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## Taynuilt love tribute rivals the Taj Mahal

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



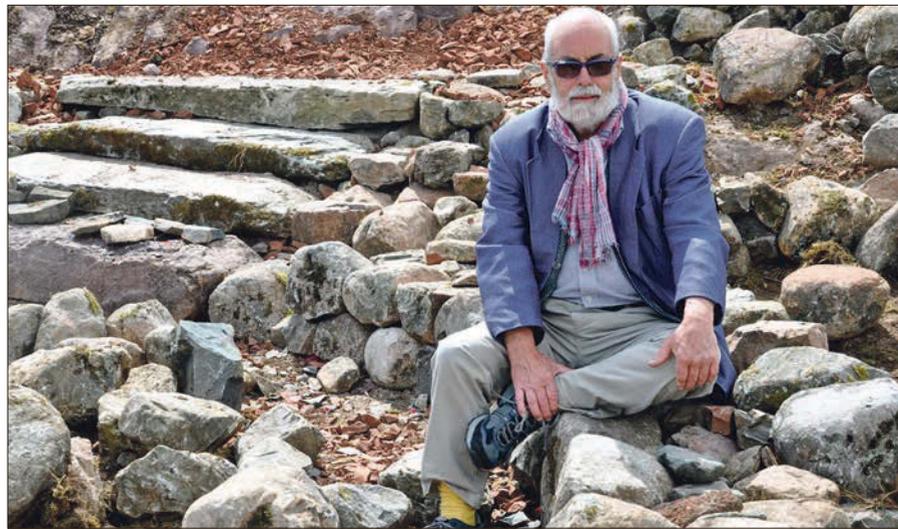
India boasts the Taj Mahal as the world's most romantic building...but a new memorial inspired by a much-loved Taynuilt artist could soon be about to rival it.

While the Taj Mahal is made from white marble, The Shieling is part-made from recycled stone and is perched 1,500ft up a mountain overlooking Glen Etive. It officially opens to the public later this month.

The memorial is the fulfilment of a promise made to Belfast-born Evelyn MacDonald by her husband Sam before she died from cancer last year.

The pair, who divided their time between Ireland and their home at Barguilean, Taynuilt, had talked about creating a lasting memorial to a love story that had captured their hearts.

Deirdre of the Sorrows tells the tragic tale of two young runaways who fled



Sam MacDonald at The Shieling, a memorial to love inspired by his wife Evelyn.

across the sea from Ireland to escape an angry king and found happiness hiding away in Glen Etive – but it was not to be forever.

Some years later, they were tricked by the king into returning to Ireland, Deirdre's lover Naoise was killed and – faced with being forced into

a loveless marriage – she took her own life. A 'couple' of standing stones symbolise Deirdre and Naoise facing each other, almost touching, at the top of the memorial's steps that lead down into arm-like walls with a Celtic knot seat at the heart of it.

Tucked into the wall will be

a statue of a man and woman clasped in an embrace.

Before it received its new gold coat, the concrete statue took pride of place outside the MacDonalds' home.

Mr MacDonald said: 'Evelyn would be horrified to think The Shieling was a memorial to her. It is a me-

morial to someone else's love story that we both fell in love with. Everyone who hears the story and hears about The Shieling is seduced by it.'

Public art sculptor David Wilson will be back on site next week to add the finishing touches.

'David was the right man for the job. He said he would leave it looking like the gods had dropped it on the hill thousands of years before. We hope it will take on a life of its own from now on and, with what must be the finest view in Argyll, become another 'must' on the map for people to visit.

'No doubt people will soon be wanting to get married up there,' said Mr MacDonald, who ran nearby Barguilean Nurseries for 30 years and gathered a creative team close to home to make The Shieling vision a reality.

The project has been driven by Mr MacDonald and four other committee members. Taynuilt artist Lucy Gray

## Big change says small is beautiful

There are well-known old sayings that the best things come in small packages and that small is beautiful.

So we are confident regular and – we hope – new readers will like what they see with the completely redesigned Oban Times.

A lot of research among our readers and advertisers convinced us here at The Oban Times that you wanted us to change to this far more reader-friendly format, so that is what we have done.

A huge amount of work has gone into revamping the newspaper to give it this bold new look, but readers can rest assured all their favourite content is still here.

One big difference from going compact is that we now have built-in flexibility that will allow us even more space to cover all the local news, sport, business, entertainment and features that make The Oban Times unique.

And, of course, we will continue to publish everything we do online. In this modern age, you can subscribe from as little as 56p per week to get the full Oban Times on your computer, tablet or mobile devices.

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## A message from our publishers to all our readers

Welcome to the new format of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times.

We hope and believe you will find this a more convenient way to read all the extensive news and to observe the many useful local advertisements.

We are proud of the many reporters we have covering your areas and many thanks to our editor Susan Windram, who leads the team for the

benefit of our all-important readers.

As we have reported to you it has only taken us 157 years to reach this decision which is based upon a recent survey of you, our readers, who voted by a majority in favour of the change.

Thank you for your interest and support for your local newspaper. We hope you enjoy your new-style newspaper.  
**Howard and Joan Bennett.**

# Oban signs up to be plastic-free

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban has signed up to join 300 communities across the UK pledging to become plastics-free.

Janie Steele from Footprint Alba took the leap of faith as part of her role as an ambassador for Surfers Against Sewage. The network runs a plastics-free coastlines initiative encouraging communities to do their best to reduce plastic in their villages, towns and cities.

At the weekend, Ms Steele was collecting supporters' names at a stall at the town's charities day event.

The plastic-free scheme is based on the Fairtrade model and only began last August but the idea has caught on, said Ms Steele, who hopes the whole of Oban will get behind the bid for plastics-free status.

'We need to find out who



Raising awareness at Oban Charities Day were Janie Steele and Ross Preston.

wants to get behind the bid. It could be schools, clubs, businesses, families – anyone. There are certain things we have to achieve to get the status but Oban has already made a start so it looks good.'

Letters have been sent out to get backing from councillors, pupils at Rockfield Primary School have also made green

changes and, last month, campaigners from call-to-action group Awakening In Argyll carried out peaceful plastic attacks on the town's three supermarkets.

'We need businesses to look at using compostible goods and we need people wanting to take community leads in the project. It's early days still

but we're off to a flying start. The more people involved, the quicker we'll get the status,' added Ms Steele.

People can find out more about plastics-free Oban at a special community-run screening of A Plastic Ocean at Oban Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday June 19 at 7.30pm.

The screening is the day after a national summit on marine litter is held in Oban bringing together manufacturers and retailers, marine and environmental stakeholders, and coastal communities which are most affected by marine litter.

The aim is to raise awareness, increase understanding of the issue, and help identify and develop actions to tackle it.

After the film, there will be a question and answer session and two minutes of footage showing local action. Tickets are on sale now.

Tomorrow, Friday June 8, is World Oceans Day.

# COMING SOON

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Your guide to some of the West Coast, Highland's and Islands' most beautiful beaches

Your guide to some of the West Coast, Highland's and Islands' most beautiful beaches

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Hope Kitchen volunteers proudly show off their certificates. 16\_T23\_HopeKitchen01

## Teenagers receive awards for volunteering

Teenagers who have given up their time to help others were recognised for their good will at the Saltire Awards in Oban's Hope Kitchen.

The ceremony took place last Thursday May 31 and Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara was on duty to hand out the certificates.

Speaking at the event, Mr O'Hara said: 'Volunteering is hugely important. It's not an easy thing to do. You are a credit to yourselves, your family, your school and this organisation. Well done and congratulations. You should be very proud of yourselves.'

Hope manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'It's amazing the development that we see in the young people. We really see the difference.'

Mrs MacCormick said the awards were a 'nationally recognised award system, which goes hand in hand with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).'

She explained that youngsters chose to volunteer for a number of reasons, such as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, as part of the SQA or because they want to.

Mr O'Hara added: 'I think

it's a win-win situation. Young people come in and volunteer and gain an understanding about the difficulties that people face and they give to the organisation and help the people.'

Not everyone was able to make it to the ceremony, but the 14 teenagers who earned a certificate were Isla Smith, Charlie Robertson, Ali Trafford, Eve Beaton, Sian Wellburn, Ezra Douglas Reid, Amy Craik, Aiden Macleod, Maya Sutherland, Sophie King, Ealasaid Maclean Fleming, Kila Bartley, Islay Cameron and Braeden Munt.

# FAI hears mayday call

## Lost fisherman is heard telling Coastguard: 'Going down fast'

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A fatal accident inquiry into the sinking of a fishing boat off Easdale with the loss of skipper Scott MacAlister heard his last words in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told his family they could find the evidence difficult.

Scott MacAlister's mayday call aboard the Speedwell was picked up at 1.06pm on April 25, 2013. 'Going down fast off the point of Easdale,' the 40-year-old father of three said. 'Just about to go under.'

The Coastguard asked if he could get a lifejacket on. 'Will do,' he replied. The transmission lasted 33 seconds.

Retired DI Alastair Davidson, who was on duty at Oban police office that day, told the court: 'A number of civilian vessels responded to the mayday. People pull together.'

Mr Davidson said Scott's father, Peter MacAlister, an experienced fisherman, was



Scott MacAlister.

'adamant he knew where the Speedwell was', but the area where it was eventually located was initially discounted in the search.

The court heard Peter spent weeks trailing a pick to snag his son's boat on the seabed.

Graeme Bruce, a diver from Seil, had volunteered to help find the Speedwell and Scott's remains. Mr Bruce said. 'I knew he had children. He had a wife. I was just making sure we found him for them. 'There is no insurance claim without a body.'

After three dives found only igneous dykes, which resemble shipwrecks on a magnetometer, an echo sounder revealed 'very good' images on June 16. Reading from notes recorded straight after each dive, Mr Bruce said the Speedwell lay 83.3m deep between the isles of Easdale and Insh.

'I could see the white roof of the wreck,' he said. 'It was virtually upright, leaning slightly to the starboard side.' He saw one of Peter MacAlister's grapples stuck in the side of the boat.

'I could see the wheelhouse door was open. The radio mic was dangling. The boat's life raft was in the valise, on the floor right in front of the door,' he said. 'If the painter had been pulled manually, it would have been jettisoned. I did not see any lifejackets. I was looking for somebody in one.'

Mr Bruce said he could not see evidence of a body, such as marine life, in the wheelhouse

or on deck, and concluded: 'I thought [Scott] would not be on the boat.'

Mr Bruce noted the engine-room hatch was missing, but the aft fish room was still covered. Procurator fiscal David Glancy asked: 'The only breach in the deck as far as you can see is this open hatch?'

Mr Bruce replied: 'Yes,' adding he didn't see any damage to the hull, and knew of no rocks near the surface within 1,000 yards.

Robert Gate, a fisherman from Uig, Skye, who had accompanied Scott MacAlister on the Speedwell, said twice water had filled its aft fish room, which they could only bail with a bucket.

Mr Gates said: 'The engine room was dry on both occasions. You never got water in there. The engine hatch was always off. A lot of boats do it to let the air in.'

The MacAlister family's advocate Lewis Kennedy asked Mr Bruce: 'Was there any damage to the propeller?'

Mr Bruce replied he didn't look during his 16 minutes at the boat. 'I planned another dive to have another look,' he said, but 'I was told by the owner of the boat he did not want us to dive on the boat any more.'

Mr Bruce said the police tried to stop him diving: '[The officer] told me it was potentially a crime scene.'

Mr Bruce said: 'Police divers are trained to go to a depth of 30m. This was three times that, nearly. The HSE [Health and Safety Executive] would not let them do that.'

Mr Davidson said a commercial diving company had quoted the police costs of £175,000-£200,000 per day, but he sought to discourage the community's own searches: 'My own concern was that instead of looking for one missing person we would be looking for two or three.'

'Ultimately it proved Mr [Peter] MacAlister right: that was where the Speedwell was.'

The inquiry continues.

## YOURVIEW



Donald MacDonald gave a resounding 'yes', when asked about The Oban Times going compact. He said: 'It will be easier to read. When you try to read it now, you have to stretch your arms. It's like an OS map.'



Iain Venters said: 'I think it will be alright. It will save me knocking people in the eye when I am opening a page.'



Is there anything better to do on a scorching hot, sunny Sunday afternoon in Oban than buy a pokey hat and eat it watching the world go by? Lots of people had the same idea – and The Pokey Hat on Stafford Street ran out of ice cream and had to close early. That's a lot of ice cream, more than 500 litres, all homemade, in 28 flavours. Malcolm Alloway, 20, from Iona, who is working at The Pokey Hat said it took less than four-and-a-half hours for the shop to empty. Words and photograph: Joanne Simms

## POLICE FILES Sergeant Iain MacNicol

■ Between 3pm and 5pm on Tuesday May 29, a 12V portable water pump was stolen from a building site on Benvoullin Road, Oban.

■ Between 5pm on Saturday June 2 and 3.40pm on Sunday June 3, in Sunderland Drive, Oban, a red Izu pick-up was damaged by having the paintwork scratched.

■ About 2.30am on Sunday June 3, in Hill Street, Oban, a red Audi A3 was damaged by having the bonnet dented.

■ About 11.45am on Sunday June 3, in Connel, a man, aged 25, behaved in an abusive manner. He was arrested, charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ Between 11am and 4pm on Sunday June 3, a large metal table was stolen from the recycling site at Moleigh.

■ If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, contact your local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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OT

## Multi-agency rescue to save seal pup on Eigg

A multi-agency rescue took place last week to save a seal pup abandoned on Eigg.

The pup, which has since been named Percy, was spotted by a sailor who happened to be a vet.

He monitored Percy for 24 hours and, when he noticed that he had not moved, he stepped in to administer life-saving fluids.

He waited another day to see if the mother would return, but when she didn't, the multi-agency rescue began.

The sailor took Percy to Tobermory and contacted the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and the Mull Aquarium. The pup was then transferred to the aquarium, as temperatures on the yacht soared in the heatwave.

Thanks to Coastal Connections and the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), it was taken to Oban, where a medic was waiting to carry out an assessment.

A woman, who wished to remain anonymous, said: 'The SSPCA phoned me yesterday [Monday]. The pup is in the SSPCA centre in



**Percy the rescued seal pup.**

Photograph: Mull Aquarium.

Fishcross, near Alloa, and it's doing well.

'It's a common seal and will be there for a few months.

'Occasionally a common seal will give birth to two pups, but only have enough milk for one.'

The woman added: 'Seal pups should be left alone, unless in real difficulty, as in this case. People should not approach pups or take selfies with them.'

'It's really important that people don't step in quickly – most times the mother comes back. People need to phone for advice.'

Call the SSPCA on 03000 999 999.

# Argyll care bosses agree to fewer cuts

## Care packages to come under financial spotlight

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll's health and care chiefs have dropped deep service cuts this year, and instead will focus on a financial recovery plan to plug a budget gap.

The new plan includes reducing high-cost care packages, agency and locum posts, and delaying recruitment for staff vacancies.

The Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP), jointly run by health boards and councils, manage those integrated services in each region. Each HSCP is governed by an Integration Joint Board (IJB), which makes the decisions, facing 'very challenging' finances in Argyll and Bute.

Argyll and Bute HSCP's most controversial cost-saving proposals – to axe council-run care homes, day care and

learning disability centres – were rejected by the IJB on March 28, following public outrage when the plans were leaked.

HSCP officers were asked to 'develop alternative savings proposals' for the IJB on Wednesday May 30 in Argyll and Bute Council's HQ at Kilmory Castle.

A report stated the budget gap for 2018-19, following March's IJB meeting, stood at £2.4 million, but this has since reduced to £1.6 million, 'due to agreement to delay repayment of 2017-18 overspend by NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute'.

The report continued: 'It has not been possible to identify further savings in the timescale required which would be in line with the strategic plan and deliverable in the 2018-19 financial year. Instead an approach to financial recovery

is proposed.

'This may be perceived to be a high risk approach in terms of delivering financial balance in 2018-19 but through tight financial management, including focused monitoring and reporting of the financial position and support to budget managers, benefits from cost control and reduction may potentially offset the savings shortfall.'

'The delivery of the approved savings requires to be the main focus, as it is clear that if there continue to be delays with delivery of service changes that are planned to deliver £10.6 million of savings during 2018-19, then financial balance will be unlikely to be achieved.'

The HSCP's financial recovery plan lists several 'required actions', including a review of care-at-home packages, 'in areas where the provision is

disproportionately higher than in other areas, particularly in the west of Argyll'.

There will also be a 'review of all high cost care packages with a view to reducing [them]', which risks 'resistance from services users and their families and also front-line practitioners to reducing care packages already in place. Any change to services would be based on appropriate assessment and review'.

Officers will also 'review current staffing establishment and closely scrutinise vacancies', and 'apply an appropriate delay to filling positions', but warned: 'Delays in recruiting to positions may have impact on the timely provision of services and may also impact on other staff.'

The use of agency and locum posts will also be reviewed to reduce them.

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## Oban playpark accessibility praised despite three-month closure

Oban's £180,000 community playpark, which closed almost three months ago after it failed a safety inspection, has been praised in a new national guide to 'creating accessible play spaces'.

A parent group called Friends of Oban Playpark successfully raised more than £334,000 to replace the old playpark beside Atlantis Leisure, which also closed for safety reasons in 2014, with two new ones – a big park for ages five to 15, and a smaller one for under fives – plus refurbishing the millennium garden.

The big playpark, which cost £180,000 to build, opened in November 2015, but just two years later its surface began to crack and bubble as it 'sank into a swamp', and families grew impatient to see it fixed before children or grandparents tripped and hurt themselves.

Argyll and Bute Council, which maintains the playpark, closed it following a safety inspection in March, explaining: 'The safety of the children and families who use the playpark is our key priority. Because of the risk of injury from uneven flooring,



The playpark closed in March after a safety inspection.

we have closed part of the park temporarily and are in contact with the contractor about progressing repairs.'

It was set to re-open by the middle of May, but a council spokesperson added on Monday: 'A meeting is scheduled with our contractor for later this week to discuss the next steps.'

Friends' chairperson Lyndsay Elliott said the closure was damaging tourism. She added: 'I was in the playpark gardens on Thursday for two hours, and there were three families on English half-term that went away disappointed because they had made the journey specifically to use the park and couldn't. The impact of the closed space is damaging for our local children and to the wider tourist community.'

Last year the Friends of

Oban Playpark received a Nancy Owens Award for Play - 'the Oscars of the play world'.

Now the playpark has been hailed in the new 'Free to Play' guide, launched this week in the Scottish Parliament, for its exemplar partnership between community groups and the local authority.

The 'guide to creating accessible and inclusive public play spaces', it says, 'is designed to ensure that all children and young people, including those with additional support needs, can exercise their right to play in their local communities.'

The rest of the park remains open. The under-fives £95,000 playpark opened at the leisure centre's 25th birthday party in September, adopting a pirate-ship theme from its neighbour.

# Rockfield shares to go on sale this month

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Trustees launching the final funding push for Oban's new £3 million Rockfield Centre have brought in shares experts.

Oban Communities Trust (OCT) opens its community share offer on June 16 to bring in the final £500,000 it needs to refurbish the main building.

Last week, trustees had a training session with Community Shares Scotland to prepare for the launch date.

Shares will be on offer for six weeks until July 31, giving everyone a chance to invest in the centre and make it their own. Friends, family and organisations are being encouraged to pitch in with each other.

People will be able to go along to the Rockfield Centre on Saturday June 16 from 10am to 4pm for an open day and signing up opportunity.

Three years ago the centre



The Rockfield Centre launches its shares initiative on June 16.

was on the brink of demolition but it was saved by the community who wanted to see it turned into a hub supporting arts and culture, history and heritage, and enterprise and education.

Volunteers worked hard to

get rid of wet and dry rot and nearly £2 million was raised towards the project. If successful, refurbishment will start in December with the centre opening for business in 2020.

OCT chairman Gordon McNab said: 'We have already

secured the bulk of the money from grants. We are so near the finish line - we only need to raise the last £500,000 from our community share offer to get the centre refurbished and the lights on.'

Since 2009, almost 120,000

people have invested more than £100 million in community share offers to support 350 community businesses throughout the UK.

The Rockfield Centre's shares will be £50 each with a minimum purchase of £250. Each shareholder will have one vote.

Mr McNab added: 'Community shares are about what you, your family or business will get from the Rockfield Centre as well as the benefits the centre will bring to Oban and the wider area. As well as the social benefits, there is a strong economic benefit to everyone in the area - more destination activities in Oban will mean more visitors staying and spending in our town, filling bed spaces, food outlets and other visitor attractions. It's a win-win all round.'

To find out more, go to [therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://therockfieldcentre.org.uk), call in at the community huts or contact [caroline@therockfieldcentre.org.uk](mailto:caroline@therockfieldcentre.org.uk) or 07483 308 142.

## YOURVIEW



Joy Palmer said: 'I feel people are so caught up these days, particularly with social media. People are far more likely to read a smaller article. Perhaps by reducing the size it will widen the readership.'



Jim Irving said: 'I think it's great because it will be a lot easier to read, especially if you are going on a bus or a train.'

## £500,000 EU grant for trout farm

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



An Argyll trout farm has been awarded more than £500,000 for a new vessel by the EU and Scottish Government.

Kames Fish Farming, based at Kilmelford, received a £530,879 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) grant towards costs of more than £1 million for a transport vessel.

Director Allan MacIsaac said the company had expanded its production of rainbow trout from 700t in 2016 to almost 2,000t this year. He added: 'This growth comes from the new site at Loch Pooltiel on Skye and increasing production in Argyll.

'As we continue to expand our production, we need to invest in equipment to ensure we are working efficiently. This marine transport project will allow Kames Fish Farming to make economic savings from the transport of personnel, feed and equipment to our sea sites in both Argyll and Skye.

'This new 19-metre landing craft will reduce the number of trips we need to make to the sites, saving time and fuel. The vessel will be made in a UK shipyard and, when it is complete, we will be hiring staff to crew the boat.

'The EMFF grant is a great boost to our company as it will allow Kames to grow and meet the demand that is out there for high quality

Scottish trout.'

The Scottish Government said the new vessel 'will deliver supplies and increase efficiency through a reduced numbers of trips, environmental benefits through reduced fuel usage, and safer loading and unloading for crew. It will also help the company employ two additional staff.'

This year the EMFF is investing £6.9 million in 107 projects to help 'fishing fleets land and sell their catch and support jobs in coastal communities.'

The funding includes around £182,587 for the purchase and installation of a new ice plant at Mallaig Harbour which will protect the quality of catches landed on the west coast.

## Lifeboat helps grounded yacht in Oban Bay

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called into action by the UK Coastguard on Sunday to assist a yacht which had gone aground in Oban Bay.

At 3.43pm, the lifeboat was tasked to assist the yacht which had grounded to the east of the Corran Ledge,

within Oban Bay, with four people on board.

The lifeboat left the berth at 3.51pm and made the short trip across the bay, arriving three minutes later. The lifeboat's XP-boat was deployed with two crew to check the yacht and those aboard.

It was established the yacht had already been assisted

by a small vessel from Oban Marina, which had successfully deployed a kedge anchor into deeper water.

Oban lifeboat stood by until the yacht refloated and came clear of the ledge by 4.28pm.

Oban lifeboat then stood down and was back in her berth and ready for service by 4.34pm.



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OT

## Charitable trust volunteer appeal

Oban Charitable Trust is seeking volunteers to keep the service going.

The charity was formed in 1991 by Graeme Pagan and manages the Hameart holiday flat in Oban, self-catering holiday and respite accommodation to those suffering from cancer, and their carers.

The trust said: 'We want new trustees to help decide on policies and practice to keep the service going. We need fresh thought and energy to maintain efficiency. It meets about four times a year. Contact Bob on 01631 770279, or Laura on 07572 464869.'

## Fashion show help for Oban Hospice

Friends of Oban Hospice take to the catwalk with a ladies' fashion show and shop at the Corran Halls on Tuesday June 19.

The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm with a charity raffle.

For tickets and to find out more, call the booking office on 01631 567333.

# Seaweed researchers test a growth industry

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Seaweed farming could bring a new green wave of prosperity to Argyll, with a helping hand from marine scientists at Dunbeg.

Researchers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), one of Europe's leading marine science research organisations, are monitoring an experimental seaweed farm at Port a Bhuiltin, not far from Lismore.

It cost £25,000 to kit out and it already has a licence to create a second site.

Seaweed as a sustainable source of food, fuel and other commercial products has also caught the attention of Argyll and Bute Council, which has applied for £130,000 of European funding for a feasibility study, weighing up just what the industry could do for the area's economy and jobs.



Some of the interested individuals who went out on the SAMS boat to visit the seaweed farm.

There are around 10,000 known seaweeds worldwide but only 200 species are being cultivated, and about 10 kinds are grown and harvested in Scotland.

Already hailed by many for its health-boosting properties, advocates for the vegetation credit it as a super-food, medication and petrol substitute.

SAMS researchers are testing

out some of those species and different methods of growing them at the early stages of what could be a new industry for this part of the world.

Dr Adrian Macleod said: 'We are producing good results. We're looking at year-round cultivation so we can harvest it all year. I think it will work in Scotland. We just have to keep trialling different systems.'

'We do have a licence for another site but we are going to bide our time to see what happens here, until we can manage two sites because it's a lot of work.'

Special textiles, ropes and pipes are among systems being tried. They are also working on a European 'Marcofuels' project to see how they can extract as much energy as possible from seaweeds and how to grow it enough to make it sustainable.

Nutrient-rich water and the right amount of light are key to a good seaweed harvest and impressive growth can take just six months.

Last month, SAMS hosted a citizens' science day as part of that project, inviting seaweed experts, the public, entrepreneurs, council representatives and industry leaders to get a first hand look at their work.

A boat trip out to the farm was followed by opportunities for people to have a say on



Scallop diver Douglas Chirnside, left, Lottie Goodlet and SAMS researcher Dr Adrian MacLeod.

**Green, red or brown – all types of seaweed contain a rich supply of minerals including iodine and seven times as much calcium as milk. It is also rich in protein, fibre and vitamins but low in calories and fat. Scots have used it for centuries in stews and soups, and it can also set jellies. Certain types can be turned into deep-fat fried crisps and even an alternative for lasagne. There's also one that looks like spaghetti.**



Lottie Goodlet and Bert Groenendaal.

seaweed farming, share views, hopes and concerns. Feedback will be documented in a report to be used in Scotland and in Europe to help decision-makers in seaweed-based economies shape up the future of farming it.

Walter Speirs, chairman of the Scottish Seaweed Industry Association, was one of those taking part in the day.

Others included Bert Groenendaal who is research

director for Belgium-based Sioen Industries, which manufactures a special textile used to spurt seaweed growth in the floating farms.

Argyll and Bute councillor Kieron Green, officers from the council's economic development team, a Highlands and Islands Enterprise council representative, seaweed health converts, foragers, organic gardeners and a scallop diver were also there.

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## Oban young people to get Citylink discount

To celebrate the Year of Young People 2018, young people in Oban are to receive a 20 per cent discount off all Citylink coach services across Scotland.

The discount is available on off-peak and peak-time travel on the 918, 976 and 977 services, which can transport young people to Fort William and Glasgow.

The discount will enable Oban's young people to access education, employment and other opportunities as well as encouraging young people to explore more of Scotland's cities and sights.

Louise Macdonald, chief executive of Young Scot, said: 'Young Scots will benefit hugely from this exciting Scottish Citylink discount.'

'The cost of travel is a major barrier to young people and money off Scottish Citylink buses will help young people from Oban get to where they work or study, as well as keep up with friends and family.'

'It also makes it easier for young people to explore Scotland's amazing sights on a low-cost and greener mode of transport.'

# Hope for harvest boon

## Oban Lions appeal for gardeners to donate fresh produce

The arrival of sunny weather can bring tasty early pickings, from soft fruit to salad, and it won't be long before gardeners are adding root vegetables and brassicas to their crops.

Many of those who garden for pleasure find that they have more than their family and friends can consume, and it is these extras – which might otherwise end on the compost heap – that Lions are requesting be donated to New Hope.

The organisation, which recently moved to new premises on Soroba Road, runs a lunch-time soup kitchen every weekday, and serves dinners on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Its drop-in centre offers friendship and support to people facing challenges from loneliness, to homelessness, mental illness and addiction, and hosts community classes and social events.

'We welcome donations of all sorts of food and we would be especially keen to receive



Beth Campbell, left, and Lorraine MacCormick always have a pot of soup at New Hope.

freshly grown vegetables and fruit,' explained Lorraine MacCormick, service manager.

'We always have a pot of soup on the go, and usually it's a vegan soup that every-

one can enjoy. But we find we often have to buy vegetables and it would be wonderful to be able to use more fresh, local ingredients.

'Donations would also help to stock our foodbank, en-

suring that there is a healthy balance of food within the parcels that we give out.'

Oban Lions are supporting New Hope as part of a Lions International campaign to eliminate hunger, starting with

local communities and working towards a goal of serving 200 million people around the world every year by 2021.

'For once we are not asking you to dig into your pocket for a donation,' said Jim Edge, Lions publicity officer. 'We would like you to dig into your garden and make a donation from there instead.'

'If you grow vegetables, fruit, salad or soft fruit, we would be very happy if you could donate it to New Hope, which will be able to do wonderful things with it, making a big difference to people in need in our community. Donations don't have to cost the earth, in this case the earth will provide your donation.'

To make a home-grown donation, call in at New Hope, 2 Soroba Road (opposite the junction with Glencruitten Road), at any time during opening hours, or get in touch with Hope Kitchen on Facebook. Contributions of tinned and dried foods are also appreciated.

## YOURVIEW



Personal assistant Marina Ewart, 56, from Oban said: 'It's fantastic, it's brilliant. When it was big, it was a bit of a nuisance trying to read it, especially in the garden.'



Taynuilt community councillor David Thompson, 67, said: 'Compact is a great idea. I've been reading The Oban Times for 50 years and look forward to many years more.'

## Oban to get 20mph speed trial

A 20mph speed limit will be piloted in Oban, Transport Scotland has revealed in its response to an Oban Times petition to improve safety on the A85.

We launched the 'Stay Alive on the A85' campaign following a series of serious accidents on the main trunk road to Oban, calling for a reduction in the speed limit, an extension of the double white lines to prevent overtaking between Connel and Oban, and a lay-by to be created at Pennyfuir cemetery.

A petition signed by 290 readers was handed in November to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf MSP.

Six months later Transport



Humza Yousaf MSP.

Scotland's road safety manager, Amy Philips, wrote on behalf of the minister: 'While the number of people killed and seriously injured

on the A85 between Oban and Tyndrum has been reducing over recent years, we are not complacent and will continue to progress road safety improvements.'

Ms Philips added three road safety studies on the A85 between Oban and Tyndrum will end soon, and designs are 'progressing' for a safety barrier between the Halfway House filling station and Connel, and signs and road marking on the bends.

She pointed to last year's upgrade of 'electronic wig-wag signs' at Pennyfuir cemetery, and a new £340,000 road safety barrier between Oban and the Halfway House filling station.

## Inveraray's RBS branch 'will close' says MSP

Argyll MSP Michael Russell has accused the Royal Bank of Scotland of 'undermining rural communities', as it closes branches in Campbeltown and Rothesay.

Ten branches, including Inveraray, were granted a stay of execution until the end of the year, but he says Inveraray 'will still be closed'.

'This is becoming a very

simple issue,' Mr Russell said. 'Does RBS want to support rural communities or does it want to undermine them?'

'It is taking actions to achieve the latter and it deserves every bit of criticism it gets.'

'RBS also deserves to have its customers make a judgement about whether they wish to continue with such a

company which appears absolutely deaf to the opinions of those it is meant to serve, and deaf to the facts of the damage that it is doing.'

RBS said if its Inveraray branch saw 'sustainable transactional increases and viable new income' before 2019, it will reconsider closure as part of a 'full independent review'.

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## GDPR?

### This guy didn't talk to us!

A photograph of a man in a dark suit crawling on his hands and knees on a light-colored surface, looking back over his shoulder.

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OT

YOURVIEW



Jim Watson, Seil: 'It is a great idea. It is more comfortable to read, and it will mean more pages. I could not hold the broadsheet up and it was difficult to close.'

Council wins cyber security award

Argyll and Bute Council has been awarded the UK's highest level of cyber security accreditation after independent assessors carried out tests on computer systems.

The council has been given its Cyber Essentials Plus certificate, which confirms its commitment to protecting data against the most common internet-based threats to cyber security.



Cool kids enjoying a little shade.



These girls are off and running.



Jumping through hoops in the sunshine.

Blessed with a

Sunshine helped to make Taynuilt school sports day a real winner.

Pupils from the village primary and nursery school swapped their site in Strathview and took over the village sports ground, using it as their stadium for the day. Proud mums, dads, siblings, grandparents and carers all turned out to cheer the excited youngsters.

Sizzling temperatures added to the sports day fever as winners collected their star stickers at the finishing lines.

Balancing bean bags, wriggling through hoops, sack jumping and longshot were just some of the events putting pupils through their paces.

Headteacher Jacqui McLarty said it was 'a day of smiles'.

She added: 'The children were amazing, working in their clans and also in individual excellence. They were all supporting each other, which was the highlight of the day for me.'

'We had seven sports people of the day and an overall sportsperson, and Lonan was the overall winning clan.'

'Our fantastic parents and staff helped to make the day go like a dream. Everyone said it was the best sports day ever. We all came away with big grins on our faces! It was a day of smiles.'



Nursery pupils jump to the start.



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The winners collect their stickers at the end.

# A day of smiles



Complete concentration for throwing the javelin.



Coming ahead to get first place.



Hats the way to go!



A long leap in the three-jump contest.

## Islands Bill is passed

MSPs unanimously passed Scotland's 'historic' Islands Bill after its stage three debate on Wednesday May 20.

Welcoming the vote, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar convener Norman A MacDonald said: 'The Bill is an opportunity to embed the principles that one size does not fit all.'

'Given the fragile nature of our islands' economies, the challenges of population retention and growth, and other financial and resource issues which impact disproportionately on islands, we believe that the Bill provides an opportunity for islands to help themselves by allowing the development of bespoke solutions on governance at the earliest opportunity.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan added that 'the first legislation for Scotland's islands' would help create conditions for them to 'grow and thrive'. He said: 'The legislation seeks to island-proof future policies to make sure they are workable, and to create a plan where the government has to set out priorities for island communities.'

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OT

# Ready, steady ...GO!

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Rockfield Primary School, Bun-Sgoil Achadh na Creige, held its annual sports day at Mossfield Park on Thursday May 31.

Head teacher Caroline Fothergill said: 'Our sports day is a great opportunity to come together as a school and take part in a range of activities.'

'There is a lot of hard work which goes into organising this special day, led by our classroom assistant Jean MacPherson and Laura Fawdry, acting depute head.'

'It's fantastic to be piped in by Oban High School and the atmosphere is very positive.'



Full concentration was needed for this obstacle course.

'Whilst it's great for the children to be recognised for their talents, the most important factor is that everyone has fun!'

For full results, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Proud prizewinners at Rockfield Primary sports day.



Youngsters jumped through hoops to try to win this race.



Looking cool while running the relay race.



These youngsters are fully focused on the race ahead.



Skipping school...



A lady with poise.



Touchdown!



The parents got involved with their own egg and spoon race.

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# Sun, smiles and sport

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Youngsters at Dunbeg Primary School had a fun afternoon on Friday when they took part in both competitive and non-competitive events during the school's sports day.

Head teacher Marny McCulloch was delighted with how it all went. She said: 'The smoothly run event was organised by Cara Potts, our peripatetic PE teacher, assisted by Nicola Bichard, principal teacher.

'Once again, I was very proud of the children who demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship, teamwork and school values as they participated throughout the afternoon.

I was particularly pleased with the way the older children took the nursery and P1 children under their wings and assisted them to fully participate in each event.

'Parent turnout and support was excellent. Thank you. We



Ice cream smiles.



Determined faces as they race for the finish line.



Carefully does it.

were all impressed by the competitiveness and speed of the parents' flat race - there was even a tumble and recovery.'

The final results were: 1. Etive Team 2; 2. Linnhe Team 2; 3. Etive Team 3.

Overall shield winner - with the most accumulated points for its three teams - was the Etive Clan.

More photographs online at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Youngsters at Dunbeg Primary had great fun running, jumping, and showing their agility when faced with any number of obstacles.



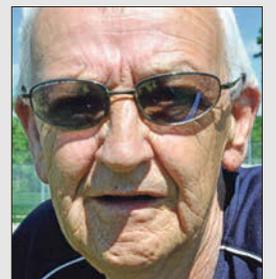
These youngsters have it taped.



## YOURVIEW



Snowy owl Julie-Ann Muir from Dunollie is 28 and a leader of the 5th Oban Brownies. She said: 'I've grown up with The Oban Times being read in my family. I've got the habit. I like the people stories in it and reading about what people have achieved. 'Compact is a much better size, I prefer it.'



Lollipop man Duggie Cameron, 71, from Taynuilt said: 'Now it's gone smaller, it'll save having to find space to read it in! It's moving with the times. It's much better.'

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OT

# Biggest Oban mòd to date lives up to all the hype

by David McPhee  
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

It was dubbed the biggest Oban Provincial Mòd in recent times - and it certainly lived up to expectations.

Friday saw hundreds of children, who were full of excitement thanks to a day off school and perfect weather conditions, make their way to various venues around Oban.

Every corner of the Corran Halls was being utilised, so much so that one of the competitions had to be moved and conducted in the bike shed outside.

However, no one seemed to mind. They were most likely glad to be getting a bit of the sunshine. In between competitions, children could be seen practising outside for up-coming events, or practising their football skills.

As well as the Corran Halls, youngsters also packed in to the Cathedral hall, the Scout hall and the Great Western Hotel.

Friday morning was all about the solo competitions, and badges were proudly put on display as competitors walked and waited afterwards.

The highlight of the afternoon was the primary school choirs, and it was Rockfield who shone in both categories.

However, adjudicator and president of the Royal National Mòd, Allan Campbell, said the standard was extremely high.

'You have done Oban Provincial Mòd proud,' he said to the competitors.

'But more importantly you have done yourselves and Gaelic proud. Thank you for that.'

Speaking to The Oban Times afterwards, Mr Campbell said: 'I feel encouraged by what I heard today. I feel encouraged by the standard of Gaelic I heard.'

'When you adjudicate at something like this and you find it extremely difficult to separate competitors it's usually a sign of quality and that's what we had here today.'

And while Friday was all about the children, on Saturday it was the adults' turn.

Taking up residence in the new Oban High School, solo singers performed in the morning and in the afternoon it was back to choirs.

Oban Gaelic Choir were in top form, winning the own choice and the puirt-a-beul.

And to make it a trio of trophies for Oban, the Oban Ladies' Gaelic Choir also won the male or female voices competition.

Conductor Sileas Sinclair said: 'I am delighted and really chuffed with how today has gone.'

This was also the choir's first time singing in the new school.

Sileas added: 'The new venue is a good space. I hope it's used a lot more.'

The next competition for Oban will be the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon in October.

For more photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Còisir Og Mhuile finished third place in the unison category in the choir's first mòd.



Clockwise from left: Eva Bratton, second in the primary one conversation competition; Esma McLeod, aged seven, won the primary two poster competition; Feorlin Renton and Rosie Blyth, first and second respectively in the nine-10 girls' own choice song; Olivia Gage, 10, from Rockfield Primary won the 11-12 learners' song; Bethan Neil, nine, had a successful day of singing and reciting poetry.



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**EXPERTS IN THE FIELD**



Rockfield Primary School Gaelic Choir won both the choral singing in unison category and the puirt-a-beul.



Kai Macmillan won second place in the seven to eight years poetry competition.



Kirsty MacArthur, 17, from Oban High, won the U18 conversation competition.



Kieran MacIntyre, 11, won the writing in his age group, and finished third in the poster competition.



Edie Elliott of Oban High School won the fiddle competition in the 13-18 years age group.



Oban Gaelic Choir won the own choice, and puirt-a-beul, and the Oban Ladies' Gaelic Choir won the male or female voice own song.



Mairi Inglis was a winner of the nine-10 years poetry competition.



Ruaridh MacLean of Mull, won the seven-eight years fluent poetry competition.



Lochaber lads Calum MacKinnon, left, and Owen MacRaid - Owen won the boys' 9-10 years own song singing competition and Calum finished second.



Eilidh Shaw, 6, and Felix Hughes, 7, both won gold for their poetry skills.



Marco MacGregor finished third in the 9-10 years singing competition.



Laura Robertson, 12, Lochaber High, won various competitions, including the silver pendant.



Erin Higgins, nine, won the poster and a writing competition for her age group.



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OT

# Oban mòd lives up to hype



Rockfield's Gaelic Unit and Nursery after they performed in the action song category.



Callum Neil, Shauna MacLeod, Eilidh MacFadyen, and Lauren MacLeod, all Oban High School



St Columba's Oban Gaelic Choir, who finished third in the puirt-a-beul.



Lochaber Primary School, who finished second in both the choir competitions.



Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich - Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir.



Helen Watt, Julie-Ann MacFadyen, F. Ann MacLean, Shona Keith and Alasdair McLean, who all competed in Saturday's solo singing competitions.

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# Oban Live reins in support from young talent in Argyll

Young people have been a beneficial asset in the planning for Oban Live this year, according to the team behind the event.

In Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, the event, which attracts around 8,000 attendees and takes place this Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, at Mossfield Stadium in Oban, has engaged in a number of projects that not only use the skills of young people, but also celebrate young talent.

This year, Scotland is putting its young people in the spotlight, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contributions and creating new opportunities for them to shine.

Most recently, Oban Live has teamed up with Young Scot and Argyll and Bute Council's Youth Services to provide 1,000 Young Scot reward points to young people volunteering at Oban Live.

The earned points can be spent



Ruby Heritage-Crabb, left, from Oban High, and Lochnell Primary School pupil Isla will see their work on official Oban Live t-shirts. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn



on a number of rewards organised through Young Scot.

The volunteering activity gives young people the opportunity to see the event from a different perspective and to gain valuable skills.

Eighteen-year-old Hannah Nicolson, a youth services modern apprentice through the council's Growing Our Own scheme, will be on site at Oban Live to hand out the points to young volunteers with Young

Scot cards. She will also run a stand promoting the work they do, as well as their activities throughout Year of Young People 2018.

Hannah will be supported at the event by 17-year-old

Shannon Watson who is doing work experience as an events marketing assistant at Oban Live. Shannon has assisted in various projects, including event photocalls, poster distribution, social media and school design competitions.

Shannon completed five awards in Pathways, customer service leadership, community achievement, volunteering and employability in her last year at Oban High School and has secured a place at Inverness College UHI to study events operations and hospitality.

Young artistic talent will also be celebrated at Oban Live.

Nineteen-year-old Kathleen Robertson from Strontian joins the line-up this year after winning the Oban Unsigned competition in The Oban Times.

The competition sees Oban Live look for an unsigned act, living in and around Oban to

perform at the event. Kathleen will open this year's event on Friday June 8 at 4.30pm.

The phenomenal success of Oban High School Pipe Band will once again be celebrated and the audience can expect to see a few surprise performances throughout the show from this incredible group of young musicians, led by legendary piper Angus MacColl.

A recent school competition, in which pupils were invited to design official Oban Live 2018 merchandise, received more than 200 entries from ages five to 18. All entrants received a certificate in Design Excellence.

Designs by the overall winner - 13-year-old Oban High School pupil Ruby Heritage-Crabb and primary school winner Isla from Lochnell Primary School - will feature on Oban Live t-shirts this year and will be available for sale in the event's merchandise tent.

## Excited by change for Oban Times

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



It's a momentous week for The Oban Times, changing to a compact after all these years as a broadsheet, and I can't wait ... no more having to read it on the floor or clearing a table to spread it out.

The Oban Times has been part of my family's week for as long as I can remember, from my grandparents through to my parents and now us - our week hasn't been complete without it.

Thursday was always Oban Times day and if you asked what day it was that was the reply - 'Oban Times day' - and we all felt something was missing if it hadn't been read

from cover to cover. My aunt still reads every word and then quizzes me to see what I've missed and I must admit I'm not as thorough as she is. And my uncle, who lives in Manchester, calls now and again to quiz me for more details of a story he's read or to find out who's who in a photo.

So good luck The Oban Times - I am delighted with the change.

I'm also delighted that Oban Live is here at last, only one more day!

We've been so lucky with the weather, Oban Charities Day was fabulous, I would even say one of the best, and I've now got my fingers, toes and eyes crossed that this weekend will be just as good. One word of advice from a friend who was at a sports

### WHERE IS THIS?



day in Mossfield: bring midge cream.

I'm ready to go though. I have my pre- and post-Oban Live events planned, thanks to Oban Live Fringe, and I have my wee bag packed with a fleece, midge cream, sun cream, a poncho and a hat.

Last week's photo was of the monument to Dr McKelvie in Argyll Square. It had been ages since I looked at it closely. This week's is much more modern.

## Taynuilt love tribute rivals the Taj Mahal

Continued from page one restored the embrace statue, giving it a golden sheen.

