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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8407

Thursday 17 May, 2018

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Petition calls for halt to massive GP funding cuts

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S new GP contract will lead to massive funding cuts for surgeries across the West Coast, up to an 85 per cent cut on Coll and Colonsay and 81 per cent on Jura, raising fears it will make remote communities less viable to live in, according to the Rural GP Association of Scotland.

A petition, lodged by an Argyll patient group led by Carradale resident Karen Murphy, is calling on the Scottish Government to adjust the changes implemented on April 1, which will decrease funding in all rural areas and cause 'severe health inequality'.

'It appears the idea is to turn the lights out on the rural and remote communities,' said Ms Murphy. She called on ministers urgently to adjust the 'workload allocation formula' which determines how much money GP practices get.

The petition quoted figures released by the Rural GP Association of Scotland, 'confirming every one of the 73 very remote and rural practices will see a reduction in funding'.

The steepest cuts (with percentage falls in brackets) hit surgeries in Arinagour and Colonsay (85), then Jura (81), Lochaline (77), Bunessan (66), Barra (60), Carbost (58), Armadale (57), Port Appin and Kintyre (50), Tiree (48), Easdale (46), Port Ellen (43), Mallaig and Arisaig (41), Tobermory, Acharacle and Lochalsh (40), Ballachulish (38), Taynuilt (36), Port Charlotte (33), South Uist (32) and Bowmore (29). The Mull surgery is the only one to increase, at nine per cent.

The cuts will be balanced by a subsidy only for the first three years, but after that 'no one knows what will happen', said Ms Murphy.

The cutbacks, the petitioners fear, could reduce the number of days GPs work and make it harder to recruit and retain them in the future.

A consultation on the changes gave only two months' notice before they were implemented, leaving 'insufficient time' for many communities to organise a protest, the petition adds.

It continued: 'The events did not provide full details of the new GP contract and did not explore in the detail needed the detrimental impact it would have on small rural and remote communities. The new GP contract was already a foregone conclusion and the "consultation" therefore a meaningless exercise.'

'Because of the lack of notice and poor engagement by the Scottish Government, a Facebook page (Rural and Remote Patient Group) and Twitter account (@RuralPatients) were set up to establish contact between rural and remote communities and inform them what was happening.'

Pointing to 'well attended' meetings in Carradale, Luig, Kilmelford, Oban and Connel, Ms Murphy said: 'There is a big picture which the Scottish Government is failing to take into account. The patient groups have demonstrated a groundswell of public support which we trust will not be ignored.'

Highland MSP Rhoda Grant (Labour) backed their cause, telling MSPs at Holyrood: 'Pa-



Cool to be in the crew - Sarah Horne, Jamie Cooper, Abbie Petrie and Ben Cooper are among Oban Sailing Club's younger members.

Ahoy there! Club invites you to come aboard

HAVE a go at powerboating, keel sailing and rowing a skiff this Saturday when Oban Sailing Club pushes the boat out at a special open event.

The club in Gallanach Road hopes to get lots of people on the water between 10am and 4pm, inspiring them to take up the sport.

Just turn up at the clubhouse - activities are free.

To read the full story, turn to the Outdoors section on page 10.

tients are worried that services currently available from their local GP will be centralised and are calling for the government to ensure the contract is rural-proofed. They stress the excellent care local GPs give them and do not want any change.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'The new GP contract, backed by investment of £110 million in 2018-19 and jointly developed with the British Medical Association, will ensure GPs, including those in rural areas, are able to spend more

time with patients and less time on bureaucracy. It will help cut doctors' workload and make general practice an even more attractive career. No practice will see a reduction in funding as a result of the new contract. In collaboration with the BMA,

we are establishing the Rural General Practice Short Life Working Group which will be chaired by Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie and include representation from GPs in rural areas to assist in the implementation of the new GP contract.'

M&S recruiting for Oban foodhall

MARKS & Spencer is recruiting managers in preparation for the opening of its new Oban foodhall this summer.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: 'Oban Jobcentre is working with M&S in the lead up to the store opening in July with up to 60 staff being recruited, including section managers and customer assistants. 'There is a real vibe about the Jobcentre with staff looking forward to being involved with M&S in helping recruit their staff. Use of the Jobcentre has been offered to the employer to help with their recruitment and training needs.'

M&S said: 'We're working hard to open our new M&S Foodhall in Oban. We're currently recruiting our management team and we'll begin customer assistant recruitment soon.'

Man hurt in fire escape accident

A MAN is in hospital after falling from a disused fire escape at an Oban hotel.

The 18-year-old, who lives locally, had surgery on his back at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

Paramedics were called to the back of the Kelvin Hotel in Shore Street at 1.02am on Monday May 7.

However, Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health team has confirmed it is carrying out an investigation after the incident.

The fire escape has been out of use for 20 years and, as such, is not part of the hotel's emergency fire plan.



Do You Suffer From Sore, Gritty or Red Eyes? Yes No

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Roads U-turn on Lonan Drive homes plan

ARGYLL and Bute Council's roads department has carried out a U-turn on a plan to build 44 more homes in Lonan Drive and is now recommending the planning application is refused, writes David McPhee.

The reason stated was that the entrance appears to be too narrow 'to construct a road to adoptable standards'.

The comment continues: 'Roads would have to recommend refusal of planning permission unless the applicant can obtain the land required for road construction.'

Plans, submitted by applicant TSL Contractors Ltd, show a mix of 44 flats and semi-detached houses in 12 blocks.

Planning officers originally recommended Argyll and Bute Council approve

the plan. Speaking about the change of direction, a local resident said: 'I am relieved the council has finally realised the logistical and feasible problems. It's what we have been telling them for years.'

A spokesperson for the campaign against the development said: 'We are extremely interested in this latest recommendation from the roads department and we will see what transpires.'

'We are delighted with the overall level of support, not just from local residents. 'It indicates there's a fundamental issue of green space in the Soroba area and, perhaps, in Oban in general.'

A public hearing regarding the plans is to be held on Monday May 28 in the Corran Halls from 10.30am.

Councillors agreed to hold the meeting

after 42 objections to the development were lodged by local residents and community councillors.

They argue it is the 'only green area' within an area of high density housing. A petition, set up recently, has so far been signed by 198 people.

The petition outlines the main areas that would be impacted if the houses were given the go-ahead.

They are: additional traffic congestion on the south side of Oban, deterioration of water and sewage, the area has a Japanese knotweed problem, it is used by many residents and is an important habitat for wildlife.

The Oban Times contacted TSL Contractors, but the company made no comment.

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Rates relief

ALASDAIR Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan Iar, has welcomed statistics that he says show the Scottish Government's rates relief scheme having saved businesses in the islands a total of £25 million between 2009-10 and 2016-17.

The figures were provided by Finance Secretary Derek Mackay in a written answer to the Scottish Parliament.

Tax scam warning

TRADING Standards are warning residents to be aware of a cold-calling scam, where the caller claims to be from HMRC.

The caller states you have underpaid tax and imminent court action is threatened unless the outstanding amount is paid immediately over the phone. In some cases the caller has asked for payment to be made by money transfer or buying gift cards. A spokesperson said: 'You should not give personal details or banking information over the phone to unverified callers. HMRC will never telephone you regarding tax.'

Taskforce meeting

THE UIST Economic Taskforce Working Group met on Friday May 11 in Benbecula.

The meeting was addressed by Aki Johansen, representing the Faroese government in the United Kingdom, leading to a wide-ranging discussion that touched on key issues such as digital connectivity, transport strategy, population retention and economic development policy in the Faroe Islands.

The meeting also saw a presentation from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Hebridean Housing Partnership updating on the affordable housing supply programme and the prospects for new affordable housing activity in Uist.

Airline slammed

NA H-EILEANAN Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has criticised Eastern Airways for its recent decision to reduce the number of flights on its Aberdeen to Stornoway route.

Dr Allan said: 'Island-based oil and gas workers are relying on a punctual air service to meet their needs. There have been far too many cancelled flights and the decision to revert back to one plane a weekday will mean many will have to spend more time on the road and less at home with their families.'

MP Angus Brendan MacNeil added: 'This is a disappointing development and Eastern Airways and Flybe must ensure customers are kept informed about the proposed changes.'

Deal reached on Ulva buy-out

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AN AGREEMENT has been reached to buy the Isle of Ulva on behalf of the community, with ownership transferring next month.

The bid to buy Ulva was launched around a year ago when the present owner, Jamie Howard, decided to put the estate on the market.

The North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWCW) applied for a Community Right to Buy under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Its aim is to bring about social and economic development of Ulva for the benefit of the community now and for future generations, with a key objective being repopulation of the island.

NWMWCW director John Addy said: 'Negotiations have been successfully concluded for the purchase of Ulva Estate on behalf of the community of the island and neighbouring north-west Mull. Binding contracts were concluded today and ownership will transfer on June 21.'

'After a long and complex process, a Community Right to Buy was granted over the bulk of the estate at a price set by an independent valuation ordered by the Scottish Government.'

'However, in order to purchase the entire estate, lock, stock and barrel, negotiations have continued to the point reached when we can announce final agreement between the parties.'

'In parallel with the above process, an ambitious fundraising effort was mounted to secure the money needed not only to

buy the estate but also carry out some of the most important development work in the first months and years of ownership.'

Chairman Colin Morrison said: 'To say we are extremely grateful to all our supporters and to the various funding agencies, organisations and individuals would be an understatement.'

'We cannot thank everyone enough, not just for the financial support, but also the encouragement we've been given throughout the process. We have been heartened by the degree of interest and depth of support we have received from official agencies, commercial organisations and also private individuals at home and abroad.'

The bulk of the purchase price and also assistance with project management over the first two years will be coming

from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF). Mr Addy said the SLF offer to award a grant of up to £4.4 million is 'unprecedented in community land purchases in Scotland. It is testimony to the commitment of the Scottish Government to land reform, repopulation and stimulation of the development of remote areas of the Highlands and Islands.'

'Ulva was the birthplace of Lachlan Macquarie, seen by many as the "Father of Australia" and the National Trust for Australia has offered to help promote the tourism opportunity for visiting Macquarie's birthplace. Planning and design services have been offered pro bono by Moxon Architects Ltd to get the existing houses renovated as quickly as possible.'

'More than 500 individuals from around the world have

made donations via the Ulva Buyout JustGiving crowdfunding site. Various fundraising efforts in the community such as jumble sales and pop-up cafes have all played their part. So, to all our supporters, we want to say a huge thank you for helping us make this happen.'

'The island of Ulva has been home to the Howard family for more than 70 years and clearly the decision to sell must have been a very difficult one. NWMWCW recognises that the community buyout process over the past year has been demanding and at times stressful for all concerned.'

'As stewardship passes from the Howard family to the local community, we look forward to an amicable transition based on mutual respect and the board is keen to wish Mr Howard and

his family all the best for the future.'

Cabinet secretary for land reform Roseanna Cunningham congratulated the buyout group, saying: 'This is ground-breaking news, not just for the local communities on Mull and Ulva, but for community empowerment across Scotland - with the first purchase of an entire island, using the Community Right to Buy legislation.'

'I would like to congratulate the North West Mull Community Woodland Company for seeing the sale through to its conclusion, and I was very happy to give the go-ahead to the Scottish Land Fund Committee to award them nearly £4.5 million. The Scottish Government provides the funding for the Scottish Land Fund and this was its largest award so far.'

Residents' views sought on new Islay distillery

A PROPOSAL to build a new distillery on Islay between Port Ellen and Laphroaig is beginning a public consultation.

When completed, Elixir Distillers, which owns the Port Askaig and Elements of Islay brands, will submit a planning application to build the new distillery, maltings and maturation store, visitor centre with shop and restaurant on land south and east of Farkin Cottage.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee was officially notified of Elixir Distillers' proposal on Wednesday. If approved, building could start

in 2019 and distillation in 2020 - the same year whisky returns to the silent Port Ellen distillery.

In October last year Diageo, which operates Caol Ila and Lagavulin distilleries on Islay, revealed plans to reopen Port Ellen distillery, which has been closed since 1983.

Islay's ninth distillery, Ardnaheo, is due to open, if all goes well, this summer. And one of Islay's smallest distilleries, Ardbeg, has announced plans for a new still house, doubling its number of stills from two to four - due to be completed by 2019 if approved.

Enterprising Dana takes on Grimsay cafe lease

DANA MACPHEE has just taken on a cafe lease at the former church where she married.

As well as serving up a new locally-sourced menu at CIDSIN, the newest place to eat on the Uists, Dana will keep up her role with Uist Wool, as voluntary secretary and treasurer for the Mill and Wool Centre.

It was after a recent landmark birthday and the need for a new creative challenge, that Dana took on the cafe lease opportunity at Ceann na h-Airigh, Scotvein, the home of Grimsay Community Association.

The former Grimsay Free Church, where she married in 2000, also hosts Grimsay Post

Office, the Grimsay Archive, has an onsite greenhouse, is available as an events space and runs regular exhibitions and weekly local produce markets.

Matthew Topsfield of GCA said: 'CIDSIN is the last piece in the jigsaw that is Ceann na h-Airigh, completing the vision that the community of Grimsay had for the building. We have been on a long journey since acquiring and renovating the building, and are delighted to have Dana on board.'

The cafe opens 11am to 4pm Wednesday to Friday, with the hours extending to include Tuesdays from May 22 and Saturdays from June 16.



Hamish Malcolm (Munro and Noble Financial Services), Mairi Greig (Tobermory Light Industrial Park project officer), Moray Finch (Mull and Iona Community Trust general manager) and Alastair McCallum (Close Brother Asset Finance). Photograph: John Baikie

Mull project wins award

MULL and Iona Community Trust was recently awarded the Best Social Enterprise Finance Deal for the Tobermory Light Industrial Park project at the inaugural Highlands and Islands Finance Awards in Inverness, sponsored by Close Brothers Asset Finance, in partnership with Munro and Noble Financial Services.

The awards were set up to recognise finance deals of note across a range of sectors, including food and drink, renewables, property, tourism, asset finance or start-up.

The trust was nominated for the funding package it put together to enable the first phase of the Tobermory Light Industrial Park. The package is based on grant funding from a variety of sources, including the Scottish Government and COSLA's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council and Shanks Argyll and Bute through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

Tobermory Light Industrial Park offers a range of storage and small business premises,

business starter units and development sites.

As well as providing a welcome boost for local businesses in north Mull, the scheme will help support the long-term finances of the trust, which has a long track record of delivering successful projects on Mull and Iona.

Further information and details of what is available for new or existing businesses can be found at www.mict.co.uk or contacting Mairi Greig, email: mgreig@mict.co.uk or on 01680 812918.

Barra's Eilidh to be remembered at special screening

MANCHESTER bombing victim Eilidh MacLeod will be remembered at Glasgow Cathedral next week in a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the terror attack.

Eilidh, from Barra, was one of 22 people killed at the Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena on May 22. Her 15-year-old friend Laura MacIntyre survived the blast but suffered serious hand and leg injuries.

A civic memorial service will take place in Manchester Cathedral this Tuesday May 22 and Glasgow Cathedral is offering a public screening of it between 2pm and 3pm.

A spokesperson for Glasgow Cathedral: 'Much media coverage was given up here focusing on the two young girls from Barra, and their membership in the islands' pipe band. Therefore we are anxious that those in the west of Scotland and with Gaelic connections should be aware of this event, and if anyone would wish to come they would be most welcome.'

Uist ferry users grill CalMac chief

A MEETING on Friday May 11 brought together community representatives in Uist with CalMac's managing director Robbie Drummond and Na h-Eileanan Iar MSP Alasdair Allan, who chaired the event.

Ferry services to Uist have recently experienced considerable disruption. During the Easter period the MV Hebrides was taken off the Uig triangle to be replaced by the smaller MV Hebridean Isles, while it was sent south to service Tiree, Coll and Colonsay. This decision was later reversed. The Mallaig to Lochboisdale route has also been cancelled until the end of May.

Dr Allan said: 'The past few months have not represented CalMac's finest hour. In terms of the problems at Easter in particular, I cannot recall a similar level of confusion and service disruption in my time as MSP for the islands.'

'The meeting on Friday was a useful opportunity to bring senior CalMac management together directly with community representatives. Communities in Uist made their views abundantly clear that the service they have received in recent months is unacceptable to them.'

'The key point for CalMac to take away is that it urgently needs to get better at communication with island communities and involve them much earlier and more meaningfully in the design of both vessels and services. CalMac undertook to meet again and to keep up contact with community councils and others.'

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Raise a glass to Mark

CONGRATULATIONS are due to local photographer Mark Unsworth, who took third place in the 2018 International Wine Places of the Year photographic competition.

It is six years since the competition was set up and Mark's entries have annually been included in the final selection.

Mark's success was announced at London's Mall Galleries where the winning entries are on display along with those from this year's winning Food of the Year competition.

There is no doubt that the Islay Studios owner's success is a remarkable achievement as he was up against stiff competition from photographers from across the globe.

While highly pleased with his achievement, Mark points out that the competition involves a great deal of travelling to various wine-producing regions and next year's competition has involved a visit to Vienna, with a trip to Dresden also on the cards. Preparations for this year's entry saw him in Alsace in eastern France.

Mark received his accolade at a London ceremony where the presentations were carried out by the restaurateur and broadcaster Pru Leith.

Chemist's new owner

THE BOWMORE-BASED Islay Pharmacy is under new ownership following its acquisition by Sanjay Majhu from Apple Pharmacies, who operates a number of award-winning community pharmacies in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Falkirk and Inveraray.

In charge of the Main Street chemists for the time being is Kashif Khan, known to all as Kash. He talks of being warmly received by the Ilich and is slowly but surely beginning to adapt



Islay photographer Mark Unsworth alongside his third placed entry.

to island life. Still dishing out the medicine are pharmacy staff Susan Main, Karen Evans, Emma Davidson and Lisa Paterson.

And while on matters medicinal, it has been announced that come the beginning of August the island will enjoy the services and care provided by a team of seven GPs.

This follows the appointment to the Bowmore medical practice and Port Ellen surgery of Dr Kate Brecon, presently a GP partner based in Lancaster. She has a special interest in reproductive health and will be providing regular clinics at the local hospital at Bowmore.

A new practice nurse has also been appointed on a six-month fixed-term basis. She is Berni Harrington, who was similarly employed in Southampton and will cover the permanent practice nurse's leave of absence.

Special pupils sought

ISLAY High School is seeking nominations for pupils deserving of two special awards.

The McCallum Shield, presented in memory of the Rev Donald P McCallum, pastor at the Bowmore Baptist Church from 1946 to 1951, is

presented to a student of good character and of a caring disposition, who has brought credit to the school and the local community.

The Citizenship Quaich goes to the pupil who has made a significant contribution to the local community.

Following receipt of the nominations, the parent council will make the final decision and the nominated pupils will receive their awards at the Celebration of Achievement Day at the end of the school year in June.

Cheque presented

THE Robertson Construction Group, the community-spirited company involved in the building of the new warehouses for Bruichladdich Distillery, has made a donation of £700 to the Islay Youth Football Club.

The cheque was handed over by the construction company's project manager Chris Connor and received on the club's behalf by Lachie MacLean.

The donation will be used to provide the teams with two sets of football strips in readiness for the club's forthcoming season

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

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Body found in search for Oban man

A BODY recovered near Kilninver on Saturday has been identified as missing Oban man Martyn Cruickshanks.

Police had appealed for information to help trace the 36-year-old, who was last seen around 9pm in Oban town centre on Sunday May 6 in a silver Audi estate car.

Six days later, at 9.20am on Saturday May 12, officers recovered a body from Raera Forest south of Kilninver.

The body was identified as Mr Cruickshanks and his family has been informed.

A post-mortem examination is due to be carried out but police do not think there are any suspicious circumstances.

Man, 19, acquitted of sexual assault

A DUNBEG man has been acquitted of a sexual assault charge, after a jury returned a verdict of not proven at the end of a four-day trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Kieran Hendry, 19, of 64 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg, denied engaging in sexual contact with a colleague without her consent when they were working alone at an Oban hairdressing salon on May 26 last year.

When the jury failed to reach a majority verdict after four hours of deliberation on Friday afternoon, Sheriff Patrick Hughes instructed the court to enter a verdict of not proven and acquitted Hendry.

Oban steps out to smash mental health barriers

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
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A MAN who grieved over his seafaring grandfather's death in silence for 30 years wants Oban to go the extra mile and get talking.

Des MacMillan bottled up his grief and struggled with anxiety and post-traumatic stress for almost three decades before he finally opened up about his feelings.

Now the Oban-born and -bred dad-of-three is a champion for See Me Scotland, a social movement passionate about ending mental health stigma and discrimination.

He is hoping the town will get together to support Mental Health Awareness Week and join in a two-mile walk he is organising this Sunday May 20.

So far hundreds of people have expressed an interest on Facebook and more than 100 have committed to meeting up in Station Square at 11.30am.

The idea is people will walk the route together and start talking. Mr MacMillan's bosses at Glensanda Quarry have sponsored special red and blue T-shirts for people to wear if they want and pair up.

'The conversation doesn't have to be about mental health. It can



Des MacMillan hopes Oban will join him on a two-mile walk this Sunday, breaking down barriers of mental health by using simple conversation.

be about anything. The important thing is just to get people talking to each other,' said Mr MacMillan, who works shifts as a barge master.

Luckily, Mr Macmillan did eventually talk to someone about the grief he had hidden away since the age of eight

and got help. He said: 'Back in those days, families never really let children grieve – they were shielded from it. I grew up holding that grief inside.'

'Luckily, I'm strong-willed and managed to drag myself out of the house but there were terrible pits of despair. In my

teenage years, it restricted me. There have always been friends and family around but I still felt lonely in my head. That despair can make you feel as though you are the only person in the world feeling that way but that's so not the case. It got to 30 years feeling that way until I decided to do

something about it. Enough was enough,' he said.

Mr MacMillan got psychotherapy help from the NHS and, since becoming a See Me Scotland champion, has travelled the country sharing his experience with others to help make positive changes.

But Sunday will see his first event in Oban.

There have been other Walk A Mile events across Scotland but the Oban walk will be one mile extra.

'I want Oban to go the extra mile for mental health. There is a big need to get people talking,' said Mr MacMillan, who will be speaking at a conference in Sweden later this month.

Sunday's walk will be followed by free refreshments, including home-baking from Hope Kitchen, at the Masonic Hall in Albany Street, where there will be information stalls and guest speakers.

'Oban has Hope Kitchen and there's the Men's Shed in Stevenson Street, but I'd like to see something else in town to help the younger generation, especially for young men who can find it difficult to talk,' added Mr MacMillan.

To find out more about Sunday's walk, contact des.macmillan@seemechampion.org

Family to host baby CPR training event after skill saved their son

A TOBERMORY family will be hosting a baby CPR training event next month after the life-saving skill saved their son.

The training will take place in Aros Hall on Saturday June 23, run by St Andrew's First Aid. The event is being organised by Kayleigh and Alec Brown,

who attended a similar event in Oban in January. It was there Alec learned to administer CPR, which eventually saved his eight-month-old son Ruaridh's life.

On April 7, Ruaridh stopped breathing and Alec had to give him CPR until an ambulance arrived.

Speaking about the ordeal, Kayleigh, 25, said: 'Ruaridh woke up from a nap and I went to give him his lunch. I picked him up and he flopped in my arms. Ruaridh had stopped breathing. It was awful. Alec put him on the ground and started to give him CPR. It felt like forever, but

it was probably a few minutes. The ambulance came in 18 minutes and by that time he had come back round.'

The family were airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow and Ruaridh was kept in for observation for three nights.

Councillor voices concern over state of Ganavan

AN OBAN councillor is disappointed with the state of Ganavan and what is being done to rectify it.

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Julie McKenzie spoke to the council regarding dog fouling, the swings, bins and the toilets.

However, she said: 'The response I've received back is disheartening to say the least.'

A spokesperson for the council replied: 'We regularly patrol this area to ensure compliance with the Dog Fouling Act. Unfortunately due to lack of resources we cannot give this the attention we would like.'

'With regards to "loose" dogs, there is no legislation to discourage this although local authorities can ask for regulations to enforce anti-social behaviour in public spaces but I believe this can be cumbersome to apply for and enforce.'

'With regards to the swing frame, we were instructed to remove the swings some time ago as they and the frame were not safe. There is no money to replace them.'

The spokesperson added that the disabled toilets are always locked, but can be opened with a radar key that can be bought from all local authorities.

Ms McKenzie said: 'I don't think this is satisfactory. Ganavan is a community asset.'

'The beach and surrounding areas attract people who live in Oban wards as well as visitors from further afield. Ganavan should be a jewel in the crown of our local area, not somewhere that's just left to fall into disrepair at the hands of Argyll and Bute Council.'

The Ward 5 councillor will be asking for Ganavan to be on the agenda of the next Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

POLICE FILES

Theft from boat

A SHIP'S anchor was stolen from a fishing boat moored at the Railway Pier, Oban, sometime between Saturday April 28 and Monday April 30.

Dangerous driving

AT 3.35pm on Friday May 4, it was reported a red Land Rover was driven dangerously while overtaking on the A849 near Craignure, Mull.

Man arrested

POLICE in Oban were informed of a domestic incident at 2.27pm on Sunday May 13. A man was arrested but was later released from custody. Inquiries continue.

Drink driving

A 59-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for drink driving on Tieve at 6.45pm on Saturday May 12. He was later released on an undertaking to attend Oban Sheriff Court.

Assault

A 27-YEAR-OLD man was assaulted in Station Road, Oban, at 1.45am on Saturday May 12. Inquiries are ongoing.

Attacked

INQUIRIES are continuing after a man was assaulted in George Street, Oban, at 1.45am on Sunday May 13.

Sheds broken into

OBAN police received two separate reports of garden sheds being broken into sometime between Saturday May 12 and Sunday May 13. Inquiries are continuing.

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

Concern voiced over elderly care on Mull

A MULL woman has written to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council over concerns about care for the elderly.

Katherine Elwis wrote to Cleland Sneddon to highlight the lack of provision in Argyll, and in particular on Mull and Iona, for the elderly and those with dementia.

Mrs Elwis said: 'Now that the Lynn of Lorne Care Home looks like it will no longer be a nursing home and may be under threat completely and you are considering closing Eadar Glinn, there is little or no provision for our vulnerable loved ones.'

'The community nurses, GP and hospital support on Mull was excellent but that was down to the people involved. They go above and beyond their remit and are stretched to their limits. This is not a basis for future plans.'

'Please don't just pass the buck to the Health and Social Care Partnership. You are responsible for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'The "elderly" are not just "them" now, they are "you" and your loved ones and "us" in the future.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'As a council, we are doing all we can to support [the HSCP].'

'Despite budget challenges, we've increased our spend by 1.08 per cent on HSCP services compared to a reduction of 4.27 per cent on our other services.'

'It's not in the council's power to shelter HSCP services completely from change.'

'We have also appealed for the support of the Scottish Government in making services available for local people.'

[NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND]

"You shouldn't miss this show for the world"
★★★★★ The Herald

The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart

A riotous romp of rhyming couplets, devilish encounters and wild karaoke *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* is the lock-in to end all lock-ins.

★★★★★ The Times

★★★★★ The Scotsman

★★★★★ The Guardian

23 May Bunnessan Hall

24 May Aros Hall, Tobermory

Box Office: 01688 302211
comar.co.uk

25 May Corran Halls, Oban

Box office: 01631 567333
nationalthetateScotland.com

Launch for Rockfield shares

OBAN Communities Trust (OCT) has announced its community share offer will run from a launch date of June 16 over a period of six weeks until July 31.

This will give everyone in the community the opportunity to buy shares in the Rockfield Centre, helping the committee to reach the target of £3 million it needs to refurbish the main building.

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT, said: 'This is an exciting new way of enabling everyone in the community to invest in the centre to make it their own.'

'Community shares specifically attract investment in projects which benefit communities. The money raised will help pay for the centre, and in return you can receive limited interest on your investment. If you want your money back, you have the right to withdraw some or all of your share capital, subject to terms and conditions.'

With the support of the community, OCT is now within sight of starting the refurbishment this December. The money raised from community shares will be the final tranche needed.

'After we received the keys in May 2015, we had no idea how we could raise the £3 million needed to restore it for community use,' said Gordon.

'Now the bulk of the money has been secured from grants and we are looking to raise the final funds by selling community shares.'

Visit www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk or contact Caroline on caroline@therockfieldcentre.org.uk for details.

Drive to expand golf course

A BID to expand Glencruitten Golf Course in Oban faced Argyll and Bute's planning committee on Wednesday.

A masterplan, submitted by Duncan Blainey, has outlined three phases of development on land east of Achara: first, a croft house, agricultural building, polytunnel and two chalets, which are 'effectively complete'; secondly, two houses; and, thirdly, expansion of the golf course.

No objections have been raised by consultees and planning officers have recommended the masterplan for approval.

Skye runner raises funds in memory of Oban gran

AN OBAN grandmother who devoted her life to charity is at the centre of one man's effort in this year's Skye half-marathon.

Joan McGill, of the town's Pulpit Hill, suffered from vascular dementia before her death, aged 83, in February this year.

In the years leading up to her illness, Joan provided meals on wheels with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for 30 years. She was also the district commissioner for Argyll and Bute Girl Guides for five years and Sea Rangers skipper for 10 years.

Joan was also a member of the community council and volunteered for a local charities including Oban Litter Busters and Oban Hospice.

Her 32-year-old grandson and Skye running champion Hugh Campbell will tackle this year's Isle of Skye half-marathon on Saturday June 9 in Joan's memory. Hugh is raising funds for Alzheimer Scotland, which supported Joan during her illness.

Hugh, who lives and runs a marketing business in Portree, said: 'My gran was born and raised in Oban. She lived there all her life and was well-known for the huge amount of com-



Hugh Campbell is running this year's Skye half-marathon in memory of his grandmother. Photograph: Willie Urquhart, West Highland Free Press.

munity and volunteer work she undertook. While she was ill, she received a lot of support from Alzheimer Scotland and I wanted to give something back as a thank you.

'I grew up being quite close to my gran but, when she became ill, she didn't know who I was. 'This was hard for me and I think it is very important to raise awareness of the disease and the

charity that can help make life a little easier for sufferers.

'We have an Alzheimer Scotland centre in Portree which offers information and advice, day care, care at home, carer support, a day club and outreach work to rural communities.

'It works hard to make the best of a bad situation and I am hoping to raise awareness of its work too.'



Happier times: six-year-old Hugh, right, and brother Iain with Joan in Oban in 1991.

Hugh is a well-known face on the Highland running circuit. He is the unchallenged winner of the Dunvegan Castle 10K and five times winner of the Skye half-marathon.

He said: 'On one occasion, I was pace-setting for the female world marathon champion at the Glasgow half-marathon. I also finished 34th in the world's largest half-marathon, the

Great North Run. It is sad that, because of her illness, my grandmother never saw me become the runner I am today. I would like to think she would be proud of me for what I have achieved with my running career.'

Anyone wishing to donate funds to Hugh's charity run can do so at justgiving.com/fundraising/hughcampbell-skye-half2018.

Teenager scales the heights

OBAN teenager Megan Evans is taking fundraising to new heights.

This week she was due to climb 1,345m up Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles, and was hoping to conquer the peak in five hours.

Megan needs to raise £6,200 and her total so far stands at £2,455.

Originally, she was heading to Chile with Project Trust in August but plans have changed. Instead, she will be flying out to South Africa in September to teach disadvantaged youngsters.

Fundraising events have included a bingo night, a quiz, a wine tasting evening at Etive Restaurant and a soup lunch.

Megan will be living in Polokwane, Limpopo, for a year and will be volunteering at a primary school and a social care centre, helping children with mental and physical disabilities learn life skills, arts and crafts, and cooking. She will also be going horse riding and swimming with them.

She said: 'Please help me reach my goal of £6,200 as I still have quite a way to go.'

To make a donation go to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/megansyearinsouthafrica

Oban firefighters pay respects to fallen colleagues



OBAN firefighters paid their respects to colleagues who have fallen in the line of duty at a commemoration on Friday May 4.

To mark Firefighters' Memorial Day, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service personnel gathered outside their stations and fell silent for two minutes, along with firefighters across the UK.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara supported a parliamentary Early Day Motion marking the occasion.

He said: 'Over the past year we have witnessed the dangers and bravery of our own local fire service and this is an excellent opportunity for the community to thank and honour all of our firefighters, particularly in Argyll and Bute.'

'Their heroism and selfless dedication is remarkable, especially as they continuously risk their own lives to keep us safe.'

Furniture sale a rare opportunity

ARGYLL and Bute Council is offering people 'a chance to own a unique piece of Oban civic history' before surplus furniture from the municipal buildings in Albany Street is put under the hammer.

Furniture, including tables and chairs, are being sold, with proceeds going to the Oban Common Good Fund.

The furniture will be available to view and buy at the Corran Halls on Wednesday June 27, from 10am until 2pm. Purchasers are responsible for taking away the furniture.

Any unsold items will be sold at a public auction.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, said: 'This is an ideal opportunity for residents to own their own small piece of Oban heritage, with proceeds being put to good use.'

For more information, contact Stuart McLean on 01436 658717.

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Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Coffee and cakes at cathedral

COFFEE and cakes are back at St John's Cathedral to help raise money for the building's upkeep.

Every Thursday until September, the cathedral in Oban will open its doors to passers-by, locals and visitors to come in off the street and enjoy a cuppa, home-baking and a chat.

This is the fifth year of the weekly coffee mornings, which raise about £1,500 in the season through donations.

Coffee morning volunteer Lilian Kermode said: 'The funds all go to the upkeep of the cathedral. We've got seven roofs up there so we need every penny!'

The coffee mornings are every Thursday from 10.30am to 12.30pm.



Lilian Kermode, Morag Horne and Christine Marlow at St John's first Thursday coffee morning of the 2018 season.

The weekend should have everyone moving

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

I'VE just waved off the last of the free Oban walking tours and I'm delighted with how enthusiastic everyone has been.

I know the guides have certainly enjoyed it – once the nerves had gone.

It really is a delight to share my love of Oban with others and hopefully we have a lovely summer ahead of us to continue sharing the love.

If you're interested in the tours, the web page and Face-

book page are now up and running so just have a look for Oban Walking Tours.

This weekend is all about getting moving, whatever your level of fitness, with the Muddy Atlantis Day on Saturday, a 6km course through all sorts of wet and muddy terrain, which sounds like a lot of fun.

On Sunday, the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease 10K and fun run, which is always well supported, takes place.

And a new event, Walk 2 Miles, will challenge mental health and break down barriers with a simple conversation,

which I think will get a fantastic turnout as well.

All are good causes and well worth supporting so I really hope that, no matter what the weather – hopefully sunshine – everyone makes an effort and takes part in at least one of the events.

It's good for your mental and physical health, and the causes.

The photo last week was of Dunollie Castle from the back, which wasn't that easy, but this week's is in the middle of the town and you probably pass it every day.

WHERE IS THIS?



MP voices whisky export concern

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has spoken of his 'deep concern' for the growth of whisky exports if Scotland leaves the single market and customs union.

According to HMRC figures, whisky exports were valued at £931 million in the first quarter of 2018 – a six per cent rise on the same period last year.

Mr O'Hara said: 'With several world-class whisky distilleries in Argyll and Bute, this sharp increase in exports is fantastic news for our constituency, Scotland and the whole of the UK economy.'

'Scotch whisky's top export market is the EU and it demonstrates the massive benefit we stand to lose if Scotland is dragged out of the European Union.'

BBC appeal for fishing families

A NEW BBC TV series plans to recreate a traditional fishing community from 1906.

The series' producers are looking for families who would like to experience this unique way of life for a month.

Participants will set up home in simple fishermen's cottages, wear the clothes, earning a living from the coast and endure the worst and best the sea can throw at them.

If you have what it takes to survive and thrive in a historical community such as this, apply online at <http://wildflameproductions.com/casting> by June 29 or for more information email casting@wildflameproductions.com or call 07599 812383.

Insurance firm taken over

JELF, a consultancy specialising in insurance, risk management and employee benefits, has completed its previously announced acquisition of Clark Thomson, Scotland's largest independent insurance broker.

Established in 1965, Clark Thomson has its headquarters in Perth and has an office in Oban.

Jelf will combine its existing Scottish operations and Clark Thomson into a single business unit.



Dog walkers declare beach a no-go zone

Worried pair warn pet owners over Wee Ganavan sewage

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

WORRIED dog walkers have declared a popular Oban beach a no-go zone after their pets got sick drinking sewage water.

Posters have now gone up at Wee Ganavan warning others to stay away or at least be aware of the danger.

The problem was first reported to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in February but sewage is still spilling onto the beach through a pipe from private septic tanks from nearby houses.

Home owners in Ganavan Road have now had letters from SEPA and Argyll and Bute Council asking them to check their septic tanks.

Nicky Kemp and Marta Mirecka have both been complaining to the authorities after their dogs got ill and are angry it is taking so long to stop the leak-



Nicky Kemp and Marta Mirecka are warning dog owners and families to stay safe from sewage discharge on Wee Ganavan beach.

ing discharge that often stinks. They told *The Oban Times* they are worried young children could also get sick from playing on the beach. Someone has

since piled small rocks, topped by a plant, on top of the pipe end on the beach but the discharge still runs through it. 'The discharge from the pipe

is disgusting. I've seen it green, sometimes it's cloudy and slimy. It's obvious what's in it. It just runs out of the pipe and onto the beach. Even when it dries up, it's still there in the sand. It's a hazard,' said Ms Mirecka.

'It's not just dogs we are worried about, it's children too. People need to be aware so they can stay safe,' added Ms Kemp.

Neither of the women's dogs needed to be treated by a vet but they were very sick.

'I'm not risking it. I'm avoiding coming to this beach now,' said Ms Mirecka.

Ms Kemp said: 'I thought it was illegal for any kind of effluent to come on to a beach. SEPA and the council should be pulling their fingers out to do more about this.'

A local spokesperson for Surfers Against Sewage told *The Oban Times*: 'Unfortunately this isn't an isolated problem. It's happening all over Argyll.

'When you report a spill to SEPA, although they try to help, it's clear they are overwhelmed by this and can do very little about it. It needs people with older septic tanks to step up to their responsibility, keep a check on their systems and get them cleaned out regularly. Also, don't put things in them that will block them, causing more problems.'

A SEPA spokesperson said: 'Responsibility for maintaining a private septic tank falls to the homeowner and letters have been issued to households in the area advising owners to inspect their systems and ensure discharges do not impact on the surrounding environment.

'SEPA will continue to monitor the situation alongside the local authority.'

People can report further sightings of sewage to SEPA's Pollution Hotline on 0800 807060.

Feed for life project harvests results

FUNDING from a charity based on Seil has helped 133 farmers reclaim 306 acres of wasteland in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Malawi farmers in Bemvu in the Ntcheu province are now harvesting maize, groundnut and soya thanks to the Seed for Life Feed for Life Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a sustainable, self-help feeding project run by Dave Alsop, whose day job is a haulage contractor.

Between May and September last year, £16,500 was raised locally and some of that money helped buy seeds and fertilisers to get the small-hold farmers started.

The initiative sprung from a partnership in 2011 between Netherlorn Churches and the Bemvu community, helping widows of AIDs victims.

Next month, the SCIO will find out exactly what their efforts helping the remote farmers have reaped.

