driving speed or are too busy looking at the scenery, maps or other distractions instead of the traffic behind them, there need to be more lay-bys and signs with messages such as 'Take a rest' or 'Use your mirrors' and countless other combinations.

Where you would build the lay-bys, though, is another topic for correspondence.

Alistair Cameron,  
by email.

Ailean Caimbeul

beaga glasa ag obair fhathast, agus nan robh am Ferguson Brown agamsa an-diugh, b' fhiach i deugachadh mìle not dha luchd-cruinneachaidh seann achfainn thuathanais!

Nuair a bha mi a' ruamhar bha mi cuideachd a' breacadh, obair a bhiodh againn gach bliadhna a' deasachadh airson puill a rùsgadh air toiseach air buain na mòna. Bha breacadh a' ciallachadh a bhith a' gearradh mu thimcheall nan ceapan a bhithte a' togail far bàrr nam poll-mòna agus bha caochladh dhòighean aig daoine air sin a dhèanamh.

Tha feadhainn ri mòna fhathast ach tha ola is dealain cho goireasach!

VARIOUS activities in daily and working lives generate their own vocabulary associated with tools used in tasks and also the actions involved in undertaking the work.

Such lexicons are enriching but as language evolves words frequently become obsolete as new working methods develop. There has to be a case for recycling linguistic treasure.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

## Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

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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](mailto: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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk).

**VOTE NOW FOR YOUR TOP 20!**

# bonnie babies



013  
  
 Fergus Blair  
 8 months  
 Oban

014  
  
 Hallie Gunn  
 2 years  
 Dunbeg

017  
  
 Harley McMahon  
 14 months  
 Lochgilphead

023  
  
 Seoras McNab  
 6 months  
 Oban

031  
  
 Lily Macfadyen  
 12 months  
 Islay

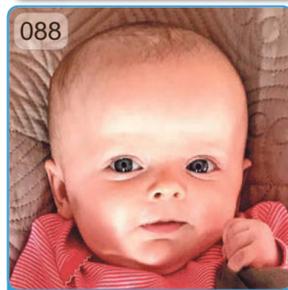
062  
  
 Freddie Dunn  
 2 years  
 Oban

065  
  
 Harlow Davie Rae  
 15 months  
 Oban

067  
  
 Kaylyn Poppy Confield  
 4 months  
 Corpach

069  
  
 Aaryn-John Barr  
 7 months  
 Fort William

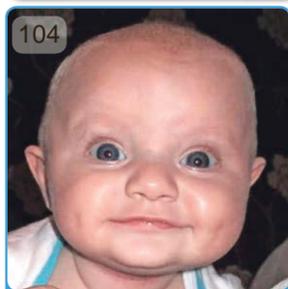
087  
  
 Lacey Masson  
 2 years  
 Oban

088  
  
 Amelia Macmillan  
 6 months  
 Oban

090  
  
 Isla Grace Cameron  
 14 months  
 Inverlochty

091  
  
 Olivia Fisher  
 13 months  
 Tobermory

093  
  
 Eachann Brown  
 2 years  
 Oban

104  
  
 Finn Andrew Harkins  
 19 months  
 Fort William

105  
  
 Cievah Baker  
 16 months  
 Islay

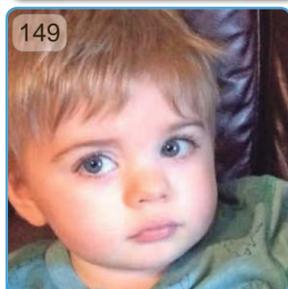
111  
  
 Cole Collins  
 14 months  
 Portree

119  
  
 Calleigh Kennedy  
 22 months  
 Fort William

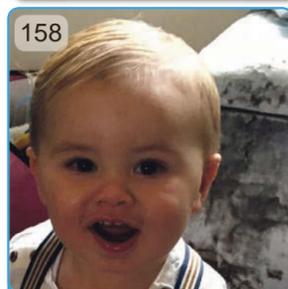
120  
  
 Ellie-Louise Gemmill  
 16 months  
 Connel

103  
  
 Carla Louise Craik  
 9 months  
 Oban

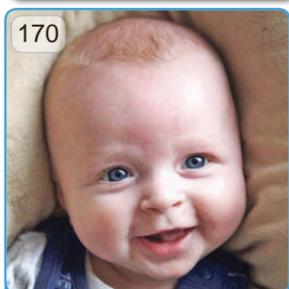
125  
  
 Hope Cairns  
 12 months  
 Glencoe

149  
  
 Donny Kerr  
 2 years  
 Oban

151  
  
 Lyra Simone Black  
 7 months  
 Oban

158  
  
 Ronnie Ewen MacDonald  
 17 months  
 Dunbeg

163  
  
 Calum Alexander Brown  
 2 years  
 Tobermory

170  
  
 Ruaridh Cameron  
 6 months  
 Ardrishaig

179  
  
 Jessica Grieve-McCaffrey  
 2 years  
 Caol

182  
  
 Kayla MacLean  
 5 months  
 Oban

184  
  
 Naomi Allan  
 12 months  
 Fionnphort

191  
  
 Callum Black  
 10 months  
 Oban

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**Congratulations to the babies and toddlers who made our top 30, as voted by the public. The winner will receive a whopping £500 of Tesco vouchers.**

Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 20 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. You may also hand in votes to our Fort William office, 22 High Street. Votes must be received by 9am on Friday, May 15, 2017. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers!

**VOTING COUPON** LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times The Oban Times & Oban Times

I would like to vote for:  
 Baby number\*: .....  
 Baby's name: .....

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.  
 \*Baby number must be supplied.  
 This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.  
**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.**  
**You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.**



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 9am Friday, May 15, 2017. Please note that voting only applies to readers of the PRINTED VERSION of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times. You cannot vote online or through the digital edition for this competition. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000. Votes counted from each round are carried over.

# OUTDOORS

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## Giant mural is unveiled at launch of piping events

THE landscape of Glasgow Green looked very different last week as a giant 23ft piper mural, known as The Colossal Clansman, popped (or piped) up in the park.

The stunt launched Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival, where it was announced the World Pipe Band Championships are returning to the city from August 7-13.

The world's biggest week of piping will see more than 50,000 music fans, families and tourists flock to Glasgow to enjoy 200 events and 8,000 performers throughout the week.

The Colossal Clansman was created using a remarkable six miles of fabric - the same amount it takes to kit out the 23 participating Piping Live! bands and 21 competing in Grade 1

qualifiers of the World Pipe Band Championships.

The 7m by 4m portrait, created by Glasgow artist Bruno Gallagher, was created to showcase the grand scale of both events, which annually attract thousands of visitors from across the globe.

Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival's diverse programme is famed for bringing the best pipers and bands in the world to Glasgow and this year is set to be just as outstanding, with acts including Peatbog Faeries, Battlefield Band and Tejedor topping the bill.

The programme will also see performances by the very best international acts from Estonia, Argentina, Canada, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Australia and Italy, as well as

numerous events including the fiercely contested Master Solo, International Quartet and Pipe Idol competitions.

Throughout the week there will be daily performances and family fun in George Square, the festival's city centre hub, as well as recitals, book launches and the hugely popular street café at the National Piping Centre. The popular pipers' market will also return this year to George Square, bringing with it some of Scotland's very best food and drink, as well as craft stalls for everyone to enjoy.

The World Pipe Band Championships are on Glasgow Green on August 11 and 12. This year it celebrates its 70th anniversary, with the first World Pipe Band Championships being held at Murrayfield

in Edinburgh in 1947. The event was first held in Glasgow in 1948 and has been staged in the city continuously since 1986.

This year, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band from Northern Ireland defend the title they reclaimed last year. The band have been world champions five times in the past six years.

In recent years, more than 225 bands have travelled from all over the world, bringing around 8,000 pipers and drummers to compete in eight grades for the world title. Entries for this year's event are open and the final list of participants will be confirmed six weeks before the championships.

Ian Embelton, chief executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, said: 'The World

Pipe Band Championships has developed and changed throughout its history but at its core the challenge to pipe bands is still the same. They spend months rehearsing for their shot at the world title, all the time searching for the perfect performance that will show off their full talent as a band.

'A day out at the worlds is to experience a unique showcase of Scottish culture but also to enjoy musicianship and teamwork of extraordinary quality. There is nothing quite like it.'

Paul Bush OBE, director of events at VisitScotland, added: 'We are delighted to be supporting Piping Live! and the World Pipe Band Championships, with both events attracting the best piping talent from around the world.'

## New Wild guide to Scotland published

A NEW guide to Scotland's secret places and wild adventures has been published this week.

Part of the award-winning Wild Guide series from Wild Things Publishing Ltd, *Wild guide Scotland: Hidden places, great adventures and the good life* was published on Monday (May 1).

The guide has been compiled by Kimberley Grant, a travel and lifestyle journalist from Glasgow, Shetland-based photographer, writer and mountaineer David Cooper, and Ayrshire travel and fashion photographer Richard Gaston.

They have travelled all over the Highlands and Islands to photograph more than 750 secret places and wild adventures, including ancient forests and lost ruins, secret beaches, wild swimming waterfalls and wildlife spotting locations.

The book builds on a decade of research and includes grid references and directions for each location. It also covers places to eat, drink and stay, from distilleries and breweries to remote inns and even bothies and cave dwellings.

The guide covers from Perthshire and Loch Lomond, right up to Orkney and Shetland and many places in between, and the publishers describe the guide as 'reaching places that traditional guidebooks fail to reach'.

## Campaign aims to prevent accidents

FAMILIES are being encouraged to come together to help prevent unnecessary accidents to babies, toddlers and children under five, as RoSPA launches Family Safety Week 2017.

Accidents are the biggest killer of children and young people aged up to 19 in the UK, with at least one child under the age of five killed in an accident every week.

During Family Safety Week, which runs from May 2-5, the safety charity is highlighting the fact these accidents don't have to happen, by providing tips,

advice, support and resources to help keep under-fives safe at home and on the move.

It will be encouraging parents and carers to download free posters covering top tips for safer bed times, bath times, meal times, play times and travel, as well as activity sheets including safety-themed word searches, spot the difference, colouring sheets and a poster competition.

RoSPA will also be hosting a Facebook session in conjunction with Netmums today (Thursday May 4) from 1.30-2pm.

## Minister takes message to Loch Arkaig

PROMOTING community empowerment through the new community asset transfer scheme (CATS) was behind Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing's visit to Loch Arkaig on Friday April 28.

Mr Ewing visited the former Forest Enterprise Scotland woodlands at South Loch Arkaig and Glenmallee, which were bought by Arkaig Community Forest and Woodland Trust Scotland in December 2016.

The purchase was one of the last under the National Forest Land Scheme, which has now been superseded by CATS.

Mr Ewing said: 'The Scottish Government is committed to seeing ownership of land increasingly devolved to communities. The National Forest Land Scheme, which helped 31 communities to own more than 10,000 acres of land, was exemplary in delivering this commitment to community empowerment and asset transfer.'

'I am pleased to say we are now building on those achievements and the successor scheme, CATS, is very much part of the Scottish Government's vision to strengthen the connection between the people of Scotland and its land and forests.'



Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing with Carol Evans of Woodland Trust Scotland. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography

'I am pleased that this new scheme will extend to more communities across Scotland further opportunities to become stronger, more cohesive and more resilient.'

The CATS scheme, which is now open for applications, gives communities the opportunity to purchase or lease land

or buildings from the national forest estate to deliver greater local benefits.

Arkaig Community Forest chairman Gary Servant said: 'We are very proud to host the cabinet secretary's visit to Loch Arkaig. Our message to other communities is to take full advantage of CATS, to have confidence that you are best placed

to make decisions about the assets on your doorstep, and to understand that agencies such as Forestry Commission Scotland will support you with this.'

An independent Evaluation Panel, with forestry, community and environmental expertise, has been appointed to advise on community proposals.

## Tarbert poet is honoured at Makars' Court

ONE OF Tarbert's finest word-smiths has been honoured in Edinburgh after his words were set in stone on the streets of the city.

Edinburgh's Makars' Court has now welcomed George Campbell Hay, 1915-1984, to its illustrious ranks with the unveiling of a memorial to the famous Scots poet.

Makars' Court, described as Scotland's answer to Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, pays tribute to Scottish writers by preserving the words of the country's finest writers in stone in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

Campbell Hay was brought up in Tarbert where, after studying at Oxford University, he returned to develop a lifelong love of the Gaelic language and culture.



George Campbell Hay and the unveiling of his commemorative plaque.

He was a multi-lingual poet and was a champion of Scots and Gaelic literature, though little of his work was published in his lifetime. Although a member of the renowned Scottish literary renaissance, Campbell Hay was more interested in the Gaelic



literary tradition and linguistic development, rather than folk tradition.

Renowned as a passionate nationalist, Hay begrudgingly joined the British Army during the Second World War and served in North Africa - an

experience which gave rise to some of his best work. *Mochtar is Dughall*, an epic about a Highland soldier and a North African Arab in the Second World War, is perhaps Hay's best known work, though it was never finished before his death

in 1984. The flagstone plaque at Makars' Court, acknowledges Campbell Hay's influence and lasting legacy in Scottish literature.

Anne Artymiuk, who sponsored the tribute to George Campbell Hay, said: 'He was a major Scots poet of the 20th century, one of the few writers Scotland has had who wrote, and wrote well, in all three of Scotland's languages.'

'His profile has been low, probably because after the Second World War, which inspired some of his best work, he struggled with mental illness.'

The commemorations have been created with the support of the Makars' Court committee of the Scottish Saltire Society and sponsors Anne Artymiuk and the Friends of the William Soutar Society.

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Meeting point for walks is the car park at the Ben Nevis Woollen Mill for departure at 8am.

Further information available at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or by contacting the club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783.

### Saturday May 6

Bidean nam Bian/Peak of the Mountains (Munro 1,150m).

Take the built path up Coire nan Lochan as far as a small crag at NN155553. Cross the burn and go W, then NW up a gentle slope of grass and rock to the summit of Aonach Dubh, 892m. Descend bare rock S to the col and continue up the rocky N ridge of Stob Coire nan Lochan to its summit, 1,115m. From here, take the south-west ridge to the col and climb to the summit of Bidean nam Bian, 1,150m. Descend SE to the col at the head of Coire Gabhail, and descend NE to the valley floor. Exit following the path to the bridge over the River Coe just below the Meeting of Three Waters. Continue on the path back to the start.

This walk covers a distance of 11km and a height of 1,200m but there are a few alternative start and descent options depending on weather and snow conditions.

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times.

Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining.

### Saturday May 6

North Dallens to Ardtur peninsula. This is a beautiful circular walk

following the old railway line alongside Loch Linnhe. Great views of the Isle of Shuna and Castle Stalker. Passing the Knap and crossing the Jubilee Bridge. Walking on to Ardtur for the views before returning to the cars and on to Castle Stalker view café for lunch/refreshments. An easy-leisurely grade walk covering 9.7km.

Meet at 9.30am at Glencoe Village car park. Ballachulish TIC at 9.35am, Longsdale car park in Oban at 9.20am, Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.10am or Spean Bridge Woollen Mill at 8.55am. Contact Denise Jones on 07823779713 or 01397 772768.

### Sunday May 7

Meall Corranaich and Meall a'Choire Leith, Loch Tay.

Two easy Munros, rough or boggy in places at first, with the option of continuing a pleasant ridge walk to Bridge of Balgie in Glen Lyon. Teashop at the post office.

A medium-plus grade walk covering a distance of 10km or 12km (choice of descent routes) and a height of 777m.

Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban at 8.20am or Glencoe village car park at 8.30am. Transport required. The walk leader is Andrew Gilbert on 07808 924722.

### Thursday May 11

Glencruitten Woods and Loch Nell, Oban.

A circular walk from Oban through Glencruitten Woods and going as far as the banks of lovely Loch Nell. This leisurely grade walk covers a distance of 11km and a height of 250m.

Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 10am or North Ballachulish School at 9.10am.

The walk leader is Graham Innes on 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

#OT7DAYS

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## Taynuilt hotel celebrates award win

THE Taynuilt: Etive Restaurant with Rooms is enjoying an award-winning streak after winning Inn of the Year at the Scottish Hotel Awards 2017.

The Taynuilt, which already boasts two AA rosettes, was recognised in three categories at the Argyll and Lomond regional finals at the beginning of the year and continued its success at the national final in Glasgow on April 23.

Vivien Devlin, chairman of the panel of judges for the 2017 awards, said of The Taynuilt: Etive Restaurant with Rooms: 'This 400-year-old village pub has been re-imagined into a destination restaurant: bedrooms, named after Scottish lochs, have a vintage look with welcome treats: tea, coffee, gin, whisky, chocolates.'

'Under chef patron John McNulty, the kitchen team has a butchery, fish smokery, and forages for wild garlic and herbs. 'The dinner menu highlights fine local produce: Isle of Skye scallops, lamb, poached rhubarb, cheese.'

'Located a few miles east of Oban, stay here before taking a ferry to explore the Hebridean islands.'

# Oban Live boost thanks to £10K from Bid4Oban

OBAN'S business improvement district, Bid4Oban, has awarded Oban Live music concert a grant of £10,000 - £4,000 of which will be in the form of Love Oban vouchers, which can only be spent in Oban.

Held at Oban's famous shinty ground, Mossfield Stadium, Oban Live is the biggest live music event in Argyll and Bute and will take place on June 2 and 3.

Last year's inaugural event attracted 7,800 people to Oban, bringing in a £1.1million economic boost for the town and businesses. The grant is in addition to the in-kind support already delivered by Bid4Oban, including the administration of local ticket sales.

Daniel Gillespie, managing director for Oban Live, said: 'We are incredibly grateful to Bid4Oban and Oban's business community for this grant.'

'Organising the largest music event in the region costs in excess of £300,000, so to receive this local support is critical to the successful delivery of the event that will bring visitors from all over the world.'



Derek Connery and Yvonne MacLean of BID4Oban with Daniel Gillespie, managing director of Oban Live and founder member of the band Skerryvore. 16\_T18 Oban Live\_02

'As part of the partnership we will work closely with Bid4Oban to ensure that Oban businesses can maximise the opportunities available from the thousands of attendees visiting the town for the event.'

He added: 'Bid4Oban has

backed us since the pilot event Decade and we'd like to thank it for this award and its continued in-kind support in helping deliver this major event in Oban.'

Derek Connery, chief executive for Bid4Oban, said: 'We are delighted to offer Oban

Live this award of £10,000.

'Supporting events in Oban, particularly in the off-season shoulder months, is one of Bid4Oban's top three priorities.'

'Having worked closely with the event since it began, we understand its popularity and the

economic opportunity it brings for Oban businesses.'

He added: 'Oban Live attracts thousands of people to the town. Contributing to its continued success is, therefore, important for boosting Oban tourism and our local economy. We wish them all the best for 2017.'

From traditional Scottish music stars to legendary household names, the 2017 line-up includes Skerryvore, Skipinnish, Manran, Trail West plus Toploader, Hue And Cry and many more.

Oban Live was created following the open-air concert Decade in 2015 - the 10th anniversary celebration of trad-fusion band Skerryvore that attracted 6,000 people from all over the world to the town.

From this, Oban Live was formed in 2016 with the aim of showcasing the very best Scottish and international artists as part of both the open-air concert and Oban Live fringe events.

Remaining tickets are available at [www.obanlive.com](http://www.obanlive.com) or by visiting the Bid4Oban office.

## Region's firms meet global tour operators

ARGYLL and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), Cruise Loch Lomond and Cowal Way joined top tourism businesses and organisations at Scotland's biggest travel trade event at the SEC in Glasgow recently.

VisitScotland Expo 2017 was the 38th staging of Scotland's biggest business-to-business event for the travel trade.

The national tourism organisation's flagship show gave 276 Scottish tourism businesses the chance to showcase their products and services to more than 600 tour operators and travel agents.

The Argyll and the Isles exhibitors showcased the region as a world-class visitor destination - as the current Wild About Argyll marketing campaign highlights - and inspired travel trade professionals from the home and overseas markets to bring their clients to explore all that it offers.

VisitScotland is organising a number of familiarisation visits or 'fam trips' for groups of the expo attendees. The series includes a trip to Mull and overnight stay at the Ardanaisie Hotel for a 12-strong group of US-tour operators sponsored by Delta Air Lines.

In addition, a film and literature trip will involve a group of international delegates enjoying dinner and an overnight stay at Loch Melfort Hotel at Arduaine near Oban, visiting Inveraray Castle - the location for a Downton Abbey Christmas special - and lunch at Loch Fyne Oyster Bar.

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'These fam trips are a great way of letting travel operators experience a selection of the wonderful, diverse range of attractions that Argyll and the Isles boasts.'

'Giving Expo delegates a taste of what their own tour customers could enjoy here definitely allows us to demonstrate the huge sales potential the region has. A visit really helps to seal the deal so it's fantastic that we'll be welcoming these very influential visitors here.'

Gavin Dick, chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, added: 'Argyll and the Isles has an incredible range of land and water-based adventures to suit all interests and abilities. Through our Wild About Argyll film and other content we gave the travel trade a real taste of the adventures their clients can experience - both wild and mild. 'We are delighted so many attendees are undertaking fam trips in Argyll and that a number of our local operators are able to demonstrate first hand just what we have on offer - and how AITC can help attendees build their own Wild About Argyll itineraries and tours.'

## Happy ending for young Mull otters

WHEN a Mull resident opened his door to find a visitor holding 'a bundle of fluff' a year ago, neither he nor the visitor knew what to do.

It was an abandoned otter cub - floppy, still, eyes closed. But he knew who to ask - Jane Stevens of the Mull Otter Group (MOG).

Jane quickly arrived with rehydration fluid which she fed to the cub, drop by drop. An hour later her eyes opened and her head lifted.

At that stage, Jane decided the seven-week-old cub (later named Gribun) could be moved. For a week, Jane nursed the little creature back to strength with regular feeds of puppy milk supplement, and after two days with trout, which Gribun 'wolfed down'.

Colin Seddon, the SSPCA's wildlife centre manager, continued the youngster's care at Fisherross where another otter cub had been rescued.

He said: 'Luckily, both otters were around eight weeks old, so we were able to introduce them to each other and allow them to develop together. It's important to rear otter cubs in groups as they depend on play and interaction with their own kind to learn life skills.'

By February this year, the cubs were around a year old: about the

age at which they normally would be starting to become independent of their mothers.

Gribun and her friend Rush were becoming increasingly frustrated in the confines of their pens and were more than ready to return to the wild.

It was decided to do a soft release, which involved freeing the otters at a secret sheltered piece of remote coastline, along with artificial holts and supplementary food put out daily.

MOG's Nigel Burch checked the area to make sure they were not released on to another otter's territory. As both are female, a dog otter would accept them. The frequency of feeds has since been reduced gradually as warmer seas mean increased fish stocks and because careful monitoring shows the otters are capable of feeding themselves. Tried and tested, this method has been highly successful in Shetland.

Jane said: 'The otters were quietly released one at a time on the beach. Rush raced across the beach, made a beeline for some sheds and hid under some crates. She was likely to stay there until we all cleared off, so we left her a fish.'

'Gribun was released close to the water. She dived straight in and swam to some rocks in the distance, where she remained for



A delighted Gribun makes a beeline for the sea. Photograph: Jane Stevens

a while and then we lost sight of her.'

Nigel and Jane have since visited the site several times and have been delighted to see (from a very good distance) the otters out at sea, fishing and going to rocks to consume large fish, saying: 'So we know they are hunting for themselves, swimming, fishing, chattering together and generally looking like happy otters. Our camera trap showed them taking the fish left for them.'

'They are looking extremely healthy and exhibiting normal otter behaviour. Such a great finish to a long journey. It makes Mull Otter Group's work so worthwhile.'

The return to the wild could only work with the strong sup-

port of dedicated locals, willing to take the time to discreetly monitor and to put out fresh fish daily over a substantial period of time. Obviously they cannot be named, in order to safeguard the otters.

Thanks for the fish to the Tioran Hotel, Lucie Howard, Bob Hastie, Sheila Barnard, Ardmore Fish, Oban Sea Life Centre, Nic Davies (Tobermory Otter Fund) and the SSPCA.

To watch film of the two otters and for further updates, visit [www.mullotergroup.co.uk](http://www.mullotergroup.co.uk) or the Mull Otter Group Facebook page.

Please remember to always seek informed advice before attempting to rescue any injured or 'lost' wild animal.

## BBC in line for 12 media awards

BBC ALBA and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal have received nominations in this year's Celtic Media Festival awards.

Among the BBC ALBA nominations were *Hamish*, a documentary film about the renowned Scottish cultural icon Hamish Henderson - poet, soldier, intellectual, activist, songwriter and leading force in the revival of Scottish folk music - and *Jimmy Johnstone*, a film telling the highs and lows of an unforgettable working-class Celtic and Scotland footballing great a decade on from his death at the age of 61 as a result of motor neurone disease.

BBC Radio nan Gàidheal has been nominated for station of the year, while programmes including *Mac 'Ille Mhicheil* and *Spòrs na Seachdain* are shortlisted for awards.

Donald Campbell, MG ALBA chief executive, said: 'Pitched against some fantastic productions from across the Celtic regions and nations, it is pleasing to once again see Gaelic media recognised at the forefront of the creative sector.'

The BBC ALBA programmes which have been shortlisted in 2017 include *Port* - a 'landmark music series charting the musical landscapes of Ireland and Scotland', with TG4 and BBC ALBA



Jack Johnstone who plays Celtic legend Jimmy Johnstone.

audiences accompanying Julie Fowles and Muireann Nic Amhlaobh to bustling urban centres and sleepy townships to record a cast of musicians, raconteurs and characters.

Documentaries also feature in the shortlist, including *An Lot*, in which 'a Lewis crofter tries to make a go of crofting full-time'.

The Celtic Media Festival kicked off yesterday (Wednesday May 3) and runs until tomorrow (Friday May 5) this year and will be hosted in Douglas on the Isle of Man.

## Glasgow Letter

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

AS THE summer festival season gets under way in earnest, this coming weekend sees the second annual Gig in the Gail (GITG) - a festival in Lochgoilhead which would appear to have a great future ahead of it.

GITG, which takes place on the beautiful Drimsnyie Estate, Lochgoilhead, burst onto the scene last year with resounding success.

Its family-friendly atmosphere and unique location (not far from Glasgow yet blessed with some of the loveliest scenery in Argyll) led to the 2017 event selling out very soon after tickets went on sale in January.

This ticketing success is particularly admirable considering the festival has undergone something of an ambitious expansion for its second year.

I performed at last year's debut festival as a duo with Ross Wilson,

alongside Heron Valley. It was a great carry on, but the organisers have increased the scale massively this year, and I think it will be almost incomparable to last year's miniature, ceilidh-style event.

Across three days and two stages, some very exciting acts will perform, including Skerryvore, Trail West, Gunna Sound, Heron Valley, Roll-in' Drones, Clann an Druima, The Hur and the Graham Brown Band.

I am greatly looking forward to returning - this time with the rest of the Tide Lines boys. To top it all off, we are all going to be staying in a chalet in the grounds of the estate which is bound to be a laugh.

The festival is run by Argyll Holidays, so the excellent accommodation (either in the chalets, the camping facilities, the rentable caravans, or the luxury hotel) is a huge part of the event. Another crucial aspect of

GITG is the food - and local cuisine will be available to festival goers all weekend.

If you are a seasoned Scottish festival goer, you will notice something else unique about Gig in the Gail - there is no need to take your wellies!

One stage is indoors and the outdoor stage is next to the hotel where the ground is tarmac. With this in mind, the organisers have been utilising the slogan #ditchthemud - which is perhaps another reason tickets have sold like hot cakes.

Come rain, hail or shine, the party will carry on regardless in Lochgoilhead this weekend - and I don't imagine I am the only one who simply cannot wait.

### What's on

Thursday May 11: Comunn-an-

Taobh-an-Iar annual general meeting in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

Thursday May 18: Donald Black album launch in the College of Piping, Otago Street.

Friday May 26: The Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting in Lourdes Secondary School.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association annual general meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday June 9: The Glasgow Skye Association end of session social in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

### Pub scene

Islay Inn

Friday May 5: Twist of Fate.

Saturday May 6: The Keeleys.

Sunday May 7: The Deke McGee Band.



Gig in the Gail is run by Argyll Holidays and organisers promise this year's event will be mud-free, which is probably why it sold out so quickly.



# Arena

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

## Highlands & Islands MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL

AROUND £3 million flowed into Oban thanks to the 34th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, organisers estimate.

More than 1,000 competitors came from across Scotland and the UK to compete at Highland dancing, accordion, clarsach, piano and fiddle playing, singing, dancing, bagpiping and drumming.

More than 400 Highland dancers alone made their way to Atlantis Leisure on Saturday to take part in the Scottish area finals – the only team Highland dancing competition in the world.

Committee member Isla Munro, who was in charge of organising the Highland dancing events, said: 'The day went really well. We had a new format and because of that the entries increased so much.'

'I think it is because they are coming here for the whole weekend and the Scottish area finals is the only team event in the world and you have the main Highland dancing competition.'

'I would like to thank everyone. It wouldn't be possible to do it without Atlantis Leisure and also all the volunteers who help out all weekend.'

Sunday's MC Billy Forsyth, president of the world governing body of Highland dancing, added: 'The whole town has been filled with Highland dancers thoroughly enjoying themselves. The Scottish area finals are unique to Oban. It has the finest dancers from all over Scotland.'

The four-day festival kicked off on Friday with the Scottish Choreography Challenge, and continued on Monday, at Oban's Corran Halls, where 38 teams had entered.

Friday's winners of the choreographed set theme, open age group, were: in first place, the Dawn Fraser School of Stirling dancing *This is Scotland* to music by Skerryvore. Celia Orr School of Dancing in Lanark came in second with *Spirit of the Nation*, followed in third by the Debra-Ann School of Edinburgh, with *Ghost Tours of the Royal Mile*.

In the solo/duet competition, the Dawn Fraser School of

Stirling came in first, playing Jack and Victor from the Glaswegian comedy *Still Game*, followed by last year's winner the Fiona MacNeil School of Renfrew in second place performing *Celtic Ragtime*, and the Grant/Wilson School of Kirriemuir and Forfar in third with *Finding My Style*.

Nearby on Friday in St John's Cathedral more Scottish talents competed in the Accordion and Fiddle Masters. Fiddle adjudicator Paul Anderson praised the 'very, very high quality' of playing making the top three 'very close', but he and fellow judge Maurice Duncan both agreed the same prize-winners: first George Davidson from Tarves, second Shona MacFadyen from East Kilbride, and third Eilidh Anderson from Banchory.

In the accordion section, adjudicators Michael Garvin and Matthew MacLennan also professed difficulty deciding the winners of a 'very good competition' at a 'fantastic standard', but in the end they named Gary Sutherland of Fife first, with Emma Dickson of West Linton second, and Adin Graham of Fife third.

The fiddle playing continued on Saturday morning at Oban's Regent Hotel for many of the competitors and judge Paul Anderson, assisted by steward Margaret Forbes who has been helping, and enjoying, the event for every one of its 34 years. Again Mr Anderson praised the very high quality of the close competition.

Primary school singing took place simultaneously at Glencruitten Church Centre on Saturday morning, where adjudicator Martin Wilson

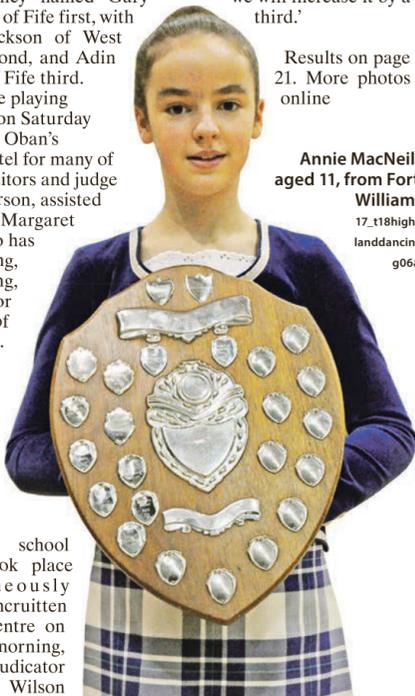
hailed the 'courage and guts' of the young children who stood up to entertain the audience.

Oban High School hosted the Junior Solo Piping, Chanting and Drumming Competition on Saturday. Steward Alistair Dewar said: 'We are probably not much short of last year, but still a very high number of competitors, particularly in the piping. In the drumming we could do with more drummers, but the piping is very strong. Some people have travelled a considerable distance and we appreciate that very much indeed.' Champion piper Angus MacColl also praised the 'really high standard' of the chanter playing, which, he said, is 'the future of the whole thing'.