Lismore-based photographer and film-maker Julia Fayngruen with her partner Erik Tovar are working on thedeirdreshieling.co.uk website, which will include a visitors' book for people to leave selfies, thoughts and feelings.

Storyboards cast in bronze will

retell Deirdre of the Sorrows and give a modern interpretation of it. Another board will map out the eight locations in Glen Etive where Deirdre and Naoise lived in peace and safety.

There will also be a Celtic bell for people who make the 2km uphill hike to the site to ring as loud as they like.

Youngsters from Taynuilt Primary School are busy mak-

ing posters inviting everyone in the community to a picnic to celebrate The Shieling opening on Sunday June 24. The picnic, from 2pm-5pm, is being provided free and there will be transport for those who need it from the car park at Angus's Gardens on the Glen Lonan road. It is hoped people will go by foot to make the most of the views.



### ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CHANGES AHEAD?

With the full force of Brexit yet to be felt, savers and investors need to be wary of the potential impact on their plans. Although global markets have remained resilient since the EU referendum, there is no denying that the Brexit result continues to create disruption in the short term.

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OT

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# Sun and little stars shine for Oban Charities Day



Youngsters from Soroba Young Family Group nursery dressed as characters from Monsters Inc. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay08 For full story and more pics turn to pages 18 and 19.

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OT

# Sun and local stars shine for

by David McPhee  
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



It's not every day you can throw a wet sponge at a police officer and get away with it, but for one pound you could get three attempts at this year's Oban Charities Day.

Youth engagement officer Claire Brown didn't back down from getting splattered in the face – probably because the sun was scorching and it was a welcome chance to cool down.

More than 40 charities had a stall at this year's event, raising thousands of pounds for their respective causes.

Bottle stalls, burgers, and a parade featuring the characters from Monsters Inc, including the door, were all highlights on the day.

Charities Day is organised by the Oban and Lorn Lions Club. Speaking to The Oban

Times following Saturday's event, club member Jim Edge said: 'The day went brilliantly and the parade was as great as ever.'

'There were 42 stalls on Saturday. It gives [the charities] the opportunity to raise money for themselves – and it was busy. There was certainly as many people as we normally get.'

**Thank you**

'Everyone involved – from the pipe band, the police, and the council – everyone makes this day work. They deserve a big thank you.'

One happy charity was the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Maurice Wilkins of the trust wrote to The Oban Times saying: '[Our] stall on Charities Day was a great success. The threatened thunderstorm and rain didn't materialise. We raised more than £300.'

The good weather held

out just long enough for the Lions and a group of helpers to dismantle the stalls before the heavens opened.

The organisation wanted to show its appreciation to everyone who helped with the event.

'Thanks a million to all the people that turned up in the morning,' Jim added. 'We asked if people could come down and help us set the thing up – usually there's a dozen of us and it takes us forever to do it.'

'It was amazing the amount of people that turned up from all different places. It was absolutely fantastic. It shows the way it works in the town – everyone is community minded and if you need some help, it's there.'

The Oban and Lorn Lions Club's next big event is the raft race, which takes place on August 11.



Peppa Pig and Micky Mouse both attended this year's event. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay07



Left, organisers Oban and Lorn Lions Club were delighted how the day's event went. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay16. Youth engagement officer Claire Brown is in the firing line of a wet sponge. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay01.

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# Oban Charities Day 2018



Oban Pipe Band led the parade through George Street. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay05



Oban Station Square was packed with people for this year's charities day. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay04



Organisers of the We'll Walk This Road Together charity concert were raising money on the day. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay09



Above, Jane and Ali from the North Argyll Carers Centre. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay10

Clockwise from far left, The Oban High School Parent Council. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay12; Adrienne Cameron and Nicky Murphy from Pink Ladies Day. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay18; Ross Preston and Janie Steele from Footprint Alba. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay14; The best dressed stall prize went to Home Start Lorn. 16\_T23\_CharitiesDay17

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# History in the making

by Susan Windram  
swindram@obantimes.co.uk



Welcome to your new-look Oban Times!

Today is a very special day in the newspaper's 157-year history. For this is the first week of our new compact paper. We hope you like it!

There is no doubt this change is the end of an era, both for The Oban Times team and for many of our loyal readers.

While many may be sad at the change because of the special memories attached to the broadsheet format, it is important that this move forward is not seen as a step back.

As you can see, we continue to be passionate about championing everything that is good in Argyll and Lochaber, fighting your corner when you need our support, and keeping you as informed as you have always been.

And with the new format reading your favourite newspaper will be even easier – whether that be at home, in

the cafe or pub, on the bus or on the train. Over the last few years people's reading habits have changed. While many will still want to buy their paper and take it home to read at their leisure, many more want to read it on the go.

People have busy lives and they want to catch up with all the local news and views at a time and place that suits them – reading it at work on their lunch break, or on their way home from work on the bus – and the new compact format makes that easier.

Technology has also dramatically changed people's reading habits, with many of our readers catching up with local news online via the Oban Times website.

No matter how or when you want to read The Oban Times, we are committed to delivering local news that is important to you.

We would value your feedback on the changes, so please drop us an email to editor@obantimes.co.uk and tell us what you think about the format.



The team at The Oban Times has made history by producing the first compact edition of the newspaper.

Whole new look: Susan Windram, editor of The Oban Times, prepares to output the historic first compact front page of the 157-year-old newspaper. 'I am immensely proud and privileged to lead the team here at The Oban Times. This is just the latest chapter in a great newspaper's long history,' she said.



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## D & K Lafferty & Company Limited

D & K Lafferty & Company Limited is a well-established family-run business, employing and subcontracting a hardworking team of ground-workers, pipe-layers, pipe-fitters, machine operators and more, with a focus on fresh and waste water mains. The company has built up an enviable reputation over the last 18 years and prides itself on providing a professional and efficient service, whilst maintaining the highest quality of work. Jobs of all sizes undertaken and distance no object! We asked Kathleen Lafferty what she thought of The Oban Times going compact and she told us: 'We have been advertising with The Oban Times for many years and always read it. It's going to be great to have a more manageable Oban Times to pore over. We are really looking forward to seeing it!'

## Westech Electrical

Westech Electrical is based in Oban, employing engineers that have many years' experience in domestic and commercial electrical installations.

The business is 'Select' approved and a member of Scottish Building Standards, a Scottish Government-backed scheme, ensuring a high standard of work is delivered, whether you are looking for a new light fitting or a complete rewire. Keeping you and your home safe is



Always a culinary experience at the award winning Pierhouse Hotel and Restaurant.

high on Westech's agenda and will advise to give you peace of mind from the start. On the commercial side of things they offer specialist services including PAT Testing, LED lighting installation, data cabling and inspections.

We asked Chris from Westech Electrical what he thought of the all-new compact Oban Times and he told us what most tradesmen would tell us: 'It will certainly make it easier reading it in the van on a Thursday morning!'

## Pierhouse Hotel and Restaurant, Port Appin

In last week's last broadsheet we reported on the wonderful achievement of The Pierhouse Hotel's Sergejs Savickis, winning the prestigious Young Chef of the Year 2018 award at the recent Scottish Food Awards.

Head chef Sergejs is big on local provenance, using fresh, organic produce from local suppliers and producers wherever possible to create delicious dishes with flavours that work beautifully together. It is incredible to

think that the menu features oysters, venison, prawns, langoustines, salmon, kippers, soft fruits, vegetables, herbs and leaves all within just a few miles of the hotel and restaurant.

## Mathesons Furnishings

A Mathesons van delivering furniture in towns, to the remotest homes or via a ferry is an everyday sight in the West Highlands and islands.

The business started 'decades ago,' said Neil Matheson, who runs the business with his brother DM at Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.

It was started by his uncle Ian in Fort William with Neil and DM's father Murdo Ian and all their cousins working there as well.

'They had us kids doing everything - you name it,' said Neil. He studied furniture design and manufacture at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, historically the chair-making capital of the world. Neil's skills help inform all the buying decisions and this, linked with an independent shops' purchasing group, enables Mathesons to offer a wide range at competitive prices.

The firm has grown to include commercial and domestic - they have equipped homes, hotels, and even boats. They also have office furniture, curtains and blinds, a wide range of floorings and beds and an expert installation team. A large stock means quick delivery or same day collection.

'Our area roughly matches that of The Oban Times; we are a family-run business delivering a quality service to a local area. The Oban Times reaches our customers well,' said Neil.

'I know a lot of people prefer the compact size. The Oban Times covers the area and does it well, and I am sure it will continue to do so.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Heatwave halts mussel harvesting

One of Scotland's biggest and best-known seafood suppliers has ended its harvesting of mussels two weeks early because of the heatwave.

Mussels are a seasonal product and harvesting normally ends in early to mid-June. However, Loch Fyne Oysters took the decision to halt production at the end of last week due to rising water temperatures which encourage the mussels to spawn. Scottish mussels are best eaten outside the spawning season. Other seafood suppliers have also had to halt mussel production early. 'It is very important to us to farm mussels responsibly,' said managing director Cameron Brown.

'This sunshine has been lovely but the heat has made our mussels think it's summer already and start spawning. That means they need to be left alone to recover condition over the summer months. We also avoid summer harvesting because of the risk of toxic algae due to elevated phytoplankton levels in the loch.

'In the meantime, we'll be carrying out essential maintenance and collecting the baby mussels – or spats. We look forward to supplying mussels again in September, once the weather cools down. We apologise to customers who were hoping to purchase fresh mussels, but it's ideal weather to enjoy oysters instead or purchase some salmon.'

# Leadership change at Ardfern yachts

Ardfern Yacht Centre will see some staffing changes this summer.

After 16 years with the business, general manager Mark Cameron will be leaving Ardfern (AYC) at the end of June and will be replaced by managing director Andrew Ashton, who will continue to work closely alongside the existing workshop, boatyard, chandlery and office teams.

'As a family-owned business now in its 39th year, we remain committed to Ardfern along with the customers and the skilled staff, without whom the business would not operate in the way that it does,' said AYC director Joanna Ashton.

With the summer sailing season now in full swing, the workshop team, led by Bob Fleck and Fraser McIver, continues to be as busy as ever completing the final stages of some larger jobs, along with boat refurbishments and work on customer special orders.

Meanwhile, the chandlery, managed by Guy Neville, continues to be well stocked.

Additionally, along with the standard annual maintenance programme conducted by North West Marine during the winter and spring months, all of the pontoon decking received a spring clean, while the purchase of a batch of new boat stands in the yard has proved invaluable for boat movements, with the plan being to purchase more of these for this coming winter.

Progress has also now been made with the connectivity issues in the locality and, after a five-month wait, the business was eventually



Left to right are Ardfern Yacht Centre director Andrew Ashton, chandlery manager Guy Neville, workshop manager Bob Fleck and assistant workshop manager Fraser McIver.

connected to superfast fibre broadband last month. 'We are currently in the process of upgrading the wifi access points around the pontoon network to ensure customers receive the best connectivity possible,' said managing director Andrew.

'But, in the meantime, we are pleased to say that the local telecoms masts have also been upgraded over the winter and there is now a reasonable 4G signal covering the marina for 02, EE and Vodafone.'

The brokerage service run by AYC will,

however, cease as from June 30, as Andrew and the team at Ardfern focus on running the marina, boatyard, workshop and chandlery that is the core business, while Mark Cameron will continue to focus on his brokerage work independently under his own name.

'We will continue to work closely with Mark in the future, in what we are all sure will be an amicable and customer-enhancing experience going forward. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for all his hard work and wish him success in his new enterprise.'

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# Islands MSP makes visit to Stornoway shellfish company

Islands MSP and Minister for International Development and Europe Alasdair Allan visited MacDuff Shellfish in Stornoway recently to discuss concerns around Brexit.

The MSP heard directly from employees about their concerns around EU citizens' rights in the context of Brexit. He also heard about what the main questions are for the business, in terms of maintaining its workforce.

Dr Allan said: "This was a really useful opportunity to hear directly about the concerns EU workers have around Brexit.

'For more than 18 months, EU citizens have been left with intolerable uncertainty about their future. There are still many details to be clarified, and these will have real and significant impacts on individuals and their families.

'EU citizens need to have confidence that their rights will continue to be effectively protected.

'MacDuff is an important local employer and the vast majority of their employees originate from other European member states. Access to the European labour market is hugely important to them, as is seamless access to markets in the rest of Europe.

'In my view, the benefit which



Alasdair Allan with Ruth Nicolson, manager at MacDuff Shellfish.

island businesses such as MacDuff have from the freedom of movement of people at present underlines why it is so important that the UK retains membership of the European single market in the fu-

ture. This visit was also a chance to reiterate on behalf of the Scottish Government that we greatly value the contribution of EU citizens in living in the islands and Scotland as a whole.'

# Hotel awarded four stars

Located at Arduaine, Loch Melfort Hotel has been recognised by VisitScotland as a 'well-managed and well-presented property where all guests are assured of a warm west coast welcome and comfortable stay'.

Owners Calum and Rachel Ross said: 'We are delighted to be one of the few hotels in the Oban area awarded four-star status from VisitScotland.

'This would not have been possible without the hard work, passion and dedication of our team, who we would like to say a big thank you to.

'We strive to continually pro-

vide an excellent and memorable experience for our guests.'

Set in 17 acres of gardens and beach, Loch Melfort Hotel sits among spectacular scenery with stunning coastal views from 20 of its recently refurbished bedrooms.

Guests can relax in the well-appointed lounges and have a choice of fine dining in the restaurant or casual dining in the increasingly popular bistro. The hotel also recently retained its Taste Our Best award from VisitScotland, which highlights its commitment to using all Scottish and locally sourced produce.



Manager Samantha Erskine and head chef Roger Brown with some of the team at Loch Melfort Hotel.

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## Memories of a life with MacBrayne's

A new edition of the late Chris Fraser's autobiography, adapted by his son, former BBC correspondent Kit Fraser, has been published with more rare photographs of MacBrayne's ferries.

At the heart of Christie Boy is his colourful and amusing description of a 30-year career with the company, its characters and ships.

Christie Boy colourfully recounts a Highland childhood in Sutherland, Strathspey and Lochalsh, and a way of life long gone: strict Sabbath observance, barefoot summers, runaway trains and culprits like The Bear, frisky heifers, and rivers teeming with salmon. Then there is a proud Highland soldier's war, first with the Seaforths in France and later the Argylls and Commandos.

Kit said: 'Dad grew up in the West Highlands before spending 30 years with MacBrayne's. In the course of his career, he served as supply piermaster on Islay and in most of the MacBrayne's ports.'

'This new edition has many more photographs of historic lifeline ferries to illustrate dad's tales of the ships and characters among the masters and crews. I have added sections on my own childhood memories of MacBrayne's, plus a profile of The MacBrayne's Circle, the enthusiasts who restore and preserve the iconic red, cream and green buses.'

After leaving MacBrayne's in the 1960s, Chris Fraser was a sub-postmaster in Aviemore as the sleepy former railway junction evolved into its present skiing and outdoor pursuits centre. He and his wife Rena retired to Forres in Moray.

# 'The scale of the killing is of concern'

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The Drimnin Distillery, opposite Tobermory, is well into its second year of production and has about 750 casks sitting in its warehouses. These are a mixture of bourbon, red wine and sherry casks.

The distillers have had very positive feedback on their 'new make spirit' and have just started to taste their one-year-old and are very pleased with the progress.

They are looking forward to welcoming more visitors this summer, now the season is well under way. The distillery is open every day Monday to Friday for tours and also offers lunch, which must be pre-booked.

Visitors can be collected and returned to the water taxi jetty at the end of the public road where there is a waiting room. The water taxi will also carry bicycles for those who may wish to do the circular route up to Lochaline and take the ferry to Fishnish. As there are seats for 12 only to and from Drimnin, it is advisable to book. Further information, including ferry times, is available via the internet and Facebook.

An added bonus for those visiting the distillery, is the newly opened, jaw-dropping, Alan B Hayman Gallery and Studio at the Mains, a lovely old house and steadings, less than a mile away. There you will be warmly greeted by Alan and Helen, who moved up to Morvern from Aberfeldy where they had the Glen Lyon Gallery.

Alan is a former Perthshire stalker and passionate about wildlife and its surroundings and, like all skilled hill men, has a keen eye for nature in all its moods and seasons.

Visiting the Mains is like popping into one of the country's top natural history museums. Here you will find exhibits, wonderful original local paintings, sketches and limited edition prints of

birds and animals in the wild, with Alan working in his studio on his latest painting.

Two weeks ago saw him on St Kilda, a voyage he made alone from Drimnin. He described it as being like nothing he had ever seen before. With that sort of comment, we can't wait to see the results. Further information and directions at [www.alanbhayman.com](http://www.alanbhayman.com)

The Lewis family, who own Drimnin Estate, have added to Morvern's history by restoring an 18th-century apple-store and the later Roman Catholic chapel which doubles up as a multi-faith place of worship, a community hub and a wedding venue.

A little way below the distillery is the tomb of Alan Maclean of Drimnin, 5th estate laird and an officer in the Jacobite army at Culloden, who died in 1792.

There is a tale told of one of the Macleans of Drimnin who took his piper with him to a funeral in Lochaber. He indulged too freely and, instead of playing sad laments, turned to lively reels which so angered the assembled company that one of them stuck his dirk into the bag.

On holiday recently in Morvern's unique war memorial cottage was Fiona Ross, nee Cameron, who, along with her husband, was renewing her family ties with the parish. The Camerons were a well-known local family going back many generations.

Driven from the Glenborrodale area at the time of the Clearances, they came to Lurag in the Black Glen on Laudale Estate, before moving to Kinlochteacuis and Kiel, Lochaline, where Donald Cameron carved superb walking and shinty sticks.

His father, also Donald, who married Catherine Stewart from Uist, was a talented stone-mason who built Lochaline's former Free Church for John Sinclair, the Tobermory distiller and owner of Lochaline Estate who, unlike many of his fellow Highland landowners, came out for the Free Church at the time of the Disruption.

Donald's brother Ronald, or Dan as he was



known in Morvern, moved to Ardrishaig where he was well known among an older generation.

The Camerons of Kinlochteacuis were renowned for their kindness and hospitality. No one who came to their door ever left a stranger. Haste ye back, Mrs Ross!

Raven culling has become routine across Scotland, with Scottish Natural Heritage granting licences to shoot 1,129 in 2016, 1,133 in 2017 and 1,082 in 2018. This information was made public following answers to a series of parliamentary questions posed by Claudia Beamish MSP, Labour's shadow cabinet secretary for the environment, climate change and land reform.

It has also been revealed that the recent licence issued to kill ravens in an area of Perthshire for 'research' purposes permits the use of cage traps and was issued with no stakeholder consultation. Furthermore, the 'review' of the licence – announced following public outcry in April – will not consider its repeal.

Ravens are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), but licences can be issued to permit the killing of a 'small number of birds'.

All licences given in the past three years have

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A sculpture of a raven adorns the memorial to Air Commodore Donald Macdonell.

been for preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland waters.

The only exception to this has been the licence issued to permit the killing of 69 ravens in Perthshire, which was granted for science and research purposes.

Harry Huyton, the director of OneKind, a campaigning animal welfare charity based in Edinburgh, said: 'We are shocked to find that so many ravens are being routinely killed across Scotland.'

'Ravens are supposedly a protected species, recovering after a long history of persecution.'

'Yet instead of celebrating the recovery of these intelligent and charismatic birds, it appears that they are being routinely killed, with the approval of Scottish Natural Heritage.'

'Ravens are opportunistic feeders and are known to predate lambs, which we assume is one of the main motivations behind their persecution. There are many alternative, non-lethal means of deterring raven predation that should be pursued instead.'

On the licence issued to the Strathbraan Community Collaboration for Waders, Huyton

commented: 'Given that the cull zone is dominated by grouse moors, it suggests instead that this is about protecting red grouse populations for recreational shooting.'

'We are also deeply concerned that the use of crow cage traps has been permitted. They impose serious stress on the trapped animals and, as investigations by OneKind have shown, the slaughter method associated with crow cage traps raises serious welfare concerns.'

Ms Beamish added: 'The scale of the killing of ravens is a cause of deep concern.'

'It is about time Scottish Natural Heritage explained why they are content with the mass killing of these creatures.'

A Freedom of Information request has gone to the government to find out if any licences were granted for killing ravens in Morvern.

Creag an Fhitich (the rock of the raven) is the motto of the chiefs of Glengarry and refers to the rock above Loch Oich on which Invergarry castle stands. A raven also features in the chief's coat of arms and is why a magnificent sculpture of one by Gerald Laing adorns the memorial to Air Commodore Donald Macdonell CB DFC, chief of Glengarry, at Armadale Castle, Skye.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE 1999

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



We turn the clock back this week to 1999 with a photograph from that year's Oban and Lorn Lions Club Charities Day, as musicians entertained the crowds.



It's all changed nowadays at Fort William's east end.

## Selling your Whisky Cask?

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OT

## LETTERS

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

## Let's make Oban a plastics-free town

The response last year to Blue Planet II, the award-winning natural history series presented by David Attenborough, has been absolutely phenomenal.

Right across Britain, the sense of outrage at the damage being done to our marine environment by the reckless dumping of plastics has been almost palpable.

The crisis facing our oceans and seas prompted an immediate response from countless people and organisations.

Among the initiatives is the Scottish Government's national marine plastics summit being held in Oban this month, on Monday June 18.

Ahead of that, as we have reported over recent months, there have been a number of efforts locally to reduce the amount of plastics used in the area. Schools, individuals and campaign groups have come up with ideas to cut plastics in our community, including the peaceful 'plastic attack' on three supermarkets in Oban recently. Also, many pubs, hotels and cafes have ditched plastic straws in favour of the paper variety.

Now activist Janie Steele is organising a petition calling for people to support a campaign to make Oban plastics-free.

People can find out more about the initiative at a special community-run screening of A Plastic Ocean at the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday June 19 at 7.30pm.

We commend Ms Steele for her efforts and would encourage as many people as possible to get behind the attempt.

There is no downside that we can envisage.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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## Rural GP funding pledge is only for the short-term

Re Chairman moves to reassure patients over new GP contracts (The Oban Times, May 31), I find it unfortunate Dr Alan McDevitt has resorted to sugar-coating the real concerns of rural GPs and their patients, which are also being parked until a later date by the Scottish Government.

Dr McDevitt states 'claims of impending funding cuts are not true' and that rural practices' funding is protected. This in the short term, but only for three to five years when subsidies created by the new GP contract will be reassessed.

Under the new GP contract a 'work allocation system' is created in the contract. Around 80 per cent of GP practices in rural Scotland are on 'protected income status', but this has only been guaranteed for three to five years.

Dr McDevitt and the Scottish Government need to answer who will subsidise the rural practices after this three- to five-year trial? Will the ever-financially-stretched NHS be tasked with funding GPs? Or will the Scottish Government continue indefinitely to subsidise rural GPs?

If they had a clear plan, surely they would make it clear now. There is no cast-in-stone commitment to the long-term future of Scotland's health whatsoever. How can any aspiring GP or practising GPs see this as a sound business footing to work in rural areas of Scotland? It is not.

This new contract only seems to serve the self-interests of the board of the BMA approved by the Scottish Government to the detriment of Scotland.

If readers wish, they can visit a website that gives the real concerns of rural GPs and the unfactored challenges for GPs in rural areas. <https://ruralgp.scot/rememberrural/>

Angus Files,  
The Glebe, Kilmelford.

## Community buyout of Ulva is funded by the taxpayer

Regarding Colin Morrison's letter in The Oban Times of May 31, I like would say that he is himself being 'facile and one-dimensional' over the sale of Ulva.

Jamie Howard, like most other individuals in Scotland, is not allowed the pleasure of accessing millions of pounds of taxpayers' money and there is a good chance that if the island had been left on the open market it would have raised more money for Mr Howard and his family.

The community buyout is, in fact, funded mainly by the taxpayer and it is obvious from other community buyouts that the future of Ulva will rely on much more free taxpayers' money in years to come to make it viable.

Mr Morrison's comment that the money goes to only one person, the departing owner, smacks of a rather nasty side to community buyouts.

Will Mr Morrison and those in this community buyout group be dipping their hands into

## YOUR PICTURES

We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase local people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

their own bank accounts to kickstart Ulva's future prosperity?

Or will they now be actively seeking grants and subsidies from the rest of the taxpayers in Scotland or our poor councils or other named bodies?

The group's website, [www.ulvabuyout.scot](http://www.ulvabuyout.scot), states: 'I believe that the people who live and work here are best placed to run the island.'

Wasn't Jamie Howard one of those people?  
Cyril Bonnett,  
Ballachulish.

## Why try to attract people when there are no houses?

Your correspondent Colin Morrison describes the buyout of Ulva as transformational, and I am sure that it will be.

The only aspect with which I disagree is that it is the taxpayer that will be providing most of the funds.

Despite all of the support for the project that Mr Morrison applauds, I understand that £4.4

million came from the taxpayer and £37,500 from supporters.

That puts matters into perspective – £0.0375 million compared with £4.4 million!

I have studied the business plan to which he refers and it is all entirely speculative, and once again most of the money is to be from the taxpayer.

He states that 'repopulation is central to our plans precisely because of the acute lack of available housing in north-west Mull and Ulva'.

Surely this is a complete contradiction; why try to attract more people to the area when there are no houses for them? In fact, I know that at least one housing association is already planning to build more houses on Mull at various sites on the island.

In times past, islands such as Ulva supported a large population, but most of them lived in dire poverty.

Nowadays it would be much more sensible to locate people nearer to services that they will need, such as schools, shops and hospitals. That can be achieved much more reliably and

## GET IN TOUCH

EDITOR  
Susan Windram  
[swindram@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:swindram@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Sandy Neil  
[sneil@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sneil@obantimes.co.uk)



REPORTER  
David McPhee  
[dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk)



CONTACT OUR NEWSDESKS  
Oban 01631 568060; Fort William 01397 703003  
Email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

DEPUTY EDITOR  
Martin Laing  
[milaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:milaing@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



REPORTER  
Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)





Fort William. To start the ball rolling, this week's photograph was taken by Sandy Neil and shows Bob sitting in the sunshine atop Dun Ormidale, scanning the Sound of Kerrera.

## Social Media



**Davie Buchanan outputs the final broadsheet front page last week.**

**There were many comments on Facebook about The Oban Times changing to a compact format.**

**Dawn MacFadyen:** 'Many memories of sitting on my grandparents' farmhouse floor to try read it or it being used over the open fire to help it take, end of a era.'

**Catherine MacLeod:** 'It is sad this is happening ... I remember my mum sitting down in front of the fire in the living room trying to read through it and our Bernese mountain dog would come and lay on the whole thing as soon as she opened it up.'

**Cath Lyons:** 'The end of an era, going to miss having to sit on the floor to read it on Thursday morning and passing it in to Marie McCall at stag oban.'

**Eileen Duncan:** 'I Suppose All Good Things Must Come To An End. Used To Love Lying On The Floor Trying To Read It. Well Oban's Changing And So Are The Times. So Here's To The New Oban Times. Simply The Best From The West.'

**Linda Crosher:** 'It will be much easier to read but was always good for wrapping things in for a flitting!!'

**Neil Campbell:** 'It was great to hold against the coal fire to get it going!'

**Sheila Smith:** 'Omg where is my cat going to lie when I'm reading it on the floor.'

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S e fìor thlachd a bh' ann a bhith aig Mòd Ionadail an Òbain Dihaoine seo chaidh agus chòrd e fìor mhath rium. Le bhith an sàs a' brìtheamhachd fad' an latha cha robh cothrom agam tadhal air farpaisean eile ach bha na chuala mi 's na chunnaic mi san talla san robh mi na thoileachas mòr.

Chuala mi fhìn agus am brìtheamh ciùil, Catrìona Callander, farpaisich eadar còig bliadhna agus seachd bliadhna deug tron mhadainn agus air m' onair aig amannan bha e furasta dìochuimhneachadh cho òg 's a bha cuid den chloinn ris an robh sinn ag èisteachd! Bha a' mhòr-chuid aca cho cinnteach asta fhèin agus cho moiteil a bhith a' dol gu àrd-ùrlair, gun iomradh air cho math 's a bha iad air an deasachadh ma choinneimh nam farpaisean.

Bha mi fhìn agus Catrìona cuideachd den bheachd gun cuala sinn dithis dheugaire-an a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann am farpais crìochnachaidh a' Bhuinn Òir ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean, ma chumas na balaich sin orra a' seinn!

Chuir farpaisean brosnachail eadar seachd chòisirean bun-sgoile crìoch air an fheasgar dhuinn agus saoilidh mi gum bheil a' mhisneachd a bha sinn a' faicinn, agus a' cluinntinn,

freumhan sam bith san dualchas Ghàidhealach? Tha an aithisg a' daingneachadh chòraichean an t-sluaigh an cuid bheachdan a nochdadh, agus tha mi cinnteach gur i a' cheist cuin a tha càineadh neo magadh air Gàidhlig agus air Gàidheil gu bhith air a mheas gràineil fon lagh.

Dh' fheumte a ràdh nach eil an lagh air cus bacaidh a chur air mòran den droch bheul aineolach a tha an cànan air a bhith fulang gu ruige seo co-dhiù, agus nach tàmailteach agus millteach sin dha clann a tha a' faicinn an cuid foghlaim ga sgiùrsadh air leithid de dhòigh.

A lasting memory of last week's Oban Provincial Mòd is the confidence and pleasure demonstrated by so many children in their performances.

Later, listening to news coverage of Lord Bracadale's review of hate crime legislation, I was thinking of the damage which relentless anti-Gaelic media coverage does to cultural confidence. Freedom of speech is not a right to promote scorn and ridicule on any minority!

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

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at much lower cost than will be achieved by locating them on a small isolated island.

Professor Colin Davidson,  
Tigh nan Eilean, Ardfern.

## Housing shortage on Colonsay is at crisis point

I was delighted to speak to constituents at my surgery on the Isle of Colonsay recently.

I listened to my constituents' concerns over poor mobile phone signal, slow internet speed, local road conditions and ferry disruptions, all of which are adding to the already heavy burden of many Colonsay residents.

The main source of complaints was one subject and that was the lack social and affordable housing available on the island.

If we are to halt the population decline in our rural communities, we need to keep our young people in Argyll and on our islands.

That will not happen without decent housing and job opportunities being available to our hard-pressed island communities. I will con-

tinue to lobby hard for more affordable and social housing on Colonsay and elsewhere.

Councillor Alastair Redman.

## Intrigued by account of wartime ship's sinking

I found the article headlined Waging war in the islands (The Oban Times, Thursday May 17) very interesting.

I have subsequently done some basic research about the sinking of the SS Belgian Prince which, as described, was clearly a war crime with the murder of its crew as reported, if it is a true account. I can find no record of investigations into this accusation. Was the detained British captain ever released from German captivity? Perhaps he might have added vital information.

The German crew and captain do not seem to have been brought to trial. Apparently the submarine surrendered to the Japanese at the end of the war.

Steve Abbotts,  
by email.

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING

Nicky Murphy

nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Rhona McKillop

adverts@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Julie Baird

jbaird@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING

Oban 01631 568060; Fort William 01397 703003

advertising@obantimes.co.uk

ADVERTISING SUPERVISOR

Nadine Ross

nross@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Stephanie Dunstaffnage

sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Darren Shankley

dshankley@obantimes.co.uk



ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Amy Boyce

aboyce@obantimes.co.uk



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Barra

Isles MP Angus B MacNeil says one department of RBS is 'pulling the wool over the eyes' of another in claiming closure of the Castlebay branch and cuts to the Lochboisdale branch will save cash.

He said RBS could spend more than £2,000 a month on travel costs if it proceeds with the closure of the Castlebay branch on Barra.

The mobile bank is due to visit the island three times a week at a cost of more than £200 for each return ferry trip, together with staff costs and unforeseen travel disruptions – making the cost of cutting the branch not as economical as RBS has been insisting.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Closing branches is supposed to be a money-saving exercise but in the case of the island branches, the costs involved in a mobile banking service might prove otherwise.'

'When RBS adds up all the travel costs and the additional unexpected costs that can incur if there is travel disruption, it should think again.'

'One department of RBS is pulling the wool over the eyes of another department if they're selling the closure of the Castlebay branch as a saving.'

## Lewis

The Iolaire Working Group was delighted to receive a cheque for £500 from the Royal British Legion Scotland Riders Branch District One towards its fundraising efforts.

Presenting the cheque to chairman Norman A MacDonald was Louis Morrison, a member of the group who was instrumental in obtaining the funds.

Grateful thanks were made to Louis and the branch for choosing to donate such a generous sum to the Iolaire Commemoration Fund.

The Iolaire (Gaelic for 'eagle') was the Admiralty yacht Amalthea a of 1881, renamed in 1918, whose sinking on January 1, 1919, in the Minch was one of the worst maritime

disasters in United Kingdom waters during the 20th century. At least 201 men perished of the 283 aboard.

The Iolaire was carrying soliders who had fought in the First World War back to the island of Lewis.

She left Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland late on the evening of December 31, 1918.

At 2.30am on New Year's Day, as the ship approached Stornoway, a few yards offshore and a mile away from the safety of the harbour, she hit the infamous rocks known as the Beasts of Holm and sank.

## Lochawe

Staff at the Ben Cruachan Inn have raised money to install a defibrillator in Lochawe and cover costs for training 12 residents.

After undertaking first aid train-



Presenting the cheque to chairman Norman A MacDonald was Louis Morrison.

ing, staff were shocked that the area didn't have an available defibrillator.

The inn raised more than £1,500 by completing a snowy three-mile Santa Run up to Ben Cruachan Dam in December 2017, and a charity auction with prizes donated by local businesses over the Christmas season.

The defibrillator, which is accessible 24/7, has now been installed outside the Ben Cruachan Inn thanks to Ferguson Electrical.

There is now an open call to residents interested in receiving free training to use the device in and around Lochawe this month.

There are 12 places available and if anyone is interested in signing up, contact the inn.

## Dad's Army comes alive on Seil

The Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion didn't panic on Saturday, dressing up for a fundraising Dad's Army Dance at Seil Island Hall which sold 159 tickets, writes branch secretary Jean Alexander.

Legion member Ron Hetherington came up with the caper, inspired by the vice chairman Jim (Briggy) Watson's nickname 'Captain Mainwaring' and it was decided to fill out his platoon for a charity fundraiser themed on the beloved TV comedy.

Ron recruited the Seil Sound (Victory) Singers, led by Maggie Thorpe, who marched down the hall beautifully singing 'Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler', copying the Andrews' Sisters style.

A solo followed from Wendy Dugdale from Balvicar Stores, the area's own Vera Lynn. Corporal Jones the butcher (Kneale Smith) and young Jack Thirlaway, dressed in army uniform, sang Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major.

The hall was decorated with bunting, flags and Glen Miller-style band stands on the stage. Dancing was led by Janet and Graham, including the Lambeth Walk, waltzes, fox trot, quicksteps and the jive.

Legion members prepared all the food, ran the bar and sold raffle tickets, with prizes including tins of spam and bars of chocolate. During the interval, Bobby Harvey played the fiddle and Drew Connelly the accordion. A collection raised £193.

Thanks go to everyone who went along to support this wonderful night. The total raised has not been finalised yet but is looking very healthy.



Do you think that's wise, sir? Left to right: Alex Wright as Sir Winston Churchill, Kneale Smith as Corporal Jones, Willie Munro as Warden Hodges and Jim Watson as Captain Mainwaring, alongside Seil's own 1959 Daimler 'Ferret' Scout, equipped with a .30 calibre Browning machine gun and six smoke grenade dischargers.



Young veteran Jack Thirlaway and Jim Watson as Captain Mainwaring.



Desk veterans, left to right: Mary Withall, Sue Moss, Phil Moss and Alice Clayton.

When someone is suffering from sudden cardiac arrest, early use of a defibrillator can dramatically increase their chances for survival from less than five per cent to as much as 70 per cent.

However, for people living in remote communities, accessibility to such a lifesaving piece of equipment is not guaranteed.

Tracey Peedle from the inn said: 'We are so pleased to be able to deliver the defibrillator and training for local people, all of which has been

made possible at the suggestion of our brilliant staff and by the staunch support of our local community.'

## Tiree

Pupils at Tiree High School took a trip on the the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's yacht to learn about the cetaceans.

They ventured on to the Silurian earlier this month and the trip was enjoyed by everyone.

'I really liked learning about whales, dolphins and porpoises. It was really fun,' Robyn said.

Neil-Hugh added: 'My favourite part of the trip was learning how to shout out when you spot something.'

As part of the trip, the pupils had to find items around the deck such as sails, beds, toilets– and even learned that the toilet had to be flushed 25 times.

When they went on the lower deck, they were greeted by 'a big bone of a dolphin's jaw'.



## Inspiration starts here

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## Ardchattan

A public consultation event on the future of mothballed Ardchattan Primary School has been postponed.

Argyll and Bute Council bosses were due to host the meeting on Wednesday June 13 but have announced the session is now off.

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused,' said a message sent out to people involved in the consultation last week.

A new date will be announced as soon as possible. Campaigners wanting to save the school building for the community have been told their views are still 'very important' and will be heard.

Ardchattan community councillor Breege Smyth is one of the campaigners working on setting up a community development trust to consider taking on the ownership of the building and running it as an activity hub, if the school is to stay shut. 'We'd rather have a delay than not get the information we want,' she said.

A council spokesperson said: 'We have postponed the event to allow more time to ensure the process is carried out correctly.'

The council wanted to hear the public's views as to whether it should continue mothballing the school, reopen it with its current catchment, widen the intake area or close it for good. When it closed in 2014 it had room for 57 pupils but only had four on the register. If it was open now it would have 10 pupils but it would cost around £112,000 a year to run, says the council. A full consultation started on May 18 this year and was due to end on June 29. On December 11, a report will go to the community services committee for a decision which will then be passed on to Scottish ministers.

Ardchattan campaigners have teamed up with a group from Achnamara, near Loch Sween, whose Ashfield school was temporarily shut in 2016. They also want to stop their school building from 'sleepwalking' into decay and disuse.



Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs litter pickers work to keep the area tidy.

# Call for action over litter

Scotland may be the most beautiful country in the world, but it is also the dirtiest in western Europe, a group of litter pickers in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has claimed.

The charity Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs has called for bolder action to tackle the blight of litter alongside the A82 tourist route on Loch Lomond-side.

Litter was a hot topic at the recent AGM, following 'one of the worst years on record for accumulation of litter at beauty spots in the national park'. The group said: 'There was concern that the current arrangements for litter collection are poorly coordinated between the various agencies and fall well short of what is required in Scotland's most popular countryside destination.'

The group has suggested a five-point action plan should be adopted by local councils and bodies such as the national park authority and

Forestry Commission Scotland. The list includes litter bins in every layby on the A82, and more and larger bins in busy locations, emptied more frequently.

The group is also calling for 'more rigorous enforcement of litter fines as part of a wider effort to change people's bad habits and attitudes in relation to discarding litter in the countryside and alongside road verges'.

James Fraser, chairman of the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, said: 'Recent research by Keep Scotland Beautiful has confirmed Scotland is one of the dirtiest countries in western Europe, despite being voted as the most beautiful country in the world by Rough Guide readers.'

'This contradiction is sadly well illustrated in Scotland's first national park where accumulations of litter reached an all-time high in the past year at popular beauty spots and in laybys along the A82.'

## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



### Not good enough

As we report this week, I have finally received a response to my repeated emails to Scotland's transport minister, Humza Yousaf, with regard to our continuing campaign for improved road safety on the A85.

Not that the reply came from Mr Yousaf, though. In fact, it came from a road safety manager with Transport Scotland.

She explained that she was emailing me as road safety on the A85 is 'an operational matter for Transport Scotland'.

She then goes on to talk about how her organisation has engaged with Oban and Dunbeg community councils and that issues raised would be given consideration.

She then lapses into the kind of corporate nonsense that gets my goat, rattling on about 'feeding back the recommendations to stakeholders'. The manager also trumpets the spending of £340,000 on crash barriers between Oban and Dunbeg earlier this year.

What she fails to address are the three points of our campaign: a 50mph speed limit between Oban and Connel, double white lines along that stretch and a proper layby at Pennyfuir cemetery – all of which are easily and affordably achieved.

Frankly, it's not good enough.

### Cheers to Oban Distillery

I was fortunate to be invited, along with colleagues from The Oban Times, to do a tour of Oban Distillery last week.

What a treat it was. We were part of a group which was guided round the plant by the affable Sam, who was a mine of information and a genial host who plied us with samples of their own product – and delicious it was too.

The distillery is one of the smallest in Scotland, but also one of the oldest having been built back in 1794 by John and Hugh Stevenson and even pre-dates the town.

This was a very enjoyable hour and I'd recommend it to anyone – especially the whisky cocktail. Even if you don't fancy doing the tour, the distillery's bar is well worth a visit.

■ What do you think? Write to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

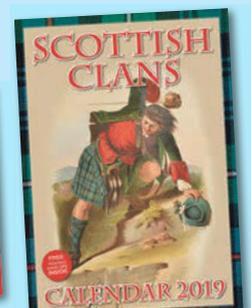
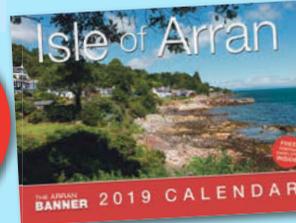
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# OUTDOORS

## Forum is impressed by Lewis enthusiasm for tree-planting

The Highlands and Islands Regional Forestry Forum, a group of 16 delegates who advise the Forestry Commission on policy and practice, visited the Isle of Lewis recently.

It was the first forum field visit to the island for 15 years and saw members touring new plantations and sites of interest.

They subsequently spoke of how impressed they were with the enthusiasm shown by islanders for creating new woodland.

The visitors were hosted by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust, which runs the Croft Woodland Project in partnership with Woodland Trust and has committed to creating 100 hectares of new woodland on croft ground in the Western Isles by 2020.

Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) has funded Croft Woodlands Project officer Viv Halcrow, who is based in the PST office although her work covers the whole of the Outer Hebrides.

Viv's job is to give practical help and advice on tree planting and the funding application process in a bid to overcome the barriers that exist, such as limited knowledge and excessive bureaucracy.

A report which went to PST's AGM in November showed that progress on the Western Isles Croft Woodland Project had so far been impressive.

At that point, 42,410 trees had been planted on the islands since the project began in 2016, with five SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) plantations going into the ground that season alone, with 1,400 to 7,200 trees in each, totalling 21,000 hectares.

Smaller-scale planting is also happening, with applicants helped by funding from Woodland Trust's MOREwoods scheme.

There were more than 34 of these MOREwoods schemes, with between 300 and 1,350 trees in each scheme and more than 10,640 trees altogether.

There have been hundreds of inquiries and croft visits – and some islanders, who had been planting trees out of their own initiative,



Members of the Highlands and Islands Regional Forestry Forum visited Lewis recently, left, where they met Croft Woodlands Project officer Viv Halcrow.



were subsequently coming to Viv for advice.

The forestry forum's visit to Lewis took place on May 16 and 17, with the visitors welcomed by PST general manager Donald John MacSween.

There were a number of talks, including an introduction to trees in the Western Isles by John Risby, conservator Highlands and Islands with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), and Donald Macleod, an FCS woodland officer with responsibility for the Western Isles, Skye and Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

Donald John and Viv also gave a talk on the Western Isles Croft Woodland Project.

Field visits followed. The forum visited two recently planted croft woodlands schemes in Point and went to Lochs the next day to see a plantation in Leurbost, where 10 hectares

have been planted by the common grazings committee, and another community woodland at Sgoil nan Loch. Calum MacKinnon, one of the men involved in the Leurbost planting project, said the trees had made a 'massive difference' to their environment.

There are five regional forestry forums in Scotland, which replace the previous regional advisory committees as regional advisory bodies to FCS.

The Highlands and Islands forum is chaired by Dr Michael Foxley.

John Risby said the local enthusiasm was clear to see.

'People are wanting to see some trees in townships. There's lots of potential, lots of enthusiasm – that's what we're picking up.'

The challenge, he said, was in 'helping that enthusiasm' and 'getting the right trees'.

He added: 'If you don't get the right trees, they won't grow and that's why we're so positive about Viv's role and we're putting a little bit of funding towards it.'

He said forestry in the Western Isles was different to forestry in most other areas as conditions were 'very harsh for trying to grow trees'.

However, methods have evolved to combat this, for instance, grouping them closer together, avoiding wet or windy ground and carefully selecting the trees in the first place.

Dr Foxley said their aim was to find out what was happening locally, to learn what people's aspirations were and to find ways to help these aspirations become reality.

He hailed Viv's role in the Western Isles Croft Woodland Project as 'fantastic, absolutely fantastic – we could do with more Vivs'.



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## People urged to take care with fires and barbecues outdoors

Scottish Natural Heritage has advice this spring and summer to help visitors to the countryside protect against the risk of fire.

People should be particularly careful with campfires, cigarette disposal and throw-away barbecues, says SNH.