Mr Alsop told us: 'We are just coming to the end of the harvest. Once the harvest is collected, we will know exactly what we have achieved.'

'These people live from hand to mouth. One man sold the seed he was donated

the same day he was given it. He was obviously desperate and wanted to feed his family the following day.'

The project has now become an independent organisation, not formally linked to the church, and is on the Scottish Charity register. More trustees would be welcome, added Mr Alsop.

The farmers in Bemvu are cultivating land that was donated by the tribal chief. They cleared it themselves.

From what they make from the harvest, the farmers give 25 per cent back into funds to replace seed and fertiliser stocks ready for use next autumn to keep the project sustainable.

Another 20 per cent of proceeds is donated to the local primary school to feed 1,200 pupils, making sure they get a daily meal, and the final 55 per cent goes to the farmer for their labour.

Mr Alsop added: 'It's very exciting. It's our first year. We are hoping to get grant funding but we are waiting to get results from this year's harvest so we can submit proper figures.'

Anyone interested in helping SCIO fight food-poverty should contact Mr Alsop on 01852 300393.



A successful maize crop on reclaimed land, made possible by the self-help feeding project.



Members of groups helped by the scheme at Holyrood.

Groups celebrate Bags of Help at Holyrood

COMMUNITY organisations helping make life better for people in Oban and Lochaber joined MSPs, Tesco staff and representatives from greenspace Scotland at an event at the Scottish Parliament last week.

The gathering was organised to mark the success of the supermarket's community grant scheme, Bags of Help, which

sees money raised from the sale of carrier bags awarded to community projects.

To mark the success of the project so far, Tesco and greenspace Scotland invited representatives from almost 40 groups to Holyrood.

Hope 2 Oban and Lochaber Camanachd Club Ladies were part of the celebration.

In Scotland, more than 2,000 groups have shared £6 million.

Bags of Help funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

Antony Cave to take over helm at BID4Oban

BID4OBAN has announced that it has a new chairman in place with immediate effect.

Graeme Bass, who has been associated with BID4Oban since January 2013, is leaving the board and will be succeeded by Antony Cave.

Graeme, branch manager of Clark Thomson Insurance Brokers Ltd, made the decision to step down some time ago and, as part of the succession planning process, Antony, vice-chairman of BID4Oban and proprietor of Craigard Décor, will step up into the role. Antony has served on the BID board since May 2015.

Both have taken BID4Oban through its successful re-ballot during October 2017 and have been instrumental in the implementation of the business plan over the past BID term.

Also joining the board of BID4Oban are John Forbes, general manager of TSL Contractors Ltd, and Gilbert McKechnie, of Glen Righ Guest House. Both bring a wealth of commercial and business experience to BID4Oban.



Antony, who owns Craigard Décor, takes over from Graeme Bass.

By-election bid to save struggling community councils

NOMINATIONS are open for fresh elections to fill Oban, Dunbeg, Seil and Lismore community councils after too few candidates stepped forward.

A dozen community councils in Argyll and Bute were unable to form after the election on April 26, because they drew fewer than half their maximum membership level.

If unsuccessful again, they will fall into abeyance, leaving Oban, an expanding town with 10,000 residents, without a representative voice in planning decisions.

Nomination packs are available at customer service points and can also be downloaded at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections.

Nominations close on Thursday May 24 at 4pm and the by-election takes place on Thursday June 28.

The following vacancies will need to be filled if the community councils are to avoid being dissolved: Isle of Gigha, 8; Ardrishaig, 9; Oban, 12; Seil and Easdale, 5; Dunbeg, 5; Lismore, 5; Cove and Kilcreggan, 11; Rosneath and Clynder, 10; Cardross, 10; Ardentinnny, 6; Sandbank, 12, and Bute, 13.

Argyll and Bute Council is encouraging residents to become members: 'Community councils play an important role in local democracy. They are com-

prised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.

'Community councils bridge the gap between local authorities and communities and help ensure public authorities are aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.'

Forty two community councils were formed by uncontested elections, including Appin, Ardchattan, Avich and Kilchrenan, Coll, Connel, Glenorchy and Innishail, Iona, Kilmore and Kilbride, Luining, Mull, Taynuilt, Tiree, Islay, Colonsay and Craignish. Only two were contested: Jura and Kilniver and Kilmelford.

National firm to stock Oban mum's product

AN OBAN mum who created a solution to uncomfortable shoes will have her product stocked in Superdrug stores across the UK.

Laura Birrell, who now lives in Glasgow, created Sticky Heelz – an anti slip pad that helps with fitting, rubbing and blistering.

Laura, who also created a 'teardrop arch pad' range, said: 'Manufacturers cannot make shoes to fit every woman exactly and, in many cases, only offer half sizes in limited brands.'

'We are delighted Superdrug has listed our anti-slip heel pads and our teardrop arch pads that reduce discomfort at the ball of the foot. I am looking forward to working with Superdrug.'

'The day I decided I wouldn't wait for someone to come up with a solution for my shoe problems was a game changer,' added Laura, who had her first child in 2013, aged 43, two years before launching her first product.

'It is validation that having a child and getting 'older' does not mean your opportunities are limited. It is all about mindset. I sacrificed my salary, put myself outside my comfort zone and have never looked back. I am excited about scaling my business globally and growing a brand.'

To find out more, visit www.stickyheelz.com.



Competition winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Anne Malloch of Oban, who has won a family day trip on the paddle steamer Waverley.

She will choose from trips to Skye, Loch Nevis, the Corryvreckan whirlpool, the isle of Coll and the Mull of Kintyre, among others.

Small is...

POWERFUL

The Oban Times
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07/06/18

OT
Benderloch

■ BENDERLOCH'S Bookends Festival is to start a new chapter – thanks to a share of £28,893.

Festival organisers put in the smallest bid of just £495 to Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund.

Now they have been awarded the cash, plans are under way to set up monthly pop-up sessions in the village's Victory Hall using the love of books to bridge the generation gap.

People in Oban, Lorn and the Isles had until the end of April to vote on how they wanted money allocated to the supporting communities fund to be spent in their area.

Joy Cameron from Bookends Festival said: 'We are delighted to have received so many public votes for Bookends pop-ups which have allowed us to share in the grant from Argyll and Bute.'

'This will allow us to hold monthly events, opening The Reading Room in The Victory Hall, Benderloch, to all ages to share books and stories and the love of reading.'

Other Argyll initiatives that got help from the special fund included Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group, Dalmally's developing healthy communities, Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, Kilts and Tartan Ties for Rockfield Primary School Choir and Oban Community Sensory Garden Art Project.

■ FIND out more about recycling in Argyll at a talk in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, on Thursday June 7.

The event, featuring a speaker from Argyll and Bute Council, starts at 7pm.

The talk is part of an Awakening Argyll initiative and is open to everyone by donation.

To find out more visit the Facebook Awakening in Argyll Group or email mairi@changealwayspossible.com

North Connel

TIPS on how to grow prize-worthy plants will be given out at North Connel and District Horticultural Show's plant sale on Saturday (May 19).

As well as advice on how to show produce to its best, plants grown by local gardeners will be on sale.

Annuals, herbs, houseplants, shrubs, vegetables, perennials and lots more will be for sale at the event in Victory Hall, Benderloch, from 2pm to 3.30pm on the day.

Admission, which includes tea, is £2 for adults and £1 for children.

Donations of plants to sell will be welcome at the hall from 10am, said organisers.

Seil

A STEERING group set up to run Seil's new community development group has met for the first time.

The meeting on Monday was to 'thrash out' starting points for the initiative, which has been signing up members and those who want to be trustees.

Ann Robin, who helped rally new members for the group, said she was delighted with progress so far.

'It's still early days but signs are encouraging,' she said.

Taynuilt

TAYNUILT Gaelic Choir is looking for new members. The only request is potential members are aged over 16 and can hold a tune.

The choir meets on Tuesday nights at 7.45pm in the Sports Pavilion and is open to anyone interested in singing – particularly men.

It competes in provincial and national mòds and sings at informal ceilidhs and concerts throughout the year.

No previous knowledge of Gaelic is necessary as tuition is given.

Kilmore

THE KILMORE 100 Club £100 winner for April was Mrs A Sorley and the May winner was E Robertson.



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The volunteers who cleaned up at Loch Lubnaig.

Volunteers make a difference in Strathyre

FRIENDS of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, the independent conservation and heritage charity for the national park, recently held a successful Make a Difference Day at a holiday village in one of the Trossachs' most

scenic spots – and is already planning its next volunteer event.

Fifteen volunteers collected more than 20 bags of rubbish from a beauty spot beside Loch Lubnaig, near Strathyre.

The event, organised in association with Forest Holidays and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, had been due to take place in early March but was cancelled because of severe winter weather.

Carraig Gheal wind farm fund open

CARRAIG Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is open again for the next round of funding for grants of up to £7,000.

The closing date is July 31, so there's plenty of time for applications to be submitted.

Since the inception of the fund in October 2013, £210,500 has been paid into the fund by GreenPower, benefiting 67 local projects as of March 2018.

The main grant scheme awards amounts up to £7,000 to constituted groups, such as the restoration projects for Bridge of Orchy Hall which received three grants of £7,000 each

and St Conan's Kirk which was awarded £14,000 to repair the clan stalls and library.

The micro grant scheme awards grants of up to £250 to individuals, constituted and non-constituted groups. Past beneficiaries include Dalavich OAP Christmas Party, Kilchrenan Art Group and Kilninniford Newsletter covering Arduaine, Kilmelford and Kilniver.

The steering group meets at least twice a year to decide which of the main grant applications will be funded and is made up of members from the five community council areas

bordering the wind farm. It is also looking for a new representative from Taynuilt Community Council and a public member from the Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council area.

Community councils are responsible for the allocation of micro grants to projects.

Forms can be obtained by emailing shona@greenpowerinternational.com and there's further details on the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm website. Micro grants of up to £250 can be applied for at any time by contacting Shona.

Loch Lomond

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority is looking for applications for its new National Park Grant Scheme, with £80,000 available for projects that help enhance the park as a place to live, work and visit.

The new grant scheme is a fantastic way to provide additional benefits for communities, businesses and residents across Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, while also seeking to improve the area's natural, cultural and built heritage.

The National Park Grant Scheme supports projects that deliver against the 13 outcomes in the National Park Partnership Plan and local Community Action Plans.

The partnership plan provides a guide to how every-

one with a role in looking after the National Park will ensure a successful future for this iconic place.

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 to 26.

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

Interested applicants are asked to submit an expression of interest by midnight on Sunday June 3 before selected applicants are invited to submit a more detailed application.

To find out more, visit <http://lochlomond-trossachs.org/grantscheme>

Argyll

ARGYLL and Bute will host a new Gaelic Gathering every two years as part of a Gaelic action plan 'to get more people to learn and speak the language and make the most of the economic benefits it brings'.

Argyll and Bute Council said its Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 2022 'recognises the importance of Gaelic in the history of Argyll and Bute and in its future, given that it continues to be spoken in the area and adds value to the economy'.

As well as aiming for Argyll and Bute to host a Gaelic Gathering every two years, the council also agreed to promote participation in the Royal National Mòd and offer free council venues for local provincial Mòds. It will also promote Argyll and Bute as a place for film and TV

work that involves Gaelic language and culture.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for Gaelic, said: 'This is all about ensuring a long-term future for Gaelic in Argyll and Bute. It's recognised that being able to speak more than one language has benefits for individuals. This plan sets out how we will help more people to learn Gaelic.'

'Attracting events, visitors and the film industry will all attract spend in local businesses. It's in all our interests Gaelic prospers in Argyll and Bute.'

The report also sets out opportunities for learning and speaking Gaelic in schools and in 'Furan', the council's Gaelic Centre in Oban, which provides events and activities for children and adults interested in the language.

Oban's 'Big Bill' ready for marathon cycle challenge

WILLIE 'Big Bill' Neilson is cycling 737 miles from Lands End to Oban to raise funds for three Scottish charities close to his heart, Alzheimer Scotland, the Beatson Cancer Charity and Friends of the Craighalbert Centre.

His epic ride will start at Land's End, the most south-westerly point of mainland Britain, on August 26 and see him ride more than 100 miles a day for a week to reach his hometown, Oban, on September 1.

'I am doing this to raise funds and awareness for three causes close to my family and friends,' he said. 'In 2017, my gran passed away after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. She was bound to a nursing home for her own safety and well-being.'

'Going to visit her really opened my eyes to how this brain illness can rob a person of their independence and their memories. After it affecting our family, I want to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland. Today it is estimated 90,000 people are living with dementia in Scotland. Alzheimer Scotland funds dementia nurses, dementia advisors, a 24-hour dementia helpline and dementia research centre.'

'Lastly, in 2017, my Granny Jean, on my mother's side, was diagnosed with cancer. She was admitted to the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow. Thankfully, after treatment she was given the all clear early this year, so I would like to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity.'

Willie has so far raised more than £2,000 of his £5,000 target.

To donate visit www.gofundme.com/bigbills-bicycle

These vital funds will help support people with dementia and their families in their local communities.

'Secondly, my sister-in-law Laura has cerebral palsy. When she was growing up she went to a specialist school called the Craighalbert Centre which provided educational and therapy services for children and young people throughout Scotland affected by cerebral palsy, which result in disorders of learning, movement and communication. Laura really enjoyed her trips to this school.'

'Schools like these are invaluable. I would like to raise money to help pay for the services they provide, including its hydrotherapy pool, as it relies on donations.'

'Lastly, in 2017, my Granny Jean, on my mother's side, was diagnosed with cancer. She was admitted to the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow. Thankfully, after treatment she was given the all clear early this year, so I would like to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity.'

Willie has so far raised more than £2,000 of his £5,000 target.

To donate visit www.gofundme.com/bigbills-bicycle



Willie Neilson.

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At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Eyesore must be addressed

THE SUN has been out – occasionally – in recent weeks so the tourist season must be almost upon us.

In general, Oban is looking good, with the exception of a couple of empty shops in the town centre.

And the eyesore that is the Rockport Hotel.

We reported last week that the hotel, which shut last September, has been broken into and trashed, and some of the remaining alcohol inside stolen. Five youths have been charged with offences relating to this.

However, the Rockport, known colloquially as 'the Woody' from its previous existence as The Woodside, has been left to deteriorate and is now an appalling mess in the heart of town, on the corner of Tweeddale Street.

I am not sure what action can be taken against the current owners to force them to tidy up the premises and ensure the hotel's security.

But if the owners cannot be forced to act, Argyll and Bute Council should step in to make this site presentable.

The long-term solution, of course, is for a buyer to be found who will re-open the place. That would bring multiple benefits as it would improve this part of the town, provide employment, increase the number of beds for



The Rockport Hotel is an eyesore in the centre of Oban.

visitors and boost the local economy.

Looking much better

I WROTE recently complaining about the scruffy appearance of the town centre as a result of disgusting discarded chewing gum and cigarette ends.

Pats on the back, then, for Argyll and Bute Council and its staff who have been cleaning up the streets.

The place is looking much better, though the amount of chewing gum that has been trampled into the pavements – especially in the

appealingly transformed George Street – remains a problem that will be time-consuming and expensive to remedy.

Why can't the people who chew gum dispose of it hygienically?

In general, however, the place is back to being spruce, a combination, I suspect of effort from the council and the good people at BID4Oban.

Roadworks lament

I HAVE written also in recent times about the appalling state of many of our crumbling roads, pitted with a plethora of potholes.

Hats off to BEAR Scotland and

Argyll and Bute Council – I know, two instances of praise for the council in a week – for a significant improvement, especially on stretches of the A85, though there are still parts which require urgent attention, including the shocking section just north of Tyndrum.

One thing that irritates me though is the temporary traffic lights at the wee bridge near Taynuilt.

I drive the route regularly and the traffic lights have been there for weeks – months?

Yet I have not seen any workmen on the site.

It is high time BEAR Scotland got busy and fixed whatever is wrong with this bridge, especially with the expected hordes of tourists heading in our direction in the next few weeks.

And finally ...

The eyes of the world were on Islay earlier this month for centenary commemoration services for those from the island who died in the First World War and on the discrete double shipping tragedies in which the Tuscania and Otranto sank.

Didn't the dignity, solemnity and profundity make you proud? The people of Islay who took part deserve the highest praise.

What do you think?

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

Waging war in the islands

MORVERN LINES
IAIN THORNER
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'And some there be, which have no memorial'

THE beautiful services and solemn acts of remembrance that were enacted on Islay recently – and so well photographed and written up in last week's *Oban Times* – commemorating the sinking of the *Otranto* and the *Tuscania* were a credit to the leachs and Argyll.

It was a lovely spring day, but no one standing in the sunlight round the memorials faced with dozens of names etched in stone, and hearing the haunting strains of *The Flowers of the Forest* on the pipes and *The Last Post* by Royal Marine buglers could have been in any doubt why they were there and of the stark realities of war.

The *Tuscania* was en route from New York to Liverpool carrying 2,000 US troops and British crew when she was sunk between Rathlin Island and Islay on February 5, 1918, by a torpedo fired from UB77, a German submarine captained by Wilhelm Meyer.

The casualties amounted to more than 200, of which 126 were washed ashore on Islay.

UB77 was only one of many submarines sent by the German High Command to Scotland's western seaboard during the First World War to gather naval intelligence and sink enemy vessels.

Today's online facilities and the opening up of military and other records, provides us with a window on their activities, as does Les Wilson's excellent new book, *The Drowned and the Saved*, with a foreword by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen (Birlinn 2018) and *Defending St Kilda* by Ron Morris (The Islands Book Trust, 2003). The website www.uboat.net also provides detailed information on U-boats, their commanders, the ships they sank and their locations.

In 1914, the German submarine fleet had 16 commissioned



RMS Plover, in Balmacara Bay, was attacked by a German U-boat. (Photograph: the Andrew Clark Collection)

vessels. By the end of the war, this had risen to 390, of which 178 were lost in action.

The early boats were fitted with kerosene engines giving them a surface distance upwards of 3,400 miles. Soon diesel replaced kerosene, extending their range to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coast of America, which probably accounts for the sinking of hundreds of thousands of tons of allied shipping.

At first these U-boats arrived in the Irish Sea and the Hebrides often by way of the south of England. As the war escalated, however, this route became difficult due to the extensive nets and minefields in the English Channel, forcing them to travel round the north of Scotland.

According to an article which appeared in Islay and Jura's

independent newspaper, *The Leach*, on July 3, 2009, and another published in *Scottish Field* magazine, a First World War German U-boat used to hide away in a remote little bay called Clas Uig, on the south-east side of Islay, where its crew went ashore to shoot sheep, and to which its commander returned on holiday years later.

The desire for fresh meat appears to have been great. Ron Morris records that food was a major problem for patrolling U-boats. Johannes Spiess, commander of U19, mentioned in his book, *Seven Years in a U-boat*, that some of his men landed on St Kilda and North Rona to shoot sheep to provide fresh mutton for his crew. Others gathered seabirds' eggs to supplement their tedious diet of canned food.

There is a headstone in Kilbrandon old church yard, near Balvicar on the Island of Seil, recording the death of Neil McDougall Morton, from Sutherland, aged 27 years, chief officer of the SS Belgian Prince, who was washed ashore at Cuan Ferry. Erected by his mother, it tells us that her son was 'torpedoed and cruelly murdered by the Hun', on July 31, 1917.

If you think there is something unforgiving about the inscription, read on.

The Belgian Prince was attacked by U-55, off the north west coast of Ireland. The torpedo did not immediately sink her, allowing all aboard to get into the lifeboats and row across to the submarine. Her captain was taken below while his crew were lined up on the submarine's hull.

Their lifejackets and outer clothing were removed by the Germans who proceeded to destroy the lifeboats. After sinking the stricken ship with its gun, the submarine submerged, deliberately washing the Belgian Prince's crew into the sea.

Without lifejackets, they had little chance of surviving and all but three were drowned. Those who managed to stay afloat were picked up by a British patrol 11 hours later. It was nothing short of cold-blooded murder and completely against the 1907 Hague Convention.

Seton Gordon (1886-1977), the world famous Scottish naturalist, photographer and author, who lived much of his life on Skye, was recruited by the Admiralty in 1914 to organise and command a

coast-watching service on the west coast of Scotland, principally for U-boat surveillance.

By January 1915, Seton had recruited 104 men who were strategically placed around Mull, Ulva, Gometra, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Lismore and the Ardnarmurchan and Morvern coasts.

Stories of spies and signalling by enemy agents were frequent, and flickering lights were seen at various places on the islands and the mainland. Even one of the honorary coast-watchers, Sir Stephen Gatty of Lochbuie House on Mull, reported by Gordon as an eccentric, was in the habit of suddenly switching on all the lights in his house around midnight. This raised suspicion as the house faced south-west down the loch to the open sea.

Coast-watchers on Iona, on

seeing a submarine going north, were instructed to telegraph the information to Treshnish Point, Coll and Stornoway. Later the Naval Intelligence Department built a wireless station at Kilmuir on Skye that would have possibly intercepted transmissions from U-boats and taken direction finder bearings on their location and speed.

There are many references to this station, even names of personnel, but I have not found any clues to its exact location or met anyone who knows more about it.

In August 1918, a headline in the *Dundee Courier* screamed: 'Hun submarine attacks trading steamer but gets hot reception from Scotsman' and of its commander roaring out in English through a megaphone: 'Pigs! Surrender.'

The Scotsman was an RNVR gunner called John Lawless from Stirlingshire who fired 35 shells at the attacker from his 13-pounder gun, forcing it to submerge.

As it was not seen again, the *Courier* surmised that it had been sunk, resulting in the hero being recommended for promotion and the DCM.

The vessel was the *Plover*, one of MacBrayne's fleet, which had left Oban on July 27 carrying a large number of passengers and mail bound for Loch Boisdale, under the command of 60-year old Captain Neil McDougall, her regular master.

Later, one of the passengers maintained that when under fire, the captain lost his head and ordered a flag of surrender to be struck and that some of the crew and passengers took to the lifeboats, leaving the remainder to fend for themselves. Two of the lifeboats, it was said, eventually arrived at Barra in the early hours of the morning; the third landed on the island of Rum sometime later.

What is most striking and unusual is that there is no mention whatsoever in the ship's log of any incident.

Iain Thorner
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Islay Museum curator Jenni Minto gives a fascinating lesson to pupils.

Islay and Jura pupils pay tribute to Great War heroes

SCHOOL pupils on Islay and Jura have been learning about the heroic and inspiring actions of islanders during the First World War.

Leading up to the 100th anniversary of the Great War reaching Islay and the remarkable events that followed, pupils from every primary school on Islay and Jura, as well as Islay High School, have been working on a joint project as part of the WW100 Islay commemorations.

On Friday May 4, the island hosted a service of remembrance for the SS *Tuscania*, which was torpedoed, and the HMS *Otranto*, which sank after a collision with another vessel in the waters off Islay. More than 700 servicemen were killed in the two incidents and the people of Islay came together to ensure the soldiers' bodies were retrieved and properly buried.

As well as those who died in these tragic events, WW100 Islay pays tribute to the many men from Islay and Jura who died in the conflict.

Youngsters have been talking about the past, writing about artefacts, researching census records, creating art and poetry,



Aaron Clarke shows off his painting of the *Tuscania*.



Sophie MacDonald learned about the First World War.

and taking themselves back in time by imagining and writing letters from soldiers.

Visits to the Islay Museum and war memorials also helped the children to understand better the tragic impact of the war and the heroic actions of local people.

Jo Clark, a teacher at Port Ellen Primary, said: 'The children at all of the schools have worked very hard on this project, carrying out research and then using that information and their imaginations to create wonderful works of art.'

'We have been very fortunate to work with the local museum

and the National Museum of Scotland on this project, and have also had excellent input from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum.

'Jenni Minto and Stuart Graham from Islay Museum visited our school and gave a brilliant presentation on the sinking of the *Otranto* and *Tuscania*, which was invaluable for the pupils.'

The children's artworks were used as part of the May 4 event, which was attended by Princess Anne and other dignitaries. Pupils from all the schools carried the flags of the US states, some of which they helped make for the Islay Quilters.

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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

Considerable progress has been made in recent times to address the worsening crisis of mental ill health, especially among men.

However, there remains a serious problem with discrimination against and stigmatisation of people suffering mental ill health.

So it is welcome news that this is Mental Health Awareness Week, which is principally raising the profile of the illness and urging people who suffer from it to seek help and speak out.

Doing precisely that is Oban man Des MacMillan,

who opens his heart to us this week to relate his story of bottling up grief for 30 years.

It is a moving account of a young boy left to wrestle with his grief after the death of his grandfather and feeling unable to talk about it.

Des has now organised a two-mile walk in Oban this Sunday and has had a gratifying response from hundreds of people who have expressed an interest in taking part in the event. Des deserves praise for his leading role as a See Me champion – and we hope there is a huge turnout for the walk.



Days gone by – 1997

This week's photograph shows youngsters enjoying a lucky dip at Appin fete in 1997, but we don't have the names. Can anyone help?

Last week, Alexandrina C Scarbrough emailed us to say: 'The photograph North Connell Guides at Archchattan Priory was the presentation of the Queen's Guide Award to Alexandrina C Macdonald and Flora Macdonald in November 1964 (not 1963). I was one of the guides being presented with the award, Alexandrina C Macdonald. The others shown in the photograph are as follows from

left to right: Mrs Dundas, Appin; Mr John MacDonal (Flora's father); Mrs Mary MacDonal (Flora's mother); Alexandrina C Macdonald; Mrs Kerr, Barnacarry; Flora Macdonald; Mrs Alexandrina Macdonald (Alexandrina C Macdonald's mother); Mrs Campbell, An Cladach, North Connell. Of the Guides sitting along the hall, I can identify two: right in the corner is Margo Kirsop, and fourth one along (there is a Guide hidden beside her) is Mary MacDonal, Flora's sister. Thanks for printing the photo, it was good to remember that occasion.'

MacPhail

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IT HAS been a while since I've set sail with this article, so back to boats for this week's literary voyage.

It is a well-worn adage that a change is as good as a rest and I completely agree with those sentiments. Last Sunday we spent the morning taking a small yacht down the Caledonian Canal to deliver it to the Corpach Basin ready to be lifted onto a lorry and transported south by road for a new owner.

Having been on the water only once this year so far, the experience of getting aboard a boat (even a yacht) was as good as a holiday.

It also got both Andrew and myself into the mood for getting the St Olave out of her winter harbour of hibernation on Loch Lochy and back to the sea.

The weather was stunning, the passage relaxing and, as always when with Andrew's father, it was interesting and entertaining.

I've been up and down that stretch of the Caledonian Canal about a dozen times with him now and on each occasion it's like being taken on a historical tour with a professor

of anthropological, industrial and natural history – though I'm sure most tour guides of that type wouldn't be quite so militant with their poor crew. Each time there is a wealth of new information and new stories.

With this combination of David Attenborough, Neil Oliver and Captain Bligh at the helm, we happily toddled our way along the canal and descended the lofty locks of Neptune's Staircase.

When my uncle and I used to run Skipinnish Sea Tours, the beginning of the season was always filled with relief to get back out on the sea and excitement for the coming season. The wee trip on the yacht the other day reminded me of those initial trips each season when there was nothing else that could have felt better than the prospect of being out on a boat in good weather with people whose company was enjoyable.

As with so many things in life, it is that time of change, transition and moving cycle that is most pleasing.

By the end of September each year we were generally very happy to be getting the boat ready for laying up for the winter and resting our brains from answering the relentless questions of enthusiastic passengers. I

used to love the questions up till about the middle of August and by then I had answered the same ones too many times to maintain energetic replies and I probably sounded like a scratchy, broken record on repeat when asked such things as, 'How big does a basking shark get?', 'How tall is Skerryvore lighthouse?' and 'What does Skipinnish mean?'

These were all perfectly good and sensible questions but I'm sure by some Septembers I was telling people a Skerryvore could grow to over 30 feet, a basking shark was 138 feet tall and Skipinnish meant big reef in Gaelic and was built by an uncle of Fergie MacDonal.

However, by the following April the excitement and vigour was always restored and the season was entered into again with relish.

The change between winter and summer work was essential for me then and that type of variety in work and leisure life is still something I try to maintain.

With the thought of new places to see and people to meet, I am very much looking forward to a new season of boating and some of our forthcoming voyages will be recounted in these pages.



Social media

Concern has been voiced by Councillor Julie McKenzie about a lack of care at Ganavan, where the swings have been removed and where she says there is a problem with dog fouling and litter.

Ron Ireland: 'I'm out there most days with two dogs and always pick up their mess, sadly many people don't seem to bother. I'd be wary of letting any children run about freely in case they get covered in dog muck. As for the litter, it's totally incomprehensi-

ble why people do it. Easy to blame the council but it's not them causing the mess in the first place.'

Alick MacLellan: 'A good start would be to stop camper vans using Ganavan as some kind of convenience.'

Tracey Loonball McCulloch: 'Think there a bigger problem with council not emptying bins in soroba regular enough.'

Michelle Hewitt: 'Such a mess.'

Louisa Lulu Hyde: 'I walk my dog

here and can name a couple of people who don't pick up their dog poo, worst thing is they live in Ganavan as for the litter I was there yesterday and there was no litter as I try to pick up five pieces of plastic each visit but struggle to find that some days. I always witness people using the bins.'

Ann Maceachen: 'I walk my dogs here sometimes and always pick up after them and use the bins. I see so many poo bags lying around where people just dump them yuk.'

Press policy

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If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Where are all the Gaelic teachers?

What is so awful about Bunessan and its new Gaelic school that it has not been possible to find a Gaelic teacher for it (*The Oban Times*, May 10)?

But, more importantly, what is happening to the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan when two of its MSPs are having to lobby the Westminster government to bend immigration rules for one preferred applicant?

Do Michael Russell MSP, Donald Cameron MSP, Cleland Sneddon (chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council) and a Canadian professor really believe that after all the money that has been thrown at promoting Gaelic in the West Highlands and Islands, there is not one person on the Island of Mull, renowned for its Gaelic songs and culture, interested in, or capable of, taking on the post?

Perhaps the Scottish Government should have done its homework before establishing the unit in Bunessan – or is this more to do with vote-chasing than keeping a language alive?

Of more serious concern, where in all this is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, which is churning out Gaelic speakers every year at great cost to the public purse?

Is its students not sufficiently qualified for teaching posts?

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Potholed roads are hurting the economy

It has been recently announced that a Scottish Conservative government would invest £100 million into fixing potholes over the course of the next parliament.

We all rely on our roads but they are now plagued with potholes which are damaging cars.

Beyond our concerns for public safety, this systematic under-investment is slowing our economy and costing local councils a fortune in compensation for car owners.

We recognise the importance of a well-maintained road infrastructure and we are willing to invest in it.

That's why the Scottish Conservatives would invest £100 million over the next parliament into a pothole fund to help councils address the problem.

The SNP has consistently neglected Scotland's roads and the results are obvious for all to see. Fixing our roads will mean safer, faster travel across Scotland.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Frustrated by poor attitude to litter

We have been trying as a community to clear the discarded litter from around the Lochybridge area in Fort William – for example, around 100 people turned up last week to start clearing the Caol shoreline.

Can anybody give me a good reason why we should carry on litter picking,

trying to make the area look clean and tidy, not only for locals but also visitors?

It's frustrating when people make the effort to clear the litter only for that effort to seem in vain when you watch high school pupils casually throwing their litter away in complete disregard for you picking it up within their sight.

But it gets worse when you get a phonecall at 8.30am from a council employee asking if you are responsible for litter picking on the freight yard access road at Lochybridge, past Old Inverloch Castle, only to be told by the jobsworth that they do not collect filled litter bags from private land.

I tried to explain exactly where the litter was cleared from, but was cut short with: 'It costs the council to collect and dispose of the litter and is the responsibility of the landowner.'

I asked who owned the land, only to be told he didn't have a clue.

We are only trying to help, so give us a break.

Peter Berrie,
Lochybridge.

Thanks for help and care after accident

My wife and I read your front-page article (*The Oban Times*, April 26) on the actions of Nyomi MacPhee and her friends in actively helping to summon assistance (an ambulance) and provide comfort for my wife, who had unfortunately tripped and fallen on the pavement.

Nyomi was the leader in these activities, and was so concerned that she took my mobile number, and we exchanged texts over the next few days while my wife was being treated in hospital.

We wish to emphasise how grateful we are to Nyomi and her friends.

We would also like to thank all the ambulance crew and the staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care received, from the skilful diagnosis by the A&E team of the damage caused, to the unceasingly friendly and caring service provided by the nurses.

Stuart Thomson,
Kippen.

Connell Bridge needs urgent attention

An immediate safety survey must be undertaken and a weight restriction limit of 15 to 20 tonnes should be imposed now upon Argyll's little 'Forth Bridge' at Connell.

The vibrations and damage caused by 40-tonne HGVs to the arched construction and road surface at the south end, and over the whole maintenance, mean the safety and longevity of this deteriorating bridge is in question.

An orange road cable can be clearly seen exposed in the road's north end, but much more obviously serious is a corroded underbelly of beams supporting the road as viewed from below.

And cracked, rotting seams in stantions and weather-worn steel,

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S E RUD GRÀINEIL a th' ann an gràin! Anns a' Cho-fhaclair Gàidhlig (Thesaurus) a dheasaich TELI tha na faclan gràdh agus gràin cha mhòr ri taobh a chèile air an aon duilleig, agus gu h-inntinneach tha fichead facal-dàimheach ma choinneimh gràdh, ach trì-deug a-mhàin an cois gràin.

Ged nach eil sin na dhearbhadh sam bith gun robh barrachd gràidh seach gràin ann an saoghal nan Gàidheal tha mi fhìn a' gabhail beagan misneachd às. Gun teagamh feumar aideachadh gum bheil mac an duine air a bhith riamh ri sabaid ri a cho-chreutair agus tha iomadhach tachartas ann an eachdraidh nan Gàidheal, mar a tha fìor dhan a h-uile cinneadh, a tha nam maslath. Ach cha b' e gràin air càch a chèile a dh'fhàg daoine ri cath ann an iomadh blàr idir ach iomadh adhbhar eile, agus glè thric bha slugh air an gairm gu cogadh an aghaidh an toil. Dh'innis seann shagheadar dhomh mun àm a fhuair e fhèin saorsa an

dèidh còig bliadhna na phrìosan-ach-cogaidh anns a' Phòlainn.

Bha saighdearan Ameireaganach a' cumail suil air prìosanaich Ghearmailteach agus thuir fear acu ris gum faodadh e ionnsaigh a thoirt air cuid acu mar dhìoghaltas nan togradh e. 'Ach 's ann a bha truas mo chridhe agam dhaibh!' thuir e.

Ged nach b' ann gun adhbhar a bhiodh na Gàidheil a' bruidhinn air "mi-rùn mòr nan Gall" saoil am bheil mi-rùn cho oilleil ri gràin? Ciamar neo carson a tha neach sam bith dol a' gabhail gràin air rud neo air neach eile? Tha amharas làidir agam gum bheil mòran a' gabhail a' ghràine sin dìreach ri linn 's gum bheil caraidean neo ball-teaghaich ris. Gu cinnteach tha gràin aig mòran air cuspairean mu nach aithne dhaibh dad, ach ged a tha an cuid aineolais èibhinn aig amannan, tha e a' goirteachadh agus a' dèanamh cron air daoine eile.

Gu mì-fhortanach tha cuid air feadh Alba le gràin air a' Ghàidhlig agus cha leig iad cothrom seachad slaic a thoirt oirre. 'S e sochair phrìseil a th' ann an saorsa bheachd anns an dùthaich seo

plus rusty exposed rivets are clearly visible from the footpath on the main road.

The bridge should be scheduled for inspection, shot-blasting, repainting, maintenance and a complete repair overhaul as soon as possible. Or does the government have plans for investment in a new bridge before the inevitable catastrophic shock-failure happens and the bridge is closed maybe permanently over safety concerns?

This beautiful, now 'old lady of Argyll' was once a world record setter in her time and is still an vital router in Argyll's economy, but will not last forever under the pounding she is taking daily from nature and the ever bigger and more heavily-laden HGVs.

Is the future a longer journey for our emergency services to get around Loch Etive?

Some urgent TLC is needed for this old lady of Connell, or her sad demise may be quicker or more sudden than expected.

Stephen Jones,
Oban.

Nanny state should stop running our lives

So the Scottish Government thinks that legislation on unit pricing for alcohol will solve problem drinking.

Well, obviously they all have not read their history very well, for if the had they would have known that when the prohibition was imposed in the USA in the 1930s, the amount of alcohol available and consumed was double what it had previously been.

That's because it was freely available on the black market.

To that end, there are certain situations in life where legislation will simply not work.

That means a lot of things in life are up to common sense and the ability of individuals to have the freedom to make decisions for themselves.

What the government and its agencies could do to improve life, and give folk their freedom back, is to stay well out of people's personal lives and of what they do, say, eat and drink.

Right now government agencies are well over the top in giving hints and advice to folk how and what to do in life. It is not their remit to do such a thing.

It has come to the stage that the respective agencies are treating people like children and taking them by the hand.

Well, my message is: 'Back off! You are over the top in a Big Brother way and that's not what you need to do.'

I'd rather you paid some attention to the poor state of Scotland's roads and public services – and treat people with respect.

The current agenda is morally wrong and patronising, so get a grip.

Once again, I reiterate Thomas Jefferson's quote when he said: 'When the people fear the government, that's tyranny.'

'But when the government fears the people, that's freedom.'

So let freedom reign again.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearradh na Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.

Ailean Caimbeul

ach chan eil ann am mòran den tàire a tha ga thilgeil air Gàidhlig agus a cuid cleachdaidh ach burraidheachd, ionnsaidh air a' choimhearsnachd as laige!

Air an adhbhar sin a-mhàin saoilidh mise gur còir dha luchd-deasachaidh irisean coltach sam bith a bhith a' toirt dìon dha min-choimhearsnachd bho lethidh de dhroch dhìol.

Mo bheannachd air an Àrd-Ollamh Wilson MacLeòid a chaidh a dheasbad le fear den fheadhainn a bha a' sgrìobhadh gun tuigsle! Nan robh ceartas air a bhith san t-suidheachadh, tha fhios gun robh cuideigin neo-eisimeileach air a bhith ag aithris air a' chòmhradh sin, ach 's e an tàmailt buileach gum b' fheadar an còmhradh tachairt idir.

IT IS dispiriting and hurtful for users and supporters of Gaelic to see their culture regularly attacked in newspapers. Bullying of minorities has always been shameful and these onslaughts on Gaelic are equally so today.

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

Your letters

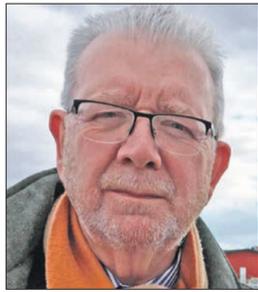
THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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

A daytime telephone number

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

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



Michael Russell MSP will give an opening statement via video.

Brexit – the key questions and the challenges

THE BREXIT talks are entering their end game. The next few weeks look crucial – ahead of the EU's summit on June 28. And by November, the EU27 and the UK need to have finalised the divorce deal and agreed a political declaration on the shape of the future trade and security relationship, writes Dr Kirsty Hughes.

Yet the main word I encounter in discussions with senior UK officials and politicians is 'uncertainty'.

It's uncertain what sort of future trade deal the UK government is going to ask for – the cabinet remains deeply divided on that.