Festival chair Breege Smyth said: 'In the 34th year, it is a well-oiled machine. We are growing this festival, expanding it to include other genres. We want this to be a platform for Celtic Connections and Go North. There will be lots more visitors and performers: we will increase it by a third.'

Results on page 21. More photos online

Annie MacNeil, aged 11, from Fort William. 17\_t18highlanddancing06a



Competitors and judges of the Accordion and Fiddle Masters at St John's Cathedral on Friday. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Accordion and Fiddle Masters\_02



Emma Dickson from West Linton came second in the accordion masters. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Accordion & Fiddle Masters\_01



Fiddle prize-winners, left to right, Shona MacFadyen from East Kilbride, Jack Westwell from Edinburgh, George Davidson from Tarves, Eilidh Anderson from Banchory, and Helen Jordan from Oban, before clerk John Kelly and adjudicator Paul Anderson. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Fiddle\_01



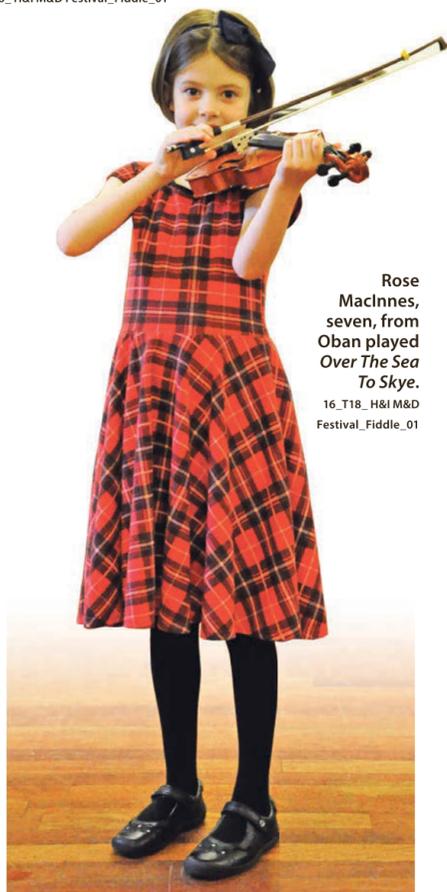
The McCormick family who competed in a number of events on Saturday. From left to right Isla, John and Kirsty. 17\_t18accordion01



Adin Graham, 20, didn't have enough hands to carry all the trophies that he won back to Fife. 17\_t18accordion02b



Emma McPhee, 15, Taynuilt. Emma won the under-16 march, Strathspeys and reels and came second in the under 16 Gaelic waltzes. Emma came overall winner in both classes. 17\_t18accordion03



Rose MacInnes, seven, from Oban played *Over The Sea To Skye*. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Fiddle\_01



### A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 4 May – Thursday 11 May 2017

#### DIARDAIN 04 CÈITEAN

THURSDAY 04 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.25 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là – News**  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep7  
21.00 **Le Sunnd a' Seòladh** – The sailor's world in the 1950s  
21.45 **Binneas** – Na Trads (rpt)  
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW: Custer's Last Stand, Ep2**

23.30 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)  
23.50 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

#### DIARDAIN 05 CÈITEAN

FRIDAY 05 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's Programming  
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)  
19.00 **An Là – News**  
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
19.30 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep11 (rpt)  
20.00 **Monte Cassino** (rpt)  
20.45 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)  
21.00 **A Boy in Harris: An-diugh** (rpt)  
22.00 **Seirm** – Music from Celtic Connections (rpt)  
23.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** – Music Quiz (rpt)  
23.30 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)

#### DISATHAIRNE 06 CÈITEAN

SATURDAY 06 MAY  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's Programming  
19.00 **Machair** (rpt)

19.30 **Na Caibidealan Dearga** (rpt)  
19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
20.00 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)  
20.25 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)  
20.30 **Sàr-sgeòil** – The Silver Darlings (rpt)  
21.00 **Seirm** – music from Celtic Connections (rpt)  
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Motherwell v Ross County  
23.00 **A Boy in Harris: An-diugh** (rpt)  
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** – Pub quiz (rpt)

#### DIDÒMHNAICH 07 CÈITEAN

SUNDAY 07 MAY  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's Programming  
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review  
19.30 **Allèluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)  
20.00 **Fuine** – Cook to impress – Ep1 (rpt)  
20.30 **Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep7 (rpt)  
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** (rpt)  
22.00 **Scottish Premiership High-**

**lights** – Hearts v Aberdeen  
23.00 **Custer's Last Stand** – Ep2 (rpt)

#### DILUAIN 08 CÈITEAN

MONDAY 08 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **An Gearradh Chruaidh** – The Castle Grounds (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là – News**  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep12  
21.00 **UR | NEW: Trusadh** – Seudraidh Cheilteach – Celtic Jewellery  
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)  
22.30 **A' Ghàidhealtachd** – Scotland's wild heart – The Highlands (rpt)  
23.30 **Fonn mo Bheatha** (rpt)

#### DIMÀIRT 09 CÈITEAN

TUESDAY 09 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là – News**  
20.30 **Sàr-sgeòil** – The Thirty-Nine Steps (rpt)  
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** (rpt)  
22.00 **Trusadh – Seudraidh Cheilteach** – Celtic Jewellery (rpt)  
23.00 **Na Caibidealan Dearga** (rpt)  
23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
23.30 **Allèluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

#### DICIADAIN 10 CÈITEAN

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **An Gearradh Chruaidh** – The Castle Grounds (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là – News**  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Fuine** – Breads, Ep2  
21.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Iar** (rpt)  
22.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** – Music quiz panel show (rpt)  
22.30 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)  
23.00 **Le Sunnd a' Seòladh** – The Sailor's world in the 1950s (rpt)  
23.45 **Piobairean Bhòirn** – Pipers of Bornish (rpt)

#### DIARDAIN 11 CÈITEAN

THURSDAY 11 MAY  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming  
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là – News**  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep8  
21.00 **UR | NEW: Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain** – Gaelic in Aberdeen  
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW: Billy the Kid**  
23.20 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)  
23.35 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)



Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Pipe Band.Parade\_01



Trophy and medal winners. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Junior Solo Piping, Chanter and Drumming\_02



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



Robert Allan won the U15 overall champion cup, admired by champion piper Angus MacColl.

16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Junior Solo Piping, Chanter and Drumming\_04



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



community-owned and run  
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

Friday 5 – Thursday 11 May

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | PG | 150 MIN

Sat: 13:45

"Beauty and the Beast" is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 | 12A | 157 MIN

Fri: 18:15, 19:30, Sat: 14:00, 16:30, 19:30, Sun: 14:30, Mon: 18:15, 19:30, Tue: 16:30, 18:15, Wed: 18:15, 19:30, Thu: 16:00, 18:15

3D: Fri: 16:30, Sat: 11:00, Sun: 11:30, 17:30, Mon: 16:30, Tue: 19:30, Wed: 16:30

Set to the backdrop of 'Awesome Mixtape #2', Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 continues the team's adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family as they unravel the mysteries of Peter Quill's true parentage. Old foes become new allies and fan-favourite characters from the classic comics will come to our heroes' aid as the Marvel cinematic universe continues to expand.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Sun: 12:00

KIDS CLUB - Sat: 11:30

DreamWorks Animation and the director of Madagascar invite you to meet a most unusual baby. He wears a suit, speaks with the voice and wit of Alec Baldwin, and stars in the animated comedy, DreamWorks' The Boss Baby. The Boss Baby is a hilariously universal story about how a new baby's arrival impacts a family, told from the point of view of a delightfully unreliable narrator, a wildly imaginative 7 year old named Tim. With a sly, heart-filled message about the importance of family, DreamWorks' The Boss Baby is an authentic and broadly appealing original comedy for all ages.

NT LIVE: OBSESSION | 15 | 120 MIN

Thu: 19:00

Gino is a drifter, down-at-heel and magnetically handsome. At a road side restaurant he encounters husband and wife, Giuseppe and Giovanna. Irresistibly attracted to each other, Gino and Giovanna begin a fiery affair and plot to murder her husband. But, in this chilling tale of passion and destruction, the crime only serves to tear them apart.

SILVER SCREEN - THE SENSE OF AN ENDING | 15 | 128 MIN

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Sun: 14:30

A man becomes haunted by his past and is presented with a mysterious legacy that causes him to re-think his current situation in life.

THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE | 12A | 147 MIN

Fri: 21:00, Sat: 19:30, Sun: 19:15, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 21:00

In 1939 Poland, Antonina Zabińska and her husband, Dr. Jan Antonina Zabiński, have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing under his stewardship and her care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are stunned and forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck. To fight back on their own terms, the Zabińskis covertly begin working with the Resistance and put into action plans to save lives out of what has become the Warsaw Ghetto, with Antonina putting herself and even her children at great risk.

WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 17:00, Sun: 17:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:00

Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30

During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Todday runs out of whisky. When the freighter S.S. Cabinet Minister runs aground nearby during a heavy fog, the islanders are delighted to learn that its cargo consists of 50,000 cases of whisky. When officious English commanding officer Captain Waggett (Eddie Izzard) demands return of the liquor, shopkeeper Joseph Macroon (Gregor Fisher) and his daughters Peggy (Naomi Battrick) and Catriona (Ellie Kendrick) spearhead an island rebellion.

# Renowned choir brings its music tour to Argyll

THE Glasgow Phoenix Choir is a busy mixed-voice choir of 120-plus singers performing up to 40 concerts per year from major concert halls to cathedrals and remote island venues.

The choir continues the legacy of its illustrious predecessor the Glasgow Orpheus Choir 1901-1951 and this year the Phoenix celebrates 116 years of choral Excellence. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Co-op Funeralcare, the GPC is now able to participate in an increasing number of concerts in aid of many worthwhile causes.

Under its conductor, Marilyn J Smith MBE, and accompanist and depute conductor, Cameron Murdoch, the choir performs a wide range of music from choral standards to new music and often featuring delightful solo performances by choir members.

Its concerts in Argyllshire this month support a number of charities and the intention is to return to a number of the venues in the future to add to its praised series of postcard CD recordings which raise much needed funds for these buildings or organisations.

Venues already supported include the Italian Chapel in Orkney, St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow to support St Andrew's Hospice Airdrie and Iona Abbey, which is visited on this tour. Join the choir at a series of memorable concerts and performances – all welcome. The organisers would like to thank Co-op Funeralcare who sponsor the choir and make it all possible.

of postcard CD recordings which raise much needed funds for these buildings or organisations. Venues already supported include the Italian Chapel in Orkney, St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow to support St Andrew's Hospice Airdrie and Iona Abbey, which is visited on this tour. Join the choir at a series of memorable concerts and performances – all welcome. The organisers would like to thank Co-op Funeralcare who sponsor the choir and make it all possible.



## THE GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR

scottish charity: SC002904 - www.phoenixchoir.org

Presents Five 'Spring Festival' Charity Concerts

sponsored by



OBAN: St John's Cathedral Friday 26th May 20.00  
CHORAL MAJESTY: with Magnificent Music for all Tastes  
Tickets £8 includes donation to Hope Kitchen & St John's

IONA: The Abbey - Saturday 27th May 14.30  
CHORAL SPIRIT: with Music for the 'Holiest of places in Scotland'  
Historic Scotland Entry - retiring collection for the Iona Community

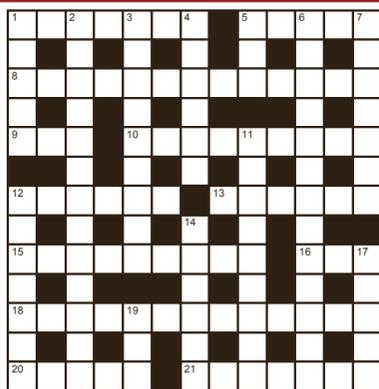
LOCHGILPHEAD: Church of Scotland - Sunday 28th May 14.00  
CHORAL CELEBRATION: for John Lowrie Morrison CBE from the GPC  
Free Entry - Retiring collection for The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Scotland

OBAN: St Columba's Cathedral - Sunday 28th May at 18.30  
CHORAL VESPERS: to include Psalm 150 and Religious Music  
Free Entry - Retiring collection for Hope Kitchen & St Columba's

LOCH AWE: St Conan's Kirk - Monday 29th May at 14.30  
CHORAL PURITY: with music from the Classics  
Tickets £6/£5 Friends of St Conan's with All Proceeds to St Conan's Kirk Restoration

Tickets for St John's & St Columba's at Oban Music Office or for St John's & St Conan's at the GPC Box Office on line at www.wegotickets.com  
There are TICKETS at the DOOR for all CONCERTS

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Put down (7)
- 5 Open (5)
- 8 Discreditable (13)
- 9 Vase (3)
- 10 Internet business (1-8)
- 12 German emperor (6)
- 13 Bestowed a title (6)
- 15 Chilly times (4,5)
- 16 Water board? (3)
- 18 Arrogant (13)
- 20 Unprecedented (5)
- 21 Hit the spot (7)

### Down

- 1 Parting word (5)
- 2 Twelve months of accounts (9,4)
- 3 Measure of electronic resistances (9)
- 4 Inferior (6)
- 5 Reported sight in the sky (3)
- 6 Money holders... (4,9)
- 7 ...money given (7)
- 11 Short attire (9)
- 12 Match start (7)
- 14 Steamy spots (6)
- 17 Small cake (5)
- 19 Pet (3)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## Your local radio listings

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2  
TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

WEDNESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.  
FRIDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.

SATURDAY: 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

SUNDAY: 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

# Arena

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



Left to right, front row, Ruby Baillie, nine, from Forfar; Eilidh Gammons, nine, from Helensburgh; Ruby O'Hagan, 10, from Johnstone; Solana McMurchy, 10, from Campbeltown; Charlotte Simpson, 11, from Motherwell, and, back row, Catriona Gammons, 13, from Helensburgh; Sophia Baker, 13, from Port Askaig; Linzi Cameron, 16, from Campbeltown and Courtney Cowden, 19, from Dunoon.

16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Highlands & Islands Dancing Competition\_01



The five dancers from the Western Isles who competed at the event last weekend.



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

17\_t18highlanddancing09



The six highest scoring competitors in the juvenile category from first to sixth in order from left to right.

17\_t18highlanddancing07



The medal winners in the primary 6 years category, including two Oban girls Keira Cairney, number 410, and Isla Muir, number 492.



From left to right, the six dancers who accumulated the most points in the junior category.

17\_t18highlanddancing08



## DIOPLOMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha an cùrsa seo air a dhealbhadh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air a' chùrsa a' faighinn sàr eòlas is brosnachadh bho na diofar òraidichean a bhios a' tadhal orra, a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta sa gnìomhachais.

'Se cùrsa fad dà bhliadhna a tha seo leis a chiad bhliadhna aig a cholaiste agus 10 mìosan anns a ghnìomhachais anns

“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”

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## Kick it Up for Kilbride raises funds for preservation work

FRIENDS of Kilbride, the charity dedicated to the preservation of the important historic site centred on the mediaeval kirk in Lerags, raised more than £1,800 at a céilidh that kicked off their capital fundraising campaign.

Kilbride was the main parish for Lorne until the 18th century, and was the site of a piping school and learning centre for the sons of Argyle's clan chiefs from the Middle Ages.

The site was originally established by followers of St Bride in the sixth century.

The earliest written reference to Kilbride is attributed to the 13th century, King Alexander II. However, it is likely that Kilbride has been an important cultural centre since the Bronze Age, given the propensity for the early

Christian missionaries to superimpose their own religious structures on those of pre-existing pagan societies.

Friends of Kilbride was established as a charity in 2015 to preserve the ancient kirk and graveyard, and members have donated hundreds of work hours and more than £20,000. With the help of local conservation firm, Shauna Cameron Architects, the charity has recently developed a management plan that has been approved by Historic Environment Scotland.

At Kilmore Hall on April 21, more than 60 people enjoyed a three-course dinner by Silver Laced Catering, a dance by the Hollow Mountain String Band and a raffle of prizes donated by local businesses.



Liam Griffin, Friends of Kilbride co-founder, commented: "Our inaugural fundraising céilidh to raise funds for Kilbride's preservation plan was not only a financial and social success, but we were encouraged that local folk and busi-

nesses enthusiastically expressed support for our aims."

Friends would like to thank the local businesses, too numerous to mention individually, who contributed a host of prizes and services. The public is invited

to visit Kilbride, which is located past the turn-off to the Barn Bar on the Lerags Road, to explore the site and the newly-built visitors' kiosk. For more information, or to volunteer or donate, visit friendsofkilbride.scot.

## Karelia House set to make return visit to Mull

ATTENTION all knitters, patchworkers and crafters, Karelia House Road Show is coming to Mull - again. Karelia House is very excited to announce that we will be returning to the Isle of Mull for the first time this year. After two successful visits to the island last year, we are thrilled to be returning in 2017.

On Saturday May 13, from 10am to 3pm, we will be taking over Craignure Hall. We are based near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, where we have a vast selection of yarns from Debbie Bliss, Noro, Erika Knight, Juniper Moon Farm

and Sirdar as well as hundreds of bolts of beautiful fabrics from Lewis and Irene, Moda, Stof and Tilda. We have decided to take our shop on the road again as we have many great customers from the Highlands and Islands who visit both our craft showroom and our online shop - www.kareliahouse.co.uk. We hope that crafters from all over Mull will come and see us again and maybe some will take the ferry over for the day from Oban for a chance to buy some of the latest and the best yarns and fabrics we have on offer as well as patterns and

accessories. We will have some great deals just for the day so make sure you put May 13 in the diary.

Call 01887 822027 for more information or if there is something in particular that

you would like us to bring with us. We look forward to seeing you there.

info@kareliahouse.co.uk 01887 822027

**kh**  
Karelia House

**ON TOUR**

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Craignure Hall,  
Isle of Mull

Saturday 13th May  
10am - 3pm

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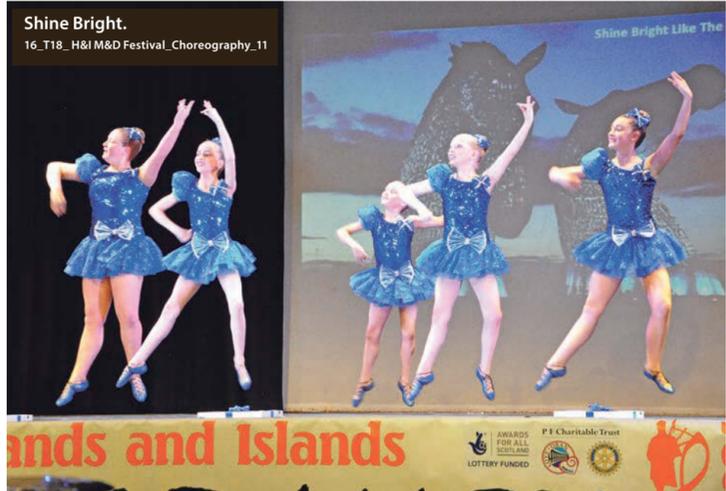


Winners from the choreography competition. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_07



Competitors in the choreography competition. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_06

Shine Bright. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_11



Chewin' the Fat. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_03



Solo and duet prize-winners. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_10



Finding My Style. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_08



Celtic Ragtime. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_01



The Princess, Sword and the Piper. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_13



Abigail Gillies, aged five, and Ellie Rose Laurie, aged six, from the Isle of Harris show off the medals they won at the festival. 17\_t18highlanddancing05



Sophie Galbraith, aged seven, from Campbeltown, who won the national trophy for beginners, and nine-year-old Mark Conolly, from Glasgow, who picked up the Oban Times Trophy. 17\_t18highlanddancing06



Lockerbie's Symar Dance Academy came sixth in the choreography set theme with the Haggis Hunt. 16\_T18\_H&I M&D Festival\_Choreography\_09

**WIN**  
A LUXURY HAMPER OF ABERDEEN-ANGUS BEEF WITH RIB ROAST, MIXED STEAK PACK, BEEF FILLET AND ROLLED SIRLOIN

Macdonald Bros. is a traditional family butcher in Pitlochry and Aberfeldy, owned and run by the Macdonald family since 1928. Specialising in quality, locally sourced Aberdeen Angus beef, all of their produce is available on their website at [www.macdonald-bros.co.uk](http://www.macdonald-bros.co.uk) for next day delivery throughout the UK.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: What breed of cattle do Macdonald Bros. specialise in?**

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is May 31, 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

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

**Superbowl**  
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

**SPECTRUM**

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

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 700707 [www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Dry Eyes**

One of the certainties of life is that change is constant. There is seldom a month goes by without some innovation that improves the quality of our lives. That is particularly true in health care, whether it is a change in technique to investigate a problem or a new method of treatment. In some cases it can be the realisation something most health care

practitioners thought of as trivial actually can have a major detrimental effect on our quality of life.

One example in eye-care is the realisation a tiny mite called Demodex is the culprit causing the majority of dry eye problems. Dry eyes have for many years been relegated to the list of trivial problems that we are all expected to simply live

with and get on with our lives regardless of the discomfort we are suffering. In general eye care professionals, both ophthalmologists and optometrists, have ignored the substantial body of research over the last few years which have looked at quality of life measures. This is particularly true with patients with dry eyes. I can understand this as patients with very obvious clinical signs of dry eye disease can have minimal symptoms and vice versa.

Often the clues are in simple throw away lines from our patients. Frequently I deal with dry eye patients whose symptoms appear grossly disproportionate to the signs. Treatments range from masking the problem with eye drops to treating the underlying cause of the problem. The improvement in quality of life measures can be dramatic.

One of the things health professionals are guilty of is not listening to our patients. Only last month I talked about a new "Realistic Medicine" initiative where we should all take more time to talk to our patients and actually listen to what they are telling us.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic  
11/12 Argyll Square, Oban  
**Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)**  
[www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk](http://www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk)

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**Green Shoots Open Garden Day**  
Glencruitten Woodland, Oban, PA344NB  
Saturday 6th May 11am - 3pm  
Workshops for all ages, refreshments and plants  
Free event  
(donations welcome towards activities)  
Contact **Catriona Petit** for more information  
07771960075.

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**Oban Dental Clinic**  
SDC group

**Open Day filled with happy healthy smiles**

OBAN Dental Clinic, based at Lorn and the Isles General Hospital, hosted a fun open day for local residents on April 1.

Dr Philip Friel, director of SDC Group, said: "The open day was a great success, with lots of people turning up to meet our dentists. They went away with a special goodie bag

packed with dental treats and were armed with a better idea of who we are and what we do."

The day was great fun for the children. In addition to face painting and lots of fun, SDC ran a poster competition which was won by Eva Bisp, aged six.

Eva's lovely poster will now take pride of place in the dental clinic.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

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# FARMING NEWS

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## 'Bleak' figures show farm incomes fall by almost half

THE incomes of commercial farms in Scotland are estimated to have decreased by 48 per cent in the past year, according to a government report.

The latest reduction in farm business income, a measure of the return to unpaid labour on commercial farms, continues a five-year decline in average income.

The latest figures, released by Scotland's chief statistician, examine a number of financial indicators for the accounting period 2015-16, which focuses on the 2015 crop year. The results are based on annual audits of 500 commercial farms in Scotland.

NFU Scotland's director of policy Jonnie Hall said: "These bleak income figures provide hard evidence of the sustained financial damage to farm businesses across a range of sectors. Anecdotal comments and suspicion around how difficult it has been for farms and crofts to make a profit in recent times are now backed by fact.

"The viability, let alone profitability, of every Scottish farming business relies on three cogs working together – costs, markets and support.

"Given the deterioration in farm incomes, the evidence is now clear that no part is currently working for farmers or crofters. Whether producing livestock, crops, milk, poultry, pigs, fruit or veg, farmers and crofters continue to face rising



NFUS director of policy Jonnie Hall.

input and compliance costs, declining market returns and an erosion of support payments that are conspiring to threaten the very existence of many.

"These figures highlight the absolute requirement to drive down all costs, ensure a much fairer share of the margins in the supply chain to the primary producer, and the vital need for governments to commit to ongoing support targeted at active farm businesses.

"As we enter a period of even greater uncertainty, with the potential to further undermine confidence, it is essential that producers are given unequivocal signals that new trading deals and support arrangements will put the prosperity of farming businesses top of the agenda.

"There is also a further onus

on those further up the food and drink chain to urgently address the imbalances. Scotland's food and drink sector, lauded for its ongoing success and ambitious targets, must start to deliver for those at the farmgate and who have seen their incomes fall by more than 75 per cent since the start of the decade."

Estimates from the Scottish Government's annual farm business survey show that the average farm business income was £12,600 in 2015-16, representing a drop of £11,500 from the previous year. Since a peak in income in 2010-11, commercial farms' income has decreased 75 per cent in real terms.

There was less spending on inputs in 2015-16 compared to the previous year. However, there was a bigger decrease in crop

and livestock production on average for all farm types. This, combined with a reduction in grants and subsidy payments and less favourable market prices, especially for dairy farms, created a downward pressure on profitability from agriculture.

Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, revenue from diversified activities increased by 19 per cent to £2,800. Diversified farm businesses achieved incomes, on average, £11,000 higher than non-diversified farms. The most common diversified activity was renting out buildings (other than for tourist accommodation).

The basic payment scheme replaced the single farm payment scheme in 2015 as the method of allocating funding through direct payments. The average value of all grants and subsidies in 2015-16 was £38,100, a fall of six per cent on the previous year.

General cropping farms had the highest average farm business income in 2015-16, at £24,100. However, this was still an 11 per cent decrease on the previous year. Between 2014-15 and 2015-16 all eight farm types experienced a decrease, with dairy farms experiencing the largest decrease, on average down 97 per cent.

This was largely due to the drop in milk prices over the past year from an average of 30p per litre in 2014-15 to 21p per litre in 2015-16. Mixed farms had the second largest percentage

decrease in average income, down 81 per cent.

Converting the income estimates to hourly income for unpaid labour, such as farm owners, family members and business partners, shows the income generated from 59 per cent of farm businesses wouldn't have been enough to meet the legal minimum agricultural wage for paid workers.

Farm business income is the primary measure of farm level income in the UK but has only been calculated since 2009. A related measure, Net Farm Income, has a longer series and shows the average net farm income in 2015 was the lowest since 1999-2000, when accounting for inflation.

Average debt levels are fairly low, with liabilities equal to 10 per cent of the value of assets. The average net worth of Scottish farm businesses is estimated at £1.3 million.

Provisional national level income estimates released in January showed a £122 million decrease in income from the farming industry in 2015 and an estimated increase in 2016 of £96 million, including a £53 million increase in subsidy levels.

While cattle and milk prices have decreased, cereal prices have recovered since a decrease in 2015 and potato and lamb prices have increased. The survey does not include information on pig, poultry and horticulture sectors.

## Around the markets

**LOCHMADDY** – Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd on April 21 sold 67 store cattle and one adult head of breeding cattle. Bullocks (37) averaged 210.7p and sold to 290.9p per kg for a 275kg Limousin cross from 20 Rushgarry and £1,450 gross for a 780kg Charolais cross from 50 Balgarvea, Eochar.

Heifers (30) averaged 229.3p and sold to 276.2p per kg for an 870kg Limousin cross from Dunskeellar, Sollas, and £990 gross for a 420kg Limousin cross also from Dunskeellar. Breeding cattle (one) sold to £1,250 gross for a Limousin in calf heifer from Hastain, Bayhead. Other leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks 201-250kg – 8 Borve, Berneray, £650, 260.0p; 251-300kg – 20 Rushgarry, £830, 286.2p; 301-350kg – 15 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £850, 7 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, 258.1p; 351-400kg – Hastain, £980, 264.9p; 401-450kg – Old Inn, Lochmaddy, £980, 227.9p; 451-500kg – 8 Balranald, Tigharry, £980, 200.0p; 501-550kg – 2 Sollas, Lochmaddy, £1,000, 196.1p; 551-600kg – 8 Balranald, Tigharry, £1,080, 186.2p; 601-650kg – 50 Balgarvea, £1,200, 193.6p; over 651kg – 50 Balgarvea, £1,350, 185.5p. Heifers 201-250kg – Dunskeellar, £640, 261.2p; 251-300kg – Dunskeellar, £760, 20 Rushgarry, 267.9p; 301-350kg – 7 Tigharry, £880, 20 Rushgarry, 268.8p; 351-400kg – 20 Knockintorran, Bayhead, £980, 7 Tigharry, 252.8p; 401-450kg – Dunskeellar, £970, 235.7p; 451-500kg – 3 Hosta, Tigharry, £960, 204.3p.

**PORTREE** – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on April 22 sold 41 store cattle, 2 breeding cattle, 7 OTM cattle. Bullocks (30) averaged 249.2p and sold to 297.1p per kg for 175kg Limousin crosses from 5 Eyre, Snizort and also for 240kg Limousin crosses from 3 Ardmore, Watnish, and £980 gross for a 380kg Limousin cross from 1 and 2 Stenscholl, Staffin. Heifers (11) averaged 203.5p and sold to 258.8p per kg and £880 gross for a 340kg Limousin cross from Brae Eynort, Carbost. Breeding cows (2) sold to £1,020 gross for a Limousin cross with a heifer calf at foot from 28 Stenscholl, Staffin. OTM cows (7) sold to £980 gross for a 780kg Limousin cross from South Cuidreigh, Earlish.

Other leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks up to 200kg – 5 Eyre, £540, 276.9p; 201-250kg – 3 Ardmore, Watnish, £700, 2 Vatten, Dunvegan, 264.0p; 251-300kg – 8 Digg, Staffin, £830, 3 Ardmore, 285.2p; 301-350kg – 8 Digg, £890, 273.9p; 351-400kg – 12 Portnalong, Carbost, £950, 1 & 2 Stenscholl, 257.9p; 401-450kg – 12 Portnalong, Carbost, £880, 204.7p. Heifers up to 250kg – 2 Vatten, £610, 254.2p; 251-300kg – 16 Torrinn, Broadford, £750, 254.2p; 301-350kg – Swordale, Broadford, £750, 220.6p; 351-400kg – Swordale, £740, 205.6p; over 401kg – Brae Eynort, £620, 124.0p.

**DINGWALL** – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on April 25 sold 33 prime cattle. Prime bullocks (12) averaged 215.9p (N/C) and sold to 220.0p per kg and £1,343.75 gross. Prime heifers (21) averaged 224.8p (+11.1p) and sold to 240.0p per kg and £1,440.00 gross. Prime bullocks (12) averaged 215.9p (N/C) and sold to 220.0p per kg for a 575kg Simmental cross from Newton of Darnaway, Forres, to Messrs John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and £1,343.75 gross for a 625kg Limousin cross from Braes of Coulmore, North Kessock also to Messrs John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

Prime heifers (21) averaged 224.8p (+11.1p) and sold to 240.0p per kg and £1,440 gross for a 600kg Limousin cross from Kinchyle Farm, Scaport to Messrs John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall. Other leading prices per kg: Bullocks: Newton of Darnaway, (SimX), 219.0p (thrice); Ashley, North Kessock, (LimX), 217.0p. Heifers: Kinchyle Farm, (LimX), 236.0p; Newton of Darnaway, (CharX), 234.0p; Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, (SimX), 233.0p; Penick Farms, Auldearn, (BdaX), 226.0p; Balintraid, Delny, (AAx), 218.0p. Other leading prices per head: Bullocks: Ashley, (LimX), £1,341.90; Newton of Darnaway, (SimX), £1,281.15.

Heifers: Kinchyle Farm, (LimX), £1,380.60; Balintraid, £1,335.75; Penick Farms, (BdaX), £1,333.40; Newton of Darnaway, (CharX), £1,275.30; Easter Strath of Auchterflow, (BrbX), £1,231.70.

**DINGWALL** – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on April 25 sold 1,010 prime sheep. Old season lambs (755) averaged 170.8p (-11.8p) and sold to 211.8p per kg and £90 gross. SQQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (509) averaged 180.3p (-5.2p) per kg. Feeding sheep (255) sold to £94 gross. Old season lambs (755) averaged 170.8p (-11.8p) and sold to 211.8p per kg and £90 gross for a pen of Cheviots from Torgrom, Canon Bridge to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall. Meikle Seggie £95

**STIRLING** – United Auctions on Thursday April 27 sold 3782 prime sheep including 90 new season lambs to an average of 221.71ppk and 3094 hogs selling to an average of 173.03ppk and 598 ewes and rams. Spring lambs (90) – Stanley (Suff) £116; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (X) £110; Mains of Callander (Hamp) £95; Greystone (Zwa) £95; Southfield (Char) £90. Spring lambs (90) – Stanley (Suff) £252; Greystone (Zwa) £238p; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (X) £227p; Southfield (Char) £225p; Mains of Callander (Hamp) £218p.