There is currently a fire danger warning in place in the north-east, south-east and central Scotland, with very high fire danger conditions.

Mark Wrightham, SNH's recreation and tourism manager, said: 'It's great news that the recent warm, dry weather is encouraging more people to get out and about and enjoy our beautiful Scottish countryside. But it's important to bear in mind that fires can spread quickly in these conditions and do lasting damage to nature and wildlife.'

'In this weather, we advise people to be careful when lighting fires, or consider using a camping stove instead. Be particularly cautious when disposing of cigarettes – even a cigarette butt can easily start a wildfire.'



'One of the biggest risks is disposable barbecues. These should be taken away and disposed of safely in a bin. You may think the barbecue's no longer a risk, but the lingering heat could cause vegetation to smoulder and catch fire.'

'A few simple tips can make all the difference in making sure as many people as possible can enjoy our countryside safely.'

SNH's advice is:

Whenever possible, use a stove rather than light an open fire. If you do light one, keep it small and under control, and remove all traces

before leaving. Avoid lighting them during prolonged dry periods or in forests, woods, farmland, peaty ground or near to buildings as fires that get out of control can cause major damage.

When using a disposable barbecue, put it on a heat-proof surface, such as sand or stones before you light it. Make sure the barbecue is cold before you take it away with the rest of your rubbish.

Dispose of cigarette butts in bins. More advice is available from the Scottish Outdoor Access Code at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

## Mountain writing competition is open for entries

Hillwalkers and climbers who can put their love for the great outdoors into words are being invited to take part in Mountaineering Scotland's annual literary competition.

The Mountaineering Scotland Writing Competition 2018 is looking for the best in new mountain writing, whether fact or fiction, prose or poetry.

With more and more people taking part in outdoor activities, there should be no shortage of adventurers ready to put their experiences

into words and share what makes mountains, or the act of walking or climbing so special to them.

And there's an added incentive this year, with an increase in the prize money on offer.

First prize in both prose and poetry sections is now £200, along with a pair of weekend tickets for the Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival, worth about £100 each. Second and third prize-winners in each section will receive £100 and £50 respectively.

As well as the cash prizes, win-

ners will see their entries in print in the Scottish Mountaineer, the quarterly Mountaineering Scotland magazine which goes out to its more than 14,000 members. Winning entries are also published on the Mountaineering Scotland website.

Prose entries should be a maximum of 2,000 words. Poetry entries should be a maximum of 200 words.

Entries should be sent by email to the MWC Coordinator, Tommy McManmon, by August 31, at [article@mountaineering.scot](mailto:article@mountaineering.scot).

## This week's walks

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

#### Saturday June 9

##### Bynack More, Cairn Gorm

A fine expedition in the Cairngorm Mountains. The return route goes around the head of Strath Nethy and over the shoulder of Cairn Gorm.

Start from Coire na Ciste CP, NH997074. Head NE, past a small plantation, directly to the col just south of a small summit, 737m. Descend E to Strath Nethy, cross the River Nethy and climb SE up the ridge to the summit of Bynack Beg, 964m. Continue southeast to Bynack More, 1,090m. Turn south to visit the Barns of Bynack. Head SW across a watershed to the summit of A' Choinneach, 1,017m. Continue SW to pick up a path that leads down to The Saddle at the head of Strath Nethy, alt 807m. Take the path NW up to the col between Cairngorm and Cnap Coire na Spreidhe. Head N on a traverse to join the high path out of Coire na Ciste at about NJ005065. Follow it along the escarpment and down to the CP.

Grade: S; Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 1,180m Map(s): LR36, EX403; Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.15am. Start at 10am. Leader: Stephen Mardon 01349 865881 or 07522 956789.

#### Thursday June 14

##### Tom Meadhoin to Inchree, Loch Leven

A through route over hills not often visited at the junction of two great sea lochs. Antiquity: Lag nam Morag Dun at NN029619.

Start on the B863 near Callert House at NN095603 where limited parking is available. Take the track N up through the trees and continue N on the path up to the bealach at NN100623. Turn

W and follow the broad ridge to Tom Meadhoin 621m. Cross the plateau SW to Creag Bhreac, 615m. Descend W over Leac Mhor and continue over undulating ground to the summit of Beinn an Aonaich Mhoir, 387m. Descend W and up to a small summit, Sidhean an Aonaich Mhoir, 297m.

Head NW to a bridge over the Abhainn Righ at NN034625. A short diversion W may be made to the Dun, alt 170m. Cross the bridge and follow the track up to a junction, turn left, then left again after 400m, and follow the path down past the waterfalls to the CP at Inchree, NN029634.

Grade: M+; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 760m; Map(s): LR41, EX384; Meet at Longsdale Road car park at 9am, Fort William WM at 9.30am for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

#### Sunday June 10

##### An Gearanach, Stob Coire a' Chairn, Am Bodach, Sgurr a' Mhaim, Glen Nevis, Ring of Steall

After passing through the Nevis Gorge and entering the Steall meadows, cross the wire bridge over the Water of Nevis, and negotiate the Allt Coire a' Mhail. Join the somewhat eroded path on to An Gearanach, carry on over An Garbhanach (some exposure) to Stob Coire a' Chairn.

Then go west, then SW to Am Bodach and west to Sgor an Iubhair. Go NNW now to Stob Coire a' Mhail over the Devil's Ridge, followed by your last Munro, Sgurr a' Mhaim. Descend the NW ridge to cross the river by the wooden bridge at NN158685 and the road back to the start.

Distance: 14km; height to climb: 1700m. Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Ken Stevenson.

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## FARMING

## Agriculture Champions deliver report

New policies and mindsets are required to address the unprecedented challenges facing agriculture due to Brexit, the Agriculture Champions have warned.

The four Agriculture Champions were appointed last year with a remit to advise on the development of a new strategy for the sector. In their final report, the champions call for a two-stage, long-term vision based on what the public wants and values in Scottish farming.

In stage one, policies would not be changed radically, but an emphasis placed on encouraging industry and businesses to become more entrepreneurial, with farm funding maintained at current levels.

In stage two, an element of basic income support would continue, but at a lower rate, with the majority of funding allocated to schemes that boost productivity and



Rural Secretary Fergus Ewing welcomed the report.

enhance natural capital – tailored to regional or sectorial needs and capped per farm.

Welcoming the report, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'Scottish farming is about to enter the biggest period of upheaval in a generation due to Brexit, which will require government, industry and business-

es to adapt and change so that our farming remains vibrant, resilient and profitable.

'I endorse the findings that support based on activity and production should be retained to an extent, but there should be a major new focus on increasing productivity.

'To support this, we need to better link research and

development with on-farm practice, encouraging businesses to collaborate, become more entrepreneurial, and do more to attract people to the sector.

'I thank the four champions for producing this comprehensive report, which will feed directly into my thinking on developing a future farming strategy for the years to come.'

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'Consensus around the need for Scottish agriculture to use Brexit as the catalyst to drive positive change is building.

'We welcome the Agricultural Champions' report, and the clear synergies it has with the union's own views as we seek to move out of the shadow of the CAP and recast support to enable Scottish agriculture to be more productive and profitable in the longer term.

'The emphasis on change

that runs through the report complements the union's own theme of CHANGE, launched at the Highland Show in 2017 and built into our latest Steps to Change document launched at the Scottish Parliament in March.

'The report's recommendation to continue, but reduce, direct support over a managed transition while increasing emphasis on productivity gains and delivering environmental benefits mirrors the union's thinking of shifting from area-based support to action-based support. That would recognise and reward those who want to do more.

'The report's emphasis on using a transition period of three to five years again resonates with how the union would like to see managed rather than chaotic or cliff-edge change. Transition must also be used to get the structures and delivery of a new policy right first time.

'This report is a very valuable addition to the debate and NFU Scotland looks forward to working with the Scottish Government and others to further develop and implement the thinking and interests shared by the Agricultural Champions and NFU Scotland.'

Jonny Hughes, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, added: 'We welcome many of the recommendations of this report, in particular the emphasis on improving natural capital stocks, breaking down traditional silos, stewardship as a key part of future policy and an emphasis on improving soil health.

'However, we are not persuaded by the case for long-term income support payments beyond the Brexit transition period, which remain unlinked to the provision of public benefits such as water quality and biodiversity.'



### North Argyll Young Farmers Club Annual Shearing Competition

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## Around the markets

**Stirling** – United Auctions on Thursday May 31 sold 1,990 prime sheep comprising of 309 new season lambs selling to an average of 235.80p and 1,231 old season lambs with an average of 183.30p and 450 ewes and rams.

New season lambs (309) – Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) £127; Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £127; Penston (Suff) £125; Bangour (Char) £125.

Old season lambs (1231) – Luckenburn (BTex) £121; Kinaldy (Chev) £106; Lynn (Suff) £100; Broomhill & Whiteburn (Tex) £100; South Park (Mule) £100; Tay & Torridon (BF) £94.

Old season lambs (1231) – Luckenburn (BTex) £140; Outerston (Tex) £132; Smalholm Mains (HB) £122; Southfield (Char) £117; West Lundie (BTex) £101; Meadowbank (Mule) £97; Lochhouse (Cont) £97; Southpark (Chev) £85; Quinloch (BF) £84.

Rams – Halls (Tex) £84; West Lundie (BF) £80.

**Stirling** – Caledonian Marts on Thursday May 31 sold 170 cattle comprising 97 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 73 cast cows and bulls at their annual show and sale of Limousin cattle kindly sponsored by Scottish Limousin Breeders.

Prime bullocks averaged 217p. Prime heifers averaged 228p. Young bulls averaged 226p. Beef cows averaged 150p. Dairy cows averaged 118p.

The judging was in the hands of Ewart Fairlie of the Hedges, Letham, Angus and the following were his awards and prices realised.

Champion was a Limousin heifer from W Dandie and Son, Learielaw, Broxburn which scaled 590kgs and made 275p per kilo to the judge.

Reserve champion again from Learielaw but this time a bullock scaling 690kgs made 240p per kilo to McGregor Meats.

Prize list:  
Bullocks: 1 and reserve – Learielaw; 2 Brockwoodlees 245p to W E Fairlie; 3 Blairhall 235p To WW Wales Ltd.

Heifers: 1 and champion – Learielaw; 2 Brockwoodlees 230p to J Gilvear and Sons; 3 Balquharrage 255p to W W Wales Ltd.

Prices outwith prize list:  
Bullocks per kilo:  
250p Faskine and Balquharrage, 248p Brockwoodlees, 245p Meadowend, 240p Mawcarse, 235p Easterton (Owen), 235p Rathillet and Blackhill, 232p Borlick, Todhill, Blairhall and Rathillet, 230p Over Inzievar and Borlick.

Heifers per kilo:  
260p Borlick, 258p Learielaw, 255p (twice) Balquharrage and Brockwoodlees, 252p Faskine and Brockwoodlees, 242p

Meadowend, 240p West Woodland and Dyke (MacGregor), 238p Todhall and Over Inzievar, 235p Blairhall, 232p Whiteside, Cuttlehill and West Woodlane.

Bullocks per head:  
£1,778 Auchmuir, £1,676 Gillandersland, £1,656 Learielaw, £1,619 Borlick, £1,613 Loanrigg, £1,603 Gillandersland.

Heifers per head:  
£1,625 Mains of Cultmalundie, £1,622 and £1,609 Learielaw, £1,580 Mains of Cultmalundie, £1,568, £1,534 and £1,514 Brockwoodlees, £1,513 Borlick, £1,468 Dyke, £1,430 Westwoodlane.

Also forward were 73 cast cows and bulls with beef cows averaging 150p per kilo selling to 210p per kilo from M McMillan, Balliemartin, Islay and to £1,470 from JH and NT Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan. Dairy cows averaged 118p per kilo selling to 142p from G Millar and Son, Gallamuir, Clean and to £1,110 for the same beast.

Many more cows could have been sold to sellers' advantage. Cast bulls sold to £1,250 for a Simmental from Ferguson Brothers, Gillandersland.

Other leading prices:  
Beef cows per kilo: 199p Dyke, 190p Faskine, 188p Meadowend, 183p Forthview and Mains of Throsk, 177p Ardnave (Islay), 174p Meadowend and Dyke.

Beef cows per head: £1,400 Forthview, £1,340 Meadowend, £1,330 Dyke, £1,280 Mains of Throsk, £1,220 Dyke.

Dairy cows per kilo: 137p Summerhouse, 134p and 132p Gallamuir, 127p Summerhouse.

Dairy cows per head: £1,030 and £960 Gallamuir, £840 Summerhouse, £830 Forthview.

**Stirling** – United Auctions on Wednesday May 30 sold 671 store cattle also 83 cast cows and forward cattle.

Bullocks (352) averaged 231.64p to 292.40p per kg for a 326kg BAX from Brisbane Glen and £1370 for a 604 BSX from Pathcondie.

B&W Bullocks (21) averaged 156.37p to 168.30p per kg for a 526kg HFX from Berryhill and £885 for a 526kg HFX from Berryhill.

Heifers (286) averaged 212.23p to 275.20p per kg for a 238kg CHX from Upper Ettrick and £1180 for a 532kg AAX from Newbank.

Young bulls (12) averaged 215.72p to 256.40p per kg for a LimX from Foulshiels and £1260 for a AAX from South Carse of Coldoch.

Beef cows (69) averaged 155.31p to 220.80p per kg for a SimX from Riccarton and £1,450 for a LimX from Upper Spittalton. Dairy cows (11) averaged 113.67p to 164.60p per kg for a BFX from Haplant and £945 for a BFX from Haplant.

Forward cattle (3) averaged 177.20p to 207.40ppk for a LimX from Carstraan and £995 for a AAX from Flanders.

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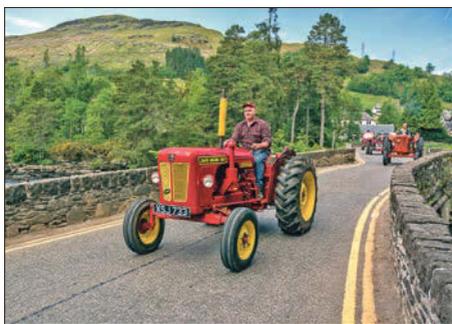
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The 12th Killin tractor run rumbled across the Falls of Dochart on Saturday May 26, raising money for charity. The run began at Finlarig Farm and took the 'caterpillar' of tractors through the village of Killin, along the South Loch Tay road to Kenmore, up over the hills to Glen Quach, through the Sma Glen and out into the depths of Perthshire, arriving back in Killin around 5pm.



## Lochaber monitor farm goes from strength to strength

The changes introduced at Strone Farm during its first year as the Lochaber Monitor Farm will be highlighted by host farmers Chris Cameron and his father Malcolm at an open day at Strone Farm near Banavie, Fort William, on Wednesday June 13.

The meeting, which starts at 1.30pm, is free to attend and an invitation is extended to everyone. During the meeting, the Camerons will review the changes they have made on their 1,200-hectare hill farm and highlight what they plan to do next.

'So far the monitor farm programme has touched every aspect of our business,' said Mr Cameron. 'Our community group is a vibrant bunch and I have enjoyed getting their feedback, good and bad, on the way we currently farm.'

'The project has also seen me grow in confidence which has helped me to drive the business forward. We are keen to try and establish, with the help of the monitor farm programme, a business that is financially

sustainable and provides a living for the family. We want to make enough net profit to allow for reinvestment back into the business,' he added.

During the open day, attendees will have the opportunity to hear how the Lochaber Monitor Farm has developed its cattle, sheep and grassland policies, and will also visit parts of the farm previously not seen as part of a farm tour.

The farm runs a flock of 500 Cheviot ewes, and has historically produced store lambs, with hogs kept as replacements.

Strone farm also has 40 pure Limousin cows which are in-wintered.

Another part of the farm enterprise to be highlighted at the open day will be the work that has been done to improve the grazing land at Strone.

During the afternoon the group will have the opportunity to visit one of the areas which has benefited from investment to discuss the results of the treatments.

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 July 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

# WIN

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



Macdonald Bros. is a traditional family butcher in Pitlochry and Aberfeldy, celebrating 90 years in business supplying Highland Perthshire and the rest of the UK with top quality Aberdeen-Angus Beef. All their produce is available for next day delivery throughout the UK.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: How many years have Macdonald Bros. been in business?**

Terms and Conditions apply.

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. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.



## Bring a smile with critters competition

They're not scary and they won't bite but be on the lookout for purple critters if you are out and about in the countryside this year.

They will be easy to spot in fields, farm yards or looking over a hedge near you.

The critters are appearing in fields as a result of a competition for farmers organised by Carrs Billington Agriculture to support WellChild, the national charity for seriously-ill children.

Farmers are again being challenged

to create their critters from silage bales wrapped in WellChild's colour purple. They can customise their bales with special sticker packs provided by Carrs Billington, which is at Oban Livestock Centre.

Over the past two years, Carrs Billington and its staff have donated more than £25,000 to WellChild with its purple bales campaigns.

For more information about the competition, visit the Carrs Billington website at [www.carrs-billington.com](http://www.carrs-billington.com)

# YU WU NOW OPEN

小海

Enlighten your senses with dishes from the East, including original classics and exciting new recipes. Taking inspiration from all around China, our chefs have created an eclectic menu with a wide variety of flavours.

## Yu Wu chef delivers top city class food

Yu Wu Chinese Restaurant proudly presents a new chef bringing city class dining to Oban



The popular restaurant enjoying its prime waterfront location, close to the railway and Station Square for buses and taxis, has also got new owners to boast of – with 25 years' experience to satisfy the biggest appetite of regular and first-time customers expecting the best food and service.

Only the freshest of ingredients are used by the chef who has worked in some of Glasgow's top Chinese restaurants, owned by his family.

Whether it's seafood brought in daily to Oban's shores or locally-sourced meats, quality is key in the kitchen.

New specials will be introduced every two weeks and be displayed

up on a selection board for diners to see as they walk in to the classy establishment, well lit with cut glass lights, open dining areas and wooden booths for those more private or romantic occasions – the booths can be booked in advance.

The menu with delicious appetisers from barbecued spare ribs to Isle of Mull scallops has something to offer all the family.

Noodles and rice, vegetable dishes that can be cooked in a variety of sauces or styles, house favourite curries including sliced duck, wok fried satays and then a choice of classic cooked dishes such as sirloin steak with chips and gravy means everyone will be happy at the table.

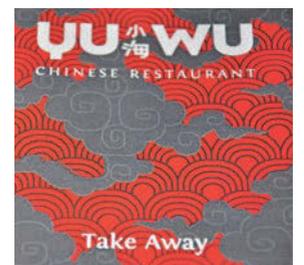
There is a special lunch offer running at the moment, 10 per cent off between noon and 2pm, Monday to Saturday.

And Yu Wu can even bring its great taste right to your door, offering a fresh and fast delivery service in specially temperature controlled bags, keeping it piping hot.

The home delivery hotline on 01631 563338 is available Monday to Thursday from 5pm to 10pm and then Friday to Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.

Outside catering for parties and special occasions can also be booked which makes catering for important events problem-free, taking the stress away.

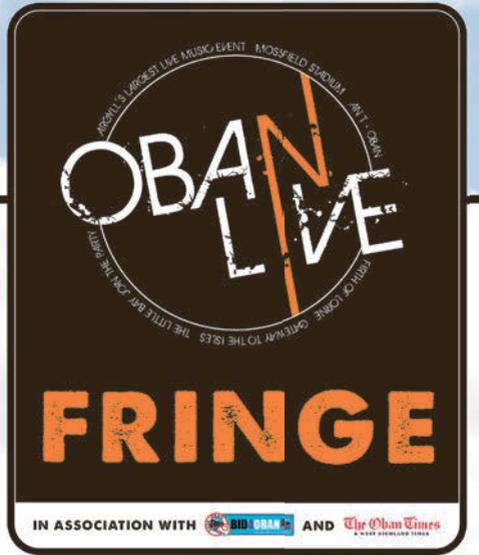
The new owners invited family and friends from all over Scotland to a tasting night to make sure all the dishes on offer are the best they can be – and that includes the plate presentation and welcome from the fully trained staff where service really does come with a smile.



No 1 Railway Pier, Oban PA34 4LW  
 Tel: 01631 563338  
 Email: [info@yuwu.co.uk](mailto:info@yuwu.co.uk) [www.yuwu.co.uk](http://www.yuwu.co.uk)

# OBANLIVE FRINGE GUIDE

# THE MUSIC IS HERE....



## YOUR WEEKEND STARTS HERE

*The Oban Times*  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Welcome to the Oban Live Fringe programme.

Argyll's biggest live music concert, Oban Live, is now in its third year, and with the good weather looking to continue, this weekend is all set to be a major highlight in the town's calendar.

To make this year even better than the last, businesses in and around Oban have joined with the festival to become a fringe partner.

Inside this week's Oban Times' Oban Live Fringe programme, you will find a wealth of listings and information from these fringe partners, offering additional events and special offers to help you make the most of your festival weekend.

Whether you want to get the party started in one of the town's hotels or hostels before heading up to Oban Live or are looking to keep the party going after the main event is finished, you will find all the live music you could ask for at some of the friendliest pubs and hotels in the town.

And if having spent the afternoon and evening on your feet, you fancy a comfy seat and a movie, Oban Phoenix Cinema is screening Movies at Midnight, including The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Grease, Dirty Dancing, Moulin Rouge, and The Greatest Showman. Seats must be booked in advance.

Within the 12-page guide you will also find money-off vouchers and gift vouchers for various businesses in the town, so make sure you treat yourself over the weekend.

This weekend looks set to be an absolute belter, so enjoy!

Susan Windram  
Group Editor,  
The Oban Times.

A Wyvex Media publication  
Lochavullin Industrial Estate,  
Crannog Lane, Oban,  
PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

## Venue watch: Markie Dans



Markie Dans and music go together hand-in-hand. Ever since it opened in 2007 this has been a music venue and its reputation has grown and grown over the past decade to make it one of Oban's must-visit destinations for lovers of good music.

So much so that Markie Dans holds its own mini music festival every summer; from Friday June 29 to Sunday July 1 the pub will host 12 different acts across the three days.

But right now, Lindsay MacMillan and her team are putting the finishing touches to their plans for Oban Live. A malt of the month has been chosen, an Oban Live cocktail is being created and the bottled beers selected for the special offer over the festival weekend. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

'We will probably have a special festival burger on the menu for Oban Live as well,' Lindsay said.

The bar food, especially its platters, wins rave online reviews. The bar always has a good variety

of real ale and locally artisan-brewery beers and has an impressive collection of more than 100 malt whiskies from which to choose. Markie Dans is also now offering a selection of deluxe gins.

Doors open at 11am and food is served from noon to 9pm – the sharing platters are always popular – and for Oban Live Markie Dans will have a late licence until 3am.

Oban Live fringe performances at Markie Dans will see Crackin' Craic play Saturday night, with Crooked Reel performing Friday night and on Saturday lunchtime. The Mad Ferret Band will be Friday night's warm-up act.

The bar's basement location in Victoria Crescent on the Oban Esplanade means that its beer garden has one of the finest views in Argyll: west-facing, across Oban Bay to Kerrera Island. This is the place to sit and chill, watch the ferries and fishing boats come and go, the yachts head to and from the yacht marina on Kerrera and Oban's new berths

### TICKET HOLDER OFFER

*Dolce Vita*  
**OBAN LIVE SPECIALS!**

62/64 George Street, Oban.  
www.dolcevitaoban.com  
01631 571221

Dolce Vita One Big Breakfast.  
Serving breakfast all day, Saturday and Sunday.

Bring your Oban Live ticket and receive a free drink with every meal purchased.



### TICKET HOLDER OFFER

## FREE GIFT WITH OBAN LIVE

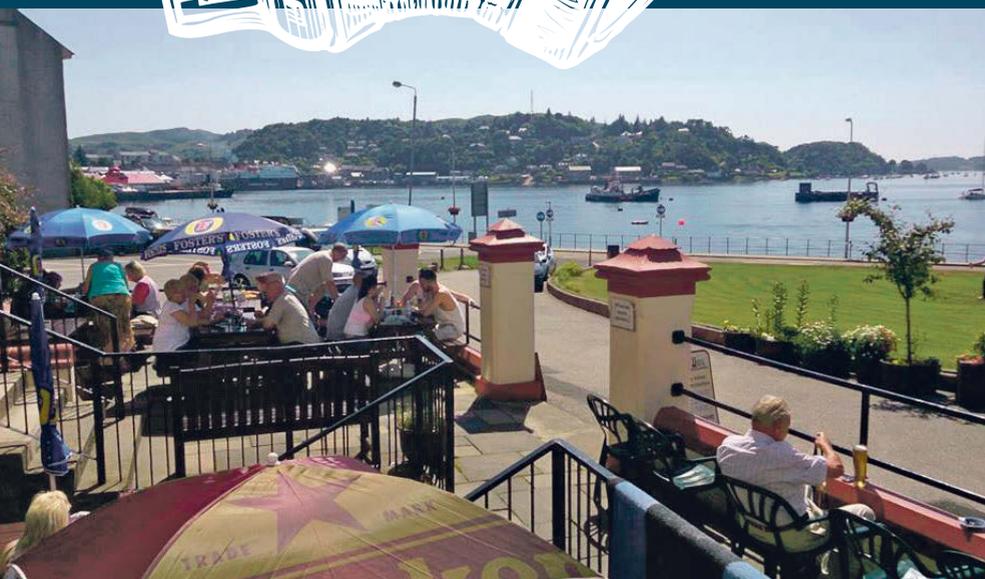
### THE GEM BOX

Esplanade, Oban, PA34 5PT 01631 562180

The Gem Box is giving a free gift of a beautiful pair of Chocolate Pearl stud earrings with any purchase. Also an amazing 15% DISCOUNT on everything in store to Oban Live ticket holders!

Just show us your ticket or wristband to claim this amazing discount.





The view from Markie Dans is spectacular.

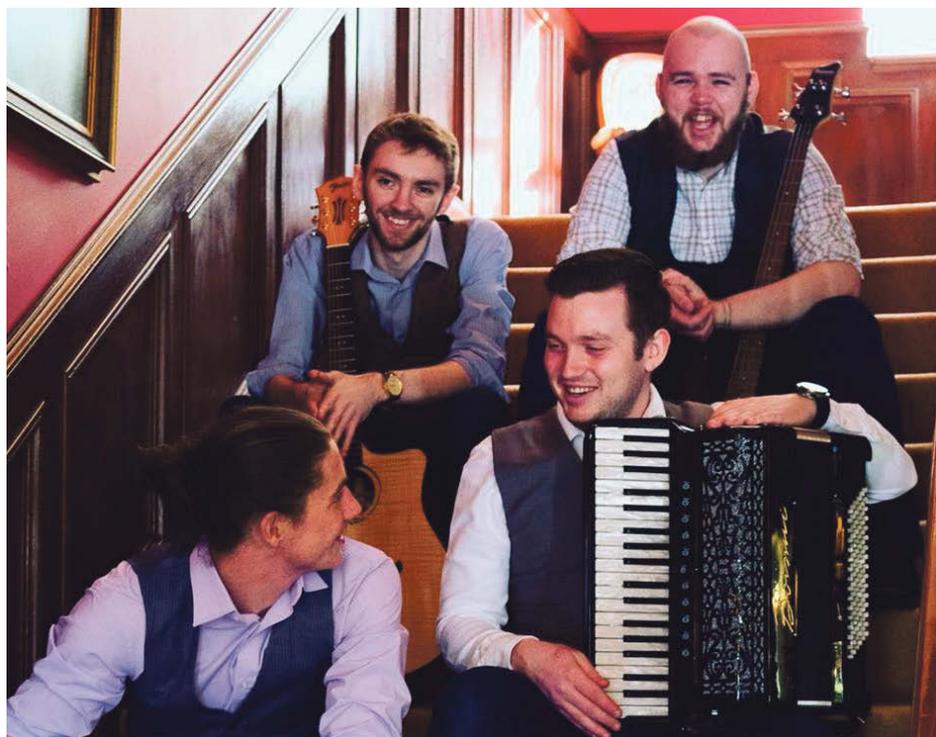


at the North Pier. The sunsets are provided free of charge and are well worth waiting for.

'I am biased but I have one of the best teams in Oban, making good food with fast service,' said Lindsay. 'We all look forward to Oban Live, seeing old friends return for the festival and making new ones.'

# Artist Q&A:

## Rock N Reel



### Q: How did you start as a band?

It all began with John MacKinnon, accordion, and Liam Donn, guitar and vocals, joining up with plans to start a band when Liam floated the idea on Facebook. Liam is studying applied music BA at University of Highlands and Islands. And having played previously with Ollie Sharp, drums, and Graeme Cameron, bass guitar in the past they joined in and the group evolved. John has come from the more traditional Mòd-based, Gaelic scene and brought the traditional music element and the others added the rock. We play traditional, rock, our own compositions; everything from Garry Innes to AC/DC.

We are a hard working band of ex-Oban High School members, who are playing the local pub and hotel circuit and ceilidhs, also on the islands. We have just finished recorded material at St Mary's

Studio, Appin, which we hope to release later in the year.

### Q: What and who are your musical influences?

Wolfstone, Pantera, Big Country and Skipinnish and Skerryvore along with Skipinnish, Skerryvore and Trail West.

### Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

Chunks – looking forward to hearing them at Oban Live – and the great feeling around the town; hearing who is playing at all the venues around Oban. We will be playing the Lorne Bar which is one of our favourite venues.



**GREAT FOOD GREAT CRAIC  
GREAT VIEW GREAT MUSIC  
IT HAS TO BE MARKIES!**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME FANTASTIC MUSIC DURING THIS YEAR'S OBAN LIVE FRINGE FESTIVAL**

**SERVING LUNCH, DINNER, COFFEE AND DRINKS  
VICTORIA CRESCENT, CORRAN ESPLANADE, OBAN CALL 01631 564448**



## FESTIVAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Thursday

## 7 JUNE

### Oban Phoenix Cinema presents Movies at Midnight

Oban Phoenix Cinema, 140 George Street, Oban PA34 5NX  
obanphoenix.com | www.facebook.com/ObanPhoenixCinema/

An over-18s programme of films in eight-hour plus marathon screenings after Oban Live, beginning at midnight – doors open at 11.45pm.

Main Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 80 seats)  
no seat allocation  
Disaster Artist, The Room, Rocky Horror Picture Show

Small Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 12 seats)  
no seat allocation

Grease, Dirty Dancing, Moulin Rouge, The Greatest Showman

All tickets must be booked in advance

Contact Louise@obanphoenix.com  
text 07717 526 999 to book

Tickets T&C

Must be booked in advance.

Over-18s only (ID may be required)

Films will finish between 8am/10am in the morning.

### Live Music at the Barn Bar with Singer Songwriter Solo Musician Matt

Barn Bar, Cologin, Lerags Glen, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4SE  
www.cologin.co.uk/the-barn-bar

@BarnBarLerags  
01631 564618

From 8pm

Singer songwriter Matt will be playing a solo set tonight, Thursday June 7. FREE entry. Adults only. Licensed premises. Come along early and enjoy a great home cooked meal first in our rustic award-winning bar restaurant just minutes from Oban in glorious Lerags Glen.

## Venue watch: The Lorne Bar Oban

A wide range of well-kept beers, a fantastic beer garden in which to enjoy them, a menu packed with local produce and some great live acts – The Lorne will be leaping during Oban Live.

The Lorne bar on Stevenson Street, Oban, is one of the town's hostelries with a reputation for great music – practically every talented young band has played here, alongside other well-established acts.

The menu has a combination of locally-caught fish and seafood, and the management prides themselves on a great range of beers, wine, good value and excellent service. Their feast from a fiver menu is popular with locals and visitors alike. The Lorne Bar burger and the pub's own steak pie are favourite signature dishes.

The Lorne prides itself on being dog- and child-friendly. It has a great beer garden and food is served from noon until 9pm.

During Oban Live, The Lorne is open until 2am, on both nights, with entertainment.

The drinks promotions are Oban Live venom; pints of dark fruit cider, bottles of Peroni and shots of Sambuca.

The Lorne Bar also prides itself on its great choice of ales and lagers, and believes customers would be hard-pushed to find anywhere in Oban with the choice of draught beers of quality it has on offer –



something which is reflected in the fact that it is Cask Marque approved.

Cask Marque assessors visit the pubs in the scheme, unannounced, twice a year to check all the cask ales on sale for temperature, taste, appearance and aroma. All the beers must reach the required standard for the pub to pass.

The Lorne prides itself on being dog- and child-friendly, it has a great beer garden and food is served from noon until 9pm.



The garden terrace at The Lorne, Oban



### TICKET HOLDER OFFER

# £1 OFF CDS & DVDS

## OBAN MUSIC/ MUSIC SCOTLAND

20 Argyll Square, Oban 01631 566304 www.musicscotland.com

Head along to Oban's local music shop, situated on the Oban Live Trail in Argyll Square, for £1 off every CD and/or DVD purchased!



Offer applies to those wearing an Oban Live 2018 festival wristband or those with a printed E-ticket.



# Venue watch: The Perle Oban

Official Oban Live Fringe Partner, Brew & Co Bar at Perle Oban Hotel, is the latest music hub in Oban.

Offering regular live music in stylish surroundings, with incredible sea views and outdoor terrace. With a broad selection of beer, cocktails, wine and spirits available.

'Oban Mic Sessions' began at Perle Oban Hotel Live Music Lounge on June 1 with a bang. It was an incredible success, with various acts taking to the stage blowing the audience away.

There was a range of acts – from

acoustic singer/guitarists to rap duets and five-piece bands performing into the night.

We are now running another Oban Mic as part of the Oban Live Fringe events on Sunday evening, from 4pm onwards.

Oban Mic will be a monthly instalment for Brew & Co, so do continue to watch this space.

Other musical events coming up in Perle Oban Live Music Lounge are live music from Jamie Button, of Glasgow band the Button Boys, on June 24.



Stevie Palmer performing on August 30 (after performing at Corran Halls August 29), a Jazz event in August (dates to be confirmed). And lots more!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the information and updates on events.

Perle Oban Hotel,  
Station Square, Oban, PA34 5RT  
01631 700 301  
stay@perleoban.com  
www.perleoban.com

# Come and see us at BAAB Grill



Freshly grilled chicken shish, whole sea bream, lamb kebabs and other recipes inspired by Greece, Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean are now on offer at BAAB Grill, the newest and most innovative restaurant to open in Oban.

The first of its kind in Oban, BAAB Grill at the Perle Hotel has been created to bring the flavours of the eastern Mediterranean to this



renowned fishing port. The dishes are a mix of recipes from Greece, Turkey and the Levant, all of which have a rich culinary heritage with food meant for sharing and bonding over.

The menu has been created to suit all palettes; grilled meats from the charcoal grill, local seafood such as Octopus, plenty of vegetarian and vegan friendly dishes, and not least



the renowned meze with the home-made bread that's already making a name for itself. Some signature dishes include; grilled marinated sea bass, Adana Kebab and Umm Ali – similar to a bread and butter pudding but with rose and pistachio adding the eastern flavour.

BAAB co-creator, Beth Rehman, commented: "We wanted to bring a fresh style of eating to Oban,

blending fantastic local seafood and Scottish produce with authentic dishes typical of the eastern Mediterranean. The atmosphere at BAAB is relaxed and friendly and it's a perfect place to meet with friends old and new, as well as family.

For more information on BAAB please visit [www.baabgrill.co.uk](http://www.baabgrill.co.uk) | @baabgrill | #bitesatBAAB



## OBAN LIVE FRINGE EVENT

'OBAN MIC SESSIONS'

at

The LIVE Music Lounge  
Perle Oban Hotel

Sunday 10th June  
4.00pm onwards

ALL Bands,  
Musicians,  
Singers,  
Performers  
& LIVE  
Music Lovers  
Welcome



## FESTIVAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# friday 8 JUNE

## Friday night disco with George Noble until 1am

DJ & Live Music!

Tartan Tavern, 3 Albany Terrace, Oban  
01631 562118 @thefamoustartantavern

## Friday night entertainment with the Rock n Reel band till 3am

Live music and entertainment until 3am  
The Lorne Bar, Stevenson Street, Oban

01631 570020 www.facebook.com/lornebaroban/  
See offers section for more on food and drink offers at the Lorne.

## Oban Phoenix Cinema presents Movies at Midnight (continues)

Main Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 80 seats)  
no seat allocation

This is Spinal Tap, Walk the Line, The Doors,  
24 Hour Party People

Small Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 12 seats)  
no seat allocation

Harry Potter – two night marathon Parts 1-4

All tickets must be booked in advance

Contact Louise@obanphoenix.com  
text 07717 526 999 to book (T&C's on page 4)

## Live music from Crackin' Craic till 3am.

Mccaigs Return/Clarendon Hotel, 1 Shore Street, Oban  
www.facebook.com/mccaigsreturn/

## Live music at the Royal Hotel - Gunna Sound

– after Oban Live until late

Argyll Square, Oban (on the Oban Live Trail)

The popular Gunna Sound ceilidh band led by the talented Johnny Scoular and Campbell Brown keep the Oban Live party alive at the Royal Hotel.

## Live music at Markie Dans - Crooked Reel

from 11pm. Open until 3am.

2 Victoria Crescent, Oban

www.markiedans.co.uk www.facebook.com/markiedans  
01631564448

## Cat Cafe with the world famous Parsley the cat!

New Hope Kitchen, 2 Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU

Facebook – @ObanHopeKitchen, 2pm to 3pm

On Friday we will hold a Cat Cafe with Oban's world famous ambassador Parsley the cat! Doors open 11am

## Oban Live Walking Tour Special

www.obanwalkingtours.co.uk

Friday June 8, 2pm to 3.30pm

Visiting Oban for Argyll's premiere music event? Why not flex your muscles and explore our wonderful wee town before the venue gates open at 4pm. Produce your Oban Live ticket for a 20% discount or use ObanLive in the voucher code. The walk will follow the 90-minute route from North Pier Harbour building along the Esplanade to the Dog Stone at Dunollie returning via George Street.

See www.obanwalkingtours.co.uk for full details and for other tour times.

## Official Oban Live After Party!

11.30pm till 4am – GUARANTEED FREE ENTRY TO OBAN LIVE VIP TICKET HOLDERS (Must enter before 12.30am for guaranteed entry).

Skipinnish Ceilidh House, 34-38 George Street

Friday features the Sons of Argyll Ceilidh band, Torridon and more to be announced. See www.obanlive.com/fringe for full line-up details.

Public access on a first come first serve basis and not guaranteed. Some After Party tickets available in advance (£15) via EventBrite or see Skipinnish Facebook Page for links to ticket site. With the latest closing time in town, you can party your socks off ALL NIGHT LONG!

# Venue watch: Tartan Tavern



The Tartan Tavern is one of the longest established hostelries in Oban, probably only second to the Oban Inn and one thing's for sure: its traditional approach to hospitality has won the bar a legion of fans from around the globe.

change then the bar's stock has changed accordingly; there are plenty of shooters and Jack Daniels cider on offer over the Oban Live Festival weekend, along with a disco on the Friday night and Ron Johnston playing live on Saturday.



**'Love this wee pub always full of characters and quick friendly service. Fun times.'**

If you have a good formula and a devoted following, then you do not mess with things. Walk through the door of the wee bar on George Street and you feel like you have stepped back in time and that's why everyone loves the place: the list of people singing the Tartan's praises on review websites and its own Facebook page is longer than your arm.

The team at the Tartan Tavern, headed by Ann Marie MacLean and Michael Durkin can rightly take pride in this.

'The Tartan Tavern has always been as it's always been,' said Ann Marie, 'we have people who come back from all over the world to visit us.'

There is a difference between keeping things traditional and being stuck in the mud, for as tastes

This is a smaller-sized place with a huge welcome and a gigantic atmosphere, and if you don't believe us, read just a few of the online reviews for the famous Tartan Tavern:

*'Love this wee pub always full of characters and quick friendly service. Fun times.'*

*'Fantastic atmosphere, fantastic people. Definitely coming here again.'*

*'Great pub, loved it...when you work away it's great to find a pub like this.'*

*'Absolutely loved it, very friendly, welcoming atmosphere. We had booked*

*a hotel miles away but after a few wee drinks here we cancelled and book round the corner.'*

*'Fantastic wee pub had a great time thanks again hope to be back soon. Warm welcome genuine people colourful characters.'*

*'Fantastic place, one of the best I've ever been in, just sad it's not my local.'*

*'Great people, good beer and an awesome bartender. Thank you for showing me and my wife the night life in Oban. Looking forward to coming back'*

*'Fantastic pub that doesn't mask itself with tourist fluff. My favourite place during my visit!'*

*'Best bar and staff members about! Make me feel so welcome when I am home.'*

*'Best wee bar in town, good bar staff and friendly punters.'*

# Artist Q&A:

## Alastair Currie & Tom Adams



### Q: How did you start as a band?

We just came together; we had known each other and played with various people in the past. It is nice to perform with other people. Don't forget we all enjoy ourselves as much as the audiences do; it's good to sit in with other people and have them sit in with us. Tom is from Oban and Alastair from Islay. From our point of view it is far better playing as a duo than solo.

### Q: What and who are your musical influences?

Tom plays keyboards and sings and Alastair is a box player; Tom loves big ballads, Scottish traditional and modern. It is good to include a strong ballad or two in the set that everyone knows.

Alastair comes from a piping tradition so we have many a good pipe tune transposed for the accordion.

### Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

We will be playing at the Claredon Hotel, which is a favourite venue of ours; there is always a great atmosphere. We always enjoy playing there, a good crowd! We will be listening to other acts, meeting up with old friends, and it is always good at Oban Live. There is a great deal of talent on the west coast of Scotland, the ceilidhs, the fèis and the mod, the pipe bands. Music is an important part of life, young or old and it's great to hear the younger kids today and their take on things.

# Artist Q&A:

## Crooked Reel



### Q: How did you start as a band?

People have been coming and going from Crooked Reel for a number of years – about 15 – and there have been some great line-ups. This present incarnation is Johnny Gillespie bass guitar and vocals; Jonathan Gillespie, piano and vocals and Frank Greene, guitar and vocals. The band are based out of Glasgow. Johnny's son Jonathan joined about eight or nine years ago as 'young blood'. He also plays with Trail West's larger six-piece festival band, among others.

### Q: What and who are your musical influences?

Scottish and Irish traditional music is at the heart of the band but we all have

many influences, which blend into the mix. Frank's influences are the Dubliners and Christie Moore; Johnny's are country, Irish and folk – everything from Nathan Carter to old Irish traditional. Jonathan's include Ed Sherran, the Saw Doctors.

### Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

We are playing the late shift, after the park on Friday and before the park on Saturday and we are hoping to see as many acts as possible and met old friends and make new ones. There is always a great buzz about the town, a great feeling about the place created by Oban Live. We are really looking forward to the Sons of Argyll set – that is going to be something.

### OBAN LIVE SPECIAL OFFERS

#### 10% discount at Scottish Island Jewellery

for Oban Live ticket holders, June 8 & 9\*  
23 Argyll Square, Oban, PA34 4AT  
01631 570005  
www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk  
Facebook - @ScottishIslandJewellery1  
\*Excludes watches

#### 10% off at Alba Art Shop

for Oban Live ticket holders  
Alba the Artshop

6 Albany Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AR  
01631 563645  
www.alba-artshop.co.uk  
@ALBAtheArtshop  
Over the weekend of Oban Live, the 8th and 9th of June, we are offering 10% off in store, when you show your Oban Live ticket or event wristband.

#### 20% off Coasteering and Rock Climbing

Ganavan Beach, Oban  
Hebridean Pursuits

10am to 1pm – Sat June 9 and Sun June 10  
01631 710002  
www.hebrideanpursuits.co.uk  
Facebook @hebridean.pursuits  
Instagram @hebrideanpursuits  
Come and join us on a half day session of coasteering or rock climbing at Ganavan Beach on Saturday or Sunday morning.  
20% off for Oban Live 2018 ticket holders – £45 for an adult and £35 for a child. More details at www.obanlive.com/fringe

#### 20% off Spray Tan & Gel Nails

for Oban Live 2018 ticket holders  
Boho Brow & Beauty Bar  
3 Gibraltar St Oban  
Beauty & Health Salon  
01631 569594  
bohobrowbeauty.wixsite.com/boho  
All Oban Live 2018 ticket holders can receive 20% off Sienna X Full Body Spray Tan or a Gel Manicure from Monday 4th June till Friday 8th June. Subject to availability. Tickets must be shown to receive discount.

#### 10% discount for all Oban Live ticket holders at Vaporized

8 George Street, Oban, PA34 5SB (E-cigarettes)  
01631 358608  
Vaporized would like to offer all Oban Live ticket holders 10% off everything in store over Friday 8th and Saturday 9th June. The shop will be open from 08:30 to 18:30 during this period.

## FESTIVAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# saturday 9 JUNE

## Saturday Live Music with Ron Johnston until 1am

Tartan Tavern  
3 Albany Terrace, Oban 01631 562118  
@thefamoustartantavern

## Saturday night live DJ till 3am

Live music and entertainment until 3am  
The Lorne Bar  
Stevenson Street, Oban 01631 570020  
www.facebook.com/lornebaroban/  
See offers section for more on food and drink offers at the Lorne.

