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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8406

Thursday 10 May, 2018

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2018
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VOTING COUPON PAGE 17 WIN - An overnight stay for two at Links House, Royal Dornoch - A family trip* on Paddle Steamer Waverley

Islanders step up campaign to save lifeline GP service

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HUNDREDS of islanders in a remote part of Mull and Iona are signing a petition to save their localised 24/7 GP service.

The petition, calling on health bosses to advertise a job vacancy at the end of May when their doctor retires, already has more than 300 names on it.

Residents say 'it's a no brainer' to advertise for a replacement GP for Dr Frank Teunisse, but Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has other plans.

It is proposing to incorporate Ross of Mull and Iona's existing independent GP practice into a single, island-wide practice.

Even though the new-shape practice would run an out-of-hours service and still operate out of existing surgeries on Mull and Iona, campaigners say they are 'unclear' about what the future holds.

Without a 24/7 GP living locally, people needing help when their surgery was unmanned would either have to travel for more than an hour via a single-track road across a mountain pass that gets congested in summer and can be impassable in winter or wait for a GP or ambulance to get to them.

Dr Teunisse fears for his patients. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm glad I won't be living here when I'm gone. People are so exposed here. There are occasions when ambulances get stuck in the north. It's life or death. That's why I came to help them.'

Jonathan Knight, whose wife is severely disabled, has turned



Jonathan Knight with his wife Ann Hutchinson and Doctor Frank Teunisse sitting in the jam shop on the main road two miles east of Bunessan.

their Leob Croft jam shop on the main road two miles east of Bunessan into a stop and sign station as part of a campaign to people backing the petition.

'The population in our area is about 700, plus all the tourists who visit. There's many a smaller community than ours who have their own GP.'

'The intention to replace independent single practices with group practices, even when this is incompatible with the geography and remoteness of a particular area, poses a real danger to patients in emergency situations which does not exist when the GP resides locally,' said Mr Knight.

The HSCP is hosting public meetings next week to brief people on how the single-service would work and 'to help allay concerns'.

The meetings are on Monday May 14 at Salen Church, Salen, from 6.30pm to 8pm, at Iona Village Hall from 6.30pm to 8pm on Tuesday May 15, Craignure Village Hall on Wednesday May 16 from 6.30pm to 8pm, Bunessan Village Hall from 6.30pm to 8pm on Thursday May 17, and Aros Hall in

Tobermory on Friday May 18 from 6.30pm to 8pm.

'It's a great concern to everyone. We need as many people as possible to turn out for these public meetings at Bunessan and Iona to show the strength of feeling, ask questions and get answers,' said Mr Knight.

Campaigners say only 'in the unlikely event' no one applies for Dr Frank's job will they be satisfied there is a real need to consider an alternative GP service.

The Ross of Mull and Iona have always had their own independent GP practice. Before Dr Frank, Dr Maureen Douglas ran the practice for 28 years. In between, there were locums.

The HSCP says the new GP set-up would be more convenient to patients, including giving them the choice of seeing a male or female doctor.

A spokesman for the HSCP said the Mull and Iona Locality Planning Group voted to progress with the proposal for a single island-wide GP practice and to develop the recruitment strategy so it could advertise a lead GP for the service.



Festival organisers thrilled at turnout

Thousands flocked to Oban for the 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival over the bank holiday weekend. The turnout thrilled organisers and festival chairman Breege Smyth said it was their busiest event on record. Among those taking part in the action song event in the town's Corran Halls were four young 'knights' from Tainuill Primary School. Helping the youngsters get the most out of their day and smile for *The Oban Times*' photographer was the Scottish Book Trust's Bookbug. For full report and more photographs see pages 14, 15 and 16.

GP' for the single group service brings no pain-relief to campaigners who claim Dr Frank's practice is a lifeline and saves the NHS thousands of pounds every year.

'The cost of Dr Frank's current practice is saving the

NHS £180,000 per year over the arrangement before he was appointed when locums were employed costing up to £1,000 per day. And since it is likely to be six months before a permanent GP is appointed as part of the proposed single Mull practice, the

health board is likely to squander £90,000 of NHS resources. All this is being done to replace a localised service on the Ross and Mull and Iona which not only works well but is liked by residents and is very good value for money,' said Mr Knight.

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Police to investigate Nancy Glen sinking

A CRIMINAL investigation is to be carried out into the sinking of a Tarbert fishing boat in which two men died.

The *Nancy Glen* sank in Loch Fyne on the evening of January 18 this year, with the loss of skipper Duncan MacDougall and crewman Przemek Krawczyk.

After a widely-supported campaign and with Scottish Government help, the vessel was raised from a depth of 140 metres last month, allowing the remains of Mr MacDougall and Mr Krawczyk to be returned to their families and funerals to be held.

A spokesman for the Crown Office said on Tuesday: 'The procurator fiscal has instructed Police Scotland to investigate the circumstances around the deaths of Duncan MacDougall and Przemek Krawczyk in Loch Fyne on January 18, 2018.'

'The families will be kept updated in relation to any significant developments.'

Tiny buskers warm hearts

THREE 'wee angels' warmed the hearts of passers-by and drivers in Breadalbane Street recently who stopped to listen when they busked in aid of Oban's Hope Kitchen.

The brothers raised more than £29 in three hours which bought three bags of shopping for the charity.

Full story page 4.



Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tarbert Loch Fyne Thu 10 May
Port Ellen Fri 11 - Sun 13 May
Jura Mon 14 May
Gigha Tue 15 May
Tighnabrauch Wed 16 May

Peter Rabbit (PG) 95 mins
"altogether lively and funny" *Guardian*
10/05 at 5.30pm, 11/05 at 5.30pm, 12/05 at 2pm, 14/05 at 5.30pm, 15/05 at 5.30pm, 16/05 at 5.30pm

Finding Your Feet (12A) 111 mins
"the cast lend charm to this feel-good fairytale"
Daily Express 10/05 at 8.30pm, 12/05 at 8.30pm, 13/05 at 5.30pm, 14/05 at 8.30pm, 15/05 at 8.30pm, 16/05 at 8.30pm

Isle of Dogs (PG) 101 mins
Stunning stop motion animation set on a dystopian Japanese island. "If you're looking for cute, cuddly Wes Anderson, you're barking up the wrong tree."
Telegraph **** 11/05 at 8.30pm

You Were Never Really Here (12A) 119 mins
Lynne Ramsay directs Joaquin Phoenix in psychological thriller with theme of child sex abuse. "Ramsay's filmmaking is impeccable and diverse"
Empire 13/05 at 8.30pm

Black Panther (12A) 134 mins
"serious muscle and style" *Telegraph* ****
12/05 at 5.30pm

My Time - prior to screenings of *Finding Your Feet*, we will show a short film about arts projects which have inspired poetry.

Marcelo Brodsky - prior to screenings of *You Were Never Really Here* & *Isle of Dogs*, we will show a free photo presentation.

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults.



Residents rally against more Lonan Drive houses

AROUND 100 residents from Soroba and Morvern Hill packed an Oban hotel lounge on Thursday to voice their opposition to a plan to build up to 44 more homes on Lonan Drive, writes Sandy Neil.

Plans, submitted by applicant TSL Contractors Ltd, show a mix of 44 flats and semi-detached houses in 12 blocks, with 'casual' and 'equipped' play spaces, extending beyond the houses on Lonan Drive on land currently used for 'informal recreation'.

Planning officers recommended Argyll and Bute Council approve the plan and last month councillors agreed to hold a hearing, given the weight of objections.

Forty-two objections were lodged by local residents and Oban community councillors, who argued it was the 'only green area' within an area of high density

housing, with an 'already overloaded' road network and a 'too narrow' entrance. Now the objectors have unified into one group, unanimously calling for the open space to be kept for recreation.

A spokesperson said: 'The meeting agreed on the challenges of construction on the site, including a large knotweed infestation, a main water supply pipe and drainage issues. Some householders were worried excavation for the development would lead to gardens in Nant Drive collapsing.'

'Concern was also expressed about the water pressure in the area as well as the capacity of the local sewer system to cope with the proposed additional housing.'

'There was laughter at the developer's report that the additional housing would have acceptable impact on traffic in the local area where peak time congestion

is extensive.' Aspects, he argued, do not comply with the Local Development Plan.

TSL's general manager John Forbes said: 'As a long-established local company employing more than 100 staff, TSL Contractors are passionate about the long-term success of Oban and the surrounding area. We are also acutely aware there is a severe shortage of affordable housing in the area. This is proving to be a significant barrier to attracting workers to the town and in many cases is hampering efforts to recruit into teaching, health, hospitality and construction.'

'Developments such as the one proposed at Lonan Drive go some way to address these issues and will help sustain the economic future and prosperity of Oban.'

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OT

Road works will last for six weeks

RESURFACING work on Western Isles roads started on Monday (May 7) and are expected to last for six weeks.

Work began in North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist on Monday for about two weeks before operations move to Harris for a week then Lewis for three to four weeks.

All work is weather dependent. The travelling public is advised to note all warning signs and traffic management and should expect minor delays.

The comhairle apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Social inclusion fund launched

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has launched a new financial inclusion service using the European Social Fund to provide advice and support to people in the Western Isles.

Since March, officers have been providing information on financial or other support which people may be entitled to receive. Contact the comhairle on 01851 822654 or email inclusion@cne-iar.gcsx.gov.uk



Financial officers Margaret Graham, left, is based in Stornoway and covers Lewis and Harris, while Angela Macdonald is based in Balivanich and covers Uist and Barra.

'Threat to fishing' slammed by MSP

ALASDAIR Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has condemned the UK Government's amendments to the EU Withdrawal Bill, tabled last week at Westminster, which he said represent a 'clear threat' to the islands' fishing industry.

Dr Allan said: 'The latest Tory amendments to the Withdrawal Bill would prevent the Scottish Parliament legislating to protect fishing communities for up to seven years - with Westminster being able to dictate how to manage Scotland's fisheries.'



Salmon farm moratorium call

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LOCAL fishery trusts and boards are calling for an immediate moratorium on new open cage marine salmon farms or any expansion of existing sites.

Save Seil Sound, Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board, Argyll Fisheries Trust, Friends of Loch Etive and Friends of the Sound of Jura have joined 22 other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to back the call by Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland (S&TC Scotland).

The move comes as the Scottish Parliament investigates the environmental

impact of Atlantic salmon farming in Scotland. The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee gathered evidence ahead of the current inquiry by the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (RECC).

Friends of the Sound of Jura was one of the organisations that gave evidence to the ECCLR last month, and in February the committee took evidence from the Dunbeg-based Scottish Association for Marine Science.

Andrew Graham-Stewart, director of S&TC Scotland, said: 'The all-party ECCLR Committee of the Scottish Parliament unanimously agreed its

report in March and concluded the current consenting and regulatory framework for the salmon farming industry is inadequate to address environmental issues.

'They were not convinced the sector is being regulated sufficiently, or regulated sufficiently effectively, and made it clear this needs to be addressed urgently because further expansion must be on an environmentally sustainable basis. They also said if current issues are not addressed, this expansion will be unsustainable and may cause irreparable damage to the environment, concluding "the status quo is not an option".'

Last week, the RECC heard evidence from representatives of the aquaculture industry. The following individuals were invited to give evidence: Scott Landsburgh, former chief executive, Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation; Ben Hadfield, managing director, Marine Harvest Scotland; Craig Anderson, chief executive, Scottish Salmon Company; Grant Cumming, managing director, Grieg Seafood Shetland, Grieg Seafood; and Stewart Graham, Group Managing Director, Gael Force Group.

After the meeting the committee reviewed all the evidence it had heard on salmon farming in Scotland.

Asked last week to comment on the call for the moratorium, Marine Harvest's business support manager Steve Bracken said he would await the final outcome of the RECC inquiry in July.

This comes as Argyll and Bute Council last week permitted an increase in biomass of farmed fish on two farms on Loch Fyne.

Meanwhile, Dawnfresh has submitted a planning application to increase the number of pens at Airds Point on Loch Etive from 10 to 12 without increasing the current biomass. The revised application also allows for an upgrade to the cages, as well as installing new feeding equipment on each pen.

Baby Hero witnesses Islay monument rededication

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THE great-great-granddaughter of an Islay man who rescued SS Tuscania sinking victims witnessed WW100's re-dedication of the American monument on the Mull of Oa.

Hero Mary Islay Ishqa Mathers-Brooks, aged four months, whose long distant relative Duncan Campbell BEM rescued survivors from the Mull cliffs, was silent during the service last Friday.

Hero was carried across the boggy rocky headland to the 8am service, conducted by the Royal British Legion of Scotland (RBL) national padre Karen Campbell, by her parents Imogen Mathers and Oliver Brooks who drove to the island from London for their first trip to Islay.

In February 1918, Duncan Campbell helped save survivors of the SS Tuscania sinking, in which 200 perished and sheltered 14 in his Stremnish cottage.



The American monument is just visible in the mist above proud mum and dad Imogen Mathers and Oliver Brooks with Hero Mathers-Brooks, four months.

More than four hours before HRH Princess Anne arrived in Port Ellen to lay a wreath at the village's war memorial, a large group assembled in the RSPB car park to make the 25-minute ascent to the Mull's monument.

Photographers and the media packed the hillside next to the memorial as Reverend Campbell conducted the service, in the presence of the Queen's representative the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick

Stewart, from Campbeltown, and national RBL standard bearers.

Rev Campbell welcomed the official representatives and a huge congregation of islanders and made the following address: 'On behalf of WW100 may I welcome you to this poignant memorial to all those whose lives were lost in the sinkings of the Otranto and Tuscania. 'In the pitch dark of night, from these hills and this land, from croft and farm, from police station and distillery, Islay people heard the call to serve and to save.

'They delivered the soldiers and sailors from the tumultuous waves; they brought dignity to the dead; sustenance, shelter, food, clothing and care to the living; they made a record of the people: they did what was right.

'And from the sea came those, whose service was yet to begin; or whose service was complete in their drowning, as they gave of their best and their all in the war to end all wars.

'Together Islay people, who had waved their own sons away, brought succour to their mother's sons and forged a bond over the oceans never to be forgotten with the families of those who were on the Otranto and the Tuscania.

'Yesterday, Lord Robertson, the grandson of George McNeill, the Islay police officer in charge that night, laid a wreath at the site of the sinking of the Tuscania.

'And together, we remember the events; all those who lost their lives, as well as the survivors; and all those who cared for them in the aftermath of tragedy.

'We re-dedicate this war memorial; a sentinel over the headland, as a reminder, of what was and is a part of the story of Islay and America.'

After the service, an American grandson of a survivor, from Seattle, told Rev Campbell: 'This is a most wonderful feeling of pilgrimage.'

Islay remembers - page 9.

Report praises council progress

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has made progress delivering education and social work over the past year and doesn't need additional scrutiny, according to a report.

The 2018/19 Audit Scotland Local Scrutiny Plan identified the council is receiving Scottish Attainment Challenge support, with pupil equity funding in place in schools.

The plan also found there is strong strategic leadership and that the comhairle has appropriate governance in place to ensure educational provision is well organised and well led. Outcomes for young people are improving and are more positive compared to youngsters with similar needs and backgrounds from across the country.

A progress review of services for children and young people was carried out in May 2017. As well as concluding there had been considerable progress in all areas, the Care Inspectorate found the council's role in looking after children in care had been embraced and the voices of these children were increasingly influencing policy and practice. There was evidence of improved collaborative working at all levels across the partnership.

Comhairle leader Roddie Mackay said: 'It is good to see progress being made by the authority in these areas and recognised by these scrutiny bodies. It is to be welcomed the plan has not identified a need for additional scrutiny.'

Mull gin makers raise spirits with new distillery go ahead



Jamie Munro, pictured at the House of Bruar, is promoting his Mull family's Whitetail gin at Selfridges, London, this week.

A MULL gin-making family is raising spirits with plans to expand its island business.

Jamie Munro's family, who are behind the island's Whitetail gin, have received planning permission to create a distillery at steadings near their Tiroran House Hotel.

The plan is to make a new Isle of Mull gin using botanicals that grow naturally around their 56 acres.

There is also talk of producing other seasonal varieties of small batch craft liquors to sell in their shop, said Jamie who was heading to London this week to host a tasting session of its premium London dry gin Whitetails at Selfridges in London.

Only nine months after the family sold its first bottle of Whitetail, it is winning world repute and could soon be on sale in Denmark.

It is already on the shelves of Selfridge's four UK stores and is about to be stocked in 20 Co-Op shops, including Tobermory. Amazon also sells it

direct. Mr Munro said: 'It's been an exciting and challenging nine months since we sold our first bottle. There's been a lot of learning and we've gained distribution pretty rapidly. Denmark is also on the cards.'

Whitetail gin has already won silver and bronze medals and is made with botanicals native to Mull.

Ingredients include bright pink heather, pine from the forest, savoury from the estate's kitchen garden and sea kelp gathered from Loch Scridain, all harvested by hand.

The gin is crafted by eighth-generation master distiller Charles Maxwell at Thames Distillers in London and distilled using water freshly sourced from Tiroran's private spring which is said to have mythical healing powers.

The name Whitetail is inspired by a pair of whitetailed eagles, Fingal and Iona, who live in the forest at Tiroran.

Council champions Mull Gaelic teacher despite visa refusals

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BUNESSAN'S new Gaelic school still has not found a teacher after the post was readvertised for the fifth time, but Argyll and Bute Council is campaigning to reverse the Home Office's repeated refusal to grant the only applicant, a Canadian, a visa.

Sine Halfpenny from Nova Scotia, a Gaelic teacher qualified to work in Scotland, was accepted as the 'ideal' applicant for a teaching post at a new Gaelic unit on the Ross of Mull, to which children from three families enrolled to start last summer.

But the Home Office snubbed her visa application twice, first because 'she did not meet salary requirements' and then when the council's certificate of sponsorship 'failed to meet the required points'.

Mull councillor Mary Jean Devon asked the council's last meeting in Kilmory: 'Where are we filling the vacancy in the Gaelic school in Bunessan?'

The policy lead for education, councillor Yvonne McNeilly, replied: 'We are still very actively looking for the position to be filled.'

'We still have an ongoing issue recruiting teachers in Argyll and Bute.'

Cleland Sneddon, the council's chief executive, added: 'We have for the third month running submitted the paperwork to the Home Office. There is a person available and there is a job available,' he said, if only they could satisfy the 'very strict' immigration criteria. 'We will continue to pursue that.'

Canada's national broadcaster CBC reports Ms Halfpenny has now moved on with her life and taken another job teaching in Manitoba that doesn't

allow her to use her Gaelic skills. All she can do is watch from afar while councillors continue to lobby for her.

Meanwhile the children on Mull are going into their second year without a teacher.

Sharing the job advert, Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell said: 'This is, I believe the fifth advertisement for the post. There is a fully qualified candidate whom the council wants to appoint but she lives in Canada and the UK Government won't give her a visa. Consequently children are losing out on the education they need.'

In a letter, Mr Russell has asked the new Home Secretary Sajid Javid to revisit the decision by his predecessor Amber Rudd and allow Ms Halfpenny to become the pupils' teacher, since there are no other qualified applicants.

'The local community affected by

this decision have worked extremely hard to secure Gaelic education for their children and we must not let them down,' he said.

Immigration policies, he added, are 'preventing good, qualified Gaelic-speaking professionals' from teaching in Scotland and called for a 'more progressive approach'.

The Scottish Conservatives' Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has also written to Mr Javid asking him to review the case.

Canadian historian Professor James E Fraser, also weighed in to the debate, tweeting: 'Gaelic was spoken in every province of Canada at Confederation.'

'It's a precious, living part of the Scottish heritage cherished by hundreds of thousands of Canadians. Government must make it easier, not harder, for our two Gaidhealtachds to support and connect with each other.'

Petition and questions for bank chief over closures

A PETITION to halt the closure of Castlebay and Inveraray's Royal Bank of Scotland branches was presented to the House of Commons, as the bank's chief executive officer explained the decision to an inquiry of MPs.

RBS announced the closure of 62 branches across Scotland in December last year, citing changes in the way customers access banking services for a drop in branch use of around 40 per cent in the last three years. In February, it announced 10 of these branches, including Castlebay and Inveraray, would be kept open until the end of the year, and their closure reviewed if there was a significant increase in transactions.

Thanking the hundreds who signed the petition to keep Barra's branch open, Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil MP said: 'RBS is 72 per cent

owned by the taxpayer and it is only right the UK Government is aware of the enormous impact bank closures and reduced hours will have on island communities.

'The actions of RBS are particularly galling with the recent news that the bank has announced a threefold increase in profits for the first quarter.'

Presenting his petition against closing Inveraray's RBS branch, Argyll MP Brendan O'Hara said: 'Ten years ago the people of this community along with other UK taxpayers bailed out RBS to the tune of £50 billion and now, without consultation, it has decided this branch may close.

'A stay of execution has been given but the threat of closure is still very real. The people of this town are rightly outraged at this decision, leaving them with no bank, and the several hundred people who

signed the petition only serves to show the strength of feeling.'

The Unite union has also called for a moratorium on RBS's closures following a 'trebling' of its profits. Mary Alexander, Deputy Scottish Secretary of Unite, said: 'RBS is rolling in profits. It's time for the bank to call a moratorium on the axe hanging over 62 branches in Scotland.'

At the Scottish Affairs Select Committee hearing in Westminster in January, RBS directors told MPs it would save £9.5m a year after closing the 62 branches. The committee quizzed RBS chief executive officer Ross McEwan on Tuesday May 8 to 'examine the reasons behind the decision to close 62 branches of RBS in Scotland, subsequent temporary reprieve for ten branches and the long term future of local banking in Scotland'.

SCOTTISH FIELD
Argyll
Gordon Buchanan, walks & water sports
26 Pages of fashion & interiors
ARGYLL SPECIAL

Missing lynx: The case for a comeback
THE ISLE OF HARRIS ON A BUDGET
STUNNING EAST LOTHIAN HOME
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Exactly who is Scotland's new biggest landowner?

SCOTTISH FIELD HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK - JUNE ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Gordon Buchanan's Argyll... Return of the Lynx... Stunning Harris... Meet Scotland's biggest landowner... Budget field sports

New Look

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant
Iain MacNicol

Drunk driver

A 23-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for drink driving at 10.25pm on Sunday May 6 in Connel. The man was charged with the offence and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from cycle

A SOLAR-POWERED electrical charger was stolen from a bike parked in the foyer of the Royal Hotel, Oban, sometime between 10.45pm on Saturday May 5 and 12.15am on Sunday May 6.

Racial abuse

AT 11.45PM on Friday May 4, in Lochside Street, Oban, a man, aged 31, behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested and when searched was found in possession of cannabis.

The man also made a racially abusive comment when in custody. He was charged and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicle collision

A WHITE pick-up truck collided with a blue Audi A3 on Mossfield Avenue, Oban, at 8am on Thursday May 3. The pick-up failed to stop and give details.

Assault arrest

POLICE arrested a woman, aged 43, at 7.50pm on Saturday May 5, in Corran Esplanade, Oban, after she assaulted a man and damaged a door.

The woman was charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

Private club plan for Jura estate

A PLANNING application has been submitted to turn Ardfin Estate on Jura into a private members club, featuring a swimming pool and spa.

In a report commissioned by Ardfin Estate Limited, it says the club 'will likely be limited to a maximum of 50 memberships'.

The club will be primarily operated from the stables conversion, however, Jura House will also be used.

The estate has been built up over the years, with the first phase carried out in the 1840s. Extensions were added in 1881 and 1939, with more extensions completed in the last few years, including a pool house.

Hotel guests evacuated after smoker triggers alarm

MORE than 100 guests had to be evacuated from Oban's Regent Hotel after a cigarette set off the fire alarm.

The hotel's new £30,000 state-of-the-art alarm system tracked the not-too-secret smoker's room number and details have been passed to the police.

It happened just after 5am on Tuesday while many of the guests were still asleep.

A hotel spokesman said there was no fire and the alarm identified the cause as cigarette smoke.

'Guest safety is our main pri-

Minister refuses father's plea to raise wreck of fishing boat

SANDY NEIL

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THE FATHER of a fisherman missing after his boat sank off Easdale five years ago has called on the Scottish Government to help raise the wreck and recover his body, as it did for the families of two crewmen lost aboard the Nancy Glen.

However, the minister has so far refused.

Skipper Scott MacAlister, a 40-year-old father-of-three living on the isle of Luing, was collecting prawns alone in the Firth of Lorn on April 25, 2013, when the *MFV Speedwell* foundered south of Insh Island, where it remains 83m below the surface. His body has never been found.

Earlier this year, a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) at Oban Sheriff Court adjourned for the third time until June 4 for the MacAlisters' advocate to exhaust 'new lines of inquiry'. The *Speedwell's* previous owner, John Connell, also consented to the vessel being recovered.

Now, a month before the FAI, Scott MacAlister's father Peter is appealing to fisheries secretary Fergus Ewing MSP to extend the same 'common decency' to his family, as he did to the families of the *Nancy Glen's* missing crew Duncan MacDougall and Przemek Krawczyk.

After the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) gathered enough evidence to conclude its report without

raising the *Nancy Glen* 140m deep in Loch Fyne, the Scottish Government funded a salvage operation to try to retrieve the bodies.

Justifying that decision, Mr Ewing said: 'In these tragic and extremely exceptional circumstances, with the *Nancy Glen* having been lost within sight of the family homes and the wider community, it is only right the Scottish Government intervenes and works with the families and salvage experts to search the vessel.'

Two bodies were recovered last month and identified as the missing men.

Peter MacAlister said: 'We are so glad the Tarbert families got something out of it, but we want

the same common decency. Why not us? There's no more surety that these men were on the boat than Scott was on the boat. He would not have got out. If Scott had got out the boat, even without a lifejacket, we would have found him on the surface.'

'The *Nancy Glen* was outside the harbour where the families could see it. Scott's grandfather lives on Easdale.'

'His brother is fishing in the area and it's there all the time. I am looking straight out to where the boat sank.'

'It has been on the same spot for five years.'

Mr MacAlister wants to raise the *Speedwell*, he explained, 'in the hope Scott is there and we get him and prove why the

boat sank and what condition it was in. It should be done before the FAI, then the boat can get tested. The point of the FAI is to find out why the boat sank.'

Mr Ewing replied that the evidence available to the FAI includes 'the condition of the *MFV Speedwell*, visual inspection observations of the wreck site from an independent diver, who is cited as a witness, and separate film footage from a Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle.'

'It is not considered necessary to recover the vessel for evidentiary purposes in respect of conducting the FAI, however, I understand the enquiry can consider recovery if it becomes apparent it would help the investigation.'

'The MAIB earlier determined it was not necessary to raise the vessel from the seabed to establish the likely cause of its loss.'

'It would also appear, from the assessment of the available evidence thus far, that it is generally considered unlikely Scott MacAlister's body remains on the vessel following its sinking on April 25, 2013.'

'While fully empathising with the family's need for closure, and Peter MacAlister's understandable wish, as a father, to raise the *MFV Speedwell*, it is not possible for the Scottish Government to intervene in every case where the sinking of a fishing vessel has resulted in the loss of life at sea.'

Benderloch project opens safe path for walkers and cyclists

A TEN-YEAR project driven by the community has made Benderloch a safer place for cyclists and walkers, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Retired teacher Iain McKie said the single track road over the old railway bridge joining the village to Keil Road used to be 'jaw-droppingly dangerous' but now it can be bypassed.

Walkers and cyclists used to have no choice but to step off the path and into the road putting themselves at great risk, said Mr McKie who lives nearby.

The route is used daily by children going to Lochnell Primary School.

'The size of the children compared to the size of the big wheels on the passing lorries was terrifying to see. It was jaw droppingly-dangerous,' said Mr McKie.

The new path and cycle way now passes under the bridge keeping people safe.

The land forming the bypass was donated to the project by Hilary Wyld and Hugh MacColl, who sadly died before work finished on it.

Local man Fergie Thomson, who worked the land and had also co-operated, also died during the project.

Peter Sinclair, who still keeps animals on land at the bypass, also gave his co-operation, said Mr McKie.

He added: 'With the number and size of vehicles on the road, it was becoming a real hazard. It took 10 years in the planning, including getting the funding, but it is a massive benefit to our community and we needed to say thank you to everyone who made

it possible. It was teamwork.' Funding support for the bypass came from Sustrans and Argyll and Bute Council - the council allocated £50,000, which was matched funded by Sustrans.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'This project is the result of a lot of hard work in partnership with Ardhattan Community Council, residents, land owners and Sustrans. As well as providing a safer route for pupils, the new path links to the Caledonia Way and makes for a better all-round walking and cycling experience in and around Benderloch.'

Phil Kearney, routes and networks manager at Sustrans Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to hear the route near Benderloch is being enjoyed by schoolchildren

on their way to and from school. Being active and getting out in the fresh air is a superb way to start and finish the school day and Sustrans is keen to continue working with local authorities across Scotland to make it safer and easier for children to walk and cycle to school.'

'The cycle route through Benderloch has been funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Sustrans and Argyll and Bute Council through our Community Links programme and also in parts by Sustrans' design and engineering team through our National Cycle Network development programme.'

'This is part of the ongoing development of the Caledonia Way, NCN78, the long distance cycle route that runs from Campbeltown to Inverness.'



Hilary Wyld and Peter Sinclair helped make the Benderloch bridge bypass happen.

Burns club donates £600

THE BURNS Club of Oban has donated £600 to a local charity and primary schools following a successful Burns Supper in January.

The club handed over £300 to the HCPT Group 43, which takes young people with social, emotional, or physical difficulties on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes in the south of France.

It costs around £1,000 per person to attend the event, and this year HCPT Group 43 is taking nine people, three of whom come from Oban.

The club donated a further £300 to local primary schools to fund Burns activities within their schools.

Earlier this year, more than 100 people packed into the Regent Hotel to celebrate the life and poetry of Robbie Burns. The money was raised by a raffle and auction.



Nicola Gurney and Mathieu Willcocks, with passenger Jean Peddie, left, and Dixie Porter of Hebridean Air Services, along with pilot Julie Angell. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

Airline steps in to save Coll couple's honeymoon

A NEWLYWED couple who stay on Coll had their honeymoon saved by a small airline after their ferry from the island was disrupted.

After a 'perfect' wedding day, Nicola Gurney and Mathieu Willcocks were left high, dry and unable to make their flight to Thailand. However, after phoning Hebridean Air Services (HAS) to see if there was anything that could be done, the airline put on an additional service to help the couple out.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* after landing in Bangkok, Mathieu said: 'When we originally booked our honeymoon

flight, it seemed it would work out, but then the timetable changed again and the new ferry time was going to make us miss our flight.'

'So we contacted HAS and explained the situation. Their early flight was full, the afternoon flight was too late, so Dixie in the Oban airport office called us back and told us they'd put on an extra flight just for us. So we ended up getting this new flight and made all our connections and flight on time. Dixie and Julie Angell, the pilot, were fantastic and we even got a bottle of champagne from them when we landed in Oban.'

The newlywed added: 'Our wedding was perfect. Plans had to be changed last minute because of the weather, but the community stepped in and pulled out all the stops to make it a great success. We couldn't have wished for a more perfect day.'

The couple have lived on Coll for two years. Nicola works for Project Trust, a charity based on Coll, and photographer Mathieu runs workshops on the island.

HAS, which has two small nine seater planes, is based at Oban Airport. It runs charter flights to Coll, Colonsay, Tiree, Islay and Oban.

Townfolk invited to come along and 'Get to Know Us'

PEOPLE with learning disabilities in Oban are calling on locals to 'Be a Friend' and take the time to get to know them at an event on Tuesday May 15.

The Get to Know us event, organised by ENABLE Scotland's Oban group, will be held in the Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban at 3pm.

The charity says nine out of 10 Scots who have learning disabilities have experienced bullying and fewer than one in three can name a friend.

Theresa Shearer, chief executive officer of ENABLE Scotland, said: 'This year, to mark Learning Disability Week, we are getting out into the Oban community and breaking down the barriers our members and the people we support tell us still exist.'

'One of the biggest barriers is loneliness and isolation, made worse by lack of understanding of learning disability.'

'We want to engage with communities and individuals in Oban to show them people who have learning disabilities are just people.'

'More than that, they are neighbours, colleagues, family members and friends. They have hopes and ambitions, a sense of humour and the same rights as everyone else to be a full part of the local community.'

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Sailing from OBAN North Pier

Isle of Skye Inverie	SATURDAY June 2 Leave 10am back 9.30pm Fares: Isle of Skye £43 SC £41 Visit Inverie £45 SC £43
4 Lochs & Whirlpool	SUNDAY June 3 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm Fare: 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool £37 SC £35
Isle of Coll Cruise Island Coast	MONDAY June 4 Leave 10am back 8pm Fares: Visit Coll £41 SC £39 Cruise Island Coast £43 SC £41
Mull of Kintyre Return by coach from Campbeltown	TUESDAY June 5 Leave 9.30am back 6.30pm Fares: Mull of Kintyre £37 SC £35

OT

Group aims to fix travel issues

ARGYLL and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton is setting up a working group to tackle the area's transport and travel issues.

Speaking following a discussion with Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and Islands, last month, Councillor Morton said: 'We depend on planes, trains, automobiles and ferries to keep people and our economy moving across our mix of remote, rural and island communities.'

'There are several agencies, including the Scottish Government and the council, that each play different roles in working to keep those connections live and open.'

'That is why I wrote to the minister to ask for his support in establishing a working group to include all organisations involved in keeping Argyll and Bute moving.'

Please return Mòd trophies

WITH just weeks to go until Oban and District Provincial Mòd, it is time to return all trophies won at last year's event.

If you have trophies from previous years, the committee would appreciate it if these could also be returned. Trophies should be returned - engraved and cleaned - to Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, by Sunday May 13.

Heritage angels are wanted

GROUPS and individuals involved in heritage projects across Argyll and Bute are being urged to enter the fourth Scottish Heritage Angel Awards.

Nominations opened on Friday May 4 to find those 'angels' who have played a special part in caring for, recording and celebrating the nation's historic environment.

To nominate, go to www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

Which is your favourite chippy?

THE SEARCH is on for the nation's best chippy.

Run by Seafish, the body that supports the £6 billion UK seafood industry, the 2019 National Fish and Chip Awards are the Oscars of the fish and chip world. To enter, go to www.fishandchipawards.com. Winners will be crowned in London in January next year.

Young buskerteers belt it out for Oban's Hope Kitchen

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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OBAN'S newest boy band 'The Three Buskerteers' raised more than smiles when they put on a spontaneous street show for Oban's Hope Kitchen.

The three 'wee angels' warmed the hearts of passers-by and drivers in Breadalbane Street who stopped to listen and throw coins their way.

Brothers Lachie, 7, Caley, 5, and three-year-old Sorley D'Arcy raised more than £29 in three hours which bought three bags of shopping for the charity that has more than 200 people a week coming through its doors.

The musical trio had originally intended to do chores around the house to buy kazoos from Oban Music shop until Lachie struck on the idea to go busking for charity instead.

Dad Sean D'Arcy said: 'Three kazoos in the house would have been rather loud in an already noisy house so there was happy relief when they decided to help out Hope.'

'Their mum already supports Hope. She thinks it's a great charity so that's where they got the idea. We're more than proud of our boys.'

A fourth buskerteer - baby



Oban's Three buskerteers. Brothers Caley, five, Sorley, three and Lachie D'Arcy, seven who were busking for charity Hope Kitchen.

brother Murdo, one - also got in on the act trying to sing along.

Giving the band's first exclusive interview Lachie, who is also writing his own songs, said: 'We'll do it again'.

The tune that raked in the most donations was The Dublin-

er's *Molly Malone*. 'People really liked that one,' added Lachie who, along with his band of brothers, kept the busking going - even in rain showers.

Hope Kitchen's service manager Lorraine MacCormick told *The Oban Times*: 'Our hearts

were melted by the kindness of these three wee boys.'

A Facebook post by Hope thanking the boys attracted more than 460 likes with comments from others including: 'Top lads. Kindness is the best attribute to have', 'Well done



The Three Buskerteers drop off their shopping bag donations at Hope

boys for spreading kindness and happiness', 'Very inspirational and so thoughtful!' and 'Wee superstars'.

Ms MacCormick said the charity's supply of tinned food had been running low which prompted a recent appeal.

Donations have also come in from Tesco shoppers and the Northern Lighthouse Board.

'The response from the community has been amazing. We were particularly short of tinned meals. We'll be putting it all to good use,' she added.

Stepping out on first Oban walking tours

FOLLOWING the successful completion of an intense training course, two of Oban's new guides had the honour of hosting the town's first walking tour.

Michelle McAnally Woods and Linda Battison, along with their trusty shepherd's crooks, treated a handful of participants to a free 90-minute guided walk last Thursday.

Over the next week, free tours will take place to allow the guides to practice their patter in preparation for the summer, when the tours will take place daily.

Oban now boasts 12 certified guides, who all completed a two-week training course with Scottish Tourist Guides Association instructors Patricia Blain and Stewart Wood.

The initiative was a collaboration between Bid4Oban and Port of Oban Cruise Group.

With many cruise ships booked to visit Oban, the organisations wanted to enhance visitors' experiences.

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

To book a tour or to find out more, search Oban Walking Tours on Facebook.



Tour guides, Michelle McAnally Woods and Linda Battison, treat participants to the first free tour of Oban. 16_T19_FirstWalkingTour01

Last chance to grab a stall at Charities Day

OBAN'S popular Charities Day takes place in less than four weeks and there are still spaces left for stall holders.

The event will be on Saturday June 2 - two weeks earlier than usual - and organisers, Oban and Lorn Lions Club, don't want anyone to miss out because of the date change. A club spokesman said it has to sort out the scaffolding in advance and need to let the company putting it up how many stalls there will be. They added: 'We don't want to turn anyone away, but it's getting close. It's only four weeks away, so please, if you want a stall get an application in.'

To book a place at Charities Day, email aspoan@sky.com or search Oban & Lorn Lions Club on Facebook.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Oban welcomes epic walker on his birthday

EX-SOLDIER Chris Lewis who is walking the entire 7,700 mile coastline of Britain arrived in Oban in time for his birthday.

The 38-year-old from Wales took on the epic challenge last August hoping to raise awareness and £100,000 for armed forces charity SSAFA that provides life-long support to serving men and women and veterans.

It could take two years for the former paratrooper to walk his way back home to Swansea, accompanied by his faithful four-legged friend Jet.

The single dad, who got help from SSAFA 'to keep his head above water' when he returned to civilian life and was going through challenging times, spent his birthday evening surrounded by new friends at the Oban Inn - joining in a 'jamin'

session. Relying on the kindness of strangers to help him on each leg of his journey, he told *The Oban Times*: 'Getting to Oban was a milestone for me. It's my birthday.'

He has been averaging about 10 miles a day, camping at night. He said: 'I take it one day at a time and see what each day brings.'

'The generosity I've had in Scotland has been continuous. People are amazing. The walking bit is for me but when I stop and talk to people it's about the charity.'

Offers of help came from across the town, including Hope Kitchen. His plan was to rest in Oban for a couple of days before heading to Fort William and the islands.

To follow his journey, search 'Chris Walks the UK' on Facebook or go to chriswalks.com.



Chris Lewis and constant companion Jet stop off in Oban while walking the UK coastline for SSAFA, the armed forces charity.

Oban festival one of the best yet

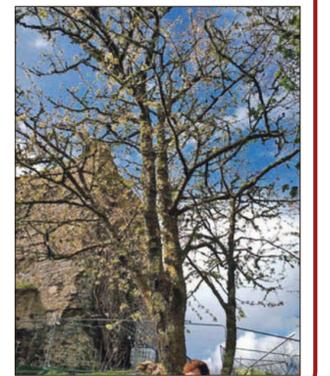
KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

I THINK I was right about the 35th Highland & Islands Music & Dance Festival, it was one of the best yet.

One of my favourite things was the music in Station Square. It certainly added to the lively feel in the town. We also had the second of the free walks with Oban Walking Tours, which was full on Saturday, and the response so far has been fantastic, with even locals telling us they're learning things about Oban. If you're interested there are still a few places left on the last two free tours. Call me on 01631 569915 or leave a message on the Oban Walking Tours Facebook page.

The next big thing to look forward to is Oban Live, which is less than a month away. If you're a local business, today is the last day to submit your event or offer for the Oban Live Fringe. It's a fantastic opportunity to be part of such a major event in the town. If you haven't seen the Oban Live video about the train journey to Oban, it's worth having a look on Facebook or the internet. The scenery is gorgeous and it brought a wee tear to my eye. The photograph last week was an easy one, the Black Lynn in Stevenson Street with all the lovely daffodils. Sorry there were no ducks. I'm trying to keep it easy this week as well, so let's see how you get on.