Hoggs (3094) – Luckenburn (BTex) £120.00; Ballechin (TX) £103; Ballechin (BTex) £102.00; Clochnahill (Suff) £92.00; West Thomaston (Chev) £88.00; Craigen (X) £88.00; Pityot (BF) £80.00; Yorkston & Holehouse (Mule) £74.50. Hoggs (3094) – Luckenburn (BTex) £267; Ballechin (Tex) £248p; Craig Farm (Tex) £202p; West Thomaston (BF) £196p; Craig Farm (Suff) £192p; Yorkston (Mule) £177p. Ewes (598) Broomknowes (Tex) £140.00; Chalmerton (Suff) £124.00; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (BTex) £95.00; Kinaldy (Chev) £90.00; Southfield (Char) £285.00; Strone (Mule) £86.00; Bangour (Hamp) £85.00; Blackburn (BF) £68.00 Tups – Grantsbanks (Tex) £84.00; Lenaig (Suff) £81.00; Bangour (Char) £76.00.

**STIRLING** – Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday April 27 sold 171 cattle comprising 97 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, nine OTM cattle, 65 cast cows and bulls.

Prime bullocks averaged – 212p  
Prime heifers averaged – 215p  
Young bulls averaged – 184p  
Beef cows averaged – 137p  
Dairy cows averaged – 103p  
Good show of cattle forward again for numbers and quality maintained last weeks firm trade. Prime bullocks sold to 242ppkg for a British Blue from W Dandie and Son, Learielaw, Broxburn, purchased by H Black and Sons, Butchers, Lanark and to a gross of £1695 for an Aberdeen Angus from Ferguson Bros, Gillandersland to Malcolm Allan, Falkirk. Prime heifers sold to 242ppkg for a Limousin from W Dandie and Sons, Learielaw, to G Kirk and Son, Limited, Denny, and to £1680 for a Charolais from A Chapman, Wester Gartshore, Kirkintilloch, to Malcolm Allan. Bulls sold to 210ppkg for a Limousin from JH and NT Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan, and to £1457.40 from the same farm.

Leading prices: Bullocks ppgk – 235p Learielaw 232p Moorfield 232p Brockwoodlees 228p Meadowend, Mains of Cullmalundie and Brockwoodlees 224p Lammervie, Easterton and Brockwoodlees 220p Brockwoodlees 218p Candermain and Westwoodlane. Heifers ppgk – 240p Meikle Seggie and Learielaw 238p Mains of Cullmalundie and Meadowend 234p West Mains and Todhall 236p Brockwoodlees 230p Moorfield and Middlerigg 228p Brockwoodlees and Priestside 225p Moorfield (twice) and Faskine 225p Todhall, Meadowend and Priestside. Bullocks per head – £1570 Greencraig £1568 Learielaw £1560 Learielaw £1545 Moorfield £1542 Meadowend £1519 Greencraig £1504 Greencraig £1497 Moorfield £1496 Kinneil Mill Heifers per head – £1581 Mains of Cullmalundie £1475 W Gartshore £1453 Brockwoodlees £1432 Todhall £1418 Brockwoodlees £1408 Todhall £1398 Learielaw £1389 Mains of Cullmalundie.

## Right to buy could stifle tenanted sector

A WARNING has been issued that Scotland's 'right to buy' could end tenant farmers' hopes of progressing in the industry.

As the average age of farmers continues to rise and the supply of farms falls short of demand, Malcolm Taylor, partner at land agent Bell Ingram, said measures to encourage newcomers to farming will fall flat if land is not available for tenants.

He said: "It is vital that the government abandons rights to buy for tenancies and provides security and incentives for landlords to let land. A 10-year lease must mean a 10-year lease.

"The government wants a vibrant tenanted farming sector but seems unwilling to facilitate it. While recent announcements by the Royal Bank of Scotland that new entrants to farming need additional support are to be commended, this will be of little use if there are few or no farms available for young entrants to apply for."

Mr Taylor added: "The Forestry Commission, too, is to be applauded for the creation of starter farms offering a first step on the farming ladder.

"But the word "starter" implies

a progression and suggests that after the initial lease, they will be expected to move on to a larger unit.

"This is all very well in an ideal world, but in reality there are no farms to progress to. What will happen at the end of the tenancy? The tenant could rightly say the farm is their home and business and refuse to move, and this is not an attractive prospect for landlords.

"Somebody needs to take the lead and the answer is in the government's hands. Trying to influence the Brexit debate seems more important to some than the future of our young farmers and our rural economy. This needs to change.

"In England, forward-thinking Cambridge Council turned its back on a quick capital boost to funds by selling land, and instead is supporting tenanted farms. The application criteria for these farms are strict. Applicants must be between the age of 23 and 40, have had five years' practical experience or a three-year formal agriculture qualification, have sufficient financial support and must not be from established farms.



## Young farmers are real hot shots

BUDDING sharpshooters from Mid Argyll Young Farmers' Club enjoyed a great day of shooting.

Welcomed recently by members of Tarbert Gun Club, the young farmers were taught the basics of clay-pigeon shooting and were well looked after.

It was soon on to the main event – a good-natured competition.

Leading the way in the men's contest was Harry Adair, while the women's competition was won by Aileen Semple. The knockout competition was won by Cara MacInnes and the winning team was the Shooting Stars, made up of Ricky Rennie, Kit Marshall, Melissa Telfer and Aileen Semple, with help from Jack Campbell.

Mid Argyll Young Farmers thanked Tarbert Gun Club for the hospitality and support.

### #OT7DAYS



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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

✔ LETTINGS
✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
✔ SALE
✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS
✔ PROPERTY NEWS
✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

**THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS**



When a tenant moves out, your first thought will probably be getting someone else in the property as soon as possible. After all, every day that the property remains empty is costing you money.

However, it's important to make thorough checks between tenancies for three main reasons.

First, you want to make sure you spot any and all problems, no matter how small, so you can determine how much of the deposit you should refund. While allowing for normal wear and tear, if any repairs or replacements need to be made, they shouldn't have to come out of your pocket. Make sure you record any damage caused by the tenants with photographs and compile a detailed list of any items or work that their deposit will be used to cover.

Second, if you don't find all the issues,

your new tenants won't be happy when they move in. For long term lets, it's much better to make sure the property is completely presentable rather than having to complete repairs after a new tenant moves in. Leaky toilets, stained carpets, old tatty furnishings and poor cleanliness will disappoint your new tenants and may lead to them taking less care of your property during the tenancy.

Third, a thorough check prevents small problems from turning into large headaches. Check everything down to the carpet edges, bath seals, stiff window mechanisms and sticky locks, to make sure there are no safety issues and nothing is leaking.

By taking the time to make sure your property looks its best and everything is in working order before starting a new tenancy, you create a great first impression and will make managing the tenancy so much easier in future. For help in making sure your property is putting its best foot forward from the start, give us a call.

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## PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

**LERAGS, OBAN**

- Spacious detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- With 0.4 Acre Plot with Planning Permission
- Stunning Loch Views close to Oban
- 1.5 Acres in total
- EPC Rating: E51

**OIRO £348,000**

A spacious three bedroom detached bungalow with plot located in the beautiful Lerags Glen only a 10-minute drive south of Oban. Enjoying stunning loch views and an elevated secluded position, the bungalow would make an ideal family home or holiday let investment. The building plot comprises approximately 0.4 acres and enjoys panoramic loch views across fields and woodland. The plot is located below the main house and has detailed planning permission. 1.5 acres in total.

**LONGSDALE TERRACE, OBAN**

- Two bedroom flat
- On street shared parking available
- Newly decorated throughout
- Part furnished
- EPC Rating: D64
- Landlord registration: 794001/130/07590

**£550 PCM**

Recently renovated 2 bedroom flat in popular residential area. This spacious home has two double bedrooms, a large lounge with balcony and kitchen with white goods provided. There is the option to have a bed and basic storage on request. The bathroom has shower and bath facilities. With all newly painted walls and new carpets this flat is ready to move in to. Rent excludes council tax (band B) and utilities (electric heating).

**SOROBA LODGE, OBAN**

- Detached House
- 5 bedrooms/4 Reception Rooms
- Elevated views above Oban
- Recently redecorated throughout
- Private location
- EPC Rating: E41

**OIRO £360,000**

Soroba Lodge - Originally a shooting lodge dating back to the mid 1800's, reputed to have been owned and extended by Robert Buchannan, the poet and author of "The Land of the Lorne" between 1868-74, this spacious property enjoys a secluded position with elevated views across Oban. The property boasts a multitude of reception rooms and spacious layout, whilst retaining many of its traditional features.

**CRAIGARD ROAD, OBAN**

- One bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Town centre location
- EPC Rating: E49
- Landlord Registration: 440359/130/08551

**£460 PCM**

Cosy one bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property comes unfurnished with white goods and a large standing double wardrobe in the bedroom. It is freshly painted and has carpets throughout. The property is within walking distance to Oban's sight seeing attractions, the leisure centre and local shops. Electric Heating Throughout. Deposit and references required. EPC - E(49). Council Tax Band B.

**BALISCATE, TOBERMORY**

- Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- 7/1 WC
- Built 2012
- Spacious Rooms
- Excellent Family Home
- Easy to Maintain Garden

**OIEO £225,000**

Cala Sona - A spacious 3 bedroom detached house situated above the town of Tobermory on the beautiful Isle of Mull. Built in 2012 the property boasts spacious rooms and modern fittings throughout. The property is accessed via a generous utility room which leads onto the main living area. The open plan lounge kitchen and dining room is bathed in natural light from the large windows to the front and features a modern fitted kitchen.

**SHUNA TERRACE, OBAN**

- Electric storage heating and double glazed windows throughout.
- Available Mid June.
- EPC Rating: F25
- Landlord Reg: 433602/130/27551

**£550 PCM**

Modern 3 Bedroom Property in upper Oban. The accommodation comprises of 2 double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes & 1 single bedroom. There is a spacious kitchen, lounge, bathroom with bath & shower plus a separate WC. Back garden includes drying green, patio and shed. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band B) and Utilities. Deposit & References required.

**PLANE TREE COTTAGE, ISLE OF MULL**

- Semi-Detached Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Rural Village Location
- Private Garden
- Fantastic Holiday Let or First Time Buyer Potential
- EPC Rating: F21

**OIRO £160,000**

Plane Tree Cottage is a delightful traditional two bedroom cottage nestled in the heart of the village of Dervaig on the Isle of Mull. On entering the cottage, you are welcomed into the main lounge. To the left is a second separate lounge, this smaller room would make a cosy place to curl up on a cold winters night with an open fire. Leading off the main reception room, to the rear, you can find the well-appointed kitchen with built in units.

**ALBANY APARTMENTS, OBAN**

- Double glazing and electric heating throughout.
- References and Deposit required.
- EPC Rating: C70
- Landlord Reg: No. 414627/130/26301
- AVAILABLE JUNE

**£560 PCM**

Ground floor flat in Albany Apartments in Oban town centre. The accommodation comprises of 2 double bedrooms (with integrated storage), family bathroom, lounge & kitchen. The kitchen includes a built in hob & oven, washing machine and fridge freezer. The flat is otherwise unfurnished. The flat is situated in a well managed development close to Oban town centre with on street permit parking nearby. Rent excludes Council Tax (Band D) & Utilities.

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Oban Times Oban Times  
DRIVE TIMES DRIVE TIMES  
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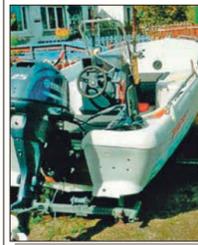


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## SAILINGTIMES



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14 Dacia Duster Laureate 4x4, Grey, 30,000 Miles.....	£9,450
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62/13 Renault Megane DYN, 1.6, Coupe, Silver, 18,000 Miles.....	£7,450
13 Dacia Duster DCI 4x2, Blue, 31,000 Miles.....	£8,400
13 Hyundai Active, 1.2, 5Dr, H/B, Grey, 28,000 Miles.....	£5,000
61 Mini Cooper 1.6 S, Blue, 45,000 Miles.....	£8,500
12 Renault Megan I- Music DCI 5Dr H/B, Blue, 59,000 Miles.....	£5,650
11 VW Polo SEL TSI 1.2, 5Dr, Red, 34,000 Miles.....	£7,550
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are correct at time of distribution however, Lex Autolease Reserve the rights to change any of the above rentals at any time. \*\*The above rentals are based on Business Contract Hire without maintenance over 36 months, 6 spread payments upfront, 10,000 miles per year and in Solid Paint only. All quotations are valid up until 30th June 2017.

\*£500 will be paid by cheque or direct transfer on delivery of new SsangYong. Vehicle must be ordered and delivered by 30 June 2017. Excludes Tivoli 2017 SE models. Finance available subject to status. May not be used with any other offer or promotion. Offer available until 30th June 2017. Subject to T's&C's.

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We are currently recruiting for a Qualified Electrician to join our skilled team of engineers servicing shore bases, vessels and installations at sea. While we have an operational base in Oban, Argyll this role involves extensive periods of travel across the west coast of Scotland.

The successful candidate will have a minimum 17th Edition qualification along with an inspection qualification. With the ability to test and provide compliance certification, possess a meticulous standard of workmanship, excellent written and verbal communication skills and to be highly self-motivated. An interest in electronics would be an advantage

### Work will involve:

- Installation and maintenance of generator sets
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To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email [angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.

Closing date: Wednesday 17 May 2017

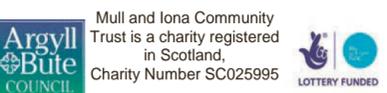
## Mini Muileachs Job Vacancies

Mull and Iona Community Trust are excited to be working with Argyll and Bute Council on a trial project to offer extended childcare at Tobermory Pre 5 Unit from July 2017 to June 2018.

We currently have vacancies for an  
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For further details and an application pack please contact Laura Percy ([enquiries@mict.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mict.co.uk)).  
Closing date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May

For more information about *Mini Muileachs* please visit [www.mict.co.uk/projects-services/childcare](http://www.mict.co.uk/projects-services/childcare)



## Ypeople

is currently recruiting for

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The post holders will support homeless households in the Highland area (Lochaber and Sutherland) with:  
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To apply, and for more information please visit:  
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Ypeople is an independent charity which delivers support services to vulnerable people helping them to adapt to change and to improve their quality of life.

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We are looking to recruit:

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## Office Administrative Assistant

Part Time, Oban Based

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

We are looking for a part time administrative assistant to ensure the day-to-day smooth running of the advertising sales office here in Oban.

You will deal with a range of important tasks including booking adverts onto our system, sending out customer proofs and dealing with associated administration. You will need excellent computer, grammar and communication skills, strong attention to detail and the ability to work under pressure during busy periods.

In addition to salary we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A full current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please send your CV and a letter of application to  
**Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban,  
Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)**



## SEASONAL STAFF WANTED

Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds  
Oban, PA34 5TT

## Museum Guide

30 hrs per w/k

Should have an interest in local history and enjoy working with the public. Reasonable level of fitness required. Full training given.

Submit C.V and cover letter to [fiona@dunollie.org](mailto:fiona@dunollie.org)  
or call 01631 570550 for more info.

Closing date Thursday 4th May. Immediate start.

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6 Days Per Week

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## Oban Times RECRUITMENT

## Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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## Nursery Practitioner required for a well established Oban Nursery

with knowledge of the 3-5 curriculum

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.

## Nursery Apprentice required

We operate a well established apprenticeship scheme and are looking for someone to join our team.

We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Ann on 01631 567491 or  
[manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk) and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a  
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We are recruiting for a number of permanent retail positions, including a full-time Store Manager (39 hours per week), Supervisor (32 hours per week) and part-time General Assistants (16 - 32 hours per week).

Our Store Managers take full responsibility for running every aspect of a busy retail store. This requires strong leadership, management and commercial skills, coupled with the ability to forward plan in order to manage the operation and maximise Store sales and profitability. Our Supervisors are involved in many aspects of running a store, from stock management to motivating staff to deliver outstanding customer service. Additionally, you may have key-holder responsibility for opening and closing the store.

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In return, we offer varied hours, including evening and weekend working and many benefits such as 10% staff discount, generous holidays, comprehensive training and career opportunities for those who sparkle. If you have a flexible approach to work and the determination to deliver, we welcome your application via our online recruitment page at [www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs](http://www.cjlang.co.uk/jobs).

Please note, due to Licensing Laws, applicants must be age 18 or over; closing date for receipt of your online application form is 12 May 2017.

## North Argyll House

Care Home

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Recruiting for

**Cook -**

**Domestic Assistant -**  
part time permanent posts

For an application form contact Manager  
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Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/PA

Fort William

Required for within

**DAB Groundworks Ltd Office**

Previous experience within the construction industry preferred but not essential. Flexible hours.

Must have good organisation skills and work well on own initiative.

Good rate of pay for the right candidate.  
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## Book Keeper

Permanent position – 20 hours  
per week to be over 5 days.

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Please email your CV to  
[accounts@northwestmarine.co.uk](mailto:accounts@northwestmarine.co.uk)  
or call the office on 01631 565652  
for further information.

7E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
Web: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)

# RECRUITMENT

VIEW ALL JOBS AT [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL RESULTS – 2017

ACCORDION & FIDDLE MASTERS: ACCORDION: 1 Lagavullin Distillery Trophy: Gary Sutherland, Fife, 2 Iain Campbell & Donald William Campbell Memorial Trophy: Emma Dickson, West Linton, Adin Graham, Fife; FIDDLE: 1 Oban Distillery Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Gordon MacLachlan Memorial Trophy: Shona MacFadyen, East Kilbride, 3 Eilidh Anderson, Banchory. JUNIOR SOLO PIPING, CHANTER AND DRUMMING COMPETITION: Chatter - Under 12 years - Scale & 2 part tune: 1 The Muir Trophy: Grace Kelman, Inverness, 2 William MacLean, Campbeltown, 3 Calan McGuigan, Oban; Chatter - Under 12 years - 4 part tune: 1 Argyll Print Trophy: Tamzyn Cassidy, Dundee, 2 Harrison Bishop, Newton Mearns; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy - awarded to the most promising competitor: Grace Kelman, Inverness; Chatter - 12 years and under 14 years - March: 1 Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy: Hannah Crowe, Oban and Lisa McKellar, Campbeltown; Novice March - Under 14 years: 1 Oban Electrical Services Trophy: Thomas Wilson, Dromore, Co. Down, 2 Matthew McKerral, Campbeltown, 3 Fraser Hamilton, Paisley; The Lodge Earraighaidheal Trophy awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident player: Matthew McKerral, Campbeltown; Ground of a Piobaireachd - Under 15 years: 1 D Watt & Son Trophy: Thomas Young, Dunoon, 2 Erin Byars, Dunbeg, 3 Thomas Wilson, Dromore, Co. Down; Piobaireachd - Under 15 years: 1 Pipe Dreams Trophy: Christopher Happs, Gorebridge, 2 Emma Hill, Connel, 3 Gregor MacDonald, North Connel; March - Under 15 years: 1 The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing: 1 Brodie Watson-Massey, Edinburgh, 2 Ross Connor, Campbeltown, 3 Robert Allen, Chryston, Glasgow; Strathspey & Reel - Under 15 years: 1 The Tommy Askew Memorial Trophy: Robert Allen, Chryston, Glasgow, 2 Ross Connor, Campbeltown, 3 Brodie Watson-Massey, Edinburgh; The Billy Kirkham Trophy: Robert Allen, Chryston, Glasgow; Jig - Under 15 years: 1 The Cameron Family Trophy: Chris-

topher Happs, Gorebridge, 2 Robert Allen, Chryston, Glasgow, 3 Brodie Watson-Massey, Edinburgh; Piobaireachd - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich: Andrew Ferguson, Dollar, 2 William Leslie Meikle Memorial Cup: Lewis Russell, Livingston, 3 Jamie Niall Campbell, Strachur; March - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Trophy - Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy: Lewis Russell, Livingston, 2 Andrew Ferguson, Dollar, 3 Calum Craib, Benbecula; Strathspey & Reel - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Chris Crowe Trophy: Andrew Ferguson, Dollar, 2 Lewis Russell, Livingston, 3 Kate MacPherson, Benderloch; Hornpipe & Jig - 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Bill Crowe Trophy: 1 Andrew Ferguson, Dollar, 2 Lewis Russell, Livingston, 3 Calum Craib, Benbecula; The Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy: Andrew Ferguson, Dollar; Stick & Pad (14 years & under): 1 Oban Music Trophy: Robbie MacKay, Oban, 2 Robert Allen, Chryston, Glasgow, 3 Musashi Miller, Oban; March (4 part) (14 years & under): 1 Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Zoe Cook, Oban; 6/8 March (14 years & under): 1 Netherlorn Shield: Zoe Cook, Oban; Hornpipe & Jig (15 years & under 18 years): 1 United Auctions Trophy: Rachel Thom, Livingston; Part March, 4 Part Strathspey, 4 Part Reel (15 years & under 18 years): 1 The Adam McCracken Trophy: Rachel Thom, Livingston, 2 Lewis MacDonald, Dunoon; SENIOR PIPING: Piobaireachd - Grade A & P: 1 Cooper Salver: Darach Urquhart, Glasgow, 2 Dugald MacColl Memorial Trophy: 2 Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, 3 Jamie Forrester, London; Piobaireachd - Grade B: 1 Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Sarah Muir, Glasgow, 2 Walter Drysdale Trophy: Ben Duncan, Edinburgh, 3 Steven Leask, Irvine; Piobaireachd - Grade C: 1 Ronald Lawrie Memorial Trophy: John Cameron, Falkirk, 2 Walter Drysdale Memorial: Eireann MacKay, 3 John Dew, Crieff; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade A & P: 1 Reid Family Trophy: Craig Sutherland, Crieff, 2 HIMDF Trophy: Angus J MacColl, Benderloch, 3 Gordon Bruce, Kilwinning; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade B: 1

Riona T MacInnes Trophy: 1 Jonathon Simpson, Bo'ness, 2 Greig Canning, Edinburgh, 3 Edward Gaul, Dundee; March, Strathspey & Reel - Grade C: 1 Fusion Marine Trophy: Ciaren Ross, Alva, 2 John Dew, Crieff, 3 Scott MacLean, Kilmartin. ACCORDION - JUNIOR & OPEN: Traditional Scottish March - under 12 years: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Alexander MacDonald, North Connel, 2 Calan McGuigan, Oban; The Frances Shand Kydd Trophy - awarded at the judge's discretion to the most promising competitor: Calan McGuigan, Oban; March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) - Under 12 years: 1 Ilay Accordion Club Trophy: Donnie MacCorquodale, North Connel; Gaelic Waltzes - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Iain MacPhail Trophy: Isla MacCormick, Oban, 2 Emma McPhee, Taynuilt; March, Strathspey & Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Iona Shop Trophy: Emma McPhee, Taynuilt, 2 Isla MacCormick, Oban; The John Allan Memorial Cup: Emma McPhee, Taynuilt; OPEN ACCORDION: Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade Trophy: John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel - Button: 1 John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) - Open: 1 Neil Sinclair Trophy: Adin Graham, Fife; The Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy: Adin Graham, Fife; Gaelic Waltzes (Traditional) - Open: 1 Iain MacPhail Trophy: Adin Graham, Fife, 2 Emma McPhee, Taynuilt, 3 Kirsty MacCormick, Oban; Own Composition - Accordion or Fiddle: Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: Adin Graham, Fife. FIDDLE: March, Strathspey & Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 Accordion Club Trophy: Rosie Winchester, Keith, 2 Rhiann Matthew, Tarland, 3 Rachel Havlin, Ellon; Slow Air - 12 years and under 16 years: 1 McLachlan Trophy: Rosie Winchester, Keith, 2 Rhiann Matthew, Tarland, 3 Rachel Havlin, Ellon; 1 Calum MacPhail Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Shona MacFadyen, East Kilbride, 3 Jack West-

well, Edinburgh; Slow Air (Traditional) - Open: 1 Christine MacKenzie Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Shona MacFadyen, East Kilbride. WOODWIND & BRASS: The HIMDF Lorne Trophies: Woodwind - Katie Houston, Taynuilt; Brass Winner: Amy Paterson, Campbeltown; Woodwind - Secondary 1st year: 1 Morag Inall, Taynuilt, 2 Sarah Garvin, Oban; Brass - Secondary 1st Year: 1 Kyle Paterson, Campbeltown; Woodwind - Secondary 2nd & 3rd year: 1 Rowan Chisolm, Taynuilt, 2 Maria Clark, Oban, 3 Alice Jackson, Oban; Woodwind - Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th year: 1 Katie Houston, Taynuilt, 2 Alex Hardie, Oban, 3 Katrin McNaught, Stewarton; Brass - Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th year: 1 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 2 Clara Robertson, Belfast, 3 Paul Mathers, Leven; Ensemble: 1 Oban High School Ensemble: Duet Woodwind or Brass: 1 Rowan Chisolm & Katie MacCorquodale, Taynuilt. SINGING: PRIMARY: The Gillies Cup: Lori Den Heijer, Benderloch; Scots Song - Primary: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Elsaid MacLean, Lismore, 2 Lori Den

Heijer, Benderloch, 3 Feorlin Renton, Inveraray; Vocal Solo Girls - Primary 6 & 7: 1 Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Karyn Black, Benderloch, 2 Lori Den Heijer, Benderloch; Classical Song - Primary: 1 HIMDF trophy: Karyn Black, Benderloch, 2 Lori Den Heijer, Benderloch; Vocal Duet - Primary: 1 Karyn Black & Lori Den Heijer, Benderloch; Songs from the Shows - Primary: 1 Berni McMillan Trophy: Lori Den Heijer, Benderloch, 2 Ealasaid MacLean, Lismore, 3 Karyn Black, Benderloch; SECONDARY & OPEN: Scots Song - Secondary 1 - 2: 1 Margaret Farmer Trophy: Brodie Sloss, Oban; Scots Song - Secondary 3 +: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Holly Renton, Inveraray, 2 Maria Clark, Oban;

Keith, Lochgilphead; The Anne MacDougall Memorial Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgilphead; Scottish Song (English or Gaelic): 1 Argyll Oils trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgilphead, 2 Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig; Songs from the Shows: 1 The Highlands Restaurant Trophy: Emma Baird, Taynuilt, 2 Shona Keith, Lochgilphead, 3 Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig; Classical Song: 1 HIMDF Trophy: Shona Keith, Lochgilphead, 2 Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig. LADY FERMOY PIANO & CLARSACH COMPETITIONS: The Lady Fermoy Trophy - awarded for the most meritorious performance overall in the piano competitions for those 18 years and under: Paul Mathers, Leven; PIANO: Pianoforte Solo - Grade 1: 1 Caroline Boyle Trophy: Megan Day, Taynuilt; Pianoforte Solo - Grade 3: 1 Sheila Sinclair Trophy: Mairi MacCorquodale, Connel, 2 Ashleigh Sim, Taynuilt; Pianoforte Solo - Classical Period: 1 Paul Mathers, Leven; Pianoforte Solo - Ragtime & Blues: 1 Marnie Clark, Castle Douglas, 2 Lewis Sutherland, Glasgow; Pianoforte Solo - Romantic Period Grade 6 & above: 1

Paul Mathers, Leven, 2 Marnie Clark, Castle Douglas, 3 Domhall MacGriogair, Glasgow; The Margaret Burns Trophy: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Pianoforte Solo - Classical Period (Adult advanced): 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Molidh MacGriogair, Glasgow; Pianoforte Solo - Modern Period (Adult advanced): 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; Pianoforte Solo - Modern (Advanced): 1 Lewis Sutherland, Glasgow, 2 Domhall MacGriogair, Glasgow. CLARSACH: Solo beginners: 1 The Campbell Family Trophy: Breagha Dunbar, Inverness; Solo - Advanced: 1 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt, 2 Isabelle Davidson, Perth; Solo - Recital of Scottish/Gaelic Music: 1 Anna Westwell, Oban, 2 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt; Solo - Non Traditional: 1 Anna Westwell, Oban. SCHOOLS: SINGING AND RECORDER: Primary Choirs - Accompanied: 1 Sinclair Family Trophy: Rockfield Primary, 2 Taynuilt Primary, 3 Lochnell Primray; RECORDER: Primary Recorder Groups: 1 Agnes Connelly Trophy: Barcaldine Primary, 2 Dunbeg Primary B, 3 Dunbeg Primary A



17\_t18highlanddancing11

PUBLIC NOTICES

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Public Notice section, please call 01631 568000

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

www.highland.gov.uk The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\_to\_z

Scotgold Resources Ltd Cononish Gold Mine, Cononish Farm, Tyndrum Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 - Advertisement of Public Event Scotgold Resources Ltd is preparing to submit a planning application to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority for a revision of the extraction and processing operations at Cononish Gold Mine, originally permitted in 1996 and subsequently in 2012 and 2015.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain AGM 23rd May 2017 7.30pm Furan Gaelic Centre Everyone interested in Gaelic is most welcome

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Oban Hospice will be held in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road on Thursday 18 May at 7.30pm.

Oban and Lorn Group Riding for the Disabled AGM Friday 26th May 2017 Glencruitten Golf Club 12 noon All Welcome Tel 07749765814

First Registration of a Croft Tara and Kirsty MacDiarmid have registered their croft 53 Ormsaigbeg Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

First Registration of a Croft Paul McFatrige has registered their croft 20a Lower Carnach, Carnach, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting register held by the Registers of Scotland.

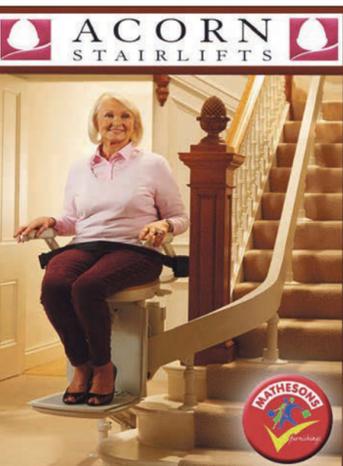
Argyll and Bute Council DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES (A816 LOCHGILPHEAD TO OBAN ROAD) (ARGYLL SQUARE AND COMBIE STREET, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE Chisholm's Recovery Specialists Limited of The Control Centre, West Quarry Industrial Estate, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4JP is applying for a licence to use The Control Centre, West Quarry Industrial Estate, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4JP as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 EXPANSION OF SEAWEED FARM TRIAL, PORT A BHUILTIN, LYNN OF LORNE, OBAN Notice is hereby given that Scottish Association for Marine Science has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of expansion of seaweed farm trial at:

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DEATHS

**MACKINTOSH** - (Roy Bridge) - Peacefully in the Highland Hospice, Inverness, on Saturday April 29, 2017, following a long illness bravely borne, Joan, of Allt Darroch, Roy Bridge, Lochaber, and formerly of Banchory, dearly loved wife of James, a devoted mother to Catriona and Rhona, a beloved daughter, sister and aunt. Funeral service at Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge, PH34 4WA, on Thursday May 11, 2017, at 11am and thereafter at Inverness Crematorium, Kilvean Road, Inverness, IV3 8JW, at 2pm. All friends respectfully invited. At Joan's request bright colours to be worn. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to benefit the Highland Hospice. All enquiries to John Ross Funeral Services Ltd 01479 872222.

**MCKIE** - Sheila Bertram (née McKillop): Sheila McKie, died on Sunday, April 30, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, aged 82. A much loved mother of five, grandmother of ten and great-grandmother of four, she will be hugely missed by her family and friends, who will treasure the countless happy memories she leaves with them as her legacy. A service to celebrate her life will take place at Kilmore and Kilbride Parish Church, Oban, on Monday, May 8, at 1pm and thereafter to Pennyfuir.

**McNIVEN** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Sunday April 30, Laura McNiven, 'Toriskay', Rowan Road, Oban, wife of the late Walter, mother of Ronald and Gordon. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday May 5 at 100 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Macmillan Day Bed Unit, Oban.

**MURRAY** - Catriona Elspeth, died in her 52nd year at home on Jura, on April 24, 2017. Funeral and interment were at Jura Parish Church and Keils Cemetery on April 29. Survived by her husband Neil and brother Patrick. Donations can be made to MS Therapy Centre Mid-Argyll, Lochgilhead.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACDONALD** - Eileen and family wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends, neighbours and former Hydro Board colleagues for kind expressions of sympathy and comfort following their recent sad loss of Archie. Also to the staff of Crossroads, Abbeyfield Care Home and Belford Hospital whose care and kindness was greatly appreciated. To Dr Massie for his unflinching care during Archie's long battle with Parkinsons and also his support to the family. To Msgr MacKinnon and Deacon Wynne for a comforting and uplifting mass, to the staff of the West End Hotel for exceptional catering and finally to Mike McFall funeral directors who provided a professional and sensitive

service. The generous sum of £700 was collected at the service which will be donated to the Fort William Parkinsons Group.

MEMORIALS

**CLARK** - Thomas Goldie. Treasured memories of my dear Uncle Tom, who died May 4, 2009.

'He is no further from us than God and God is very near.'