It's uncertain if the UK will agree a 'backstop' for Northern Ireland that ensures the Irish border remains open. And, if they can't, it looks as if the late June summit in Brussels will erupt into a major UK-EU dispute that some think could even lead to suspension of talks on the future relationship.

On May 21, the Scottish Centre on European Relations is holding an event in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands and the European Commission's Scotland office to discuss and debate these issues.

Hosted at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunbeg, a panel of three experts will give their assessment of the current challenges – from a media, think tank and higher education viewpoint. This is a public event, free of charge.

While much is uncertain, the timescale is pretty clear. If the UK and EU don't finalise their divorce deal by November, there won't be time for Westminster, the European Parliament and the EU27 leaders to ratify it ahead of the Brexit date of March 29, 2019. Some think that date could be extended by a few weeks but that's unlikely to help much. Others argue there is so much uncertainty that the UK should ask the EU for a longer transition period but Prime Minister Theresa May has ruled that out for now.

The Scottish Government – and many Labour backbench MPs – have argued for a 'soft' Brexit by staying in the EU's customs union and single market.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn supports a customs union not staying in the single market. Theresa May says she will take the UK out of both – but cannot agree with her cabinet on a future 'customs partnership' with the EU (which some in Brussels have labelled magical thinking). Amid this uncertainty, some are calling for another EU referendum – on whatever deal is agreed (if one is) – and some want the UK to choose between the deal and staying in the EU.

We will debate all these questions and more on Monday May 21, so come and join us in the AP Orr Lecture Room, SAMS, Sheina Marshall Building, Dunbeg, PA37 1QA.

The event runs from 5.30-7pm, with tea and coffee available from 5pm.

The event is free but please register on our website – www.scer.scot – to get a free ticket.

Seonaid is the X-pert, helping patients manage their diabetes

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

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

This week we look at the work of Seonaid Morrison, advanced nurse in diabetes, based at Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban.

SEONAI MORRISON qualified as a state enrolled nurse in 1986 and by 1995 trained to qualify as a registered general nurse. Due to further studying, she continued up the career ladder to work in various management posts and, finally, in 2014, she secured the role of advanced nurse diabetes.

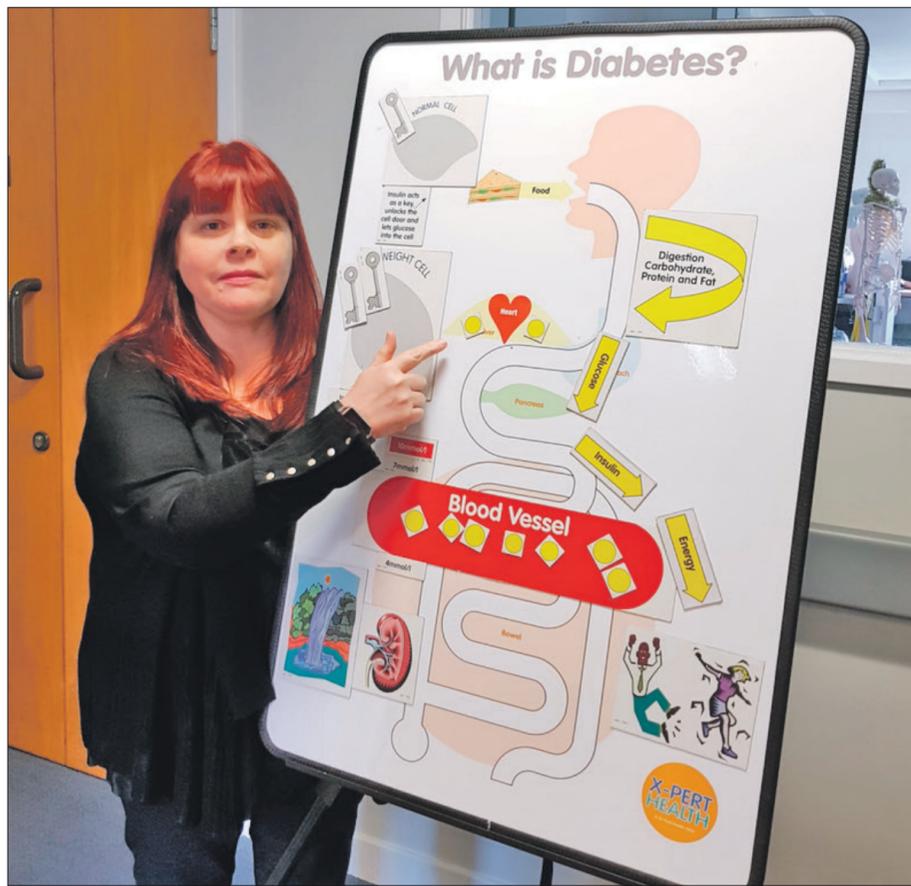
Part of her job is delivering diabetes education programmes throughout Argyll and Bute. She also develops person-centred care services that are specifically focused on supporting people with diabetes to increase their ability to self-manage their condition.

Seonaid delivers the X-pert Diabetes Programmes to patients and aims to ensure that anyone who is overweight or diagnosed with pre-diabetes or diabetes has access to good quality, structured education that will allow them to develop their knowledge, understanding and confidence that will help them improve their health and wellbeing.

The X-pert programme is a six-week initiative which consists of a two-and-a-half-hour session each week. It gives people the opportunity to explore and learn about the prevention and management of diabetes, treatments and self-management approaches. There is a chance to address concerns that people have with lifestyle choices.

She also delivers X-pert first steps, which is a one-off education session for people who cannot commit or are unable to attend the six-week programme. This covers some of the key messages from the sessions.

Seonaid ensures the X-pert programmes are kept up to date, quality



assured and appropriate changes are made in conjunction with other HSCP healthcare professionals, such as diabetes nurse specialists and dietitians. She also works in close partnership with GPs, practice nurses and other health and social care specialists to ensure patients have the opportunity to attend appropriate educational programmes available across Argyll and Bute.

Seonaid, along with the local dietitian, delivers monthly education sessions in Oban High School for children with Type 1 diabetes. The assemblies have proved to be

extremely beneficial to the students and teachers.

She also provides various education and training sessions for other health and social care professionals, including care sector staff working in a variety of different settings.

Seonaid said: 'People have the chance to explore how the body works and how lifestyle modifications may help to improve and give them better control of their diabetes. The aim is not to tell people what they should and shouldn't do, but to help and support people in setting realistic goals to address concerns

that they may have with their lifestyles, such as what they eat and how active they are.'

'The education that I deliver and possible benefits from attending the course include:

- Lower blood glucose
- Dispelling dietary myths allowing increased dietary freedom
- Healthier eating
- Increase carbohydrate awareness
- Increased energy levels
- Improved fitness
- Improved wellbeing and quality of life
- Lower blood pressure

Seonaid Morrison delivers diabetes education programmes throughout Argyll and Bute giving people the opportunity to learn about the prevention and management of diabetes, treatments and how to self-manage their condition.

- Lower blood cholesterol
- Weight loss if appropriate
- Reduced risk of heart disease and other long-term conditions
- Learning to deal with illness

'It's an honour to give support, advice and information to people to make changes which will improve their quality of life. Being a nurse makes me proud, whatever role I've been in. Just being able to help people is a privilege, especially if they are going through a difficult time in their life.'

'I have a professional duty to respect patients and this is always what I have practised throughout my nursing career. I always treat people with respect and dignity, and find it really rewarding to know that I'm making a real impact on healthier living.'

In 2016, Seonaid was delighted to attend the Scottish Parliament to provide a presentation on diabetes education in the remote and rural areas of Argyll and Bute.

In the same year, she also attended and delivered a presentation to the Diabetes UK professional conference regarding the geographical barriers in reaching people with diabetes in rural areas. She highlighted the need and importance for the population of Argyll and Bute to be provided with education and support to improve better self-care outcomes and the importance of focusing on early intervention to help people take ownership of their condition to ensure that they live healthy, happy and safer lives.

Seonaid loves living and working in Oban due to the endless outdoor opportunities, from hill walking to island hopping. The scenery is something that always fascinates her. She cannot imagine living elsewhere as she feels really lucky to be surrounded by the friendly, caring and down-to-earth residents who have made living in Oban special to her.

University town plan sure to be music to the ears of Oban's young talent

IN LAST month's column about Oban's progress as a university town, we reported on the official launch event.

One thing demonstrated so clearly on that day – through the performances from both Oban High School's School of Traditional Music and the finale to the evening from Ballet West – is that Oban and the surrounding area has a wealth of talented performing arts students both of school age and in higher education.

The School of Traditional Music was set up at Oban High in 2013, and this year has 15 pupils who receive one-to-one tuition, and play concerts both locally and nationally.

Former pupils have gone on to study music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye, UHI on Benbecula, University of Aberdeen and University of Newcastle. Ballet West has 80 full-time students who have come from around the world to study courses leading to BA



(Hons) in Dance, in addition to its varied outreach programme spanning all ages.

To list the huge variety of activities happening in and around Oban would take up the rest of this article. In essence, there are numerous organisations enabling tuition, rehearsal and performance, provided, for

example, by Oban's successful pipe band movement and by Fèis Latharna – including the ceilidh trail which gives eight young traditional musicians the chance to go on live tour each summer to experience work as professional musicians.

So, what is the opportunity for Oban as a University Town?

The short answer is to provide our 'home grown' talented community with the opportunity to progress with their studies beyond school age here in Oban by extending the range of performing arts higher education, also attracting in students from elsewhere – Ballet West clearly demonstrates what is possible.

Ballet West, near Tainuill, offers an ambitious educational programme, including full-time higher education courses leading to BA (Hons) in Dance validated by the Open University.

Argyll College UHI also offers a range of performing arts modules and courses. Over the next few months the Oban as a University Town project team will use the evidence base and draw on relevant expertise to help us consider what should be done to strengthen the education offering and how to do that, complementing, rather than duplicating, what is provided elsewhere.

The vision of the university town is about focusing on distinctive assets and employment opportunities – it is also about providing an outstanding experience for students and staff, so the potential here is not just about education in the performing arts, but the extent to

which this can drive the social and cultural life of Oban.

Our chairman, Professor Donald MacLean, who previously chaired the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, is enthusiastic to see this project take shape.

He said: 'Not only do we have excellent music and dance education in and around Oban – throughout Argyll we have a fantastic array of professional artists, studios, festivals and tutors.'

'With everyone working together, we have the potential to create something truly outstanding nationally and internationally – a real beacon for music, dance and the arts in general.'

The door remains open to others who want to get involved or know more.

Visit the website at www.obanunitown.org to find out more and contact the team directly. In this digital age, we also invite you to #LoveOban-LoveLearning

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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

TUESDAY June 5 Leave 9.30am back 6.30pm
Fare: Mull of Kintyre £37 SC £35
Return by coach from Campbeltown

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Oban Sailing Club members are ready to welcome visitors this weekend.

Go on ... push the boat out in Oban this week

KATHIE GRIFFITHS
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

LANDLUBBERS are being invited to push the boat out and give sailing a go in Oban this weekend.

Oban Sailing Club is offering people the chance to try out dinghy and keelboat sailing and powerboating – all for free on Saturday May 19.

The club in Gallanach Road hopes there will be a big uptake for the offer and it is open to anyone completely new to the sport or looking at getting back out on the water.

The fun, fit for all the family and individuals, starts at 10am on the day and goes on until 4pm.

Iain Campbell, commodore at Oban



Sailing Club, said it is 'the perfect time to give it a go', get outdoors and be active. People just need to turn up at the clubhouse.

The Oban open day is part of a nationwide event being organised by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) which will see thousands of people taking part

in sailing or windsurfing activities at sailing clubs.

'We're inviting the local community to come down to have a go at sailing and powerboating, see what the Oban Sailing Club has to offer and get involved. Who knows? You might just get hooked!' added Mr Campbell.

As well as lots of taster sessions, there will also be a chance to row in a skiff with Oban Rowing Club. The Seil rowing side will also be there and Argyll College is bringing along its RIB boat.

Oban's lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, a Trent-class all-weather vessel, will be putting in an appearance between noon and 2pm for people to take a peek inside – unless, of course, it gets a call-out, added Mr Campbell.

'Sailing can be as physical or as relaxing as you want to make it. You can sail with others or on your own, do it competitively or potter about and just enjoy the gentle escape of being outside in the elements,' he said.

Oban Sailing Club was formed in 1935 and it is hoped the taster day will bring in a bigger crew of members.

Nearly 400 venues across the UK, including Oban Sailing Club, have signed up to be involved with Push The Boat Out in 2018 and get more people out on the water. The initiative was first created in 2011 as part of the RYA Sail for Gold programme.

To find out more about sailing locally, go to obansailingclub.org or follow the club on Facebook and Twitter.

Garden party will toast Islay festival

THE Scotch Malt Whisky Society is holding a series of events at Feis Ile, the Islay Festival of Music and Malt from Friday May 25 to Saturday June 2.

The first is an Islay House open day on May 25, when the society kicks off the festival by hosting a garden party on the beautiful lawns of Islay House, overlooking Loch Indaal.

With free entry, this open day will welcome SMWS members and non-members. Islay Ales and Islay Oysters will be on the menu throughout the day as well as a wide range of rare and fabulous SMWS whiskies.

From 7.30pm, an evening of music and malt awaits, as the Islay party ramps up.

SMWS brand ambassador John McCheyne will host a number of SMWS tasting masterclasses. Guests will sample different drams, including at

least one of the limited edition Islay Festival bottlings.

Tastings will take place at Islay House on Friday May 25, 4.30-5.30pm and 7pm-8pm; Monday 28, Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30, 3pm-4pm. Ticket price: £20.

For those fortunate enough to be travelling to the Islay Festival of Music and Malt, the SMWS will be releasing 29,244 Weaving Wondrous Dreams.

As a special treat to members who have made the journey to attend the Islay festival, this limited edition bottling will be available to buy at the open day at Islay House on May 25, from 1pm.

With only 222 bottles available to members, this rare Islay whisky is a must-have for all peat-lovers.

For more information about the Islay festival events, visit <https://goo.gl/c38uY>



Visitors and exhibitors examine the colourful entries.

Rhododendron show is blooming marvellous

SCOTLAND'S annual national rhododendron show took place at the Gibson Hall in Garelochhead on Saturday May 5.

A very popular event, organised by the Scottish Rhododendron Society, the show has in the past been based in a number of venues around Scotland, including Oban, and is open to the public as well as to the members of the society.

This year there were some 30 exhibitors, many of whom entered multiple classes, and the hall was filled with colour-

ful and often scented blooms despite the mixed weather this spring.

Among the winners of the 12 trophies were both amateur growers and public rhododendron gardeners.

The Beechgrove Garden photographers were present to record the event and the giving out of prizes. Outside the hall a good selection of rhododendrons and other plants were for sale and many keen gardeners were seen staggering back to their cars with their purchases.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday May 20 Creag Dhubb, Newtonmore

Creag Dhubb lies in the foothills of the Monadhliath Mountains near Newtonmore, overlooking the upper Spey Valley.

Although of modest height, it is rugged with impressive crags, and dominates the area. The views from the summit are extensive and include both the Cairngorms and the western hills.

Start on the A86 opposite Auchmore farm, where limited parking is available, NN665946. Pass through the gate 200m to the W and head N up the track to NN662952. Leave the track and head E across the hillside for 600m to the Monument at the top of some crags. Without losing much height, cross the small valley to the N to reach a faint path that leads up to the top of the crags opposite. Follow the path NE above the

cliffs, towards the SW ridge of Creag Dubh. Climb the ridge to its summit, 756m. Continue NE on the ridge to a col and climb to the small summit of An Torr, 614m.

From the E end of its summit plateau, find a path leading down NE, steeply at first through birch scrub and bracken, to reach the track at NN701989. Turn right and follow farm tracks to reach the A86 just before the bridge over the River Calder. Transport required.

Grade: M+; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 490m Map(s): LR35, EX402; Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.20am. Start at 10.30am Leader: Ronnie Forbes 01866 822 611 or 07525 782929.

Thursday May 24 Ben Nevis

A classic approach to the north face of Ben Nevis affording splendid views of its magnificent cliffs, ridges and corries, with a descent on the W side ending in Glen Nevis.

Start from the North Face car park at Torlundy, NN144764 and follow an excellent path up through steep forested slopes to reach open ground at the Allt a'Mhuilinn. Continue on a good path on the NE side of the river, which is then crossed just below the CIC Hut.

If there is time and energy to spare, it could be spent exploring

some of the huge Coire na Ciste above the hut.

Return on the W side of the Allt a' Mhuilinn, following a fair path which contours NW around the Ben Nevis massif, rising slightly and curving SW to eventually join the tourist route just above Lochan Meall an tSuidhe, (the Half-Way Lochan).

Descend by this path to the Ben Nevis Inn in Glen Nevis. Transport required.

Grade: M+; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 690m; Map(s): LR41, EX392; Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9.40am. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Fiona Wild 07879 495165.

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.

Saturday May 19 Ben Lomond

Important: Ferry leaves Tarbet pier at 8.45am. This needs to be booked in advance. Price is £13 return. <http://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk/tarbet-rowardennan-ferry>

Arrive at Rowardennan pier at 9.30am. Head N along the

West Highland Way and turn off right after crossing the river at NS360994.

Follow the obvious path first NNE and then NNW up to and over Ptarmigan. Follow the ridge around to the right until the final rise SE up to the summit of Ben Lomond.

Now follow path first ESE then SSE down ridge. Finally head SW down the path back to the WHW.

The start point is now about 600m further N. The return ferry is at 16:45pm. Don't miss it!

Distance: 11km; height to climb: 1000m. Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

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Summer season ready to take off at Oban Airport

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

WITH its new itineraries now under way, taking passengers on scenic tours of Scotland from Oban Airport, Fly Scenic Scotland has announced the appointment of two new members of staff, one a pilot and the other an operations co-ordinator.

The company, owned by Border Air, has recently invested in Fly Scenic Scotland, giving it a new impetus with a fresh website and marketing campaign.

Border Air, recently bought over by aviation group Cloud Global, provides aircraft charter and flight training services from three airports, including Oban.

For Donald Cameron, 38, from Oban, the new job as a pilot with Fly Scenic Scotland is something of a homecoming, as he was one of the original two pilots who started the company in 2010.

'Fly Scenic Scotland was born in conjunction with Border Air, and the granting of the Air Operators Certificate,' said Donald. 'A friend and I, who both held pilot's licenses, got together to launch it, as we thought it would be a great idea to let others share in our love of Scotland from the air, as a special experience.'

'Due to other commitments at the time, I couldn't provide the necessary time to grow the business and sole control of Fly Scenic Scotland was passed to Border Air to continue it.'

'I am delighted to be back now with Fly Scenic Scotland for my first commercial flying job. I am currently also employed as a full-time firefighter with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and I have a window blinds company too.'



Bruce Miller, left, and Donald Cameron are the new faces for Fly Scenic Scotland at Oban Airport.

'I certainly like to be busy and will fit this exciting new role around my other commitments. Flying for me is a great way to de-stress, and to take guests up into the air and show them some amazing parts of Scotland will be fantastic.'

Donald added: 'After gaining my licence in 2008, I bought and built a two-seater kit aircraft, building it over the next two years in my father's garden shed, completing the build in 2014. Since then I have flown the aircraft all around Scotland. In December 2015, I completed my commercial pilot's ATPL theory exams, and

then gained my full commercial pilot's licence, plus multi engine instrument rating.'

When asked what he is looking forward to most in his new role at Fly Scenic Scotland, Donald is keen to point out that every time you fly you see a different perspective.

'There is nothing better than taking off from Oban Airport and straight into the spectacular scenery that the west coast of Scotland and Argyll have to offer. It still amazes me every time I'm flying, seeing Scotland from above.'

'I love seeing all the beautiful sandy beaches and clear blue

water. Some of the beaches on the Inner and Outer Hebrides are spectacular and when viewed from above with the crystal clear water you wouldn't actually believe that you were in Scotland.'

Operations co-ordinator Bruce Miller, 64, is from Benderloch. Bruce has been in the aviation industry since he was 14, holding a glider licence and PPL.

He has a long involvement at Oban Airport, having been a firefighter there and both an aerodrome flight information service officer.

'I have always been passionate about Oban Airport and it is

great to see the many changes and improvements occurring here thanks to Border Air and Fly Scenic Scotland,' he said. 'If I can be part of this operation and help it to succeed, then that will be a big enough goal for me. I still fly as a hobby, and will always love the industry.'

Graeme Frater, managing director of Cloud Global, said: 'We are delighted to have Donald and Bruce on board. We're staffing up to cope with demand, as Fly Scenic Scotland is generating lots of interest. The new season kicked off on April 1, so they could not have joined us at a better time.'

Colonsay Gin features in supermarkets

GIN from Wild Thyme Spirits on the Isle of Colonsay was handpicked by supermarket chain Aldi to feature in its second Scottish Gin Festival.

The national listing saw thousands of bottles of exclusive-to-Aldi Colonsay Gin - Solas (£19.99/50cl) on shelves in 80 stores across Scotland alongside 10 other Scottish gins as part of a deal worth almost £40,000 to Wild Thyme Spirits.

The in-store event was expected to contribute almost £500,000 to the 10 distilleries involved and builds on the success of Aldi's inaugural Scottish Gin Festival which hit shelves in November 2017 and sold out within days.

Eileen Geekie, a director of Wild Thyme Spirits, said: 'When Aldi asked us if we wanted our gin to be included in its Scottish Gin Festival, we were delighted and jumped at the chance to secure our first national supermarket order.'

'We saw it as recognition of how



Fin and Eileen Geekie at work making Colonsay Gin.

far we've come in our first year and how well Colonsay Gin has been received by customers, retailers and gin experts alike. The undoubted exposure to new customers that comes with being on the shelves of Aldi stores right across Scotland

will be a huge boost for our brand. This one single order equates to around 40 per cent of our total bottle sales last year and will provide the business with a fantastic cash injection to help with our planned 2018 expansion plans.'

Graham Nicolson, group buying director for Aldi Scotland, said: 'We're still toasting the fantastic response to our first Scottish Gin Festival last year, which proved Scotland's taste for high quality gins crafted by some of the country's most distinguished distilleries.'

'This time, we were back with a new range of tempting tipples for Aldi shoppers to discover and enjoy - including exclusive-to-Aldi bottlings, diverse flavour combinations and unique styles from a mix of both established and up-and-coming Scottish suppliers.'

'Similar to our Scottish Beer Festival - which recently celebrated its 14th edition - the Scottish Gin Festival allows us to support those at the forefront of the country's dynamic craft drinks industry, forming long-term partnerships that mean we can bring our customers an unparalleled selection.'

ALDI's Scottish Gin Festival is currently in-store while stocks last.

Interface matches firms with academia

BUSINESSES such as Craine Communications in Oban, Johnnie Mac's Oysters in Lismore, Staffin Community Trust on Skye and Tarbert-based Zing Organics have all benefited from being matched to academic expertise.

After learning more about their business challenge, Interface was able to match them with academic partners following a search for relevant expertise across Scotland's universities, research institutes and colleges.

'Interface provides a free and impartial service, open to businesses and organisations alike, wherever they are in Scotland,' said Interface business engagement executive Carol-Ann Adams.

'Businesses of all sizes can collaborate with universities, research institutes and colleges to help drive their ideas forward. You have the opportunity to work with academics based anywhere in Scotland - and you choose which one best suits your needs.'

No matter the type of business, there is expertise available to help it grow. While tourism, food and drink, engineering, energy and IT are some of the industries that have received assistance from Interface, their experts can work with any type of business in any industry sector.

'Interface will support and guide your business through the process of being matched with academic expertise and can help source funding options to help offset project costs,' Carol-Ann added.

For more information visit www.interface-online.org.uk or oban-times, or contact Lorraine.thomson@interface-online.org.uk, or call 01463 245263.

After 40 years, the world is their oyster

COLIN CAMERON
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THE sun shone and the loch sparkled for birthday celebrations at Loch Fyne Oysters.

It is 40 years since landowner Johnny Noble and marine biologist Andy Lane began farming oysters near Cairndow at the head of Loch Fyne - and selling them from a shed beside the A83. Today the company sells 2.5 million oysters a year, as well as 400 tonnes of mussels and nearly 1,000 tonnes of smoked salmon. Their seafood is exported all over the world and is on the menus of first-class airline cabins, luxury hotels and Formula One racing events.

A weekend festival was held on May 12/13 to mark this milestone. 'Fyne at 40', held at the famous Loch Fyne Oysters restaurant which grew from that first oyster shack, attracted the crowds in beautiful sunshine.

Fireworks on Friday night, a feast of seafood, music, children's entertainment and a ceilidh meant there was something for everyone.

Scottish band Hue and Cry, famous for hit singles such as *Labour of Love*, performed an acoustic set on the Saturday evening in front of just 140 people, who also enjoyed a magnificent seafood buffet.

Festival goers had access to areas normally closed to the public, such as the oyster sheds, and there were trips to nearby historic Ardkinglas House.

Speaking during Fyne at 40, Loch Fyne Oysters managing director Cameron Brown said: 'The festival has been terrific, and thankfully the weather has been kind.'

'We normally do the food fair, but we thought as this was the 40th anniversary we would do something a little bit different, and it's been a huge success.'



Two smoked salmon rolls from Lizzie Reynolds of Loch Fyne Oysters.

BUSINESS MATTERS



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BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

If you would like to know more, have questions or want to get involved in delivering BID4Oban's activities.

Please contact office at BID4OBAN on 01631 569 915 or email andrew.spence@bid4oban.co.uk alternatively you can pop into the office at 43 Stevenson Street, Oban.

PRINT SERVICES

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Argyll
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Arena

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

WHAT'S ON

I N O B A N

In partnership with
Oban Town Diary
bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 17th May	Friday 18th May	Sunday 20th May
Intermediate Food Hygiene Argyll College 9am-11am	Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	ABCD 10K & Fun Run Lorn & Islands District Hospital 1pm
Community Discussion on Development Plans Oban Phoenix Cinema 1pm - 8pm	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Restless Natives from 9pm Free entry. Open till 1am	Oban Walk A Mile Station Square 11.30am
FREE workshops Becoming An Employer West Highland Housing Association 9am - 12.30pm	It's Quiz Time In aid of Oban Gaelic Choir Masonic Hall, Oban 7pm	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm £1 per person, max of 6 per team Win £20 bar voucher
FREE workshops Developing And Managing Staff West Highland Housing Association 1pm - 16.30pm	Saturday 19th May	Monday 21st May
To book a place, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604030	M.A.D Muddy Atlantis Day Ganavan Sands 9am - 3.30pm	Highland Hustle Class St Columbas Cathedral Hall Every Monday 6pm £4 per person Everyone Welcome
FREE workshops Developing And Managing Staff West Highland Housing Association 1pm - 16.30pm	Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading Glencruitten Church Hall All Day	Wednesday 23rd May
To book a place, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604030	Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans Calum MacPhail from 10pm Free entry. Open till 2am	Under the Skin Camera Club The Rockfield Centre 6.30pm-7.30pm
Songwriters Session The Rockfield Centre 7pm-9pm	North Connel & District Horticultural Show Plant Sale Saturday 19th May Victory Hall Benderloch 2.00-3.30pm Adults £2 Children £1 Raffle Tickets Show schedules available Tips on how to show your produce too!	Loch Eck Orienteer Spring Series 6 Inverawe Country Park 6pm - 8pm
Oban Health Walk Oban Congregational Church Hall 10am - 11.30am		Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban Lorne Pub Quiz Starting at 9pm £25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY		

Raven mad Vikings celebrated at garden party held at Dunollie

The MacDougall clan chief opened Dunollie's new Raven Knoll, created by volunteer Sean MacQuade, last month in a Viking-themed ceremony.

The common raven, or 'corbie' in Scots, heard 'gronking' evocatively at play in the updrafts of a mountain crag or ruined castle, is perhaps Britain's most intelligent bird and the most fabled in Celtic and Norse mythology.

The corvid is also the totem of the MacDougalls, whose chief still resides at their ancient stronghold of Dunollie near Oban, where the story of this connection is now told by a new garden, thanks to a conversation last year.

Sean MacQuade began volunteering at Dunollie museum, castle and grounds in October and soon found a common interest in Norse mythology with its community engagement co-ordinator, Sophie Isaacson. 'We talked about the influence the Vikings have had on Scottish culture and the history of the MacDougall clan,' said Sean.

An idea formed and Sean spent the next five months researching the Viking invasions towards a bronze award. 'This project is aimed at explaining how the Vikings came to be in the Western Highlands of Scotland,

how Dunollie was built, how the Clan MacDougall came into being based on Scandinavian history and how they were touched by Norse mythology.'

The fruits of his work, the Raven Knoll, were unveiled at the ceremony on Saturday April 28 in front of the families of Sean and the 31st MacDougall clan chief, Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall.

Sean led the 35-strong crowd, carrying fire-lit torches, from the terrace down to the hill, where he hosted the evening. 'Olaf the Red was the King of the Vikings,' he began. 'Olaf's daughter married Somerled, who was also a Viking. She gave birth to two sons called Dugal and Donald, and it was they who created the Clans MacDougall and MacDonald.'

'Apparently, the Vikings came to Scotland because the land and climate were similar to their homeland which was becoming overpopulated, but this is speculation.

'Scotland was the site of the first recorded Viking attack. There were many battles for wealth and land and eventually they settled as farmers and traders. They were spotted from Dunollie Castle heading up Loch Linnhe. 'The final route of



Children designed and wore their own raven outfits at workshops on the day Dunollie's Raven Knoll opened.

the invaders started in Oban Bay. They headed southwards but, because of adverse weather conditions and the strength of the Scottish clans, they were defeated and the conflict was ended after 400 years.'

Madam Morag's son Robin planted a Scots pine tree in memory of Captain Alexander MacDougall, while Donald MacDougall played Captain Alexander's Lament on the

bagpipes. The old Scots pine tree, Sean explained, was originally planted in his honour, but was struck down by lightning. 'As the raven is the chosen symbol of the MacDougall clan, the carving of the raven was placed on top at the last MacDougall gathering.

'The raven is also a sign of the mark of Odin in Norse mythology. They were his messengers and the source of his

knowledge. They would traverse Midguard (Earth) and inform Odin of everything that was happening.

'Odin had two special ravens called Huginn and Munin, which mean thought and memory. It is poignant the raven is on top of the stricken pine, as it was originally planted in thought and memory of Sandy.'

A raven carved prow of a Scottish 'birliinn' longship, based on a

Viking design, makes a seat nearby. The party read Sean's information panels, before returning to the 1745 House for a Viking feast of fish soup and a Viking toast of mead, taken from Song of the High One: Wealth will pass Men will pass You too, likewise, will pass One thing alone Will never pass The fame of someone who has earned it.



Dunollie volunteer Sean MacQuade created the Raven Knoll and introduced it to the crowd in a Viking-themed ceremony.



Sean giving the Viking toast.

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



BBC ALBA

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 Ainnhidhean (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
23.20 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
23.25 Air an Rathad (rpt)

DIHAOINE 18 CÈITEAN
FRIDAY 18 MAY
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là - News
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads (Duncan Chisholm) (rpt)

19.35 ÙR/NEW: Pro 14 Live Rugby Semi-final: Glasgow v Scarlets (rpt)
21.40 Air an Ùrlar (rpt)
22.05 Seirm (rpt)
23.05 Frank Sinatra (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 19 CÈITEAN
SATURDAY 19 MAY
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.30 Machair (rpt)
19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.00 Alba: 1976 (rpt)
20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich - From Uist With Love (rpt)
21.00 Ceòl Ulaidh - Castle Sessions (rpt)
22.00 Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria (rpt)
22.54 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
23.00 Honeyballers (rpt)
24.00 A gu U: Glaschu

DIDÒMHAICH 20 CÈITEAN
SUNDAY 20 MAY
16.00 ÙR/NEW: Women's League Cup Final 2018 - Hibernian Ladies

v Celtic Women
18.20 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
18.30 ÙR/NEW: Seachd La
19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
19.54 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 Fianais (rpt)
20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
23.00 Henry Ford (rpt)
23.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

DILUAIN 21 CÈITEAN
MONDAY 21 MAY
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Stoidhle - The Dressing Up Box (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainnhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Vets: Gach Creutair Beò
21.00 Trusadh - Eadar Airigh is Arizona (rpt)
22.00 Port (rpt)
22.30 Mnathan-glùine - Spàirn

gu Slaint' (rpt)
23.30 Belladrum 2017: Neon Waltz (rpt)
23.55 Horo Gheallaidh Shorts (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 22 CÈITEAN
TUESDAY 22 MAY
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Bailtean Alba (rpt)
19.25 Horo Gheallaidh Shorts (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainnhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 Puirt-adhair (Highland Airports) (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh - Eadar Airigh is Arizona (rpt)
23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
23.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

DICIADAIN 23 CÈITEAN
WEDNESDAY 23 MAY
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Fuine (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainnhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich - From Uist With Love (rpt)
21.00 Talamh gu Truinnsair (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: An Sgrùdaire
22.15 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)
22.25 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017: Gallagher & Lyle
22.30 Port (rpt)
22.55 Sgeulachd Deacon Brodie (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 24 CÈITEAN
THURSDAY 24 MAY
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
19.30 Aithne air Ainnhidhean (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 ÙR/NEW: Fianais
21.00 Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh An Iar (rpt)
22.00 ÙR/NEW: Belladrum 2017: KT Tunstall
22.25 ÙR/NEW: Impireachd Banrigh Bhictoria
23.20 Binneas - Na Trads - Seamus O' Sullivan (rpt)
23.25 Air an Rathad (rpt)

Author Nicola Davies visits schools in Oban and beyond

A zoologist and children's TV presenter turned author visited schools in Oban and beyond to mark the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.

Nicola Davies visited pupils in Argyll and Bute, the Highlands and the Western Isles as part of the celebrations.

The events focused on her picture books, which 'are as relevant to older readers as younger readers'.

Nicola aimed to inspire the 570 pupils to take a renewed interest in nature and their local

environment. Speaking before the tour, Nicola said: 'The Highlands and Islands of the West of Scotland are some of my favourite places on earth.'

'I'm incredibly excited that I'm going to be visiting them with Scottish Book Trust and meeting readers living in places that I dream about - a land of sea and sky, full of stories.'

'I just can't wait.'

Before becoming a children's author, Nicola worked as a zoologist and her love of animals took her all over the world, searching for

chameleons in Madagascar, turtles in the Seychelles, following walruses in the Arctic and studying geese in Scotland.

Nicola also shared her passion for wildlife with viewers as a presenter on The Really Wild Show.

She has been writing since 1997 and is now an award-winning author of children's fiction and non-fiction books.

Her acclaimed titles include The First Book of Nature, Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes, and the Heroes of the Wild series.



Author Nicola Davies visited pupils at Rockfield Primary School.
NO_T20_NicolaDavies03

Oban girl Bethan stars at Lochaber Mòd

There was superb talent on display at this year's Lochaber Provincial Mòd on Friday and Saturday.

And one Oban youngster was a star of the competition. Bethan Neil from Rockfield Primary got first in traditional song girls.

The two-day event was held at Fort William's Gaelic school, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar.

A spokesperson for the event said: 'This year's local Mòd was another great success and attracted entries from across Lochaber and as far afield as Oban, Dingwall, Beaulieu and Inverness.'

'Numbers held up well this year with close on 300 entries across 60 different events. The committee would like to thank all the children, adjudicators, parents, teachers and volunteers for making the two days so successful. The only disappointing note from the weekend was the lack of senior entries, which is something we hope to address for next year.'



Bethan Neil from Oban's Rockfield Primary got first in traditional song girls.
JP F20 LPMOD - Bethan Neil from Oban Rockfield primary



Ballet West showcase comes to Oban

Ballet West's final-year students will be showcasing their skills in Oban this Saturday, May 19.

Dancers from the Taynuilt-based school will be performing at the Corran Halls before some of them graduate and start out on professional careers.

Kate Little, a second-year BA Hons degree student from Oban, will be among the cast of dancers performing examples of what they have learned from classical to modern ballet and contemporary.

Alongside classical work will be contemporary newly choreographed pieces by award-winning

choreographers, Indra Reinholde, Natasha Watson and Martin Fenton.

Among the dancers will be Uyu Hiromoto, recent winner of a silver medal in the South African International Ballet Competition.

She will be dancing a principal role and performing in four of the contemporary works.

The showcase marks a transition for third-year students as this is their last performance as students of Ballet West.

It is also the final assessment that the students take before graduating with a BA (Hons)

in Dance, awarded by the Open University.

'It is also a wonderful opportunity for audiences to see these exceptionally talented students performing an exciting programme of classical and contemporary work before they set off on a professional career,' said Ballet West principal Gillian Barton.

Dancer Uyu Hiromoto will be performing at the showcase this month.
Photo by Ryan J Davies

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, Edinbrough 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

18 OR 36 HOLES OF GOLF FOR 8 PEOPLE ON THE WOLL GOLF COURSE IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS WITH A BACON ROLL AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL



Escape to the country and enjoy a day's golf on the Scottish Borders most popular golf course. Set in the Ale valley in the heart of the Scottish Borders, New Woll Estate was formerly the Bishop of Glasgow's hunting estate. Now, it is the most popular golf resort in the area and a family run business owned by the Brown family. Surround by nature the Estate offers luxury

self-catering accommodation, a fantastic golf course and an award-winning restaurant, all right at the door of your property if you are lucky enough to be staying on the estate. But you don't have to stay, Woll are experts at organising the perfect golf day and if you are just looking for a nice place to eat, then the restaurant is the place for you.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: Who used to hunt at New Woll?

The prize is valid up to 31 Dec 2018, date must book in advance and golf is subject to tee availability.

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.

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

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MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 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

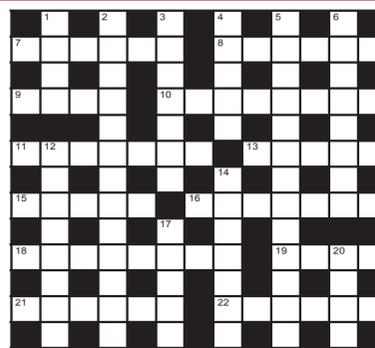
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 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**
- 7 Verse (6)
 - 8 Relating to those united by a common ancestor (6)
 - 9 Sport with mallets (4)
 - 10 Occurring when a light source moves away from the observer (3,5)
 - 11 Early man (7)
 - 13 Send (5)
 - 15 With regard to (5)
 - 16 Acrobat's cup? (7)
 - 18 The act of sending out (8)
 - 19 Often (4)
 - 21 One room apartment (6)
 - 22 Odd (6)
- Down**
- 1 Toy on a string (2-2)
 - 2 Not speaking (13)
 - 3 Say again (7)
 - 4 Study (5)
 - 5 Plane of destruction (7-6)
 - 6 Gives coffee a buzz (8)
 - 12 Overhaul (8)
 - 14 Catastrophic (7)
 - 17 Intolerant person (5)
 - 20 Staff symbol (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Arena

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

Films look to strike a chord with UK visitors

OBANLIVE, which takes place on June 8 and 9, has launched two new films targeting people outwith Argyll, as well as maritime visitors, following an award of £11,250 from EventScotland, part of the national tourism organisation's Events Directorate.