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Campaign highlights fishermen lost at sea

THE FISHERMEN'S Mission has launched a campaign to highlight the number of fishermen lost at sea in the last decade.

Called the 100 in 10 campaign, the charity hopes to raise awareness of the dangers of being a fisherman and the devastating impact loss has on families and communities.

To help, the Fishermen's Mission is asking people to buy a limited edition pair of yellow wellies featuring the Fishermen's Mission logo.

For every pair of £45 wellies sold, a yellow ribbon will be tied to the flagpole outside the charity's head office in Hampshire.

Fishermen's Mission port officer Karen Calder said: 'The work of the Fishermen's Mission is as necessary today as ever. Our vital services and support provides practical, financial and pastoral help to local fishermen, both active and retired, and their families, as well as a 24/7 emergency response for accidents or illness at sea.'

'We are the only charity that solely works with fishermen and we will help anyone who works aboard a UK fishing boat. I would urge any fisherman who thinks we might be able to help to get in touch.'

The Fishermen's Mission was established in 1881 and provides guidance to fishermen and their families. For every £1 the charity raises, it spends 88p providing services. To find out more, or to get involved in the 100 in 10 campaign, visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk, email 100in10@fishermensmission.org.uk or call the freephone number 0800 634 1020.

Feasibility of underground cables to be looked at again

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A POWER company has pledged to explore the possibility of putting cables underground after campaigning Dalmally villagers said no to more pylons.

Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) wanted to install nine new pylons in the village but those plans angered residents - Dalmally already has 29 pylons running through it.

Resident Jenny Beesley said the news from SSEN was 'a step in the right direction'.

'If they are going to look at putting cables underground that's wonderful. They said they had looked at it before but it was going to be too expensive but if they are having a rethink on that, then it's good news. We know they have to get electricity out of Argyll but we already have too many pylons in our village. To add more would be

to industrialise this beautiful area which would be tragic,' she added.

Under SSEN's North Argyll transmission project, 52 pylons would stretch eight miles between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh and the existing Dalmally substation by Loch Awe, near Oban. It was proposed nine of the 150ft tall pylons would be in the village.

A consultation on the project closed on April 27 and SSEN is

now 'carefully' considering the feedback to refine its proposals.

In a statement, SSEN said it recognised 'the extent of strong feeling in the Dalmally area' and was committed to explore undergrounding in places of particular local sensitivity, where it can be demonstrated to be technically and environmentally feasible, as well as economic to bill payers who will ultimately pay for the proposed reinforcement through their

electricity bills. SSEN project manager Derek Hearn said: 'Although it is too early to say if this will be viable, we hope our continued commitment to seriously consider undergrounding demonstrates we are listening and that we genuinely want to work with the local community to address their concerns where we can.'

The community will be kept updated by SSEN throughout the year as work progresses.



Tommy McQuade presents Catriona with her cheque.

Rotary help for young Catriona

CATRIONA Mackenzie, a student at Oban High, has been selected by Project Trust to teach English to underprivileged children in Thailand when she leaves school.

The Project Trust, which is based on Coll, selects youngsters to go overseas for up to 12 months to broaden their experience prior to going on to further education or work.

Catriona is now fundraising to cover her costs of £6,200 and she is seen here receiving a cheque for £500 from Oban Rotary president Tommy McQuade. This support from Oban Rotary is part of the club's Youth Services initiative.

Youths charged with break-in

FIVE youths have been charged with breaking into Oban's Rockport Hotel, formerly the Woodside Hotel, known locally as 'the Woody'.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'Sometime between Monday April 23 and Tuesday May 1, The Rockport Hotel, Tweeddale Street, Oban, was broken into and damaged, and alcohol stolen.'

'Police enquiries have resulted in five local youths being charged with the offences.'

'A report is likely to be submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel.'

The hotel has been unoccupied since last September when it was put up for sale.

Flytippers turning Dunbeg into eyesore



Dunbeg resident Kay Lang is worried overflowing recycling bins will harm local wildlife.

OVERFLOWING recycling bins in Dunbeg are putting a nearby nature reserve at risk, claims worried resident Kay Lang.

Ms Lang, who has lived in the village for six years, says waste spilling out of the bins makes the area an eyesore and is in danger of choking the burn that runs on land at the back of it.

She says the bins also attract flytippers, dumping bags of rubbish and unwanted items.

Ms Lang has tried to get the bins emptied but says an Argyll and Bute Council officer told her two vehicles were off the road and out of use so he could not say when the area would be cleared.

'It's an eyesore. We've got a lovely little nature reserve at the back and it's being spoiled by waste from the bins. Someone once pushed the bottle bin over and all the glass had to be picked up. It went everywhere. The bins attract anti-social behaviour. If we're to keep the bins here, we need bigger ones. If they don't do that, they should take them away and people could use the recycling bins at the primary school. Another idea would be to put up CCTV to keep an eye on lazy people who just dump stuff here, even if they can see the bins are already overflowing.'

Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson said the recycling bins were about to be removed because workers upgrading nearby Kirk Road need the space.

'We are trying to find a new place to put them, but in the first instance they will just be removed,' she said.

Friends of Oban Hospice have confidence in the future



Friends of Oban Hospice Movement at their recent annual general meeting.

FRIENDS of Oban Hospice has raised around £300,000 over the past two decades.

At its recent annual general meeting, the Friends, the fundraising arm of the Oban Hospice Movement, said thank you to chairperson Margaret MacLean, treasurer Kathleen Black and secretary Ann May who stepped down but will continue as committee members.

Former vice chairman Iain MacIntyre took on the role of chairman, with the new treasurer Karen Campbell and Shiralene Cave, secretary.

Mr MacIntyre, a founder member of the Oban Hospice Movement, complimented

the outgoing officials for their outstanding commitment over many years which, he said, 'contributed in no small measure' to the opening of The Dove Centre in Stevenson Street, run for the benefit of those with terminal or long-term debilitating illnesses.

It was recorded that the Friends over the past 19 to 20 years have raised in the region of £300,000 for the hospice.

New recruits to the committee, which now has 16 members, include Morven MacMillan, Lorna Kirkpatrick and Sine MacVicar.

'The Friends look forward to the future with confidence,' said Mr MacIntyre.

Oban Sea Cadets give no quarter

OBAN Sea Cadets attended a weekend of intensive boating instruction at Inverness over the May bank holiday.

A superb weekend of fun and practical instruction focused on power-boat handling and fixed-seat rowing. They also took part in the annual district afloat rowing competition on the Caledonia Canal, at Muirtown Basin, Inverness.

This was an exciting event resulting in a joint third place with Lochabar Sea Cadets. Oban were up against tough, and more experienced, groups of rowing teams having to find the stamina to compete after a long day of training.

Oban, along with teams from Orkney, Thurso, Moray, Inverness and Lochabar, gave no quarter as they battled out for the finishing line.

Coxwains, screaming at the top of their lungs, instructed their crews to 'pull ahead' as the yells echoed over the canal basin with an alarming tone.

Tourists and passers-by walking the canal banks were taken by surprise by the sudden noise and then quickly joined in with cheers of encouragement to the competitors.

The next rowing event will be in July at Dunstaffnage Marina, where Oban Sea Cadets will have an internal divisions race, with events for both senior and junior cadets in the Peter Bentley Rowing Cup.

Congratulations to 1st Class Cadet Kate Home, 1st Class Cadet Cameron Johnston (RYA Level 2 Power Boat), Cadet



Left to right, Cdt Callum Neil, 1st Class Cdt Kate Home, Cdt Liam Byers, 1st Class Cdt Cameron Johnston and Cdt William Sykes were Oban Sea Cadet fixed-seat rowing team 2018.



Cdt Callum Neil at the helm with Cdt William Sykes preparing to secure alongside at Muirtown Basin, Caledonia Canal after completing their RYA Power level 1.

William Sykes, Cadet Callum Neil (RYA Power Boat Level 1), on successfully completing and passing their RYA qualifications. Cadet Liam Byers gained his Rowing Competent Crew skills qualification which is a British Rowing Award - Go Row 2 (Fixed Seat).

Oban Sea Cadets continue to provide fun and adventure activities resulting in cadets achieving quality training and gaining nationally recognised qualifications.

There are vacancies for junior cadets aged 10 to 12. For further information, contact Oban Sea Cadets at obancadet@gmail.com



Brendan O'Hara MP with Nicola Hall, back left, Vivien Crowe, back right, and Jan Koopmans, front left, from Rape Crisis, and Councillor Audrey Forrest.

Rape Crisis youth work praised by MP

A CHARITY working with young people to discuss issues around 'sexting', boundaries and grooming, has been praised by Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara.

He visited Argyll Rape Crisis at its offices in Dunoon to support the team which also works with survivors of sexual violence and affected families and friends.

Argyll Rape Crisis, which also has an office in Oban, provides emotional and practical support services to people aged over 12. The charity also has a youth project which delivers age-appropriate prevention workshops in schools and youth clubs.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I was hugely impressed by the level of dedication, commitment, service and humanity which Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis provides and their work with youngsters to raise awareness of what constitutes appropriate behaviours.'

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Loch Lomond

LOCH Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority is inviting organisations to apply for a share of £80,000.

Its new National Park Grant Scheme is available for projects that help enhance the National Park as a place to live, work and visit.

As 2018 is Scotland's Year of Young People, £10,000 of the fund has been ring-fenced for projects that deliver benefits for or work in partnership with young people aged between eight and 26 years.

Stuart Mearns, director of planning and rural development at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, said: 'The grant scheme allows us to provide vital funding to help make a wide range of projects and initiatives across the park happen or take a step towards delivering a larger project.'

'To celebrate The Year of Young People, we are especially keen to hear about projects which create new opportunities for young people and provide opportunities for them to express themselves and to experience the National Park.'

'By supporting project ideas that will help deliver on our recently launched National Park Partnership Plan, as well as community priorities identified in local community action plans, we are looking forward to helping a diverse range of ambitious project ideas that will make the National Park an even better place to live, work and visit.'

The National Park Grant Scheme is open to a range of organisations including voluntary or community groups, schools and public funded bodies.

Any groups interested should apply by midnight on Sunday June 3 at <http://lochlomond-trossachs.org/grantscheme>

Dunoon/Oban/Appin

PUPILS at Sandbank, Dunoon, Rockfield, Oban, and Strath of Appin primary schools enjoyed a performance of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's new Gaelic language play 'Seirm na Side' when it toured Argyll last week.

The play, for young children of nursery and lower primary age, has two characters in the play, Hüb and Hüb. They introduce features of the weather and the colours of the rainbow using Gaelic song and puppetry.

The play features actors Megan MacLellan (Hüb) and Catriona Nicolson (Hüb).

Originally from Mallaig, Megan is well known as a presenter on BBC Alba's children's programme Dè a-nis?. Catriona Nicolson from Inverness, has acted in a number of Fèisean nan Gàidheal's theatre productions for schools including the Gaelic pantomime Marsaili agus a' Bhleideag Airgid (Marsaili and the Silver Snowflake).

Dunoon

ORGANISERS of this year's Dunoon and Cowal Royal National Mòd need volunteers to help run the event.

The Mòd brings thousands of visitors and an estimated £3 million to the area.

But helpers are needed to staff shops, oversee and steward competitions, drive minibuses, as well as providing baking and catering.

Local organising committee convener Dick Walsh said: 'Dunoon is a fantastic venue and well capable of staging major events.'

'We invite the community to work with us to ensure our town is welcoming and that the Royal National Mòd 2018 in Dunoon is a huge success.'

The committee is holding an open day at Dunoon Pier building on Saturday May 12 from 10am until 4pm. Anyone interested can pop in for a cuppa and chat with committee members.

Knapdale

A WORKSHOP teaching rural skills will take place in South Knapdale this month.

The free event will take place on Tuesday May 15 and will show participants how to remove rhododendron using edged tools and how to make biochar using a kiln. It will take place at Ferry Wood, Ardpatrik Estate, off Kilverry Road, near Carse, from 10am until 4pm.

People are advised to bring a packed lunch, hot drinks, safety footwear and outdoor clothes. Safety glasses and gloves will be provided.

For more information and to book a place text 07799 898369 or email tyeward@gmail.com.



Marie Rowan has left Mary's Meals in Oban after nine years.

Special goodbye for charity shop manager

A SPECIAL farewell party has been held in Oban for the much-loved Mary's Meals shop manager who is leaving her position after nine years.

Marie Rowan, 55, is leaving to prepare for emigrating to Australia where she can be closer to her family. Marie was 'very sad' to be leaving Mary's Meals. She said: 'The loyalty of our shop volunteers is incredible. We are one big family, sharing so much laughter and supporting each other during times of need.'

'I love the way Mary's Meals has brought us all together - people from all walks of life united in the belief we can all do a little something to help make a big difference to impoverished children around the world and to

support work in our local community.

'Mary's Meals never leaves you. It is in your heart forever. There are still children waiting to receive Mary's Meals and it is all the little acts of love that allow us to keep reaching out to those children around the world.'

Marie hopes to continue being involved with Mary's Meals when she emigrates to Australia by taking on a voluntary role to raise awareness of the charity.

The Dalmally-based charity currently provides more than 1.2 million impoverished children with a daily meal every school day.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, global chief executive officer and founder of Mary's Meals, paid tribute to Marie's

efforts. He said: 'Marie has been an incredible and impressive member of staff, certainly living the values of Mary's Meals to the full and beyond.'

'She is loved by the whole town and has an infectious joy and concern for every single person involved, especially those dedicated volunteers who get so much out of becoming part of the Mary's Meals family.'

'While we are extremely sad to see Marie leave our Oban shop, we are equally grateful she plans to continue playing an important role in spreading the word about Mary's Meals so far and wide.'

Jennie McMaster from Oban has been appointed to take over from Marie as shop manager.

May marks month of action on litter

ROADSIDE litter and plastic pollution are in the spotlight this month as Argyll and Bute residents and drivers are encouraged to help keep the area clean and tidy.

Argyll and Bute Council is supporting environmental group Keep Scotland Beautiful's week of action on roadside litter from May 12-20, as well as Keep Britain Tidy's Great Plastic Pick Up from May 11-13.

The Keep Scotland Beautiful roadside litter campaign urges drivers to 'give your litter a lift' and 'take it home'.

The charity says 50 tons of litter is collected from Scottish roadsides every month and their week of action calls for everyone to help clean up roads.

With their Great Plastic Pickup, Keep Britain Tidy hopes to get as many people as possible to spare a few hours to clear rubbish from streets, beaches and beauty spots over the weekend of May 11-13.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for roads and amenity services, said: 'We are very fortunate to have such wonderful natural beauty across Argyll and Bute and we want to make sure we are all playing our part in keeping it that way. The statistics on the amount of litter thrown from vehicles are staggering. In Argyll and Bute we don't use plastic straws, with the exception of those which come supplied on drink cartons. We are in talks with our suppliers with the aim of finding alternatives. We can all make a difference and I'd encourage residents to find out how they can do their part by visiting www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/recycling/.

Bags are available at council service points for anyone wanting to take part in a litter pick. People participating in the Great Plastic Pickup are invited to bring their collected litter to any Argyll and Bute Council recycling centre.

Benderloch



BENDERLOCH'S Victory Halls welcomes Gaelic Americana singer Kyle Carey, above, later this month.

It is a return visit to the village and tickets are on sale now for the gig on Friday May 25 at 8pm.

'Kyle has been touring both nationally and internationally for the past six years - winning hearts and retelling the history of American folk on both sides of the Atlantic,' said gig organisers.

Tickets are available from 01631 720247 priced £10 in advance or £12 on the night on the door.

Taynuilt

TEST your general knowledge at a quiz night tomorrow (May 11) at Taynuilt Village Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Post Office.

Earlier that day, Michael Russell MSP will be at the village hall answering residents' questions and giving out advice at a surgery.

To make an appointment or find out more, call 01369 702011.

Fund vote winners

AFTER a public vote, nearly 60 projects have won funding from Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund.

Earlier this year, local groups and organisations posted their project ideas on a website created specifically for the fund, of how they could use potential funding of up to £2,500 per project to benefit the local community. There are four funds available - one for each council administrative area.

In April, residents were given the chance to vote for which projects they would like to see funded. A total of 4,686 people voted and voting closed at midnight on April 30.

The projects that received the most votes and will be funded are, in Oban, Lorn and the Isles: Argyll Riding For the Disabled (RDA) Carriage Driving Group - Driving for Success, 10-Year Plan for Benderloch, Bonawe, Barcaldine, North Connel, Bookends Book Festival Pop Ups, Crossroads North Argyll Reminiscence Project, Dalmally: Developing Healthy Communities, Feis Bheag, Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, Kilts and Tartan Ties for Rockfield Primary School Choir, Making Waves in Marine Science at Mull Aquarium, Master Builders: Creative Construction and Lego Club, Mull Music Makers, Music and Movement at North Argyll House, Oban Community Senory Garden Art Project, Oban Mod Academy, and Oban Youth Café Monday Club.

The following were successful in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands: Fèis an Tairbeir, Islay and Jura Youth Wind Band, Islay House Community garden, Kintyre Youth Café, Loch Fyne Pipe Band, Jura's Save Our Lunch Club, Tarbert - Our Castle of Kings, Tarbert Academy Forest Friends, Islay's Community Bus running costs, the Wildlife and Heritage Youth Project on the Crinan Canal and Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise.

The remaining money will be offered to the group next in line in each area to receive funding but could not be fully funded.

The council's policy lead for communities, Councillor Robin Currie: 'We thank everyone who submitted an application and took the time to vote.'

'This year we have piloted a new approach and encouraged the people of Argyll and Bute to decide what projects should receive funding. This money will make a huge difference to community groups and organisations.'

The council welcomes your feedback on this project. For further information log on to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abpb

Barra

Castlebay Co-op to get £1m make-over

THE CO-OP is to serve up a new-look store in Castlebay following a £1million investment which will see the existing store extended by almost 3,000 sq ft.

The revamped store is due to open on Thursday June 28.

To carry out the work and avoid long periods of closure, the store will initially be closed from 10pm on May 15 until 8am on May 19.

Michael Boylan, Co-op area manager, said: 'We're delighted to be making such a significant investment here in Barra. We take our role at the centre of island life very seriously and it's important locals and tourists can shop in a great-looking modern store that stocks everything they need, when they need it.'

'This is a significant extension to Castlebay's

Co-op and we're obviously keen to minimise disruption to our customers. For this reason, we've decided to take a phased approach to the store closures, rather than shutting the store for a longer period of time.'

'We hope this will cause the least disruption and allow people to plan their shopping trips more than they normally would.'

'Our customers are just as excited as we are about getting a new-look Co-op and we thank them in advance for their co-operation over the next few weeks.'

Castlebay's Co-op will bring a funding boost to local good causes through the Co-op's Membership scheme. Members receive a five per cent reward when buying own-branded products and the Co-op donates a further one per cent to local good causes.

At Random

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Am-Am is imminent

I'M STARTING to panic. The fantastic annual Rotary Club of Oban Am-Am golf tournament is imminent and I haven't hit a ball since September last year.

For various reasons I won't go into, I've been unable to get out on a golf course for months and now the big day at Glencruitten is looming. It is, in fact, on Sunday June 3.

As anyone who has had the misfortune of partnering me round a course will know only too well, I'm a rubbish golfer at the best of times. So the idea of taking to the fairways with virtually no practice rounds is a daunting one.

And given that one of the other Oban Times team members tells me he has developed an inexplicable but persistent shank when using a wedge, and I think I can assure all the other four-balls that they face little threat from us lot.

Indeed, if it wasn't for the fact that The Oban Times is the event's principal sponsor this year, I'd probably be trying to come up with an excuse to wriggle out of taking part.

However, as with most golfers - and I use the term loosely - hope springs eternal and we will tee off hoping that my dire predictions are misplaced.

Romantic location

NEED evidence that Oban and



Oban Rotary members alongside the winners of the Am Am last year.

16_T23_Am Am_03

the West Highlands are viewed as a romantic location?

I met a lovely American couple in the Manor House one Saturday evening a couple of weeks ago. They had spent - by their own admission - at least a couple of hours sitting at the picture window in the hotel's bar mesmerised by the view.

Duncan and Maureen MacCallum, from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were kind enough to squeeze over to make room for my wife and I to sit near them and gaze at the fantastic panorama on a clear evening.

Later that night - yes, this sounds

like a pub crawl - we bumped into Duncan and Maureen in the Oban Inn, where we had gone coincidentally to listen to live music.

As the conversation and wine flowed, it transpired that they had returned to Oban to relive the magic of the place where they had married 14 years previously.

Duncan and Maureen tied the knot at St John's Cathedral, with the Rev Norman MacCallum conducting the ceremony.

Maureen said: 'He was a very special and holy reverend and we were blessed to have him officiate over our marriage.'

'The Rev MacCallum tragically

passed away in 2016, well before his time, as a result of cancer but his wedding homily has been remembered by me every day.

'We just love it here.'

Support the cinema

OBAN'S Phoenix Cinema has been the target of a fair amount of public criticism of late.

However, under new chairman Gary Brown, there are firm plans for remedial work to be carried out over the coming weeks, hopefully to be completed before the start of the tourist season.

One initiative is to hold a community discussion day to explain the development plans.

That is happening in the cinema on Thursday May 17 between 1pm and 8pm, when members of the cinema's board will be available to talk to residents about what is proposed.

Things have not been great at the cinema for a wee while but serious attempts are being made to address this and I'd urge those critics to back off and support the efforts of the team running the cinema to turn it around.

The cinema is a great asset to the town and deserves our support at this time.

What do you think?

WRITE to me at milaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB or call 01631 568021.

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Learning lessons of Assynt

MORVERN LINES
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IT JOKINGLY used to be said that the definition of a croft is an area of land surrounded by a sea of legislation.

Pity the Argyll farmer who, on being asked recently who owned the land on which he was standing, replied: 'Scottish Natural Heritage' – even though his family have held the title deeds for many generations. He was, of course, being slightly facetious and referring to the number of controls imposed upon him by this government agency whom some are beginning to complain wield far too much power and, more worryingly, appears to be unaccountable for its actions.

One of the problems which folk have with SNH is its attitude towards wild red deer and the heavy culls it insists on to meet EU habitat directives from which common sense should have dictated they be largely exempt.

Those estate owners, crofters, farmers and land managers who have shooting and sporting rights and know the countryside intimately consider SNH's estimation of deer numbers and the supposed damage they do to be well out of proportion to the carrying capacity of the land.

For years, rumblings have been going on between the warring factions until June 2017, when the board of SNH forced matters to a head by using its draconian powers to compel the Assynt Crofters Trust (ACT) and other landowners in the neighbourhood to raise the traditional deer cull to 'protect the native woods at Ardvar' and elsewhere in north-west Sutherland.

The local Deer Management Group (DMG) was having none of it. With tact and diplomacy no less masterly than that which must have been used to bring Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in together in the South Korean Peace House last



Man has to adapt to give deer their place on the planet. Photograph: Iain Thornber

month, they put forward a plan to suit all sides.

And so, after years of wrangling, a line was drawn under a seemingly intractable argument that had dominated the land-use debate in Scotland for years.

But the matter did not end there. Elated that common-sense had prevailed, Ray Mackay and Victor Clements of the Assynt DMG issued the following shortened statement: 'Now that the argument has been won and common sense has prevailed, we feel we are in a position to explain our own side of the story, aided by a knowledge of SNH decision-making gained through Freedom of Information (FOI).

'We have not been able to get SNH to explain their recent change in policy, far less apolo-

gise for the years of disruption they have caused in Assynt. It is important for us to do so because, in addition to the huge public cost, the ability of the ACT to manage their own land has been publicly questioned; relationships within Assynt have been put under strain, and the time and effort required to deal with all these issues has been immense.

'While salaried SNH staff have been, for years, getting well paid to provide often misleading and inaccurate information to their board at Holyrood, we have had to fight our case in our own time and at our own expense against a full array of public agencies and politicians.

'All of this has been damaging and unnecessary. Issues with deer management in Scotland are not going to go away any

time soon. SNH needs to be restructured to provide for a small problem-solving unit, concentrating mostly on deer-related issues. It must have a short chain of command.

'Removing the Deer Commission and then the Wildlife Operations Unit from within SNH has been a mistake, and such a unit needs to be reinstated. Deer-related work requires a particular skill-set which involves empathy, and ability to deal with conflict and a working knowledge of both sides of the deer-natural environmental debate.

'Senior SNH staff presented Ardvar to their board as a 'case study' in how voluntary deer control was not working. The issue became very complex and heated, and it frequently spilled over into the press. Government ministers had to be briefed, and

questions were asked in the Scottish Parliament.

'Everyone wanted to know what was happening at Ardvar, and the impatience to see an example made of the people in Assynt was obvious. Campaigners tried to steer the narrative towards a very simplistic view of 'big landowners putting deer before trees and the natural environment', all the while failing to grasp that the biggest landowners on the Assynt Peninsula were actually the local crofters themselves.

'Throughout all this, and for many decades beforehand, trees had been regenerating and growing in Ardvar. The site became politicised.

'MSPs came to accept the view that the Ardvar situation was symptomatic of the wider problem of deer impacting on the natural environment.

But they did this without any critical analysis or real understanding of the site or the wider issues.

'The high profile of the site meant that many SNH personnel were engaged with the issue. These should have been people with the necessary knowledge who could have commanded the respect of the local players by listening, before coming to a decision.

'Instead, most of the officials we dealt with had neither a background in deer management nor in-depth knowledge of the woodland management. What they attempted to do was to manage the problem rather than solve it.

'The SNH board decision to intervene in Assynt was based on deeply flawed information. When that decision was challenged, the case quickly fell

apart and SNH withdrew from its position.

'When SNH finally agreed to simplify communications by providing a single point of contact and concentrate on the actual evidence, the situation very quickly resolved itself, and we now have a situation that all Assynt Peninsula sub-group members, SNH and the Forestry Commission are happy to sign up to.

'The cost of SNH's involvement in Assynt runs close to £1 million. This is the price of inappropriate analysis and indecisive leadership stretching back years. Politicians contributed to the situation by becoming involved in the detail of an argument without fully understanding it. It is significant that no member of the Scottish Parliament has yet seen fit to accept our invitation to visit the Ardvar woods.

'To that extent, the people of Assynt have been let down by their elected representatives. We have articulated our view of what has happened here, because others appear unwilling or unable to do so. The local deer management group has been very sorely tested but it has survived and has grown stronger, and we will ultimately be the better for that.

'In the future, we hope that SNH as an organisation can change along the lines we have suggested. If it can, the land managers will find it easier to arrive at working solutions, local communities will have more faith in what SNH is trying to achieve and Scotland's natural heritage will ultimately benefit.

'That is should be what we are all striving for.'

It is clear that the deer cannot readily adapt to all the demands of today. It is equally clear that for them to survive, we must do the adapting, with enough humility to give this ancient race its place on the planet. Full text of the Assynt report on request.

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The Highland Arts Centre in Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.

Newly digitised images tell story of rural Scotland

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TWO extensive surveys of rural Scotland undertaken during the 1970s are now more accessible to the public after a project by Historic Environment Scotland to digitise its archives.

The Scottish Countryside Commission and the C-listed buildings surveys give an insight into life in Scotland during the 1970s and early 1980s.

The surveyors were originally sent out to record architecture, however, the backdrop to their work is life in rural Scotland.

Between 1978 and 1981, the Countryside Commission for Scotland undertook a survey of the buildings in the Scottish landscape. It aimed to identify traditional building character in Scotland while classifying regional and local characteristics.

Carried out by a team of fieldworkers and coordinated by Robert J Naismith, of Sir Frank Mears and Partners,

the conclusions were published in Buildings in the Scottish Countryside, 1985.

The List C Survey was commissioned after a review of C-listed buildings. Previously, all C-listed buildings had no legal protection but in 1974 a new category C(S) was created that provided some protection.

It was decided to survey the buildings which had no statutory status in order to create a record of their existence and perhaps later review their status. The buildings were surveyed by 'vocational students', starting in June 1975.

Both of these projects returned their objectives but inadvertently recorded a snapshot of Scottish culture in photographs.

Lesley Ferguson, head of archives and engagement at Historic Environment Scotland, said: 'Making these two collections available online will make them significantly more accessible to the public so that more people can enjoy them.

'They are like a time machine that takes us back to bell-bottoms, the Bay City Rollers and Ford Capris.

'Although these surveys were commissioned to document buildings, they recorded so much more.

'We would urge the public to have a look at these collections by visiting Canmore.org.uk, where we have created a gallery of some of our favourite images from both surveys.

'This is a fantastic introduction to the Scottish Countryside Commission and C-Listed Buildings surveys. From there, they can also search through both collections and experience this time capsule.'

The digitisation of the Scottish Countryside Commission and C-Listed buildings survey are part of a significant investment by Historic Environment Scotland over the past financial year to increase the volume of historic photographic material accessible online.

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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There are very strong feelings among the residents of Soroba and Morvern Hill in Oban over the proposal to construct up to 44 new homes on Lonan Drive.

The resistance is perfectly understandable, given the paucity of green space in the area and the level of development already in place. And the fact that around 100 people were moved to attend a public meeting is clear evidence of the anger this plan has generated.

As we report today, planning officers have recommended Argyll and Bute Council approve the application, and last month councillors agreed to hold

a hearing, given the level of objection. The council's planning chief said it was one of the 'most challenging' sites left to develop, because most of Oban had already been turned into housing.

However, while it is easy to sympathise with the objectors, the applicant, TSL Contractors Ltd, makes a valid point about the urgent need for more homes, particularly affordable housing, as the area strives to recruit staff for a booming economy.

We trust the councillors who will settle the issue have all the information available to make a correct decision.



Days gone by – 1963

This week we turn the clock back to a photograph from our archives that only has a brief caption which reads: 'North Connel Guides at Ardchattan Priory.' Can you put any names to the faces here?

Our picture of heavy athletes at Taynuilt games in 1983, published on April 26, prompted a couple of replies. David Horne wrote: 'I can name four of them. Jock McColl, Tommy MacGeachan, Pat Cadzow and Brian Robin.' And Mick Linton, from Selkirk, emailed to say: 'I am number 151. I was camping at Tralee Bay with my family and some friends. And we went to the games and joined in as my friend Jack Knox and my son Allan were professional runners at the time. I entered the heavyweights but don't think I came anywhere though. We have since returned to Oban on a regular basis. My wife and I have just returned from a week at Ledaig with our motorhome. Thanks for the memories.'

MacPhail

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We need a fair press and fair treatment

JOURNALISM is one of the most important professions in maintaining a society with openness and accountability, and the press industry is, of course, vital for these journalists to hold a strong platform from which to project their message.

As important – and, indeed, noble – as I see the profession as a whole, and as much as I have a huge amount of respect for those working in this harsh and relentlessly difficult area, dealing with them is sometimes a lucky dip of risking reputation and message.

In the past few weeks, with the Usher Hall gig in Edinburgh approaching, and with the song release next weekend, Skipinnish has had a fair amount of coverage in the mainstream media.

The Press and Journal, The Herald, The Sun, STV and even Scottish Field have given us exposure in print, online or on television.

There is no doubt that getting this

type of coverage is a good thing for a band or indeed any business or charity that relies on support from the public, but once you engage it can be a case of 'hope for the best' and don't be too surprised if what gets printed is very different from what was said.

Last week we were waiting in Hamburg Airport for a flight back home after a gig in Germany when we saw the online version of a feature in Sunday's Scottish Sun about us.

Now, I am not complaining about getting the coverage, which was very positive, and I mean no disrespect to the journalist or feature writer, but reading the headline and the quotes, it would suggest strongly that we are completely delusional and were suffering from 'up-one's-own-ton' syndrome!

Cases like this, where the people who are actually involved in a story or feature find the content divorced from reality, is increasingly common.

The pressures on the printed press in this world of instant online media are huge – and that pressure is no doubt passed on to the writers and journalists, so it is easy to see a logical reason as to why content is so often sensationalised, augmented and doctored to make it as attractive to as

wide an audience base as possible, too often at the expense of accuracy.

Although I was cringing when reading the Sun piece, I have a fairly thick skin regarding what is written about me and generally am just grateful they wrote anything at all.

However, when the subject matter is more sensitive and involving other people, what is written becomes a genuine worry.

This week we sent out press releases along with the new recording of Wishing Well (anniversary release), as featured in last week's article, to radio stations and newspapers.

This contradictory Catch-22 situation is at the forefront of my mind: we need publicity to get the single selling to make money for the Team Eilidh charity but, by engaging with the media, there is the risk that coverage will not be in keeping with what we think is appropriate in these poignant circumstances.

This risk was one of the main reasons why I didn't want the background of the song known last year when we recorded the original.

I am optimistically putting my faith in those who may give it coverage and hope that it is handled with sensitivity to the tragic origins of the song.



Social media

The return to service of the CalMac ferry MV Clansman after repairs to its propulsion system caused comment.

Peter Morrison: 'I think Robin Currie's statement in today's Oban Times was a bit selfish, basically he is saying Islay needs the ferry so too bad everyone else. A very short sighted view in my opinion.'

James Strang: 'It's not really news though things happen out with normal control and maybe not on this post but on others calmac have been getting pelters unnecessarily breakdowns and human error occur on big jobs fact.'

Alex Watkins: 'About time.'

Joanna Malcolm: 'Wooooo.'

Elda Rowan: 'Hip hip hooray the mighty Clansman is back.'

A 360-degree photograph of Oban taken from Pulpit Hill and published on our Facebook page prompted complaints about trees spoiling the view.

Gillies Pagan: 'Lovely spot - shame about the trees spoiling the view. I wrote to the council about getting the trees lopped/tidied up over two years ago, they replied in May 2016 saying they would look into it. Two years on, nothing done.'

Kenny McLennan: 'Totally agree about the trees, I live up near the sum-

mit, and remember when the residents opposite Alma crescent cut down several trees, opening up a wonderful undisturbed panoramic view of the bay enhanced by the new pontoons, which I commented said "welcome to Oban" there was letter of complaint in The Oban Times from a local resident... all the people all the time eh no?'

Dinease Crowe: 'This trees need attention the number of tourists who walk or drive up the hill to see a very restricted view go away disappointed and tell how many not worth the effort?'

Nicola Mackinnon: 'Great view I used to live near that view point.'

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Linking GP practices would be a mistake

I live with my severely disabled wife on the Ross of Mull. We are very dependent on the excellent medical facilities here and, in particular, on our local GP, Dr Frank Teunisse, who has run the independent practice serving the Ross of Mull and Iona and given us continuity for the past 18 months.

He gave his notice in December 2017 and will be retiring at the end of May. There is no plan in place for his replacement and the health board has been unwilling to advertise his post because it now proposes to incorporate the existing independent practice serving the Ross of Mull and Iona into a single practice serving the whole of Mull, which will be based at the north of the island.

This plan might suit residents of Tobermory, Salen and Craignure, where more than half the population of Mull live, but Fionnphort and Iona are one hour away by car from Craignure and one hour and 40 minutes from Tobermory via a single-track road across a mountain pass, which can be congested in summer and impassable in winter.

Dr Frank has been a wonderful GP. He is a hands-on doctor who loves to administer to his patients, including out-of-hours emergencies. His approach has also relieved the pressures on hospitals and consultants.

Unfortunately, the health board is unwilling to advertise his post partly because it no longer sees the value of single independent practices in rural areas.

The Ross of Mull and Iona have always had their own GP practice and, prior to Dr Frank, Dr Maureen Douglas ran the practice for 28 years. Furthermore, the intention to replace independent single practices with group practices even when this is incompatible with the geography and remoteness of a particular area, poses a real danger to patients in emergency situations, which does not exist when the GP resides locally.

It could be imagined that the real reason for the change is lack of NHS funding but the opposite is true. The cost of Dr Frank's current practice is saving the NHS £180,000 per year over the arrangement before he was appointed when locums were employed costing up to £1,000 per day.

And since it is likely to be six months before a permanent GP is appointed as part of the proposed single Mull practice, the health board is likely to squander £90,000 of NHS resources. All this is being done in order to replace a localised service on the Ross and Mull and Iona which not only works well but is liked by the residents and is very good value for money.

A GP advert petition, which now has around 250 signatures, has been launched which urges the health board to advertise a replacement for Dr Frank without further delay. Only in the unlikely event that no GPs come forward who are able and willing to do the job will the residents of this remote part of Mull be satisfied that it is necessary to consider alternative arrangements for GP services for the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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CHÀ B' E IDIR LATHA Buidhe Bealltainn a bh' ann an Dimàirt seo chaidh dhan a h-uile neach ann an Alba, oir sin an latha air an deach lagh ùr eachdraidheil an gnìomh a tha a' ciallachadh nach fhaodar aonad de dheoch-làidir a reic ann an Alba air nas lugha na leth-cheud sgillinn.

Mar a bhiodh dùil tha taic mhòr dhan ghluasad bho dhotairean a tha làidir sa beachd gun gearr an t-àrdachadh prìse gu mòr air na thathas gu bhith ag òl de dheoch-làidir an Alba, agus gun dèan sin leasachadh air slàinte an t-sluaigh agus cuideachd caomhnadh air cosgais dha seirbheis na slàinte.

Ged a chaidh Achd aontachadh ann an 2012 dh'adhbharaich strì an aghaidh an reachdais, gu h-àraid bho Chomann Uisge-beatha Alba, gun tug e sia bliadhna eile dha Riaghaltas Alba an Achd a chur an gnìomh.

Tha e furasta a thuigsinn carson a bhiodh gnìomhachas na dibhe iomagainach mu lagh a tha dol a chumail prìs àrd air an cuid bathair,

Ross of Mull and Iona. The argument behind the GP advert petition is truly a 'no-brainer'.

Jonathan Knight, Pennyghael, Isle of Mull.

Flawed theory on CalMac's woes

As an islander, I was initially grateful to your correspondent Donald J Morrison for solving the unfathomable mystery of all the timetable problems and vessel failures CalMac has been experiencing of late.

As he alone realised, these difficulties might well have been caused by CalMac violating Mr Morrison's God's laws regarding something known as the 'the Sabbath'.

Now, however, I am not so sure that The Oban Times did Mr Morrison a favour by publishing his very singular theory as it seems it might be faulty.

Inspired by Mr Morrison's opinion, I did a little reading of the Bible myself only to find at Genesis 7 God telling Noah and his family to set to sea in the ark in which they were destined to sail for 378 days, including of course no fewer than 54 Sabbaths. Well, if sailing on the Sabbath is OK with the God that commanded Noah to do it, then surely it is good enough for Mr Morrison, CalMac, Old Uncle Tom Cobby and all?

I am sure Mr Morrison will be aware that one may not in UK/Scottish law discriminate in favour of one belief over another these days and I suspect that if we were to respect every holy day of the week of every religion that has one by not allowing CalMac to sail on them, there would be no sailings at all.

It ought to be sufficient for those who wish to abstain from travelling by sea, from working, from enjoying recreation and so on in order to properly observe their preferred sacred days that they should get on and do so peacefully, modestly and certainly without seeking to impose their chosen religion's strictures upon others who are on a different but equally valid path to enlightenment.

Peter Isaacson, Coll.

Thanks for help after accident on the road

On Monday afternoon two weeks ago my wife and I were in a car accident. We were not injured but were shaken, my wife particularly.

Several motorists stopped to help us get out of our car, which was on its side, and they treated us before any other help arrived.

They included a member of a mountain rescue team, a paramedic and a Macmillan nurse. Their expert help must have assisted our quick recovery, and their checks were repeated by the ambulance crew on its arrival. Later a man from BT Openreach let me use his mobile to contact our daughter. Equally, the doctor and the staff at A&E treated us as soon as we arrived.

I would like to put on record the

appreciation of my wife and I for all the help we received from everyone concerned. We believe that a power greater than ours took control once the accident had occurred.

Fred Pole, Benderloch.

Standing room only on trains to Oban

The following trains were badly overcrowded recently with standing room only.

The 12.20pm Glasgow Queen Street to Oban on Sunday April 29 and the 12.11pm Oban to Glasgow Queen Street, also on Sunday April 29.

When I spoke to a local employee of Abellio ScotRail, she said the overcrowding was due to the sunshine.

It should be noted that if you miss the 12.20pm from Glasgow, the next train is 6.21pm, which is a wait of six hours.

The 12.11 from Oban is the first train on a Sunday. The first bus to Glasgow on a Sunday leaves at 12.10pm, which is one minute earlier than the train.

David Gallant, Oban.

Honoured to attend Islay commemoration

I was honoured to attend the recent commemorations in Port Ellen that took place to remember the 700 men who died in two First World War disasters off Islay.

It is so important that we never forget the sacrifice of these young men who died so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.

Elderly care should not be for profit

We have the best health care system but the cost is high, and GPs and the local health service staff struggle with limited budgets, especially for elderly and nursing care.

But to learn that a North Argyll care home is to withdraw nursing care because of unsustainable cost as it cannot find nursing staff smacks of side-lining some residents who are too expensive to keep.

This will result in the elderly being shunted about as their health declines because private providers of care, that may be funded by the local authority, can't make a decent profit.

The answer may be for local nursing to change to charitable or not-for-profit model and the tax benefits therein for its staff willing to accept structured pay for career designated, sometimes lifelong, work, because the care industry needs to keep its dedicated staff as we are all living longer and will possibly need some care in the twilight of our years.

Stephen Jones, Millpark, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

agus cha b' iongnadh marsantann mar an ceudna a bhith mi-thoilichte mu chis ùr a tha dol a chiallachadh nach tèid aig cuid den luchd-ceannaich abhaisteach aca ruigheachd air na deochan-làidir fhaotainn tuilleadh.

Cluinnear mar-thà ghearrain air gainnead "sporan Dhòmhnail" agus mi-chneastachd Riaghaltais a' cuingealachadh saorsa an t-sluaigh, agus 's neònach mura cluinnear a dh'aithghearr cuideachd aithrisean air bùithtean a' dùnadh ri linn call teachd-a-steach.

Bheil cuimhn' agaibh air an ùpraid a nochd aig an àm a thug Pàrlamaid na h-Alba an ceum calma ud le lagh a thoirmisg smocadh ann an ionadan poblach?

Cha tàinig an sgrìob bhatas a' fàidheadaireachd, agus 's ann a sgaoil an aon seòrsa lagh thairis air a' chuid eile de Bhreatainn.

Tha Alba air comas ceannais a' nochdadh tric, agus tha e inntinneach cluinntinn gum bheil dùthchannan eile ag amharc na tha a' tachairt an seo a thaobh lagh reic dibhe is iadsan 's dòcha deònach eisimpleir Alba a leantainn.

Mar fhear a bha glè mheasail air tombaca fad bhliadhnaichean tha mi

uasal às a' bhuaidh a thug an lagh air smocadh, agus a dh'aindeoin a bhith glè mheasail air drama tha mi den bheachd gun dèan an reachdas seo feum cuideachd.

Canaidh cuid gum teagamh gum bheil riaghaltas a' gabhail cus gnòthach ri ar beatha làitheil, eadar irean siùcair is salainn am biadh, smocadh, agus a-nise deoch-làidir, ach saoilidh mise gum bheil tomhas de dhlestanas aige a thaobh slàinte an t-sluaigh agus tha reachdas cosgais na dibhe-làidir mar sheòrsa de bhanachdach nàiseanta.

Chan eil seo ag àicheadh drama dhuinn, ach le beagan nas lugha dhitha cuirdh sinn barrachd luach oirre.

MINIMUM alcohol unit pricing does not deny any of us a drink, and I welcome the legislation and hope it contributes to a healthier Scotland.

As health has been a principal justification for the Act, one would hope that the millions which this will generate in extra tax revenue will be targeted directly at improving our Scottish health services.

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

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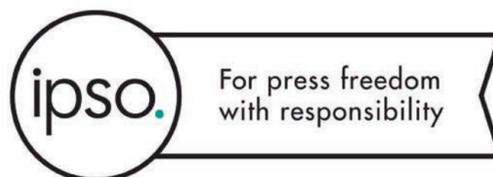
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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number

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.



Rev Dr Karen Campbell led the re-dedication of the American Monument at Mull of Oa. Photograph: Warren Media



Princess Anne lays a wreath at the war memorial in Port Ellen to commemorate the sinkings. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Praise for islanders as Islay remembers

HUGH SMITH
editor@obantimes.co.uk

CLOSE on 1,000 islanders and visitors, among them the Princess Royal and other invited guests, attended the WW100 Scotland centennial commemoration held in favourable weather conditions at the war memorial at the Port Ellen harbour on Friday May 4.

The service remembered those who had perished when the troopships *Tuscania* and *Otranto* sank off Islay's shores with the loss of 700 lives in the closing months of the First World War.

Also remembered were the 200 islanders who lost their lives during the 1914-18 hostilities.

Among the dignitaries at the moving and heartfelt act of commemoration was the Scottish Government's Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External

Affairs, and the UK's American ambassador Robert Wood Johnston. Also involved was the acting ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany, Tania Freiin von Uslar-Gleiche, and the Consul General of France, Emmanuel Tocher.

Other guests included David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland, Argyll and Bute MSP and Brexit Minister Michael Russell, Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, and US Navy Attache Mark Rudesill.

All began with the Islay Pipe Band leading children from all the island schools carrying the 41 state flags representing the areas of the USA which were home to the servicemen lost in the *Tuscania* and *Otranto* tragedies.

In her opening homily, Ms Hyslop said: 'Let us all together be mindful of the loss of so many young American on the *Tuscania* and the *Otranto* and of the merchant seamen who

died with them. Let us all together be mindful of the people of this island who saved the lives of those who could be saved, and recovered as many as possible from the sea. Let us all together be mindful of the men of Islay and Jura who went to war and never returned.'

The service of remembrance was conducted by the Rev Valerie Watson, minister of the North and West Islay churches, and the prayers were led by the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Islay Gaelic choirs sang *Tuireadh Nan Treun*, the haunting lament penned by Islay bard Duncan Johnston for those local heroes who lost their lives in the First World War, Islay High School pupil Ryan Johnston read the 23rd Psalm in Gaelic, and the 2017 Mòd gold medalist Alasdair Currie performed *Sine Bhàn*, another Duncan Johnston

composition with strong connections with the Great War.

Medical practice head and GP Dr Angus MacTaggart reflected on Islay's contribution to the war efforts and touched on the supreme sacrifice of a family member from Caolila.

A reading from St Matthew's Gospel was given by Malcolm MacNeill, a great-grandson of police sergeant Malcolm MacNeill, the officer who had played such a pivotal role in the rescue operations following the two maritime tragedies.

Four Royal Marines buglers sounded *The Last Post*, and piper James MacEachern played *The Flowers of the Forest* prior to the wreath-laying ceremony. This was led by the Princess Royal, and a further wreath was placed by her husband, Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, in his capacity as vice-chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves.

Following a rousing rendering of

Amazing Grace, led by Alasdair Currie, Her Royal Highness attended a reception in the nearby Ramsay Hall. This gave her the opportunity to meet the other dignitaries and the descendants of families affected by First World War losses. She also took the opportunity to view relevant art work and enjoy a fittingly interpretative performance by the Ella Edgar Dancers.

Earlier in the day, a small re-dedication service took place at the American War Memorial at the Mull of Oa. This was conducted by the Rev Dr Karen Campbell, national chaplain for the British Legion Scotland. Wreaths were laid by the Lord Lieutenant and the US naval attache.

The lone piper was Neil MacTaggart and lying offshore at the site of the *Tuscania* sinking were a number of British, French, German and US warships which had just completed a large-scale exercise off the west coast of Scotland.

On the previous day, the British Legion chaplain conducted an act of remembrance on board HMS *Raider* at the position where the *Tuscania* sank. She was accompanied by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, the former Secretary General of NATO, who laid a wreath at sea and stressed that 'although a century has passed, we will not forget'.

US ambassador Woody Johnston said he was highly impressed by the island commemoration, adding that the organisers had 'carried out the arrangements with the dedication and skill which was shown by past islanders in their treatment of my people who lost their lives on these shores'.

'I will make sure,' he emphasised, 'that the American people will learn about and remember the outstanding part played in those awesome tragedies by a selfless people on this small island'.



The Islay Gaelic Choir at the service in Port Ellen. 25_c19HRHislay122



Princess Anne meets Islay residents. 25_c19HRHislay111



Attendees pay attention during the service at Port Ellen. Photograph: Warren Media

Jenni Minto of the Islay Museum with Jennifer Jones of the Smithsonian who have loaned the original flag to the island of Islay.

Photograph: Warren Media



Left to right Nick Hide, Lynn Vandertie, John Roberts, Morven McPhee and Mark Jabbusch, descendants of crew and servicemen from SS *Otranto*, walking on Kilchoman beach where bodies washed up. Photograph: Warren Media



Nick Hide, whose grandfather was Captain Davidson of the *Otranto*.

Photograph: Warren Media

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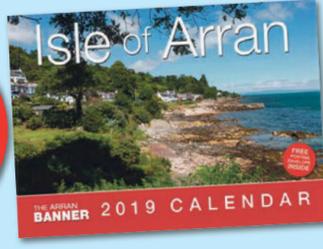


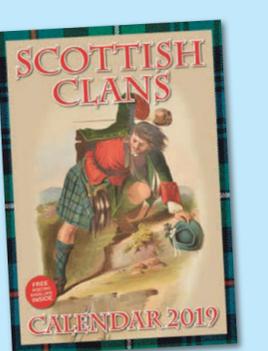
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Cathedral of Trees opens after restoration

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

FOR A couple of weeks in early April, the peaceful atmosphere at the Cathedral of Trees was interrupted by the noise of a mini digger and other machines as Ian McCuish Landscaping Services took on the task of improving the drainage system and upgrading the paths.

The site is now open again for visitors to view the improvements and enjoy the cathedral in its early springtime setting.

And there is another change. If you listen carefully, you will catch the sound of water running along the previously stagnant ditches. Cathedral music! But visitors with children and dogs are warned to be careful as these ditches are quite deep.

Nicola Moll, a trustee of The Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees (SCIO), said: 'We are delighted to have completed the first phase of the restoration programme, thanks largely to a grant from Historic Environment Scotland. This work will make a big difference to the regeneration of the trees and plants, as well as to the appearance of the site.'

'We have really appreciated the support and interest received through our Facebook page and elsewhere, and remain committed to developing the cathedral as a resource for local people to enjoy.'

Plans are now under way to build a wooden hut to offer shelter for visitors and provide more scope for volunteering and outdoor learning sessions. There are also plans to fell the surrounding conifers which currently block out much-needed sunlight to the cathedral ground. Longer term, the aim is to recreate an amenity woodland of native broadleaved trees all around the site.

This Saturday, May 12, there is an open meeting at 2pm at the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban. Everyone with an interest in the cathedral and its future is invited to come along. The AGM will follow at around 2.30pm.

Funding for core costs and new projects remains an ongoing challenge for the cathedral as currently it depends entirely on donations and grant fund-



Glencruitten's Cathedral of Trees has been restored and improved but development plans are ongoing.

ing. Donations can be made via the onsite box at the cathedral entrance, via facebook or by cheque, payable to the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees (SCIO) and addressed to the registered office at 9 Forth Street, Edinburgh. Every donation is very much appreciated. Gift Aid can be added if requested. And there is another way of contrib-

uting to the cathedral. The plan is to replace the grassed area in the nave with a mix of ground-hugging plants.

So, if you would like to donate a plant (such as sedum, saxifrage, bugle, heather), or if you have ground cover/rockery plants in your garden with some to spare, please bring your contribution along when you next visit and leave it

in one of the nursery beds behind the altar. Later, these will be used to create a rich mosaic on either side of the central aisle - every plant an enduring gift, woven into the cathedral fabric for all time.

Access to the cathedral is via Glencruitten Woodlands entrance - just follow the stone waymarkers.



This weekend, May 12-13, Dalnashean in Port Appin will be open to the public from 1-6pm.

Gorgeous gardens in Argyll open to public

STUNNING gardens in Argyll will have their gates opened to the public this weekend to raise money for charity.

As part of Scotland's Garden Scheme, around 500 gardens across the country in total are opening this year to support more than 200 charities.

And to celebrate Visit Scotland's Year of Young People, children go free.

This weekend, May 12 and 13, Dalnashean in Port Appin will be open to the public from 1-6pm.

The garden will showcase camellias, rhododendron, azaleas and magnolias, give views to Lismore and Loch Linnhe, and have woodcraft for sale, with all

proceeds going to Appin Parish Church and Mary's Meals.

Also opening its doors that weekend from 1-5pm is Inverryne Woodland Garden in Killfinan.

It consists of 10 acres of garden, including woodland, a burn, banks and bridges, rhodias, azaleas, Japanese maples and hydrangeas. All proceeds go to Cowal Elderly Befrienders.

And next weekend, May 19 and 20, Maolachy's Garden will be open from 1-6pm, raising money for Oban's Hope Kitchen.

These three acres of woodland garden also boast a burn, as well as a vegetable patch and polytunnel.

Walkers warned of spring snow dangers

HILL WALKERS are being urged to treat long-lying snow patches with caution.

Although it is spring on lower ground, the high mountains of Scotland are still hanging onto winter, and there are still substantial snowfields and snow patches lying across the routes up many popular hills.

Temperatures in recent weeks have been unseasonably low, with new snow falling on some of the higher mountain tops, and much of the old snow people encounter may be hard and icy, posing a significant threat to

anyone not properly equipped. Heather Morning safety adviser with Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Every year at this time, folk get into difficulties when encountering old snow patches.'

'Sadly, a slip and subsequent slide in the wrong place does sometimes result in fatalities.'

She added: 'My advice, if you don't have the kit or knowledge to deal with hard snow, is to adjust your plan and enjoy a day out on one of our fabulous lower hills or glens where there is no chance of encountering old snow patches.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Saturday May 12 Gèarr Aonach and Coire Gabhail, Glen Coe

A delightful scramble up Gèarr Aonach followed by a switch-back ridge and descent through the 'lost valley' Coire Gabhail.

Park at the Glencoe Viewpoint car

park at NN170568. Head off SE and follow the path down to cross the River Coe on a bridge just below the Meeting of Three Waters. The path rises to a point where it enters the gorge cut by the Allt Coire Gabhail. The path bifurcates here. Take the right fork, which is indistinct at first due to erosion, and scramble up easily. Follow the path SW for about 150m to WP NN169559. Leave the path and head W up a grassy slope towards the foot of the nose of Gèarr Aonach, to reach the start of a path at WP NN168560.

This zig-zags up the cliffs. At each turn of the path, there is a short but easy scramble, none of which is exposed. The path leads to the top of the spur overlooking Glen Coe. Head up SW to the summit of Gèarr

Aonach, 692m, and continue to a plateau at the foot of the NE ridge of Stob Coire nan Lochan at NN156551.

From here, a broad ramp leads down SW below the crags on the right, and above the crags on the left. The route crosses a stony couloir and continues a descending traverse until the crags on the left give way to a steep grassy hillside. Continue the traverse to reach a burn at about NN154544 and follow it down to the Coire Gabhail path below. Follow this out NE to join the outward route back to the A82.

Grade: M+; Distance: 7km; Height to climb: 674m Map(s): LR41, EX384; Meet at Glencoe village car park at 9.30am. Start at 9.45am Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

Thursday May 17 Meall Glas and Sgiath Chuill, Glen Dochart

A day out with long views. There is no competition for these two Munros, which dominate the moorland and lower hills of this large area between Glen Dochart and Glen Lochay.

Park on the S side of the A85 at a forestry road entrance about 500m E of Auchessan, NN453276. Take the private road across the River Dochart to Auchessan. There is a track to follow behind the house which disappears higher up. Continue up NNW heading for the col just to the east of the summit of Meall Glas, then around W to the summit itself, 959m. Leave Meall Glas by its eastern

ridge, passing a prominent cairn at spot height 908m, then go NE to Beinn Cheathaich, 937m. To avoid a very steep descent to the east, head down N before then turning SE down the gentler slopes to the bealach. Ascend the steep grassy slopes opposite to Meall a' Churain, 917m, then turn S along the almost level ridge to the summit of Sgiath Chuill, 921m. Descend SW to regain the outward route back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 1300m; Map(s): LR51, EX365; Meet at Longsdale car park. Oban, at 8.45am or Glencoe village car park at 9am. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday May 13 Stob Coire Claurigh and Stob Coire an Laoigh, Spean Bridge.

If possible drive up the rough track south from Corriechoille and park near the old tramway. Otherwise walk up from the parking by the river Spean at NN253806.

Follow the track through the trees and shortly after emerging into open ground, head right up the slopes of Ruigh na Gualainn,

over Stob Coire Gaibhre (958m) and then up the north ridge of Stob Coire Claurigh. The ridge then undulates southwestwards over several more summits to Stob Coire an Laoigh and finally Stob Coire Easain (1080m).

From here the descent is northwards down Beinn na Socaich (1007m) and down into Coire Chiomlich, crossing the river above the tree line.

A track leads down from the small dam to the line of the old tramway which can be followed Northeastwards back to the start.

Distance: 16km; height to climb: 1300m. Suggested by Chris Tracey; coordinated by Clare McCabe.

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Bringing Argyll to the world

Social media campaign aims to showcase Argyll in all its glory

Why I love Argyll



Bonnie Wood

AITC development agent for Islay and Jura

Having always holidayed on Scottish islands, we jumped at the chance to move here from Norfolk when a dream job came for my husband with the RSPB. We haven't looked back since. Islay gives us everything we could hope for in bringing up our young family – beautiful beaches, stunning scenery and an incredibly friendly community. How many people in the country can look out of their window and see a soaring golden eagle most days? It's a very special place. Argyll offers pure escapism – so many hidden places to explore and discover.



Susan Windram

Editor, The Oban Times

After moving to Argyll two years ago for work, I've never looked back. I'd spent many a holiday in Argyll and the Isles, and always said I'd love to work here, never thinking it would actually happen. But now it has, I love it.

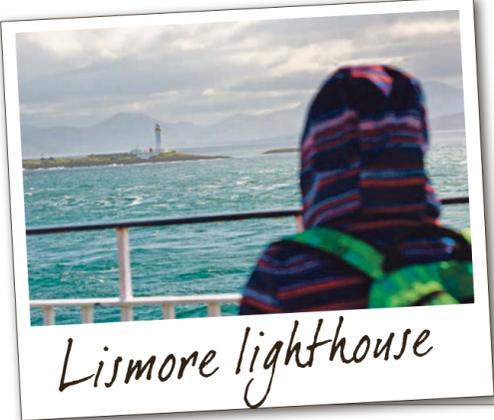
Some of my favourite moments so far have been sunny days on Luìng or down at Machrihanish beach, hopping on a ferry to Mull, enjoying waffles at Oban Chocolate Company while looking out towards Kerrera, catching a lucky glimpse of an otter feeding in Loch Melfort, or raising a glass on the Hill of the Angels on Iona to toast a friend's 50th. I'm looking forward to many more.



Mark Beaumont

Athlete, broadcaster and ambassador

If you stop anywhere in Argyll and the Isles to meet a local business owner, you'll quickly get a sense of what a close and connected community it is. While spread out by road and sea, it is connected in spirit and history. Some of my fondest memories while exploring Argyll are my conversations with those who call it home.



Lismore lighthouse



Fresh seafood



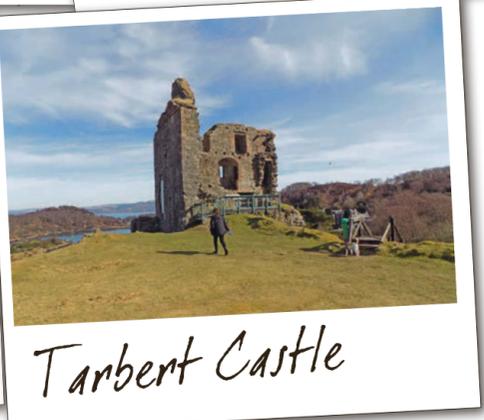
Morning walks



Oban Live 2017



Loch Fyne drams



Tarbert Castle

We all know that Argyll is special don't we? But why? What are the ingredients to the secret sauce that makes Argyll one of the best places to live or visit in Scotland?

We asked you to show and tell – you didn't let us down!

Last week we joined forces with the Argyll & the Isles Tourism Cooperative to launch the inspirational #myargyll campaign. We asked YOU to show us and tell us what Argyll means to you. And, boy, did you respond. Hundreds of your photos and videos have appeared on our social wall

at www.myargyll.co.uk and they are truly inspirational. Keep them coming!

To participate, simply tag your photos, videos, poetry or prose on Twitter, YouTube or Instagram #myargyll. Remember to ensure your privacy settings are set to public to enable sharing.

We will also be showcasing selected entries in our newspapers, magazines and websites throughout the year.

What makes a place special is often the most personal of things. It doesn't have to be sunset over Oban bay – it might be walking your dog on the beach, a plate of langoustines, sipping a cold beer in your



Argyll offers pure escapism

Bonnie Wood
AITC development agent for Islay and Jura

local pub or a day out with the family – it is your memory or special moment that counts. Go on, share it with the world.

Your chance to win a once in a lifetime prize

While it is wonderful to show the world why Argyll is THE place to be, wouldn't it be nice if you had the chance to win a fantastic prize? Well, why not take the next step and enter your content into our #myargyll competition? Once you have shared your content via social media, visit www.myargyll.co.uk/competition, follow the instructions and upload your content. All entries will then be judged by an independent panel of experts and a winner will be announced later in the summer. The closing date for entries is Monday June 11, 2018, so don't delay.

COMPETITION WIN A PRICELESS ARGYLL EXPERIENCE

Win a once-in-a-lifetime #myargyll autumn break for two people on the Isle of Islay, Queen of the Hebrides featuring:

- An overnight stay with breakfast at the stunning new Machrie Hotel with a round of golf on their championship links course | Dinner, bed and breakfast at the Harbour Inn, Bowmore |
- A behind-the-scenes tour of Ardnahoe, Islay's newest distillery | A boat trip with Islay Sea Adventures | Travel to and from Islay from Oban Airport with Hebridean Airways



Show us and tell us what Argyll means to you

- ✓ PHOTOS
- ✓ VIDEO
- ✓ POETRY
- ✓ PROSE

#myargyll



Enter your content into our #myargyll competition

Visit www.myargyll.co.uk/competition

Follow the instructions and upload your content to enter our fantastic competition. All entries will then be judged by an independent panel of experts and a winner will be announced later in the summer. The closing date for entries is Monday June 11, 2018, so don't delay.



HIGHLAND CALENDAR

All the world loves Highland games

Come and join in the fun of a games day

WHAT do the tiny village of Southend, Kintyre, (population 490) and Las Vegas (population two million) have in common?

Both host their own annual Highland games. Along with whisky and tartan, Highland culture's other great export is a good old-fashioned games day.

When earthquakes ravaged New Zealand in 2011 the people of Hororata started their own Highland games to help the town get back on its feet and raise everyone's spirits.

In a world where people rely on satellites and internet for entertainment there is no greater compliment than the fact that all over the globe people turn out to enjoy our Highland culture, be it dancing, piping, tossing the caber, throwing the hammer and wearing the kilt.

And just like us, here in the West Highlands and Islands, all over the world there are dancers and pipers rehearsing, athletes in training, heavy athletes working out in the gym - all getting ready for their

big day with volunteers arranging and organising the event.

Highland games evolved from clan gatherings to find the strongest warriors for the battles, the swiftest runners as messengers and the best dancers and pipers to entertain the clan chiefs and their guests.

So turn out and support the games this summer and enjoy a tradition that stretches back through the centuries and which, as it goes forward, has travelled to all points of the compass.

HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday June 2

The Helensburgh and Lomond Games are unique in that the event is linked to two clans, the Colquhoun and the MacAuley, whose chiefs alternate the duties of chieftain of the games.

Traditional competitions such as the dancing and athletics are on show along with the 'heavy' events like tossing the caber.

The spectators can join in by competing in events for old and young alike at the games, which are held at Helensburgh Rugby Club grounds. The origin of today's games can be traced back to 1889.

LORNE HIGHLAND GAMES Sunday June 24

Mossfield Park, Oban is home to Lorne Highland Games, a great, fun-filled day for all the family to enjoy, which has become as popular with tourists as it has with locals. So much so that this is known as 'The People's Games'.

As you would expect, the day has all that you would want from a Scottish Highland games, including caber tossing, hammer throwing and tug-o-war. Plus, the location enables the games to add a hill race to its events.

You can take part in the track and field events or just relax and enjoy the Highland dancing competitions or pipe band displays.

There will be afternoon teas, stalls to browse and this games event boasts its own dog show.

KENMORE HIGHLAND GAMES Wednesday July 4

The Kenmore Highland Games known locally as 'the friendly games' is organised by the Kenmore and District Sports Association and was started in 1972.

As well as all the traditional events, including Highland dancing, 'heavy' competitions, piping, and

track events, the games has its very own 'Throwing the Tirnie Stone', an almost spherical stone found on Tirnie Farm, Kenmore, weighing 101lbs. Come and join this small community enjoy its big day out.

INVERARAY HIGHLAND GAMES Tuesday July 17

This is one of the big days in the Highland Games calendar, held in the shadow of Inveraray Castle at Winterton Park. It features the world caber tossing championship, so expect to hear accents from all over the globe.

His Grace the Duke of Argyll leads the parade to the games field through the Royal Burgh with Inveraray and District Pipe Band playing - this has to be one of the most iconic scenes in Highland life. There is also cycling and wrestling included in the packed programme. There's so much going on and the day begins at 9am to include it all.

MULL HIGHLAND GAMES Thursday July 19

As venues go, they don't come more spectacular than Eray Park, Tobermory. The games take place with the Sound of Mull and the hills of Ardnamurchan as the backdrop.

Events held include heavyweights, light field events and Highland dancing and the park is also a great place to begin - and end - a hill race with the pipe band playing and spectators cheering the runners home.

Mull games always has a great atmosphere and that extends to the trip there are back on the ferry. Make sure you get your tickets booked in advance as the boats are always packed on games day.

TAYNUILT GAMES Saturday July 21

Taynuilt Games will play host this year to a gathering of the Clan MacIntyre, with clansmen and women

from all over the world attending. But then Taynuilt has always had a reputation for being a friendly games, and welcoming foreign tourists from far and wide. The games also has some great events for all to join in, from climbing the greasy pole to throwing the Nant Stone, a huge boulder taken from the bed of the nearby river.

The march through the village to the games field is always a wonderful sight.

SOUTHEND HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday July 21

There are bigger Highland games with larger crowds but is there another Highland games where people have this much fun or visitors are made to feel so welcome?

The tiny village of Southend, down on the tip of the Kintyre peninsula, holds its games in the afternoon into the evening.

There are all the traditional field events, piping and dancing and their own tossing the tyre competition. Southend always places an emphasis on children's events.

ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING OBAN GAMES Thursday August 23

The Argyllshire Gathering held in Oban is one of the grandest Highland games in Scotland.

The day before the gathering one of the top piobaireach, piping, events is held; if you've won the gold or silver medal at Oban then you are among world's piping elite.

The march to the games field has a pipe band made up of the competitors and is traditionally led by His Grace the Duke of Argyll. The Oban Ball is held the night before the games at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall.

On games day there is a full list of field events at Mossfield Park including a schools' shinty tournament and a hill race.

MORVERN HIGHLAND GAMES

CHILDREN'S SPORT AT 10AM
OFFICIAL OPENING 12 NOON WITH
ADULTS ATHLETICS, HEAVY EVENTS,
MULL & IONA PIPE BAND, DANCING DISPLAYS, WIFE CARRYING RACE,
THE MORVERN MILE, FOOD STALLS, COMMUNITY STALLS,
BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING, CHAINSAW CARVINGS,
ICE CREAM VAN, LIVE MUSIC AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!
SATURDAY 14TH JULY 2018
KNOCK PARK, LOCHALINE
JOIN US AT "THE MOST SCENIC HIGHLAND GAMES IN SCOTLAND!"

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 7th July
at the Shinty Pitch, Invergarry
Gates Open 9.30am
Dancing Commences 10am
Games Officially opened 1pm
Lochaber Pipe Band, Kintail Birds of Prey,
Heavy Events, Highland Dancing,
Kiddies Races, Pet Show, Hill Race, Tug O'War, Flat Races, Mini
Highland Games, Stalls, Sideshows and much more.

SOUTHEND HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 21st July 2018
5.30pm for 6.00pm
Southend Playing Field
Under 16 half mile race.

Come and enjoy - traditional highland dancing competitions, Piping, Junior and Senior sports with all the traditional heavyweight games. Full Kintyre Schools Pipe Band will play at 5.45pm and again during the evening. Beat the goalie.

Other Novelty Events and craft stalls.
Licensed bar for over 18's with separate soft drinks bar.
Burgers, ice-cream etc available on field.

NOVELTY EVENT - TOSSING THE TYRE (open to all competitors over 16)
There is room for more stalls on the field. Please contact John Galbraith on 830235 or email polliwilline@btconnect.com
Hot food also available at Muneroy Tearooms and Argyll Arms Hotel, Southend RING FRANCES OR LYNN WITH YOUR BOOKINGS TO SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.
ALL COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE OWN INSURANCE.

Mull Highland Games
Thursday 19th July 2018 10.30am
Erray Park, Tobermory

- Solo Piping - Highland Dancing -
Heavy and Light Track
and Field Events
Scottish Light Field Jumps
Championship

A great day out for all the family
Refreshments available on the field.

Contact: Florence Kirsop
Tel: 01688 302001

Inveraray Highland Games
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds
Tuesday 17th July 2018
Local and Open Events from 9.00 am

SOLO PIPING (Local and Open)
HIGHLAND DANCING (Local and Open)
HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS
(Local and Open)
incl. **WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIP**
CYCLING, WRESTLING

INVERARAY & DISTRICT PIPE BAND (Grade 1)
will parade from Church Square to the Games
Field at 10.45am
Full Catering Facilities on Field
Trade Stands, Side Shows, Free Children's Entertainment

ADMISSION: Adults £8.00: OAP's £5.00
Children £3.00: Family Ticket £20.00

FREE PARKING
Email: secretary@inveraray-games.co.uk
www.inveraray-games.co.uk

TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 21st July 2018
from 11am

1pm march from
Taynuilt Hotel to the
sports field
led by Oban Pipe Band

Highland Dancing,
Piping, Heavy Events,
Athletics and
Junior events, Hill Race
World MacIntyre Gathering

GAMES 2018



GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday July 7

There are two Glengarry Highland Games; the one here in Scotland is held at the village shinty club playing field.

The other at Maxville, Ontario, has grown into one of the largest in the world, with 50 pipe bands taking part, as one of the competition venues for the American Pipe Band Championships.

Though the original is now in the shadow of the Canadian games, the spirit remains the same - a great day out for all the family with piping, dancing, track and field events with stalls to browse, food, and plenty of activities and races for children to take part in.

MORVERN GAMES & GALA WEEK runs from Friday July 13 to Sunday July 22

During the week there is something for the entire family, including a float parade, children's sports, highland games, live music, duck race, clay pigeon shoot, open water swim, darts competition, pool competition, indoor bowls, Lochaline sand mine tour, table tennis tournament, dog agility, children's cook day, allotment open day, herbal walk, church exhibition and teas, producers market, race night, heritage walk, bingo, quiz night, highland hustle, yoga, Drimnin cinema night, charity dinner at Whitehouse Restaurant, auction night for MS, Big Morvern Run, regatta, fishing competition, crab

catching, shinty, survivors dance-beach party and lots more...

Morvern Games & Gala Week was reinstated in 1987 after a period of abeyance.

A highlight in the Morvern calendar, it is an opportunity for local organisations to hold events throughout the week with the support and assistance of the Games and Gala Week committee.

The week starts with the Morvern Highland Games held on the second Saturday after the first Monday in July.

This date is to coincide with Glasgow Fair with the intention of attracting the diaspora home for the holidays and enjoy the events throughout the week.

There will be a mini bus meeting the ferry from Mull and also picking up around the village. This should reduce traffic at the field and save people the long walk up the hill.

Follow Morvern Games on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

CAMPBELTOWN HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday September 22

Campbeltown Highland Games will be held on September 22, taking place on the Hospital Field at Limecraigs, Campbeltown.

It will include a host of events, including athletics, heavy events, tug-o-war and family friendly fun

events! Glen Scotia Distillery are sponsoring a Ceilidh Tent that will have live music and free drams! There will also be a fun fair, stalls and attractions for all the family. Highland dancing, Piping and Drum Major displays will take place throughout the day.

Have you ever wondered why most of the Highland games in Argyll are held in the last two weeks of July? It is so that they coincide with the Glasgow Fair. So many people left to seek work in the big city, and the only time they could make what was a long and expensive journey home was during the annual holiday.

Kenmore Highland Games

Kenmore Sports Field
4th July 2018
5.30pm - 9.30pm
Heavy Events, Track Events, Highland Dancing, Hill Race, Children's Races
Contact: Sarah Kelly
Tel: 01887 830281 or mobile 07754 497889

"The Friendly Games"
Helensburgh & Lomond Highland Games
Saturday 2nd June 2018

Rugby Grounds, Rhu Road Higher, Helensburgh G84 8JZ - 10:00am
Novice & Professional Heavyweights & Highland Dancing - 12 Noon
Opening Parade & Ceremony by Games Chieftain
Chieftain, Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss - 12:30 pm

Open Heavyweights, Senior and Youth Foot Races, Solo Piping, Highland Dancing, Hill Race included are - Scottish 22lb Shot Put, British 90m and Scottish 200m foot races.
Over £7000 prize money Many family attractions, Trade / food stalls - Beer tent
Free shuttle bus service from Pier car park to Games

THE LORNE HIGHLAND GAMES
MOSSFIELD PARK, OBAN

Sunday 24th June from 11am
Heavy events, track and field, Highland Dancing, Piping, Dog Show, Craft & Produce Tent, fun events and much more.

CASH PRIZES

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GAMES

ADMISSION:
Adults £7 - Child £5 - Family £20
www.lorne-highland-games.org.uk

CAMPBELTOWN HIGHLAND GAMES
Saturday 22nd September
1pm - 6pm
Hospital Field at Limecraigs, Campbeltown.
Come and join our fun filled day!
Plenty of stalls and activities for all of the family!
Stalls from Kintyre Crafts, CGS4Gambia and many more!
Only £5 entry (£2 children) and includes competition entry.
Cash prizes

The Argyllshire Gathering
OBAN GAMES

Mossfield Park, Oban.
THURSDAY 23rd AUGUST 2018

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am
Oban High School Pipe Band 12pm from Station Square

HIGHLAND DANCING - TRACK & FIELD EVENTS - TRADITIONAL HEAVY EVENTS - PIPING
Tug O' War - Fun Races - Heritage Tent
Trade Stands & Food Stands

Admission £12 Child (under 14) £6
Family Ticket £30
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre

PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN
WEDNESDAY 22ND AUGUST 2018
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition Senior Piobaireachd
LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners)

Takeaways available

Pasta • Pizza • Burgers

Full Bar Rio menu available to take away

Bar Rio
PIZZERIA • BISTRO • BAR
Phone orders 01631 569390

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WHAT'S ON

IN OBAN

In partnership with
Oban Town Diary
bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 10th May	Saturday 12th May	Tuesday 15th May
Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Create Your Own Handmade Book Atlantis Leisure 11am - 4pm	Environmental Ethics Talk An Informal Talk By Dr Millar of SAMS Congregational Church Hall 1.15pm
Oban Health Walk Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am	Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Wednesday 16th May
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY	Master Builders Lego Club The Rockfield Centre 10am-12pm	FREE workshops GDPR - Are You Ready? West Highland Housing Association 10am-1pm To book a place, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604030
Friday 11th May	Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra St John's Cathedral, Oban 7.30pm	Chris Stout & Catriona McKay The Rockfield Centre Doors 7.30pm
Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Chunks from 10pm Free entry Open till 2am	Loch Eck Orienteers - www.ecko.org.uk Fearnoch 6pm-8pm
Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Sunday 13th May	Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
Scratch Choir #19 / Let It Be The Rockfield Centre 8pm-10pm	Hill Walk Spean Bridge All Day	WHAT'S ON IN OBAN
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Tartan Paint from 9pm Free entry Open till 1am	Women's Group - Second Meet The Rockfield Centre 1pm-3pm	WHAT'S ON IN OBAN
WHAT'S ON IN OBAN	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win £20 bar voucher	WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

35th Music and Dance Festival is busiest yet

Thousands enjoyed Oban's 35th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend. The turnout thrilled organisers, and festival chairman Breege Smyth said it was their busiest event on record.

'This year was without a doubt our busiest and most engaging year. We felt everyone got involved, from pubs, clubs and hotels to all the competition venues. There were a whole town buzz. We've had superb comments and our reputation for friendly, humane competitions continues.'

Supported by Event-Scotland - Scotland the Perfect Stage, Oban welcomed more than 1,100 pipers, fiddlers, pianists, accordion and clarsach players, as well as Highland dancers to the town, to take part in 125 competitions.

On Thursday, pupils from 16 primary and nursery schools in fancy dress took to the Corran Halls stage on Schools Day to sing songs with actions, getting the festival off to a bright start - unlike the weather.

Retired teacher Martin

Wilson, who presented youngsters with certificates, said: 'Well done for bringing lots of colour and sunshine into the Corran Halls on such a dreich Oban morning.'

On Friday, clouds still loomed as festival fever was building up. Anticipation was growing for musicians competing in the accordion and fiddle masters at St John's Cathedral, sponsored by PF Charitable Trust. Fiddle player George

Davidson, 21, from Tarves, was hoping it would be third year lucky for him. 'I've won this the past two years so it'll be good to win a third time,' he said.

Later that night, pubs were busy around the town and ceilidh band Dunmor had everyone up on their feet dancing at Markie Dans into the late hours.

Saturday saw an early start, with piping competitions at the new Oban High School.

Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald said: 'It's fantastic to see all

these talented young people so enthusiastic about traditional music being here in Oban - the town is buzzing.'

Performers travelled from far and wide to take part in the festival, including a piper from Germany. Grannie Joy Neely spent 12 hours on a journey from Bready in Northern Ireland to watch her granddaughter's troupe Sollus Highland Dancers.

'I've been coming to this festival for years. It's well worth the journey. I wouldn't miss it,' she said.

Anna Tait-Westwell, 16,

from Oban, and Archie Sloan, 14, from Perth, were just two of the competitors hoping for trophies in the clarsach and piano categories at St John's Cathedral, while over at the Congregational Church Hall, young musicians from Taynuilt Primary School were among those hoping to impress judges of the woodwind and brass section.

Station Square hosted an outdoor open mic with Oban FM and brought out the sun as well as a crowd listening to offerings from bands including

Ceildih Trail, Turas and Oban Live finalist Neon Sheba.

There are plans for a bigger open mic next year, said Ms Smyth. 'It was brilliant with Oban FM broadcasting all afternoon to people all over the world. We're hoping to put a stage up next year.'

The Saturday sun was still shining in the late afternoon for the parade of pipes and drums by Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band.

The show continued into the night with live music at packed pubs, bars and restaurants in the town.

On the festival's final day, Atlantis Leisure Centre hosted the Highland dancing premier competitions. Andrew Gregg from Motherwell was performing the Scottish measure dance before judges for the first time.

The nine-year-old has been dancing since he was six. 'I didn't have many friends before I started dancing but I've got lots now. I'm dancing at George Square in Glasgow next weekend,' he said.

For full competition result, go online to www.obantimes.co.uk



Symar School of dancers were hoping for the luck of the Irish in the choreography challenge on Friday at the Corran Halls.



Christina Crawford, Katie Aird and Leah Goodbrand from Baird/Livingston were highland dancing at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

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

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

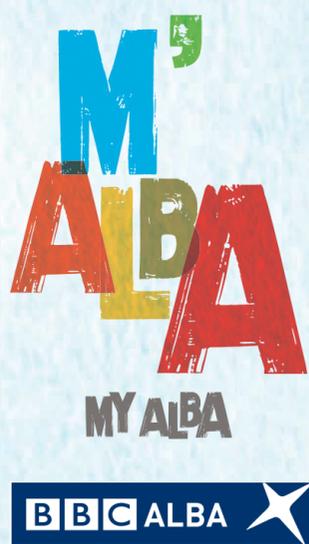
Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary.

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

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

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

Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



DIARDAOIN 10 CÈITEAN
THURSDAY 10 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)
19.25 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Horo Gheallaidh Shorts** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Fianais**
21.00 **Gothenberg '83** (rpt)
22.00 **ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017:** Millburn (rpt)
22.25 **ÙR/NEW: Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria**
23.10 **Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)
23.25 **Seòid a' Chidsin** - The lads revisit food from their youth (rpt)

DIHAOINE 11 CÈITEAN
FRIDAY 11 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** - News
19.25 **Binneas - Na Trads** - Fiddlers' Bid (rpt)
19.30 **Alba: 1974** (rpt)

20.00 **Air an Ùrlar** - A musical showcase featuring talented youngsters (rpt)
20.30 **Dealbhan Fraoich** - Heather draws skipper Micheal MacNeil (rpt)
21.00 **A gu U: Glaschu 1** (rpt)
22.00 **Seirm** (rpt)
23.00 **Amish at the Altar** - Posaidhean Amish (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** (Easdale) (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 12 CÈITEAN
SATURDAY 12 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
17.35 **Machair** (rpt)
18.00 **ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Dundee v Partick Thistle
20.00 **Alba: 1975** (rpt)
20.30 **Lugh Mi** (rpt)
21.00 **ÙR/NEW: Seirm**
22.00 **Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria** (rpt)
22.45 **Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)
23.00 **Scottish Premiership** - Dundee v Partick Thistle (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 13 CÈITEAN
SUNDAY 13 MAY
16.00 **ÙR/NEW: Championship Playoffs 2018** - Dumbarton v Alloa Athletic
18.20 **Binneas - Na Trads** (Duncan Chisholm)
18.30 **ÙR/NEW: Seachd Là** - Weekly news review
19.30 **Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **Fianais** (rpt)
20.30 **Puir-adhair (Highland Airports)** (rpt)
21.00 **'Am Balach MacCuidhein** - McQueen of Scots (rpt)
22.00 **Seirm** - Featuring musical performances from Rory Butler (rpt)
23.00 **Frank Sinatra** (rpt)
23.50 **Dhan Uisge (Easdale)** (rpt)

DILUAIN 14 CÈITEAN
MONDAY 14 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Stoidhle** - The Dressing Up Box (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)

19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich** - Heather Dewar draws author Roddy MacLean
21.00 **ÙR/NEW: Trusadh - Pùdar's Peant** - Why Wear Makeup? (rpt)
22.00 **Port** (rpt)
22.30 **Tearmann** - Home from Home (rpt)
23.35 **Belladrum 2017:** Millburn (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 15 CÈITEAN
TUESDAY 15 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)
19.25 **Horo Gheallaidh Shorts** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **Puir-adhair (Highland Airports)** (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh - Pùdar's Peant** -

Why Wear Makeup? (rpt)
23.00 **Alba air Falach** - Hidden Scotland (rpt)
23.25 **Sorchar nan Reul** (rpt)
23.55 **Fraoch Bay** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 16 CÈITEAN
WEDNESDAY 16 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Stoidhle** - The Dressing Up Box (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **O Mo Dhùthaich** - From Uist With Love (rpt)
21.00 **Mnathan-glùine - Spàirn gu Slaint'** (rpt)
22.00 **Skipinnish agus caraidean** (rpt)
22.30 **Port** (rpt)
23.00 **Gothenberg '83** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 17 CÈITEAN
THURSDAY 17 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming
19.00 **Bailtean Alba** (rpt)
19.25 **Horo Gheallaidh Shorts** (rpt)
19.30 **Aithne air Ainmhidhean** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** - News
20.30 **ÙR/NEW: Fianais**
21.00 **Sgeulachd Deacon Brodie** (rpt)
22.00 **ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017:** Neon Waltz
22.25 **ÙR/NEW: Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria**
23.10 **Sgeul Seirbheis** (rpt)
23.25 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)



film

THE VOLUNTEER BOARD OF OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BUILDING. COME ALONG TO SEE THE PLANS AND HELP DECIDE ITS FUTURE.

CINEMA OPEN DAY
THURSDAY MAY 17 1PM - 8PM

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA, 140 GEORGE STREET, OBAN OJ10 1SQ 02003
CINEMA@OBANPHOENIX.COM



On the ceilidh trail at the open mic stage.



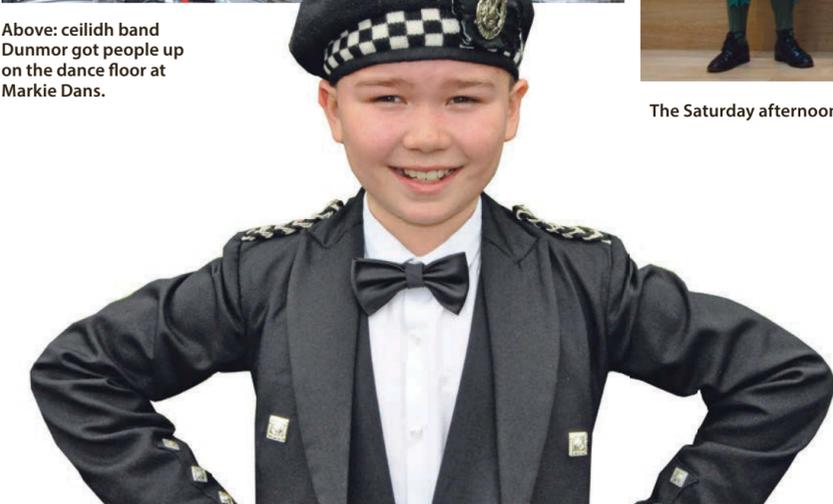
The Netherlorn Piping Society was delighted with the high calibre of the competitors. Pictured are some of the award winners from the Saturday morning competitions in junior solo piping and chanter.



Above: ceilidh band Dunmor got people up on the dance floor at Markie Duns.



The Saturday afternoon piping awards at Oban High School were presented by Jamie Mellor, Trustee of the Argyllshire Gathering Piping Trust.



Highland dancer Andrew Gregg from Motherwell enjoyed seeing his competition friends at the festival.



Open mic entertainment in Station Square.

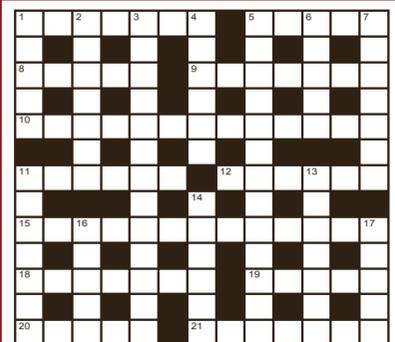
Your local radio listings

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

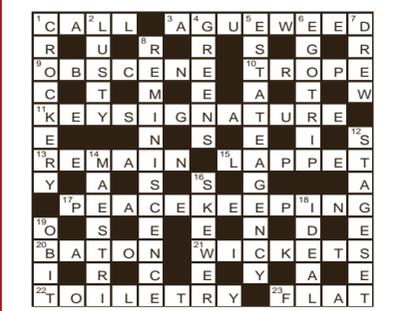
MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down
TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Destroy a car for instance (5-2)
 - 5 Rose (5)
 - 8 Equal length flower stalks from a common centre (5)
 - 9 Good for bones (7)
 - 10 Those men who act like male parents (6,7)
 - 11 Female greeting (6)
 - 12 Develop (6)
 - 15 Verbatim (6-7)
 - 18 It goes around the world (7)
 - 19 Mirror view (5)
 - 20 Gloomy (5)
 - 21 Sinful (7)
- Down**
- 1 Skin flakes (5)
 - 2 Judge (7)
 - 3 Funfair ride (6-7)
 - 4 Soothe (6)
 - 5 Independent (4-9)
 - 6 Willow twig (5)
 - 7 Possession of land as one's own (7)
 - 11 A substance made up of particles dispersed in a continuous gas (7)
 - 13 Opposite side of the yacht when driven in a storm (7)
 - 14 Glimpse (6)
 - 16 Can be seated at one (5)
 - 17 Wee (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 June 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

WIN
AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT LINKS HOUSE AND AN ACTIVITY

Links House at Royal Dornoch in the Scottish Highlands offers luxury accommodation combined with the charm, grace and elegance of the world's finest luxury small hotels. Links House Hotel has been beautifully restored to reflect the strength and drama of its setting, overlooking the 1st tee at Royal Dornoch Golf Club. Resting in the very heart of the North Highlands, surrounded by pristine coastline, forests, rivers, lochs and mountains. Links House is perfect for country sports enthusiasts. Our Highland Experiences Manager can arrange salmon and trout fishing and a great variety of shooting and hunting for guests. Links House also offer guided walking excursions and 'off-road' biking experiences, in nearby wilderness terrain.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: What kind of fishing can be arranged at Links House?

All extras to be paid on departure. Overnight stay available October, November, December 2018 (excluding Christmas and New Year). Accommodation in a double room in either the Mews or Main House. No Cash alternative available. Activity offered will be chosen from a selection and is at the discretion of Links House. No food or drink is included.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, 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 Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

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

ABCD
Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease
Annual 10k race and 1k Fun Run for children
Ages 3-7 and 8-14
Sunday 20 May at 1.00pm starting from the Hospital
All ages and abilities welcome.
Application forms from Atlantis Leisure, selected shops in Oban, and on our website- www.abcd-oban.co.uk
Or register on the day from noon till 12.30pm
Entry adults £5 children £1

CONCERT
SATURDAY MAY 12th 2018 at 7.30 pm ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN
OBAN BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
SARAH POWER soprano KATIE GROSSET mezzo-soprano
MARCUS SWIETLICKI tenor ANDREW McTAGGART baritone
MICHAL GAJZLER piano
Conductor NORMAN NICHOLSON
Haydn: Harmoniemesse J.C. Bach: Symphony in D
Various songs and arias
SEAT WITH PROGRAMME (OBTAINABLE AT THE DOOR)
£9-00 CONCESSIONS £8-00

WIN
A family trip* on Paddle Steamer Waverley

PADDLE STEAMER WAVERLEY®

The world-famous Paddle Steamer Waverley will sail from Oban for just 4 days!
On Saturday June 2nd sail from Oban North Pier over the sea to Skye or cruise Loch Nevis to Inverie, home of Scotland's remotest pub!
On Sunday June 3rd enjoy breath-taking views as Waverley cruises to four Lochs: Shuna, Melfort, Craignish and Crinan and the Corryreckan Whirlpool.
On Monday June 4th visit the Isle of Coll and don't miss the chance to sail round the Mull of Kintyre on Tuesday June 5th.
2018 commemorates 70 years since the nationalisation of Britain's railways. In 1946 Waverley was built for the London and North Eastern Railway to replace the paddle steamer, HMS Waverley, which was sunk on May 29th, 1940 whilst evacuating troops from Dunkirk. At the time of nationalisation in 1948, Waverley's ownership transferred to the British Transport Commission and the ship sported buff funnels until the early 70's, quite a difference to her famous red, black & white funnels of today!
In 1974, she was famously bought for £1 and then began a second career as one of the country's best-loved tourist attractions. Since she has been in operational preservation she has been awarded four stars by Visit Scotland, an engineering heritage award, and has carried over 5 million passengers from over 60 ports around the UK.
A major restoration project returned Waverley to the original 1940s style in which she was built. Passengers can eat, drink and relax in the restored period lounges onboard and enjoy panoramic views from the sun kissed promenade deck.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Waverley Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Monday May 14, 2018.

Q. What colour were Waverley's funnels in 1948?

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....
Email.....
 Please tick this box if you wish to receive information, including special offers, from Waverley Excursions.

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is 10am, Monday, May 14, 2018. Prize must be used by June 5, 2018. Sailings are subject to availability.

Arena

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



Archie Sloan, 14, from Perth took part in the piano competition at St John's Cathedral.



Iris Bevan, 12, played the flute at Oban's Congregational Church Hall.



George Davidson was at St John's Cathedral to compete in the fiddle masters.



Millie Fox and Joshua Riley came from Fife to play at the pipers competition.



Accordianist Adin Graham in deep concentration before going on stage at St John's Cathedral.



Banging the drum at Saturday's piping parade.



Anna Tait-Westwell from Oban played the clarsach at St John's Cathedral.



Bookbug mascot and friends from Bunsgoil Achachl na Creige Sgoil-Avaich pose for a picture after singing at the Corran Halls on Thursday.



Oliver Clark (Oban), Aoiabhann Clark (Oban), Niamh Stainthorpe (Dumfries), Feorlin Renton (Inveraray) impressed adjudicator Kathryn Callander with songs from the shows in the primary group.

DIRECT FROM IRELAND THE HIT SHOW

JMG MUSIC GROUP

THE LEGENDS OF AMERICAN COUNTRY TRIBUTE SHOW

FEATURING 4 FABULOUS SINGERS WITH FULL LIVE BAND

THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2018

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The Nevis Centre BOX OFFICE ☎ 01397 700707

WWW.NEVISCENTRE.CO.UK

To find all HIMDF results please go to www.obantimes.co.uk

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

Superbowl!
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

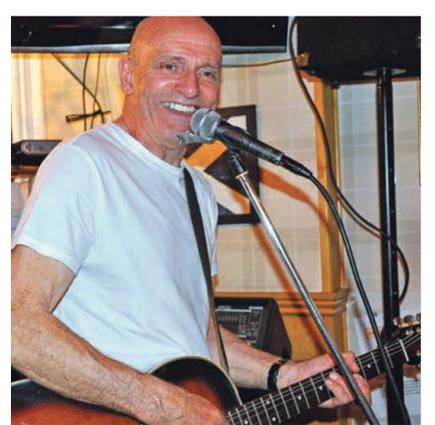
SPECTRUM play area

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



One-man band Alan Frew at the Tartan Tavern.



Ron Johnston entertains at the Tartan Tavern.



Rosie and Stan Dowbar from Poland were in the open mic crowd.



Emily Peart and Millie Magee who were with Northern Ireland's Sollus Highland Dancers.

Kilmartin Museum project lands £3.2m National Lottery windfall

Kilmartin Museum has received a confirmed grant of £3.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their redevelopment project, it was announced today.

The project aims to transform Kilmartin Museum into a landmark venue that interprets and celebrates the global significance of Kilmartin Glen, one of the most significant archaeological landscapes in Britain.

As well as becoming a significant cultural and natural tourism centre, completion of the project will enable the museum to be able to care for its collection of artefacts, some of which are of international significance.

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the project has taken a massive leap towards becoming a reality.

Providing all the funding is in place, construction work will begin on the project in January 2019, with the aim of works being complete by the summer of 2020. Estimated site visitors will increase to 44,000 that year, while the redeveloped museum will have an economic impact on Argyll as a whole of £5.8 million in its first year.

A major extension designed by award-winning architects Reiach and Hall will join together the two

existing buildings creating a seamless museum. This will provide a much larger exhibition space offering exciting opportunities to ensure more artefacts are on display, and tell many more visitors the story of Kilmartin Glen's unique archaeological and natural heritage.

This project will ensure Kilmartin Museum has an international profile and it will become the must-see archaeological attraction on the Scottish mainland, driving domestic and overseas tourism visits to Argyll and to Scotland.

The new museum will ensure that Kilmartin Glen gains the recognition

it deserves and its larger scale and better flow will mean that more than twice as many people can experience its treasures, enjoy its stories and appreciate the important role it played in shaping the Scottish nation.

The new museum will, however, continue to develop its local reputation as an invaluable community resource.

The education service aims to triple its current user numbers from 3,000 to 9,000 per annum due to better facilities and increased service capacity. Activities for students of all ages are planned and will transform Kilmartin Museum, enabling it to

become Scotland's national centre for excellence in archaeology.

Crucially, the project will safeguard the archaeological collections in Argyll for future generations. Since prehistoric times, Kilmartin Glen has been a special to many generations.

Neolithic and Bronze Age peoples built tombs to house their dead, some carved enigmatic designs on bedrock now known as cup and ring marks, others erected stone circles and standing stones, the purpose of which inspires speculation today.

Later peoples, named Scotti, chose to site the capital of this medieval sea kingdom at Dunadd, in the heart of

the glen. The kingdom they created spanned whole regions of what is now Scotland and Ireland and was the dominant power for more than five centuries. In all, more than 800 monuments and sites have been found within a six-mile radius of Kilmartin Glen. These testify to the skill, ingenuity and firmly held beliefs of the thousands of generations who called Kilmartin Glen home.

For 21 years Kilmartin Museum has been discovering, caring for and sharing the stories of artefacts from this special place, which visitors can see in the context of the sites and monuments in which they were found.



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir tribute to Runrig

As part of the forthcoming West End Festival, the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, conducted by Kirsteen Grant, present their tribute to Runrig in appreciation of the long association they've had with the band.

And it will culminate in the choir having the huge honour of performing alongside Runrig at The Last Dance concert in Stirling this August.

The concert for the West End Festival will take place in the Glasgow University Union, University Avenue, at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 13 with special guests Gary Innes, Fiona Hunter, Mike Vass and the Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir - conducted by yours truly.

May I take this opportunity to appeal for new members of the junior choir. We are currently in the process of changing the evening on which we practice but, if you think you know of a child or teenager who would be keen to join, then please email me.

This concert in tribute to Runrig is exactly the kind of opportunity that makes the choir such a great project for the youngsters.

The Wee Skye

A small but appreciative audience enjoyed the Glasgow Skye Association's spring concert, The Wee Skye, with great entertainment from the artistes, who were all on top form.

Taking part were Deirdre Graham,

Sheena Walker, Kirsteen Grant, Iain MacLean, Gordon McKeeve, Màrtainn Skene, John A Gillies and association president Christine MacLeod, in the chair.

Clydebank Highlanders

At the recent annual Clydebank ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital, the sum of £745 was raised on the night.

It was a great evening of music and song enjoyed by everyone who went along to support this very worthy cause. The president and committee would like to thank everyone for their support on this special evening and throughout the session.

The AGM will be held in the Napier Hall on Wednesday May 16 at 7.30pm.

What's on

Thursday May 10: Comunn an Tao-

bh-an-iar annual general meeting at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club. Saturday May 12: Gaelic Writers' Showcase in the Gaelic Books Council, Mansfield Square, from 2pm until 4pm.

Thursday May 17: Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu annual general meeting at 7.30pm in the Glasgow Gaelic School. Thursday May 17: Glasgow Life: Mapping Gaelic in Glasgow from 2pm to 4pm; venue to be confirmed.

Friday May 18: Gaelic quiz at 8pm in Sutherland's Bar of the Argyll Hotel. Friday May 25: Helensburgh and District Highland Association annual general meeting and dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

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

Thursday May 31: Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM in the RAOB Club, 937 Dumbarton Road, at 7.30pm.

Tuesday June 5: The Glasgow Islay Association annual general meeting at 7pm in Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday June 8: The Glasgow Skye Association end of session social at 7pm in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock. Friday June 29: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.

Pub scene

Islay Inn.

Friday May 11: Mookie.

Saturday May 12: Parting Glass.

Sunday May 13: Jonathan Gillespie.

Park Bar.

Friday May 11: North 56.

Saturday May 12: Dun Mòr.

Sunday May 13: Martainn Skene.

Legendary Poozies all set to play Caol

If you are a lover of folk music, you will likely already have tapped your foot many a time to the eclectic and heart-tugging tunes of The Poozies.

If you have not yet discovered them, now is your chance, as the instrumental and vocal band of four will be playing Caol Community Hall on Friday May 18.

Playing and touring for almost 30 years (with a few line-up changes along the way), The Poozies have never stopped innovating with their influences and musical arrangements,

and never failed to deliver a great night out of powerful, wild and soulful tunes.

A Poozies gig is not to be missed.

The gig is being put on by local not-for-profit community events group, Creel, who formed recently to bring gigs and music to small venues around Kilmallie.

To find out more email creelevents@gmail.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/CreelEventsKilmallie/, bookings: <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/the-poozies-2138936909>



Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, who will stage their own tribute to Runrig in June before performing live with the band in August, in competition last year at the National Mòd in Lochaber.



Vote for your top 20!

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday May 14, 2018

Surely it can't be a coincidence that spring appears to have sprung at the same time as we are brightening up everyone's lives by publishing pictures of all our wee rays of sunshine? The power of Bonnie Babies is strong! Today we publish our gorgeous Top 30 babies and ask you to take on the near-impossible task of voting for your favourite to reach the top 20.

You know the drill by now; complete the voting coupon this week (you will have another chance next week as well) and get your votes to us by 10am on Monday 14th May. Our Top 20 will be published on Thursday 17th May.

Let's get voting!

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

VOTING COUPON

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

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

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

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

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

You may submit multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

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

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday May 14, 2018



competition 2018

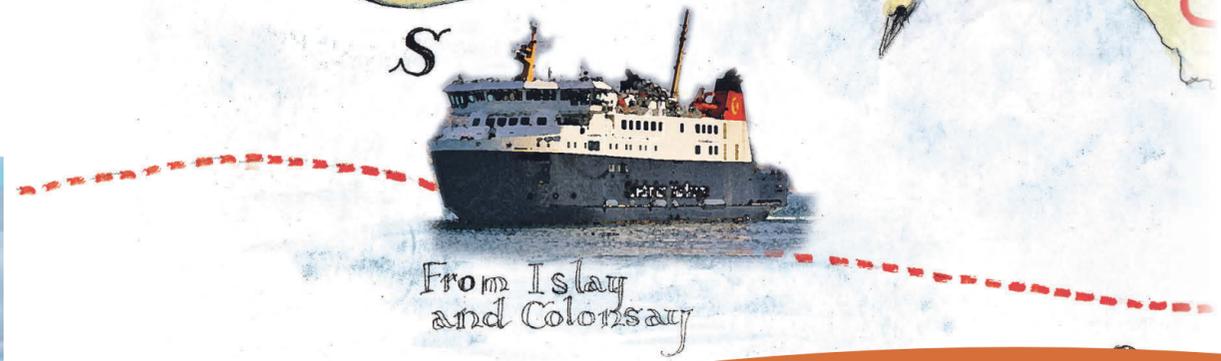
WELCOME TO

TAYINLOAN



Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries



TAYINLOAN

A perfect place to stop.

A welcome stopping place on the A83 between Campbeltown and Tarbert, Loch Fyne and the Kintyre Way long-distance footpath.

Check out: Traditional Highland post office, store and petrol station. The tearoom at the ferry is big hit with visitors and locals alike and the village hall is the centre of social life. The views across to Gigha and Northern Ireland, Jura and Islay are even better during the sunsets and the starlit night sky with all the navigation lights flashing. Good cross-section of camping and accommodation in and around the village.

The journey: The A83 coast road, north or south, is one of the finest scenic routes in Scotland.

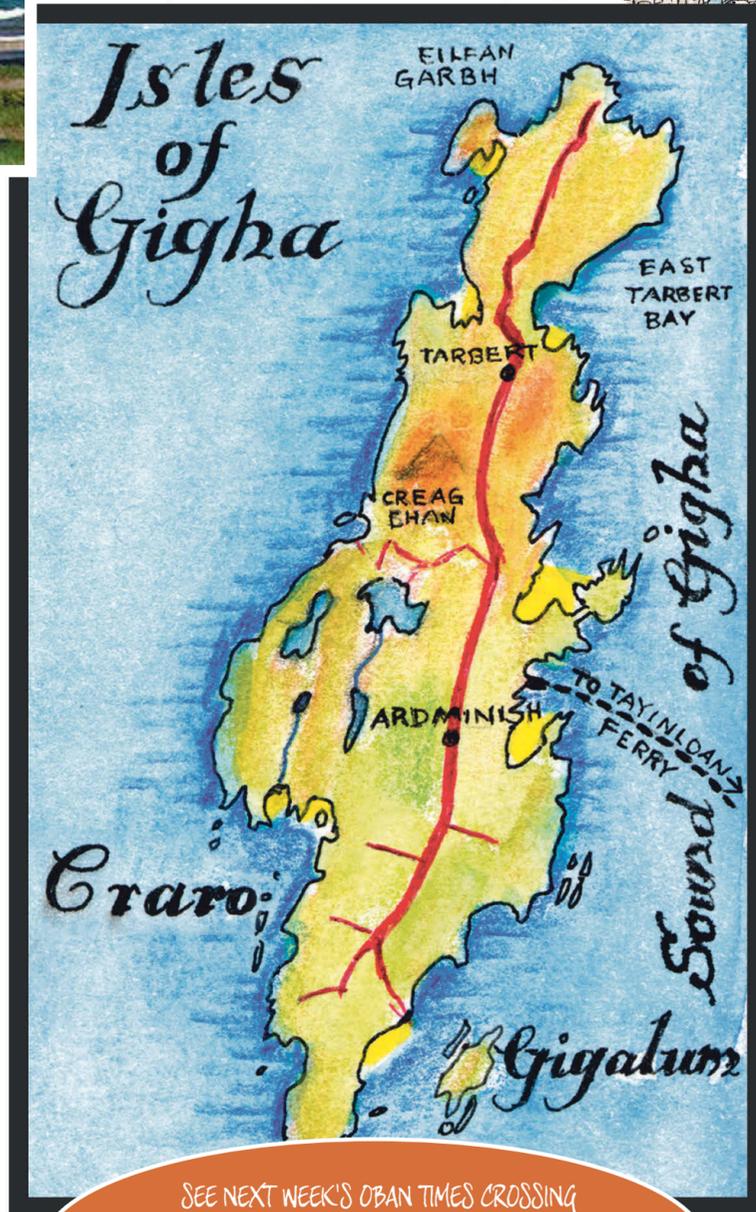
Hopscotch: Campbeltown for Ardrossan and Arran; Kennacraig for Islay, Jura, Colonsay and Oban; Claonaig for Arran, Colonsay and Oban; Tarbert for Portavadie and the Cowal Peninsula.

The best chippy in Arqull?

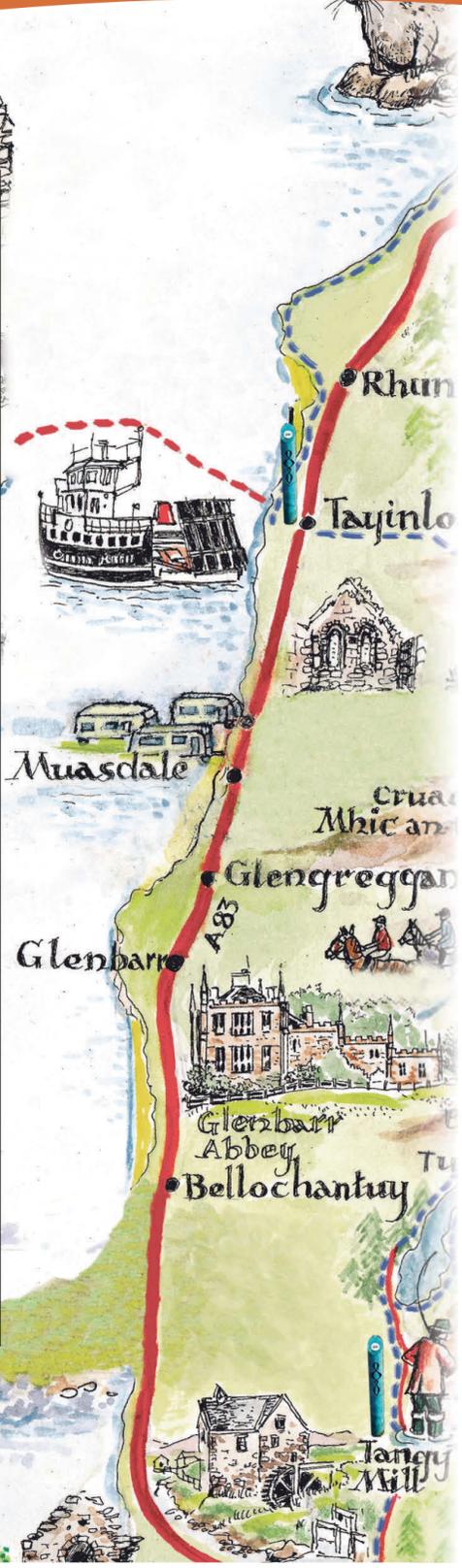
Instagram Twitter YouTube

SHARE...your memories

Tag your social media posts #myargyll to appear on our page www.myargyll.co.uk



SEE NEXT WEEK'S OBAN TIMES CROSSING BROUGHT TO YOU IN CONJUNCTION WITH CALMAC FERRIES MALLAIG TO LOCHBOISDALE



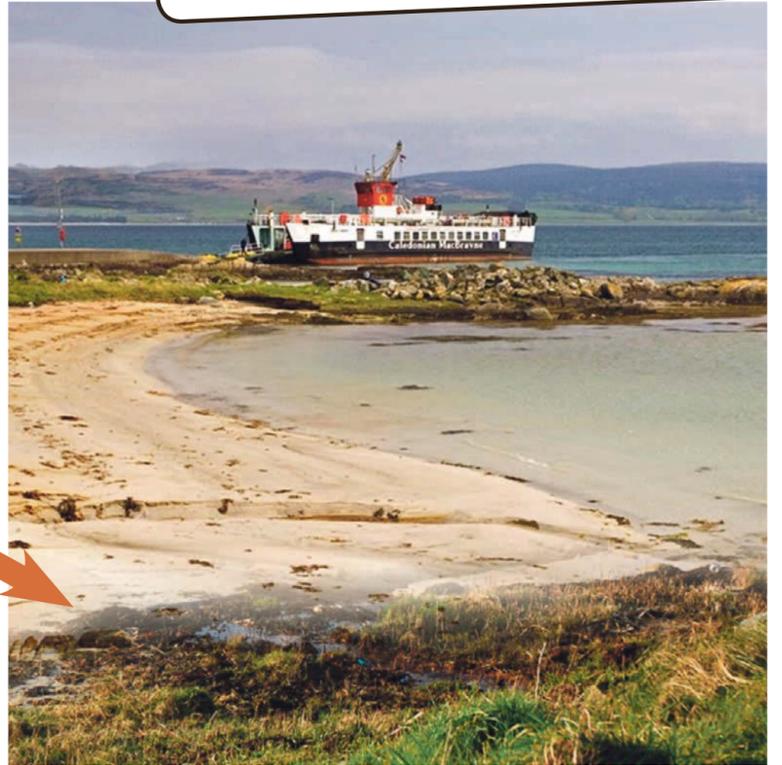
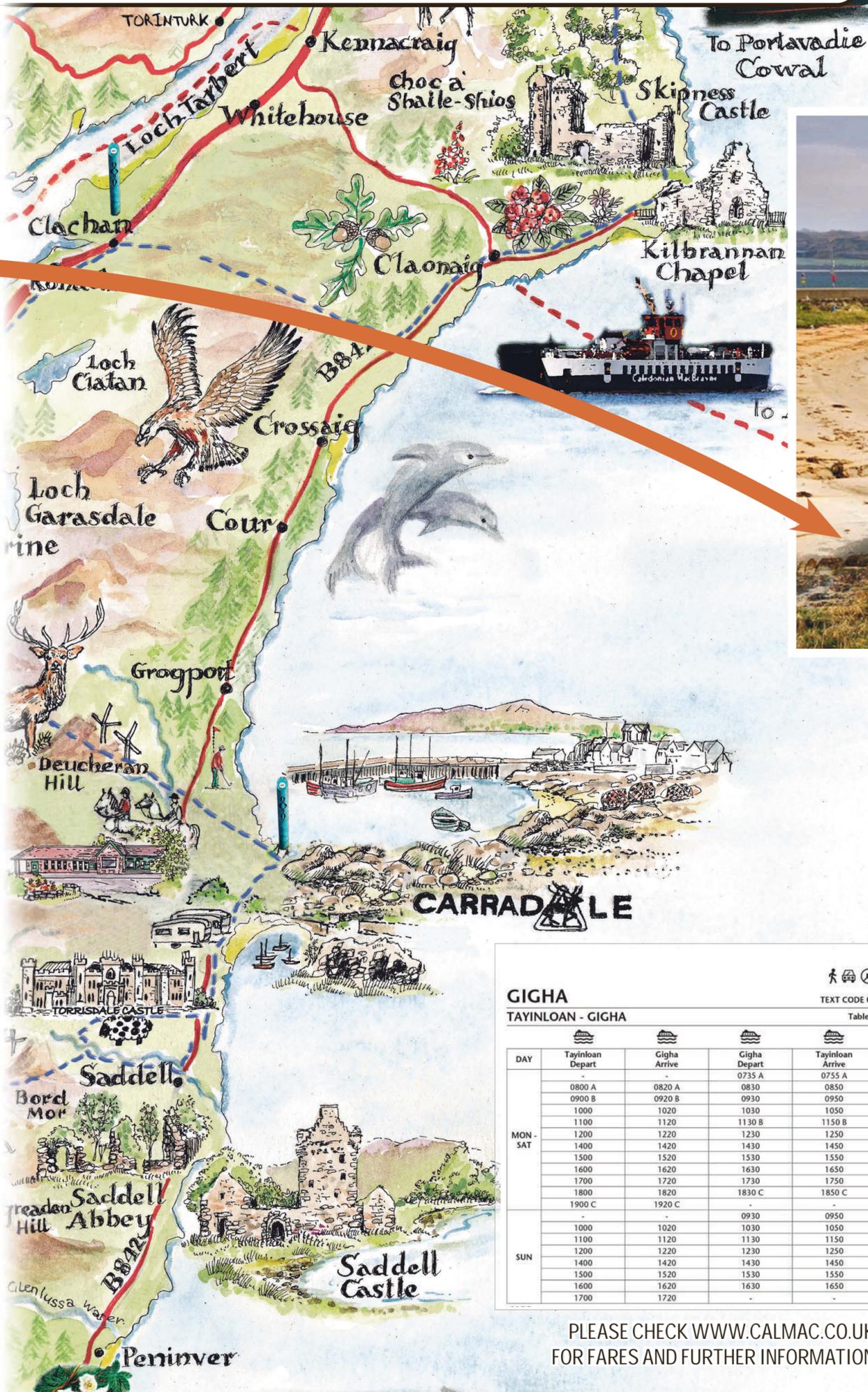
SHOPPING ON BOARD?

Discover which outlets are available on board by visiting calmac.co.uk/on-board

TAYINLOAN TO GIGHA

WELCOME TO

GIGHA



GIGHA

They called it God's island, in Gaelic, because it is heavenly.

The island that practically wrote the rule book for community buy-outs, its mild and sunny micro-climate makes for a lush green island and the famous Achamore Gardens, and makes lots of lovely pasture for the island's dairy cows.

Check out: Good store and post office; the Wee Dairy, milk in glass bottles and ice-cream from the island's own cows; great hotel and restaurant; Gigha oysters and halibut. Arts, crafts, its own natural skincare range and a range of orchid essences sold around the world. Annual music festival.

The journey: The island has only two roads; it is around six miles long and one-and-a-half wide so why not leave the car at Tayinloan and walk and cycle?

Hopscotch: The Tayinloan route is the island's only ferry, from there head to Campbeltown, Kennacraig, Claonaig or Tarbert.

GIGHA TEXT CODE 08

TAYINLOAN - GIGHA Table 8

DAY	Tayinloan Depart	Gigha Arrive	Gigha Depart	Tayinloan Arrive
MON - SAT	0800 A	0820 A	0830 A	0850
	0900 B	0920 B	0930	0950
	1000	1020	1030	1050
	1100	1120	1130 B	1150 B
	1200	1220	1230	1250
	1400	1420	1430	1450
	1500	1520	1530	1550
	1600	1620	1630	1650
SUN	1700	1720	1730	1750
	1800	1820	1830 C	1850 C
	1900 C	1920 C	-	-
	0930	0950	-	-
	1000	1020	1030	1050
	1100	1120	1130	1150
	1200	1220	1230	1250
	1400	1420	1430	1450
1500	1520	1530	1550	
1600	1620	1630	1650	
1700	1720	-	-	

PLEASE CHECK WWW.CALMAC.CO.UK FOR FARES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Isle of Gigha

STEP ASHORE AT GIGHA

6 Self-Catering Cottages, Moorings, Air Strip, Gigha Boats & Activity Centre



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 Craft Workshop 1, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AA
 Telephone 01583 427300

WILD ABOUT ARGYLL

Glorious Gigha



Achamore gardens

Created by Colonel Sir James Horlick with the assistance of Gardener Kitty Lloyd Jones in 1944, Achamore Gardens is the home of Horlick's renowned Rhododendron Collection. Flourishing in Gigha's warm microclimate, the 54 acre Gardens host many notable and exotic plants and trees from around the world.

Achamore House, Isle of Gigha, Scotland, PA41 7AD.

office@gigha.org.uk www.gigha.org.uk

[@achamoregardens](https://www.facebook.com/achamoregardens) [#achamoregardens](https://www.instagram.com/achamoregardens)

It's Show Time

Farming at its finest!

Summer in the West Highlands and Islands means that it is show time for our farmers – so come along and join in the fun and celebrate all their hard work and fine livestock and produce.



ARGYLL SPECIAL

SCOTTISH FIELD HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK - JUNE ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Gordon Buchanan's Argyll... Return of the Lynx... Stunning Harris... Meet Scotland's biggest landowner... **Budget field sports**

New Look

CAN you think of any industry other than farming which throws its trade shows open to the general public?

Or to put it the other way round, can you think of any other industry which is such a vital part of community life that everyone turns out in force to support it?

For the general public, it is a great day out; but to the farming community an agricultural show is way, way more than that.

Farming is almost, in itself, a definition of anti-social hours. Do you get fed-up if you have to work an evening or a weekend now and then? Farming folk would laugh in disbelief; livestock and the weather make sure that farming is never a nine-to-five job. It truly is a way of life.

A show gives people the chance to catch up with old friends and socialise. There will be plenty of craic in the tea tent or at the bar, at the show dance in the evening or at the Young Farmers' stall.

One of the joys of an agricultural show is that people have time to stop and catch up with neighbours, friends and other people in the community whom they might not see from one year's show day to the next.

Many people outwith the farming community are often surprised at how many exhibitions and trade stands there are at agricultural shows, even

the smaller ones. So expect to see stalls for organisations, such as the Forestry Commission, SNFU or SNH at shows, or dealerships in farm vehicles and implements – from a four-wheel-drive truck, or a plough, to rotary tedders to silage wagons. There will also be stalls or agents for feed and fertiliser and agricultural suppliers. Likewise stalls selling country clothing and overalls which everyone can appreciate. Look out, too, for a host of food stalls selling baking, sweets, hot food and often farmers' market stalls selling produce. Each show has its loyal band of tradespeople.

The Royal Highland Show at Ingliston Edinburgh, is considered the start of the agricultural show season and Dalmally Show here in Argyll is one of the last.

Dalmally is famous for its Highland cattle classes; Kintyre, with its award-winning creamery, has a show where some of the best dairy cattle in Scotland can be seen. Across Argyll and Lochaber the sheep classes, especially the black-face classes, are full of first-class livestock.

Shows usually start in the morning, with competitors arriving early to settle their livestock down and add some finishing touches to the grooming before judging begins. The more public events, dog or pet shows or gymkhana, begin around midday.

The finale of the show is a parade of champions from all the classes, including the presentation of the honour of best in show – the overall winner of all the day's events.

Most agricultural shows have a produce or handicraft or 'industry' tent – a marquee full of excellent home-grown fruit and veg and flowers, home-made jams and preserves and crafts, all waiting to be judged. This is open throughout the day, once the judging has been done. Look out for the children's competitions as well – every show has them, including prizes in the show ring for best young handlers, and events, such as fancy dress and dog with the waggiest tail.

Terrier racing and gun-dog scurries also have classes for people to enter family pets as well as working dogs.

The main show ring will often feature entertainment – whether it is a tug-of-war, a demonstration of chain-saw carving by foresters, a parade of vintage farm vehicles or the local pipe band. Each year the shows vie with each other to put on the best events; likewise the music at the show dances held afterwards will have some of the West Highlands and islands' leading musicians.

So turn out and support your local show and celebrate all the hard work our farming community does every year.

Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society

SALEN SHOW

THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST 2018

SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS

GATES OPEN 10AM

ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3, FAMILY £14

BBQ TO FOLLOW

West Ardnamurchan Show & Sports

Friday 20th July 2018

Enjoy a fantastic family fun day in beautiful surroundings at Kilchoan's well established Show and Sports. Agriculture Show runs from 09:30 to 11:30 and all the Main Events start at 11:30.

Attractions include: All Day BBQ & Bar, Senior & Junior Heavy Events, Junior Sports, Children's amusements start 11:30 am, Pet Parade & Races, Tug-a-War, Stalls, Baking & Horticulture Competitions, Senior & Junior Road Race, Live music and refreshments on the field from 5pm onwards (Votadini Band)

More information online: Facebook@westardnamurchanshowandsports

Tiree Show #1

Friday 20th July 2018

Rural Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree

Judging from 10.30am

CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES & PONIES, CLYDESDALES, POULTRY, PET SHOW, TRACTORS, HOME INDUSTRIES, CRAFTS, SIDESTALLS, TEAS

Main attractions – CHAINSAW CRAFT, HIGHLAND DANCE GROUP and a TODDLER TRACTOR RACE

Adults £5 Children 5-16yrs £2 Pre Five Children - Free

The not-to-be missed Show Dance in An Talla 9.30pm

Tickets £10 with Dùn Mhor Ceilidh Band

www.tireeshow.co.uk

MID-ARGYLL SHOW 2018

Saturday 11th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead

Showfield Opens at 9am

Main ring attractions

Childrens Activities

Variety of trade stands and food stalls

Gin and Prosecco bar

www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN SHOW AND SPORTS

Kilchoan, Friday 20 July

This is a well-established show with a reputation for providing a fantastic family day out. The agricultural show starts the day at 9.30am, with the main family events following at 11.30am.

The day includes children's races with a road race for seniors and juniors, likewise heavy events and a pet show, produce show and stalls for everyone to enjoy. There is an all-day barbecue, and bar and live music on the field from 5pm onwards with the Votadini Band. All this is in the beautiful Kilchoan setting, making for a memorable day.

TIREE SHOW

Rural Centre, Crossapol, Friday 20 July

The Isle of Tiree's annual celebration of all things agricultural is a great social gathering.

In the show rings you will see cattle, sheep, and Clydesdales along with a poultry show and pet shows alongside the horse show. Away from the rings there are a home industries tent and crafts and side stalls.

This year's main attractions are chainsaw craft, Highland dancing, and an intriguing-sounding toddler tractor race. The show dance at Tiree is legendary and this year the music at An Talla will be provided by Dùn Mhor Ceilidh Band.

BUNESSAN SHOW

Bunessan School Ground, Friday 3 August

The first of the Isle of Mull's two agricultural shows, this might be one of the smaller shows but it has a big heart; it has a reputation as being one of the friendliest shows around.

The show committee describe the event as a 'traditional show' with a full schedule of livestock classes plus plenty more for people to enjoy at the showground alongside the village primary school, especially lots of children's competitions with home-baking, preserves and gardening classes.

The day also ends in the traditional way, with a show dance in the village hall, this year with Trail West, starting at 9pm.

KINTYRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Anderston Park, Campbeltown, Friday 3 August

Kintyre is home of the famous Mull of Kintyre Cheddar, so expect to see some of the finest dairy cattle in the show ring, along with beef cattle, sheep and Clydesdales.

Kintyre Show always has a good selection of stalls and action from the Kintyre Young Farmers. There will be a parade of old tractors and a great dog show.

This year, the main show ring entertainment will be provided by 'Dangerous Steve' - how else would you describe a man who juggles chainsaws? A day not to be missed.

LORN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Common Grazings, Tralee Bay, Saturday 4 August

The Common Grazings land is a phenomenal beach venue for a show which draws its crowd from the farming community and people from miles around. The morning is given over to stock judging. The event is also home to the Oban Poultry Show. There is a traditional home industries tent, dog show, terrier racing and plenty of equestrian events. If you want more horse power, look out for the vintage tractors. With Highland dancing competitions and pipe band the show committee has to be congratulated on creating a day out with such a wide appeal for everyone.

SALEN SHOW

Glenaros Showfield, Thursday 9 August

Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society hosts the annual Salen Show at the Glenaros Showfield; one of two shows held on the island.

At the cattle and sheep classes you can see entries from all over the island and from farms on the mainland. There is always a fine selection of Highland cattle on show. At the horse show you will see everything from cheeky little Shetlands through to show jumpers and Highland Ponies to thoroughbreds.

The dog show accepts entries on the day and competition is always fierce!

The handicraft and produce tent is always well supported and so are the horticultural classes.

The day ends with a barbecue, rounding off a really great day out at a traditional and welcoming show.

MID-ARGYLL SHOW

Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Saturday 11 August

The Mid-Argyll Agricultural Show is a major event with hundreds of exhibitors entering competitions in baking, produce, crafts, flowers and vegetables, as well as the dog and livestock classes.

Fergus Lyon and Caitriona MacLeod will be presidents for this the 121st Mid-Argyll Agricultural, supported by Vice President David Renwick.

This year's show will boast a gin and prosecco bar to enjoy while watching the judging of cattle, sheep, dogs, horses, ponies and poultry competitions. Other regular attractions are the display of vintage tractors and the pets section together with terrier racing competitions.

After the success of last year's gun dog scurry this competition will once again take place from 11am onwards. Entries taken on the day and open to all breeds.

SUNART & DISTRICT SHOW

Strontian showfield, Saturday 11 August

The judging of the livestock classes at the Sunart and District Agricultural Society Show starts at 9.30am but the family fun lasts all day.

There are classes for sheep, cattle, poultry and a dog show, and this year will see the return of the horse show.

For the younger members of the family, Bubble the clown will be on hand to provide entertainment, and there will be a licensed ceilidh for all the family starting at 9pm.

Show day is a big event for the Sunart community and well supported by holiday makers. A great day out for everyone with a wonderful, welcoming family atmosphere.

APPIN SHOW

Tynribbie Croft, Appin, Saturday 18 August

On the shore of Loch Linnhe with the iconic Castle Stalker in the background, Appin Show truly has a fantastic location.

This is the show's 61st year and support continues to grow for the event. Farmers from the Isle of Lismore come over to enter livestock in the show alongside farms in and around Appin. Classes include sheep, cattle, including Highlanders, Clydesdale horses, and a dog show. There is a handicraft and floral art and garden produce section along with a poultry show. Given its location, the show is able to stage its own hill race alongside children's games and races and Highland dancing. This is a show with the emphasis on a good time for all the family.

DALMALLY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Saturday 1 September

Dalmally Show traditionally brings the show season to a close, and does so in style.

The hard-working show committee describes the show as 'a celebration of our rural community', and rightly so.

Over the years Dalmally has built up a formidable reputation with its Highland cattle classes, probably only second in the land to the Royal Highland Show.

These are alongside the other classes for commercial beef cattle, black face sheep, and poultry, and competitions for dogs, baking, preserves, horticulture, painting, and much more.

With the village shinty ground alongside the show, Dalmally also stages a junior shinty tournament. Add to all this an excellent mix of stalls and exhibitors and you have a show with a formidable reputation which all makes for a great day out.

THE BLACK ISLE SHOW

Thursday 2 August

There is a preview night on August 1 and the main event is August 2.

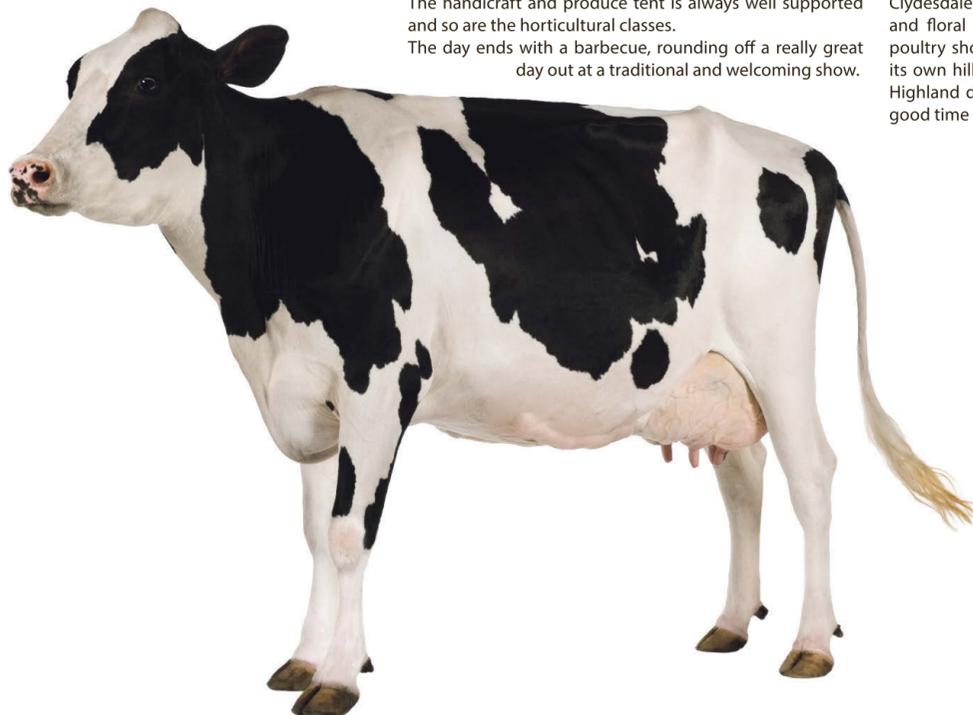
The Black Isle Show is back and as the north's biggest farming event, this year's event will have monster appeal.

It's a fun-filled day for the all the family and with thousands of animals from livestock to pets, a craft and food hall, speciality bars and beer tents and a funfair, there is something for everyone.

A highlight this year will be monster trucks Big Pete and the Grim Reaper which will take to the main arena to wow the crowds, while music lovers can toe tap to music from the Dolly Parton Experience, just one of the musical offerings available in the bar. There will be the traditional Black Isle Show events, too, including the ever-popular livestock parade, while history will come alive in the vintage tractor show. The Flower Show will as usual be blooming marvellous and will display plants, fruit and veg, floral art and junior projects.

Also, don't forget those dancing sheep...

The event is also a showcase for local food and drink producers with a huge variety of culinary delights on offer including hog roasts, burgers, pizza and crepes while our craft hall will provide the best of Scottish craft and hand-made goods.



Lorn Agricultural Show
Saturday 4th August, 2018

Common Grazing's Tralee, Benderloch

Showfield opens 9.00am

Amazing venue on the beach at Tralee, All the usual attractions + many more

Find us on Facebook at Lorn Agricultural Show

Kintyre Agricultural Show

Friday 3rd August 2018

Anderston Park, Campbeltown
Gates Open 8am



Dairy & Beef Cattle, Sheep, Clydesdales, Horses & Ponies. Old Tractors & Dogs
Main ring attraction 'Dangerous Steve'

Entry: Adults £6.00, Children £3, Family Tickets £12.00
Free Parking

Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 11th August 2018

Strontian Showfield
Judging Commences 9.30am



Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, return of the Horse show and so much more
Including Bubbles the Clown!

Adults: £5, Child: £2
Family: £12, Concession: £3
Family licensed ceilidh from 9pm onwards

61st Annual Appin Agricultural Show

Saturday 18th August 2018

Tynribbie Croft, Appin
Judging Starts 10am

Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Clydesdale Horse Display, Childrens' Games / Races, Handicrafts, Floral Art, Flowers and Veg, Highland Dancing, Vintage Engines, Hill race and poultry section.
PLUS Lots More!

Entry: Adults £5.00, Children & Conc £3
Free Parking

BUNESSAN SHOW

Friday 3rd August 2018

Bunessan School Ground
Gates open 9.30am

Traditional Highland and Island Agricultural Show
Entry: Adult £4.00, Conc £2.00, Car Parking £2.00

Licensed Dance to follow in Village Hall

Trail West Band 9pm

Dalmally Agricultural Show

Saturday 1st September 2018
The Mart Park, Dalmally
Gates open 9am

Highland Cattle, Main Ring Attractions, Trade Stands. Something for all the Family!

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's right to vote the judges will all be female!

www.dalmally-show.co.uk

THE BLACK ISLE SHOW

all the fun of the farm

Preview Evening
Wednesday 1st August

ADMISSIONS
Preview Evening (From 4pm)
£8.00 (Flat rate)
12 and under FREE

Show Day
Thursday 2nd August

ADMISSIONS
Adults - £15.00
Concession - £10
(Over 12 - 18 years and over 65)
Children 12 & Under - FREE

BLACK ISLE SHOW

Entry Tickets now available online - please visit our website for information (discount on bulk buys) www.blackisleshow.com

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FARMING NEWS

MSP says creamery staff deserve answers

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgiffiths@obantimes.co.uk

WORKERS at a Campbeltown creamery deserve answers from bosses of a dairy firm which is selling up, says local MSP Donald Cameron.

The Highlands and Islands MSP is worried about what will happen to First Milk workers if a buyer is not found.

The firm, one of the UK's largest dairy co-operatives, also plans to sell its creamery on Arran so it can focus on developing its creameries in the Lake District and in Haverfordwest instead.

Mr Cameron has written to First Milk's chief executive Shelagh Hancock to raise concerns. He also wants to know why First Milk has decided not to invest in the two sites any longer, if bosses believe the businesses could still prosper under new ownership.

First Milk revealed its plans after a business review found the Campbeltown and Arran sites were no longer 'a strategic fit' for First Milk.

The MSP has also asked the firm's boss if setting up a partnership between several key



First Milk's Campbeltown Creamery.

stakeholders instead, including public sector involvement, has been considered.

'While this news is clearly unwelcome for the local dairy sector in Kintyre, it will not come as a surprise to those who have dealt with First Milk over several years,' he said.

And he added: 'I have written to First Milk to ask them what the specific reasons are for this announcement and why it feels that even though there is clear

demand for the goods produced in this area, it does not see this as viable for its business. In any case, workers deserve clear answers from First Milk which I hope to pursue.'

Shelagh Hancock said a review had identified there was 'undoubtedly a market for the premium Mull of Kintyre and Isle of Arran brands' but said capturing the opportunities would require significant investment.

'We are confident that with

the right focus and investment under new ownership the businesses would prosper,' she said.

And she added: 'Campbeltown and Arran creameries will continue to run as normal during this sale process and we will be working closely with prospective buyers to ensure a smooth transition. We appreciate this decision will affect some of our colleagues but we hope that under new ownership the sites will thrive, offering good employment prospects for the future.'

Around the markets

DALMALLY - United Auctions held their annual May sale at Dalmailly Auction Mart on Saturday May 5 when 362 cattle and 209 all classes of sheep were sold. Bulls sold to average 249.19 pence per kilo or £790 per head whilst Heifers levelled out at 235.5 pence per kilo or £734 per head. Auchlyne's consignment of Charolais Bulls sold to a top of £1,040 while the top price per kilo in this section came from Brough when their Simmental crosses sold to 318 p per kilo. Heifers from Clachan, Tiree sold to £1,100 per head while Keilator's Simmental heifers led this section per kilo at 294 pence. Sheep sold at values comparing favourably to current market levels.

Principal lots and prices
Top prices per head
Bulls
AAx: £650 - Barnakill.
BSx: £730 - Ardnacross.
CHARx: £1040(5) - Auchlyne : £1010(3) - Tiraghoil : £1000(4) - Ardmaleish : £990(2) - Tiraghoil : £980(6) - Ardmaleish : £970 - Tiraghoil(2) and Auchlyne(6) : £960 - Tiraghoil(3) and Ardmaleish : £940 - Fearnoch : £910 - Tiraghoil(2) and Ardmaleish(6) : £900 - Tiraghoil.
LIMx: £960 - Craignafeoch, Tiraghoil and Ardmaleish(2) : £950 - Tiraghoil : £900 - Craigh.
LRx: £650(3) - Antuim.
SALx: £910 - Craignafeoch.
SHx: £800 - Barnakill.
SIMx: £980 - Tiraghoil : £950 - Duallin : £900 - Tiraghoil.
Heifers
BSx: £600 - Ardnacross.
CHARx: £940(3) - Ardmaleish : £920(2) - Auchlyne : £900(3) - Ardmaleish : £890(5) - Auchlyne : £850 - Ardmaleish(8), Fearnoch and Tiraghoil(6).
HERx: £1100, £1070 and £990 - Clachan Tiree.
LIMx: £940 - Craignafeoch : £910 - Fearnoch : £890 - Croftintygan(2) and Dall(2) : £870 - Croftintygan and Fearnoch : £850(6) - Craignafeoch.
LRx: £770(7) - Sithean, Tobermory.
SIMx: £890 - Dunans : £880 - Dunach Estate : £840 - Keilator.
Top prices per kilo
Bulls
AAx: 238p - Ardentraive.
BSx: 254p - Ardnacross : 243p - Castles Estate.
CHARx: 302p - Tullochmhor : 292p and 285p - Tiraghoil : 275p - Dunans : 266p - Barnakill : 265p(3) and 262p(2) - Tiraghoil : 256p - Barnakill : 251p(6) - Auchlyne.
LIMx: 275p - Ardentraive : 268p(4) - Tiraghoil : 263p - Inverfolla : 261p - Craignafeoch : 258p - Croftintygan : 256p - Dall : 253p - Barnakill and Inverfolla.
LRx: 304p and 286p(3) - Antuim.
SHx: 253p and 232p - Barnakill.
SIMx: 318p - Brough : 298p(5) and 289p - Dunach Estate : 289p - Achnacree more : 288p and 286p - Ardnacross : 284p and 282p - Blairmore : 279p(6) - Glenamachie : 273p(6) - Keilator : 271p(7) - Ardnacross : 265p - Tullochmhor : 263p(2) - Inverfolla : 259p - Tiraghoil(2) and Kirkton, Taynait : 258p - Craig and Ardnacross : 257p(3) - Keilator : 253p - Ardnacross(2) and Tiraghoil(2) : 250p(2) - Barnakill.
Heifers
BSx: 247p - Ardnacross.
CHARx: 288p(2) and 262p - Tullochmhor : 258p(3) - Ardmaleish : 257p(3) - Dunans : 255p(2) - Tiraghoil : 251p(4) - Barnakill : 250p - Tullochmhor : 244p(2) - Dunans : 243p(4) and 242p(8) - Barnakill.
LIMx: 276p and 260p - Dallachulish : 257p - Ardentraive : 250p - Inverfolla : 244p - Ardentraive : 242p(6) - Craignafeoch : 241p - Duallin and Craig.
LRx: 288p(7) and 259p(4) - Sithean, Tobermory.
LUINGx: 233p - Woodside Croft.
SALx: 248p - Brechnoille.
SHx: 247p - Ardnacross.
SIMx: 294p(7) - Keilator : 292p(3) - Achnacree more : 284p - Brough : 272p - Saulmore : 266p(3) - Ardnacross : 264p(4) and 259p(4) - Keilator : 256p - Duallin : 249p(2) and 247p - Dunach Estate : 246p - Dunans : 245p - Tiraghoil : 242p(3) - Ardnacross : 240p(2) - Glenmachrie.
Cows and calves
AAx: £890 - Ardnacross.
SHx: £950 - Ellary Farms.
In-calf heifers
LIMx: £960 - Dallachulish.
Sheep
Hoggs
CHEVx: £73 - Ormsary Farmers : £59 - Tiraghoil : £58 - Ormsary Farmers : £54 - Balvicar : £50 - Curacao.
BF: £78 - Castles Estate : £74 - Woodside Croft : £65 - Drisraig : £59.50 and £56 - Ardrur : £55 - Ormsary Farmers and Ardachuple.
Ewes
CHEVx: £66 - Lephinkill.
BF: £47 - Castle Estate : £41 - Lephinkill.

TIREE - United Auctions held their annual May sale of 74 cattle and 233 sheep of all classes at Tiree Auction Mart on Wednesday May 2. Better quality grazing cattle sold well and in keeping with current mainland levels whilst plainer sorts were harder to cash. Cast Cows sold well. All classes of sheep were keenly bid for.

Principal lots and prices
Top prices per head
Bulls
AAx: £670(2) - Whitehouse
BSx: £820 and £740 - 6 Barrapol.
BRBx: £1060 and £1000 - Garaphail.
CHARx: £830 - Sandaig
GALx: £630 - 34 Balephetrish
LIMx: £1000 - Garaphail : £800 - Sandaig : £750 - Garaphail.
SHx: £660 - 6 Barrapol.
SIMx: £830 and £810 - Lochphuil.
Heifers
AAx: £980 - Hillcrest : £770(3) - Whitehouse.
CHARx: £640 - Sandaig.
LIMx: £940 and £900 - 6 Barrapol : £740 - Sandaig.
SIMx: £680 - Lochphuil.
OTM cows
BAX: £1030 - Lochphuil.
LIMx: £1290 - Vaul : £1130 - Hillcrest : £930 and £890 - 1 Kenovay.
Top prices per kilo
Bulls
AAx: 209p(2) - Whitehouse.
BSx: 210p - 6 Barrapol.
CHARx: 227p - Sandaig.
LIMx: 240p - Sandaig : 227p - Garaphail : 223p - Sandaig.
SHx: 205p and 203p - 6 Barrapol.
SIMx: 221p - Lochphuil.
Heifers
AAx: 229p(3) - Whitehouse.
LIMx: 234p(2) - Sandaig : 231p - 6 Barrapol : 226p - Sandaig.
SIMx: 226p - Lochphuil.
OTM cows
BAX: 143p and 137p - Lochphuil
GALx: 158p - Croish.
LIMx: 174p - Vaul : 158p - Braeside : 155p - Hillcrest.
Hoggs
SUFFx: £123 and £109 - Heylipol Farm : £97 - Druimfhraoich.
BELTx: £132 and £107 - Heylipol Farm.
TEXx: £116, £107, £98 and £97 - Heylipol Farm.

CROSS: £93 - Heylipol Farm. Wedders
SUFFx: £107 - Middleton Farm. Ewes
BELTx: £111, £100 - Heylipol Farm : £94 - 4 Kilkenneth.
TEXx: £111 and £101 - Heylipol Farm : £97 - 4 Kilkenneth : £93 - Hillcrest : £91 - Heylipol Farm : £90 - Ruaig.
CHEVx: £62 - 3 Kenovay.
CROSS: £90 - Hillcrest.
MULE: £88 - Heylipol Farm : £80 - Salum.
BF: £38 - Mannal : £35 - 24 Balephetrish.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday May 3 sold 175 cattle comprising 111 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls and 64 cast cows and bulls. All classes of prime cattle remained a similar trade to that of last week. Top price was 250p for a Limousin heifer from Faskine, Airdrie selling to D Campbell and Son, Butcher, Ancaster Square, Callander and to £1632 for a Charolais from Gillandersland, Linlithgow to Hugh A Black and Sons.

Bullocks sold to 240p for a Limousin from East Camps, Dunfermline to J F Finlay and Co, Wishaw and to £1698 for a Simmental from Gillandersland, Linlithgow to J H Gilvear and Sons.

Leading prices
Heifers ppgk:
245p Halket Leathes and Blairhall (Geyer) 242p Moorfield and Halket Leathes 240p (Twice) Halket Leathes 238p West Woodlane, Moorfield and Halket Leathes 235p (Twice) Upper Spittalton and Halket Leathes 232p Blackhill, Blairhall and West Woodlane 230p (Twice) Todhall, West Mains, Faskine, Blairhall and Upper Spittalton
Bullocks ppgk:
238p and 235p (Three Times) East Camps 230p Dullomuir and West Woodlane 228p Kinneil Mill, Todhall, Droverhall, Castermains and West Woodlane
225p Dullomuir and East Camps
Also forward were 64 cast cows and bulls.

With a plainer show of beef cows forward, it resulted in the averages being back slightly although all cows were still in high demand.
Beef cows averaged 142ppkg selling to 188p for a Limousin from W Dick, Mains of Throsk, Throsk and to £1380 again from a Limousin from Mains of Throsk, Throsk.
Bulls sold to £1520 for a Limousin from J and J Kinloch, Walton, Cardross and to 158p for the same beast.

Dairy cows averaged 112p selling to 132p from R Denholm and Son, Wester Lochdrum, Bonnybridge, and to £1010 from T Greer and Sons, Wharlawhill, Fossaway.
Leading Prices
Beef cows per head
£1280 Mains of Throsk £1260 Harvieston £1210 Meadows £1150 Burnside of Balhaldie £1140 Gilsley and Meadows
Beef cows per kilo
168p Priestfield 166p Mains of Throsk 165.5p Harvieston 165p Mains of Throsk 164.5p Brewsterwell
Dairy cows per head
£950 Wharlawhill £910 Dalfoil £900 and £890 Wester Lochdrum £870 Blairmains
Dairy cows per kilo
126.5p Dalfoil 125.5p Wester Lochdrum 124p Wharlawhill 121p and 120p Wester Lochdrum 116p Blairmains

Farming enterprise in 20th century Glassary

COLIN CAMERON
editor@obantimes.co.uk

TO READ this book is akin to opening up a time capsule.

Running to 396 pages, the Argyll volume of the Third Statistical Account of Scotland, published in 1961, is no lightweight. But the world revealed within this time-yellowed volume is fascinating. So recent, yet another world away.

Compiled by 'Scotland's four universities' on behalf of the Scottish Council for Social Service, the Third Statistical Account of Scotland contains a wealth of information about the nation as it was in the mid-20th century.

The Argyll volume covers the entire county parish by parish, from Kintyre to Ardnarmurchan and the islands.

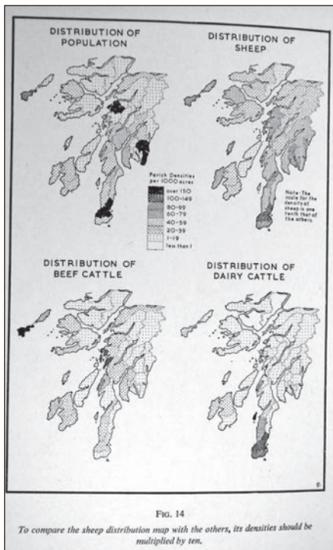
On page 227 there is a section on the Mid Argyll parish of Glassary, written in 1955 by JG Mathieson.

Agriculture is described as the 'chief industry' in Glassary parish and the main employer, based on 'the rearing of black-faced sheep of high quality'.

Until the Second World War, writes Mr Mathieson, sheep were sold at Lochgilphead, Oban or Glasgow and were subject to price fluctuations.

Early in the war, however, a centre was set up in Lochgilphead where livestock fit for slaughter were graded, weighed and paid for at fixed prices - a system which proved 'generally acceptable'.

The chapter pays tribute to the farmers producing a high quality of beef cattle in Glassary parish, stating: 'It is a great



Things have changed in many respects since these maps were drawn in the late 1950s. 06_a18ArgyllBook02

tribute to the enterprise and skill of these men that they are able, often on land of an inferior nature, to bring out such fine stock.'

On the dairy side, the book refers to there being several 'excellent' herds of

Ayrshire cattle. Milk was taken to Oban for distribution. Some years before, a creamery operated in Lochgilphead but 'because of a pressing demand for beef' the milk supply was reduced to the extent that it did not meet the creamery demands and it closed.

The general prosperity of farms is largely put down to the enthusiasm and energy of farmers, but government support also helped.

Mr Mathieson refers to subsidies for hill cattle, dairy-attested stocks, for calves, sheep and ploughing, all helping farmers to survive and keep food prices reasonable.

Farm workers are described as: 'a steady, hard-working body of men'.

'They are loyal to their employers, with whom there is a certain amount of give and take, and a good proportion of them have been on the same farms for years - surely a tribute to both masters and men.'

The march of Sitka spruce across Argyll gets a mention.

In Glassary, planting was in full swing on 'large tracts of land' bought by the Forestry Commission. Mr Mathieson describes the loss of sheep from the hills as a 'disturbing feature'.

An argument in favour of tree planting was that it would result in an increase in employment in comparison with sheep farming.

Looking back from today's standpoint, mechanisation and automation have replaced workers to a large extent in farming and forestry.

Livestock has long left the hills, but the trees remain.

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Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk
Closing Date: 12 noon on Tuesday 29th May 2018
Interviews will be held in Inveraray on Wednesday 27th June 2018

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Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions located at our Processing facility at South Shian, Argyll.

Processing Engineers

Candidates should be familiar with fault finding and diagnosis of electro mechanical equipment. Previous experience in primary and secondary processing would be advantageous but not essential.

We expect the successful applicant to be highly motivated with a positive 'hands on' attitude. They must also ensure that all tasks are completed in a professional manner adherent to strict health and safety requirements and practice good house keeping throughout all activities.

Processing Operative Staff

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers on average five days per week. Full training is provided including, health and safety, hygiene and food safety plus all relevant training on machinery if required.

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We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons.

To find out more please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date for applications: Friday 18th May 2018

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Closing date for applications: 25th May 2018

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Kilchoan Management Limited
Kilchoan Estate, Kilmelford By Oban
Argyll PA34 4XD

PUBLIC NOTICES

Cllr Niall McLean

Drop in advice surgery
Friday 18th May 12-2pm

Ballachulish Shinty Club
Jubilee Park
PH49 4JS

Contact: niall.mclean@ward21.com

Proposed Assignment of a Croft
Mr Gavin Copland is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the Brocholme Croft (Croft 2) in the parish of the Isle of Rum to Mr David Hair presently of 4 Wester Kinleith Farm Cottages, Currie, EH14 6AT.
If you have an interest in this application you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of the publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
18/00990/PP	Erection of extension	Ionad Naomh Mòluag Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL	Sub Post Office Lismore
18/01004/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/02933/PPP (Site for the erection of 3 dwellings)	Land West Of 8 Fountainhead Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
18/00968/PP	Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse	23 Shore Street Bownmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7LB	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay
18/01008/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land At Former Sawmills Site (Plot 3) Tynallit Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tynallit
18/00792/PP	Change of use and alterations of stable building to form dwellinghouse and installation of air source heat pump (part retrospective)	2 Eorabus Lower Ardtun Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
18/01018/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02741/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land South Of Toba Bareaqa Fiddin Fionnphort Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA66 6BN	Sub Post Office Fionnphort
18/00829/PP	Demolition of 3 no. warehouses and erection of Visitor Centre building with associated car parking and landscaping	Bunnahabhain Distillery Bunnahabhain Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RP	Sub Post Office Port Askaig

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

www.highland.gov.uk

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16_a_to_z
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/01861/FUL	The Cottage Highland Croft, Onich, Fort William	Conversion of garage to accommodation
18/01840/FUL	Tigh Breagha, Lochy Bridge, North Road Fort William	Installation of 2No pods in garden ground for holiday letting
18/01759/PIP	Land 80M NW Of The Rowans., Bohuntin Roy Bridge	Erection of house, formation of access, installation of septic tank and soakaway

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

A community discussion on Development Plans At Oban Phoenix Cinema will take place On Thursday May 17
Between 1pm - 8pm
Members of Oban Phoenix Cinema's board will host the day.

ORMSAIGBEG COMMON GRAZINGS
A meeting will be held in Kilchoan Community Centre on Thursday May 24 @ 7pm
to elect a new grazings committee
M Angus, clerk

Application for apportionment
Galmore Common Grazings. David Rodgers, Croft 1 Murlaggan intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approx. 0.067 hectares for the purpose of Accommodation (rental) and food preparation. Temp. Grazings Clerk D Scott has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
CCP Haulage Ltd of Caolasnacon, Kinlochleven, PH50 4RJ is applying to change an existing licence as follows.
To keep and extra 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Caolasnacon, Kinlochleven, PH50 4RJ. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

RECTIFICATION OF A CROFT ON THE CROFTING REGISTER
The executor of the late James William Meikle Mitchell has registered his croft 1 Ballygrundle, Lismore & Appin (Reg No A0876) in the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland (subject to a rectification).
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 17 January 2019.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4927.

Proposed Assignment of a Grazing Share
Peter Gerald Ford is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share in the Anaeheil Common Grazing pertaining to the croft at 1, 2, & 3 Anaeheil (Share), Ardnamurchan & Sunart to Grant James MacGregor of Craigrowan, 3 Anaeheil, Strontian, Acharacle, PH36 4JA.
Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by 7 June 2018.

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BIRTHS

MORRISON - Iain Morrison and Elaine Craig are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second son Alasdair Euan, born on April 26, 2018. A little brother for Matthew. Second grandchild for Barbara Milne, Oban and fourth for Joe Morrison, Glasgow and Mary MacKay, Stevenston.

DEATHS

BOYD - Catherine Lawrie, late of Bank of Scotland, Fort William. Peacefully at Invernevis Care Home on Saturday, May 4, 2018. Funeral service to be held from Duncansburgh Parish Church on Wednesday May 16, at 12 noon.

MACLEOD - Peacefully and with her family around her at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on April 24, 2018. Mary Margaret (Marie), beloved wife of Alistair, loving mother of Joseph and Iain. Caring mother-in-law to Rona and proud grandmother to Hamish Alexander. Essan House, Morar, Mallaig. R.I.P.

MACLEOD (Glenelg) - William John 'Y' MacLeod aged 88, died suddenly but peacefully on Monday April, 30, 2018 in Broadford Hospital, Skye. Beloved husband of the late Chrissie Macleod (née Elder) and beloved father of Elaine and Myra, son-in-law John and grandfather of Rhona, Chantal, Tere and Eilidh. Funeral service on May 15 at 1pm in Glenelg Church of Scotland, thereafter to the local cemetery and a funeral tea in the Glenelg and Arnsdale village hall. All friends welcome. Donations invited at the service for support of the village hall. Enquiries to D N Munro, Funeral Services, Glenshiel.

SMITH - Peacefully, on Saturday May 5, 2018 at home, in her 74th year, June, née Douglas, loving wife of Ian, mother of Stuart and Derek, gran of Abbie and Isla, Kirsty and Kerrie. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday May 14, 2018 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

WEST - Mary West. Passed away peacefully on May 3, 2018 with her son at her side in Canniesburn Care Home, Bearsden, formerly of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Much loved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Family and friends please meet at Mary Hill Crematorium, Trista Road, Glasgow on Tuesday May 22 at 11.30 am. Any flowers to Golden View Funeral Home, Kilbowie Road, Hardgate, Clydebank, G81 6QS.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a darling son and brother Johnnie, died May 12, 2014 and also a dear husband and father Calum, 'Auch', died August 31, 1997. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never.

TINDALL - Frank, Betty and Joan and families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for many cards, phone calls and expressions of sympathy on the sad loss of their dad, Ian. Special thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his sensitive and humorous service of celebration of Ian's long and eventful life, to Hamish Hoey and Son for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements, to the Oban Bay Hotel for professional catering services, special thanks also to all at Lorn Medical Centre for care and attention to Ian, to allow him independence in his final years. Lastly, thank you to everyone who paid their last respects and gave so generously the sum of £491.97 was raised and will be shared between the British Legion and the R.N.L.I.

MEMORIALS

BOWMAN - In loving memory of Ian who died May 13, 2015. So dearly loved and so sadly missed - By Mary and family, Biggar and Tobermory.

GROUNDWATER - In loving memory of Marie a devoted wife, mother and granny, who passed away May 12, 2014. So dearly missed, always in our hearts.

HENDERSON - Duncan, Newton, Acharacle, May 8, 1988. Remembering with love on the 30th anniversary. - From all the family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of my husband Neil Duncan and son Duncan Neil. Always loved and never forgotten. - Maude.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a darling son and brother Johnnie, died May 12, 2014 and also a dear husband and father Calum, 'Auch', died August 31, 1997. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never.

- Your loving mum, sister Marie and brother-in-law Calum, Killin and Roy Bridge.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Marilyn MacDonald, passed away May 10, 1998, loving and devoted wife and mother to Billy, Morven, William and Andrea. To live in the hearts we leave behind. Is not to die.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our mum and gran Nan MacKay, died May 10, 2012. If roses grow in heaven Lord Please pick a bunch for me Place them in my mother's arms And tell her they are from me And when she turns to smile Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile Because remembering her is easy I do it every day But there is an ache within my heart that will never go away. - Violet, Hugh and families.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. By the old rugged cross, you sit with a smile Waiting for those you have left for a while And those who you have left with their grief and their loss Will meet you one day by that old rugged cross. - Donald and family, Tيرة and Somerset.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - From Catherine and family, Tobermory, Arthur, Sheena and family Alexandria.

MACPHEE - In memory of our dad Alexander (Sandy), who died at his home Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974. We had a dad in a million We loved to the end We lost two precious things that day Our dad and our best friend. We miss you dad. - Daughter Mary and family and son Alex and family.

MELDRUM - Precious memories of William James (Willie), devoted husband who passed away May 11, 2017. Loved and remembered every day. - Cathy.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donalda, who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan, who died May 6, 2003. Dear grandchildren we will miss you You mean so much to us But Jesus called us to his side In Heaven we will be and if you trust in Jesus We can promise you this and more You will get a hug from Shen and Grampa, someday on Heaven's golden shore. - Your loving grandchildren and all the family xxx

STEELE - Loving memories of our dad Ian, who died May 9, 1984. - Morag and Alan.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - From Catherine and family, Tobermory, Arthur, Sheena and family Alexandria.

SCIAF charity director tours Outer Hebrides



Alistair Dutton met Barra fishermen, left to right, Colin MacNeil, Angus Campbell, Angus John MacNeil, Hector MacLean and Donnie McLean and, front, teenage helpers Andrew MacNeil, 13, James MacNeil and Cailan MacNeil, 14.

SCOTTISH Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) director Alistair Dutton has been touring the stunning islands of the Outer Hebrides with the charity's WEE BOX appeal.

He wanted to meet local fishing communities as this year's appeal focuses on the charity's work to help poor families in Cambodia who depend on fishing to survive.

Alistair spent six days in the Western Isles visiting Barra, Vatersay, North and South Uist, Benbecula and Eriskay, speaking to fishermen as they landed their catch, fish processing firms and wholesalers which get their catch to market.

He outlined the aim of the WEE BOX appeal and learned about similar issues fishing communities in Scotland and Cambodia face.

He also met school pupils, supporters in their parishes, clergy and many other local people to share stories of the people SCIAF helps in Cambodia and described how they've struggled to feed their families because of poverty and overfishing.

Alistair said: 'It great to meet so many people on these stunning islands. I particularly remember their warmth and the way they welcomed us into each of their communities.'

'Whoever we were visiting, whether it was a school, a parish, fishermen on their boats or in the fish processors, they threw their doors open. They were pleased to show us what they were doing and to see the connections with people overseas.'

'I wanted to meet the islanders to let them know

they are all an important part of SCIAF and I really enjoyed sharing with them the stories of our work with families who are dependent on fishing in Cambodia.

'I also learned a lot from them about the challenges they face trying to make a living from fishing on the Scottish islands.'

'I was struck by the many similarities, such as how they manage their fish stocks, how they preserve their catch and make sure they get a decent price at market and how people working together is often the best way to overcome the issues they face.'

Alistair shared the story of the Lang family in Cambodia who feature on this year's WEE BOX during a visit to Barratlantic fish, shellfish and processing firm and hauliers on Barra. He attended a deanery meeting of local priests and visited Castlebay Community School.

On the Uists, Alistair met fishermen and processors from Kallin Shellfish and was invited onto the *White Heather* fishing boat to see how the crew land their precious catch of crab and lobster.

Alistair visited Benbecula and spoke to pupils at Sgoil



Alistair with fisherman Donnie MacLean landing a lobster and crab catch at North Bay in Barra.

Bhaile a Mhanaich, a Gaelic medium school, about the WEE BOX appeal. He said: 'A massive thanks to everyone who has filled their SCIAF WEE BOX this Lent.'

SCIAF works with people in some of the poorest countries in the world, providing emergency aid and practical long-term support to those affected by hunger, poverty, war and disasters.

In Scotland, it tries to persuade governments and big businesses to address the causes of global poverty and injustice.



Alistair Dutton chats with crew on board the *White Heather* fishing boat.

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WILD AT HEART

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Rev Joyce Watson, Isle of Iona

Thought for the week

THEY'RE BACK – the cuckoo, the corncrake, the swallow, the birdwatchers, pilgrims, tour buses and motor homes. It's spring at last! The great thing about the seasons, despite global warming and the fact this winter seemed to go on forever, is their reassuring predictability. Spring, summer, autumn, winter, always in that order.

The basic human need for security is no longer always to be found in a steady job, a life-long marriage, a nation at peace, as the world we live in becomes more and more uncertain in so many ways.

A verse from an old and well-loved hymn, 'Great is thy faithfulness', points to the steady rhythm of the seasons and beyond to the creator.

'Summer and winter and seedtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness, to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.'

And an evening prayer extends an invitation to everyone 'who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world to rest upon God's eternal changelessness'.

Rev Joyce Watson, Isle of Iona.

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Rosie pushes to the limit in ultra marathon

A WOMAN from Ardrishaig completed a gruelling ultra marathon last weekend, finishing 10th in her category.

Rosie Doull, who now lives in Dundee, took part in the Highland Fling 53-mile ultra marathon at the Scottish Ultra Marathon Championships on Saturday April 28.

The route took Rosie from Milngavie to Tyndrum, following the West Highland Way across Loch Lomond and over the Conic Hill.

The race was a huge jump in distance for the keen runner, who previously ran

the 37-mile Speyside Way Ultra Marathon in August 2017.

Rosie, who has been training for several months for the event, said: 'After a 6am start, I was feeling strong and on track for my goal time, until about 30 miles in when things went a bit pear-shaped. The terrain got very technical, quite rocky with lots of tree routes, and I struggled and slowed dramatically. I'd also had an upset stomach from early on in the race, so I was feeling pretty low at this point.'

'I could have easily given up at the next aid station, but there was no way I was giving up, especially not after the months

and months of training I'd put into it. I was going to finish this race, even if I had to crawl.'

'I just pulled myself together, looked up and appreciated the beautiful trails, the gorgeous lochside scenery and reminded myself of why I was doing this; because I love running and because I wanted to push myself further than I ever have before.'

Despite having a few rocky moments earlier on in the race, Rosie managed to sprint down the red carpet with the crowd cheering her on.

She continued: 'It was hands down the best race I've ever experienced. I had an amazing

Ultra marathon

day. It was a great experience, with great weather, great volunteers, great organisation and, all in all, a great race.'

Rosie finished 16th lady overall and 10th lady in the female senior category. She is now motivated to take on the Devil 'O The Highlands Ultra Marathon, which takes place in August.

Rosie with her ultra marathon medal after completing the tough race.



Rosie Flannigan, left, presented the new kits to the young Inverloch shinty stars last week.

Sponsors help Inverloch shinty to double its firepower

INVERLOCHY Primary School will in future be able to field two teams in competitions thanks to the support of Liberty British Aluminium.

As increased numbers turn up for training each week, the company has stepped in to supply extra equipment to allow more pupils to take part.

The firm, which employs many parents and grandparents of the enthusiastic youngsters – including team coaches Robert MacMillan and Bryan Simpson – has covered the cost of strips, sticks,

School shinty

helmets and balls to equip a full team.

Rosie Flannigan, executive assistant for Liberty British Aluminium, who presented the new equipment to the youngsters, said: 'It's great to see the children's eagerness to get involved in shinty. Given our strong links to Inverloch, we're very pleased to be able to support and encourage a new generation to get involved.'

Entries open for dinghy hill race

ENTRIES are now open for the Lochaber Yacht Club dinghy hill race 2018. Based at Lochaber Yacht Club, the course crosses Loch Linnhe, ascends Meall an t-Slamain (steep and heathery) and returns by the same route.

The distance is approximately 3km with a 457m ascent. The race takes place on Tuesday May 29, with briefing at 6pm.

Entries are open until May 20 (25 runners maximum, over 18 years only). Contact jongayarchitect@googlemail.com for details.

Rugby players get new training kits



Andy Noble, centre left, from BAM Nutall presents LRFC president Ali MacKinnon with the new tracksuits which the sponsorship funded. JP F18 LRFC Strips 01. Photo: Abrightside Photography

Bowling club get under way with busy season opener



Allan MacDonald, left, president of the Fort William Railway Bowling Club, presents the balloted pairs Stewart Cup last week to, left to right, Liz Kennedy and Robert Hunter, who picked up the trophy after a narrow win in the final over Alan Lawrie and Eddie Downs. Twenty-four people took part in the competition in sunshine at the their green in Inverloch in what was the first competition of the season. New members are welcome with free membership in the first year. Photo: Anthony MacMillan.

Strongmen flex their muscles at Fort event

A NOVICE strongman competition took place recently with participants getting a chance to show their strength.

The JSW novice strongman event raised more than £700 for the Garry Campbell treatment fund as entrants travelled from Edinburgh, Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Glasgow to join local competitors.

Max lifted the 160kg atlas

Strongman

stone to secure his first place which is a great feat for most strongmen.

Organised by local strongmen Stuart Whyte and Gary Robertson, the fledgling strongman competitors took part in the novice event at the Nevis Bank Industrial Estate on Saturday afternoon.



Competitors at the recent novice strongman competition at Nevis Bank Industrial Estate. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Stuart and Ailsa win Crinan Puffer race

A DELIGHTED Stuart McGeachy went one better than his 2017 second place when he won this year's Scottish Sea Farms Crinan Puffer race.

The Campbeltown Running Club athlete was one of many who made the journey to support the event – billed as one of Scotland's friendliest and most inclusive running events.

The eight-mile race, recently saw dozens of athletes from as far away as Glasgow pounding the banks of the Crinan Canal

Athletics

between Crinan and Ardrishaig in damp conditions.

The first woman over the line, Ailsa Lopez, from Taynuilt had no idea she had won until friends broke the news to her.

If there was a prize for the greatest distance travelled to compete, it would surely go to Frazer Munro, originally from Ardrishaig but now living and working in Saudi Arabia.



Players and club officials at Lochaber Rugby Club enjoyed their annual end of season smoker on Saturday night.

Lochaber Rugby Club enjoy end of season dinner

LOCHABER Rugby Club held their annual end of season dinner on Saturday night after a successful first season in the BT West League Division 3.

Known as the smoker, the prize-giving evening sees the club celebrate the highlights

of the season so far. BAM Nuttall donated the food for the smoker and Adrian Collins, who works for the firm and is a current player, cooked a four-course meal on the barbecue and his smoker. The club were delighted to make use of his South African roots as he

took all day to prepare the full barbecue (braai) spread, which saw him start preparations at midday before serving at 7pm.

The prize-winners on the night were: Player of the year – James Lucas. Players' player of the year – John Jones.

Most improved player of the year – Alexander Kennard.

The Callum Mercer Trophy – Greg Hendrie.

Club person of the year – Donald Young. Lochaber RFC still have one remaining

fixture to play in the league this year as they take on Moffat away from home this Saturday, May 12.

The club would also like to invite all members to come to the AGM on Thursday May 31 at 7pm.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures
Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division – Oban Saints 0, Goldenhill 3; Premier Division Two – Carlton YM 0, Lochgilphead Red Star 7; Tarbert no game; Jimmy Marshall Cup, third round, Campbeltown Pupils 2, Houston 2. Houston win 3-2 on penalties.
Saturday's fixture: Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy – Scottish AFL v Argyll Select at Tarbert; Sunday – Premier Division – St Joseph's FP v Oban Saints.

Saints' youth teams results and fixtures
Youth football

THIS weekend's results: U13s 5, Kilbowie Union 2. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (4) and Ross MacKay, U14s v Dumbarton Riverside, postponed; Summerston BC 1, U15s 1; Saints goalscorer was Gary McIvor. Drumchapel United v U16s, home walkover; U17s no game.
This weekend's fixtures: Kilbowie Union v U13s; Glasgow Red Star v U14s; Celtic BC v U15s. U16s no game; U17s no game.

Anne and Neil keep it in the family
Bowls

OBAN Bowling Club held their first day competition of the season on Saturday which was won by Anne and Neil MacDougall who beat Anne Stewart and Helen MacLean in a close fought final.

Oban Lorne turn on the style against Kilmarnock

Oban Lorne	28
Kilmarnock	5
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne welcomed mid table Kilmarnock to Glencruitten on Saturday for the home sides last scheduled home game of the 2017/2018 season.

This was a must win game for Oban Lorne who were convincingly beaten 106-13 in the reverse fixture at the start of the season.

Kilmarnock's form since has gone downhill while Oban have improved slightly despite the lowly league position of 11th.

The men in green had a strong squad of players for the game which included 17-year-old Andrew Ritchie, hoping to make his first appearance for the team after a very promising U18 season.

The game started with play being shared between both sides. Oban however were the more disciplined of the teams which allowed captain Craig Wright to score and early penalty for a 3-0 lead.

Oban were improving as the first half wore on but could not let any promising pressure turn into points.

The Kilmarnock defence was eventually breached in the first half with number eight Daniel Broderick being held up over the line. Oban did score through Stephen Povey from

the resulting scrum extending the home sides lead to 10-0.

Oban player/coach Corrie Louw came off the bench replacing the injured Daniel Kemp as Oban's impressive scrummaging was pushing the Killie pack off their own ball.

Second row Kyle Graham was having his best performance for Oban Lorne, while another change was made before the break, with hooker Craig McGuire replacing the tiring Connor Ferris. Craig Wright extended his team's advantage just before the half-time break, touching down in the corner after some tidy play in midfield.

The visitors, however, did respond shortly after giving a 15-5 half time score.

Into the second half Kilmarnock were dealt a couple of blows. First their impressive outside centre was forced off with an injury before they were reduced to 14 with the sin bining off their number 7.

Oban took the most of their man advantage as Wright slotted over another penalty taking the score to 18-5.

Kilmarnock, when back to their full compliment, upped the pressure on Oban but were undone with some great tackling from Graham MacEachan, Richard MacKay, Stephen Povey and second rows Jack Strachan and Kyle Graham.

Oban were reduced to 14 men



Andy Ritchie made his debut for Oban Lorne's first XV.

midway into the half, with experienced back David McLaughlin being yellow carded for a hand in the ruck.

Despite being a player down,

Oban did not concede for the 10-minute period.

With Oban back to 15 players they started shipping the ball wide and making some good

Rugby

ground. Andrew Ritchie entered play with 15 minutes to go to replace Roddy Morrison.

Kilmarnock's poor discipline was costing them again along with an impressive refereeing performance as Wright again added to his tally knocking over another penalty kick.

In the closing stages Kilmarnock had much of the possession but Oban managed to kick to the corner and pressure the tryline. Stephen Povey went over from the maul for his second of the afternoon putting the game out of sight at 28-5.

Kilmarnock put Oban under pressure but the defence managed to hold out and push for the bonus point try. This almost came, nearly getting it wide enough as space opened up for Andrew Ritchie or Dave McLaughlin, but good defence from Kilmarnock held out and it finished 28-5.

The win means that Oban Lorne now sit only five points adrift of 10th placed Irvine and also possess a game in hand.

Oban Lorne are back in action on Saturday May 19, away to Greenock Wanderers who were beaten 30-0 at Glencruitten earlier in the season. The Green Machine also have two fixtures still to be rearranged away to Annan and at home to Cambuslang.



Glencruitten

LEADING qualifiers for the Pickford Trophy played at Glencruitten at the weekend were Alistair MacLean and Graham MacColl with scores of 69, followed by James Muir and Aidan McCuish with scores of 70.

On Saturday, the first round of the Captain of Dunstaffnage and Isis trophies takes place.

Lochgilphead

THE LADIES' section at Lochgilphead Golf Club were rewarded for their hard work aimed at recruiting new members, with 12 ladies coming out to compete in the Coronation Foursomes recently.

The competition was resurrected last year after many years of absence, and Donna McKellar and Ele Hunter, who were last year's winners, were pleased to defend their title and win again this year with 36 points.

The enjoyable day was followed up by some sociable drinks in the clubhouse thanks to Anka and Hans.

Taynuilt

THE MACKENZIE Welding sponsored Mixed Open was played at Taynuilt on Sunday May 6.

Handicap winners: 1 Mary Plunkett (Glencruitten) and Mark Grant (Taynuilt) 66 (21); 2 Carol and Robert MacLarty (Taynuilt) 69 (16); 3 Colleen Brown (Dalmally) and Ashley Dowell (Taynuilt) 70 (20).

Scratch winners: 1 Anne MacCalman and Andy Ronald (Taynuilt) 76; 2 Janet Buchanan (Dalmally) and Rob Graham (Taynuilt) 84; 3 Diane Colewell and Steven Murphy (Glencruitten).

Gents nearest the pin second hole: Steven Murphy (Glencruitten). Ladies nearest the pin 15th hole: Anne MacCalman, Taynuilt. Ladies longest drive seventh Hole: Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt).

Isle of Mull RFC hosts youth rugby festival

MORE than 200 mini and youth rugby players descended on Isle of Mull RFC's picturesque Garmony pitches for the club's annual end of season festival.

Local sides Isle of Mull, Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings and Lochaber were joined by annual touring club and Argyll neighbours Helensburgh RFC along with Strathendrick RFC

who toured to Mull for the first time.

In keeping with the positive ethos of the game of rugby, Isle of Mull awarded a 'Fairplay' trophy to the best sporting teams at each age group. The winners on the day chosen by Mull 1st XV captain Sean Black were P4/5 Helensburgh RFC, P6/7 Strathendrick RFC, S1/2 Oban Lorne RFC.

Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright commented: 'All of the teams in attendance showed a fantastic attitude and commitment towards the game.'

'All the players, coaches and supporters were a credit to their respective clubs. We have had a fantastic day with over 200 players involved in some outstanding rugby. Well done

Youth rugby

Isle of Mull RFC for putting on a great day.'

Mini rugby teams in the region have two further festivals before the end of this season. On Sunday Lochaber RFC will host their festival, while Etive Vikings conclude the season hosting at Taynuilt on Sunday May 20.

Euan Wilson dinner and 7s

GRANGEMOUTH Stags rugby club will be hosting a dinner to raise funds for the family of Euan Wilson who also played for Oban Lorne.

The loss of Euan at such a young age has been felt by both clubs. A 7s tournament is also being held on Saturday, May 12.

The 7s will take place at Stir-

Rugby

ling University. The dinner will be held at Grangemouth Stags Rugby Club, 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Alan Taylor. He can be contacted via email amgtaylor04@sky.com or through the Stags club webpage.



A first for the Oban and District Primary League Football Festival recently was the staging of a girls' section. Teams from Lochnell Football Club, Lochgilphead Soccer Centre and Tarbert Soccer Centre played a series of keenly contested games at Lora View pitch, North Connel, culminating in every participant receiving a well-deserved medal for their efforts.



Taynuilt Golf Club's Mixed Open prizewinners.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4150

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

R MacDonald
Glencruitten Drive
Oban

F Beaton
QE Cottages
Furnace)

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

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Macaulay Cup exit for Newtonmore

BALLACHULISH, Glenurquhart, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Kyles Athletic, Lovat, Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic made it through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter finals, whilst Beaulieu made Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup progress following the shinty action on Saturday May 5.

Artemis Macaulay Cup – first round

Kinlochshiel 2 Newtonmore 1

Newtonmore, beaten by Kyles Athletic in last year's final, have been knocked out of this year's competition, going down 2-1 to Kinlochshiel at Braeview Park.

The match was switched from Kirkton which was ruled unplayable on Friday morning.

Kinlochshiel were unchanged from the side which drew with Oban Camanachd a week earlier and their bench was made up of Paul MacRae, Scott MacLean, Duncan WD MacRae and Duncan Matheson.

Newtonmore's Evan Menzies was free of a two-match ban and started in attack. Norman Campbell also returned and joined Ewen Fraser and Conor Jones on the bench. Stuart Mitchell retained his place in defence, however, Jamie Robinson, Paul MacArthur and Craig Ritchie were missing.

Newtonmore won the toss and, with a strong wind behind them in the first half, got off to the best possible start. Newtonmore were awarded a free hit on the right hand side of the forward line when David Falconer impeded Evan Menzies. Glen MacKintosh hovered over the ball before spotting Drew MacDonald peeling away from his marker. He found MacDonald on the left who ran towards goal before slotting a bouncing shot past Scott Kennedy to make it 1-0.

On 21 minutes, Neil Stewart hit a speculative lob and, with the wind behind the shot, the ball almost caught out Scott Kennedy and he was thankful to see the ball go past for a goal-hit.

The wind was causing problems for both teams and the ball was being over-hit on a number of occasions by Newtonmore.

Glen MacKintosh almost put Newtonmore further ahead with a shot that hit the side-netting.

Kinlochshiel drew level on 34 minutes. Referee John Angus Gillies penalised David MacLean for a push in the back on Keith MacRae. Conor Cormack floated a perfect free-hit from the left wing into the heart of the Newtonmore defence where the ball fell kindly for Keith MacRae who drilled a shot past Kenny Ross to make it 1-1 at the break.

Kinlochshiel had the wind advantage in the second half

and immediately pressed the Newtonmore defence.

Ali Nixon found John MacRae on the Kinlochshiel right and his shot just went by the right-hand post.

The west coast side went in front for the first time on 54 minutes. Duncan 'DA' MacRae took a shy from the left, finding Jordan Fraser in the penalty area. Fraser's shot was saved with his feet by Kenny Ross but the keeper couldn't get the ball away and Ali Nixon darted into the box and tapped the ball over the line to make it 2-1.

Kinlochshiel mounted more pressure on the Newtonmore defence and a long ball forward from Oliver MacRae, who by this time had swapped midfield positions with Donald Nixon, found Keith MacRae on the Kinlochshiel left, but his shot went wide of the post.

Newtonmore could have levelled on 70 minutes. Fraser Macintosh sent the ball into the Kinlochshiel defence. Glen MacKintosh turned his marker and played an inch-perfect ball to Iain Robinson who had the goal at his mercy from inside the 'D'. But Robinson's strike flew high over the bar.

Newtonmore introduced Norman Campbell for Iain Robinson to try and get the equaliser but Kinlochshiel held on for a deserved victory.

Both teams contributed to an exciting match played in difficult, windy conditions.

The Kinlochshiel defence worked well as a unit with Conor Cormack excellent at buckshee back. Oliver MacRae and Donald Nixon combined well on the centre line, whilst Ali Nixon was a thorn in the flesh of the Newtonmore defence, creating several openings for his teammates.

Newtonmore had Rory Kennedy to thank for his control and effectiveness at full back. He played very well against a strong John MacRae. Fraser MacKintosh had terrific dual with Donald Nixon in the second half.

The Newtonmore forward line struggled to get anything from the well-organised Kinlochshiel defence.

Oban Camanachd 5 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Oban Camanachd came from a goal down to beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 5-1 in their noon throw-up at Mossfield.

This was the first of four consecutive home matches for Oban Camanachd. Daniel Sloss returned following suspension and took a place on the bench in the 16-man squad. Scott MacMillan was working and Malcolm Clark started at full centre.

GMA travelled north minus former Aberdeen University player Brian Slattery.

Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish hit the post before



Kinlochshiel's Jordan Fraser and Newtonmore's Andy MacKintosh on the ground after a tackle during their Artemis Macaulay Cup tie. Kinlochshiel came out on top by the odd goal in three. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

GMA broke forward to take the lead. Craig Anderson produced a good finish from outside the 'D' to give the Glasgow side the lead on 24 minutes.

Oban Camanachd went in search of an equaliser but Robert Dunning in the GMA goal made good saves from close range efforts. The hosts made changes after 30 minutes with Daniel MacVicar and Daniel MacCuish replaced by Keith MacMillan and Daniel Sloss.

Their desire to score led to Oban Camanachd losing their shape up front with crowding and bunching inhibiting their chances in front of goal.

Manager Iain Hay made further changes at the break, including moving to a diamond forward formation to use the flanks more profitably.

The changes helped and Willie Neilson, who had come off the bench five minutes earlier, made it 1-1 on 58 minutes, although the goal had a touch of good fortune about it. There was a scramble in the GMA goal area and Neilson stepped in to shoot goalwards. His effort hit a defender and looped up and over Robert Dunning and into the net.

GMA no longer had something to hold on to and the Oban side looked the more likely to add to their total. They did that with 15 minutes remaining when Craig MacDougall ran in to tuck a rebound into the bottom corner of the net from close in after Robert Dunning had made another save.

Lorne Dickie added a third a couple of minutes later. Garry Lord played the ball out of defence to Willie Neilson who found Dickie who hit the ball sweetly on the run.

Oban Camanachd pushed Daniel Cameron up front for the final 15 minutes of the game with Daniel Sloss, who had come off the bench in attack, dropping back into his more accustomed defensive role. Cameron ruffled things up before helping himself to a goal on 80 minutes. An Andrew MacCuish strike was saved but with keeper Dunning on the ground, Cameron poked the ball into the net to make it 4-1.

There was now only going to be one winner and when the ball broke to Daniel MacVicar at the edge of the 'D' with three minutes remaining, he steered a shot low into the net to complete the scoring.

Oban Camanachd return to Mossfield this Saturday with Lochaber the visitors in a Marine Harvest Premiership encounter. Scott MacMillan should re-

turn, but Matt Rippon and Keith MacMillan will be missing. John MacKenzie is Lochaber's main doubt.

Oban Celtic 2 Bute 1

Oban Celtic progress to the next round following their 2-1 win over Bute in their 3pm throw-up at Mossfield.

The islanders have proved to be a bogey team for Kenny Waterspoon's side and they came out on top when the sides met earlier in the season in the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup.

Oban Celtic's Ally McKerracher returned after missing the previous week's win over

found James MacPherson who knocked the ball past the on-rushing keeper Ewen Pilcher from the edge of the 'D'. This was the only goal of the first half and probably came against the run of play.

The Glenurquhart forward line of Fraser Heath, Connor Golabek and Michael Fraser, with James MacPherson and Oliver Black sharing duties through the use of rolling substitutes, was working well and they doubled their lead on 53 minutes. Michael Fraser took an Oliver Black pass before turning and pushing the ball wide of the full back to fire home.

Caberfeidh got themselves back into the game on the hour when Colin MacLennan turned home a rebound following a Kevin Bartlett shot.

Caberfeidh levelled four minutes later when Kevin Bartlett scored after good inter-play. Caberfeidh were taking a direct route to goal and when Craig Morrison gave his side the lead with 15 minutes remaining, it looked as if the Castle Leod men would take their place in the next round.

Glenurquhart had other ideas though and Connor Golabek's goal after good play and a smart cross from Michael Fraser in a wide position, with four minutes remaining took the tie into extra time.

Craig Morrison got his second goal of the game four minutes into the additional 30 minutes but Glenurquhart came back again as James MacPherson got his second with five minutes of the first period of extra time remaining. Fraser Heath played the ball out wide to Connor Golabek who sent the ball across the pitch. James MacPherson blocked Ryan MacKay's attempt at a first time clearance and, with MacKay getting back to his feet, MacPherson let the ball bounce before hitting it low into the bottom corner of the net to make it 4-4.

With no further scoring, referee Graham Cameron took the tie to a penalty shoot-out where the drama continued.

Glenurquhart went first and James MacPherson made his usual efficient job, sending a rasping penalty into the net.

Kevin Bartlett stepped up next but his spot-hit went wide. The goal judge signalled for a re-take, judging Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh to have moved his feet before the ball was struck.

Bartlett's second attempt was saved with his body by MacKintosh, but again the keeper

was penalised. Bartlett went again and this time MacKintosh made the stop with his foot but, remarkably, another retake was ordered for the same offence.

Kevin Bartlett, Scotland's dead-ball expert in the shinty/hurling internationals, stepped up for a fourth time but MacKintosh's saves were getting better each time and the keeper made a spectacular stop with his stick and his side led the shoot-out 1-0.

Caberfeidh never recovered and they missed their next two penalties which allowed Fraser Heath to blast home before Connor Golabek kept his nerve to score the decisive third home spot-hit to win the shoot-out.

One concern for Glenurquhart manager Iain MacLeod will be a hand injury to young defender Lachie Smith.

Kyles Athletic 3 Inveraray 0

Artemis Macaulay Cup holders Kyles Athletic beat Inveraray 3-0 in their derby meeting at Strachurmore.

With improvement work at Tighnabruaich, Kyles have yet to play on their home pitch this season and it is likely to be August at the earliest before they return.

Inveraray's Kieran Kirkhope was free of suspension.

Kyles returned to the field of play after being idle for a couple of Saturdays.

The first goal came on 25 minutes after a period of Kyles pressure which led to the ball being played to an unmarked Roddy MacDonald, who rifled the ball into the roof of the net from 18 yards to make it 1-0.

Kyles added a second three minutes later when space opened up in front of Grant Irvine who crashed the ball home from 20 yards.

The pick of the goals was Grant Irvine's second on 65 minutes which made it 3-0. The ball was sent up the left wing to Roddy MacDonald who played a square pass into the path of his cousin Scott MacDonald. He played a slide rule pass into the path of an onrushing Grant Irvine who drilled the ball into the right hand bottom corner of the net.

Grant Irvine also had the ball in the net midway through the second half when he thought he had completed his hat-trick but his effort was ruled offside by goal judge Dunkie Kerr.

Kyles Athletic keeper John Whyte only had one save of note, when he saved well with his foot from a long-range drive from Lewis MacNicol in the first half.

Kyles' reward is a trip to Oban Celtic in the quarter-finals.

Kingussie 2 Skye Camanachd 0

After extra-time, Kingussie final broke Skye Camanachd's resistance, winning 2-0 after extra time as the sides met for the second successive Saturday, this time at The Dell.

Kingussie were 2-0 winners in Portree a week earlier and it took extra time for them to achieve the same outcome this time around.

Kingussie's Ryan MacWilliam was free of suspension and took over from Kieran MacPherson in defence. Lee Bain was back from injury and started on the bench, whilst the game came too soon for the injured Louis Munro.

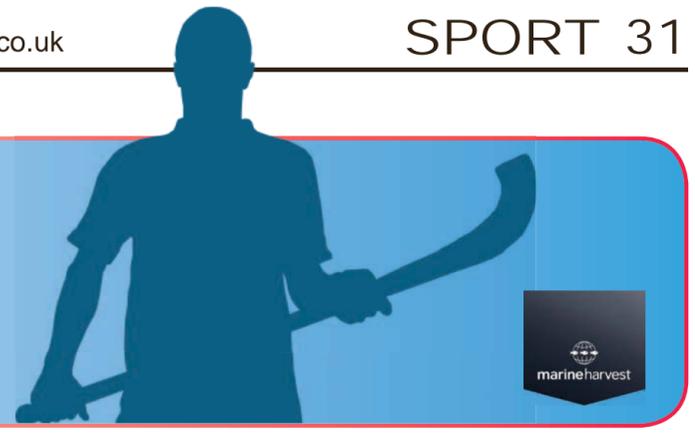
Skye's squad was unchanged from the previous week with Ally MacDonald and Iain Nicolson still injured. Will Cowie started at full centre, with Danny Morrison up front.

Skye's Iain MacLeod was the busier of the two keepers during the 90 minutes but Kingussie were almost made to pay in the closing stages when Ruaraidh MacLeod passed up a late chance to win it for Skye.

Iain MacLeod again denied Kingussie when he used his body



Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo challenges Caberfeidh's Jack Pilcher for the ball. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

to block a Savio Genini penalty three minutes into extra time.

Kingussie broke the deadlock a couple of minutes later when James Hutchison scored at the second attempt from a central position, around 20 yards from goal.

Skye pushed John Gillies from full back to full forward but it was Kingussie who got the clincher.

A long ball from the halfway line was controlled by Roddy Young with his back to goal. Young moved the ball to the side before finishing well on his back-hand to make it 2-0.

Kingussie travel to play Kinlochshiel in the next round.

Lovat 3 Lochaber 1

Lovat had to work hard to beat Lochaber 3-1 at a noon throw-up at Balgiate.

These sides also faced each other for the second week in a row with Lovat winning in the league at Spean Bridge a week earlier.

Lovat were without the injured Scott MacKenzie, Drew Howie was unavailable but Lorne MacKay and Daniel Grieve were back in the side.

Lochaber's Brian MacDonald was free of suspension but John MacKenzie was missing through injury.

Greg Matheson gave Lovat the lead on 13 minutes but Connor Sweeney equalised on 22 minutes.

Greg Matheson got his second five minutes before the break and the outcome stayed in the balance until Lorne MacKay made it 3-1 on the stroke of full-time.

Lovat have home advantage against Glenurquhart in the quarter finals.

Ballachulish WO v Aberdour

Ballachulish were the first team through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup second round.

They were given a walk-over when Aberdour were unable to raise a team for their tie at Jubilee Park.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – first round

Inverness 3 Beaully 6

Beaully are through to the last 16 of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup after they beat Inverness 6-3 in their first round tie at The Bught Park.

Jack MacDonald gave Beaully the lead on 10 minutes but James Cameron levelled five minutes later.

There was no further scoring during the first 45 minutes but a goals explosion followed in the second half.

Jack MacDonald got his second on 50 minutes, only for

James Cameron to make it 2-2 five minutes later.

Robbie Brindle restored Beaully's lead on 58 minutes but Andy Reid made it 3-3 three minutes later.

Beaully went in front for a fourth time on 67 minutes through Sean Stewart and this time they stayed in front.

Conor Ross made it 5-3 on 76 minutes and Robbie Brindle got his second with nine minutes remaining.

The remaining Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round ties take place this Saturday.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup – second round

Newtonmore 6 Glenurquhart 0

The Newtonmore reserves scored four times in the first half to beat the Glenurquhart reserves 6-0 at The Eilan.

Craig MacLeod scored on 21 and 27 minutes to give the hosts a two-goal advantage.

A Ross MacAulay own goal on 31 minutes followed by a third on 43 minutes from Craig MacLeod made it 4-0 at the break.

Paul MacArthur added a fifth four minutes after the restart and David Fraser made it 6-0 on 76 minutes.

The Newtonmore seconds will host the Strathglass seconds, from the league below, in the quarter finals.

Bute 2 Skye Camanachd 3

Two of shinty's island reserve teams, Bute and Skye Camanachd, met at The Meadows.

It is Skye who progress to the last eight of the competition after they came from two goals down to win 3-2.

Skye set off from Portree just after 6am on Saturday morning and the long journey may have contributed to their slow start as Bute raced into a 2-0 lead.

Neil McKirdy got the opener on eight minutes with a low finish from just outside the 'D'.

Skye's Angie MacDonald hit the post before Bute got a disputed second goal on 22 minutes. The ball was floated to the back post and squared across the box where it deflected off a Skye player before being passed back to young Stewart Stirling who was inside the 'D'.

Stirling scored and although referee David Mitchell spoke to the goal judge, who hadn't flagged, the goal stood.

Skye manager Kenny MacLeod made changes and came off the bench to replace Calum Gibb. John Angus MacInnes moved from buckshee forward to wing centre and Skye went two-two in attack with Stewart Taylor and Daniel Morrison playing closer to the centre line.

Angie MacDonald tested the



Craig Taylor of Inveraray and Kyles Athletic's Neil MacVicar race for the ball during their Macaulay Cup match last Saturday. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

keeper a couple of times before a shot from Daniel Morrison was saved but the goalie couldn't get the ball away and Angie MacDonald won possession and tapped home to get Skye back in the game with half an hour played.

Five minutes later, with the ball floated in to the danger area, Angie MacDonald took control and hit a low drive past the keeper to square the tie.

The winning goal came on the stroke of half time. Iain Murray won the ball in the centre line, playing in Daniel Morrison down the Skye left. Morrison found Kenny MacLeod who threaded a through ball to Angie MacDonald who was running in from left to right and he struck the ball first time, high into the net for the goal of the game.

Bute made changes in the second half and it took good defending from Skye to stop them equalising.

Skye were awarded a penalty on 70 minutes but the keeper saved Daniel Morrison's low shot.

Kenny MacLeod had a late chance to put the tie out of reach but it stayed 3-2.

Caberfeidh 2 Kingussie 5

The Kingussie seconds, from Marine Harvest North Division 1, were given a scare before eventually beating the Caberfeidh seconds, from the league below, 5-2 at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh lost Scott MacPhail to their first team but Neil MacKenzie returned and Declan Wilson was given a marking job on Kevin Thain.

Dylan Borthwick returned for Kingussie, as did Darren Hanlon.

Caberfeidh's Kyle MacLeod proved to be a handful for the Kingussie defence and opened the scoring on 15 minutes when the ball broke to him after good play from Stewart Krzyzanowski.

Kyle MacLeod got his second on 35 minutes with a blistering drive past a helpless Robert Shiells in the Kingussie goal.

Perhaps crucially, Kingussie pulled a goal back a minute before the break when wing forward Russell Menzies got away from his marker and ran in to score.

Kingussie came out for the second half fired up and Dylan Borthwick marked his return with an equalising goal on 52 minutes.

The next goal was always going to be important and it didn't come until five minutes from time when Sandy Elrick put Kingussie ahead for the first time in the game.

The goal deflated Caberfeidh and a second from Dylan Borthwick on 87 minutes and a Kevin

Thain effort a minute from time completed the 5-2 win.

Lovat 1 Strachur 1

After extra-time. Strachur won 3-2 on penalties.

Marine Harvest South Division 2 league leaders Strachur colts edged out the Lovat colts, from Marine Harvest North Division 2, on penalties after it finished 1-1 after extra-time in their tie at Balgiate.

David Limbert gave Strachur the lead on 18 minutes but Raymond Rennie equalised on 31 minutes.

With no further scoring in the second half or extra time, referee Ronnie Campbell took the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

Strachur ran out 3-2 winners to win a place in next month's quarter finals.

Lochcarron 0 Fort William 4

Graham Mitchell scored twice as the Fort William seconds beat Lochcarron 4-0 at Battery Park.

Graham Mitchell gave Fort William the lead on 25 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Mark Fraser made it 2-0 a couple of minutes into the second half and when Graham Mitchell got his second on 49 minutes, it looked like there would only be one winner.

Grant Disher made it 4-0 on 68 minutes to give the Fort William seconds a quarter final tie at Strachur.

Lochaber 2 Beaully 1

The Lochaber second team beat the Beaully second team 2-1 at Spean Bridge.

Calum Flynn scored for Beaully but the father and son duo Lachlan and Max Campbell gave Lochaber victory and a quarter final tie away to the Skye Camanachd second team.

Strathglass WO v Inveraray

The Inveraray colts were unable to raise a team for their trip to Cannich so the Strathglass colts were given free passage into the quarter finals.

Lochside Rovers P Kyles Athletic P

The tie between Lochside Rovers and the Kyles Athletic second team was postponed on Friday as Ganavan was ruled unplayable.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Glengarry 7 Aberdeen University 1

Glengarry cut the Newtonmore second team's lead at the top

of the table to two points when they beat Aberdeen University 7-1 at Craigard.

Nick Dalgety gave Glengarry the lead on nine minutes.

Three goals either side of the break made the difference. Nick Dalgety got his second on 44 minutes and, immediately after the restart, Raymond Robertson netted on 46 and 47 minutes to make it 4-0.

Aberdeen's Stuart Cameron pulled a goal back on 58 minutes, only for Raymond Robertson to complete his hat-trick on 69 minutes.

Nick Dalgety took his tally to four goals with strikes on 74 and 76 minutes to round off the 7-1 win.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Tayforth 3 Col Glen 2

Tayforth fought off Col Glen to win 3-2 at Levenhall Links.

A Finlay Stark double on five and 11 minutes gave the hosts an early two goal advantage.

Col Glen's Conor Kennedy pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time.

Ewan Menzies restored Tayforth's two-goal cushion before John MacPhail made it 3-2 with seven minutes remaining.

The win means Tayforth move two points ahead of the Inveraray second team at the bottom of the table.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Aberdour P

The meeting between the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds and the Aberdour seconds at Yoker will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Glenorchy P Oban Celtic P

Glenorchy's meeting with the Oban Celtic second team was postponed as Mart Park was waterlogged.

Artemis Macaulay Cup draw

Following last weekend's first round ties, the next rounds of the 2018 Artemis Macaulay Cup are:

Artemis Macaulay Cup (South) quarter finals, Saturday June 16:

Oban Camanachd v Ballachulish

Oban Celtic v Kyles Athletic

Artemis Macaulay Cup (North) quarter finals, Saturday June 30:

Lovat v Glenurquhart

Kinlochshiel v Kingussie

Artemis Macaulay Cup

(South) semi finals, Saturday 21 July 21:

Oban Camanachd/Ballachulish v Oban Celtic/Kyles Athletic

Artemis Macaulay Cup (North) semi final, Saturday 21 July 21:

Lovat/Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel/Kingussie

The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final will take place at Mossfield, Oban, on Saturday August 18.

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup draw

The later rounds of the 2018 Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup are clearer following last weekend's first round ties.

Saturday June 9 - Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - quarter finals - Lochside Rovers/Kyles Athletic v Kingussie

Strachur v Fort William

Newtonmore v Strathglass

Skye Camanachd v Lochaber

Saturday July 7 - Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup - semi final - Newtonmore/Strathglass v Strachur/Fort William

Lochside Rovers/Kyles Athletic/Kingussie v Skye Camanachd/Lochaber

The Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Final takes place on Saturday August 25.

WCA round up

There were top flight wins for Lochaber and Strathspey following the Women's Camanachd Association action on Sunday May 6.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Lochaber 14 Aberdour 1

Lochaber were too strong for Aberdour, winning 14-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Ardnamurchan 1 Strathspey 5

Strathspey beat Ardnamurchan 5-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Strontian.

Beth Rodgers scored four times for the visitors, whilst Jade Longworth got the other.

Badenoch W/O v Fort William

Badenoch were given a walk-over when Fort William were unable to raise a team for their match.

Badenoch's next match is a top of the table clash at home to Skye Camanachd on Sunday May 20.

Skye Camanachd P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

Skye Camanachd and Glasgow Mid Argyll agreed to re-arrange their match at Paire nan Laoch, Portree.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup

English Shinty Association 0 Strathglass 2

English Shinty Association lost 2-0 to Strathglass in their noon throw-up at Cannich on Saturday May 5.

The Strathglass goals were scored by Kayleigh MacGregor and Laura Fraser.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Draw

The draw for the second round of the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup has been made.

The competition is for teams outwith Marine Harvest National Division 1.

The draw is:

Skye Camanachd v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Strathglass v Lovat

Inverness v Lochaber

Ardnamurchan v Glenurquhart

The ties will be played on Saturday and Sunday May 19 and 20.

Fixtures

Wednesday May 9

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Inverness v Beaully
John Matheson - 7pm

Saturday May 12

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 1st round

Ballachulish v Kilmallie

Alex MacVicar

Taynuilt v Fort William

Des McNulty

Inveraray v Glasgow MA

Ross Brown

Oban Celtic v Strathglass

Ted McDonald - 3pm

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup 1st round

Aberdeen Uni v Beaully

Andy MacLean

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh v Glenurquhart

Deek Cameron

Kingussie v Lovat

Archie Ritchie - 3pm

Kyles Athletic v Kinlochshiel

Robert Baxter - 3pm

Newtonmore v Skye

Martin MacLean - 3pm

Oban Camanachd v Lochaber

Graham Cameron - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie v Glenurquhart

Archie Ritchie - Noon

Newtonmore v Fort William

Martin MacLean - noon

Skye v Glengarry

Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Bute

Calum Girvan - 3pm

Tayforth v Inveraray

Graham Fisher

Kyles Athletic v Kilmory

Robert Baxter - noon

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Beaully

John Matheson

Inverness v Caberfeidh

Neil MacDonald

Lewis v Strathspey

John Angus Gillies

Lovat v Lochaber

Ronnie Campbell

Strathglass v Lochcarron

Jim Barr

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Oban Celtic

Calum Girvan - noon

Glenorchy v Glasgow MA

Ewan MacDonald

Strachur v Bute

Jim Innes

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Saturday May 5

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st round

Ballachulish P v P Aberdour

Aberdour unable to raise a team, walkover to Ballachulish

Kyles Athletic 3 v 0 Inveraray

Oban Cam 5 v 1 Glasgow MA

Oban Celtic 2 v 1 Bute

Glenurquhart 4 v 4 Caberfeidh

Glenurquhart won 3-0 on pens

Kingussie 2 v 0 Skye

Kinlochshiel 2 v 1 Newtonmore

Lovat 3 v 1 Lochaber

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Saints lose out to Scottish Cup finalists

Oban Saints	0
Goldenhill	3
SAFL Premier Division	

LAST Saturday at a soggy Glen-cruitten Scottish Amateur Cup finalists Goldenhill maintained their 100 per cent league record to keep the pressure on Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division leaders St Joseph's FP with a convincing 3-0 victory over Oban Saints.

Kicking off, attacking the railway end, Saints made a bright start to the first half and came within inches of opening the scoring in the first minute.

Ruaridh Horne made good progress on the right and sent a low cross to the front post where Paul Carmichael nipped in ahead of Marc Morrison and Jack Bennett, and shaved the outside of the post with a first time effort.

A diagonal ball from Shaun MacIver over the head of Steven Dock sent Donald Campbell through on goal, however, after bringing MacIver's pass down well, the Saints skipper was denied by Goldenhill keeper Scott

Rennie who slid out bravely to gather the ball at Campbell's feet.

The promising start from Saints was undone after just 12 minutes when hesitation at the back gifted possession to James Gallagher on the left. The Goldenhill striker was given time and space to pick out Damon Gray's untracked near post run with the tall midfielder's diving header from four yards giving Graham Douglas no chance.

Saints pieced together a promising move in the 26th minute with Donald Campbell and Paul Carmichael linking up well in the middle of the park to send Jamie Graham off on a run up the left wing. But Graham's cross from the corner of the 18-yard box was fractionally too high for Shaun MacIver.

There was a lapse in concentration at a 28th minute when James Gallagher corner kick on the right cost Saints dearly. Gallagher picked out the unmarked Ian Stevenson on the corner of the 18-yard box whose dinked cross was headed home at the

front post by Goldenhill skipper Scott McGuire to double the visitor's lead.

The second goal rocked Saints, with Graham Douglas coming to the rescue to parry a James Gallagher shot, and Steven MacLeod making a vital interception to prevent Jonathon Dyer from knocking the loose ball into the unguarded net.

With the visitors now winning the crucial midfield battle, Saints were unable to exert any pressure on the well-organised Goldenhill defence, leaving their own back three by far the busier.

Goldenhill's Gallagher sent a free-kick from 24 yards high over the junction of post and bar, and saw a dangerous low cross from the left well cut out by Dene Cassells before Referee D'Alessandro blew for half-time.

To try and counter the visitors' midfield dominance, Saints Gaffer Alex Craik swapped youth for experience, pitching veteran Keith Millar into the action at the expense of youngster Ruaridh Horne.

Saints made an encouraging start to the second half, with Shaun MacIver winning a free-kick midway inside the Goldenhill half and 10 yards in from the left touchline. Willie Gemmell produced another dangerous delivery to the far post where Paul Carmichael had cleverly peeled off his marker. With his back to goal, Carmichael produced a flash of inspiration to wheel and hook a powerful shot on target which Scott Rennie equalled with a sensational finger tip save to turn the ball onto his left hand post.



Saints keeper Graham Douglas makes a great save from Goldenhill striker James Gallagher. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

Despite competing better in the second half Saints still carried little by way of an attacking threat and, after that initial save Rennie in the Goldenhill goal enjoyed a relatively quiet afternoon.

Making his first start of the season, Cassells carried the ball out from the back in the 69 minute but was dispossessed by Scott McGuire and picked up Saints third caution of the afternoon in attempting to regain possession from the Goldenhill captain.

Undeterred, Cassells joined the attack again 60 seconds later this time, progressing to the final third and feeding Donald Campbell. The Saints skipper was quick to spot the run of Matthew Kelly on the right, unfortunately his pass was just too heavy for Kelly and a promising opening came to nothing.

Saints were caught on their heels from a corner when Gallagher rolled his delivery from the right into the path of Christopher McGrath whose right foot rocket from the 18-yard line

flew past Graham Douglas and into the net at the unguarded front post.

Fraser MacFarlane replaced the Jamie Graham on the left of midfield for the closing 15 minutes. MacFarlane's first involvement was to help set up Paul Carmichael for a shot from the left across the face of goal which flew wide of Scott Rennie's left hand post.

Saints created another opening on the left in the 82nd minute with Carmichael this time electing to try and find Matthew Kelly with a low cross which was unfortunately hit fractionally too far in front of the midfielder's supporting run.

Graham Douglas produced an excellent double save in the dying minutes to deny James Gallagher and then Christopher McGrath on the follow up before Mr D'Alessandro blew for full time.

Gaffer Alex Craik will be disappointed with the goals conceded but overall can have few complaints with the final outcome as Goldenhill made it

Football

three wins out of three against Saints for the season.

Alex, who is stepping down from his role at the end of the season said: 'I was pleased with the effort the boys put in. We played some good football against a very good team. However, Goldenhill are a very experienced side. They were clinical in front of goals, whereas we passed up several good chances which you have to take at this level of the game.'

Saints have no fixture this Saturday as an Argyll Select take on the Scottish Amateur Football League Select for the Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy in Tarbert, kicking off at 1pm.

However, the D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side head to Scotstoun on Sunday to face Premier Division leaders St Joseph's FP who must take maximum points from their final home match of the season if they are to hold off the challenge of Goldenhill and retain their league crown.



Dene Cassells made a welcome return to play his first game of the season.



Goldenhill's Scottish international midfield player Scott McGuire apologies for a late tackle on Matty Kelly.

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate
Club instructor Iain Rodger was invited to teach at a beach training session held in St. Andrews on April 28 and those that attended had a great time and all promised to return for the next one.

As a turnaround on normal club policy, beginners will be welcome from now right up until the beginning of September.

The club stays open right through the school summer holiday.

If you would like more information about Kyokushinkai Karate classes, contact Iain

Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

Kickboxing
The class has several fighters training for the junior competition in Lochgilphead on May 19.

Training is also aimed towards the next grading tests which will be held in June.

The classes are as follows: juniors at 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 11am on Sundays, seniors are 6pm on Wednesday and Fridays, women only session are 1pm on Sundays and Kick-Fit Mondays



Kenny Gray and Flo McBurnie were awarded their fifth Dan and Andrew Lawson his third Dan.

at 6pm. Beginners are always welcome, first session is free and there are discounts for multiple session.

Find us on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07480 273190.

Shukokai Karate
On Sunday April 29 all three Argyll Martial Arts clubs met in Dalmally for a mini tournament and grading. Forty students took part in what turned out to be a very successful day.

Congratulations must go to Instructors Kenny Gray and Flo McBurnie, who were both awarded their fifth Dan after 35 years training and teaching karate and to Andrew Lawson who was awarded his third Dan.

All grades are approved by the UKMAA. Student of the day was Mathew Jaimeson, and most spirited fighter was Shira MacAskill.

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ
Sean Rowan from Oban BJJ entered the Scottish grappling invitational BJJ show in Glasgow at the Community Service Halls in Maryhill, this show was a submissions only event where you have to try to submit your opponent within the 10-minute time limit.

Sean's opponent was amateur



Members of Shukokai Karate who took part in a mini tournament and grading in Dalmally recently.

MMA fighter; Olly Georgopoulos from Dundee MMA.

The match lasted nine minutes with Sean having to work out of many submission attempts before getting caught in a choke and submitting to his opponent.

Special thanks must go to Alex Hill contractor for helping Sean with his travel.

Thursdays are now concentrating on MMA at the club and is starting from basics so is perfect time to try something different. All classes start at 7.30pm weekdays

For more info contact Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com



Sean Rowan, left, of Oban BJJ in action at the Scottish grappling invitational in Glasgow.

Soroba House and Saints youths host tournament

Football

THIS Saturday (May 12) Soroba House and Oban Saints YFC are holding a one day eight-team invitational tournament.

The teams taking part are Mull, Kilchoan, Bowmore, Oban Electrical Services, Coasters, Oban Earra-Ghaidheal and two Oban Saints select teams made up from past and present youth players.

All teams will be competing for the Soroba House Cup and the Janice Alexander OSY Memorial Shield.

Games start at 10am on both Oban High School 3G and Glen 2 followed by a presentation evening at Soroba House.

All spectators are welcome to come along for a great day's football.



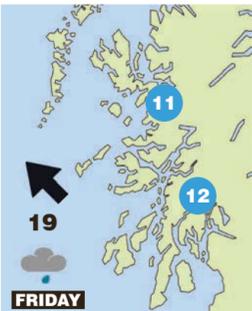
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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Breezy from the west south west Temperatures 7°C to 11°C
Friday	Light rain Breezy from the south east Temperatures 6°C to 12°C
Weekend	Light rain Saturday
Outlook	Sunshine and showers on Sunday Breezy from the south south east Temperatures 7°C to 13°C



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week of **Thursday May 3, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	02.04	3.0	08.03	1.8	14.36	2.9	20.21	1.7	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.56	3.2	09.02	1.5	15.18	3.1	21.15	1.4	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.38	3.5	09.47	1.3	15.55	3.3	21.58	1.2	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.16	3.7	10.25	1.0	16.29	3.5	22.37	0.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.53	3.9	11.02	0.7	17.02	3.7	23.17	0.7	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.29	4.0	11.39	0.6	17.35	3.9	23.58	0.5				
Wed	06.06	4.0	12.18	0.5	18.12	3.9	***	**				

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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Fifty jobs saved as diving centre finds new owners

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

MORE than 50 jobs have been secured after a deal was announced to restructure Fort William's world-famous subsea training facility, The Underwater Centre.

Industry and public bodies, including Subsea 7, Technip-FMC, Premier Oil, Oil & Gas UK, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), have collaborated to support The Underwater Centre, based on the shores of Loch Linnhe, and ensure its future success.

The company will now operate as a not-for-profit enterprise limited by guarantee, which will be funded and supported by its members, comprising operators, service companies and industry.

Senior representatives of Subsea 7, TechnipFMC and Premier Oil will join the board of The Underwater Centre.

The restructuring ensures the industry continues to have access to critical, world-leading underwater training and can undertake vital subsea equipment trials.

As well as securing the jobs of more than 50 staff, plans to enhance the service the centre offers the subsea industry means the number of jobs is likely to increase.

And in good news for Fort William and the wider area, the presence of more than 200 diving and ROV students each year and their accompanying impact on businesses is also secured, as is the export earnings that the 50 per cent of the centre's overseas students bring.

David McGhie, managing director of The Underwater Centre, welcomed the move, saying: 'The centre is of crucial importance to the North Sea industry as one of only two centres in Europe which provides closed-bell diver training – a skill set which is vital to the North Sea.'

'We are delighted that the industry and Scottish Gov-



The centre is of crucial importance to the North Sea industry as one of only two in Europe

ernment have collaborated to ensure the future of the centre.

'This genuinely positive collaboration will help to increase the value we can offer our customers and the entire industry in the future.'

'As a not-for-profit company, any surplus will be reinvested in improving quality and maintaining high standards and in new equipment and technology to support testing and trials, keeping us at the forefront globally.'

And he paid tribute to local

businessman Finlay Finlayson, who took over the centre in 2004 along with his wife, Lorna.

'Finlay has been key in taking forward this development and has been fully supportive of the restructuring of the company. Finlay will continue his involvement in the company at a senior level,' said Mr McGhie.

'The Finlayson family has done a fantastic job of taking the company to where it is today and its role in the town.'

Commenting on the move, Oil & Gas UK chief executive Deirdre Michie said it is increasingly important the UK's offshore oil and gas industry works together to consolidate areas of strength.

'Oil & Gas UK is pleased to have worked with our peers to secure an outcome which maintains the breadth of expertise and institutional knowledge at this excellent facility,' she said.

Phil Simons, senior vice-president projects and operations, Subsea 7, added: 'This is a win-win for the centre and the industry.'

'Being even more closely aligned with the leading subsea contractors under this new structure will ensure the centre can further tailor its offering to meeting current and future industry needs.'

And Susan Smith, acting area manager, Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said her organisation was delighted to support the collaboration.

'This move will safeguard more than 50 high value jobs in Fort William and provide a platform to underpin business growth in the years ahead,' she added.

Wheeling out the champions in Fort



Kinlochleven rider Gary MacDonald joined Sunday's parade through Fort William by those taking part in the Scottish Six Days' Trial. MacDonald, who has already retained his title in the Pre-65 Trial event, is one of nearly 300 riders from around the world testing their skills and machines across some of the toughest terrain in Lochaber. Full report and pictures – page two.

Skye health review welcomed

NHS Highland has welcomed an independent report on the state of out-of-hours urgent care services in Skye, Lochalsh and south-west Ross, which has recommended that out-of-hours urgent care access at Portree Hospital should be maintained 24/7.

Sir Lewis Ritchie, who conducted the review, met community representatives at Jan's Conference Centre, Portree, this week to share a number of key recommendations from the report.

The report states that Portree Hospital must remain open and services there should be enhanced. In particular, it recommends that in-patient bed availability at Portree Hospital should continue until sufficient alternative provision is provided in north Skye and that further work must be done to look at care at home and care home capacity.

David Alston, chairman of NHS Highland, said: 'NHS Highland will accept the recommendations, and will now move quickly to consider how, working with the community and our partners, we fully understand the workforce and financial implications in order to implement the recommendations.'

The SOS Skye campaign group and politicians have continually voiced longstanding concerns about NHS Highland's repeated closures of out-of-hours services at Portree Hospital, as well as concern over the lack of out-of-hours provision for Raasay and Glenelg.




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Rare Lochaber birds are under threat

RARE waterbirds in Lochaber are under 'real threat', according to a Lochaber environmental group, after it recorded a sharp fall in breeding numbers over the past two decades.

Lochaber Biodiversity Action Group (LBAG) has warned locals and visitors this week that black-throated divers, one of the country's rarest waterfowl, are under threat in the area, with nest disturbances by kayakers and canoeists cited as one of the main reasons for the decline.

The warning comes after numbers of breeding pairs on Loch Shiel have crashed from 11 to none in the past 20 years, although birds do still attempt to breed there.

LBAG says that although there are several reasons for this, including predation and a loss of nests caused by increased rainfall in Lochaber, a more unnecessary and avoidable threat to the birds is that of disturbance from human activity.

Jon Mercer, chairman of LBAG, said: 'Disturbance is a crucial factor here. If birds are disturbed on the nest, then they leave these and the eggs become vulnerable to predation, particularly by other birds. Frequent disturbance may cause black-throated divers to abandon their nests altogether.'

The biodiversity group is embarking on a campaign to educate locals and visitors,

particularly those who have boats, to raise awareness of black-throated divers, where they are likely to nest and the challenges they face.

'Perhaps the simplest solution is to avoid disturbing divers unnecessarily,' Dr Mercer continued. 'As tourist numbers swell, we are seeing an increasing number of kayaks and canoes on our inland waters. Lochs where divers are known to nest should be avoided during the breeding season.'

In the summer, the birds sport a striking black and white chequered back, slate grey head, black throat and striped neck.

Of the 200 black-throated diver pairs nesting in the British

Isles, up to 15 pairs are found in Lochaber.

Due to their rarity, the birds receive the highest level of legal wildlife protection in the UK and almost all their strongholds, including Loch Shiel and Rannoch, are designated as special protection areas under European law.

Other pairs breed on a number of lochs throughout the area, while larger bodies of water, such as Loch Lochy and Loch Arkaig, are used for feeding. LBAG also warns that photography of divers at the nest without a licence is illegal and anyone seen approaching nests should be reported to police at Fort William.



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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Transport Forum will hold an open meeting on Friday May 11 at 11am at the Duncansburgh Church Hall in Fort William. The meeting is open to the public.

Banavie Primary School will hold a fun night tomorrow, Friday May 11, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, with various stalls and activities for young and old, along with music from Lochaber High School Pipe Band, food, home-baking and refreshments.

Oak Wood Work Party – Kilmallie Community Company will meet on Saturday May 12 at 9am in the layby next to the sawmill in Corpach. All welcome. Jobs to do include repairing a wooden bridge, dismantling at least one unsafe rope swing, clearing up quite a bit of litter, also cutting back vegetation next to paths. Please bring your own tools such as secateurs or pruners. Bags, trailer and litter pickers will be provided.

Lochaber Yacht Club in Fort William is inviting all ages and families to come and try sailing for free on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, from 2-5pm. Starting at 2pm each day, there will be sailing 'taster sessions' for all ages in dinghies and yachts, led by experienced club members. Refreshments will be available in the LYC clubhouse. Booking via the following email would guarantee a sail in a boat - sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk. For full details about what's going on at Lochaber Yacht Club, visit lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

The next meeting of Glenfinnan Community Council is on Monday May 14 at 8pm in Glenfinnan House Hotel.

A charity race night in aid of Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Sound Hearing Support is being held in the Volunteer Arms Bar on Friday May 18. The evening event starts at 7.30pm with the first race at 8pm.

Kilmallie Christmas Lights Group will be holding its AGM on Thursday May 17, at the Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Do you have a story for The Oban Times? Call our newsroom on 01631 568000.



A large crowd of up to 4,000 people line Fort William High Street to cheer on the parade of riders who have this week been taking part in this year's Scottish Six Days Trial. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

MacDonald retains Pre-65 title

MARKE ENTWISTLE
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FOLLOWING an exceedingly close-fought event, Kinlochleven rider Gary MacDonald managed to retain the Challenge Trophy for the Scottish Pre-65 Trial, staged at Kinlochleven at the weekend.

After two days covering 60 technical sections, it was a three-way tie between MacDonald, Dan Thorpe and Dan Clark.

It therefore came down to the rules the Edinburgh Motorcycle Club – which has organised the event since 1911 – has in place for just such an eventuality, and as MacDonald's motorcycle was the biggest machine of the three, he pipped the others to retain the title he won last year when he was the first Scottish rider to win it.

Second place was determined by age, with Dan Clark pipping Dan Thorpe by a month as they were on similar motorcycles.

Competitors from across the globe, including Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica and the USA, flocked to Lochaber for the Pre-65 event and for this year's Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT), based in Fort William.

After the Pre-65 event on Friday and Saturday, Sunday saw glorious sunshine attract a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 to Fort William High Street for a parade of riders and

their machines taking part in this year's Six Days Trial.

Every day this week, several hundred competitors start and finish their stages at the West End car park on Fort William's shoreline.

The start of the 2018 trial carried no less anticipation than previous events and opened in typically damp fashion with six riders tied at the top of the initial leader board after a first day that passed without any headline dramas.

Having completed the opening 30 sections spread around the 71-mile course, in their various groups, Jack Price – Gas Gas, Gary Macdonald – Scorpa, Tom Minta – Scorpa, James Dabill – Beta, Sam Connor – Beta and Andrew Chilton – Scorpa each had a share of the interim lead after they all remained faultless in the first of the six days – Monday – contested in the hills around Fort William.

Following the two opening hazards, the field of 285 riders, representing 18 nations, were then greeted by four boulder-strewn sections at Leanachen, which had attracted a large crowd despite the rain arriving not long after the action got under way.

Monday's offering included the classic sections at Bradilieg and Loch Eilde Mhor before the riders enjoyed a well-earned lunchbreak on the outskirts

of Kinlochleven, this being in advance of them visiting further traditional hazards at Blackwater, Garbh Bhein and Cameron Hill en route to the climax of the day at Lagnaha.

Defending champion Dougie Lampkin held seventh spot on Monday night, just ahead of Joe Baker – Sherco, who also finished Monday on one mark, as Sam Haslam – Gas Gas and Jack Sheppard – Sherco rounded out day one's top 10 respectively having both dropped two marks apiece.

Aside from the battle for the main award, the fight for the other class trophies looks to be as fierce as ever. France's Arnaud Seyve – Gas Gas and Czech Jiri Svoboda – Beta currently share the spoils as the best newcomers on day one, having dropped 11 marks apiece.

Reigning FIM Women's Trial World Champion Emma Bristow – Sherco has already started to open up a healthy lead over Sandra Gomez – Gas Gas in the female category, taking a 26-mark advantage into day two.

Tuesday was due to see the riders cover a similar distance to Monday – 76 miles – as they made the first of two excursions this week over the Corran ferry.

Tuesday's route followed a clockwise direction around the peninsula. Friday's route will see the riders tackle the groups in the opposite direction.



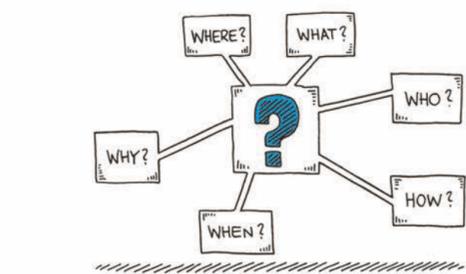
Gary MacDonald in action, successfully defending his Pre-65 Trial title. Photograph: Kim Ferguson



A focused Emma Bristow during a challenging section of the SSDT on Monday. Photograph: Jake Miller



Tartan clad local riders Jack and Kevin Dignan with fellow Lochaber Motorcycle Club entrant Dougie Gibson. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



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View from the Chamber

JOINING your local Chamber of Commerce is a great way to make business connections and develop your business.

As a new member, you have the opportunity to hold a business showcase event that lets you introduce what you do to your fellow members and meet new contacts.

Last week Carol-Ann Adams from Interface and Nigel Patterson, the newly appointed business development manager from West Highland College, had the chance to introduce themselves and their services at a chamber business showcase lunch.

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If you're in business and you have an idea but you need more research, it's well worth getting in touch with Carol-Ann at Interface on 01463 245262.

Nigel also gave us an informal overview of the skills and staff development training that West Highland



Carol-Ann Adams addressed members of Lochaber Chamber.

College can provide – from first-aid courses to Twitter, the college aims to assist businesses with the targeted training they need.

If you would like to find out more about the college can help you, call

Nigel on 01397 874 241. Join Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and take the opportunity to promote what you do and increase your business network. Call us on 01397 705 765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Lochaber man travelled 250 miles hoping to meet young girl

NEWCASTLE Crown Court has heard how Kinlochleven man Paul Taylor made contact with what he thought was a 13-year-old girl online and then travelled 250 miles to Newcastle to meet her – only to be snared by an internet paedophile hunters group calling itself Dark Justice.

Taylor was using the name Frozen Fan on a website for under-16s when he believed he was communicating with the girl.

The 48-year-old told the ‘fake’ girl her dental braces were ‘sexy’ and arranged to meet her in Byker, Newcastle.

But after driving all the way from Fort William to see her, he was confronted by paedophile hunters Dark Justice and arrested.

Prosecutor Jolyon Perks told Newcastle Crown Court last week that it was in June 2016 that the decoy profile was set up and Taylor made contact in a chatroom for under-16s.

The conversation then moved to WhatsApp and Taylor soon turned the conversation to matters of a sexual nature.

After seeing a picture, purportedly of the child but actually of an adult, Taylor

said: ‘Oh wow you are so pretty.’ Then, referring to dental braces, he added: ‘Love them, they are sexy.’

Mr Perks said: ‘The defendant constantly made reference to the fact the profile picture was sexy. He requested more images.’

‘The conversation continued over the next few hours.’

‘The defendant sent pictures of himself and various Disney Frozen characters which appeared to be sexual in nature.’

Mr Perks said: ‘Several times he suggested he was turned on or wanted to kiss the girl.’

He travelled to meet her at

Asda in Byker and continued to message her on his way.

Mr Perks said: ‘He made requests for her to dress older when she met him. He told her she could change her mind at any time.’

When Taylor arrived in the Byker area, he was confronted and arrested.

Taylor, of Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, pleaded guilty to attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming and was given a three-year community order.

He was also made subject to a sexual harm prevention order for

seven years and must sign the sex offenders’ register for the same period.

Judge Sarah Mallett told him: ‘You engaged in contact with what was in fact a group posing as a child on social media.’

‘There was a conversation for 45 minutes before moving on to WhatsApp and the conversation took on a sexual tone.’

‘You sent pictures of yourself and of modified Disney characters.’

The judge added: ‘You have demonstrated genuine remorse. There was an attempt to commit an offence that was impossible.’

Tony Cornberg, mitigating, said Taylor, who appeared in court via a video-link to Scotland, had no previous convictions and was a ‘tragic and lonely person’ who had spent five months in custody on remand.

Mr Cornberg added: ‘He wants me to say he is completely embarrassed and devastated, and apologises to the court and anyone affected for any distress and inconvenience caused.’

‘He has had a lot of support since moving back to Scotland. He had a psychiatrist visit him yesterday.’

Nevis Radio gets a £10,000 boost

FOLLOWING its recent success with the Tesco Bags for Help grant, securing funds for a much-needed studio refurbishment, Fort William-based Nevis Community Radio has now had a grant of £10,000 confirmed.

Funded by Comic Relief, through Foundation Scotland, the grant will go towards the increasing core running costs of the community station.

Comic Relief allocates money raised by its fundraising campaigns, including Red Nose Day and Sport Relief, and this cash will be put towards expenses such as staffing, equipment and general running costs for the station, including transmission sites.

A delighted Nevis Radio’s Esme Leitch said: ‘We are so grateful to be awarded such an amazing and vital sum of money – the staff and volunteers at the station work so hard to keep providing the service to Lochaber and it’s great to see it being acknowledged as an important cause to fund by such a respected funder. We cannot say thank you enough to Comic Relief and Foundation Scotland.’

Nevis Radio also recently launched news on social media about its upcoming street party on June 2 in Fort William which will include live music, live DJs and competitions – and will be free of charge.

Simon Abberley, sustainability manager at Nevis Radio, explained: ‘It’s our 25th year of broadcasting this year, so we wanted to do something to thank the community for their continued support and thought a big street party in the Fort William High Street would be beneficial for both local businesses and individuals.’

‘We are so lucky to have secured sponsorship from businesses already, I would like to especially thank LEAP, who will be our partner for the event and also the Outdoor Capital team and UCI for their full support and help promoting it.’

‘We know it’s already a great weekend for the area with the Mountain Bike World Cup – and this will make it even better.’

Lochaber Model Show is a big hit after move to Nevis Centre

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A BIG crowd flocked to the Nevis Centre in Fort William at the weekend for this year’s Lochaber Model and Craft Show.

More than 100 tables were in use throughout the day on Saturday as several hundred people viewed the various displays and exhibits organised by show organiser Robert Wilson and colleagues Paul and Karen Grant from Blairgowrie.

At the end of the day, guest judges Malcolm and Emma Lawson, from Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, awarded the overall best display trophy to John Brotherston, of Caithness, for his Second World War dioramas, with superbly crafted figures depicting different scenes from the conflict, each with an explanation and information on what people were looking at.

And if the pledged sponsorship and the invoices come as expected, Robert reckons the final sum to be presented to the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Service this year will be between £1,000 and £1,100.

Robert says the choice of the Nevis Centre for the fourth annual show proved to be the right decision after the first two shows were held in the Duncansburgh McIntosh Church Hall, with the third at Lochaber High School.

‘The Nevis Centre was a bit of a risk due to the cost of hiring a big venue, but it meant we could have all of our 110 tables in the one large room, with all the facilities,’ Robert told us after the event.

‘It made for a great atmosphere with everyone in the one big space and I think I’d be safe in saying it was our busiest year so far.’

The main problem to overcome for Robert and his colleagues was the acquisition of enough large tables to hold all the displays.

‘We needed more than 100 tables and it was tricky trying to find enough locally, but thankfully the Caithness Model Club was able to bring 40 down and we got another 25 from Oban,



A giant model of the Second World War aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal with some of the modellers who helped in her construction in the 1980s, above; below right, six-year-old Finnan Grissin enjoys the fun of the fair at the exhibit owned by Martin Gentle of Spean Bridge; and show organiser Robert Wilson looks down on his exhibit of a transport yard. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



plus others from both Spean Bridge hall and the Duncansburgh McIntosh Church Hall.’

Robert, who has been building models himself for more than 15 years,

moved to Lochaber about six years ago from his native Dumfriesshire.

‘There had been a Lochaber Model Club previously but it folded, I think around 1998. However, there were

still a few of its ex-members about who were keen to have a local show and this year, after four years, we also had modellers from as far afield as Orkney and Shetland, Glasgow, Edinburgh,

Wick and Aberdeen, which was fantastic. We also brought in the crafters this year and had trade stands selling model-related stuff which all helped make it such a great day.’



New bus shelter installed

THE long-running saga of the bus shelter outside Fort William Health Centre has drawn to a close with the installation of the much-anticipated permanent structure.

Its temporary wooden predecessor had to be removed after it was vandalised and storm damage then made it unsafe.

The original shelter was

knocked down by a bus almost two years ago.

The lengthy wait for Bidwells, the firm of managing agents acting on behalf of the landowner involved, to arrange the permanent replacement led to concern over elderly and unwell patients visiting the health centre having to stand and wait in the wind and the rain.

Scooter to improve mobility for shoppers

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber has been awarded £1,500 from The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation to buy a new mobility scooter for use by residents in the area.

The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation is a legacy project of the late Gordon Baxter and his wife Ena and supports charities and worthy community causes throughout the Highlands and Islands.

Kay Jackson, foundation manager of The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, said: ‘It can be very challenging for those less able to get out and about in their local area. Trustees were keen to support this group which has a very pro-active attitude towards

assisting local residents and visitors to the area. It’s a great community initiative.’

Shopmobility Lochaber will use the award to buy a new on- and off-road mobility scooter to complement its fleet.

‘We are very grateful to The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation for their support. This scooter will make so many more areas accessible to our users,’ said Julie Wileman, project co-ordinator for Shopmobility Lochaber.

The new scooter, a Vapor X75, is an innovative step for the mobility world with a 360-degree swivel design to improve accessibility, and the large pneumatic tyres and advanced

all-round suspension make this an ideal scooter for enjoying the stunning Lochaber scenery.

All scooters and wheelchairs at Shopmobility have names, and in honour of The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, this scooter will be called Baxter.

Shopmobility Lochaber aims to enhance the independence of, and improve the lifestyle for, individuals who have a permanent or temporary mobility problem by providing a free hire service of wheelchairs, powerchairs and electric ride-on scooters.

For further information about Shopmobility Lochaber, contact Julie Wileman or Janette Cowie on 01397 700051 or shopmobility2015@gmail.com.



Kay Jackson tries out the new scooter, named Baxter.

Glenuig Inn wins award

THE Glenuig Inn has been named as the winner of Green Hotelier Awards 2018 in the waste category.

The inn has reduced its waste to landfill by a massive 97.5 per cent since 2007, and is now only producing the equivalent to half a domestic refuse bin per week.

The hotel has banished all single-use plastic from the business, dried and sterilised food waste is commingled with wood pellets to provide all the heating and hot water, meaning there is no food waste for disposal.

Steve Macfarlane, director of the Glenuig Inn, said: ‘We’re absolutely delighted and honoured to have won this prestigious global award and hope that we can inspire others to take the right steps to a sustainable future.’

Talk Lochaber to hold AGM

TALK Lochaber is holding its annual general meeting on Monday May 21 at An Drochaid, Claggan Road, Fort William, at 7.30pm.

Volunteer-run Talk Lochaber produces a free weekly talking newspaper with local news taken from the *Lochaber Times*, *Lochaber Life*, *Westword*, *De tha Dol* and other publications.

All are welcome to attend.

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4 Lochs & Whirlpool	SUNDAY June 3 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm Fare: 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool £37 SC £35
Isle of Coll Cruise Island Coast	MONDAY June 4 Leave 10am back 8pm Fares: Visit Coll £41 SC £39 Cruise Island Coast £43 SC £41
Mull of Kintyre Return by coach from Campbeltown	TUESDAY June 5 Leave 9.30am back 6.30pm Fares: Mull of Kintyre £37 SC £35

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Fèis receives philanthropy cash award

FÈIS nan Garbh Chrìochan has been awarded £3,000 by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), thanks to the efforts of Ardnamurchan students.

Rachel Ford, Frances MacDonald, Mary Ann MacPherson and Seamus Buchanan, all S3 pupils of Ardnamurchan High School, secured the award with their presentation to YPI judges on the work the fèis does to tackle local social issues.

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan chairperson Sarah-Jayne Shankland said: 'We are delighted to receive the award from the Youth Philanthropy Initiative.'

'We would like to extend enormous thanks to the students who nominated Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan and put together a very informative presentation highlighting the benefit and importance of the work of the fèis in our local community.'

The fèis was one of five local charities in the final, watched by high school pupils.

Following consultation with local young people, the award will be used in a number of ways, including buying new instruments, media equipment and introducing more music classes.

The worldwide initiative helps increase young people's understanding of local social issues and to identify charities that are helping to combat inequalities.

Have your say on police properties

HIGHLANDS and Islands regional MSP Rhoda Grant has revealed that following a public consultation, the disposal of 49 of the 53 police properties was validated at the Scottish Police Authority board meeting in Stirling last week.

The four properties where there has not been agreement with local communities are all located within the Highlands and Islands.

Ms Grant commented: 'I understand the decision to sell off the police offices in Lairg, Dunvegan, Broadford and Lochboisdale have not been mutually agreed with the communities affected, or other stakeholders, and will be reviewed with a further consultation taking place between now and August 3 with regards to the way forward.'

'I would just ask the communities of the identified locations to make their views known by means of the public consultation before the closing date.'

New plans unveiled for Old Knock School refurbishment

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A COMMUNITY consultation commenced at the weekend in Point over plans to redevelop the Old Knock School, which has become a thriving community hub since it was reposed and reopened in March, 2014.

Plans have been drawn up which include some extensive rebuilding and remodelling – including a glass-walled extension to the cafe to open up the views across the Braighe – and community group Urras Stòras an Rubha are looking for public feedback before they start applying for funding.

It is a second attempt to redevelop the building, which is very much in need of renovation. The first set of plans were unsuccessful in their bid for cash from the Big Lottery's Growing Communities Assets fund. The new plans are scaled down and have been costed at approximately £1 million.

The project group hopes to begin the



Plans could see the gable end of the building turned into a wall of glass.

funding applications in the summer, after feedback from the community consultation.

Under the draft plans, the two main (old) parts of the building would be kept, with structural work done on the extensions – mainly the areas with

flat roofs – which were added over the years. The shop and cafe, which occupy one main part of the building, will be extended.

The shop will get more floor space and the gable end of the building will be turned into a wall of mainly glass,

with a mezzanine level to create more seating and to make the best of the views over the Minch and down to the Harris hills.

The plans have been drawn up by Malcolm Crate and the aim is to create a more attractive, modern, energy efficient building that is fit for purpose.

The plans also include dedicated museum and exhibition space for Comann Eachdraidh an Rubha and Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe, plus offices for Point and Sandwick Trust, archive and storage facilities for the Rudhach community paper and a meeting room.

The consultation takes place across two Saturdays – May 5 and May 12 – from noon to 4pm, in the building itself.

A spokesman for Urras Stòras an Rubha said: 'We're going to be making applications for funding for the redevelopment of the building and we want to be sure that we're doing what the community would like with the

site. So we want to give the community the opportunity to have input into how the final plans will be.'

Detailing other parts of the new plans, she said the space for Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe (the Uì Church Trust) would give them somewhere to store their interpretation panels for the church, sited in neighbouring village Aignish, which currently have nowhere to go.

She pointed out there was 'nowhere else in Point' that could give space to these kinds of groups and said a whole raft of local organisations were involved in Urras Stòras an Rubha and having input to discussions – including the Comann Eachdraidh historical society, Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe, the Rudhach, Point Community Council and the Agricultural Society.

She said Tighean Innse Gall had been very helpful and they would soon be looking to the Lottery, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, possibly Leader and also the Landfill Tax for funding.

North Skye youngsters explore Stories, Stones and Bones in year-long initiative

PUPILS from Portree, Staffin and Kilmuir Primary Schools have been boning up on their history thanks to the Stories, Stones and Bones initiative funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The project was managed and run over the past year by Cleas, a local charity and arts organisation, in partnership with the Aros Centre, Staffin Community Trust and Canan Graphic Studios at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The initiative was designed to give pupils access to sites of historical interest within the environment utilising the skills and knowledge of local historians, writers and artists.

Among other locations, they visited sites of historical and paleontological significance such as Duntulm Castle and bay, An Corran, Rigg, and Brothers' Point, with Dugie Ross of Staffin Museum as their expert guide.

Other local experts from the Trotternish community – Mary Ann MacDonald, Annie Nicolson, Catherine Budge, Janet Lamont and Donald MacLeod – then called in to the local schools for informal 'cèilidhs' where pupils and visitors covered a



range of topics linked to the sites visited. The project also covered creative writing and visual arts, with Lewis-born writer Donald S Murray alongside local artists Lorraine Scott Nolan and James Newton Adams delivering sessions within the schools to build up the children's imagery of what they had discovered.

All the elements of the project were brought together in a final session delivered by Balmacara-born animator Iain Craig, where the children completed stop-motion animation films using simple technology.

Mr Craig said he was impressed with the pupils. He said: 'This has been a lovely project to work on, and pupils certainly rose to



the challenge of putting together fun, creative short stories.

'It was brilliant to see such variety coming through in storyboards. There is no shortage of

talent in the classes I visited and I'm confident we'll see some of the young people involved producing their own films in the future.'

The final pieces of work, photographs and a more detailed report can be viewed at www.cleas.org.uk/stories-stones-and-bones



Pupils from Portree, Staffin and Kilmuir Primary Schools took part in the project which involved visiting sites of historical and paleontological significance, above, and working with local artists, left.

Clansman returns to service

CALMAC ferry MV Clansman returned to service last week after extensive repairs to her propulsion system.

Her absence required the company to move to an alternative timetable, causing widespread disruption across its West Coast routes.

The vessel will pick up services from Uig to Tarbert and Lochmaddy, allowing the MV Hebrides to enter dry dock for an overhaul.

'Everyone in the company is working hard to get a full fleet back in service by May 23 – and having the Clansman back is an important milestone towards achieving this,' said CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond last week.

'In the summer our fleet is fully deployed to meet the specified timetable, which means that there are no spare vessels to provide resilience in the event of a technical breakdown. The impact this loss has had on our communities is of deep regret to us.'

The first service the returned Clansman sailed was the 7.30pm Uig to Lochmaddy on Wednesday May 2.

The vessel will again return to dry dock for a short period in June for the replacement of its tailshaft, a key part of the vessel's propulsion system.

The company is working to minimise the impact on customers and will issue an update once dates are confirmed.

New sight loss group for Skye

A LEADING sight-loss charity is calling for people living in and around Skye and Lochalsh who have visual impairments to get in touch about a new peer support group it is planning to launch.

The Macular Society is proposing to set up a support group, offering information, encouragement and friendship to people living locally who are affected by macular disease and other sight-loss conditions.

The charity is appealing to anyone who would be interested in attending the group to get in contact and register their interest.

It is also keen to hear from any volunteers who would be happy to help organise and run the group's meetings, and assist with general tasks such as booking guest speakers and sending out mailings.

Depending on the level of interest shown, it is hoped that the group will meet once a month, beginning in late June, at the Broadford Hotel.

For more information on macular degeneration, call the Macular Society's helpline on 0300 3030 111 or email help@macularsociety.org

Lewis trust secures place in awards finals

COMMUNITY wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) says it is delighted to have been shortlisted in the Scottish Charity Awards, announced on Friday, writes Mark Entwistle.

Two years ago, PST won a Green Energy Award from the renewables industry for its community-owned wind farm at Beinn Ghrideag on the outskirts of Stornoway.

This time, the nomination is for charity work – for its funding and support of community projects with the profits from the wind farm – and the trust is particularly proud to be a finalist in the Celebrating Communities category.

The awards are run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the national body representing the interests of charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The shortlist includes 40 individuals and organisations from across the third sector in Scotland and members of the public can have their say by voting for their favourite entry from all the categories in the People's Choice Award – to do so, vote online at www.scvo.org.uk/vote by May 18.

All the winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on June 14 in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, hosted by Sally Magnusson. Angus McCormack, chairman



Point and Sandwick Trust has been nominated for its fundraising and support of community projects with the profits from the wind farm.

of Point and Sandwick Trust, said: 'We are so pleased to be recognised by the Scottish Charity Awards, even more so for our shortlisting in the Celebrating Communities category.'

'As a trust, we built and operate the UK's biggest 100 per cent-owned community wind farm for the express benefit of our local community and the wider Western Isles.'

'Despite our relatively modest size, we are an inherently ambitious organisation and operate with a can-do attitude, delivering support to community-run cafes, respite care services and our local hospice.'

'For a small group of villages in the Outer Hebrides, we are having a notable impact, and all thanks to the income from

our turbines and the incessant blowing of the Hebridean wind.'

The charity started up in 2005 and the turbines began generating power in November 2015.

It is the largest community-owned wind farm in the UK in terms of output, generating nine megawatts from its three turbines, and every penny of its profits goes back into the local community. It is expected to make £900,000 profit this year, enabling it to support a wide range of good causes, from major lifeline donations such as the £55,000 a year to Bethesda Care Home and Hospice to £500 for local schools in Point and Sandwick to buy bicycles for children with additional support needs.

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Personnel from the Powderhall Bronze foundry, with designer Mark Stoddart (third from left) and Chris Robinson, chairman of the fundraising committee (second right) inspect the flagstones in Cameron Square last week, and, right, an artist's impression of how it should look. IF F19 Model T preps

Excitement builds for 'Ben Bronze'

MARK ENTWISTLE
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EXPERTS from an Edinburgh foundry were in Fort William last week to inspect the site for the town's new life-size bronze replica of a legendary Model T Ford car driven up Ben Nevis in 1911.

The team from Powderhall Bronze lifted several of the flagstones in Cameron Square to check that the concrete base underneath is of sufficient

depth to take the special supports that the three-ton bronze car will rest on when it is installed in just over week. The unveiling of 'the Ben Bronze' on May 19 will take place 107 years after Henry Alexander set off from Cameron Square to drive his own Model T Ford to the summit of Britain's highest peak. Powderhall Bronze is casting the bronze car, which is an exact replica of the Model T carried up Ben Nevis in sec-

tions in 2011 to mark the 100th anniversary of the original ascent. The bronze figure of Henry Alexander will be sitting in the driving seat and the statue will be completed by bronze footprints and tyre tracks to the rear of the car, along with the names of all the people who have helped gather money for the project. And this month's unveiling will be marked by a grand parade of more than 50 Model

T cars along Fort William High Street. A total of £89,000 has been raised by local group, the Ben Nevis Model T Ford Committee, over the past four years to fund the project. One possible hurdle – acquiring permission from Ford to use its iconic logo on the bronze Model T – was overcome thanks to the involvement in the project of Ayrshire-born international designer Mark Stoddart. Mr Stoddart has been ac-

quainted with Scottish motor racing legend Sir Jackie Stewart for a number of years due to their mutual involvement with Dyslexia Scotland. As a result, it was Sir Jackie who was able to use his connections with the Ford company stretching back more than 40 years to obtain permission from Ford USA, along with help from the chief executive of Ford Europe and William Clay Ford Jr, to be able to use the famous Ford badge. 'Hopefully,

this will be a visitor attraction for not just Fort William, but the Highlands generally, for generations to come,' Mr Stoddart told us while in Fort William last week. And committee chairman Chris Robinson said it is fantastic to be so close now to seeing the artwork finally installed, adding: 'It has been a lot of effort by a lot of people over the past few years, so it will be great to see it finally installed here in Fort William.'