- Loving niece Mary and her husband Bobby.

**ELLERINGTON** - Loving memories of Sid our dad and papa, passed away April 28, 1992. Twenty five years gone passed

Always in our thoughts and hearts

- Forever missed by Jane, Iain and all the family.

**McAFFER** - Fondest memories of our dear uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009. Also a dear mother and granny Annie, who passed away May 15, 1990.

Loved and remembered every day. Always in our thoughts.

- Dugie, Teen, Angela and Alexander

**McGILLIVRAY** - Treasured memories of my dear husband Don, who died May 3, 2016. It's a lonely life without you

And sad has been each day For life and home are not the same since you were called away.

- Sheena and family, Fort William.

**STEELE** - Loving memories of our dad Ian, who died May 9, 1984.

- Morag and Alan.

**STOTT** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny Christina, died May 6, 1987. Sadly missed by all.

- Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge.

**TAYLOR** - Remembering always with love my darling husband William, who passed away May 5, 1992. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day.

- Violet.

**TAYLOR** - Treasured memories of a loving dad and grampa William, who passed away on May 5, 1992.

Partings come and hearts are broken

Loved ones go with words unspoken

Deep in our hearts there's a memory kept

For a dad and grampa we'll never forget.

- Shaun, Tony, Steven and families.

**WYLIE** - 20th anniversary. Treasured memories of my beloved only son, brother and uncle Robert Anthony, whose bright and shining life of 18 years was taken from him on May 7, 1997.

Parents will never get over losing a child

It does not matter how long ago Or how old they were, or how they died

Parents live with the pain every moment of their remaining lives

- Your loving mum.

You are a brother who is irreplaceable

You will always be dearly missed

This loss is indescribable

Nothing could have ever prepared us for this

- Loving sisters Diane, Maree and Lorna.

I cherish my memories of you and always will.

- Loving niece Rebecca

Choir mourns loss of new member

A LOCHALINE-BASED choir's successful trip came to a sad end with the sudden death of one of their newest members.

Bùrach Gaelic Choir travelled to Carlow in Ireland last month as part of the Scottish representation at the International Pan Celtic Festival.

During the festival, Bùrach, who had their debut performance at the Barra Provincial Mòd in 2012, received first place in the rural choir section. Despite their silverware, it was a very sombre choir that landed in Glasgow to the news that Iain MacLean had passed away.

Mr MacLean, who would have been 61 this year, had been taken ill suddenly while transiting Dublin Airport and, unfortunately, the best efforts of the attendant medical team could not save him.

Hector MacKechnie, on behalf of Bùrach, said: 'Despite having joined Bùrach just a few months before, Iain had quickly become a firm favourite among the choir for myriad reasons.

'His strong, melodic tone was a huge asset to the bass section, as was his encyclopaedic knowledge of Gaelic song. Quick-witted

and funny, he had a humorous anecdote for every occasion, and his company and craic were sought out, and enjoyed, by all choir members without exception.'

Iain was part of the bass section and was from Tobermory.

Mr MacKechnie continued: 'If any comfort can be taken from such tragic circumstances then it is surely that Iain had spent the previous few days immersed in Gaelic song, friendship and fun among the family of Scottish Gaelic choirs who had assembled to represent Alba in the International Pan Celtic Festival competitions.'

Pan Celtic took place from Wednesday April 19 until Saturday April 22.

Mr MacKechnie explained: 'Prior to the commencement of choir competitions, Alba were represented in the traditional song and new song competitions, on Wednesday and Thursday evening respectively, by Whyte - comprising Alasdair Whyte, Ross Whyte and Murray Willis, backed by Riona and Megan Whyte, Katy Crossan and Ronnie Murray. On both evenings they were placed third.

'Saturday morning dawned mild and fair and in the first competition

of the day, Na h-Albannaich, under the baton of Ronnie Murray, conductor of Còisir Gàidhlig nan Loch, sang Tha Bannan Chruidh aig Mòrag Bheag and the hauntingly beautiful Gleann Bhaile Chaoil.

'Although unplaced in this competition, the paths and emotion emanating from the choir in the rendition of Gleann Bhaile Chaoil reduced some of the audience to tears.

'Riona Whyte took up the baton for the rural choir competition and led Bùrach to first place with performances of *Le Chèile* and *Cumha Alasdair Dhuinn*. These contrasting pieces - one a contemporary love song and the other a mournful lament obviously proved popular with the judges and resulted in a trophy being presented at the prize-giving ceremony in the Seven Oaks Hotel on Saturday evening.

'This was quickly followed up with a second place in the folk group competition. Bùrach Beag performed *Mo Ghleann Taobh Loch Liobhann*, followed by *Nuair bha mi na mo mhaighdinn* - a toe-tapping puirt a beul, delivered at a pace which left the audience speechless and the choir breathless.

'The conductor's baton was then handed over to Raymond Bremner for the accompanied choir competition.

In true Pan Celtic spirit, accompanied by a Welsh harpist and pianist, Na h-Albannaich performed two songs which Raymond had arranged especially for the Pan Celtic.

'The first was a four-part arrangement of the Leonard Cohen classic, *Hallelujah*. If this was given an enthusiastic response from the assembled audience, what was to follow left them in raptures.

'A four-part arrangement (with solo performances), in Gaelic, of the Westlife anthem, *You Raise Me Up*, *Gun Tog Thu Suas Mi*, arranged by Raymond and translated into Gaelic by Janet MacDonald, from Mull, was, quite simply, for audience and singers alike, a very special moment.

The applause from the audience began before Na h-Albannaich had finished singing and continued as the choristers, with goosebumps and tingling spines, left the podium.

'It was fitting, perhaps, that after such a performance, Iain MacLean should be one of the last men to leave the stage.'

Residents are given a taste of Dawnfresh trout

AROUND 60 residents enjoyed a free tasting event last week when they sampled a range of food made from locally farmed trout produced by Dawnfresh Farming.

The event took place on Wednesday April 26, with people sampling a range of hot and cold smoked trout products prepared on site by Dawnfresh at Taynult Village Hall.

All of the trout on show was

farmed from one of Dawnfresh's nearby sites on Loch Etive. The company has five sites at different points in Loch Etive, from Port na Mine in the east to Ardchattan House in the west.

Dawnfresh is Scotland's largest trout farmer and supplies major UK retailers as well as exporting, promoting the quality of Loch Etive-farmed fish worldwide.

Its trout from Loch Etive was

recently seen on the menu at the Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hills Hilton in California.

The company employs more than 550 full-time staff, with up to 200 additional temporary workers at key periods.

Alison Hutchins, farming operations development manager for Dawnfresh, said: 'It was fantastic to see so many people come and sample the fresh fish produced right

on their doorstep on Loch Etive.

'We have an exciting range of products and consider ourselves to be a real part of the local area.

'We wanted the local community who live in and around Loch Etive to come and sample the high-quality food produced in their area.

'I hope people enjoyed this second tasting event and we will definitely looking to hold similar events in the future.'



**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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**Editorial**

**Chief reporter**  
Louise Glen  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior reporter**  
Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior reporter**  
Monica Gibson  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
David McPhee  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Ellie Forbes  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Katie Carabine  
reporter@obantimes.co.uk

**Newsdesk**  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Director of Advertising**  
Nicky Murphy  
nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising supervisor**  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising executive**  
Stephanie Dunstaffnage  
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising executive**  
Julie Baird  
jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

**Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003

**Lochgilhead**  
Tel 01546 602345

**Campbeltown**  
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**Thought for the week**

**Matthew 5:9**

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.

WE ARE all children of God but when we are faced with a difficult choice, when we meet with hostility, it is tempting to fight back and to

meet hostility with hostility, thereby making a bad situation worse, perhaps passing the problem down to another generation.

Short-term solutions can often lead to long-term consequences, putting peace beyond our reach.

Peacemaking triumphs if we can convert an enemy to a friend -

**Geoff and Janet Fairbairn**

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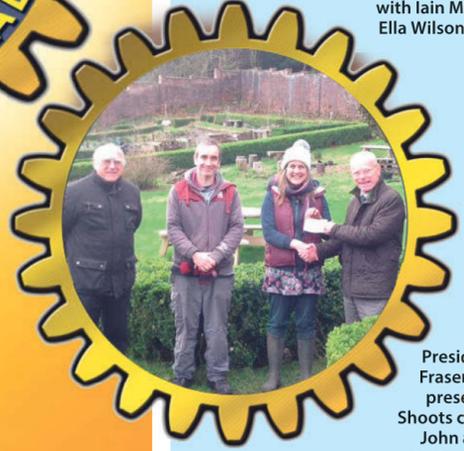
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# 2017 Oban Rotary Am-Am round-up



President Graham Fraser, handing over a cheque to Marie Rowan, with Iain MacIntyre and Ella Wilson from Mary's Meals.



President Graham Fraser is seen here presenting Green Shoots co-ordinators John and Catriona Petit with a cheque for £400 in support of the initiative. Also in the picture is Rotarian Ken Oxland.



Rotary Club members contributed to a recumbent bicycle for teenager Adam Hutchison in Benderloch.

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Oban Rotary members, led by club president Ken Moncrieff, gathered at Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday to start preparations for this year's Golf Charities Day (Am-Am). Joining them is a group of golfers from Liverpool who visit Oban on a regular basis to play at Glencruitten.

# Rotary on course for 32nd Am-Am, raising funds to help the community

ONE of Argyll's most anticipated charity events of the year will tee off on June 4 as the Rotary Club of Oban presents the 32nd annual Am-Am at Glencruitten Golf Club.

The Am-Am came about as a result of a friendship between Oban Rotarian Terry Macnair and Roy and Shirley Erskine, who are the grandparents of Andy and Jamie Murray, the internationally renowned tennis players.

This led to an invitation from Dunblane Rotary to send a team of four to their inaugural Am-Am and, on their return, it was decided that Oban Rotary could do likewise, and the Oban Am-Am was born. From these modest beginnings, Oban Rotary's golf Am-Am has gone from strength to strength, having raised more than £165,000 for local causes.

More than 100 sponsors and nearly 200 players are expected for this year's event. 'We raised just short of £11,000 last year,' said Rotary junior vice-president Iain MacIntyre.

'If we raise between £10,000 and £11,000 this year, I will be delighted.'

'The Am-Am accounts for about 60 to 70 per cent of our total funds raised each year.'

'The Rotary Club motto is "Service Before Self", and there are a great number of worthy local causes out there. We are spreading our money quite wide, so we manage to cover a lot of projects that bigger sponsors can't. For many causes, especially for children, small amounts such as £50 or £300 is a lot of money, so we try to make funds available. That's what this is all about.'

The funds raised at the event are dispersed to a variety of local causes, with



Rotary president Graham Fraser is seen here presenting Oban High School Pipe Band with a cheque for £500 as a donation towards its running costs.

an emphasis on youth-oriented activities, such as school trips, junior golf development, shinty, football and rugby coaching and the likes of the Oban High School Pipe Band.

In addition, Oban Rotary continues to support Mary's Meals, the Laurinburg School exchange, as well as contributing to the local senior citizens' annual Christmas lunch. Funds from the Am-Am enabled Rotary to make a contribution towards the acquisition of a therapeutic chair for Oban Hospice, support the renewal of the tennis courts at Atlantis and provide continued support for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Am-Am funds also helped to fund the purchase of a specialised bicycle to aid the

mobility of a disabled teenager and contributed to the acquisition of a second carriage for the Argyll RDA Driving Group in Benderloch, as well as the Healthy Options and Green Shoots initiatives in Oban.

'Coverage in The Oban Times has brought to everybody's attention – the players and the sponsors – that this money is being raised on a voluntary basis for local good causes within the Oban and Lorn area, and, as a result, the event has doubled in size over the past few years,' Mr MacIntyre said.

'The feedback we get every year is great and it's always a very enjoyable day. It's become part of the culture of the town.'

According to this year's convener, David

Mudie: 'Because The Oban Times publicises the work that we do, we get requests just about every week from people or organisations with needs. We can't cover them all, but we are able to support a variety of worthy causes.'

Besides the players, who come from as far afield as Glasgow, Dunblane and Crieff, the event involves virtually every member of Rotary and hence expenses are kept to a minimum.

The event also enjoys the support of local youngsters, who give their time for ball spotting.

The Rotary Club would like to thank Dougie MacIntyre and the staff at Glencruitten Golf Club, as well as James Forgive for all they do to support the event.



Graham Fraser, left, presents a cheque to Jane Isaac of Argyll Riding for the Disabled, with fellow Rotarian Ken Oxland.



Oban Rotary Club supports junior golf development at Glencruitten Golf Club.



Iain MacIntyre and Ken Moncrieff presenting certificates for public speaking to winner Megan Day, second placed Murray Scott and third Sophie Houston.

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**Silvers Marine Scottish Series – all set for exciting racing and great fun - both on and off the water!**

TARBERT will welcome the Silvers Marine Scottish Series fleet for the annual racing regatta on Loch Fyne between May 26 and 29 2017.

The event encompasses first class racing in a spectacular setting and has become an iconic regatta attracting not just competitors but visitors to Tarbert. The local community enjoys one of its busiest weekends of the year – both in the village and also at Portavadie marina across from Tarbert. For many it's a 'must do' weekend in the UK racing and social calendar. The 43rd event is organised by Clyde Cruising Club (CCC) and the title sponsor is Silvers Marine. Racing is offered over a mix of classes – from spinnaker to non-spinnaker classes, sailing a mix of round the buoys Olympic courses to passage racing and a white sail cruise in company from Largs. The event offers something for everyone from highly competitive racing to family and cruiser classes with the inshore race on Sunday proving a popular addition.

**Tarbert Harbour Authority**

Tarbert Harbour Authority (THA) hosts the fleet for the duration of the event at Tarbert and looks forward to welcoming everyone as well as hoping for fair winds and sunshine for racing.

The THA team has a rough berthing plan to adhere to on a first-come, first-served basis. The latest pontoon addition has expanded the berthing area and is now described as 'second to none'. The proposed new toilet and shower block should be completed for next year.

**Portavadie Marina**

Across the water from Tarbert, Portavadie Marina also welcomes competing yachts for which a regatta rate of £20 is offered. Marina Manager Craig Cochran said: 'Most of the accommodation is taken by yacht racing teams and we are open for business in our restaurants and café at our Leisure Club.' As well as being a Five Gold Anchors



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**The Racing**

The event format is a mixture of Olympic style and coastal races.

All spinnaker classes race on Loch Fyne on day 1. The opening passage race from Largs for white sail, family class and cruisers is on Friday May 27. Saturday sees a passage race from Tarbert towards Otter Spit and return to Tarbert, which is not part of the series. Sunday features the Inch Passage Race and racing continues in Loch Fyne till Monday May 29. The overall regatta prize-giving is on Monday night at the marquee.

A Bangor to Tarbert feeder race starts at 8pm on Wednesday May 24. This year Irish interest in the event appears to have been re-kindled with a rise in entries from across the water. Classes range from high tech IRC racers to those sailing CYCA handicaps, both spinnaker and restricted sail.

**IRC Championship**

New for 2017 is the IRC Scottish Championship which will be embedded in the Silvers Marine Scottish Series for the first time. Event chairman David Denholm explained: 'It makes sense as the number of competitors at the Scottish Series is considerably in excess of the numbers that have turned out for the weekend championships. We are very grateful to the Mudhook Yacht Club for allowing the MacIver Salver to remain the trophy for the competition.'

David added the IRC fleet within the entry list was now sitting at more than 35 boats and could be even higher with late entries. 'This probably moves it to one of the larger IRC championships within the UK,' he said.

**RC35**

A new initiative for the RC35 class is formed out of the Scottish Series Class 2 to improve the competitive sailing in that band of IRC yachts and will see it a mainstay of this year's event alongside a revived Sigma 33 fleet, the One Design fleet and the strong 707 class. All classes are currently boasting around a dozen entries.

'Everything is shaping up well for an exciting race series over the end of May Bank Holiday weekend,' enthuses David.

'Entries are up on last year and we have substantial sponsorship, not only from headline supporter Silvers Marine, which also provides its barge and marks but prizes from Marlow Ropes, Knox Paints and six mark buoys from Crewsaver.'

He added: 'It is again a privilege to link the Crewsaver brand with our One Design fleets which last year saw this racetrack provide some of the closest racing especially in the Hunter 707s. Indeed it was from this class the overall Scottish Series winner emerged.'

'For 2017 we hope the same competitive spirit and expertise will again be displayed.'

Luke Patience may also be appearing again at Tarbert in a 707 and the class association is also making a boat available for a Glasgow University students' entry.

David added: 'We are hoping for a substantial enlargement of the White Sail fleet through the Scottish Marine Tourism Alliance to interest from Sailing and Cruising Scotland, the Facebook-based group.'

**On the startline**

**Class IRC 1**

Former several-times, overall-series winner Jonathan Anderson races his new Ker 39 Inis Mor against the famous Howison partnership with their 'well kent' Local Hero. Rod Stuart and Bill Ram's Corby 37.2 Aurora will also be hot contenders in this class alongside the J122 Black Jack of Kip with Phil Moyes at the helm. Jay Colville from East Down Yacht Club brings his First 40, Forty Licks as well as the Mackays in their Farr 30 Wild Haggis. Possible late entries include Steve Cowie's Zephyr and Jamie McGarry's Eala of Rhu and both would also be to the fore in this class.

**Class IRC 2 / RC 35s**

Competition should be very hot with the new RC 35 interest. The two Corby 33s Jacob V11 and Banshee of John Stamp and Charlie Frize race this class as seasoned and experienced campaigners giving close one design racing. And there are three J109s pitching up - Pat Kelly's Storm, the Irish contingent with Chimaera and Jim Dervin's No Worries. Add in three First 36.7s the Aitken's Animal, Jeffery and Scutt's Carmen 11 and Altair from Cove, the Balmforth's Tangaroo and Rob McConnell's Fools Gold and there are some seriously good sailors in this class. Triple Elf, the First 35 of Christine Murray, is also always up there as is the Thomsons' Sloop John T, this year racing against another Swan 40 Can Can IV, of the Thoms. Craig Latimer's new Wildebeest is a Ker 32 which promises great things. A previous class winner Craig's boats are always well sailed as is Neil Sandford's Now or Never 3.

**Class IRC 3**

Trastada, the Andrieu half tonner of Angus and Challis, returns as does Lambay Rules with Stephen Quinn of Howth Yacht Club. The J92s of Peter Doig from East Antrim and Nicholas Marshall's Satisfaction will also have fellow J92 Samurai J of Cove Sailing Club in close competition. Also battling it out will be the two half-tonner's Harmony and Kingone, always to the fore. Murray MacDonald is

campaigning his Sonar for 'Autism on the Water' and the familiar names of the Kent's Farr e Nuff, Phoenix, Edgy and John Reekie's Blue Jay from Bassenthwaite SC should all add interest to the mix. The Swan 36 of Chris Frost may just upset the placings if the wind is up.

**CYCA 4**

Long time Scottish Series campaigner Brian Robertson is on home ground with Celtic Spirit, his X332 and Alan Moore's Dehler 34 Delinquent is also a familiar boat in this class. The Grand Soleil 34 of Bilsland and Campbell will no doubt be the strong contender to win the class but John Corson's Salamander and Boyd Tunnock's Lemerac will hope to give the Arran boys a run for their money. Keith Salters from Royal Ulster with Grey Goose and First Edition with Cameron Still, the GK 34 Strike 3 of Mark Taylor and Maria Beattie from Prestwick add to the mix.

A class with the Morrison's Enigma, the Elan 333 Delta Blue of Wallace and Cuthbertson and John Mill's Elan 31 Vamp should be really interesting to watch. And always in the top placings and several times class winner, Valhalla of Ashton the kenspeckle Swan 36 of Alan Dunnett will be sailing to win again as well.

**CYCA 5**

An open class with six entries to date. Experienced Alastair Pugh with his Contessa 32 Marisca is back again and Alistair Gay takes on the class with his lovely Nicholson 35 Orwell Lass. Colin Wood's Nic 30 from Largs is another of the classics as well as the Colvic UFO of Oliver Epsom that will have to work with Richard Doig's Sirius from East Antrim Boat Club and Ravel's Bolero of Kenny Macdonald. Slowest boat in the class is David Williamson's Westerly Tiger. This will be a close class to call.

**White Sail Fleet**

**CYCA Class 8**

This class has the widest range of handicaps to contend from 5.25 to 22.95. Owen Mcmanus of Campbeltown Sailing Club sails his X332 Jochr and he will face stalwart Ian Nicolson's Maxi 1000 St Bridget. CCC commodore Clive Reeves also lines up with his Maxi 1000 Lyrebird. Royal Ulster YC is represented by John Moorehead in his Swan 40 Margarita and Angus Cartwright races his big 47.7 Golden Fox. The Sigma 33 of Stewart Shearer and Elan Impression of Reid and Wilkie and the Oceanis, Whimbrell, like the previous contenders are all quick boats and will have to be some way ahead to keep clear on handicap of the Frigate 27 and Jaguar 25 at the slow end of the fleet.

**CYCA Class 9**

This class start from Largs and will comprise 'non series' competitors who will take part in the passage racing. Anna Mae from Loch Sunart with Dorothy and Stewart Ritchie at the helm are long time SS campaigners. Marjorie Grant's beautiful McGruer sloop Kelana is entered as is the Moody 31 of the Devonalds of Delting Boat Club and Joe Magee's Albin Cumulus Torranan. Garth and Erica Wilson will be serious contenders for this with their Moody 336 Shearwater.

**Sigma one-designs**

There has been something of a Sigma 33 revival with 11 of these one-designs lining up for the starting gun. As ever the top three of Donald McLaren and his team on Sigmatic, Leaky Roof 2 of Harper and Robertson and James Miller's Mayrise will be hard to beat.

**Silvers Marine**

Once again Silvers Marine is providing its invaluable support to Scottish Series. The iconic boatyard at Rosneath is one of the most progressive boatyards in the UK with a highly skilled and motivated workforce. The wide skill base with ISO9001: 2000 qualification and continuous training policy ensures that quality remains Silvers prime concern. Silvers can provide the skills and materials necessary to keep your boat in top condition www.silversmarine.co.uk

**Sonata one-designs**

Old School with Crewsaver Ross MacNish at the helm will sponsor edition of the 43rd edition of the series. Crewsaver will be providing a brand new set of competition inflatable marker buoys for the event and for use at Clyde Cruising Club thereafter.

Crewsaver is a world-leading manufacturer of marine safety equipment and clothing for the commercial and leisure marine industries. The company designs and manufactures bespoke safety equipment for several countries' special forces, the UK government's Environment

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Wiseman of Craignish Boat Club entering Virtuoso with Guy Neville at the helm. Mark Taylor's Saraband and Wicked Wookiee will all be vying for top placings in what's again, a highly competitive fleet.

**VX / J70 and Hunter 707s**

2016 Scottish Series Winners overall Dara O'Malley and the 707 Seaward, return to defend their title. The team faces strong competition from More T Vicar of Carl Allen from Port Edgar, a previous class winner and Stewart Robertson's crew on Cacciatoro, 707 Scottish Champions have to rank as a favourite. Glasgow University SC team race Big Boys' Toys with a boat given by the class association. David Smith's Rammie from Aberdeen is also a strong contender and Kieran McAllister returns with Wishful Thinking from Lough Swilly Sailing Club. The strength of this class on the east coast should show through with Neil McLure's Blue Funk, Mad Rafiki, from Helensburgh Sailing Club form the west coast contingent.

**RC 35 racer cruiser**

The RC35 Class is developed for close, competitive racing within a tight rating band (IRC 1.015-1.040). Yacht racing will be in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Scottish Series is delighted that RC35 has chosen to sail with us on Loch Fyne providing a significant boost to the IRC fleet.

**Marlow Ropes**

Marlow Ropes is noted as 'High Performance Rope Experts.' Marlow produces a fantastic range of high performance cordage for the leisure industry and their dyneema products have fueled advances in both yacht and dinghy sailing. The Silvers Marine Scottish Series is delighted that Marlow are behind the prizes for the event and will provide a bespoke halyard to the 'Yacht of the Day'.

**Knox Anchors**

Knox Anchors are contributing an anchor (appropriate size for the boat) as a prize within the series. Invented by Professor John Knox and manufactured in the UK, the Knox Anchor is described as the result of more than 10 years of design and testing for those who want an anchor that sets immediately and holds tenaciously. With a holding power of more than 40 times its own weight, the Knox is claimed to be 30 per cent better than any other.

**Argyll and Bute Council**

Supporting the event by pointing up the input to

Agency and the aviation and oil industries. Crewsaver is part of the Survitec Group.

**Hempel Paints**

Hempel Paints sponsor the Crawford McInnes Trophy for youth. As a global supplier of high-quality marine paints and coatings, Hempel says it will keep your ship in prime condition, both inside and out, throughout its lifetime. With a focus on product innovation, customer service and technical advice, Hempel has been a leading supplier to the marine industry since 1915. Today, Hempel supply a wide range of advanced products, from fuel-saving antifoulings to some of the toughest epoxies in the industry.

**Tunnock's**

Legendary biscuit manufacturer Tunnock's has been a loyal supporter of the series for many years, returning again this year with their survival packs of goodies for competitors. Boyd Tunnock said: 'Tunnock's has been associated with the event for more than three decades. It's a fantastic event in the Scottish sporting calendar giving the perfect blend of serious racing and true Scottish hospitality.'

**The Botanist and Bruichladdich**

The Botanist, the first and only Islay Dry Gin, supports the event with the spirit described as a 'progressive exploration of the botanical heritage of the island. Wild, foraged, distilled.' Bruichladdich joined the sponsors in 2015. The whisky distilled on Islay since 1881 is a sister brand to The Botanist Islay Dry Gin.

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**Argyll and Bute Council**

Supporting the event by pointing up the input to

**The social scene**

The social scene is as important as the on-the-water activity. The focus is the marquee by the Tarbert pontoons. Clyde Cruising Club is organising Icebreaker parties this year to kick-start events and welcome competitors on Thursday night. There will be a bar and a hog roast. A similar event will be held at Largs Yacht Haven for the white sail fleet. A small donation will be asked for to support the CCC Seamanship and Pilotage Trust charity.

The Tarbert marquee provides a meeting point and social venue where everyone can enjoy drinks and catch up on the day's action on the water. Saturday night welcomes The Eliot Murray Band with free entry to the event. The traditional and spectacular fireworks on Saturday are this year being funded by Tarbert Enterprise Company (TEC) and Tarbert Harbour Authority (THA). TEC receives support from Argyll and Bute Council and THA.

John Hardie of TEC, which takes the lead in organising shoreside attractions, said: 'We welcome both competitors and visitors to this fantastic event. Everyone recognises its importance to the village. The regatta is so well run on the water with top class racing and this is pointed up by the entry list from far and wide. Ashore it's also great fun with a buzz about the village that is always associated with the Scottish Series weekend.'

Tarbert's hotels, restaurants and other accommodation providers are geared up to offer a selection of the best of hospitality and food for all. John added: 'The Silvers Marine Scottish Series provides the best food, drink and boating for an unforgettable experience both on and off the water.'



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## Kinlochleven rider's double first

History was made at the weekend as Kinlochleven rider Gary MacDonald became the first ever Scottish winner of the Pre-65 Scottish Two Days Trail in Kinlochleven. The event was held in and around the village on Friday and Saturday. Gary of Lochaber and District MCC rode well on the first day dropping only four marks to keep himself in the running for the second and final day where he went 'feet up' through all the sections for a fantastic clean ride through the day's 30 sections. Gary is also riding in this coming week's Scottish Six Days Trail in Fort William - can he make it the two in a row? Photo: Ginger Snaps Photography.

# Success for leisure centre swimmers

THE LOCHABER Leisure Centre swimmers have been busy over the last few months competing at the Scottish National Age group event (SNAGS) in Aberdeen, long distance swims in Stirling and the club's own monthly time gala.

At the SNAGS, five of the swimmers competed among the top swimmers in Scotland. There were around 900 other swimmers taking part.

Millie Jackson did very well, finishing 13th overall in her age group in the 50m breaststroke.

Aimee MacKay made it through to all three finals for her events, making her the first in the club to make it to Scottish finals. She achieved fifth place in the 100m breaststroke, sixth in the 50m breaststroke and seventh in the 200m breaststroke. She also achieved two new club records with her times.

Poppy Valentine competed in two back crawl swims, gaining a new club record in the 50m event and placing at 12th and 21st respectively for the 13-year-old age group.

Jenna MacLean was also competing in the 13-year-old age group over the five days. She was the club's second swimmer to make it to the finals and set new club records for the 50m, 200m and 400m front crawl.

Her rankings are ninth, 12th, 14th and 45th in Scotland.

Evie-Jay Clark was the youngest of the club's competitors at 11 years old, competing against the 13-year-olds.

She competed in 50, 100 and 200m back crawl and gained sixth, seventh and ninth place finishes against her own age group.

Overall, the Lochaber Swimmers totalled an impressive 12 top 15 places in the event.

In the long distance swim meet in Stirling, Siobhan Gordon competed in three



SNAG Swimmers, left to right, Aimee MacKay, Millie Jackson, Jenna MacLean, Poppy Valentine, Evie-Jay Clark. Photos: Abrightside Photography.

swims - 200m, 400m and 800m. She took more than 20 seconds off her entry time and finished third in her first 800m race.

She achieved another personal best in the 400m race, picking up a new club record and bronze medal along the way.

The monthly time trial brought some more great results. There were 50 personal bests, nine age group records and three new club short course records.

Jenna MacLean became the first local to break the 30-second barrier, achieving a new club record front crawl and achieved a new club record for 200m backcrawl and an age group record for 200m breast stroke.

William Cann set a new club record for 50m front crawl and took 11 seconds off his 200m I.M and 24 seconds off his 200m breast stroke times.

New age group records were set by Evie-Jay Clark and Caitlyn MacGillvary with both girls beating their previous 200m breast stroke times, and by

Poppy Valentine in the 200m I.M and Siobhan Gordon in the 50m front crawl. Sean Cann got an age group record (nine years) for 50m front and Indigo (12 years) for the 200m breast stroke. Personal bests were achieved by Indigo (200m breast stroke), Iona (200m breast stroke), Rachel

## Swimming

(200m back crawl) and Natalie (200m breast stroke).

The swimmers have a busy schedule ahead with competitions in Inverness, Alloa, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.



Swim team captains Connor Cann and Siobahn Gordon.

## Lorne Ladies lose last game of the season

Annan Warriors	22
Oban Lorne Ladies	5
BT Women's National League 2	

THE GREEN army set off bright and early at 7am for the second time this season to take on Annan Warriors away in their final league game of the season.

Travelling with a strong squad of 15 players, the team were excited to get their final match underway and with one game apiece to these two teams this season there was everything to play for. The winners of this game were set to take second place in the league.

Annan fielded a squad of 20, leaving them with more energy in the bank as the game played out.

In terms of possession, the Oban ladies were to dominate the game right from the off, spending the majority of the

match in their opposition's half of the pitch.

Unfortunately, their relentless attack was not to be awarded with any points on the board in the first half. As happened in their previous meeting with Annan, defensive errors and missed tackles from being slow to warm up after the long journey allowed Annan's speedy winger through to score.

This was the nature of all of Annan's tries, with a speedy runner making a break through gaps in the Oban line, eventually racking up three tries in the first half to Oban's zero.

Two minutes before the half-time whistle, Annan's stand off was sin binned for repeated offences, including high tackles and hands in the ruck, but Oban remained well disciplined throughout the match despite the high level of tension caused by these provoking attacks.

The second half was more evenly matched, and Oban were finally rewarded with five points after a try for their winger Ellen Barlow. Annan, however, also scored a further breakaway try in the second half, and running out of time, Oban were unable to come back leaving the final score at 22 points to the hosts to just five from the visiting Green Army.

Oban did well to maintain a high standard of play in the face of high tackles and other illegal plays, especially considering their disadvantage of having no substitutes.

Unusually, they successfully finished the game still with all 15 players on the pitch, and camaraderie was high for the return bus journey as the team celebrated the end of their 15s season and the retirement of long-standing and well respect-

## Women's rugby

ed captain Camilla Leslie.

The team wish her all the best and would like to thank her for her commitment and hard work over the past few years as their leader. Hopefully she still has many years as a player on the team ahead of her. They would also like to thank Mrs Stewart for driving the minibus to allow them to fulfil their final fixture, as well as all of their loyal supporters who made the long journey to cheer them on.

Sunday's result means Oban finish third in the BT Women's National League Division 2, where they will stay for the following season, which will start after the summer.

In the meantime, they are very much looking forward to the fun of sevens and beach



Despite losing their last game Oban Lorne Ladies have had a successful season.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

rugby tournaments during the summer months ahead and this is a great time for any new players to come and learn the basics

of rugby as well as experience the social side of the game.