## Live music from Dodgy Ground till 3am.

Mccaigs Return/Clarendon Hotel  
1 Shore Street, Oban  
www.facebook.com/mccaigsreturn/

## Oban Phoenix Cinema presents Movies at Midnight (continues)

Main Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 80 seats)  
no seat allocation  
High Fidelity, Empire Records, School of Rock, The Breakfast Club  
Small Screen – Movies at Midnight (limited to 12 seats)  
no seat allocation  
Harry Potter – two night marathon, Parts 5-8  
All tickets must be booked in advance  
Contact Louise@obanphoenix.com  
text 07717 526 999 to book (T&C's on page 4)

## Live music at the Royal Hotel

Gunna Sound - from 2pm until Oban Live gates open at 4pm and after Oban Live until late  
Argyll Square, Oban (on the Oban Live Trail)  
The popular Gunna Sound ceilidh band led by the talented Johnny Scouler and Campbell Brown keep the Oban Live party alive at the Royal Hotel.

## Live music at Markie Dans - Crackin' Craic

from 11pm. Open until 3am.  
2 Victoria Crescent, Oban  
www.markiedans.co.uk www.facebook.com/markiedans  
01631564448

## Official Oban Live After Party!

11.30pm till 4am – GUARANTEED FREE ENTRY TO OBAN LIVE VIP TICKET HOLDERS (Must enter before 12.30am for guaranteed entry).  
Skipinnish Ceilidh House, 34-38 George Street  
Saturday features Skipinnish and friends! See www.obanlive.com/fringe for full line-up details.  
Public access on a first come first serve basis and not guaranteed. Some After Party tickets available in advance (£15) via EventBrite or see Skipinnish Facebook Page for links to ticket site. With the latest closing time in town, you can party your socks off ALL NIGHT LONG!

## Cat Cafe with the world famous Parsley the cat!

New Hope Kitchen, 2 Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU  
Facebook – @ObanHopeKitchen, 11am to 3pm  
Parsley the cat 2-3pm

# Venue watch: The Royal Hotel, Oban

On Argyll Square in the heart of town, it goes without saying that the Royal Hotel – a well-known local landmark – is always at the centre of the Oban Live fringe events.

There cannot be a person in Oban who has not ended up at a ceilidh at the Royal – for everything from wedding dances to Oban Choir and the Mòd. These ceilidhs are legendary and over the years anyone who is anyone on the west coast music scene has played here.

The lounge bar in the fine old Victorian hotel, which was built in 1895, will feature live music – most notably sets by the ever-popular Gunna Sound. On Friday and Saturday night there is a late licence.

The three-star hotel is well-known for its bar food and its popular Blasta restaurant will also be open. Blasta is a cosy and atmospheric restaurant with dark woods and chandeliers. The menu features as many local ingredients as the chefs can source, with the vast array of dishes local to the area.

Many people will also know the new manager taking over at the Royal. John Horne is Oban born and bred, and an ex-pupil of Oban High School.

He has a great deal of experience, having worked in the industry for more than 20 years, including at many hotels and venues around the Oban area. He has been one of the hospitality team of tutors at Argyll College, teaching students for eight years.

The atmosphere at the Royal is always brilliant during Oban Live, with the music and cràic making it a very popular destination.

There will be a number of promotions – to be announced by John and the team who pride themselves on the wide selection of draft beers and malts. Entry to The Royal Hotel will be free, but very much on a first-come-first-served basis. Door staff will be on duty.

John said: 'I have no doubt that the Royal will be very busy and there will be a big welcome to all the Oban Live visitors throughout the weekend. The Royal has always been a place to be in Oban.'



Gunna Sound at The Royal Hotel, Oban

**The atmosphere at the Royal is always brilliant during Oban Live with the music and cràic, making it a very popular destination.**



*Gunna Sound*  
play live at  
*The Royal Hotel,*  
*Oban*

Friday: After Oban Live until late

Saturday: From 2pm until Oban Live gates open at 4pm and after Oban Live until late

Sunday: 1pm to 5pm

STRATHMORE  
HOTELS  
*The Royal*

Royal Hotel, Argyll Square,  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4BE

T: 01631 563021

W: strathmorehotels-theroyaloban.com

# Artist Q&A: Dodgy Ground



## Q: How did you start as a band?

Dodgy Ground has been going for about 20 years and, like many a good west coast ceilidh band, the line-up has changed over the years, plus friends who sit in on gigs. Sometimes a three- or four-piece band with Norrie MacNaughton, guitars and vocals; David Gracie keyboards and vocals; Neil MacEachran, drummer and Willie Bradley accordion. The band plays all over, from the Park Bar in Glasgow to the islands.

## Q: What and who are your musical influences?

Runig, Goats Don't Shave, Credence Clearwater Revival and lots of country and western as well and traditional

ceilidh musicians such as Calum Kennedy Dance Band. Plus rock and roll and The Killers, making for a great mix of influences.

This can be seen – and heard – in a Dodgy Ground set, which will include traditional music, covers and the band's own compositions.

## Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

If our audience are happy then the band is happy; we're looking forward to meeting up with friends and having a good time, enjoying ourselves and making sure everyone is enjoying themselves. We're looking forward to hearing old friends. It looks a very good line up at Oban Live and at the fringe events in town.

# Artist Q&A: Gunna Sound



## Q: How did you start as a band?

Johnny Scoular, guitar whistles and vocals and Campbell Brown, accordion and vocals, and we first played together in the early eighties in Glasgow, initially doing gigs for the Ossianic Society of Glasgow University. Over the years we have played extensively throughout Scotland, particularly around Glasgow and our native West Coast. For larger functions we're augmented by friends who also played on our two albums, Rollin on the Sea and Land of Dreams.

## Q: What and who are your musical influences?

We were both brought up on Scottish and Country / Americana music. Being able to go and hear live the likes of the Wallochmor Ceilidh Band, The Corries, John Carmichael, Gaberlunzie, Don

Williams etc shaped our musical tastes. We listen to all types of music on the road and never fall out over choice, its an eclectic mix!

## Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

Oban is one of our favourite places; the Fringe is laid back so people can just wander in and out and stay for as long as they want.

Also seeing younger people involved, the emergence over the years of young bands, particularly from Tiree, has been fantastic to see and hear and we hope that we have played a small part in keeping that tradition going. We take pride that we are now playing at weddings and parties for the children of parents we first played for! We are delighted to be involved with Sons of Argyll at Oban Live.

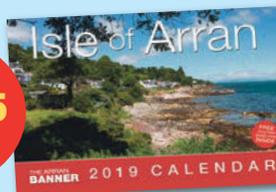
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## FESTIVAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Sunday

## 10 JUNE

**Live music from  
Alastair Currie and Tom Adams**

**3pm to 6pm.**

McCaig's Return/Claredon Hotel  
1 Shore Street, Oban  
[www.facebook.com/mccaigsreturn/](http://www.facebook.com/mccaigsreturn/)

**Live music at the Royal Hotel**

Gunna Sound – 1pm to 5pm

Argyll Square, Oban (on the Oban Live Trail)

The popular Gunna Sound ceilidh band led by the talented Johnny Scoular and Campbell Brown keep the Oban Live party alive at the Royal Hotel.

**Oban Mic Sunday Session**

Perle Oban Hotel Live Music Lounge at Brew & Co Bar  
Station Road, Oban  
[www.perleoban.com](http://www.perleoban.com)  
4pm onwards

For those looking to keep the music going after Oban Live has ended – a variety of incredibly talented singers and musicians performing throughout the evening at Perle Oban Hotel. Great beer, great atmosphere, great LIVE music.

**TICKET HOLDER  
OFFER**



**£5 OFF OBAN  
WHISKY!  
OBAN DISTILLERY**

Stafford Street, Oban, PA34 5NH  
[www.obandistillery.com](http://www.obandistillery.com)

Social media - @12distilleries  
From June 8 to 10, £5.00 off any 70cl bottle of malt in the Oban Distillery Gift Shop (excluding special releases) to any Oban Live wristband/e-ticket holders. Must be over 18 years of age and this discount cannot be used alongside any other current discount or offer. Guided tours available throughout the weekend.

Booking is advisable.



## Venue watch:

# McCaig's Return/Claredon Hotel

McCaig's Return, the Claredon Hotel, is an Oban institution, known to one and call as 'The Clarey', with a good old-fashioned bar on the ground floor and value for money accommodation above.

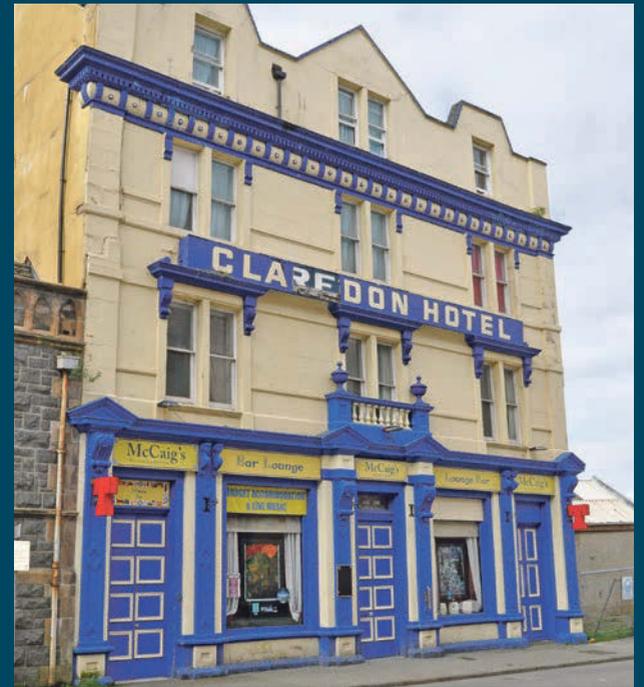
Erica and Rosie and the team have a warm and welcoming atmosphere and there is always mighty cràic with live music and plenty of locals.

Karaoke sessions have become the stuff of legend here at the distinctive blue and yellow-painted establishment on Shore Street.

During Oban Live you can catch Cracking Cràic and Dodgy Ground, as well as Tom Adams and Alisdair Currie playing at different times throughout the weekend.

There is no bar menu and Erica and Rosie keep the prices competitive all the year round.

Ask the regulars and they will tell you – you haven't been to Oban Live if you haven't stopped by the Clarey for a drink and the cràic.



## Parsley the cat

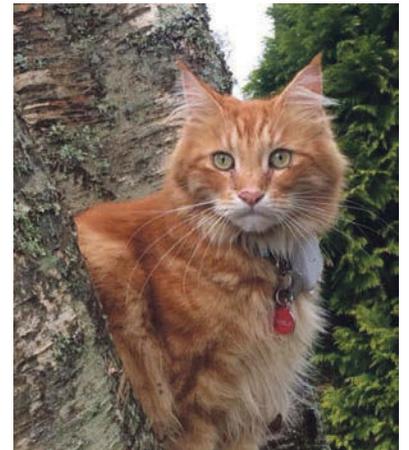
Parsley the cat, that famous feline from Oban and goodwill ambassador with fans from the world over, will be hosting his Cat Café during Oban Live.

During the festival you can go along and meet the celebrity with more than 7,500 Facebook followers, who has people adding Oban to their holiday itineraries just for the chance to glimpse him.

Parsley holds an audience with us mere humans every Friday between 2pm and 3pm at the Cat Café, as part of the daily opening hours at New Hope Kitchen, Soroba Road, Oban, and will do

so on Friday June 8. And mindful that it is the Oban Live weekend, this magnificent mog will magnanimously add an extra day to his itinerary and host an extra Cat Café between 2pm and 3pm on Saturday June 9, when the Hope Kitchen, a food and friendship café which is a Christian-led, charitable organisation based in Oban, will open for an extra day with a soup bar, from 11am-3pm.

Parsley rose to fame when his owner Fiona put a cat-nav GPS tracker on his collar because he kept wandering so far from home and she was shocked to realise



how far he travelled around the town. She used Facebook to keep in touch with people who might have sighted him on his travels and before long the peregrinations of Parsley were attracting world-wide attention.

**The Oban Live Fringe Festival**  
live music at

# McCaig's Return

FRIDAY

Crackin' Craic

SATURDAY

Dodgy Ground

SUNDAY

Alastair Currie and Tom Adams



**CLAREDON HOTEL** 1 SHORE STREET, OBAN  
TEL: 01631 562522





## OBAN WALKING TOURS



Get those Oban Live dancing feet of yours into your walking shoes and find out all about the town.

There is a special offer for Oban Live ticket holders, with a 20 per cent discount for a 90-minute walk with a one of their qualified guides. Oban Walking Tours take place on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, June 8 and 9.

Enjoy hearing all about the town, its history and its most important sites, along with myths and legends of Argyll and the West Highlands.

Produce your Oban Live ticket to claim your discount or use ObanLive in the voucher code.

The walk will start at North Pier Harbour building, along the Esplanade to the Dog Stone at Dunollie, returning via George Street. Visit [www.obanwalkingtours.co.uk](http://www.obanwalkingtours.co.uk) for full details and for other tour times.



### OBAN LIVE SPECIAL OFFERS

#### The Oban Live Big Burger The Lorne Bar

Stevenson Street, Oban  
01631 570020  
Facebook @lornebaroban  
Over Oban Live weekend, get a homemade cheese and bacon burger & chips for £6.95.  
Drinks promotions: Bottles of Bud £2.50; Oban Live Venom £7.50; Shots of sourz £1.

**£1 off CDs & DVDs**  
**Oban Music/ Music Scotland**  
20 Argyll Square, Oban  
01631 566304  
[www.musicscotland.com](http://www.musicscotland.com)

Head along to Oban's local music shop, situated on the Oban Live Trail in Argyll Square, for £1 off every CD and/or DVD purchased!  
Offer applies to those wearing an Oban Live 2018 festival wristband or those with a printed e-ticket.

#### FREE Purdies Care Pack! Purdies of Argyll

18 George Street, Oban  
[www.purdies.org.uk](http://www.purdies.org.uk)  
Facebook @PurdiesofArgyll  
Any person to produce an Oban Live e-ticket or wristband to staff in Purdies Oban will receive a free care pack. (While stocks last).

#### Oban Live Special Ciabatta Julies Coffee House

33 Stafford Street, Oban  
Facebook @juliescoffeehouse  
Locally-sourced steak ciabatta with caramelised onions and cheddar cheese served with coleslaw & salad. Served throughout Oban Live weekend from 10am.

#### £5 off Oban Whisky!

Oban Distillery  
Stafford Street, Oban, PA34 5NH  
[www.obandistillery.com](http://www.obandistillery.com)  
@12distilleries  
From June 8 to 10, £5 off any 70cl bottle of malt in the Oban Dis-

## Artist Q&A: Crackin' Craic



### Q: How did you start as a band?

Scott Sinclair and Ruaridh Allan originally met through a close friend. It was late on one night and we decided to have a drink and a tune it was our first time playing together.

We then became good friends and Ruaridh had suggested we have a proper get together sometime and that was the start of it. One year in and that was when Liam MacLean joined us and it's been the same line up since – with the occasional pleasure of other musicians joining us, playing all over the country. We really appreciate and love the opportunity.

### Q: What and who are your musical influences?

We definitely have different influences ranging from the west coast music, rock, indie and country to bands like Oasis, Green Day, Blink 182, The View.

### Q: What are you looking forward to most about the Fringe Festival?

We definitely enjoy the buzz about the place and if we also get the weather it just tops it off! We enjoy being part of the fringe festival as we meet a lot of new people who we can share our music with and get the craic, as well as so many great locals. We are looking forward to another year involved with the fringe playing in Markie Dans, as the attendance is just madness and it's a great night! We can't wait for it – see you all there!

tillery Gift Shop (excluding special releases) to any Oban Live wristband/e-ticket holders. Must be over 18 years of age and this discount cannot be used alongside any other current discount or offer. Guided tours available throughout the weekend. Booking is advisable.

#### Oban Live Specials! Dolce Vita

Dolce Vita  
62/64 George Street, Oban.  
[www.dolcevitaoban.com](http://www.dolcevitaoban.com)  
01631 571221  
Dolce Vita One Big Breakfast.

Serving breakfast all day, Saturday and Sunday. Bring your Oban Live ticket and receive a free drink with every meal purchased.

#### Free Gift with Oban Live The Gem Box

Esplanade, Oban, PA34 5PT  
01631 562180  
The Gem Box is giving a free gift of a beautiful pair of Chocolate Pearl stud earrings with any purchase. Also an amazing 15% discount on everything in store to Oban Live ticket holders!  
Just show us your ticket or wristband to claim this amazing discount.

ARGYLL'S LARGEST LIVE MUSIC EVENT MOSSEFIELD STADIUM OBAN

# OBAN LIVE 2018

8TH - 9TH JUNE



**SKERRYVORE | SKIPINNISH**  
**PEATBOG FAERIES | TIDE LINES**  
**SHARON SHANNON | HERMITAGE GREEN**  
 WITH SUSAN O'NEILL & MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK

**SONS OF ARGYLL** ALL STAR LINEUP FEATURING MEMBERS OF TIDE LINES, TRAIL WEST & GUNNA SOUND WITH MOD GOLD MEDALLISTS ALASDAIR CURRIE & RACHEL WALKER, OBAN GAELIC CHOIR, PHIL CUNNINGHAM, ANGUS MACCOLL & MANY MORE.

**BLAZIN' FIDDLES | HERON VALLEY**

**CHUNKS** | **OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND** | **OBAN UNSIGNED WINNER**  
 20TH ANNIVERSARY | **KATHLEEN ROBERTSON**

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE FOR YOUR WINNER

bonnie babies



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £500!

002



Odinn Cumming  
Born February 2017 Taynuilt

015



Poppy Maxwell  
Born August 2017 Oban

017



Kai Duncan Laverty  
Born March 2017 Caol, Fort William

054



Ivy-Rose Cameron-Watson  
Born December 2017 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

115



Natalie Gillies  
Born October 2017 Spean Bridge

132



Freya King  
Born July 2017 Fort William

138



Cailean Eachann MacDonald  
Born October 2017 Oban

Vote for your WINNER!

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday 11th June, 2018

THIS IS IT - your very last chance to vote for your winner of Bonnie babies 2018. It seems a long time ago since we published almost 200 wee cuties in the paper and voting numbers have hit new heights this year. Thank you to everyone who voted. We need one last push. The final voting coupon is published today and all votes must be in by 10am on Monday 11th June with the winner announced on Thursday 14th June.

What are you waiting for GET VOTING!

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

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

I would like to vote for:

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Baby's name:

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

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

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

You may submit multiple voting coupons in one envelope.

Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday 11th June, 2018



Terms & conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday 11th June, 2018. One coupon counts as one vote. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000.



**Caledonian MacBrayne**  
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

# UIG BAY TO TARBERT

WELCOME TO

UIG



**Skye's northern port**

Mention Uig to older Sgianachs and they think of the old maternity hospital; generations of 20th-century islanders were born here. This more northern part of Skye has so much to offer, including its gateway port to the Outer Hebrides.

**Check out:** Home of the Isle of Skye Brewery one of the original and best craft beer producers in the Highlands and islands. The Fairy Glen, like the Quiran but in miniature; forget theme parks, kids, this is for real. Uig has a filling station, convenience stores and post office plus a sound selection of eating places and accommodation in and around the village.

**The journey:** Stunning. The A87 is Skye's main road linking Uig with Portree and Kyle of Lochalsh to the south and the A855 road goes north, around Trotternish peninsula before also turning south to Portree. Citylink coaches will bring you from Inverness or Glasgow.

**Hopscotch:** Lochmaddy, North Uist, to explore the Outer Hebridean chain by ferry or causeway.

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WELCOME TO

TARBERT



**The hub of Harris life**

Set your satnav carefully. Tarbert, Harris, should not be confused with Tarbert, Loch Fyne, another CalMac port, or Tarbert, Jura, or Tarbert, Gigha. This Tarbert is the transport and social hub of Harris; from a four-star boutique hotel to a bothy, you will find it here.

**Check out:** Tarbert is home to a Harris Tweed shop and the island's distillery producing malt whisky and gin; plus petrol station, stores, post office and bank.

**The journey:** Three classic Hebridean roads. The A859 to Stornoway is the main island road. B887 to Huisinis and splendid isolation. Cnoc Na Greine, the Tarbert to Scalpay road, connecting the island by bridge.

**Hopscotch:** Leverburgh, South Harris, for Berneray. Stornoway, Lewis, for Ullapool, and back onto the Scottish mainland.



HARRIS					
UIG (SKYE) - TARBERT (HARRIS)					
Table 24					
Operates 10 March - 4 May and 11 September - 23 October					
DAY	Uig Depart	Tarbert Arrive	Tarbert Depart	Uig Arrive	
MON	1410	1530	1630	1800	0900
TUE	0930	1110	1140	1800	1320
WED	1410	1530	1630	1800	0900
THU	0930	1110	1140	1800	1320
FRI	1410	1530	1630	1800	0900
SAT	0930	1130	1210	1350	1800
SUN	1415	1555	1625	1805	1805
	1835 A	2210 A			
Operates 5 May - 10 September					
DAY	Uig Depart	Tarbert Arrive	Tarbert Depart	Uig Arrive	
MON	1410	1635	1730	1800	0900
TUE	0930	1110	1140	1320	1320
WED	-	-	0730	0900	-
THU	1410	1530	1630	1800	0900
FRI	0930	1110	1140	1320	1320
SAT	1410	1530	1630	1800	0900
SUN	0930	1130	1210	1350	1800
	1400	2040	2110	2250	1805
	1415	1555	1625	1805	1805



## SHOPPING ON BOARD?

Discover which outlets are available on board by visiting [calmac.co.uk/on-board](http://calmac.co.uk/on-board)



# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Killin set to come alive with faeries, fiddles and fun



Blazin' Fiddles and the Peatbog Faeries will no doubt have the crowds on their feet when they take the stage at this year's Killin Music Festival on June 15-17.

The Perthshire village of Killin will come alive with music on June 15-17 with the third Killin Music Festival.

Acts this year include Blazin' Fiddles and Niteworks on the Friday, Peatbog Faeries, MecLir and HoRo on the Saturday and a seated concert with Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain on the Sunday.

There are activities for festival goers of all ages throughout the weekend, including a Highland Huggle Workout, Ukelele workshop and a free

Craft Fair with children's crafts all day.

Sunday will feature McLaren High School Pipe Band parading down Killin Main Street, a free community coffee morning with the area's community choir and Killin Primary School Choir, and a free open stage competition where the public can hear the best emerging artists from the area and beyond.

The Portnellan Tent, where anyone can come and enjoy music, will be free entry for

everyone throughout the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Killin Music Festival is a three-day annual event which takes place the third weekend in June each year featuring the best in traditional and folk music alongside emerging artists.

The volunteer-run festival was established in 2015 and brings together Killin's vibrant community while welcoming visitors from across the country.



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0800 999 6979



# WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town  
Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)

## Thursday 7th June

**Oban Health Walk**  
Oban Congregational  
Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am

**Recycling Revisited**  
Victory Hall, Benderloch  
7pm-9pm

**Live Music & Entertainment**  
@ Markie Dans  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY  
THURSDAY

## Friday 8th June

**Oban Dance Academy  
- Cheerleading**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Oban Live**  
Mossfield Stadium  
4pm-11.30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment**  
@ Markie Dans  
Mad Ferrets - Afternoon  
Crooked Reel From 9pm  
Free entry  
Open till 1am

## Saturday 9th June

**Oban Live**  
Mossfield Stadium  
4pm-11.30pm

**Oban Dance Academy  
- Cheerleading**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day



**Live Music & Entertainment**  
@ Markie Dans  
Crooked Reel in Afternoon  
Crackin Craic from 10pm  
Free entry  
Open till 2am

## Sunday 10th June

**Hill Walk**  
Glen Nevis, Fort William  
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment**  
@ Markie Dans  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per  
team  
Win £20 bar voucher

## Tuesday 12th June

**Tuesday ESOL - English**  
Conversation Practice  
Lorn House  
2pm-4pm

## Wednesday 13th June

**Strawberry Tea**  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
2pm-4pm

**Live Music & Entertainment**  
@ The Lorne Bar Oban  
Lorne Pub Quiz  
Starting at 9pm  
£25 bar voucher prize and free  
pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit

[www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

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

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary. We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable). 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



Jonathan Barton and Natasha Watson were in Genting to launch Ballet West's forthcoming production of Swan Lake.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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



### From broadsheet to compact

Congratulations to The Oban Times on its compact new format and the beginning of a new era in the technique of coal fire lighting in houses across the Highlands and Islands.

This bastion of our regional media, as any true west coast-er knows has, over the years, not only been the primary vehicle for local news, but also, in a utilitarian dream of the perfection of dual purpose, has been the most effective means – after reading of course – with which to light the fire – rumours that the people on Coll don't even read it first are unfounded.

New techniques must be developed and put into action this week and any problems

with the new edition should be reported immediately to the Independent Press Standards Organisation.

The Scottish Government has allocated and ring-fenced substantial funds that are ready to spend on sending firefighters and copies of The Herald as emergency fuel aid to help those caught up in this unprecedented potential disaster for rural household heating.

Luckily for the population of Argyll, the Islands and beyond, The Oban Times has teamed up with Oban Live and jointly purchased four days of guaranteed sunshine from June 7-10 to help ensure that no householders or festival goers will freeze or even be uncomfortably chilly this weekend.

Beyond the chuckles of my

nonsense above, the transition from broadsheet to tabloid format has been a change taken now by many of the big boys of the mainstream press. The Times, The Independent, The Scotsman and even the esteemed Stornoway Gazette have all, despite some objection from readers, taken the leap to the smaller compact format.

These well-known papers have, of course, retained their broadsheet qualities along with their new compact 'physique'.

Despite the new 'mini me' appearance, I am confident this paper will similarly maintain its ethos of providing quality journalism, intelligent comment, local news and commitment to the communities it serves, albeit with a few dodgy columnists.

What a shock we would all get if suddenly the carefully-considered content of The Oban Times transformed overnight to the sensationalist, salacious, celebrity-obsessed, gossip-mongering, gunge-purveying style akin to the worst of the red-topped rags of Rupert Murdoch or the hate-fuelling anti-everybody doomsday delivering dribble of the Daily Mail.

I think we are safe for the time being. Readers can now look forward to finding out all the weekly news of the west coast without having to wrestle with the huge unmanageable and unruly sheets of the old style Oban Times. However, like many I will miss this familiar part of life and if for nothing more than nostalgia's sake will lament its passing.



## Where's your happy place?

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# Ballet West's Swan Lake will be a first for Malaysia

Dancers from Taynuilt's Ballet West got a fabulous Far East welcome when they flew to Malaysia to promote what will be a first for the country.

Gillian Barton, who is principal of the vocational ballet school, was in Genting to launch the forthcoming production of Swan Lake.

News of Ballet West's new international touring company won media attention when the tour dates - August 24 and September 2 - were announced last week at a press conference.

Principal dancers Jonathan Barton and Natasha Watson choreographed a flash mob dance which involved more than 100 dancers from schools across Malaysia performing with them at the launch.

Big screens showed scenes from Swan Lake, while the two Taynuilt dancers rose high above the gathered crowd on a giant sky lift.

'We will be the first professional ballet company to perform in Malaysia. The launch was spectacular. Jonathan, Natasha and I have been incredibly well received. We are in The Edge newspaper, Malaysia's top paper,' said Ms Barton.

Swan Lake was requested by Ballet West's production partners after Malaysian market research showed it was the most popular ballet in Asia.

Back home in Taynuilt, there has also been some good news for 27-year-old student Rahul Pradeep from Bangalore.

Offers from two potential sponsors are looking promising but he would still need to find another £8,000, said Ms Barton.

Rahul hopes once he graduates he will get a full-time job as a teacher, choreographer or best of all as a dancer - possibly with Ballet West's international touring company.

# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Osgarra: Beinn Lee's debut album

Last week, Osgarra was launched in Glasgow, the debut album of Uist band, Beinn Lee.

I have long been a fan of their music and, in my opinion, Osgarra is a brilliant record.

The selection of tunes has been chosen extremely wisely. Well-known classics have been mixed with lesser known or even new tunes to create a blend that is both fresh and original but familiar and relatable.

Tunes such as The Ben Kenneth Reel and Exit from Mull (from the pen of band members Micheal Steele and Pàdruig Morrison respectively) are not there for the sake of including self-penned tunes. They are there on merit because they add a lot to the recordings.

Not only are the tunes well chosen, they are extremely well played.

The pipes of Micheal and



Not only are the tunes on Beinn Lee's new album well chosen, they are extremely well played.

the accordion of Pàdruig - as well as the fiddle of Mairi Thérèse Gilfedder - are so tightly together, it is difficult to believe. And the backing of Anna Black on piano, James Stewart on guitar and AJ MacInnes on drums is put together thoughtfully, with just the right amount of ear-catching arrangement to drive but not overshadow the melody.

The songs have also been considered very carefully. Moladh Eubhal is a fine choice - a Dòmhnall Ruadh Chorùna song that is not hugely well known, but with

a haunting tune that I think will become an integral part of the band's live set.

The best-known Gaelic songs are kept for the waltz sets where the band are joined by guest vocalists Linda MacLeod and Dòmhnall Ruaridh Campbell.

Lead singer and guitarist James Stewart has written a couple of English songs which augment the album nicely by bringing something totally original to the table.

The first track of Osgarra begins with a verbal introduction from the Uist accordion playing legend, Iain MacLachlainn, taken from the album An Island Heritage as he announces a set of reels 'in the old melodeon style'.

When he finishes speaking, one expects to hear the sound of his box begin the tune but, instead, the huge sound of Beinn Lee comes in strongly.

This moment at the very beginning sums up the whole record. It is an album very respectful of the Gaelic tradition in which it was forged, yet fresh, young, and exciting

in its treatment of the music.

To my mind, it is an absolute cracker - available for digital download from most platforms; and also in physical form from the website and some shops. Away and buy it.

## What's on

Friday June 8: The Glasgow Skye Association end of session social at 7pm in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

Wednesday June 13: Mull and Iona Association AGM, Unit 3 of An Leannag, 22 Mansfield Street, at 7pm.

Friday June 29: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.

## Pub scene

Islay Inn

Friday June 8: Mookie.

Saturday June 9: The Raggaels.

Park Bar

Friday June 8: Nicky McMichan and Martin Pottinger.

Saturday June 9: Martainn Skene and Martin Pottinger.

Sunday June 10: Trail West.

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## Soundscape of Iona CD

Poetry and harp music inspired by the landscape of Iona have been released on a new CD by the Iona Community, via its publishing house Wild Goose Publications.

The CD features words by poet, novelist and children's writer Kenneth Steven, and music by Scottish harpist Wendy Stewart.

'It was Jane MacFadyen on the isle of Iona who first gave me the idea of recording an island soundscape,' said Kenneth.

'The best ideas are often the most obvious, and finally it has been made: a melding of the wind and the waves, the laughter of children, the sounds of birds, together with some of the poems I have written over the years.'

'This soundscape is for those who know Iona as much as it's for those who have always wanted to find a way of reaching Columba's holy isle.'

The CD has been produced and engineered by Mark Rickards, a senior producer with BBC Scotland, and has recorded wild sounds across Scotland and the world.

# Highland youngsters to have a Blas this summer

The Highland capital will ring to the sound of hundreds of young people performing traditional music and song as the finale to this year's Blas Festival in a special event to mark Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, writes Euan Carr.

The Blas Festival is providing a platform to showcase the amazing talents of young people and provide them with various opportunities to express themselves through culture.

This will culminate in a largescale showcase of young talent - Òran Mòr - in Inverness on Saturday September 15, when more than 500 young musicians and singers are expected to perform alongside Skipinnish and Trail West, among others.

The Northern Meeting Park will be transformed into a concert venue for the day and organisers are confident at

least 3,000 people will gather for this unique celebration of youth music-making.

Blas is also offering a new commission for a young musician, sponsored by Thorntons Investments, which will guarantee performances of a new piece at Blas, as well as the opportunity to record the work after the festival to bring the music to a wider audience.

Arthur Cormack of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which organises the Blas Festival with The Highland Council, explained: 'Blas has always involved young people as performers at events, mainly from Fèisean we support, but also from the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music based at Plockton High School, as well as Highland Council regional music groups, such as Snas and Còisir G.'

'This year their involvement will be even more widespread as young people take on a key



## Summer dining in Oban Manor House Hotel - Georgian elegance on beautiful Oban Bay

Summer is a wonderful time to celebrate at The Manor House Hotel in Oban.

Built around 1780 as a dower house for the Duke of Argyll, The Manor House is a four star, deluxe boutique hotel and fine dining experience. Set on the southern side of Oban Harbour, with stunning views of the town, McCaig's Tower and the isles, it's a lovely and tranquil setting in which to enjoy a special meal. The fine linens and tableware create a traditional, yet relaxed, atmosphere, perfect for dining à deux, or celebrating a special occasion.

The menu changes daily, featuring the freshest ingredients from Scotland's abundant larder. The menu is offered as a five-course prix fixe, but those with smaller appetites can choose from the a la carte menu.

Head chef Gerard, who has been at the Manor House for six months, shows an incredible knowledge and understanding of fine foods and maintains high standards in preparation and presentation of his creative dishes. In addition to local seafood and meats, Gerard always has a vegetarian dish on the menu. And be sure to leave room for a

special dessert or a coffee and selection of petit fours. Drop in for lunch at Nelson's Bar to enjoy daily special sandwiches,

salads and entrées in addition to standard favourites.

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The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary is home to a number of turtles. 16\_T12\_Sealifecentre03

## Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary houses abandoned turtles

The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine is renowned for housing a large number of creatures that customers would find very difficult to see anywhere else.

The centre is well-known for its rescued seals, which perform tricks in front of live audiences.

Other notable animals include Lewis, a North American otter, and the tanks full of various species of fish.

However, the sanctuary is also home to a number of terrapins that were either abandoned, donated by or confiscated from previous owners.

But don't get any ideas - the

turtle sanctuary isn't accepting any more of these donations as it is full.

Terrapins are often purchased when they are small and cute. However, the heat-loving creatures don't make the best pets, unless you are prepared that is.

They have to be kept in large tanks that have areas for both sunbathing and somewhere for them to cool down.

Heated lamps should be kept between 30 and 32 degrees Celsius, which must be checked daily.

Terrapins also need constant access to clean water and require a varied diet. This

should consist of dried foods, as well as freshwater fish and live invertebrates - insects, snails, crabs, starfish, jellyfish, worms and so on.

On top of that, the animals can live up to between 30 and 40 years.

Speaking about terrapins, the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary said: 'Please remember that turtles do not make good pets for inexperienced owners as they can be very expensive and require a great deal of specialist care. If you love turtles, come and visit them somewhere like our sanctuary instead of buying one as a pet.'

# set summer



The offers a platform to showcase the amazing talents of young people.

role in creating, organising and running events, offering them a range of experiences in the process. The young people with whom we are working have, so far, chosen two great Highland and Island bands, Skipinnish and Trail West, to play at Òran Mòr with more acts to be announced shortly.' Blas means 'taste' or 'sample'. Òran Mòr means 'the great, or big, song' and Ceòl nam Fèis means 'music of the Fèisean'. This year marks the 14th Blas festival, which was created as a result of Highland Council's desire to have a festival in its area which would match the vitality of Cape Breton's Celtic Colours.

## Exploring the link between internet and fairy belief

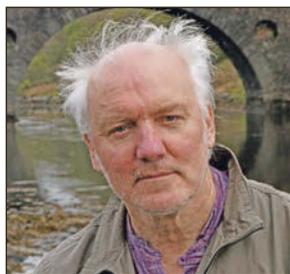
Skye bard Angus Peter Campbell explores the link between the internet and fairy-belief in his latest English-language novel *Memory & Straw* – winner of the Saltire Society Scottish Fiction Book of the Year – which will be the focus of his talk at Waterstones in Oban next Thursday, June 14.

'I was working on my computer one day when the thought struck me that the internet and fairy-belief were one and the same thing – or at least mirror images of each other. Ways of filtering and understanding the universe.

'Nowadays, most of us get our news and information through the web, which acts as a conduit for the way in which we view politics and language and culture and so on. And it struck me that perhaps that process is not that much different from someone in the 16th or 17th or 18th centuries who understood things through the cultural web available at the time.

'And as we are increasingly being shaped and directed by algorithms through our computers, so people then were being shaped by the cultural beliefs that surrounded them.

'Maybe fairy-belief was the Google and Amazon of the time. In the same way as we get lost in a search-engine – you type in 'Oban' for example and before you realise it you've spent the day looking at fascinating pictures and facts about old Oban etc – so folk got lost in the 'Sithein' (The Fairy Knoll). People would hear music coming out from the hill and the next



Angus Peter Campbell

thing they'd be trapped in there for 100 years.

'My challenge then was to turn that 'idea' into a story. So I created this character Gavin MacDonell, who first of all worked in banking then moves over into the field of artificial intelligence.

'The novel is really an exploration of the personal journey he takes to find his own true history and therefore identity, and the dilemma that gives him – whether to stay in New York or return to his ancestral home in Scotland, with the possibilities and (financial) sacrifices that choice involves.

'I've always liked the quote from the Russian émigré writer, Vera Linhartova, who said: "The writer is not a prisoner of any one language". I am a bilingual writer, which means sometimes I choose to write in my native language, Gaelic, and sometimes in my second language, English.

'With *Memory and Straw* I felt it best to write in English – partially because it will hopefully give non-Gaelic speakers access into an area (fairy-belief and history and mythology) which has been so important in shaping our Highland world-view.'

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAIN 07 T-ÒGMHIOS THURSDAY 07 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.15 An Là – News
- 19.25 **ÙR | NEW:** FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier – Scotland v Belarus
- 21.45 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 22.00 Belladrum 2017: Honeyblood (rpt)
- 22.25 Dilleachdain Hitler/Nazi Nurseries (rpt)
- 23.15 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
- 23.25 **ÙR | NEW:** Fianais

### DIHAOINE 08 AN T-ÒGMHIOS FRIDAY 08 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 Alba: 1978 (rpt)
- 20.00 Air an Ùrlar (rpt)
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
- 21.00 Prois Tartan (rpt)
- 22.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
- 22.55 Belladrum 2017: JR Green (rpt)
- 23.00 Opry an Iúir (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 09 T-ÒGMHIOS SATURDAY 09 JUNE

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.30 Machair (rpt)
- 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.00 Alba: 1979 (rpt)
- 20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich From Uist With Love (rpt)
- 21.00 Opry an Iúir (rpt)
- 21.55 Dilleachdain Hitler Nazi Nurseries (rpt)
- 22.45 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
- 22.55 Jim Baxter (rpt)
- 23.55 Gun Sgot? (rpt)

### DIDÒMHAICH 10 T-ÒGMHIOS SUNDAY 10 JUNE

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 18.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Seachd La – News Review
- 19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 Fianais (rpt)
- 20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
- 22.00 Opry an Iúir (rpt)
- 22.55 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
- 23.05 Corp is Anam (rpt)

### DILUAIN 11 T-ÒGMHIOS MONDAY 11 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Vets: Gach Creutair Beò
- 21.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Trusadh – Stròc
- 22.00 Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live (rpt)
- 22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy (rpt)
- 23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 23.45 Dhan Uisge (Loch Morlich) (rpt)
- 23.55 Belladrum 2017: JR Green (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 12 T-ÒGMHIOS TUESDAY 12 JUNE

- 14.20 **ÙR | NEW:** FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier – Poland v Scotland
- 16.30 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (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 – Stròc (rpt)
- 23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
- 23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

### DIADIADAIN 13 T-ÒGMHIOS WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 O Mo Dhùthaich From Uist With Love (rpt)
- 21.00 Sàr-sgeòil: Outlander (rpt)
- 22.00 **ÙR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
- 22.15 **ÙR | NEW:** Dhan Uisge (Loch Mhisteam)
- 22.20 Belladrum 2017: C Macleod (rpt)
- 22.30 Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live (rpt)
- 23.00 Nationwin an Alba: Nah-Eileanan (rpt)

### DIARDAIN 14 T-ÒGMHIOS THURSDAY 14 JUNE

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne Children's programming
- 19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
- 19.30 Aithne air Ainmhidhean (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Fianais (rpt)
- 21.00 Brian Wilson (rpt)
- 22.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Belladrum 2017: Louis Berry
- 22.20 Aghaidh ri Aghaidh Airbus v Boeing (rpt)
- 23.15 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
- 23.30 Air an Rathad (rpt)



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## Going Bananas – one woman's adventure on the high seas

Did you know that the European Union is the largest consumer of bananas on the planet? Ever wondered where those bananas come from and how they get here? Or what their true price is?

Author Pauline Isobel Dowling from Lismore found out when she began her unexpected trailing career.

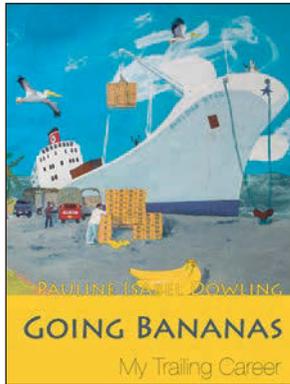
It all started when she decided to take a ship to New Zealand rather than face another 30-hour ordeal on a long-haul flight.

That ship was the ACT 7, a Blue Star Line container ship, travelling from Tilbury to Auckland.

The journey should have taken four weeks, but the ship lost its steering gear in Botany Bay and was tied up in Darling Harbour in Sydney for almost three months, and for much of that time she was the only female on board.

It's genetics. It's fate.

Whatever it is, she now trails, going to work with



Pauline Isobel Dowling's new book is out now.

her mariner husband like a breathing, talking, additional piece of luggage, challenged daily to be dignified, sane and fulfilled.

It's a strange life, not without its merits and certainly not without interest.

My Trailing Career (Volume 1) is the story of Dowling's first, and last, journey on a banana boat – one four-month tour on the MV Avelona Star when

Dowling went to work with her husband.

Pauline's husband, Captain Stuart McCormick Ross, writes: 'Going Bananas is a travel book with a difference: while it will certainly entertain you, it will also show you how Europe's number one fruit reaches our shops, and what its true price is.'

'The price paid by the growers, the pickers, the land in the plantations, the ships and crew who deliver them, and the drug smugglers who hide with this cargo.'

'Many people have written about banana boats, but none have been travelling wives. Or as the author calls her life at sea, 'My Trailing Career'.

'Few have told the political story of not only bananas, but the dramatic and undocumented decline of the merchant navy, as well as the huge effect of transferring British ships to foreign flags leaving only ferries – and losing armies of highly trained, skilled mariners.'

# Jenny shows 'wildside' in Benderloch live sessions

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Benderloch's next live music session has a heady cocktail of wildlife and song lined up.

Jenny Sturgeon is not just a talented singer-songwriter, she is also a biologist and ornithologist, and will be performing as a trio at the Victory hall on Friday June 15.

With her on the night will be folk luminaries Charlie

McKerron of Capercaillie and Session A9 fame on the fiddle and vocals, and Jonny Hardie, who played guitar and sang on the Benderloch stage recently with the Old Blind Dogs.

Jenny's passion for the natural world is reflected in her music – she worked with the National Trust for Scotland on a commission to compose some new songs and music in 2016 in celebration of St Kilda's

30th anniversary as a World Heritage Site.

Originally from Aberdeenshire, she now lives on Shetland.

Her debut album, From the Skein, won wow reviews – folk scene worthy Mike Harding said it was 'superb' and loved every track, while the R2 magazine hailed it 'a knockout'.

To book tickets, call Joy or Campbell Cameron on 01631 720247.



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North Argyll Home is run by a local, independent, not-for-profit, charity and we rely on the generosity of local people, trusts, grant-making bodies and legacies to help ensure that we are able to continue our vital work.

If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

**North Argyll Eventide Home Association Ltd.**

North Argyll House, Connel Rd, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG  
01631 562168 info@northargyllhouse.org

## Tennessee choir to sing in cathedral

A choir from Tennessee will be performing in Oban tomorrow, June 8. The benefit concert at St John's Cathedral will feature the Knoxville Choral Society Choraliers under the direction of Dr Eric

Thorson, starting at 7.30pm. The event is free and open to the public, and is being presented by the cathedral, Oban Music Society and Tour Resource Consultants.

On Friday June 22 it will

be the turn of New Mexico's Santa Fe Women's Ensemble to perform, with Dr Linda Raney as music director. This benefit concert is also free and open to anyone. It starts at 7.30pm.



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ISLE OF SKYE

**Traditional music at Armadale Castle**

**Donald MacDonald Cuach**

**Piping Competition**

15 June, 7.30pm

**Competitors:** Callum Beaumont, Glenn Brown, Alasdair Henderson, Iain Speirs, Craig Sutherland  
**Adjudicator:** Allan MacDonald

**Singer:** Christine Primrose

Tickets £8 (£4 children), includes finger buffet. Available in advance from Armadale Castle (tel. 01471 844305) or on the door.



**Princess Margaret of the Isles**

**Memorial Prize for Senior Clàrsach**

16 June, 2pm

**Competitors:** Màiri Chaimbeul, Fraya Thomsen, Karen Marshalsay, Riko Matsuoka

**Adjudicator:** Savourna Stevenson

Admission free, all welcome.

Both events take place in the Stables Café and will also be live streamed.

**More information: www.armadalecastle.com**



Jenny Sturgeon will play Benderloch this month, joined by Charlie McKerron and Jonny Hardie.



Fronted by four power-house women, Outside Track play Tobermory later this month.

## Outside Track promote gender equality

Award-winning band The Outside Track head to Mull this month on a musical mission to promote gender equality in the folk scene.

Fronted by four power-house women, the band are embarking on their fifth studio album, *Rise Up*, featuring songs and tunes all by or about women, including 11 female composers.

They will play An Tobar, Tobermory, on June 19. The Outside Track have

headlined at many festivals, winning a multitude of fans with their high-energy performances.

They are recent winners of best group in both the Live Ireland awards and the Tradition In Review awards.

Fiddle, accordion, harp, guitar, whistle, step-dance and vocals are all in the energetic blend.

Visit [comar.co.uk](http://comar.co.uk) for tickets for the gig at An Tobar on Tuesday June 19.

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 July 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

# WIN

### A LUXURY OVERNIGHT STAY AT KNOCK CASTLE HOTEL AND SPA



We've teamed up with Knock Castle Hotel and Spa in Crieff to offer you the chance to win this great prize. You could be spending a luxurious night in this hidden gem of a hotel. Nestling in the hills of the Strathearn Valley, a short drive from Scotland's major cities, Knock Castle Hotel & Spa offers an oasis of calm and tranquillity and a traditional warm Scottish welcome.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: In which Perthshire town would you find Knock Castle Hotel?**

Prize includes dinner, bed and breakfast for one night for two people. Transport is not included. Drinks are not included. Prize must be taken by 30 November 2018 (Sunday - Thursday).

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. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyxex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

## Shop front looking...



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# Fynefest rocks all weekend

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Revellers had all the fun at FyneFest 2018, notching up its ninth summer festival of beer, food and music.

This year's three-day event at Cairndow was the biggest festival yet, organised by the pleased-as-punch folk at Fyne Ales.

Thousands turned up with tents and campers to make the most of the spectacular location and the packed weekend.

The Kids' Tent was a huge hit with youngsters who brought a mighty splash of colour to Saturday with their carnival parade, led by the

magnificent Sambayabamba band.

Loch Fyne Oysters, hog roasts, venison pies, stovies, haggis, Indian street food and Mexican burritos added plenty of spice and there were more than 250 beers on offer.

Friday night kicked off the weekend with a live music line-up, a full 12 hours of sound on the Saturday gave off happy vibes in the courtyard, brewers bar and main stage and the party just kept on going on the Sunday.

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www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions



Clockwise from above, Sambayabamba kept the crowds dancing; cheers to FyneFest where more than 250 beers were on offer; stories while you wait from Luke Winter. To view all photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Catriona and Gemma Black with mum Kirsten.



Pretty painted faces...

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## Duo bring Jazz in the Village

Saxophone and piano jazz duo Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer bring their Jazz in the Village tour to the Isle of Coll this Saturday, June 9.

Ian and Dominic have been performing together for a number of years playing melodic improvisations on jazz standards and original compositions.

Their style of jazz concentrates on developing melodic ideas within the framework of the melody of a tune, whilst

maintaining the concept and groove behind it.

The result is a very accessible melodic style which allows them to explore, improvise and develop ideas without losing the essence of each piece of music, and to interact together in as creative a way as possible.

Based in Edinburgh, the duo has regularly and extensively toured throughout the UK. They have embarked on many rural tours under

their Jazz in the Village series, playing in hundreds of halls, often bringing jazz for the first time to remote communities, performing in intimate settings to appreciative audiences.

The beautiful Scottish scenery that they have seen on their travels has inspired the writing of many pieces of music by Ian.

The evening starts at 8pm in An Cridhe in Arinagour, and there is a licensed bar.

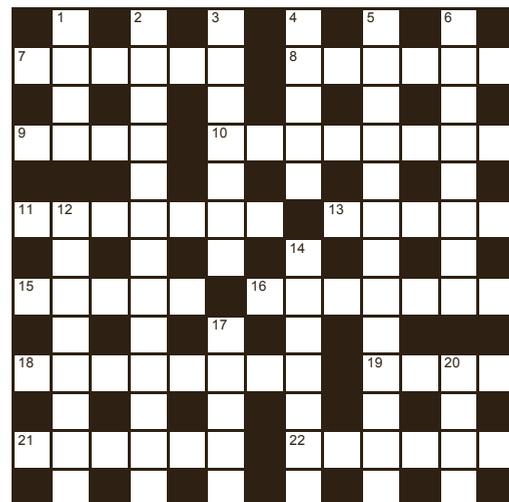
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## Crossword



**Across**

- 7 Irritate (6)
- 8 Guarantee (6)
- 9 Greatest (4)
- 10 Anxiety (8)
- 11 Words of similar meaning (7)
- 13 Walker (5)
- 15 Fruity dessert (5)
- 16 Wiggly (7)
- 18 Epic poems (8)
- 19 Egg shaped (4)
- 21 Allergic reaction (6)
- 22 Do dishes (4,2)



Rio carnival comes to FyneFest.



Vikings Paul McGinnes, Brian McKinlay and Iain McLellan invaded the party.



Revelling in the rain were Fionn Ross, Elliot Ruglin, Peter Van Rhing and Flaura Wilson.

## Your local radio listings

**OBAN FM** Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)

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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Maccoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 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 Crowsher, 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

# ge tour to island of Coll



Ilan Millar takes some time out to practise on Skye during the Jazz in the Village tour. Ian and Dominic Spencer will play on Coll this weekend.

## word

### Down

- 1 Domatic roof (4)
- 2 Personal stereo (6,7)
- 3 End of the week to most (7)
- 4 Hoop of rope (5)
- 5 Lodgings (8,5)
- 6 Plain of frozen water (3,5)
- 12 Giving way (8)
- 14 Puzzles (7)
- 17 Put off until later (5)
- 20 Cuckoopint is in this family (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	A	M	P	U	T	E	E		5	U	S	H	E	7	R
	D	A	H		G	P	B								E
8	I	N	U	R	E		9	G	E	T	S	O	U	T	
	E	N	R		N	O									R
10	U	N	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	A	B	L	E		
			H	O		G									A
11	S	L	Y	E	S	T		12	D	E	M	13	A	N	D
	U				E		14	B		M		L			
15	M	O	16	N	I	T	O	R	L	I	Z	A	17	R	D
	M		A		T		E		N		M		O		
18	I	N	V	O	I	C	E		19	U	P	E	N	D	
	N		E		N		Z			T		D			G
20	G	U	L	A	G			21	E	L	E	V	A	T	E

# CAMPBELTOWN OPEN

30 JUNE - 1 JULY 2018

### SATURDAY

- ROUND 1 -

Select your own tee time and 3-ball pairing

Format ..... 36-Hole  
Tees ..... White Tees  
Pairings ..... 3-Ball  
Handicap Max ..... 18

### SUNDAY

- ROUND 2 -

Colin Christie Quaich  
Play bad on Saturday?  
Better your hole-by-hole score!

Format ..... 18-hole, Eclectic  
Pairings ..... By score, with low scores teeing off last

The Ladies Campbeltown Open will take place on Saturday along with the Juniors Drive, Chip & Putt Competition. Entertainment, prizes, and luxurious accommodation packages!

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## Review of landlord registration application 'a fantastic opportunity' to raise awareness, says CIH Scotland

In its response to the Government, the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland (CIHS) has called for all landlords to make clear they are complying with

all of their legal obligations when applying to the landlord register and for enforcement when standards are not being met.

The landlord registration system was established in 2006 and registers are managed locally by councils.

All landlords must be registered and have to pass a 'fit and proper person' test to make sure they meet the required standards to let properties. The proposals include increasing registration fees in line with inflation, revision of discounts

and some changes to the information that landlords have to provide when they apply to the register.

The proposals include a requirement for applicants to confirm that they comply with a number of legal obligations.

These could include statements relating to the condition and energy efficiency of the property; gas, electrical and fire safety; and legal obligations relating to the tenancy and deposit.

CIHS wants to see all landlords

proactively declare their compliance with the law which it believes will encourage higher standards in the private rented sector.

In addition, the institute has supported calls for a reduced registration fee for landlords who have passed a training course or are members of a professional body to encourage voluntary skills improvement and has warned the Government against a disproportionate fee increase which would ultimately be met by tenants through higher rents.

### Beautiful Family Home in Helensburgh



An absolute stunning and unique conversion of an old detached house with beautiful private gardens. The property is located in a prime position within the desirable lower west side of Helensburgh, close to Lomond School, transport links and the plethora of facilities in Helensburgh. It must be seen to be appreciated.

This property would be perfect for a wide range of buyers including families or young professionals - this is a must view.

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#### CRAIGNEUK, BENDERLOCH

- Detached Extended Traditional House
- 5 Bedrooms / 2 Family Bathrooms / 1 WC
- Well maintained throughout
- Established Holiday Let
- EPC Ratable value £4,000

**OIEO £490,000**

Craigneuk offers an amazing opportunity to purchase a spacious, traditional property enjoying stunning sea views from almost every room and only a short walk from the beach. The property has been let as a successful holiday let but is equally suited to being a permanently family home. Part of Craigneuk's charm is that despite its size, it retains a cosy and homely feel by having multiple reception rooms. Additionally, the layout ensures the interior is bathed in natural light throughout the afternoon and evening.



#### KINTORE, OBAN

- Spacious Detached House
- 4 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms
- Open plan lounge, kitchen and dining area
- Large garden
- Integrated double garage and private parking
- EPC Rating: C70

**OIEO £400,000**

A modern 4 bedroom detached house in a popular residential area close to the village of Benderloch. Built in 2006, Kintore is a bright and spacious house enjoying a rural position and views across fields and hills to the North. A small porch leads to the main open plan lounge/dining area which overlooks the front lawn and enjoys plentiful natural light from the floor-to-ceiling windows and patio doors and for those chilly nights there is a wood-burning stove.



#### WEST DRIVE, ARDBRECKNISH

- Detached House
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- Beautiful Loch Views
- Off road parking
- Integral Garage
- EPC - E (51)

**OIEO £275,000**

Built in 2005, 9 West Drive presents a rare opportunity to purchase a beautiful modern detached 2 bedroom house in the picturesque rural location of Ardbrecknish, Loch Awe. The property has stunning views over fields, Loch Awe and Ben Cruachan. The property also benefits from its own mooring with launching rights from the jetty approximately 400 meters away from the house.

[info@west-property.co.uk](mailto:info@west-property.co.uk)

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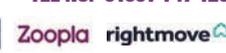
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**£149,500**



Lovely 3 bed end-terrace family home with front and back gardens and driveway. The end property in a row of traditional Victorian villas in popular Queen Street, a short stroll from the town centre, and boasts a spacious sitting room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, cloakroom / utility room, separate cloakroom and bathroom. Adorned with many original features such as high ceilings, cornicing, deep skirting, archways, wooden flooring, decorative door-glazing and a lovely staircase this is sure to appeal to anyone looking for a practical family house full of character with added bonuses of lovely views, gardens and a driveway.

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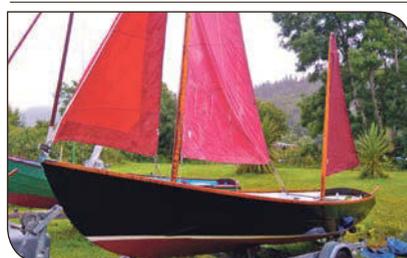


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## “Do they need plugging in”

With questions ranging from “Do they need plugging in” to “Aren't they really expensive?”, we know there can be a lot of misunderstanding around hybrid cars.

We are holding our second Hybrid Awareness event to bust some of these myths, let you discover the cost savings hybrid can bring and experience how quiet and efficient a hybrid journey can be.

The event will include hybrid specialists on hand to answer your questions, the opportunity to test drive a hybrid,

exclusive offers including 0% APR on selected models and 2 Years Free Servicing on all hybrid models.

### Hybrid facts

- Hybrids do not need to be plugged in. There are no cables, no sockets, no waiting around to charge, just jump in and drive off

- It costs the same to service a hybrid as a conventional Toyota with less wear and tear on brakes plus there is no clutch, alternator or timing belt to replace

- There are seven hybrid models from the Yaris, the Auris hatchback to the

C-HR and RAV4

- For short journeys at slower speeds or in built-up traffic in towns, hybrid cars use no fuel running purely on the electric motor saving fuel costs

Find out more and discover how you can benefit from switching to hybrid by booking an appointment on 01436 672779

For more Hybrid facts and information visit <https://helensburgh.toyota.co.uk/hybrid>

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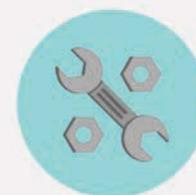
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as conventional

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## Forum praises work to attract more people to Argyll and Bute

Progress being made to attract more people to live and work in Argyll and Bute has been described as 'very encouraging' in a report to councillors.

At its next meeting today (Thursday June 7) the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee will be presented with a report from the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum.

The forum's chairman is Nicholas Ferguson CBE, former chairman of Sky plc and now chairman of Savills plc.

Set up in 2015 to tackle population decline in the area, the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum looks at the issue from a business perspective.

It identified jobs as being the key to encouraging more people in the working age group 20-44 years to stay in Argyll and Bute or move to the area.

Three key areas for job growth were outlined as: tourism; food and drink production, particularly aquaculture; and higher education.

In the report, Mr Ferguson said: 'We are pleased to report that the developments in all three of these have been very positive. Visitor numbers for Argyll and Bute have shown an increase of 22 per cent over the last two years, with growth of 38 per cent at our key tourist attractions. Numerous private sector tourist-related companies and initiatives have seen investment, new employment, growth, and profitability.

'Aquaculture employment and profits both increased by 10 per cent despite production issues. Other food and drink production has grown.

'Higher education has seen impressive growth. The principal higher education institutions in Argyll are UHI Argyll College, SAMS and Ballet West. Total student numbers have increased over the last two years by 28 per cent.

'So there is no question that Argyll is now on the move. This is clearly very encouraging,' the report continued.

Oban becoming a 'university town' and improved 4G mobile access and broadband coverage in Argyll are also identified as positive steps, with the roads network highlighted as another opportunity for making the area more accessible and friendly to tourism and business.

Marketing and promotion of the area in terms of tourism and industry is seen as a major step in continuing growth, as is an enhanced approach to meeting visitors' needs via a range of new and exciting adventure experiences that take advantage of Argyll's natural beauty.

Council leader Councillor Aileen Morton said: 'It is with everyone who cares about Argyll and Bute working together that we will build a secure future for the area. The forum has brought the public and private sectors together and I look forward to considering this report at committee.'

The full report can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/2J3IAD>.



## 'More than a job' campaign launch

A new campaign has launched in Argyll and Bute to encourage people to consider a career in social care.

The More Than a Job campaign comes from learning disability charity ENABLE Scotland.

The charity says that more than 300 people with learning disabilities are known to Argyll and Bute Council and many of them are in need of dedicated staff to care for them.

The charity, which has offices in Helensburgh, Dunoon, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Oban, says it wants to encourage more people from communities to consider a rewarding career in social care and join existing teams in the area.

Theresa Shearer, CEO of ENABLE Scotland, said: 'Social care really is more than a job. Our dedicated and hard-working staff across Argyll and Bute would testify to that.'

'They work tirelessly to provide essential support to some of the most vulnerable members of our society and make a

difference day in and day out. Their work offering personalised social care truly transforms lives and has facilitated the move from institutional care to people living in their own homes. In turn, people with learning disabilities have become active members of their communities and live the lives they want to lead.

'Through our More Than a Job campaign we want to raise awareness of the rewards that come with a career in social care, not just from training, career progression opportunities and the Scottish Living Wage, but also from making a real difference every day to the lives of people with learning disabilities.'

ENABLE Scotland currently provides support to people with learning disabilities across 22 local authorities in Scotland and employs more than 1,800 people.

ENABLE Scotland staff offer support with tasks including assisting with shopping, personal care, mobility, food preparation, household chores, attending health appointments and planning and engaging in social activities.

Across Scotland there were 23,186 adults with learning disabilities known to local authorities. This equates to 5.2 people with learning disabilities per 1,000 adults (16-plus) in the general population.

The charity recently announced plans to extend its reach through a collaboration with charity Sense Scotland.

The move is expected to benefit the individuals and families they currently support, and for any savings made from the collaboration to be reinvested in improving the pay and skills of workers and providing more individualised care.

This year ENABLE Scotland was short-listed for a Charity Employer of the Year award at the sJobs Recruitment Awards 2018.

Ms Shearer added: 'We look forward to growing our fantastic team in Argyll and Bute, offering training, support and career opportunities to the brightest talent in the area.'

Anyone interested in a career in social care should visit [www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk) for further information.



**WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD**  
**ASSISTANT FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICER £27,457 rising to £30,016**

West Highland Housing Association is a charitable organisation operating in Oban and the Isles. We manage and own in the region of 1000 properties in the area and there are plans to develop and manage further.

We have presently made some changes to our operation and we now have a post of Assistant Finance and Corporate Services Officer that will join our team in the summer of 2018.

The post is full time, 35 hours Monday to Friday. The work is very varied but the main duties are:

- Assisting in preparation of Quarterly Management Accounts and Annual Accounts
- Financial administration of our subsidiary company
- Rental income reconciliation
- Purchase Ledger supervision
- Assisting with preparation for financial audit
- Preparation of information for statutory returns

The post will join a team of 4 staff and will require to demonstrate good IT skills including Microsoft Office with excellent Excel skills and Quickbooks or another small business package. [The team is supported by an external accountant]

The successful candidate will have a finance background, be able to demonstrate initiative and have an interest in the social housing sector. In return West Highland Housing Association is offering an excellent remuneration package which includes 25 days paid leave per year plus public holidays and a contributory pension scheme. The organisation is a gold accredited Investors in People organisation and is committed to developing its staff team.

**For an application pack please visit our website [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk) or email [susan@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:susan@westhighlandha.co.uk).**

**Please note the closing date for applications is Wednesday 20th June with interviews planned for Tuesday 26th June 2018.**

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Please apply by email with full C.V. and covering letter to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)



**Experienced Marine Husbandry Staff**

Isle of Mull

**Earnings Potential for this Role: £26,700 + Bonus**

**+ Generous Relocation Allowance**

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

We are currently recruiting for experienced Husbandry staff on the Isle of Mull.

Applicants should have at least 1.5 years' practical salmon farming experience with a keen interest in developing knowledge and skill in feeding and net management. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, whilst being proactive in health and safety.

Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

A current driving licence is essential.

A generous relocation package will be offered as required.

In return we will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with additional payments on completion of specific training, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons.

**For a full job description and application pack please contact our Recruitment Coordinator, Angela Hand on 01786 445521 or email [angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com)**

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 13th June 2018**



Station Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5RT

**Position Title: 2 x Housekeeping Room Attendants, (full time / part time)**

The opportunity has arisen for the right individuals to join our hotel's Housekeeping Team, as Room Attendants, providing quality service to our guests, reporting directly to the Head Housekeeper.

Candidates should preferably:

- Be experienced in working in an hotel or similar environment.
- Have a good basic common sense and a mature attitude to work.
- Happy to work alone and as part of a team.
- Have a positive attitude, with a 'Can Do' outlook in relation to duties.
- Have excellent personal grooming and presentation standards and be reliable.

Duties/Hours of Work: Servicing and cleaning guest bedrooms/bathrooms, to a high standard, which will ensure our guests have a comfortable and pleasant stay at the Perle Oban Hotel. You may be asked to share other cleaning duties as per needs of the business. Shifts are in the day and are usually 4-8 hours per day, up to 5 days per week, extra hours/days if business levels dictate.

Benefits: Staff Live-in Accommodation, (available for a small monthly charge), Meals on Duty, Staff Uniform, Company Pension Scheme, Staff Discounts.

Salary/Hourly rate: Flexible / DOE

**How to apply: by email with CV and covering letter or online via this advert.**

**Who to apply to: Pablo Quevedo,**

**Accommodation Manager [pquevedo@perleoban.com](mailto:pquevedo@perleoban.com)**

Perle Oban is a luxury Scottish hotel located in the heart of Oban, surrounded by breathtaking views of the Highlands and Harbour. Perle offers a place for retreat, to experience luxury, and escape everyday life. Perle Hotels is a hotel group dedicated to creating a set of unique hotels for the discerning traveller. Wherever possible we work with local suppliers to create a truly authentic experience for our guests.

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**The Scottish  
Salmon Company**

**Your Career Right Here**

### Marine Operatives

Isle of Mull  
Salary: up to £20,163 plus overtime at enhanced rate

We are recruiting Marine Operatives for our sites on the Isle of Mull. Applicants will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience of working in small teams. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of stock, site maintenance and boat handling. The successful applicants must be committed to high standards of Health & Safety and understand the importance of environmental issues.

We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business from animal husbandry to customer service. In return we offer a competitive salary package, a market leading pension scheme, cycle to work, retail discount scheme, and an employee assistance program. In addition, our Marine and Freshwater Competency Framework offers excellent training opportunities and a clear career progression route, along with the chance to undertake a Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture.

To request an application form and/or a detailed job specification, please see contact details below. A relocation package is available for this vacancy.

**Jen Allison**  
The Scottish Salmon Company  
8 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7JA  
centralrecruitment@scottishsalmon.com  
Closing date: Friday 29th June 2018

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



**The Scottish  
Salmon Company**

**Your Career Right Here**

### HR Business Partner - South Region

Based in Cairndow, Argyll  
Salary: £40,000

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an HR Business Partner to join our team looking after the South Region. You will be based at Cairndow, reporting to the Senior HR Business Partner. The role will involve you leading and managing the people agenda within a partnership approach. You will coach and support management on HR issues and policies together with working with Line Managers to focus on communication and engagement across the business.

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic, self-motivated, well organised team player with strong communication skills both written and verbal. We are looking for someone with a background in HR Management, previously in a HR Manager or HR Business Partner role.

We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business. In return we offer a competitive salary package, a market leading pension scheme, cycle to work, retail discount scheme, and an employee assistance program.

To request an application form and/or a detailed job specification, please see contact details below.

**Barry Thomson**  
The Scottish Salmon Company  
8 Melville Crescent  
Edinburgh, EH3 7JA  
centralrecruitment@scottishsalmon.com  
Closing date: 15th June 2018

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



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\*Source: ABC/ARFIS data as at 01/11/2018



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## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

These applications listed below 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, your Local Customer  
Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01179/PP	Installation of replacement window and door	Tobermory Chocolate 57 Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NT
18/01093/PP	Alterations to openings and installation of steps	Atlantis Leisure Dalriach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JE
18/00997/PP	Amended design of garage and self catering unit approved under 10/00335/PP (Erection of a dwellinghouse and a detached garage/residential annex)	Garden Ground Of Pine View Lodge Barcaldine Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SE
18/01133/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Plot 2 Land North Of Craig Lora Keil Gardens Oban
18/01124/MFF	Replacement of 10 x 80m circumference cages with 12 x 80m circumference cages of an alternative design, installation of hopper feed system and biomass of 1545 tonnes	Airds Bay (Etive 4) Loch Etive Argyll And Bute
18/01201/PP	Erection of porch and extension	5 Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB
18/01114/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access	Land Approx 330 Metres East Of Kilbride Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute
18/00973/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access, installation of septic tank and soakaway	Land South East Of Cuin Lodge Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QL
18/01156/PP	Erection of guesthouse and installation of septic tank	Land South Of Beachcomber Crossapol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UP
18/00959/PP	Partial demolition, alterations and extension of existing steading to form 12 dwellinghouses and associated storage building	The Steading Glenmore Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
18/01230/PP	Use of existing forestry tracks to create new access to planning permission 15/02089/PP (Installation of hydro scheme)	Land South Of West Ardhru Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/00776/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Ferry House Kerrera Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01183/PP	Change of use of agricultural building to form dwellinghouse	Agricultural Shed West Of Penmore Mill Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/01118/PP	Change of use from annex/workshop to holiday letting accommodation (retrospective)	Alma Cottage Shore Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7LH
18/01223/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Pretoria Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01192/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North West Of Ballimory Cottage Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
18/01121/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (amended house design to planning permission 17/03093/PP)	Land West Of Kenmore Cottage Bonawe Argyll And Bute

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

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



### First Registration of a Croft

John Morrison has registered their croft 52 Banavie (Part), Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 28, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5131.

### Spotlight MTG

**2018  
AGM**

**Tuesday  
26th June  
7.30pm**

**Oban Lorne  
Rugby Club**



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## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### 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 Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](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
18/02147/FUL	Land 65M SW Of 15 Cleadale Isle Of Eigg	Erection of house and outbuilding
18/02172/FUL	North Of Pier Corpach Fort William	Revised positioning of pontoon access gangway for the purposes of improving alignment of the access and also allowing effluent pump off direct from boats to a shore based holding tank; all connected with previous Planning Permission 16/04706/FUL for construction of a car park, slipway and change of use of canal buildings.
18/02345/PIP	Land 60M East Of Cuilcheanna Cottage Steadings, Onich	Erection of house
18/02444/FUL	Land 100M East Of 15 Clovullin. Ardgour	Erection of house amendment to 17/00261/FUL

**Time period for comments is 14 days  
and 21 days for 18/02172/FUL and 18/02345/PIP**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council,  
Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION  
CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013**

Notice is hereby given that **The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX** plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at **Caol and Lochside, Fort William** (central grid reference 2108E 7757N). The activity consists of the **construction of a flood protection scheme**.

Further information, can be obtained concerning the proposed **flood protection scheme** from **Garry Smith, Principal Engineer, The Highland Council, Drummie, Golspie, KW10 6TA**.

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed **flood protection scheme** can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at **caol&lochside.fps@highland.gov.uk**, or by post to **Garry Smith at the address above** not later than **Thursday 30th August 2018**

The pre-application consultation event will be held at **12:00 to 16:00 on Thursday 16th of August 2018** at **Caol Community Centre, Glenkingie Steet, Caol, PH33 7DS**.

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If **The Highland Council** submits an application for a marine licence to the Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (PORTREE TO PRABOST)  
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2018**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road, from its junction with the A855 Bridge Road, Portree, in a generally north-westerly direction, to its junction with the B8036 road to Prabost, a distance of 9.5 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Skye Half Marathon being held on Saturday the 9th June 2018, will be in operation from 9th June 2018 until 10th June 2018 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibitions is not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

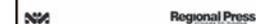
For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

**ALASTAIR SOMERVILLE**

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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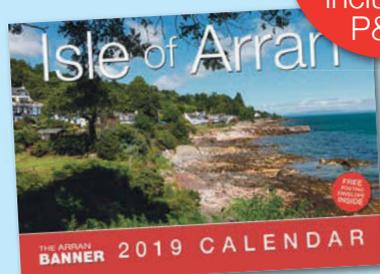
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## DIAMOND WEDDING

**ANGUS - CAMERON** - On June 11, 1958 at Lochgilphead Free Church, by Rev Donald MacKenzie, Jim to May. Present address Annbank, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan. Many congratulations on 60 years of marriage. Love from all the family at home and abroad.

## DEATHS

**BYRNE** - On June 1, 2018, peacefully at the Alexandra Unit, Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, Richard (Dick) Cameron Byrne of Smithy Lodge, Hightae. Loving husband of Margaret, much loved father of Shirley, Ewan and Christine, brother to Peter, dear father-in-law and doting papa. Service to be held at Roucan Loch Crematorium on Tuesday June 12 at 1:00pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Alexandra Unit, Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

**CARMICHAEL** - Alastair MacNeill. Peacefully at home on Thursday May 31, 2018, Alastair, beloved husband of Fiona, dearly loved father to Donald and Sheila, proud grandpa of Sarah and Sophie. Funeral service to be held at Portnahaven Church, Islay on Saturday June 9, 2018 at 11.30am and thereafter to Nerabus Cemetery, Port Charlotte, Islay to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

**FERGUSON** - Mary. After a long illness bravely borne in Girvan Community Hospital on Saturday, June 2, 2018, Mary Graham in her 95th year. Much loved wife of the late Bill Fergusson, beloved mother of Lindsay, William and Ailsa, loving grandmother and great-grandmother of the family.

**LOEBEL** - Peacefully in his home, Bruichladdich, Castle Street, Thurso, on Friday, May 25, 2018, Lieutenant Commander Leonard Francis Loebel, US Navy (retired), of Highland Illinois. Beloved husband of Catherine

McEachern, devoted father of Victoria and Ranald, respected father-in-law, much loved brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle and friend to many. Now at rest.

**MACINTYRE** - On June 3, 2018 at home with his family, Peter Malcolm MacIntyre, aged 68 years, a true gentleman. Beloved husband of Geraldine Byrne, adored dad of Eilidh and Julie, adoring papa to Anna and Ruairidh, good friend and father-in-law to Stephen, 'big' brother to Allan and the late Dugie and Innes and a much loved uncle. Requiem Mass on Monday, June 11 at 1 p.m. in St. Mun's RC Church, Ballachulish and thereafter to Duror Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Donations if desired to Cancer Research and Ballachulish District Nurses.

**MORRISON** - Peacefully at Mull and Iona Community Hospital, Isle of Mull, aged 48, Lorraine née Reid, dearly loved wife to Neil, devoted mum to Amanda and Ruairidh and mother-in-law to Steven, very proud granny to Ellie. Lorraine had a kind, caring and infectious personality that touched the hearts of everyone around her. Her funeral will take place from Craignure Church, Isle of Mull on Wednesday, June 13 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Balure Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for MND Scotland and Macmillan Cancer Support.

**SHOVELIN** - Joan Ellam, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2018 in Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex. Funeral Service on June 12 at 11.30am in Chelmsford Crematorium South Chapel, CMI 3BL.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CRUICKSHANKS** - Robert, Fiona, Eilidh, Zak and family would like to thank everyone who has supported them at this very difficult time with visits, flowers, cards and kind messages. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the celebration of Martyn's life, your presence meant a lot to us. A big thank you to Eoin Cox who spoke on behalf of Martyn's friends,

telling their stories. Thanks also to Ally Stewart for conducting the service, Hamish Hoey and Son, the Corran Halls and the Falls of Lora Hotel. Collection on the day was £1156.62 and will be given to Andy's Man Club to raise awareness of mental illness and male suicide in under 45's.

**MACCORMICK** - Hazel and the family of the late John MacCormick wish to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the kindness, support, cards, phone calls and flowers following their recent sad loss. To Macmillan nurses and Marie Curie for the care given to John over the last few weeks. To Rev Margaret Miller for a comforting service. To Duncan Gunn and Alan MacKenzie for their respectful and professional services. To Gerry Kilmurray who very kindly provided a minibus for transport to and from the ferries. To Kiki MacColl for the catering at the hall. A heartfelt thanks to all friends and family who travelled from near and far to attend the service. The retiring collection raised £1720 for the church fabric fund.

**MACDONALD** - The family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for their sympathy, kindness and support following Kathleen's passing. Thank you for all the cards, Mass cards, telephone calls, messages and visits, to all who came to the church and graveside. Grateful thanks to staff at Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Ballachulish Medical Practice and Belford Hospital for their caring and professional attention of Kathleen. Thanks to Fr MacKinnon for spiritual support at hospital and to Fr Barrett for his ongoing support, lovely service and kind words. Thanks, also to John McLellan Funeral Directors for caring and professional funeral arrangements, to Jimmy Forsyth for playing the organ, to McDonald Bros for beautiful floral arrangements and to The Laroch for catering. The sum of £216.32 was raised for Abbeyfield Resident's Fund and Ballachulish Medical Practice

## MEMORIALS

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear Auntie, Marie, who died June 8, 1989. Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**GILFILLAN** - In loving memory of Caroline, much loved wife, mother to Carol Anne and Claire and grandmother to Lewis and Sam. Missed and loved by all the family, passed over on June 8, 2017.

**GILFILLAN** - In loving memory of Caroline, loving wife, mother and grandmother, who passed away June 8, 2017. May the winds of love blow softly and whisper so you'll hear We will always love and miss you and wish that you were here.

**GILFILLAN** - Precious memories of Caroline, a dear sister-in-law and loving aunt.

- Jackie and family.

**GILLIES** - Treasured memories of Archie, who died on June 7, 2016. Sadly missed by mum and all the family.

**HUNTER** - Precious memories of Mary, a much loved and very special lady who passed away June 3, 2005. Forever in our thoughts.

- Alasdair and Margaret x

**KENNEDY** - Treasured memories of my cousin Charles Peter, passed away June 1, 2015. Very sadly missed.

- Caroline Kennedy, Fort William.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of mum, Annette, who died June 6, 1991.

Love and miss you every day.

- Donna.

**MARTINDALE** - In loving memory of Kath Martindale, who passed away June 9, 2008. A loving wife, mother and granny. Dearly loved and remembered by all the family.

**MARTINDALE** - In loving memory of Kathleen Martindale who passed away June 9, 2008.

Not a day goes by that we don't think of her.

- From David and Jane Martindale.

**POWER** - Heckie, 30th Anniversary. Thinking of our dear dad Heckie

Proud and loving father and grandpa

Treasured memories of happy times together

Though we're apart You're part of us still.

- Marian, Avy, Diane, Eileen and grandsons Paul and Gavin xxxx

**STEWART** - Precious memories of my dear husband Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by his loving wife Fiona xx

**STEWART** - In loving memory of Bob, a dear brother and brother-in-law, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Always in our thoughts.

- Bill and Violet, Balfron.

**STEWART** - Remembering Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Sorely missed.

- Ken and Delia, Australia.

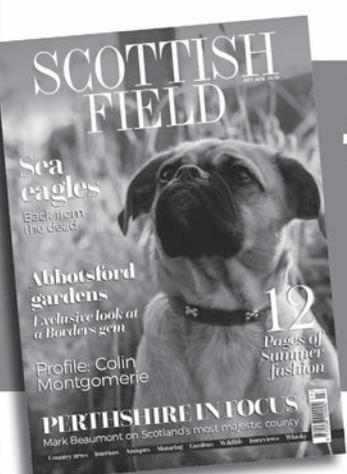
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# Young people to follow in the footsteps of St Columba

A group of young people will connect with their faith by retracing the steps of an ancient Celtic saint as they walk, row and swim 75 miles across rural Argyll.

Beginning in Tarbert and finishing in Oban, at the end of June they will follow part of the route of St Columba, who travelled to the area in the sixth century, eventually ending his journey on Iona.

As part of their Columba Experience they will learn about the history of the area and visit some of the oldest standing stones in the British Isles, as well visit an area where beavers have been reintroduced to Scotland.

On the final day they will witness a sea immersion baptism, the kind of ceremony a disciple of St Columba might have experienced.

Each night parish churches have offered to host the group, who are aged between 16 and 24 and will be accompanied group leaders and an artist-in-residence.

At Kilmartin, capital of the ancient kingdom of Dalriada, they will be shown the history of the area and looked after by members of the Christian community.

The expedition is being organised by the Presbytery of Argyll Youth Team as a way to mark Scotland's Year of Young People.

Argyll Presbytery's motto, 'From standing stones to living stones', connects the region's historic legacy of carved stones



White Strand of the Monks looking north towards Staffa, Gometra, Ulva and Calgary.

to the biblical 'living stones' that form God's spiritual home on earth.

The young people plan to share their faith journey with their hosts and other people they meet during lunch stops at pubs or hotels. Supporters and friends will be able to follow their progress through social media posts.

Part of the trip will involve 'swimming the Atlantic' – navigating a narrow gap between the mainland and the island of Seil.

Entertainment at different parts of the route will be provided by the Very Rev Albert Bogle along with his band.

Organiser Kenny Wilson, who

is a Church of Scotland youth adviser, explained that the presbytery wanted something 'different from the usual camps' that are run for young people.

'We want the young people to experience the kind of things Columba himself would have experienced,' he said.

'He came to share faith with the kingdom of Dalriada and we want the young people to do the same.

'They're not just going to be sharing their faith with people of faith, but also those of no faith. On the last day we're going to do a sea baptism – a demonstration of how people may have been baptised in the sea 1,500 years ago. It's a way of touching base

with some of the "thin" places on the west coast.'

Locally, the idea has proved popular, with a sea-water rowing group even offering to take those on the trip out for a few hours.

Mr Wilson said: 'We visited the parishes that we would pass through to speak to the ministers and congregants in each church and they all inquired, "Where are you going to stay? We'll put you up!"'

If you are aged 16-24 and interested in joining the trip, there are still some free places available. To apply, email Kenny Wilson from the Argyll Presbytery Youth Team. The trip runs from June 23-30 and is free, with any travel expenses incurred reimbursable.

## THOUGHT for the week

This Saturday June 9 is the feast day of St Columba and, fittingly, I will be making my first visit to the Isle of Canna for a symposium on St Columba.

The day is organised by the National Trust for Scotland and will examine Columba's connection with Canna as well as celebrating Gaelic culture. I will begin the day with Mass in St Columba's Church before participating in the symposium's events, including leading the group in prayer at a Celtic cross dating from the seventh century. I am very much looking forward to the whole experience.

Columba, or Colum Cille, means 'dove of the church'. St Columba came from Ireland to Iona in 563. He was not the first person to preach Christianity in our locality but he is the most famous. His personal holiness, charisma and integrity attracted many followers during his lifetime.

His monastery of Iona left a legacy of spirituality, learning and culture that benefited not only Scotland, Ireland and England but much of mainland Europe. For example, the Book of Kells (written on Iona but transferred to the Irish monastery of Kells for safe keeping during the Viking attacks) is a book of the Gospels.

It is widely considered as one of medieval Europe's masterpieces. The book's inks came from many places, including Afghanistan! Today we see Iona as remote but there was nothing inward about Columba's monastery.

Some say that Canna is the island formerly known in Gaelic as Hinba. This is where Columba often retreated to for quiet prayer.

Columba's legacy demonstrates that he encouraged academic learning, dialogue and culture but it must not be forgotten that everything he did was rooted in faith.

Today there is a temptation to think that we are too busy to pray. Likewise some claim that there is no place for faith in academia or culture.

Columba not only showed that this is false thinking but that a deep relationship with God is necessary for helping us both to reach out to others in love and to achieve our own true fulfilment.

*Right Reverend Brian McGee,  
Bishop Argyll and the Isles.*

## Confident Christianity

The last Saturday in May saw a new event added to the calendar of churches in Oban and Lorn.

On Saturday May 26, local people were joined by others from as far apart as Campbeltown and Helensburgh for a day conference entitled Confident Christianity.

For the past five years the Argyll Convention has been a three-day event held in early August. Designed to encourage faith tourism as well as help local people, it has benefited from a variety of world-class speakers. This time the organisers decided to add a day conference earlier in the year.

They were helped by Andy

Bannister, one of Britain's leading Christian apologists and Islamic scholars. He is director of SOLAS Centre for Public Christianity, whose website offers gems of video clips about current issues. The purpose of the conference was to help our local churches understand and engage with people of other beliefs, both religious and secular.

Andy led it superbly. The first session was about conversation, how to listen, identify issues and bring clarity. The second looked at the frequently asked question: 'Do all religions lead to God?' His wide experience helped us see the diversity of beliefs – 'Which

"god" are you talking about?' – and he identified perceptions of God that are unique to the Judaeo-Christian tradition.

Conference participants also benefited from an afternoon workshop where issues that Christians face were discussed together. It was an excellent and useful day.

The main Argyll Convention takes place in Oban's Corran Halls from August 7-9 (information at [www.argyllconvention.org](http://www.argyllconvention.org)). The subjects discussed will be different but with speakers of the same calibre. Another example of local church people working together to bring greater benefit.

  
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OT

## FOOTBALL

## Isle of Eigg backs youngster who signed for Inverness Caledonian Thistle

A young footballer with connections to the Isle of Eigg has been signed by Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Ryan Fyffe is the grandson of Wes and Maggie Fyffe, who live on the Hebridean island.

Maggie is secretary of the Eigg Heritage Trust and has been a driving force behind the progress made on the island since the community buy-out in 1997.

Wes is a football fan and attends ICT games when in Inverness visiting Ryan and Ryan's parents, Tim and Marianne.

Ryan, who is described as a tall defender, was one of 10 youngsters signed by ICT's under 17s.

His grandmother Maggie said: 'There's a keen interest in football on the island and, although there may be supporters of many different clubs, everyone here is very excited by what Ryan has achieved and will be closely following his progress.'

Thistle director and family friend Gordon Fyfe said: 'It's a small world. Maggie got in touch with me when she spotted the photo of the Under 17 signings with the management team and directors.'

'The family are justly proud of Ryan's achievement in signing professional forms with the club. He is part of what I'm told is the best young team the club has produced. With such strong connections with Eigg, let's hope he has a good crack at the big time.'



Featured image: Ryan Fyffe is pictured with Charlie Christie, head of youth; John Robertson, manager; and Graham Rae, chairman.

## All systems go for D & K Lafferty Cup Tournament

The annual Lafferty Cup tournament hosted by Oban Saints and sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors will take place at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, Oban on Saturday July 7.

Tournament organiser David Buchanan said plans were well advanced for the tournament and he was just waiting on word from Hearts to confirm whether they could make it this year or not. The Edinburgh side were due to go to a training camp in Germany but this was cancelled so David is hopeful that the Jambos will send a team to Oban.

Confirmed teams are SPL clubs St Johnstone and Hamilton Accies, along with Championship teams Dundee United and Alloa Athletic and hosts Oban Saints.

# Am-Am proves to be another big success

Continued from page 80

MacColl £15, Innes MacColl £15.

Third team prize – Bank of Scotland Trophy and £100, sponsored by MacQueen Bros: Stuart Livingstone Joiners, 91 points, Nigel Evans £25, Ian Hay £25, Nigel Campbell £25, Billy

Wotherspoon £25. Second team prize – PDK Shellfish Ltd Trophy and £120, sponsored by PDK Shellfish Ltd: D&A Munn Ltd, 92 points, R Ian MacInnes £30, William Gemmell £30, Neil Innes £30, Paul Kersley £30.

First team prize – The Oban Times

## GOLF

Trophy and £200, sponsored by The Oban Times: Oban Camanachd C, 93 points, Scott MacMillan £50, Niall MacFarlane £50, Edward Swift £50, Danny MacVicar £50.

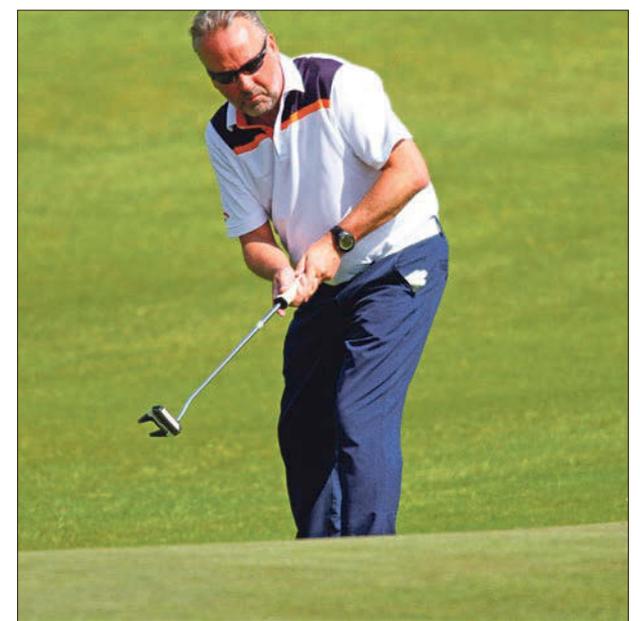


Christine Cameron fires her shot to the fourth green.

Photographs: Kevin McGlynn



Oban Times deputy editor Martin Laing approaches the fourth green.



Keith McIntyre from The Oban Times sends a putt on its way.



Neil Armour chips on to the 18th.



Willie Gemmell shows a deft touch with this chip.



Rotarians David Finlayson, Iain MacIntyre and Ken Moncrieff thank the young police volunteers who were ball spotting.



Louise Macleod, Bunty Menassa, Kirsty MacKenzie and Christine Cameron.

## Glencruitten

Duncan Forgievie won the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten on Saturday with scores of 59, 62 = 121. George MacKenzie and Dale Robertson were runners-up with scores of 63, 62 = 125. Sean Dunstaffnage was in fourth place with scores of 63, 63, = 126.

On Saturday the first round of the Handicap/Senior Championship takes place and on Sunday McVitie & Price (Mixed).

## Taynuilt

Club Championship first round (scratch/handicap) was played at Taynuilt on June 3 - 1 Les Crossley 73-21=52; 2 Alan Wilson 67-10=57; 3 David Howie 62-3=59.

## Tobermory

Gents' Section, Centenary first round: 1 Alasdair 83-17-66; 2 Tim Gardiner 75-07-68; 3 Mike Campbell 91-21-70. 9-hole Stableford: 1 David Honeyman 19 points; 2 Alasdair Currie 18 points; 3 Tom Nunn 16 points.

June Medal - 1 Tom Nunn 71-12-59; 2 Alasdair Currie 89-28-61; 3 David Honeyman 90-24-66.

Ladies' nine-hole - 1 Jennifer Jack 46-06-40, 2 Olive Brown 57-17-40, 3 Doris Hargreaves 62-16-46.

## Killin

Ladies' Greensomes Open: Saturday June 2: Scratch - 1 Laura Aitken and Sheila Aitken (Killin) 79; 2 Caroline Henderson and Susie MacDougall (Aberfeldy) 81.

Handicap - 1 Jean Faichney and Silvia Knecht (Killin) 62.6 BIH; 2 Jan Thomson and Frances Kerr (Turnhouse) 62.6; 3 Leslyanne Tufft and Lesley Millar (Kenmore) 63.6.

Killin Cup: (Best Overall Handicap) - Jean Faichney and Silvia Knecht (Killin) 62.6.

Bridge of Lochay Salver: (best local handicap) - Jean Faichney and Silvia Knecht 62.6.

Dochart Trophy: (best overall scratch) - Laura Aitken and Sheila Aitken (Killin) 79.

Nearest the Pin in two - Leslyanne Tufft and Lesley Millar (Kenmore). Longest drive: silver - Caroline Henderson (Aberfeldy); longest drive: bronze - Margaret Lowe (Kingsfield)

Magic twos - Leslyanne Tufft and Lesley Millar (Kenmore); Suzanne Graham and Jolan Audsley (Pumpherstons); Kay Dowling and Susie McRobbie (Killin).

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Kyokushinkai Karate

The Kyokushinkai grading tests are being held over the weekend of June 16/17. Saturday tests will be held in Oban at the Oban Martial Arts Centre and on Sunday will be held at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead; both tests start at 11am prompt. For anyone thinking of learning karate the best time to start is immediately after the grading tests as the emphasis after the tests is on new techniques. Kyokushinkai karate can make a person mentally and physically the strongest they can be so why not give it a go? The Oban class is at 6pm on Thursdays for primary school ages over eight and 7pm for high school ages and adults. It is never too late to take up Kyokushinkai karate.

For more information, contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk, alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

### Kickboxing

Club coach Wullie Rodger says: 'Beginners are always welcome at Senshi Do Kick Boxing. If you are after the cardio and strength training without the fighting then Monday's Kick Fit session at 6pm is the one for you. Wednesdays have the junior - 5-14 years - session at 4.30pm then the seniors - 15 and over - at 6pm. These sessions cover the technical and tactical sides of K1-style kick boxing as well as cardio and strength training required to get you fighting fit. Fridays have another junior session at 4.30pm until 6pm. Sundays have the women-only session at 10am and junior fight club at 11am. As you see there's something for everyone so the only thing stopping you is you. Remember don't put off starting until you 'get fit enough' because you get fit by doing it.'

Find the club on Facebook (Senshi Do Kickboxing) or contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07480 273190.

### Shukokai Karate

Anyone looking for more details on these clubs should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

### BJJ

Oban BJJ had a visitor from Ontario Canada on Monday - Claudio de Lisi, a purple belt from established gym 'Brazilian Top Team Canada'. Claudio taught a deep half guard class and kimura set up - the reverse ude-garami arm lock is commonly called the Kimura after Japanese Judoka Masahiko Kimura, who used the technique to great effect. Claudio took his time to show the students the small details which help make the submissions work more effectively and quickly.

MMA Thursdays are starting to pick up momentum. The class is broken down into sections from stand-up fighting to wrestling to finishing on the ground. It is kept basic so is perfect for anyone wanting to start MMA.

For more info contact Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

### Wadokai Karate

Dunbeg School, 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings. The club is currently working towards a grading on June 19 at 6.30pm. Registration starts at 6.15pm.

If you are keen to know more please contact chief instructor Christopher Bruce, using the details below. It can also be arranged to go along and watch the grading to see anyone would like to try this style of karate.

For more details of the Scottish Kaishin Wadokai club contact Christopher Bruce via crb999@btinternet.com

Park Primary section of the club is currently practising simple defence and attack drills using focus pads and soft sparring mitts.

The children have to get around an obstacle course that is made up of the other karate students who have pads or gloves or soft foam tubes with which they make an attack.

The person completing the course - against the clock - has to defend themselves and counter the attack with one of the techniques and move on until they have got past all the attackers successfully. Great fun.

For more details of the Park Primary club (7-10 years) contact Mike Faulkner on 07709 229284 or email; m.faulkner6@btinternet.com



Members of Oban BJJ with Canadian Claudio de Lisi, bottom row, second right.

OT

## RUGBY

# Oban Lorne RFC hand out awards

Oban Lorne RFC hosted their annual awards dinner on Saturday evening in front of a packed clubhouse. The dinner and awards night concludes what has been another busy season for everyone involved at the club.

After a fantastic three-course meal provided by Michael Hewitt of Oban Spitroasts/Argyll All Occasions Catering Company, club president Sandy Rokitta gave a brief overview of the season so far that was dominated by some overwhelming success from the fantastic ladies' team.

The ladies were awarded Scottish Rugby Women's Club of the season at the SRU's awards dinner at Murrayfield on Friday. This is a massive achievement for the team that the whole club and town should be proud of.

The club's 1st XV have had a frustrating season in West Division 1 and will find themselves playing in division 2 from September.

Saturday's award winners from the 1st XV were: Top Points Scorer – Craig Wright; Best Trainer – Jonathan Sayer; Most Improved – Kyle Graham; Best Newcomer – Matt Walker; Player of the Year – Craig Wright; Young Player – Jack Strachan and Players' Player – Craig Wright.



Oban Lorne club president Sandy Rokitta, ladies' captain Laura MacCormick and coach Corrie Louw with top points scorer Lucy Stewart, who also won the BT National Women's League Division Two player of the season at the recent SRU club awards dinner. Photos: Stephen Lawson

The award winners from the ladies' section were: Top Points Scorer – Lucy Stewart; Best Trainer – Ellie MacNiven; Most Improved – Ailsa MacLachlan; Best Newcomer – Eika Skofca; Young Player – Ellen

Barlow and Players' Player Erica Skofca.

Club person of the year went to George Hamilton for his dedication to all teams including youth, men's and ladies' in his fantastic pitch side first aid support. George is also a valuable member of

the club's committee holding the important role of child protection officer.

The 1st XV's Bulgarian internationals, Radostin Maksimov and Vasil Borisov, were also congratulated with their national team success this season.

Outgoing 1st XV coach Corrie Louw was also presented with gifts from the club and players for his hard work and dedication towards coaching the team over the past seven seasons in what has been an extremely successful time for Oban Lorne RFC.



Kirsty Sinclair picked up the Best Newcomer, Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards on behalf of winner Erika Skofca, who couldn't be at the awards night.



Best Trainer – Ellie MacNiven.



Most Improved Player – Ailsa MacLachlan.



Young Player of the Year – Ellen Barlow.



Most Points Scored, Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year – Craig Wright.



Best Trainer – Jonathan Sayer.



Oban Lorne Ladies were voted team of the year at the club awards dinner.





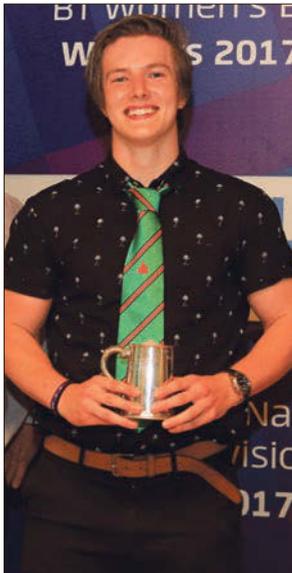
...m of the year at the recent SRU



Corrie Louw, who is standing down as the men's coach, with gifts presented by the club.



Most Improved player – Kyle Graham.



Best Newcomer – Mat Walker.



Club Person of the Year – George Hamilton with Sandy Rokitta and Corrie Louw.



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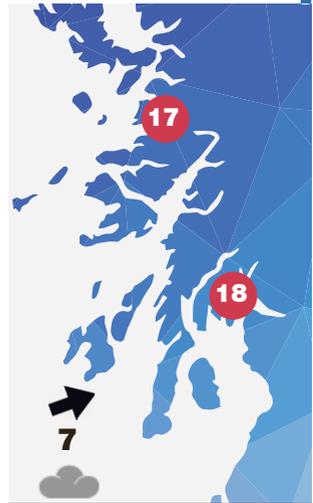


**WEATHER**

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals  
Light winds from the west  
Temperatures 11°C to 20°C.

**Friday**  
Cloudy  
Light winds from the west  
Temperatures 11°C to 19°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Sunny on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Breezy from the west  
Temperatures 10°C to 18°C.



**FRIDAY**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday June 7, 2018** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	05.59	1.9	11.37	2.8
	18.07	1.8	***	**
<b>Fri</b>	00.36	3.1	07.05	1.8
	13.17	2.9	19.09	1.7
<b>Sat</b>	01.57	3.2	08.06	1.6
	14.24	3.0	20.11	1.5
<b>Sun</b>	02.54	3.4	09.00	1.4
	15.11	3.2	21.09	1.3
<b>Mon</b>	03.41	3.6	09.47	1.1
	15.54	3.5	22.02	1.0
<b>Tues</b>	04.25	3.8	10.31	0.8
	16.35	3.7	22.52	0.8
<b>Wed</b>	05.08	3.9	11.15	0.6
	17.17	3.9	23.42	0.6

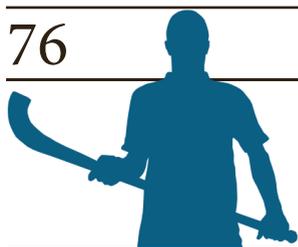
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

# Oban teams exit Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

Bute, Fort William, Kinlochshiel, Kyles Athletic, Lovat and Newtonmore are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter finals following last weekend's shinty action. Kilmallie and Inveraray will replay and Caberfeidh and Kingussie are still to meet.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – second round

### Kinlochshiel 4 Oban Camanachd 1

Kinlochshiel secured a place in this Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter final draw with a 4-1 victory over Oban Camanachd at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel started Paul MacRae at full centre, with Oliver MacRae going to buckshee forward. Ali Nixon dropped onto the bench.

Oban Camanachd were missing Malcolm Clark, David Lafferty and Gavin Stobbart and Lorne Dickie and Matt Rippon were working on Barra. Willie Neilson and Chrissie MacMillan returned and both started, whilst there was a place on the bench for Scott McKillop, young Ross Campbell and Lewis Buchanan.

This was a significant hurdle for Johnston Gill's side as they were knocked out of the competition by Iain Hay's troops at the same stage last season. This perhaps explained their whirlwind start to the tie and, shooting down the slope, they led 2-0 after six minutes.

A clearance out of the Oban defence went straight to Jordan Fraser on three minutes and he made no mistake.

Three minutes later, Kinlochshiel won possession in midfield and Donald Nixon sent a long ball forward and Keith MacRae took the ball past his marker before firing into the top corner of the net.

It was not the start Oban Camanachd wanted but they rallied and pulled a goal back on 21 minutes following fine wing play from Willie Neilson and Andrew MacCuish who struck a bouncing shot low into the net past an unsighted Scott Kennedy to make it 2-1.

Oban Camanachd went on to enjoy their best period of the game and a teasing ball forward from Scott MacMillan dropped into the 'D'. Finlay MacRae looked as if he would clear but Andrew MacCuish never gave up and his blocking challenge sent the ball spinning across goal.

But the home defence eventually cleared the danger. A low Aidan MacIntyre effort went just past Kennedy's right post as the Oban side tried to draw level.

There was a much-needed water break after 33 minutes as the players sweated in the sweltering heat.

The break probably came at the wrong time for Oban Camanachd and Kinlochshiel were quicker out of the blocks from the re-start and restored their two-goal cushion on 38 minutes. Jordan Fraser played the ball in low from the left and Keith MacRae allowed the ball to run across his body before shooting low across the keeper into the far corner of the net.

Cameron Sutherland then used his body to keep out a John MacRae strike at the expense of a corner.

So much of Kinlochshiel's good play this season has involved Keith MacRae and he completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes before the break. He was brought down on the Kinlochshiel right and when the resultant spot-hit was played low to the far side, John MacRae drove it back into the goal area and Keith MacRae shot into the net to make it 4-1.

Kinlochshiel's John MacRae, who suffered a heavy knock late in the first half, was replaced by Scott MacLean at the break.

Oban Camanachd created a couple of chances early in the second half but didn't trouble the keeper.

Cameron Sutherland made a good save, stretching to his right and using his leg to deny Jordan Fraser at the expense of corner.

A delightful Keith MacRae flick played in Scott MacLean but he rifled the ball just the wrong side of Cameron Sutherland's left post.

Oban Camanachd made a double switch as Scott McKillop, returning after a lengthy spell out through injury, and Lewis Buchanan replaced Daniel MacVicar and Willie Neilson. Daniel Cameron was pushed from defence into attack whilst Kinlochshiel introduced Ali Nixon at wing centre.

Kinlochshiel then had to scramble another superb Scott MacMillan ball into the 'D' away for a corner.

Good play from Oliver MacRae set up a chance for Keith MacRae and although his strike went wide of the keeper's left post, the move earned applause from the crowd.

Another Oban youngster, Ross Campbell, was given a first team debut, taking over from Aidan MacIntyre.

There was another water break as



Oban Camanachd's Willie Neilson and Kinlochshiel's Connor Cormack battle for the ball during last Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup tie at Kirkton which the home side won 4-1. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

the warm weather continued. The young Oban substitutes combined as first Scott Kennedy got his body in the way of a Lewis Buchanan shot from the left. The rebound came to Ross Campbell on the right who fired goalwards with his first touch of the game but Kennedy again made the save.

Lewis Buchanan then got on the end of an Andrew MacCuish knock-down but he tugged the ball just wide of goal.

It was an eventful period for Lewis Buchanan who then suffered an injury and had to be withdrawn. The youngster was caught with Mark MacDonald's caman as the Kinlochshiel defender cleared his lines.

Kinlochshiel deserved the victory and go into the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter final draw which will be made at Oban Live this weekend.

Speaking after the final whistle, Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay said: 'Two bad mistakes in the early part of the game left us two goals down. We got back into it with Andrew MacCuish's goal and we looked good at that point. However, we were caught out twice more with two quick goals after the water

break and that killed the game off. Kinlochshiel are clinical up front and punish mistakes. We had some chances after the break but it wasn't a great second half as the game was probably all but over by half-time.'

### Skye Camanachd 0 Lovat 3

2017 Scottish runners-up Lovat are through to the quarter finals after they beat Skye Camanachd 3-0 in their noon throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Iain Nicolson returned for Skye and he started in attack with youngster Ruairidh MacLeod rested to the bench. Kenny Campbell played at full centre despite having 10 stitches from two separate head wounds removed just ahead of throw-up.

Callum Cruden returned to the Lovat starting line-up having missed the previous week's league win over Caberfeidh through injury.

It was a warm day but, just following throw-up, a cooling mist descended over the pitch for most of the match.

Lovat broke the deadlock on 26 minutes. Greg Matheson touched a ball forward from midfield into Lorne MacKay's path. He took a couple of steps forward before slipping

the ball outside to Marc MacLachlan who found a yard of space at the left of the 'D'. MacLachlan sent the ball low into the net to make it 1-0.

The closest Skye came to a first half goal was a dipping Will Cowie effort from 40 yards out which dropped past the junction between post and bar on keeper Stuart MacDonald's left. Lovat made a strong start to the second half and Lorne MacKay's strike following a cross from the left came back off Iain MacLeod's right post, deflecting behind the keeper and away to safety.

Skye goalie MacLeod then did well to save with his foot from Marc MacLachlan before denying Greg Matheson seconds later.

Lovat extended their lead from the penalty spot on 68 minutes. Marc MacLachlan slipped the ball into the danger area where it deflected into Duncan Davidson's path as he ran into the 'D'. However, Davidson went down under Allan MacLeod's challenge and referee Calum Girvan pointed to the penalty spot after speaking to his goal judge. Greg Matheson cracked the penalty over Iain MacLeod's right shoulder.

Lovat killed the tie off straight from the re-start as Callum Cruden won possession and fed captain Lewis Tawse. He sent the ball long to the impressive Marc MacLachlan who threaded a low, diagonal ball to Lorne MacKay who was running in on the right. MacKay took a touch before knocking the ball low past the advancing keeper to make it 3-0.

Skye had enough possession but didn't threaten Stuart MacDonald in the Lovat goal.

At the other end, Duncan Davidson sent a flashing shot just past the keeper's left post, whilst Iain MacLeod made a smart double save 10 minutes from time to deny Marc MacLachlan a second.

This was the third meeting between the sides in Portree this season with Lovat winning all three.

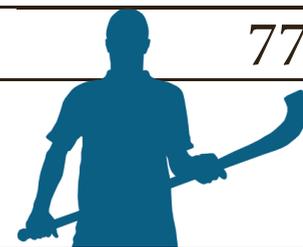
### Glenurquhart 1 Kyles Athletic 3

A Roddy MacDonald hat-trick gave Kyles Athletic a 3-1 win over Glenurquhart in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

Stuart MacKintosh returned in goal for Glenurquhart who also had Lachie Smith back in defence following a hand injury.

Roddy MacDonald and Grant Irvine recovered from knocks to take up their usual roles in the Kyles Athletic attack.

Kyles took the lead on 25 minutes. Glenurquhart defender Ally MacKintosh and Roddy MacDonald



## Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup

both stretched for a high shy into the goal area. MacDonald got a touch to the ball and it bounced past Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh as he tried to clear. It was Roddy MacDonald again on the stroke of half-time who made it 2-0. MacDonald saw his initial shot saved by Stuart MacKintosh but the Scotland forward put the rebound into the net.

James MacPherson gave Glenurquhart hope when he pulled a goal back after 65 minutes. MacPherson looked as if he had missed the chance to shoot but, as he checked back, he quickly turned and lashed a great shot past John Whyte in the visiting goal to make it 2-1.

Roddy MacDonald sealed the win 10 minutes from time. He came deep to the wing centre position to gather the ball and was allowed to run to the 'D' before slotting the ball past a helpless Stuart MacKintosh.

Stuart MacKintosh denied Roddy MacDonald a fourth goal midway through the second half when he used his hand to palm away MacDonald's penalty. Referee Graham Cameron had pointed to the spot after MacDonald had been felled by Ally MacKintosh following a quick Grant Irvine free-hit from the edge of the 'D'. It was a deserved win for the Tighnabraich men and with Roddy MacDonald in this form, no-one will fancy facing them in the Scottish quarter finals.

### Lochaber 0 Newtonmore 1

Holders Newtonmore reached the last eight of the competition with a 1-0 win over Lochaber in their noon throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Newtonmore started as favourites but they had to work hard for this one, winning thanks to Steven MacDonald's goal on the hour mark.

### Fort William 3 Oban Celtic 2

Fort William and Oban Camanachd met for the third successive Saturday, this time at An Aird.

Fort William's James Tangney was banned but Oban Celtic's Craig MacMillan was free of suspension. Andy MacDonald was also free to play but he will miss this week's league match against Kilmallie after passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Lachie Shaw put Fort William in front on 28 minutes but Oban Celtic's response was instant, levelling a minute later through Ally McKerracher.

Fort William went on to take a one-goal advantage into the break when Victor Smith made it 2-1 with five first half minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic countered for a second time when Daniel Madej scored five minutes into the second half.

Lachie Shaw and Victor Smith both scored for Fort William's U17 side during the week in their MacTavish Juvenile Cup semi-final win over Skye and Shaw got his second on 63 minutes with what proved to be the winner.

## MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Oban Celtic's Craig MacMillan will miss this Saturday's match against Kilmallie after being sent off by referee Martin MacLean.

### Inveraray 0 Kilmallie 0

Inveraray and Kilmallie will play again after their goal-less draw at The Winterton. Inveraray's Garry MacPherson was suspended, whilst keeper Scott McLachlan was on holiday. Ally Munro and Colin Campbell were out injured and Allan McDonald was only fit enough to start on the bench. There were call-ups for four-time Scottish Cup finalists Graham MacPherson, Euan McMurdo and David MacPherson.

Kilmallie travelled south without Stephen Mcalister, Calum MacDougall and Liam Cameron.

It was a hot and muggy afternoon but that would change during a downpour towards the end of the game.

Graham MacPherson, who was the busier keeper, made some fine stops as Kilmallie made a bright start.

Kilmallie had their goalie Shane Gillies to thank for still being in the draw for the next round. First, Gillies tipped a rocket of a shot from the ever-green Euan McMurdo onto the post. The Kilmallie defence struggled to deal with the rebound and conceded a penalty with Robbie MacFadyen penalised for being on the ground. Fraser Watt struck the spot-hit sweetly, with the ball rising towards the top corner of the net, but Shane Gillies palmed the ball away.

There were a few feisty challenges but referee Ross Brown managed the play without producing any cards.

Both sides had periods of pressure but there was a lack of clear-cut chances. The Inveraray defence was well marshalled by full back John Kennedy who kept a close eye on Kilmallie danger man Michael Rodger. The full time whistle sounded as torrential rain and thunder and lightning, making its way from the abandoned game at Strachur across the water, began.

The replay at Canal Parks has been scheduled for Saturday June 16 with a 2pm throw-up.

### Bute 2 Beaulieu 0

Marine Harvest South Division 1 side Bute turned in their best performance of the season to beat National Division side Beaulieu 2-0 at The Meadows.

Bute pair Chris Lawrence and Arran Dunn were both free of suspension, whilst Beaulieu travelled without the influential Jack MacDonald.

After a goal-less first half, Ian McDonald gave Bute the lead on 55 minutes. A shot towards goal from 20 yards out was deflected by Ian McDonald on the edge of the 'D', wrong-footing Beaulieu keeper Josh Grant who was left helpless.

The outcome stayed in the balance until 10 minutes from time. Josh Grant made an excellent save but the ball was only partially cleared and

## Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup

young Thomas Morrison hit a well-struck shot from 20 yards which went in at the bottom of the left-hand post, just evading the keeper.

The Bute defence played very well throughout with the home keeper only having one save of note during the game.

Bute's rebuilding continues and the most satisfying aspect for them was that nine of their 15-man squad were aged 17 years or younger, with six of them due to attend the Camanachd Association's annual summer training camp at Strathallan.

## Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup second round

### Inverness 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 3

After extra-time Glasgow Mid Argyll had to battle all the way before securing the final place in the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup second round after beating Inverness 3-1 in their 3pm throw-up at The Bught Park.

Inverness were without the suspended David Campbell, whilst GMA travelled without Ewen Murray.

It was an even first 45 minutes in which Inverness lost wing back Davie Glass mid-way through the half with a knee injury. He was replaced by Ewan Neilson.

GMA had a chance to take the lead when referee Steven MacLachlan awarded them a penalty but Allan MacLeod saved Craig Anderson's spot-hit.

The visitors made the breakthrough on the hour when Allan MacLeod got his hand to Jamie MacFadyen's long-range shot but the ball found its way into the net.

Inverness replied within a couple of minutes with Andy Reid scoring from just inside the box.

Having scored, Andy Reid had to go off with a nasty injury after being hit on the head by the ball.

Both sides had chances during the last half-hour but, with no further scoring, referee Steven MacLachlan took the tie into extra-time.

There was little in it during the first period of extra time but, after that, Inverness seemed to be running on empty and Jamie MacFadyen got his second five minutes into the second extra-time period and Inverness never recovered.

Jamie MacFadyen grabbed his hat-trick a couple of minutes later to put a gloss on the win.

Inverness were disappointed not to win the game although three weeks without a match was not ideal preparation for such an important game. They should be encouraged though that they pushed GMA hard. The Glasgow side will consider a semi-final spot as just reward for a battling win which sets up a semi-final against Fort William.

## Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



Inveraray's Ruairidh Graham Junior and Kilmallie's Arron Sandison fight for the ball during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup encounter at the Winterton which ended in a 0-0 draw. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

## Results

**Thursday May 31  
Strathdearn Cup first round**  
Inverness 0 v 6 Fort William

**Saturday June 2  
Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup 2nd round**  
Lochaber 0 v 1 Newtonmore  
Skye 0 v 3 Lovat  
Bute v Beaulieu  
Inveraray 0 v 0 Kilmallie  
Kinlochshiel 4 v 1 Oban Caman  
Fort William 3 v 2 Oban Celtic  
Glenurquhart 1 v 3 Kyles Athletic

**Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup 2nd round**  
Inverness 1 v 3 Glasgow MA  
After extra time

**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 3rd round**  
Strachur A v A Fort William  
due to weather

**Strathdearn Cup 1st round**  
Glenurquhart 2 v 0 Beaulieu

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kingussie 4 v 1 Caberfeidh

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Newtonmore 5 v 0 Kingussie  
Skye P v P Aberdeen University  
University unable to field a team

**Marine Harvest South Division One**  
Tayforth 4 v 0 Kilmory

**Marine Harvest North Division Two**  
Inverness 0 v 3 Lewis  
Lochaber 4 v 0 Strathglass  
Lochcarron 2 v 0 Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest South Division Two**  
Oban Celtic 0 v 4 Glenorchy



## Fixtures

**Saturday June 9  
Camanachd Cup 2nd round**  
Caberfeidh v Kingussie  
Calum Girvan

**Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 3rd Round**  
Lochside Rovers v Kingussie  
Des McNulty - 3pm  
Newtonmore v Strathglass  
Iain Kennedy - noon  
Skye v Lochaber  
John Angus Gillies

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel  
Archie Ritchie  
Kyles Athletic v Lochaber  
Deek Cameron  
Newtonmore v Lovat  
David Mitchell - 3pm

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Beaulieu v Fort William  
Brian MacKay  
Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Ross Brown  
Oban Celtic v Kilmallie  
Lachie Wood - noon  
Strathglass v Inverness  
Martin MacLean

**Marine Harvest South Div 1**  
Aberdour v Kyles Athletic  
Graham Fisher  
Col Glen v Inveraray  
Alex MacVicar  
Tayforth v Bute  
Ewan MacDonald  
Taynuilt v Ballachulish  
Robert Baxter  
Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

## Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

### Strachur A Fort William A

The tie between the Fort William reserves and Strachur at Strachurmore was postponed late in the game.

Iain Wilson had put Strachur ahead in the opening minute and it stayed that way until midway through the second half when Lewis Morrison scored twice, either side of a Mark Fraser goal to give Fort William a 3-1 lead.

However, worsening weather conditions left referee Des McNulty with little option but to postpone the match with around 15 minutes remaining.

It would be possible for the 3-1 score to stand if both teams agreed but given the closeness of the score, the more likely outcome is a replay with Fort William having home advantage.

## Strathdearn Cup – first round

### Inverness 0 Fort William 6

The Strathdearn Cup first round tie between the Inverness and Fort William second teams was rescheduled for Thursday May 31 with a 7pm throw-up.

Fort William, who play a division higher than their opponents, ran out 6-0 winners.

Padraig McNeil, who featured for Inverness last season, gave Fort William the lead on six minutes.

Grant Disher made it 2-0 on 30 minutes, with Lewis Morrison adding a third on the stroke of half time.

Grant Disher got his second three minutes into the second half, whilst Lewis Morrison also got his second on 55 minutes.

Greig Kelly rounded off the 6-0 victory on 70 minutes.

### Glenurquhart 2 Beauly 0

The Glenurquhart colts beat the Beauly colts 2-0 in their noon throw-up at Blairbeg.

The fact the first half remained goal-less was mainly down to three outstanding saves from Beauly keeper Kyle MacDonald late in the half. The first of these was a terrific stop from a Lewis MacDonald strike from the edge of the 'D'.

Glenurquhart finally went in front on 65 minutes with a great goal. The impressive Lewis MacDonald played the ball forward to full forward Ryan Porter who took it out of the air and struck it spectacularly into the net first time from the edge of the 'D'.

Glenurquhart's Ross MacAulay started at full centre before being withdrawn. He returned at half forward and the switch paid dividends in the final minute when he fired a bouncing shot from distance. Kyle MacDonald got his foot to the ball but it went into the net off the post.

Glenurquhart's first team manager Iain MacLeod played in goals and was joined on the field by his son Charlie MacLeod who was making his second team debut.

The Glenurquhart seconds will now host the Fort William seconds in a quarter final tie at the end of the month.

## Marine Harvest Premiership

### Kingussie 4 Caberfeidh 1

Kingussie and Caberfeidh were to meet at Castle Leod in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round. However, with Caberfeidh hosting the popular Ross-shire sixes, the pitch was unavailable.

The sides were due to meet at The Dell in the league the following Saturday, so the fixtures were switched.

And it was Kingussie who recorded an impressive 4-1 win that lifts them to fifth in the table.

Louis Munro and James Falconer were missing for Kingussie. Robert Mabon was an injury doubt after coming off in the win over Lochaber a week earlier and he missed out with a broken finger.

Worse was to follow when keeper Craig Dawson suffered a nasty eye injury in the warm up so Rory MacGregor went in goal. Garry Munro came into the side for the first time this season, starting at full centre.

Caberfeidh kept faith with Ian MacColl in goal whilst Scottish international Kevin Bartlett returned to the side.

Kingussie took the lead on eight minutes. Savio Genini made a run forward from wing centre and when Ruaridh Anderson played the ball to him, Genini struck a



James Cameron from Inverness tries some 'keepy uppy' while being chased by Glasgow Mid Argyll's J.D. MacKenzie during last weekend's Balliemore Cup match. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

back-hand shot into the bottom left corner of the net. Ruaridh Anderson increased Kingussie's advantage on 30 minutes. The ball was played to Roddy Young at full forward and Anderson overlapped him before shooting from the right side of the goals, low into the far bottom corner of the goal.

Ruaridh Anderson put Kingussie in control with his second goal on the stroke of half-time. The build up was similar to his first and this time he finished with a clean hit higher into the top corner of the net.

Savio Genini got his second to make it 4-0 five minutes into the second half with almost a carbon-copy of his opener.

Again the wing centre surged forward from midfield and this time Roddy Young played the ball off and Genini crashed his shot into the roof of the net.

Caberfeidh, now with Ally MacLennan at full forward and Kevin Bartlett at full centre, pulled a goal back on 68 minutes with Malcolm Morrison beating stand-in goalie Rory MacGregor.

It was merely a consolation though as Kingussie, who brought on Barrie Dallas at full forward for the final 20 minutes, took the points with a 4-1 win.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

### Newtonmore 5 Kingussie 0

Newtonmore came out on top, winning 5-0 in the reserve team Badenoch Derby against Kingussie at The Eilan.

Newtonmore's Chris Sellar started a two-match ban following his red card against Glenurquhart a week earlier.

Calum Stewart on 31 minutes and

Cameron McNiven four minutes later made it 2-0 at the break.

Craig MacLeod added a third on 53 minutes and Cameron McNiven got his second a couple of minutes after.

Paul MacArthur rounded off the win on 69 minutes when he scored for the second successive Saturday.

Newtonmore now go two points clear of second placed Glengarry but they have played two games more.

### Skye Camanachd P Aberdeen University P

The match between the Skye Camanachd second team and Aberdeen University at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, was postponed.

Aberdeen University were unable to raise a team for the match so they have been deducted two points and the game will be re-scheduled for a later date.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Tayforth 4 Kilmory 0

Tayforth ran out 4-0 winners against an under-strength Kilmory side in a match which was part of The Meadows Festival in Edinburgh.

Finlay Stark gave Tayforth the lead on eight minutes and Brendan Duggan got a second on 35 minutes.

Finlay Stark's accurate shooting was making the difference and he completed his hat-trick with strikes on 66 and 69 minutes.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Lochcarron 2 Kilmallie 0

Lochcarron go top of the table after beating the Kilmallie reserves 2-0 at Battery Park. Lance MacCuish

and Liam Arnott got the goals that take Lochcarron a point ahead of the Lovat seconds, with both teams having played nine games.

### Lochaber 4 Strathglass 0

The Lochaber colts defeated the Strathglass colts 4-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Rolands Freimanis, Ben Delaney and a Max Campbell double won the game for fifth-placed Lochaber.

### Inverness 0 Lewis Camanachd 3

Lewis Camanachd are three games unbeaten after they overcame the Inverness second team 3-0 in their 12.30pm throw-up at The Bught Park.

Donald Lamont bagged the opener on seven minutes when he got on the end of a long corner to the far post and struck the ball home on the angle.

The islanders doubled their lead on 22 minutes. Two Inverness defenders tried to get the ball off Lewis full forward Seumas Charity but Finlay Calder inadvertently diverted the ball past Colin Fraser in the Inverness goal.

The third Lewis goal was a super solo effort from David Cleary as he beat his man on the left wing before rifling a shot into the far corner of the net.

Seumas Charity had a goal disallowed for offside by referee Steven MacLachlan and a lack of composure in front of goal, coupled with outstanding goalkeeping from Colin Fraser, kept the score down.

Finlay Calder missed a second half penalty for Inverness.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

### Oban Celtic 0 Glenorchy 4

Glenorchy now only trail league leaders Strachur on goal difference after they beat Oban Celtic's second team 4-0 in Oban.

Connor Sartain put Glenorchy ahead on 10 minutes with what was the only goal of the first half.

Connor Sartain got his second seven minutes into the second half.

Glenorchy added to their tally through John Sartain on 60 minutes and Aaron MacKay on 73 minutes.

Although Glenorchy go level with Strachur at the top of the table, they have played two games more.

## WCA round up

Badenoch regained top spot in Marine Harvest National Division 1 following the shinty action on Sunday June 3.

## Marine Harvest National Division

### Aberdour 0 Badenoch 12

Badenoch went two points clear at the top of the table following their 12-0 win over Aberdour in their noon throw-up at Silversands.

Badenoch led 4-0 at the break before scoring eight more goals in the second half. Megan Ralph stole the



Action from the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup tie between Glenurquhart and Kyles Athletic. Photograph: Tina Marshall.

show, scoring seven times. Zoe Reid and Mairi Stewart both hit doubles whilst Klaudia Ordys got the other.

Champions Skye are still in a strong position, trailing two points behind in second place but with two games in hand. The sides have still to meet in Portree.

**Lochaber 11  
Ardnamurchan 0**

Lochaber were too strong for newly promoted Ardnamurchan, winning 11-0 in their 1pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Rebecca Masson was their top scorer with four goals. Kirsty Delaney grabbed a hat-trick, Natalie MacDonald scored twice and Amy Disher and Thea Robertson got the others.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 2  
Strathspey 1**

Glasgow Mid Argyll beat Strathspey 2-1 at Yoker.

Joan Nicolson scored both GMA goals with Lucy Davies countering.

**Skye Camanachd P  
Fort William P**

The match between Skye Camanachd and Fort William has been rearranged for Saturday August 4.

**Marine Harvest  
North Division 2**

**Lovat w/o v  
Lochaber**

Lovat were given a walk-over when the Lochaber seconds were unable to raise a team for their match at Balgate.

**Marine Harvest  
South Division 2**

**Cowal & Bute 13  
Ardnamurchan 2**

Cowal & Bute beat the Ardnamurchan second team 13-2 in their 1pm throw-up at Dunoon Stadium.

Heather Ferguson scored four times for the hosts and Nula Neary grabbed a hat-trick. Jennifer Carrey and Charmaine Love hit doubles, whilst Faye Robertson and Lindsay Mitchell got the others.

Roselyn Ritchie and Kirsty Campbell got the Ardnamurchan goals.

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 5  
Oban Lorn 0**

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds defeated Oban Lorn 5-0 at Yoker.

Joan Nicholson, who also scored twice for the senior side, notched two GMA goals, whilst Katie Mullen got the other.

**Tayforth 0  
Dunadd 7**

Dunadd defeated Tayforth 7-0 at the Meadows Festival in Edinburgh.

**Valerie Fraser Cup  
semi-final draw**

The Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup and the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup semi-final draws were made on the main stage at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William on Saturday June 2.

Ian Roberts, director of communications for Marine Harvest, and Scotland and South African World Champion mountain bike racer Greg Minnaar made the draw.

Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup – semi-finals:

Skye Camanachd v Glasgow Mid Argyll

Lochaber v Badenoch & Strathspey  
Marine Harvest Challenge Cup  
Semi-Finals

Skye Camanachd v Inverness  
Glenurquhart v Lovat

The ties will be played on Sunday June 17, with neutral venues to be decided.

**Balliemore Cup  
semi-final draw**

The Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-final draw was made by Tom Uppington, Rita Cavan, Rosie Flanigan and Kerry MacDonald from sponsors Liberty British Aluminium.

Holders Fort William will face Glasgow Mid Argyll who beat Inverness 3-1 after extra-time in their quarter-final last weekend.

2016 winners Kilmallie play Beaully who lifted the trophy in 2015.

The draw is:

Fort William v Glasgow MA

Beaully v Kilmallie

The ties are scheduled to be played on Saturday June 23 at neutral venues to be confirmed.



Lochaber's Ryan Johnstone and Newtonmore's Drew Macdonald in action during their Camanachd Cup tie at Spean Bridge.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

All systems go for Lafferty Cup - page 72

Awards night at Oban Lorne - pages 74 and 75

# Sun shines on Rotary Club of Oban Am-Am

## McPhee takes four points in Mugello fightback

The sixth round of the Moto 3 World Championship took place in Italy last weekend and began in a positive way for John McPhee who finished 6th in FP1. Despite a difficult qualifying session, John made an impressive catch-up during the race, scoring four more points in the Championship.

In the free practises, John quickly found very promising sensations on the bike and made good timings on Friday. After a complicated session on Saturday morning, he classified in 14th position in the cumulative free practises. He finished the race in 12th place.

John said: 'We had a difficult weekend: we were regularly in the top 10 during practises and warm up and we have the speed to fight with the front riders. However, the qualifying remains the sticking point. I will focus on this aspect for the next races to be able to start in the first rows in the Catalunya GP and fight it out in the head group.'

## Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints v East Kilbride Rolls Royce, unfulfilled. Rolls Royce unable to field a team.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Port Glasgow OBU.



# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Rotary president Tommy McQuade, left, and Oban Times group operations director Keith McIntyre, second left, congratulate Oban Camanachd C.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Sunday saw 128 golfers in 42 teams compete in the annual charity golf competition run by the Rotary Club of Oban.

The weather was glorious for the 33rd Am-Am tournament and showed Glencruitten golf course at its best with some excellent scores being made.

The winners of The Oban Times Cup were Camanachd C with 93 points. Second, winning the PDK Shellfish Trophy, were D and A Munn with 92 points, and third, winning the Bank of Scotland Cup, were Stuart Livingstone Joiners with 91 points.

President Tommy McQuade of Oban Rotary Club thanked everyone for their support and for the substantial sums raised for local good causes.

The full results and prizes were as follows.

Nearest to the pin: 2nd: Jim Muir; 3rd: Neil Fraser; 5th:

Chris Eccelston, 13th: Daniel MacVicar, 15th: Kenny MacLeod, 17th: I MacColl.

Leading visiting team - prize £60, sponsored by James Smith and Co (Connel) Ltd: Munro's Garage, 89 points, Calum Munro £15, Paul Walton £15, Cameron Munro

£15, Richard Bergrant £15.

Coloured ball competition - prize £60, sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd: Oban Memorials, 59 points, Alistair MacLean £15, Dougie MacIntyre £15, Graham

Continued on pages 72 and 73



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# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8410

Thursday 7 June, 2018

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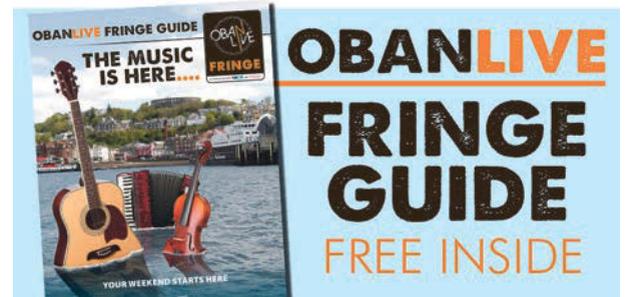
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FREE INSIDE

# Needless red tape slammed

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council's handling of a community application for a small amount of grant money for local Lochaber groups is now being blamed for damaging the relationship between local Lochaber council officials and the communities they serve.

The blistering condemnation came from John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, in the yearly chairman's address to the community council's annual general meeting on Tuesday night.

Mr Fotheringham reminded those attending the AGM that in last year's chairman's report he had identified the fact that, despite the community council's willingness to engage with many private and public bodies over issues

of local concern, they had not reciprocated and this had led to a sense of frustration for the community council.

And Mr Fotheringham said the situation had not improved during the course of 2018.

'Bodies like Highland Council, who profess to want to embrace local democracy, have at the same time thwarted the very principle they seek to address,' he said in reference to the recent budget decision to slash community council funding by more than 50 percent.

Mr Fotheringham singled out the recent row before Christmas when the community council's application last year for £1,000 from the local authority's Ward Discretionary Fund was refused.

The community council

Continued on page two

## Animal magic in Ballachulish



Young members of Ballachulish Baby and Toddler Playgroup welcomed rather more unusual visitors on Friday, when staff from live animal handling experience company ZooLab paid a call and brought along some of their exotic friends. Read more about this and see more photographs on page 22.

## Big change says small is beautiful

There are well-known old sayings that the best things come in small packages and that small is beautiful.

So we are confident regular and – we hope – new readers will like what they see with the completely redesigned Lochaber Times.

A lot of research among our readers and advertisers convinced us here at the Lochaber Times that you wanted us to change to this far more reader-friendly format, so that is what we have done.

A huge amount of work has gone into revamping the newspaper to give it this bold new look, but readers can rest assured all their favourite content is still here.

One big difference from going compact is that we now have built-in flexibility that will allow us even more space to cover all the local news, sport, business, entertainment and features that make the Lochaber Times unique.

And, of course, we will continue to publish everything we do online. In this modern age, you can subscribe from as little as 56p per week to get the full Lochaber Times on your computer, tablet or mobile devices.

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## A message from our publishers to all our readers

Welcome to the new format of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times.

We hope and believe you will find this a more convenient way to read all the extensive news and to observe the many useful local advertisements.

We are proud of the many reporters we have covering your areas and many thanks to our editor Susan Windram who leads the team for the

benefit of our all important readers.

As we have reported to you, it has only taken us 157 years to reach this decision which is based upon a recent survey of you, our readers, who voted by a majority in favour of the change.

Thank you for your interest and support for your local newspaper. We hope you enjoy your new style newspaper.  
**Howard and Joan Bennett.**

# Needless red tape slammed

Continued from page 1

intended to distribute the cash in small grants to local community groups for such activities as children's Christmas parties.

That refusal followed a knockback the previous year for another application.

In his address at Tuesday night's meeting, which was held in Kilmonivaig Church hall, Mr Fotheringham explained that after the rejection of the 2016/17 financial year application, an appeal saw it agreed that Highland Council ward managers would review the process and issue new guidelines.

'A year has now elapsed without any update, but Highland Council rejected this year's application on the grounds of insufficient information to allow proper monitoring of public money,' said Mr Fotheringham. 'A Freedom of Information inquiry revealed

no such monitoring took place prior to the conclusion of the event when we could provide the required information.'

The refusal and subsequent row led to the community council lodging a formal complaint with the Public Services Ombudsman.

Mr Fotheringham continued: 'The cost of the needless bureaucracy to uphold a misguided decision has not been quantified but undoubtedly squandered scant public resources and damaged the relationship between ward manager's staff and ourselves.'

Mr Fotheringham said the slashing of community council administrative grants was a 'direct attack' by Highland councillors and officials on those who sought to make a difference to their local communities, under the guise of addressing austerity.

Asked after the meeting if he felt concerned that a

community council in his area felt so aggrieved by its alleged treatment by Highland Council, Mr Henderson, who chairs Highland Council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, said it was not a situation he was happy with.

'Of course I am saddened that a community council feels that way. We don't want community councils to feel under-valued as they have a very important role to play in our local communities.'

After the meeting, Mr Fotheringham said Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council was not alone in its frustrations. He added: 'This was a kick in the teeth from Highland Council for our community. I sense a growing feeling among Highland community councils that they feel under-valued by certain elements at Highland Council.'

## Police hunt Fort shop raiders

Police in Lochaber are appealing for information following a break-in at a shop in Fort William.

Entry was gained to the premises on the town's High Street some time between 4.30pm on Saturday June 2 and 11.30am on Monday June 4.

A quantity of cash in double figures was stolen along with alcohol. Damage was caused to the shop's interior.

Detective Sergeant Andy Bilton said: 'Our inquiries into the incident are ongoing and I would urge anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area to get in touch as soon as possible.'

'You can contact officers in Fort William by calling 101, quoting reference NP2680/18, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

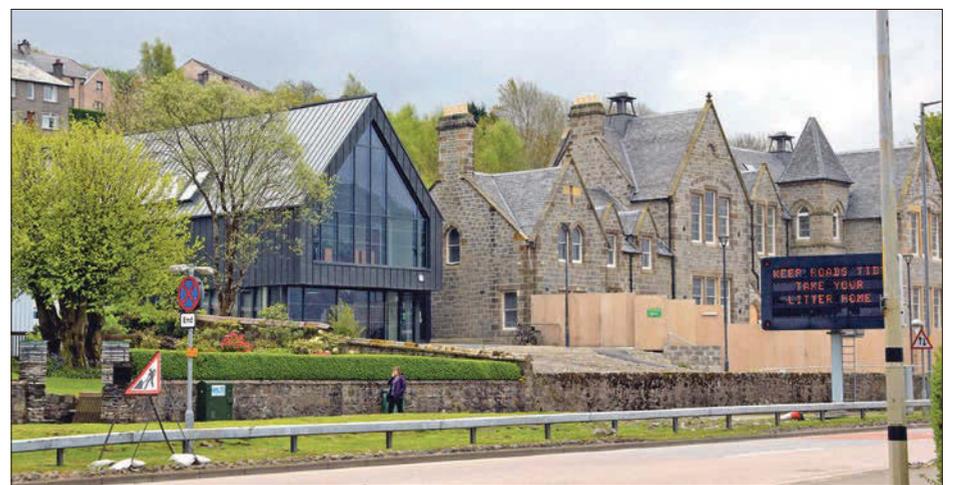
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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



The Charles Kennedy Building in Fort William where last week bright sunshine streaming through large glass windows forced staff to put up brollies indoors to create shade. Council Offices 01

## Sun brings out the brollies inside new council offices

Recent glorious sunny weather may have brought smiles to faces across Lochaber, but it forced staff of Highland Council's new offices in Fort William to use umbrellas to shield themselves from strong sunlight.

The council's Charles Kennedy Building, which staff moved into last week from their former home in Lochaber House, has a large glass-fronted extension.

Although Fort William is

classified as the UK's wettest town, with rain usually falling on average just over 201 days a year, according to the Met Office, last week's bright sunshine and temperatures in the mid-20s saw staff putting up brollies to create shade.

The local authority said arrangements were 'in hand' to cover the glass with a special film and fit curtains or blinds. Asked to comment, Highland Council told the Lochaber Times this week:

'There is a lot of glass in the building and, as it was extra sunny last week, some staff put up umbrellas to work under.'

The new council building was named after former MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, Charles Kennedy, who died in 2015.

The council office project has breathed new life into the listed former school building which had lain empty for 25 years.

# Timing of roadworks a 'mystery' to councillor

## Short-term roundabout 'fix' co-incides with tourist season

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The timing of overnight roadworks aimed at combating congestion on the A82 in Fort William has been labelled a 'mystery' by a local councillor.

Residents received a letter from BEAR Scotland last week outlining its plans to widen the northbound approach to the Nevis Bridge roundabout to two lanes to alleviate the 'bottleneck' which ground the town to a halt last summer during the peak tourist season.

The work will start on Sunday June 17 for up to eight nights from 7pm to 6am. The road will remain open using three-way traffic lights.

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter has ques-

tioned the timing of the roadworks, which coincides with the start of this year's summer tourist season.

He said: 'Transport Scotland scheduling remains a mystery to me. It's as though someone in a dark office in Edinburgh stabs a pin into a calendar and always comes up with the most inconvenient dates possible. However, in the past, objection has led to cancellation. I wouldn't want that to happen to this short-term fix.'

Mr Baxter explained problems with congestion in Fort William are partly caused by southbound traffic hesitating at the bridge roundabout which, although just for a few seconds, can cause bunching and tailbacks along North Road.

'I hope this alleviates the



The northbound approach at Nevis Bridge roundabout will be widened to two lanes. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

problem,' added Mr Baxter, 'but Transport Scotland shouldn't think this solves all the issues. With Liberty expanding and houses proposed for Blar Mhor, we need the A82 realigned to take traffic away from the Nevis Bridge bottleneck. I will continue to push for that with Scottish Ministers.'

Kate Forbes MSP said reducing congestion in Fort William has been a priority over the winter and spring.

She explained: 'Together with councillors and local residents, we have been working with Transport Scotland on short-term work to relieve the worst of the congestion. Although I'd have liked this

work to have started earlier in the year, there was a surprising number of aspects to sort out before work could start.

'The long-term solution is a new road and consultants are currently drawing up options. None of these things can happen overnight, particularly when businesses and residents are affected. I hope it is assuring to frustrated drivers that we have been working hard to put a short-term solution in place and have further plans to alleviate congestion.'

Last summer, Fort William roads ground to a halt during July and August, with regular tailbacks of up to seven miles on the A82.

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford said: 'I am glad to hear some action to address at least part of this problem is under way.'

## YOURVIEW



Gladys Johnston, of Spean Bridge, worked for The Oban Times for more than 40 years: 'It's fantastic news – about time. It's been something I've wanted to see for years and will be a great boost for elderly readers who often struggle to handle a broadsheet. The new compact size will be ideal for them.'

## GETINTOUCH

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## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Nether Lochaber Community Council will hold its annual general meeting tonight (Thursday June 7) in the village hall from 7pm.

■ To mark Dementia Awareness Week Scotland from June 4 to 10, Kinlochleven, Glencoe, Onich and Duror will be holding a 'Cuppa & Cupcake' fundraiser to coincide with an event on June 8 in Ballachulish Hall, from noon-4.30pm. The event is being held in conjunction with Ballachulish Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group and Abbeyfield.

■ Glenfinnan Community Council will hold its annual general meeting on Sunday June 10 at 3pm in Glenfinnan House Hotel.

■ A car boot sale will be held in aid of the Lochaber Supports Refugees charity on Sunday June 10 from 10am to 2pm in Caol Community Centre. Contact Lorraine on 07470 219328 to book a table, £5 each.

■ Two blood donor sessions will be held in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on June 13 from 1.30-4pm and 5.30-7.45pm. Bookings must be made by 4pm the day prior to the session by calling 03459 090999.



Mr Maguire was found injured in Achintore Road in the early hours of Sunday May 13.

## Glasgow man in court over Fort death

A 41-year-old Glasgow man appeared in private at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday this week in connection with the death of Bishopbriggs man Mark Maguire.

John McLean made no plea to a charge of culpable

homicide and was committed for further examination and released on bail.

Mr Maguire, 44, was found injured in Achintore Road, Fort William, in the early hours of Sunday May 13 and later died in hospital in Glasgow.



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## Body found during search for missing walker

Police Scotland has confirmed that the body of a man has been found during searches in the Knoydart area.

The family of Ian Stalker, 65, from Edinburgh, has been informed.

He was reported overdue on Wednesday May 30 from a walk in the area the previous day.

The body was recovered during searches by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Helicopter Rescue 951 and personnel from Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Sergeant Keith Almond said: 'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time. There are no suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# Taser cops 'not what needed' in Lochaber

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Moves by Police Scotland to deploy more officers specially trained in the use of tasers have been decried as a waste of money at a time when areas including Lochaber need more resources put into community policing.

Although Police Scotland told the Lochaber Times

that for operational reasons it could not confirm how many of the 500 officers being trained in the use of tasers will be based in Fort William or the rest of Lochaber, it has been acknowledged the Specially Trained Officers (STOs) will be deployed in urban and rural communities across Scotland.

Chief Superintendent Matt Richards said: 'Due to the in-

creasing number of incidents officers are attending where people are armed with bladed weapons and the growing number of assaults on police officers, it is necessary for us to take steps to improve our ability to keep the public and officers safe. The officers will be fully trained in the use and safe keeping of the taser and there will also be a focus on dealing with vulnerable

people and identifying risks to ensure the deployment of tasers is proportionate and safe. These officers will be deployed in all 13 divisions across Scotland.

But despite all these assurances, Iain Jenner, chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council, says what areas like his need are more community-based officers on patrol locally.

'I seriously question the validity of doing this at a time they can't find the funds for badly-needed emergency action teams for incidents, such as serious road accidents,' Mr Jenner told the Lochaber Times. 'Roads are often closed for hours to allow for specialist teams to come from outwith the area. It strikes me as just another example of centralised decision making.'



The statue wrapped in the UN flag. Photograph: Brian Carey.

## Fort statue draped in UN flag to highlight conflicts

It was described as a 'message for the United Nations' by its creator, controversial Auchinleck artist and photographer Brian Carey.

Mr Carey had draped the statue of the West Highland Way walker, nicknamed locally as 'Sair Feet' and located in the town's Gordon Square, in the flag of the UN last week.

It was part of an on-going campaign by Mr Carey to highlight the plight of ordinary citizens in conflict-beset countries, such as Syria and Yemen, and in which military forces from various countries have been involved. As well as using the UN flag, Mr

Carey also spelt out the names of Syria and Yemen with the symbolic use of discarded plastic letters which had previously used in funerals in the UK.

Mr Carey has created artworks in the past to mark the deaths of UK soldiers abroad, as well as the plight of refugees, the issue of Palestine, Manchester bombing victims and the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy.

Mr Carey told the Lochaber Times that each summer he tackles a particular issue: 'The feedback has been pretty positive with the installation in Fort William. People seem to appreciate what I am trying to do,' he said.

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## Council welcomes schools early learning and childcare expansion trial for region

Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar (BSGL) and Kyle Primary School nursery are two of six Highland schools which will see the trial expansion of early learning and childcare in a move welcomed by members of Highland Council's Care, Learning and Housing Committee last week.

The aim of the expansion is to provide high quality, flexible early learning and childcare that is accessible and affordable for families.

The Scottish Government is committed to nearly doubling the entitlement of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) to 1,140 hours a year for 2020 for all three- and four-year-olds and eligible two-year-olds.

Highland Council, as part of this phased expansion, is trialling 1,140 hours from August in the six centres.

As well as Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar (BSGL) at Caol, and Kyle Primary, the others are Merkinch Primary School Nursery, Merkinch



Councillor Andrew Baxter.

Family Centre, Fliperz Day Care Centre and Obsdale Primary School.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, Chair of the Care, Learning and Housing Committee, as well as Lochaber Area Committee, said expanding early learning and childcare provision supports the council's programme commitment to 'provide services that support all our children to have the best start in life'.

Mr Baxter added: 'This is great news for children, parents and families in the trial centre communities. In addition to improving early learning it also enable parents and carers to get back into the

work place hence boosting our local economies.

'Members will be asked to consider more centres throughout the Highlands moving to 1,140 hours in August 2019 based on the level of funding Highland received from the Scottish Government next year.'

Councillors welcomed the multi-year funding allocations to deliver the expansion of 1,140 hours by 2020, of £26.469m recurring funding for service delivery and funding of £32.590m to enable capital works to go ahead.

Bill Alexander, director of Care and Learning, commented: 'This is a welcome development, of great benefit to children and families. It will enable the council to support the development and learning of children and assist with closing the attainment gap.'

'The funding will also be used to employ graduate staff to provide additional support to children in nurseries in areas of deprivation.'

## CalMac just the ticket for young people

Ferry operator CalMac is supporting the Year of Young People (YoYP) 2018 with two new ticket initiatives.

Driven by the new CalMac Community and Stakeholder Engagement directorate, a survey was carried out to establish schemes to support YoYP 2018, in addition to those already in place.

Feedback from the CalMac Community Board showed ticketing support as a key theme and the decision was taken to contribute to the work of the YoYP Ambassadors by offering incentives to get out and explore Scotland.

Around 500 YoYP 2018 ambassadors have been recruited to make sure young people and organisations in local communities all over the country know about YoYP 2018 activities and events.

Ambassadors residing within the islands CalMac serves are being supported with free vouchers to YoYP events and all other YoYP Ambassadors, including those on the mainland, will be supplied with a 50 per cent off travel voucher.

YoYP 2018 is a celebration of the nation's young people and a platform to give them a stronger voice on issues that affect their lives and showcase their talents and achievements.

'We're fully behind the Year of Young People and are keen to use our network to spread the word about what's happening as much as possible,' said CalMac's director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Brian Fulton.

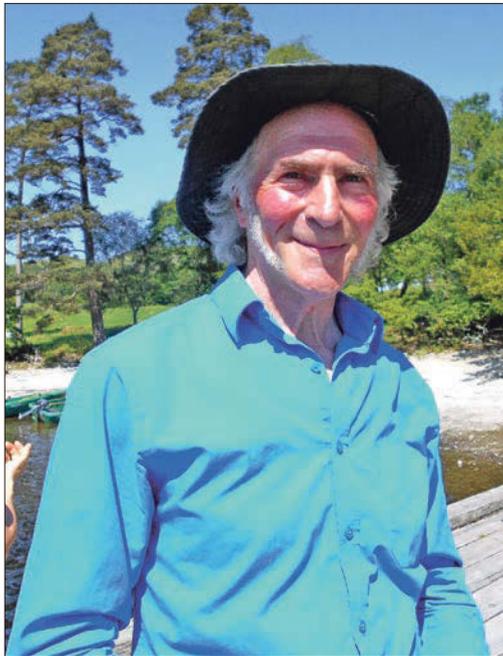
'As a key connector of island communities, we are ideally placed to help ensure our young people, no matter where they are, can get involved.'

'It is a privilege to support the YoYP 2018 Ambassadors and all the hard work they are doing alongside thousands of other young Scots. We hope this small gesture will make it easier for them to get to Year of Young People events.'

'Thanks also to Young Scot for all the support it has given us in getting this initiative up and running.'

Louise Macdonald, chief executive of Young Scot, said: 'It's brilliant CalMac is embracing the spirit of the Year of Young People 2018 by offering this fantastic discount.'

'We want to reach all young people all over Scotland so having a discount like this helps young people get involved in the celebrations.'



Jim Michie is retiring from Loch Shiel Cruises after more than 20 years at the helm. Photograph: Gladys Johnston.



The Bon Accord Band with Allan Smith, far left, of the Clyde Valley Band. Photograph: Gladys Johnston.



Crew member Ben MacDonald, left, and new owner of Loch Shiel Cruises Aly Monsef. Photograph: Gladys Johnston.



Roddy Matthews from Northumberland organised the trip and even got the chance to play a few tunes on the fiddle. Photograph: Gladys Johnston.

# Special cruise marks skipper's retirement

Music and merriment was plentiful on board the MV Sileas last Monday as the Glenfinnan-based vessel took a historic trip down Loch Shiel.

On the evening of Monday May 28, friends were invited to special cruise from Glenfinnan to Dalilea pier to mark the last trip skippered by owner Jim Michie, who has retired from running Loch Shiel Cruises.

The cruise was also one of the first for new owner Aly Monsef, who will be aided by new crew member Ben MacDonald.

Jim has more than 20 years' experience of taking visitors to Glenfinnan on cruises of Loch Shiel on board the 50-passenger MV Sileas.

On a beautiful sunny day, a most enjoyable trip was had by those invited on board as music

from the Bon Accord Band and Allan Smith of Clyde Valley Band had passengers tapping their feet.

The trip was organised by fiddler Roddy Matthews, from Northumberland, who invited friends from Glenuin, Roshven, Glenfinnan, Lochailort and Spean Bridge.

Roddy was thanked by everyone involved for organising the evening.

## Council budget leader warns of tougher decisions to tackle overspend

Highland Council Budget Leader Councillor Alister Mackinnon has warned that even tougher decisions are to come to tackle the local authority's overspend.

Councillor Mackinnon said the overspend showed the extent to which successive budget reductions and council tax freezes meant the authority had no wriggle room to manage significant pressures in demand-led services, such as supporting children with additional support needs.

Speaking at Highland Council's Corporate Resources Committee recently, he said: 'We have done everything we can to protect front line services and particularly services to children and young people.'

'That is why our focus has been on finding ways to increase income, such as car parking, or ways to reduce expenditure in areas

where we have no statutory responsibility.

'I know not everyone supports these measures, but today's report should leave no one in any doubt that we have to deliver these commitments and also look for additional ways in which we can meet current and future budget challenges.'

'Personally, I see no prospect of the budget situation improving and I fear there are even tougher decisions ahead of us and we all have to acknowledge that.'

And the council's deputy chief executive and director of Corporate Resources, Derek Yule, said it was very rare for the council to return an overspend and issued a warning that the council's elected members should see this as a 'wake up call and recognise the need to make tough decisions about where to cut services... and to stick by those decisions.'

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## New Onich picnic site opened by special guest Ruet Deas

Nether Lochaber now has a new landmark with the recent opening of its new Onich picnic site, christened Camus à Chòis (Bay of the Nook), writes Mark Entwistle.

The project was a mammoth community effort that transformed an area of scrub land adjacent to the filling station.

Nether Lochaber Community Association, which was behind the project, said: 'Thank you so much to all of you who attended and to all who made the day possible, from bakers to flower planters, tea and coffee makers to bunting dressers and thank-you-card creator.

'Without you it just does not happen. Thank you also to the folk who put in the graft and heft to transform a scrubland corner into what we are all beginning to see the true and beautiful potential of.'

Ruet Deas and Kate Ward were the distinguished guests who kindly cut the ribbon.

Ruet, who is now in her 100th year, came from Dollar with her daughter Evelyn Roe, to join residents for their cele-



Ruet Deas and Kate Ward who cut the ribbon.

bration, which was blessed by kind weather as well as shared memories and reunions.

Ruet's links with the area run deep.

Her family originally moved to Onich in the 1930s, where her father, James, was involved with the starting of a new quarry in the mid-1930s.

After marrying Frank Roe in 1944 and spending periods in Kinlochleven and Falkirk, Ruet and her family moved to Fort William.

And the story comes full circle as the new picnic area is situated on a flat site originally constructed in 1938 by Ruet's father, James Deas.

# Free public wifi rolled out in Fort William

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William now has access to free wifi in and around the centre of the town thanks to a project led by Highland Council and funded by the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal.

The free wifi, called High-Fi, is aimed at stimulating economic growth and will increase digital inclusion across the Highlands. Easy access to digital connectivity is seen as essential if the region is to be innovative and keep its competitive place in the tourism market.

Fort William is among the first of the 14 towns to get free wifi.

Chairman of the Lochaber committee councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'This



Lochaber councillors launch the free public wifi service.

project is fantastic news for Fort William and I am sure it will be welcomed by everyone who lives here, as well as our many thousands of visitors.

'The free access to wifi will enable visitors and locals to check what's on, where to visit in Lochaber, opening hours, accommodation and prices, as well as finding local jobs and keeping in touch with family and friends.

'High-Fi will be great for posting photos of the area

on social media and helping to promote the town and all this region offers to the wider world.'

The council's contractor Rapier also supplied free wifi for the Mountain Bike World Cup last weekend in Fort William.

To turn on Fort William wifi, look for FORTWILLIAM\_WiFi\_Free (High-Fi), and log on with either your social media details or by entering your email address.

## Education improvements welcomed

The work of Highland Council's care and learning service to provide sustainable quality education in Highland communities was endorsed last week by members of the local authority's care, learning and housing committee.

Members gave their approval to the reframing of the previous management in schools programme to an updated and revised sustainable education in Highlands programme.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, chairman of the care, learning and housing committee, and Lochaber area committee said he was pleased to see that the sustainable education in Highlands programme was moving forward with drive and determination.

He added: 'This reflects the council's programme priority to protect the delivery of education in our schools by implementing an ambitious schools' management programme to support our head teachers and staff, securing long-term sustainability, especially in our rural communities.'

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## Council team praised for Gaelic and cultural developments

The work of Highland Council's Gaelic team and the significant Gaelic and cultural developments they are providing has been commended by members of Highland Council's corporate resources committee.

Councillor Alister Mackinnon, chairman of the committee and the council's Gaelic implementation group, said: 'I am very pleased at the progress and range of our Gaelic developments at Highland Council, which is extremely encouraging for

our commitment to the promotion of the language and culture. I would like to highlight the great news that our bid to host the Celtic Media Festival has been successful.

'It was an honour to be at this year's festival in Llanelli to hear the intimation of our success - well done, and thanks to our team for all the work devoted to this bid.

'We are also pleased to hear that our third Gaelic language plan has been well received by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and we look forward to continuing to work

closely with it to promote the language.

'It is also very encouraging to note that our council has submitted 12 projects for funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig as part of its Gaelic Language Act implementation fund - an impressively varied range of projects reflecting the strength of Gaelic across Highland. I am very grateful to our team for all their efforts on this sizeable task. The outcome of our bids will be known at the beginning of July.'

## VIEW FROM the chamber

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce was delighted to welcome Fergus Ewing MSP to a special members' lunch on Friday June 1.

The lunch was timed to fit in with Mr Ewing's busy schedule, which included opening Marine Harvest's new £26.5 million hatchery in Inchmore, Glenmoriston.

Around 25 members took the opportunity to join Mr Ewing,

and senior officials from Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for a relaxed meal at the Moorings Hotel.

To allow all members to discuss their issues directly with him, Mr Ewing moved around the tables, chatting to guests on each. This 'progressive lunch' approach worked well and meant everyone had a chance to meet Mr Ewing.

As the Scottish Minister responsible for connectivity and the rural economy, Mr Ewing was keen to hear from



members on issues and challenges they face with regard to the transport network and internet access, both important topics for businesses.

Mr Ewing told members the Scottish Government has begun a public consultation on the demand for mains gas supply to Fort William. If you're a local resident and would like to take part, visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) and click on our 'News' section.

Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) or call 01397 705 765.

# Invergarry pupils lobby police over village speed limit

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

As part of Invergarry Primary School's community theme week, P1-3 held a Go Slow Keep It Low campaign outside the school to help Glengarry Community Council in its efforts to reduce the speed on the village roads.

Pupils stood outside their school last week with placards urging drivers to slow down while passing through the village.

The children also wrote to the police to ask for officers to go to the school with a speed gun and BEAR Scotland to ask for a radar flashing speed sign in the village. Unfortunately, all their efforts were in vain as two days later a speeding car caused a head-on collision which closed the road right



outside the school gate.

After discussing the needs of different groups in their community, P4-7 created an action plan based on the community council meeting minutes and created various projects to help. The pupils organised a community clear-up day and with the help of parents tidied up the post office layby and surrounding footpaths.

They contacted local businesses and clubs to help update the Glengarry Life website and got in touch with the council about providing a dog mess bin and a ramp entrance to the park.

They also included the wildlife community, making some lovely habitats for the playground as well as some informational posters for tourists.



Above, Invergarry Primary School pupils campaign outside the school to try and reduce the speed on the village roads; and left, P4-7 helped spruce up the village.

## YOURVIEW



Personal assistant Marina Ewart, 56, from Oban said: 'It's fantastic, it's brilliant. When it was big, it was a bit of a nuisance trying to read it, especially in the garden.'



Taynuilt community councillor David Thompson, 67, said: 'Compact is a great idea. I've been reading The Oban Times for 50 years and look forward to many years more.'



Tobermory RNLI were blessed with glorious sunshine for their barbecue.

## Busy month for Tobermory RNLI team

Tobermory RNLI's fundraisers have achieved a huge May day boost through the generosity of locals and visitors on Mull, rounding off a busy month for the lifeboat station.

This year's RNLI May day campaign had the strapline 'Do your bit, fund our kit' and Tobermory RNLI's fundraisers ran a series of successful events to do their bit.

A total of £1,435 was raised through events at Tobermory primary and high schools, a family fun day at the Aros Hall and street collections. These funds will go towards buying life-saving kit for the crews.

The crew also got to say thanks to the fundraisers, shop and education volunteers and their families at a barbecue at the end of May in glorious sunshine.

During the event, Tobermory RNLI chairman Richard

Fairbairns surprised former fundraising chairwoman Carolyn McHaffie with an RNLI award recognising her hard work and leadership in re-establishing the fundraising group at the station. Carolyn received a framed commendation from the RNLI's chief executive, Paul Boissier. She is now the station's box secretary.

The crew has been busy offshore as well. On Thursday May 24, the lifeboat launched to go to the aid of a 13-metre yacht with five people on board that had engine failure in Craigaig harbour on the south coast of the Isle of Ulva.

The yacht's crew had attempted repairs but had been unsuccessful. With the calm conditions and proximity to the shore, it would have been impossible for the yacht to sail safely out of the narrow entrance.

Coxswain David McHaffie decided the safest way to assist was to secure the yacht with a stern tow in order to safely get the vessel out of the harbour. Once in open water, the tow was lengthened and the yacht was taken to the Ulva Ferry pontoon. The lifeboat returned to Tobermory where she was made ready for service some four hours after launching.

The station's volunteer community safety officer, Tony 'Kiwi' Spillane, ran another successful lifejacket clinic, this one for the first time on Iona, when 24 lifejackets were checked.

Tobermory RNLI operations manager Sam Jones said: 'This has been a busy period for all of our volunteers at the station. Well done to our hard-working fundraisers and thank you to our supporters who raised such a phenomenal sum.'

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YOURVIEW



Jim Watson, Seil: 'It is a great idea. It is more comfortable to read, and it will mean more pages. I could not hold the broadsheet up and it was difficult to close.'

MSP holds talks over transport

Scottish Conservative MSP Donald Cameron has led a round-table discussion involving campaign groups from across Scotland on the issue of accessible transport.

The meeting, which was attended by the Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf, was set up following a meeting Mr Cameron had with a constituent who raised concerns over lack of accessibility to buses in Lochaber.



Rory and Marc on the bungee run.



Miss Haeger and sponge throw.



Pupils strike a pose.

Fete raises £3,000

Lundavra Primary School in Fort William held its annual summer fete last week when pupils, parents and staff enjoyed a wide range of activities and events.

The summer fete is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year and last week's event saw the amazing total of £3,000 collected for school funds.

The school said the fete was extremely busy and that everyone had a 'fantastic' time.

Among the attractions were visits by Fort firefighters and ambulance staff with their vehicles. The money raised goes towards the cost of school trips.

All photographs by Abrightside Photography.



Mickey and Minnie make an appearance.



Face painting is always a hit with the youngsters.



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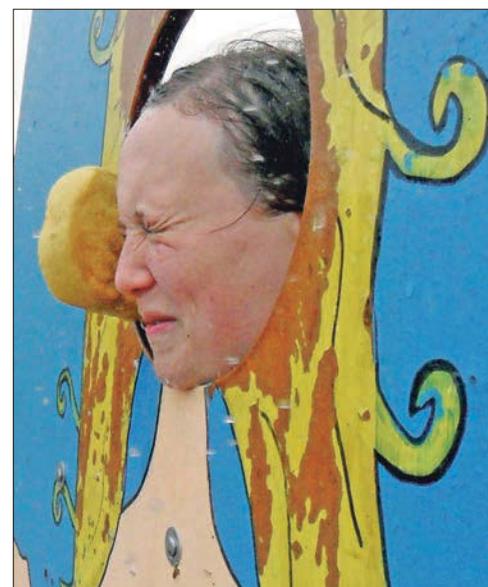
Ms Thomson was in charge of the lollipops.



Young Eilidh Ross clings on.



Ms Glen worked the tombola stall.



That's one in the eye for a sponge thrower.



Nathan and Charlie on the fire engine.



Little Issac with his face painted.

## Islands Bill is passed

MSPs unanimously passed Scotland's 'historic' Islands Bill after its stage three debate on Wednesday May 20.

Welcoming the vote, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar convener Norman A MacDonald said: 'The Bill is an opportunity to embed the principles that one size does not fit all.'

'Given the fragile nature of our islands' economies, the challenges of population retention and growth, and other financial and resource issues which impact disproportionately on islands, we believe that the Bill provides an opportunity for islands to help themselves by allowing the development of bespoke solutions on governance at the earliest opportunity.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan added that 'the first legislation for Scotland's islands' would help create conditions for them to 'grow and thrive'. He said: 'The legislation seeks to island-proof future policies to make sure they are workable, and to create a plan where the government has to set out priorities for island communities.'

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## Mountain safety scheme extended

Mountaineering Scotland and St John Scotland have committed to extending their safety partnership, which has seen hundreds of students learn potentially life-saving mountaineering skills.

Mountaineering Scotland has hosted the post of mountain safety instructor, which is funded by charity St John Scotland, since 2015. In that time, more than 340 young people from 12 university mountaineering, climbing and hillwalking clubs have received safety training led by experienced mountaineer Nick Carter.

Nick takes the courses in some of the country's most challenging mountain terrain, including the An Teallach area, Cairngorms, Glencoe, Creag Meagaidh and Lochaber.

To enable more young people to learn how to stay safe on the mountains, the partnership has been extended for a further two years.

Nick said: 'I enjoy working with the clubs, and helping them to learn to enjoy the Scottish mountains.'

# St Columba's fete rakes



One youngster watches his attempt to beat the goalie.



Estelle Gibb was so excited.

St Columba's RC Primary School at Caol has broken its fete fundraising record with this year's event garnering an amazing £5,003.12 at the last count on Monday before the Lochaber Times went to press.

Last week's event drew fantastic support from the community and a very gen-

erous array of donated prizes including everything from bicycles, steam train rides, whisky and hotel breaks up for grabs.

All the money raised by the fete goes towards covering the costs of educational trips for the youngsters throughout the year ahead.



Jessica Ann McDonald had a great time.

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## Fun in the sun at Inverlochy primary

May saw Inverlochy Primary School hold its annual fair and once again there was good support from parents and pupils for a fun-filled night. The Lochaber Times was on hand to capture some of the action and here are some of the images from the fair's fun run. More pictures online.



# in record-breaking sum



## MSP raises housing crisis in Holyrood

Kate Forbes MSP is due to raise today, June 7, in the Scottish Parliament chamber, during General Questions, the shortage of affordable Highland homes.

Last week a Highland Council report highlighted the general 'upward' trend of homelessness on the Isle of Skye which was creating 'considerable difficulties for the housing team'.

The MSP for Lochaber and Skye has scores of housing cases across her vast constituency, and anticipates more Scottish Government-funded homes becoming available by 2021 based on the 50,000 target.

Ms Forbes said: 'Housing is foundational to everything else - jobs, education and healthcare depend on people finding affordable housing.'

'While tourism is a good news story, it has put even more pressure on housing, particularly the rented sector where more money can be made. In light of that, it is critical that more housing is built in the right places. The Scottish Government has a target of 50,000 affordable homes. I'm keen that as many of those homes are built in the Highlands as possible.'

'Last month's announcement of 200 new affordable homes in Skye and Lochalsh was an absolutely brilliant start.'

Lochaber High School brass band entertained those who supported the fete.



Alex and Duncan tried out the climbing wall.



Lacey had her face painted and had a go in the fire engine.

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## Police detect 70 for A82 speeding

Traffic police stopped almost 200 vehicles over the weekend in Lochaber, with 70 drivers detected for speeding offences.

Officers based in the Highlands worked with colleagues from Argyll and Forth Valley to stop and speak to the drivers of 196 vehicles on the A82 in Lochaber over the course of the two days.

Eighty-seven offences were detected, 70 of which were related to speeding.

Road Policing Constable Iain Young said it was disappointing to have such a significant number of speeding offences detected in a single weekend, especially considering the volume of people using bicycles on and around the A82 during the mountain bike event at Fort William.

'Whilst the majority of drivers obey the speed limit, these 70 drivers we detected are breaking the law and putting others at risk,' he said.

'The A82 has a 60mph limit which is in place for the safety of all road users.'

## Health and safety charter renewed

Members of Highland Council's corporate resources committee last week witnessed the signing of the council and trade unions' Safety Representatives Charter and Partnership Agreement.

Renewed every three years, this is the fifth time the charter agreement has been co-signed by Highland Council's chief executive and union representatives since it was introduced in 2006.

The agreement sets out how both parties will work in partnership to meet legislative requirements and help ensure the health and safety of staff and others across the council area.

# Lochaber Transport Forum hears bus route concerns

Lochaber Transport Forum discussed the area's bus services at its May meeting.

Mike Cooper of Highland Council was asked to give an update on the current situation regarding services Stagecoach are giving up from Saturday June 30.

Mr Cooper passed around copies of the two routes which the council

is working on to provide continuous cover from Sunday July 1.

Route one is the Stagecoach 44 service, Fort William to Kinlochleven. The council asked operators to give a quote for journeys until Sunday August 19. Shiel Buses will provide a service which mainly operates every two hours.

This is less than at present but budg-

ets had to be re-arranged to provide this cover under contract.

The second route is the Stagecoach 41 service, Fort William to Roy Bridge.

Invitations are open to quote for this service. This is also a short contract until August 19 and closely follows the current timetable.

Highland Council will make the

current contracts held by Stagecoach available to re-tender and have them in place for the new school term starting on Tuesday August 21.

Concerns were raised at the meeting about the level of cuts being made to bus services in Lochaber and the type of vehicles that will be used, particularly whether they will be wheelchair accessible.

# Wind farm cash vital to future of rehab project

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A residential recovery programme for islanders with addiction would quickly become 'unsustainable' without the grant support it receives from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust, its manager has revealed.

The Hebrides Alpha Project received £15,000 from the trust last month – the latest instalment in a total of £45,000 since last year.

Shona MacLeod, Hebrides Alpha Project manager, said those involved with the project were 'so grateful' for the support from the trust, which goes towards basic running costs. It pays salaries and other administrative costs including travel.

It also amounts to nearly half the money Hebrides Alpha has to raise each year, just to keep the project going.

The money comes out of the profits from Point and Sandwick Trust's three turbine, community-owned



Shona MacLeod, Hebrides Alpha Project manager.

wind farm. Every penny raised goes back to the community to support good causes.

Point and Sandwick Trust has committed £30,000 a year to the Hebrides Alpha Project – one of its biggest commitments after Bethesda Care Home and Hospice, which gets £55,000 a year.

Speaking at Hebrides Alpha's residential unit in Upper Coll, Ms MacLeod

said the funding had made 'a massive difference' to the project.

'It has kept us able to sustain the project. Without it, we would be going further and further into debt and the project would soon become unsustainable financially.'

She added: 'What I really like about Point and Sandwick Trust is that it's supporting local charities. Bethesda and ourselves have

been set up to help local people. We don't take referrals from the mainland so it's very much local charities supporting local people and we appreciate the help from Point and Sandwick so much. It's a contribution to the well being of individuals in the local community.'

The Hebrides Alpha Project charity has been running since 2006. The residential unit opened in 2011 and incorporates an in-house recovery programme for up to six people with serious addiction.

It has a subsidiary business, Hebrides Alpha Trading, which offers window cleaning, power washing and other services to the public, providing employment to people taking part in the rehab project.

However, the trading arm does not contribute significant income, so the majority of finance has to be sought elsewhere.

'Hebrides Alpha Trading offers a valuable opportunity for people with addictions in terms of therapeutic em-

ployment and is an essential part of recovery,' said Ms MacLeod.

People taking part in the project are required to spend two days a week in employment, as well as attending a community self-help group.

Point and Sandwick Trust general manager Donald John MacSween said Hebrides Alpha was a key project, identified in the charity's community development plan.

'The Western Isles has one of the highest incidents of alcohol and drug use in the UK and Hebrides Alpha is providing a much-needed rehabilitation service, available locally for the first time,' he said.

Ms MacLeod said the project had seen a mix of experiences this year and last – which was usual.

'The best experience for us is to see residents benefiting from and enjoying the programme, remaining motivated to pick up their lives and abstaining from alcohol and drugs.'

'This brings us much joy,' she said.

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**EXPERTS IN THE FIELD**

# Animal magic as youngsters welcome 'visitors' from afar



A tarantula, snake, rat and an African land snail were the stars of the show on Friday when they visited Ballachulish's Rainbow Baby and Toddler Group.

The event, at Ballachulish Village Hall, was courtesy of the live animal experience company ZooLab.

One of ZooLab's rangers, Owen Johnston, introduced the youngsters to the various animals.

Pupils from the local nursery were also invited along to share in the fun which

was funded by a Co-op Local Community Fund grant.

Event organiser Meg Pollock said: 'It was great fun and the youngsters were all fascinated by the animals.'

The Rainbow Baby and Toddler Group meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in school term time from 9.30am to 11.30 am, at Ballachulish Village Hall.

All under fives and their parents/carers are welcome.

For more information, call Meg on 07887 837648 (daytime).



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# Pupils feel t inter-school

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Eighteen schools from across Lochaber brought more than 200 children to the Lochaber Primaries Inter-School Swimming Gala and Athletics Competition on Tuesday May 29.

The event, organised annually by High Life Highland staff from Lochaber Leisure Centre and the Active Schools team, along with Lochaber PE teachers, comprises various disciplines and gives youngsters a chance to compete in a variety of sports.

The smooth running of the day is helped by a team of S1-3 and senior pupils from Lochaber High School who were supported by PE head of department Yvonne Clark.

The day began at Lochaber Leisure Centre where the children raced individual 25-metre heats and 50m

finals in front crawl, breast stroke and back crawl. The gala also includes a four by 25m team relay. This year saw some very impressive swims as three records were broken with Iona Dignan from Inverloch taking Evie Clark's record in the breast-stroke, with a new time of 42:62.

Alex Atkinson, also from Inverloch, won the breast-stroke race last year and he was able to repeat the win this year and also beat the long-standing record by two seconds, in a new time of 44:87.

The final record broken was by Sean Troy Cann, Banavie, who swam the 50m front crawl in 35:00.

The winner of the girls' front crawl was Andzelina Gerasimuka from Lundavra, a stunning result from a pupil who is still only in P4. In the back crawl races, no records were broken, but Elizabeth Morgan and Rio

Bell, both from Lundavra, took the wins. A trophy was also awarded for the pupil who improved most in school swimming lessons. This went to Kacey Clark from Lundavra.

The schools attending the competition each year are split into categories of small, medium and large schools according to their student roll. Points are awarded for each event and collated to produce the winners.

In the small schools swimming trophy competition, first place went to Invergarry, second was Lady Lovat and in third place was Localine.

In the medium schools, first placed was Mallaig, second was St Columba's and in third was Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar. For the large schools, in first it was Lundavra, second place went to Inverloch and third was Banavie.

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**Clockwise from top left: quick off the line in the boys' 100m sprint JP F23 Inter Schools 01; Lundavra Primary School with their trophy haul at the inter-school sports day JP F23 Inter Schools 08; Caol Primary School took first place in the best overall large school JP F23 Inter Schools 04; Invergarry Primary School won best overall small school of the day JP F23 Inter Schools 07; below, friends enjoying the glorious sunshine JP F23 Inter Schools 05; Swimmers compete in the pool. JP F23 Inter Schools 06; girls competing in the 200m JP F23 Inter Schools 02. All photos by Abrightside Photography.**

## Banavie fun night thanks

Banavie Parent Council wants to thank all those who helped make the local primary school's recent fun night such a fantastic success.

'We raised the tremendous sum of £2,300 which was only made possible because of the generosity of all those who contributed to and attended the event,' said a spokesperson.

## Fort eaterie picks up national award

A Fort William business was celebrating this week after being crowned a winner at the Scottish Hospitality Awards for 2018.

Fort William's Stables Restaurant and Grill scooped the overall award for Restaurant of the Year, as well as collecting the award for Restaurant of the Year North category at the glittering social event last week in Glasgow.

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# The heat at sports day

the event moved to Claggan Park as competition got under way in the hurdles, followed by the 100m sprint, 200m run and team relays on the track. On the field, there was shot putt and long jump competitions. In the shot putt, the boys' victor was Alasdair MacGillivray from Spean Bridge with a throw of 7.81m.

The girls' competition was won by Chiara Harper from Caol with a great throw of 6.77m.

In the long jump competition for the girls, the medal for first place went to Elizabeth Morgan of Lundavra with a comfortable win, and a jump of 3.19m. The boys' winner was Charlie Vance, also from Lundavra, by a slim margin



of 2cm. Onto the track events, and it was here that cameras on the finish line came in handy, with more than one photo finish. To qualify for the finals, the children were racing for the fastest times in their heats which meant the races were tight. The six fastest children from all of the heats went through to the finals. In the hurdles, the winners were Millie Henderson from Caol and Sorley Swabey from Spean Bridge.

In the girls' 200m, Strontian runner Mya Carmichael took the win, repeating her success from last year.

The boys' winner was Ben Corner from Inverlochty school. In the 100m sprints, Anna Gray from Banavie

and Sorley Swabey were victors. In the overall athletics competition, the trophy for the small schools was won by Invergarry Primary with Glencoe in second and Strontian in third.

The medium schools' winner this year was St Columba's, with Acharacle in second and Ballachulish in third. The large school with the most points was Caol, with Lundavra in second and Inverlochty in third.

Active Schools coordinator Bridget Thomas said: 'Thanks and well done must go to all of the schools for travelling to the event and for holding out in the heat of the day; to Steven Martin senior, the team from Lochaber Leisure Centre, Active Schools and PE staff who ensured the day ran smoothly; to the high school pupils for timing the races; and to Lochaber Athletic Club for the loan of equipment.'



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\*Action on Hearing Loss

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## Islands MSP makes visit to Stornoway shellfish company

Islands MSP and Minister for International Development and Europe Alasdair Allan, visited MacDuff Shellfish in Stornoway recently to discuss concerns around Brexit.

The MSP heard directly from employees about their concerns around EU citizens' rights in the context of Brexit.

He also heard about what the main questions are for the business, in terms of maintaining its workforce.

Dr Allan said: 'This was a really useful opportunity to hear directly about the concerns EU workers have around Brexit.'

'For more than 18 months, EU citizens have been left with intolerable uncertainty

about their future. There are still many details to be clarified, and these will have real and significant impacts on individuals and their families.

'EU citizens need to have confidence that their rights will continue to be effectively protected.

'MacDuff is an important local employer and the vast majority of their employees originate from other European member states.

'Access to the European labour market is hugely important to them, as is seamless access to markets in the rest of Europe.

'In my view, the benefit which island businesses such

as MacDuff have from the freedom of movement of people at present underlines why it is so important that the UK retains membership of the European single market in the future.

'This visit was also a chance to reiterate on behalf of the Scottish Government that we greatly value the contribution of EU citizens living in the islands and Scotland as a whole.'

Alasdair Allan with Ruth Nicolson, manager at MacDuff Shellfish.



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# Skye man waits nearly two years for eye appointment

NHS Highland has apologised to a Skye man following his 23-month wait for a follow-up eye appointment.

Grahame Fish, 73, wrote to Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant when he realised he hadn't been called for his regular check-up since July 2016.

Mr Fish, from Glenhinnisdal, near Portree, has been diagnosed with ocular hypertension, for which he uses eye drops, but in the past eight years had operations for a retinal detachment and a retinal tear so gains reassurance from regular check-ups at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

After Mr Fish contacted the health authority in March this year to point out the error and Mrs Grant took up the case, it arranged an appointment for him and he was due to be seen on Tuesday May 29 by an orthoptist and then reviewed by a glaucoma specialist.

NHS Highland's chief executive's Elaine Mead admitted there was 'some discrepancy' in Mr Fish's electronic appointments which did say follow-ups should have been every six or 12 months.

She said delays were caused by 'a reduced staff level' due to 'recruiting difficulties across our ophthalmology services'.

'When I asked the reason for the huge backlog of appointments on this latest occasion, I was told it was down to the large number of patients

needing attention,' said Mr Fish, a retired librarian who formerly worked part-time as a school cleaner in Uig, Staffin and other primary schools.

'That is another way of saying there are not enough staff to deal with the case-load. While I'm glad I have an appointment at last, I am worried there are a lot of patients in a similar position but who do not complain. There will quite possibly be patients with undiagnosed problems that are gradually getting worse while they are on the waiting list.'

NHS Highland told Mr Fish it had just appointed a consultant in ophthalmology services with another due to start in August.

A representative from NHS Highland added: 'Despite a national shortage of consultant ophthalmologists and a number of vacant posts across Scotland, NHS Highland has just successfully recruited to a post vacant since 2015. The incoming consultant has a special interest in glaucoma and will start on August 1.'

'In addition, an oculoplastic consultant ophthalmologist was recently recruited on May 21, replacing a consultant who retired in December 2017. These appointments, along with a review of how services are delivered, will see a continued improvement in waiting times for new and return appointments.'



Site preparation for the new viewing platform was carried out in February by contractor John Gillies, Sartle.

## Work starts on new Skye gorge viewing platform

Attraction will showcase Trotternish landscape

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Construction work has started on a new viewing platform and car park at Lealt Gorge, Staffin, Skye.

Part of Staffin Community Trust's Skye ecomuseum project, it follows an unprecedented rise in the number of visitors in recent years which has put several scenic spots under serious pressure.

A viewing platform providing commanding views of two waterfalls, the Trotternish Ridge and across to Wester Ross and a new car park will be built.

It means access to the popular site and existing car park, off the A855 Staffin-Portree road, will be closed to the

public for four weeks. Geoff Freedman, an award-winning engineer, has designed the steel and timber platform. Mr Freedman, who is based in Lothian, is the former head of design for buildings and bridges at the Forestry Commission.

MacDonald Contracting Ltd was awarded the contract after a tendering process. The Inverness firm, owned by Scott MacDonald, is a specialist in erecting timber and steel structures and bridges and has worked across Scotland in other sensitive locations, including nature reserves, the Cairngorms National Park and woodlands.

The ecomuseum was first opened in Staffin a decade ago.

It is an outdoor museum

with 'no walls and a roofless sky' and includes footpaths across Staffin, interpretation and parking.

Staffin Community Trust believes the attraction will showcase Trotternish's landscape all year round and help local businesses. Scottish Natural Heritage is backing the platform as it will increase access and public appreciation of the Valtos Special Site of Scientific Interest.

Following a separate tendering process, Ian MacDonald of Staffin Groundworks was awarded the contract for a new 20-space car park, which will be supervised by experienced engineer Eric Faulds. The family firm is well known in Skye having worked on housing and other key infrastructure projects.

An economic report estimated the Staffin economy will be boosted by an additional visitor spend of £165,000 in the first year of the ecomuseum.

Trust chairman Sandy Ogilvie said: 'The construction of the new platform and car park at Lealt Falls places this project and the wider developments of the Skye ecomuseum firmly on the map as both a site and physical experience of national significance.'

Staffin Community Trust thanks the Lealt township and site owner Kilmuir Estate for their support.

The project has been backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund and SSE Sustainable Development.

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## Community spirit is blooming

Point and Sandwick Trust is always happy to support growth – and its donations to Mossend Residents' Association have done that, with nearly £2,000 going towards improvements at the little-known but lovely Bayview Community Gardens on the outskirts of Stornoway.

The gardens are tucked away between the Barratt houses near Plasterfield and are accessed by paths from Cnoc Iomhair (Ivorhill) or Redburn.

They've been growing for 10 years and are looked after by green-fingered members of the residents' association.

Popular with young and old residents, the area where the gardens have been developed was once waste land which was beginning to attract flytippers. But it has been steadily transformed and is now bringing the generations closer together as the residents' association has been working with a Gaelic medium class (primary 3/4 composite) from Stornoway Primary School on a community gardening project. The children, accompanied by class teacher Muriel Macleod, recently visited the gardens and were shown how to plant cabbages and potatoes by association committee members Donald Macleod and Ken Kennedy,



Bayview Community Gardens.

who is also the treasurer. Donald and Ken then accompanied the children to Maybury Gardens where they helped the youngsters choose plants for their plot at school and later went up to the school to help them with the planting.

Mr Macleod said: 'The children were talking away about all sorts of things and the more we see them, the more open they become.'

Ms Macleod said they had 'a fantastic day' at Bayview Community Gardens.

'We learned how to plant potatoes and cabbage.'

'It's lovely to see how a small community can come together and work so well as a group. We've really appreciated their help with our project. They've been great,' she said.

Point and Sandwick Trust, the com-

munity wind farm charity which runs the three turbines at Beinn Ghrideag, has given two donations to Mossend Residents' Association.

The first was for £999 in spring 2017 to help it create five raised beds. This allowed them to buy timber, compost and plants for the beds, which are now growing onions, leeks and strawberries.

Last month, the trust gave another £940, which went towards maintenance equipment including a new mower.

The area is leased from the council but operated by the residents, mainly those from Cnoc Iomhair and Airigh Ard. The association extends out and down to Steinister and Tolmie Terrace and up to Plasterfield, North Street and Sandwick.

The garden was created in 2008 and designed by the council's former landscape architect Robert Stubbington.

Councillor Angus McCormack was also instrumental as it was his idea to set up the association.

Mr McCormack commented: 'Not too many people know about it, but it's a lovely place to go. It's just a beautiful location and it's very calm and peaceful.'

## Islands Bill passes in Scottish Parliament

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the progress on the Islands (Scotland) Bill following the stage three debate and passing of the Bill in Parliament last week.

Comhairle convener Councillor Norman MacDonald said it was a historic and significant milestone for Scotland's islands and represented an excellent outcome for the Our Islands Our Future campaign run by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council.

'The Bill is an opportunity to embed the principles that 'one size does not fit all' and a recognition of the principle that equity and fairness may, on occasion, only be achieved by the adaptation of legislation, policy, strategy or services,' he said.

'We warmly welcome and strongly believe the commitments given today by the Minister for Transport and Islands Humza Yousaf MSP and his predecessor Derek Mackay MSP, which are reflected in the government's stage three amendments, strengthen this Bill.

'Given the fragile nature of our islands' economies, the challenges of population retention and growth and other financial and resource issues which impact disproportionately on islands, we believe the Bill provides an opportunity for islands to 'help themselves' by allowing the development of bespoke solutions on governance at the earliest possible opportunity.

'Moving forward from this historic achievement, the three island authorities and their partners are bringing forward proposals for an ambitious islands deal that will transform our economies and communities.'

'We are rightly proud of the unique contribution our islands make to the economic prosperity, cultural diversity and international reputation of Scotland and the United Kingdom but we recognise we can offer so much more with the right level of strategic investment.'

'Securing that investment through an islands deal is the focus for the next phase of collaboration between our three island authorities and we look forward to the strong support of the Scottish and UK governments.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan also welcomed the Bill's passage.

Mr Allan said: 'This historic legislation seeks to meet the unique needs of Scotland's islands now and in the future, helping to create the right environment for sustainable growth and empowering communities.'

'The measures included in the bill, along with the Scottish Government's existing work in transport, digital, housing and health, will contribute to the right conditions for island communities to grow and thrive'

'The legislation also seeks to 'island proof' future policies to make sure policies are workable in the islands and to create an islands plan where the government has to set out its priorities for island communities.'

'This is the first legislation for Scotland's islands and fulfils a key manifesto pledge of the SNP. I was very happy to see this piece of legislation pass.'

## Stornoway butcher awarded Eat Safe Award

A Stornoway butcher has earned the Eat Safe Award granted by the environmental health service of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in conjunction with Food Standards Scotland.

The award is available to all establishments selling food directly to consumers. The main aim of the scheme is to provide an incentive to food businesses to strive for food hygiene and food safety management standards beyond those required by law.

It also helps consumers make informed choices about where to eat out by providing a recognisable 'sign' of excellence in food hygiene stand-



Councillor Kenny John Macleod hands over the award to management and staff at Charles Macleod Butchers.

ards. Councillor Kenny John Macleod, chairman of the communities and housing committee, was delighted to hand over the award to management and staff at Charles

Macleod Butchers. Councillor Macleod commented: 'The Eat Safe award is only presented to businesses that have achieved hygiene standards beyond those required by law so their commitment has to be commended. I would encourage all businesses within the Outer Hebrides to aim for this award as it provides them with a valuable tool to reassure their customers of a continuing commitment to produce food safely.'

Eligible establishments are assessed for the award as part of scheduled food hygiene inspections undertaken by environmental health officers.

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# Biggest Oban mòd to date lives up to all the hype

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



It was dubbed the biggest Oban Provincial Mòd in recent times – and it certainly lived up to the expectations.

Friday saw hundreds of children, who were full of excitement thanks to a day off school and perfect weather conditions, make their way to various venues around Oban.

Every corner of the Corran Halls was being utilised, so much so that one of the competitions had to be moved and conducted in the bike shed outside.

However, no one seemed to mind. They were most likely glad to be getting a bit of the sunshine. In between competitions, children could be seen practising outside for up-coming events, or practising their football skills.

As well as the Corran Halls, youngsters also packed in to the Cathedral hall, the Scout hall and the Great Western Hotel.

Friday morning was all about the solo competitions, and badges were proudly put on display as competitors were presented with their prizes.

The highlight of the afternoon was the primary school

choirs, and it was Rockfield who shone in both categories.

However, adjudicator and president of the Royal National Mòd, and Lochaber Times columnist Allan Campbell said the standard was extremely high.

'You have done Oban Provincial Mòd proud,' he said to the competitors. 'But more importantly you have done yourselves and Gaelic proud. Thank you for that.'

Speaking to the Lochaber Times afterwards, Mr Campbell said: 'I feel encouraged by what I heard today. I feel encouraged by the standard of Gaelic I heard.'

'When you adjudicate at something like this and you find it extremely difficult to separate competitors it's usually a sign of quality and that's what we had here today.'

And while Friday was all about the children, on Saturday it was the adults' turn. Taking up residence in the new Oban High School, solo singers performed in the morning and in the afternoon it was back to the choirs.

Oban Gaelic Choir were in top form, winning the own choice and the puirt-a-beul, and Oban Ladies' Gaelic Choir also won the male or female voices competition.



Lochaber Primary School, who finished second in both the choir competitions.



Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich - Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir.

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Clockwise from left: Eva Bratton was second in the primary one conversation competition; Esma McLeod, aged seven, won the primary two poster competition; Feorlin Renton and Rosie Blyth, who finished first and second respectively in the nine-10 girls' own choice song; Olivia Gage, 10, from Rockfield Primary won the 11-12 learners' song; Bethan Neil, nine, had a successful day of singing and reciting poetry.

Kai Macmillan won second place in the seven to eight years poetry competition.

Erin Higgins, nine, won the poster and writing competitions for her age group.



Lochaber lads Calum MacKinnon, left, and Owen MacRaid – Owen won the boys' 9-10 own song singing competition and Calum finished second.



Laura Robertson, 12, from Lochaber High School, won various competitions throughout the day, including the 13-15 traditional, prescribed and own choice, as well as the conversation, and the over-all silver pendant.



Kieran MacIntyre, 11, won the writing in his age group, and finished third in the poster competition.



Marco MacGregor finished third in the 9-10 age category singing competition.



Mairi Inglis was a winner of the nine-10 years poetry competition.



Ruaridh MacLean won the seven-eight years fluent poetry competition.

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## LETTERS

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

It is difficult not to have sympathy with Councillor Andrew Baxter, who has articulately expressed what will be widespread frustration over the prospect of roadworks on the approach to Nevis Bridge in Fort William.

There is considerable merit to Councillor Baxter's point that Transport Scotland's timing is unfortunate, to say the least, given the imminent high season for a booming tourist industry in the Fort William area.

He is also correct to point out that the remedial work to widen the north-bound approach to the Nevis Bridge roundabout to two lanes to alleviate the 'bottleneck' which ground the town to a halt last summer during the peak tourist season is not a cure-all for the different problems that beset traffic in this part of the town.

However, the prospect of another high season plagued by the same crisis as last year is difficult to contemplate.

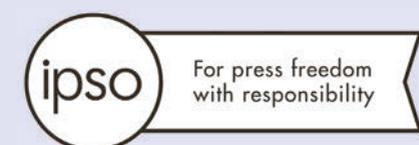
It would be intolerable for residents of the area to have to suffer the same difficulties in going about their daily business. And it would ultimately be bad for our hospitality and tourism sector if visitors were also forced to endure similar problems.

We want people to go back to their home towns and cities singing Lochaber's praises rather than complaining about traffic nightmares.

To that end, we welcome BEAR Scotland's overnight works to address the bottleneck at Nevis Bridge and trust it will lead to a significant improvement to traffic flow.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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Rural GP funding pledge is  
only for the short-term

Re Chairman moves to reassure patients over new GP contracts (The Oban Times, May 31), I find it unfortunate Dr Alan McDevitt has resorted to sugar-coating the real concerns of rural GPs and their patients, which are also being parked until a later date by the Scottish Government.

Dr McDevitt states 'claims of impending funding cuts are not true' and that rural practices' funding is protected. This in the short term, but only for three to five years when subsidies created by the new GP contract will be reassessed.

Under the new GP contract a 'work allocation system' is created in the contract. Around 80 per cent of GP practices in rural Scotland are on 'protected income status', but this has only been guaranteed for three to five years.

Dr McDevitt and the Scottish Government need to answer who will subsidise the rural practices after this three- to five-year trial? Will the ever-financially-stretched NHS be tasked with funding GPs? Or will the Scottish Government continue indefinitely to subsidise rural GPs?

If they had a clear plan, surely they would make it clear now. There is no cast-in-stone commitment to the long-term future of Scotland's health whatsoever. How can any aspiring GP or practising GPs see this as a sound business footing to work in rural areas of Scotland? It is not.

This new contract only seems to serve the self-interests of the board of the BMA approved by the Scottish Government to the detriment of Scotland.

If readers wish, they can visit a website that gives the real concerns of rural GPs and the unfactored challenges for GPs in rural areas. <https://ruralgp.scot/rememberrural/>

Angus Files,  
The Glebe, Kilmelford.

Community buyout of Ulva  
is funded by the taxpayer

Regarding Colin Morrison's letter in The Oban Times of May 31, I like would say that he is himself being 'facile and one-dimensional' over the sale of Ulva.

Jamie Howard, like most other individuals in Scotland, is not allowed the pleasure of accessing millions of pounds of taxpayers' money and there is a good chance that if the island had been left on the open market it would have raised more money for Mr Howard and his family.

The community buyout is, in fact, funded mainly by the taxpayer and it is obvious from other community buyouts that the future of Ulva will rely on much more free taxpayers' money in years to come to make it viable.

Mr Morrison's comment that the money goes to only one person, the departing owner, smacks of a rather nasty side to community buyouts.

Will Mr Morrison and those in this community buyout group be dipping their hands into



## YOUR PICTURES

We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase local people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

their own bank accounts to kickstart Ulva's future prosperity?

Or will they now be actively seeking grants and subsidies from the rest of the taxpayers in Scotland or our poor councils or other named bodies?

The group's website, [www.ulvabuyout.scot](http://www.ulvabuyout.scot), states: 'I believe that the people who live and work here are best placed to run the island.'

Wasn't Jamie Howard one of those people?  
Cyril Bonnett,  
Ballachulish.

Why try to attract people  
when there are no houses?

Your correspondent Colin Morrison describes the buyout of Ulva as transformational, and I am sure that it will be.

The only aspect with which I disagree is that it is the taxpayer that will be providing most of the funds.

Despite all of the support for the project that Mr Morrison applauds, I understand that £4.4

million came from the taxpayer and £37,500 from supporters.

That puts matters into perspective – £0.0375 million compared with £4.4 million!

I have studied the business plan to which he refers and it is all entirely speculative, and once again most of the money is to be from the taxpayer.

He states that 'repopulation is central to our plans precisely because of the acute lack of available housing in north-west Mull and Ulva'.

Surely this is a complete contradiction; why try to attract more people to the area when there are no houses for them? In fact, I know that at least one housing association is already planning to build more houses on Mull at various sites on the island.

In times past, islands such as Ulva supported a large population, but most of them lived in dire poverty.

Nowadays it would be much more sensible to locate people nearer to services that they will need, such as schools, shops and hospitals. That can be achieved much more reliably and

## GET IN TOUCH

EDITOR  
Susan Windram  
[swindram@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:swindram@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Sandy Neil  
[sneil@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sneil@obantimes.co.uk)



REPORTER  
David McPhee  
[dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk)



CONTACT OUR NEWSDESKS  
Oban 01631 568060; Fort William 01397 703003  
Email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

DEPUTY EDITOR  
Martin Laing  
[milaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:milaing@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)



SENIOR REPORTER  
Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



REPORTER  
Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)



# DISTRICT NEWS



**Ailsa Janzen, Junior Young Musician of the Year, Peter Rose, music teacher, president-elect Iain Johnston and Francesca Rose, Senior Young Musician of the Year.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

## Lochaber

Two young musicians entertained members of the Lochaber Rotary Club at their business lunch meeting last week with a performance described as 'superb'.

Ailsa Janzen, from Kinlochleven High School, winner of the Rotary Junior Young Musician of the Year, performed pieces from Bach and Dvorak on the violin. Her jaunty rendition of Bach's Gavotte particularly thrilled the audience.

Francesca Rose, from Lochaber High School, winner of the Rotary Senior Young Musician of the Year, played Korngold's Serenade and Squire's Tarantella on her viola. Again, the audience was impressed by her very uplifting and professional performance.

Past-president David Thomson called it a 'superb performance'. He added: 'The Lochaber Music School does wonderful work with

youngsters of all ages.' Mr Thomson presented the musicians with their certificates and added that he was delighted that the Rotary sponsorship had resulted in such 'outstanding young musicians'.

## Little and large in Loch Linnhe



**Canal cruise ship Lord of the Glens passes across the bows of a larger 'cousin' – the Seabourn Quest – in Loch Linnhe recently.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

## Sea Cadets' AGM and awards night

Lochaber Sea Cadets recently held their 68th annual annual general meeting and awards night.

This year's theme was changing for the future. Big changes have and are still taking place with a new commanding officer (CO), a new committee and two new potential instructors gained from the evening. Inspecting officer was District Officer Robbie Hay from Inverness and there was also a good number of guests from the Fort William and district branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

'We enjoy working with the legion, particularly around remembrance and poppy collection, and look forward to supporting them at events in the future,' said a spokesperson for the cadet detachment.

'A special thank you to the Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Locheil for his attendance and presenting trophies to our best junior cadet Daniel Parfitt and best senior cadet Finlay Dempster.'

The new CO enrolled his first two new entries – Kirsty Allott and Kieran McDougal – and expects a lot more in the near future with a number of juniors reaching the age of 12. The district officer also presented Jay Calder with the community shield for attending the most community-based activities and Deeann Strachan accepted the divisional trophy on behalf of Dragon



**Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Locheil presented Daniel Parfitt with the trophy for best junior cadet.** IF F23 Sea Cadet Awards Daniel Parfitt 03



**Deeann Strachan accepted the divisional trophy on behalf of Dragon division from District Officer Robbie Hay.** IF F23 Sea Cadet Awards Deeann Strachan 01

Division for the overall divisional scores throughout the year.

This year will also see the detachment's first foreign exchange cadet with Caitlin Gilchrist going to Hong Kong later in the year.

If anyone feels they would like to help out by either becoming an instructor, unit assistant, committee member or occasional helper, please go along and see what the Sea Cadets can offer.



**Right: Ordinary Cadet Jay Calder with the community shield for the most community-based events.** IFF23 Sea Cadet Jay Calder 02

## Fort Augustus

Before the Easter holidays, Morag's Lodge hostel in Fort Augustus held a competition with Kilchuimen Primary School.

The competition was to design a welcome pack with a two-day itinerary for families with children staying at the hostel and pupils from primary four to seven came up with some great ideas. For taking part, the school was awarded £250 and the winning entry, designed by Berty Jones of P7, was awarded £50. Prizes were also presented for second, third and fourth places.

The winning design will be produced and given out to all families staying at Morag's Lodge.



**The four winners, from left, Berty Jones, Laura Fraser, Jim Chalmers and Annabelle Sutton.**



## Inspiration starts here

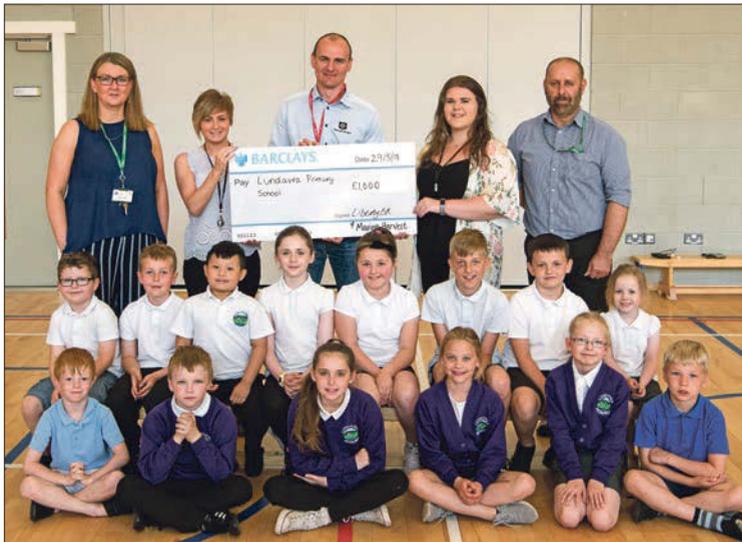
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Marine Harvest and Liberty each recently donated £500 to fund Lundavra Primary School's new sound system, which will be used for school plays, assemblies and other similar events. Above are, back row, Katrina Kelly, acting head teacher; Rosie Flannigan, Liberty; Chris Wilk, Marine Harvest; Heather Ross, Liberty; and P4 teacher James Ross, along with pupils of both the school and its nursery.



## First communion for youngsters

Children of St John's Parish Church, Caol, Fort William, after making their First Holy Communion with Father Roddy McAuley, teacher Rebekah Carroll, centre, and head teacher Violet Smith. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### A retrospective look at the Roamer columns of the early 1990s

■ Councillor Iain Dhu and An Gearasdan Dubh have been figuring frequently in this column since Iain suggested that Fort William should be renamed 'Achintore'. Worried colleagues – chairmen, fellow councillors, officials and local sportsmen – are concerned at the potential cost of altering stationery and promotional and advertising material, signposting, and entries in the various directories.

Just a few of those affected by a name change would be Achintore and Lochaber Tourist Board, Achintore Football Club, Achintore Shinty Club, Achintore Chamber of Commerce, Achintore Community Council, and, of course, Achintore Police. Admittedly the police station is virtually in Achintore Road at the moment.

Councillor Iain Dhu would, of course, become the local member for Achintore, and play a leading role in the Achintore Tercentenary celebrations. If you'd like to compare notes with Iain you might be able to confront/consult him at Saturday's Achintore v Brora Rangers match.

■ There is the tale of Olwyn's dog, 'Breac', the 10-year-old white Dalmatian with brown spots, which had run away from home – twice. Because, Cllr Olwyn advised the environmental health services committee, the postman had left her front gate open.

Breac was rounded up at the back of Presto's, by Fiona, the dog warden, who works for the EHS committee. And Breac's return cost Olwyn more than 30 quid. So you can imagine the repartee 'unleashed' at the meeting in Lochaber House! 'The biter bit', offered one member.

'Love me, love my dog', offered another colleague. 'Get a spring for your gate', was the canny canine advice from the council chairman. 'That would save Breac barking

up the wrong tree', quoth another councillor. Once the hilarity subsided, committee chairman Charlie King noted that the £32.88 paid out by Olwyn for the collection service and kenneling for her dallying Dalmatian was more than a third of the entire proceeds of the whole month's dog catching.

At that, Cllr Murphy barked, 'And I know who had to fork out quite a bit of the remainder. A householder in Inverloch, whose collie has a tag on its collar with the phone number of the owner. But nobody in the environment department got on the dog and bone to alert the relevant master or mistress.'

■ How about the High Street bank manager who joined his staff for a drink in The Crofter after work on Friday. 'What would you all like to drink?' was his expansive invitation. In mid-order of some very exotic concoctions the HSBM realised he had no money on him!

So he sheepishly approached a senior colleague and whispered, 'I haven't taken any cash with me – can you give me a sub?' The requisite credit transfer was duly carried out. Well, it had to be, really, for the man providing the short term loan was the bank's own accountant.

■ I walked out to the Road to the Isles Filling Station for my Sunday papers. As I entered, Sammy handed me the phone and said, 'There's somebody here wanting to speak to you.' Says I, 'Is the person psychic?' Anyhow, I took the phone and said, tentatively, 'Good morning. What's Sammy getting me into here?'

The voice at the other end – which I recognised immediately – replied, 'It's hot out here, Roamer, I'm calling from Hong Kong.' Yes, it was, of course, Sammy's sister Jean (Horner) Parkin. I had a long, unscheduled chat with Jean and Alan. It resembled something like Two-Way Family Favourites – without the music.

■ Wednesday is 'National No

Smoking Day'. The code name is 'Packet In'. And, to float the occasion, Lochaber District Council has been asked to give discounts at the Leisure Centre for those who want to dive in at the deep end and kick the habit. Thus the Lochaber message will be 'Dowse that Dout'.

■ 'Commemorative Arches' were on the council agenda for discussion regarding the Tercentenary celebrations. Successive municipal administrations in the Fort have always had a thing about such structures. They built arches of branches, thatch and heather at both ends of the High Street to welcome the return of the locals from the wars, the 'Coming of the Railway', Royal visits, you name it. So the elected members considered that our Tercentenary offering could be of British Aluminium/ Pulp Mill paper. (One councillor opined that there is more paper in Lochaber House than in the Mill). It was also mooted that two members of Lochaber District Council Tercentenary Sub-Committee – one wearing a fur coat – should be delegated to provide a musical flavour with a High Street rendition of 'Underneath the Arches'.

■ In bygone days the Viewforth Gang and our allies from Loch Linnhe Buildings and Tweeddale used to go fishing for rockies and cuddies off the slip opposite the Signal Box.

The entire catch was fed to Jockafee's cats at MacLennan's feed store. But the old order changeth.

Last week a modern-day 'fisherman' was espied on the walls of the Old Fort. Complete with rope and butcher's hook, the Presto Pioneer stood atop the ramparts and angled and dangled for ages, trying to connect with some of the supermarket's trolleys which had 'gone over the wall'.

He certainly gave a new slant to the term 'A good basket' as, happy as Larry, he hummed snatches of 'The Trolley Fisherman'.

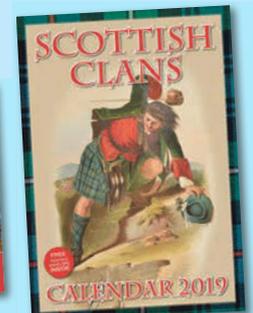
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LT

## FOOTBALL



Ryan Fyffe is pictured with Charlie Christie, head of youth; John Robertson, manager; and Graham Rae, chairman.

## Isle of Eigg backs youngster who signed for Inverness Caledonian Thistle

A young footballer with connections to the Isle of Eigg has been signed by Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Ryan Fyffe is the grandson of Wes and Maggie Fyffe, who live on the Hebridean island.

Maggie is secretary of the Eigg Heritage Trust and has been a driving force behind the progress made on the island since the community buy-out in 1997.

Wes is a football fan and attends ICT games when in Inverness visiting Ryan and Ryan's parents, Tim and Marianne.

Ryan, who is described as a tall defender, was one of 10 youngsters signed by ICT's under 17s.

His grandmother Maggie said: 'There's a keen interest in football on the island and, although there may be supporters of many different clubs, everyone here is very excited by what Ryan has achieved and will be closely following his progress.'

Thistle director and family friend Gordon Fyfe said: 'It's a small world. Maggie got in touch with me when she spotted the photo of the Under 17 signings with the management team and directors.'

'The family are justly proud of Ryan's achievement in signing professional forms with the club. He is part of what I'm told is the best young team the club has produced. With such strong connections with Eigg, let's hope he has a good crack at the big time.'

## Thistle earn promotion after victory over Rannoch

Rannoch	1
South Lochaber	4
Greater Glasgow League	

South Lochaber Thistle secured their promotion to the Greater Glasgow Premier AFL Division 2 after a resounding victory over Rannoch.

In a winner-takes-all promotion-decider on Saturday at K Park in East Kilbride, Thistle ran out

comfortable winners against Division 2 side Rannoch. That win for Thistle means they have been promoted and will play in Division 2 next season, while Rannoch drop down into Division 3.

The victory also rounds off a successful season for Thistle in the Greater Glasgow Premier AFL, having had a good run in the Challenge Cup as well as their league success.

# Mallaig hit Portree for six in league win

Portree Juniors	0
Mallaig	6
William Wilson League	

Mallaig cruised to victory over Portree Juniors on a hot and sunny day in Skye to pick up a vital three points on the road.

The opening 15 minutes belonged to Portree Juniors who started the better team, creating some half chances and testing out Mark Johnston's catching ability.

It wasn't long before Mallaig settled into the match with fans' favourite James MacQueen stepping up to score a right-footed half volley from the edge of the box, his third goal in his last three games.

The visiting side soon added a second after some good work down the right saw the ball passed across the edge of the box for Andrew Sneddon to take first time shot with the outside of the left foot to curl it past the keeper.

Mallaig's third goal came from a well-delivered Andy Cunningham corner that the Portree defence failed to clear and at the second time of asking a Mallaig head connected with the ball. There was some confusion over who got the final touch but Cameron Muir was awarded with the goal in the end.

At the half-time break, Portree Juniors made some



Mallaig had a comfortable 6-0 win over Portree Juniors.

tactical changes to get back into the game but, much to their disappointment, Mallaig notched another at the start of the second half.

From a quickly-taken free kick, Jamie MacGregor clipped the ball down the left side to link with Andrew Sneddon who hit a half volley to leave the keeper with no chance and almost put the game out of sight.

Juniors continued to press and did have a couple more half chances; one from a header that Johnstone got down well for and was able to parry away.

Mallaig would add one more - this time Andy

Cunningham latched on to a miss-hit shot, after some good work down the left between himself and Gordy Jamieson, to slot past the keeper to make it 5-0.

The return of Aaron McLean, who had been missing since the second game of the season, made a welcome appearance for Mallaig. David Buick came off the bench to show some lovely touches to leave an impression, while Tom Benfield and Kian Cameron both came to shore up the win.

Mallaig added a sixth with 15 minutes left. Cunningham again went through after beating a defender and

lobbed the on-rushing keeper to round off a perfect day.

There were great performances from Andy Cunningham, Angus MacNaughton and Cameron Muir but it was Andrew Sneddon who claimed the man of the match.

This was an important win for Mallaig after the disappointment of last weekend's loss to Kyleakin in the league.

Some good performances and a clean sheet gives the side some momentum ahead of this Saturday's GF Macrae Cup Final in Broadford where Mallaig will be seeking revenge against Kyleakin.

## Duo win MacKleener's balloted pairs



Ian MacDonald, centre, presents the MacKleener's trophy for the balloted pairs held at the Fort William Railway Club's green in Inverlochty to Ian Rodger and Liz Kennedy, left, with runners-up Bill Gibbons and Eddie Downs, right. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography



All the teams that took part in the P5 competition. Photos: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos.

# Inverlochy and Beaully take top spots in Fraser MacPhee tournament

More than 100 youngsters took part in the Fraser MacPhee Shinty Tournament on Sunday as teams from across the Highlands took to the sun-soaked An Aird field.

Primary shinty teams from as far and wide as Beaully, Kingussie, Aberdour and Inveraray travelled to Fort William for a bumper day of shinty action which saw P5 and P7 teams in competition.

Inverlochy Primary School continued their dominance of primary school shinty as the P7s took top spot in their tournament, beating Oban's Park Primary School.

There was a shock result in the P5 final when Beaully Primary School beat Inverlochy to win the tournament.

As well as the team competitions, there were some individual prizes to be handed out as Beaully's Liam MacLean and Park's Calum MacMillan won player of the tournament for the P5 and P7 competitions respectively.

Players also had the opportunity to test their power in the speed hitting contest where Inverlochy duo Diesel MacLean and Jack Kearney recorded the fastest strikes in the P5 and P7 categories.

The tournament, organised every year by the MacPhee family, is played in memory of the late Fort William Shinty Club youth player Fraser MacPhee and the family were

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SHINTY

once again delighted with the turn out.

Catriona MacPhee said: 'We had a great day in the sunshine at An Aird today with teams from as far and wide as Beaully, Kingussie, Aberdour and Inveraray. It's a great testament to the parents and coaches that more than 100 youngsters were able to take part in a fantastic day of sport, so a big thank you from the organisers.'

'Thanks also to the Camanachd Association for donating an international strip for the raffle, and thanks to all the volunteers who make the tournament happen every year.'

More than £530 was raised between the snack bar and raffle ticket sales, which will be donated to support disability shinty.

Results: P5 and under - Winners: Beaully Primary School, captain: Sean MacKenzie. Runners up: Inverlochy Primary. Player of the tournament: Liam MacLean, Beaully. Speed hitting contest: Diesel McLean, Inverlochy, 57km/h.

P7 and under - Winners: Inverlochy Primary School, captain: Reece Kennedy. Runners-up: Park Primary. Player of the tournament: Calum MacMillan, Park. Speed hitting contest: Jack Kearney, Inverlochy, 67km/hr.



Winning Inverlochy P7 team with Rosemary MacPhee, left, Catriona and Niall MacPhee.



P7 teams line up at An Aird.

LT

## FOOTBALL



Breedon Northern Managing Director Alan Mackenzie, left, with SHFL President Dennis Bridgeford.

## Breedon to sponsor Highland League

After five years as sponsor of the Scottish Highland Football League Cup, leading construction materials group Breedon is to significantly strengthen its partnership with the league by becoming its main title sponsor.

Breedon has initially committed to a two-year sponsorship deal which will see the Championship renamed as The Breedon Highland League, with the company adopting a prominent profile at league fixtures throughout the coming season and providing regular match hospitality for its customers and business partners.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Alan Mackenzie, managing director of Breedon Northern, which has significant operations in the north and east of Scotland, said: 'We've had a highly successful relationship with the Highland League as cup sponsors over the last five years and enjoyed some exciting football at grounds all over the Highlands. We're delighted to be enhancing our partnership with the league, which has an outstanding roster of member clubs with a fiercely loyal fan base.'

'We're a natural partner, given that almost all the member clubs' grounds are within just a few miles of one or other of our sites. We look forward to working with the league's organisers to make the coming season more successful than ever.'

Dennis Bridgeford, president of the Scottish Highland Football League, added: 'We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship over the next two years, further strengthening the Breedon Highland League product to the benefit of the communities in the north east and north of Scotland.'

## BOWLS

## Jay presents Millie's Triples trophy in memory of his great-grandmother



Young Jay Brown presents the trophy in memory of his great-grandmother at the Millie's Triples at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club green in Inverloch. Jay's family sponsored the nominated triples bowling competition, which took place on Saturday. The winning team are, left to right, Allan MacDonald, Bill Clark and Mick Crichton. Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

# Sparks fly in World Cup event at Aonach Mor

Continued from page 80

downhill superstar, Aaron Gwin fell in the wooded area of the course. The events paved the way for the 22-year-old flying Frenchman, Amaury Pierron to scoop the win, as a new generation of riders made their mark on the competition.

Pierron, from Commercial Racing, said: 'This is my first ever World Cup win and it feels amazing.'

'Fort William is the biggest event in downhill racing and there are so many people - it's crazy. I was super happy to be on the podium with Loris and Troy - the new generation is coming.'

Twenty-two-year-old Scot Reece Wilson had the ride of his life taking a career-best fourth place which made him the first Scottish rider to finish in a podium position.

Ranked only 18th in the UK and qualifying in 26th place, he recorded a stunning time which left him sitting in the leader's hot seat for almost an hour.

Lochaber rider and local hero Lachlan Blair put in a hugely impressive time in the final to claim 48th place, less than one year after suffering a serious leg break which ruled him out the whole of last season. Blair travels back to the place where he suffered that injury in Leogang, Austria, to compete in the next round of the World Cup this weekend.



Scottish rider Reece Wilson recorded an incredible time to take fourth place.

Photo: Kim Ferguson.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

There was also fierce competition in the junior rounds of the World Cup, where the men's junior downhill event was won by Australian Kye A'Hern and the women's by Valentina Holl.

Mike Jardine, of Rare management which organised the event, said: 'This weekend was filled with amazing action and plenty of drama

- exactly what we've come to expect from the spiritual home of downhill racing. We welcomed an estimated 20,000 visitors to the Nevis Range over the course of the weekend, who enjoyed the drama on-track and the festival atmosphere off-track in the pits and expo area.'

'It's incredible to see such a love for downhill racing from both participants and fans alike.'

Results: Men's Elite

Downhill Final - 1 Amaury Pierron FRA; 2 Loris Vergier FRA; 3 Troy Brosnan AUS; Women's Elite Downhill Final - 1 Tahnee Seagrave, GBR; 2 Myriam Nicole, FRA; 3 Rachel Atherton, GBR.

Men's Junior Downhill Final: 1 Kye A'Hern, AUS. 2 Thilbaut Daprela, FRA; 3 Kade Edwards, GBR.

Women's Junior Downhill Final: 1 - Valentina Holl, AUT; 2 Paula Zibasa, LAT; 3 Kaytlin Melvin, USA.

## Nevis Range to boost biking with Trek partnership

Nevis Range Mountain Experience announced a ground-breaking partnership with Trek this week, which will help bolster the resort's world-class reputation for mountain biking.

As part of this partnership Nevis Range and Trek will work together, unveiling a number of initiatives over the next year designed to encourage and develop mountain biking at all levels at Nevis Range, while transforming the reach of the home of the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup into a globally recognised Trek mountain bike destination.

## Audience

Trek has already invested in both equipment and content creation at Nevis Range which will allow for track and rider development as well as a focus on aiming promotional activity at an international audience.

Nevis Range's commercial manager, Chris O'Brien, said: 'Our partnership with Trek is a first for Nevis Range. With the introduction of the world's leading bike brand into our family, we hope to take Nevis Range to a far wider audience and generate real excitement about Trek-led experiences at Nevis Range.'



Rachel and Gee Atherton - riders for Trek Factory Racing - at the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range. Photo: Charne Hawkes.

'This is an incredibly exciting prospect and the possibilities of what we can achieve are endless. Nevis Range wants to bring more world class sporting events to Fort William and this partnership significantly enhances our ability to achieve our goals.'

Trek will be helping Nevis Range support a number of talented young local riders in their quest to become pro downhill racers.

The investment from Trek will also be used in the design and development of new exciting downhill features and future trail design.

Helen Guesford, marketing manager UK, Ireland, Poland for Trek, said: 'We are very excited to be able to partner with Nevis Range. Their expertise and passion for mountain biking makes this an ideal partnership for us; the area is steeped in mountain bike history, and we are collectively aligned in our commitment to the sport's continued growth in Fort William. We can't wait to work together with Nevis Range and Nevis Cycles to showcase the world-class riding locales - and talent - we have right here in the UK.'

Trek Bicycle, a global leader in the design and manufacture of bicycles and related products, began in 1976 with a mission to build the best bikes in the world.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'This is great news for Lochaber and in fact for the Highlands as a whole. Fort William is known as the Outdoor Capital of the UK and this adds another string to the bow.'



Racers are shown the route before the starting gun. Photo: Domhnall Montgomery

# Yells wins Dinghy Hill Race

A new record was set in the renowned Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) Dinghy Hill Race on Tuesday night, May 29, as both sailors and runners put on a good show in the searing heat.

Twenty runners in total took on the Dinghy Hill Race course, one of the most unique in the athletics calendar, which crosses Loch Linnhe from the Yacht Club, ascends Meall an t-Slammain (467 metres) before returning by the same route. It's similar to Lochaber Athletic Club's Meall an t-Suidhe (Melantee) race except with a lot more sea.

Lochaber runner John Yells ran an excellent race to be the first runner back to the yacht club in a hugely impressive time of 28:27, beating Nick Sedgwick's record by 10 seconds.

Sedgwick was not far off the pace again this year as he took third place, while Gregor Davidson finished in second place to complete an all-Lochaber podium.

Lisette Walters was first lady in 37:33, followed closely by Amanda Blackhall, who finished with a time of 37:46,

## YACHTING

which ensures she was the first runner home in the FV40 category. Susan Jane Ross won the FV50 category in a time of 44:13.

Brian Macdonald won the MV40 category with a time of 38:08, while Hugh Mackintosh took top spot in the MV50 category in a great time of 31:34, just missing out on a podium finish.

Twenty runners competed on a hot night, nearly all of whom were LAC members.

The sailing race back from the Stroncreggan shore was won by a crew of Vince and Andrew from LYC, in a Wayfarer dinghy. Their runners did a great job of paddling the boat in a dropping breeze. Four dinghies contested.

There was the usual swimming to cool off – not all of which was deliberate!

Race organiser Jon Gay, LYC, said: 'Times were fast due to the dry ground. Luckily there was some breeze to cool the runners and to keep the worst of the midges off. Well done to all who took part on



Top three finishers, from left, third-placed Nick Sedgwick, winner John Yells and second-placed Gregor Davidson.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan.

this hot and sunny evening.'

LYC would like to thank Conaglen Estate for access, Lochaber Embroidery And Printing (LEAP), Tesco and Nan Petrie for the prizes, all supporters, marshals and rescue boat crews. Thanks especially go to LYC's Tim Sims and helpers who put on an excellent barbecue – also enjoyed by spectators.

Full results have been

published on the Lochaber Athletic Club website lochaberac.co.uk.

The Lochaber Yacht Club website has information on sail training and events – everyone welcome, visit on Thursdays from 6pm. www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

For further information contact Jon Gay 07588531399 or jongayarchitect@google-mail.com.

## Nevis Centre ten pin bowling singles' results

After the final week of the ten pin bowling singles' leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William, some changes occurred to the league tables because all players dropped their worst week so that only their best nine out of the 10 weeks of competition counted.

Brian Johnstone won the overall combined men's and ladies' scratch league with 127 points, followed by Pam Weller on 117 and Tony Whitelocke on 99 points. Brian Johnstone also won the overall combined men's and ladies' handicap league with 112 points, followed by Iain Gregor on 100 points and Steve Day on 99 points.

Brian Johnstone also won the men's scratch league with 83 points, followed by Tony Whitelocke on 63 points and

John Weller on 60 points. Brian also won the Robert Cairns trophy for the men's handicap league with 73 points, followed by Steve Day and Iain Gregor both on 65 points.

In the ladies' divisions Pam Weller won the ladies' scratch league with 45 points, followed by Gaynor Weldon on 31 points and Jean Fisher on 27 points. Pam Weller also won the British Legion trophy for the ladies' handicap division with 33 points, followed by Mo Mason on 31 points and Alma Sorley and Jean Fisher both on 28 points.

Brian Johnstone won the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy for the most total scratch pins knocked over throughout the season with 4,229 pins, followed by Pam Weller in second with 4,040 and

## TEN PIN BOWLING

Tony Whitelocke in third with 3,882 pins.

During the final week of competition the top individual scratch game came from Pam Weller with a 189. Ben Weller had games of 172 and 170. Pam Weller also had the top handicap game with 228.

The highest three game scratch series of the week came from Ben Weller with 491 followed by Pam Weller with 453 and Tony Whitelocke with 452. Ben Weller also had the best three-game handicap series of 602, closely followed by Mo Mason with 600 and Tony Whitelocke with 581.



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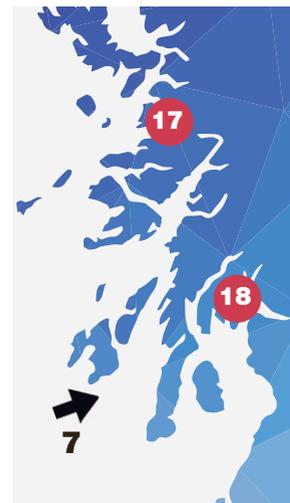


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals  
Light winds from the west  
Temperatures 11°C to 20°C.

**Friday**  
Cloudy  
Light winds from the west  
Temperatures 11°C to 19°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Sunny on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Breezy from the west  
Temperatures 10°C to 18°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 7, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	05.59	1.9	11.37	2.8
<b>Thur</b>	18.07	1.8	***	**
<b>Fri</b>	00.36	3.1	07.05	1.8
	13.17	2.9	19.09	1.7
<b>Sat</b>	01.57	3.2	08.06	1.6
	14.24	3.0	20.11	1.5
<b>Sun</b>	02.54	3.4	09.00	1.4
	15.11	3.2	21.09	1.3
<b>Mon</b>	03.41	3.6	09.47	1.1
	15.54	3.5	22.02	1.0
<b>Tues</b>	04.25	3.8	10.31	0.8
	16.35	3.7	22.52	0.8
<b>Wed</b>	05.08	3.9	11.15	0.6
	17.17	3.9	23.42	0.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Mallaig hit Portree for six - page 72

Wells wins Dinghy Hill Race - page 75



Tahnee Seagrave on the top section of the Nevis Range course, on her way to claiming victory. Photo: Phunkt.com

# New generations of stars shine at Fort William

A new generation of downhill superstars made their mark on the World Cup circuit last weekend as thousands of spectators descended on Aonach Mor to catch the high-octane action.

The acclaimed Fort William UCI Mountain Bike World Cup lived up to its billing

as one of the best sporting events in the country as Fort William welcomed the world's best riders to Nevis Range.

The downhill finals on Sunday, June 2, made for an intense finish to the weekend as Britain's Tahnee Seagrave and Frenchman Amaury

Pierron raced to victory in front of a bumper crowd.

The competition saw 250 of the world's top downhill riders battle it out over the course of the weekend; and with over a fifth of the field made up of British riders, the Fort William crowd had a great deal to cheer about

in the sun. In a tantalizing women's final, 22-year-old Londoner Seagrave secured a massive eight-second gap between herself and the rest of the field. Meanwhile, fellow Brit and five-time world champion Rachel Atherton put in a heroic performance to claw back third place after

an early mechanical mishap meant she had to race almost the entire run without a bike chain.

The men's event was also filled with upsets, as Highland rider and British downhill champion Greg Williamson sustained a puncture and US

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Jacqui Hill, centre, with her winning prizes.

## Double top finish for Jacqui

The Fort William Railway Club hosted the last darts competition of the year for the club on Friday May 18.

The winner of the ladies' singles was Jacqui Hill and runner-up was Mo Cameron. Winner of the ladies' doubles was Sharon Wells and Jacqui Hill, while Mandy Cameron and Nicole Wheelan finished as runners-up.

## Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 10, 13 and 18. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today, Thursday June 7, will be £1,000.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 11, 15 and 19. Still no winners this week, so the jackpot is £2,000. Someone must win the money, so the club keeps drawing until it gets a winner.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 5, 6 and 18. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £1,400.



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