The videos have been distributed via social media, targeting high populated Scottish cities and UK sailing and marine tourism markets respectively. It is hoped the campaign will see the event enjoy a record attendance this year, and promote Oban as an accessible, attractive and marine tourism destination for visitors across Britain.

The first film, entitled *The last train to Oban* is a beautiful short film about a grandfather who shares his affection for Oban and Oban Live with his granddaughter Emma. Images of the event and the town's scenery and culture are shown while the grandfather recites his poem, *Lovely Oban*. Viewers can also enjoy stunning shots of the train journey to Oban.

The second video, *Sail to Oban Live*, follows three very different yachts making their way to the event – sailing in and around Oban Marina, the new North Pier Pontoon and Dunstaffnage Marina. The video is supported by a webpage on obanlive.com with information on local facilities for marine visitors.

OBANLIVE, now in its third year, features a mix of traditional Scottish artists and international superstars and entertains around 8,000 music lovers at the famous Mossfield Stadium. It was created following the success of Skerryvore's 10th anniversary concert DECADE and is still run by two of the band members, brothers Daniel and Martin Gillespie.

This year's line-up includes Skipinnish, Irish rock band Hermitage Green, and festival favourites Skerryvore.

The event experience is also enhanced with Fringe events in the town, VIP packages, well-stocked bars, amazing food vendors and unique merchandise.

This is the concert's third year of funding through EventScotland's National Programme Fund and is one of 12 events from across 10 local authorities in Scotland which have benefited from nearly £100,000 of funding in the programme's 37th round.

The National Programme Fund plays an integral role in developing domestic tourism across Scotland by helping grow the country's diverse events portfolio.

Daniel Gillespie, director of Oban Live, said: 'When visitors come to Oban Live, not only do they get to experience an impressive, authentic Scottish music concert, but they also get to experience all that is on offer in the unique and cultural location of Oban.'

'This funding from EventScotland has allowed us to create high quality, engaging content that combines and showcases both the event and the town as one package, which in turn will bring a significant boost to the local economy.'

'A massive thank you

to EventScotland for the support.'

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: 'I am delighted to see that OBANLIVE was one of the 12 events across the country to be supported by EventScotland.'

'These two short films showcase Oban's wonderful tourism offering and I hope the concert will enjoy a record year as a result.'

'The visitors this event attracts represent a massive benefit for the local economy. Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it is integral to sustaining communities across Scotland by generating income, creating jobs and stimulating social change.'

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's director of events, said: 'EventScotland is delighted to be supporting OBANLIVE through our National Programme, for the third consecutive year.'

'Over the last few years the festival has gone from strength-to-strength, demonstrating why Scotland is the perfect stage for music



Oban Live Director Daniel Gillespie (left) and VisitScotland Regional Director David Adams McGilp (right) are joined by Oban High School Pipe band at North Pier Pontoon to launch the new Oban Live marketing campaigns.

events. Our funding of the two films will enable OBANLIVE to further grow; attracting new audiences from outwith the area, and, in turn, delivering economic benefits for Oban and the region.'

Enabling existing events to expand what they offer visitors, extend their marketing reach and enhance the on-site experience of attendees are just some of the ways that National Funding Programme

support is used to help regional events continue to flourish and grow further.

'This in turn strengthens Scotland's overall events portfolio – a major contributor to our national economy.'

To view *The last train to Oban*, visit the Oban Live website at www.obanlive.com/film and to view *Sail to Oban*, go to www.obanlive.com/sailing

For more information about OBANLIVE,

visit to www.obanlive.com/or for more information about VisitScotland's Event's Directorate go to www.visitscotland.org/about_us/our_structure/directorates/eventsScotland.aspx

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

Life in a Day: new dance work at Mull Theatre

Note to self: next time, book tickets for both nights of future Tidal Dance productions. Once was not enough.

Life in a Day was stunning – taking place on one day in the 1950s, it takes the form of a series of inter-related, moving postcards; families, relationships, work, hopes and memories.

Alan Melvin's simple yet atmospheric set, with lighting and sound by Martin Low, took us to a timeless coastal community: the fisher hoosie, the fair and the fancy beach hut, as evoked by King Creosote's 2014 *From Scotland With Love* soundtrack. It took us to a place where we could 'dream without sleeping'.

Kenny Anderson's poignant music was matched by the lyrical intensity of the dance. Serena Micalizzi-Coyle and Sarah Palmer were the couple at the centre: their hopes and memories 'something to believe in'.

Traditional Scottish Country Dance music and steps were threaded through the scenes as stories were told about individuals, their close relationships and their communities.

The fisher women, Ester Morrison, Vicki Faye



Tidal Dance, which was staged recently at Mull Theatre.

Stevens and Izzy Willis, worked, played, danced; were busy but bored; relaxed and happy; exuberant and funny; 'striving to be counted' as they resisted social injustice.

Lily Beth Howitt and Evie Mae Kellett, as the youngest members of the community, were delightful whether playing playground games

or racing excitedly between the adults at a big night out. Splendid acting underscored the dance, over and over again.

In an unforgettable duet, Laura Mandelberg and Evie Mae Kellett portrayed an utterly believable loving relationship: effortlessly simple but full of generous warmth. 'Tears were

shed – by the audience. First and foremost, a community dance company such as Tidal Dance is inclusive: for four of the dancers, this was their first public dance performance.'

Yet *Life in a Day* was highly professional in its scope and ambitions, echoing the late, great Martha Graham who said: 'Great dancers

are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion'.

Congratulations to Ester Morrison and Andi Stevens, whose choreography inspired and enabled the company to give their best. A year in the making, this new dance work was funny, moving, tender and true.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

North Connel & District Horticultural Show
PLANT SALE
 Saturday 19th May
 Victory Hall Benderloch 2.00-3.30pm
 Adults £2 Children £1
 Raffle Tickets
 Show schedules available
 Tips on how to show your produce too!

IT'S QUIZ TIME
 Friday 18th May, 7pm for 7.30pm
 Masonic Hall, Oban
 Please come and join us for a fun night
 £3 per person. Max. 6 per team
 Raffle. Refreshments available
 In aid of Oban Gaelic Choir



Skipinnish release song in memory of Eilidh MacLeod



One year on from the attack on the Manchester Arena that claimed the life of Barra teenager Eilidh MacLeod, Scottish trad band Skipinnish are releasing a charity single to help build a permanent memorial on her home island.

Titled *Wishing Well*, the song was written by Angus MacPhail, accordionist and founder member of the band in the wake of the tragedy. Angus kept the background of the lyrics private until meeting Eilidh's parents and telling them the song was written about their daughter.

The original song was released in December, but following a meeting with the family, the lyrics have been added to and changed to create this new version.

This new recording of the song is being issued on digital download at midnight on Saturday, May 19, with all pro-

ceeds from the release going to the Team Eilidh fundraising group. It was also available for pre-order on iTunes from May 14.

The Team Eilidh fundraising group hopes to raise £5,000 to support the funding of a permanent memorial to the 14-year-old and to ensure her love of music lives on through the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band that she was a member of.

Members of Skipinnish are running the Edinburgh half-marathon on May 27 to raise money for the campaign and are joining Team Eilidh to run the Manchester 10K the week before.

Angus said: 'The very first summer that we started the band, we spent most of it on Barra and from then on we've had huge support over the years from the people of Barra and Vatersay. When tragedy strikes close to home it is felt

deeply and this is a very small gesture of just doing what we can to help in these terrible circumstances.

'Memory is one of the most powerful means of dealing with tragedy and a memorial will hopefully help the family and the island heal together. If the song *Wishing Well* will also help this bright, talented piper and Highland dancer be remembered, then I'll be very glad.'

Eilidh's dad, Roddy, added: 'We as a family love the song. For us, it brings us back to so many wonderful memories of Eilidh growing up here in the islands. We truly appreciate the support from Skipinnish and Malcolm Jones [from Runrig who produced and plays on the track]. We can't thank them enough for writing and performing such a beautiful song for Eilidh.'

Lyrics from *Wishing*

Well have been chosen by the family to be used as part of the anniversary event 'There is A Light', which will take place on May 22.

The following lines from the song will be projected on to buildings at St Ann's Square Manchester.

'Your spirit was strong, now silent your song
But your soul with the Pole Star shines on.'

The new version of *Wishing Well* will be performed live for the first time just hours ahead of the download launch, at the band's biggest ever gig, at Edinburgh's Usher Hall on May 18.

Skipinnish will be joined on stage for this piece by World Champion pipers, Inveraray and District Pipe Band, and Gaelic Song super-group Cruinn.

To pre-order the song, visit <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/id138329886?app=itunes>

Glasgow Letter

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



Skerryvore have gone to number one with *Take My Hand*.

Skerryvore hit number one

Skerryvore's *Take My Hand* is the latest Highland single to reach number one in the world music chart on the week of its release.

The Glasgow-based Tíree band have created a real cracker with this summer hit that will have you singing it under your breath for days after you've heard it.

Dol Eoin MacKinnon, another Glasgow-based islander, has produced an excellent video to go with the song which can be viewed on all social media platforms. I for one am looking forward to hearing this song live at festivals throughout the summer. Their new album, *Evo*, will be released soon and is currently available for pre-order.

Islay Inn slot

For the first time last weekend, I made it along to hear my good friend Jonathan Gillespie's Sunday evening slot in the Islay Inn.

Jonathan has been playing in the Islay on Sunday evenings around dinner time quite regularly over the past few months and it is a really nice time to listen to music.

A member of Trail West's six-piece line-up, as well as his father Johnny's band Crooked Reel, Jonathan is a great singer and a phenomenal piano player.

Some of the runs he pulls off on the keys have

to be seen to be believed. His singing and playing will also feature on Trail West's forthcoming album which, from what I hear, is one to look out for.

Mull and Iona AGM

The Mull and Iona Association has confirmed the details of its AGM which will take place on Wednesday June 13 in An Leannag.

The meeting will be in unit three, next to An Lochran's office, which is important for those attending, because the Tir-

ee Association also has a meeting in An Leannag that night - and, when Tirisidich and Muilleachs mix it can be a dangerous combination!

What's on

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: Helens-

burgh 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, 8pm, Commodore Hotel.

Pub scene

Islay Inn. Friday May 18: Crooked Reel. Saturday May 19: The Raggaeals. Sunday May 20: Jonathan Gillespie.

Park Bar. Friday May 18: Eriskay Lilt. Saturday May 19: Gunna Sound. Sunday May 20: Scott Harvey.

Argyll's first wee vegan fair comes to Oban

Argyll's First Wee Vegan Fair is in Oban this Saturday. Everyone is welcome at the Rockfield Centre, whether they are vegans or those who

are just curious and would like to find out more. There will be information stalls, food demonstrations and goodie bags for the first

15 visitors through the doors. It starts at 11am. Poet Jamie Livingstone will be performing at noon, Go Vegan Scotland will be running a Q&A

session at 12.30pm and at 3pm there will be a vegan mayo and cake demonstration by Catchacarrot pop-up vegan cafe. Entry is free.

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

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

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

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VOTE NOW FOR YOUR TOP 10!

bonnie babies

competition 2018



001

Rian Macdonald
Born April 2016 Taynuilt

002

Odinn Cumming
Born February 2017 Taynuilt

007

Hollie Anne Kennedy
Born November 2017 Isle of Tiree

015

Poppy Maxwell
Born August 2017 Oban

017

Kai Duncan Laverty
Born March 2017 Caol, Fort William

024

Joseph James Keary
Born September 2017 Oban

030

Esme Louise Blackwell
Born September 2017 Lochgilphead

054

Ivy-Rose Cameron-Watson
Born December 2017 Fort William

057

Oliver Tangny
Born May 2017 Salen, Isle of Mull

058

Jaiden David Gosling
Born February 2018 Fort William

059

Kacper Klepajczuk
Born January 2015 Oban

080

Aliyah Allen
Born August 2016 Portree, Isle of Skye

097

Hugo Daniel Mendel
Born March 2018 Caol, Fort William

107

Logan Khan
Born February 2018 Dunbeg, Oban

108

Ellie Logan
Born February 2018 Lochgilphead

115

Natalie Gillies
Born October 2017 Spean Bridge

120

Lowrie Tracey
Born April 2017 Fort William

125

Ellie Paterson
Born May 2017 Salen, Isle of Mull

132

Freya King
Born July 2017 Fort William

138

Cailean Eachann MacDonald
Born October 2017 Oban

Vote for your top 10!

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Tuesday May 29, 2018

Just when you think that the voting can't get any more intense, you, our readers, continue to surprise us ... We have been inundated with votes for our bonniest baby and can now reveal the top 20 in all their gorgeous glory. What an explosion of cuteness to brighten up everyone's day. We are now getting to the final stages of the competition and you are invited to vote for the final 10, which will be announced on May 31.

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 Tuesday May 29. Our top 10 will be published on Thursday May 31.

Let's get voting!

Remember, you can vote as often as you like, but coupons must come from the newspaper, and 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, Tuesday May 29, 2018



#myargyll



What a response!

Overwhelming support for social media campaign



The open road



Clan gatherings



Endless skies



Shimmering seas



History and heritage



Muddy boots

Two weeks ago we asked you the question: 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 us and tell us why Argyll is so special by sending us your pictures, your videos and your stories. Working in conjunction with AITC, we figured we would get a decent response. No-one could have imagined how things have taken off. Hundreds and hundreds of your photos, videos and stories have appeared on

our social wall at www.myargyll.co.uk with dozens more added every day. We have been overwhelmed by the response. You really are proud of Argyll and we are more than happy to keep showcasing your content – so keep it 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.



I never fail to be inspired by the sheer beauty of the landscape



Iain Jurgensen
General manager
Portavadie

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.

Why I love Argyll



Fiona MacPhail

AITC director who runs Tighnabruach Sailing School

You know you live in a very special place when you never feel the need to go on holiday. Why would I, with stunning coastlines, white sandy beaches and inspiring mountain terrain? Argyll has everything I could wish for and more. To live and work in Argyll is very lucky indeed!



Iain Jurgensen

General manager Portavadie

I travel from Helensburgh up through the gateway to Argyll to my second home, Portavadie. The journey is never the same and I never fail to be inspired by the sheer beauty of the landscape, the proximity to water, the rolling hills and glens. Argyll always delivers a great experience



David Adams McGilp

Regional director for VisitScotland

The region offers a staggeringly varied landscape which graduates from snowy mountaintops to the ever-present, ever-changing sea.

The richest of early history is manifested by ancient monuments in their thousands. It is home to Dunadd, where Scotland was created, and the Crinan Canal, which is still working after more than 200 years.

Argyll and the Isles offer opportunities for thrills, excitement, culture, world class food and drink heritage, and experiences to treasure forever.

The people are some of the friendliest, most welcoming in the world. We want every person in every community to be an advocate and ambassador for Scotland – informing and inspiring visitors with local highlights, hidden gems and must-see attractions in every region of the country.

At VisitScotland, we work closely with communities and businesses to showcase the rich assets, hidden gems and local stories of Argyll and the Isles.

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:

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Show us and tell us what Argyll means to you

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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.

SCOTTISH

Scottish Series 2018 'Fyne' racing amid spectacular scenery with amazing shoreside activities!



SCOTTISH SERIES
ORGANISED BY CLYDE CRUISING CLUB

TARBERT, Loch Fyne, is gearing up to welcome more than 100 boats for the annual Scottish Series regatta that runs from May 25 to 28, 2018.

The attractive village port is the main base for this, the premier, sailing event in Scotland, with racing taking place on the scenic waters of Loch Fyne.

Organised and run by Clyde Cruising Club (CCC),

this is the event's 44th year and offers a range of highly competitive handicap racing, including spinnaker, white sail and one design classes. Complementing the racing, a wide range of shore-side activities will be held for both those supporting competing yachts and visitors who come to spectate and enjoy the buzz of the event in Tarbert.

The long weekend sees both Tarbert and Portavadie Marina across the water experience one of their busiest times of the year. For many, it's a 'must do' weekend in the UK racing and social calendar.

Race courses include a mix of round the buoys Olympic courses, and passage racing and a white sail cruise in company from Largs.

Tarbert Harbour Authority

Tarbert Harbour Authority (THA) hosts the fleet for the duration of the event at Tarbert and accommodates yachts on a first come, first served basis as they finish racing.

Kirsten Henderson, business development manager at Tarbert Harbour Authority and volunteer for the Tarbert Enterprise Company, said: 'The Scottish Series is a fantastic event and this year in particular, being the Year of Young People, we are keen to increase community engagement and increase the shore-side spectator element.'

Portavadie Marina

Across the water from Tarbert, Portavadie Marina also welcomes competing yachts for which a 10 per cent discount on overnight

berthing is offered. Marina manager Craig Cochran said: 'A lot of the accommodation is taken by yacht racing teams and we are open for business in our restaurants and café at our leisure club.'

'As well as our Five Gold Anchors award-winning marina and a special competitors' regatta rate, Portavadie is a first class resort destination in itself with infinity pool, spa and range of shore-side accommodation and leisure facilities. Iain Jurgensen added: 'We always look forward to the build up, buzz and excitement of the Scottish Series every year.'

Largs Yacht Haven

A flat rate of £23 per night is offered at Largs for those in the white sail fleet that musters on Thursday night and sail to Tarbert on Friday.

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 Scan or go to: tarbertharbour.co.uk/yoyp
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The social scene

The focus of the renowned après sail social scene is the marquee by the Tarbert pontoons. CCC launches events with the popular Icebreaker parties both in Tarbert for the main fleet and at Largs Yacht Haven for the white sail fleet. CCC has asked all those attending to buy tickets in advance. £2 of every ticket will go to charity (divided between the Clyde Fishermen's Trust (in memory of those who lost their lives on the Nancy Glen) and the Clyde Cruising Club's own Seamanship and Pilotage Trust. There will also be a raffle for these charities.

Tickets can be purchased via : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-series-icebreaker-2018-tickets-45109840748>

Meeting point

The Tarbert marquee provides a meeting point and social venue where everyone can

enjoy drinks and catch up on the day's action on the water. Saturday night welcomes the return of the popular band Big Vern and his Shootahs with free entry. The traditional and spectacular fireworks on Saturday is funded by Tarbert Enterprise Company (TEC) and Tarbert Harbour Authority (THA). TEC receive support from Argyll and Bute Council and THA. The marquee will have food from the big burger stand and seafood from the Starfish Restaurant as well as the TEC Botanist bar. Kirsten Henderson of THA and TEC, who take the lead in organising shore-side attractions, said: 'Everyone recognises the importance of the event to the village. The regatta is so well run on the water with top class racing and this is pointed up by the entry list from far and wide. Ashore it's also great fun with a buzz about the village that

is always associated with the Scottish Series weekend.'

The racing

The event format is a mixture of Olympic style and coastal races. All spinnaker classes race on Loch Fyne on Day 1.

The opening passage race from Largs for white sail, family class and cruisers is on Friday May 27. Prior to this the Bangor to Tarbert feeder race starts at 8pm on Wednesday May 24 for the Irish competitors. Saturday sees a passage race from Tarbert towards Otter Spit returning to Tarbert, which is not part of the series. The Inch Passage race is on Sunday and racing continues on Loch Fyne till Monday May 29. The overall regatta prize-giving is on Monday night at the marquee.

Classes range from high tech IRC racers to those sailing CYCA handicaps, both spinnaker and restricted sail.

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SPONSORS of the 2018 event

The Scottish Series 2018 would not be able to be run without the support of the following sponsors.

Luddon Construction

Glasgow-based civil engineering and building contractor, Luddon Construction delivers projects across the country.

They say: 'We are delighted to be a sponsor of the Scottish Series and this prestigious event provides us with an opportunity to raise our profile and reinforce our longstanding relationship with Clyde Cruising Club.'

Hempel Paints

Once again Hempel Paints is supporting the regatta with their sponsorship of the Crawford McInnes Trophy for youth.

As a global supplier of high-quality marine paints and coatings since 1915 with a focus on product innovation, customer service and technical advice, Hempel supply a wide range of advanced products, from fuel-saving antifouling to some of the toughest epoxies in the industry.

Tunnock's

Legendary biscuit manufacturer Tunnock's has been a loyal supporter of the Series for many years, returning again this year with their survival packs of goodies for competitors. Boyd Tunnock said: 'Tunnock's has been associated with the event for over three decades. It's a fantastic event in the Scottish sporting calendar, giving the perfect blend of serious racing and true Scottish hospitality.'

Helly Hansen

Helly Hansen manufactures professional grade gear worn and trusted by professionals on oceans, mountains and worksites. Their sailing gear is worn by world-class sailors across five oceans and they are proud to partner and participate in some of the sport's most iconic regattas and sailing associations.

The Botanist and Bruichladdich

The Scottish Series is delighted to welcome back The Botanist, the first and only Islay Dry Gin. Bruichladdich joined the sponsors in 2015. The whisky distilled on Islay since 1881 is a sister brand to The Botanist Islay Dry Gin.

EventScotland

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events, EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. As part of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018 there will be added emphasis on the Crawford McInnes Youth Trophy (sponsored by Hempel Paints) in order to celebrate one of Scotland's greatest assets – our children and young people.

Arnold Clark

Established in 1954, Arnold Clark has grown from a single-car showroom to Europe's largest independently owned car retailer, with over 200 branches across the UK representing 25 manufacturers. The company claims an unrivalled stock of over 20,000 new and used cars available on the award-winning website ArnoldClark.com. Arnold Clark believe in giving back to the communities in which they operate. 'We do this by supporting charities, grassroots and fantastic events like the Scottish Series, which we are proud to sponsor again in 2018.'

Makars Gourmet Mash-Bar Company

The RC35 Class is sponsored by Makars Gourmet Mash-Bar Company. The Makars RC35 Class is developed for close, competitive racing within a tight rating band (IRC 1.015-1.040)

Marlow Ropes

Marlow Ropes produce a fantastic range of high performance cordage for the leisure industry and their dyneema products have fuelled advances in both yacht and dinghy sailing. The Scottish Series is delighted that Marlow are behind the prizes for the event and will provide a bespoke halyard to the 'Yacht of the Day'.

Sailingfast

Sailingfast is delighted to support the Event Support Team with reusable water bottles working to reduce the collective impact on the environment, especially with regards to single use plastic.

Sailingfast are North Sails One Design agents, delivering some of the very best sails to Scottish sailors and pride themselves in only working with the very best brands on the market. North Sails is the world's largest sail manufacturer, and Sailingfast say it is appropriate they support Scotland's premier yacht regatta again.

Owners Duncan and Emma Hoplewhite are delighted to be involved with the event again in 2018.

Silvers Marine

Silvers Marine, formerly the headline sponsor from 2014-2017, is this year providing on the water support to the event. The iconic boatyard at Rosneath is one of the most progressive boatyards in the UK with a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

Knox Anchors

Knox Anchors is contributing an anchor (appropriate size for the boat) as a prize within the series.

Euroyachts

Euroyachts is a family-run business that has supplied yachts to generations of CCC members since the 1960s. Based at Largs and Troon Yacht Havens, the company run an active brokerage service and distributes all of Jeanneau's products in Scotland as well as BRIC ribs.

Sailing Scotland – MarineBlast Multimedia

Keeping the event to the front and centre of everyone's thoughts!

Tarbert Harbour

The host port for the Scottish Series.

Tarbert Enterprise Company

The Tarbert Enterprise Company is the local partner that makes the event happen and run smoothly.

Contraflow Ltd

The traffic management firm provides the event with support while Tarbert is so busy during the Scottish Series.

Argyll and Bute Council

Support of the event points up the input to the economy of the area.

Scottish Series embraces the Year of Young People at Tarbert

With 2018 being the Year of the Young People (YOYP), Tarbert Harbour Authority, working together with Tarbert Loch Fyne Yacht Club, Clyde Cruising Club and other organisations, have put together a fun-filled, family-friendly day on Saturday May 26 giving those aged eight to 23 the opportunity to get out on the water.

As well as sailing and SUP-board taster sessions, local RIB tour provider Kenny MacNab will be running tours throughout the day with 10 free spaces for youngsters on his boat, Fynal Fling.

Taeping

Ocean Sailing Scotland's Clipper 60 ocean racing yacht Taeping, which has circumnavigated the world four times, will also be in Tarbert for the weekend. Ocean Sailing has very generously offered two free trips for those aged 16 to 23 years to witness the racing first hand – a rare and exciting opportunity! Spaces must be booked in advance and anyone interested should contact Kirsten Henderson as soon as possible by emailing kirsten@tarbertharbour.co.uk).

Funky Chicken

For those under eight, children's entertainer and face painter the Funky Chicken will be positioned on the recreation area. Boat building activities and workshops from the Archipelago Folk School are also taking place.

While the youngsters make a splash, there will be food, drinks and live music, including The Coaltown Daisies and Campbelltown's Matt McAllister,

in the marquee to keep the parents and adults amused!

Sailing taster sessions

Come and have a go at dinghy sailing at the local yacht club's RYA 'Push The Boat Out' event. During May, RYA Scotland is promoting getting out on the water with events being held all over the country. Tarbert Toppers at Tarbert Loch Fyne Yacht Club are getting involved too.

Anyone from the age of eight can enjoy sailing Optimists and Toppers during the Scottish Series regatta weekend. Qualified instructors and regular young sailors will be on hand to help.

There is no need to book and those interested can come down to the club at Battery Point, by the ferry slip, with a change of clothes or a wetsuit and you'll get out sailing! For further information, contact Emma on emma@pedenassociates.com

SUP boarding sessions

Stand-up-paddle boarding is the latest craze in paddle-sports. Give it a try yourself, with guidance and instruction from Kayak Majik. Three free one-hour sessions are available to those aged eight and over at noon, 2pm and 4pm, departing from the yacht club. Under-18s must be accompanied by a guardian, who can observe from the shore. For further information please contact Dave on info@kayakmajik.co.uk or 07891 861393.

Fynal Fling Adventure RIB Tours

Witness the yacht racing on Loch Fyne first hand on a fast RIB ride! Scheduled trips will be departing from the marina throughout the day for £10p/p. However, there are 10 free YOYP spaces available to those aged eight to 23 (bookable in advance). For information, please contact Kenny on info@fynalfling.com or 07796 262536.

Services

PMG Services will be on hand if required during the Scottish Series. PMG is a plant and marine engineering company specialising in diesel engines, hydraulics and hydraulic hoses with a fully mobile service covering Argyll and

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FARMING NEWS

Time of unprecedented political engagement

By NFUS vice-president
Martin Kennedy

NEVER before has there been such political engagement from NFU Scotland with politicians north and south of the border as there is at the present time.

Why? Because as a union representing all our members and covering all sectors, we are fully aware that the uncertainty of Brexit negotiations is giving great cause for concern.

After almost 45 years of agricultural reliance on the EU, especially when it comes to protecting our markets and providing budget certainty, we now find ourselves in unfamiliar territory. When it comes to trade negotiations, we are very much the new kids on the block.

This is the part where, unless there are skilled and savvy negotiations, other countries will take advantage.

There are some very clever individuals involved when it comes to the political process, but all too often decisions are made on how many votes this will secure, rather than what would be the best thing to do for the economy or the environment.

Meeting those who make decisions gives us the opportunity to highlight the opportunities which can be seized which would benefit our industry, the economy and the environment.



Martin Kennedy says the union remains on the front foot.

More importantly, it gives us the chance to highlight the impact that unintended consequences could have on food and farming.

Trade deals and budget allocation will have a massive impact on the future of farming and crofting in Scotland and it is imperative that we are in the room so that decisions are well informed.

Scotland has a world-leading

reputation for animal welfare and crop production standards, and to be sold out to trade deals that allow products of lower standards to undermine our markets – in effect exporting our standards – would be a disaster for productive farming and crofting.

What we have here is something we are proud of and is our selling point when it comes to exports.

Budgets will also be crucial if we are to allow our food and drink sector, currently the biggest manufacturing sector in the Scottish economy, to grow and generate further income to help satisfy other budgetary requirements.

There needs to be some form of commonality throughout the UK to allow intra UK trade to continue and also to establish common goals when it comes to export. At the same time, there also needs to be a bespoke policy system in place that suits Scotland's requirements to ensure people, communities and the environment have a prosperous future.

NFU Scotland remains on the front foot. First and foremost, we lobby for our membership to deliver what is best for our industry, which in turn will deliver for the economy and the environment.

If our political engagement has been strong, then our membership engagement in the past 18 months has been exceptional, making sure we take our members with us every step of the way down a very uncertain path.

I would appeal to all those who are not members to recognise the tireless effort put in by the whole team and consider supporting us to ensure our voice and your voice are heard and listened to by those who will ultimately make the decisions that will carve our future.

Around the markets

STIRLING – United Auctions on Thursday May 10 sold 3907 prime sheep comprising of 122 new season lambs selling to an average of 291.03p and 3093 old season lambs with an average of 242.26p and 692 ewes and rams.

New season lambs (122) – Easter Cash & South Ballaird (Tex) £150; Westerton & South Ballaird (Suff) £147; Westerton (Char) £138.

New season lambs (122) – Easter Cash (Tex) 319p; Smailholm Mains (Suff) 313p; Westerton (Char) 294p. Old Season Lambs (3093) – Townhead (Tex) £150; Luckenburn (BTex) £147; Raecruick (Suff) £135; South Park (Chev) £124; Chamberwells (BF) £122; Raecruick (Mule) £120.

Old season lambs (3093) – Luckenburn (BTex) 332p; West Thomaston (Tex) 291p; West Thomaston (Chev) 285p; St Mungoes (BF) 271p; West Thomaston (Suff) 265p; Easter Buckleyvie (mule) 253p.

Ewes (679) – Townhead (Tex) £158; Catcune (Suff) £151; Catcune (Char) £149; Woodhead of Cairness (BL) £135; Toxside (Chev) £132; Milton (Mule) £110.50; Hatton Knowe (BFL) £104; Gilston (Chev/Mule) £79; Newmill (BF) £78; Easter Middleton (HB) £78.00.

Rams – Westhall (BFL) £109; Carrat (Tex) £100; Gilston (Chev) £100; Easter Middleton (Suff) £95.

STIRLING – Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday May 10 sold 157 cattle, comprising 71 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 66 cast cows and bulls and 20 calves. All classes of prime cattle again dealer on the week, with many buyers short of their requirements. Prime bullocks averaged 218p. Prime heifers averaged 226p. Young bulls averaged 219p. Beef cows averaged 143p. Dairy cows averaged 119p.

Top price today was 258p for a Limousin heifer from Moorfield, Kilmarnock selling to R Brown and Son, Butcher, Stenhouseuir and to £1622 for a Limousin from Mains of Culmalundie, Tibbermore to Hugh A Black and Sons. Bullocks sold to 240p (twice) from Bruckley, St Andrews and Mains of Culmalundie selling to T Johnston, Butchers, Falkirk and to £1656 from Gillandersland, Linlithgow. Bulls sold to 230p for a Limousin from J R MacGregor, Dyke, Milton of Campsie to J F Finlay and Co, Wishaw and to £1518 from the same farm.

Leading prices Heifers ppgk: 252p Faskine 250p and 245p Moorfield 248p Faskine 240p Todhall, Bankhead (Kerr) and Mains of Culmalundie 238p Moorfield 235p Gillandersland, Bankhead and Craigquarter 232p Bruckley and Bankhead 230p (twice) Todhall and Nether Longford

Bullocks ppgk: 225p and 220p South Woodlane Also forward were 66 OTMs, cast cows and bulls.

OTMs sold to £1469 for a BB from M I Wainwright, Todhall and to 220p for the same beast. Beef cows averaged 143p and sold to £1460 for a Limousin from J M More, Beild, Gargunock and to 174p for a Limousin from J M Cullens, Dollarbank, Dollar.

Dairy cows averaged 119p and sold to £1050 from T Greer and Sons, Wharlawhill, Fossoway and to 131p from Lisa MacKenzie, Ardgate, Gartochern.

Cast bulls sold to £1140 from J Owen, Easterton, Kirkintilloch.

Leading prices Beef cows per head £1400 Easterton (Graham) £1380 Beild £1250 Kinburn £1230 Easterton £1210 Wharlawhill Beef cows per kilo 169p Beild 166p Dollarbank 165p Kincauld 163p Balcastle 162p Beild

Dairy cows per head £980 Ardgate £860 (twice) Carneil Dairy cows per kilo 129p Wharlawhill 123p Carneil 122p Carneil

A smaller show of 20 calves were forward at our fortnightly sale but all types still sold away to a steady trade. Top price of £300 was reached on two occasions, firstly for a Limousin heifer calf from firm of WM Pettigrew, Faskine Farm, Airdrie, and secondly for a Charolais bull calf from R Brown, Riverside, Tummel Bridge.

Other leading prices: Heifer calves Lim £130 Scart Bull calves; Fries £62 and £48 Carneil Fries £30 Nyadd

Next sale of calves will be held on Thursday May 24. For more information, contact David Erskine on 07900 435700.

DINGWALL – Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Wednesday May 9 sold 545 store cattle. Bullocks (288) averaged 241.4p and sold to 306.1p per kg for a 245kg Limousin cross from Brae, Strathoykel and £1,250 gross for a 555kg Limousin cross from Castlecraig, Nigg.

Heifers (256) averaged 236.2p and sold to 301.9p per kg and £1,410 gross for a pen of 467kg Simmental crosses from Mains of Househill, Nairn. Young bulls (1) sold to 170.8p per kg and £1,170 for a 685kg Limousin cross from Coldhome Farm, Fortrose.

Other leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks up to 250kg – Brae, £750, Hillcrest, Kyle 268.8p; 251-300kg – Calrossie Mains, Nigg and 192 The Doll, Brora £840, Leabost, Glenhinisdale 294.3p; 301-350kg – Beehive, Duncanston £950, Calrossie Mains, 286.2p; 351-400kg – Kinchyle Farm, Scaport, £1,040, 270.6p; 401-450kg – Torgormack, Beauly, £1,170, 289.6p; 451-500kg – Dunmaglass Estate, Dores, £1,160, 249.5p; 501-550kg – Wester Moy, Muir of Ord, £1,180, 222.6p; 551-600kg – Wester Moy, £1,160, Castlecraig, 225.2p.

Heifers up to 250kg – Leabost, £560, Hillcrest, 283.9p; 251-300kg – Calrossie Mains, £830, 284.3p; 301-350kg – Torgormack, £860, 192 The Doll, 273.9p; 351-400kg – Kinchyle Farm, £1,060, Torgormack, 282.1p; 401-450kg – Castlecraig, £1,030, Torgormack, 236.6p; 451-500kg – Mains of Househill, £1,240, 265.0p; 501-550kg – Mains of Househill, £1,280, 248.5p.

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on May 9 sold 50 OTM cattle. OTM prime and feeding cows (44) averaged 152.1p and sold to 211.4p per kg for a 525kg Limousin cross from Dunain Farm, Inverness, and £1,410 gross for an 880kg Charolais cross from Fiddlefield, Muir of Ord.

OTM feeding bulls (6) sold to £1,370 gross and 127.4p per kilo for a 1075kg Limousin cross from 44 Borneskitaig, Isle of Skye. OTM Highland cows (12) averaged 117.7p and sold to 138.7p and £850 gross twice for 555kg, 630kg and 625kg cows from Strathvaich Estate.

Other leading prices per head: OTM prime and feeding cows: Coldhome Farm, (LimX), £1,310;

Raitcastle Farm, Nairn, (CharX), £1,310; East Kirk, Wick, (CharX), £1,290; Dunain Mains, (SAX), £1,290; Beehive, (SAX), £1,210. OTM feeding bulls: Cloverlea, Portmahomack, (SA), £1,250; Inverbrora Farm, Brora, (LUI), £1,190; Kinbeachie, Culbokkie, (LimX), £1,070.

OTM Highland cows: Strathvaich Estate, £770. Other leading prices per kg: OTM prime and feeding cows: Dunain Farms, (SimX), 177.0p; Raitcastle Farm, (Sim), 170.8p; Raitcastle Farm, (LimX), 168.4p; Raitcastle Farm, (LimX), 167.2p; Coldhome Farm, (LimX), 167.1p. OTM feeding bulls: Cloverlea, (SAL), 120.8p; Kinbeachie, (LimX), 112.0p; Inverbrora Farm, (LUI), 110.7p. OTM Highland cows: Strathvaich Estate, 136.0p.

STIRLING – United Auctions on Wednesday May 9 sold 2086 store cattle, native bred cattle and young bulls also 160 cast cows and forward cattle and 326 store and breeding sheep.

Bullocks (1076) - averaged 229.29p to 299.20p per kg for a 254kg SimX from Luss Est and £1460 for a 693kg AAX from Burnhouse Bungalow. B & W Bullocks (62) - averaged 149.80p to 170.70p per kg for a 492kg HFX from Whitehill and £840 for a 492kg HFX from Whitehill.

Heifers (906) - averaged 219.83p to 390.2p per kg for a 410kg LimX from Gordonian Farms and £1600 for a 410kg LimX from Gordonian Farm.

Young Bulls (42) - averaged 198.26p to 221.30p per kg for a CHX from Boreland and £1120 for a CHX from Fallenninch. Beef Cows (135) - averaged 140.82p to 208.60p per kg for a LimX from Wester Thirds and £1630 for a CHX from Newhouse of Glamis.

Dairy Cattle (23) - averaged 115.47p to 148.30p per kg for a HFX from Woodend and £995 for a BFX from Gibblaston.

Forward Cattle (2) - averaged 141.55p to 143.00p per kg for a HFX from Nyadd and £975 for a HFX from Nyadd

Bullocks: 0-250kgs - South Ayley £720, 290.3p; 251-300kgs - Luss Est £805, 299.2p; 301-350kgs - Gordonian Farms £1000, 287.4p; 351-400kgs - Gordonian Farms £1060, 283.4p; 401-450kgs - Gordonian Farms £1180, 287.8p; 451-500kgs - Gordonian Farms £1220, 254.2p; 501-551kgs - Borlick £1240, 241.7p; 552-601kgs - Burnhouse £1350, 231.2p; 602-651kgs - Henderson Farms £1400, Gordonian Farms £226.0p; 652-701kgs - Burnhouse Bungalow £1460, 210.7p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs - Gordonian Farms £690, 280.5p; 251-300kgs - Immeroin £740, Mains of Throsk 268.5p 301-350kg - Gordonian Farms £950, 304.5p; 351-400kgs - Mains of Throsk £1180, 328.7p; 401-450kgs - Gordonian Farms £1600, 390.2p; 451-500kgs - Borlick £1200, Inchgall 258.7p 501-551kgs - Montall £1190, 226.7p 552-601kgs - West Langfauld £1160, 194.6p; 602-651kgs - Henderson farms £1280, 205.8p; 652-701kgs - West Langfauld £1280, 186.0p.

Young Bulls: 251-300kgs - North Dean Farming £510, 191.7p; 301-350kgs - Boreland £770, 221.3p; 351-400kgs - Boreland £850, 217.40; 401-450kgs - Teviot Agriculture £890, 197.8p 451-500kgs - Teviot Agriculture £1055, 214.4p 501-551kgs - Airdrie £1040, 197.7p; 552-601kgs - Fallenninch £1120, 200.0p.

Land reform review makes recommendations

IN A report to Scottish ministers about the conduct of agents of agricultural landlords and tenants, Scotland's Tenant Farming Commissioner (TFC), Bob McIntosh, has made several recommendations aimed at reducing the number of occasions when landlords and tenants are dissatisfied with the conduct of an agent working for them or for the other party.

The report was a requirement arising from the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 and reflected concern that inexperienced or insensitive agents may be adversely affecting the relationships between landlords and their tenants.

The work involved independent surveys of landlords and tenants throughout Scotland with the aim of determining the overall level of satisfaction with the conduct of agents. Instances of dissatisfaction were followed up in more detail and the results of the surveys were shared with the key organisations representing landlords, tenants and agents to help form the recommendations.

Landlords and tenants were generally satisfied by the conduct of agents working on their behalf but less so with that of agents acting on behalf of the other party. Overall, 17 per cent of both landlords and tenants were dissatisfied with the conduct of an agent and dissatisfaction was generally linked to behaviour rather than to any lack of technical or legal knowledge on the part of the agent.



Bob McIntosh.

The key reasons for dissatisfaction were:

- Poor communication and inadequate recording of the outcome of meetings
- Unnecessarily aggressive or condescending behaviour
- Lack of transparency openness and honesty
- Lack of awareness of the impact of a single transaction on the long term relationship between landlord and tenant.

The TFC has made nine recommendations for action with most of them relating to the need to improve interpersonal skills through more training, assessment and feedback mechanisms. Mr McIntosh

also recommended that the professional bodies representing the majority of agents should increase awareness of, and ease of access to, their complaints procedures and should consider whether their published standards strike the right balance between the duty to a client and a duty to wider professional standards and societal values.

Mr McIntosh said: 'It is clear that most agents perform their duties in a professional manner but the actions of a small minority can have a disproportionate effect on the reputation of the agent, their employers or their profession.'

'It is important, therefore, that everyone involved from training establishments, employers, the professional bodies and the agents themselves, consider the recommendations carefully and take action to ensure that there is continuous improvement leading to a reduction in the instances of dissatisfaction.'

Rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing added: 'I am grateful to the Tenant Farming Commissioner for completing this important piece of work and am heartened that he has found both that relationships between tenants and landlords are generally good and that problems with the conduct of agents are not widespread.'

'However, I recognise, as he does, that some problems do exist and there is no room for complacency. I welcome the recommendations, and I look forward to seeing how they are taken forward by the sector.'

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Report highlights gap between Scotland and UK regions for build-to-rent

New data highlights the significant gap between the number of purpose-built rental properties in Scotland and those being constructed in different English regions.

According to the Scottish Property Federation (SPF), figures at the end of Q1 2018 show that for every build-to-rent (BTR) home in Scotland, north-west England has nearly 10.

The research, compiled by Savills on behalf of the British Property Federation, calculated that Scotland currently has 3,365 BTR homes complete, under construction or in planning. In comparison, the north-west has 29,600, the south-east (excluding London) 7,101, the West Midlands 6,378 and Yorkshire and the Humber 5,131.

Across all areas of the UK, including Scotland, the data shows that this sector of the housing market has grown by 30 per cent in the past year.

In the UK there are now 117,893 BTR homes – new, high-quality and professionally-managed homes built for renters – across all stages of the development life cycle, compared to the total of 90,761 homes at the end of Q1 2017.

As the BTR sector continues to grow, it has also been able to diversify its offer

– with 17 per cent of schemes in the pipeline including houses, rather than just typical high-rise apartments.

While Scotland currently accounts for just under three per cent of the total pipeline, there are signs that this is set to increase significantly – particularly in Glasgow.

SPF director David Melhuish says that while the figures are a stark reminder of how far Scotland lags behind the rest of the UK for new BTR properties, they also show a shift in gear for BTR in Scotland and indicate how attitudes to renting are changing.

He said: 'Build-to-rent has historically been characterised as simply a step up from student accommodation for millennials, but this is now changing. The sector's growth means it can cater for a wider range of people, including families. These purpose-built rental properties are high-quality, often with linked amenities, sustainably constructed and well-managed intergenerational homes.'

'As a result, there is now a significant shift in perception and we are beginning to see changes here in Scotland, which will help boost further BTR development.'

'Investors want assets which are

going to provide returns over the long term, which drive up quality; architects and planners have the opportunity to create a built environment for communities; and local authorities are beginning to understand how BTR could tackle brownfield sites, support new infrastructure development and be a catalyst for further development.'

He continues: 'In Scotland, there has been a promising boost in the number of BTR homes, with 3,365 homes now at varying stages of the development process. The numbers are still not high in comparison to the rest of the UK, but there are now multiple sites in Glasgow which should act as a spur to other BTR projects across the country.'

'BTR is an opportunity and Scotland has some important advantages for attracting the investment necessary – the Rental Income Guarantee Scheme being one and an exemption from the three per cent second homes tax for large-scale PRS investments is another. With planning policy guidance now amended to support BTR developments, particularly around the treatment of development viability, there is no reason why we cannot see the BTR sector provide a new catalyst of economic growth in our cities.'



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- Elevated position
- Stunning views over Tobermory Bay
- EPC Rating - D (62)

OIRO £250,000

A detached 4 bedroom house in an elevated position above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Currently run as a small B&B Callicvol comprises a large lounge/diner, separate lounge, kitchen, family bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor. Upstairs are four further bedrooms and a shower room. The lounge/diner is a bright and airy space with far reaching views. The smaller lounge is a cosy space with a wood burner stove for those chilly nights.

GLENFURAN, TOBERMORY

- Detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- **Below home report valuation**
- Walk-in condition
- Fantastic holiday let potential
- EPC Rating - C (72)

OIRO £225,000

Glenfuran is a large detached bungalow situated in a pretty location on the outskirts of Tobermory, close to all amenities. The property is in great condition throughout and has been well looked after by its current owners. Glenfuran benefits from a large lounge which lets in plenty of natural light, this is a really pleasant room to sit in. A large kitchen/dining room is found next to the lounge with plenty of worktop space, units, a large cooker (fired by LPG gas) and a large table located by French patio doors.

3 CLACHANDUBH, ISLE OF SEIL

- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- End of Terrace House
- Very well maintained
- Sought after Location
- Lovely Views
- EPC - C

£220,000

3 Clachandubh is a modern designed cottage over 1.5 storeys offering spacious living accommodation. The whole property has a lovely feel and it is a pleasure to be inside. On entering the property from the front door there is a spacious open hall way. Moving through the hall way there are 2 of the 4 bedrooms one with built in storage. Coming off the hall way is the well designed and maintained kitchen/diner. This is an open plan design and is very social for families or for entertaining. Coming off the kitchen there is a comfortable place to sit and enjoy the views through a large window.

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MINIMUM EPC STANDARD: UPDATE AND CONSULTATION



The Scottish Government has for some time been planning to introduce a minimum energy efficiency standard for PRS properties. The government has now published a consultation on improving the energy efficiency of all of Scotland's dwellings and announced updated timescales for introducing a minimum standard in the PRS.

The overall aim is for PRS dwellings to have an EPC rating of C by 2030 where this is technically feasible and cost effective. Owner occupied properties will be expected to meet the same standard by 2040. Social housing already has legislation in place requiring it to meet an equivalent standard by 2020.

The government is planning to legislate in 2019 to introduce a minimum standard in the PRS. This will require properties to

have at least an EPC rating of E at a change of tenancy from 1 April 2020 and in all properties by 31 March 2022; and to have an EPC rating of D at a change of tenancy from 1 April 2022 and in all properties by 31 March 2025.

In some situations, there will be exceptions where a lower level or longer timescales will be acceptable, for example where it will not be cost effective to upgrade the property or where planning permission for upgrading work can't be obtained. The government is proposing that the definition of a cost-effective measure is that one that pays back its cost in energy bill savings over its lifetime.

While costs to achieve the standards will vary across dwellings depending on their built form, fuel type, and current levels of heating system efficiency and insulation, the government estimates that the median cost in the private sector (i.e. for owner occupied and privately rented dwellings) will be in the region of £3,500, which means that half of dwellings can be upgraded at a cost of £3,500 or less.

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66 Dacia Sandero Leu Dci silver, 3,000 miles.....	£8,950
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66 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav, white, 14,000 miles.....	£9,750
64 Peugeot Partner TP 1.6 DCI, blue, 9,500 miles.....	£8,900
64 Ford Ka Edge 1.2 Gray 31,000 miles.....	£5,500
14 Nissan Note Nectar 1.2 5dr, blue, 9,000 miles.....	£8,500
14 Skoda Rapid TDI, white, 27,000 miles.....	£7,500
14 Ford Ka Edge 1.2 11,800 Miles.....	£5,650
63 Dacia Duster Laureate 4x4, blue, 50,000 miles.....	£7,950
13 Dacia Duster Laureate DCI, blue, 61,000 miles.....	£6,550

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13	Isuzu D-MAX 2.5TD Yukon	Grey	67,000	£13,500+VAT
14	Isuzu D-MAX 2.5TD Double Cab	Grey	25,381	£13,200+VAT
15	Isuzu D-MAX 2.5TD Single Cab	Green	31,500	£12,500+VAT
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15	Subaru Levorg 1.6 GT	White	100	£27,900
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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



An opportunity has arisen for a **(Qualified Electrician)** to join our busy team in the West Of Scotland. Good Rates of Pay. Driving License Essential. Training Opportunities.

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Find out more at jobs.socialsecurity.gov.scot or call 0800 029 4974.

Social Security Scotland
Teairainteachd Shòisealta Alba



Bield are looking for a Cook to prepare freshly cooked meals for people living within our housing development, Torosay Court in Oban, PA34 4RW.

In addition to preparing meals for our lunchtime and early evening services, responsibilities will include purchasing and ordering food, promoting health and safety standards and working in partnership with our tenants to plan menus.

You will bring to the role experience of working in a kitchen environment and planning, preparing foods and cooking meals for a number of people.

Hours of employment are 21 per week Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00am – 6:00pm. We offer a competitive benefits package including a salary of £9,295 pro rata (£16,599 FTE) per annum.

To find out more and apply please visit <https://jobs.bield.co.uk/> or call 0131 273 4007. Closing date for applications is 31 May.

Experienced personal carers required in Benderloch area

Good rates of pay
Driving licence and own car essential

Please apply in writing to PO Box 32
The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB



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Apply to – mail@raclement.co.uk

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Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org

VACANCY - THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE
Connections Support Officer

Oban Communities Trust is looking to recruit a dynamic enthusiastic person to support the development of The Rockfield Centre as a cultural/community hub in the heart of Oban.

The successful candidate will be well organised, friendly and have excellent communication skills with ideally line management experience in supporting staff/volunteer structures.

This short term contract (May 2018- Mar 2019) is offered as a 25 hour post and will be office based at The Rockfield Centre. Applicants should submit their CV with a covering letter to Caroline@therockfieldcentre.org.uk

Closing date for application: 28th May 2018
Job description can be accessed on our website
<http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk>
or telephone 07762756072 for more information
Interviews will be take place Monday 4th June
This project is supported by Strengthening Communities Funding

CLEANER REQUIRED GLENFINNAN

8am - 10am
6 days out of 7
Until end October, possibly longer
£11 per hour.

Please contact 01397 700457

Kilchoan Management Limited
A cultural and educational enterprise which is involved in conservation and rewilding, is looking for a **Caretaker and Housekeeping couple** to join their close knit and hardworking team.

This job opportunity is perfect for a couple who love the countryside and all that it entails. Accommodation and transport included.

Please apply with CV to:
Mrs Melissa Oatts
Kilchoan Management Limited
Kilchoan Estate, Kilmelford By Oban
Argyll PA34 4XD



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require a time served mechanic to join our team in a busy well established garage.

Applicants must have a full clean driving license and minimum 4 years experience.
Written applications and CV to
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Email: lmsautoservices@gmail.com



Fort William's newest 4 star Hotel is opening this summer. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:
General Assistants (Front of House)
Head Housekeeper, Housekeeping,
Night Porters and Kitchen Assistants.

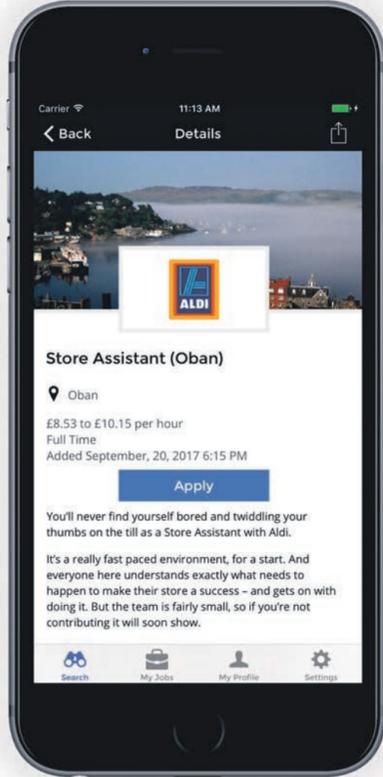
If you are friendly, self-motivated and looking for a new challenge, please come along to our recruitment day...
Please send CVs to careers@thegarrisonhotel.co.uk or simply turn up on the day.
The Caol Community Centre, 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday 21st May



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4 Ardcornel, Kilmore & Kilbride
87368
0.2 ha
Reason - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - Fencing
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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To let by Scottish Natural Heritage - individual leases to deliver annual deer culls over up to 7 sites (total 5,300 hectares) on SNH managed NNRs or NRs:

- Ben Wyvis NNR
- Clais Moss NR
- Craigellachie NNR
- Dell Woods (Abernethy NNR)
- Glasdrum NNR
- Glencripesdale NR
- Glen Roy NR

To be let from 2018 to 2022. Interested parties are invited to submit an expression of interest, for 1 or multiple sites, in writing to the Project Manager, Lizzie Richards, via email: Lizzie.Richards@snh.gov.uk or post to SNH, Dingwall Business Park, Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB, by **31st May 2018**. Please include a contact name, address, email address and phone number. If you are responding on behalf of a syndicate or consortium, please provide similar details for all other syndicate/consortium members. Full bidding documents will be issued to interested parties by **4th June 2018**. Please note that invitations to bid will only be issued to parties who have expressed an interest by **31st May 2018**.

Proposed apportionment of a Common Grazings
Ewen M Campbell is applying for an apportionment of part of the Corpach, Banavie, Camaghale and Lochyside Common Grazings extending to 4.602ha for the purpose of grazing and out wintering cattle. 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 14/07/18.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

First Registration of a Croft
Elizabeth Kilmurray has registered her croft Baligarve, Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 2, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5063.

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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.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times

Argyll and Bute Council
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended
ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER
Planning Permission Erection of dwellings at Plot 1 and Plot 4, Land North of Arle Farm Cottage, Aros, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute, PA72 6J5
REFERENCE NUMBER: 15/02883/PP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.
The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.
Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to The Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QJ not later than 14th June 2018.
If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 28th June 2018 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.
Date 17th May 2018
Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead
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
18/01865/FUL	Land 300M NE Of Mamore Lodge	Mamore, Kinlochleven	Erection of garage with office/bothy
18/01971/FUL	Plots 5, Campbell Road	Banavie, Fort William	Erection of house
18/02027/FUL	Land 150M North East Of Arisaig Hotel	Arisaig	Erection of house
18/02028/FUL	Land 40M S Of Rubh Nan Gall, Ormsaigbeg	Kilchoan	Erection of Proposed Dwelling House
18/01990/DEM	Janitors House, Upper Achintore Primary School, Zetland Avenue	Upper Achintore, Fort William	Demolition of Former Janitor's House
18/01988/FUL	Land To North Of Morar Motors, Columba Road	Morar	Provision of temporary contractors compound, comprising 11 two bedroom sleeping units, 2 canteen units, water, waste water and electricity connection

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

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
James MacGillivray trading as The Firm of D.J. MacGillivray of Pennygown Farm, Aros, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA72 6JN, is applying for a licence to use, Pennygown Farm, Aros, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA72 6JN, as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 2 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre 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.

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
18/00987/PP	Erection of workshop, siting of office containers and erection of office building above and erection of retaining wall	Fabrication Yard Land West Of The Anchorage Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
18/01089/LIB	Installation of grab rail at front door entrance	108 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NT	Oban Area Office
18/01095/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 15/00701/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, demolition of existing buildings and amendments to existing access tracks)	Plot 2 Lagganmore Kilniver Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
18/01058/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 15/00700/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, demolition of existing buildings and amendments to existing access tracks)	Plot 1 Lagganmore Kilniver Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
18/01001/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of Creaghdu Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
18/00742/PP	Redevelopment of existing boathouse including first floor studio extension and balcony	Boathouse Ardtur House Port Appin Argyll PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Port Appin
18/01035/PP	Conversion of garage to form residential accommodation	Strathnaver Dunollie Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JQ	Oban Area Office
18/01041/PP	Variation of conditions 3 and 9 of planning permission 18/00075/PP (Use of land for the siting of 3 portable buildings with a connecting canopy to provide a plant maintenance workshop with offices and storage, associated parking area and formation of access track and new junction with the public road) to allow for vehicle repairs and extended working hours	Land Southeast Of Lag An Fhiodhain North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
18/00797/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage and installation of septic tank	Plot 6 Land North East Of Tigh-An-Lochan Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
18/00832/PP	Demolition of existing village hall, erection of replacement single storey village hall. Formation of new terrace areas, car parking arrangements and installation of air source heat pumps.	Iona Village Hall Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
18/01054/LIB	Demolition of existing flat roof extension and alterations and extension	Glenure Lodge Fasnacloich Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Port Appin
18/01040/PPP	Site for the erection of agricultural building and installation of concrete below-ground slurry tank	Land South West Of Kilchatton Farm Toberonochy Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Cullipool
18/00723/PP	Installation of replacement windows	An Tigh Beag Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
18/00928/PP	Formation of parking area for HGV and trailers, siting of 2 shipping containers, provision of fuel tanks and associated fencing and gates	Land North West Of Oban Livestock Centre Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
18/00888/PP	Construction of small scale hydroelectric scheme	Land At Kilchoan Kilmelford Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XD	Sub Post Office Kilmelford

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BIRTHS

MORRISON - Iain Morrison and Elaine Craig are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second son Alasdair Evan, born on April 26, 2018. A little brother for Matthew. Second grandchild for Barbara Milne, Oban and fourth for Joy Morrison, Glasgow and Mary Mackay, Stevenston.

PALMER - MACLEOD - Alan and Rebekah are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Finlay, born on May 3, 2018. A little brother for Orlaith. Second grandchild for Tom and Morag Palmer, Portree and for Ivor and Anne MacLeod, Buessan. Huge thanks to the Oban midwife team and staff at RAH Maternity Unit, Paisley.

DEATHS

CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of Gill, who died May 5, 2018 at home with her family after a long brave battle with cancer. "Feathers appear when angels are near". Our very own guardian angel. Remembering you always love Finlay, Patrick and family.

LOGIE(LOCHLUICHAIR) - "Just going for a spy across the March" Jock passed away peacefully at Glen Orrin Lodge May 12, 2018, after a "sair fecht" faced with stoicism. Father, grandfather, brother, loving partner to Jean, a true hill man. Service at Lochluichart Church on May 24, 2018 at 11.30 a.m. Further info contact D.Gunn, Funeral Directors, Dingwall.

MACKINNON - Marlene (née Gouck). Formerly of Bluevale, Pollokshields, Annette Street, Greenfield and Cuthbertson Primary Schools. Dearly beloved wife of Ian and mother of Lorna passed away at home in Glasgow on May 5, 2018 after a long illness. With many thanks to the friends, relatives and the many professionals who gave us so much care and support. The funeral will be held at 1pm on Tuesday May 22, 2018 at the Isle of Lismore Parish Church. Wear something bright, and bring a waterproof. Family flowers only please. If you wish to make a donation, please do so to the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research: www.euanmacdonaldcentre.com.

MCWHIE - Peacefully at home with family around her. Cathie (née Hamilton), aged 86 on May 12, 2018. Much loved and loving mother, mother-in-law, nana, sister and aunt. Sorely missed by all.

SEMPLER - Suddenly but peacefully, at home, 3 St Columba Way, Southend, after a long illness, with his family by his side, on May 14, 2018, Richard Sempler, in his 89th year, formerly of Low Cattadale, Southend, beloved husband of Elizabeth McCallum, dear father of John, Callum and Richard, granddad to Aileen, Lorna, Callum, Allan, Iain, Rebecca, Andrew, Abbie, Molly and Richard and great granddad to Callum, Cara, Liam and Megan. Funeral service will be held in Southend Parish Church, on Friday, May 18 at 1.30pm, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of Southend Church and the District Nurses, Kintyre Locality.

SLANN - Peacefully, after a short illness, in the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on May 3, 2018, Peter Anthony Slann, aged 89 years, of Scotnish House, Tayvallich. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 in Christ Church, Lochgilphead, followed by a private cremation service. Family flowers only. Donations to

"Old Centurions Trust". This trust was set up in 1965 to assist students of the seven engineering faculties of Imperial College, London, who fall into financial difficulties.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Ian and Sheila Campbell and their sons Gordon and Brian would like to thank all who attended the funeral of Michal and all who sent cards and their kind thoughts.

DUNLOP - The family of the late Meg Dunlop would like to thank all neighbours and friends for their cards, flowers, phone calls, baking, words of sympathy and happy memories of Meg. Our grateful thanks go to the Rev. Dr Iain Barclay for his thoughtful and sympathetic arrangements. Undertakers Duncan Gunn and Allan MacKenzie are thanked for their professionalism and care of a lady they knew well. Our gratitude goes to the ladies of the Appin Village Hall catering team who lovingly provided the first class buffet and the happy atmosphere for all to share their final thoughts of Meg. Sincere thanks are also due to the staff of Eader Glinn Residential Home, where Meg spent her final seven years, surrounded by their love and care. God bless you all.

MAXWELL - Following the death of our beloved Mum Marjory on April 21, 2018, David, Tommy, Evelyn, Alun and families wish to sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy shown during their sad loss. Our thanks to the Reverend Dugald Cameron for the lovely funeral service and to Ian MacInnes at D & A Munn for their caring and professional funeral arrangements. Special thanks to the staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and kindness. We also wish to thank Moreen Gracie for the beautiful floral arrangement and the Lochnell Arms Hotel for their lovely hospitality. Lastly, sincere thanks to everyone who paid their last respects at the church and for the generous donations in which £560 was raised for the Scottish Ward Blind.

SMITH - Ian and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their beautiful cards received on June's passing. Special thanks to Lorn Medical Centre, the ECC team at Lorn and Islands hospital, Carers Direct, the Rev Christine Fulcher for comforting service, D & A Munn for professional services and catering by Donald and Gemma at Soroba House, also beautiful flowers by Petals. Finally to those who paid their respects to June at the church and Pennyfuir.

MEMORIAMS

ANDERSON - Precious memories of our mum, granny and big granny - Mary Marion Anderson - May 21, 2017. Your strength and love is what helps us each day. Your words of wisdom guide us and will stay with us forever. We hope you have your dancing shoes on. - James, Lisa, Gail, Pamela x I miss our cosy chats and all the time we spent together on Friday, our special day. - Ruari x

ANDERSON - Remembering always with a loving and welcoming smile our dearly loved mother, mother-in-law and devoted grannie Mary née MacInnes, who passed away on May 21, 2017. Precious to us are the memories you left, of the fun, love and laughter we all shared with you, that lives on in all our hearts to treasure forever. - From Janet, Colin, Aileen, Nikki and Colin xxxxxx

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Alasdair (Ali) a dear father and granpa, who died May 18, 1988. Never more than a thought away. - Lorne, Kathy, Alasdair, Christine and family, Eriskay and Blairgowrie.

EVANS - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Billy, our loving dad and granddad who passed away on May 19, 2016. Loved and remembered every day. - By Janet and all our family.

GIBSON - In loving memory of John (Gibby), who passed away May 16, 2015. Loved and remembered every day. - Mum, Jackie, Linda and families.

KENNEDY - May (Gillespie), died May 18, 2008, loving mum and granny. Sadly missed, forever loved. - John, Catherine, John, Niall and Michael.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of dear Neilie, who passed away on May 13, 2003. Times changes many things But not the sadness this day brings. A broken heart, tears unseen. Wishing your absence was only a dream. Gad chaidh gu bràth - Inserted by Margaret.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (D.A) our dad and seanair, who died May 16, 2005. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families.

MACKINNON - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana Duncanina, who passed away May 20, 2007, and a dear father and grandfather Hugh, who passed away April 6, 1985. Today, tomorrow our whole life through. We will always love and remember you. Also remembering dear loved ones gone before and after. - Elizabeth, Iain and family.

MACPHAIL - Remembering Betty on her 84th birthday, May 12 and on the first anniversary of her passing, May 19. Grief never ends but it changes...it is the price of love. - Remembered by Jimmy and her family, Tobermory.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary, dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away May 17, 2004. Forever, loved, missed and remembered. - Christina, Banny, Laura, Martin and families.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary a much loved mum and granny, who died May 17, 2004. Forever in our hearts. - Teeny, Marie, Ross and families.

NICOLSON - Precious memories of our dear father and grandfather Donald who died on May 22, 1980, also our dear brothers and uncles, Joseph, died on April 30, 1987 and Alister accidentally drowned on September 16, 1965. Remembering you with love today and every day. Sadly missed by all the family.

TURNER - In loving memory of my wife Margaret, who died May 18, 2012. Sorely missed. - Kenny and family.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Pilgrims give praise for St Conan's route

PILGRIMS who took part in the second official St Conan's pilgrimage from Dalmally to Iona, are spreading the word wide and far.

One of them is David Hornak from Shropshire who said: 'I can't stop talking about the St Conan's Way pilgrimage to all I meet! We were made to feel like one big family and everyone was so cheerful and friendly at all times.'

The walkers who joined in the 2018 pilgrimage left Dalmally's Craig

Lodge retreat centre in April to follow the footsteps of St Conan. It took them five days to complete the 70-mile route. St Conan was part of the monastic tradition established by St Columba on Iona and in the Dalmally area.

One couple travelled from Bath to take part, others came from Yorkshire, Berwick Upon Tweed, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dalmally. There was also a mother and son who recently moved to Iona, so walked back home.

The route was created to celebrate Craig Lodge's 25th anniversary after the house of prayer noticed more and more walkers were coming 'off the hills' on pilgrimages of their own to drop in on them.

The pilgrimage has now become an annual event on Craig Lodge's calendar.

If you are interested in joining one of the pilgrimages to Iona from Dalmally, visit craiglodge.org or email mail@craiglodge.org



St Conan's pilgrims on Martyrs Beach, Iona.

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Thought for the week
'Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors' (Matthew 6:12)
MY GRANDFATHER, a draper, ran into financial difficulties during the economic depression of the 1920s. Money was short, and his business became mired with bad debt. As was the practice at the time, he was called to give an account of his affairs to the church elders. Worthy members of the congregation feared for their hard-earned money. Debt corrodes trust. Jesus tackles the acid of debt with the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35). A servant owes the king a huge debt. Called to account, the servant begs for mercy. The king, filled with compassion, graciously forgives the debt. But the servant calls to account another servant who owes him a moderate amount. The second servant begs for mercy, but the first servant throws him into prison. The king, hearing of this, condemns and punishes the unforgiving servant for his lack of compassion. Jesus concludes by saying: 'So my Heavenly Father will do to all of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.' The church elders accepted my grandfather's plea that he was a victim of circumstances and helped him agree terms with his debtors for repayment of their debts. If God forgives our unpayable debt of sin, it is necessary for us to extend mercy and compassion to others.
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Lorne Ladies crowned league champions

Grangemouth Stagettes	19
Oban Lorne Ladies	28
BT Women's National League 2	

OBAN Lorne Ladies travelled with a squad of 18 players on a gloriously sunny day to play their final league fixture of the season against Grangemouth Stagettes. Oban had beaten Grangemouth at home 68-0 last October but with a few inexperienced players in the starting line-up, the ladies were expecting a tough match. Hannah Cringles, Liz Cromer and Sophia Rosinski starting their first league match for the Green Army.

The game started well for Oban as fly-half Lucy Stewart took advantage of the slow defence by scoring two tries in quick succession, one from open play and the other from a quick-tap penalty five metres out.

As the game went on, Oban began conceding penalty af-



Oban Lorne Ladies, winners of the BT Women's National League Division Two championship.

ter penalty which resulted in a yellow card. With one player down, Grangemouth took advantage of the space out wide and scored a try in the corner with an unsuccessful conversion.

Oban kept their heads up and retaliated straight from the kick-off and were awarded a scrum in the opponent's

22. A clever set-piece play allowed centre Kirsty Sinclair to fend off multiple defenders and add another five points to the score, taking it to 5-21.

The ladies found themselves attacking the try-line from a few metres out and continuously trying to burst through. The ball was eventually lost in contact and, once again, the

opposition used the space out wide to run up the wing and score another try.

The Grangemouth full-back then gathered up a loose ball and side-stepped her way to score another try taking the score to 19-21.

To extend the lead, and get the bonus point try, winger Sophia Rosinski gathered the

Women's rugby

ball out wide and outpaced defenders to score the last try of the match.

With four successful conversions, the score finished 19-28.

Women of the match were Lucy Stewart, picked by Grangemouth, and captain Laura MacCormick, picked by Oban.

The ladies have played all 12 matches in their league and won all of them with bonus points.

This means they were awarded the BT Women's National 2 league trophy, finishing 19 points clear in first place.

This was a very successful season as the ladies picked up silverware from Queen of the 10s, Majorca beach rugby, the BT Women's National Bowl and the BT Women's National 2 League.



Big turnout for Nancy Glen Open

A LARGE turnout of 72 players descended on Tarbert Golf Club to take part in the recent TT 100 Nancy Glen Open Stableford competition.

For many, taking part was not about winning a prize, but to pay their respects to the two men who died after the Nancy Glen boat sank in Loch Fyne, near Tarbert, on January 18 this year.

First prize of £100 went to Lynsay McGeachy from Carradale with 40 points.

Angus MacFarlane took second place on 39, Ally Provan was third with 38, Peter Sinclair was fourth with 37 bih, Allan Weir, 37, was fifth, Duncan Litster, 37, was sixth, Kenny MacFarlane was seventh with 35 bih and Eric Capocci eighth, also with 35.

The ladies' longest drive at the second was Catherine Reid, the gents' longest drive at the 18th was Peter McLean Junior,

closest to the pin in two at the sixth was Stephen Colligan and closest to the pin at the eighth was Iain MacArthur.

The club is grateful to everyone who supported the event, from Graham and his helpers on the course, to Sheena and the girls in the kitchen and bar for keeping everyone fed and watered. Thanks also go to John and Russell for collating the scores and selling raffle tickets and the Inveraray and Lochgilphead boys for their support on and off the course.

In his closing remarks, captain Chris Smyth thanked the many people who did all they could to make the day such a success. He thanked the 'non-golfers' for taking part and hoped they would return. He then announced the winners, with Heather Anderson of sponsors Argyll Wealth Consultants Ltd handing out the prizes.

Fort William

FORT William Golf Club hosted the KMF Stableford Competition on Saturday April 7, with the following result: 1 David Martin 44 points; 2 Neil Worsdall 39 points; 3 Alan Overend 38 points.

On Sunday April 8, a Three-Person Texas Scramble was played. Results: 1 Keith Sangster, Ronald MacDonald and Ian Robertson, net 57 (63 - 6); 2 Donnie Macinnes, Neil Young and Ali Shearer, net 57 (62 - 5); 3 Paul Campbell, Frank Sweeney and Josie Sweeney, net 59 (65 - 6).

On Saturday April 14, the 1912 Cup was played: 1 Willie McCann, net 64 (78 - 14); 2 John Martin, net 65 (82 - 17); 3 Ian Robertson, net 66 (76 - 10).

On Sunday April 15, the John MacDonald Electrician Stableford was played: 1 Graeme Worsdall, 41 points; 2 Josie Sweeney, 37 points; 3 Willie Macdonald, 34 points.

On Saturday April 21, the April Medal was played: Section 1 - 1 David MacPherson, net 66 (73 - 7); 2 Ian Robertson, net 67 (77 - 10); 3 Paul Campbell, net 71 (76 - 5).

Section 2 - 1 Willie MacDonald, net 70 (88 - 18); 2 Frank Sweeney, net 76 (93 - 17); 3 Martin Kerr, net 77 (97 - 20).

On Saturday April 28, the Senior Medal was played with the following result: 1 John Ferguson, net 65 (80 - 15); 2 Dougie Duncan, net 66 (75 - 9); 3 Willie McCann, net 66 (80 - 14).

On Saturday May 12, the May Medal was played. Result: Section 1 - 1 Ian Robertson, net 67 (76 - 9); 2 Steven Jamieson, net 72 (76 - 4); 3 Paul Campbell net 72 (77 - 5).

Section 2 - 1 Frank Sweeney, net 76 (94 - 18); 2 Alex Stewart, net 79 (94 - 15); 3 George Band, net 81 (96 - 15).

Ladies: On Sunday May 13, a 12 hole stableford competition was played with the following result: 1 Rosemary Macintyre 24 points; 2 Helen Brian 23 points; 3 Hazel Cameron 19 points.

Taynuilt

CUAN Mor, Oban, sponsored a three-player Team Open Stableford, played on Sunday May 13.

Gents and overall winners: - Allan Stewart, Robert MacLarty and Andy Ronald, all Taynuilt Golf Club, 107 points; 2 Alex Needham, Samuel Hutchison and Les Crossley, all Taynuilt Golf Club, 103 points.

Ladies: Carol MacLarty, Fiona McGlynn and Jane MacIntyre, all Taynuilt Golf Club, 75 points; 2 Anne MacCalman, Grace Petrie and Alice MacCalman, all Taynuilt Golf Club, 73 points.

Ladies longest drive - Anne MacCalman. Gents longest drive - Andy Ronald. Ladies nearest the pin - Anne MacCalman. Gents nearest the pin: Norman Asher, Taynuilt Golf Club.

Glencruitten

ANGUS MacNeill was the leading qualifier for the Isis Trophy at Glencruitten, Oban, on Saturday with a score of 68 - 8 = 60, followed by Philip Murphy with 62 - 1 = 60 and Lee Askew on 71 - 07 = 64.

In the Captain of Dunstaffnage, Colin Campbell leads qualifying on 72 - 11 = 61, followed by Malcolm Cullen on 75 - 11 = 64 and George MacKenzie on 81 - 15 = 66.

On Saturday, the second round of the Isis Trophy and captain of Dunstaffnage takes place.

Killin

SENIOR Strokeplay Open: Wednesday May 9 - Category 1 (0-14) - 1 Glenn Marshall, Kirklington, 63; 2 Richard Downie, Polmont, 64; 3 Alec Lyons, Tulliallan, 65.

Category 2 (15+) - 1 Kenneth Whyte, Old Ranfurly, 66; 2 John Strang, Killin, 67 BIH; 3 Mons Bolin, Killin, 67.

Nearest the pin 0-14 - William McNab, Callander; Nearest the pin 15+ - J Ball, Hilton Park; Nearest the pin in two - R Downie, Polmont.

Handicap winner, Kiltyrie Trophy - Glenn Marshall, Kirklington, 63. Mactaggart Trophy, best local handicap 15+ - John Strang, 67. Lix Toll Trophy, best local handicap 1-14: Gordon Aitken, 66.

Magic 2s - Kay Dowling, Jim Carruthers, 2, Richard Downie, Mons Bolin, Paul Melia and Gordon Aitken.

CSS: Gents 65 Ladies 67.

Saints Whites win Soroba House Cup

SOROKA House and Oban Saints Youth Football Club held a seven-team tournament last Saturday for the Soroba House Cup and the Janice Alexander Memorial Shield.

With Bowmore unable to make it because of a change in ferry times, teams competing were Oban Earra-ghadial, Coasters, Oban Electrics, Mull, Kilchoan and two Oban Saints youth select teams made up of current and past youth players.

Between losing one team and the weather playing havoc with Glen 2, the format for the tournament changed several times.

Thankfully, between the sun coming out and hard work by groundsman Iain Hay, Glen 2 was in play, as well as the 3G pitch at Oban High School. The format saw the seven teams playing each other in a round

Football

robin tournament in straight 20 minute games.

If there was a draw, the teams would take three penalties to award the winning team an extra point.

This proved exciting and popular and decisive in the outcome of the final group tables.

Every game was competitive and played in the right spirit, with any niggles well controlled by referees Martin Rae and Calum Fox.

The day brought out some of Oban, Mull and Kilchoan's talented youngsters as well as some of the older heads who were turning back the clock.

After all 21 games were completed, the victorious team finishing the day undefeated



Winners of the Soroba House Cup were Oban Saints Whites pictured with coaches Scott Buchanan and Donald Black.

was the Saints White team who picked up the Soroba House Cup.

Finishing in second place and receiving the Janice Alexander Memorial Shield were Coasters. Oban Earra-ghadial and Saints Yellows finished a couple of points away from picking up a trophy.

Team awards and individual trophies were presented at Soroba House where the tired players enjoyed well-earned food and refreshments.

The plan is to run another

similar tournament before the end of the summer.

Awards: Soroba House Cup - Oban Saints Whites; Janice Alexander and OSY Memorial Shield - Coasters; Keeper of the Day - Sean McGhee, Mull; Top Goalscorer - Keir MacLean - Saints Yellows; Team players of tournament - Coasters - Roy McLuckie; Oban Earra - David Smith; Kilchoan - Cameron Bolton; Mull - Shaun Fisher; OES - Jamie MacPherson; Saints Yellows - Cameron Kerr; Saints Whites - Lewis Buchanan and Craig Easton.



Oban Saints Yellows.

Caol pupils get fighting fit



Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club member Josh Dieguno works out on the pads with club coach Niall Clark as his fellow Caol Primary School pupils look on during a recent boxercise training session.

Park in national final



Park Primary School won the Tulloch south area shinty competition and now go forward to face the winners of the north area in the national final. Teams on the day were Kyles/Strachur, Aberdour, Glasgow Gaels and Park.



Dorothy Hearn hands over the cheque to David Mudie, left, and Peter Tosh from Oban Rotary Club.

PDK shells out to support Oban Am-Am

PDK Shellfish Ltd, based at Oban's South Pier, has donated £500 to Oban Rotary's annual Am-Am golf competition which raises funds for local good causes.

Office manager Dorothy Hearn handed over a cheque to Am-Am convener David Mudie and Rotarian Peter Tosh. PDK is also to provide a trophy for the competition.

Oban Rotary is grateful to PDK and its principal director Paul Knight for their support, which serves to underpin the importance of the Am-Am as an annual fundraiser.

Only recently, Oban Rotary, under the leadership of president Tommy McQuade, agreed a three-year deal of £4,000 per annum to support an Oban and District Young Carers initiative to give youngsters appropriate respite and support where they find themselves responsible for a parent and/or relative.



Prizewinners at last Sunday's three-player Stableford played at Taynuilt Golf Club.



Rothesay are the new P5 South of Scotland champions.



Kilmory's Harry Turner was presented with the Sheena Cameron Memorial Shield by Dougie Cameron.



The winning P7 Bute team.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures
Football

SATURDAY'S result: Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy played at Tarbert - Argyll Select 6, Scottish AFL Select 1; Sunday: Premier Division - St Joseph's FP 2, Oban Saints 1. This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Alba Thistle v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Busby v Lochgilhead Red Star; Cardross v Tarbert.

Saints' youth teams results and fixtures
Youth football

THIS weekend's results: Kilbowie Union 2, Under 13s 3. Scoring for Saints were Andrew Nicol (2) and Matthew Pollock; Glasgow Red Star 7, Under 14s 0; Celtic BC 5, Under 15s 1. Under 16s, no game; Under 17s, no game. This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Dumbarton Riverside; Glentyan Thistle v Under 14s; Under 15s v Dunoon.



Double up for Isle of Bute youngsters

A GREAT turnout of 23 teams spread across the primary seven and five sections arrived at Taynuilt playing fields last Sunday to compete in the annual South of Scotland Primary Championships. This year the event welcomed the sponsorship and support of the Artemis Macaulay Association.

Play got under way at 11am and, for the second year in a row, the playing fields were basked in sunshine without a cloud in the sky.

In the P7 section, Taynuilt

comprehensively defeated Inveraray, while Rockfield Rovers defeated the Kyles/Strachur team to give each other a steady start in the competition.

In the P5 section, Rockfield Rapids emulated their P7 team with a 1-0 victory over the Balla Bears, while Taynuilt and Dunadd shared a draw.

At the end of the group stages, the qualifying teams from the P7 group were Taynuilt and Aberdour who would face Kilmory and Bute respectively in the semi-finals. In the P5 section, it

was Rothesay and the Glasgow Gaels Yellows who would face Park Sparks and Glen Aray respectively.

Asserting

The P5 semi-finals got under way with the Glasgow Gaels soon asserting themselves over a young but spirited Park Sparks with the Gaels winning by five goals to one to book their place in the final.

The other semi-final was closer, however, with the Rothesay and Bute respectively in the semi-finals. The P5 final was equally close

but with the same outcome for Rothesay, who managed to squeeze through by a goal to nil.

The most exciting match of the day was played in the P7 semi-final with Taynuilt and Kilmory. Having played each other several times this year, both teams knew each other well. It was Kilmory who scored near the end of the game to secure their place in the final.

With that result there was going to be a new name on the P7 trophy this year and it was the experienced Bute team who

beat Aberdour two goals to nil after extra time. Perhaps having given all in the semi-final, Kilmory couldn't quite match their semi-final result, and Bute secured a two goals to nil victory, to make it a double for the island teams.

Thanking

After thanking all those involved in the day, Euan McMurdo, Camanachd Association regional development officer, handed over to Davie Thomson, Macaulay Association president, for the presentation.

School shinty

The P5 teams were presented with their medals and Rothesay received the new shield.

The Sheena Cameron Memorial Shield was presented to Harry Turner of the Dunadd Destroyers team for his attitude and application throughout the days play and finally the P7 runners-up and winners were handed their medals and trophy to conclude the days proceedings.

Mini rugby teams hold Dalriada Festival in Lochaber
Mini rugby

MINI rugby teams from Argyll made the trip north to Highland hosts Lochaber RFC on Sunday as the Fort William club held their Dalriada Festival at their Banavie playing grounds.

Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mid Argyll and a few players from Isle of Mull RFC travelled for the penultimate festival of what has been a busy mini rugby season.

Some fantastic rugby was played in glorious conditions under the beautiful backdrop of Ben Nevis.

Scores from the festival were as follows:

- P4/5
- Etive Vikings 3-5 Lochaber A
- Lochaber B 2-2 Oban Lorne
- Etive Vikings 2-2 Oban Lorne
- Lochaber A 1-2 Lochaber B
- Etive Vikings 3-2 Lochaber B
- Lochaber A 2-3 Oban Lorne
- P6/7
- Lochaber A 0-5 Oban Lorne
- Etive Vikings 3-1 Mid Argyll
- Lochaber B 2-2 Oban Lorne
- Lochaber A 0-4 Mid Argyll
- Etive Vikings 3-3 Lochaber B
- Mid Argyll 1-3 Oban Lorne
- Etive Vikings 5-0 Lochaber A
- Lochaber B 5-0 Mid Argyll
- Etive Vikings 1-2 Oban Lorne
- Lochaber A 1-4 Lochaber B

Oban Lorne for the first time this season ran out as winners in each age group with some superb competition from the other participating teams.

The sides all meet again this Sunday and for the last time this season as Etive Vikings RFC host the last festival of the 2017/2018 Dalriada season. Kick off is noon at Taynuilt sports field.

Saints play well but lose out to late goal

St Joseph's	2
Oban Saints	1
SAFL Premier Division	

AN 84th-minute winner from striker Michael McGowan in Scotstoun last Sunday afternoon gave reigning champions St Joseph's FP the points they so desperately need if they are to have any chance of holding off the challenge of Goldenhill and retain their Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division crown.

Saints survived a fourth-minute scare when Scott Smith failed to capitalise on a missed clearance by Dene Cassells. Thankfully for Saints, Smith, who was a stand-out performer for the Scottish Amateur Football League Select at Tarbert the previous day, placed a very presentable chance from 18 yards just wide of Graham Douglas's right-hand post.

Saints replied in kind 10 minutes later when Paul Carmichael sent an attempted lob from the edge of the box over the St Joe's crossbar after a well-weighted ball over the top from captain Donald Campbell.



Dene Cassells heads over.

Despite the warm sunshine, the game zipped along at a good pace and although there was little at stake for Saints there remained a competitive edge to every challenge throughout the afternoon.

Slightly against the run of play Saints made the breakthrough in the 23rd minute with a passage of play started by Dene Cassells on his own 18-yard line. Making just his second start on the season, Cassells slid in well to beat Kieren O'Brien to a Colin Gailey through ball. Steven MacLeod latched onto the interception by Cassells and sent the ball up the right wing for Kerr Newbigging to chase. St Joe's striker Ryan Halpin tracked Newbigging's run and knocked the ball out for a throw-in which Newbigging took quickly to Paul Carmichael who turned and fired a low cross along the six-yard line for Donald Campbell to turn in at the back post.

St Joe's struck back when Michael McGowan threaded a 35th-minute pass through for a suspiciously offside looking Ryan Halpin. Referee Flanigan,

however, ignored the loud Saints appeals and allowed play to continue with Steven MacLeod having to look lively to nip in and turn the ball behind for a corner kick. Mr Flanigan made matters worse for Saints by failing to spot Ryan Halpin's use of his left arm to control the ball when rolling Willie Gemmell and tucking a John Paul Seagrave knock down from Martin McComish's corner kick into the bottom corner from six yards.

Both sides created further half chances before the interval which arrived after treatment for a head knock sustained by Keith Millar in making an excellent goal-line clearance to deny Ryan Halpin a tap-in from a Michael McGowan knock down.

Saints started the second half in positive fashion with Steven MacLeod having a rare shot on goal from 25 yards which Scott Urquhart saved well low down to his right.

Ryan Halpin lasted just five minutes of the second half before being replaced by veteran striker Stephen Dallas, the former Hibernian striker, who would use his considerable experience to keep the Saints back four on their toes.

In the 52nd minute, Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan linked up on the Saints left for Campbell to send a cut-back to Paul Carmichael who was denied a strike on goal by an excellent Keiran Greene sliding interception.

That proved to be the final involvement for Scottish Amateur



Saints keeper Graham Douglas saves from St Joseph's striker Ryan Halpin. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Football League Select skipper Greene, who was spared any further exertions and replaced on the left of the St Joe's back four by Kearn Docherty.

Also showing no ill effects from his earlier head knock was Keith Millar, whose tenacity in the centre circle dispossessed Colin Gailey and sent Donald Campbell through the inside left channel for a shot from 20 yards which Scott Urquhart saved well.

Saints gaffer Alex Craik rang the changes after 70 minutes, sending on Matthew Kelly and Fraser MacFarlane to replace Jamie Graham and Paul Carmichael.

As the second half wore on, the hosts pressed hard for the winning goal which they desperately needed to keep them in title race while Saints remained a threat on the counter-attack.

A driving run on the right wing in the 75th minute by Fraser MacFarlane left Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan groaning in frustration at the cut-back which failed to come as MacFarlane took one touch

too many and carried the ball behind.

MacFarlane fared better seven minutes later, teeing up Shaun MacIver for a shot from the corner of the box which flew just over the crossbar.

Michael McGowan, who remained a handful for the Saints defence, gained the reward for his endeavours with just six minutes remaining. An under the weather Matthew Kelly, who had been deployed in an unfamiliar left-back role, was robbed by the industrious McGowan, who cut in from the right and sent a sweet left-foot strike into the bottom corner past the despairing right hand of Graham Douglas.

Before the restart, the gaffer joined the fray in place of Kerr Newbigging and took the left-back berth, pushing Kelly into more familiar midfield territory.

Saints almost struck back immediately but were denied by an excellent save by Scott Urquhart. Willie Gemmell sent a long throw-in from the left onto the six-yard line where Craig MacEwan sent the ball spinning towards goal with the outside of

Football

his right boot. Scottish Amateur Football League Select keeper Urquhart showed lightning quick reactions to throw himself to his right and palm the ball away at full stretch.

At the other end, Stephen Dallas came close to adding a third for the home side with a 90th-minute header over the crossbar before Mr Flanigan brought proceedings to a close after three added minutes.

Despite the disappointment of a seventh defeat of the league campaign, Saints can console themselves that they once again ran reigning champions St Joe's very close and, with better luck on the day, may well have secured a share of the points.

Saints play their penultimate away fixture of the season this Saturday when they travel to Seedhill, Paisley, to face Alba Thistle.

Alba still have a chance of pipping St Joe's and Goldenhill to the Premier Division title so Saints can expect another difficult afternoon on the road.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4200

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Red and blacks go one over the eight

THERE were significant wins for Kinlochshiel, Lovat, Newtonmore, Oban Camanachd and Caberfeidh whilst Oban Celtic, Kilmallie, Inveraray and Fort William made Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup progress following the shinty action on Saturday May 12.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kyles Athletic 1 Kinlochshiel 3

The top two teams in the Marine Harvest Premiership met in a 3pm throw-up at Dunoon.

Kinlochshiel went into the match two points ahead of their rivals but in the knowledge this would be one of their sternest tests in their push for a second consecutive top flight title.

Both teams were at full strength and Kyles opened strongly, going in search of the opening goal.

It was Kinlochshiel, with Paul MacRae at full centre, who broke the deadlock on 30 minutes though.

Donald Nixon played a ball forward and Ali Nixon exchanged passes with John MacRae before holding off Andrew King and firing the ball through the keeper's legs from the edge of the 'D' to score for the second successive Saturday.

Referee Robert Baxter pointed to the penalty spot three minutes later.

Keith MacRae, who had dispossessed keeper John Whyte as he tried to clear, was pulled down by the goalie as he looked sure to score.

Jordan Fraser made no mistake from the spot, sending the ball into the top left corner of the net.

The visitors took control of the contest a couple of minutes before the break. A rebound off the keeper came to John MacRae who put the ball into the bottom corner of the net to make it 3-0.

Roddy MacDonald gave Kyles hope when he pulled a goal back five minutes into the second half. MacDonald came deep to gather possession and ran towards goal.

With the defence closing in, MacDonald, falling forward, managed a half-swing and the ball flew past the keeper from 20 yards out.

Kyles had possession in front of goal but they didn't test Kinlochshiel keeper Scott Kennedy enough which was largely down to a solid Kinlochshiel defensive display from Finlay MacRae, Mark MacDonald, David Falconer and Conor Cormack.

Keith MacRae and Jordan Fraser had chances to add to their side's goal count whilst, at the other end, a Grant Irvine shot hit the post.

Next up for Kyles is an Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Kingussie 2 Lovat 4

Lovat took advantage of Kyles Athletic's defeat to go second in the league following their 4-2 win over Kingussie in their 3pm throw-up at The Dell.

Kingussie were without Fraser Munro and Louis Munro, whilst Lovat were minus Calum Cruden, Craig Mainland, Duncan Davidson and Scott MacKenzie.

The latter will struggle to play again this season following a nasty hand injury. Drew Howie returned at full back and Martin Mainland was back after a spell sidelined through injury, starting at wing back.

Lovat took the lead on 26 minutes. A long shy from Danny Kelly Young got away from the danger area. Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson's clearance hit Marc MacLachlan, who was closing him down, and the ball fell kindly for the Lovat full forward who tapped the ball into the net.

Lovat doubled their lead a couple of minutes later. Thomas Fraser sent a corner long to the back post where Marc MacLachlan and Robert Mabon challenged for possession. This allowed Lewis Tawse to sneak in to chip the ball back across goal to Greg Matheson on the edge of the box who had all the time in the world to send the ball high over the keeper's head and into the net.

Kingussie halved Lovat's lead a minute before half-time. Roddy Young got away from his marker to run onto a Ruaridh Anderson pass and he fired the ball through keeper Stuart MacDonald's legs to make it 2-1. Lovat restored their two-goal cushion three minutes into the second half.

Marc MacLachlan gathered possession from a long defensive clearance.

He controlled the ball before slipping in Thomas Fraser, who had lost his marker and made a great run, and, from the penalty spot, Fraser sent a low, first time shot into the bottom corner of the net to notch his first senior goal.

Kingussie came back again shortly after and Roddy Young finished well again for his second goal of the afternoon. This was a good individual effort from Young who got away from Daniel Grieve and, with keeper MacDonald coming off his line, spreading himself to narrow the angle, Young slipped the ball under his body and into the net to make it 3-2 on 54 minutes.

Lovat made sure of the win 15 minutes before time with a second goal from Scotland forward Greg Matheson. Matheson, by this time at full forward, collected a low ball played in to the goal area and, after a tussle with Robert Mabon, Matheson cut back towards the penalty spot before turning and hitting a terrific back-hand shot into the top left corner of the net

to make it 4-2. Kingussie took Lee Bain off the bench midway through the second half for his first appearance following injury. Kingussie had the chance from the penalty spot to set up a grand-stand finish but Roddy Young sent a penalty wide of the post.

This was an entertaining game with both keepers - Craig Dawson and Stuart MacDonald making excellent saves - with Dawson the busier of the two custodians.

Oban Camanachd 9 Lochaber 0

Oban Camanachd powered past Lochaber, winning 9-0 in their noon throw-up at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan returned and started at full centre. Matt Rippon and Keith MacMillan were both missing. The Oban forwards, in a diamond formation, were Willie Neilson, Lorne Dickie, Daniel MacVicar and Andrew MacCuish.

Lochaber were without John MacKenzie, Brian MacDonald and Martin Johnston. Danny Delaney started up front alongside Stuart Callison, Connor Sweeney and Shaun Nicolson.

The Oban side, who have found league goals difficult to come by this season, made a devastating start to the game, scoring six goals in the opening 36 minutes.

Daniel MacVicar started things off after just 90 seconds. The goal came following a corner. MacVicar blocked an attempted clearance out of the Lochaber defence and the ball took a bounce before he struck a shot through the keeper's legs and into the corner of the net.

MacVicar got his second on 10 minutes when he ran onto a Scott MacMillan ball over the top to score.

Malcolm Clark added a third with a great goal a couple of minutes later when he picked up a ball in the middle of the park before running to the right and rocketing a 25 yard shot into the top corner of the net.

Andrew MacCuish got the first of his three goals on 14 minutes. Scott MacMillan, who ran the show from the middle of the park, lobbed the ball forward from midfield and MacCuish sent the ball high into the net from the edge of the 'D'.

MacCuish got his second on 29 minutes when he took a Scott MacMillan corner out of the air and beat a couple of defenders before shooting low into the net to make it 5-0.

Lochaber were forced to make a change in defence as full back Brennan MacDonald came off injured.

A sixth goal followed on 36 minutes. Buckshee forward Willie Neilson and full forward Andrew MacCuish had just swapped positions when Neilson slammed the ball high into the net from 15 yards out.

Lochaber manager Neil Mac-



Lochaber's Shaun Nicolson battles for the ball with Oban Camanachd's David Lafferty during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield which the Oban side won 9-0.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Donald kept his players on the pitch during the half-time interval and left them in no doubt of his displeasure.

The second half started badly for the Spean Bridge side as Willie Neilson had his legs taken a way inside the 'D' and referee Graham Cameron awarded a penalty.

Andrew MacCuish completed his hat-trick, giving the keeper no chance as he crashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Willie Neilson scored his second on 53 minutes when he got on the end of a Malcolm Clark ball on the right, beat his marker and, on the move, drove the ball on the angle, over the keeper and into the net to make it 8-0.

Camanachd manager Ian Hay made three changes in attack on 65 minutes with Daniel MacCuish, Craig MacDougall and Gavin Stobbart, back after injury, taking over from Andrew MacCuish, Daniel MacVicar and Willie Neilson.

Lochaber rallied and went on to have best spell in the game but Oban goalie Cameron Sutherland was equal to anything they could throw at him.

Craig MacDougall was unlucky not to score when his shot skimmed the crossbar and Willie Neilson, who had come back on after Lorne Dickie had taken a slight knock, came close to completing his hat-trick.

Daniel MacCuish rounded off the 9-0 win with a couple of minutes remaining. The ball broke to MacCuish following a goalmouth melee and he finished confidently, hitting the ball low into the net.

The win lifts Oban Camanachd into the top half of the table and their attention now turns to this weekend's Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-final against Inveraray at Mossfield. Matt Rippon will return but Keith MacMillan remains unavailable through work commitments.

Caberfeidh 5 Glenurquhart 0

What a difference a week makes as Caberfeidh and Glenurquhart met for the second successive Saturday, this time in the league at Castle Leod.

Glenurquhart were penalty shoot-out winners in their Artemis Macaulay Cup tie at Blairbeg a week earlier but Caberfeidh ran out convincing 5-0 winners in this one.

Martin MacDonald, Scott MacLachlan and Jamie Matheson were all sidelined for Caberfeidh.

Glenurquhart's Ally MacKintosh returned from suspension and Andrew Corrigan was included. Lachie Smith, John Peteranna and Finlay Ralston

all missed out through injury. Jamie MacKintosh broke the deadlock on 12 minutes. A huge Blair Morrison shy from the left put the Glenurquhart defence under pressure and, when the ball was worked across goal from the left, Jamie MacKintosh slammed a shot home at the second attempt.

It got even better for the home support almost straight from the restart.

This time Ally MacLennan's ball forward caused the problem and triggered a quick exchange of passes and Kevin Bartlett slotted the ball home with a shot from the right of the 'D', striking the ball on his left side.

Kevin Bartlett, who suffered penalty shoot-out frustration the previous week, got his second on 38 minutes. Bartlett played a one-two before sending the ball low into the corner of the net, beating Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh on his left side.

Craig Morrison got in on the act, adding goals on 62 and 73 minutes. His first came when he gathered a loose clearance before driving over Stuart MacKintosh's right shoulder and into the net.

Morrison rounded off the win with a clever scoop over the keeper from the right of the 'D' when the Glenurquhart defence failed to deal with a corner from the right.

Despite the win, Caberfeidh drop to sixth in the division, behind Oban Camanachd on goal difference, ahead of this week's cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi-final against Kinlochshiel at Kirkton.

Newtonmore 7 Skye Camanachd 1

Four goals in the five minutes before half-time helped Newtonmore to a 7-1 win over Skye Camanachd in their 3pm throw-up at The Eilan.

Newtonmore are starting to get players back from injury, although Steven MacDonald and Jamie Robinson are still out.

Skye's Iain Nicolson returned from injury and started at full forward. Jordan Murchison was out with a hamstring strain though and Danny Morrison was unavailable. There were call-ups for Ally 'Spod' MacLeod and Jamie Gillies and both started on the bench.

There was little sign of what was to follow during the first 40 minutes of the match. Skye gave a good account of themselves as the game remained goal-less.

A display of powerful finishing saw Newtonmore turn on the style as they scored four times in quick succession.

A rasping Neil Stewart shot

opened the scoring on 40 minutes and Evan Menzies blasted home a second three minutes later. Glen MacKintosh on 44 minutes and another from Evan Menzies on the stroke of half-time made it 4-0 at the break.

Skye looked deflated and substitute Iain Robinson added two more goals on 57 and 59 minutes.

Ewen Fraser, who also came off the bench, added a seventh on 64 minutes.

James Pringle scored a consolation goal for Skye a couple of minutes later.

The win takes Newtonmore to within a point of third placed Kyles Athletic and they have a game in hand.

Skye are still to win their first point of the season and their next two matches are against Lochaber and Glenurquhart, the teams immediately above them in the table.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - first round

Oban Celtic 5 Strathglass 1

Ally McKerracher's hat-trick helped Oban Celtic through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round after they defeated Strathglass 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Mossfield.

Oban Celtic were missing captain Daniel Madej and two of their regular back four - Fulton Ronald and Michael MacKinnon - and Kieran Gallacher. George MacMillan returned, whilst John Hill stepped in at full back and had a good game in what was his first appearance of the season.

Strathglass manager Bruce Douglas and his assistant Roy MacKenzie were also without a number of regulars and they travelled with just 12 players.

Hamish Myers, Seth Jones, Penri Jones, Ross Balharry, Michael Stokes, Steven Hyslop, Archie Wotherspoon, Lewis Douglas, Sam Todd, Jono Price and Lawrence Jones made up almost an entire team of absentees. Adam Todd played in goal, with Ally MacAdams in attack. Youth players Niall MacCallum, Cameron Butler, Colin Birnie, Alasdair MacLean and Thomas MacLean were included and acquitted themselves well.

Ally McKerracher fired the Oban side into the lead on 20 minutes when he finished off some nice forward link-up play.

A second goal followed a couple of minutes later and it was McKerracher again. It wasn't his best strike of the afternoon but the ball went into the net

through the keeper's legs.

The away defence were keeping a close eye on Ross MacMillan but, despite this, he was unlucky not to add a third just before the break. With Lewis McPhee keeping Strathglass danger man Scott Douglas quiet and Neil Carmichael getting the better of Darren Reid in the middle of the park, Oban Celtic went for more goals.

And they added a third on 57 minutes. A clever turn from Ally McKerracher at the edge of the 'D' saw him get away from his marker and he threaded the ball to the side to Ross MacMillan who thumped a shot home to make it 3-0.

Three minutes later, Oban Celtic had the chance to add a fourth. Ally McKerracher advanced through a cluster of challenges, only to be wiped out inside the box and referee Ronnie Campbell pointed to the penalty spot.

Regular penalty taker Ross MacMillan stepped aside to allow Ally McKerracher the chance to complete his hat-trick.

But McKerracher didn't catch the ball as he'd have liked and keeper Adam Todd saved.

Strathglass had the ball in the net shortly after but wing centre Colin Birnie's 35 yard shot from wide on the right was ruled out for offside as a team mate was just inside the 'D'.

With 67 minutes played, Daniel MacMillan, having his best game this term, got his first goal of the season. A long ball forward from Neil Carmichael was touched to the side by Ally McKerracher to Ross MacMillan whose shot was saved but Daniel MacMillan was first to react to tap home the rebound to make it 4-0.

Oban Celtic boss Kenny Wotherspoon made three changes with Carmichael, MacKechnie and Hunt making way for Cooke, Craig MacMillan and Burnett.

The pace of the game dropped somewhat and there was no further scoring until the final five minutes of the tie.

First, Ally MacAdams pulled a goal back for Strathglass on 85 minutes with a low drive which beat Iain MacFarlane in the Celtic goal.

But three minutes later, Oban Celtic made it 5-1. Ally McKerracher's cracking shot sailed high into net to complete the scoring and give McKerracher a deserved hat-trick.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'I fully understand both teams were short this afternoon but take nothing away from my boys, winning 5-1 today was excellent and the lads ticked all the boxes. We led 2-0 at half-time and, at the break, I asked the boys to be more direct, telling them there were more goals in this for us. Fulton Ronald and Michael MacKinnon will return next week so the squad looks strong for the game against Fort William. We'll wait to see whether Daniel Madej can recover from his foot injury in time. I'd also like to see John Hill commit more as he did very well for us today.'

Ballachulish 0 Kilmallie 14

Marine Harvest National Division leaders Kilmallie returned to action for their first game for three weeks as they beat Marine Harvest South Division 1 side Ballachulish 14-0 at The Jubilee Park.

Michael Rodger grabbed a hat-trick, whilst there were doubles from Daniel Stewart, Innes Blackhall, Calum MacDougall and Craig MacIsaac. Bryan MacKay also scored and when referee Alex MacVicar awarded Kilmallie a penalty, keeper Shane Gillies came forward to convert, claiming a rare goal.

The sides also played for the Iain Aitchison Trophy and Kilmallie were delighted to take the trophy home.



Kinlochshiel's Ali Nixon gets away from his marker Andrew King to shoot and score the first goal in Kinlochshiel's 3-1 win over Kyles Athletic. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

**Inveraray 2
Glasgow Mid Argyll 0**
Two early goals gave Inveraray a 2-0 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll on a heavy Winterton pitch. Craig Taylor put Inveraray ahead on four minutes, striking a shot on his left side, with the ball taking a wicked bounce in front of the keeper.

Lewis MacNicol made it 2-0 on 15 minutes with a shoulder high strike from the left which went across the keeper into the far corner of the net.

GMA were struggling at the back but settled into the game and had a chance to cut Inveraray's lead when they were awarded a penalty towards the end of the first half.

Craig Anderson was unable to find the net from the spot though.

Inveraray's experience showed and they saw out the rest of the match to take their place in the second round.

Referee Ross Brown tried to let the game flow as much as possible but he was forced to issue five yellow cards as the contest got tony at times.

**Taynuilt v
Fort William W/O**

Marine Harvest National Division side Fort William were given a walk-over into the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round.

They were scheduled to play Taynuilt from Marine Harvest South Division 1 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

However the pitch failed a Saturday morning inspection so the venue was switched to An Aird.

Taynuilt were unable to muster a team for the journey north so Fort William were given free passage into the last 16 of the competition.

This also means Fort William's Alexander MacMillan will miss this week's encounter with Oban Celtic as he serves a one-match suspension for passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – first round

**Aberdeen University 1
Beaully 5**

Beaully took the final place in the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup second round after they beat Aberdeen University 5-1 at Balgownie.

Two goals late in the first half gave Beaully the edge. Jack MacDonald put them in front on 41 minutes and Sean Stewart got a second a couple of minutes later. Alex Duncan was on target for

the students on 55 minutes but Robbie Brindle on 68 minutes, Daniel Lamont on 77 minutes and Robbie Brindle again three minutes from time made the final score 5-1.

Beaully now play Glengarry at Craighard in what looks to be an intriguing quarter-final tie.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Newtonmore 0
Fort William 3**

The top four sides in Marine Harvest North Division 1 met with the Newtonmore and Fort William second teams starting things off in a noon throw-up at The Eilan.

Mark Fraser gave third-placed Fort William the lead on 31 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Greg Kelly scored twice in the second half.

His goals came on 64 and 87 minutes, inflicting Newtonmore's first league defeat of the season.

Newtonmore's Ryan Spinks was sent off by referee Martin MacLean with a couple of minutes remaining.

Newtonmore stay top but only on goal difference over second-placed Glengarry.

**Skye Camanachd 2
Glengarry 5**

A Nick Dalgety treble helped Glengarry beat the Skye Camanachd seconds 5-2 at a sunny Paicr nan Laoch, Portree.

Glengarry took the lead on seven minutes when Nick Dalgety knocked home a rebound and a John MacKinnon snapshot made it 2-0 on 19 minutes.

Skye's Angie MacDonald hammered the ball home when he got onto a David MacInnes pass on 29 minutes and it stayed 2-1 until the break.

Glengarry won the match at the start of the second half.

The second period was only 30 seconds old when Nick Dalgety sent the ball spinning into the net to make it 3-1 after two good stops from Skye goalie Ryan Morrison.

Nick Dalgety completed his hat-trick on 49 minutes when he forced his way into the 'D' to score.

Visiting goalie Gordon MacDonald made a brilliant save, above his head with his stick, to deny Angie MacDonald a second Skye goal.

Stewart Taylor made it 4-2 on 62 minutes after a surging run up the right wing from Skye substitute Sam MacPhee.

Raymond Robertson completed the scoring on 82 minutes, netting following a George James Henderson corner on the right.



Oban Celtic's hat-tick hero Ally McKerracher slips the ball past a Strathglass defender during their Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round tie at Mossfield. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

**Kingussie 3
Glenurquhart 0**

The Kingussie reserves go fourth in the division after they defeated the Glenurquhart reserves 3-0 in their noon throw up at The Dell. Kingussie did the damage in the first half. Kevin Thain gave them the lead on 10 minutes.

Russell Menzies added two more with efforts on 35 and 40 minutes.

Kingussie now go a point ahead of Skye who drop to fifth, with the sides meeting at The Dell this Saturday.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Aberdour 3
Bute 2**

Aberdour came from behind to beat Bute 3-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Silversands.

Bute pair Chris Lawrence and Arran Dunn were banned following their red cards against Oban Celtic the previous weekend and the islanders travelled with just 11 players.

Ian McDonald gave Bute the lead on 12 minutes but their advantage was short-lived as David MacKenzie equalised a couple of minutes later.

Angus Thorburn scored on 29 minutes to give the hosts a 2-1 lead at the break.

Ruaridh Reid made it 3-1 on 55 minutes. Bute never gave up and John MacCallum made it 3-2 on 75 minutes.

The win lifts Aberdour to second in the table, two points behind the Kyles Athletic second team who have a game in hand.

**Tayforth P
Inveraray P**

Tayforth and the Inveraray seconds agreed to re-arrange their meeting at Levenhall Links.

The match will now be re-scheduled for a later date.

**Kyles Athletic P
Kilmory P**

With the Kyles Athletic second team at home later in the day, the noon meeting between the Kyles Athletic second team and Kilmory will be re-scheduled as The Dunoon Stadium was unable to take two matches.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Inverness 1
Beaully 2**

The match between the Inverness and Beaully colts, postponed from earlier in the season, was played at The Bught Park on Wednesday May 9 with a 7pm start.

Inverness fielded a strong side, which included Charlie MacDonald, and they took the lead in the first minute through Michael Price.

Callum Flynn levelled on 10 minutes and that's the way it stayed until 5 minutes from time when Beaully's Duncan Anderson scored what proved to be the winner.

**Lovat 4
Lochaber 0**

The Lovat colts stay top of the division after they beat the Lochaber colts 4-0 at Balgiate.

Lovat's Raymond Rennie notched the opener on 15 minutes and Duncan Urquhart made it 2-0 on 22 minutes.

A Ryan Ferguson strike on 31 minutes made it 3-1 at the interval.

Ryan Ferguson got his second on 84 minutes to round off the 4-0 victory.

**Inverness 1
Caberfeidh 3**

The Caberfeidh second team came from a goal down to beat the Inverness second team 3-1 at The Bught Park.

Inverness made a powerful start to the game, keeping Caberfeidh keeper Ian McColl, who was playing with a back injury, busy during the early stages.

Caberfeidh started to come more into it so it was against the run of play that Michael Price gave the hosts the lead on 16 minutes when he turned a long ball forward into the net to make it 1-0.

Caberfeidh lost defender Kyle MacLeod with a rib injury. Player/manager Andrew MacMaster came on at full back with Declan Wilson going to wing back.

Caberfeidh levelled on 29 minutes when the impressive Paul Ross gathered possession in midfield before running at the Inverness defence and sending a blistering 30-yard shot high into the net. Caberfeidh took the lead for the first time on 65 minutes when Ruaridh McCreadie went on a mazy run before finding Kyle Grant at the back post who showed great composure to score.

There were chances at both ends before Kyle MacLeod, now back on the pitch, rifled the ball home to make it 3-1.

This was at times a bruising encounter but the Caberfeidh win means they still only trail league leaders Lovat on goal difference and they have a game in hand.

**Boleskine 6
Beaully 2**

Boleskine stay fourth in the division after they beat the Beaully reserves 6-2 at Smith Park.

Stuart MacRae on 16 minutes and James Anderson on 39 minutes had Boleskine 2-0 ahead at half-time. Ross Anderson added a third on 55 minutes but Callum Flynn pulled a goal back 10 minutes later.

Boleskine's Stevie Bone scored on 70 and 85 minutes, either side of a second from Stuart MacRae on 82 minutes, to make it 6-1, although Beaully's Callum Flynn

got his second, his third goal of the week, a minute from time.

**Lewis Camanachd 3
Strathspey Camanachd 3**

Lewis Camanachd played their first home match of the season, with Strathspey Camanachd the visitors to Shawbost.

Willie MacLeod, originally from Broadford, Skye, went close on 10 minutes when he followed up a Donald Lamont shot. Peter Ross saved the initial strike but struggled to clear his lines and MacLeod's effort went wide of the post.

Connor Aubrey sent a 20 yard shot wide of the Lewis goal on 16 minutes.

Lewis took the lead a couple of minutes later when brothers Ally and Donald Lamont combined to great effect. Donald Lamont's 22 yard shot beat keeper Peter Ross at his right-hand corner.

Lewis put pressure on the Strathspey defence and they were rewarded with a second goal on 23 minutes. A shy from the right found Donald Lamont and he flicked the ball to David Leary who sent a rocket shot into the middle of the Strathspey goal.

The visitors almost pulled a goal back from a corner on their left.

The ball was floated in and found Connor Aubrey 18 yards out and he smashed a goal-bound shot which was saved superbly by Connor MacDonald in the Lewis goal.

David Leary added a third Lewis goal on the half hour mark. Leary found space on the right and drilled a shot at Peter Ross who thought he had kept it out but the ball crept over the line.

Strathspey grabbed a lifeline seven minutes later with what turned out to be the goal of the match. Martin Ross won the ball from Ally Lamont and found Connor Aubrey on the right. Aubrey looked up and drilled an unstoppable back-hand past a helpless keeper. This was to make the second half interest-

ing with Strathspey now having wind advantage.

Strathspey pressed the Lewis defence back and Matthew Davies got his second on 57 minutes. Xander Ross picked out Matthew Davies on the Strathspey right who struck a lovely low shot to the keeper's right side.

The Strathspey comeback was completed on 81 minutes.

A scuffed goal-hit went straight to Connor Aubrey around 20 yards from goal and he punished the error, slotting the ball home for his second goal of the game.

Lewis withstood constant Strathspey pressure during the closing stages and were relieved to hear the final whistle.

**Strathglass 1
Lochcarron 2**

Two early goals gave Lochcarron a 2-1 win over the Strathglass colts at Cannich.

Peter MacKenzie gave the hosts the lead on nine minutes, with Crisdean Finlayson making it 2-0 a minute later.

Strathglass pulled a goal back through Penri Jones a couple of minutes before the break.

However, with no scoring dung the second half, the Strathglass seconds stayed in front to take the points.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Strachur 0
Bute 0**

The Bute reserves will be the happier side following their 0-0 draw against league leaders Strachur at Strachurmore.

Strachur remain top, whilst the Bute seconds stay fourth.

**Glenorchy 1
Glasgow Mid Argyll 3**

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team climb above Glenorchy into second place after they beat their rivals 3-1 at Mart Park.

Goals from Angus MacInnes, Jack Berg and Nick Lavin's penalty made the difference for the Glasgow side.

**Aberdour P
Oban Celtic P**

The match between the Aberdour second team and the Oban Celtic second team at Silversands will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Macaulay Sixes

The popular 2018 Artemis Macaulay Sixes will take place at Mossfield, Oban, on Sunday June 17.

There will be two national competitions this year:

- The senior competition for the Ian Cumming Memorial Trophy is for players aged primary 7 (and under)
- The junior competition for the Alistair Campbell Shield is for players aged primary 5 (and under)

Any teams wishing to enter the competitions should send a completed entry form to Davie Hamilton, The Shieling, Longdale Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5JU by Sunday June 10 to allow time to prepare the running schedule for the day.

Applications can be downloaded from www.shinty.com.

Fixtures

Saturday May 19

Cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi final

Lovat v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh
Martin Maclean

Glasgow Celtic Society Celtic Semi Final

Oban Camanachd v Inveraray
Robert Baxter
Glasgow MA v Kyles Athletic
Lachie Wood - 3pm

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Lochside Rovers v Kyles Ath, Des McNulty

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lochaber v Skye
Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William v Oban Celtic
Ross Brown - 3pm
Strathglass v Kilmallie
Calum Girvan - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Kinlochshiel
Ross Brown - noon
Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies
Kingussie v Skye
John Matheson

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish v Tayforth
Ted McDonald
Col Glen v Taynuilt
Graham Fisher
Kilmory v Aberdour
Alex MacVicar
Inveraray v Bute
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh v Boleskine
Ronnie Campbell
Lewis v Beaully
Henry MacInnes
Lochcarron v Inverness
Iain Kennedy
Lovat v Kilmallie
Steven MacLachlan - noon
Strathglass v Lochaber
Calum Girvan - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Aberdour
Ewan MacDonald
Glasgow MA v Oban Celtic
Neil MacDonald - noon
Glenorchy v Strachur
Jim Innes

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Wednesday May 9

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness 1 v 2 Beaully

Saturday May 12

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 1st round

Ballachulish 0 v 14 Kilmallie
Fort William P v P Taynuilt
Walkover to Fort William
Inveraray 2 v 0 Glasgow MA
Oban Celtic 5 v 1 Strathglass

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup 1st round

Aberdeen Uni 1 v 5 Beaully

Marine Harvest Premiership

Caberfeidh 5 v 0 Glenurquhart
Kingussie 2 v 4 Lovat
Kyles Athletic 1 v 3 Kinshiel
Newtonmore 7 v 1 Skye
Oban Caman 9 v 0 Lochaber

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie 3 v 0 Glenurquhart
Newtonmore 0 v 3 Fort William
Skye 2 v 5 Glengarry

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 3 v 2 Bute
Tayforth P v P Inveraray
Tie to be rescheduled
Kyles Athletic P v P Kilmory
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 6 v 2 Beaully
Inverness 1 v 3 Caberfeidh
Lewis 3 v 3 Strathspey
Lovat 4 v 0 Lochaber
Strathglass 1 v 2 Lochcarron

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour P v P Oban Celtic
Tie to be rescheduled
Glenorchy 1 v 3 Glasgow MA
Strachur 0 v 0 Bute

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup draw - second round



John Russell and George Fraser with the Camanachd Cup

THE DRAW for the second round of the 2018 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup was made on Monday by George Fraser, Tulloch Homes and John Russell, Russwood, at Russwood's Station Sawmill in Newtonmore.

The second round ties will be played on Saturday June 2. This year's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final will take place on Saturday September 15 at Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

George Fraser and John Russell played together in the 1985 Newtonmore Camanachd Cup winning side that won the Grand Slam of trophies during season 1984/85

Camanachd Cup second round draw:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Caberfeidh v Kingussie | Lochaber v Newtonmore |
| Skye v Lovat | Bute v Beaully |
| Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic | Inveraray v Kilmallie |
| Fort William v Oban Celtic | Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd |



Scottish Amateur League president Matt Armstrong, right, leads both sets of players and match officials in a round of applause before Saturday's match for Duncan MacDougall and Przemek Krawczyk, victims of the Nancy Glen disaster. Duncan played in this fixture for the Argyll Select on a number of occasions. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Six of the best for Argyll Select

Argyll Select 6
SAFL Select 1
Joe Paterson Trophy

THERE were only five fixtures on the Scottish Amateur Football League card last Saturday as the Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match between the Argyll and League selects took centre stage at Cil Andreis Park, Tarbert. Named in memory of eminent amateur football administrator Joe Paterson, who was match secretary from 1953-1980 and instrumental in convincing the Scottish Amateur Football League to admit clubs from Argyll, the annual challenge match between the Scottish Amateur Football League Select and an Argyll Select has been one of the highlights of the season since 1982.

The League Select's day began in inauspicious circumstances when mechanical problems with the team bus made them late in leaving. However, much to the relief of the large crowd which had gathered in the sunshine, the travelling party eventually made it through to Tarbert with

only a 30-minute delay to the scheduled 1pm kick-off.

Prior to kick-off, League president Matt Armstrong led the players and match officials in a one-minute round of applause in memory of Tarbert stalwart Duncan "TT" MacDougall who, along with crew member Przemek Krawczyk, was killed in January in the sinking of the Nancy Glen fishing boat, a tragedy from which the close-knit Tarbert community is still recovering.

Unfortunately, the bad start to the day for the League quickly transferred onto the field of play and they found themselves three goals down after just eight minutes. The League defence, and in particular the normally very dependable St Joseph's keeper Scott Urquhart, had an extremely shaky start, gifting simple tap-ins for prolific Lochgilphead Red Star striker Keiran Moore in the second and sixth minutes before Keiran's older brother, Arron, added a third two minutes later.

After the nightmare start, the League Select eventually settled

into the game with the central midfield partnership of Scott Gold and Scott Smith enjoying a good battle with their Argyll counterparts, Donald Campbell and Arron Moore.

Impressive St Joseph's FP midfielder Smith came close for the League, clipping the top of the Argyll crossbar with a good ninth-minute dipping effort from 25 yards.

Argyll goalkeeper Graham Douglas was forced into action in the 15th minute and made a comfortable save from a Cameron Harkins free kick after Argyll captain Fraser Talbot had felled League striker David Edwards.

The League defence regained some of its composure with goalkeeper Scott Urquhart looking assured in claiming a 16th-minute Martin McCallum free kick from wide on the Argyll right under pressure from Nikki MacDougall, and skipper Keiran Greene making an excellent sliding interception to prevent the Duncan MacDougall man of the match-winning Keiran Moore from bursting through 60 seconds later.

At the other end, Argyll left-back Keith Mitchell was also on his toes to see off a promising run from young League striker Shaun McCafferty. After mopping up the threat from McCafferty, Argyll broke quickly on the right through Ryan Deans and Keiran Moore with Moore teeing up Donald Campbell on the corner of the box for a curling effort just over the crossbar.

Oban Saints team-mates Donald Campbell and Scott Maitland combined on the Argyll left with Campbell holding off the challenge of League right-back Daniel Smith to set up Keiran Moore for a 32nd-minute shot which flew inches wide of Scott Urquhart's left-hand post.

The Argyll defence dealt



The Argyll Select pictured before last Saturday's convincing win in the Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match at Tarbert.

comfortably with a deep Stuart Ashton corner kick from the League left in the 42nd minute allowing Donald Campbell to send a good ball over the top for Keiran Moore to chase. Fortunately for the League, Scott Gold was alive to the danger and got back well to deny the Argyll striker a one-on-one with Scott Urquhart.

An excellent first half for Argyll ended with Martin McCallum overlapping fellow Campbeltown Pupils man Ryan Deans on the right and firing in a dangerous low cross which Leon Morrow did well to cut out at the front post.

The League Select, who had battled back well after a poor start, came out strongly at the start of the second half and were almost through on goal within 60 seconds of the restart. Only a well-timed sliding interception from Keith Mitchell prevented Shaun McCafferty from getting a shot away after the League striker had burst through on the end of a Scott Smith through ball.

The League side forced their way forward again on the left in the 48th minute. Cameron Harkins almost caught out Graham Douglas with a cross on the run which the backpedaling keeper only just managed to get fingertips on to turn the ball over his crossbar.

League left-back Daniel Colbert picked up the first yellow card of the afternoon in the 58th minute for a trip on Keiran Moore. Moore took the free-kick himself but his curling effort from 27 yards lacked power and presented Scott Urquhart with an easy save.

Moore, however, was not to be denied his hat-trick and 60

seconds later he pulled down a Scott Maitland cross in the box and steered a good low finish past Scott Urquhart's left hand.

The early first-half jitters returned to the League defence just after the hour mark when hesitation in the box allowed Nikki MacDougall of host club Tarbert to nip in and force the ball past Scott Urquhart from nine yards to add a fifth goal for Argyll.

The more advanced role for Martin McCallum almost paid dividends for Argyll in the 73rd minute. Keiran Moore's tireless running won a throw-in off Daniel Smith on the Argyll left and level with the penalty spot. Moore and Scott Maitland worked the ball into the box where McCallum struck a fierce volley with the outside of his right foot which smacked against the well beaten Scott Urquhart's left-hand post before being thumped clear.

A flurry of changes from both sides with 16 minutes remaining saw Scott Soudan and Lewis MacNaughton replace Nikki MacDougall and Martin McCallum for Argyll, and Kerr Hunter and Robbie Martin swap places with Cameron Harkins and David Edwards for the League.

The League adjusted quicker to the changes and Kyle Reid and Robbie Martin combined well for Martin to pull a goal back in the 77th minute and deny Oban Saints number one Graham Douglas a highly prized clean sheet.

Referee Pat O'Donnell who, along with assistants Matthew Denne and Chris Sanderson, handled proceedings impeccably throughout, issued his second and final caution in the 80th minute to League right back

Daniel Smith for a late challenge on livewire Keiran Moore.

With five minutes remaining, Scott Soudan's tenacity in the box robbed Daniel Smith on the six-yard line and left him one-on-one with keeper Scott Urquhart.

Soudan's stabbed effort was stopped by Urquhart's outstretched right foot but, typical of the League keeper's luck on the day, the rebound fell kindly for the Campbeltown Pupils striker who rounded the prostrate Urquhart and walked the ball into the empty net.

Soudan's goal equalled the record winning margin for the long-running series and the League have Scott Urquhart to thank for preventing Keiran Moore from raising the bar another notch in the 89th minute. Keiran Greene found the reserves of energy to keep pace with Moore's run to connect

Football



Argyll Select captain Fraser Talbot receives the Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy from Scottish Amateur Football League president Matt Armstrong.

with a Lee McLean through ball. The League skipper, however, couldn't prevent Moore from getting a shot away from a tight angle which Urquhart spread himself well at his front post to push behind for a corner kick.

Mr O'Donnell's full-time whistle brought to an end an entertaining encounter with the players and officials retiring to the Islay Frigate Hotel for the presentation ceremony and some richly deserved refreshments where SAFL president Matt Armstrong presented Keiran Moore with the Duncan MacDougall Trophy for his man of the match performance.

Argyll captain Fraser Talbot was then presented with the Joe Paterson Trophy from Mr Armstrong.



Hat-trick hero Keiran Moore slots home Argyll's second goal.

Photo: Mark Davy



Argyll's Scott Maitland heads this corner clear.

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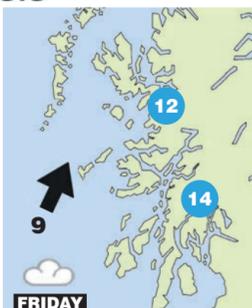
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 17, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	00.42	0.5	06.44	4.0	13.00	0.4	18.52	3.9	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.28	0.2	07.26	3.8	13.45	0.5	19.35	3.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.18	0.7	08.12	3.6	14.33	0.7	20.22	3.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.14	0.9	09.04	3.3	15.27	0.9	21.16	3.4	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.16	1.1	10.08	3.0	16.27	1.1	22.21	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.29	1.3	11.47	2.9	17.34	1.2	23.53	3.1				
Wed	06.53	1.4	13.23	2.9	18.46	1.3	***	**				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny Light winds from the south west Temperatures 7°C to 15°C
Friday	Cloudy with sunny intervals Breezy from the south south west Temperatures 9°C to 14°C
Weekend	Cloudy on Saturday
Outlook	Light rain on Sunday Breezy from the south Temperatures 9°C to 14°C



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Strontian home to reopen as a respite care provider

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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RESIDENTIAL respite care facilities for elderly residents in Strontian will be reopening following months of pressure from community groups.

Final works are currently being undertaken to make Dail Mhor House care home ready to receive residents following a sustained campaign by the community urging NHS Highland to protect these services, which have been identified as the most urgent in the area.

The campaign included the launch of a petition which has been signed by almost 2,000 people in less than two months. At a recent meeting between NHS Highland and community representatives, it was agreed that Dail Mhor can be reopened as a care facility one week after these works are completed, and June 7 has been earmarked as the official reopening date.

NHS Highland has since confirmed that, once reopened, Dail Mhor House will provide three residential respite care places. There are also plans to establish a range of day services at the home and work has already started to identify which other services are of priority.

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland's deputy director of operations, north and west Highland operational unit, said: 'It has been agreed with the community that the provision of respite care is the most important need to be met locally both in the short term and in the future.'

'We are, therefore, working together with community

representatives to implement a sustainable solution as quickly as possible.

'Alongside this, we will continue to work with both the community and our Highland Council colleagues to explore additional alternative models of care for the future. This will include housing-based solutions in local communities that will help support residents to remain in their own homes for longer.'

Dail Mhor House closed last August due to an emergency plumbing issue, with all five residents being relocated, casting doubt over the care home's future.

In response, the community councils of west Lochaber worked together to launch a petition earlier this year calling for NHS Highland to reopen the Strontian care home's residential facilities.

Sunart Community Council (SCC) said that this community pressure and the petition 'undoubtedly helped' the community's argument for the reopening of Dail Mhor House and it is 'essential' for that support to continue in the future.

A representative from SCC said: 'We are all focused on shaping its short- to medium-term future, and the better we work together to move beyond this unfortunate situation, and help determine how best Dail Mhor can provide a suitable and viable range of services for our community, the more likely we will be able to weather any fall-out from the long-term strategy, once it is developed.'

NHS Highland is currently undertaking a review of care home

Ben bronze Model T Ford arrives in Fort William



Yesterday (Wednesday) saw the arrival of the bronze Model T Ford sculpture in Fort William after its long journey from the Powderhall Bronze foundry in Edinburgh. The sculpture, which is a replica of the vehicle driven to the summit of Ben Nevis in 1911, will be officially unveiled on Saturday morning (May 19). Pictured are George Bruce, Chris Robinson, James Kennedy and Bill Cameron. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

provision across the whole of the Highlands and a strategy paper is due to be re-submitted to its board later this month. This work is intended to determine the long-term future of care home and similar provision across the region.

However, Ms Ligema assured

the Lochaber Times that Dail Mhor House will not be affected by this process.

She added: 'The strategy paper is being resubmitted to board on May 29 and it is not expected that this will impact the direction of travel agreed with the community.'

Looking to the long-term sustainability of Dail Mhor House, Acharacle Community Council is also urging the community to continue its support of the care home and to help bring its plans for care services in the area to fruition.

A representative of Acharacle

Community Council added: 'We would like to thank the many individuals who have given their time to help achieve this satisfactory outcome, and to NHS Highland representatives for having been open to working with us, to move beyond an unfortunate set of circumstances.'



Man dies after being injured

POLICE Scotland has confirmed that the man who was found injured at Achintore Road in Fort William on Sunday has now died.

He was named as Mark Maguire, 44, from Bishopbriggs in East Dunbartonshire.

Mr Maguire was found at Achintore Road in Fort William near the Cruachan Hotel at around 3.50am on Sunday.

His death is currently being treated as unexplained. Two men - aged 41 and 22 - have been arrested and released with inquiries ongoing.

Senior investigating officer Detective Inspector Richard Baird said: 'I would like to offer my condolences to Mr Maguire's family and friends at this time. They are very much in our thoughts as we continue with our inquiries.'

'His death is currently being treated as unexplained and we continue to work to establish the full circumstances. Officers will be carrying out further inquiries in the local area today.'

'I would encourage anyone with information who has not yet spoken to police to call 101, quoting reference NP2313/18, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'



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'Unique' agriculture deserves support

AGRICULTURE and land use in areas such as Lochaber and the rest of the Highlands and Islands are unique in Scotland and the UK and must be supported as such, says a new report published this week.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) welcomed the report, which looks at post-Brexit implications for agriculture and associated land use in the Highlands and Islands.

At the launch, chairman of SCF Russell Smith said the report was an important piece of work that demonstrated unequivocally that Highlands and Islands agriculture and land use stand out as unique.

He added: 'The contribution

that this region, and therefore crofting, makes to food production and public goods such as environment, landscape and culture is shown to be very significant, but along with that the report emphasises the vulnerability and constraints this fragile area suffers.'

However, he also warned: 'Crofters are rational people. If they cannot make a living from crofting, they will stop doing it and will have to leave, with the negative consequences for the local economy, communities and environment. The critical mass that allows communities to thrive would be lost.'

The consultants' study was commissioned by the High-

lands and Islands Agricultural Support Group and draws on published analysis, literature and data plus interviews with stakeholders.

The work considers the potential economic, social and environmental implications of Brexit's impacts on the distinctive agriculture, crofting and related land use found across the region.

Mr Smith added: 'There are two things that I would highlight in planning our future agricultural support policy. One is that common grazings must be brought in to the planning, not added as an afterthought, as has been the case. This is a huge and underused resource.

Secondly, support must be based on activity, but activity has to be carefully defined as land use rather than as a measure of financial turnover. Some crofting areas can only support very low stocking densities and small units will have low total stock numbers. But these should still be supported because of the environmental diversity, economic activity and community resilience they provide.'

Andrew Moxey, co-author of the report, said: 'The study shows that Highlands and Islands agriculture and land use is different from the rest of Scotland. This report is just the beginning; there is much work to be done.'

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

□ Kilmallie Christmas Lights Group will be holding its AGM tonight (Thursday May 17), at the Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

□ A charity race night in aid of Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support is being held in the Volunteer Arms Bar tomorrow (Friday May 18). The evening event starts at 7.30pm with the first race at 8pm.

□ Take your camera for a walk with the Fort William Photographic Club. Meet at the Fort William youth hostel at 7pm on Tuesday May 22. Non-members welcome.

□ Staff and volunteer members of Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be paying outreach visits to Ballachulish and Lochaline next week. On Monday May 21, the team will be at Abbeyfield House Care Home in Ballachulish from 10.30am till 12.30pm, and on Tuesday May 22 at Morvern Medical Centre in Lochaline, also from 10.30am till 12.30pm. At both venues LSC representatives will offer help and advice to anyone locally with a hearing or sight loss. They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain the hearing aids. Appointments are not necessary.

□ Author David Munro will discuss his new novel, *Awakening*, the latest book in his trilogy, *The Time Jigsaw*, at Fort William Library on Tuesday May 22 at 2pm. There will be a Q & A session and signed copies will be available.

□ There will be a craft fair featuring local crafts in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William, from 11am-3pm, on Friday May 25.

□ There will be a garden opening in aid of local charities, including Laggan Parish Church, at Ardverkie with Aberarder, Kinlochlaggan, on Sunday May 27, from 2-5.30pm. Entry is £5.50 but children are free.

Do you have a story for the Lochaber Times?

Call our newsroom on 0397 703003.



Piping winners, from left, Ronnie MacIntosh, Andrew Orr, Ruaridh Drennan and Calum Dunbar. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Anna Robertson. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Performers strike right chord



Oisín Crawford.



Regan Rodgers.

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THERE was superb talent on display at this year's Lochaber Provincial Mòd on Friday and Saturday.

The two-day event was held at Fort William's Gaelic school, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar. A spokesperson for the event said: 'This year's local Mòd was another great success and attracted entries from across Lochaber and as far afield as Oban, Dingwall, Beaulieu and Inverness. Numbers held up well this year with close on 300 entries across 60 different events. The commit-

tee would like to thank all the children, adjudicators, parents, teachers and volunteers for making the two days so successful.

'The only disappointing note from the weekend was the lack of senior entries, which is something we hope to address for next year.'

'The Local Meur Loch Abar AGM is to be held in Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar on Monday May 21 at 7pm and we would encourage anyone with an interest to come along.'

This week we are publishing a selection of photographs featuring various winners, with more available to see online on at www.lochabertimes.co.uk



Three little ladies from Mallaig Primary School.



Lily Robertson and Emma MacColl shared first place in solo singing for girls aged 9-10. Lily also took a first in poetry recitation.



Lundavra Primary P1-2 pupils got a fantastic second place for their action song. JP F20 LPMOD- Lundavra



Bun Sgoil Loch Abar pupils and brothers Owen, left, and James MacRaidh both won golds in oral competition on the first day.

View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is working with West Highland College UHI and European partners on a new project to create training modules in digital marketing and product innovation for the adventure tourism sector.

Lochaber Chamber chief executive Lesley Benfield and Jessica MacDonald, project co-ordinator at the Chamber, recently travelled with team members from West Highland College to Tallinn in Estonia to meet the project partners.

This trip was a vital part of the two-year project, giving the partners from Scotland, Estonia, Bulgaria, Ireland and Denmark the chance to meet in person and explore the similarities and differences in what adventure tourism businesses need across the partner nations.

The free training modules will be avail-



able to help adventure tourism businesses answer the questions:

How can we identify and understand digital trends and the ways we can use them to promote our adventure tourism products?

How can we create a business that

translates our passions into a great adventure tourism product?

How can we create new products that work well as part of the adventure tourism industry?

The modules created by the project will be available online for free to help adventure tourism businesses develop new products and make the best use of new ways to market their enterprises.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be involved in developing and delivering this fantastic free training resource to encourage innovation in our growing adventure tourism industry.

If you'd like to find out more about the project or would like to be involved in the pilot testing of the modules, contact membership@lochabechamber.co.uk or call us on 01397 705765.



Lesley Benfield with partners in the European project.

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Lochaber sailing club pushes the boat out

MEMBERS of Lochaber Yacht Club came to the rescue of some of the unlucky travellers who found themselves stranded in snarled-up coaches and cars on one of the warmest days of the year on Sunday.

The congestion was caused by police diversions as a result of an incident in Fort William.

On what proved to be one of the busiest and most pleasant Fort William days out on Loch Linnhe, sailors from the club were running the second day of their special weekend event, titled Pushed the Boat Out, as part of the Royal Yachting Association's UK-wide initiative to introduce people to watersports.

In addition to all the sailing activities, which attracted lots of people wanting to try their hand at sailing in a dinghy or a yacht, a large number of sea kayaks



Dozens of stranded visitors made the most of the activities at Lochaber Yacht Club by taking to the water while they were stuck in Fort William.

ben was spectacular in the warm sunshine and could not have looked more impressive.

Over the two afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, 79 members of the public got on the water thanks to 37 club members who provided the boats, burgers, safety equipment, expertise and enthusiasm for sailing.

People from across the globe, including Australia, Estonia, Austria, Germany and an entire family from India can now say they received the Fort William outdoor experience.

Anyone interested in learning to sail, crew a powerboat or make new friends is welcome to come down to Lochaber Yacht Club on Achintore Road any Thursday evening throughout the summer.

To find out more visit www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

paddled past the clubhouse on their way to Fort William.

The RNLI lifeboat came up from Oban for a visit and there was also a group of visiting jet-skiers who arrived from the south. All in all, it was a very busy afternoon for marine tourism.

On Sunday, many more people had planned to go along for a sailing experience, but the diversions on the A82 due to the police operation prevented

many from getting to the shore.

'Unexpectedly, a large number of people from coaches and cars who were stuck in the long queues of traffic, unable to go anywhere all afternoon, began arriving at the sailing club to see what was going on,' said the yacht club this week.

'As a result, some of these stranded visitors got a free sailing or powerboat experience on Loch Linnhe.

'Seen from the loch, the

Community boost from hydro

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

ENERGY supplier SSE has confirmed the local community will benefit financially if its expanded £800 million Coire Glas hydro scheme near Loch Lochy goes ahead.

That was the good news following a meeting last week between SSE's Corinna Scholes and John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

Mr Fotheringham has repeatedly expressed frustration in recent months over what he claimed was the lack of information from SSE and told

a recent community council meeting that SSE also now seemed unwilling to talk money for the local community: 'The company now seems to be unwilling to talk about community benefit,' he told the meeting.

He had also called for SSE to start giving out details publicly on how it would transport and dispose of almost four million tons of rock and spoil if its plans to more than double the proposed Coire Glas hydro scheme eventually got the go-ahead.

SSE's amended planning application for an expanded pumped storage scheme at the Coire Glas site, south-west of Laggan Locks near Loch Lochy, is expected to come be-

fore Highland Council planning committee by Christmas.

If given the green light by councillors, it would see a scaling up of SSE's already consented £800 million project from a 600MW pumped storage scheme to a 1,500MW scheme in order to make it more commercially attractive.

However, local communities are fearful the 3.9 million tons of rock that will need to be excavated and transported off-site as part of the expanded scheme would cause major disruption to local communities and tourism.

Looking at all the options for transporting surplus spoil from Coire Glas, including by road, rail and canal, SSE's application

states that if HGV vehicles were used to shift all the spoil, in what was described as a 'worst case scenario', it would see 445 lorry trips each day for seven months along local roads, including the A82 and A86.

However, the assessment also acknowledges that this worst case scenario would not be acceptable from a technical, environmental or practical outlook.

But that has done little to allay local fears and the issue resurfaced again at this month's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

And speaking to the Lochaber Times ahead of his meeting with Ms Scholes last week, Mr

Fotheringham said: 'What I want to know from SSE is where all that rock will be going.'

'And if they are not able to tell us, then we are going to object to this application and object strongly.'

'In the past, it always seems that the places affected the most get the least when it comes to community benefit in terms of money.'

'That's happened before and if we don't get this sorted out before planning consent is granted, my fear is that is exactly what will happen again.'

Asked to comment after the meeting with Mr Fotheringham, SSE spokesperson Ms Scholes said she had confirmed to him

that the company was committed to providing a financial community benefit for Coire Glas pumped hydro scheme, linked to the construction of the project.

On the options for transportation and disposal of the 3.9 million tons of spoil if the scheme gets the go-ahead, SSE said it is committed to reducing the impact of the rock excavation on the local roads network where possible.

'Should the scheme be consented, SSE will explore all mitigation measures for the rock disposal,' said the company.

If SSE gains planning consent, the project will then go to the Scottish Government for a final decision.

Lochaber firm is honoured in London

LOCHABER logistics company Ferguson Transport has been featured in London Stock Exchange Group's flagship 1000 Companies to Inspire Britain 2018, which was launched this week.

The publication profiles the most dynamic and fastest growing SMEs across the UK, and the Lochaber-based road, sea and rail logistics provider, which employs 190 people in the area, has made it on to the list.

Managing director Alasdair Ferguson said: 'It is very flattering to be recognised in this way. Our company was established in 1959 and will be 60 years young next year, which we are very proud of. We currently have 11 family members in the business, of which five are third generation.'

'The directors, along with senior management and all staff strive to deliver an affordable, sustainable service second to none for our customers, and continue to invest in infrastructure and people. It is great credit to all our directors, managers and employees, as well as our loyal customers, some of whom we have provided logistic solutions and services for many years.'

This is the fifth annual edition of the Stock Exchange's report, which was launched on Tuesday.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Ian Blackford said: 'It is excellent news that a local company has been recognised for its achievements by such a major institution as the Stock Exchange. I have had many dealings with the company over the years and have always been impressed by the drive, enthusiasm and forward looking attitude with new ideas to improve their business and the local economy. I congratulate them on this recognition, which is well deserved.'

Banavie Primary hosts fun night

The youngsters, staff and local parents had a great time on Friday night when Banavie Primary School held its annual fun night. There was a host of activities to take part in, including a bouncy castle and slide, body zorbing, zip wire, climbing wall and bungee run, with musical entertainment provided by Lochaber High School Pipe Band.



Council staff prepare to move

HIGHLAND Council offices at Lochaber House in Fort William will close for the last time next week ahead of the relocation to new premises at Charles Kennedy Building, the former secondary school opposite West End car park on Achintore Road.

Staff will move out of the old Lochaber offices at 3pm on Tuesday May 22, and plans are well under way to make the move over three days next week.

Lochaber Committee chairman Andrew Baxter said: 'Staff have worked hard to keep any disruption to a minimum during the move. The new office will allow us to deliver our services more cost-effectively and efficiently. The net annual revenue saving to the council is expected to be around £100,000 after meeting the capital financing costs.'

'By providing a modern, flexible, accessible working environment we are bringing benefits to both staff and customers and freeing up more buildings in the town centre to create more future development opportunities.'

As well as re-using 95 per cent of existing desks, the council has given away substantial amounts of furniture, filing cabinets and office supplies to the local voluntary sector. A public auction of remaining furniture and bric-a-brac from Lochaber House will take place on Saturday May 26 in the council chambers.

Items up for auction include some rare railway memorabilia. A clock from Fort William railway station made by James Ritchie and Son, Edinburgh, and railway flags - naming of Loch Rannoch and the Super Sprinter

Service - will be on offer to bidders.

The auction will start at 11am with viewings on Friday May 25 between 2pm and 7pm, and on the day of the auction from 8am to 11am. For more details and a copy of the catalogue contact Linda on 01397 700800 or email: info@bosslochaber.co.uk

The service point and registration offices will reopen for business on Friday May 25, at 9.30am. Should anyone require any advice or assistance from Tuesday afternoon until Friday morning they are advised to contact Highland Council service centre on 01349 886606 or call the Inverness Registrars on 01463 256400. Alternatively people can visit the council's website to report issues, make payments or request services. Payments can also be made at any post office.



A special presentation was made this week to Steve Bracken, front left, of Marine Harvest, who received the RSPCA/Freedom Food scheme award to thank him for his contribution. Mr Bracken, a business support manager with Marine Harvest, is due to retire at the end of July after a career spanning 41 years.

No royal wedding link to Lochaber Apaches

SEVERAL British Army Apache helicopters have been spotted swooping low over the Glenfinnan area in the past few days, with some suggesting it might even have something to do with the royal wedding at the weekend.

The attack helicopters are normally stationed at the Army Air Corps base at Wattisham in Suffolk, but are flying out of RAF Kinloss this week while they carry out specialist training. Prince Harry, who is due to

marry Meghan Markle on Saturday in London, served in the Army Air Corps and was based at Wattisham between 2011 and 2014.

As well as in the skies over Lochaber, the week of squadron-level training has also seen the Apaches spotted over Ullapool, Inverness, Loch Ness and the Cairngorms.

However, asked to comment, an army spokesperson told the Lochaber Times that the Apaches had nothing to do with the royal

wedding. 'They just needed to carry out some training in an area with a good amount of hilly terrain and that's why they are in the Highlands at the moment,' she said.

However, a contingent of 25 soldiers from 3 Regt Army Air Corps from Wattisham will have a role to play during the royal wedding, when they line the streets outside St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and also present a royal salute to the newlyweds.

[NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND]

The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart

A riotous romp of rhyming couplets, devilish encounters and wild karaoke *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* is the lock-in to end all lock-ins.

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FW

New NHS pilot to fast-track midwife training

NHS Western Isles has welcomed an initiative that will let nurses in the Highlands and Islands become qualified midwives in just 20 months.

The new £500,000 pilot scheme for a shortened midwifery programme will be available to local registered adult nurses and those from further afield who wish to study at the University of Highlands and Islands and then work in the region. It is being delivered in conjunction with NHS Highland and NHS Western Isles.

The programme will start in January next year with the Scottish Government funding tuition fees for 20 students, providing bursary support for those currently not in employment – about £6,500 per student – and, along with the NHS boards, fund salary costs of existing employees undertaking the training.

Chris Anne Campbell, nurse director, NHS Western Isles, said: 'NHS Western Isles welcomes this exciting new initiative that offers opportunities for qualified nurses to advance their careers further and for newly qualified nurses to complete their midwifery training within 20 months.'

'This is an important development to sustain and enhance midwifery care in our island community and we are grateful to UHI and the Scottish Government for making this possible.'

Mary Burnside, head of midwifery for NHS Highland, added: 'NHS Highland welcomes the support of the Scottish Government to this exciting new initiative which will open up career options for nurses who are committed to working and living in Highland area.'

'NHS Highland values the collaborative working with the University of the Highlands and Islands which is strengthening access to career opportunities for nurses and midwives at a local level.'

Health Secretary Shona Robison commented: 'I hope as a result of this, more nurses will consider a career in midwifery where there will be more posts available.'

The programme, which is subject to Nursing Midwifery Council approval, is due to begin in January 2019. The Scottish Government will provide £500,000 of funding for the first intake, with funding being reviewed annually.

Skye Runner raises funds in memory of Oban gran

SARA BAIN
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AN OBAN grandmother who devoted her life to charity is at the centre of one man's effort at this year's Skye half-marathon.

Joan McGill, of the town's Pulpit Hill, suffered from vascular dementia before her death, aged 83, in February this year.

In the years leading up to her illness, Joan provided meals on wheels with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service for 30 years. She was also the district commissioner for Argyll and Bute Girl Guides for five years and Sea Rangers skipper for 10 years.

Joan was also a member of the community council and volunteered her time for a number of local charities, including the Oban Litter Busters and Oban Hospice.

Her 32-year-old grandson and Skye running champion, Hugh Campbell, will tackle this year's Isle of Skye half-marathon on June 9 in Joan's memory. Hugh hopes to raise funds for Alzheimer Scotland, which supported Joan during her illness.

Hugh, who lives and runs a marketing business in Portree,



Six-year-old Hugh Campbell, right, and brother Iain with their grandmother Joan in Oban in 1991; above, Hugh is running this year's Skye half-marathon in memory of his grandmother.

Photograph: Willie Urquhart, West Highland Free Press.

said: 'My gran was born and raised in Oban. She lived there all her life and was well known for the huge amount of community and volunteer work she undertook in the area. While she was ill, she received a lot of support from Alzheimer Scotland and I wanted to give something back as a thank you. 'I grew up being quite close to

my gran but, when she became ill, she didn't know who I was. This was very hard for me and I think it is very important to raise awareness of the disease and the charity that can help make life a little easier for sufferers.'

'We have an Alzheimer Scotland centre in Portree which offers information and advice, day care, care at home, carer

support, a day opportunities club and outreach work to our rural communities. They work hard to make the best of a bad situation and I am hoping to raise awareness of their work too.'

Hugh is a well-known face on the Highland running circuit. He is the unchallenged winner of the Dunvegan Castle 10K and five times winner of the Skye half-marathon.

He said: 'On one occasion, I was pace-setting for the female world marathon champion at

the Glasgow half-marathon. I also finished 34th in the world's largest half-marathon, the Great North Run.

'It is sad that, due to her illness, my grandmother never saw me become the runner I am today. I would like to think she would be proud of me for what I have achieved with my running career.'

Anyone who wishes to donate funds to Hugh's charity run can do so at justgiving.com/fundraising/hughcampbell-skye-half2018.

Island businesses' rates relief of £25m

ALASDAIR Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has welcomed statistics revealing that the Scottish Government's rates relief scheme saved businesses in the islands a total of £25 million between 2009-10 and 2016-17.

The figures were provided by Finance Secretary Derek Mackay MSP in a written answer to the Scottish Parliament.

The figures show that the rates relief scheme has saved small- and medium-sized businesses in Scotland around £4.5 billion between 2009-10 and 2015-16 by reducing their rates liability and taking many firms out of business rates altogether.

The figures do not, however, include premises that qualified for the new 100 per cent reliefs introduced, including Day Nursery Relief and the Business Growth Accelerator.

Dr Allan said: 'These statistics very clearly illustrate that the Scottish Government is delivering for our local businesses here in the islands – delivering the most competitive business rates relief package in the whole of the UK, and businesses in the Western Isles have saved £25 million over the past seven years, with 1,693 properties benefiting.'

'Additionally, the finance secretary has confirmed that the government will also spend an estimated record £720 million on rates relief across Scotland in this year alone.'

MSP Cameron hosts event

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Donald Cameron helped organise a round table meeting focusing on raising awareness of Lyme disease in the Scottish Parliament last week.

The event heard from experts who spoke about existing and developing treatments and diagnostics, raising awareness and a personal account of the disease.

Mr Cameron told us: 'Lyme disease has been a public health issue for some time, with particularly high prevalence of Lyme disease in parts of the Western Isles, for example.'

'From Lochmaddy to Fort William, many constituents and medical personnel across the region have raised this with me and I am determined to keep up the pressure.'

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig hosts visual arts exchange project to inspire young islanders' creativity

THE VISUAL arts exchange project, An Cuan Sgith/The Little Minch, is being exhibited at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig until June 25, writes Mark Entwistle.

An Cuan Sgith is a two-year visual arts exchange project between young people from Bun-sgoil Shlèite, on Skye, and Bun-sgoil Bhaile a'Mhannaich, on Benbecula.

The pupils worked with professional artists Julie Brook, Kate Macdonald and Kath MacLeod (arts development officer at SMO) through the medium of Gaelic, led by Lasair Ealain and supported by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The aim of the project is to inspire and empower young people to draw their own environment, working with professional artists to encourage their individual forms of expression and a greater understanding of where they live.



The aim of the project is to inspire and empower young people to draw their environment.

After a series of drawing and painting workshops in their own landscapes, the children

from Bun-sgoil Shlèite visited the pupils in Benbecula for three days, enabling the children

to work together with the artists in different sites, share evening activities through

Gaelic and make new friends. At the end of the visit, the Balivanich pupils made the ferry journey across to Skye over An Cuan Sgith drawing on the ferry with the Skye pupils and their teachers.

Subsequently, each group learned how to create compositions of specific areas of their landscape based on a number of their sketch book drawings, enabling the children to collaborate and work together on large-scale charcoal drawings.

The work has already been shown in Taigh Chearsabhagh, North Uist, and it is hoped that it will go on to exhibit in Inverness later in the year.

The project has been funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Western Isles Council, Lasair Ealain and Young Films.

An Cuan Sgith May 15 to June 25, 2018, Atrium, ACC, SMO.

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Islander Scott steers new course as Stornoway harbour master

SCOTT CAMPBELL says he is relishing the challenges ahead after being announced as the new harbour master appointed to help steer Stornoway Port Authority through a period that many believe will be transformational for the island community, writes Mark Entwistle.

Hailing from Portnaguran on Lewis, Mr Campbell takes on the newly-revised role of harbour master/operations manager at a time when the port authority is working on a series of major developments in line with its 20-year masterplan.

Mr Campbell, 35, a master mariner with more than 17 years' experience in various roles in the marine/offshore industry, was recently promoted to master after serving as chief officer for Prosafe Offshore on board the Safe Scandinavia for the past five years.

He takes up his role with the port authority as it seeks to progress ambitious proposals, including the creation of a deep-water port which will bring major economic benefits to the island.

This will help accelerate growth in the cruise business, by providing a berth for larger ships, as well as improved berthing and servicing for oil and renewables projects and a new linkspan/freight ferry berth.

The masterplan also includes



Scott Campbell is delighted to be joining the senior leadership team at this crucial time.

current marine staff. This is a key role within the port authority's senior leadership team and we welcome Scott's previous experience on a wide variety of vessels, including those deep sea and in the oil and gas industry.

'The port authority is going through a period of change which presents unique operational challenges over the coming years.'

'We are delighted to have someone with Scott's expertise and knowledge to deliver a safe, reliable and efficient operation as we advance these long-term developments.'

The masterplan proposals were outlined at a public exhibition last month. A second exhibition will be held on Monday June 4 between 10am and 6pm in Stornoway Town Hall and a presentation will also be delivered at the authority's annual public meeting on May 23 at An Lanntair Arts Centre.

Feedback from these events will be considered before formal applications are made for planning permission, marine licences and a Harbour Revision Order which are needed before the projects can proceed.

a new marina to tackle a shortage of yacht berths and amenities that is constraining potential growth in marine tourism.

Mr Campbell, who has a Class 1 Master's Unlimited Certificate of Competency, was educated at The Nicolson Institute in Stornoway and gained an HND in Nautical Science at the Glasgow College of Nautical Studies.

His new role will include working with the Stornoway Port Authority team to develop the deep-water port. He will also advise the authority on marine matters, as well as

being responsible for marine and landside health and safety.

Mr Campbell says his new role will provide an exciting challenge at a time of major change with anticipated opportunities for the harbour and the island generally.

'The chance to be part of the team working on the masterplan and progressing these ambitious developments is one I'm very much looking forward to,' he said.

Alex MacLeod, Stornoway Port Authority's chief executive, said: 'Scott is a great addition to the team and very much complements our

Loch Arkaig osprey eggs snatched by pine marten

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THERE was sad news from Loch Arkaig last week after three osprey eggs were taken by a pine marten.

On Friday morning, observers tuning in to the live web cam showing nesting ospreys Louis and Aila noted the eggs were missing and a trawl back through video footage taken during the hours of darkness revealed the four-legged culprit.

The live web cam has proved a massive hit with watchers logging in from across the world.

After news broke of the pine marten's raid on the nest, almost 30,000 people logged comments on The Woodland Trust website.

The osprey team had cut off the lower

branches of the tree atop which the nest sits and covered the lower reaches with a slick coating to make it slippery in an effort to deter predators.

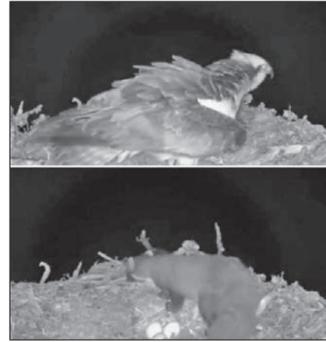
George Anderson of The Woodland Trust said that while upsetting to see, it is part of the natural way of things and that is what the osprey project team had set out to show with the live video footage.

'When we have sympathy for a particular species, such things are distressing. A great many people in Lochaber and around the world have invested a great deal of emotional energy in these birds.'

'But the aim of our web cam project has been to show dramas which occur in nature - good and bad.'

Mr Anderson says the web cam will remain on, although probably not to the original end date of September.

'Louis and Aila will probably stick



Video footage from the web cam shows the pine marten raiding the osprey nest and snatching the eggs.

around the nest for a few days or even weeks, but then they'll most likely move out into the wider area, roosting and fishing, before heading back to Africa earlier than usual. That's what normally happens with ospreys that fail to breed successfully. But they will be back and there are enough ospreys around Loch Arkaig for me to confidently predict there will be chicks and some will get to Africa before the year is out.

'While there are pine martens and ospreys there will always be pine martens taking eggs. It is important not to see the pine marten as a villain. It is just doing what pine martens do, like the ospreys are doing what they do.'

'Both of these species came close to being wiped out in the past and it was nothing to do with each other, but with people.'



From left, Iain Rogerson of Nevis Cycles, Fiona Beattie and Ronnie Fulford. IF F20 Big Pedal winner

Lochaber High School pupils back in the saddle for Big Pedal

LOCHABER High School has taken part in the Big Pedal for the second year in a row.

The national initiative organised annually by Sustrans sees primary and secondary schools across the UK encouraging pupils and teachers to cycle to school.

During the two weeks of the event, between 50 and 60 pupils and staff were using their bikes to get to Lochaber high - a huge increase on the usual 20-25 people who regularly cycle.

Numbers were up by almost 20 per cent across the two weeks, with more cyclists every day than last year.

Prizes donated by local businesses encouraged the pupils to take part.

First prize was a new

mountain bike, donated by Nevis Cycles. This was won by Ronnie Fulford, who cycles almost every day from Glenloy.

Liberty Aluminium donated an iPad, which was won by Rhiann Gilchrist who cycles every day. Other local firms also donated prizes.

Lochaber High School Parent Council is to be praised for sourcing the prizes and welcoming the cyclists each morning. Thanks also go to Developing the Young Workforce for support with marketing and advertising; No Fuss Events for the loan of extra bike racks, High Life Highland for helping with event logistics and to all the teachers and staff who got behind the event.



Celebrating of the success of the Bags of Help scheme from Tesco and greenspace scotland at the Scottish Parliament.

Photograph: Sandy Young.

Bags of Help celebrated at Holyrood

COMMUNITY organisations helping make life better for people in Oban and Lochaber joined MSPs, Tesco staff and representatives from greenspace scotland at an event at the Scottish Parliament last week.

The gathering was organised to mark the success of the supermarket's community grant scheme, Bags of Help,

which sees money raised from the sale of carrier bags awarded to community projects.

To mark the success of the project so far, Tesco and greenspace scotland invited representatives from almost 40 groups to Holyrood.

Hope 2 Oban and Lochaber Camanachd Club Ladies were part of the cel-

ebration. In Scotland, more than 2,000 groups have shared £6 million.

Bags of Help funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

Council garden waste permits

HIGHLAND Council Garden Waste Permits are now available for the 2018/19 season.

The 2018/19 garden waste collection year starts on Monday July 2 and will run until June 30, 2019.

Customers are encouraged to order their permit by Sunday June 3 to ensure delivery in time for the first collections of the new service year.

The opt-in service was introduced last year as an alternative to stopping garden waste collections altogether and to help bridge the council's funding gap.

Approximately 33,000 garden waste permits were bought in Highland last year following the introduction of the new service.

The cost of a garden waste permit for the 2018/19 collection service will be £35 and up to three permits can be ordered per household.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of community services, said the high level of demand for permits last year demonstrated Highland householders' commitment to recycling garden waste and continuing to reduce waste being sent to landfill.

'We anticipate demand for permits will be high in the weeks immediately prior to the 2018/19 service starting and encourage households to sign up prior to June 3 to ensure they receive permits in time for the first collections,' he said.

Householders can also take their garden waste along to their local recycling centre free of charge.

Garden waste permits can be bought online at www.highland.gov.uk/garden-waste, by phoning Highland Council's Service Centre on 01349 886603 or in person at council service points.

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Youngsters from Inverlochry Primary School carried out a litter pick. IF F20 Inverlochry litter pick

Army of volunteers tackles beach litter

MORE than 60 volunteers cleared litter from Caol beach last week, collecting everything from discarded fishing net and ropes to empty beer cans and plastic straws.

Held last Tuesday night and organised by the newly-formed Greenpeace Fort William branch, volunteers included local residents and young environmentalists staying at The Outward Bound Trust centre at Loch Eil.

'We had a massive haul of plastic and other waste. Fishing rope and nets made up by far the most rubbish by weight and there was Tennent's Lager cans, Lucozade Energy bottles and tiny blue plastic straws,' a local Greenpeace spokesperson said.

'We were really humbled by the big turnout. Lots of people obviously care about plastic pollution and keeping the community tidy.'

'Thanks to The Highland Council for lending us litter pickers, bags and for agreeing to collect the mountain of beach litter we gathered.'

'Anyone interested in finding out when the clean-up is can follow any of the above groups on Facebook or join Lochaber Litter Pickers on Facebook.'

Youngsters from Inverlochry Primary School were also out in force last week picking up litter in their local area.



Volunteers collect litter strewn across Caol beach last week. IF F20 litter pick 02



Some of the Kinlochleven pupils at Outward Bound, Loch Eil.

Kinlochleven High School pupils get a taste for adventure

ADVENTUROUS first year Kinlochleven High School pupils enjoyed the challenge of a residential stay at an outbound centre.

As a part of their outdoor education and employability programme, the youngsters recently spent five days at Outward Bound, Loch Eil.

The Outward Bound Trust is an educational charity that uses the outdoors to help develop young people from all walks of life. It runs outdoor learning courses that equip young people with valuable skills for education, work and life, helping them to become more confident, more effective and more capable at school and later in further and higher education as well as the workplace.

'It is a great opportunity to develop your communication, teamwork and emotional intelligence,' said head teacher Rebecca Machin.

Activities included gorge walking, abseiling, canoeing in Loch Eil where they saw a school of porpoises, a camping expedition on the beaches of Glenuig and Arisaig, raft building and racing and teamwork games around the grounds.

For their John Muir Discovery Award, completed during the trip, the pupils conducted a litter survey on the beach and collected 20 kilos of plastic waste.

'These activities take the youngsters out of their comfort zone,' said Donald Smith, principal teacher of social subjects and trip organiser.

Small is...

POWERFUL

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

07/06/18

Kinlochleven

AMONG matters discussed at the April meeting of Kinlochleven Community Council (KCC) were:

Mini bus: Issues are emerging regularly but it is still hoped the community council can retain the bus and that it will not be commandeered as VAT payment. The bus is still off the road.

KCT: The secretary reported on a positive quarterly Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) meeting. The loss of the ground maintenance post was discussed. It was revealed in the long run it would be cheaper to retain a firm to carry out the work. An emotive debate followed and defence of the KCT decision was made.

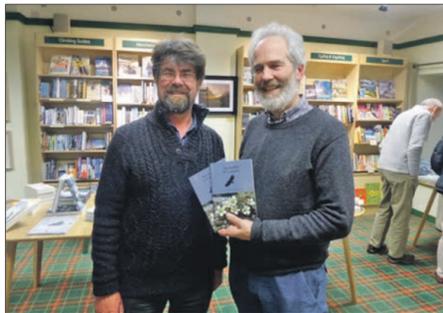
Unfortunately, some of those present did not believe the findings but it was reinforced this decision had not been taken lightly and there was no fabrication in this matter.

Island Park: Matthew Prosser reported he was awaiting charity status for Island Park. The aim is to make this pitch and surrounding area useful to the community again. He will keep the community council updated.

Trees: Councillor Baxter responded to complaints about the removal/retaining of trees on Wades Road. Broad leaf trees left on the roadside would require a separate licence to remove as they were not the issue of initial concern. Mr Baxter wrote to all residents for their view on this overgrown part of the village and there were only two objections. These trees offer some protection from wind and as they seem to be healthy they will remain for now, but will be monitored. A couple of suggestions have been made on the use of this space: re-routing the West Highland Way through it and a picnic area.

Buses: The current situation with Stagecoach and the 44 route has caused concern for residents who use this bus regularly. There has been a lot of speculation, but Highland Council was limited by contracts and confidentiality at the initial breaking of this news. Stagecoach has given notice and new contract negotiations are taking place. The first bus and a tea-time bus must be retained to enable those who are employed outwith the village to access to their work. It remains to be seen what the full/part time service will look like.

Breaks: KCC has 10 meetings a year, February to November. To reconvene in February is not ideal, as it is too long between meetings. It has been proposed and agreed to close in July and December.



Dr Jon Mercer, left, and Dr Ian Strachan at the launch of the booklet after giving their presentations.

Anniversary launch of new wildlife booklet

A NEW wildlife booklet was launched this week to mark the 50th anniversary of Lochaber Natural History Society (LNHS).

Wildlife of Lochaber was launched on Friday evening, May 4, at the Highland Bookshop, Fort William.

A good crowd enjoyed presentations from the authors, Dr Ian Strachan, chairman of LNHS, and Dr Jon Mercer, local wildlife guide and holiday operator.

The booklet gives locals and visitors an insight of what wildlife might be found in the many and varied habitats throughout Lochaber.

Lavishly illustrated, *Wildlife of Lochaber* highlights species of special interest and/or rarity. It catalogues some of the region's special places, as well as some of the threats to local biodiversity.

The new guide is available to buy through LNHS or local retailers, including the Highland Bookshop.



Shopmobility trustee Sandra Kempster with some of the winners at Caol Primary School.

Prize Caol pupils delight Shopmobility

SHOPMOBILITY Lochaber is delighted with its new posters and collection can covers designed by children of Caol Primary School.

A competition attracted 240 entries from pupils.

Shopmobility trustee Sandra Kempster said: 'It was very hard to choose the winners as there were so many bright and colourful entries. The children put a lot of artistic effort into creating the posters which will be seen across Lochaber.'



Anvil Davy sets sights on Ben Nevis

BIG DAVY Ballantyne who dragged an anvil to the top of Goatfell on Arran and down again is up to his fundraising exploits again.

This time the challenge will be to carry 60kg of chains to the top of Ben Nevis in a day.

No date has been set for the challenge but his training is in full swing.

He will again be raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Davy, who works for North Ayrshire Council, spent 26 days dragging a 120kg anvil up Goatfell two years ago after his daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. That feat raised more than £13,000 for the JDRF.

He has since brought the anvil down and it is now at The Douglas Hotel where it is to be used at wedding ceremonies.

Inverlochly darts doubles

A darts competition in the Railway Club, Inverlochly, saw Jim Whyte and Davy Grant lift the Dewars Doubles Trophy. Their opponents were Brian and Billy Barbour.

There was a good turnout of supporters. The next tournament is the ladies darts competition on Friday May 18 at 7.30pm.

Fishermen to the fore in latest campaign

THE FISHERMEN'S Mission, a well-known national charity with a strong presence in Lochaber, has launched a campaign to highlight the number of fishermen lost at sea in the last decade.

The 100 in 10 Campaign hopes to raise awareness of the dangers of being a fisherman and the devastating impact on families and communities when fishermen are lost at sea - 100 fishermen have been lost in just 10 years.

The charity is asking people to buy a pair of yellow fishermen's wellies featuring the mission logo. For every pair sold, a yellow ribbon will be tied to the flagpole outside the charity's headquarters in Hampshire.

When 100 pairs have been sold, the ribbons will feature in a photograph that will be released nationally.

Port officer for the Fishermen's Mission in Lochaber and Skye 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 urge any fisherman in need of help to get in touch.'

Contact Karen on 07917 754407 or email mallaigcentre@fishermensmission.org.uk (Lochaber and Isle of Skye)

To support the 100 in 10 campaign visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk, email 100in10@fishermensmission.org.uk or call the freephone number 08006 341020.



The Fishermen's Mission is selling yellow wellies as part of its latest campaign.

RETRO Roamer

More items from Roamer columns of 30 years ago

I note the spelling above the stanchion outside Nevisport - whereon rests the gondola - has been corrected. For a couple of weeks the noticeboard attached to it extolled the virtues of the 'gondala!' Years ago a couple of Scotland's favourite trysting places were 'Under the clock at Binn's/Queen Street Station'. Is it now 'Under the gondola at Nevisport'?

A couple from Renfrewshire proved that, with the advent of Aonoch Mor, getting engaged in a gondola in Venice is a bit passe. Glen produced the ring and proposed at tower 11 on the cable car line. Caroline was admiring the scenery and, when she turned round to look at Glen, there he was on bended knee. All say 'Aaaaaa!'

From betrothals to wedding breakfasts. Three bridesmaids and a couple of flower girls and pages had an interesting run to the Cruachan after a Fort William marriage ceremony on Saturday. Their hire car broke down. But they got to the hotel in time to join the rest of the principal party thanks to a Gaelic bus.

Yet another couple, married for a while, on holiday 'up here'. He decided to walk from Kinloch to the top of the Ben. Later in the day his wife came out of the gondola at the top station on Aonach Mor. She got into a right state when she realised she was 'only' 2,350 feet up our mountains. 'But I've arranged to meet my husband at the top of Ben Nevis,' she wailed. 'And I understood the cable car went to the summit.' Everything was sorted out eventually and the couple were reunited at what Brian Ball doesn't describe as 'ground level!'

Early birds - in other words, the half dozen who may be reading this before 8.15 this morning - might be interested to know that, in five minutes- 8.20am - Ingrid Henderson, from Tigh a Chiull, Badabrie, will be guesting on the Derek Jameson Show on Radio 2. Ingrid is the UK's Young Traditional Musician of the Year and she and her clarsach will be featuring. So tune in and you'll be in time to hear Ingrid strike a chord or two.

Joe Gillies, courtesy of Dibs, had a len' of the Smillie family's Flymo so he could further beautify the green, green grass in his part of Bonnie Glenfinnan. His instruction, when finished with the mower, was to 'bring it up to the house in Henderson Row and leave it in the garage'. Job neatly done, Joe drove to Fort William and 'repatriated' the Flymo after lifting the up-and-over garage door. A couple of days later, Dibs asked: 'Have you cut all the Glenfinnan grass yet, Joe?' To which, of course, Joe replied that he'd already left the mower 'in the garage'. At roughly the same time a Henderson Row neighbour opened his garage door and found his way barred - by a Flymo. He took it to the police station. Meanwhile, after family consultation, Joe returned to check in which garage he'd chosen to park the mower. The upshot was that Joe's next trip was to see the 'polis'. At the station he had to file a description of the Flymo and, eventually, all was well. I hear Joe is writing a song about it for his next CD. It's called 'Flymo to the Fort'.

It was a bit like 'Bryce and the Spider' at Brisbane International Airport. Bill, of that ilk, kept persevering till he convinced the security authorities their airport's group check-in facilities represented a real risk. So, fresh from designing refurbishments of cottages at Dorlin and mentoring the Clan Cameron Museum metamorphosis at Achnacarry, Bill has now had a hand - at least - in altering the shape of a major airport.

Having moved from Ballachulish to Corpach (The Queen of Suburbia), a Radio Belford DJ decided to listen out to hear if his wireless reception was any better on the Heights of Drumfada. Switched on, and what did he get? Radio One as sound as a bell, Radio Clyde wonderfully bright - and Air Traffic Control at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Scottish daily broadsheet, letters page. A double-barrelled knight of the realm kicking up blazes because he'd had to stand in the Sprinter all the way from Fort William to Mallaig. Currently, however, because of the West Highland Line problems, ScotRail has come up with an answer: 'Travel by bus and avoid the s-train!'

Royal Mail would have had no problem delivering Skeegan's Wee Stinker t-shirt. Aye, Skeegan was one of this week's winners in the fiendishly difficult Herald crossword competition and is listed as 'Donald Skeegan, Hydro Electric, Airds Crossing, An Gearasdan!' So Skeegan joins the elite. Good PR for the hydro and, indeed, even more than that, he has the choice of a medium, large or extra large tee-shirt. At the last count, Lochaber has had 15 Herald crossword winners.

Meanwhile, Donnie Nicolson, of Mamore Crescent, another successful Wee Stinker entrant, has been getting fan mail from - Ghana. Last week Donnie received a letter, part of which read, 'Dear Mr Nicolson, I am as fit as a fiddle as I write this letter. How do you do? One day I read the Glasgow Herald of Scotland and I got to know you as one of the five winners of the Wee Stinker crossword. I am, therefore, writing to congratulate you, and make friends with you. Hoping to receive from you soon. Yours sincerely,

Asaah, Kumasi, Ghana'. I asked Donnie if he was going to write to him. 'Him!' Donnie exclaimed. I'm hoping it's a her!

Donnie is now contemplating having his passport renewed.



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Duncan Gillies, centre, who with his wife Patize sponsored the nominated triples at Fort William Railway Club's Bowling Green in Inverlochly and made the presentation to the winners, from left, Allan MacDonald, Bill Clarke and Mick Crichton. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

Revamped Ardgour playpark opens

THE REVAMPED North Corran playpark has been officially opened in Ardgour by the two youngest children in the nursery and the oldest in the primary school.

A group of parents raised the £50,000 required to modernise the playpark.

Laura MacInnes, Ardgour Improvements Secretary, said: 'The existing playpark was outdated. It was just swings and a slide which had been there for many years. So some parents got together, set up the Ardgour Improvements charity, applied for grants and raised funds locally.'

'New equipment, including a climbing frame and basket swing, has been installed, along with safety surfacing. The design was chosen by local nursery and

primary school children who are excited the playpark is now open. It is already proving popular and is being well used. It's great to see the children enjoying the playpark so much.'

A Scottish Action Fund grant of £26,961 covered most of the equipment costs, while funding of £10,000 from the National Lottery's small grants programme met the cost of the safety floor.

To reach the £50,000, the parents held various fundraising events, including bag packing at Morrisons supermarket, a bingo night, bake sale and a collection bottle at the Inn at Ardgour. The project also received financial support from Ardgour Area Fund, Ardgour Community Council and Lochaber Housing Association.

FW

Viewpoint



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

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

Much is often said about the efficacy or otherwise of so-called 'people power' when it comes to affecting political decision-making.

So there will be understandable delight among campaigners who have lobbied tenaciously for the restoration of services to Dail Mhor House care home at Strontian.

As we report this week, final works are currently being undertaken to make Dail Mhor House ready to reopen as a residential respite facility following the sustained campaign by the community urging NHS Highland to

protect these services, which included a petition signed by almost 2,000 people.

Dail Mhor House closed last August due to an emergency plumbing issue, with all five residents being relocated, casting doubt over the care home's future.

Sunart Community Council is in no doubt that the successful outcome is down to the determination of the campaigners, a point we would endorse.

The imminent reopening is a great example of how people power can win the day and we applaud the efforts of those involved.



Days gone by – 1997

This week's photograph shows youngsters enjoying a lucky dip at Appin fete in 1997, but we don't have the names. Can anyone help?

Last week, Alexandrina C Scarbrough emailed us to say: 'The photograph North Connal Guides at Archchattan Priory was the presentation of the Queen's Guide Award to Alexandrina C Macdonald and Flora Macdonald in November 1964 (not 1963). I was one of the guides being presented with the award, Alexandrina C Macdonald. The others shown in the photograph are as follows from

left to right: Mrs Dundas, Appin; Mr John Macdonald (Flora's father); Mrs Mary Macdonald (Flora's mother); Alexandrina C Macdonald; Mrs Kerr, Barnacarry; Flora Macdonald; Mrs Alexandrina Macdonald (Alexandrina C Macdonald's mother); Mrs Campbell, An Cladach, North Connal. Of the Guides sitting along the hall, I can identify two: right in the corner is Margo Kirsop, and fourth one along (there is a Guide hidden beside her) is Mary Macdonald, Flora's sister. Thanks for printing the photo, it was good to remember that occasion.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
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IT HAS been a while since I've set sail with this article, so back to boats for this week's literary voyage.

It is a well-worn adage that a change is as good as a rest and I completely agree with those sentiments. Last Sunday we spent the morning taking a small yacht down the Caledonian Canal to deliver it to the Corpach Basin ready to be lifted onto a lorry and transported south by road for a new owner.

Having been on the water only once this year so far, the experience of getting aboard a boat (even a yacht) was as good as a holiday.

It also got both Andrew and myself into the mood for getting the St Olave out of her winter harbour of hibernation on Loch Lochy and back to the sea.

The weather was stunning, the passage relaxing and, as always when with Andrew's father, it was interesting and entertaining.

I've been up and down that stretch of the Caledonian Canal about a dozen times with him now and on each occasion it's like being taken on a historical tour with a professor

of anthropological, industrial and natural history – though I'm sure most tour guides of that type wouldn't be quite so militant with their poor crew. Each time there is a wealth of new information and new stories.

With this combination of David Attenborough, Neil Oliver and Captain Bligh at the helm, we happily toddled our way along the canal and descended the lofty locks of Neptune's Staircase.

When my uncle and I used to run Skipinnish Sea Tours, the beginning of the season was always filled with relief to get back out on the sea and excitement for the coming season. The wee trip on the yacht the other day reminded me of those initial trips each season when there was nothing else that could have felt better than the prospect of being out on a boat in good weather with people whose company was enjoyable.

As with so many things in life, it is that time of change, transition and moving cycle that is most pleasing.

By the end of September each year we were generally very happy to be getting the boat ready for laying up for the winter and resting our brains from answering the relentless questions of enthusiastic passengers. I

used to love the questions up till about the middle of August and by then I had answered the same ones too many times to maintain energetic replies and I probably sounded like a scratchy, broken record on repeat when asked such things as, 'How big does a basking shark get?', 'How tall is Skerryvore lighthouse?' and 'What does Skipinnish mean?'

These were all perfectly good and sensible questions but I'm sure by some Septembers I was telling people a Skerryvore could grow to over 30 feet, a basking shark was 138 feet tall and Skipinnish meant big reef in Gaelic and was built by an uncle of Fergie Macdonald.

However, by the following April the excitement and vigour was always restored and the season was entered into again with relish.

The change between winter and summer work was essential for me then and that type of variety in work and leisure life is still something I try to maintain.

With the thought of new places to see and people to meet, I am very much looking forward to a new season of boating and some of our forthcoming voyages will be recounted in these pages.



Social media

Concern has been voiced by Councillor Julie McKenzie about a lack of care at Ganavan, where the swings have been removed and where she says there is a problem with dog fouling and litter.

Ron Ireland: 'I'm out there most days with two dogs and always pick up their mess, sadly many people don't seem to bother. I'd be wary of letting any children run about freely in case they get covered in dog muck. As for the litter, it's totally incomprehensi-

ble why people do it. Easy to blame the council but it's not them causing the mess in the first place.'

Alick MacLellan: 'A good start would be to stop camper vans using Ganavan as some kind of convenience.'

Tracey Loonball McCulloch: 'Think there a bigger problem with council not emptying bins in soroba regular enough.'

Michelle Hewitt: 'Such a mess.'

Louisa Lulu Hyde: 'I walk my dog

here and can name a couple of people who don't pick up their dog poo, worst thing is they live in Ganavan as for the litter I was there yesterday and there was no litter as I try to pick up five pieces of plastic each visit but struggle to find that some days. I always witness people using the bins.'

Ann Maceachen: 'I walk my dogs here sometimes and always pick up after them and use the bins. I see so many poo bags lying around where people just dump them yuk.'

Press policy

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

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please

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We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Where are all the Gaelic teachers?

What is so awful about Bunessan and its new Gaelic school that it has not been possible to find a Gaelic teacher for it (*The Oban Times*, May 10)?

But, more importantly, what is happening to the Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan when two of its MSPs are having to lobby the Westminster government to bend immigration rules for one preferred applicant?

Do Michael Russell MSP, Donald Cameron MSP, Cleland Sneddon (chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council) and a Canadian professor really believe that after all the money that has been thrown at promoting Gaelic in the West Highlands and Islands, there is not one person on the Island of Mull, renowned for its Gaelic songs and culture, interested in, or capable of, taking on the post?

Perhaps the Scottish Government should have done its homework before establishing the unit in Bunessan – or is this more to do with vote-chasing than keeping a language alive?

Of more serious concern, where in all this is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, which is churning out Gaelic speakers every year at great cost to the public purse?

Is its students not sufficiently qualified for teaching posts?

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Potholed roads are hurting the economy

It has been recently announced that a Scottish Conservative government would invest £100 million into fixing potholes over the course of the next parliament.

We all rely on our roads but they are now plagued with potholes which are damaging cars.

Beyond our concerns for public safety, this systematic under-investment is slowing our economy and costing local councils a fortune in compensation for car owners.

We recognise the importance of a well-maintained road infrastructure and we are willing to invest in it.

That's why the Scottish Conservatives would invest £100 million over the next parliament into a pothole fund to help councils address the problem.

The SNP has consistently neglected Scotland's roads and the results are obvious for all to see. Fixing our roads will mean safer, faster travel across Scotland.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Frustrated by poor attitude to litter

We have been trying as a community to clear the discarded litter from around the Lochybridge area in Fort William – for example, around 100 people turned up last week to start clearing the Caol shoreline.

Can anybody give me a good reason why we should carry on litter picking,

trying to make the area look clean and tidy, not only for locals but also visitors?

It's frustrating when people make the effort to clear the litter only for that effort to seem in vain when you watch high school pupils casually throwing their litter away in complete disregard for you picking it up within their sight.

But it gets worse when you get a phonecall at 8.30am from a council employee asking if you are responsible for litter picking on the freight yard access road at Lochybridge, past Old Inverloch Castle, only to be told by the jobsworth that they do not collect filled litter bags from private land.

I tried to explain exactly where the litter was cleared from, but was cut short with: 'It costs the council to collect and dispose of the litter and is the responsibility of the landowner.'

I asked who owned the land, only to be told he didn't have a clue.

We are only trying to help, so give us a break.

Peter Berrie,
Lochybridge.

Thanks for help and care after accident

My wife and I read your front-page article (*The Oban Times*, April 26) on the actions of Nyomi MacPhee and her friends in actively helping to summon assistance (an ambulance) and provide comfort for my wife, who had unfortunately tripped and fallen on the pavement.

Nyomi was the leader in these activities, and was so concerned that she took my mobile number, and we exchanged texts over the next few days while my wife was being treated in hospital.

We wish to emphasise how grateful we are to Nyomi and her friends.

We would also like to thank all the ambulance crew and the staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care received, from the skilful diagnosis by the A&E team of the damage caused, to the unceasingly friendly and caring service provided by the nurses.

Stuart Thomson,
Kippen.

Connell Bridge needs urgent attention

An immediate safety survey must be undertaken and a weight restriction limit of 15 to 20 tonnes should be imposed now upon Argyll's little 'Forth Bridge' at Connell.

The vibrations and damage caused by 40-tonne HGVs to the arched construction and road surface at the south end, and over the whole maintenance, mean the safety and longevity of this deteriorating bridge is in question.

An orange road cable can be clearly seen exposed in the road's north end, but much more obviously serious is a corroded underbelly of beams supporting the road as viewed from below.

And cracked, rotting seams in stantions and weather-worn steel,

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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'S E RUD GRÀINEIL a th' ann an gràin! Anns a' Cho-fhaclair Gàidhlig (Thesaurus) a dheasaich TELI tha na faclan gràdh agus gràin cha mhòr ri taobh a chèile air an aon duilleig, agus gu h-inntinneach tha fichead facal-dàimheach ma choinneimh gràdh, ach trì-deug a-mhàin an cois gràin.

Ged nach eil sin na dhearbhadh sam bith gun robh barrachd gràidh seach gràin ann an saoghal nan Gàidheal tha mi fhìn a' gabhail beagan misneachd às. Gun teagamh feumar aideachadh gum bheil mac an duine air a bhith riamh ri sabaid ri a cho-chreutair agus tha iomadhach tachartas ann an eachdraidh nan Gàidheal, mar a tha fìor dhan a h-uile cinneadh, a tha nam maslath. Ach cha b' e gràin air càch a chèile a dh'fhàg daoine ri cath ann an iomadh blàr idir ach iomadh adhbhar eile, agus glè thric bha slugh air an gairm gu cogadh an aghaidh an toil. Dh'innis seann shagheadar dhomh mun àm a fhuair e fhèin saorsa an

dèidh còig bliadhna na phrìosan-ach-cogaidh anns a' Phòlainn.

Bha saighdearan Ameireaganach a' cumail suil air prìosanaich Ghearmailteach agus thuir fear acu ris gum faodadh e ionnsaigh a thoirt air cuid acu mar dhioghalta nan togradh e. 'Ach 's ann a bha truas mo chridhe agam dhaibh!' thuir e.

Ged nach b' ann gun adhbhar a bhiodh na Gàidheil a' bruidhinn air "mi-rùn mòr nan Gall" saoil am bheil mi-rùn cho oilleil ri gràin? Ciamar neo carson a tha neach sam bith dol a' gabhail gràin air rud neo air neach eile? Tha amharas làidir agam gum bheil mòran a' gabhail a' ghràine sin dìreach ri linn 's gum bheil caraidean neo ball-teaghlach ris. Gu cinnteach tha gràin aig mòran air cuspairean mu nach aithne dhaibh dad, ach ged a tha an cuid aineolais èibhinn aig amannan, tha e a' goirteachadh agus a' dèanamh cron air daoine eile.

Gu mì-fhortanach tha cuid air feadh Alba le gràin air a' Ghàidhlig agus cha leig iad cothrom seachad slaic a thoirt oirre. 'S e sochair phrìseil a th' ann an saorsa bheachd anns an dùthaich seo

plus rusty exposed rivets are clearly visible from the footpath on the main road.

The bridge should be scheduled for inspection, shot-blasting, repainting, maintenance and a complete repair overhaul as soon as possible. Or does the government have plans for investment in a new bridge before the inevitable catastrophic shock-failure happens and the bridge is closed maybe permanently over safety concerns?

This beautiful, now 'old lady of Argyll' was once a world record setter in her time and is still an vital rarter in Argyll's economy, but will not last forever under the pounding she is taking daily from nature and the ever bigger and more heavily-laden HGVs.

Is the future a longer journey for our emergency services to get around Loch Etive?

Some urgent TLC is needed for this old lady of Connal, or her sad demise may be quicker or more sudden than expected.

Stephen Jones,
Oban.

Nanny state should stop running our lives

So the Scottish Government thinks that legislation on unit pricing for alcohol will solve problem drinking.

Well, obviously they all have not read their history very well, for if the had they would have known that when the prohibition was imposed in the USA in the 1930s, the amount of alcohol available and consumed was double what it had previously been.

That's because it was freely available on the black market.

To that end, there are certain situations in life where legislation will simply not work.

That means a lot of things in life are up to common sense and the ability of individuals to have the freedom to make decisions for themselves.

What the government and its agencies could do to improve life, and give folk their freedom back, is to stay well out of people's personal lives and of what they do, say, eat and drink.

Right now government agencies are well over the top in giving hints and advice to folk how and what to do in life. It is not their remit to do such a thing.

It has come to the stage that the respective agencies are treating people like children and taking them by the hand.

Well, my message is: 'Back off! You are over the top in a Big Brother way and that's not what you need to do.'

I'd rather you paid some attention to the poor state of Scotland's roads and public services – and treat people with respect.

The current agenda is morally wrong and patronising, so get a grip.

Once again, I reiterate Thomas Jefferson's quote when he said: 'When the people fear the government, that's tyranny.'

'But when the government fears the people, that's freedom.'

So let freedom reign again.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir,
Gearradh na Monadh,
Uibhist a Deas.

Ailean Caimbeul

ach chan eil ann am mòran den tàire a tha ga thilgeil air Gàidhlig agus a cuid cleachdaidh ach burraidheachd, ionnsaidh air a' choimhearsnachd as laige!

Air an adhbhar sin a-mhàin saoilidh mise gur còir dha luchd-deasachaidh irisean coltach sam bith a bhith a' toirt dìon dha min-choimhearsnachd bho lethidh de dhroch dhìol.

Mo bheannachd air an Àrd-Ollamh Wilson MacLeòid a chaidh a dheasbad le fear den fheadhainn a bha a' sgrìobhadh gun tuigs! Nan robh ceartas air a bhith san t-suidheachadh, tha fhios gun robh cuideigin neo-eisimeileach air a bhith ag aithris air a' chòmhradh sin, ach 's e an tàmailt buileach gum b' fheudair an còmhradh tachairt idir.

IT IS dispiriting and hurtful for users and supporters of Gaelic to see their culture regularly attacked in newspapers. Bullying of minorities has always been shameful and these onslaughts on Gaelic are equally so today.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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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

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Lochaber's MacDonald secures podium spot in Six Days Trial

KINLOCHLEVEN rider Gary MacDonald fought his way to a well-earned podium finish on the closing day of this year's Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT).

MacDonald took third spot behind winner Dougie Lampkin, Vertigo, with James Dabill-Beta in the runner-up position.

Lampkin snatched a record extending twelfth trial in dramatic fashion on the closing day of the 2018 event, despite having never been in the lead throughout the week.

It was Dabill who was, and had been, the front runner from Monday and went into day six with a slim advantage which would cruelly disappear when his rear tyre came off the rim in the final section on Ben Nevis.

Lampkin had never carried the yellow leader board this year, having not been helped by his own mechanical problems earlier and throughout the competition, however, he was never far off the lead and had kept the pressure on his fellow

Six Days Trial

Yorkshireman, Dabill, up to and going into the day six deciding encounter.

The duel between these two previous SSDT winners did not disappoint.

And as has been the case so many times in the recent history of this 100-year plus event, it was again the rounded boulders in the narrow valleys on the lower slopes of Ben Nevis where the drama unfolded and the marks that ultimately decided the eventual SSDT winner were lost.

Carrying his two-mark overnight margin forward to this point, Dabill looked in control until disaster struck as his rear tyre broke away from the rim to leave him stranded and with a untimely five-marks.

Under brighter skies and aware of the unfolding story ahead of him, Lampkin remained calm and focused and got on with his task of plotting his way safely through the sections in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain for the loss of just a single dab. That saw him win his seventh SSDT in a row, this time by three marks, and takes his tally to 12 Scottish wins.

The chasing contingent proved to be as strong as ever with



Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald in action.

local hero Macdonald, Scorpa, finishing third after he kept in touch with the leading duo throughout the week.

Macdonald's place on the podium came by way of a tie-break, as he got the nod over Jack Price, Gas Gas, after they both finished on 18 marks.

Jack Sheppard, Sherco, round-

ed off the top five as the Suffolk challenger enjoyed a return to form following recent disappointing results in the national series.

Whilst Lampkin may have claimed the overall win and the best over 40's award, the performance of Emma Bristow, Sherco, was equally noteworthy

as she secured 36th spot in the general ranking and was by far the best female rider over the six tough days of competition.

Macdonald was clear winner of the best Scottish rider award, leaving Dabill's World Championship minder, Jiri Svoboda, Beta, to deservedly collect the prize for best newcomer.

Johnstone retains lead in ten pin scratch league

10-pin bowling

AFTER week seven of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre, Fort William, Brian Johnstone continues to lead the scratch league with 102 points, followed by Pam Weller on 76 and Iain Gregor and Steve Day both on 69 points.

Brian Johnstone also still leads the handicap league with 92 points, followed by Day on 87 points and Gregor on 75 points.

And Brian Johnstone still leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 3,334 pins followed by Gregor second with 2,882 and Steve Day in third with 2,860 pins.

The top individual scratch games this week came from Tony Weldon who had a 176, whilst Tommy McKnight had a 175 and Brian Johnstone had a 173. Jean Fisher had the top handicap game with 238. The highest three-game scratch series of the week came from Brian Johnstone with 473, followed by Ben Weller with 437 and Tony Weldon with 417.

Fisher had the best three-game handicap series of 606 closely followed by Brian Johnstone with 605 and Tony Weldon with 588.

Rotary charity golf competition

Golf

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is hosting its 18th annual charity golf tournament on Sunday May 27 at Fort William Golf Course, Torlundy.

Thanks to the continuing support of local businesses and Scotland-wide participants, over the past 17 years, this tournament has raised more than £60,000 for local charities and good causes.

Team entries are sought for the 2018 tournament. Teams of four play for the annual Rotary Trophy and its £200 award and there are generous prizes for teams and individuals.

Team entry forms, fee £40 per team, can be obtained from James Duncan at the golf club, 01397 704464, email fortwilliam01@btconnect.com, from Rotarian Donald Young at Melby, Old Blar Cottages, Banavie, Fort William, 01397 702639, or via the club's Facebook page.

The club has no administrative or other overheads. Every penny raised goes to local charities.

Lochaber lotteries

Lottery numbers

NUMBERS in this week's Ballachulish Shinty Club draw were 3, 5 and 6. There were no winners so next week's jackpot is £1,400.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for May 13 were 3, 9 and 10. No winners. Next week's jackpot, £1,100.

Caol regeneration lotto numbers for May 10 were 7, 9 and 13. Winners were Mary Fraser and Rosie McPhee, who shared the £400 jackpot. Next draw May 17. Jackpot - £100.

Lochaber end season with one-point win at Moffat



Lochaber pictured before the final game of season team

Moffat	29
Lochaber	30
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER rounded off their season on a high note with a well-earned single-point win over a stuffy Moffat side, despite having to call on two retired players for the match.

Moffat were giving away a lot of penalties for high tackles early on and Lochaber benefited from one of these penalties when they opened the scoring with Jonathan McCook slotting a penalty.

Moffat started to impose their game plan early on, giving the ball to their massive forward

pack to rumble it up. Lochaber defended strongly but Moffat were running good support lines and getting the off-loads away.

This worked well for them and they scored two tries over the next 10 minutes.

McCook kicked a second penalty to narrow the gap to 12-6.

Not long after the re-start, flyhalf Gary Hendrie, who was playing his first league game with son Greg, suffered a serious knee injury.

With no subs, Lochaber were reduced to 14 men.

In the second half, Moffat looked to put the game to bed, scoring quickly after the break to make it 19-6.

Lochaber were not done, however, and winger Paul Mitchell, who had been causing Moffat's defence all sorts of problems in the first half, gathered a long pass and darted over the line to score.

A few minutes later, Lochaber were back in Moffat's 22 and after quick hands they got the ball out to McCook who still had a lot of work to do with two defenders in front of him. But he broke through the tackle and got the ball down. He then converted his own try to bring the score to 19-18.

Moffat struck next to stretch the score to 24-18. In the process, Lochaber scrumhalf Calum Sandison suffered a knee

Rugby

injury trying to stop the try and had to come off for treatment.

But in the five minutes they were down to 13 players, Lochaber scored again. Hooker Finlay Foulis ripped the ball in the tackle and Lochaber responded quickly and second row Angus Jenkins took the ball to the line.

He was stopped short, but prop William Stewart shoved him over the line, but he was still held up.

Lochaber were awarded the scrum five metres out and took full advantage of their position when flanker Daniel Thomas forced his way over to bring the score to 24-23.

Lochaber took the lead for the first time when number eight John MacKerlich took the ball at pace after some good hands to get over the line with McCook converting to make it 24-30.

With the last play of the game, the referee awarded Moffat a controversial try after it seemed their winger had been tackled into touch and dropped the ball as he was trying to get it down.

The score was poised at 29-30 with the conversion to come. Moffat's scrum half lined up the kick but yet again dragged it wide.

The referee blew his whistle for full time with Lochaber finishing the season with another away win. The club wishes Gary Hendrie a speedy recovery.

Calcutta Cup graces Lochaber schools' tag rugby event

THERE was plenty exciting on-pitch action at Lochaber Rugby Club's Banavie ground last week, when the club hosted its annual inter school tag rugby event.

Run with the help of Highlife Highlands Active Schools co-ordinators, this year's tournament saw the P4-5 and P6-7 matches in the morning, followed by the S1-S2 games in the afternoon.

The Calcutta Cup, won by Scotland 25-13 against England at BT Murrayfield in February, made a special appearance thanks to the involvement of Lochaber RFC coaching staff member and Scottish Rugby Union modern apprentice Ryan Davies.

High Life Highland active schools co-ordinator Fiona Beattie said the event was a great success.

Tag rugby

'It was a really good day, a bit wet but not too bad. We had teams from all four high schools and 16 primary schools, so there was a really good level of participation,' she said. 'And it was amazing to see the Calcutta Cup. The youngsters were absolutely thrilled to see it. I loved seeing it as well. It's a beautiful trophy.'

The secondary schools competition was won by Mallaig High School's B team, while the P4-5 event was won by Caol Primary School with Lundavra Primary School taking top spot in the P6-7 event.

The winning teams from Lundavra, back row, and Caol primary schools celebrate after the tag rugby event.



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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Light winds from the south west
Temperatures 7°C to 15°C

Friday Cloudy with sunny intervals
Breezy from the south south west
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Outlook Light rain on Sunday
Breezy from the south
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C

FRIDAY

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 17, 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	00.42	0.5	06.44	4.0	13.00	0.4	18.52	3.9	Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.28	0.2	07.26	3.8	13.45	0.5	19.35	3.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.18	0.7	08.12	3.6	14.33	0.7	20.22	3.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.14	0.9	09.04	3.3	15.27	0.9	21.16	3.4	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.16	1.1	10.08	3.0	16.27	1.1	22.21	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	05.29	1.3	11.47	2.9	17.34	1.2	23.53	3.1	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	06.53	1.4	13.23	2.9	18.46	1.3	** ** *	**	Oban to Barra/South Uist			Moderate
									Oban to Coll/Tiree			Moderate
									Kennacraig to Islay			Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)