The ladies train at Glencruttan pitches every Tuesday and Thurs-

day evening from 6-7pm and more information can be found on their Facebook page 'Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Club'.



Action from the recent under-15 game between Campbeltown Pupils and Oban Saints held at the all-weather pitch in Campbeltown

## Saints come out on top in Argyll derby

OBAN Saints Under-15s travelled to Campbeltown last Wednesday to take on Camp-

beltown Pupils in a Dumbarton Football Development League game and returned home with

an impressive 5-1 win under their belts. Scoring for the Saints' youngsters were Aidan

MacPhee, Jordan Normal and a hat-trick from Lennon Campbell.

## Scotland rugby legends Kellock and Blair join The Rugby Force

SCOTLAND'S Al Kellock and Mike Blair have joined Wales' Tom Shanklin and Stephen Jones, and England's Lewis Moody, Martin Corry, Neil Back and Maggie Alphonsi to form The Rugby Force - a team of rugby legends offering grassroots clubs across Britain the chance to receive genuine support and advice at their Royal Bank RugbyForce weekend celebration on August 12 and 13.

Now in its fifth year, the community initiative run in partnership between Royal Bank and Scottish Rugby aims to help clubs attract new members and to become stronger and more sustainable clubs.

These rugby icons will offer their specific knowledge and expertise in the game to help their selected clubs achieve their specific development goals in two key areas. Former Scotland and Glasgow Warriors captain Al Kellock returns

to Royal Bank RugbyForce this year following his successful spell as honorary board member at Annan RFC.

Al worked with Annan RFC to develop their commercial revenue streams by running a sponsorship workshop with key committee members.

### Best practice

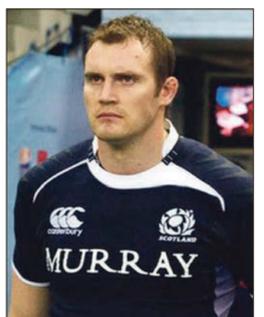
Al will be providing expert business advice to a winning club, while former Scotland scrum-half and current Glasgow Warriors coach Mike Blair will be giving coaching support to develop coaching best practice to benefit the whole club's coaching structure.

Speaking on set at the launch of Royal Bank RugbyForce, Al Kellock said: 'I am delighted to be involved with Royal Bank RugbyForce again this year. Working with Annan RFC was an amazing experience both for myself and the club and I am very much looking forward to sharing as much commercial

## Rugby

knowledge as possible with this year's winning club.'

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Former Scotland captain Al Kellock.

# Saints slam six past Shawlands

Shawlands	1
Oban Saints	6
SAFL Premier Division	

WHILE Joseph's FP were securing the points necessary to secure the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division title with a 3-1 win over Campbeltown Pupils in Duntocher, Oban Saints did their best to keep the pressure on the champions-elect with an emphatic 6-1 win over the league's other former pupils, Shawlands, at Lochinch.

With several players missing from the previous Saturday's Jimmy Marshall Trophy quarter-final Saints manager Alex Craik named an unfamiliar starting line-up giving a first starting role to Kerr Newbigging and handing the captain's arm band to Ross Maitland.

Saints made a lightning quick start catching Shawlands cold to open the scoring inside the first minute. A long ball from Willie Gemmell was beautifully taken down by Craig MacEwan and played diagonally across to Ross Maitland cutting in from the right who tucked it away low past keeper Scott McSharry's right hand.

With their tails up Saints pushed forward looking for a second. Kerr Newbigging fed the overlapping Matthew Kelly on the right who was hauled down by Leyton Slack. Ross Maitland's free-kick was pulled down at the back post by Kerr Newbigging and played back across goal looking for Paul Carmichael but Paul McGowan made an important interception and cleared the danger.

Matthew Kelly burst forward again in the seventh minute linking up on the right with Ross Maitland who was fractionally too heavy with his ball threaded into the box allowing Scott McSharry to come out and gather ahead of the Saints full back.

Shawlands weathered the early Saints storm and drew level from the corner flag in the 17th minute. Kevin Stewart's long ball up the edge of the Saints box looking for Ross McDougall was headed behind by Willie Gemmell. Gavin McCracken's corner kick from the right was met perfectly by Ross McDougall, who made a good run across Myles McAuley on the six-yard line to head high into the net giving Thomas McCulloch no chance.

Saints regained the lead five

minutes later from the penalty spot after David McKay slid in from behind on Paul Carmichael. Willie Gemmell's ball from the back sent Paul racing through the inside left channel pursued by David McKay. Paul Carmichael burst into the box with David McKay going through the back of him to get to the ball, leaving referee Pat O'Donnell any easy decision to point to the spot and put David McKay's name in his notebook.

Craig MacEwan successfully converted the penalty kick sending Scott McSharry in the wrong direction.

The keeper fared better in the 23rd minute saving well at his near post after a driving run into the box from Scott Maitland.

Another run into the box from Brian Mackay on the end of a move involving Myles McAuley and Kerr Newbigging had the Shawlands keeper at full stretch. However Brian Mackay's left foot shot across the keeper was a yard wide of his left hand post.

Two long Myles McAuley throw-ins from the left looking for the head of Paul Carmichael were comfortably dealt with by the Shawlands defence and a swift counter attack on the left saw Matthew Kelly penalised for pulling back Gavin McCracken. He, however, couldn't replicate his excellent delivery for his side's goal sending his free-kick into the Saints wall.

Willie Gemmell's accurate long range passing from the back opened up the Shawlands defence again in the 40th minute sending Paul Carmichael spinning in behind Keiran McKay on the Saints left. Paul Carmichael hit the bye-line and sent a good cut back looking for Ross Maitland which was well intercepted by Jonathan Stephens.

Willie Gemmell's 44th minute ball looking for the head of Carmichael was well won by David McKay launching a Shawlands counter attack which Brian Mackay eventually halted at the expense of a corner kick. Gavin McCracken's delivery from the left was easily cut out at the front post by Kerr Newbigging before referee O'Donnell blew the half-time whistle.

Saints kicked off the second half playing up the slight slope and made the same blistering start as they had in the first half. Kerr Newbigging played the ball up the right for Ross



Saints had Shawlands under pressure for long periods in the game but this time Ross McDougall heads the ball clear.

Match report and photos: Derek Black

Maitland, who won a throw-in off Leyton Slack. Ross Maitland found Craig MacEwan with his throw who make a driving run into the box and from 12 yards slammed an emphatic left-foot



Saints' new signing Kerr Newbigging and Shawlands' Paul McGowan in action. This was Kerr's first start of the season and he must have impressed the manager with an excellent performance in midfield.

finish into the top corner past Scott McSharry's right hand.

Kerr Newbigging played another good ball up the right wing in the 48th minute where Matthew Kelly won a corner kick off Jonathan Stephens.

Ross Maitland's ball into the six-yard box was punched away by Scott McSharry but only as far as Kerr Newbigging who had his shot blocked five yards from goal by Paul McGowan.

The hosts had their first second-half foray up field in the 50th minute winning a free-kick on the edge of the centre circle.

The lofted ball from Jonathan Stephens looking for the head of Ross McDougall was well won by Matthew Kelly getting in front of the Shawlands Skipper to clear the danger.

Saints' fourth goal came courtesy of an unfortunate 51-minute mix up in the home defence with Ross Maitland pouncing on a misplaced pass from Scott McSharry. Ross Maitland intercepted the pass intended for David McKay and rounded the stranded keeper before rolling the ball into the

empty net.

Myles McAuley popped up in unfamiliar territory wide on Saints' right in the 55th minute and delivered a deep back post cross which Craig MacEwan headed back across goal to Paul Carmichael who steered a left-foot effort wide of target under pressure from David McKay.

Kerr Newbigging continued to pick the passes from midfield and sent another good ball up the right wing for Paul Carmichael, who beat Jonathan Stephens to get his cross away and won a corner kick when Keiran McKay headed behind. Scott McSharry came through a ruck of players to punch clear but once again couldn't get any distance on his punch which returned by an overhead kick from David McArthur. His effort looped high into the air with Scott McSharry recovering to clutch the ball under pressure from Paul Carmichael.

Saints made it 5-1 with 30 minutes still to play. Myles McAuley made a powerful run through the midfield before laying off to Brian Mackay who was upended 22 yards from goal by David McKay. Willie Gemmell lifted his free-kick, from slightly right of centre, expertly over the four-man Shawlands wall and over the flailing arms of Scott McSharry and just under the crossbar.

Both sides made changes before the re-start. Martin Bonar replaced Scott Maitland at left back for Saints and Shawlands withdrew Gary Irwin and Kevin Stewart in favour of Scott Mad-

den and Gary Douglas.

Saints threatened to break through once more with David McArthur slightly too heavy with a long ball to send Craig MacEwan in behind and David McKay making a vital interception to deny Paul Carmichael after a surging run and lay-off from Brian Mackay.

With 15 minutes remaining Saints manager Alex Craik made his final change bringing a good shift on his starting debut from Kerr Newbigging to an end replacing him with Fraser MacFarlane. Paul Carmichael dropped back into midfield allowing Fraser MacFarlane to join Ross Maitland and Craig MacEwan up front.

He was almost in on goal within a minute of joining the action but Craig MacEwan and Brian Mackay over elaborated in the build up allowing Jonathan Stephens to stab out a toe and divert the ball away from Fraser MacFarlane.

Despite being outplayed for long periods Shawlands never gave up but were unable to get the better of a firmly-in-control Saints back four. Mark Watt's deep cross from the right in the 76th minute found Ross McDougall at the back post but the well-positioned Mr O'Donnell, who had an excellent game, correctly ruled that the Shawlands skipper had strayed offside. Mark Watt then sent a speculative effort from 28 yards high over Thomas McCulloch's crossbar. Martin Bonar pushing forward on the left won an 81st-minute corner kick with David McKay head-

## Football

ing Ross Maitland's in-swing clear at the near post. Brian Mackay was first to the loose ball and tee'd it up perfectly for Matthew Kelly 25 yards out. He rattled the Shawlands crossbar with a sweetly struck shot which left Scott McSharry firmly rooted to the spot.

Saints rounded off the scoring with seven minutes remaining when skipper Ross Maitland threaded a ball through for Brian Mackay, who outpaced Leyton Slack and slotted the ball right-footed past the advancing Scott McSharry for Saints' sixth goal of the afternoon.

There was still time for Scott McSharry in the Shawlands goal to produce the save of the match to deny Ross Maitland a hat-trick. David McArthur pushed forward to join the attack and set up Ross Maitland who arrowed a shot towards the top corner which Scott McSharry, at full stretch, somehow managed to finger tip over the crossbar.

Mr O'Donnell brought proceedings to an end after three added minutes before the news filtered through from William Street that St Joseph's FP had beaten a depleted Campbeltown Pupils side to clinch a second Premier Division title in three seasons. Saints still have six league fixtures beginning on Saturday with a visit to Glencruitten of Goldenhill before the Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-final against Hillington the following weekend.



## Fort William

ON SATURDAY April 16 a three-man Texas Scramble was played at Fort William Golf Club with the following result:

1 Cal Brown, Lewis Corbett and Graeme Worsdall net 60 (68-8); 2 Neil Feggans, Steven Jamieson and David MacPherson net 61 (65-4); 3 Keith Duncan, Eric Wallace and Jason Wallace net 62 (67-5)

On Saturday April 22 the April medal was played with the following result: Section 1 - 1 Alan Overend net 67 (80-13); 2 Willie Duncan net 70 (84-14); 3 Willie McCann net 71 (85-14).

Section 2 - 1 Graeme Worsdall net 70 (86-16); 2 Jason Wallace net 73 (89-16); 3 John Ferguson net 75 (90-15).

On Sunday April 23 the April senior medal was played with the following result: 1 Ian Robertson net 64 (76-12); 2 Willie McCann net 70 (84-14); 3 Kevin Hickman net 74 (102-28).

On Tuesday April 18 the ladies April medal was played with the following result: 1 Kathleen Leitch net 74 (91-17); 2 Ann Lovatt net 80 (106-26); 3 Iona Cameron net 82 (102-20)

On Sunday April 23 the second round of the Cameron Stableford trophy was played with the following result - 1 Iona Cameron 32 points; 2 Hazel Cameron 28 points; 3 Rosemary Macintyre 25 points.

## Glencruitten

DALE Robertson won the Lifeboat Trophy at Glencruitten on Saturday with a score of 66-6=60. Dale was also the leading qualifier for the Stokes Trophy.

On Saturday the Isis Cup first round and the Captain of Dunstaffnage first round takes place.

In the ladies' section on Thursday April 20 the ladies played for the Jean MacGregor/Extra Medal and leading scores were Mary Plunkett 94-27=67, Ann Carss 96-26=70 and Christine Cameron 95-23=72.

On April 27 the Captain's Prize was won by Mary Plunkett with a score of 97-27=70, followed by Diane Colewell 86-15=71 and Ann Carss 98-26=72.

## Taynuilt

CATHERWOOD Trophy first round and medal played on Sunday April 30: 1 Allan Stewart 74-13=61; 2 Andrew Diggory 70-5=65; 3 Alex Needham 84-18=66; 4 Calum Munro 75-9=66.

Ladies: Duncarden Trophy -1 Carol MacLarty 89-18-71; 2 Jane MacIntyre 100-28-72; 3 Mairead Sim. 89-16-73 (BIH).

## Islay

THE LADDIES Trophy played Sunday 30 April - 1 A Woodman 37 pts; 2 A MacLean 36 pts; 3 L Gairns 35 pts. CSS 36 pts (-72).



Saints skipper Ross Maitland is congratulated by his teammates after opening the scoring against Shawlands in the first minute.



Willie Gemmell lifts a superb free kick over the Shawlands' wall to net Saints' fifth goal.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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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

## Camannachd Cup first round ties on Saturday

THERE were surprises, extra-time and penalty shoot-outs and all but one of the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-finalists are known following the shinty action on Saturday April 29 2017.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup - first round

#### Kinlochshiel 0

**Lovat 0**  
(AET - Lovat won 3-2 on penalties)

Artemis Macaulay Cup holders Kinlochshiel have been knocked out of this year's competition, eventually losing out to Lovat after a penalty shoot-out at Kirkton.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up to remember Lovat's 1953 Camannachd Cup winner Willie MacLean who recently passed away.

There may have been no goals in this tie but it had just about everything else.

Kinlochshiel hit the frame of the goals on three occasions and whilst Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonal produced some marvellous saves, Scott Kennedy in the 'Shiel goal was certainly no idle bystander.

'Shiel kept the ball wide in attack and created a number of chances but the Lovat defence was on form with Daniel Grieve outstanding.

There was a good battle between full centres Finlay MacRae and Danny Kelly, who cancelled each other out, although Lovat had more success on the midfield wings.

You just couldn't take your eyes off the action and the game's main talking point came on 73 minutes. Lovat passed up more than one chance to clear their lines following a 'Shiel corner and as Oliver MacRae went into a challenge, Jordan Fraser raced across from the right to send a thunderous shot goalwards. What happened next will be remembered by all those who attended the game for many-a-year. Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonal got his hand to the shot but such was the power of the strike, the ball spun up and over the keeper and looked certain to drop into the back of the net. Keeper MacDonal, by now on his knees, threw himself forwards towards his goal and, with an out-stretched arm, he flicked the dropping ball away with his caman for a corner on the 'Shiel left.

The save was captured by cameraman Norman Strachan and has since become a YouTube sensation, featured on the Ca-

manachd Association Facebook page, and it drew warm applause from both sets of supporters.

The extra-time period still failed to produce a goal and, as with what had gone before, the ensuing penalty shoot-out at the top goal was dramatic.

Lovat player/manager Fraser Gallacher led by example, giving his side the lead only for Jordan Fraser to level.

Lovat's Greg Matheson, who had suffered several knocks during the game, and 'Shiel's Finlay MacRae both sent their efforts over the top.

Scott Kennedy made a great save, high to his left, to deny Lorne MacKay and John MacRae fired low into the net to put 'Shiel 2-1 ahead.

Craig Mainland restored parity, although Kennedy almost kept the ball out, and Stuart MacDonal made a great save, stretching a foot to his left, to thwart Keith MacRae.

Scott Kennedy then stretched a foot to his right to save Calum Cruden's strike so Oliver MacRae had a chance to win it for 'Shiel but Stuart MacDonal made another fantastic save.

With the shoot-out at 2-2 after the first 10 hits, the contest went to sudden death with the players lining up in the same order.

Fraser Gallacher scored, sending the ball high over the keeper's left shoulder, to give Lovat the advantage.

Jordan Fraser had to score for 'Shiel but his strike was well-saved with his caman by Stuart MacDonal to give Lovat victory.

It was a game neither team deserved to lose and referee John Angus Gillies flashed the yellow card five times to diffuse any potential flashpoints.

#### Fort William 2

**Glenurquhart 2**  
(AET - Fort William won 2-0 on penalties)

Marine Harvest National Division side Fort William are through to the next round after they beat Marine Harvest Premiership outfit Glenurquhart on penalties following their 2-2 draw in their 3pm throw up at An Aird.

Fort William took the lead through Arran MacPhee on 20 minutes but Fraser Heath levelled with an unstoppable first time shot just six minutes later.

James Hurwood scored a minute before the break to put the Glen in front and it looked as if they would see out a 2-1 win.

Glenurquhart at times seemed to be looking for the perfect goal and they were made to pay as Fort William upped their game

in the final period, showing increased urgency and Arran MacPhee got his second to make it 2-2 with 10 minutes remaining.

Garry MacKintosh in the Glen goal made a couple of late saves but, with no further scoring, referee Archie Ritchie took the tie into extra-time.

But with neither side able to add to their tally, a penalty shoot-out ensued.

Arran MacPhee was up first but his effort was saved with the legs of Garry MacKintosh. The Glen couldn't take advantage though as Fraser Heath's penalty was saved with his stick by Paul MacKay.

With Mark Grant's penalty saved and John Barr missing the target, it was scoreless after four penalties.

Fort William's Jack Fraser was up next and he broke the deadlock and Paul MacKay saved from Lachie Smith.

Bobby MacMillan's penalty went in off the keeper to make it 2-0 and, with Paul MacKay saving the Glen's fourth penalty from David MacLennan; the An Aird side went through to the quarter-finals.

#### Kingussie 0

**Lochaber 2**  
Lochaber notched their first win of the season, beating Kingussie 2-0 at The Dell.

Forwards Martin Dallas, Ryan Borthwick and James Falconer were all missing for Kingussie.

Lochaber's Barry MacDonald served the second game of a two-match suspension whilst Brian MacDonald was out with a broken thumb.

Lochaber have found goals hard to come by this season but Shaun Nicolson, who linked up well with Connor Sweeney throughout, got his rewards in this game with finishes on 15 and 22 minutes to make it 2-0.

Findlay MacDonald played well for Lochaber and Ally Ferguson's side will look to build on this win when they eventually return to league action.

#### Oban Camannachd 4

**Ballachulish 0**

With Mossfield unavailable, the tie between Oban Camannachd and Ballachulish was switched to Ganavan, where the Oban side ran out comfortable 4-0 winners.

There was a similarity to all four Oban goals; all netted from close in with Iain Hay's side taking advantage of any rebounds off the keeper.

Andrew MacCuish scored on 33 and 41 minutes and when Daniel MacVicar made it 3-0 on 42 minutes, there was only going



Lovat players celebrate the save made by keeper Stuart Macdonald (second left) that won the penalty shoot out against last year's Macaulay Cup winners Kinlochshiel. Photo: Neil Paterson.

to be one winner.

Oban Camannachd made a bit of a meal of things after the break but Daniel Cameron did add a fourth with just SEVEN minutes remaining.

#### Inveraray 4

**Oban Celtic 5 (AET)**

2016 Artemis Macaulay Cup runners up Inveraray were knocked out of this year's tournament, losing 5-4 to Oban Celtic after extra-time in their all-Marine Harvest National Division tie at The Winterton.

Lee Askew opened scoring with a scrappy goal after five minutes of what would prove to be a nine-goal thriller.

As the game flowed from end to end, Inveraray responded well and young Ruairaidh Graham levelled on 14 minutes with Allan MacDonal putting the home side ahead on 31 minutes.

Another blow was to follow for Celtic as they lost full back Andy MacDonal with a nasty cut to his face.

However, this all seemed to spur Oban Celtic on and former Scotland U21 international Daniel Madej made it 2-2 with a well-worked goal on 37 minutes.

Oban Celtic then shot themselves in the foot, conceding directly from the restart as Allan MacDonal grabbed his second to give Inveraray a 3-2 advantage at the break.

When Allan MacDonal completed his hat-trick on 65 minutes, Inveraray had one foot in the next round.

It would have been easy for Oban Celtic to throw in the towel but manager Kenny Wotherpoon went for broke.

Ross MacMillan was moved into the forward line, where he gave Douglas Dando a torrid time, and David MacInnes went to half back. Lee Askew went out on the wing and Daniel MacMillan came off the bench with Daniel Madej going onto the D and Neil Carmichael dropping back to half forward.

Oban Celtic showed great character and a 'never say die' attitude and the moves paid dividends with Neil Carmichael scoring twice in the final seven minutes.

Carmichael made it 4-3 on 82

minutes with a low, driven shot which sneaked into the corner of the net.

Even then it looked as if Inveraray would grind out the win and make it into the next round but Neil Carmichael clearly hadn't read the script and, just a minute from time, with Inveraray in disarray at the back, he flicked the ball into the top corner of the net to make it 4-4 and referee Willie MacDonal took the tie into extra-time.

Oban Celtic were the fitter side during extra-time, with Inveraray failing to match their opponents' desire.

Oban Celtic had the ball in the net on 97 minutes but the effort was correctly ruled out for offside.

With Ally Munro going off injured, Inveraray pulled Allan MacDonal back into defence where Celtic forward Daniel Madej was proving a handful.

Gary MacPherson moved up but never really threatened as the Celtic defenders were strong.

With just 90 seconds left, and both managers contemplating their five penalty takers, Celtic won it. Daniel Madej hit a snap-shot on the turn from 20 yards out which was saved by Scott MacLachlan but Daniel MacMillan was first to react and he rifled the ball low and hard

into the net to win the tie and set up a derby meeting with Oban Camannachd at Ganavan in the quarter-finals.

After the match, Oban Celtic player/manager Kenny Wotherpoon said: 'Our boys were just great today. They never gave up; even at 4-2 down, and away from home, they believed in themselves as did I. The hard work at training is paying off. We have no game this coming Saturday as it is Calum Fox's stag-do, so the boys will enjoy a well-earned rest before we get back to it again.'

Inveraray will obviously be disappointed with the result but they don't have time to feel sorry for themselves as they are back to cup duty this coming Saturday, at home to Tayforth in the Camannachd Cup.

#### Skye Camannachd 1

**Newtonmore 3**  
Newtonmore beat Skye Camannachd 3-1 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Steven Morrison was still out for Skye. Paul MacArthur, who has been hampered with a hamstring problem, travelled with Newtonmore and was an unused substitute. Norman Campbell continued in goal and Rory Kennedy recovered from a knock sustained in the previous week's win over Lochaber.

Newtonmore won the toss and played with a stiff breeze at their backs in the first half.

Skye made a positive start to the game but it was Newtonmore who went in front on five minutes when Iain Robinson gathered possession. He showed great pace to burst forward from the right wing, into the D, and sent the ball into the net to make it 1-0.

Glen MacKintosh made it 2-0 just four minutes later when he drove a loose ball from a Drew MacDonal corner into the net from 22 yards out.

Skye absorbed a fair bit of Newtonmore pressure before pulling a goal back on 34 minutes. A John Gillies free-hit from the left of midfield broke for James Pringle on the Skye right and he sent a great shot into the net to make it 2-1.

Glen MacKintosh restored 'More's two-goal advantage on 56 minutes when he collected a Drew MacDonal pass on the right and he gave keeper Iain MacLeod no chance with a firm strike.

#### Aberdour 1

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 5**

Aberdour Mid Argyll defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up game at Silversands.

Goals from Calum McLay, with a 30-yard strike on four minutes, and Brian Slattery, who played a one-two with Garry Luke before scoring on 10 minutes, got GMA off to a solid start.

The visitors played with Premiership pace in the first half and they killed the tie before the break.

Calum McLay got his second on 40 minutes, tapping home a rebound off the keeper and Craig Anderson also found the back of the net a minute before the break when he raced onto a long ball over the top to make it 4-0.

Craig Anderson got his second on 75 minutes, slotting home a rebound after a Calum McLay effort was saved, and although David MacKenzie pulled a goal back a minute later with a shot from distance which bounced past Robert Dunning in the visiting goal, it was GMA's day.



Action from the Fort William/Glenurquhart match which Fort William won on penalties.

### Revised Artemis MacAulay Cup draw

The revised Artemis Macaulay Cup draw is now known following the fixtures on Saturday April 29 2017.

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup (South) - quarter final

**Saturday June 10**  
Oban Celtic v Oban Camannachd  
Bute/Kyles Athletic v Glasgow Mid Argyll

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup (North) - quarter final

**Saturday June 10**  
Newtonmore v Fort William  
Lochaber v Lovat

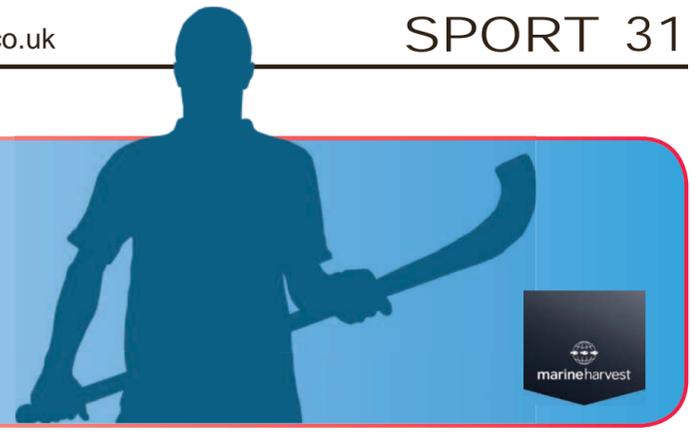
#### Artemis Macaulay Cup (South) - semi final

**Saturday July 22**  
Oban Celtic/Oban Camannachd v  
Bute/Kyles Athletic/Glasgow Mid Argyll

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup (North) - semi final

**Saturday July 22**  
Newtonmore/Fort William v  
Lochaber/Lovat

The 2017 Artemis Macaulay cup final will take place at Mossfield, Oban on **Saturday August 19**.



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

## Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - second round

**Newtonmore 8 Lochcarron 0**  
Holders Newtonmore seconds were too strong for Lochcarron, winning 8-0 at the Eilan.

David Cheyne gave 'More a 23-minute lead with Iain Cameron putting through his own goal a minute later.

Calum Stewart on 29 minutes, John MacKenzie on 32 minutes and Stewart again on 44 minutes made it 5-0 at the break.

Newtonmore continued to dominate in the second half and Craig MacLeod added a sixth just three minutes after the restart.

A second for David Cheyne on 67 minutes and a second from Craig MacLeod 10 minutes from time rounded off the 8-0 win.

## Aberdour 0 Kingussie 7

The Kingussie colts are also through to the third round, beating the Aberdour colts 7-0 in their noon throw up at Silversands.

Dylan Borthwick broke the deadlock on 17 minutes and Daniel Donald made it 2-0 on 27 minutes.

Dylan Borthwick got his second a minute later to make it 3-0.

An Alistair Abbott own goal on 36 minutes and Kevin Thain strike just 60 seconds later made it 5-0 at half time.

Two late goals put gloss on the win as Liam Borthwick found the back of the net on 81 minutes with Owen Reid completing the 7-0 win a minute later.

## Kyles Athletic 0 Lochside Rovers 2

Lochside Rovers returned from Tighnabruaich with a win for the second successive Saturday, beating the Kyles Athletic second team 2-0.

Michael MacQueen gave the Oban side a 33-minute lead with a 25-yard rocket shot into top corner of the net.

Keith Burnett added a second on 66 minutes courtesy of a lovely assist from Michael MacQueen that left Burnett one-on-one with keeper and he slipped the ball past the advancing Kyles' custodian.

Kyles put pressure on the visitors during the final 15 minutes but the Lochside defence was outstanding.

## Glenurquhart 3 Boleskine 0

The Glenurquhart reserves scored three times in the first half to record their first win of the season, beating Boleskine 3-0 at Blairbeg.

Ben Hosie, recently returned to the side following the end of Inverness City's football season, opened the scoring on six and he added a second on 22 minutes.

A Cairn Urquhart goal a minute before referee John Matheson's half-time whistle made it 3-0 which was enough to seal victory.

The winning margin could have been bigger but the Glen had further efforts ruled out for offside.

## Lochaber 0 Glengarry 3

The Lochaber second team and Glengarry met for the second time this season with 'Garry winning again; this time 3-0 at Spean Bridge.

Raymond Robertson continued his scoring spree with a strike on 29 minutes and David Rodgers made it 2-0 just 10 minutes later.

Stuart Gregory rounded off the win with a goal a couple of minutes from time.

## Caberfeidh 3 Inverness 0

The Caberfeidh seconds beat the Inverness seconds 3-0 at Castle Leod.

The Inverness midfield was made up of former Skye player Ewen MacKinnon and his sons William MacKinnon, at full



MacDonalds in action - Inveraray's Alan in a tussle for the ball with Oban Celtic's Andy during their Macaulay Cup tie at the Winterton last weekend. Photo: Stephen Lawson

centre following a hand injury, and Ross MacKinnon.

Ruaraidh McCreadie opened the scoring on 10 minutes and Fraser MacArthur made it 2-0 with a high, looping ball in on goal on 39 minutes.

There were few chances to score in the second half but Brian MacKain scored against his former club with 20 minutes remaining to round off the 3-0 win.

## Fort William W/O Oban Lorn

The Fort William seconds sailed through to the quarter finals when Oban Lorn were unable to raise a team for their noon throw up at An Aird.

## Bute W/O v Caithness

The Bute reserves were given a walk-over when non-league Caithness were unable to raise a team for their trip to The Meadows.

## Marine Harvest Premiership

### Kyles Athletic 3 Kilmallie 1

With their rivals in cup action, Kyles Athletic took the chance to go two points clear at the top of the table after they defeated Kilmallie 3-1 at Tighnabruaich.

Callum Miller and Grant Irvine were missing for Kyles so Innes MacDonald and Cammy Keith were deployed as a full back partnership.

Kilmallie were without the suspended Michael Rodger who served the final game of his ban. Aaron Sandison started a five-game suspension whilst Liam Cameron began a two-game ban but Duncan Rodger was free of his suspension.

When referee Lachie Wood awarded Kyles a 27-minute penalty, the ever-reliable Robbie MacLeod stepped up to score.

Sandy MacKenzie made it 2-0 on 35 minutes and it stayed that way until the break.

Kilmallie's Duncan Rodger pulled a goal back on 54 minutes only for Roddy MacDonald to make it 3-1 on 74 minutes to maintain his record of scoring in all of Kyles' eight matches this season.

Kyles are now two points ahead of Kinlochshiel and Oban Camanachd but they have played a game more than the former and a game fewer than the latter.

## Marine Harvest National Division

### Beaulieu 0 Caberfeidh 3

Caberfeidh move within a point of leaders Skye in shinty's second tier thanks to a 3-0 win over Beaulieu at Braeview Park.

Craig Morrison put Cabers ahead on 18 minutes when he fired home from between the D and the penalty spot. His back-

hand, waist-high strike flew into the corner of the net.

Morrison got his and Caberfeidh's second on 27 minutes following a corner.

Craig Morrison completed his hat-trick a minute before the break, sending the ball into the bottom corner of the net from inside the D.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

### Aberdeen University P Beaulieu 3

The Beaulieu second team were unable to raise a team for their meeting with Aberdeen University at Balgowrie.

Beaulieu have been deducted two points and the match will be rescheduled for a later date.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Col Glen 1 Taynuilt 1

A Steven Parr goal seconds from time earned Taynuilt a share of the points in a 1-1 draw with Col Glen at Glendaruel.

The first half was goalless but Connor Kennedy put Col Glen ahead 10 minutes after the restart.

And that's the way it stayed until the game moved into the final minute when Steven Parr equalised for Taynuilt.

Col Glen stay fourth and Taynuilt stay fifth with a game in hand.

## WCA round up

Top division league action returned with the majority of fixtures played on Sunday April 30 2017.

## Marine Harvest National Division 1

### Skye Camanachd 2 Badenoch & Strathspey 4

Badenoch & Strathspey defeated Skye Camanachd 4-2 in their noon throw-up game at Paic nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday April 29 2017.

A turn and shot from Kirsty Deans put the visitors ahead but Abby MacLean tucked home a rebound a couple of minutes later to level.