Cyclist dies after collision with animal

POLICE Scotland can confirm that a male cyclist has died after coming off his bicycle on an unclassified road near Ord on Skye.

David Anthony Young, 73, died in the incident on Friday May 4. No other vehicles were involved. It is believed he collided with a wild animal.

The road was closed to allow for collision investigation to be carried out at the scene.

Sergeant Chris Murray, of the Road Policing Unit, said: 'Our thoughts are with David's family and friends at this difficult time, and ask that their privacy is respected.'

'Our inquiries into this tragic incident are ongoing and I would appeal for anyone who saw David on the morning of May 4, who has not already spoken to police, to contact us on 101, making reference to NP2208/18'.

Nominations are wanted

GROUPS and individuals involved in heritage projects across the Highlands are being urged to enter the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards as the scheme returns for a fourth year.

Nominations on Friday May 4 to find the Angels who have played a special part in caring for, recording and celebrating the nation's historic environment.

The awards scheme is open to groups, individuals, volunteers and professionals across Scotland, with entrants having until Friday June 29 to submit their nominations.

This year the awards ceremony will take place in Glasgow for the first time, with the eventual winners to be crowned at Glasgow City Chambers on Monday October 22.

MSP highlights pothole plight of Lochaber



This pothole is located in the centre of Carbost village.

LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes was due to highlight the number of dangerous potholes on local roads and call for major improvements in a debate in the Scottish Parliament this week. In the debate on the conditions of Scotland's roads scheduled for yesterday (Wednesday), the constituency MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch was expected to urge Highland Council to expedite repairs to the worst affected areas across the region. Her lobbying on behalf of constituents has already resulted in repairs to parts of trunk roads, such as the A82 and A87, but Ms Forbes is concerned that local roads

– the responsibility of local authorities – are not being fixed quickly enough. 'There are very few roads in the Highlands that can boast no potholes,' she told us. 'Additional money has been provided to deal with potholes across the Highlands, but there is still a major problem. 'Early in the new year, an additional £4 million was freed up to repair trunk roads like the A82 and the A87 on the West Coast. 'I pressed for repair works to be brought forward as early as possible and thankfully some of the worst stretches were repaired.' Ms Forbes continued: 'The Scottish Government

announced £10 million specifically for local authority roads and I was delighted that Highland Council secured the biggest share of that additional funding. 'There are some roads that were awful, long before the winter freeze. Sadly, some areas, particularly in the most rural communities, seem to have been completely forgotten about for years. 'They resemble farm tracks and yet people need to drive to and from work, school or play. 'The total compensation that Highland Council has paid out to drivers whose cars have been damaged would probably have helped repair several potholes at the very least.'

Boxing gold champ visits Caol school

BOXING Commonwealth gold medal winner Charlie Flynn visited Caol Primary School last week to inspire and motivate the young students. Charlie took the youngsters through a fitness routine, then gave an inspirational talk about his career to date. The former mail man shot to fame in 2014 after his incredible Commonwealth gold medal victory in Glasgow and has since enjoyed an unbeaten professional boxing career. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.



Youngsters complete food hygiene course

AS PART of Kinlochleven High School's Employability Month, S2 pupils have completed food hygiene certificates in partnership with West Highland College. The Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland is a Level 2 qualification in food hygiene which is nationally recognised in all sectors of the food industry. The certificate is awarded to participants who have successfully completed the Elementary Food Hygiene

Course and subsequent assessment. The course takes a minimum of six hours and is designed to provide practical information and advice which will help employers and employees ensure food handling is carried out safely. 'I am delighted to say everyone passed. We also had an outstanding performance from Hugh Purvis, who passed with full marks. That is some achievement as this qualification is an adult vocational course,' said head teacher Rebecca Machin.

'Our Employability Month is a part of our Developing the Young Workforce programme. By working with West Highland College, we are enabling young people to access more vocational options, better preparing pupils for the world of work. 'We have a lot on this month with visits to local employers to look at the range of jobs they offer, working with local employers to identify and work on employability skills, and lots of pupils taking up work placements during exam leave. It is an exciting time.'



S2 pupil Hugh Purvis cleaned up with top marks.



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FW
Plockton

THE LOCHALSH branch of Legion Scotland raised £222 for its funds at a bingo session in Balmacara House on Wednesday April 25.

TWO SKIPS were filled during the annual village clean-up, organised by Plockton and District Community Council, on Saturday April 28.

PLOCKTON Drama Club won through to the Scottish Drama Finals at East Kilbride on Thursday April 19 with their play *Thank you for Protesting* by Paul Adam Levy. The producer was Gill James. Although unplaced, they enjoyed their trip.

THE ANNUAL cruise on Calum's boat was held on Saturday April 7 in aid of prostate cancer research and in memory of Alastair Bruce, who died 10 years ago.

The cruise raised £1,460 and the Bruce family have decided to distribute £500 to prostate cancer research; £200 to the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, £200 to Kyleakin Connections, £200 to Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band's Belfast trip, £200 to Friends of Broadford Hospital and £160 to Plockton Youth Drama.

CHARLIE M Macrae celebrated his 80th birthday with a party in the village hall on Tuesday April 17.

More than 100 villagers attended, with music from the Cameron brothers from Glenelg. Donations, instead of presents, totalled £614.65 which went to the Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland. Charlie received 110 birthday cards.

ON MONDAY April 9, Plockton said farewell to well-known villagers Hugh and Margaret MacQuarrie who have moved to Glasgow after 36 years in the village.

Both were teachers at Plockton High School. Hugh was also manager at Lochalsh Leisure Centre and latterly owned Kyle petrol station. He played football, rugby, badminton and cricket, and later became involved in the administration of these sports.

Margaret was a keen badminton player and a long-serving member of Strath Gaelic Choir. They received many gifts from various organisations before they left. The good wishes of the community go with them in their new life. They will be much missed, in particular in the local sporting world.

THERE were 2.7 inches of rain in Plockton in April following 2.41 in March. There were 13 dry days. The warmest day was 18.7C and the coldest night was -0.4.

Sunart



The first Sunart Wildcat Rally was a success.

MOTORBIKE enthusiasts from as far afield as Thurso in the north and London in the south converged in Strontian recently for the inaugural Sunart Wildcat Rally, which included a ride-out to the most westerly point on the UK mainland.

Following their visit to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse on the afternoon of Saturday April 28, more than 50 bikers held a barbecue, raffle and auction, raising £1,700 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCCA) which relies entirely on donations from the public.

Rally organisers Mike Taylor from East Lothian, who runs Passing Places Tours, and Tim Coldwell, who owns the Sunart Camping site in Strontian, explained the charity was close to the heart of motorcyclists as many had benefited from the SCCA's life-saving flights.

Mike said: 'This event has been fantastic. We thank everyone who attended, those who donated prizes for the raffle and auction, and the Winton Massif for helping to organise the rally. We'll definitely be holding the event again next year.'



Members of the 2nd Fort William Boys Brigade Company held their annual parents' night at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church hall. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Boys' Brigade holds annual prizegiving

MEMBERS of the 2nd Fort William Boys Brigade Company recently held their annual parents' night and prizegiving in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church hall.

The boys gave a display of marching and the work they have done over the session before the awards ceremony and tea and cakes.

Main prize list:

Junior section:
Perfect Attendance - Faolan Hunter.

Regular Attendance - Ben O'Sullivan, Robert MacTaggart and Kieran Boyd.

Centenary Cup, best Junior Section Boy - Faolan Hunter.

Junior Section gold award - Ben O'Sullivan and Faolan Hunter.

Company section:
Perfect attendance - Daniel Turner and Jack O'Neill.

Regular attendance - Josh Higginson, Nathan Johnston and Finlay Hunter.

The Dan Hunter Memo-

rial Trophy, best drilled recruit - Scott MacLeod.

The Lawrence Wilson Memorial Shield, best Squad - Squad 2, Corporal Daniel MacLeod.

1st Brierley Hill Trophy - Private Jay-Jay Calder.

Presented by friends from Dudley. This is for the boy who, in the opinion of the drill officer, has shown most improvement in his drill over the year.

The Duncansburgh Cup - Private Jack O'Neill.

Presented to the company by members of the Kirk Session for Christian endeavour in and out of company meeting times (Sunday Church/Sunday school).

The Jim Rodger Trophy, best all-round boy in badge work, attendance and enthusiasm - Private Finlay McBride.

The Seniors Trophy - Corporal Daniel MacLeod. This trophy is presented to senior boys of 15 years and over who have completed



Recipients of the Queen's Badge: Lance Corporal Liam MacDonald, left, and Corporal Daniel MacLeod. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

the Boys' Brigade award scheme and who are working for the Queen's Badge.

Queen's Badge - Lance Corporal Liam MacDonald, Corporal Daniel MacLeod. Promotions: Junior to

Company Section - Ben O'Sullivan and Faolan Hunter. The BB will hold an enrolment evening for 2018/19 on Friday August 24 in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall at 7pm.

Good turnout for Glen Nevis litter pick



A large number of people turned out for the Friends of Nevis held its Glen Nevis spring litter pick and curling ponds tidy up. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

FRIENDS of Nevis thank the volunteers who took part in its Glen Nevis litter pick and curling ponds tidy up.

More than 30 volunteers of all ages, some from as far away as Edinburgh and Kent, took part.

The group also thanks Ben Nevis Highland Centre, which once again supported the event.

Other events are planned in Glen Nevis, courtesy of the environmental group. These include wildlife events on bats, birds, butterflies and moths, footpath maintenance days, conservation work to rid the glen of skunk cabbage and a herb walk and workshop. Everyone welcome.

For more details or to join in an event, visit friendsofnevis.co.uk, email info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or telephone the Nevis Landscape Partnership office on 01397 701088.

Ardgour

HOPSCOTCH Children's Charity has hit the road running with the recent arrival of a new minibus at its respite centre in Ardgour.

The minibus will transport children to and from their home communities all over Scotland to Ardvullin in Ardgour and enable the children to visit and experience many of the delights and natural wonders the Highlands has to offer.

HopScotch has been providing respite breaks for children at Ardvullin for 19 years. Children from challenging home circumstances experience new and exciting activities as part of their week away. For many it's their first time away from home and may be the first holiday they've ever had.

The minibus had to be custom-built to meet particular specifications, which meant it was a major investment for the small charity. It was funded by the Scottish Children's Lottery, Walter Scott Giving Group, WG Forsyth Trust, the New Park Educational Trust and fundraising from a Kilimanjaro challenge by HopScotch sup-



Youngsters beside the new mini bus at Ardgour.

porters Mike and Ken Timmins. 'We are so grateful to our generous supporters for funding our new bus. This will enable us to provide transport for children travelling to and from their HopScotch break and on daily activities for many years to come,' said Alison Bass of HopScotch.

Youngsters receive confirmation



Children of St Mary's RC Church in Fort William - Amelia, David, Olivia, Julie, Leon, Paige, Victoria, Julia, and Jamie - with Bishop Brian McGee of Argyll and the Isles after receiving their confirmation at Sunday mass. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

RETRO
Roamer

More items from Roamer columns of 30 years ago

□ You'll be desolated to know Fort William is not going to have a twin town arrangement with Shoreview, Minnesota. Representatives of the Sister City Association of Shoreview have been questing for sorority with the Fort. But Lochaber District Council didn't want this transatlantic sister. So it's hands-off across the sea.

□ Fun and games at Arisaig Games. A couple of flares were set off by the demonstrators of rescue techniques and spectators were wondering why. It was all a bit like the music hall joke - a shipwrecked sailor out on Loch Linnhe, hanging on to a roll of carpet. So a helicopter came along and 'dropped him a flare'!

□ At about the same time, The Great River Morar Duck Race was well in progress. Coastguards and lifeboat crew members were there to lend their expertise. And just as the race was in full flow, they were all called out to a Mallaig emergency. So, as ever, they were pretty 'quack' off the mark.

□ Lassie from the Jean Shop left the premises to have her lunch. It was raining, so she grabbed her coat. Unbeknownst to her the coat was hooked up with a skirt on a hanger. Which explains why she was walking along the High Street for all the world like a sandwich board advert with the skirt, and its price tag, swinging from the belt of her coat.

□ Topic of discussion at Lochaber District Council's environment committee meeting - Mallaig public conveniences. Or, to be more accurate, the Mallaig toilets 'have had it'. For, according to the Inverness memo tabled at the meeting 'it is not possible to convert the existing public toilets in Mallaig to provide a satisfactory end product'.....

□ I wished I had a camera at the newly-named Ben Nevis Drive. Where's that, you might well ask? It's the road serving the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate at Claggan. Alongside the accompanying road marker another sign has been installed. 'Caution - grass cutting in progress' it proclaims and, on the other side of it the Achintee sheep are munching away quite contentedly. Honest! In fairness, however, the grass cutter, on his tractor, was round the corner.

□ Robbie Robertson's annexing of the number plate NEVIS prompted me to consult the catalogue for the 'Auction of Attractive Registrations' being held in Harrogate. And the marks available are - reMARKable. For example, for Lochaber District Council, there's ADMIN, for Bob Murray's missus they have AGGIE, and there's ARNIE for Allan MacDonald. Quite a few local lassies would qualify for CISSY. Then there's DELIA and DORIS and ELLIS and MCKIE. The list is endless. And TOXIC is up for offer - quite a few Lochaber possibilities for that one. And CUPID and, of course, SHINTY.

□ Fort William FC triumphed on Saturday. Our lads dumped Cove Rangers for their first win of the season. And how the fans responded. There was a new face - and voice - in the crowd, too. Brian McAvinnie. To my knowledge Brian hadn't ever featured in the Claggan Park fan club. Maybe the fact there's a Murphy and a Flannigan in the Fort team prompted him to have a look. Aye, Irish Brian was certainly a good luck charm as Fort had the rub of the green at last.

□ Now Roamer must own up. Those of you in the cognoscenti - aka Glasgow Herald readers - will have noticed my name mentioned as one of the winners of the Wee Stinker Crossword. Well, it wasn't exactly a misprint - but it wasnae me. I can't claim the honour. It seems the solutions to this diabolically difficult crossword were ghosted for me, and I haven't a clue who put my name to the entry. Anyway the teeshirt - the Wee Stinker prize - is nearly a good fit. So all you folk who have been trying for years to win one, take heart. It may be easier than you think.

□ 'The one that got away' certainly eluded members of the Railway Angling Club. There they were, fishing Loch Ness. And then they packed up their kitbags and tackle and headed home to the village in their hired minibus. When they reached the Well of the Heads, still telling the tall stories, one of them shouted 'Where's Tam'? Tam, apparently, had been left behind and was possibly still angling for Nessie till he got a bus home.

□ Whatever happened to the tercentenary celebration of the naming of Fort William? The production of commemorative crockery and clothing were mooted. Educational and youth bursaries were suggested, as were community drama period productions, pageants and shows. Oh, and fireworks displays, bands and parades. I ask this because we are now into 1990 - the year which marks the Fort's 300th anniversary.

□ Some folk reckon they can get 'stung' occasionally in Fort William High Street. I don't subscribe to that allegation myself, so I had to laugh when I heard about the High Street shopkeeper who was - stung! Aye, a wasp appeared in Eric's Emporium, buzzed around Eric for a few seconds then delivered a walloper of a sting up the Wallace trouser leg.

□ What about the 'No go - no smoking' areas in Highland Region? The edict that there be no puffing in or around the workplace has brought smoke clouds of gloom to a fair number of council employees. Smoking bans will apply in canteens, rest rooms, toilets, lifts and stairways. And also in - and I like this one - 'cupboards'. In the case of council vehicles, the region seeks, and expects, full non-smoking co-operation and support from drivers and occupants. And at their meetings the regional members will 'no doubt' lead by example?

□ There was a rare occurrence in Mallaig at the weekend. Four previously unidentified FLYMO objects were in operation around about Fank Brae. Aye, the quartet of Bobby, Ian, Anne and Flora were merrily mowing the green, green grass growing around the fences. You see, for the first time in years the Mallaig sheep have not been chomping at the peripheral grass. So the residents have taken the cropping into their own hands and lawn mowers.



Another shot of Fort William High Street in its hey day.

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LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

The Lochaber area has not been branded as the Outdoor Capital of the UK without good reason, given its stunning scenery and plethora of activities.

As we report this week, however, a definite link has been made between an increase in the number of kayakers and canoeists and the critical decline in the population of black-throated divers, one of the country's rarest waterfowl.

The warning, from Lochaber Biodiversity Action Group (LBAG), comes after numbers of breeding pairs on Loch Shiell have crashed from 11 to none in the past 20 years,

although birds do still attempt to breed there. LBAG, in fairness, has added that there are also several other reasons that could be cited, including predation and a loss of nests caused by increased rainfall in Lochaber.

LBAG has, quite reasonably, called for a campaign to educate locals and visitors, particularly those who have boats, to raise awareness of black-throated divers, where they are likely to nest and the challenges they face.

We would hate to see access to some of these stunning sites restricted and would urge all kayakers and canoeists to heed the appeal from LBAG.



Days gone by – 1963

This week we turn the clock back to a photograph from our archives that only has a brief caption which reads: 'North Connel Guides at Ardchattan Priory.' Can you put any names to the faces here?

Our picture of heavy athletes at Taynuilt games in 1983, published on April 26, prompted a couple of replies. David Horne wrote: 'I can name four of them. Jock McColl, Tommy MacGeachan, Pat Cadzow and Brian Robin.' And Mick Linton, from Selkirk, emailed to say: 'I am number 151. I was camping at Tralee Bay with my family and some friends. And we went to the games and joined in as my friend Jack Knox and my son Allan were professional runners at the time. I entered the heavyweights but don't think I came anywhere though. We have since returned to Oban on a regular basis. My wife and I have just returned from a week at Ledaig with our motorhome. Thanks for the memories.'

MacPhail

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We need a fair press and fair treatment

JOURNALISM is one of the most important professions in maintaining a society with openness and accountability, and the press industry is, of course, vital for these journalists to hold a strong platform from which to project their message.

As important – and, indeed, noble – as I see the profession as a whole, and as much as I have a huge amount of respect for those working in this harsh and relentlessly difficult area, dealing with them is sometimes a lucky dip of risking reputation and message.

In the past few weeks, with the Usher Hall gig in Edinburgh approaching, and with the song release next weekend, Skipinnish has had a fair amount of coverage in the mainstream media.

The Press and Journal, The Herald, The Sun, STV and even Scottish Field have given us exposure in print, online or on television.

There is no doubt that getting this

type of coverage is a good thing for a band or indeed any business or charity that relies on support from the public, but once you engage it can be a case of 'hope for the best' and don't be too surprised if what gets printed is very different from what was said.

Last week we were waiting in Hamburg Airport for a flight back home after a gig in Germany when we saw the online version of a feature in Sunday's Scottish Sun about us.

Now, I am not complaining about getting the coverage, which was very positive, and I mean no disrespect to the journalist or feature writer, but reading the headline and the quotes, it would suggest strongly that we are completely delusional and were suffering from 'up-one's-own-ton' syndrome!

Cases like this, where the people who are actually involved in a story or feature find the content divorced from reality, is increasingly common.

The pressures on the printed press in this world of instant online media are huge – and that pressure is no doubt passed on to the writers and journalists, so it is easy to see a logical reason as to why content is so often sensationalised, augmented and doctored to make it as attractive to as

wide an audience base as possible, too often at the expense of accuracy.

Although I was cringing when reading the Sun piece, I have a fairly thick skin regarding what is written about me and generally am just grateful they wrote anything at all.

However, when the subject matter is more sensitive and involving other people, what is written becomes a genuine worry.

This week we sent out press releases along with the new recording of Wishing Well (anniversary release), as featured in last week's article, to radio stations and newspapers.

This contradictory Catch-22 situation is at the forefront of my mind: we need publicity to get the single selling to make money for the Team Eilidh charity but, by engaging with the media, there is the risk that coverage will not be in keeping with what we think is appropriate in these poignant circumstances.

This risk was one of the main reasons why I didn't want the background of the song known last year when we recorded the original.

I am optimistically putting my faith in those who may give it coverage and hope that it is handled with sensitivity to the tragic origins of the song.



Social media

The return to service of the CalMac ferry MV Clansman after repairs to its propulsion system caused comment.

Peter Morrison: 'I think Robin Currie's statement in today's Oban Times was a bit selfish, basically he is saying Islay needs the ferry so too bad everyone else. A very short sighted view in my opinion.'

James Strang: 'It's not really news though things happen out with normal control and maybe not on this post but on others calmac have been getting pelters unnecessarily breakdowns and human error occur on big jobs fact.'

Alex Watkins: 'About time.'

Joanna Malcolm: 'Wooooo.'

Elda Rowan: 'Hip hip hooray the mighty Clansman is back.'

A 360-degree photograph of Oban taken from Pulpit Hill and published on our Facebook page prompted complaints about trees spoiling the view.

Gillies Pagan: 'Lovely spot - shame about the trees spoiling the view. I wrote to the council about getting the trees lopped/tidied up over two years ago, they replied in May 2016 saying they would look into it. Two years on, nothing done.'

Kenny McLennan: 'Totally agree about the trees, I live up near the sum-

mit, and remember when the residents opposite Alma crescent cut down several trees, opening up a wonderful undisturbed panoramic view of the bay enhanced by the new pontoons, which I commented said "welcome to Oban" there was letter of complaint in The Oban Times from a local resident... all the people all the time eh no?'

Dinease Crowe: 'This trees need attention the number of tourists who walk or drive up the hill to see a very restricted view go away disappointed and tell how many not worth the effort?'

Nicola Mackinnon: 'Great view I used to live near that view point.'

Linking GP practices would be a mistake

I live with my severely disabled wife on the Ross of Mull. We are very dependent on the excellent medical facilities here and, in particular, on our local GP, Dr Frank Teunisse, who has run the independent practice serving the Ross of Mull and Iona and given us continuity for the past 18 months.

He gave his notice in December 2017 and will be retiring at the end of May. There is no plan in place for his replacement and the health board has been unwilling to advertise his post because it now proposes to incorporate the existing independent practice serving the Ross of Mull and Iona into a single practice serving the whole of Mull, which will be based at the north of the island.

This plan might suit residents of Tobermory, Salen and Craignure, where more than half the population of Mull live, but Fionnphort and Iona are one hour away by car from Craignure and one hour and 40 minutes from Tobermory via a single-track road across a mountain pass, which can be congested in summer and impassable in winter.

Dr Frank has been a wonderful GP. He is a hands-on doctor who loves to administer to his patients, including out-of-hours emergencies. His approach has also relieved the pressures on hospitals and consultants.

Unfortunately, the health board is unwilling to advertise his post partly because it no longer sees the value of single independent practices in rural areas.

The Ross of Mull and Iona have always had their own GP practice and, prior to Dr Frank, Dr Maureen Douglas ran the practice for 28 years. Furthermore, the intention to replace independent single practices with group practices even when this is incompatible with the geography and remoteness of a particular area, poses a real danger to patients in emergency situations, which does not exist when the GP resides locally.

It could be imagined that the real reason for the change is lack of NHS funding but the opposite is true. The cost of Dr Frank's current practice is saving the NHS £180,000 per year over the arrangement before he was appointed when locums were employed costing up to £1,000 per day.

And since it is likely to be six months before a permanent GP is appointed as part of the proposed single Mull practice, the health board is likely to squander £90,000 of NHS resources. All this is being done in order to replace a localised service on the Ross and Mull and Iona which not only works well but is liked by the residents and is very good value for money.

A GP advert petition, which now has around 250 signatures, has been launched which urges the health board to advertise a replacement for Dr Frank without further delay. Only in the unlikely event that no GPs come forward who are able and willing to do the job will the residents of this remote part of Mull be satisfied that it is necessary to consider alternative arrangements for GP services for the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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CHA B' E IDIR LATHA Buidhe Bealltainn a bh' ann an Dimàirt seo chaidh dhan a h-uile neach ann an Alba, oir sin an latha air an deach lagh ur eachdraidheil an gnìomh a tha a' ciallachadh nach fhaodar aonad de dheoch-làidir a reic ann an Alba air nas lugha na leth-cheud sgillinn.

Mar a bhiodh dùil tha taic mhòr dhan ghluasad bho dhòthairean a tha làidir sa beachd gun gearr an t-àrdachadh prìs gu mòr air na thathas gu bhith ag òl de dheoch-làidir an Alba, agus gun dèan sin leasachadh air slàinte an t-sluaigh agus cuideachd caomhnadh air cosgais dha seirbheis na slàinte.

Ged a chaidh Achd aontachadh ann an 2012 dh'adhbharraich strì an aghaidh an reachdais, gu h-àraid bho Chomann Uisge-beatha Alba, gun tug e sia bliadhna eile dha Riaghaltas Alba an Achd a chur an gnìomh.

Tha e furasta a thuigsinn carson a bhiodh gnìomhachas na dibhe iomagainach mu lagh a tha dol a chumail prìs àrd air an cuid bathair,

Ross of Mull and Iona. The argument behind the GP advert petition is truly a 'no-brainer'.

**Jonathan Knight,
Pennyghael, Isle of Mull.**

Flawed theory on CalMac's woes

As an islander, I was initially grateful to your correspondent Donald J Morrison for solving the unfathomable mystery of all the timetable problems and vessel failures CalMac has been experiencing of late.

As he alone realised, these difficulties might well have been caused by CalMac violating Mr Morrison's God's laws regarding something known as the 'the Sabbath'.

Now, however, I am not so sure that The Oban Times did Mr Morrison a favour by publishing his very singular theory as it seems it might be faulty.

Inspired by Mr Morrison's opinion, I did a little reading of the Bible myself only to find at Genesis 7 God telling Noah and his family to set to sea in the ark in which they were destined to sail for 378 days, including of course no fewer than 54 Sabbaths. Well, if sailing on the Sabbath is OK with the God that commanded Noah to do it, then surely it is good enough for Mr Morrison, CalMac, Old Uncle Tom Cobby and all?

I am sure Mr Morrison will be aware that one may not in UK/Scottish law discriminate in favour of one belief over another these days and I suspect that if we were to respect every holy day of the week of every religion that has one by not allowing CalMac to sail on them, there would be no sailings at all.

It ought to be sufficient for those who wish to abstain from travelling by sea, from working, from enjoying recreation and so on in order to properly observe their preferred sacred days that they should get on and do so peacefully, modestly and certainly without seeking to impose their chosen religion's strictures upon others who are on a different but equally valid path to enlightenment.

**Peter Isaacson,
Coll.**

Thanks for help after accident on the road

On Monday afternoon two weeks ago my wife and I were in a car accident. We were not injured but were shaken, my wife particularly.

Several motorists stopped to help us get out of our car, which was on its side, and they treated us before any other help arrived.

They included a member of a mountain rescue team, a paramedic and a Macmillan nurse. Their expert help must have assisted our quick recovery, and their checks were repeated by the ambulance crew on its arrival. Later a man from BT Openreach let me use his mobile to contact our daughter. Equally, the doctor and the staff at A&E treated us as soon as we arrived.

I would like to put on record the

appreciation of my wife and I for all the help we received from everyone concerned. We believe that a power greater than ours took control once the accident had occurred.

**Fred Pole,
Benderloch.**

Standing room only on trains to Oban

The following trains were badly overcrowded recently with standing room only.

The 12.20pm Glasgow Queen Street to Oban on Sunday April 29 and the 12.11pm Oban to Glasgow Queen Street, also on Sunday April 29.

When I spoke to a local employee of Abellio ScotRail, she said the overcrowding was due to the sunshine.

It should be noted that if you miss the 12.20pm from Glasgow, the next train is 6.21pm, which is a wait of six hours.

The 12.11 from Oban is the first train on a Sunday. The first bus to Glasgow on a Sunday leaves at 12.10pm, which is one minute earlier than the train.

**David Gallant,
Oban.**

Honoured to attend Islay commemoration

I was honoured to attend the recent commemorations in Port Ellen that took place to remember the 700 men who died in two First World War disasters off Islay.

It is so important that we never forget the sacrifice of these young men who died so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.**

Elderly care should not be for profit

We have the best health care system but the cost is high, and GPs and the local health service staff struggle with limited budgets, especially for elderly and nursing care.

But to learn that a North Argyll care home is to withdraw nursing care because of unsustainable cost as it cannot find nursing staff smacks of side-lining some residents who are too expensive to keep.

This will result in the elderly being shunted about as their health declines because private providers of care, that may be funded by the local authority, can't make a decent profit.

The answer may be for local nursing to change to charitable or not-for-profit model and the tax benefits therein for its staff willing to accept structured pay for career designated, sometimes lifelong, work, because the care industry needs to keep its dedicated staff as we are all living longer and will possibly need some care in the twilight of our years.

**Stephen Jones,
Millpark, Oban.**

Ailean Caimbeul

agus cha b' iongnadh marsantann mar an ceudna a bhith mi-thoilichte mu chis ur a tha dol a chiallachadh nach tèid aig cuid den luchd-ceannaich abhaisteach aca ruigheachd air na deochan-làidir fhaotainn tuilleadh.

Cluinnead mar-thà dhè gearrain air gainnead "sporan Dhòmhnail" agus mi-chneastachd Riaghaltais a' cuingealachadh saorsa an t-sluaigh, agus 's neònach mura cluinnead a dh'aithghearr cuideachd aithrisean air bùithtean a' dùnadh ri linn call teachd-a-steach.

Bheil cuimhn' agaibh air an ùpraid a nochd aig an àm a thug Pàrlamaid na h-Alba an ceum calma ud le lagh a thoirmisg smocadh ann an ionadan poblach?

Cha tàinig an sgrìos a bhathas a' fàidheadaireachd, agus 's ann a sgaol an aon seòrsa lagh thairis air a' chuid eile de Bhreatainn.

Tha Alba air comas ceannais a' nochdadh tric, agus tha e inntinneach cluinntinn gum bheil dùthchannan eile ag amharc na tha a' tachairt an seo a thaobh lagh reic dibhe is iadsan 's dòcha deònach eisimpleir Alba a leantainn.

Mar fhear a bha glè mheasail air tombaca fad bhliadhnaichean tha mi

uasal às a' bhuaidh a thug an lagh air smocadh, agus a dh'aindeoin a bhith glè mheasail air drama tha mi den bheachd gun dèan an reachdas seo feum cuideachd.

Canaidh cuid gum teagamh gum bheil riaghaltas a' gabhail cus gnòthach ri ar beatha làitheil, eadar irean siùcair is salainn am biadh, smocadh, agus a-nise deoch-làidir, ach saoilidh mise gum bheil tomhas de dhlestanas aige a thaobh slàinte an t-sluaigh agus tha reachdas cosgais na dibhe-làidir mar sheòrsa de bhanachdach nàiseanta.

Chan eil seo ag àicheadh drama dhuinn, ach le beagan nas lugha dhitha cuirdh sinn barrachd luach oirre.

MINIMUM alcohol unit pricing does not deny any of us a drink, and I welcome the legislation and hope it contributes to a healthier Scotland.

As health has been a principal justification for the Act, one would hope that the millions which this will generate in extra tax revenue will be targeted directly at improving our Scottish health services.

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

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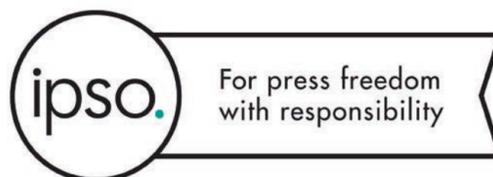
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Your letters

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

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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



Fort William FC co-manager Ali Smith has stepped down from his role.

Smith steps down as Fort William co-manager

Football

FORT William FC co-manager Ali Smith stepped down from his role this week due to family and work commitments.

Smith has decided to step down but fellow co-manager Paul MacLellan is expected to remain at the helm.

Smith said: 'I just decided this was the right time to step down. It has been a long, tough season and, as well as needing to concentrate on my work commitments and after getting married in October, I promised my wife I'd spend a bit more time on family stuff.'

Smith and MacLellan took charge at Claggan Park last summer, following the departure of Ally Ewen to Lossiemouth, and have endured a testing season of poor results amid uncertainty over the club's future.

However, Smith says he is excited about the seasons ahead after the club announced last week that they will remain in the Highland League next season, rather than drop down to the North Caledonian League, following the resignation of five directors.

Encouraged by the way Fort finished the campaign, having narrowly missed out on recording their first win of the season against Keith last Wednesday night, Smith says there is a positive atmosphere at the club now.

'I've really enjoyed it and I think with the new committee now in place, the club is well placed for the future' he added.

'There's a hugely positive atmosphere about the ground and I think that bodes well for a good future for the club.'

This is YOUR paper...

Send your photos and stories to editor@lochaber times.co.uk

Late equaliser denies Fort in final match of the season

Fort William	3
Keith	3
Highland League	

Football

FORT William narrowly missed out on recording their first win of the season after conceding a late equaliser in the club's final match of the Highland League season.

Fort William were unable to hold onto their 3-2 lead on a sunny evening at Claggan Park last Wednesday night as a late goal from Keith dashed the home side's hopes of avoiding a winless season.

Fort William came into this game in decent form and were buoyed by the decision to remain in the Highland League next season, which alleviates any uncertainty surrounding the club's future.

However, the Fort got off to a poor start after conceding a goal early in the first half. This was closely followed by another goal, which was dispatched from a Keith corner.

Being two goals down didn't deter the home side, however, and they fought back to start dominating the play, forcing a great save from Keith goalkeeper David Dey after a well-struck free kick from 20 yards out.

Dey was again the hero for Keith just minutes later, saving a Fort William penalty.

Fort William were in the ascendancy and were desperate to capitalise on their commanding performance.

Their breakthrough came after 37 minutes when Lewis Campbell drove the ball into the net from outside the penalty

area, taking the score to 2-1 as the half-time whistle blew.

The Fort started the second half with a real desire and just two minutes after the restart, Stephen Lopez netted to level the scores.

The home side continued to press and took the lead in the 54th minute. A great free kick routine saw Martin Munro flash the ball across the goal for Michael Gillespie to tap in from close range.

As expected, the visitors retaliated and began pegging Fort William back into their own half.

The pressure began to mount on the Fort defence as Keith were denied by the post after a well-struck free kick.

With just minutes remaining, the home defence continued to resist the Keith attacks but after a scramble in the Fort box, Keir Smith was able to pounce to slot the ball into the net to level the scores.

As the final whistle blew, the Fort were disappointed to miss out on their first win of the season but can take pride in what was an impressive performance.

That results, and after a good run of form recently, means the Fort have picked up three of their five-point total this season in the last month.

The strong end to the season was not enough to lift them off the bottom of the table, however, as they finish bottom of the Highland League, nine points adrift at the foot of the table.



Fort William midfielder Michael Gillespie shields the ball from Keith's Michael Ralton.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Lochaber take fifth spot in Highland team squash event

FOUR members of Lochaber Squash Club travelled to Gordonsstoun School, Moray, on Saturday to take part in the Highlands and Islands Squash Association team championships.

Alan Love, at number one, played first and, despite a valiant effort, lost his opening match. Ian Black also lost his first match of the day. The only player to win his match in the first round was Archie MacGillivray.

Lance Marshall, at number four, met his old adversary, William Jappy, and



Lochaber Squash Club finished fifth overall at the Highlands and Islands Squash Association team championships.

Squash

was beaten by a constant barrage of lobs and drops.

And so to round two and this time MacGillivray was the only one to lose his match. Marshall played first and quickly disposed of his opponent, with Black also beating his next opponent. Although MacGillivray lost his match, he did win a game. These results meant the Lochaber team was 5-2 up. Love sweated out his match and came away with a victory, although it didn't matter at this stage of the round.

In the final match to decide placings, Love, MacGillivray and Marshall won their matches. Unfortunately, Black lost his match against David Taylor, who has been capped for Scotland.

Lochaber Squash Club finished fifth overall and the day was capped off by a dinner and prize giving at Forres Golf Club, where Marshall had another win - a bottle of malt whisky in the raffle.

Four-goal Cunningham puts Mallaig into cup semi-final

Portree Juniors	2
Mallaig	5
GF MacRae Cup - quarter final	

MALLAIG progressed to the semi-finals of the GF MacRae Cup on Saturday after an impressive away win at Portree.

In tough conditions the first half, Mallaig made the breakthrough when Andy Cunningham stepped up to slot home a penalty past the keeper to give the advantage to Mallaig.

Mallaig's second goal came after some good work down the left between Marc MacLean and debutant Mariu only to be finished off on the half volley by Cunningham to get his and Mallaig's second of the game.

The away side managed a third before half-time, again after some good passage of play down the left flank, forcing two saves from the Portree goalkeeper before fans' favourite James McQueen drilled the ball home to make it 3-0.

Portree Juniors started the second half much better having two great chances to pull themselves back into the game and when both of these chances passed, you got the feeling it would be Mallaig's day.

The Lochaber side managed a fourth goal with Macnaughton breaking from midfield only to be fouled in the box for a penalty which Andy Cunningham coolly slotted away to complete his hat-trick and make it 4-0.

Portree Juniors didn't stop working all game and, even when reduced to 10 men, they kept fighting. Mallaig became slack at the back and handed Portree two goals after poor defensive mistakes.

Between the Portree Juniors' goals, Andy Cunningham scored his fourth and Mallaig's fifth with a spectacular finish. Cunningham fired in a shot from distance, and at a difficult angle, right into the top corner, leaving the keeper completely stranded. That goal rounded off a man-of-match performance for four-goal Cunningham.

Mallaig return to action on Saturday May 19 against Sleat and Strath in the GF MacRae cup semi-final at home.

The club also announced Jaimie Young as club captain for the season.



Mallaig FC have reached the semi-finals of the GF MacRae Cup.

Big numbers for Big Pedal at Lochaber High Cycling

A RECORD number of Lochaber High School teachers and pupils have taken to using their bikes as a form of transport to and from school as part of the Sustrans Big Pedal 2018 initiative.

Enticed by a great array of prizes donated by local businesses and organisations, the cyclists have reaped the benefits of a little bit of exercise before classes begin, despite some interesting weather.

Numbers were up almost 20 per cent on last year with a total of 527 pedalling during the two-week period. This total number of bikers makes Lochaber High the third largest participating high school in Scotland for 2018.

10-pin bowling singles results

10-pin bowling

AFTER week six of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William, Brian Johnstone continues to lead the scratch league with 87 points followed by Iain Gregor and Pam Weller both on 64 points. Brian Johnstone also still leads the handicap league with 78 points followed by Iain Gregor and Steve Day both on 70 points.

Brian Johnstone still leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 2861 pins followed by Iain Gregor second with 2528 and Steve Day in third with 2455 pins.

The top individual scratch games this week came from Brian Johnstone who had games of 180 and 178 while Tommy McKnight had a 176, Pam Weller a 175 and Steve Day had a 174. Steve Day had the top handicap game with 233. The highest three-game scratch series of the week came from Brian Johnstone with 502 followed by Pam Weller with 470 and Iain Gregor with 441. Brian Johnstone also had the best three-game handicap series of 643 followed by Steve Day with 614 and Iain Gregor with 606.

Lochaber club lotteries

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 11, 12 and 20. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday May 10) will be £600.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 6, 9 and 17.

There were no winners this week so the jackpot for next week will be £400.

Balachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 5, 14 and 16.

There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,200.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 4, 9 and 19. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £1,000.

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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

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 3, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	02.04	3.0	08.03	1.8	14.36	2.9	20.21	1.7	Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.56	3.2	09.02	1.5	15.18	3.1	21.15	1.4	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.38	3.5	09.47	1.3	15.55	3.3	21.58	1.2	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.16	3.7	10.25	1.0	16.29	3.5	22.37	0.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.53	3.9	11.02	0.7	17.02	3.7	23.17	0.7	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.29	4.0	11.39	0.6	17.35	3.9	23.58	0.5				
Wed	06.06	4.0	12.18	0.5	18.12	3.9	***	**				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine and showers
Breezy from the west south west
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C

Friday Light rain
Breezy from the south east
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C

Weekend Light rain Saturday
Sunshine and showers on Sunday
Breezy from the south south east
Temperatures 7°C to 13°C