Kirsty Deans got her side's second with a strike from distance on the right and Zoe Reid added a third, again from a rebound.

Zoe Reid knocked the ball home early in the second half to make it 4-1 and although Lorna MacRae pulled a goal back, Badenoch & Strathspey deserved the win.

### Aberdour 1 Glasgow Mod Argyll 4

Glasgow Mid Argyll beat Aberdour 4-1 in their noon throw up at Silversands.

Katy Smith scored for the home side but a Lindsay Michie brace and goals from Lucy McNulty and Catriona Stark won the game for GMA

### Lochaber 10 Fort William 0

Lochaber were too strong for Fort William, winning 10-0 in their derby clash at Spean Bridge. Kirsty Delaney scored four times whilst Claire Delaney, Amy Disher and Stephanie Walsh all got doubles.

## Marine Harvest Challenge Cup - round 1

### Cowal & Bute 3 English Shinty Assoc 3

(AET Cowal & Bute won on penalties) Cowal & Bute beat the English Shinty Association on penalties after a 3-3 draw.

Fay Robertson, Catherine Whyte and Charmaine Love scored for Cowal & Bute with Mary Walsh notching a hat-trick for the English side.

Cowal & Bute came out on top in the shoot-out.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

### Oban Lorn 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 7

Glasgow Mid Argyll overcame Oban Lorn, winning 7-1. Shelley MacCuish netted for

the home side but a Catherine Mullen hat-trick and two each from Catriona Phillips and Laura Aiken gave GMA the points.

Ruaridh Horne got the others. The match between Newtonmore and Kingussie was postponed.

## Development Leagues - East

Aberdour hosted the Development League - East fixtures with Aberdour, Badenoch, Strathspey and Tayforth all taking part.

## Development League - West

Lovat hosted the Development League - West at Balgate where Ardnamurchan, Fort William, Glenurquhart, Lovat, Skye and Strathglass all competed well.

## Youth Round Up

### U17 Marine Harvest London Shield - Section A

Fort William top Section A on goal difference thanks to a 3-0 win over Glenurquhart at Blairbeg. Lewis Clark, Victor Smith and Hamish Shaw got the goals.

Kinlochshiel came from two goals down to beat Skye 4-2 at Plockton High School. Stewart Taylor and Daniel MacDonald had Skye in front but Finlay MacRae, Sam Stubbs and a Duncan Matheson brace gave 'Shiel the win.

### U17 Marine Harvest London Shield - Section B

Oban Camanachd beat Lochaber 11-0 at Spean Bridge to top Section B. Craig MacMillan scored four times; Lewis Buchanan grabbed a hat-trick. Lennon Campbell nabbed a double and Euan Logan and

## Marine Harvest U14 League

**Section A**  
A Max Campbell double and goals from Dillon Brockie and Tyler Whyte meant Lochaber beat Lovat 4-3 at Balgate. Finlay Ogilvie scored twice for Lovat and Lewis Muir got the other directly from a corner. Kingussie defeated Newtonmore 3-2 at The Eilan.

### Section B

Kirsty Campbell, doubles from Herbie Paterson and Seumas Buchanan and an Arron Meilis goal gave Ardnamurchan a 6-1 win over Glengarry with Cameron Fraser netting for 'Garry.

Fort William beat Kilmallie 8-0. Archie MacKinnon, Rhys Kennedy and Hamish Shaw all scored twice with Cameron Stephen and Craig MacDonald getting the others.

### Section C

Skye Camanachd U14 beat Kinlochshiel U14 1-0 at Plockton High School. Taylor Matheson got the only goal of the game after 29 minutes.

### Section D

Inverness were 6-1 winners over Beaulieu at the Bught Park.

Findlay Calder put Inverness ahead but Rory Tuach levelled early in the second half. Ross MacKinnon put the home side back in front and Charlie MacRae made it 3-1.

Finlay Calder scored three more times to make it 6-1.

## Moves to avert shinty refereeing crisis

CAMANACHD Association Director Angus MacVicar has written directly to clubs in a bid to avert a possible refereeing crisis.

MacVicar highlights a 'very difficult situation that shinty is currently facing due to a shortage of suitable match officials'. He said: 'In short, we are on the cusp of a very real crisis which may call for drastic measures in the not-so-distant future.'

'Some of you may think that shinty has always had difficulty in recruiting suitable individuals for referees and goal judges and therefore nothing has changed. However, the current situation is dire in that the Camanachd Association may have to consider cancelling games because suitable officials are simply not available.'

The situation is so serious that unless something radical happens in the next few months, the association may be forced to allocate games on the basis of the clubs that have nominated the currently-available match officials.

Clubs, current match officials and anyone associated with the sport is urged to actively approach any suitable individual known to them who might be interested in being nominated as a shinty match referee or goal judge.

The Camanachd Association will offer appropriate training and development to assist those with the right attributes to become successful match officials.

Any interested parties can contact Operations Manager Astie Cameron or the Camanachd Association offices on 01463 715 931.



Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon celebrates with his players after their thrilling 5-4 win over Inveraray. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## Fixtures

### Saturday May 6

#### Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Aberdeen University v Skye  
Archie Ritchie  
Bute v Caberfeidh  
Ross Brown  
Kilmory v Taynuilt  
Robert Baxter  
Inveraray v Tayforth  
Innes Wood

#### Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA v Glenurquhart  
Willie MacDonald - 3pm  
Kingussie v Oban Camanachd  
Martin MacLean  
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
Deek Cameron  
Kyles Athletic v Lovat  
Graham Cameron  
Lochaber v Kilmallie  
John Angus Gillies

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu v Fort William  
Calum Girvan

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Kingussie  
Alex MacVicar  
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore  
Iain Kennedy  
Skye v Kinlochshiel  
Brian MacKay

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers  
John Wood  
Kyles Athletic v Col Glen  
David Mitchell

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness v Boleskine  
Andy MacLean  
Lewis v Caberfeidh  
John Matheson  
Lochcarron v Lochaber  
Steven MacLachlan  
Lovat v Strathspey  
Scott McNeil  
Strathglass v Glengarry  
Neil Ferguson

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow MA v Aberdour  
Neil MacDonald - Noon  
Inveraray v Bute  
Des McNulty  
Oban Lorn v Strachur  
Ronnie Campbell

Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated

## Results

### Saturday April 29

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup First Round

Aberdour 1 v 5 Glasgow MA  
Fort William 2 v 2 Glenurquhart  
Fort William won 2-0 on pens  
Inveraray 4 v 5 Oban Celtic  
Kingussie 0 v 2 Lochaber  
Kinlochshiel 0 v 0 Lovat  
Lovat won 3-2 on pens  
Oban Cam 4 v 0 Ballachulish  
Skye 1 v 3 Newtonmore

#### Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Second Round

Aberdour 0 v 7 Kingussie  
Fort William P v P Oban Lorn  
Oban Lorn unable to field a team. Walkover to Fort William  
Glenurquhart 3 v 0 Boleskine  
Lochaber 0 v 3 Glengarry  
Kyles Ath 0 v 2 Lochside Rovers  
Newtonmore 8 v 0 Lochcarron  
Caberfeidh 3 v 0 Inverness  
Bute P v P Caithness  
Caithness unable to field a team. Walkover to Bute

#### Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 3 v 1 Kilmallie

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 0 v 3 Caberfeidh

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni P v P Beaulieu  
Beaulieu unable to field team - game to be rescheduled

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen 1 v 1 Taynuilt

## Youth football festival proves to be another huge success

### Over 500 children attended the Oban Youth Football Festival

OBAN and District Primary Football League hosted their annual football festival last Saturday at Mossfield and the rugby pitch, with the day being another great advert for youth football in Argyll.

A large crowd were treated to some fantastic entertainment from the 57 teams taking part across the 2005 to 2011 age groups, with more than 500 children showing off their football skills.

The Oban teams at each age group were joined by teams from Lochnell FC and a number of travelling teams from Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Glasgow, Dumbarton, Paisley and Fort William.

In the 2005 age group, the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund

#### Primary football

trophy was won by Oban Spartak, beating Giffnock in a tense penalty shoot-out in the final.

The organising committee would like to thank the large number of volunteers who helped make the day a huge success. They would also like to thank all those who kindly provided event sponsorship: Calum MacLeod Building Contractor, SEC Joiners and Builders, Tommy's Hairdressers, RA Clement Associates Chartered Accountants, Aldi, the Oban Inn and Fiuran Property.

Also a big thanks to local Councillor Roddy McCuish who presented all players with their medals.



Spartak with their coaches Neil Beaton, Shuggie Campbell and Bertie Gemmill along with Councillor Roddy McCuish who presented the prizes at the festival. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Councillor Roddy McCuish with the children who played in the festival's junior section.



Oban Saints Ajax with their medals.



Action from the Lochnell v Ajax match.



Councillor McCuish with one of the young Lochgilphead teams.



Lochnell 2008s.



Action from the 2005 age group final between Oban Spartak and Giffnock.



The Lochnell girls team.

### News from Oban Bowling Club

#### Bowls



Emma Gargan and Gilbert Mullen.

THE holiday weekend saw the first West Argyll League match when Oban had a home game against Tarbert with Oban coming out on top by eight points to two.

On Sunday the first competition of the season saw Gilbert Mullen and Emma Gargan win a close-fought final for the Caledonia Trophy against Colin Carmichael and Scott Gargan.

### Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

#### Youth football

RESULTS: Wednesday – Campbeltown Pupils 1, Under 15s 5. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacPhee, Jordan Norman and a hat-trick from Lennox Campbell.

Saturday – KSC Thistle 2, Under 14s 1. On target for Saints was Conor Moore.

Ardencaple 1, Under 15s 9. Saints' goalscorers were Gavin Forgivee (2), Jude Bain (2), Aidan MacPhee, Craig Millar, Jordan Norman, Lennox Campbell and Liam Richmond.

Sunday – Under 13s 4, Lochgilphead Red Star 6. Scoring for Saints were Ross Higgins, Fergus MacIntyre, John MacDonald and Thomas McCrindle.

Under 15s 6, Kilpatrick 3. Scoring for Saints were Lennox Campbell (2), Gavin Forgivee, Aaron McKay, Jude Bain and Jordan Norman.

This weekend's fixtures – Glasgow Red Star v Under 13s; Under 14s v Carolside YC; Westerton v Under 15s. Under 16s, no game; Under 17s, no game.

### Scottish AFL results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division – Shawlands FP 1, Oban Saints 6; St Joseph's FP 3, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Jimmy Marshall Cup quarter-final – Dunon 7, East Kilbride 2; Hall Cup, first round – Houston 2, Lochgilphead Red Star 5; Tarbert 0, Arkleston 4.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division – Campbeltown Pupils v Motherwell Thistle; Oban Saints v Goldenhill; Premier 1 – Rutherglen v Dunoon; Premier 2A – Houston v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier 2B – Tarbert v Duntocher.

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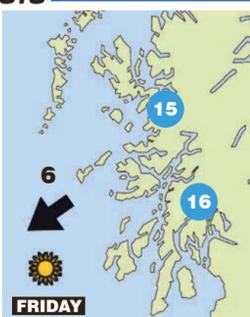
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**WEATHER**

Thursday Sunny  
Winds light east north easterly  
Temperatures 5°C to 16°C.

Friday Sunny  
Winds light east north easterly  
Temperatures 4°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Sunny on Saturday  
Sunny on Sunday  
Winds slight east north easterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 16°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 May 4, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	06.50	1.5	13.30	2.8	18.45	1.4	***	**	Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.36	3.0	08.22	1.4	14.43	2.9	20.01	1.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.45	3.1	09.25	1.3	15.30	3.1	21.06	1.2	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.29	3.3	10.10	1.2	16.02	3.3	21.57	1.1	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.05	3.5	10.47	1.1	16.32	3.5	22.40	1.0	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	04.39	3.6	11.19	1.0	17.05	3.7	23.18	0.9				
Wed	05.13	3.7	11.50	1.0	17.37	3.8	23.54	0.9				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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## Kinlochleven rider makes history at Pre-65 Trial

KATIE CARABINE  
kcarabine@obantimes.co.uk

GARY MACDONALD made history over the weekend when he became the first Scottish winner of the Pre-65 Trial in his home village of Kinlochleven.

The vintage motorcycle event was held over two days in and around the village (April 28 and 29).

Gary, a member of Lochaber and District Motor Cycle Club, rode well on the first day, dropping only four marks to finish in third, placing him in a good position for the second and final day of the event.

Day two saw him do even better, with no points dropped, earning him both the Kinlochleven Trophy for best performance on the second day and the Challenge Trophy having taken the overall win.

This historic success for the 33-year-old comes in the 33rd year of the Pre-65s, which were established in 1984.

Gary told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I've not had time to take it all in yet as I've gone straight into the six days. It's a bit of a shock really. It's not often you can jump on an old bike and ride it as well as I did.'

Gary, who works for his family's business, Arthur MacDonald Joinery, has also been riding in this week's six days trial.

The first day of the event



Gary MacDonald waves to fans following his historic win at the Pre-65 trials.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

saw the riders take on a 68-mile circuit, heading north out of Fort William towards Leanachan and then down to Kinlochleven and back to Fort William along Loch Leven and Loch Linnhe.

At the end of the first day (Monday May 1), Gary was in

joint top position, again having dropped no points, putting him on par with defending champion Dougie Lampkin, and Jack Price, Andy Chilton and Jack Sheppard.

On day two the riders took on an 88-mile circuit over Corran Ferry and across to

Strontian, before heading to Glenfinnan and back to Fort William via Achnacharry and Gairloch. Gary dropped four points and finished the day in sixth place.

Speaking on Tuesday about his performance over the first couple of days, Gary, who has

been riding trials bikes since he was nine years old, said: 'It's good so far but it's still very early days. It's all about staying in contention until Thursday - after that it gets really serious.'

'I had a good day yesterday (Monday) and another steady day today (Tuesday).'

Gary's parents, Arthur and Sandra MacDonald, are his two biggest fans.

Arthur, who has been out following his son's progress and success on his trials rides, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Gary is a hard-working joiner during the day for the family business. This doesn't stop him putting in the hours at his chosen sports. Cycling takes up almost all of that time now but his trials background is always there.'

'He has achieved results in trials that will never be bettered in our lifetime. In the Scottish Six Days Trial the leader plate has been on his bike regularly over the years and top three finishes, including runner-up, have been achieved.'

'The Pre-65 event has always been on the back burner till this year and he made history being the first ever Scot to win it.'

Speaking on behalf of himself and his wife he added: 'We are rarely surprised that he succeeds at whatever he puts his mind to. We are so proud of him as are all our family and his many followers. Well done, Gary.'

## Bus user 'disgusted' at paying double due to new timetable

CONCERNS over weekly bus-pass costs in Lochaber have become a reality as some passengers are finding themselves having to buy two tickets to get to and from work.

Bronwyn Strachan lives in Corpach but works in Fort William with the Buzz Project. As with many workplaces, her shift pattern varies and, depending on the project's needs, she will sometimes start at 10am one day and finish at 10pm the next.

Despite this, up until last month Bronwyn only needed to buy a weekly ticket with Stagecoach for £9.90 to cover her commute.

But since the Highland Council renegotiated contracts with bus operators, changes to services have caused her travel costs to double.

Bronwyn's mum, Janice, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Shiel starts taking the run from Corpach to Fort William around about 6pm, and because there still has not been any agreement where Shiel and Stagecoach accept the one pass, Bronwyn is now having to buy one for day and one for night so it costs her £20 a week.'

'The daily tickets are £1.90 which is a fortune and really undermines a young girl's efforts to get herself into work.'

The timing of the changeover also negatively effected Bronwyn.

Janice explained: 'Bronwyn had a monthly ticket that was valid up until April 28 but the changes came into force on April 24 and because Shiel would not accept her Stagecoach pass for essentially the same journey, she has lost four days of travel and had to cough up again.'

Talk to us

Have you been affected by the bus timetable changes? Email: fort@obantimes.co.uk

'It is disgusting. These companies are only thinking of themselves and I have heard of many other passengers who have been affected in the same way.'

A spokesperson for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'There are now two operators providing services between Corpach and Fort William as a result of the recent Highland Council tender process.'

'Unlimited travel using Stagecoach buses between Fort William and Corpach is available from as little as £1.35 per day using our four-week megarider ticket.'

'We acknowledge the desire for multi-operator ticketing in the Lochaber area and continue to be available to discuss this with the Highland Council and other bus operators in the area.'

At the point of the tenders being agreed, Highland Council said it was aware of the emerging issue and when asked for an update a spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We are currently unable to provide multi-operator bus tickets in Lochaber and are looking to negotiate with operators to potentially provide such a service in the future.'



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## Parking poses problems in Fort

THE LAST weekend in April - or first in May, depending on the year - is one of the busiest in Fort William's calendar as the high season begins and crowds descend on the town for the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT).

In the days leading up to the SSDT and the Pre-65 trials, there is an influx of motorcycle fans all wanting to be part of this international event, as well as the 280 riders who come from all over the world, their crews, press teams and families.

However, it would appear that the Highland Council and town officials may have taken their eye off the ball this year, leading to parking difficulties in the town centre.

Two of Fort William's four long-stay car parks were closed to the public in the days leading up to the busy weekend (April 29 and 30).

The West End car park was, as usual, being used as the base for the trial, home to the merchandisers, crews and where the bikes are weighed in and stored; and An Aird was used as a fairground over the weekend.

This week Fort William resident and business-owner Gwyn Moses spoke out after he received a parking ticket on Thursday (April 27).

Mr Moses, who runs the Gallery in The Fort on the High Street, told the *Lochaber Times* that he had trouble finding long-

stay parking on Thursday as both the West End and An Aird 2 car parks were closed, and the town's remaining two long-stay car parks (An Aird 1 and the Transport Centre car park) were full to capacity.

He said because of this he parked in a designated campervan space in An Aird 1 car park because the only car parks with any spaces were for short-term parking only.

He said: 'I would have had to pay for four hours and then rush out to move the car, which is not always possible when the shop's busy. I parked in the campervan space because I didn't want to take up a disabled or electric space.'

Mr Moses appealed his parking ticket, but quickly received a reply from the Highland Council saying that the responsibility was with him to be aware of parking restrictions and park appropriately.

'How can the council get away with taking away the two biggest car parks in the town at the same time?' he asked. 'Tourists will be caught out and might be put off coming back. It's not good for tourism in the area.'

A spokesperson for the Highland Council said: 'The decision to close these car parks is down to local Lochaber policies and decisions are taken in conjunction with the police and event organisers.'



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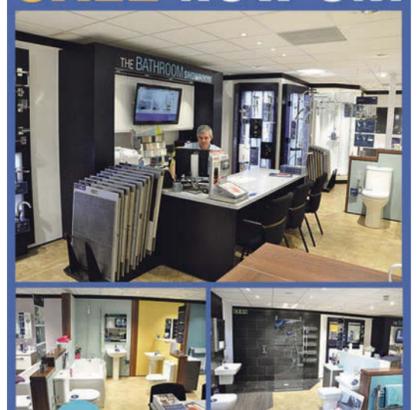
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## Portree iCentre set for summer make over

PORTREE information centre is being temporarily relocated this week to allow for refurbishments to take place.

The VisitScotland iCentre, which welcomed 151,000 visitors last year, was to be moved to the nearby Royal Hotel on Bank Street with works due to start on Tuesday, May 2.

Refurbishment is expected to take two weeks and be completed before the busy summer season begins.

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland regional partnerships director, said: 'Portree iCentre is hugely popular with visitors, and it has been so well used that it is now in need of refurbishment.'

'The new-look iCentre will allow us to deliver information in a modern environment where visitors can choose from a variety of tools to help them see, do and spend more during their stay.'

The centre make-over will include an upgrade of digital facilities and free wi-fi following research which showed visitors prefer to use their own devices to access content.

The new layout will also include racking for literature, large scale wall graphics and local and national wall maps to help visitors plan their journey.

New zoning is also being introduced to assist visitors with finding everything they need.

It is hoped the refurbishment will increase the impact the iCentre has on the visitor economy, encouraging locals and visitors to spend more time on Skye.

Mr Armstrong extended thanks to The Royal Hotel for its assistance during the works.

### Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk) or call 01397 703003

# Community is secret to Western isles' success

MONICA GIBSON  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

TEN years of progress will be followed by another 10 years of growth, if Hebridean landlords have their way.

Following the opening of the community land fund in 2001, the people of South Uist 'bought back' their land in 2006.

Once owned by chiefs and lairds, the accord marked the largest community buy-out of crofter estate in Scotland – a record which stands to this day.

As the deal was made, Stòras Uibhist was set up and now manages 93,000 acres of land covering almost the whole of Benbecula, Eriskay and South Uist, as well as a number of other small islands.

In April, the community company held a special conference to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf MSP, who was among the invited guests, discussed transport links and island issues.



Charlotte Wright from Highlands and Islands Enterprises, Stewart Wilson from Tighnean Inne Gall and Angus MacMillan chairman of Stòras Uibhist delivered presentations covering topics such as development, housing and population as well as plans for the future.

A special video was also curated for the occasion; it showed before and after images of the islands where improvements had been made to drainage and infrastructure.

The message throughout was that over the last 10 years Stòras Uibhist has concentrated on growing a stronger future through community, housing, commercial activities, culture and heritage and tourism.

Some of the main projects have included the development of Lochcarnan Community Wind Farm, pictured above.

The farm was connected to the grid in March 2003 and as of December 2016 had generated 85,234 MW hours.

The money from the farm is reinvested locally to the Sealladhna Beinne Moire Community Fund. More than half a million pounds have been allocated to various local projects as a result.

Renovation of Grogary Lodge has also taken place. The accommodation now attracts guests from around the world and hosts culture, community and corporate events throughout the year.

Stora Uibhist purchased the estate for £4.6 million pounds and after all the hard work and ingenuity, the balance sheet stands at £35 million.

The company plans to build a new distillery with micro brewery and has enterprising ideas to boost sales of island food products.

Lochboisdale is set to be further developed to accommodate a new ferry terminal for the next generation of 'deep water vessels'.

Faye MacLeod, an accountant based in Portree and Benbecula who has been involved with Stòras Uibhist since the buyout, described development in South Uist as a prime example of local people taking

responsibility for local issues. She said the trigger for the buyout stemmed from issues such as depopulation, unemployment and ageing population which can have acute impact on island communities, adding: 'For a population of now 3,500, the development has been inspiring.'

Ms MacLeod said there had been a domino effect of 'people power' in the Hebrides, with one village following the next village after communities have seen that the benefits outweigh the costs.

She said 75 per cent of the Western Isles was now under community ownership, a trend she described as a 'new phenomenon'.



Michelle Cameron.

## Nurses graduate as dementia champions

TWO WESTERN Isles nurses have become the latest pair to be crowned dementia champions by the NHS.

NHS Western Isles announced Frances Robertson and Michelle Cameron as successful graduates for Cohort 7 Dementia Champions.

Over the last nine months Ms Robertson, a senior charge nurse at Western Isles Hospital's surgical ward, and Ms Cameron, a staff nurse at Ospadal Uibhist agus Barraigh, have committed time and effort to completing the course.

The programme supports the development of dementia champions as 'change agents' in improving the experience, care, treatment and outcomes for people with dementia and their families.

Working with families as the bridge between hospital and community settings, the two women expand the NHS Western Isles team of champions to 11 across the islands.

Elizabeth Shelby, NHS Western Isles Nurse consultant for older people and dementia, stated: 'We are so lucky to have staff willing to take on this very important role. Without this expertise being on hand in wards and other areas, it would be very difficult to provide the quality of care that people affected by dementia require.'

'I would like to thank all our dementia champions, new and old for their hard work.'

## Western Isles athletes receive £1,000

THE WESTERN Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) has received a £1,000 donation as athletes gear up to travel to Sweden in June to compete in the Island Games.

Norrie 'Tomsh' MacDonald, chairman of the games association, was delighted to receive the cheque from Point and Sandwick Trust.

Thanking the trust, Mr MacDonald said: 'We are grateful for every single donation we get and £1,000 is a huge amount of money.'

'It means it reduces the costs for all our athletes. That's the long and the short of it.'

'A lot of our athletes fall into the "school kid" category so reducing the costs to them is of paramount importance because it's not cheap.'

The games take place every second year and go on rotation around the 24 island members of the International Island Games Association.

This year's host is Gotland in Sweden and a squad of 75 athletes and 15 others, coaches,

managers and medics, are going from the Western Isles.

A small number of family members and supporters will also be going along to the event, from June 24 to 30. But the costs are high, with the bill for WIIGA coming in at between £160,000 and £180,000.

Mr MacDonald said: 'I sit on the fundraising subcommittee and I must have written 100 letters to people over the last month. I've written to everybody that I can think of. We'd be grateful if anybody is out there

and willing to get on board.'

'We are grateful for every single donation we get. We have managed to reduce the costs to the athletes to about £600 each, which is still a lot of money, but every single bit of sponsorship takes that down.'

Participation in the games is said to have had a huge impact on sports performance in the Western Isles.

'We've taken great strides in the last 10 years,' said Mr MacDonald. 'The standards of the island sports have increased

massively. Instead of going to the mainland to participate, they are going to the mainland thinking they can win - confident. They're not scared now, especially at the north of Scotland events.'

'Our whole premise is to make sure that every single person in the Western Isles has access to sports at the grassroots level. If the athletes are good enough, we take them on board and make sure they get proper access to proper coaching, proper training camps.'

## HOW BUSINESS GATEWAY HELPED

### Paul's new venture take flight

A former fire fighter has turned his lifelong hobby of falconry into a popular business hoping to teach others about the importance of birds of prey conservation.

Paul Finnigan from Oban, set up Finn Falconry with his wife Lynn and Zoologist daughter Jen who share Paul's passion for wildlife.

Finn Falconry provides flying displays at shows and fairs, talks and lectures, hands-on hawk walks, bird abatement, hunting experiences as well as photography workshops.

Paul said: 'I've had a passion for falconry since I was a young boy and although I joined the fire service it was always at the back of my mind that I would love to one day set up my own falconry business. Once I had completed my service I knew starting Finn Falconry was the right thing to do.'

'Whilst I knew about falconry I didn't know the ins and outs of setting up and running a business, but Business Gateway has been a real source of advice and in particular when it came to Public Liability Insurance and invoices.'



“My Business Gateway adviser continues to be a fantastic help”

Paul Finnigan,  
Finn Falconry

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# Double triumph for isle of Skye hoteliers

SKYE hotel group, Sonas, is celebrating a double triumph at this year's Scottish Hotel Awards, with owners Anne and Ken Gunn picking up two top prizes.

The pair were honoured for their 'outstanding contribution to the industry', winning the annual Fellowship Award.

And Sonas' newest member retained its title of best hotel in the islands.

Speaking after the ceremony in Glasgow, Anne said: 'We are delighted to have been given this accolade which is a culmination of Ken and my vision for Sonas. We wanted to create a small group of boutique hotels offering the highest standards combined with style, creativity and the best of Highland hospitality.'

In 2011 the Gunns were voted Scotland's Hoteliers of the Year.

Skeabost House Hotel near Portree, which Anne and Ken acquired

in 2015, was named Island Hotel of the Year for the second year in a row.

The first Sonas hotel, Toravaig House at Sleat, has won the Island Hotel of the Year category several times.

Its neighbour, Duisdale House, has also captured many major titles in the Catering in Scotland Awards and the annual competition organised by VisitScotland.

Anne added: 'It is also the result of a great deal of hard work throughout the years by our family and staff, all of whom have shown enormous dedication as well as skill.'

Anne's daughter Jennifer Gracie, Skeabost's general manager, said: 'There are so many wonderful hotels throughout the islands of Scotland that being chosen as the best of them twice in a row is a remarkable achievement, especially since it has only been in the group for a relatively short time.'



Jennifer Gracie and Anne Gunn with the fellowship award.

Photograph: [www.clarkjamesdigital.com](http://www.clarkjamesdigital.com)

# New homes needed fast to stop depopulation

PLANS for 'urgently needed' affordable homes on Skye have been lodged with the Highland Council.

A planning application seeking consent to build six new three-bedroom homes in Staffin is being considered by the local authority.

This will be the first housing development on the north of the island in 18 years, and comes following a significant population decline and shrinking primary school roll in Staffin.

An economic report by the Staffin Community Trust (SCT) last year showed a 6.6 per cent drop in population between 2009 and 2013, from 608 residents to 568.

The council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise conducted a major affordable

housing needs survey in the area which identified new homes as a way to retain and attract families and young people.

Meanwhile, the population in Portree, 17 miles south of Staffin, has seen a growth of 11 per cent in the past decade following a significant number of affordable homes being built.

SCT has already received a number of expressions of interest in the new homes from families.

The six houses would be set on common grazings tenanted by the Stenscholl crofting township in Staffin.

SCT is working in partnership with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association to deliver the new properties, which would be the first built in

Staffin since 1999.

Development of the land near Staffin Primary School would include a building for business units and a storage facility.

Plans were designed by Rural Design Architects following a community consultation event, and submitted by the community council on behalf of residents.

Feasibility work and planning was funded by the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund (RHF) and the Scottish Land Fund, which are designed to help communities tackle challenges like housing.

MSPs Kate Forbes, for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, and David Stewart, Highlands and Islands, have expressed support for the development.

## Plantation association's plea for volunteers

A FORT William community group is appealing for volunteers and supporters to help with fundraising and organising projects to benefit residents, writes *Katie Carabine*.

The Plantation Community Association has been trying to drum up support for projects such as improving the playpark facilities, youth groups and trips for the youngsters, as well as events for elderly residents and work that goes into the upkeep of the Plantation area.

At the association's AGM on Saturday April 29, Kara Elder, who was acting chairwoman but is now vice-chairwoman, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We're looking for new faces to get involved with fundraising and other things.'

'We normally hold meetings on a Thursday. We've tried other days but nobody comes, so we thought we'd try a Saturday to see if that makes any difference.'

'We advertised the meeting on Facebook and knocked on all the doors in the Plantation to tell people about the meeting.'

She went on to explain that she and her fellow directors – secretary Rebecca Williamson and treasurer Lesley Boath – had provided homebaking and laid on tea and coffee in another bid to encourage attendance at the meeting.

However, despite several people showing interest during their door-knocks and saying they would be happy to help out and attend the meeting, possibly becoming committee members, the turn out was again extremely low, with only one resident attending along with Nigel Patterson, a representative from the Lochaber campus of West Highland College UHI, who was acting as honorary secretary.

Mrs Elder said the lack of support and commitment was 'so disheartening'.

The AGM still went ahead and Mrs Elder gave a chairperson's report, explaining that the past year had been a 'rollercoaster ride'. She outlined the events they had organised over the months, including a sponsored walk to fundraise for the youth club in May, with the annual family fun day having taken place in July.

They had also had their annual Christmas lunch for the pensioners in the community, which she noted had been particularly difficult due to lack of funding and support, and that the number of attendees had reduced.

Brian Murphy became the new chairman, having previously agreed this with directors, with Mrs Elder becoming vice-chairwoman. Ms Williamson and Ms Boath remained in their positions.

The directors then took the decision to reduce the number of meetings over winter and also in the summer to fit in with the school holidays.

Mrs Elder said: 'We're not asking people to come to every meeting. We don't want to put anybody off by asking for a huge commitment, we just want people to help out when they can.'

The next meeting is on Thursday May 25 at 7pm in the Plantation Hall.

# Audi driver who went on run given last chance

A THIEF, who went on the run after colliding with a police car while driving without a licence or insurance, has been given three months to show he can behave.

Sheriff William Taylor said he was taking an 'unusual' course of action in dealing with 22-year-old Vadims Prohorovs at Fort William Sheriff Court on Friday.

Prohorovs, who is originally from Latvia but now lives in Claggan, appeared from custody, where he had been remanded since April 10, after admitting the offences which took place on Torlundy Road on March 12.

He also admitted multiple charges of dishonesty, including stealing two jackets from Nevis Sport worth £157 each on February 5 and various bottles

of perfume, aftershave and alcohol.

In court it was heard on March 12 police had received reports of a black Audi being driven erratically on Kilmallie Road in Caol and that two police officers on patrol in the area started looking for the driver.

The car was spotted and followed with blue lights but Prohorovs, knowing he had no insurance, elected to continue driving.

Fiscal Martina Eastwood said: 'The driver attempted to manoeuvre past the police van coming towards him but collided with the near side and also collided with a parked car. Police saw Prohorovs walk from the vehicle but they did not interview him as he could not be trace.'

Solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Prohorovs was in an unusual situation as the car did not belong to him, however, it was not stolen as first thought.

The car belonged to a Mr Abraham who Prohorovs had met on that day but when realising the car owner and his girlfriend had been drinking and were not fit to drive, Prohorovs said he would drive the car from Caol to Claggan.

Mr Kennedy added: 'Mr Prohorovs does not hold a UK licence and held a provisional driving licence in Latvia. He came across a police car which was stationary, elected to continue driving as he thought he had sufficient room. There was not so he bumped the car and then continued on his way.'

With regards to the theft, Mr Kennedy said Prohorovs

openly admits he stole the items for personal gain. Currently unemployed, Prohorovs' intention was to sell them to cover day-to-day living costs for himself and his girlfriend who is pregnant and due later in the year.

The court heard Prohorovs had been living in Ireland for three years before moving to Scotland eight months ago.

A brief adjournment took place to establish whether Prohorovs was telling the truth about previously being involved in only one criminal case regarding possession of a small amount of cannabis.

After checks were made by the police, it was found a warrant was also outstanding against Prohorovs on a charge of trying to sell an iPhone 6 from Latvia which turned out

to be a Nokia model inside. Mr Kennedy told the court Prohorovs knew nothing about the warrant but that he had appeared in a court in Inverness for other matters where the sheriff granted a deferred sentence.

Sheriff Taylor said he was a firm believer that the left hand should realise what the right hand was doing and that it would be a shame for the deferred sentence to begin with a period in remand.

The sheriff ordered Prohorovs to behave and to return on July 18. He stressed: 'I am going to defer sentence for three months and if you so much as steal a box of matches, you will be punished for these offences and whatever brought you back to court. This is very much your last chance.'

## Fraud case delayed

THE CASE against a woman charged with embezzlement, fraud and theft has been continued until the end of the month.

Sixty-four-year-old Flora MacPherson of 78 Glenkingsie Street, Caol – who was injured in a chainsaw attack last year – appeared in Fort William Sheriff court on Friday April 28.

Solicitor Gerry Sweeney asked for the case to be reheard closer to the trial date of May 29 due to outstanding medical issues.

Mr Sweeney said there were physical health issues as well as psychiatric health issues which could have a bearing on his client's fitness for trial.

The diet was continued to May 25 and bail was continued.

## Clarification

LAST week the *Lochaber Times* reported on Thomas Allan Kirsop's appearance in Fort William Sheriff court on charges of breaches of bail and driving offences on Tuesday April 25.

That report mistakenly stated that Kirsop was to face trial for these charges on Thursday April 27.

The *Lochaber Times* would like to clarify that Kirsop is not scheduled to appear in court again until May, when he will be on trial for another matter.

These current matters will be deferred until this appearance, at which point the sheriff will decide the best course of action.

## Project bee

STAFF at Inverloch Castle Hotel are looking to increase the number of workers to bring a real buzz to the business.

The five-star hotel has plans to install a hive and bees in the grounds, and is hoping somebody with beekeeping experience can take on the project.

Claire Moreland, the hotel's food and beverage manager told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It is still early days. The main thing we are looking for just now is someone to get involved with the hotel to kick-start this.'

## Model show raises £1K for mountain rescue

MODELLERS, collectors and enthusiasts raised approximately £1,000 for the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team at the third annual Lochaber Model Show on Saturday April 29.

There were a variety of displays from trucks to trains and cars, helicopters and even some working fairground rides and an aircraft carrier, the largest model on the day.

The displays were provided by enthusiasts from all over Scotland, with a number coming from Burnley in Lancashire, plus a few local exhibitors.

Organiser Robert Wilson said: 'The day was quite successful. We did better than I thought we would.'

'We wanted to let the public see what some people do for a hobby and get people involved.'

Mr Wilson would like to thank all the sponsors of the

show: LBS, Caley Timber and Building Supplies, S&A Cameron, Ferguson Transport, Highland Titles and the Glen Spean Lodge Hotel, which allowed him to cover the costs of the show, with all profits from admissions and the tombola going to the mountain rescue service.

He said he chose Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team to support every year because it was a local cause that a lot of people were aware of, adding: 'I knew it wasn't government funded and it's a good cause.'

Right: The largest model in the show, the Ark Royal aircraft carrier with modellers Douglas Barr, Robert Wilson, Martin Kane and David MacEachan.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



## Rotary talk call for more volunteers

FROM pouring tea to singing songs, volunteers are being sought to help to prevent patients feeling isolated in Lochaber.

Ian McConnell, volunteer services manager with NHS Highland, was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's lunch meeting on April 26.

Mr McConnell told members about the opportunities for volunteering in Lochaber – including Invernevis Care Home and the Belford Hospital.

The volunteering service has been running for five years and Mr McConnell has held this post since 2013. He explained that staff at NHS Highland were immensely grateful for the positive contribution made by volunteers and recognised the valuable role they play.

There are a wide range of support tasks open to volunteers including practical tasks such as the tea trolley service, help at meal times, and emotional support such as spending time at a patients' bedside, providing companionship and preventing



John Goodall with Ian McConnell, Paula Ross and Margaret Boyd at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's lunch meeting.

isolation and loneliness.

Mr McConnell said: 'Volunteers can undertake a number of different roles across NHS Highland, complementing the work of paid staff. There is already a great tradition of voluntary activity across NHS Highland and we hope to raise awareness of these volunteering opportunities in Lochaber. We are also keen to recruit musicians who can offer around

30-45 minutes once a week for singalongs.

'Most of our volunteers offer one or two hours of their time per week. Their support can make a 'massive' difference to the patients.'

Past president John Goodall, retired consultant physician at the Belford thanked Mr McConnell for his excellent talk and added: 'We'll do all we can to spread the word.'

# 'Outrageous' taxi fare hike set to go ahead

A FORT WILLIAM taxi driver has said he is 'disappointed' with the traffic commissioner's decision to not proceed with a fares appeal, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

Nairn McArthur branded a proposed 28 per cent increase in fares a 'disgrace' earlier this year, and lodged an appeal with the traffic commissioner.

The Highland Council is due to increase the price mile for tariff one – Monday to Friday during the day – from £1.40 to £1.80.

Tariff two, which operates between 9pm and 7am at the weekend and when five or more passengers are carried at any time of the day, and tariff three, which is used on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, January 1 and 2 and when five or more passengers are carried

at anytime of the day on a Saturday and Sunday, will remain unchanged.

The appeal, which was signed by Mr McArthur and 25 others, stated that the council's changes were 'ill-conceived and badly thought out' and that a 28 per cent increase would be 'an intolerable burden on local customers and visitors'.

But in a letter to the commissioner, the council stated the valid signatures on the appeal represented less than five per cent of the operators in the Highland Council area.

Traffic Commissioner Joan Aitken declined to take the appeal any further.

'They are 21 persons out of 453 operators in the Highland Council area. It would be stretching definitions to find them representative of

a substantial proportion of operators,' she said.

'I am very familiar with the varying economic circumstances of different parts of the Highland Council's area and that many in Lochaber have lower incomes than a great many in Inverness.'

'Thus, I can understand the essential appeal point made by Mr McArthur and his co-signatories which is that the maximum charges for a taxi will be beyond the purse of many in Lochaber or be a harder spending choice.'

But Miss Aitken noted that none of those who signed the appeal attended the council licensing committee meetings on December 6, 2016 or February 7, 2017 to make representations. She said they also did not

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**WHAT'S ON**

■ A group of volunteers will be meeting for a 'spring clean' on Sunday May 7, from 2-4pm at the new Town Team Hub, on the Parade.

All ages are welcome and jobs will be offered to suit. If you have problems travelling into town, Town Team can provide a pick-up service. Cups of tea/coffee and homebaking will be provided, at the new HQ, after the finish.

Contact Alan and Sue Kimber on 01397 700451 or 07909905664, or email: alankimber@gmail.com

■ A free writing workshop will take place at Fort William Library on Tuesday, May 9 from 2-3.30pm. The event is part of Nourish which is a public participation writing campaign organised by the Scottish Book Trust.

The trust is inviting entries in English, Scots and Gaelic and the favourites will be published in an e-book for Book Week Scotland. For more information visit scottishbooktrust.com/nourish.

■ Staff and volunteers from Lochaber sensory care (LSC) for sight and hearing support are visiting Ardnamurchan on Monday May 8.

The LSC representatives will be based at Acharachle Medical Practice between 10.30am and 11.30am and at Dailmhor Care Home in Strontian from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

At each venue they will offer support and advice to those with a hearing loss or sight loss. The team members will also re-tube and maintain NHS hearing aids, and supply NHS batteries for these. No appointment necessary.

■ Push the Boat Out will take place at the Glencoe Boat Club on May 14 from 10am to 4pm.

Visitors will be able to experience yacht-keelboat-dinghy sailing, powerboat rides-demos, kayaking, archery. There will also be a barbecue, bouncy castle and stalls.

For more information email tracey6862@hotmail.co.uk or call 07504 659270.

■ Rotary Club of Lochaber is holding a soup and sandwich lunch to raise funds for the End Polio Now programme.

The event will take place at Duncansburgh Church Hall on Saturday May 13 from noon to 3pm.

# Mental health agencies gather to discuss services in Lochaber

**KATIE CARABINE**

kcarabine@obantimes.co.uk

MENTAL health and well being agencies from across Lochaber gathered together last week to network and share ideas on how to best support vulnerable members of the community.

HUG (Action for Mental Health), a network of people with experience of living with mental health problems, organised the mental health 'market place' as the culmination of an 18-month project, seed-funded by and developed with the NHS, to map out mental health services in Lochaber.

Around 35 agency representatives and individuals gathered in Caol Community Centre Youth Cafe on Wednesday April 26 for the event.

NHS Community Health co-ordinator Hugh Wright, who has also given his time to the project along with the funding, explained that within the Lochaber area, the primary focus



Graham Morgan, HUG representative Izzy Valenti, event organiser Chris Evans, and Dr James Douglas. Photograph: Abrightside Photography F18 mental health 01no

was on the services and support available in Fort William.

Ewen's Room, Advocacy Highland, Spirit Advocacy, Lochaber Hope, Support in Mind Scotland, Lochaber Care and Repair and Let's Get On

With It Together were among the agencies represented at the events.

Chris Evans, a development worker for HUG who organised the event, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We have established

that we know a lot of groups and now we are trying to establish how to network and get the information out to the public and keep ourselves up to date.'

There were talks by HUG's special advisor Graham Morgan, who spoke about his personal experience with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and about keeping well and Tweedale GP Dr James Douglas, who spoke about physical and mental health.

Dr Douglas told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It's absolutely crucial that all NHS professionals hear the voice of patients and understand what it is like to be ill with a mental health problem and listen and learn from them.'

'It was a privilege to hear Graham talking this morning about his own experience of the NHS services for mental health and all NHS staff could learn from hearing him talk from a patients' perspective.'

Although the mapping project had been Fort William-based,

third-sector and other agencies were invited along to share their knowledge and experience.

Malcolm Gillespie of Ardnamurchan-based support group Ewen's Room said: 'We've come today to show what we are doing out there and to raise awareness of what we are offering.'

Val Bremner from Advocacy Highland, an organisation which offers a voice for those with mental health problems, said: 'We all do our best working in our own organisations and it's good to have the opportunity to get to know the other services available so we can increase our own awareness and be more confident to promote other services to people we are working with.'

Ellen Nicolson from Cothrom, Support in Mind Scotland's Lochaber base, said the day had been very informative and beneficial to share information with other agencies.

Community mental health nurse Alison Gow also found

the event useful. She said: 'It's really interesting to hear all the different voices and how organisations can pull together to improve people's experiences on their mental health journeys.'

'It's been good to network and find out what's available from the different organisations for signposting people.'

Lochaber Hope manager Alyson Smith also found the day to be a positive experience, saying: 'I feel like real conversations have taken place today and we're networking with the people we need to be networking with rather than statutory bodies and it's good to get the third sector involved. It's been a very powerful day.'

The day proved so successful that many of the agencies requested that it be an annual event for them to keep updated, bring along new projects and put their heads together to come up with the best ways of helping people living with mental health problems.



Above: Primary schools girls who took part in the First National all-girls Primary School Shinty Festival in the Nevis Centre Fort William. Far left: The Ardnamurchan team that took part in the tournament from Ardgour, Strontian, Acharachle, and Kilchoan. Left: Rockfield Primary School team from Oban.

All photographs: Anthony MacMillan Photography

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## WCA holds first all-girl shinty fest

THE WOMEN'S Camanachd Association (WCA) held the first national all-girls primary schools shinty festival at the Nevis Centre in Fort William last weekend.

The WCA was overwhelmed with the response it received last Saturday April 22 and was delighted with the turnout of 16 teams from across the country.

Spectators were treated to a total of 32 games throughout the afternoon, seeing the skill level progress throughout.

Inverness-B were presented with the Team of the Day award, and while each and every girl played their hearts out, Glengarry's Ruby Robson was presented with the Player of the Tournament for Primary 3/5 and Oban's Park Primary pupil Ellie MacInnes won the Primary 6/7 award.

As well as the fun tournament,



Players of the Tournament for primary 3-5 Ruby Robson, Glengarry left, and Ellie MacInnes for primary 6-7 from Park school, Oban.

each player took part in a skills and drills challenge.

The winners were as follows: **Keepy-uppies:** P3 - Alice (Rockfield Primary), P4 - Katie (Glenurquhart), P5 - Sally (Ardnamurchan), P6 - Ellie (Lochaber), P7 - Ellie (Park Primary).

**Dribbling obstacle course:** P3 - Isla (Portree A), P4 - Evie (BSGLA), P5 - Myah (Ardnamurchan), P6 - Grace (Glenurquhart), P7 - Riane (Aberdour).

A spokesperson for the WCA said: 'We are indebted to Gilmour Sports for their sponsorship of t-shirts for every girl, and to Bruno Beradelli at Highland Wood Energy, who gave us additional sponsorship for the running costs of our event.'

'Huge thanks to all our volunteers who helped to make our day such a success.'

## View from the Chamber

THE Outdoor Capital of the UK is gearing up for UCI Mountain Bike World Cup 2017 which takes place over the weekend of June 3 and 4.

Lochaber is host to one of the world's most prestigious mountain bike races, attracting the world's best downhill riders, mountain bike enthusiasts and the industry's leading sponsors.

The multi-award-winning UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William attracts around 18,000 fans and has become the highlight of the



Outdoor Capital calendar. The UCI World Cup has come to Fort William every year since 2002 (including the World Championships in 2007) and the

event has been awarded the UCI Best Downhill Round on several occasions.

The award, which is voted for by teams, journalists, riders, UCI officials and sponsors, takes into account the overall event - including infrastructure, course quality and local facilities.

We hope that all of Fort William's incredible tourist businesses will join us in welcoming the thousands of enthusiastic spectators and competitors and help keep Fort Bill as the number one choice in the mountain biking community.

# Lochyside developers respond to disability panel's concerns

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

DEVELOPERS of Lochyside housing, Bracewell Stirling Consulting, have been in touch with the Lochaber Times in response to concerns raised by the Lochaber Disability Access Panel.

The panel highlighted worries, as set out in the Lochaber Times last Thursday (April 27), about the accessibility of the proposed 60-home development on the former Lochyside development.

Partner Amanda MacRitchie

said: 'We were contacted by the panel to meet when the application was lodged.

'From the comments submitted, we took the view that the issues raised were adequately addressed by the statement attached, along with some alterations to the design which were lodged on March 10 on the planning portal.

'We have wide-ranging experience in providing housing for particular needs. We were satisfied that provision within the proposals for end-users with varying disabilities and needs is in excess of statutory

requirements and suitable flexibility built in to the designs to allow for further adaptation to cater for particular needs of individuals, when the occupiers of the houses are allocated.

'We are extremely disappointed that if there are still concerns which the panel feel have not been addressed, that they have not contacted us following March 10 or made further comment through the planning portal, thus we are unaware of any remaining concerns from the panel.

'We communicate regularly with the community and individuals regarding the proposals. We are happy to meet the panel should they still have concerns and wish to do so.'

But angered panel members rebutted the claims, saying that they had not had contact with the agents since February, despite several changes being made to the planning application since.

Arthur Cowie from the panel said: 'I called them [on February 16] and was told that under no circumstance they were coming to meet with us.'

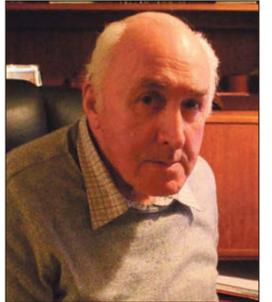
'They have been non-responsive to requests to meet despite

us asking Bracewell to discuss a meeting with the Highlands Small Community Housing Trust and Lochaber Housing Association.'

Caol Community Council vice chairman John Gillespie said Ms MacRitchie attended three community council meetings and listened to what people had to say about amendments to plans. But recently there had been a 'breakdown in communication' between the community and the architects following several changes to the plans, which the community council had not been consulted on.

Mr Gillespie said: 'Bracewell has been good and sent a representative who has attended three meetings. But recently there has been a breakdown in communication. We will be asking them to attend our next meeting in May.'

Panel member Colin MacDonald said: 'We need to make sure we build houses that are fit for purpose in 50 years' time. Once the demolition of the school is finished they are going to want to start building right away and we still haven't met with them. Let's do it once and get it right first time.'



Charlie MacRae is standing down after 18 years.

## Sports council chairman stands down

THE CHAIRMAN of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council, Charlie MacRae, stood down at the group's annual general meeting.

The meeting was held in Broadford Hall on Monday April 24, with the usual attendance of 10.

In his opening remarks, Mr MacRae, who has been chairman for the past 18 years, told the meeting he was retiring from the council.

He joined the sports council at its inception 32 years ago and attended 127 meetings, missing only one because of snow.

He thanked the committee, especially secretary and treasurer Peter Gordon.

Also discussed at the meeting was the difficulty the sports council faced in maintaining how much they give to sports clubs in the area, as the Highland Council continues to cut its funding.

In the past year, 22 clubs joined the sports council covering 12 sports and grants totalling £4,648 were given to clubs. No sports club was refused a grant in the past year.

Funding proposed for 2018/19 of £2,380 was not guaranteed.

A new chairman could not be found at the meeting but a committee of 12 was elected with the hope of a new chairman being appointed at the next meeting in Kyleakin Hall on July 10.

Peter Gordon was re-elected as secretary/treasurer.

## ELLCT plans not at odds with smelter owners

EFFORTS by a trust to purchase 125,000 acres of land home to a Lochaber smelter are not at odds with the ambitions of the plant's new owners, according to trust members.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) directors were keen to stress this point at an extraordinary general meeting on Monday night.

More than 130 people showed interested in the meeting in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church Hall in person or by proxy to find out more about what ELLCT has been up to since incorporating in April 2016 and what it hopes to achieve.

Despite having offers rejected by previous smelter owner, Rio Tinto, ELLCT says it is still in the frame for what would be the largest community land buyout in Scotland and has strong government backing.

Director Ben Thompson told the room: 'A land transaction will happen. It is up to us to define it.'

ELLCT continues to urge people to sign up to the trust, believing that community backing strengthens its position. It was announced it

had 997 ordinary members, 148 associated members and nine junior members. Information on ELLCT's accounts were revealed, showing the trust has received more than £50,000 in grants and payments from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, as well as other donations.

Expenditure since September 2016 included £30,000 on due diligence, £12,000 on financial analysis and feasibility studies, website start up, insurance and other sundries.

Flora McKee said that, after all of this, ELLCT has a bank balance of around £1,000.

Also during the meeting Ms McKee, along with Patricia Jordan, Campbell Slimon, Andrew Baxter, Ben Thompson and John Hutchison, were accepted by those attending to continue as directors, with Alex Farquar joining the board. Each director made a short presentation.

Accountant Faye MacLeod, who carried out the financial analysis on the Rio Tinto Aluminium Estates for the trust last year, then addressed the group and spoke about her experience with community landowners in the north and west.



Bill Strachan and Irene Kerr at Glencoe ambulance station. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography

## Ballachulish defibs installed

COMMUNITY members keeping their 'finger on the pulse' of medical issues in Ballachulish have seen their hard work pay off.

Two defibrillators have been installed in medical centres in Lochaber thanks to efforts made by the Ballachulish and Glencoe Patient Participation Group (PPG).

The PPG was formed as part of the Productive General Practice project, which works with the medical practice to offer the patient perspective on the services which are provided.

The group meets monthly and encourages feedback from patients with the aim of making the medical centre more efficient.

Bill Strachan, chairperson of the Ballachulish and Glencoe PPG said part of the group's aim is to raise awareness that if someone has a heart attack, the quicker the casualty gets CPR and defibrillation, the better

their chances of survival. He added: 'The PPG of Ballachulish medical practice organised the installation of two defibrillators for the local community. One is installed externally on the wall of the medical centre in the village and externally at the ambulance station in Glencoe.'

'Fundraising began last autumn throughout the community. The units cost roughly £1,600 each so we had collection cans and a raffle, and the PPG acknowledge grants from Glencoe and Ballachulish Community Councils, the Clachaig Inn and Highland Council.'

'David Doogan of the Scottish Ambulance Service has already delivered some training in CPR and using the defib.'

'Keep an eye on the Co-op and medical practice notice boards to find out the next training dates. It takes less than an hour, is free and does not involve a test.'

## Driver banned for three years

A MACHINE operator has been banned from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for three years after admitting drink driving.

James Hawkes, now living in Cumbria, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week (Wednesday April 26) on charges of drink driving and failing to identify himself as the driver of the vehicle involved, which he denied and which was accepted.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood described to the court how, at 9.45pm on July 28, 2016, police officers on routine patrol noticed debris including tools and food strewn on a section of the A861 between Strontian and the Corran Ferry.

About 500 metres along the road, they saw a silver-grey Vauxhall Zafira next to a van in a layby which had shattered windows, a tire missing and its airbags deployed, and Hawkes, 28, was talking to two men from the van.

As the police approached and talked to the two men, Hawkes walked off into the woods.

When they traced him there, police discovered his speech was slurred and he was unsteady on his feet, and they performed a roadside breath test on him before taking him back to Fort William police station.

During the journey to the

station, Hawkes told them he had had a drink after work and was driving south to see his mother in Cumbria as he was depressed following the recent death of his grandfather.

At the police station he was given another blood test at 11.30pm which showed he had 157mg of alcohol in his blood, more than three times the limit, which at that point was 50mg.

Solicitor Stephen Kennedy told the court that Hawkes had been working at Ardtonish Estate near Lochaline and had been given some cider from the estate manager in the late afternoon and he had then had a can of lager before driving towards the Corran Ferry.

Mr Kennedy said that Hawkes claims he had drunk more alcohol after he had stopped driving, and had been advised to head into the woods by the two men and had 'foolishly' done so.

He told the court that when he saw the police, Hawkes came back out to talk to them.

The court heard that Hawkes had a previous drink driving conviction and Sheriff William Taylor said: 'The hands of the court are tied in situations like the one we find ourselves in here.'

As well as the three-year driving ban, Hawkes was ordered to pay a £1,000 fine.

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## Spean Bridge man given penalty points

A SPEAN BRIDGE man was issued with three penalty points on his driving licence after pleading guilty to taking his partner's car without permission and then driving it without insurance.

Liam Navarro, 24, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday (April 27).

The court heard that on April 5 this year at Burn Bank Lodges, Spean Bridge, Navarro and his partner had been having an argument when he took the keys to her car without her permission and then drove her car, uninsured for a short distance.

Procurator Fiscal Martina Eastwood told the court that during that time, Navarro's partner had called the police as she was worried about

him after he texted her to say he was going to drive the car over a cliff.

Solicitor Stephen Kennedy told the court that this incident had not affected their relationship and pointed out that Navarro had remained within the confines of the Lodges and had not gone on to the public road at any point.

Mr Kennedy added that Navarro had apologised to his partner and that this behaviour was 'out of character' for him, and this had been why his partner was concerned enough to call the police.

Sheriff William Taylor said: 'You can see what happens when you lose your temper but you appear to be a man of good character and so there is no public interest in disrupting that status.'

## Top Floor Taviers set to play Caol

AN UP-AND-COMING folk band is to play in Caol this month.

Top Floor Taviers will be playing the Small Hall in Caol Community Centre on Friday May 19.

The band was recently nominated in the up-and-coming artist category at the 2016 MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards.

Top Floor Taviers released their highly anticipated debut album, *A Delicate Game*, in January.

A spokesman from event organisers CREEL said: 'We are so excited they are going to be playing for us next month.'

Hailing from Scotland, England and Ireland, the fresh young band



Top Floor Taviers will play Caol Community Centre this month.

combine vocals with piano, fiddle and clarsach in their own compositions, as well as arrangements of traditional folk songs and tunes.

With CREEL's last gig sold out, booking for this concert is recommended.

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**Plockton**

■ A COFFEE morning in the Plockton Inn in March has raised more than £400 for the village play area.  
 ■ Eighty-year-old William Fraser received a presentation at the Kyle Free Church on April 2. The congregation wished to thank Mr Fraser for all the work he does for the church in Kyle and Plockton.  
 ■ On a cold but dry morning, around 30 people attended the annual Easter Sunday open air service in Plockton, where Rev Roddie Rankin and Dave Mockett officiated.  
 ■ Residents enjoyed a performance from Skye folk singer Ella Munro and her band who played at Plockton Hall on Tuesday April 4 as part of their tour around Scotland.  
 ■ During March in Plockton, there were four inches of rain, the same as in January and February. Only 10 dry days were recorded. The warmest day in the village was 16°C and coldest night was -1°C.  
 ■ Work on a Plockton playpark can finally get under way. At the group's annual general meeting on Wednesday April 5, playpark committee chairwoman Marlene MacLean said it was now in a position to finally start work. Office bearers were re-elected and three new members joined the committee.  
 ■ Among recent deaths with Lochalsh connections was Murdo MacLeod from Kyle, Ron Gillespie Balmacara, and John Graham and Peter Beaton, who were both from Plockton.

**Broadford**

THE REPLACEMENT of a 20-year-old bridge has made access to a wooded area in the north of Broadford easier.  
 The original Arboretum Bridge was built by Magnus Gunnarsson around 20 years ago so the small wooded area, in the north end of Broadford, could be accessed and enjoyed via a small looped walk.  
 Over the years the bridge fell into disrepair but some talented volunteers have been hard at work replacing it.  
 Volunteer James Phimster gave his time to make a new bridge for the Arboretum. James is also involved with the Am Bata project at Plockton High School, which teaches traditional boat-building skills to young people, and the group kindly donated the larch for the new bridge, with various other fixings coming from Broadford and Strath Community Company's general fund.  
 The bridge started life in Plockton, but was put in place on Good Friday after James transported it from the Am Bata workshop to Broadford.  
 A spokesperson for Broadford and Strath Community Company said: 'We are delighted with the new bridge. Thanks to James for volunteering his time and to Am Bata for its generous donation of wood. As a community company we are dependent on the help and support of volunteers and we are exceptionally lucky with the talent we have in our area.'



The bridge will provide access to the woodland area in north Broadford.

**Glen Nevis**

VOLUNTEERS clubbed together for a spring clean of the Curling Ponds, Glen Nevis.  
 Friends of Nevis thank the 40 volunteers who took part in its spring litter pick and curling ponds tidy up.  
 A spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It was wonderful to have so many volunteers of all ages. Most were local, but a few came from as far away as Edinburgh and Peebles. Thanks go to the Ben Nevis Highland Centre and Lidl, which once again supported the event.'  
 Litter was cleared from the glen and members of the curling club helped clear the pond. The handrail at the steps was repaired and a start was made on clearing low level scrub and brambles. To find out about future events see [www.friendsofnevis.co.uk](http://www.friendsofnevis.co.uk) or email Susan [info@friendsofnevis.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofnevis.co.uk) or telephone Susan at the Nevis Landscape Partnership office 01397 701088.



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Maureen MacDonald celebrated her 65 birthday with family and friends on Saturday April 22.

**Nostalgic birthday bash in Moidart**

NOSTALGIA was in the air at a special birthday celebration in Moidart last month.  
 Maureen MacDonald's 65th birthday was marked at a gathering in Mingarry Hall on April 22, which was also held in recognition of her input to the community over many decades.  
 Building the Clanranald Hotel from scratch in 1978, Maureen ran the business for more than 30 years up to her retirement.  
 Apart from supporting the tourism

industry, the Clanranald was recognised as a hub of traditional music and culture with ceilidhs, dances, bingo, weddings, concerts and many other community activities held there. Maureen did all this while looking after her family.  
 A family friend said: 'The question asked is, how on earth did she cope? Throw husband Fergie into the equation and the problem really gets complicated!  
 'Maureen featured 'big time' in

the world of sport. She represented Scotland ladies clay target shooting team at international level in the mid-eighties and recorded a score of 295 from 300 – a brilliant score for a lady shooter.  
 'The celebration in Mingarry Hall, was nostalgic to say the least. It was a 'throw back' to social nights in the hall in days gone by.  
 'Addie Harper's band from Wick were outstanding. Well done Maureen and congratulations.'



Pupils about HWD's boat Silurian.

**Raasay**

RAASAY Primary pupils became marine scientists recently when they jumped on board the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's vessel the Silurian.  
 On Thursday April 27 the Silurian berthed alongside the pier so nursery to P7 pupils could enjoy a 90-minute workshop led by expert marine biologists and educators.  
 A treasure hunt around the boat, provided an insight into life aboard the vessel, kick-starting the event. This was followed by an introduction to some of the key Hebridean whales and dolphins before the children went out on deck to learn how to scan for dolphins and use equipment such as binoculars.  
 The pupils then enjoyed a presentation below deck in the science station where sounds, videos and props were used to demonstrate the importance of sound in the marine environment.  
 Finally, pupils had the chance to ask questions before receiving their Silurian Scientist certificates.  
 A school spokesperson said: 'Raasay Primary School would like to thank everyone involved for providing such an inspiring and memorable experience.'



**Kilmallie**

ACCESS to a community pinewood in Corpach has been improved thanks to the help of green-fingered volunteers.  
 Kilmallie Community Company held a successful work party, left, in the Pine Wood on Saturday April 22, to tidy up the woods and pick up litter.  
 Paul Biggin told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We had an excellent turnout with 14 adults and six youngsters. We improved access to the community pinewood in Corpach by laying gravel on boggy sections of the path. Thanks go to everyone who helped, including Banavie Quarry.'

**RETRO Roamer**

THE ROAMER column was the highlight of a Thursday for many Lochaber readers, and so this week he returns with a timely look back at the events and people that made it into his columns between 1985 to 2016...

■ A Danish yacht going through Laggan Locks was followed by a public-spirited report to Northern Constabulary that a woman on board was playing with 'a large striped cat'.  
 The well-meaning person who contacted the police was obviously concerned there might be an infringement of the quarantine regulations. However, when an official check was made further along the canal at Banavie, the 'large striped cat' turned out to be a well wrapped up infant – in a striped babygro.  
 There was a lovely sequel to that story. A few days later, the Danish vessel re-entered the canal at Corpach. There the customs officer waved a welcome to the Danes when mother and baby appeared on deck. And, when the yacht reached Laggan Locks, mum held the child aloft and called out 'miaouw, miaouw' to anyone listening. What was so nice about the whole incident was that everyone – Danes, canal operatives and customs officers – took it all in great part.

■ A great deal of annoyance has been caused by the council's 'Keep Your Garden Tidy' letter. Residents of the Fort's higher reaches are none too amused and cite the instance of Wright's Lane - that'll have some Lochaber House personnel looking out the local maps – which is so overgrown it can hardly be used for the right of way it purports to provide. Over to thee – LDC.  
 Aye, it's great stuff the Lochaber rain. Everyone is eyeing the skies to see when it might stop. That means they notice the rooftops of some of our long-established High Street edifices. So folk come to the conclusion that the council could send out some of their 'Keep Your Garden Tidy' notices to the proprietors of these buildings. Because, sprouting from the top of many of them are 'roof gardens' – of the wild and uncultivated variety.

■ It was shades of the Old Town last Thursday night when a wooden walkway and hoardings were being set up in the middle of the High Street. One of our Fort councillors was standing in the carriageway directing the traffic for an hour-and-a-half while the trial operation was in progress.  
 Along came a young learner driver who not only had to negotiate his way round the walkway, manoeuvre past the workmen and their vehicles, but required to be watchful for the councillor's signals and attentive to his father's front seat advice. He had the Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band marching behind his back bumper as well.  
 'What'll I do, Dad?' he asked anxiously. 'Just keep the head and drive up MacRae's Lane,' was the measured reply. Our young hero carried out the instructions to the letter. Almost half way up the narrow lane he was breathing a sigh of relief and switched off the engine. Only then did he look in the mirror – and there, behind him, were the scholarly pipers and drummers. I gather the air wasn't blue, though, just tartan.



Down memory lane – High Street, Fort William.

■ Not so many summers ago a favourite local pastime was a putting competition, on a reasonably friendly basis, between the staff of local shops and offices. Now folk just cannot afford it because of the prohibitive putting green charges. So, come on Lochaber District Council, give us the rest of the summer to play the game on The Parade, at say 20 pence for adults and 10p for children. You'll be on course to take in more money in the long run.

■ Interesting artefact at the sheriff court building these days – a castor oil plant. I understand that liberal doses of the resultant oil are to be doled out to the local solicitors to ensure they cut short their submissions.  
 Consternation in court on Thursday. Four members of the Fort legal fraternity were representing local clients, but a solicitor from Inverness had arrived to swell the ranks. Consternation? Because, in 'a case like this', there are not sufficient gowns on the courthouse pegs to go round.  
 The brief from the Highland capital, obviously knowing about Clach's defeat by Fort William the night before, had realised how difficult it is for anyone from Inverness to get anything out of the Fort and had arrived early and immediately grabbed a gown – leaving just three for the Fort four. However, things turned out okay in the end and the cause of justice was served – eventually.

■ It's not only the town's church bells that ring out in the Fort on the Sabbath. The strident tones of a certain faulty burglar alarm in the High Street, not far from where Hughie MacGillivray's shop used to be, are giving it laldy on Saturday night and Sunday morning, much to the chagrin of High Street residents, the passing public, those en route to church and anyone with a sore head from the night before.  
 Here's an interesting sidelight on the Morar level crossing. Man drives his car onto it on Sunday morning and parks half on and half off it. Goes to the shop, thinking there are no trains on the Sabbath. Along comes the Sunday steam special. It stops. Out jump the footplate crew who push the motor off the crossing and onto the road. Get back on the train. 'Whistle! Whistle!', 'Toot! Toot!' Off goes the train again, just as the man comes rushing out of the shop thinking, no doubt, it was church bells he was hearing. Aye, a great line the West Highland.



The children with their iPads ready to use in the classroom.

**Nine-day digital detox reaps big reward for youngsters**

PUPILS at Ballachulish Primary School have earned four iPads for their classroom after taking part in a digital detox.  
 Primary six and seven children were challenged to spend nine days without mobile phones, tablets and laptops by head teacher Carol Divers and class teacher Jenni Wright.  
 Each pupil signed a contract agreeing to abstain from any devices, even texting. As part of the project, the children completed a daily diary which contained pictures and stories of them spending more time outside playing, fishing, cycling and actually calling

round for friends in person. Many of the children also noted how much more time they spent talking with family and friends. Ms Divers said the response from parents about the digital detox was 'positive'.  
 She said: 'This was a positive task and there was definitely a marked difference in the playground.  
 'Friendships seem to have grown stronger. Some of the children have said they are happy to be back on their devices but will cut back a little in future.'  
 The children were extremely pleased to receive their new classroom iPads.



Clockwise from top left: Lochaber Pipe Band lead the parade; comedian Ross Noble shows he had balance, stopping to let fans take a quick picture; ladies' champion Jess Brown and fellow female rider Chloe Richardson enjoy the moment; a marshall ensures the parade goes smoothly. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

# Wheels up as riders make welcome return to Fort

**KATIE CARABINE**  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE 2017 Scottish Six Days Trial got under way on Sunday April 30 with the annual parade of riders along Fort William High Street.

After weighing in their bikes at the West End Car Park, all 280 professional and amateur riders rode along the street, led by Lochaber Pipe Band.

The riders, who came from 19 different nations, including Spain, USA, Canada, France, Holland, and even Costa Rica and Australia to compete, waved, high-fived and shook hands with fans and enthusiasts young and old along the way as they made their way back to the West End base, where their bikes were locked up until the competition began on Monday morning.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan welcomed the riders, organisers, spectators and everybody else involved in the



The annual Scottish Six Days Trial got off to a glorious start on Sunday.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

event to Fort William on behalf of Highland Council. He said: 'We want to give you

a warm welcome. You've come from far and near and we love it when you come - it gives the

town a boost.' He also thanked the Edinburgh and District officials for bringing the event

to the town once again and for continuing to do so over the years.

Thanks were also extended to the many sponsors of the event, also to the landowners who allow the trialists to ride over their land, and the police for their involvement in the parade and the event as a whole.

Councillor MacLennan added that it was important to remember the competitors from closer to home, pointing out Kinlochleven rider Gary MacDonald, who was in the top 10 last year and on Saturday April 29 was the first Scot to win the Pre-65 trials.

'It's great to see a Lochaber man do it,' he said.

He closed by wishing everyone a successful event.

A spokesman for the Scottish Six Days Trial said it was a 'privilege' to be in Fort William every year and again extended a thank you to Highland Council, the town, police and everyone else involved in the event.

## Lisa & Mike have been to one of the Cairngorm's renowned steak nights

What a great night Mike! I think I'm in love... that beautiful German model. I couldn't stop looking. Strong and sleek, smooth to the touch...



Hang on, what?



The German kitchens silly! I was talking to a couple who'd just installed one, and they couldn't speak highly enough about the quality and finish. I think we should get one...



Looks like we're paying Cairngorm another visit



Cairngorm Group

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Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY  
Tel: 01343 545315

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#MeetTheCairns

## MORVERN lines

### Welcome the cuckoo's return

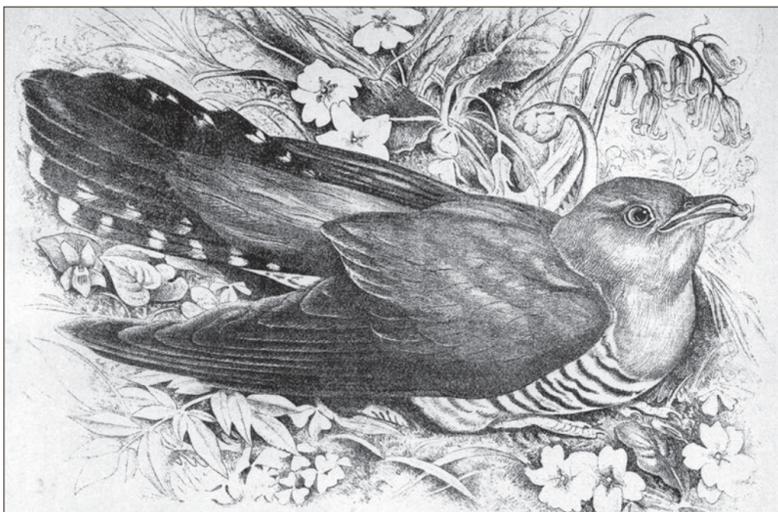
EVERY spring a minor miracle happens in Argyll - as it does elsewhere in the country.

No, not the council filling in potholes or resurfacing narrow, dead-end roads which have become beaten and broken highways, but the arrival, so sure and regular that we scarcely notice it, of thousands of birds, large and small, familiar and unrecognisable, songsters and silent, who find their way to and fro across thousands of miles guided by that mysterious something called instinct.

Among them all, there is none so popular or as welcome as the cuckoo. Although our knowledge about nature and our connection with the land is less than it used be, the call - 'cuc-koo, cuc-koo' - ringing through the woods reminds those of us who still happen to be hefted to the countryside that spring is really here at last, and summer not so very far away. It is an event which Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy (1804-74) portrayed so well in his famous Gaelic song, *Do'n Chuthag* - a welcome to the cuckoo.

Unlike many other so-called harbingers of spring, the cuckoo is seldom premature. The March cuckoo, it has been said, appears first 'in the newspapers' - that is in the days when rural communities vied with each other to be the first to give notice of their arrival in the local press.

Although cuckoos do occasionally come in March, April



A cuckoo from a sketch by Mrs Hugh Blackburn (1923-1909), who lived at Roshven.

is certainly well on its way before the familiar call is heard with any regularity.

I have a note of one being heard on February 10, 1882, at Kinlochleven and Rannoch Moor and in Appin the following day, but these must be exceptional as records for that time and place indicate the weather was wetter and colder than average.

The earliest I have a note of in Morvern this year is the middle of the month at Laudale on the south shores of Loch Sunart; since then others have been heard at Drimnin, Savary, Lochaline, Doirenamairt and Ardslnish in Ardnamurchan. An old rhyme describes the cuckoo's time in Britain: 'In April I open my bill, in May

I sing night and day, in June I change my tune, in July far far I fly, in August away I must.'

It is said to leave Uist on St Peter's day, June 29. Some years ago I heard a cuckoo calling at Old Ardtornish in September and wrote to a well-known London newspaper announcing this unusual phenomenon. My letter was not published but the editor was kind enough to send me a personal note saying that, as it was some time since he stopped publishing letters about the first cuckoo, he was not about to start recording the last.

What is it about the cuckoo that attracts so much attention? First, for those who are technically minded, they are a

member of the order Cuculus canorus belonging to a family of birds called passerines, that is perching birds, but, unlike typical passerines, they have what is known as a zygo-dactyl foot, ie, one in which the toes are two and two instead of only one hind toe.

Secondly, this handsome bird, which is often mistaken for a kestrel or a merlin, is a brood parasite. It lays its eggs in other birds' nests and leaves the host birds to incubate and rear its young but not before mother and fledgling murder the lawful occupants.

As an aside, golden eagles of course build their own nests but occasionally, if two eaglets hatch, the first - usually the largest - will either peck its

sibling to death or push it out of the nest.

Thirdly, and perhaps the main reason, is that deep down cuckoos somehow remind us of our prehistoric past, witches, ghosts, supernatural powers and rituals of the traditional calendar. When thick snow lay on the low ground last week in Argyll, I was constantly reminded by my farming friends of two old sayings: 'The cuckoo snow' and 'The lambing snow'; there is another snow which falls in early May but its name escapes me for the moment.

A cuckoo calling from the roof of a house meant the death of one of the occupants within the year - a saying which probably dates from a time when most dwellings were thatched, as I have never seen a cuckoo sitting on galvanised ridging or a slate roof.

In bygone times an older generation, on going to bed for the night, would put a bit of bread, called the 'cuckoo piece', under their pillow because of the following omen: 'I heard the cuckoo without food in my belly, I saw the foal with its back to me, I saw the snail on the bare stone slab and I knew that the year would be bad for me.'

The Irish put it rather more strongly: 'You don't want to be looking at the ground when you hear the first cuckoo, it means that you will be below it before it returns next year'. In Scandinavia, the number of times you hear the first cuckoo indicates the years that you have left in this life.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

FW

## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The annual Scottish Six Days Trial got off to a fantastic start at the weekend, particularly for Kinlochleven rider Gary Macdonald, who made history on Saturday when he became the first Scotsman to lift the prestigious Challenge Trophy as winner of the Scottish Pre-65 Trial.

To say he was delighted is an understatement as you can plainly see from our photograph on page one, and his parents Arthur and Sandra are rightly proud of his achievements.

Arguably the greatest motorcycle adventure in the world, Lochaber is widely regarded as the birthplace of the SSDT

where since its origin in 1909, no other trial has captured the imagination of rider and spectator in the same way.

This annual competition not only highlights Lochaber's place as the Outdoor Capital of the UK – particularly this week with all the sunshine – but there is no doubt that it offers a fantastic economic boost too, with trial fans, event organisers, riders and their support crews booking out most of the accommodation for the week, plus the actual amount of spend in shops, bars and restaurants.

So congratulations to everyone involved and enjoy the last couple of days of this year's spectacular event.



## Days gone by – flower power in 1997

This week we travel back to June in 1997 and a photograph of youngsters from Fort William Primary School who were planting new flower beds at the town's leisure centre.

Following our picture of April 20, reader Hughie McNeill wrote to say: 'The photo was taken at the launch of the Colonsay Disco Club. The adults at the back row are the late Laura Rose, Kate Bowman and myself. We, along with John Campbell and a few others, were the founding members of the club. It was started to provide something for local children to do at weekends. The children make up the rest of the photo and I can put names to all but one of them. At that time, weekly ceilidhs were held on a Thursday night so we decided that Saturday night would be disco night. The club was a great success and ran for many years. I took over as "head DJ" when John Campbell left. I used to listen to the new pop chart being announced on a Tuesday afternoon then telephone Douglas' Record Shop in Oban and put in an order for the week's new hits. They would post the records off to us and they would arrive on Friday afternoon in time for the Saturday night disco. The discos were mostly held in the village hall (then at Kiloran) and occasionally out-of-season ones would be held in the games room at the hotel. They were very popular with local kids and, after 10.30pm, some of the "young at heart" would arrive from the pub and keep the dancing going into the wee hours. It was a highly enjoyable time and after we had raised money to buy our decks and lighting we continued to raise funds via sponsored walks etc which we donated to various charities. Happy days!'

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



'FALBH!' ars' an rìgh. 'Fuirich!' ars' a' ghaoth. ('Go!' said the king. 'Wait!' said the wind.)

It's an ill-wind that blows no good, and while the strong south-easterly gusts of last weekend disrupted our boating plans for getting back from the Tíree half-marathon, a run among the spectacular views of Glen Nevis and a great night of celebration was a good alternative.

We had planned to head back to Mull with Pal Grant on Saturday afternoon, but, due to the poor weather, that voyage was cancelled. I had to be in Kilmiver for a christening at which I was godfather on Sunday and the ferry would be too late, so there was no option but reluctantly to pull out. After all the sweat and swearing in the training process, and having promised to run, we decided to do the event on the mainland and then at least we couldn't be accused of dodging the difficult part.

Two of our team had to stand down due to minor injuries – Ania with a sore hip and Andrew with a foot strain

(probably from kicking my tòn too often with it!).

So three of us, a dog and two supporting cyclists headed up the beautiful valley of Glen Nevis to undertake the 13.1 miles of punishment.

Of the three running, I was most definitely the beginner. Chloe, the Skipinnish office boss, runs up Ben Nevis for fun and is doing an ultra marathon (40 miles) in a few weeks, and Maciek, Ania's brother, was a junior Polish international 400 metres hurdler.

Running along with these two created a scene like a walrus and two gazelles on a day out. They were very kind and stayed with me, which was nice but as they were obviously not under any strain they kept trying to talk to me, which was like the dentist asking questions when you're getting a filling. They were having great craic, but I did not have oxygen available to waste on conversation.

There was a fair amount of uphill terrain in the first half, which did not agree with my legs and lungs, but the stunning scenery of the outward run

was very effective in distracting me from the battle to keep moving.

The 13.1 miles was conquered steadily and we finished in two hours and 17 minutes. It must take a fair dose of fuel to move 18.5 stone that distance and, according to my Fitbit, I burned 2,500 calories.

We were very happy to hear later that Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner of Watercolour Music and Peter Griffiths of CalMac, the team Skipinnish runners who actually reached Tíree, all had a successful event too.

A boat on the sheltered waters of Loch Lochy, a feast to refill us with calories and a viewing of the original *Whisky Galore* film were our means of celebration. The film was a fitting prelude to the christening celebrations in Oban the next day where the more familiar 'half' marathon was undertaken with vigour.

We were disappointed not to make it to Tíree but the wind is an unpredictable and stern master. As the Gaelic saying goes 'Falbh!' ars' an rìgh. 'Fuirich!' ars' a' ghaoth.



### Social media

A video on *The Oban Times* Facebook page which shows a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by a car coming out of Connel prompted comment.

Laurie Cameron posted: 'The idiots on the roads that cause the problems as myself and my son witnessed first hand this morning!! I was sitting waiting to pull out of Dunbeg when some idiot in an Astra overtook a pickup towing a boat right at the junction. First of all, it was busy due to the time of day, school time, but he crossed the double white lines proceeding to overtake in the filter lane for Dunbeg!! people take stupid risks all the time.'

Paul Smith recounted: 'Had a Merc blind overtake me and a camper heading east on the Poppies corner last summer in the face of oncoming traffic. If I hadn't stood on my brakes he would have had nowhere to go and folk would have died. Idiot is an understatement. You only see the police with blues and twos on the way to an accident! Where are they?'

Sarah Ann Rodgers wrote: 'There have been enough fatalities on this road caused by reckless driving; the silver car barely got back into his lane and is a prime example of bad driving!'

Gordon Frame said: 'The problem with

dangerous speeding drivers on most roads in the UK is down to three things. There is not a big enough deterrent! People who drive like this have no self-discipline or respect for the Highway Code and finally there are not enough traffic police out there to enforce the law! Make speeding fines a minimum of £1,000 then you might see them slow down. I read once that the automobile is the safest means of transport ... until you put a human behind the wheel then facts and figures show it then becomes the most dangerous! See the video and read the full story at <https://www.obantimes.co.uk/a85>

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

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### Appalled by onslaught against humanists

Sir,  
I was appalled and saddened by Donald J Morrison's undignified onslaught against a humanist funeral in Inverness (Letters, *The Oban Times*, April 20).

As an elder of the Church of Scotland for some 30 years, I am aware that Christ asks us to love thy neighbour and show understanding and forgiveness.

I have attended a number of humanist funerals and one humanist wedding. In each case, no mention was made of Christianity but in each case many of the qualities of the teachings of Christ were expressed. Indeed, I am of the understanding that hymns can be included if so wished.

What will the grieving next of kin think should they read Mr Morrison's hurtful and aggressive letter? He says: 'We are all sinners'. If so, we should shun sin and profess peace and understanding to all mankind.

It appears to me that such an insular attitude causes disrespect between the various religions, causing many wars.

I forgive Mr Morrison for his hurtful statements under the banner of Christianity.

Donald Fraser,  
Aberfeldy.

### Christian services are not for everyone

Sir,  
Donald J Morrison (Letters, April 20) claims he met 'Christians and non-Christians' who attended a humanist funeral and were appalled.

He adds that 'no mention was made of God, Jesus Christ, sin or the after-life' and bemoans the Bible not being read, no prayer heard, nor psalms sung.

I fail to see why non-Christians should have a problem with any of that. And if one of the mourners called it the 'worst funeral I have ever attended', then that speaks volumes for his mindset. Did he go expecting to be entertained?

My own father believed in God but was not a Christian. My sister and I arranged for a humanist celebrant at his funeral, and I could not have asked for a better send-off for the old man. Yes, we cried and we laughed, we remembered dad for the loving father and wonderful human being he was. It was a celebration of my father's life.

The celebrant read the moving poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye, *Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep*, which asks us not to mourn, but rather to remember our loved ones in all we see and do. That is surely a better way to celebrate the lives of those we love.

When I compare that to my mother's funeral, officiated over by a Kirk minister who talked nonsense about a woman he had never met and knew nothing about, the difference could not have been more marked.

This is where Mr Morrison makes

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)



A' RUAMHAR ANNS A' GHÀRADH an latha roimhe bha mi a' cuimhneachadh air faclan agus air gnathasan-cainnte air an robh mi cho èòlach nam òige ach a th' air an ìre mhath a' dhol à bhith an-diugh, agus gu dearbh a tha an cunnart a dhol à cuimhne.

Tuigear mar a dh'fhaodas leithid sin tachair far an robh faclan a' mineachadh gnìomhan agus innealan an lùib obair shònraichte san dachaigh, air a' chruith, neo fiù 's ann an obair làitheil sam bith far am bheil seann dòighean obrach air falbh agus innleachdan ùra aig daoine air an son.

Mar eisimpleir saoil cò mhead duine an-diugh dham b' aithne each a bheartachadh airson obair-cairteach neo gus a dhol a threadhadh neo a liuthadh rud eile ris am bithe gun cleachdadh nuair a bha mise òg. Tha faclan mar srian; srathair; briogais; dromanach; agus greallag, agam fhathast ach tha mi air ainm mòran de dh'achfainn nan each a chall thar nam bliadhnaichean.

Thachair sin ri linn gun d' fhuair sinn tractar agus gun d' fhalbh an t-each bann nu d' dheireadh a bh' againn. Bha sinn ga ionndrainn gun teagamh oir 's e peata a bh' ann ach aig an aon àm bha sinn cho moiteil às an inneal ùr a bha cho goireasach agus cho cuideachail le obair na cruite! B' e seann Ferguson Brown a' chiad thractar a fhuair m' athair agus rinn e a' chùis dhuinn airson grunn bhliadhnaichean chun an d' fhuair e am Fergie beag glas, TEF20 diesel agus abair gun robh am beathach sin math. Ann am beachd mhòran eòlaichean bha an tractar seo cho math ri gin a chaidh a thogail riagh agus chan eil teagamh nach do dh'atharraich e saoghal chruitearan agus luchd-obrach thuathan beaga an t-saoghail.

Bha e cumhachdach gun a bhith throm agus bha e beag agus sùbailte ann an àiteichean obrach cumhang, agus bha na h-innealan a chruithach Harry Fearghasdan airson an tractair innleachdach da-rìribh. 'S eibhinn leam a bhith smaoinachadh air mar a chithear mòran de na tractaran

his most derisory comment, by calling humanist funerals 'idolatry'. Excuse me? With an ordained minister officiating over a funeral, full of the pomp and circumstance of Christianity, saying how wonderful the person was even if they were not all that wonderful, and he has the gall to call humanism idolatry?

I shall borrow a Christian line in response to Mr Morrison's claims of idolatry, and suggest he removes the beam from his own eye before he attempts to remove the mote from a brother's.

And, no, humanists do not avoid the question of death, and some do not even ignore the possibility of an afterlife, as not all humanists are atheists.

It may surprise Mr Morrison to learn we do not all follow or want his faith.

We have freedom of religion, and enforcing the faith of some upon others is a breach of human rights, even if the individual happens to be dead.

Finally, I will agree with Mr Morrison that Nietzsche was wrong in saying that 'God is dead' – for the simple fact that no god ever existed in the first place.

Leslie Thomson,  
2 Moredunvale Green, Edinburgh.

### Custodians of Mull land have responsibilities

Sir,  
In response to the letter from Tim Liddon of Tilhill Forestry (*The Oban Times*, April 27), many pesticides that are now banned – for example, organophosphates – were once authorised and approved by government and scientific authorities.

Neonicotinoids are already banned in some European countries and are shortly to be banned by the EU.

Pesticides are designed to kill, and neonicotinoids destroys acetylcholine in nerves and the brain.

The hazards for the neonicotinoid pesticide Gazelle (which is an acetamidrid) are:

1. highly water soluble
2. very persistent in aquatic systems
3. moderate mammalian toxicity
4. high potential for bioaccumulation
5. highly toxic to birds and earthworms
6. toxic to aquatic organisms
7. contaminates other plants, which depend on insect pollination, by the fungal mycorrhizal association from the systemic treated trees. (I invite readers check for yourself about acetamidrid.)

Yes, we enjoy the forests, but also for their wildlife and flowers. Mull has one of the richest variety and concentration of wildlife in Europe – golden eagles, a flourishing hen harrier population (which is declining in the rest of UK) and insects not found anywhere else.

Tilhill Forestry has a responsibility, as custodian of the land for future generations, to ensure that this wonderful diversity of wildlife and flowers (which depend on insect pollinators, such as bees) are protected.

Wildlife tourism is also a major factor in Mull's economy.

Michael Shilson,  
Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

### EU is unfair to non-Europeans

Sir,  
I refer to the article about a Canadian couple who set up a business at Laggan and are soon to be deported (*The Oban Times*, April 20).

Sadly, this is typical of the racial discrimination we have had to endure since we joined the European Union.

We have two elections coming up, so we have the opportunity to vote against candidates who are members of parties that support the EU, including members of SNP, Greens, Lib-Dems, and the Blairite wing of Labour, all of whom support the EU's racist immigration laws.

I voted leave because I am opposed to racial discrimination, for the same reason I think we should refuse to negotiate any trade deal with EU and should insist on a hard Brexit. Once we have left EU, we should refuse to trade with EU members and should impose a total ban on all imports from EU countries.

This is our moral duty in order to protest against EU immigration laws that discriminate against non-Europeans. At present we have to discriminate against Canadians because they are not Europeans.

David Gallant,  
Oban.

### Double white lines won't stop overtaking

Sir,  
With regards to the safety of the Oban to Connel stretch of the A85, there are a number of points not mentioned in previous editorials and correspondence.

First, double white lines do not stop drivers or motorcyclists from overtaking. I have seen drivers overtake on double whites, north- and south-bound, on the section just north of Pennyfuir. Similarly, overtaking takes place at the Dunbeg junction, crossing into the red shaded areas, again both north- and south-bound.

The second point is that cyclists need a safer way to travel along this road. I have gasped at how close some vehicles have come to knocking the cyclist into the gutter, while overtaking at speed. Other drivers who have sensibly slowed right down, then proceed to pass, giving the cyclist a wide berth, then find themselves facing oncoming fast traffic on blind bends.

Finally, for our very slow-moving visitors or locals, who are oblivious to 'normal' or 'sensible' driving speed or are too busy looking at the scenery, maps or other distractions instead of the traffic behind them, there need to be more lay-bys and signs with messages such as 'Take a rest' or 'Use your mirrors' and countless other combinations.

Where you would build the lay-bys, though, is another topic for correspondence.

Alistair Cameron,  
by email.

Ailean Caimbeul

beaga glasa ag obair fhathast, agus nan robh am Ferguson Brown agamsa an-diugh, b' fhiach i deugachadh mìle not dha luchd-cruinneachaidh seann achfainn thuathanais!

Nuair a bha mi a' ruamhar bha mi cuideachd a' breacadh, obair a bhiodh againn gach bliadhna a' deasachadh airson puill a rùsgadh air toiseach air buain na mòna. Bha breacadh a' ciallachadh a bhith a' gearradh mu thimcheall nan ceapan a bhithte a' togail far bàrr nam poll-mòna agus bha caochladh dhòighean aig daoine air sin a dhèanamh.

Tha feadhainn ri mòna fhathast ach tha ola is dealain cho goireasach!

VARIOUS activities in daily and working lives generate their own vocabulary associated with tools used in tasks and also the actions involved in undertaking the work.

Such lexicons are enriching but as language evolves words frequently become obsolete as new working methods develop. There has to be a case for recycling linguistic treasure.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

## Le taic bho



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## Jeremy takes second place

**Strongman**



Jeremy Vickers

THE NATIONAL Scottish strongman under-90kg competition took place on April 19 in the Ben Nevis Industrial estate.

Ewan Massie from Edinburgh was the overall winner, with local lad Jeremy Vickers in second place and Jonnie Manson of Shetland finishing third. Lawrie Marshall also competed but didn't make the top three.

The competition involved a loading event, a deadlift of 230kg, which the competitors had to lift as many times as they could in 75 seconds.

There was a press of 110kg, which again required as many reps in 75 seconds as possible.

Then there was an Atlas Stone event, where the men lifted the 110kg stone to shoulder height, again doing as many reps as they could in 75 seconds.

There was a super yoke, where a 330kg weight was lifted to shoulder height and then the competitors had to walk carrying it.

Finally, there was a tyre flip event, where competitors flipped a 320kg tyre six times, as fast as they could.

As well as their trophies, the top three will be invited to compete for the under 90kg world championship in Finland in September, along with event organiser Stuart Whyte, who will be competing in the under 105kg class.

The winners of Saturday's competition will also be invited to compete in the UK and British championships in their weightclass.

## Fort cricketers lead the league

**Cricket**

A 20-POINT walkover on Saturday sees Fort William Cricket Club as early leaders in the North of Scotland Cricket Association senior league.

This week the Fort face Inverness-based rivals Northern Counties with the game starting at 1pm.

If anyone wants to try cricket then check out the Facebook page for practise sessions. All skill levels are welcome.

# Road to the Isles half marathon

THE ANNUAL Road to the Isles half marathon took place last Saturday.

As well as the half marathon which started at Arisaig House at 12pm, there was a 10k race starting on Traigh Beach and a 5k at Loch Morar.

The event was to raise funds for the Mallaig Pool and Leisure Centre refurbishment which aims to raise £1.1m overall and prior to the half-marathon day the total was at around £309,000.

Over 450 participants signed up, coming from as far as Devon and Cornwall, Paris



Seventy-two-year-old Philippa Dove, from Ardnamurchan, was one of the most senior entrants to complete the course.

and America. Alistair Hay (Central Athletics Club) was the first man over the line in the half marathon with a time of 01:08:30, with Iain Manson (Metro Aberdeen Road Running Club) coming second with a time of 01:19:29.

In third place was individual runner Donough McBrearty with 01:22:02 and the first local to finish was Ewen Henderson with a time of 01:24:11, placing him in fourth.

The first female finisher was Kate Jacobs (Swindon Harriers) who finished in sixth place over-all with a time of 01:26:36.

The winner of the 10k run was Gareth Niblock at 44mins 29 secs, with Patricia Mulholland finishing second with 49:50, and Ewan McCarthy coming third with a time of 50:27 secs.

The fastest three runners in the 5k race were all junior runners with Thomas Woods (Central Athletics Club) coming first with a time of 22:40, Iain-Finlay MacIntyre was second with a time of 23:14 and Jennifer Scott came third with a time of 24:30.

The male and female winner of each race won a painting each of the Road to the Isles scenery courtesy of Laura Kingswood.

The whole community pulled together to host the event.

Cameron Macintosh donated a giant paella pan that feeds 250 and Duncan Chisholm from La Tortilla in Inverness offered to cook the paella, with Arisaig born fishmonger Iain



Pool manager Brian O'Rourke and Chair, Fiona Baker, who did much to make the half marathon happen.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

## Half marathon

Stewart donating seafood for it.

The McCarthys from Mallaig Bakehouse donated granola energy balls for participants and Pam from Lochaber Yoga gave free, post-race yoga classes.

Sarah at Arisaig House and Eilidh at Traigh Golf Course let organisers start the races at their properties.

Shiel Buses donated a bus and driver to transport participants to the start line and the Co-op in Mallaig provided



First local back, Ewan Henderson.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

water, sweets and fruit for participants as well as sending over some staff to help give out medals and goodie bags.

## North of Scotland Cup win for Fort

**Football**

Fort William	3
Invergordon	0
North of Scotland Cup	



Scott Davidson

FORT William beat Invergordon 3-0 on Saturday in their last home game of the season at Claggan Park.

Iain MacLellan scored two goals within 10 minutes of each other in the first half of the match, the first of which was 18 minutes into the game, and the second on the 24-minute mark.

Scott Davidson added a third goal in the second half to secure the win.

This victory, in the second round of the Menzies Distribution North Of Scotland Cup, means Fort William will now play Rothes in the semi-final at Mackessak park on Saturday May 6. Kick off will be at 3pm.

## Lottery numbers

**Lottery**

THE WINNING numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto draw on Thursday April 27 were 4, 8 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot is £200 for the next draw.

Donella Johnson from Perth was the lucky winner of the Ballachulish Shinty Lottery draw on Sunday April 30 with the winning numbers 2, 10 and 13. Next week's draw will be £200 again.

There were two winners of the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw on Thursday April 27, with numbers 3, 9 and 15. Alan Overend and Cherryll Allan each pocketed £100 each and there is another £100 available in the next draw.

The winning numbers in the Caol Community Centre Bingo Lotto draw on Thursday April 30 were 4, 10 and 12. There were no winners so the jackpot rises to £300.

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## Lochaber hold mini rugby festival

LOCHABER Rugby Club hosted a mini festival on Saturday April 29 when primary 4/5 and primary 6/7 teams from all over the country came to play each other. Etive Vikings P4/5 team

and Selkirk p6/7 team were the winners of the festival.

A Lochaber Rugby Club spokesperson congratulated all the teams who took part and thanked the parents, coaches

## Mini rugby

and volunteers, especially the ladies in the club kitchen who catered for the festival.



Lochaber youngsters hold a pre-match huddle. Photos: Abridgeside Photography



Going in for a tackle



This little lad shows his skills.

## First jack of the new season

THE NEW president of the Railway Bowling Club, Allan MacDonald, throws the first jack to open the green for the season on Saturday April 29.

Over the closed season the

## Bowls

club has had work done around the green area and hope to continue at the end of this season.



Allan MacDonald throws the first jack of the season.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography

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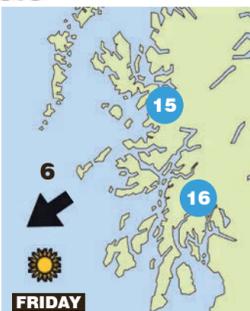
7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk



Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

## WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny Winds light east north easterly Temperatures 5°C to 16°C.
Friday	Sunny Winds light east north easterly Temperatures 4°C to 15°C.
Weekend	Sunny on Saturday Sunny on Sunday Winds slight east north easterly Temperatures 6°C to 16°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 May 4, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Thur	06.50 1.5 13.30 2.8 18.45 1.4	** ** *	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	01.36 3.0 08.22 1.4 14.43 2.9	20.01 1.3	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	02.45 3.1 09.25 1.3 15.30 3.1	21.06 1.2	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	03.29 3.3 10.10 1.2 16.02 3.3	21.57 1.1	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	04.05 3.5 10.47 1.1 16.32 3.5	22.40 1.0				
Tues	04.39 3.6 11.19 1.0 17.05 3.7	23.18 0.9				
Wed	05.13 3.7 11.50 1.0 17.37 3.8	23.54 0.9				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States	
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate