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'Love and shelter' plan to help grieving families

Performers pipe up for music and dance festival

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Benderloch couple grieving for two babies are at the heart of a £45,000 fundraising mission to give love and shelter to other bereaved families.

Susan and Andrew Simpson are co-founders of a new project to buy a network of holiday caravans or cabins giving short-break havens to some of the 17,000 families every year in the UK affected by stillbirth or the death of a baby, child or young person up to the age of 25. A further estimated 250,000 families experience a miscarriage.

Called Anam Cara Fasgadh, the project has applied for charity status and is pushing ahead with plans to buy its first caravan at Tralee Bay Holiday Park.

'Our first will be at Tralee but after that there will be more to come in other peaceful and accessible locations around the UK - wherever we can get a good team of people wanting to support us,' said Mrs Simpson.

As well as accommodation



Anam Cara Fasgadh co-founders Susan and Andrew Simpson at Tralee Bay Holiday Park.

for families in need of respite, the project will provide recreational activities and support.

The Simpsons, who are also involved locally in other baby loss charities, are determined to raise the £45,000 they need for the Tralee caravan by the end of this year.

They have the back-up of other co-founders, Michael McGuire and Jenni Morris, and a team of directors and patrons, including BBC Alba

presenter Mairi Rodgers and Bella Mackie, the author wife of Radio One DJ Greg James.

'It's a tall order to have £45,000 in place by the end of this year but we are determined to do it,' said Mrs Simpson.

She, like all the others involved in the project who have lost children, is driven by the project's tag line: Our Kids Will Move Mountains.

'We want to give the very

best we can to the families who will come to us for respite. Love and shelter is key,' she said.

Any family will be able to self-refer, but will need a supporting form from their GP, midwife, health visitor, chaplain, social worker or a recognised charity.

'Families can still be raw years down the line, so there's no time frame to being able to use the caravans or cabins.

'There are still milestones and the anniversaries,' said Mrs Simpson, who had a miscarriage in 2007, three years before daughter Eilidh Beth was stillborn at 34 weeks. The couple have two daughters, Charis, 14, and 10-year-old Niamh.

The initial £45,000 raised will buy a caravan, hopefully a three-bed, at the Tralee holiday park, but there will still be extra annual costs to cover maintenance. Paid cleaners will get the caravan ready for visiting families and volunteers will arrange welcome packs.

Main funding will be sought through grants and there will also be fundraising events and collaborations with businesses and other charities and organisations.

'There are so many families to help that we've got to think big.

'We would love a lot of money but if someone can only offer a couple of pounds, it will all help,' said Mrs Simpson.

For more details visit facebook.com/AnamCaraFasgadh

Performers, including a piper from New Zealand for the first time, are signing up for this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Musicians and dancers have until Monday, March 11, to get their entries in for the May bank holiday festival that attracts more than 3,000 visitors to Oban.

This will be the festival's 36th year, bringing a welcome boost to the town's economy from May 3 to 5.

Owing to the huge numbers growing in the dancing competitions, the town will be hosting a pre-premier competition on Saturday March 30 at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

Festival chairperson Breege Smyth said: 'The festival has retained a unique family feel that is the hallmark of true Highland hospitality despite the competitive nature of the programme.'

'Each year I am delighted that our funders and the businesses of Oban share our passion and are generous in support - particularly as we have been going for 35 years.'



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OT

Hunt on to find a home for Alfie

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Meet Alfie – a seven-year-old cairn terrier who is on the hunt for a new home.

Alfie fell ill last month and his owner, who is disabled, was unable to continue caring for him. With his medical bills rising daily, Alfie's dog walker, Justine Swan, set up a crowdfunding page with the goal of paying for the terrier's treatment costs – and to help find him a 'forever home'.

However, Cairn Terrier Rescue UK caught wind of the campaign and has agreed to pay for his medical fees for the rest of his life.

Justine, who is currently caring for Alfie, has so far raised £1,050, which will now be donated to the charity.

'This amazing charity are paying for Alfie's care for the rest of his life, so any potential new owners need to not



Justine says Alfie loves children and other dogs and cats.

worry about his medical costs,' Justine said.

In the online fundraiser, she wrote: 'Alfie's owner is disabled and can no longer provide the care and [cover the] costs to keep Alfie alive and well. [The] problem is he needs to find a full-time foster, or even better, a full-time forever home.'

'If I cannot succeed in finding Alfie a home, there will be no

other option but to have Alfie put to sleep and I cannot stand back and let this happen.

Justine added: 'He is the most loveliest most loving boy ever.'

Speaking about his condition, Justine said: 'Alfie is coming on great and had a check-up at the vet and they are very pleased with his progress.'

'Alfie has still to be stabilised and this may take a few weeks.'

Justine described the ideal home as being with someone who can spend a lot of time with Alfie, take him on lots of short walks, and have a garden.

The cairn terrier loves company and Justine thinks he would benefit from having another dog in the family.

'I would like to try to find Alfie a home in Oban or as near to it,' Justine said, 'so that I can still help and support Alfie as he has been a part of my life and wish to continue to do this.'

'Alfie travels like a saint in the car, he loves people, is great with children and other dogs and cats. Alfie needs insulin twice daily, a strict diet and regular exercise.'

Justine is asking anyone who feels they would love Alfie in their life to message her on Facebook, either through her personal page or by searching Justine's Trails with Tails. Alternatively, email editor@obantimes.co.uk

New hands take the helm at NHS Highland

Professor Boyd Robertson has been appointed as the interim chairman for NHS Highland, following the resignation of David Alston, who held the position for nearly three years.

Prof Robertson will work alongside chief executive Iain Stewart, who is also a new appointment, having only been in the position since the end of January.

Together they will lead the future direction of the health board, and try to address key areas that have been identified for improvement, namely finance and service delivery.

It will also be essential that Prof Robertson and Mr Stewart act on the findings from John Sturrock's review when it is finalised. The independent review is investigating allegations of a bullying culture at NHS Highland, and the findings will be taken seriously.

Scottish Health Secretary Jeane Freeman, who made the appointment, is pleased that Prof Robertson accepted the role.

She said: 'This is a critical leadership position and he



Professor Boyd Robertson.

has extensive experience in Scotland's public life, including senior leadership roles.'

Prof Robertson is also the former principal of the Isle of Skye's Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Prof Robertson and Mr Stewart have a huge job on their hands to improve services for all NHS Highland users but Ms Freeman said she is confident that both are more than up for the task. Ms Freeman added: 'The priority, as always across NHS Scotland, is safe and effective patient care, and I am confident that under their leadership, people will receive the excellent level of service they deserve.'

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Iona Campbell, left, Lauren Williams-Bale, centre, and store manager Karen McDonald model the charity frames in Oban.

Oban shop puts Comic Relief in the frames

Oban Specsavers staff will be selling Comic Relief frames to raise money – and smiles – for Red Nose Day.

The red Comic Relief specs are already on sale, ahead of Red Nose Day on Friday March 15.

Since 2015, Specsavers stores have raised £848,000 for the charity, which has raised more than £1 billion for disadvantaged people in the UK and developing countries since it was founded in 1985.

Oban store director Ken Macdonald is extremely proud to support Comic Relief.

He said: 'Our glasses this year are fantastic and we hope everyone gets into the fundraising spirit by picking up a pair in store and help us smash our £1 million fundraising mark.'

Catherine Cottrell, Comic Relief's fundraising director, made a statement in recognition of Specsavers' continued support. She said:

'We're so pleased Specsavers is continuing to support us.'

'It's great to see people having fun wearing their Comic Relief specs to help us raise much-needed funds on Red Nose Day.'

This year, those wishing to recycle their glasses can bring them back into the store after Red Nose Day, where they will be sent on to a specialist recycling company. The specs will also be sold on online, on the Comic Relief website.

POLICE FILES

Between February 24 and 25, a quantity of fuel was stolen from an agricultural vehicle in the Bridge of Orchy area.

In the early hours of February 28, a 25-year-old man was arrested in Shore Street, Oban, after allegedly causing a disturbance and assaulting police officers. The man was charged with the offences and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

In the early hours of March 1, a 44-year-old man was arrested in Stafford Street, Oban, after allegedly causing a disturbance and challenging persons to fight. He was arrested and later issued with a recorded police warning.

Also in the early hours of March 1, a 30-year-old man was arrested in George Street, Oban, after allegedly challenging members of the public and police officers to fight. The man was charged and a report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Police are dealing with two reports of vehicles having been vandalised while in the council car park at Atlantis Leisure. Police are appealing for any witnesses to report any suspicious behaviour immediately to Atlantis staff or police.

About 4.50am on March 3, a 26-year-old male driver was stopped by police in Ardconnel Road, Oban, after he was seen driving erratically. He subsequently provided a positive breath sample and was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

On March 3, staff at Oban Sailing Club found a number of safety ropes had been stolen.

At about 5pm on March 3, police were called to an address in the Glencruitten area of Oban where a man was allegedly causing a disturbance and threatening to self-harm. The area was secured and officers were able to negotiate with the man and the incident was brought to a safe conclusion. The man being arrested without causing further harm to himself or others.

Police continue to appeal for any information regarding the recent break in to Highland Fasteners, Stevenson Street, Oban.

Anyone with information should call 101, or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Stranded whale goes back to sea

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A young humpback whale found stranded off the shore in Dunstaffnage Bay, last week made it back out into the Firth of Lorne under its own steam.

Experts are warning, however, that, due to an increase in numbers of the species travelling up our coastline, strandings such as this could become a common occurrence.

Police, fire and Coastguard crews were called out last Thursday morning when the calf was spotted off the pontoon at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

Within an hour of the initial sighting, Police Scotland, SAMS, Coastguard, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Scottish Fire and Rescue were on site and working towards a solution to the plight of the marooned mammal.



The stranded humpback calf returned to deeper waters after spending half the day stranded in Dunstaffnage Bay.

Drone footage confirmed the whale was not entangled and, at around noon, with the help of a rising tide, the young whale moved out of the bay and into deeper water.

Speaking to The Oban Times this week SAMS UHI associate director for research and marine mammal expert Professor Ben Wilson said: 'There are a number of factors that could

have caused the stranding of the humpback whale off SAMS last week. The whale could have been ill or injured. Whales suffer diseases just as we do and may come ashore with the current because they are too weak to avoid it.

'If the whale had died, there would have been a post-mortem and one of the primary objectives would have

been to establish the cause of death. Fortunately, the whale managed to return to the open ocean but it does mean we will likely never know for sure why it came in this far.

'The number of humpback whales seen off our coast is recovering after whaling in the region ended last century and, while this is wonderful news, we may expect to see more strandings as a result.'

Dunstaffnage Bay became a hive of activity on Thursday morning as events unfolded.

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat launched at 11am and proceeded to the scene where emergency services, including the British Marine Mammal Rescue Divers, were already making efforts to assist the marooned mammal.

The lifeboat was requested to stand off at the entrance to Dunstaffnage as the whale managed to float itself free of the beach.

Campaign highlights housing crisis

A rural housing crisis has been brought to light by the Rural Homes, Rural Lives campaign in a damning residents' survey, writes Rachel Dobbie.

Scottish Rural Action met last Friday at the Rural Housing Scotland conference to discuss the shortage of affordable housing in rural Scotland.

The Rural Homes, Rural Lives campaign is looking to the Scottish Government, local authorities and housing associations to make changes that will revitalise the rural economy.

A survey carried out in January revealed that existing shortages could be pinned on the increase of tourism in rural Scotland, with platforms such as Airbnb an enemy of affordable housing.

Isle of Harris resident Calum Bennet said: 'Unfortunately, when the tourist season starts in April, we're going to be homeless or have to leave the island.'

Mull man is disqualified after pleading guilty to drink driving

A Mull man has admitted being almost three times over the drink driving limit.

Neil Alan Dyer, 50, of Innes Free, Ardmore Road, Salen, admitted having 60 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, when the legal limit is 22mg in 100ml.

He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 27 and was banned from driving for 12 months and fined £350.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said a police officer spotted the accused in a van and stopped him owing to his manner of driving.

After smelling alcohol, the officer asked Dyer if he had anything to drink in the past 20 minutes and he replied one can of beer.

The officer then had to wait 20 minutes for the roadside breath test, which Dyer failed.

In Dyer's defence, solicitor Laura McManus said this incident gave her client a 'wake-up call' and he admitted he needed help with his drinking.

Dyer is a self-employed tradesman and will now have to rely on help to get to jobs.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'Any drink driving offence is one the court takes seriously.'

Bogus callers assault woman

Bogus charity workers have assaulted an elderly Oban woman in her home. Police hunting the two men are reminding people to be vigilant of all doorstep callers.

It is not known if the men have visited any other homes in the area but anyone with any information about the incident should contact police.

A police spokesperson said the pair were possibly posing as charity workers when they called at the woman's home in Davaar Gardens on Sunday February 24.

The first man is described as being in his early 20s, of slim build with fair hair and wearing a grey sweater, while the other man is in his late 30s to early 40s with a stocky build.

Householders are reminded to be vigilant of all doorstep callers and to request identification from anyone unknown to them and to contact police if they have any concerns,' said the spokesperson.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 quoting incident number PS-20190225-3074.

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OT

CalMac's apprentices set sail on new careers

by Sam Ormiston
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Eight local young people have graduated from a modern apprenticeship scheme which will allow them to embark on their careers with CalMac.

The year-long course entitled MA Hospitality with Maritime Enhancements, is a partnership between CalMac and the City of Glasgow College that allows young people to train specifically to become stewards in the merchant marine industry.

The apprentices had the opportunity to spend some time training on-board CalMac's fleet, while also learning some theory in the classroom.

Now that they have gained the qualification, they will start full-time employment as stewards in the company.

CalMac's director of human resources Christine Roberts said: 'Every year we have



CalMac director of HR Christine Roberts welcomes, left to right, Fiona Halewood (Dalmally), Chisholm Campbell (Staffin), Megan Baillie (Stevenston), Nicola MacKechnie (Isle of Seil), Eilidh MacMillan (Oban) and Amy Hawkins (Largs).

sought to create more opportunities to provide long-term seagoing careers for young people from the island and coastal communities we serve.'

Providing good customer

service is the most important trait for hospitality workers to have but CalMac stewards need to do much more than that. They also must be fully trained in first aid, firefighting

and rescue boat operations to ensure the safety of all passengers on board.

This year CalMac has 20 modern apprentice places in engineering, deck and mari-

time hospitality. Recruitment for the 2019 intake opens on Monday March 4. More information about apprenticeship opportunities can be found on the CalMac website.

Pensioner told to pay out for indecency act

'Drink and stupidity' led an 85-year-old man to stand naked and commit an indecent act at his living room window in full view of the public, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Eric Black, of 10 Ulva Road, Soroba, Oban, who was convicted of committing the public indecency offence at a previous court appearance, was back in court on Tuesday February 26 and ordered to pay each of the two complainants £200 in compensation.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Black that, because the complainants were not under 18, his conviction was not covered by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and a sex offender's certificate would be revoked.

The incident happened on September 6 last year.

Sheriff Hughes, who heard Black was of general good character, said: 'It's been a matter of drink and stupidity.'

Game of Thrones makes a dram out of an epic

Sets of the new Game of Thrones Single Malt Scotch Whisky Collection are selling fast.

Oban Distillery hosted a launch party on Friday to celebrate HBO and Diageo's partnership behind the new eight-bottle collection with a price tag of £385.

Eight of Diageo's distilleries from Oban to Dalwhinnie, Talisker on Skye and Cardhu on Speyside have been matched up with the eight houses in the medieval fantasy epic about two powerful families playing a deadly game for control of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros and reign on the Iron Throne.

Oban Bay Reserve has been specially bottled in a black bottle, the rest are white, representing the Night's Watch as protectors of the realm.

Game of Thrones inspired White Walker Whisky cocktail - The Night King's Sour was also being served up to



Oban distillery manager Callum Rew with the Game of Thrones limited whisky collection.

invited guests at the special event.

Distillery manager Callum Rew said the limited Games of Thrones Collection was such a hit in the United States that it was followed up with a European batch.

'It's been massive. We've been selling whole sets.

People are not just buying one bottle.

'We had one man come in who wanted to buy five sets. They are extremely popular. People could turn it into a whisky pilgrimage, visiting all the distilleries in the collection then choose their house,' he said.

Man admits kicking front door in Oban

A 33-year-old man has pleaded guilty to two charges of shouting and swearing as well as repeatedly kicking a front door.

Phillip Anthony Colewell, of 10 MacVicar Court,

Dunbeg, appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 27.

Colewell damaged the door at an address in Oban on October 9, 2018.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes

ordered Colewell to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work, placed him on a restriction of liberty order for six months from 7pm to 7am, and he will be under the supervision of social work for 12 months.



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OT

Man crushed sedative into woman's drink

A man who crushed an illicit sedative into a woman's lager can after inviting her back to his hotel room told police it was only to get them 'asleep'.

Thomas Jones, of 10 Sandholm Place, Yoker in Glasgow, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court charged with crushing a tablet containing a highly potent drug into a can of lager without the woman knowing.

He pleaded guilty to that charge and sentencing was deferred until March 27 for criminal justice and social work reports to be carried out as well as a restriction of liberty assessment.

On February 25, the court heard how Jones, 48, had approached the woman as people were leaving Skipperish in George Street at about 2am on November 3, 2017. He invited her back to his room in a

town centre hotel for a drink and there was a suggestion they might do some cocaine.

In Jones's room, the woman accepted a can of lager, went to the toilet, then came back, picked up her can and took a sip. 'She immediately noticed a gritty texture in her mouth and saw residue of crushed power around the rim. She immediately challenged the man, took her phone out and started to record the conversation,' said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty.

'She asked very forcibly did I ask for that? And he volunteered it was half a Valium and said, what's wrong with that?' added Mr McGinty.

The woman repeatedly told the accused she did not want it and when she asked why he had done it, he said: 'So we can get asleep.'

Jones then began to deny

putting something in her drink, the court was told.

The woman left and took the can to the police. Analysis showed it contained a highly potent illicit drug that can produce strong sedation and amnesia. It also contained an anti-convulsive sedative and muscle-relaxant which can be hypnotic – both were class C drugs. Jones was detained and interviewed by police and told them: 'In my own mind, I just assumed she would have wanted half and I took the other half.'

Mr McGinty said: 'The accused said it was so everybody could get to sleep but the crown prosecution's case is that perhaps there was something more sinister behind it.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'It's a matter of utmost gravity.'



Fourteen members of Oban Seals took to the water at Ganavan.

Oban Seals take to the (very chilly) water

Saturday February 23 saw the launch of the Oban Seals, a new outdoorswimming group in the area.

Despite the Scottish wintry weather, 14 locals braved the water on Saturday morning, with some taking part in the

parkrun afterwards. Several supporters also came along to watch the morning's event unfold. The swimmers were even joined by a grey seal, which appeared in the bay.

The Oban Seals Facebook group now has in excess of

100 members, so the local interest is growing rapidly.

The group will continue to meet every Saturday at 8.45am, at Ganavan Sands car park. Swimmers of all abilities are welcome – the more the merrier.





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Packed programme in Oban

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



March certainly came in like a lion this year, so hopefully we can have a nice start to April, one of my favourite months, not that I'm wishing my life away.

The lighter mornings and evenings make life so much nicer and mean you can squeeze a wee bit more into each day, which is just as well as there is so much happening just now.

March is a lovely month and there is certainly a lot to look forward to.

My favourite is a band called Live/Wire in the Corran Halls on March 23. If you're a fan of AC/DC, then get your tickets now.

If that's not quite to your taste, then don't worry: there's lots more.

If you're a bingo fan then The View is the place to be on Friday night. Danny Mooney and The Fold are on in Markie Dan's over the weekend, and on Saturday the big event is the Oban High School reunion in the Royal Hotel, a fantastic chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

On Monday, Simon Yates

shares his experiences and pictures of mountaineering all over the world in the Corran Halls and gives you the chance to visit all those places with him from the comfort of your chair.

Today (Thursday) also gives you the chance to buy Love Oban vouchers with a 10 per cent discount. So, if you have any birthdays or

anniversaries coming up, now is the time to get ready. The vouchers are available in six different businesses and can be spent in more than 80 places – and the number is growing all the time.

Last week's photograph was of the entrance to Argyll Mansions and this week's takes you further along the seafront.

Harbouring plans for future bay management

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A public meeting to update the community on progress of the management of the Oban Bay area will take place at the end of the month.

The Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) and the Oban Bay Stakeholder Group (OBSG) have continued to progress proposals for new harbour authority arrangements, with the latter having completed an evaluation of the viability of operating a trust port.

The call for change came late last year when CMAL launched plans to run the whole harbour bay, which currently runs under two Statutory Harbour Authorities in Oban Bay: Argyll and Bute Council, which owns the North Pier, and CMAL, which owns the ferry terminal.

While it was agreed that a



Oban Bay could be managed as a trust port.

single authority would improve safety in the busy port, users were concerned that their interests would suffer if CMAL was to become the sole manager.

An evaluation carried out by OBSG demonstrated that a trust port can be operated for a significantly lower cost than originally thought

and, at a meeting of the OBSG on February 19, a new Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA) was formed to support the proposal.

The stakeholder group has formally requested that the members of the OBMG support this as the preferred means of managing activ-

ity in the Oban Bay area. In the meantime, while the trust port proposal is being developed, the proposal that CMAL is established as the single harbour authority and the preparatory work needed for a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) has been on hold.

The option of CMAL extending its harbour area remains on the table should a trust organisation not emerge or prove unviable.

Phil Day, chairman of the OBMG, said: 'We are committed to ensuring that, whatever the harbour authority arrangements, the town of Oban benefits and that there is a clear focus on navigational safety, the local environment and economy, and access to the islands.'

'Over the winter period, following consultation with stakeholders and approval from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA),

which is currently responsible for navigational safety within Oban Bay, the OBMG has continued to develop initiatives to improve safety for all users.'

Safety initiatives being developed by the OBMG include improving the buoyage around the Corran Ledge, issuing a new guidance publication to all leisure users, shortening VHF messages made by large vessels entering and departing Oban on VHF channels 16 and 12, and adjusting designated anchorage positions to ensure they do not conflict with large vessel movements.

The public meeting will take place on Thursday March 28 at 7pm at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban.

Mr Day added: 'We encourage those with an interest in the harbour arrangements to attend the public meeting to find out more and raise any questions or concerns they have.'

Oban man fined for cannabis

A North Connel man has been fined £300 for being in possession of cannabis.

Andrew MacMillan, 39, of 10 Benmore View, pleaded guilty when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 27.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said that when police were carrying out an inquiry into another matter at MacMillan's address, they smelled cannabis.

After receiving permission to search the premises, officers recovered 49 grams of the class B drug.

In MacMillan's defence, solicitor Kevin McGinness said the drug is used for medical purposes and helps to alleviate symptoms of ADHD. 'He has discussed his use with medical advisers and has been given indication that it may very well assist him.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'Being in possession of cannabis is a criminal offence. It does not matter what any doctor says.'



Oban Police Scotland Volunteers felt very pleased with themselves after a bag packing session in aid of Oban and Lorn dementia support group.

Busy baggers embrace volunteer roles

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) have been out in force, supporting local groups and charities.

On Thursday February 21, the youngsters dropped in at Lynn Court for an evening of inter-generational gaming with the residents organised by Third Sector Interface project worker Kirsten Johnston.

The following Saturday, the group, led by Police Scotland youth engagement

officer Claire Brown, carried out a bag packing exercise in Tesco in aid of the Oban and Lorne Dementia Support Group.

In line with the national strategy, the Oban PSYV group consists of 24 young people aged between 13 and 17 who give up their own time to volunteer in the community.

Amber McWilliam, 16, has volunteered for just over a year with the Oban outfit

and has gained numerous benefits. 'I have so much more confidence now than when I first joined Police Scotland Youth Volunteers,' she told us.

'This is a great group and we have a lot of fun while we are helping others, so it's a win-win really.'

On Friday April 5 at 7pm, PSYV will help run a ceilidh at the Royal Hotel with the Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group.

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OT

New businesses provide a welcome jobs boost to Oban

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Big-name clothing retailer FatFace is coming to Oban, creating 10 jobs as the town's newest hotel opens its doors.

Premier Inn welcomed its first guests last week just as the leisurewear company FatFace started advertising online for a store manager and other staff positions.

'We're a passionate and energetic bunch with a great work hard/play hard attitude, says the FatFace job spec.

'We're looking for talented retailers who feel relaxed in a dynamic environment, enjoy life to the full, have a real understanding of our brand and customers, and a passion to develop and succeed,' it continues.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said he was pleased with the news.

He said: 'I'm absolutely



Premier Inn's service team ready to welcome visitors to Oban's newest hotel and Gelatoburger in George Street is recruiting staff.

delighted they are coming and there is going to be yet another business unit filled up.

'It just goes to show businesses are investing in Oban.

'It's good to be getting another big name store and I'm hoping it will have the online

capacity for delivery to the shop so even more people will come into the town.

'It's a great service for people and good for us and other traders if it increases footfall.'

Work has also started on the former Kitchen Garden in George Street which is being

turned into a 100-seater ice-cream and burger bar.

Experienced restaurateur Paul Sloan is the man behind the venture and hopes to have Gelatoburger open by May. A recruitment drive has started.

Work is also going ahead at the former Rockport Hotel in

Tweeddale Street, previously known as The Woodside, to turn it into a boutique venue called The Whisky Vaults.

Ailsa Riva, new openings manager for Whitbread, which owns Premier Inn, said: 'We're delighted to be opening our doors to guests

in Oban. The new Premier Inn brings a different type of accommodation to the town and we expect the hotel will do very well year-round.

'Our 28 team members are trained and ready and we can't wait to welcome customers.'



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Street fight stopped traffic in Oban

Passing public had to break up a fight which stopped traffic in Oban's George Street, the town's sheriff court has heard.

Three men ended up lying in the road at one point after throwing punches, causing congestion.

The fight happened just before 8pm on May 27 last year.

Mark Ferguson, of 2A Castle Road, Dunollie, pleaded guilty to getting involved in a fight and breaching the

peace. He was fined £300. The court heard warrants are still outstanding for two other men who are co-accused.

Ferguson had been standing outside a takeaway when the other men appeared on the other side of the street and they caught each other's eye.

Words were exchanged before they met in the middle of the road and started throwing punches at each other. The incident was caught on CCTV.

The court was told how the members of the public intervened but the fight kept flaring up and police attended.

Ferguson, a 33-year-old joiner who had been out drinking that day, said he would not have behaved that way if he had been sober. He had to get hospital treatment for a head and eye injury.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This kind of behaviour ruins the quality of life for the public in Oban.'

Visitors pour in for afternoon tea



An afternoon tea at Ardchattan Primary School was well supported once again at the weekend. Organisers said numbers attending the regular event are getting bigger each month. 'Ten new faces today! Plenty of cake for everyone,' said Sian Griffiths. The next afternoon tea is on Sunday March 17 from 1-3pm.

Glittering career for Ellis

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



From Oban to Vogue, Benderloch's Ellis Cameron could be the UK's next young jewellery designer of the year.

The 27-year-old, who runs her fine jewellery business from a studio at London's Goldsmith Centre, is one of eight designers aged under 30 who have been shortlisted for the glittering title.

Ellis, a former Oban High School pupil and graduate with distinction from Glasgow School of Art, will go for gold in May when she presents her work to an expert panel before the ultimate winner is decided in time for the Retail Jeweller UK Jewellery Awards in July.

Ellis moved to London to complete a Masters in Jewellery Design at Central St Martins, graduating with another distinction. In 2017, she

was accepted onto a Setting Out scheme run by training charity The Goldsmith Centre, which gives start-up help to just a handful of goldsmiths and creative businesses a year. In 2018, she was one of five finalists shortlisted for Professional Jewellers' Young Designer of The Year.

Back in Benderloch, proud mum and dad Joy and Campbell Cameron are behind her all the way.

Ellis said: 'I bounce ideas off them all the time. Mum's into conceptual thinking and dad is more technical. He used to be a mechanic so understands things such as soldering. It's nice to have that solid support. They've only got me to applaud otherwise it would just be the cat, which they do anyway.'

The sea at Tralee, Castle Stalker at Appin, wild nature, rugged landscapes and jewellery hoards found across

Scotland are just some of what inspires her work.

Ellis continued: 'I love coming home to gather more photos and imagery for my work but my folks are very good at sending me things.'

'I try to get back at Christmas and summer. I'm planning a visit in mid-June but not to do

anything, just relax. I kind of wish I was there all the time but I love being in London too.'

Ellis's work has also been featured in publications such as Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, and most recently has started selling on Farfetch – a luxury fashion website selling products from more than 700

boutiques and brands from around the world. She has also just been part of a showcase called The Maiyet Collective at Harvey Nichols and has worked on projects with Louis Vuitton, Moët Hennessey and high-end French jewellery design studio Chaumet.

'I'm working on a large

commission of 18-carat gold pieces. A lady who purchased an engagement ring from me has now commissioned matching earrings and a bangle for her wedding, as well as both of their wedding bands. They've even invited me to the wedding! It's things like that which really make me smile.'



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Ellis Cameron is shortlisted for the UK's Young Jewellery designer 2019. Photograph: Julia Skupny

Police search found heroin in man's sock

Police who nabbed a man buying vodka for an underage boy found heroin in his sock when they searched him back at the station.

Neil MacGregor, of 6 Kiel Gardens, Benderloch, pleaded guilty to buying the alcohol for a child and to having a class A drug.

Oban Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing MacGregor until March 27 to wait for criminal justice and social work reports to be prepared, as well as a restriction of liberty assessment to be carried out.

The court heard how police had been passing Station Square on December 13 last year when they saw the 25-year-old walking away from a convenience store carrying a bottle and talking to a young

person.

It was obvious they exchanged something, the court was told.

Police approached them at the bus stop and they both appeared nervous. A bottle of vodka was recovered from the young person's rucksack.

MacGregor said it was his but the boy said he had asked for it and given him money.

Police noticed MacGregor was smelling strongly of cannabis and he was taken to the police station to be searched.

As MacGregor was put in handcuffs and being processed, a wrap of brown paper was spotted near the left side of his trouser leg.

He was further searched and in his sock there was a roll of tinfoil. The wrap was tested and contained heroin.



OT

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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Given that we are all probably feeling fat from the post pancake-day piling on of pounds and launching into Lenten sacrifice with steadfast stoicism, I had planned for that theme to be the subject of this week's article.

However, I have not yet managed to decide what, if anything, I should give up for Lent this year, so I will report next week.

Instead, I have included lyrics I recently wrote on a theme covered a few weeks ago relating to the gift that some people have for maintaining a youthful approach to life regardless of age.

To give context, here is the closing paragraph from that article of 31/01/19.

'None of us knows how long we are going to have in this life, so when we are here we may as well approach it with positivity.

'The futility of worrying that time is running out is borne out by the fact that whether we are 18, 40, 60, or 81, what is gone is gone, what is done is done and the important thing is that we

have our whole lives ahead.

'That life ahead may be one day or it may be many decades, but never will we know. Right up to that unknown time, we have the chance to try new things and to follow the winds of fulfilment and happiness.'

Forever Young – Angus MacPhail

Our time goes by like the winter winds

And the decades fly as the world spins

Where it goes we'll never know and cannot save.

We all must live before we leave

Our hearts must give more than receive

As the years disappear like tears on the ocean wave.

Chorus

Forever Young and still we run

Living dreams that seem to move with the rainbow's gold.

Forever Young and still we run

And we'll run for the sun and the years won't leave us old.

How long our time we'll

never know

But up we'll climb and on we'll go

Keep pace and grace in the race of the road we tread.

At age eighteen or eighty-five

Whatever's been, you are alive

Keep a hold of your goal, for your whole life lies ahead.

You may give in when you're twenty-one

If you didn't win, and you think you're done

But forget regret and let the past go by.

And live and learn from the scarred and wise

Rise up to earn your chosen prize

And walk your way till the destined day you die.

Live by the creed of those we see,

The gifted breed who hold the key,

The rare who dare not care for the age they are.

And meet the day and hit the night

Work hard and play and chase the light

And dance to a tune by the moon and the morning star.

Stunned by budget cut

by Fiona Scott

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A former officer with the council's road safety team fears that ditching the unit could affect the number of fatalities on Argyll and Bute's roads.

Carl Olivarius, who retired from the post in 2009 after 27 years, also expressed concerns that school pupils could be about to learn less about keeping themselves safe on the road.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed on Thursday February 21 that it would be axing the unit after it was one of several savings options proposed as part of its 2019/20 budget.

It was also an option for the previous financial year but was saved, however it was not kept this time around.

The administration's budget was a clear winner in the vote, but all three amendments put forward by other councillors included retention of the road safety unit.

Mr Olivarius said: 'I am stunned, really. I thought the case had been made last year that this service provided value for money.

'I appreciate things are tight and that councillors have difficult decisions to take, but I can't see that there is not enough slack for 1.7 officers in a service which has given a very positive image to the council.

'The job wasn't just focused on school pupils, but most of the resources produced by the Scottish Government, and promoted by the unit, were targeted at that age range.

'The curriculum-linked resources were good quality and a road safety officer would run training courses for teachers and nursery nurses.

'But if there is nobody there to promote it and encourage it, and no courses run, I will be surprised if it remains on the same level of the curriculum it is at just now.

'There is a lot of pressure on

head teachers, it is a crowded curriculum, and unless somebody is there selling it, I think it will fall down the pecking order.

'And that will have an effect on casualty numbers.'

As well as providing road safety advice to residents, the longstanding road safety unit also operates the annual competition to design a calendar.

Mr Olivarius insists it has been a factor in the gradual reduction of fatalities on the roads, not just in Argyll and Bute, but all over Scotland.

And he warned that even one life lost is one life too many when it comes to safety.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We would like to be able to do everything that local people and our communities want us to do.

'Unfortunately, cuts to our funding mean we cannot do that and we must make changes, even to our most valued services.'

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The new linkspan will ensure a safe and efficient ferry service, particularly for Mull passengers.



Oban linkspan work finished ahead of schedule

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has installed the new linkspan at Oban harbour one week ahead of schedule.

The work, which was due to be finished on February 28, was completed last Wednesday February 20 and has now been handed back to harbour operators CalMac.

The work to expand the marshalling facilities at the harbour, which happened simultaneously, was finished on time, on February 28, marking the end of the two projects, which have a combined value of £1.8m.

CMAL senior civil engineer

Ruairidh Campbell said: 'We have been on site at Oban working across the two projects; the linkspan and the marshalling area, and we are pleased that both have been completed within the timescales and to budget.

'The extended marshalling area will help alleviate queuing on the public highway during busy summer periods and will benefit future projects at Oban Ferry Terminal.

'The new linkspan will ensure a safe and efficient service for ferries, predominantly travelling to Mull.

'We worked closely with

our contractors and CalMac to ensure this project ran smoothly and caused as little disruption to services as possible. The work has been completed ahead of schedule, which allows service to resume using linkspan number one.

'We would like to thank the community for their patience throughout the project.'

Work at Oban ferry terminal is part of CMAL's ongoing programme of harbour upgrades and modifications across the network to provide safe and efficient lifeline ferry services to communities around Scotland.

Pupils are apprentices at M&S

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Primary school pupils in Oban helped run the M&S Oban Foodhall for a day last week.

M&S welcomed youngsters from St Columba's and Park primaries on Friday, just ahead of Scottish Apprenticeship Week, which started on Monday, March 4.

The group of primary pupils spent the day shadowing store colleagues, learning how the outlet operates and gaining insights into how stock is ordered, as well as customer service and recycling.

The visit to the store, which opened last August, supports the schools' efforts to provide children with knowledge

about the world of work at an early age.

Stuart Mackinnon, manager of M&S Oban, said: 'We all really enjoyed having the children visit the store, showing them around and helping them learn new skills - whether it was giving them examples of how we serve customers at the till and ordering stock or how we all work together as a large team.'

'Retail contributes to around 10 per cent of Scottish jobs - the second highest single employer after the health sector - so it's very likely that some of these pupils will embark on a career in this industry.'

'We were keen to share more insight into the industry and the different routes to

employment. They seemed to have enjoyed their day with us which we're delighted about.'

Michaelina MacLellan, head teacher at St Columba's Primary School, said: 'Preparing children for the different employment avenues available to them is becoming increasingly important at a young age.'

'This has been a great opportunity for our students to see first-hand the retail sector in action and it's great that the new M&S is really embedding itself as part of the community.'

'The children had a wonderful day learning new skills during our visit and I'm sure that the trip will have given the children plenty of food for thought.'



Pupils from St Columba's Primary School helped run Oban M&S for the day. 17_T10_M&S01



Stuart Mackinnon, store manager of M&S Oban with pupils from Park Primary School. 17_T10_M&S02

Oban charities feature on popular BBC show

Two Argyll charities which received a makeover from hit BBC TV show DIY le Donnie will feature in next week's programme.

Hope Kitchen, which opened in 2009, supports people affected by homelessness, alcohol and drug addiction, and mental health problems.

The charity provides service users with lunch daily and dinner three times a week.

Food parcels are available for those in need, while there is also a laundry service. Emotional support for those who need it is also to hand.

The charity itself needed some help after moving into new premises, and so Donnie 'Dotaman' MacLeod was able to lend a helping hand when season five was filmed last summer.

Donnie was in Oban to work on a range of projects for the fifth series of DIY le Donnie.

Green Shoots, a gardening project set within the walls of the Glencruitten Estate which helps people connect with nature, also received assistance.

Lorraine MacCormick, Hope Kitchen's service manager, said: 'I think Donnie has done a fantastic job.'

'We are absolutely delighted with the professionalism, with the time it took him to do it and the real quality of the job he has done.'

'We really appreciate that he came to help our wee charity.'

The result of Donnie's work at both Hope Kitchen and Green Shoots was aired in the third episode on Tuesday, March 5, at 9pm. It can be seen again on BBC iPlayer.

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There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.

OT



More finances are needed to litter spot over the islands from the air, which has worked well for the coastal map, inset.

Aerial litter mapping seeks funds to expand

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Donations are needed to widen a project mapping the true scale of Scotland's coastal litter problem.

A project called SCRAPbook (Scottish Coastal Rubbish Aerial Photography), which involves volunteer pilots and observers taking to the skies to photograph and

identify litter and pollution around Scotland and map them online, has covered the mainland but now wants to extend its search out to the islands. However, it needs more finances to do it.

The map of mainland Scotland was launched last year and SCRAPbook engagement officer Sally Tapp said: 'It is amazing to see so many people using the map

and thinking of inventive ways to approach cleaning up our coast.' However, she added that the state of the coast around the islands was 'still largely unknown'.

Chairman of charity Sky Watch (UKCAP) Archie Liggat is urging people and businesses to make donations to help extend the litter mapping.'

It has been great to have so many crews volunteer to fly

and photograph the coastline. We've all been shocked at the amount of litter we've seen and we're raring to fly out over the islands to see what litter is there,' he said.

To see the map, go to scrapbook.org.uk/map/ and for more details visit Facebook SCRAPbookScotland; Twitter@SCRAPbook_Scot; Instagram @scrapbook scotland

Western Isles MSP calls for new 'Islands Deal'

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan made the case for an 'Islands Deal' at a reception at the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday February 27.

He was joined by Liberal Democrat MSPs for Orkney and Shetland, Liam McArthur and Tavish Scott, who co-sponsored the event, and Islands Deal programme director David Amos.

Those in attendance last Wednesday evening heard how the three authorities have collaborated in their efforts for two years to create the ambitious Islands Deal proposals.

The deal would transform the economies of Scotland's island economies. The proposals build on the unique strengths of the isles, and include specific proposals covering areas such as tourism and low carbon energy.

Discussions are to be held with government officials before submitting the proposals

to Holyrood and Westminster later this month.

Interest in the Islands Deal was confirmed by the attendance of several high-profile government ministers, including Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse, who spoke at the event.

In a joint statement made by the three politicians after the event, Mr McArthur, Mr Scott and Dr Allan said: 'This event championed the assets the isles have to offer. Islanders have the desire and skills to come up with solutions to pressing social, economic and environmental challenges that will benefit not just the isles but the rest of Scotland and beyond.'

They also said strategic investment in world-leading projects already based in the isles will more than pay for itself, and that they will continue to make the case for investment in island communities as the proposals progress.

SSEN issues safety warning

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) is urging customers to be cautious around any damaged electrical networks.

After a member of the public cleared high voltage power lines from the road in the north of Scotland, SSEN asked all customers to stay clear of electrical damage.

Martin Bowen, operational

safety advisor at SSEN, commented on the matter saying: 'We'd urge everyone to avoid approaching damaged or fallen power lines, keep at least five metres away, and report incidents immediately by calling us on 105.'

The 105 line is also available to report power cuts and SSEN's Power Track app can also be used to report disruptions.



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Loch Tromlee art turns up in Dundee

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A forgotten painting depicting life long ago on an Argyll estate has been discovered in the archives of a Dundee art gallery.

The painting of Highland cattle cooling themselves in Loch Tromlee was painted by Arthur Perigal the Younger (1816-1884) in 1873 but was only rediscovered recently when Christophe Gericke, father-in-law of Ballimore Estate's current owner Niall MacLeod, started carrying out some online research into the history of the land.

Much to the delight and surprise of Mr MacLeod, the painting was found in the archives of the McManus Art Gallery and Museum and the intention now is to have it restored to its former glory.

'I was quite surprised to see the reference to the Loch Tromlee painting when my father-in-law found it,' he said.

'It was especially pleasing as I was out and about when he called and the current herd of Highland cattle on the estate were standing in the same position in the loch as those shown in the old painting from so long ago, proving a continuity of Highland cattle keeping of at least 200 years.



Loch Tromlee by Arthur Perigal, above, ©Dundee City Council and Highland cattle still roam the Ballimore Estate today.



'Even more strangely, my son Angus and I had just been on the rowing boat fishing from the very spot where the two fishermen in the painting were, hence I knew the cattle were standing in the loch.'

'The museum in Dundee is keen to get the painting restored now it has so much interest and I am hoping we

can get a grant from the local wind farm trust to do this work.'

The father of five and his wife, Johanna, bought the estate in 2006 and are now planning to build a visitor centre by the loch.

Originally sitting in the centre of the MacCorquodale Clan lands, Ballimore enjoys

a huge history and, having had some interest shown by clan descendants worldwide, the MacLeods are planning to attract to a clan gathering.

'The visitor centre would overlook a former battle site,' explained Mr MacLeod.

'These activities will greatly enhance the tourist business here in the Avich and Kilchrenan area, and put it on the map historically with good justification. The 900 years of clan history reads like an exciting Scottish novel with all the right ingredients.'

'I expect the net result will be a greatly positive income earner for our area, helping the many holiday businesses in the ward.'

A website on the MacCorquodale Clan and a clan charity is also in the process of being set up.

'The painting is a strong piece of a historic jigsaw,' added MacLeod. 'Well recorded details about the clan and the estate are held at the Scottish Records Office under The MacCorquodale Papers.'

'I found up to the 1800 period was very active and then records are thin. It seems to have been taken over and sold off for hunting and fishing rights, a feature of many clanfolks historic homes in Argyll,' he concluded.

ACHA board approves multi-million budget

Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) board has approved a multi-million-pound budget for 2019/20.

Key aspects of the budget will see an investment of £15.8 million in the association's stock of 5,100 homes.

This is broken down into £9.6 million of capital investment, £3.9 million in reactive repairs and £1.7 million of planned maintenance.

Following tenant consultation, the association is also committing £1.5 million over the next five years in external neighbourhood improvements.

A repairs contingency of £300,000 has also been introduced as well as £100,000 to improve the association's letting standards.

The association's board also approved a £1 million investment over the next four years for a new housing management IT system as a platform for improving services, efficiency and performance. The budget also commits £4 million to go alongside contributions from the Scottish Government and



Alastair MacGregor.

Argyll and Bute Council to deliver ACHA's plans for 240 new-build homes by 2021.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA chief executive, said: 'This budget does three things: it invests in our existing housing stock, it identifies and funds priorities coming back from tenant consultations like the neighbourhood improvements, and, through the new housing management system, gives a modernising commitment to service improvement.'

'It also gives a multi-million-pound input to the local economy supporting jobs and communities the length and breadth of Argyll and Bute.'

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Rockfield Primary pupils have responded enthusiastically to the First Minister's Reading Challenge.

Youngsters rock at reading

by Sam Ormiston
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Rockfield Primary School pupils have been learning just how much fun reading can be.

As part of the First Minister's Reading Challenge, pupils have been taking part in a number of different activities, which has encouraged them to read for enjoyment on top of reading for their school work.

The challenge has been helped by the new library, which opened in 2017 after a refurbishment and a huge effort from teachers, parents

and the wider community. Parents donated money to buy new books and Oban High School pupils even produced artwork for the walls, which has created a vibrant and colourful environment for pupils.

Each class, including nursery pupils, now has a weekly slot to visit the library, where they can take part in different activities, or sit in small groups and read together.

Deputy head teacher Laura Fawdry said: 'One of the major priorities for Rockfield Primary has been to raise the profile of reading for enjoyment across our school.'

Ms Fawdry hosts a reading group for pupils every Wednesday lunchtime, which she says has been very well attended so far.

Teachers have been making a real effort in the school to make reading relevant to pupils. Primary six are currently in the middle of the 'Shelfie' Challenge, where pupils have a shelf next to their picture on the wall, and add the titles of books that they have read next to their name to mark their progress.

This has encouraged pupils to read as much as possible and become more active in their learning.

Youngsters have been working together across all age groups to discover their love for reading.

Ms Fawdry told the Oban Times: 'Every week, primary seven volunteers take part in paired or group reading with some of the younger pupils, to help them with their reading.'

The staff are just as enthusiastic as the pupils on the topic of reading for enjoyment. One teacher commented on the success of reading at Rockfield, saying: 'More and more pupils are reading for fun, and this has made a vast improvement on

comprehension skills and the pupil's vocabulary.'

It was clear to see from visiting Rockfield that the pupils were passionate about reading, with some children choosing books based on television shows they have watched and enjoyed.

One youngster told The Oban Times: 'I watched A Series of Unfortunate Events on Netflix and now I am reading the book, which is different but I really like it.'

Another added: 'I really enjoy reading at home after school for something to do.'

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Business link is a recipe for success

When a well-known local business teams up with a nationwide company with a big reputation, it is a recipe for success – just ask Waltons of Oban and Wiltshire Farm Foods.

Eric Walton and his team are the driving force – literally – behind the frozen ready meal service provided by Wiltshire Farm Foods in this area.

When Eric was made redundant in 2002, he started as a one-man, one-van operation that has grown to employ 20 people and run 12 vans and trucks to cover Oban, Campbeltown, Fort William, Mallaig, Dunoon and the islands of Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura and Bute. Lorries also run to Glasgow and Edinburgh. Lismore, Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and Barra can also be reached by sub-contractors.

The specialised food de-



Left to right are Eric Walton, Louise Reid, Graeme Darling and Cameron Walton.

livery vehicles are a regular sight on the roads of the West Highlands, operating from the Waltons of Oban base at Lochavullin Road.

Since 2004, Waltons has also operated a thriving

Wiltshire Farmfoods franchise, delivering frozen meals to whoever needs them in their homes. The service is primarily aimed at older age groups and individuals with particular nutritional needs.

Wiltshire Farm Foods offers more than 300 dishes in different portion sizes for specialist diets, allergies, specific nutritional needs such as calorie or protein levels, dietary intolerances and texture modification.

The meals are designed to a high standard and can be ordered by telephone to the office in Oban or online at www.wiltshirefarmfoods.co.uk

‘Over many years, our regular customers feel more like friends,’ said Eric. ‘Our friendly office team takes many orders every day and our Disclosure Scotland certified drivers will even place the meals carefully in your freezer and pick your mail up.’

‘Some customers eat our meals every day, and some just occasionally as a back-up.’

If you wish to try the service and discuss your needs, call 01631 566979.

Success for S3 bespoke health programme in Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Health Improvement Team is promoting health and wellbeing to local S3 students.

Laura Stephenson, senior health improvement officer for the HSCP, said: ‘This is a preventative programme which promotes safety and wellbeing.’

HSCP is working closely with the third sector, education, health and social care colleagues, and a range of other organisations to provide an insightful health programme aimed to raise awareness and defeat stigma surrounding physical,

sexual and mental health. Now, two years since the programme was first piloted, more than 850 S3 pupils across Argyll and Bute have taken part.

Provided teacher lesson plans, group workshops, pupil booklets, a drama performance and a question-and-answer session make raising health and wellbeing awareness enjoyable and relevant for youth and service providers.

Ms Stephenson also said the programme’s connections with local support services are also important, providing a link for numerous students so far.

Roadworks will cause closures on A828

The A828 road closures will now take longer than anticipated at some locations, causing further disruption for locals living between Barcaldine and Keil.

The programme for the ongoing resurfacing has been extended and altered to allow more time for the roadworks to be completed, which will ensure

the safety for all road users.

The Appin House improvements have been pushed back until the end of March.

The road will close on Monday March 25 for three days.

Amnesty periods will remain in place, allowing vehicles to pass at specific times each night.

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BUSINESS NEWS

IN BRIEF

Appin shop in limelight

The Lighthouse Craft Shop in Port Appin has received national recognition as one of the best independent shops in Scotland.

An article in The Herald placed the Lighthouse in the top 15 of best places to buy thoughtful gifts. It was a pleasant surprise for owners Archie and Sharon Mackenzie-Baldursson, who bought over the shop in 2015.

The shop offers a range of products, including woodcrafts, pottery, leather and tweed. It also sells handmade jewellery and you can browse original artwork.

When they took over the shop four years ago from Appin Co-op, it was a traditional gift shop, but Archie and Sharon decided to try something different, focusing on selling Scottish arts and crafts, with a particular passion for local artists.

The Lighthouse is now home to the works of more than 100 artists.

For more, visit appincraftshop.co.uk



Sharon and Archie run The Lighthouse.

Workshop on Skye

Skye businesses will have the chance to attend a brand development workshop.

The free workshop, organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), will take place in Portree on Thursday March 28.

Leading the workshop will be Lesley Thomson, managing director of a communications consultancy, and Janice Kirkpatrick, creative director for a design agency.

School scholarships for the Highlands

Marking its 40th anniversary, Lomond School has launched 40 new day and boarding scholarships to widen access to talented youngsters – 10 of which have been specially reserved for the West Highlands and Western Isles.

The means-tested scholarships will be offered to young people who excel academically, musically, in the creative arts or in sport. Also available is a special 'all-rounder' award in memory of the school's founder and first principal, David Arthur, who died in December.

Mr Arthur, who was principal for almost 10 years, successfully merged St Bride's School for Girls and the boys' Larchfield Academy in 1977 and played an important role in the school's 40th anniversary celebrations of last year.

With a possible reduction of up to 50 per cent of school and boarding fees, pupils aged from nine to 18 are invited to apply by the deadline of March 29.

Boarding

In response to demand, Lomond School will also be introducing transport from August 2019 which will make it easier for those families living in the West Highlands or Western Isles to access the school's weekly boarding option.

Academic scholarships will be awarded to candidates who perform strongly either in a specific subject or across all areas. The creative arts awards will celebrate young people with a gift for creative writing, art, photography or drama whilst the music scholarship will be awarded to those with talent in one or more instruments.

Sporting candidates recognised for skills within one key field or across multiple disciplines will be encouraged to become involved in Lomond's thriving team sports. And with sailing, skiing, canoeing and climbing within easy reach and embedded into the school curriculum, there are many opportunities to excel in new sports too.

As a tribute to Mr Arthur, who made such a significant impact on the school, local com-



Johanna Urquhart, principal of Lomond School, wants to widen access.

munity and national charities, the 'all-rounder' scholarship will be bestowed on a candidate who will contribute to the life of the school in a range of ways.

Johanna Urquhart, principal of Lomond School, said: 'As we celebrate the past 40 years of our school and look forward to the future, we are conscious of a desire to offer places to many more young people who may not ordinarily have the opportunity to attend Lomond School.'

'These 40 new scholarships will do just that, and we are very excited to welcome talented young people from all backgrounds to our Lomond School family.'

'Looking forward to the next 40 years, we

must also reflect on our past and our traditions and an important part of that is the legacy of David Arthur. The all-rounder scholarship will be a lovely way to celebrate his commitment to the school.'

Mr Arthur's daughter, Seonaid Brown, added: 'As a family, we are tremendously proud of what our father achieved in his life, especially his legacy and the ethos he left at Lomond School. To have this scholarship in his name, is a great honour to him and I know he would have felt very proud but also very humbled by it.'

For more information and to apply for one of the new scholarship places, visit <https://www.lomondschoo.com/admissions/scholarships/>

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Good news for Drax is good news for Argyll

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The company which owns Cruachan Power Station has generated a £13.8million profit following its Scottish Power deal in October last year.

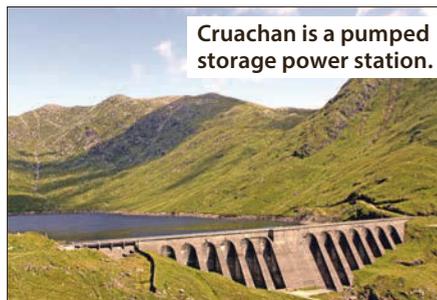
Following a year that saw the energy firm expand its low-carbon capabilities, Drax Group plc has reported a profit before tax of £13.8m for the 12 months to December 31, 2018, up from a pre-tax loss of £204m the previous year.

Drax, which operates the UK's largest power station in North Yorkshire, generated revenues of £4.23bn in the period, compared with £3.68bn in 2017.

Cruachan: The Hollow Mountain was part of Scottish Power's pumped storage, hydro and gas-fired generation portfolio acquired by Drax as part of a £702m deal which covered Scottish Power Generation Group along with its SMW subsidiary.

Speaking about future plans for the local station, Drax chief executive Andy Koss said: 'Drax performed well in 2018 and our commitment to operating safely and sustainably remains at our core.'

'As we look to the future, there are opportunities to expand our assets and plans to



Cruachan is a pumped storage power station.

do so at Cruachan are in the early stages. We are keen to engage with the Scottish Government and UK parliament and look at further investment.'

Built in the 1960s, Cruachan is one of only four pumped storage power stations in the UK and works like an enormous rechargeable battery, temporarily storing energy by managing water resources between a reservoir in the Argyll hills and Loch Awe, 396m below.

Using its reversible turbines, the station pumps water from Loch Awe to fill the upper reservoir at times when demand for electricity is low. When demand increases, the stored water can be released through the plant's turbines to generate power quickly and reliably.

The plant usually runs for short periods to meet peaks in demand, but it can operate continuously at full output for around 15 hours if necessary.

The station produces enough flexible electricity to power more than 90,000 households.

'There are possibilities of hollowing out more of the mountain and expanding the facility that is already there,' added Mr Koss.

'As the grid decarbonises, our ability to support intermittent renewables will become increasingly important as we strive to deliver our purpose of enabling a zero carbon, lower cost energy future.'

'We have attractive investment opportunities throughout our business, and while short-term uncertainty over the capacity market remains, we look forward to developing those opportunities in a disciplined fashion.'

Data released in November revealed how Drax Group made a contribution of almost £1.6bn towards the UK GDP in 2017.

Unlike many UK-based businesses, Mr Koss was also confident that Drax would cope with any of the Brexit options.

'We are a UK business with UK assets so we would hope that we would be largely unaffected, whatever the outcome,' he said.

Artist's exhibition is in restaurant

Lunga-based wildlife and landscape artist Colin Woolf will be showcasing his work in Kilmelford.

Working in watercolour, oils and pencil, Colin creates evocative images of mountains and sea, and his paintings are available to buy at a new restaurant, Room at the Top, in the village.

The restaurant, which seats 25 guests, opened on Friday February 22 and is located above the village shop and Post Office, which owner Sarah-Jane Edwards has operated for the past four years.

Working with chef Michael Hinds, Sarah-Jane said: 'We want to use as much local produce as possible and this is reflected in the menu, which includes locally-caught seafood.'



Chef Michael Hinds and Sarah-Jane Edwards beside a Colin Woolf painting.



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Booklet chronicles how Argyll and Bute remembered

by Sam Ormiston
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A booklet has been published to commemorate how Argyll and Bute residents remembered the First World War, from Tobermory to Campbeltown.

The booklet, entitled *How Argyll and Bute Remembered*, which is now available to the general public, was agreed for publication at a council meeting in December.

The decision was made by the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, in the aftermath of the final meeting of the WW1 steering group, which took place in Lochgilphead.

The leaflet will feature a collection of photos from some of the many events that were held during 2014-2018, from armistice events to dramas and exhibitions.

Also on display will be photos of some of the activities that school pupils across the region took part in to remember the fallen from the First World War.

Some pupils had the opportunity to visit Flanders Fields and the Somme, while also taking part in remembrance activities closer to home.

Lomond North Councillor Barbara Morgan, armed forces champion for the council, said: 'I think it's an excellent idea. It will show how the whole region pulled together in all the different areas and showed respect for those who went before us.'

Councillor Morgan also highlighted the importance of remembering those who died in battle, now and in the future.

In the foreword written by Argyll and Bute Provost Councillor Len Scoullar said: 'During the four-year centenary period, our people have been determined to ensure that Argyll and Bute remembers.'

The booklet costs just £5 to buy, and is available from Argyll and Bute Council. To purchase a copy, call the council on 01546 605522 and ask to be put through to governance and law.

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Why climb mountains?

General Smuts, the famous South African and British Commonwealth statesman and philosopher, wrote: 'When we reach the mountain summits, we leave behind us all things that weigh heavily down below on our body and spirit.'

'We leave behind all sense of weakness and depression. We feel a new freedom, a great exhilaration, an exaltation of the body no less than of the spirit. We feel a great joy.'

George Mallory, who climbed in Lochaber and may or may not have been the first man to reach the summit of Everest in 1924, dying on the way down, reputedly said on being asked why Everest: 'Because it is there – it is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.'

Sounds good to me.

The first woman to climb Mount Kilimanjaro had a Lochaber connection. Her name was Sheila MacDonald, later Mrs Combe, who lived in Glen Nevis before she moved down to the Invernevis care home in Fort William.

I first met Sheila in 1978 at Inverailort Castle, the home of her friend, Mrs Cameron-Head, where she went to stay when she got bored with 'institutional life', as she called it. 'Go into the drawing-room,' I was told by our hostess. 'There you will meet an interesting lady and if you give her a dram she will likely tell you about climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.'

Pouring what I thought was a fairly stiff whisky in any language, she took one look at it and promptly thrust the glass back at me with the words: 'I'd like a man-size drink please.'

Yes, I thought, here indeed was a character and one capable of conquering the Everest of Africa.

Mount Kilimanjaro or just Kilimanjaro, with its three cones, Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira, is a dormant volcano in Tanzania. At 19,341ft above sea level, it is the highest mountain in Africa. The first people known to have reached its summit were two Germans, Hans Meyer and Ludwig Purtscheller, in 1889.

The mountain is part of the Kilimanjaro National Park. It is now a major climbing destination and has been the subject of many scientific studies because of its shrinking glaciers and disappearing ice fields.

Uhuru Peak is the highest summit on Kibo's crater rim. The origin of the name 'Kilimanjar'

is not exactly known. European explorers had adopted the name by 1860 and reported that 'Kilimanjaro' was the mountain's Kiswahili name.

Johann Ludwig Krapf (1810-1881), a German missionary in East Africa, as well as an explorer, linguist and traveller, wrote in 1860, that Swahilis along the coast called the mountain Kilimanjaro, meaning the mountain of greatness, its height acknowledged long before the advent of accurate surveying equipment.

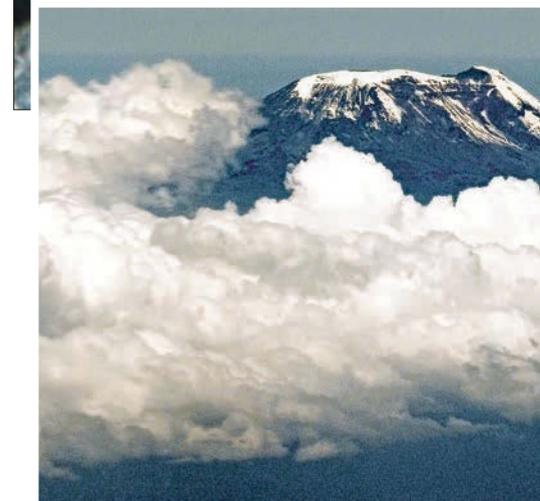
Sheila was born in Australia in 1901. She was educated at Newham College, Cambridge, where she read modern languages and excelled in rowing, narrowly missing a place in one of the university boat races. She spent much of her early years in Skye, where she began climbing, and in the Alps with her father, the vice-president of the Alpine Club.

Sheila gave me her story about ascending Kilimanjaro. 'It was in 1927, and I was on my way to Africa by sea to stay with my cousin, Archie Ritchie, chief game warden of Kenya. On the ship, I noticed a man who kept himself very much to himself, walking around the deck every day. As he was wearing an Alpine Club tie, I felt I had to stop and ask him about it. He was obviously a climber and I wanted to know what he was doing out here. "Oh," he said, "my name is William West and I'm on the way to climb Kilimanjaro. I made an ascent in 1914 but that was rushed and unsatisfactory because of the war, and now I am going out to make a second attempt. Would you like to climb it with me?" "For heaven's sake," I said, "you know nothing about my climbing ability. I don't know anything about the mountain." To which he replied, "I know your father's reputation. I think that you could manage it quite well. I would be pleased to take you if you would undertake it." And so I said I would.

'Later, another passenger, Major Lennox-Browne, asked if he could join the party. He had never done any climbing, but he felt that I should not be climbing as a lone woman with a single man. So we were a party of three when we landed at Mombasa.

'By that time I had collected a pair of trousers, socks, a wide-brimmed felt hat called a terai and a pullover – all from different passengers who were very interested in the venture – I only had boots to buy.

'I was met at Mombasa by friends of my cousin and forbidden to do such a thing, and was told that I must proceed instantly to Nairobi. The Nairobi race balls were shortly to begin, with



the dances that went with them. I said, "No, I am determined to climb this mountain." Well, they sent a cable to Archie in Nairobi to say, "Cousin very pig-headed", and I went back to my friends.

'My parents, who expected me to stay with them in Australia after Nairobi, were shocked



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Mount Kilimanjaro



Sheila Combe, photographed aged 79 in 1980, was the first woman to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, inset. Main photograph: Iain Thornber; Mount Kilimanjaro: David Clode

and furious with me. We went by train to Voi and changed for Moshi. This was the local water train; it stopped frequently to distribute water. We were eight hours on the footboards, and arrived at Moshi looking like Red Indians from the dust. Here we disembarked. Then West said to me, "Oh, you can see the summit." I looked up. No I could only see cloud. "You're not looking high enough," West said.

"I nearly passed out; it was tremendous. I was terrified. I thought, if I can get out of this, I shall. But it was too late. It is not a beautiful mountain. It's rather like Ben Nevis; impressive by its immensity. And, of course, it was more lovely because it had far more snow on it.

"In the town of Moshi we bought provisions and found a cook and a boy to help him. Then in a Ford lorry, we drove for two and a half hours

to the village of Marangu and met the headman, Mlanga. He gave us eggs, milk and a fowl, and let us camp in front of his house. He had a large kudu horn brought to him on which the village crier blew a great blast to summon the village. He then detailed off 14 men who were to accompany us. That's how we got our porters. We started up from there.

"The first day was through beautiful deciduous forest. We saw no game, but we did see very fresh elephant droppings. We were walking along an elephant track, not a man-made road. There was no path to the mountain summit. West had only one small tent, and the men were very courteous to me. When we stopped for the first night, they said I was to have the tent, and they would just sleep out in their sleeping bags."

■ To be continued.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph was sent to The Oban Times by Nigel Mackenzie Campbell, from Dumbarton, who said: 'This photo was taken during the 1970s. No parking meters to be seen here!'



The changing face of the east end of Fort William High Street. Picture courtesy of the Roamer archive.



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Urge everyone to attend meeting on future of bay

The future management of Oban Bay is a saga that has been running on now for a considerable time.

Now, as we report this week, a public meeting has been scheduled for the end of the month to update interested parties in the progress made so far.

The Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) and the Oban Bay Stakeholder Group (OBSSG) have continued to progress proposals for new harbour authority arrangements, with the latter having completed an evaluation of the viability of operating a trust port.

For those unfamiliar with the story, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) wanted to be the sole harbour authority, a proposal resisted by a large number of stakeholders.

Thus the option of a trust port has been gaining increasing support. An evaluation carried out by OBSSG demonstrated that a trust port can be operated for a significantly lower cost than originally thought and, at a meeting of the OBSSG on February 19, a new Oban Community Harbour Development Association was formed to support the proposal.

We would urge all interested parties to attend the meeting at 7pm on March 28 in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

For once, all's whale that ends well ...

There was, understandably, a great deal of interest in the plight of the young humpback whale which became stranded near Dunstaffnage last week.

There was a prompt response from the combined emergency services, with marine experts from SAMS on hand to offer advice. Thankfully, the whale calf made it back out to sea.

Scotland's land is being sold down the river

I am driven to write to you, because democracy is failing in Glen Etive. The recent developments in the proposals for hydroelectric schemes there have left me wondering: are the people of Scotland aware that their country continues to be sold from beneath their feet by absentee landlords?

There is nothing new, unfortunately, in the story of the wealthy few seeking to degrade our land in the pursuit of a little more money, but even to my cynical mind this seems like a watershed moment.

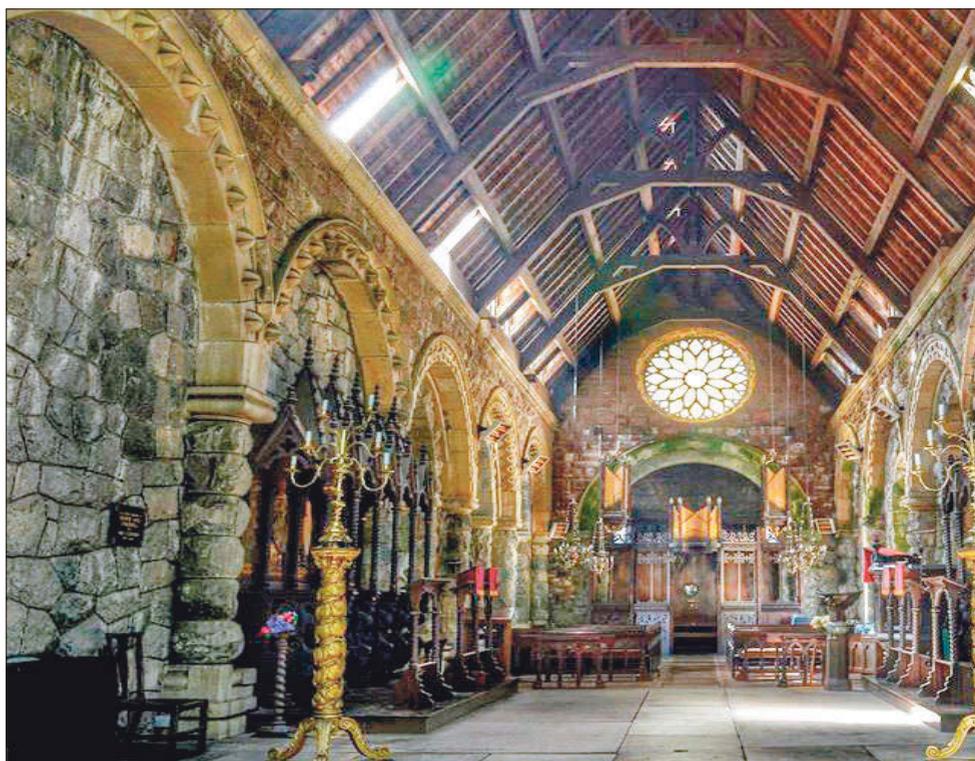
Nevermind that more than 650 objections were lodged before the schemes were initially granted approval. Nevermind that these seven schemes would have irreversible visible and ecological impacts on the iconic glen in question. Nevermind that the proposals make vague reference to restoration efforts, some of which the councillors would have realised were impractical if they had actually looked at the terrain in question. Nevermind, even, that small-scale hydro generates relatively insignificant amounts of power.

These proposals are for a glen that is already designated as a National Scenic Area. The name says it all. The gov.uk website defines an NSA's purpose as 'both to identify our finest scenery and to ensure its protection from inappropriate development'. But what is the point? Why bother having designations like these at all, if a development so obviously opposed to those aims is approved regardless?

As always, the quantitative wins over the qualitative. The proposals benefit the absentee landowners of Glen Etive and Dalness estates, the developers Dickins Hydro, and precious few others. The landowners stand to make up to £3 million, and have offered £34,000 to the local community – apparently that is the value they give to some of the most recognisably beautiful land in our country. The enormous monetary value in tourism that will be lost is of no consequence to the landowners.

It shouldn't be the job of members of the public to scrutinise planning proposals like this one, which has the potential to irreparably damage an iconic area of national importance, and which is supposedly 'protected' by a National Scenic Area designation. Having worked in outdoor education in the Highlands, how do I explain to the next generation of hill-goers and river-goers that their national heritage was worth £34,000?

YOUR PICTURES



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

like to see published here, send it to 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

How do I explain to them that the Highlands might be loved by many, but are owned by the few? How can I believe that local and national government speak for me when all those voices are ignored?

The recent outpouring of energy in opposition to the plans suggests that there is hope, that the people who live and work and play in the Highlands see the immense value in the land beyond profit projections, but so far they are being ignored.

This feels like a turning point, and more is at stake than just the integrity of Glen Etive. Centuries of undemocratic land management could be challenged, changed. Or it could be

business as usual. More voices are needed. For the time being, the Scottish people have a chance to say the land is theirs, too, but I worry they are being sold down the river and won't realise until it is too late.

Huw Oliver,
Waterside Mill, Hexham.

People standing up for wild land

The John Muir Trust is pleased to support the lead being given by councillor Andrew Baxter in the fight to avoid further damage to the Loch Etive Wild Land Area. This reflects the fact that

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High Street, Fort William.
This week's photograph of the interior of St Conan's Kirk in the village of Loch Awe was sent in by Neil Lea from Dunoon.

There is a John Muir quote on the wall of the Scottish Parliament saying: 'The battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is part of the universal battle between right and wrong.'

How true this is.

John Low,
Policy officer, John Muir Trust.

State of A82 at Spean Bridge is unacceptable

Steve Jeffrey's letter in last week's Oban Times points out the waste of public money filling in potholes when the job can't be done properly the first time.

This is a frequent occurrence, as BEAR Scotland probably has no money left in this year's budget, therefore does the cheapest option to make the road safe until the 2019/20 maintenance money is released and planned permanent reinstatements can be done.

What is farcical is the marking out of the defects to give you the impression that work is imminent, however, you'll find that the same defects get marked out time and time again.

The straight section of the A82 before Spean Bridge is like a patchwork quilt and you only have to count the number of wheel trims scattered on the roadside verge as evidence that the road surface is totally unacceptable for a 60mph speed limit.

Alan Robinson,
Spean Bridge.

Oban drama group in the Spotlight

Fiddler on the Roof is not the easiest musical to perform and it can make many demands on an audience – unless it is performed by Oban Spotlight Musical Theatre Group.

Their show sent audiences away with wings on their feet and passion in their hearts.

The acting of this talented company added to fine choral singers, the dressmakers, scene setters, electronics engineers, brought together by the youngest girl and boy to the most elderly and long-serving adult of this happy gang, made for a joyous experience.

Particularly pleasing was the 40-strong chorus presentations which left the audience clammering for more. Comparisons are invidious but the director, Stephen Day, is worthy of a 'Well done, Sir.' When is the next one?

Oban is proud of each and everyone of you.

W Raymond Shaw,
Glasgow.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Rud a chì an leanabh 's e nì an leanabh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil modh giùlain òigridh, math agus dona, na sgàthan air na chunnaic is na chual' iad anns an dachaigh is nan cuid dlùth choimhearsnachd.

Tha seo aithnichte feadh an t-saoghail a thaobh 's mar a tha cànan agus dualchas màthaireil a' gluasad eadar ghinealaichean, agus tha sinn fhìn mar Ghàidheil a' faicinn mar a tha seargadh anns a' chleachdadh sin againne air gaiseadh a chur ann an àireamhan luchd-labhairt agus cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig. 'S e "gluasad cànan" (language shift) a bh' aig an eòlaiche cànan cliùiteach Joshua Fishman air leithid seo de thachartas, agus ged a sgrìobh e an leabhar ainmeil "Reversing Language Shift" a' moladh slighe gus cùisean a thionndadh cha robh e idir gun mhothachadh air ire leithid sin de dhùbhlhan.

Ach mar a thig clann gu aois tha iad cuideachd a' tòiseachadh air ceasnachadh na tha a' tachairt mun cuairt orra.

Carson a tha gnothaichean mar a tha iad? Ged a tha sinn uile mothachail gum bheil seo

nàdarra agus ri mholadh, 's iomadh inbheach a th' air fàs gu math mi-fhoighidneach fo fhras cheistean òigridh. Sin pàirt den adhbhar, saoilidh mi, nach eil sinn daonnan a' gabhail a' chothruim beachdachadh air modhan-obrach is cleachdaidhean a th' againn.

Chan eil teagamh nach eil e nas fhasa cùisean fhàgail mar a tha! Ma dh'obraich iad gu ruige seo carson a bhithte dol gan atharrachadh canaidh sinn, is chan eil feadhainn a dh'iarra a' chaochladh ach ri fèin-riarachadh. Sin an seòrsa beachd, am measg rudan eile, a tha a' fàgail iomdach buidheann coimhearsnachd gann de bhuill gus an cuid obrach a thoirt air adhart nuair a bhios cuid aca a' fàs sgith neo sean.

A dh'aindeoin 's gum bheil sinn uile a' tuigsinn gum bheil ginealaichean eile a' tighinn às ar dèidh, tha sinn tric dualach a bhith neo-èifeachdach ann a bhith gan deisealachadh airson nan uallaichean.

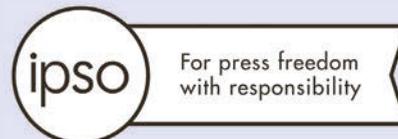
Nuair a sgrìobh am bàrd ainmeil Wordsworth gur e an leanabh athair an duine bha e gu ire a' cur car a' mhuiltein den ghnothach, ach bha e

ceart cur nar sealladh gur e mac-meanmhainn agus treibhdhreas òigridh an latha 'n-diugh a stiùireas saoghal nam bliadhnaichean romhainn. Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil dleastanas oirne nas aithne dhuinn de mhath ionnsachadh dhan òigridh agus na ceistean aca uile a fhreagairt mar is fheàrr as urrainn dhuinn, tha e cuideachd deatamach gun èist sinn ris na beachdan aca agus gum breithnich sinn cuide riutha air mar a dh'fhaodte rudan a dhèanamh ann an dòighean nas fheàrr.

Tuilleadh neart dhan chlan-sgoile a tha a' taisbeanadh a thaobh cor àrainneachd na cruinne!

The child is the father of the man. When Wordsworth wrote these much-quoted words he could not have foreseen school children across Britain demonstrating to raise awareness of serious environmental change, but we must all hope that these future adults are better managers of the world than we have been so far.

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



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 or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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DISTRICT NEWS

APPIN

Highland Open Water Swim has its first trip to Port Appin and Lismore on Sunday March 17.

The plan is to take the ferry across to Lismore and then swim back the 1km distance. It should take the average swimmer about 30 to 35 minutes to complete the swim.

There is no minimum age, but swimmers under 16 must have a parent present. Registration is £10. Contact Alex on alex@highlandopenwaterswim.com

CRAIGNURE

Line dancing at Craignure Hall every Wednesday from 5.30pm to 7pm. Adults £4, children get in for half price.

Craignure's next producers' market at the village hall is this Sunday March 10 from 2pm to 4pm.

DUNSTAFFNAGE

Argyll and Bute Intergenerational Network meets on March 18 from 10am to noon at Malin House, Dunstaffnage European Marine Science Park.

The get-togethers are an opportunity to share what is happening locally and nationally, and to look at examples of successful projects and discuss training opportunities.

To register go to generationsworkingtogether.org/events-training/argyll-bute-intergenerational-network-meeting-18-03-2019

DERVAIG

Dervaig Post Office and Store is up for sale – including its stock. The village business on Mull started up 19 years ago. To find out more email Dugie Allan at dugs564@btinternet.com

KILCREGGAN

A development, including seven hybrid units and a community hub building in Kilcreggan, will not be allowed to take place.

Proposals by Lucid Developments,

Excellent report for primary school



Barcaldine Primary School has received top marks from inspectors. Inspectors from Argyll and Bute Council said key strengths of the school include polite children who are proud of their achievements, a highly effective head teacher and committed staff.

The high-quality provision for outdoor learning which allows children to apply their knowledge

and skills across the curriculum in a stimulating and exciting way was also mentioned in the inspectors' report.

And staff and children make the most of the natural environment of the local area, it said.

Partnerships with parents and the local community also enhance children's learning experiences, noted the report.

The school needs to keep developing robust systems to monitor children's progress over time and opportunities need to be built on for children to take ownership of their own learning.

'We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection,' said inspectors.

had been recommended for refusal by Argyll and Bute Council planning officers. And at a meeting of the authority's planning, protective services and licensing committee on Wednesday February 20, it was confirmed that the proposal had been kicked into touch.

A report by planning official Frazer MacLeod had stated that the application site, at woodland north of the boatyard on Rosneath Road, was of significant amenity value and the development would have, 'a detrimental impact upon

the character and appearance of the locality'. Andy Whyte, of Lucid Architects, argued that, 'the buildings themselves offer flexible small homes or a beautiful place to stay'.

OBAN

■ Oban High School has its annual renuin coming up at The Royal hotel on Saturday March 9 at 7pm. Tickets for the hot buffet and dance are £20. Music by the Martainn Skene duo. Contact dabrownoban@btinternet.com

■ Oban Fire Station has an information open day on Saturday March 9 from 10am for anyone interested in becoming a full-time firefighter.

Everything from equipment demonstrations, to interview and application tips and techniques will be covered during the session. Register at eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-fire-rescue-service

■ Oban Music Society will be hosting a Brass Diversions concert on Sunday March 10.

Brass Diversions is described as

a 'cutting edge' ensemble, which was formed to promote genres from Baroque to contemporary jazz.

The trio is made up of Hedley Benson on the trumpet, Davur Magnussen on the trombone and Chris Baxter on the piano.

The programme includes works by JS Bach, Debussy, Jenkins, Bernstein and Turrin and Gershwin.

The concert will be in St John's Cathedral at 3pm on March 10.

Non-members of Oban Music Society are very welcome and tickets can be purchased at the door.

TOBERMORY

■ MacGochans in Tobermory has a pub charity quiz night on Friday March 8 from 9pm in aid of Prostrate Cancer UK

■ Tobermory needs a new Poppy Scotland organiser. Interested? Call 01688 400313.

■ Tobermory RNLI is recruiting! There are vacancies for volunteer crew. You should be aged between 17 and 65 and be physically fit. You should also live or work in Tobermory. Full training will be given at the station and at the RNLI College in Poole. Interested? Come along to the training night every Tuesday at 7pm to meet the team, call 01688 302143 during office hours or email tobermory@rnli.org.uk

LISMORE

The Lismore Public Hall AGM will take place on Wednesday March 27.

The event will be held in the hall from 8pm. Director nomination and membership forms are currently available on notice boards or inside the shop.

A vote will take place on the night on whether 'no alcohol to being sold at the hall' rule should be lifted.

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Action is needed

I have written in this column on many occasions praising the work concluded a couple of years ago to improve the appearance of Oban town centre.

The widened and cosmetically improved pavements, complete with benches and hanging baskets, have made a significant difference for the better. Sadly, however, George Street around the bay and the roads around Argyll Square are a mess again. The surfaces are cracked, broken, uneven and potholed.

It is such a shame because the state of these roads detracts hugely from the town's smartened up appearance. With the tourist season hurrying near, it would be good if these arterial routes could be resurfaced.

Oh, and while I'm on my high horse, still nothing has been done about the unpleasant discharge emanating from the doorway of Spice World, between the New Look and Superdrug shops.

Again, I've written about this a couple of times previously. The blight is still flowing right across the pavement and flowing down the gutter in the parking bays. It is being trampled even further by people passing along the street.

Can no one take action to enforce a repair?

Awesome contribution

Confession time: I sit on no committees and volunteer for no activities away from the office.

My laissez-faire attitude is nothing to trumpet about, of course, but I only mention it because I am a huge admirer of people who go above and beyond to help others.

One such person, as we reported last week, is David Isaac, a member of Oban RNLI crew. David was in the paper for reaching the milestone of his 500th call-out aboard the lifeboat. David joined the crew some 20 years ago and, being a fisherman by trade, has even been picked up from his own boat when emergencies arise.

Along with the other RNLI volunteers, who put themselves in harm's way every time they respond to a shout, David is a hero to many people. Including me.

What do you think?

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



Rural groups have the chance of securing grants between £1,000 and £5,000.

Energy provider fuels grants for rural groups

Rural community projects are being invited to apply for a share of £70,000 of funding from home energy provider Calor.

If successful, groups could get up to £5,000 each in grants.

The Calor Rural Community Fund, now in its third year, is bigger and better than ever before.

Rural communities off the mains gas grid can submit

their projects for funding, with previous winners, including playground and village hall refurbishments, instruments for music banks and equipment for sports clubs.

Now, Calor is encouraging anyone who thinks their project may be eligible to come forward and submit an application.

The projects that receive the most votes by the public will be

shortlisted and then reviewed by a panel of judges, who will select the final 21 winners.

Partnering with Crowdfunder for 2019, Calor also is pledging £2,000 worth of match funding to approved entries that use the fund-raising platform to raise donations for their community project.

Jason Nuttall, head of funding for Crowdfunder, comments: 'We're

really excited to be partnering with the Calor Rural Community Fund. The match funding will give so many projects that extra boost toward meeting their goals and it's great to be a part of a scheme that is making such a difference to so many rural communities across the UK.'

Applications open from March 5 and close on April 29. Visit calor.co.uk/communityfund

which is operated by Luss Estates, was granted permission for the extension by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority's (NPA) planning and access committee, on Monday February 25.

The committee, which is chaired by Helensburgh and Lomond South Councillor Ellen Morton,

had already heard that the plans were recommended for approval.

The extension will be located east of the existing hotel, further along Old Military Road. The hotel's car parking will also be extended to accommodate 73 vehicles.

Luss and Arden Community Council, in its response, stated

that it encouraged the development of a traffic management plan for the village

ISLAY

An audit of the walking and cycling routes in Islay is currently under way.

Argyll and Bute Council

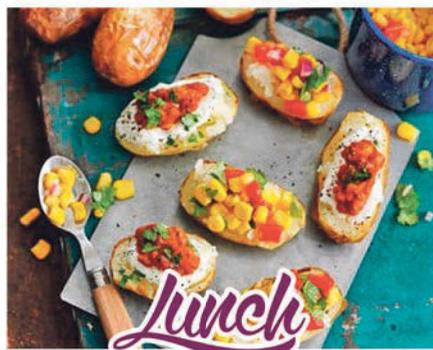
has commissioned Jacobs Engineering to carry out the work and the company wants to hear from locals to better understand the problems.

A live feedback event was scheduled to take place on Monday March 4, but Jacobs' transport planner can also be contacted on ellen.kane@jacobs.com

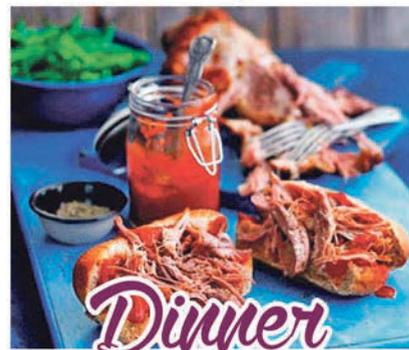
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OUTDOORS

Report details plight of the Scottish wildcat

by Rachel Dobbie
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Last Wednesday was a pivotal moment for the Scottish wildcat.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Cat Specialist Group launched a report on the current status of the wildcat in Scotland.

Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA) is a partnership of more than 20 leading organisations working to give the wildcat a future here.

The world's leading cat scientists and conservationists have been invited to carry out the assessment, following increasing concerns over the future of wildcats in Scotland.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) hosted the launch at its wildlife park in Kingussie, which has a popular wildcat enclosure.

A number of representatives from RZSS and SWA were in attendance to report their findings regarding Scotland's disappearing wildcat.

RZSS is progressing a series of options for the wildcat's sustainable future in partnership with a range of organisations, including a potential release programme of captive-bred wildcats and a National Wildlife Reintroduction Centre.

The wildcat – also known as the Highland tiger – is one of the UK's most endangered mammals. Previous studies have cited hybridisation – the breeding of domestic pet and feral cats with wildcats – as the major threat to their survival in the wild.

It is thought hybridisation began to affect the wildcat severely between the 1950s and 1980s, with limited food sources and persecution resulting in the few remaining wildcats breeding with domestic cats.

Living life clinging to a perfect, idyllic rock

Stephanie Cope, of the Tiree Ranger Service, begins a new monthly column chronicling her experiences



Summer guests like nothing better than a snapshot of 'real' island life – an intimate and gritty peek behind the stage curtain.

Between the dry coughing of corncrakes, or when the basking shark finally vacates its bright circle in our telescope, the inevitability of this topic is like gravity.

Often, it happens on the way back from a guided walk, during those last minutes before we reach our vehicles, taking in the afternoon sunshine.

A guest will sidle up to ask in hushed and conspiratorial tones: 'Do you live here all year round? But what's it like?'

I have never felt more interesting. As an individual whose hobbies include collecting unusual pebbles and pioneering a complex system for colour-coding with Swan highlighters, I am flatly amazed that people seem so fascinated by my life.

After conducting a two-year love affair with Tiree, perhaps the question merits an answer.

Like all the best romances, joining a small community begins with awkward moments.

To the virgin explorer, Tiree's road signs are more a lottery than a source of information. The east of the island is particularly troublesome: beguiling little turn-offs tempt you down toward the shore; signposted for what you imagine might be a charming cottars' settlement or township. Instead, one's adventure is just as apt to end abruptly with a front door.

The courage to execute a flawless 57-point turn on the lawn must then be summoned, as the resident family sip tea and watch amicably from their front window.

You never sail alone when you live on Tiree. As your eyebrows crest the last wooden step in the CalMac terminal, you are locked into a ritual of



Gott Bay on the Isle of Tiree in winter: a delicious cocktail of the wild and the familiar.

recognising and being recognised. Your eyelids may be all but duct-taped open at that time in the morning but solemn nods are still exchanged before you take your seat and caffeinate.

Indeed, if I walk into a room and don't exchange cheerful nods with at least three people, I feel quite out of sorts. It's easy to become used to a community where so many residents are so generous with their time.

Living on Tiree feels like being part of a club or secret society (we haven't nailed-down the handshake yet). Nocturnal winter drives are sprinkled with the twinkling lights of civic buildings, where volunteer boards and committees are giving up their evenings, hard at work to keep our island running.

It's a small place and that brings unique challenges. But where else could you arrive home following the death of a loved one, to find cards on your mat from people you could hardly claim to know? Kindness is absolutely rife in the islands.

On Tiree, people and nature rub shoulders. I have never before experienced life in the shadow of corncrakes. Should you be careless enough to

air the house by leaving a door open, there is a real and present danger of occupation.

It's wonderfully ridiculous but ridiculously wonderful.

Tiree is a perfect and delicious cocktail of the wild and the familiar. Our island is an increasingly important (and sadly uncommon) example of how people and nature can thrive successfully together. While traditional agriculture underpins our biodiversity and is at the heart of our rural economy, Tiree is no museum piece. Our community works tirelessly to be progressive, innovative and resilient.

We face our challenges as a team and we carry nature with us. When all is said and done, we still find ourselves clinging to the same rock. That breeds commonality.

Standing shin-deep in wildflowers under a forever sky, with the calls of skylark and lapwing tumbling down like confetti from paradise, life's challenges fall away like dead skin. It's just so easy to forget them.

What's it like to live here? Well, to be honest, you should probably try it.

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This week's walks



Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park has won a Walk at Work award.

National park takes award in its stride

by Sam Ormiston
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park have been awarded the Walk at Work Award.

The award recognises employers who actively promote walking in the workplace.

The National Park Authority received the Walk at Work award at a team meeting last week, before all staff members went to Balloch Castle Country Park to take part in a Fit for Life walk.

The staff at the national park have always been encouraged to walk at work. Staff regularly take part in outdoor activities, such as litter pick-ups and walking meetings.

Last year, the organisation took the next step by trialling the Fit for Life scheme, which has had an amazing impact on getting employees out and about during working hours.

The optional scheme allows the chance to take part in a 15-minute walk, run or cycle in the national park during the working day. More than 120 members have joined the scheme so far, and last year they collectively walked for 93,000 minutes.

The national park's director of corporate services, Jaki Carnegie, is one of the people who helped bring the scheme to life. She said: 'I am absolutely thrilled and incredibly proud that we have received a Walk

at Work award from Paths for All.'

Ms Carnegie added: 'Our Fit for Life pilot is an innovative and forward thinking way that gives staff time out of their working day to enjoy all the benefits of being in the outdoors., allowing them to come back to the office re-energised after a short burst of exercise.'

Paths for All chief officer Ian Findlay has urged all Scottish workplaces to get involved in the scheme. There are plenty of benefits from taking part.

Mr Findlay said: 'Research shows that employees who are physically active in and around the working day take fewer sick days. These employees also have higher concentration levels and are more motivated.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Sunday March 10: Ben Ledi, Strathrye

This fine hill, situated on the southern edge of the Highlands, is well known to lowland dwellers and is visible from all over the central belt.

Start from the CP across the river from the A84, 1.5km S of the foot of Loch Lubnaig, NN586091.

Take the footpath W up through conifer forest. On emerging from the trees the path curves SW and continues to climb to the crest of the SE ridge of Ben Ledi at 600m alt. Climb NW to its summit, 879m. Continue NW on the ridge, descending slightly and soon curving N, then descend more steeply NW for 0.5km to a ring contour at Gualainn Bhuidhe. The easiest descent from here is NE down the fall-line for 0.87km to a fence and the head of a track at NN5642811125.

Follow the track down into Stank Glen, turning right at the junction before the ford. Continue on the track, curving SE and entering the conifer plantation. Ignoring three more junctions, locate a path off left at NN576104 and follow it down to reach a forest road at a hairpin bend. The road leads down to the cycle track at the shore of the loch. Follow it S back to the start.

Distance: 10km; height to climb: 745m; map(s): LR57, EX365, OL46. Meet at Longsdale CP, Oban, at 8.50am or Glencoe village CP at 9.05am for start of walk at 10.30am. Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994 or 01631 740391.

Thursday March 14: Acharn Bridge to Achagavel, Morvern

A walk through the lonely Gleann Dubh beside the Black Water in a remote corner of Morvern. Now almost deserted, it bears the evidence of human habitation going back centuries, if not millennia.

Start from the CP just N of Acharn Bridge on the A884 road to Lochaline, NM702504. The old bridge, still in place and useable, has been replaced by that carrying the main road. Finds from the cairn just to the N have been dated to the Bronze Age.

Head N on the track through deciduous woodland on the E side of the Black

Water. The track crosses the river on a bridge after about 2.2km and continues to Crosben, just NW of which are traces of a pre-clearance township with eight or nine dwellings (NM719543).

Beyond Crosben, the way is reduced to a path that follows the foot of the hill NE along the edge of the flood plain to Lurga. 0.5km W of here is an old leadmine. There are several ruined drystone buildings at Lurga, at least one of which was used for processing ore and has a water conduit running through it below floor level (NM735553).

Continue on the path for 3Km to Achagavel. There are the remains of four houses here known to have been occupied from 1755, along with evidence of farming. There is at least one modern building which may well be still in use, as the way on from here is up a well made vehicle track leading up to the A884 road at NM771569. Transport required 12km from start. Limited parking off-road is available in the vicinity.

Distance: 12km; height to climb: 295m; map(s): LR49, EX383. Meet at Coran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 10.15am. Leader: Rick Atkinson 07587 549731.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevis-hillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club.

Saturday March 9: Gaor Bheinn, Loch Eil

A long but easy approach through Gleann Fionnlighe leads to this twin-topped hill between Loch Eil and Loch Arkaig. Not readily spotted from most directions.

Start from a section of old road off the A830 opposite its junction with the A861 at the foot of Gleann Fionnlighe at NM960794. Limited parking is available. Take the track N into Gleann Fionnlighe. After 2km it crosses the river on a bridge. After a further 1km, turn right on to a path to keep alongside the river. Cross the Allt a' Choir Reidh on a footbridge and after 500m, leave the path and climb NE up the steep ridge to a small summit at 855m. Turn N to continue up less steeply to the Munro top, 961m. Follow the ridge NNE for 1.3km descending to a col then climbing again to reach the summit of Gaor Bheinn, 987m. The return by the outward route is by far the easiest option.

Distance: 21km, height: 1150m ascent. Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Rick Atkinson.

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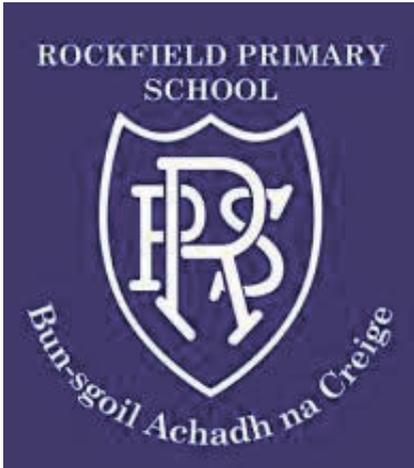


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Primary Schools all over the country are having fun whilst raising money to change countless lives. We asked pupils at Rockfield Primary School to join in the fun with our advertising team and between them and some of our great local businesses, we raised over £200! Well done everyone!



It is Red Nose Day and time once again for a feast of fun.

The serious thing about Red Nose Day is that since it was launched in 1985, more than £1 billion has been invested in supporting vulnerable people and communities in the UK and overseas.

As you can see, here in Oban the children of

Rockfield Primary School have been getting all artistic for our advertisers.

Rockfield Primary are hosting their "Rainbow Rockfield Day" for Comic Relief where the pupils are invited to dress up in multi-colour clothing and accessories and come into school to take part in different themed activities.

In 2017, the charity raised was £82,154,943 and

the total since the beginning is £1,047,083,706. Don't let the fun stop here.

Visit the Red Nose Day website and visit the fundraising tools page which is packed with everything from posters and recipes to a ready-made quiz and a sponsorship form. Download, have fun, raise cash and let us know what you've been up to!

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P3

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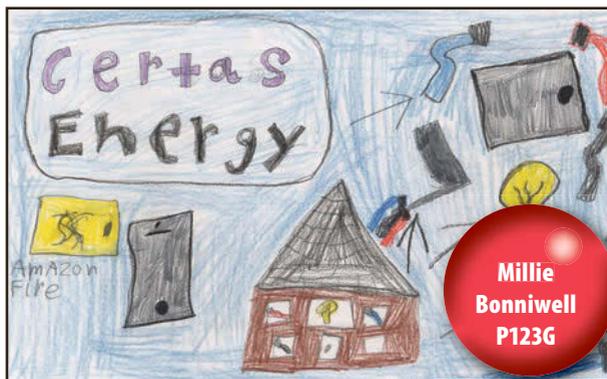
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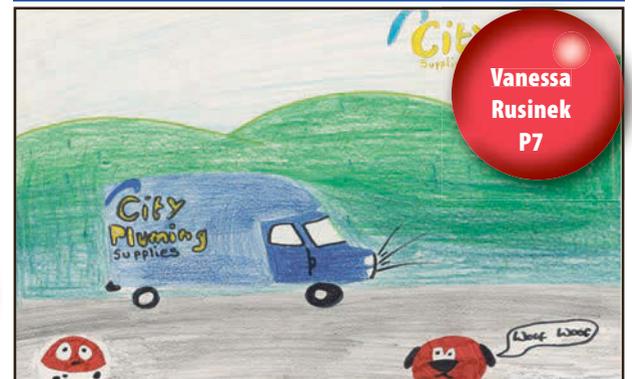
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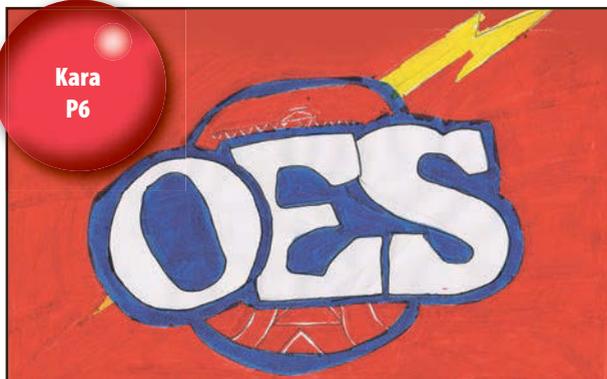
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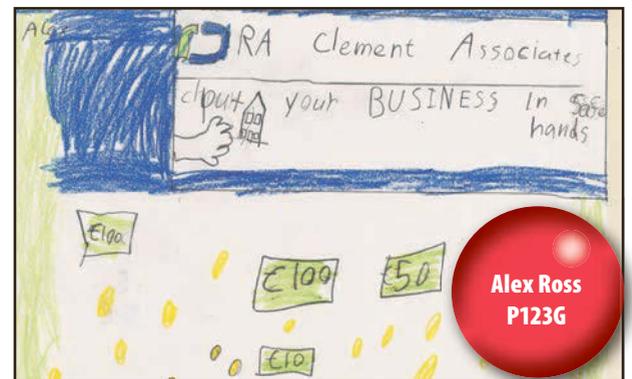


COMIC RELIEF

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P7



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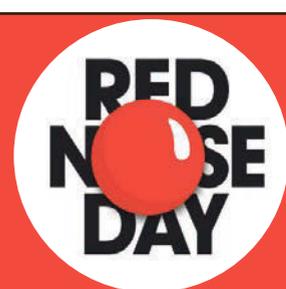
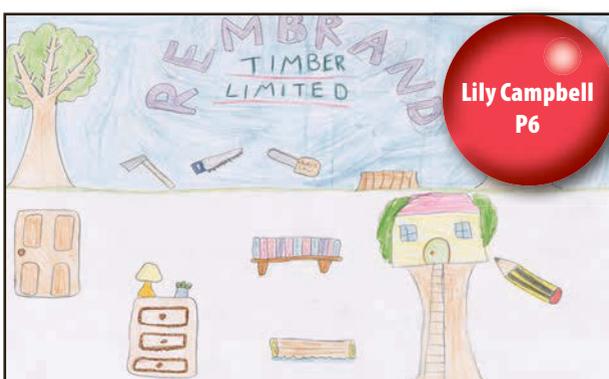
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Lily Campbell
P6



Zoe MacDonald
P7

RED NOSE DAY

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Questions and answers at The Phoenix

Cinema fans will get the chance to put a director and scriptwriter in the hot seat at Oban's Phoenix later this month.

Director of *Dirt Road to Lafayette*, Kenneth Glennan, will be joined by its scriptwriter and Booker-winning Scottish author James Kelman for a live question-and-answer session after the film is screened on Saturday March 16 at 7.30pm.

The plot follows a bereaved Scottish father, played by David O'Hara, and his teenage son Murdo, aka big screen newcomer Neil Sutcliffe, on an emotional journey from the Highlands to the US where Murdo hears zydeco music, a kind of Louisiana blues, for the first time.

Murdo, an accordionist, has



Neil Sutcliffe as Murdo in *Dirt Road to Lafayette*.

not played since the death of his mother, but all that changes when he meets retired zydeco legend Queen Monzee-ay and her family.

The teenager starts to play the accordion again, fusing the music of his home country with zydeco and helping heal

family wounds. The 2018 film was screened last year at the 72nd edition of Edinburgh International Film Festival

Catriona Hoon from The Phoenix said: 'Having Jim and Kenny in the auditorium with us will allow the local audience to have questions answered

right there by the makers of the film and hear their stories first-hand.

'It's a fantastic event to be able to host right here in Oban, and we're thrilled they've agreed to come along.

'Tickets are £5. To find out more go to obanphoenix.com/

movie/dirt-road-to-lafayette

Also coming up from tomorrow, Friday March 8, is *Scotch: The Golden Dram*, a documentary starring real life people.

Directed by Andrew Peat and recently shown at this year's Glasgow Film Festival, it tells the story to the world of Uisge beatha – Gaelic for 'water of life'.

Capturing stunning Scottish landscapes, the heart of our film is all about the fascinating people who make Scotch whisky including Richard Paterson, a master blender whose nose was insured for \$2.5 million, a company specialising in hand-made bottles for rare whiskies and industry veteran Jim McEwan, a 52-year distiller and master blender.

The long-awaited action movie *Captain Marvel* is also on the screening list as well as 'many titles which won at the Oscars the other night!' added Mr Pacitti.

Not an Oscar-winning film but still from Oscar-winning director Danis Tanovic, *Tigers* is also heading to The Phoenix screen. Showing date is Monday March 18 at 6pm. The film dramatises the true story of Syed Aamir Raza, who worked as a baby milk salesman for Nestlé in Pakistan.

Aamir took on the baby food industry with the help of the International Baby Food Action Network after he realised the death and suffering caused by pushing baby milk, says the film blurb.

BONNIE babies competition 2019

How to enter

We are now open for entries! The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2019 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after June 13th 2015. Look out the most adorable photo of your gorgeous little one and enter online by visiting www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. The closing date for entries is noon on 25th March 2019.

The Oban Times Bonnie Babies 2019 Supplement

After you enter your child, look out for our fabulous Bonnie Babies 2019 supplement in the 4th April edition of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times – a lovely little keepsake you can use to embarrass your children when they are older!

Vote for your favourite!

Readers will have the important job of voting for their favourite kiddy-winks in the supplement. We will then break it down to four further rounds of top 50, 30, 20 and finally top 10. From the top 10, the baby with the most votes will be crowned The Oban Times' Bonniest Baby 2019. **Good luck!**

The closing date for entries is midnight, March 25, 2019.

ENTER ONLINE

www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies

The Oban Times and Lochaber Times Bonnie Babies 2019 competition is open to babies and toddlers born on or after June 13th, 2015. Only one entry per child. By entering the competition and by filling in the parental consent form that is provided with your entry, you – the parent or guardian – consent to the reproduction of your child's photograph in The Oban Times, Lochaber Times Bonnie Babies features in the paper and online and in any other related competition promotions. If you do not wish for your child's photo to appear in the newspaper or online then you should not enter the competition. Poor quality photographs will not be accepted as an entry. By sending us your photograph you agree that Wyvex Media Ltd has the right to publish the images and details of the entrant without payment for the purpose of promoting Wyvex Media Bonnie Babies campaign(s). The winner must take part in publicity. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. We care about your personal information The information gathered on the entry form will be used by us to contact you regarding the competition & the photo and name to enter you into the competition. We may also email you at the close of the competition. We will not pass on any of the information supplied by you in the entry form to any third party Wyvex Media would like to send you information on offers and promotions.

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SOUTH WORTH Europe

Bridal fashion show catches the eye at annual Wedding Fair

Couples looking to tie the knot were given the perfect opportunity to start planning for their big day last week as an array of Lochaber wedding exhibitors were on display at the annual Wedding Fair at the Moorings Hotel in Fort

William last week. With a wide range of exhibitors on display, the Wedding Fair allowed would-be husbands and wives to get a head start on planning their special day, with everything from photographers to dress suppliers being showcased

over the course of the day. A highlight of the afternoon was the bridal fashion show, where a beautiful range of dresses, supplied by boutique wedding shop Marina's Bridal, of Fort William, were modeled on the make-shift catwalk.



All the models that helped showcase some of the bridal outfits from Marina's Bridal on Friday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

From left: the highlight of the Moorings Hotel Wedding Fair was the bridal fashion show, which wowed the audience.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Marina's Bridal supplied the dresses for the bridal fashion show.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

A wide range of exhibitors were showcasing at the Wedding Fair.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



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LIVE WIRE

THE AC/DC SHOW

"Live/Wire head to The Corran Halls for a night that will shake Oban to its foundations"

Live/Wire is The AC/DC Show. The hugely successful and unique six-man tribute to rock music's greatest band AC/DC, complete with cannons, a wall of Marshalls' and over two hours of High Voltage Rock 'n' Roll in a show critically acclaimed for its closeness in look and sound to the real thing.

The band aim to put you slap band in the middle of the show with hit after hit, and you are expected to join in! There'll also be one or two gems thrown in for the aficionados!

We'd be hung, drawn and quartered if we didn't play all the classics, Black in Black, Rosie, Highway to hell are all there, and the songs keep on coming until the cannons fire ceremoniously to bring the evening to a superb crescendo. If by this time you are still standing... we salute you! Long Live AC/DC, Long Live LIVE/WIRE

To Enter answer the following question and complete the coupon:

Q. What date is Live/Wire performing The AC/DC Show at The Corran Halls, Oban?

Live/Wire competition

Answer.....

Name.....

Address.....

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Telephone..... Email.....

Terms and conditions: Employees of Expression Management, Wyvex Media and any agencies connected with the competition and their families are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 19th March 2019. Winners will be contacted via telephone/email.

Return your entries to The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Closing date for entries Tuesday 19th March 2019. Editors decision final. No cash alternative. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.

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DIARDAOIN 07 AM MÀRT

THURSDAY 07 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa
21.00 Sùlaisgeir: na Sealgairean (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum highlights
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Side nan Seachd Sian
23.25 Binneas – Na Trads – Seamus O' Sullivan (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin S3 (rpt)

DIHAOINE 08 AM MÀRT

FRIDAY 08 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 **UR | NEW:** Women's Six Nations – Scotland v Wales
21.35 An Lot S3 (rpt)
22.05 **UR | NEW:** Grace Harte
22.55 Belladrum highlights (rpt)
23.00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 09 AM MÀRT

SATURDAY 09 MARCH

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là – News
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Johnstone
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)

21.00 **UR | NEW:** ALT
22.00 Side nan Seachd Sian (rpt)
22.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Tidelines (rpt)
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Johnstone (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 10 AM MÀRT

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
20.00 Eòrpa (rpt)
20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
21.00 DIY le Donnie S5 (rpt)
21.45 Belladrum highlights (rpt)
22.00 ALT (rpt)
23.00 Grace Hart (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran) (rpt)

DILUAIN 11 AM MÀRT

MONDAY 11 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 Trusadh – An Seillean (rpt)
22.00 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy (rpt)
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Belladrum highlights (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 12 AM MÀRT

TUESDAY 12 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** DIY le Donnie
21.45 Belladrum highlights (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – An Seillean (rpt)
23.00 Òran na Mna (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 13 AM MÀRT

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dealbhan Fraoich
21.00 Sàr-sgeòil: Outlander (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Seòid a' Chidsin
22.30 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
23.00 Sùlaisgeir: na Sealgairean (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 14 AM MÀRT

THURSDAY 14 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa
21.00 Cùm Grèim! (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 Belladrum highlights (rpt)
22.30 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)
23.15 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)



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Trio plays to packed audience at Inveraray fiddle club

Chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed a good crowd to hear Scott Band and his Trio at the February meeting of the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Supporting players were not so plentiful, but the evening got under way in the usual fashion with Fyne Folk, including Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard and they were joined by Ishbel Fraser on 'moothie' for the third set.

Also playing were – Alex MacKinnon from Carradale on button box, accompanied by Agnes on keyboard; Jake on 'moothie' along with Agnes and, paying her first visit to the club from Arduaine, Winnie Campbell on accordion, accompanied by Agnes. All their selections were much enjoyed.

The guest artistes were far travelled, with Scott Band on

accordion from Blairgowrie, Bill Ewan on keyboard from Markinch and Graham Sherrit on drums from Arbroath, and they delighted the audience with a well-rehearsed programme of more than 20 sets in all, including The Jake MacKay Two Step, composed by the late Bill Black for the club's very own 'moothie' player.

Scott was very versatile in that he swapped his piano accordion occasionally for a three-row button box – not often seen!

The chairman thanked all for a delightful evening and the club looks forward to next week welcoming back Marie Fielding and Duncan Black, great favourites on the Scottish dance music scene.



Scott Band Trio

Advertorial

Eye to eye with John Wallace



Macular Degeneration

As we age our risk of macular degeneration (ARMD) increases. There are two main types...wet and dry. Wet is when blood vessels in the retina start to leak and fluid builds up in the retina causing swelling and vision loss. Dry is a gradual deterioration of the cells in the retina which slowly die off.

When I qualified several decades ago any patient presenting with "wet" ARMD was considered untreatable and was simply told, "nothing can be done, but don't worry, you will never go completely blind. You will have your peripheral vision to help you get around".

Patients presenting with "dry" ARMD were told their vision would gradually deteriorate but would probably take many years to deteri-



modalities – multivitamin supplements and anti-VEGF injections have remained the mainstay of treatment for many years. Neither offers a cure but can slow down and in some cases stop any further loss of vision.

The latest research is extremely exciting. Researchers are now trying to use stem cells to replace the damaged cells in wet ARMD and using gene therapy to treat dry ARMD. Both treatments seem to offer a hope of reversing the loss of vision caused by ARMD.

Until then we cannot halt the aging process but we can all eat healthier diets rich in anti-oxidants (fruits and vegetables) and cut out smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

orate significantly. In both cases there was no treatment that could be offered.

In the 80s researchers found that diet had a beneficial effect on the rate of change in dry ARMD. In the 90s multivitamin supplements were developed which dramatically slowed the rate of deterioration in dry ARMD and in the early noughties drugs used to treat bowel cancer by stopping blood vessels leaking were found to help patients with wet ARMD. These two

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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Harvest exhibition at Comar on Mull



Mella Shaw's exhibition latest installation HARVEST focuses on the environmental tipping point of plastic pollution in the oceans and seas. Photograph: Sophie Mutevelian

Artist Mella Shaw's work will be the focus of a new exhibition at Comar in Tobermory, Mull.

Shaw works with clay to make thought-provoking objects and site-specific installations. Her powerful but delicate work explores weighty themes of fragility and loss.

Underpinned by a background in anthropology, museums and the study of material culture. Her practice is centred on recurring themes of balance, tipping points, thresholds and edges.

Since graduating with an MA in Ceramics and Glass from the Royal College of Art, London in 2013, Shaw has exhibited widely both na-

tionally and internationally, with solo shows in London, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Stockholm. In 2015 she was selected as part of the AWARD exhibition, representing the best of British making, at the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent.

Her latest installation HARVEST focuses on the environmental tipping point of plastic pollution in the oceans and seas.

This work is an installation made entirely from clay (press-molded, slip-cast and smoke-fired) that addresses the global issue of plastic pollution in the oceans. It is a response to the following terrifying statistics:

Each year 300 million

tonnes of plastic are produced globally. Plastic became a mainstream material only about 70 years ago but most of the plastic made then still exists as it is estimated that it will take 500 years for it to decompose.

1 million plastic bottles are purchased around the world every minute. Unless something changes drastically, by 2050 there will be a greater weight of plastic in the ocean than fish.

HARVEST was first shown at Collect Open, Saatchi Gallery 2018 and at Custom Lane in Leith, Edinburgh.

It opens at Comar on Mull on March 16, with an open event from 6-8pm, and runs until May 24.

WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk



THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
3.00pm, 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club
The Royal Hotel, Oban. 7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Danny Mooney. Open till 2am
Live Music & Entertainment @

The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm. Free Entry

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

Oban High School Reunion
The Royal Hotel, Oban. 7.00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
The Fold. Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm. Free Entry

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

Oban Music Society Concert
St John's Cathedral, Oban. 3.00pm
Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 11TH MARCH

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilthead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club

Inveraray Inn. 8.00pm

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

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

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

www.obanphoenix.com for more details

FRIDAY 8

12:00/16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
16:00 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
18:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
20:30 THE FAVOURITE 15

SATURDAY 9

11:30 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
12:00/15:00/20:00 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
13:45 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
16:15 GREEN BOOK 12A
17:45 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
19:00 THE FAVOURITE 15

SUNDAY 10

12:00/15:00/20:00 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
14:45 MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS 15
17:15 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
17:45 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
20:00 GREEN BOOK 12A

MONDAY 11

12:00/18:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
16:00 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
20:30 GREEN BOOK 12A

TUESDAY 12

12:00 GREEN BOOK 12A
16:00 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
18:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
20:30 THE FAVOURITE 15

WEDNESDAY 13

12:00 THE FAVOURITE 15
16:00 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
18:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
20:30 GREEN BOOK 12A

THURSDAY 14

12:00/16:00 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL 12A
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
18:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
20:30 THE FAVOURITE 15

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

LOCHABER TIMES
& OBAN TIMES

Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochaline Sat 9 March
Strontian Sun 10 March

Jura Tue 12 March
Port Ellen Wed 13 to Fri 15 March

Mary Poppins Returns (U) 130 mins
Emily Blunt takes on Julie Andrew's role, and it's supercali...
09/03 at 5.30pm, 12/03 at 5.30pm,
13/03 at 5.30pm

The Favourite (12A) 134 mins
Oscar winning story of Queen Anne and her two attendants.
09/03 at 8.30pm, 15/03 at 8.30pm

Stan & Ollie (PG) 97 mins
Portrait of the world's favourite comedy double act as their careers come to an end. 10/03 at 5.30pm, 14/03 at 5.30pm

Mary Queen of Scots (12A) 134 mins
Explored the turbulent life of Mary Stuart and her relationship with Elizabeth I. 10/03 at 8.30pm, 15/03 at 8.30pm

Green Book (12A) 129 mins
Oscar winning road movie about a black pianist and his Italian American driver. 12/03 at 8.30pm, 13/03 at 8.30pm

Scotch: The Golden Dram (PG) 89 mins
Documentary exploring the magic of malt, in particular the contribution made by Islay's Jim McEwan. 14/03 at 8.30pm

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk.
Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards.
£7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.
Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



Sinister happenings at Columba Hotel's Whodunnit

Hocus pocus was on the menu at Oban's Columba Hotel on Saturday.

Murder mystery entertainment was served up to families who went along to the whodunnit lunch as undercover wizards-turned-detectives, between courses, to find the killer.

It was the first time that actors from Can you Catch the Killer? have put on a show in Oban.

The company tours Scotland performing its murder mysteries in venues from castles and hotels to stately homes and theatres.

CONTACTUS

email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Hawkwind will headline at Belladrum

Space rockers Hawkwind and iconic guitar legend Johnny Marr lead the next eclectic wave of acts announced for Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival 2019.

Others joining them at the Beauly-based festival from August 1 to 3 include Mercury Prize-nominated rock band The Coral, Highland folk singer Julie Fowlis and DIY artist Dodie.

This year sees Hawkwind celebrate their 50th anniversary with a huge tour, taking in venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall, and now closing the Hot House stage on the Thursday night at Belladrum.

The band will join pop star Jess Glynne and Scottish sing-

er-songwriter Lewis Capaldi, who came to fame last year, as some of the main headliners for the weekend.

The Tartan Heart music and arts festival, which takes place on Belladrum estate in Beauly, Inverness, attracts thousands of music lovers to the Highlands every year.

Belladrum has sold out in advance every year since 2008 and it is expected that 2019 will be no different.

With a wide variety of performances ranging from indie rock to Highland folk, there will certainly be something for everyone to enjoy.

Johnny Marr is widely regarded as one of the most influential guitarists of his generation, forming the

Smiths when he was just 18 years old. He will be arriving fresh off his USA Comet Tour, which is selling out fast.

And for those looking to absorb local culture, North Uist folk singer Julie Fowlis will impress with her stunning voice, and her unique take on bringing Scottish Gaelic culture into something contemporary.

Belladrum has built up a reputation as a family-friendly festival over the past decade.

There will, as always, be a designated area specifically for family camping.

Furthermore, there will be places inside the festival for children to take part in fun activities over the weekend.

Visit tartanheartfestival.co.uk to find out more.



Julie Fowlis will appear at Belladrum.

The 'Oban pound' bargain strikes again

ADVERTORIAL

This week sees the return of the highly popular Love Oban voucher promotion. From today until Saturday March 16 the vouchers are on sale at a discounted rate of 10 per cent off the face value.

Since being launched in 2013 by BID4Oban (Oban Business Improvement District), they encourage spending in local shops, restaurants and businesses. They have proved very popular and over the past year sales of these vouchers have increased by more than 30 per cent. By buying and using the vouchers, you can ensure that the money spent on them stays within the Oban business community and local businesses.

Many businesses have benefited from the scheme over the years and this encourages users of the vouchers to shop locally.

Billy Thomson from The Oban Sports Shop has been a key driving force behind the scenes in terms of selling the vouchers from his business and promoting the Love Oban brand in his shop.

Billy said: 'By selling the vouchers and encouraging customers to use them, we have seen an increase in our business over the past year, especially when the discount promotion is in place.'

'Many of our customers buy them as gifts for friends and relations. The Love Oban vouchers make ideal gifts for wedding pre-

sents, anniversaries, birthdays or just to say thank you to someone.'

'It is vitally important that both businesses and customers get on board with Love Oban vouchers as it is a great way of ensuring our town remains sustainable and attractive for our customers.'

From today, Button Nose Boutique on Stevenson Street will also be selling Love Oban vouchers. Jackie Kerr, proprietor, has always accepted the vouchers and is now adding her support in making the vouchers even more popular by selling them.

Jackie said: 'Our business has benefited over the years by accepting the vouchers.'

'Our customers love them and, for a business like mine, it provides the ideal solution for those who cannot make up their minds on what to buy as a gift for loved ones or friends.'

'I would encourage any business that is not accepting them to join the 70-plus businesses that are.'

'By selling and accepting the vouchers we can help keep our businesses successful and encourage customers to shop locally.'

Andrew Spence of BID4Oban added: 'The voucher promotion has been really successful and this is the third time we have run the promotion by offering a discount.'

'By purchasing Love Oban vouchers, you are supporting local businesses and ensuring



Andrew Spence and Kay McDonald of BID4Oban are joined by Jackie Kerr of Button Nose Boutique and Billy Thomson of The Sports Shop, Oban, to promote Love Oban vouchers.

we keep money spent on these vouchers in the local business community. It's great to have Jackie on board selling vouchers for us.'

The Love Oban vouchers are available from

the BID4Oban Office, Oban Phoenix Cinema, The Sports Shop Oban, Alba Art Shop and Button Nose Boutique. Full details available at www.bid4oban.co.uk

10% OFF

Love Oban Gift Vouchers

HURRY! OFFER ENDS 16th MARCH



Not only do Love Oban Vouchers solve the problem of what to buy someone, but you are ensuring that the vouchers benefit local businesses.

So...

Buy £50 at the discounted rate of **£45**

Buy £100 for the discounted rate of **£90**

Buy £200 for the discounted rate of **£180**

Buy £500 and **SAVE £50.**

To support local businesses BID4Oban are selling Love Oban Vouchers at 10% off their face value.

Minimum voucher spend is £20.

Available from BID4Oban Office, Button Nose, Alba Art Shop, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Webster Camera Shop and Sports Shop Oban

Full details of participating businesses on www.bid4oban.co.uk



Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



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



MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 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 Through the night with Clyde 2
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 with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating.
21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Gaelictronica returns

At 7.45pm this Saturday, March 09, Ceòl is Craic will host one of their Gaelictronica evenings in the CCA on Sauchiehall Street and there is yet another stellar line up involved.

Hamish Macleod and Josie Duncan play with Glasgow electronica outfit Inyal. Gaelictronica will see them reconvene with Scottish-Icelandic percussionist Signy Jakobsdottir to pursue the Ceòl 's Craic commissioned project, which enables them to explore ambient soundscapes based on looping technology.

Benni Hemm Hemm is the stage name of Benedikt H Hermansson, an Icelandic singer and songwriter. Hanna Tuulikki is an English-Finnish vocalist, musician and artist. Alistair MacDonald is a composer and performer whose work encompasses traditional, jazz, classical and contemporary music. Mairi McGillivray is a talented young Gaelic singer strongly influenced by her Islay heritage. Together, all those musicians and singers look set to put on a fantastic evening.

A great evening at Largs Folk Nights

It's not exactly the time of year to take a trip "doon the watter" from Glasgow; but this unseasonable weather we're having led to a lovely Sunday

afternoon trip last week as I headed off to perform at Largs Folk Nights, which was started last year by a friend of mine - Hayley Keenan, the fiddle player from the incredibly popular three-piece folk band, Talisk.

The next club night is Sunday April 14 and the guest is Kim Carnie. I recommend you pay a visit to Largs for that one!

Some Glasgow patter

All this talk of "doon the watter" reminded me of the Glasgow bus driver who was asked what he would do in the event that a passenger became rowdy. Without hesitation, the driver answered: "I'd pap him aff at the next stap!" He was then asked: "and what if you didn't get the fare?" His reply was: "I'd just take the first two weeks in August!"

Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir on tour

The Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir are off on tour! Armed with their new album, Tribute 2 Runrig, they head to the Caol Community Centre on March 15 at 8pm, with John Joe MacNeil as fear an tigh and Rachel Walker guest vocalist.

Tickets can be bought on the door or from Eventbrite. The following night (Saturday 16) they head further North to Skye and perform in the Aros Hall, Portree, at 7.30pm, with Arthur Cormack chairing the evening. Tickets again can be



MG Alba's Murdo MacSween with a donated football top for children in Kenya ahead of Donnie Maroot's Football quiz next week.

bought on the door or from the venue in advance.

Donnie Maroot hosts a charity event

On Monday March 11 at 7.30pm, Donald MacLeod is hosting a football quiz in the Park Bar where people are invited to donate old football strips to be sent to youngsters in Kenya. A great cause - the only drawback being that some unfortunate kids might end up receiving Partick Thistle tops!

What's On

Friday March 8: Clydebank Highlanders Ceilidh in the

Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

Saturday March 9: Gaelictronica in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, at 7.30pm.

Friday March 15: Glasgow Skye Association Cothrom na h-Oigrìdh in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7pm.

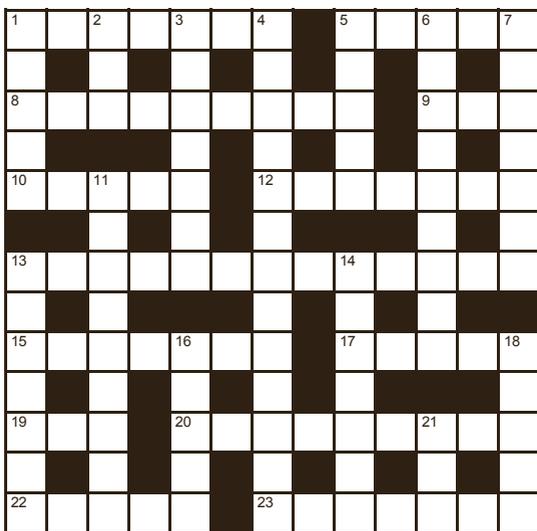
Pub Scene

Park Bar
Friday March 8: Calum Iain MacCorquodale

Saturday March 9: John Burns Islay Inn

Friday March 8: Crooked Reel
Saturday March 9: The Raggals

Crossword



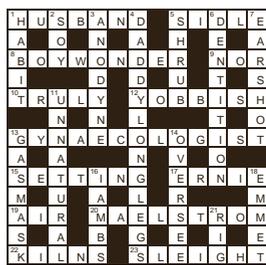
Across

- 1 Where to find facts over the years (7)
- 5 Come out (5)
- 8 Settled (9)
- 9 Reason for working! (3)
- 10 Knack (5)
- 12 Compound to control plant growth (7)
- 13 Game played when one is in the dark? (9,4)
- 15 More impenetrable (7)
- 17 Ride in France (5)
- 19 Coins or flowers (3)
- 20 Plates of frozen matter (3,6)
- 22 Join securely (5)
- 23 Light flakes produced by a chippy (7)

Down

- 1 Money in the bank? (5)
- 2 Angry about the barrier (3)
- 3 Not a good surface to slide on... (7)
- 4 ...but these help prevent catastrophe if you do! (5,8)
- 5 Electrical clothesline alternative (5)
- 6 Something made as a left over (2-7)
- 7 Me! (7)
- 11 One made to be similar (9)
- 13 Thin reading matter (7)
- 14 By hook or by crook (7)
- 16 Amalgam (5)
- 18 Start (5)
- 21 Australian runner (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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www.michaelenglish.ie

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 13th March
At 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
Marie Fielding & Duncan Black
Supporting players most welcome

Oban Music Society
CONCERT
Brass Diversions
Trumpet, Trombone, Piano
Sunday 10th March 3pm in St John's Cathedral, Oban
Tickets £10 for non-members, students free.
All music lovers very welcome.

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain
FINAL TAYNUILT WINTER CEILIDH
Riona Whyte, Stuart Jackson, Mairi Jackson, Alasdair & Megan Whyte
Plus Full Supporting Programme
Taynuilt Village Hall
Saturday 16th March. 7.30pm
Supper and Raffle
Adults - £4 - Children £2

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Your local library in one app

A new chapter in library borrowing has opened for bookworms using Campbeltown's Aqualibrium.

From yesterday, LiveArgyll, the trust which runs Campbeltown Library, has joined downloadable app, BorrowBox, for all Android and iPhones users.

With BorrowBox library members can borrow from LiveArgyll libraries 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Recognised as the No.1 library download platform in the world, BorrowBox is the

brainchild of Bolinda Digital.

Unique because it enables members of public libraries to download and borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks via digital loans, BorrowBox is the only app of its kind in the world with an inbuilt eBook reader and eAudiobook player.

BorrowBox means the doors to the library never close and books can be accessed around the clock.

eBooks can be directly downloaded from <http://www.liveargyll.co.uk/borrowbox> or from the BorrowBox app.

Armadale Castle opens for the season with its new programme

Armadale Castle on Skye reopened on Monday (March 4) for an extended nine-month season, with tourism businesses invited to an open day in April.

Families are the focus for the new programme with the museum launching a weekly play session known as Exhibition Explorers where babies and toddlers can enjoy games, stories and songs on museum themes.

Funding from Museums Galleries Scotland has also enabled the team to enhance the adventure playground in the gardens, with the addition of new play equipment for small children.

Other family events include a hands-on traditional music day on June 1, and a Jacobite Day with costumed re-enactors in July. Weekly activity sessions for all the family will run throughout the school holidays.

There are also events for music fans, with a new Gaelic Arts Week. Supported by EventScotland, it will bring 'pop up' performers to the



The festival is being held in the grounds of Armadale Castle.

museum and gardens to entertain visitors. The week will culminate in two prestigious traditional music competitions for clarsach and piping.

The castle grounds will also host a major new music festival, Beò, on May 17-18, with headliners the Vatersay Boys. The café-bar-restaurant at Armadale Castle will

continue to run regular music sessions where a lively evening is guaranteed.

Sue Geale, museum manager and member of the management committee, said: 'We had a great season last year with lots of positive feedback from both residents and visitors.'

'The new café, family activities and musical events were

particularly successful and we are delighted to be building on those in our programme this year. We're greatly looking forward to opening on 4 March and welcoming both local friends and visitors from around the globe.'

For more information about the programme see www.armadalecastle.com/events

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Black Isle Farmers bursary scheme

Black Isle farmers bursary applicants are running out of time to apply for their 2019 funding.

Friday March 15 is the final chance to apply for the Black Isle Farmers' Bursary Scheme.

This bursary is a great opportunity for those aged between 16 and 26 who live in the Highlands and Islands.

Under deliberation from the bursary panel, each applicant will be considered separately and awards will be made subject to availability.

A quick and easy application form is all that stands in the way of vital funding and financial support for hundreds of Highlands and Islands young people.

Application forms are available online at: www.blackisleshow.com.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Market reports

Tiree

United Auctions held their annual early spring sale of 216 store cattle, breeding and feeding cows at Tiree Auction Mart.

With the usual buyers in attendance, all classes of stock sold at levels in keeping with current trends. Bulls sold to average £809.67 per head or 218.14 pence per kilo (plus £16 per head and minus 15.4 pence per kilo). Heifers averaged £660.98 per head or 205.44 pence per kilo (plus £26.27 per head and minus 12.43 pence per kilo).

Principal lots and prices.

Bulls:

Aberdeen Angus: Heylipol Farm £1080, £990, £950, £880; 15 Crossapol £880; 12 Crossapol £790; Hillcrest £730 Beef Shorthorn: 15 Crossapol £850; 12 Crossapol £800 Charolais: Heylipol Farm £1090, £1050, £1040, £1000, £990; Salum £960; Heylipol Farm £920, £890; 8 Cornaigbeg £860, £850.

Hereford: Clachan £1150, £1140, £1090, £1040, £1000

Limousin: Heylipol Farm £1010, £990, £910; Salum £900, £880; 9 Vaul £880; Heylipol Farm £870; Hillcrest £850

Saler: 5 Balevullin £670; 6 Crossapol £650

Simmental: 3A Caolis £780; Middleton Farm £770; 3A Caolis £750

Heifers:

Aberdeen Angus: 12 Crossapol £790 British Blue: Heylipol Farm £830 Charolais: Heylipol Farm £1090,

£920, £860, £840, £810, Salum £780 Limousin: Heylipol Farm £1040; Hillcrest £940; Salum £930; Heylipol Farm £860; Salum £810; 9 Vaul £800 Simmental: Middleton Farm £930; Leading prices per kilo.

Bullocks:

Aberdeen Angus: 12 Crossapol 249p, 243p; 15 Crossapol 239p; 12 Crossapol 233p; Hillcrest 230p Shorthorn: 12 Crossapol 235p; 15 Crossapol 227p Charolais: Heylipol Farm 263p, 256p; Salum 256p; 8 Cornaigbeg 244p, 241p; Heylipol Farm 229p, 227p, 223p Hereford: Clachan 201p

Limousin: Salum 262p; Hillcrest 252p; Heylipol Farm 251p, 244p; 9 Vaul 239p; Salum 238p; 1 Kenovay 238p; Hillcrest 237p; Saler: 6 Balevullin 236p; 6 Crossapol 236p;

Simmental: 2 Heylipol 264p, 254p; 10 Crossapol 230p

Heifers:

Aberdeen Angus: 12 Crossapol 243p, 221p; Shorthorn: 12 Crossapol 233p Charolais: Heylipol Farm 251p; Salum 225p; Heylipol Farm 211p, 210p

Limousin: Salum 270p; 9 Barrapol 259p; Salum 251p; 9 Vaul 246p; Hillcrest 235p; 9 Barrapol 223p

Saler: 6 Crossapol 215p Simmental: 2 Heylipol 241p In-calf heifers: 13 Moss £960, £920 & £850

In-calf cows: Heylipol Farm £1020, £1010, £970, £890

Cast cows: Heylipol Farm £970, £890 12 Crossapol £870.

Dalmally

United Auctions held their annual March sale of 194 store cattle and 317 sheep of all classes at Dalmally Auction Mart.

All classes of stock sold in keeping with levels obtained at other principal centres. Bulls sold to average £713.96 per head or 216.17 pence per kilo (minus £60.54 per head and minus 23.9 pence per kilo) whilst Heifers levelled out at £629.13 per head or 207.7 pence per kilo (minus £62.74 per head or minus 22.1 pence per kilo).

Principal lots and prices.

Bullocks:

Aberdeen Angus: Steall £690 British Blue: Barnakill £730 Charolais: Barnakill £880; Laggan Farms £860; Barnakill £820 Limousin: Lurnish £900; Stroneskar £890; Lurnish £830; Dall £770; Stroneskar £760; Tullochan £760; Stroneskar £730

Luing: Laggan Farms 670 Simmental: Achnacone £850, £840, £765, £745; Achnacoremore £740, £730; Stroneskar £725; Cornaigmore, Coll £720; Achnacopne £720

Heifers: Aberdeen Angus: Steall £775, £760; Dall £650; Glenfeochan £630; 10 Eoligarry £625; Glenfeochan £620; Steall £615

Charolais: Barnakill £830; Laggan Farms £785; Barnakill £705, £665; Laggan Farms £660, £650; 10 Eoligarry £600

Limousin: Lurnish £890, £870, £820, £720; Tullochan £710; Dall £670; Tullochan £665; Dall £660

Simmental: Invernahyle £800; Achnacone £735, £660; Dall £660; 10 Eoligarry £660; Achnacone £650, £650; Cornaigmore, Coll £625; Duallin £620; Achnacoremore £605

Leading prices per kilo. Bulls: Aberdeen Angus: Steall 225p; 10 Eoligarry 223p Charolais: Laggan Farms 224p; Barnakill 218p

Limousin: Tullochan 239p, 231p; Dunolliebeg 230p; Dall 228p; Duallin 227p; Tullochan 226p; Stroneskar 221p, 219p; Lurnish 219p; Luing: Laggan Farms 224p Saler: Brenachaille 229p

Simmental: Achnacoremore 233p; Cornaigmore, Coll 230p; Achnacone 229p, 227p, 226p, 225p, 224p; Cornaigmore, Coll 222p; Stroneskar 221p;

Heifers: Aberdeen Angus: 10 Eoligarry 217p; Glenfeochan Estate 214p; Steall 203p Charolais: 10 Eoligarry 234p; Barnakill 231p; Laggan Farms 210p, 207p

Limousin: Dunolliebeg 237p; Tullochan 230p; Dall 225p; Tullochan 211p; Lurnish 209p; Dall 206p Simmental: Blairmore 231p; Achnacone 227p, 222p, 220p; Cornaigmore, Coll 218p; Achnacoremore 217p; Cornaigmore 215p

Hoggs Tex: Ormsarry £68; Cliade, Coll £66, £60; Evanachen £56 Chev: Bunlarie £77; Kilvaree £65.50, £42.50

Cross: Evanachen £41 Blackface: Evanachen £60; Ormsarry £52

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Spring Farming

Scotland has surprised us this year with temperatures already rising close to 20C in some parts of the country.

Butterflies and bees have taken to the skies, and flowers not usually out until late April are being spotted all across the UK.

So what does this mean for Scottish farmers?

Warmer soil, quicker grass growth and healthier livestock: an early spring could be a Scottish farmers' dream come true.

However, George Gauley, general advisor at Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) consulting, refers to the early spring as a "catch 22". As like most things in life, too much sun will be detrimental to farmers' soil.

With February out of the way, farmers are soon able to begin calving and lambing season – a vital source of income and production for many Scottish farmers this year, as Scotland's



beef industry brought in £657m in 2015.

Gauley further advises that farmers should not be "tempted to overfeed, instead build up the ewe's condition throughout the year".

The importance of prioritising and patience when kicking off the lambing process can make or break a farm's success.

With farming income

having fallen by £57m, this year's produce is crucial in farm survival.

The latest tractor technology has been released by companies such as McCormick, Zetor and JCB, all debuted in the Farming Scotland Magazine (January-February issue).

KUHN Farm Machinery recently launched a new range of optional acces-

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sories that promises to enhance their existing prolanders, cultimers and optimer cultivators. Pöttinger has also introduced a new line of TERRASEM Fertiliser mulch seed drills; ideal machinery to start off

this farming season. However, this year, farmers are being encouraged to consider renewable farming techniques. More than 1,500 accounts of farming pollution have been

documented over the past decade, and the effects that these have had on our eco-system are extremely damaging. For any farmers looking for further advice, please contact SAC Consulting at www.sruc.ac.uk



IACS 2019



SAC Consulting will be holding IACS Surgeries throughout Argyll and Lochaber.

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Legislative proposal for assisting self- and custom-builders in Scotland

The Scottish property market faces a 10-year backlog, needing 80,000 new homes to bolster an industry damaged by a current undersupply of new homes and subsequent house price inflation. RICS has written to the Scottish Parliament Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart MSP, and parliamentary housing spokespeople to ask them to prioritise alternative solutions to housing development aimed at supporting self- and custom-build.

The reasons for the current undersupply are numerous, but RICS has long called for the government to explore other avenues for housing development to widen house building participation, across all tenures, to meet demand.

Making meaningful inroads to tackling the housing crisis cannot be done through intensifying the current 'business as usual' approach.

For Scotland to make serious headway into building the quantum of homes required to meet demand, there needs to be innovation in government policy and parliamentary legislation.

The Scottish Government's flagship housing measure is undoubtedly the £3bn investment in 50,000 affordable homes.

Whilst commendable, bold and unique, it is not producing the required numbers to tackle the supply crisis and backlog adequately. As such, a new approach, with new measures, is required.

RICS hopes these measures can be introduced through original policy and legislation; or emulating existing legislation in other jurisdictions.

Two recent English Acts have greatly assisted those wishing to self- and custom-build their homes: The Self-Build and Custom House Building Act 2015, which

was amended and enhanced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

The principles and intentions of these Acts are to increase the opportunity of custom and self-build through the establishment of local authority-held registers of individuals or groups with an interest in self or custom-building projects. The local authority then has an obligation to find plots of land for those on the registers.

Similarly, two sections of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 require local authorities to provide allotments to those with a registered interest. There is no reason why these sections cannot be imitated, with 'allotment' being replaced by 'self- or custom-built home', or words to that affect.

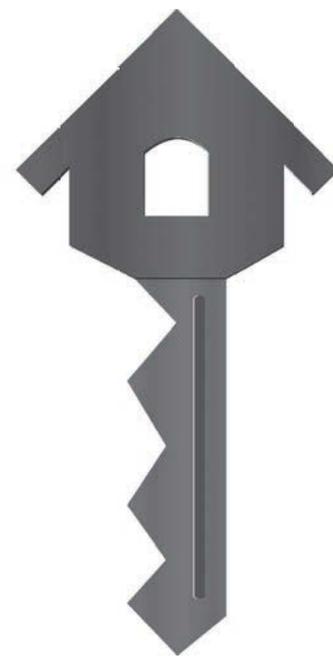
Emulating any of these pre-existing Acts, and providing financial assistance and advice, could open

up another avenue for housing development, whilst not hindering or replacing existing forms of supply.

The UK is far behind its European and American counterparts when it comes to self- and custom-build developments. In the US, 45 per cent of new housing is self or custom built, with the European average around 50 per cent. The estimate for self and custom-built homes in the UK lies between seven per cent and 10 per cent.

Despite this low contribution from self- and custom-build to the UK housing market, demand in the UK is increasing. Ipsos Mori reported in 2016 that one in eight Britons expected to research or plan how to build a home for themselves over the following 12 months.

The National Custom & Self Build Association believe 40,000 have signed-up to a council Right to Build register since April 2016.



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Beating off strong competition in its category, XV impressed the judging panel at 4x4 Magazine across the board. The safety credentials and suitability of the XV as a family car were praised, with reference to XV being Euro NCAP's highest-scoring vehicle of all time for child occupant protection at the time of its launch.

XV was also admired for its off-road credentials, the unique

combination of Subaru's permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and Boxer engine proven to provide unrivalled capability in mud and rough terrain. X-Mode with Hill Descent Control, standard on all models in the range, was also noted to be very effective in particularly challenging conditions.

4x4 Magazine also recognised that Subaru's new Global Platform, which will underpin all new model introductions going forward, results in further improvements to the sure-footed combination of grip, feel and sharpness for which Subaru is famed, giving XV exceptional ride and refinement.

Alan Kidd, Editor of 4x4 Magazine, said: "The new XV builds on the company's already formidable strengths. It's a very,

very fine vehicle with a price tag that makes it the best 4x4 estate you can buy."

Subaru UK Managing Director Chris Graham commented: "We are delighted that the XV has won 4x4 Magazine's Crossover Estate of the Year 2019. This award is testimony to a great product that our customers love and trust to get themselves, and their families, safely from A to B, whatever the conditions. We're proud to produce some of the safest, most capable and reliable vehicles on the market today."

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66	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav	White	14,000	£9,750	13	Dacia Duster Lau 4WD	Grey	44,000	£7,250
16	Dacia Duster LAU DCi 4x4	Silver	31,500	£10,500	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£8,650
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£10,250	61	VW Polo 1.2 TDi Match	Red	54,000	£4,500
16	Renault Captur DCi Dyn Nav	Cream	13,000	£10,250	59	Ford Focus Zetec 100 EST	Blue	46,000	£4,150
65	Dacia Stepway LAU DCi	White	14,500	£8,500	59	Mitsubishi Outlander 2l DCi 4x4		70,000	£6,500
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	08	Renault Koleos 4x4 DCi	Silver	56,000	£4,500

RANGE OF LOWER PRICED CARS UNDER £2000 RENAULT CLIO RENAULT SCENIC SUZUKI JIMNY NISSAN NOTE FORD FOCUS PEUGEOT 207

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 Email: munrosofoban@aol.com
 Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

FIN'S PLACE



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 REPAIRS, DIAGNOSTICS**

11 OLD TWEEDMILL, Oban
 01631 566220 07766 757013

Slipway Autos Ltd

Unit 3a Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NB

Tel/fax - 01397 772404

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VW Passat Tdi S 16 plate, 4 door saloon (Gray), 28,990 miles	£12,995
Skoda Octavia SE Tsi 17 plate, 5 door h/back (Red), 3,006 miles	£14,950
Skoda Superb Estate 4 x 4 2.0 Elegance 61 plate, 5 door (Silver), 92,500 miles ..	£6,950
Dacia Logan MCV Estate 65 plate, 5 door (White), 16,818 miles	£6,595
Renault Kangoo 1.5 ML Van60 plate, (White), 32,700 miles	£4,550
Ford Focus Zetec (Auto)63 plate, 5 door estate (Black), 35,100 miles	£7,900
Nissan Juke 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Red), 9,430 miles	£9,995
Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4 62 plate, 5 door h/back (Sliver), 9,682 miles	£5,950
VW Move Up 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Blue), 25,606 miles	£5,995
VW Golf Match Tsi 1.4 64 plate, 5 door h/back (Dark Blue), 26,838 miles	£11,750
Peugeot 208 Allure 65 plate, 5 door h/back (Orange), 7,187 miles	£8,950
Citroen C1 1.0 VTR 63 plate, 5 door h/back (Red), 51,496 miles	£3,350

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Tel: 01436 672 779 or visit

www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

im@helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

£2,000 trade in
 towards the new **AYGO**
 with **0%** interest

Terms & conditions ^^If you trade-in any car or commercial vehicle that was registered up to and including 31st March 2011 you can receive between £1,000 and £3,000 (saving dependent on model chosen and incl VAT) scrappage saving off the Recommended On The Road Price of a New Toyota. Offer available on all new Toyota passenger cars, excluding the base grades (Active and X), Corolla and new generation RAV4. New Toyota vehicles must be ordered between 18th December 2018 and 31st March 2019, and registered by 31st March 2019. To qualify for the scheme the owner of the trade-in vehicle must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5) and have owned the trade-in vehicle for a minimum of 6 months before the new Toyota order date. The new vehicle must be registered in the same name. Offer can be used in conjunction with the Finance APRs but not available with any other customer saving programme, Free Servicing offer or finance deposit allowance. Available to retail customers only. Participating centres only and subject to availability. For further information please contact your local Toyota Centre.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; 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

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
19/00800/FUL	Glencoe		Erection of 4 no. 3m high transmission trusses housing dishes at high level, surrounded at ground level by a 3m x 3m shockproof fence and associated works.
19/00551/FUL	Volunteer Arms Inn	49 High Street Fort William	Formation of outdoor seating area (renewal of planning permission 15/04216/FUL)
19/00540/FUL	Greymares, Wades Road	Kinlochleven	Siting of shepherds hut for holiday letting
18/05702/FUL	Land 90M SouthEast Of Hillcroft	Upper Scotstown, Strontian	Proposed dwelling house
19/00685/FUL	Land At Glen Nevis Estate	Glen Nevis Fort William	Erection of 15m high telecom lattice tower and ancillary equipment within fenced compound

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

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CAOL AND LOCHYSIDE FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2018

**FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES, POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE AREAS AND LOCAL PLAN DISTRICTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2010**

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Highland Council hereby gives notice that Mr Martin Seddon BSc, MPhil, DipTP, MRTPI, Reporter has been appointed to hold a hearing into and to report with respect to an objection to the above scheme. The hearing is open to the public to observe proceedings and will commence at 10am on Thursday 28 March at Kilmallie Free Church, Glenpane Street, Caol, PH33 7AU. It is expected that the hearing will last for 1 day. Background information can be viewed on the Council's web site.

www.highland.gov.uk/info/1226/emergencies/80/flood_alleviation_schemes/5

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Joseph MacLeod has registered his croft 12 Shielfoot, (East end and West), Ardnamurchan and Sunart 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 November 26, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5698.

First Registration of a Croft

Laura Sutherland has registered her croft 1 Ranachan, Ardnamurchan and Sunart 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 November 27, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5678.

First Registration of a Croft

Alistair Duncan Hay has registered his croft 66 & 67 Banavie (Shares), 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 November 28, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5686.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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.

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/02679/PP	Alterations and change of use of summerhouse to retail unit selling gin and providing cultural, heritage and general information and formation of additional car parking	Heynish Atlantic House West Hynish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UF
19/00115/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of Ardmore Cottage Ardmore Road Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JL
19/00179/PP	Erection of garden shed	Canna Cottage West Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6OZ
19/00189/PP	Use of land for stationing of residential caravan for use as a holiday let (part retrospective) plus the installation of external cladding and painting	Land South West Of Pottery Old Pier Shed Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute
19/00314/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage	Plot 6 North East Of Tigh An Lochan Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute
19/00330/PP	Amendment to planning permission 18/01091/PP (Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellinghouses) - Enlarged porch, revised levels, formation of link footpath and repositioning of accessible car parking space.	Plot 35 Powell Place Connel Argyll And Bute
19/00354/PP	Installation of car charging point	86 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TX
19/00352/PP	Phased provision of an adoption standard remote pedestrian footpath (provision required to satisfy terms of Planning Permissions 13/02184/PP (Condition 9), 15/00247/PP (Condition 13) Et 16/02201/PP (Condition 11) - Amendment to Permission 16/02991/PP	Land North Of Phase 1, 2 And 3 Housing Development Stanalane Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
19/00326/LIB	Installation of car charging point	86 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TX

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.

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**Oban Times Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES**

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John Cameron MacFarlane & Sine MacLean Currie MacFarlane trading as Argyll Engineers Ltd of Glenshellach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA34 4BH is applying for a licence to use Glenshallach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA34 4BH as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailer. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Bruichladdich Distillery Co. Ltd
The Croft, Bruichladdich, Kilchoman
0.1116 ha - Amenity ground
94976

KM Campbell
KM Smith
4 to 8 & 12 to 14 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman
0.15 ha - Proposed new development.
94981

NA Black
4 Achosragan, Lismore & Appin
0.023 ha - amenity ground
95250

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 05/04/2019 Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

BLARMAFOLDACH COMMON GRAZING

A meeting is to be held on March 25 at 7.30pm at 19 Blarmafoldach for the purpose of electing a new Committee

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT

Duncan William Milham is applying to let the tenancy of the croft at 3 Fanmore, Kilninian and Kilmore to Jeanette Cutlack of Ballygowan Farm, Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, PH73 6LU.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, or info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by April 4, 2019.

First Registration of a Croft

Rosemary Bridge, Peter Bridge and Lilian MacDonald have registered their croft Murroch, Arisaig and Moidart 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 October 29, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5621.

First Registration of a Croft

Jacqueline Boyd has registered her croft 1/2 5(2) Duiskey (apportionment), Duiskey 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 October 25, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5594.

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT

Archibald MacColl is applying to let the tenancy of the croft at No 2 Craignish, Lismore and Appin to Ina MacColl of Balnagowan, Lismore, PA34 5UL. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, or info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by April 4, 2019.

First Registration of a Croft

Ann Bowman has registered her croft 1,2&3 Duiskey, Duiskey 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 November 25, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5668.



Are you a talented Senior Husbandry or Trainee Manager looking to take the next step in your career?
Are you an existing Manager eager to be challenged?
Would you like to join a Company with the highest potential earnings within the Aquaculture Sector?

Scottish Sea Farms are a recognised employer within remote areas of Scotland. We pride ourselves on working to make a positive change to our employees and the local community.

Providing industry leading personal learning and development paths, our aim is to nurture and encourage our employees to build professional career paths. So, 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 have various opportunities available throughout our Scotland, Orkney and Shetland Regions and we are looking for ambitious individuals with all levels of experience to join our Marine Farms.

In return we will offer competitive remuneration package, weekend payments, specialist payments, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, training increments, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

A current driving licence is essential. We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons; however you must be able to provide documentation of your right to work in the UK.



To apply, please visit the careers page on our website:
www.scottishseafarms.com/our-people/careers.
Closing date for applications is: Friday 22nd March 2019.



LEITHS

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position at Highland Lime, Fort William:

CONCRETE PLANT OPERATIVE

You will be required to carry out concrete batching operations and routine maintenance works ensuring the Company's Health, Safety and Environmental policies are adhered to at all times. Ideally you will have industry related experience and a sound working knowledge of concrete plant operations and general maintenance activities.

The successful applicant will be required to commence at the earliest opportunity.

To download an application form please visit www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers

Completed application forms should be returned to:-
Nichola Greig, HR Department, Leiths (Scotland) Ltd, Rigifa, Cove, Aberdeen, AB12 3LR or by email to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are an Equal Opportunities Employer

SALESPERSON (MATERNITY COVER)



We are looking to recruit a salesperson to cover the maternity leave of one of our permanent members of staff. This is a 12 month post and full or part time may be considered.

The role will be based in our Oban showroom and will predominantly involve the sales and related administration of our extensive household furniture, curtains, blinds and floorcovering stock.

Whilst an interest in interior décor and design would be advantageous, it is essential that the prospective candidates have excellent customer relations along with an ability to work well as part of a team.

Please contact for an application form.

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll.

Tel: 01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS

SMALL ENGINE SERVICES

A vacancy has arisen for a mechanic to run our workshop.

Experience with ATV's & Garden Machinery would be helpful.

Must be self motivated & have a driving licence.

Job requirements are sales servicing & repairs to all machines, answering calls & dealing with the public.

**Tel. 01631 563553 for details
or email smallenginesvcs@gmail.com**

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
HIJOBS HIJOBS HIJOBS



Algal Support Scientist

Part-time – 18.5 hours

Fixed Term Appointment until 31st December 2021

Salary range – £16,654-£18,263 per annum pro rata

Job Purpose – To provide support to SAMS GenialG, GlobalSeaweed* and Toxic Algae project activities including preparing seawater and media, basic laboratory duties, recording sample collection data and sedimentation of algae in preserved seawater samples.

Types of activities – Basic laboratory work: monitor stocks and ensure equipment is ready-to-use when required; prepare sterile media; process seawater samples and enter data according to strict Standard Operating Procedures. The ability to isolate and maintain algal cultures in aseptic conditions would be an advantage.

Attributes required – Some microbiological or biochemistry or chemistry lab experience or relevant scientific qualification. Specific training will be provided.

This is a great opportunity for those eager to establish their career in marine science. We are looking for individuals who bring enthusiasm to their work and are willing to tackle fresh challenges. To some extent, the working hours can be flexible.

Please read our job description for full job details.

Further information is available on line at www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Algal Support Scientist, D22/18.CG The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15th March 2019

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.





**MALLAIG
HARBOUR
AUTHORITY**

Job Title: Chief Executive Officer

Reporting to: Board of Directors

Appointment

Mallaig Harbour Authority is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of its present CEO. Reporting to the Board of Directors, this is an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated and ambitious leader who will join us as we embark on a major harbour redevelopment.

The chief executive officer will have responsibility for providing strategic leadership for the Authority by working with the Board of Directors and staff to establish long-range goals, strategies, plus implementation of the recently published Mallaig Harbour Authority Masterplan.

Main Responsibilities:

- Provide effective leadership demonstrating the core values of the Authority at all times
- Provide leadership and direction with regard to the Authority's strategy and its implementation
- Ensure that all systems and processes are effectively implemented and utilised to provide accurate management information
- Ensure compliance and adherence to all Government and Trust Port legislative requirements
- Build effective relationships with key stakeholders, port users and customers and liaise with them to influence the future ways of working with the harbour authority, endeavouring to enhance the customer experience.

Person Specification

- Previous experience operating at a senior management level
- Proven record of leading operational teams and engendering a culture of continuous improvement through the use of excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Ability to lead by example and coach others to improve performance
- Educated to degree level or equivalent demonstrable work experience
- Previous experience in developing, planning and implementing successful business strategies
- Knowledge of maritime commercial activities
- Proven experience of holding financial accountability
- In-depth knowledge of corporate governance, finance and budgeting
- Outstanding organisational and time management skills with the ability to think creatively and innovatively
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral that connects with all levels both within and external to the Authority

Salary

Salary to be in line and commensurate with ability and experience

To Apply:

Applicants should write, using no more than two sides of A4, explaining how they fit our person specification and enclosing a CV.

Applications should be sent to:

Mr Charles King, Chairman, Mallaig Harbour Authority, Harbour Office, Mallaig, Inverness-shire. PH41 4QB

Or emailed to: kingcraigrossie@aol.com>

To be received no later than Monday 25th March 2019 at 5pm.

Interviews will be held in Mallaig week commencing 15th April 2019.

**MALLAIG HARBOUR AUTHORITY
Appointment of Non-Executive
Board Members**

Mallaig Harbour Authority is seeking to make appointments of two non-executive members to its Board and individuals with an interest in public service are being sought.

Mallaig Harbour Authority is a Trust Port which differs from company or local authority owned ports by its constitution and powers. All port investments are funded from trading revenues supplemented by commercial borrowings.

The main duties of the Authority are to maintain, improve and develop the Port.

The appointments will be for a period of three years with both appointments commencing in April 2019. Posts will be part time, typically a few days per month. A modest remuneration is payable.

Competencies/Skills

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- That they have achieved results in demanding situations and can demonstrate ability and a proven track record in their chosen profession (or other activities);
- That they have the ability to contribute effectively in group discussions involving a wide range of people, including specialists and professionals. This includes the intellectual ability to extract the essence of an argument from papers and to analyse problems and assess evidence impartially;
- That they have been able to earn the respect of colleagues and been influential as a member of a team working over a sustained period of time towards demanding goals;

Applicants should make clear the level and depth of management or specialist expertise (if any), and of any other experience which demonstrate knowledge and interests relevant to this post e.g. management of harbours, financial management, human resources and industrial relations, laws relating to Scotland.

Residence within a reasonable distance of the port, and familiarity with local issues in the region surrounding the port, are highly desirable.

The Authority is committed to equality of opportunity and encourages a diverse range of applicants and to the principle of appointment on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process in accordance with the Guide To Good Governance for Trust Ports.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from:

**Mallaig Harbour Authority, Harbour Office, Mallaig, Inverness-shire.
PH41 4QB or info@mallaigharbourauthority.com**

Closing date for applications – 2pm on Friday 5th April 2019

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
HIJOBS HIJOBS



LGV Drivers Required

Oban – 48 hrs per week, 5 days from 6. Must possess Class 2 or 7.5T licence with Tacho card and current DQC. You will be required to deliver multi-drop to our customers supplying food throughout the West and North of Scotland.

Warehouse Pickers

Days and Nights

Seasonal until September

Oban – 40 hours per week. 5 from 7 days. Picking and loading vehicles ready for despatch on both our dayshift and nightshift picking operation.

For all positions, very competitive salary, uniform and excellent employee benefits. Please call into our depot in Glengallan Rd for an application form or email – debbiethomson@bidfood.co.uk

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Care Assistant

Full time & part time hours available for day & night shift

Housekeeping Assistant

2 shifts per week - 0800-1500

Kitchen Assistant

2 Shifts per week - 0730-1800

For more information or an application form please call 01631 720278 or email admin.lynnoflorne@westcoastcare.co.uk

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

SAFE STRONG AND FREE

We are delighted to recruit to the following posts:

Part-time Project Worker - Lochaber area

Annualised contract 380hrs

All children's workshops are held in nurseries and playgroups during school hours and in term times. Excellent communication skills, a knowledge of child development and a background of working with children required. Own transport essential.

Starting salary £9.83 per hour.

PVG Membership is required for this post

For an application pack contact ssf by:

Phone: 01463 712669

E-mail: info@safestrongandfree.org.uk

Informal enquiries to Kerry Glen, Project Co-ordinator

Closing date for applications – Friday 22nd March 2019

www.safestrongandfree.org.uk Scottish Charity SC017744

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Harvesting Contracts Manager/Supervisor



Argyll Area

Tilhill Forestry has an immediate opportunity for a Harvesting Contracts Manager or Supervisor in the Argyll area to assist with the management of timber harvesting operations. You will have specific responsibility for all aspects of site management, harvesting production and logistics. This a fast moving and exciting role requiring excellent supervisory skills and the ability to think on your feet. The job is largely outdoor based and you will be expected to spend considerable time on site in the forest.

Forestry experience is desirable but not essential for this key role, so we are looking for a candidate with the following skills and experience:

- Management or supervisory experience.
- Safety, environmental and commercial awareness.
- Ability to work within tight deadlines.
- Ability to lead teams effectively.
- Ability to manage day to day relationships with suppliers and customers.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced changing commercial environment.
- Self-motivation.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Team player.
- Full Driving Licence.

In return we offer an attractive salary and benefits package, together with excellent opportunities for personal and career development in a truly national and integrated company.

To apply, email your CV and CV supplementary form, which you can download from our website, clearly stating the position you are applying for, to: careers@tilhill.com

Closing Date: 31st March 2019

The Company's Job Applicant Privacy Notice is available at www.tilhill.com/about-us/careers

www.tilhill.com

Tilhill Forestry is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Mechanical Craftsperson - Cruachan Power Station

Ready for a
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that was, and
still is, a feat of
engineering?

Looking for
somewhere
your career
has a future?

If you've served an engineering or craft apprenticeship, have experience working in large scale process or heavy industry and are ready for something new, then visit our careers website to start the next chapter of your career with Drax.

Cruachan Power Station recently joined the Drax group, with over 2,500 colleagues across the UK and in the USA all working together to enable a zero carbon- lower cost energy for the future of the UK.

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powering tomorrow



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AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH**

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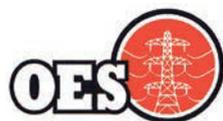
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For enquiries or information please contact the Centre Manager, Nicola MacKechnie;

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PERSONAL

THANK YOU

Freena MacDougall would like to thank family, relatives and friends for flowers, cards, gifts and visits during her stay in hospital. Also grateful thanks to Dr Quayle, Mull and Oban ambulance crews, night staff at Bowman Court, medical, nursing and domestic staff on Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital for your care and kindness.

BIRTHS

SWIFT - Edward and Fiona are delighted to announce the birth of Dylan Swift, born February 26, 2019, weighing 8lbs 7ozs. First grandchild for Eddie Swift and Kate MacAllister and Dugie and Judy Campbell.

DEATHS

BAIN - Archibald (Archie), Inveraray/Edinburgh. Peacefully at the Western General Hospital on Monday February 25, 2019. Archie, beloved husband of the late Bridget, loving son of the late Annie and James Bain, much loved dad of Archie, Sheila and Donald and adored brother of the late Hughie, Rena and Deandie.

CAMERON - Suddenly but peacefully whilst on holiday in Bulgaria on February 25, 2019, Nicoll Cameron, aged 77 years. A lifelong supporter of Scotland and the SNP. Beloved husband of Diana, loving father of Ewan and Lewis, a respected father-in-law of Nicola and Katriona, dear grandfather of Mia, Arran, Brody and Iona, brother of Donald and of the late Douglas and a good friend to many. Funeral service to take place at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, EH7 4HW on Tuesday, March 12 at 3pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only but donations if so desired may be made to the R.N.L.I. as you leave the service. Mourners are invited to wear some tartan.

CHALMERS - Nancy (née Maclean) died peacefully at home in Brussels on Friday, March 1, 2019. Beloved wife of Gordon, daughter of the late Hector and May and sister of Martin. Funeral will take place in Brussels on Friday, March 8.

GALBRAITH - Peacefully on March 2, 2019 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital with his family at his side Robert (Gal), aged 84. Beloved husband of Val and loving father of Sonny, Sandy, Jayne and Wendy much loved grandpa of Lisa and Abby and dear brother and uncle. Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Oban Parish Church at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please.

JAMES - The Honourable Jaquetta Mary Theresa (née Digby) died peacefully on February 22, 2019, aged 90. Formerly of Torosay Castle, Craignure, Isle of Mull and latterly of Sherborne, Dorset. Devoted wife of the late David Guthrie James, dearly loved mother of Peter, Michael, Diana, Patsy, Christopher and Kenelm. Loving grandmother of Daniel, Susannah, Adam, Anna, Rowan, Mairina, Fenella, Sahaya, David and Sholto. Loved great-grandmother. Funeral Mass will take place at the Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm Church, Sherborne on Tuesday March 19, 2019 at 11am. Family flowers only. Enquiries c/o Brister and Son Funeral Directors. Tel 01935 812647.

MACDONALD - Peacefully after a short illness and in the arms of her children, on February 27, 2019, 82 years young, Kathy (née Campbell), Dunbeg, devoted mum to Kerry and Josephine and much loved granny to Seóras. RIP.

MACLEOD - Peacefully in the Belford Hospital, Fort William on Tuesday February 26, 2019, Murdo MacLeod aged 83 years. Requiem Mass will take place on Monday March 11, 2019 in St. Mary's R.C. Church, Fort William at 12 noon. Followed by interment in Glen Nevis Cemetery. Flowers welcome donations if desired for Ward 1 Belford Hospital.

MILLER - Peacefully at his home on Thursday, February 28, 2019, George Leslie. Much loved dad of David and Alastair and grandad of eight. Funeral will be held at 1pm at Oban Parish Church on Thursday, March 7 and thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Macmillan Day Bed Unit at Oban Hospital.

SHARP - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands hospital, Oban on March 1, 2019, in his 85th year, Alexander (Alec), beloved husband of 58 years to Marion, dear father to Thomas and Linda, brother to Chris and Tommy and a loving grandfather to Ollie, Ethan, Freya and Innes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADDISON - The family of the late Hendry Addison would like to express their deepest gratitude for all the kindness shown to them on the death of their dad and granda. Hendry passed away at home on February 10, 2019 and the family would like to thank all of the medical team in Mallaig for their excellent care. A huge thanks to McLellan's Funeral Directors for their fantastic service and for making a difficult time a little easier. Thank you both to the Rev Stuart Goudie and Mrs Elizabeth Fleming for a lovely funeral service. Thanks also to the West Highland Hotel for the refreshments after the service and McDonald Bros Florist for the flowers. Massive thanks to all, for the cards, the flowers, the food, the offers of accommodation and to everyone who attended the funeral service in such great numbers.

BELL - Alex, Anne and family would like to say thank you to all those who supported us during Iris's short illness. We received unreserved help from all at Easdale Medical Practice whose doctors and associated nursing staff were so kind and supportive. Thanks also to Hamish Hoey and Son funeral directors who provided us with a first class funeral service and to Ellen Gibson of the Humanist Society who conducted an inspired funeral ceremony. Special thanks go to the Cardross Inn who provided catering for all the people who travelled large distances. Finally, a big thank you to all friends and family and all their kind wishes, flowers and donations to our chosen cause.

GRAY - The family of the late Winnie would like to thank everyone for all the kind expressions of sympathy received following their sad loss, for all the visits, cards and kindness shown at this time. A special mention to the Renal Unit at the Belford Hospital for all their kindness and care over the years to Winnie. Heartfelt thanks to Linnie at John McLellan Funeral Directors for her comforting words and personal service. Thanks to Richard Corbett for the comforting service, to Caol Community Centre for the lovely catering. Finally, grateful thanks to all who attended the service and donated so generously the amount of £722.53 was collected for the Belford Hospital Renal Unit.

LINTOTT - The family would like to express their gratitude to all friends, neighbours and colleagues for their kindness and support following the sad loss of Brian. A beloved brother to Colin, dear cousin and friend to many. Special thanks to Ian and all staff of D&A Munn for support and professional care. Thanks to Bishop Kevin Pearson and Provost Margi Campbell for a comforting, lovely service. Also sincere thanks to the church members who provided a wonderful tea. Thanks to everyone that attended. Cards, flowers and messages have been a great comfort. Donations raised for the ICU ward in Glasgow Royal Hospital were £400.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

McLENNAN - Kathleen and family would like to sincerely thank all family, neighbours and friends for all the messages of sympathy and the support and kindness shown to them following the sad loss of Kenny. Grateful thanks to district nurses and doctors from Dalmally Medical centre, staff in A & E, ward B and Macmillan Day Bed Unit in Lorn and Islands Hospital. Thanks also to Katriona and all at Hamish Hoey and Son for efficient funeral arrangements, Petals for beautiful floral tributes, Rev M. Millar for a lovely service, Alasdair MacDonald for his accordion playing in church, and all who attended the funeral from near and far, Dalmally Hall Committee for the lovely buffet afterwards. The collection at the church amounted to £916.80 for the Macmillan Day Bed Unit in Oban Hospital.

MEMORIALS

BURTON - For our boys Paul and David, in our hearts and minds forever.

- The Burton family, Oban and East Kilbride.

COUTTS - Treasured memories of my dear mother Ishbel, who died March 8, 1992, my dear father Alex, died June 17, 1976, my aunt Jean, died October 26, 1988 and my brother Alistair, died November 2, 2007.

Precious memories never fade away.

- Cathie, Inverness

LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife Myra, mum and grandmother, who passed away on March 9, 2005.

We visit your grave often

And tend it with loving care

But no-one will know the heartache

As we turn and leave you there.

- Ivor, Neil, and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle Dian, who died March 7, 1977.

Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family.

MACEWAN - In loving memory of Alex who died on March 10, 2015.

Sadly missed along life's way

Quietly remembered every day

No longer in our lives to share

But in our hearts you're always there.

- Mum and family.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002.

In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts.

- Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

MARTINDALE - In loving memory of John Martindale, a dear father and grandpa, who died March 3, 2009. Remembering also his devoted wife, a dear mother and granny, who died June 9, 2008.

- Loved and missed by Ruth, Tom, Ben and Martin.

MARTINDALE - John, sadly taken from us 10 years ago.

- Missed every day by David and Jane Martindale.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Jessie, wife of the late Malcolm, who died March 11, 2000.

Loved and remembered every day. Always in our thoughts.

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GRADUATION



JACKLINE NTINYARI STRAIN

Graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Masters in Social Work. She is originally from Nairobi, Kenya but lives in Connel with her husband David Strain. Jackline has her brother living in Oban, Frankline Murangiri who is married to Fiona Hughes Murangiri. Jackline's degree is already being put to good use working as a Social Worker for City of Edinburgh Council.

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

Iona youth project shortlisted for National youth work awards

The Camas team, who are part of the Iona Community, have been shortlisted for the national faith-based youth work award. Each week the Camas team builds a community safe space and home for groups of young people as they visit the remote island off Mull for a one-week, activity-packed and memory-filled residential trip.

This would not be possible without the skills, dedication and enthusiasm of the staff team.

From rock climbing to wild camping, young people are given the opportunity to try new experiences, push themselves to their limits and learn in an informal environment.

With no electricity at Camas, it really is about bonding with nature, the elements and your fellow group members.

Youth groups return to Camas year after year (some have kept going for 20 years), so it is clear that the Camas team have built a fun, inclusive and empowering experience for young people across Scotland to enjoy.

Iona Community member Rachel McCann, who nominated the Camas team, said: 'Their focus is on building relationships and community, and being alongside young people.'

They do this through treating young people with compassion and respect, by listening to them, and empowering them.

The commitment of the team to run an effective programme each week is second to none, and



The Camas team.

they do this with humour, hard work and dedication.'

Commenting, Tim Frew, CEO of YouthLink Scotland said: 'Over the past year we have seen some fantastic examples of youth work making an immense contribution to young people's lives, illustrated by the great success that was Year of Young People 2018. In every part of Scotland, every day, thousands of youth workers, many of them volunteers, are supporting young people to follow their dreams and realise their potential, and the Camas team is a great example of the positive impact youth work has.'

The National Youth Work Awards 2019 are about celeb-

rating the power of incredible youth work and the vital role of Scotland's 70,000 youth work volunteers and staff in the lives of our young people. This national event is co-designed with young people, who have been involved in the judging and the planning of the night.

The winners will be announced at an awards dinner on Wednesday March 13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow, hosted by broadcaster and pantomime villain Grant Stott and Richard Lochhead MSP, minister for higher education, further education and youth work. To get involved, visit the YouthLink Scotland website at www.youthlinkscotland.org

THOUGHT for the week

There is a minimalist trend for house interiors at present. People are urged to adopt a certain cool, functional, well-designed Scandinavian style – without clutter and baggage.

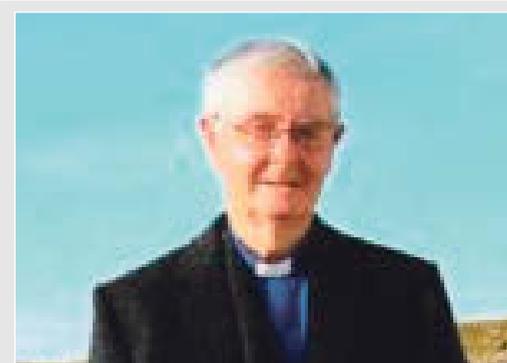
And this appeals to harassed 21st-century types for lives today may be hurried, complicated, stressful and harassed. To offset this, we need our homes to be the opposite – clutter-free. There is nothing new in this for 2019 sees the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bauhaus movement which was the architectural, design and art philosophy which sought out functionality, straight lines, white walls and clarity from the mess of the First World War, and the over-elaboration of the Victorians.

This week the church calendar comes round to the period of Lent. In the public imagination, this is the time to give up something. Usually this means chocolate or alcohol. (If it is Fairtrade, it is Lent free!) In truth, though, Lent is about focusing on the road to the cross and how much this way cost Jesus of Nazareth. Lent is about re-focusing our thoughts on that which is truly important. If that means giving up on distractions that divert our energies, then that is okay. Conversely, if it means taking up our own cross for the love of another, or in the cause of justice, then that is right.

There are times in life when we need to sort out our priorities; where style has won over substance. Lent provides this far more than a house makeover.

Walking with Christ though Lent to the cross brings us into the light of resurrection life in all its fullness.

Rev Dugald Cameron,
Kilmore and Oban.

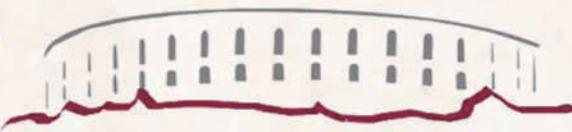


In last week's Oban Times we carried an obituary for Canon McQueen from the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

Due to an error, the wrong picture was published with the obituary. We apologise for our mistake and for any distress this may have caused.

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OT

Fixtures

Saturday March 9 Mowi Premiership

Caberfeidh v
Newtonmore, Andy
MacLean
Kilmallie v Inveraray,
Archie Ritchie
Kingussie v Lochaber,
Alex MacVicar
Kinlochshiel v Kyles
Athletic, Deek Cameron
Oban Camanachd v
Lovat, Ross Brown

Mowi National Division

Beaully v Bute, Calum
Girvan
Fort William v Oban
Celtic, Martin MacLean
Glasgow Mid Argyll v
Glenurquhart, Robert
Baxter, 3pm.

Strathglass v Skye, Graham Cameron

Mowi North Division 1

Glenurquhart v
Kinlochshiel, John Angus
Gillies
Inverness v Caberfeidh,
Steven MacLachlan
Lovat v Fort William,
Ronnie Campbell
Newtonmore v Aberdeen
University, David Mitchell
Skye v Kingussie, Iain
Kennedy, 3pm.

Mowi South Division 1

Glasgow Mid Argyll v
Aberdour, Robert Baxter,
noon.

Inveraray v Ballachulish, Euan Pearson

Kyles Athletic v Col Glen,
Lucy McNulty
Taynuilt v Lochside
Rovers, Graham Fisher

Mowi North Division 2

Boleskine v Lewis, Des
McNulty, 1.30pm.
Inverness v Strathglass,
John Wood, noon.

Lochcarron v Kilmallie, John Matheson

Strathspey v Beaully, Neil
MacDonald, 1.30pm.

Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour v Kilmory,
Ewan MacDonald
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy,
Jim Innes
All throw-ups 2.30pm,
unless stated.

Women's Camanachd Association

Saturday March 9

Skye Ladies v
Ardnamurchan Ladies,
Iain Kennedy, noon.

Sunday March 10

Lochaber Ladies v
Glenurquhart Ladies
Strathspey Ladies v
Aberdour Ladies
Badenoch Ladies v
Glasgow Mid Argyll
Ladies 1st, Davie
Anderson, 1pm.

Development League

Central League hosted by
Uddingston, noon.

Opening day fixtures washed out by storm

Storm Freya ensured the opening day of the new shinty season didn't go as planned on Saturday March 2.

Mowi Premiership Inveraray v Oban Camanachd – abandoned

Oban Camanachd's new season got off to a false start as their match against newly-promoted Inveraray at the Winterton was abandoned early in the second half.

This was Stephen Sloss' first competitive match as Oban Camanachd manager. He was without Aidan MacIntyre, who was working, so Scott MacMillan came in on the wing. Chrissie MacMillan was banned.

Ruaraidh Graham remains in charge at Inveraray who won promotion from the National Division at the end of last season.

With the weather deteriorating, the teams had to be cautious, even during the warm up, as the pitch was already cutting up.

Connor Howe and Daniel Madej had chances for Oban Camanachd, as did Andrew MacCuish at the start of the second half.

The closest Inveraray came was a Fraser Watt shot from a central position which keeper Cameron Sutherland saved with his chest before clearing for a corner.

After 55 minutes, with the match still scoreless, referee Robert Baxter brought the game to an end.

Speaking after the match, Baxter said: 'I called the game off because of the ground conditions. The pitch was cutting up and boys were sliding in and, basically, I feared for their safety. If the pitch had held up, the game would have continued but it was cutting up badly.'

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon added: 'The pitch was cutting up and the ball was sticking on the surface which was making it difficult to play, so there were no complaints and everyone accepted the referee's decision.'

Newtonmore 0 Kilmallie 2

Newly-promoted Kilmallie were given the most difficult task on their return to shinty's top flight as they travelled to play champions Newtonmore at the Eilan.

Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald missed out as



The Inveraray first team wearing their new strip donated by D A MacDonald. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

he completed a two-match suspension carried forward from last season.

This was a first competitive match in charge for new Kilmallie boss John Stewart and he was without Calum MacDougall who was working.

John was also forced to make a late change as Martin Stewart pulled out injured in the warm up, so 16-year-old Cam Clark started at wing back against young Iain Robinson and was excellent throughout.

Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies made a couple of early saves with his feet as Newtonmore looked to make the breakthrough.

However, the opening goal came at the other end. Daniel Stewart initially played the ball in from the right. The Newtonmore defence failed to deal with the danger and Stewart continued his run across the box, taking a touch before beating keeper Kenny Ross at his right post to make it 1-0 with 30 minutes played.

It got even better for the Canal Parks side when captain Liam MacDonald doubled their lead with just 60 first half seconds remaining. Forwards Liam MacDonald and Craig MacIsaac combined well before Michael Rodger touched the ball to the on-rushing Liam MacDonald who cracked the ball high into the top corner of the net to make it 2-0.

Kilmallie played well all over the pitch and their defence kept keeper Shane Gillies protected, although he did have to make saves one-on-one against Evan Menzies, Glen MacKintosh and Iain Robertson.

Newtonmore came close to pulling a goal back near the end but Shane Gillies made a great save, tipping a deflected shot over the bar with his caman.

After the game, Kilmallie boss John Stewart said: 'I'm delighted. Every single Kilmallie player was outstanding.'

'Although they were all brilliant, our man of the match was Innes Blackhall at full centre against Jamie Robinson. He ran himself into the ground and was up and down that park all day. It's only two points though and we can't get carried away but we will take huge confidence in beating Newtonmore after running them close in the 2017 MacTavish final, before losing 3-2, and the 2018 Camanachd semi-final, only being beaten on penalties after extra-time. The result

gives us the belief for the season now. It's a great start.'

Lovat 5 Kinlochshiel 0

Lovat got their season off to a spectacular start, beating Kinlochshiel 5-0 at Balgate.

Lovat's Callum Cruden was suspended, while Ryan Ferguson was unavailable. There was a starting place at wing forward for Fraser Heath who joined the club from Glenurquhart in the close season.

Kinlochshiel had Stuart MacRae in goal, taking over from Scott Kennedy who retired at the end of last season.

Marc MacLachlan got the opener on 25 minutes when he gathered possession following a poor goal-hit which Paul MacRae tried to clear. MacLachlan played a one-two with Greg Matheson, running onto the return ball on the right then diving full

stretch to touch the ball past the on-rushing keeper.

The hosts added a second following a flowing move a couple of minutes later. Greg Matheson's ball forward was deflected high in the air and Marc MacLachlan stretched to flick the dropping ball over his head and past the keeper from just inside the 'D'.

MacLachlan completed his hat-trick on the stroke of half-time. Lewis Tawse took down a loose clearance and found Greg Matheson who shot from 30 yards. Keeper MacRae stopped the ball with his feet but MacLachlan was first onto the re-bound and he tucked the ball away to give Lovat a 3-0 interval lead.

Calum MacAulay, who came off the bench to replace the injured Graeme MacMillan in the first half, had to be substituted on 50 minutes. Chris Johnstone took over.

Another Lovat reshuffle on 59 minutes saw Martin Mainland replaced by Thomas Fraser, with Fraser Heath going to buckshee back.

Greg Matheson saw a powerful shot well saved by Stuart MacRae on 61 minutes before Matheson eventually added his name to the scoresheet on 65 minutes. A superb cross from Thomas Fraser, who won possession out on the left touchline, was perfectly placed to go over Marc MacLachlan and Paul MacRae and drop for Greg Matheson at the right of the

Continued on page 56



Lovat's Marc MacLachlan shoots past Kinlochshiel keeper Stuart MacRae to score the second of his four goals. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Ross MacMillan, Oban Celtic, battles with Scott Harvey, Bute, and torrential rain before the referee abandoned the match at Mossfield.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd, and Fraser Watt, Inveraray, before their match at the Winterton was abandoned because of poor weather.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2100

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

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 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran 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. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



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 or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name

Address

Tel No.....

Please
tape your
£1 coin here
(only if posting)

Results

Saturday March 2

Postponed (P)
Abandoned (A)

Mowi Premiership

Inveraray A - A Oban Camanachd - unplayable field
Kyles Athletic P - P Kingussie - unplayable field
Lochaber A - A Caberfeidh - unplayable field
Lovat 5 - 0 Kinlochshiel
Newtonmore 0 - 2 Kilmallie

Mowi National Division

Beaulieu 4 - 5 Fort William
Glenurquhart 3 - 0 Strathglass
Oban Celtic A - A Bute - unplayable field
Skye P - P Glasgow Mid Argyll - unplayable field

Mowi North Division 1

Aberdeen University 0 - 7
Glangarry

Caberfeidh 5 - 1 Skye
Fort William A - A Newtonmore - unplayable field

Kingussie 2 - 2 Glenurquhart
Kinlochshiel 2 - 9 Lovat

Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour 4 - 4 Tayforth
Ballachulish 1 - 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll
Col Glen P - P Taynult - unplayable field

Lochside Rovers A - A Inveraray - unplayable field

Mowi North Division 2

Inverness 2 - 2 Boleskine
Kilmallie P - P Beaulieu - unplayable field

Lochcarron 7 - 1 Lewis
Strathglass 1 - 7 Strathspey

Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy 7 - 0 Ardnamurchan
Kilmory 5 - 0 Oban Celtic

RECENT WINNERS:

T Campbell Sept '18 **£2500**
S Campbell Sept '18 **£2550**
L Currie Nov '18 **£800**
L Nicolson Dec '18 **£3900**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

B Simmonds
Oban
G Milliken
Glasgow

OT

Continued from page 54

'D' and Matheson crashed the ball low into the net.

Marc MacLachlan rounded off a great afternoon's work with eight minutes remaining. Lorne MacKay chipped the ball forward from the middle of the park and Marc MacLachlan capitalised on hesitancy in the Kinlochshiel defence to win the possession ahead of Paul MacRae and he turned inside before knocking the ball low into the net from close range.

Lovat played well and took their chances although Kinlochshiel will rue some defensive lapses. Lovat's Daniel Grieve looked unbeatable at full back, Lorne MacKay was effective in midfield and there was always a threat up front where four-goal Marc MacLachlan grabbed the headlines.

Lochaber v Caberfeidh – abandoned

Lochaber's meeting with Caberfeidh at Spean Bridge fell foul of the weather.

With Michael Delaney back in charge at Lochaber, play started but it wasn't long before referee Graham Cameron brought proceedings to an early end.

Kyles Athletic v Kingussie – postponed

The match between Kyles Athletic and Kingussie was postponed by referee David Mitchell just ahead of throw-up as the field at Tighnabruach succumbed to pre-match rain.

Mowi National Division Oban Celtic v Bute – abandoned

The game between Oban Celtic and Bute at Mossfield was abandoned after an hour.

New Oban Celtic boss Dougie MacIntyre included captain Ross MacMillan who had recovered from a knock suffered in the pre-season meeting with Inveraray.

Bute, back in shinty's second tier, had some early pressure before Oban Celtic came more into it.

Oban Celtic had a chance midway through the half when Ross MacMillan shot from a tight angle. The ball beat the keeper but stuck on the goal line in the heavy conditions.

The hosts suffered a blow 10 minutes before the break when centre Neil Carmichael suffered an accidental blow to the hand resulting in a dislocated thumb and he must be a doubt for this week's match at Fort William. Lee Askew came off the bench to join the attack, with Ally McKerracher going to the middle of the park.

Neither keeper had any significant saves to make with moves breaking down in front of goal as the ball held up on the surface.

With players slipping and



Conor Cormack, Kinlochshiel, and Lorne Mackay, Lovat, in action on Saturday. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

sliding and holding back to prevent injuring an opponent, referee Iain Kennedy halted proceedings after an hour with the contest still scoreless.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'The pitch looked good in the morning. However, the heavens opened around 12.30pm. Puddles started to appear halfway through the first half and, with the wind rising and the rain not letting up, referee Iain Kennedy, who spoke to both managers at half-time, had no option but to call the game off.'

Beaully 4 Fort William 5

Fort William edged out Beaully by the odd goal in nine after an exciting contest at Braeview Park.

Beaully boss Alan MacRae started with Josh Grant in goal after sharing the pre-season goalkeeping duties between Grant and MacKay Murray.

Fort William co-managers Victor Smith and Adam Robertson travelled without the injured James Tangney and the suspended Arran MacPhee.

The afternoon started with a slight breeze but, by the end of the first half, the wind had picked up and rain started.

The pitch held up well and the small band of supporters who braved the elements were treated to a thrilling game of end-to-end shinty.

Beaully started well and took the lead after four minutes when Jack MacDonald sent the ball through to youngster Euan MacCormick who unleashed a hard, low shot past Fort William keeper Paul MacKay at his right-hand post.

Fort William levelled on 16 minutes when Calum Shepherd played the ball into the danger area and Jack Fraser touched it onto Lewis Morrison who slammed the

ball home. Fort William's JD MacMaster was first to find his name in referee John Angus Gillies' book for a reckless swing midway through the first half.

Jack MacDonald looked menacing in the home forward line, giving the Fort William defence a torrid time, and he put his side back in front on 25 minutes when he took a diagonal pass from Sean Stewart before firing the ball into the top of the net.

Jack Fraser was Fort William's danger man and he peeled away from marker David Fraser on 32 minutes before hitting a low drive into the bottom corner of the net to make it 2-2.

It looked as if Fort William would lead at the break when an unmarked Alexander MacMillan found space on the 'D' and he poked the ball past the keeper at this right-hand post to make it 3-2.

Beaully forced a late corner, however, and Sean Stewart

played a great ball into the goal area where Jack MacDonald took it first time, driving it past the keeper to make it 3-3 at the end of a first half which was played a good tempo.

Beaully claimed for a penalty when Paul MacKay caught Daniel Lamont, who had run into the 'D', as he cleared for a corner but referee Gillies waved away their claims.

Fort William's Jack Fraser scored the goal of the match on 69 minutes. After getting on the end of a corner from the left, 18 yards from goal, he arrowed a fierce shot into the top corner of the net, giving the keeper no chance.

The game continued to swing from one goal area to another with Beaully bagging the equaliser on 77 minutes. Jack MacDonald had gone close on more than one occasion before Euan MacCormick found Sean Stewart on the right and turned his marker before shooting into the bottom corner of the net to make it 4-4.

It only took Fort William a couple of minutes to get their noses back in front. Jack Fraser played a pass through to Lewis Morrison who struck the ball first time to claim his second goal of the afternoon which proved to be the winner. Morrison almost claimed a hat-trick on 82 minutes when his strike shaved the post.

Both teams are to be commended for delivering a good game of shinty in trying conditions. Calum Shepherd and Calum Morrison had a good battle in the middle of the park, while Angus Renwick was commanding at buckshee back for Beaully.

Jack MacDonald was best for Beaully, whilst Lachie Shaw and Jack Fraser shone for Fort William.

Glenurquhart 3 Strathglass 0

New Glenurquhart co-managers Stuart MacKintosh and Eddie Tembo got off to a winning start as their side were 3-0 derby winners against Strathglass at Blairbeg.

This was a second successive Saturday meeting between the sides, with Glenurquhart winning 1-0 in their MacDonald Cup match at Cannich the previous weekend.

Ewan Brady got the opener for Glenurquhart and Andrew Corrigan made it 2-0 before the break.

Ewan Brady marked his return to competitive action with his second and Glenurquhart's third goal in the second half.

Skye Camanachd v Glasgow Mid Argyll – postponed

Title hopefuls Skye Camanachd and Glasgow Mid Argyll were to meet in a 3pm throw-up at Pairc nan Loch, Portree.

However, referee Deek Cameron had no option but to call the game off just over an hour before throw-up as heavy rain in the lead up to the match left the field unplayable.

Mowi North Division 1 Fort William v Newtonmore – abandoned

Champions Newtonmore reserves were to begin another title defence at An Aird against the Fort William seconds who finished second last season.

However, the contest only lasted 10 minutes before referee Des McNulty ruled the pitch unplayable.

Aberdeen University 0 Glengarry 7

Glengarry made a strong start to the season, overcoming Aberdeen University 7-0 at

Balgownie. The home side only had 11 players available and an on-form Glengarry side took full advantage.

Raymond Robertson scored on 15 and 17 minutes to give the visitors early control.

Nick Dalgety on 33 minutes and Andrew Gilchrist a minute later made it 4-0 at the break. Nick Dalgety went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 48 and 62 minutes, while Raymond Robertson notched his treble with a 74 minute strike.

Elsewhere in the league, the Caberfeidh colts beat Skye Camanachd colts 5-1 at Castle Leod, with James MacLeod getting a hat-trick.

The Kingussie seconds came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 against the Glenurquhart seconds at Blairbeg, whilst Cameron MacMillan and Raymond Rennie both scored four times as the Lovat reserves beat Kinlochshiel reserves 9-2 at Kirkton.

Mowi South Division 1 Lochside Rovers v Inveraray – abandoned

There was frustration for new Lochside Rovers manager Brian MacCallum as his team's match against the Inveraray second team at Ganavan was postponed with the Oban side leading 5-0.

MacCallum fielded a strong side, including keeper Gavin Stobbart, Gary McKerracher in defence, Aidan MacIntyre at centre and Willie Neilson up front.

Andrew McMurdo took charge of Inveraray. He was without last year's top goal scorer John Mackenzie, but former Kilmallie player Peter MacIntyre returned for a second spell with the club.

Inveraray started brightly with Steven Cameron forcing a good save from Lochside keeper Stobbart.

Young Coll Mackay and Campbell Watt's running were causing Lochside's defence problems in the early stages. However Lochside came into the game and once Lennon Campbell scored the opener on 14 minutes, they took a grip of the game.

Lewis Buchanan added a second a couple of minutes later and Willie Neilson went on to make it 4-0 with goals on 20 and 27 minutes. His strike on the angle was the pick of the afternoon's goals.

Lewis Buchanan got his second on 35 minutes and Lochside led 5-0 at the break.

Young Gregor Mather in the Inveraray goals was in inspired form, preventing Lochside from adding to their tally.

Referee Euan MacDonald consulted both managers at half-time as the Ganavan pitch was cutting up and puddles were appearing so the sensible decision to abandon the game was taken.



Oban Camanachd's Scott McKillop can't hold onto his stick and Inveraray's Lewis Montgomery loses his footing during Saturday's game at the Winteron which was abandoned after an hour because of adverse weather. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Aberdour 4 Tayforth 4

A Neil Arnott inspired Tayforth side came from 4-0 down to draw 4-4 with Aberdour at Silversands.

Niall MacPhee's own goal after a couple of minutes and David McDougall on 29 minutes had the hosts 2-0 ahead.

Aberdour's Craig Grant was sent off by referee Ross Brown after 36 minutes but they added to their tally when David MacKenzie scored on 40 minutes to make it 3-0 at the break. When Angus Thorburn added a fourth after 52 minutes, Aberdour looked good for the points.

However, Neil Arnott got the visitors back into the match on 65 minutes and the goal seemed to unnerve Aberdour. Arnott, who joined the club from Lochcarron in the close season, earned Tayforth a point with three more strikes on 74, 83 and 87 minutes.

Ballachulish 1 Inveraray 0

Duncan MacDonald scored the only goal of the game, 10 minutes into the second half, as Ballachulish beat Glasgow Mid Argyll's second team 1-0 in monsoon conditions at the Jubilee Park.

Col Glen v Taynuilt - postponed

The match between Col Glen and Taynuilt at Glendaruel was postponed.

Mowi North Division 2 Kilmallie v Beaulie - postponed

The game between the Kilmallie colts and the Beaulie colts was postponed as Canal Parks was waterlogged.

Inverness 2 Boleskine 2

The Inverness seconds and Boleskine drew 2-2 at Bught Park.

Andy Reid and Michael Pirrie scored for the hosts, with Steve Bone and James Anderson replying.

Lochcarron 7 Lewis Camanachd 1

Lochcarron were too strong for Lewis Camanachd, winning 7-1 at Battery Park.

Gregor Cushnie scored five times on his return from Aberdeen University, whilst Crisdean Finlayson got the other two.

Scott MacLeod countered for Lewis.

This was Ewan Neilson's first match as a referee.

Strathglass 1 Strathspey Camanachd 7

Strathspey were too strong for the Strathglass second team, winning 7-1 at Cannich.

Struan Ross on two and six minutes got the visitors off to a great start.

Former Newtonmore player John MacKenzie doubled their lead with a quick-fire brace on 16 and 18 minutes.

Raymond Fraser pulled a goal back on 22 minutes but

Struan Ross completed his hat-trick four minutes before the break to make it 5-1.

Late goals from Xander Ross on 81 and Conor Aubrey on 85 minutes made it 7-1.

Mowi South Div 2 Kilmory 5 Oban Celtic 0

Kilmory beat the Oban Celtic second team 5-0 in their 2pm throw-up at MacRae Park.

The match was played on a heavy pitch and conditions were terrible for both teams. Alister MacArthur scored the only goal of the first half on 15 minutes and got a second four minutes into the second half.

Kilmory's more experienced players made the difference and they put gloss on the win as Alex Cunningham on 78 minutes, Hal Jones on 83 minutes and Adam Johnston a minute from time rounded off the 5-0 win.

Glenorchy 7 Ardnamurchan 0

Ardnamurchan, back in the league again, went down 7-0 against Glenorchy at Mart Park.

Conor Sartain grabbed a hat-trick with goals on 35, 49 and 65 minutes, whilst Kieran MacKay did likewise with strikes on 55, 70 and 74 minutes. Ben MacFarlane-Barrow got Glenorchy's other on 62 minutes.

Women's regional leagues

Mowi North Division 2 Skye Camanachd 2 Kinlochshiel 6

Kinlochshiel beat the Skye second team 6-2 in Portree.

Abby MacLean scored both home goals but four-goal Eilidh MacInnes and strikes from Alaina MacLennan and Sandra MacRae gave Kinlochshiel victory.

Inverness 2 Lovat 6

Fiona Urquhart bagged all six goals as Lovat won 6-2 in Inverness.

Glengarry v Fort William - postponed

The match between Glengarry and Fort William was postponed.

Strathglass v Lochaber - postponed

The clash between Strathglass and the Lochaber second team was postponed.

Mowi South Division 2 Oban Lorn 2 Cowal and Bute 1

The game between Oban Lorn and Cowal and Bute was switched to Mossfield.

Caroline Smith scored twice to give the Oban side victory, cancelling out Charmaine Love's effort.

Tayforth 2 Ardnamurchan 5

Hannah MacDonald scored four times as the Ardnamurchan colts opened their season with a 5-2 win at Tayforth. Rebekah Connolly got the other.



Oban Otters at their pyjama party.

Pyjama party with a difference

Oban Otters Amateur Swimming Club members dived head first into their pyjama swim fundraiser last week.

Members put on their best night-wear, taking to the pool dressed in onesies, slippers, dressing gowns – and determination.

Swimming has never been so fun and the team has given a new meaning to the word fundraising.

Eleven-year-old Kai Mackechnie,

one of Oban Otters' three performance swimmers said: 'We all train hard so it's good to do something for fun every now and again and raise money for the club.'

The event was a hit with swimmers and their coaches.

Oban Otters coach Debbie MacIntyre expressed her pride in the swimmers, giving them credit for the pyjama swim.

Development, junior and performance squads all came together to raise money

for the club. Money raised will go towards new equipment, competition costs and training coaches. The club also has a subsidy fund, boosted by fundraising, available to anyone unable to afford training costs.

The club aims to raise at least £600 from sponsorship, according to club president Kat Dowd. Oban Otters and their fans are confident, however, that the club will pass their target with ease.



Oban players charge towards the Helensburgh 'D'.

Narrow victory for Oban men's team

Oban men's hockey team travelled to Hermitage Academy last weekend to take on Helensburgh's second team, one of the strongest teams in West Division 3.

Grant Matheson and Daniel Davidson made their debut with great effect on the wing and up front respectively. With some of the team playing out of their usual positions, the match did not start well for Oban with Helensburgh scoring an early goal.

Oban showed resilience and strength of character though

HOCKEY

to maintain formation and attack with a high press and good link-up from midfield leading to goals from Andrew Hodge, Stuart Head and Daniel Davidson before half time.

In the second half, Theo Andrews continued to lead the midfield with superb attacking and link-up play with wingers Jensen Binnie, Donald Histed and Grant Matheson.

Ryan Jones put in a tremen-

dous shift at the unfamiliar position of centre back, with a block tackle tally which would rival a rugby score. Asher Petit at left back made some magnificent jab tackles halting several Helensburgh offensives.

The pressure mounted as the game entered the final 15 minutes.

Helensburgh scored a second goal and were clearly in no mood for giving up easily on their home ground.

Lorne Binnie and George Gauley at centre and right back and Andrew Head in

goal worked tirelessly to keep the Helensburgh attacks at bay.

A short corner in the Oban 'D' in the dying seconds of the match gave Helensburgh a chance to level, but the Oban defence held solid and the final score was 3-2 to Oban.

Ash Petit was man of the match this week with superb tackling on the wing.

Thanks to Julie McGlynn for umpiring. Next weekend, the Oban men head to Lomond School to play the Helensburgh men's third team.

OT



Ferg McCoss dives over for one of Oban Lorne's tries v Wigtonshire. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Oban's 'Green Machine' wipes out Wigtonshire

Continued from page 60

operation, got Oban's first try. This was converted by Fergus McCoss who took over the kicking duties for the day in the absence of Finlay Carmichael. Oban 7-3.

A couple of minutes later, Calum MacLachlan scored Oban's second try, again converted by McCoss to extend Oban's lead to 14 points to 3.

Oban were playing well despite heavy, incessant rain making it difficult to play the expansive game which has been the trademark of Oban's season.

Next to cross the line for Oban was young Lorne Sinclair who had another fantastic game in the back row. McCoss converted again to make it three from three for his conversions on a tricky day for kicking. Oban 21, Wigtonshire 3.

Oban made a number of changes with young Kieron Morrison being taken off from out on the wing to be replaced by Steven Parr. Craig Wright, who was a doubt before the game, came off and was replaced by Graham Maceachan. Kyle Graham made way for the veteran Andy MacDougall and Daniel Broderick replaced Lorne Maclachlan.

Oban were to secure the bonus point with the fourth try scored by David Cameron. The young lad has grown in confidence in the last few games as he continues to develop his game. McCoss was just off target with the kick but Oban were well in command. Oban 26, Wigtonshire 3.

Calum Maclachlan completed his hat trick of tries for the afternoon with another fantastic run that the visitors struggled to stop. Oban 33, Wigtonshire 3.

Fergus McCoss was to finish the scoring for

Oban with a fantastic try using his footwork and speed to get past a number of defenders to cross for Oban's sixth and final try of the day. He stepped up and converted his own try with the help of the crossbar to cap a great performance.

Wigtonshire refused to give up and they were rewarded with a consolation try. Oban gave away a number of penalties which allowed the visitors an attacking line-out inside the Oban 22.

The visitors won the line-out and attacked with real purpose desperate to get a score to take back down the road.

Final score – Oban 40, Wigtonshire 8.

This win means Oban are guaranteed the second promotion slot as both teams in third and fourth place can no longer catch them with the number of games remaining. This is a fantastic achievement for everyone in a transitional year for the club with a change of coaches and an influx of new players.

It remains to be seen where Oban will be playing next season but hopefully there will be clarity following the meeting on league reconstruction this week.

The West committee circulated four options last week: the status quo of 12 team leagues meaning Oban would be promoted to West 1 next season; 10 team leagues, meaning Oban would remain in division two or two eight-team league models, either of which would be the preferred options of Oban players and management.

Oban have a free weekend this week with Scotland playing Wales in the Six Nations. They welcome Bishopton to Glencruitten on Saturday March 16 and Paisley on Saturday March 23 to finish the season.

Skipper Dene is t

Goldenhill	1
Oban Saints	2
SAFL - Premier Division	

A sensational stoppage time save from fit again goalkeeper Graham 'Sugar' Douglas helped Oban Saints to victory against reigning Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Champions Goldenhill at the Donald Dewar Centre, Drumchapel, last Saturday afternoon.

Back in the starting line-up after shrugging off knee and elbow injuries, 'Sugar' put the icing on a typically refined performance with a 93rd minute point blank save to deny Goldenhill striker James Gallagher an equaliser and lift Saints to second place in the league table, just one point behind leaders St Joseph's FP with a game in hand.

Experience

Management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell opted for experience for this major league test as the business end of the season looms. Matthew Kelly dropped back into defence to replace youngster Ruaridh Horne at right fullback, while Matt Rippon stepped up from the bench to take the midfield berth vacated by Kelly.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Matthew



Matty Kelly keeps a close eye on Goldenhill striker James Gallagher. Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

Kelly, Steven MacLeod, captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Willie Gemmell and Matt Rippon occupied the holding midfield roles with a three of James Ford, Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan supporting central striker Donald Campbell. On the bench were David Beaton, Dougal Graham, Ruaridh Horne, Fraser MacFarlane and Keir MacLean.

Saints kicked off attacking the Linkwood flats end in heavy rain which would last the 90 minutes. After several weeks warming the bench,

James Ford had the first sight of goal after 90 seconds. After making a good run from the right to get on the end of a Donald Campbell flick-on, Ford raced through on goal, only to see Kevin Maxwell get a vital touch to deflect his shot from 18 yards over the crossbar. Ford continued his early promise, drawing a foul from Goldenhill's new signing Michael Anderson in the third minute. The big left-sided defender took up his position in the box and made a good clearing header from Lewis Cameron's free-

kick ahead of the lurking Dene Cassells.

Goldenhill danger man James Gallagher was sent through by a ball over the top from Martin Lawlor after four minutes. Thankfully, the Gowdie striker was unable to make the connection he was looking for and Graham Douglas made a comfortable save low to his left.

The hosts continued to look threatening with quick service from midfield, however, good openings for former Petershill Juniors man Ryan Deas and Scott Davidson were spurned with wayward shots well off target. Davidson came close in the eighth minute, flashing a low drive across Graham Douglas but wide of his right hand post.

Graham Douglas was called into action after 20 minutes when he dealt comfortably with a Kevin Maxwell free-kick from 30 yards after Willie Gemmell had been penalised for a foul on Martin Lawlor.

Saints currently boast the meanest defence in the Scottish Amateur Football League and key to their improvement in that department this season has been the form of Steven MacLeod. Another quick break from the home side in the 28th minute was foiled by MacLeod who made a telling interception to head a Ryan Deas cross from the left into the gloves of Graham Douglas.

Dead ball

A foul on Lewis Cameron on the half hour mark gave Willie Gemmell an opportunity with the dead ball from 28 yards. The co-gaffer's search for his first goal of the season continued when Goldenhill keeper Ross Clark, taking no chances with the slippery ball, leaped to his right to punch Gemmell's effort away.

Craig MacEwan won a corner kick on the left in the 33rd minute from where Lewis Cameron picked out Dene Cassells on the six-yard line. The skipper got the better of Kevin Maxwell in the air but sent his header flying over the crossbar.

Two minutes later, Matthew Kelly and James Ford linked up well on the right with Kelly's low cross finding its way to Craig MacEwan at the back post after a clever dummy by Donald Campbell. MacEwan's stabbed shot was well held by Ross Clark low to his right.

Dene Cassells headed another glorious chance over



Matt Rippon heads clear during the first half.



Craig MacEwan gives Saints the lead.

he goal-den boy

the bar in the 38th minute.

With five minutes of the first half remaining, Saints were once again caught on the break from deep inside the Goldenhill half. Last season's player of the year James Gallagher made a driving run through the inside left channel on the end of a Martin Lawlor pass but was halted by a perfectly timed sliding interception from Steven MacLeod.

Excellent save

Goldenhill keeper Ross Clark made an excellent save to deny Scott Maitland just before the interval standing up well at his near post to push a thumping Maitland left foot shot behind for a corner kick. Lewis Cameron sent in another good delivery which Willie Gemmell, under pressure from Martin Lawlor, headed behind at the back post bringing to an end an entertaining but goalless first half.

The second half was only two minutes old when Saints made the breakthrough. Scott Maitland made good ground on the left and laid the ball off to Donald Campbell. The co-gaffer sent Craig MacEwan into the box who got the better of Jack Bennett and, from a tight angle, found the gap between the keeper and his near post.

Straight from the re-start, a gap opened up for James Gallagher whose fizzing low drive along the wet 3G surface was well held by Graham Douglas at full stretch to his right.

Ross Clark in the Goldenhill goal continued his safety first policy in the slippery conditions by punching clear a rasping Craig MacEwan shot in the 52nd minute after Scott Maitland had robbed Jonathon Dyer on the half-way line.

The hosts made their first change in the 54th minute replacing Kevin Maxwell with Adam Calder before David Matthews found his way into Referee Thomas D'Alessandro's book for a late challenge on Craig MacEwan.

A Donald Campbell flick-off from a ball played up by Matt Rippon in the 58th minute sent Lewis Cameron through on goal with Jack Bennett in pursuit. Cameron appeared to be tugged back by Bennett but still got a shot away which beat Ross Clark but came bouncing back off the post into the grateful arms of the Goldenhill keeper.

Last season's Scottish Amateur Cup runners-up took full advantage of this



Dene Cassells heads home the winning goal.

let-off by drawing level 60 seconds later. From a hotly disputed free-kick wide on the right and just inside the Saints half, Goldenhill were given too much time and space to work the ball into the Saints box. Jonathon Dyer wriggled away from Scott Maitland's challenge and sent a low shot across Graham Douglas and into the bottom corner of the net.

Before play could re-start, Steven MacLeod's complaints to the referee earned him a yellow card for dissent.

Donald Campbell's touch unusually let him down in the 67th minute when, with defenders trailing behind and just the keeper to beat, he let the ball get too far ahead of him and scuffed a low shot which Ross Clark gathered comfortably.

Michael Anderson took the bookings count to three for a heavy challenge on Lewis Cameron in the 71st minute before Goldenhill midfielder Martin Lawlor was replaced by pacy wide man Reace Syed.

Adam Calder showed good strength to hold off Dene Cassells in the 77th minute, however, the Saints skipper's attentions forced the Goldenhill substitute wider than he would have liked and from a rapidly narrowing angle his left foot strike only found the side netting.

Penalty appeal

With 10 minutes remaining, there was a loud appeal for a penalty from the Saints contingent when Scott Maitland was upended on the corner of the Goldenhill box. Mr D'Alessandro was unsympathetic to the Saints appeals and awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area. It was the home side's turn to have their appeals for a decision turned down when the referee awarded a corner kick from Willie Gemmell's free-kick which Goldenhill were adamant had come off a Saints head. Having spurned two first half chances, Dene Cassells made it third time

lucky piling in at the back post to head home a perfect Lewis Cameron delivery and restore Saints' lead.

James Ford's productive return to the starting line-up came to an end when he was replaced by David Beaton in Saints' only change of the afternoon.

The home side gave a debut to another new signing, Thomas Halpin, who took over the centre forward's role from Ryan Deas for the closing stages.

Well screened

Goldenhill pressed hard for an equaliser in the little time that remained but the Saints defence, well screened by Willie Gemmell and Matt Rippon, never looked to be under any real threat.

Mr D'Alessandro added three minutes for stoppages which Saints tried to run down by taking the ball to the corner flags where possible. There was one final chance for the home side in the 93rd minute when Ross Clark raced 40 yards from his goal line to beat Donald Campbell to a bouncing ball and launch

a final assault on the Saints goal. The up and under from Clark fell kindly for James Gallagher in the Saints box who was denied at close range by an excellent blocking save from Graham Douglas with Steven MacLeod heading the ball towards the edge of the box.

The danger did not end there as Reace Syed was first to the loose ball which Matthew Kelly blocked on the six-yard line with the rebound eventually finding its way to Donald Campbell. The co-gaffer knocked the ball up to Lewis Cameron who was brought down by Jack Bennett in the final act of an enthralling encounter which Mr D'Alessandro brought to an end before the free-kick could be taken.

This Saturday, March 9, Saints play their fourth successive away league fixture when they travel to Torglen to face Rutherglen in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

The match will kick-off at 2pm and will be refereed by Jim Loudon.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Saturday's results: Premier Division - Goldenhill 1, Oban Saints 2; Dunoon 2, Rutherglen 6; Premier Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Kings Park Rangers 2; Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Houston United 9, Tarbert 3.

Next Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Rutherglen v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Hillington v Lochgilphead Red Star; Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Parkhall.

OBAN SAINTS' YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Sunday's results: Knightswood 6, Under 13 0; Carmunnock 2, Under 14s 1; Scoring for Saints was Kyle Cooper. Under 15s no game; Summerston v Under 16s, postponed.

Next Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Knightswood; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Petershill; Under 16s v St Patrick's SA.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 4°C.

Friday

Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 6°C.

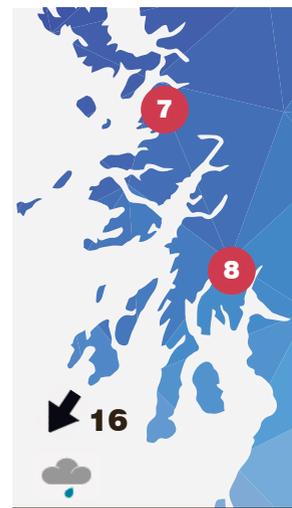
Weekend Outlook

Saturday

Light rain and a fresh breeze

Sunday

Hail showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 3°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 7, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.26	0.9	06.23	4.0
Thur	12.45	1.0	18.34	3.8
Fri	00.56	0.9	06.54	4.0
	13.15	0.9	19.00	3.8
Sat	01.23	0.9	07.22	3.9
	13.42	1.0	19.24	3.8
Sun	01.46	1.0	07.48	3.8
	14.05	1.1	19.50	3.7
Mon	02.08	1.1	08.15	3.7
	14.32	1.2	20.20	3.6
Tues	02.38	1.2	08.48	3.5
	15.08	1.3	20.55	3.4
Wed	03.17	1.4	09.28	3.3
	15.57	1.5	21.39	3.2

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

Chain, Shackles and buoys all
available to purchase.



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Skipper Dene is
the goal-den boy

**NORTH WEST
MARINE**
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 59



Oban Otters performance swimmers, from left, Sam Coates, Kai Mackechnie and Ella Mackechnie.

Performance trio in the swim for Otters

Oban Otters have been making waves in national and domestic swimming.

Performance athletes Sam Coates, 16, and Kai Mackechnie, 11, are focused on qualifying for the Scottish National Age Group Championships (SNAG) and tested the water at the Scottish Schools Championships two weeks ago.

Both performed well at the event, at Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow, with Kai knocking another two seconds off his personal best time in the 50 metres backstroke.

'It was a great experience racing against people from all over Scotland,' said Kai.

Sam added: 'Both Kai and myself competed in SNAG time trials and although we didn't quite make the

qualifying times, we still have some opportunities to go through.

'We will now be focusing on starts and turns ahead of the next one.'

Both boys are quietly confident of making the finals at Tollcross from Wednesday March 27 to Sunday March 31.

More than 1,000 of the best age group swimmers representing more than 90 clubs from across the UK will compete in the SNAG championships. For many the event will provide an opportunity to win their first national championships medal, make a final or score points for their club in the Top Team competition.

The meet also allows athletes to gain ranking positions for the British Summer Nationals and the Scottish Summer Meet in July.

If they qualify, this would be Kai's

first SNAG event, while Sam would be competing at under-17 level for the first time.

Last summer Sam and performance teammate Ella Mackechnie represented the Otters at the European Championships when they were medal bearers at the event in Glasgow.

'It was fantastic just to be in among all those great swimmers and to see them perform,' said Ella, who is also a Sports Ambassador at Oban High School.

Ella is a great supporter of Scottish individual medley specialist Hannah Miley, while Sam and Kai both hope to follow in the wake of 100 metres breaststroke world record holder Adam Peaty.

All three Oban Otters' performance swimmers are long-term

members of the Oban club and enjoy the range of activities it offers.

Speaking before last week's sponsored pyjama swim, Kai said: 'Oban Otters is a great club to be involved with.'

'As well as improving our competitive swimming, there are also lots of other things happening such as fundraising and social events.'

Turn to page 53 for more on the club's sponsored pyjama swim.

Oban Otters Amateur Swimming Club, for children 17 and under who have Swim Skills 4 or equivalent, meets in Atlantis Community Leisure Centre. The club is run by a volunteer committee and all classes are taught by UK CC Level 1 and 2 teachers.

For more information contact obanotters@gmail.com

Oban's 'Green Machine' wipes out Wigtonshire

RUGBY

Oban Lorne	40
Wigtonshire	5
Tennents West Division 2	

Oban welcomed Wigtownshire Rugby Football Club to Glencruitten on Saturday, looking to avenge one of the few away day defeats of the season.

The 'Green Machine' lost 31-14 in Stranraer in October against a side which has struggled for a good run of form since.

After the brilliant weather of last week, the heavens opened a couple of hours before kick off, leaving the pitch greasy which made for tricky conditions for both teams.

Oban head coach Andrew Johnston fielded a strong side, including a powerful front row of Calum MacLachlan, Stanley Lister and Corrie Louw.

Oban started brightly but sloppy passing prevented them from taking the lead.

Wigtownshire got their noses in front with a well-taken penalty after an Oban infringement at a ruck.

Oban were quick to respond and, after great lead-up play, Calum MacLachlan, back in the starting line-up for the first time since his knee

Continued on page 58



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Search for Tom Ballard on 'Killer Mountain' continues

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The intense search for missing Lochaber climber Tom Ballard on Pakistan's 'Killer Mountain' continued this week thanks to a huge public fundraising effort.

However, searches have so far found no trace of Ballard or his Italian climbing partner Daniele Nardi, raising fears that the pair may have perished.

Ballard, 30, who grew up in Spean Bridge, has been missing since last Sunday, February 25, when he and Nardi last made contact with their team at base camp. The pair were attempting to reach the 8,126 metres (26,660 ft) high summit of Nanga Parbat, in the Pakistan Himalayas, nicknamed 'Killer Mountain'. They had reportedly made it to camp four on the mountain and the last contact from them was at a height of 6,300 metres (nearly 20,700 ft).

A team of highly experienced mountaineers, led by Spaniard Alex Txikon and



Tom Ballard, left, and his climbing partner Daniele Nardi have been missing since Sunday after attempting to climb the Mummery Spur route, below, on Nanga Parbat.



Pakistani Ali Sadpara, have been bravely retracing the route that Ballard and Nardi were attempting, known as the Mummery Spur, to try to find the missing climbers. The team searched the area on foot and by using drones, however they found no trace of the climbers.

The search continued yesterday morning (Wednesday March 6) on a different route up Nanga Parbat, despite a high risk of avalanche, and rescuers vowed 'to leave no stone unturned'.

Initial searches by helicopter detected a three-person tent 'invaded by snow' in the area on Thursday but further searches over the weekend were foiled by bad weather. On Monday, a helicopter was able to fly to 7,000m but nothing was seen.

Ballard is the son of mountaineer Alison Hargreaves,

who died, aged 33, while descending from the summit of K2 in 1995, the same year she became the first woman to conquer Mount Everest unaided. Earlier in 1995, the family, including Ballard's sister Kate and father Jim, moved to Spean Bridge from Derbyshire.

A former Lochaber High

School pupil, Ballard soon gained a reputation as a promising climber and has since gone on to achieve international recognition as a professional mountaineer.

In 2015, he became the first person to have solo climbed all six of the major Alpine north faces in a single winter.

An online fundraising campaign has raised about £140,000 so far to help fund the helicopter search team, which is said to cost roughly £43,000 a day.

Karrar Haidri, secretary of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, said in an interview with Associated Press on Tuesday: 'In winter on the mountain the weather is very harsh and sometimes you are facing -50 temperature there. So it is very difficult to survive in that condition.'

Italian ambassador in Pakistan, Stefano Pontecorvo, who was instrumental in initiating helicopter searches last week amid tensions between India and Pakistan, told the press that there are 'known cases of mountaineers who

have survived for longer' than this.

Ian Sykes, a renowned climber and friend of the Ballard family during their time in Lochaber, was cautiously optimistic about the pair's survival but said 'the longer it goes on, the more concerning it gets'.

He said: 'Climbers do have a bit of a habit of holing up if things are bad and if they've dug in then they'll have enough food to last them for 14 or 15 days. So, you've got to be optimistic, but hopes are beginning to fade.'

Mr Sykes spoke of Ballard's upbringing on the mountains in Lochaber and said it was clear that he would take after his mother.

'He feels like one of ours,' he continued. 'They were very settled and part of the community here, and it was very obvious that Tom was going to be a pretty good climber as well.'

'I can't imagine what it's like for the family just now,' Mr Sykes added. 'It's a real catastrophe.'



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LT

Man pleads guilty to assaulting police officer

A man who assaulted a police officer while visiting Mallaig with his family has been ordered to be of good behaviour for six months after appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday February 26.

Daniel Stewart Hardy, 40, a self-employed plumber from Stockport, pleaded guilty to assaulting an officer in licensed premises in Mallaig on Monday January 28 in that he pushed him to the ground, struggled violently and then attempted to hit him with his elbow.

Hardy, who plans to move to Mallaig with his family in the near future, was visiting the village to view a property. He and his wife were celebrating in the hotel the night of the incident after securing a deposit on the accommodation. The pair went to their room where they then had an argument.

Police arrived at the hotel in response to an ongoing disturbance, at which point Hardy returned to the bar.

The officer tried to speak with Hardy but he was 'clearly distressed' and was behaving

erratically, at which point the assault took place.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said Hardy accepts he had 'too much to drink' on the night of the incident.

Mr Melrose said: 'The upshot of all this is that they have lost the accommodation. His wife's work, which she planned to start in Mallaig, has fallen through as well.

'They are still intent on moving to this area and are looking for a better lifestyle. Hardy was advised by the PC not to let this incident put him off living here.'

Mr Melrose told the court that Hardy suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder from a previous relationship and said that his behaviour that night was 'rather unusual' for him.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald took into account that this was Hardy's first offence and that there were particular circumstances at play in this incident. She deferred sentencing for a later date and ordered Hardy to be of good behaviour for six months.

Former care home worker is cleared

Man accused of assault is found not guilty

A former Fort William care home worker who lost his job after being accused of assaulting a young person at a residential home has been found not guilty of the charge.

James Annette, 61, of Kennedy Road, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 27 after being charged with assault by pushing a young man and seizing hold of him by the wrists on October 3, 2017.

Annette, a former assistant manager at Fort William FC, was sacked from his job at the care home for gross misconduct as a result of the allegations, while his registration as a social worker had been suspended, pending the outcome of this case.

However, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald cleared him of the charge. The complainant,



Fort William Sheriff Court

who cannot be named for legal reasons, told the court Annette had pushed him to the ground and, as he got up, had pushed him a second time, into a door. The witness then admitted to 'screaming' at Annette but said he was 'too scared at that time' to retaliate physically and ran out of the care home.

'At this point I was particularly raging,' he said. 'I was 100 per cent angry.'

Two care home workers also appeared at court as witnesses. However, neither could confirm whether they saw the complainant being pushed to the ground or that Annette had seized him by the wrists. One of the witnesses said: 'Their arms were in contact but I don't know what was actually going on.'

She continued: 'There was a flurry of arms in the air. There would have been contact but I don't know exactly what it was.'

In his evidence, Annette said he had used his arms to deflect those of the young man, who he said was visibly upset and had just kicked at a wall. Annette also said that he 'definitely did not' push the young man to the ground and did not hold his wrists.

In cross-examination, when asked by procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood why he approached the young man

if he knew he was upset, Annette said: 'To try and calm him down. It's part of my job.'

Ms Eastwood contended that the evidence was sufficient to convict Annette and, although the witnesses' evidence could not be corroborated, by law 'not every element' of the assault needs to be proved.

Annette's defence solicitor disagreed and said the witnesses' evidence was not consistent with the charge. He said: 'We have heard from four witnesses today and they all gave different accounts of what happened. They are all clear in their evidence but they are all different accounts.'

Sheriff MacDonald told Annette: 'There have been two versions of the events from the complainant and Mr Annette given to the court and I need to decide which one I prefer.'

'Having looked at it all, I prefer your version of events and I find you not guilty.'

Fort yoga enthusiast was almost two times over drink drive limit

A Banavie pensioner has been fined and banned from driving by a sheriff after police were alerted by staff at a local leisure centre that she smelled of alcohol while trying to attend a yoga class.

Kathryn Margaret Campbell, 73, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday February 26, where she admitted that on February 11, on the A82 and A830 between Lochaber Leisure Centre and Banavie, she drove a car with a breath

alcohol reading of 40mgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath - almost double the legal limit.

The court heard that Campbell entered Lochaber Leisure Centre in Fort William to attend a yoga class when the receptionist noticed a smell of alcohol coming from her breath. Campbell agreed not to take part in the class and then got in her car to drive home to Banavie, roughly three miles away.

The police were then phoned and some two hours

later they entered her address and breathalysed her.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy told the court that Campbell had consumed a 'fairly large' quantity of wine from when she arrived home to before the police arrived.

Sheriff MacDonald banned Campbell from driving for a year, telling her she could qualify for a three-month discount if she successfully completed a drink driver rehabilitation course. She also fined her £600.

Man pleads guilty to resisting arrest

A man admitted obstructing police officers in their duties at a hotel in Mallaig last year after appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court this week.

Gary Scott, 30, from Glasgow, pleaded guilty to resisting arrest in the early hours of October 21, 2018, in that he obstructed or hindered two officers in their duties by tensing his body, lashing out with his legs, attempted to trip them

up and struggled with them. The court heard on Tuesday February 26 that the two police officers were called to the licensed premises at 12.10am and arrested the accused who 'immediately became aggressive'.

Scott repeatedly swung his hands at them, lashed out with his arms and continued struggling before eventually being restrained.

Defence agent Catriona Rowantree said: 'Scott

accepts he became involved with the police and the incident has made his life more difficult as a result.'

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald sentenced Scott to a community payback order which requires him to fulfill 63 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Scott also pleaded not guilty to two other charges relating to the same incident and will appear in court again at a later date.

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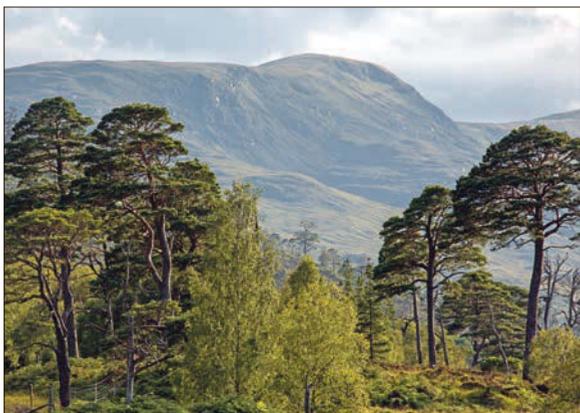
Barges to be considered for Loch Arkaig Forest project

The Woodland Trust has been considering using barges as a way of transporting felled timber as part of its scheme to restore the ancient Loch Arkaig Pine Forest, writes Mark Entwistle.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council heard on Tuesday night from two trust representatives of the progress being made on the project management plan so far.

Project manager Jessica Maxwell and site manager Steve Morris outlined the challenges ahead for the project, which is being carried out in conjunction with the Arkaig Community Forest (ACF) local charitable organisation.

Loch Arkaig Pine Forest consists of two blocks of native Caledonian wood-



land: Coille a Ghuibhais (the pine forest), known as South Loch Arkaig; and An t-Seann Fhrith (the old deer forest), known as Glen Maillie.

Those attending Tuesday night's meeting heard that the 2,537-acre forest is one of the UK's most significant remaining fragments of native Caledonian pinewood.

It was acquired by the trust and ACF in 2016 for £500,000 following a public appeal for funds.

The forest and loch are home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, including pine marten, red deer, wild boar, osprey and sea eagles.

The Loch Arkaig scheme is the largest restoration project ever undertaken on

East Block woodland, Loch Arkaig, looking south.

Photograph: John Macpherson/WTML

the trust's own land, and the Loch Arkaig Pine Forest Appeal is raising £4.5m to restore the forest to its former glory.

This restoration process will involve clear felling swathes of non-native sitka spruce which have sprung up in the forest.

Mr Morris said one of the major plus points for the project was the long and detailed historical records about the area.

'There is an Achnacarry Estate map dating from 1772 - that's just one example of a considerable amount of map history and which is a fantastic resource,' he said.

'It is almost unprecedented for the Forestry Commission to sell off an ancient pine forest such as this - in fact the commission is still acquiring others.

'That makes this a pretty unique project.'

While some restoration work was carried out in the 1990s, much remains to be done over the next 15-year timeframe, including the upgrading of a track and a bridge to allow timber vehicles to access one of the forestry blocks.

'But this will only be made 3.5m wide and will be a low specification road to keep the impact to a minimum,' added Mr Morris.

'And as the forestry block on the south side of the loch has no road, we have been looking at barges as a way of moving any felled timber out of the forest.'

Man pleads guilty to assaulting child

A Kinlochleven man has pleaded guilty to two charges of assault when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 27.

Paul Alexander Anderson, 53, of Lovat Road, admitted to assaulting a child in Kinlochleven on Saturday August 5 and Tuesday 15, 2017, in that he struck them on the buttocks with a wooden spoon and threw a towel at the child's head and their eye, causing injury to the child on both occasions.

However, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald has deferred sentencing to a later date in March.

On both of these occasions the accused sent text messages afterwards inquiring about the child's wellbeing.

Sheriff MacDonald deferred sentencing and asked for a criminal justice report. She told Anderson: 'These are serious offences against a child.'

Anderson also pleaded not guilty to another charge in relation to the child and will appear in court for trial at a later date.



The Volunteer Arms has had its licensing hours reduced following a review by Highland Council.

Fort pub's licensing hours cut

A Fort William bar has had its licensing hours and capacity cut following a review by Highland Council.

The Volunteer Arms has had its late hours closing times reduced to 1am on Thursdays and 2am on Saturdays and Sundays, while the bar's capacity has also been limited to 120 people.

The High Street bar's licence was under review at a Highland Council meeting last Friday (March 1), in the interest of 'preventing crime and disorder, securing public safety and preventing public nuisance', following concerns from Police Scotland.

It was heard at the meeting that between July 2018 and

January 2019, a period of six months, 40 incidents of note took place at the premises, the highest number of incidents in the town, with 'a considerable amount' relating to late hours openings.

Fort William police had raised concerns that little improvement had been made in the manner of which the premises was being run, including the expiration of door staff licences. Volunteer Arms licence holder David Smillie, who has operated the bar since 2014, appeared at the council meeting, represented by his solicitor who said that previous intervention plans with the police had been successful and that Mr Smillie

had started addressing some of the issues raised.

However, he accepted there have been problems recently and voluntarily agreed to reduce the premises' opening hours and capacity. Councillor Andrew Jarvie said: 'Having been a personal licence holder, this level of disorder within an establishment really is exceptional. While it is one of the only late opening venues in the area, the number of incidents is 10 fold the average.'

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SHEDS ON DISPLAY AT THE TREE SHOP, CAIRNDOW

LT

Western Isles town centre cash boost

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed a Scottish Government allocation to the Western Isles of £223,000 under the Town Centre Fund 2019/20.

The purpose of the fund is to drive local economic activity and stimulate economic improvements to town centres.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of Sustainable Development, commented: 'This allocation of £223,000 under the Town Centre Fund is welcome and we will need to look closely at how to make the best use of funds and whether we can use this to lever in further funding from other sources.'

A report on the funding and how it could be allocated will go to future meetings of the Comhairle.

The announcement follows the budget statement in December that the Scottish Government would provide a new ring-fenced £50 million Town Centre Fund for 2019-20 within the local authority capital settlement.

New diagnosis brings hope to Chloe's family

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Parents of a nine-year-old Fort William girl in need of stem cell treatment have been told that their daughter's blood disease may not be cancerous after all, after doctors examined the latest set of medical results.

Chloe Purvis was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a rare type of blood cancer, at the end of last year after her mum initially took her to the GP after she became out of breath and abnormally tired.

However, following further blood sample tests in the past few weeks, doctors have now come to the conclusion that she has severe aplastic anaemia, a non-cancerous blood condition.

The change comes after medical experts from



Glasgow, Bristol and Great Ormond Street Hospital, met to discuss Chloe's case. However, they are still awaiting the final set of test results before they can confirm the diagnosis.

Although Chloe's family welcomed the news, they

remain cautious about the diagnosis and the Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar pupil will still require a stem cell transplant to treat the disease.

Chloe's mother, Sarah Purvis, told the Lochaber Times: 'The good thing is that the treatment for aplastic

Chloe Purvis and her family await the final blood tests that will confirm whether Chloe has severe aplastic anaemia.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson.

anaemia is nowhere near as harsh as MDS. But it is still entirely dependent on a bone marrow transplant.'

Mrs Purvis remains cautious about Chloe's diagnosis until all of the test results are back and is anxious to have these 'as soon as possible' so that Chloe can begin her chemotherapy and stem cell transplant treatment.

Three stem cell donors have been matched with Chloe, all with a 100 per cent result, meaning the chances of a successful transplant have drastically increased.

'It's been a bit of an emotional rollercoaster being told

your child has cancer and then to be told she doesn't,' she continued. 'They are pretty sure it's aplastic anaemia, but we've been in this position before. So it's quite hard to accept any of it because we know that one test result could change all of it.'

'The day that we were told it was aplastic anaemia we should have felt happy but we didn't feel much because we don't see it as any different until every test result is back.'

Aplastic anaemia develops when damage occurs to bone marrow, slowing or shutting down the production of new blood cells. Although it is not a malignant, cancerous disease, it is still very serious.

'Chloe is really positive but has been a bit poorly, she is just open to anything at the moment,' Ms Purvis added. 'If she catches a cold then that can make her quite unwell.'

Driver disqualified after high speed chase in Fort

A Glasgow motorist involved in a Fort William police pursuit, which ended in a collision with another car, has been banned from driving after pleading guilty to driving dangerously under the influence of alcohol.

Tony McDonald, 30, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday February 27 and pleaded guilty drink driving and driving dangerously at excessive speeds on October 25, 2018, in that he drove on the wrong side of the road and overtook a number of vehicles; ran a red light; caused vehicles to take evasive action to avoid him; and eventually collided with another car on the A830 at Blar Mhor - all while more than four times over the alcohol limit.

At around 9pm on the night of the incident, police received a phone call reporting a disturbance involving four men and a vehicle near the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate in Fort William. The men reportedly got into the vehicle and began driving erratically and at excessive speed.



Having left the station with blue lights on, the police encountered the vehicle at the Road to the Isles roundabout. They then followed the car, which accelerated away from the police west-bound over the Lochy Bridge and then overtook a vehicle stopped at the traffic lights at Lochaber High School. The police were then unable to keep up with the vehicle as it sped up towards the Blar Mhor roundabout. It was there that the vehicle encountered a car of American tourists who took evasive action but could not avoid a collision.

The tourists' car came to a halt on the footpath next to the road.

McDonald was seen by the police next to the vehicle and was eventually caught trying to flee the scene down a lane,

a few metres into the undergrowth. Police were then able to prevent further escape by McDonald, who was smelling of alcohol and unstable on his feet.

Police breathalysed McDonald and recorded an alcohol breath reading of 100mg of alcohol in 100mls of breath - more than four times the legal limit of 22mgs.

In mitigation, road traffic defence lawyer Graham Mann said: 'The accused accepts that this is an extremely high reading and the driving was poor. The potential for catastrophic consequences is not lost on the accused.'

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald ordered McDonald to pay a fine of £800 in relation to the charge of drink driving, while she disqualified him from driving for two years and ordered him to carry out a community payback order for one year in relation to the dangerous driving charge.

She said: 'This could have resulted in very serious injuries to you and others. The driving was atrocious and entirely dangerous.'

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'Need for change' prompts chairman to stand down

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

David Alston has stepped down from his role as chairman of the NHS Highland board with immediate effect, while former Sabhal Mòr Ostaig principal, Boyd Robertson, will fill the position on an interim basis.

The health board has faced a number of challenges during Mr Alston's tenure, including controversial reforms to services on Skye and allegations of a 'bullying culture' in the organisation, which are currently being investigated by a QC-led independent review. The findings of this investigation are expected to be published in the coming weeks.

Mr Alston, who held the position of chairman since April 2016, said he was 'immensely



David Alston has stepped down as chairman.

grateful' to all of the NHS Highland team.

'It has been my privilege to serve as a director of this incredible health board since 2003 and as its chairman since 2016. Throughout my time with NHS Highland, we have seen many changes and have overcome many challenges.



One serious case of bullying was reported at the Belford Hospital.

'However, the need for change continues and is probably now greater than ever.

'NHS Highland needs to adapt itself to be able to deliver the first-class health services our people deserve.

'At the same time, the board needs to live within its means, balancing the books while promoting new ways of working.

'I believe that a new chairman at this time, as the board embarks upon a

new programme of service transformation, will provide a fresh approach and enable the service to look forward with confidence.'

More than 100 healthcare workers came forward last year claiming there was a 'severe bullying culture' at the health board - with 'one serious case' being reported at the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

A spokesperson for the whistleblowing doctors and the GMB union responded to Mr Alston's resignation by saying that the parties 'are encouraged to see the start of that accountability being demonstrated.'

Boyd Robertson, who retired as principal of Skye's Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig last summer, has been appointed interim chairman by Health Secretary Jeane Freeman - an appointment

which was welcomed by Highland politicians.

Scottish Labour's shadow health minister, and Highlands and Islands MSP, David Stewart, said: 'While I wish David Alston all the best, the appointment of well-respected Boyd Robertson heralds a new chapter for NHS Highland which has not had its troubles to seek in the past few years.'

Lochaber and Skye MSP Kate Forbes said the new leadership marked 'an important day for NHS Highland'.

'Over the past few years, there have been a number of challenges in the Highlands, including Skye hospital, Raasay and Glenelg,' Ms Forbes said.

'I hope that new leadership at the top signifies a change of direction in engaging with, listening to and delivering for the communities I represent.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



This week is Scottish Apprenticeship Week when we celebrate the achievements of individual apprentices and all those who contribute to their success.

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland is a Scottish Government-funded programme hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce that works to help bridge the gap between school and work for our young people.

Apprenticeships and work-based learning are providing the skills needed for a successful Scotland, creating new routes to skilled careers for young people and ensuring that businesses have the workforce they need for the future.

DYW West Highland is running a series of events in collaboration with Skills Development Scotland and West Highland College UHI at high schools this week to help students find out more about apprenticeship



Former Lochaber pupil Padraig McNeil is an apprentice saw doctor with BSW Timber Group (Fort William Mill).

Photograph: Digital Studios.

opportunities available right here in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross: the students will hear directly from young people who have completed or are currently doing apprenticeships as well as from employers.

Many members of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce already offer apprenticeships in a variety of roles within their workforce and apprenticeship opportunities are growing.

Businesses as diverse as BSW Timber, Inverloch Castle Hotel, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Mowi (formerly Marine Harvest), Liberty British Aluminium and Forestry Commission Scotland all offer apprenticeships that provide paid on-the-job learning for young people, while also helping to develop their businesses.

Apprenticeships do not come in a one-size-fits-all option - there are currently three distinct types of ap-

prenticeships to choose from. These include:

■ Foundation apprenticeships offer school pupils experience of the real work and help them achieve a Higher (SCQF6) qualification while also helping businesses identify and develop future talent.

■ Modern apprenticeships - provide flexible, tailored training to meet your business needs and attract fresh talent to your business.

■ Graduate apprenticeships offer degree-level training and industry accreditation, combined with experience in the workplace.

Contact DYW West Highland today to find out how you can help engage young people in the world of work and create the workforce your business needs.

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SNH hopeful as Rum fire had limited impact

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A wildfire on Rum last April has been assessed as having a low to medium impact, according to a report published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) this week.

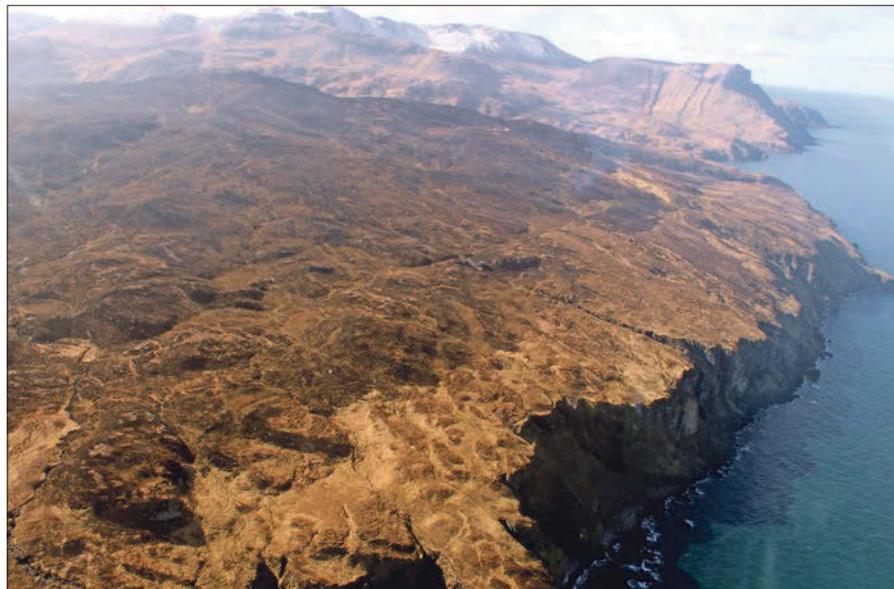
The fire, which began at about 1pm on April 4, raised concerns about the impact it would have on the habitat and animals in the area.

A helicopter was deployed which slowed the spread of the fire, with the flames eventually going out during the night as temperatures dropped and some rain fell.

The report found there were mainly low to medium impacts, with less than one per cent of the seven-square-kilometre area suffering any high impacts. Thirty-five per cent of the habitat was judged to have suffered low impact, and 58 per cent medium impact.

SNH was concerned that potential loss of habitat quality since April could affect ground-nesting birds, reptiles, mammals and insects – but so far, signs are promising.

Sea eagles have continued to nest close to the area of the fire, breeding of red-throated divers has been similar to other years, and other birds which are monitored regularly have shown no noticeable changes. In fact, some birds, such as merlin, had more breeding



territories in 2018 than in previous years.

However, the report also found the habitats will take anywhere from five to 20 years to recover.

Although the severity of this fire was low to medium, wildfires like this can still increase the risk of soil erosion, encourage less desirable plant species, dry out naturally wet habitats, and inhibit natural processes such as carbon storage in bogs.

SNH used satellite imagery and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to determine the effect of a fire on habitat for the first time, and hopes to apply the methods that have been developed elsewhere in

the future. While a ground impact assessment was also completed, satellite analysis gave more efficient and complete mapping, showing the areas that need more attention to recover.

Ian Sargent, SNH's South Highland reserves manager, said it was good news that the habitat had not been severely affected but that it was certainly still a setback for efforts to improve the habitat condition, and there are areas which will take years to fully recover.

'This work will help us target our management to accelerate recovery, improve resilience of the habitats to fire and get this protected site in the best condition as soon as possible,' he added.

View from a helicopter the day after the fire.

Photograph: SNH

moving into a time of year when the risk of fire is often quite high. So we'd urge anyone visiting natural areas or conducting moor burn to take extra care.'

The fire was started accidentally from a discarded cigarette that had not been entirely extinguished by a visitor to the national nature reserve.

Although procedures were not identified as contributing to the fire in any way, SNH reviewed fire training and equipment, and will be posting new information on fire risks on signs in key locations and in inductions to visiting groups.

'This is also a timely reminder that we're now

Hillwalker's body recovered

The body of a hillwalker has been recovered in the Killilan area in Lochalsh.

The 56-year-old man was discovered last Thursday (February 28) by a HM Coastguard helicopter carrying out an aerial search of the area. The search was launched following concerns raised by local members of the public when he was not seen at his campervan having set off on a planned walk in the Killilan area.

The man was dead when he was found, having suffered injuries consistent with a fall.

His next of kin are have been notified.

Personnel from the Kintail and RAF mountain rescue teams and the Search and Rescue Dogs Association were also involved in the operation.

Sergeant Andrew Shaw said: 'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal in due course.'

'I would like to thank our partners at HM Coastguard and mountain rescue for their assistance with this operation.'

Hundreds fight Etive hydro schemes

Hundreds of people have now signed petitions protesting against proposals for seven hydro schemes to be built in Glen Etive.

As well as the petitions, a new pressure group has been formed, entitled SOS – Save Glen Etive, after all seven schemes were granted planning consent by Highland councillors last month.

But three of the projects – those located within the officially designated Wild Land Area in Glen Etive – are now to be subject to a full review.

This followed a sufficient number of councillors backing a motion from lead Lochaber councillor

Andrew Baxter for a notice of amendment. Therefore, another site visit and debate has been planned for March 20 in relation to these three applications.

Glen Etive had a starring part in both the 2012 James Bond film Skyfall and in Mel Gibson's Braveheart in 1995.

The applications from London-based Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd has drawn the ire of walkers, canoeists, environmentalists and Scottish Mountaineering, all of whom fear the hydro schemes will have a negative visual and environmental impact on what is one of the Highlands' most iconic glens.

Developer William Dickins welcomed Highland Council's decision to approve the schemes and is hoping construction will begin by April.

But campaigners are urging all those who care about Glen Etive to lobby their councillors and write to the press with their concerns.

On its Facebook page, SOS – Save Glen Etive, stated: 'The landscape of Glen Etive provides the opportunity for a number of recreational activities such as walking, climbing, running, swimming and kayaking. It's also a valued tourist destination; people travel from all over the world to enjoy the visual grandeur.'

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Last call for MSP photo competition

A final call has been issued to budding photographers from the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency seeking to enter local MSP Kate Forbes's photography competition.

Amateur snappers have the opportunity to have their work showcased at the Scottish Parliament in Ms Forbes's office – and anyone wanting to enter must do so by noon on March 18.

So far, almost 100 entries have been received, with stunning images captured across the constituency, including the Old Man of Storr on Skye and Glen Nevis in Lochaber.

Ms Forbes said: 'When I first launched the competition, I genuinely had no idea how many people would enter. I have been bowled over not just by the quantity, but particularly by the quality of the entries. It shows how creative and talented Highlanders are. There is still time for people of all ages and abilities to enter.'

College targets men for childcare courses

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

West Highland College UHI is introducing fast-track childcare and care courses targeted at men in a bid to tackle gender stereotypes and encourage more people into the care and childcare sectors.

As well as this, a new programme is beginning in September aimed at both men and women who have been out of education for some time and might lack the necessary qualifications but who want to pursue a career in nursing.

The early years and childcare profession is facing a skills shortage, with Scotland needing around 11,000 new childcare workers by 2020 to meet

the Scottish Government's commitment to provide 30 hours of free childcare to eligible toddlers by 2020.

In the care sector, there is an increasing number of men living longer and an accompanying need for male care workers to support these individuals in daily living and personal care. Younger male service users prefer the support of men to allow them to socialise and develop life skills in situations that may make them uncomfortable with female workers.

Jonathan Rough is currently studying HNC Social Services at the college while also working as a residential care worker for ACAD (Applied Care and Development) in Lochiel. He explained: 'Working



Jonathan Rough is studying the HNC Social Services with West Highland College UHI.

in care is challenging but, above all else, it is the most rewarding work environment I have ever experienced. Studying the HNC has allowed me to apply theory to my working role and appreciate that everything we do, especially the little things, can change a young person's experience of care.

'Young people need strong male role models in their lives and I want to be sure that my skills are the best they can be to allow me to fulfil that role.'

The college will be intro-

ducing two, pilot, 10-week Men into Care and Men into Childcare courses in April. They will be delivered at the same level as a Higher and run in the early evening, accessible across all of the college centres using video-conferencing and the college's virtual learning environment. Students who successfully complete the course will be guaranteed an interview to the HNC Childhood Practice or HNC Social Services, which start in August.

Claire Pardoe, curriculum area lead for social sciences,

supported learning, early education and care at West Highland College UHI, said: 'We are seeing an increase in the number of men choosing to study care and childcare and we know that perceptions are changing.'

'However, we recognise there's much more work to be done to ensure we are providing a skilled, diverse and gender balanced workforce for Scotland's schools and nurseries and for the caring professions generally to provide male role models for children and care service users to look up to.'

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ A series of conversation cafes is being organised by Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland in Fort William to create a place for people who have had a stroke to chat with people in a similar situation. The cafes take place on Tuesdays from 12.30pm to 2pm at the Alexandra Hotel Bistro, Fort William.

■ Lochaber Natural History Society is hosting Jim Manthorpe on Monday March 11, who will be giving a talk called Filming Wildlife in the Highlands and Beyond. The talk will take place at Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, at 7.30pm.

■ The March meeting of the

Lochaber Local History Society will see Ken Johnston speak on The Rise, Fall and Rise Again of a Highland School. Now resurrected from its ruinous state and transformed into the new local Highland Council headquarters, Ken will tell the story of the building, from its design through to its rebuilding, including its last-minute rescue from demolition some years ago. As Lochaber's planning officer at the time, Ken will tell this story for the first time. Come and learn more at 8pm tonight (Thursday March 7) at the Ben Nevis Hotel. All welcome.

■ Lochaber Women's Aid

is inviting people to join the team for a International Women's Day coffee morning on Friday March 8 at its premises on Mary Street, Fort William. Drop in for a tea, coffee, juice and some delicious cake as they celebrate all that women are and can be.

■ Staff and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Hearing Support will be visiting Morvern on Monday March 11. The LSC team will be based in Morvern Medical Centre in Lochaline from 10.30am until 12.30pm. No appointment necessary for this free and friendly service.

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Harvest from the sea down the ages

A thick layer of seaweed lies on the shoreline near our house ready for the picking. How precious it would have seemed in past time for enriching the soil when large areas of crofts were under corn and potatoes, and where, sadly, now rushes have taken over and covered the arable land.

As I pause to look at the different types of seaweed in the rich heap, I am reminded of the submission of Angus Campbell of Plockropool, Harris, to the Napier Commission of 1883 where he describes taking seaweed from Skye and other places far away.

He says: 'I have a boat of seven tons weight and with my four sons, I take the seaweed from those places and further off. If it were not for the kindness of the people towards one another, both in allowing those who are not able to take seaweed from a distance, to gather what comes upon the shore at home, and also in giving them patches of land so as to make use of it - I don't know what might become of them.'

He goes on to say that on some crofts, where there was only one family when he came there, there are now five.

Villages in the Bays of Harris, as in other places in the islands and Highlands, were very crowded in those days and many emigrated voluntarily, including two of his sons.

One can only marvel nowadays at the fascinating information contained in

View from the Edge

CATH MACDONALD
fort@obantimes.co.uk



the evidence to the Napier Commission, and admire the sense of responsibility in a community which ensured that, no matter the overcrowding and shortages, ways were found of sharing what there was among all.

More than a century and a quarter onwards, and many changes have taken place, with the population gone far down in many of our crofting villages.

Crofters have always needed something to supplement the income of the croft. There used to be fishing, tweed making, time spent away at sea, temporary jobs on the mainland, and then tourism provided opportunities, when accommodation was provided.

Kelp was a booming industry in the Western Isles at one time. It was an important source of revenue for the crofters in the islands until well into the 19th century.

It was the conversion of seaweed into ash which was used in many products. The seaweed was burned in a kelp kiln, known in Gaelic as 'ath cheilpe'.

It is very interesting to see positive news about seaweed in the Western Isles in recent days.

A seaweed processor - Hebridean Seaweed Co Ltd - has received funding from HIE to set up a new factory near Stornoway, which will increase sales and double the number of their employees.

In Skye, a businessman founded a seaweed company and creates cosmetic products.

A proposal by an Ayr-based company to mechanically harvest kelp forests around the coastal and island communities off the west coast of Scotland, caused concern and anxiety for a time, but due to strong opposition to harvesting of kelp by dredging, this did not go ahead.

Luskentyre Beach is again in the news as a top choice among beaches. It is one of many beautiful beaches along the Atlantic coast of our islands.

But along the Minch or east side of Harris and other islands, we have a valuable resource, seaweed, so let us use it to create income and jobs, and on the croft, if need be, but not by dredging.

Western Isles MSP calls for 'Islands Deal'

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan made the case for an 'Islands Deal' at a reception at the Scottish Parliament.

He was joined last Wednesday evening by Liberal Democrat MSPs for Orkney and Shetland, Liam McArthur and Tavish Scott, who co-sponsored the event, and Islands Deal programme director David Amos.

Those in attendance heard how the three authorities have collaborated for two years to create the ambitious Islands Deal proposals.

The deal would transform Scotland's island economies, building on the unique strengths of the isles, and include specific proposals covering areas such as tourism and low carbon energy.

Several high-profile ministers attended the evening, including islands minister Paul Wheelhouse, who spoke at the event.

In a joint statement made after the event, the three politicians said: 'This event championed the assets the isles have to offer. Islanders have the desire and skills to come up with solutions to

pressing social, economic and environmental challenges that will benefit not just the isles but Scotland and beyond.'

'They also said that strategic investment in world-leading projects already based in the isles will more than pay for itself, and they will continue to make the case for investment in island communities.'



HM Government

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Fort William Photographic Society's next meeting is on Tuesday March 12 at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall. It will be a practical session so come along with your cameras and other gear. Non-members welcome.

A ceilidh in memory of Alex Maclean is being held at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, on Saturday March 16 at 7.30pm. Admission is £8 and tea, coffee and homebaking will be served. A raffle will also take place. Bring your own bottle. Money raised will be donated to Lochaber Foodbank and Alzheimer's Scotland.

LT

Lochaber Rotary hosts art master class for pupils

The Rotary Club of Lochaber hosted a new style Young Artist challenge for local high school pupils interested in an art-related career, writes Mark Entwistle.

The event took the form of a mini masterclass in portrait painting led by Alastair Smyth, retired principal of art at Lochaber High School.

The participating pupils then had two hours to create their own masterpieces.

The 'sitters' for the event were Rotarians Iain Johnston, president of the Rotary Club of Lochaber, and Angus Nicolson.

This year's winner, Holly Baldwin from Kinlochleven High School, received the attractive artist palette trophy and a voucher for £50.

The runner-up was Callum Woombs, from Mallaig High School, who received a set of pencils and a £25 voucher, and all entrants received individual advice and encouragement from Mr Smyth.

Kinlochleven High School art teacher Eilidh Stewart commented: "The Big Paint Off Challenge was a really valuable experience for



Winner Holly Baldwin from Kinlochleven High School.

pupils with an interest in portraiture.

"The session involved tuition from a portrait specialist where pupils learnt new skills and techniques as well as receiving valuable feedback on their drawings and paintings.

"Working to a set deadline was a new challenge, encouraging pupils to change their approaches and work outwith their comfort zones.

"I feel it's very important for pupils in rural areas to gain as many out-of-school exper-



Lochaber Rotary president Iain Johnston casts a careful eye over the entries.

iences as possible to broaden their knowledge and skills.

"Both Emma [Vind] and Holly really enjoyed the session and are keen to continue developing these skills by attending life drawing classes in Lochaber. Thank you so much to the Rotary Club for organising this."

In bringing the event to a close, Margaret Boyd, this year's Rotary youth activities convener, thanked all who had made the event such a success.



Competitors from local high schools with Rotary president Iain Johnston, youth activities convener Margaret Boyd, artist Alastair Smyth and Rotarian Angus Nicholson.



Artist Alastair Smyth.



The young artists at work.

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Given that we are all probably feeling fat from the post pancake-day piling on of pounds and launching into Lenten sacrifice with steadfast stoicism, I had planned for that theme to be the subject of this week's article.

However, I have not yet managed to decide what, if anything, I should give up for Lent this year, so I will report next week.

Instead, I have included lyrics I recently wrote on a theme covered a few weeks ago relating to the gift that some people have for maintaining a youthful approach to life regardless of age.

To give context, here is the closing paragraphs from that article of 31/01/19.

"None of us knows how long we are going to have in this life, so when we are here we may as well approach it with positivity.

"The futility of worrying that time is running out is borne out by the fact that whether we are 18, 40, 60, or 81, what is gone is gone, what is done is done and the important thing is that we have our whole lives ahead.

"That life ahead may be one day or it may be many

decades, but never will we know. Right up to that unknown time, we have the chance to try new things and to follow the winds of fulfilment and happiness."

Forever Young – Angus MacPhail

Our time goes by like the winter winds

And the decades fly as the world spins

Where it goes we'll never know and cannot save.

We all must live before we leave

Our hearts must give more than receive

As the years disappear like tears on the ocean wave.

Chorus

Forever Young and still we run

Living dreams that seem to move with the rainbow's gold.

Forever Young and still we run

And we'll run for the sun and the years won't leave us old.

How long our time we'll never know

But up we'll climb and on we'll go

Keep pace and grace in the race of the road we tread.

At age eighteen or

eighty-five

Whatever's been, you are alive

Keep a hold of your goal, for your whole life lies ahead.

You may give in when you're twenty-one

If you didn't win, and you think you're done

But forget regret and let the past go by.

And live and learn from the scarred and wise

Rise up to earn your chosen prize

And walk your way till the destined day you die.

Live by the creed of those we see,

The gifted breed who hold the key,

The rare who dare not care for the age they are.

And meet the day and hit the night

Work hard and play and chase the light

And dance to a tune by the moon and the morning star.

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Final fit out for Gateway to Glencoe

The National Trust for Scotland is busy putting the final touches in place as it completes a major refurbishment of its Glencoe Visitor Centre.

The centre, including toilets and car park, is now closed to the public while the last stages of work are carried out.

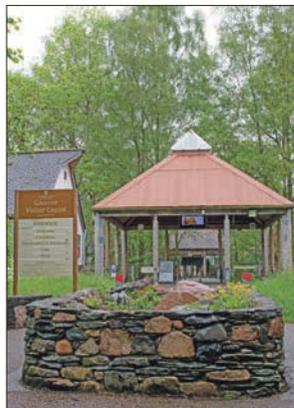
The revamped centre, which is due to reopen in early April, is being billed as the 'Gateway to the Glen' – an essential destination for those who want to explore Scotland's most famous glen and discover more about the history and wildlife which make it such a special place.

Memorable

National Trust for Scotland operations manager for Glencoe Emily Bryce said: 'The trust is so proud to play its part in protecting Glencoe and we want to help ensure that everyone who visits has a memorable experience, and goes away sharing our passion to safeguard the glen for generations to come.'

The conservation charity, which owns Glencoe National Nature Reserve and has cared for the glen since the 1930s, will have a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff and volunteers ready to help visitors from around the world get the most from a visit to Glencoe.

As well as offering walking advice, mountain weather updates and seasonal nature highlights, they also run a popular outdoors event programme. This includes the chance to climb up a munro, explore the renowned Hidden Valley, or, head out on a Landrover safari with the rangers who manage the landscape for a behind-the-scenes insight into what they



do. The new centre will take a fresh approach to revealing the story of Glencoe.

A new film takes visitors on a journey from the glen's volcanic origins, through fire and ice, towards the tragic events of the 1692 Glencoe Massacre, and on to its popularity with walkers and tourists today. A new 50-seater cinema space will also provide a fantastic resource for after-hours film screenings and community activities.

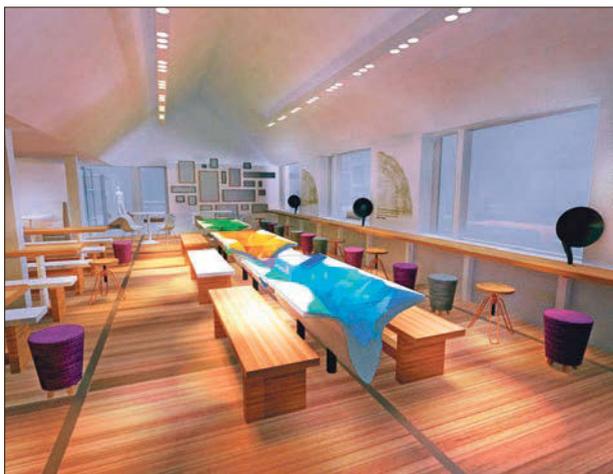
Ms Bryce continues: 'Storytelling is woven throughout the visitor centre, bringing to life the wildlife, the geology and the people that have made Glencoe such an unforgettable place. From listening posts in the shop, to tales from the glen being ingrained into the café's tables, sculpture and quirky design will immerse our visitors in Glencoe's facts and its folklore from the moment they arrive.'

An expanded café, new menu and retail area will make it an ideal base for walkers and climbers to re-fuel before and after an active day in the glen.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk.



The revamped centre, left, which is due to reopen next month, is being billed as the 'Gateway to the Glen'.



An expanded café, new menu and retail area will be built.

March

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There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.

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LT



Six youngsters – all with family connections to the Iolaire tragedy – came together to unveil the sculpture.

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

Young Iolaire descendants unveil granite memorial

The granite wreath commissioned by Point War Memorial Committee in memory of the Iolaire and funded by community wind farm Point and Sandwick Trust was unveiled at a dedication ceremony in Garrabost Memorial Gardens on Saturday.

More than 50 people braved the cold wind to take part in the half-hour service, led by the Reverend Donald Macdonald, and with official duties performed by Francis Jefferson, chairman of the memorial committee.

The service included the singing of the 23rd Psalm.

Six youngsters – all with family connections to the Iolaire tragedy – came together to unveil the sculpture, giving the community their first look at the memorial to all those who suffered when the Iolaire was lost on the

Beasts of Holm in the early hours of January 1, 1919.

Another youngster, 14-year-old piper Aaron Ingram, performed a key role in the service – playing Pipe Major Donald Macleod’s famous piobaireachd, Lament For The Iolaire.

The memorial stone was fully funded by Point and Sandwick Trust. The charity, which owns and operates the turbines at Beinn Ghrideag for the benefit of the community, had been approached for a contribution but offered to meet the £2,200 costs of the memorial in full.

The granite memorial, which is decorated with a ring of coloured poppies, came from a company on the mainland. It was the Point and Sandwick Trust’s final act of charitable support for a programme of events in remembrance of the Iolaire throughout 2018.

Loganair launching Stornoway to London air service

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Loganair is launching Stornoway’s first direct air route to London following a milestone agreement – a major expansion into England’s capital city by the airline.

The airline will cover three major new routes between Scotland and London’s Southend Airport – connecting Glasgow, Stornoway and Aberdeen with the UK’s largest city.

Stornoway’s new service, which will initially cost just over £80 one way, will depart six days a week from May 28, with a 30-minute stopover in Glasgow during which customers can remain on the aircraft. As a direct route, the London service will also qualify under the Air Discount Scheme for island residents, bringing London flights into the scheme for the first time.

Journey times are just under three hours from Stornoway, followed by a speedy 53-minute train service directly into central London’s Liverpool Street station. The news was



Loganair managing director Jonathan Hinkles with Glyn Jones, CEO of Stobart Aviation, owners and operators of London Southend Airport. The journey will take just under three hours, with a stop in Glasgow.

welcomed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the Comhairle’s Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said: ‘The addition of flights direct to London from Stornoway, with those eligible qualifying for ADS, is very much to be welcomed and I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Loganair for these innovative moves.’

‘The London service will be a very useful addition for both social and business

users. It is also good to see the increased usage of the jets on the Glasgow-Stornoway services. I am also pleased that Loganair has confirmed it is to operate the Manchester-Stornoway non-stop service this summer.’

Loganair’s managing director Jonathan Hinkles said: ‘It’s a great honour to launch the first ever island air service direct to London, a huge boost to Stornoway’s overall connectivity.’

‘While we’ve been extending our destination map over the past year, the Highlands

and Islands are still the airline’s heartland so we’re continually looking at ways to enhance the region’s over-all air network.

‘We’re confident Stornoway will see a boost in visitor numbers from people in south-east England wishing to visit the Highlands and Islands with only a quick stopover in Glasgow.’

The additional flights also mean all four of the weekday Glasgow-Stornoway services will be operated by the Embraer aircraft from May.

Loganair also confirmed that it will be offering the Manchester-Stornoway non-stop service again this summer, which will be on Fridays and Sundays through June, July and August on the 37-seat Embraer 135 jet.



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The Cheviot returns to roots its in Skye

The triumphant revival of 'arguably the single most important show in the whole history of Scottish theatre' comes to Skye in May, writes Sara Bain.

Dundee Rep's five-star sell-out musical interpretation of John McGrath's *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil* is touring Scotland in association with the National Theatre of Scotland.

Following 2015's hugely successful restaging, this new version of *The Cheviot* takes the story back to its roots, visiting intimate art centres and community spaces, echoing the play's original 1970s tour by 7:84 Scotland and comes to SEALL at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Friday May 31 at 7.30pm.

Described as 'a cèilidh through Scotland's past and present' by the National Theatre of Scotland, this legendary and influential piece of Scottish theatre tells the

history and the tragedy of Scotland, performed as a Highland cèilidh, with song, humour and drama intermixed, creating a unique theatrical event, that remains as vital and relevant today as it was when 7:84 first presented it over 40 years ago.

This play looks at the exploitation and economic changes in the Scottish Highlands throughout history, from the ruthless evictions of Highland crofters making way for the more economically viable Cheviot sheep in the 18th century, to the development of stag hunts in game parks in the 19th century and finally the exploitation of resources during the North Sea oil boom of the 1970s.

Written as a musical drama by John McGrath, *The Cheviot* explores stories and experiences of Scotland's land, sea and people across the centuries. Added to this popular piece of theatre is a generous dose of Scottish rebellion and irreverence, live music, including a rabble-rousing rendition of *The Battle of the Braes*, and a riotous cèilidh.

For tickets, visit www.seall.co.uk.

The new version of *The Cheviot* takes the story back to its roots.

Photograph: Tommy Ga Ken Wan.

Phase two of Munerigie road works

The second phase of an essential road safety project along the A87 near Invergarry was scheduled to start on Monday of this week and will see the completion of the £230,000 improvements.

The first phase of works saw 1km of carriageway resurfaced in February and teams are now turning to the second phase, which will see almost 900m of new roadside safety barrier installed.

This second phase will take approximately two weeks to complete. The works are weather dependent, and all relevant stakeholders will be updated on any significant changes or delays to the programme.

To ensure the safety of road workers and motorists, there will be temporary traffic lights in place at all times throughout the upgrade.

Although works are only planned during the daytime, it is essential to keep traffic signals in place overnight for safety as traffic will be passing open excavations.

Consultation has been carried out with all relevant stakeholders to inform them of the works in advance.

Commenting on the project, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, said: 'We've planned these to be carried out with the busy tourist season to help minimise disruption.'

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Hoping for good news for brave young Chloe

Anyone with young children will feel complete empathy with the plight faced by the family of young Chloe Purvis, the nine-year-old Fort William girl in need of stem cell treatment.

Brave Chloe was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a rare type of blood cancer, at the end of last year after her mum initially took her to the GP after she became out of breath and abnormally tired. However, following further blood sample tests in the past few weeks, doctors have now come to the conclusion that she has severe aplastic anaemia, a non-cancerous blood condition.

If the medical experts are correct with the new diagnosis, that is brilliant news for Chloe, her family and her many friends.

Chloe's mum, Sarah, is understandably cautious in how she has taken the news, having had setbacks previously and with the knowledge that her daughter will still have to undergo a bone marrow transplant and other treatment.

When Sarah says the family have been through 'a bit of an emotional rollercoaster', it may be the understatement of the year.

We are, though, delighted to report the better prognosis and wish Chloe and her family all the best.

A new opportunity for NHS Highland

NHS Highland, it must be said, has not had its troubles to seek in recent times.

Plagued by persistent allegations of a 'bullying culture' and other controversies, NHS Highland's chairman, David Alston, has stepped down to be replaced by Boyd Robertson.

We hope Professor Robertson's appointment can herald a change of fortunes.

Scotland's land is being sold down the river

I am driven to write to you, because democracy is failing in Glen Etive. The recent developments in the proposals for hydroelectric schemes there have left me wondering: are the people of Scotland aware that their country continues to be sold from beneath their feet by absentee landlords?

There is nothing new, unfortunately, in the story of the wealthy few seeking to degrade our land in the pursuit of a little more money, but even to my cynical mind this seems like a watershed moment.

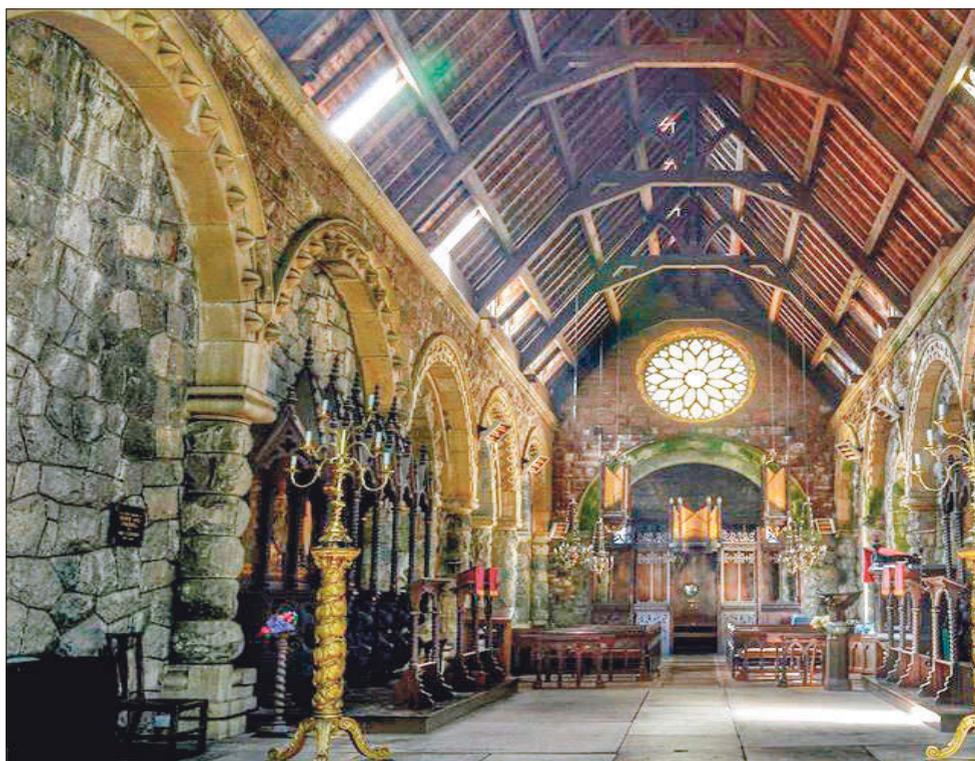
Nevermind that more than 650 objections were lodged before the schemes were initially granted approval. Nevermind that these seven schemes would have irreversible visible and ecological impacts on the iconic glen in question. Nevermind that the proposals make vague reference to restoration efforts, some of which the councillors would have realised were impractical if they had actually looked at the terrain in question. Nevermind, even, that small-scale hydro generates relatively insignificant amounts of power.

These proposals are for a glen that is already designated as a National Scenic Area. The name says it all. The gov.uk website defines an NSA's purpose as 'both to identify our finest scenery and to ensure its protection from inappropriate development'. But what is the point? Why bother having designations like these at all, if a development so obviously opposed to those aims is approved regardless?

As always, the quantitative wins over the qualitative. The proposals benefit the absentee landowners of Glen Etive and Dalness estates, the developers Dickins Hydro, and precious few others. The landowners stand to make up to £3 million, and have offered £34,000 to the local community – apparently that is the value they give to some of the most recognisably beautiful land in our country. The enormous monetary value in tourism that will be lost is of no consequence to the landowners.

It shouldn't be the job of members of the public to scrutinise planning proposals like this one, which has the potential to irreparably damage an iconic area of national importance, and which is supposedly 'protected' by a National Scenic Area designation. Having worked in outdoor education in the Highlands, how do I explain to the next generation of hill-goers and river-goers that their national heritage was worth £34,000?

YOUR PICTURES



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

like to see published here, send it to 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

How do I explain to them that the Highlands might be loved by many, but are owned by the few? How can I believe that local and national government speak for me when all those voices are ignored?

The recent outpouring of energy in opposition to the plans suggests that there is hope, that the people who live and work and play in the Highlands see the immense value in the land beyond profit projections, but so far they are being ignored.

This feels like a turning point, and more is at stake than just the integrity of Glen Etive. Centuries of undemocratic land management could be challenged, changed. Or it could be

business as usual. More voices are needed. For the time being, the Scottish people have a chance to say the land is theirs, too, but I worry they are being sold down the river and won't realise until it is too late.

Huw Oliver,
Waterside Mill, Hexham.

People standing up for wild land

The John Muir Trust is pleased to support the lead being given by councillor Andrew Baxter in the fight to avoid further damage to the Loch Etive Wild Land Area. This reflects the fact that

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DISTRICT NEWS

ARISAIG

Arisaig Women's Institute held a meeting on February 21 where the guest speaker was Lara Van den Peer.

Lara spoke about the Lochaber charity, Care Lochaber, regarding the car share scheme. This charity transports clients who have no access to transport to hospital appointments, shopping and all manner of other events.

While refreshments were served, extensive business was conducted.

Competition results:

Romantic menu: 1 Edwina King, 2 June Cairns, 3 Vera MacDonald, 4 Anne Cameron.

Picture of a bird in spring: 1 Vera MacDonald, 2 June Cairns, 3 Barbara Collins.

The raffle winner was Barbara Collins.

The WI would wish to thank the Arisaig Whist Club members for their wonderful contribution towards the WI collection for Mary's Meals, a local charity. The sum of £100 was collected in total. The gesture is much appreciated.

The next meeting will be held on March 21 in the Astley Hall at 2.30pm.



Graeme recognised for 45 years with Scouts

Lochaber Scout Active Support hosted an award evening on Saturday February 23 at the Moorings Hotel attended by members of the group and leaders representing all of Lochaber District's mainland Scout groups to witness the presentation of an award celebrating more than 45 years of service and support to Scouting in Lochaber by Graeme Low.

Graeme has held several roles within Scouting Fellowship and later Active Support and remains a valued member meeting and greeting groups from all over the world and acting as Insh Scout camp warden.

Lochaber District Commissioner Jenny Steven also attended, presenting Graeme with an award for long service, as well as awards

for Simon Andrews (Lochaber SAS) and Liz MacLean (Mallaig Beavers) for more than 30 years service. Sean Sessions (Lochaber SAS manager) also extended his and Scouting's thanks to all members of the group and leaders generally for their support and continued commitment to bringing Scouting and all its benefits to Lochaber. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

bring them along for experts to have a look at. Stornoway library's Digital Champion Helen Lagrange is grateful to the British Science Association for supporting the Western Isles during British Science Week. She said: 'It's an opportunity for people of all ages to discover how fun and exciting science can be.'

GLENFINNAN

Glenfinnan Community Council holds its most recent meeting at the end of February.

Among the matters discussed were the following topics:

■ Marine Harvest Hut: Ongoing. Awaiting change of use. Highland Council is waiting on a response from Transport Scotland.

■ Car park: The lease is in negotiation. The SCIO is not yet in a position to advise on a timeline for construction.

■ Parking: Sergeant Almond will make arrangements for cones to be situated as per last year.

■ Road issues: These are ongoing. Duncan to speak to Gus Maclellan regarding drainage by the conker tree and potholes. Denis has offered his assistance with Highland Council if required.

■ Speed limit A830: Ongoing. Emily (Glenfinnan NTS) advised that BEAR had been in touch regarding a pedestrian crossing and that it would be contacting the community council shortly.

■ Deer update: Alistair Gibson advised there were no deer fatalities reported this month.

■ Police update: Four minor incidents reported.

■ Work on the viaduct-museum path should be finished by mid March. NTS will be improving the hard standing by the monument.

■ CC meeting dates will now be posted on the CC Facebook page.

■ CC elections are due in November 2019 and the committee are keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining.

■ Next meeting: Monday March 25, 8pm, at Glenfinnan House Hotel - all welcome.



Mountain rescue teams get Co-op cheques

Lochaber and Glencoe mountain rescue teams were recently presented with cheques for money raised by staff members of local Co-op stores. Both teams received £2,701.33 as a result of staff fundraising efforts. Photograph: Abrightside Photography

WESTERN ISLES

Libraries in the Western Isles will celebrate British Science Week for the first time in March this year.

The week celebrates the very best in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and will see events taking place all over the Outer Hebrides.

Stornoway library will be hosting several events in its new makerspace room, The Space. There will be films, talks, activities and workshops. Whether you are a science buff or a complete novice, there will be fun for people of all ages.

The week will start with a film screening on Saturday March 9. On show will be two great sci-fi classics suitable for all.

And for stargazers, the Stornoway Astronomical Society will be host-

ing Donnie MacKay's talk, entitled Planets, Moons, Comets and Things!

Children will have the opportunity to take part in an Apps and Coding for Early Years event, where they can experience coding and explore a virtual reality PS4 set.

The Paic Trust and Carloway Community Association will be hosting Show and Tech open days. The events will take place at community hubs on Lewis and Harris, before heading south to the Uists and Barra in early April.

At the Show and Tech family fun days, parents and children will be able to use tablets and coding robots to learn a little more about technology.

Parents are also being advised that if they are having problems with any of their own technological devices at home, then they can



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Retro Roamer

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More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

At the east end of the High Street – at Low’s, in fact – manager Bob Christie was down on his hunkers stocking shelves. The inevitable voice from the ‘Saaf’ percolated down to him. ‘Where’s your Bovril, please?’ Bob essayed a half-hunker turn and advised: ‘You’ll get that on the big stand, just over there.’ Returned to his chores. Then the voice returned to Bob. ‘If I’d wanted lavatory paper, I’d have asked for that!’ Bob, upright once more, and only slightly discomfited, responded: ‘Oh, I’m sorry. I thought you said bog roll!’

Over at the Mill they’re building Roads. Out of bark. So we’ll soon have ‘The Bark Road to the Helipad’, and the ‘Bark Road to Despatch’. There’s a fair amount of eucalyptus residue in the bark. So ca’ canny when you’re driving over there so that you don’t run into a Koala.

Great weather, eh! So much so that everyone’s getting out and about in the sunshine – and thronging Cameron Square in particular. As a result a largish group of ‘The LADS’ – ‘Lochaber Alfresco Drinkers Society’ – were asked, nicely, by tourist officer Bruce Simpson, if, for a change, they could find another location to convene. They did. Round the back of Viewforth. And – I kid you not – one LADS member was heard to declare, ‘This would be a good place to hold our AGM!’

The Hydro came to the rescue of one of the LADS on Friday morning. One member was looking extremely disconsolate – and desperate – after breaking the ring pull on his can of SLR – Super Lager Reviver. Ah, but then he had a flash of inspiration, and headed over to the Hydro to seek out some engineering aid. This was produced in the shape of a very fine screwdriver extracted from the toolbox in a Hydro van. The can was breached, the contents broached, and the electric soup supply was refreshingly restored.

Linnhe Boxing Club’s final fight night was a ringing/resounding success. After Steve Martin managed

to locate the boxing gloves! All over Caol, Steven went, calling at several houses. No joy. However, when he returned empty-handed to the Pulp Mill Club, the gloves had turned up. From under the boxing ring canvas. They had been ‘stored’ there for safe keeping.

At the fight night, one wee shaver of about eight, with a crew cut that would have been the envy of Joe Brown, was observing the strict Pulp Mill Club protocol that, if youngsters wanted juice or crisps, they had to give the money to a committee member to buy these for them at the bar. Handing Graham Nolan a cascade of 1ps and 2ps, the lad blithely requested ‘Two bags of cheese and onion, please – and keep the change.’ Graham bought the crisps, handed them over, and then started the copper count for the required 48p. He got as far as 41p when the supply ran out.

The Beechgrove Garden’s ‘Potting Shed on Wheels’ was beached for so long in our neck of the woods last week that it was in danger of taking root. While on horticultural duty in Duror, the Mercedes vehicle upon which the shed is mounted, refused to respond to the tender tending of the gardeners whose ‘Hit Squad’ had to call out the AA. Hitched to Mickey the Greek’s breakdown motor, the potting shed was towed to Corpach for urgent attention to its cloche – sorry, ‘clutch’. There, the Beechgrove Gardeners advised Gordon Penman of Slipway Autos that they were in no hurry for it, but Gordon was keen to tend the garden vehicle and fitted a new clutch right away. Thus the Beechgrove Garden was dug out, thanks to our West Highland Hit Squad of Mickey from the AA and Gordon from Slipway.

‘In the Briny’ – literally – at Glenueig, was Brian Steel. The lone yachtsman would shortly be setting sail, with St Kilda his next port of call. And, after victualling his yacht at its mooring, Brian took his rubber dinghy back to the Glenueig jetty. The Round the Islands sailor, who is about to qualify

for his master mariner’s certificate, pulled in at the slipway with accomplished nautical neatness to say his farewells. But, when he turned to step nimbly back into the dinghy, it was gone! Brian had omitted one tiny detail. He hadn’t tied it up and it was now, well and truly, a liberty boat, about to be carried by the tide towards the Sound of Arisaig. Which necessitated total immersion for Brian, who, stripped to his boxer shorts, had to take an early season seawater swim to be reunited with his dinghy. Bon voyage, Brian.

Mind the song ‘Shrimp Boats is a Comin’? Well, the other day, one of our local shrimp boats was a Goin’. Down. To the bottom of a particular part of Loch Linnhe which, fortunately, isn’t very deep. And all because somebody left the drain plug out overnight. He must have felt a right prawn when he discovered he’d scuttled his shrimp boat.

Look out for the ‘Nevis Challenge’ on TV. The programme is really an elaborate plug for a new all-terrain vehicle. And the content centres on the striving by four squads, made up largely of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team personnel members, in abseiling, canoeing, stretcher carrying, and downhill dashing on the Ben. Canoeing on Ben Nevis? Aye, the kayaks were cutting through the waters of the Halfway Lochan. Meanwhile, the short wheelbase vehicle suffered a bruised sump in the Ben Nevis foothills, and the long wheelbase model landed in a ditch. A commercial helicopter, brought in for the abseiling on the North Face, walloped its tail rotor on an unfriendly rock. Thus the abseilers, with one Mars bar between them, were left high and wet until they decided that discretion was the better part of hypothermia. In LMRT parlance they ‘walked off the hill’. To round it all off, one prominent team member, taking a well-earned rest, leaned on a door of one of the vehicles – and dented it. How on earth – and above – can any of this go on the telly?



Rural groups have the chance of securing grants between £1,000 and £5,000.

Energy provider fuels grants

Rural community projects are being invited to apply for a share of £70,000 of funding from home energy provider Calor.

If successful, groups could get up to £5,000 each in grants.

The Calor Rural Community Fund, now in its third year, is bigger and better than ever before.

Rural communities off the mains gas grid can submit their projects for funding, with previous winners including playground and village hall refurbishments, instruments for music banks and equipment for sports clubs.

Now, Calor is encouraging anyone who thinks their project may be eligible to come forward and submit an application.

The projects that receive the most votes by the public will be

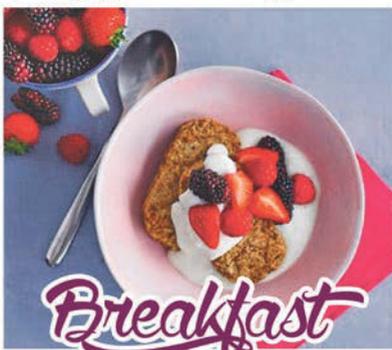
shortlisted and then reviewed by a panel of judges, who will select the final 21 winners.

Partnering with Crowdfunder for 2019, Calor also is pledging £2,000 worth of match funding to approved entries that use the fundraising platform to raise donations for their community project.

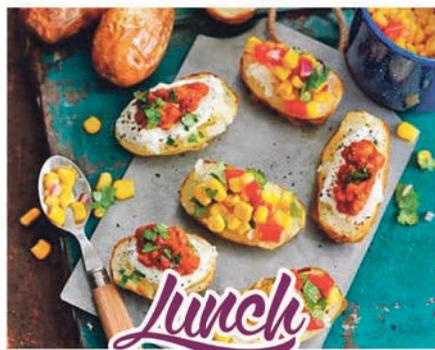
Jason Nuttall, head of funding for Crowdfunder, comments: ‘We’re really excited to be partnering with the Calor Rural Community Fund. The match funding will give so many projects that extra boost toward meeting their goals and it’s great to be a part of a scheme that is making such a difference to so many rural communities across the UK.’

Applications opened on March 5 and close on April 29. Visit calor.co.uk/communityfund.

A typical day - At last, an eating plan that fits into your life



Berry Breakfast
Top 2 Weetabix (healthy extra B choice) with fat free natural Greek-Style yogurt and berries.



Mini Jacket Potatoes
Fill these spuds with your favourite Free Food toppings. Follow with some chopped melon.



Barbecue pulled pork
Slow-cooked port layered with barbecue sauce - make it even more delicious by serving with roasted peppers, red onion and courgettes.

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LT

10-PIN BOWLING

Alleycats are top cats of scratch division

After week 16 of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, with only two weeks remaining, Alleycats are now uncatchable at the top of the scratch division with 74 points after beating second place team Council 5-0 this week in a top of the table clash.

Council remain in second place with 63 points but The Empire are now right on their heels in third place with 62 points after beating Triple 'B' 5-0.

The handicap division is much closer, where this week the top five teams all dropped some points. The Empire remain in the lead with 60 points followed by Alleycats with 59 points and Council with 54 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Iain Gregor (British Legion Fort William) with 210 which ties the highest for the season. Also this week Pam Weller (Alleycats) had a 184 and Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) had a 180. Iain Gregor also had the top handicap game of 266, while Pam Weller had the top two-game scratch series of 329 and Simon Hardiman (Rotavators) again had the top two-game handicap series with 455.

The best team scores this week came from Alleycats, with the top scratch game of 652, the top two-game scratch series of 1,185 and the top handicap game of 834 whilst British Legion Fort William had the top two-game handicap series of 1,553.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone on 161 followed by Pam Weller on 149, with Brian Stewart (The Empire) on 146.



LOCHABER CLUB LOTTERIES

Fort William Golf Club's previous lotto numbers were 2, 7 and 16. There was no winner this week so the jackpot for the draw today (Thursday March 7) will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 2, 4 and 20. There were no winners this week, so it is a £400 draw next week.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 3, 12, 20. There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £600.

The numbers for Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery draw on Tuesday February 26 were 4, 11 and 16. There was no winner so the jackpot for Tuesday March 5 was £1,000.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 5, 10 and 18. There was one winner this week, Bryan Garrick, who won the £800 jackpot. The prize for next week will be £100.

Nevis Range partners Scottish biking brand

Over the past decade the growth in mountain biking internationally has been huge and it is no surprise that the Highlands have been at the heart of this.

The sport has come a long way since the first Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William back in 2002.

Bikes are almost unrecognisable to those 17 years ago, riders are faster, venues have expanded and the way the sport is managed has been transformed.

That is why Nevis Range Mountain Experience, home to the multi-award-winning UK round of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, announced that Endura, the global market leader in cycle apparel, has become the company's official mountain bike clothing and protection partner for 2019.

In 2019, Nevis Range will continue to support Fort William mountain bike rider Mikayla Parton as she makes the step up into Elite Downhill racing, where she will take on her first UCI World Cup races, some national downhill races and a number of select enduro races across the country. Endura will provide full race kit for Mikayla and a number of Nevis Range Development Team riders, as Nevis Range



Mikayla Parton, dressed in Endura clothing and protective gear, will make the step up into Elite Downhill racing this year. Photograph: Miles Mallinson.

seek to grow their pro-race team over the next few years.

Nikki Stafford, marketing manager at Nevis Range, said: 'We are incredibly excited to be working with Endura this year. It is a home-grown brand which has a fantastic passion for the industry, as we do – the perfect collaboration. Throughout the partnership we will continue to grow promising talent and encourage more people to get involved with the sport regardless of ability or age.'

The announcement is a welcome addition to Nevis Range's 2018/19 partnership with Trek which, as with Endura, is supporting a number of talented young local riders in their quest to become pro downhill racers.

Endura will invest in promotional activity, aimed at an international audience, and will also be investing in trail signage and advertising at the venue, while providing branded clothing for both the Nevis Range

Event and Bike Track Teams. Ian Young, brand manager at Endura, said: 'Nevis Range is an iconic Scottish venue with a strong global reputation, making this a perfect partnership for Endura. The enthusiasm of the Nevis Range team to continually improve the infrastructure for riders of all levels, grow the events at the venue and encourage young talent is really exciting, and we are delighted to be partnering with them for the coming season.'

Kilmallie reserves presented with new kits



Duncan Kelly, left, of Duncan Kelly Design, sponsored new strip for Kilmallie Shinty Club's second team and presented them to Brian MacKinnon, centre, second team assistant manager, and Kevin Toye, second team manager, during a recent training session at Lochaber High School's all-weather pitch.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

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Dieguno crowned Scottish Schoolboy Boxing Champion again

Twelve-year-old Josh Dieguno from Caol became Scottish Schoolboy Boxing Champion for the second consecutive year last weekend at Ravenscraig in Motherwell when he unanimously outpointed Doonhammer boxing club's Stephen Cairns in the final of the 2006 41.5kg weight division.

Dieguno claimed the centre of the ring from the first bell, a position he would not release, until the final bell in a contest in which he showed that he is now producing some adaptability in his boxing, meaning he can use different tactics against different opponents' styles.

While Cairns skirted the outskirts of the ring, the Lochaber Phoenix boxer stalked and threatened with good preparation of attack incorporating feints into his

repertoire. Unfortunately, Cairns did not commit at all to any attacks and, with Dieguno waiting to counter, the round never quite exploded into action in the way that it threatened.

The second round was perhaps Dieguno's best ever in a boxing ring as he now mixed in his feints and counters with leading with his attacks and when he began phasing the attacks Cairns was pushed onto the ropes. From here, Dieguno would land clean powerful punches that were clearly winning him the exchanges and the round.

The Caol boxer was now in the ascendancy and Cairns, who came into the final with a very impressive record, knew he had to come out in the last round all guns blazing. Cairns fought well and to good effect but Dieguno used



Josh Dieguno.

good lateral movement to evade the initial attack before reverting back to the centre of the ring where he continued to put Cairns onto the back foot in a round which

was much more competitive than the second. However, Dieguno held the edge and thoroughly deserved his second national schoolboy championship success.

Club in call for more cricketers

While Lochaber is renowned only for its long shinty and football tradition, other local sports have been thriving, such as cricket.

Last season saw Fort William Cricket Club clinch a fine array of silverware, all won against strong opposition from clubs across the country with considerably more heritage and experience, which further underlines the sporting talent in the area.

However, with the start of the cricket season getting closer, Fort William CC, now in its 11th season, are on the lookout for new members.

Training has already begun with indoor sessions at the Nevis Centre, which have attracted a few new converts to the wicket but, as with all teams, there is always room for more.

Matches are played at the former BA parks next to the Stramash Nursery, where an area is set aside for the cricketers and kept carefully groomed for the best playing surface.

Perhaps one of the most famous expressions in cricket is 'rain stopped play' and, of course, given the equally

famous Lochaber climate, it may be a surprise to some that cricket matches go ahead in the area.

In fact, matches are rarely called off and, with some clever forward planning, even a quick move to a less wet location such as Fort Augustus means not that many cancellations.

In pleasant weather it can be very relaxing just going along to watch the team in action when they are at home and, of course, spectators are always welcome. However, to build the team and aim for other awards in 2019, a healthy squad of participants is also needed.

Information is readily available on the club Facebook page, but direct contact can also be made with Kevin O'Meara on 07796 685242 or Charlie Luxton on 07500 009075.

Training takes place in the Nevis Centre on Sundays from 10am to 12.30pm.

GETINTOUCH
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
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Yells wins figure of eight race

Lochaber athletes braved the wet conditions on Saturday for the annual figure of eight race in the winter league series.

Although the 10-mile race was an alternative route due to ongoing forestry works, it turned out to be a ideal day for the runners. Less so for the hardy marshalls out on the course or the time-keepers at the start and finish who had their work cut out to keep up with the course changes.

Thirty-two runners took part with Lochaber Athletic

Club's (LAC) John Yells the athlete first home with a time of 1:13:28. He was followed in second place by Liam Hutson in 1:15:20 and then in third was Javier Cabrera Va of Highland Hill Runners in a time of 1:16:12. As for the ladies, Lisette Walter of LAC finished first in a time of 1:30:50, Marie Meldrum, LAC, came second in 1:32:37, followed by Lochaber's Isla MacKay in third place in 1:37:31.

Race organisers thanked all the helpers, marshalls and time-keepers.



Runners take off at the start of the figure of eight race.

Photograph: John O'Neil.



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WEATHER

Thursday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 4°C.

Friday

Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 6°C.

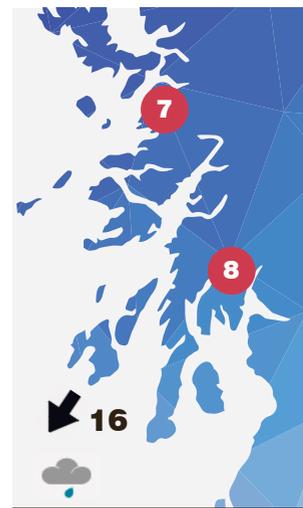
Weekend Outlook

Saturday

Light rain and a fresh breeze

Sunday

Hail showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures
7°C to 3°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 7, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	00.26	0.9	06.23	4.0
Thur	12.45	1.0	18.34	3.8
Fri	00.56	0.9	06.54	4.0
	13.15	0.9	19.00	3.8
Sat	01.23	0.9	07.22	3.9
	13.42	1.0	19.24	3.8
Sun	01.46	1.0	07.48	3.8
	14.05	1.1	19.50	3.7
Mon	02.08	1.1	08.15	3.7
	14.32	1.2	20.20	3.6
Tues	02.38	1.2	08.48	3.5
	15.08	1.3	20.55	3.4
Wed	03.17	1.4	09.28	3.3
	15.57	1.5	21.39	3.2

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

Chain, Shackles and buoys all available to purchase.



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Dieguno crowned
Scottish Schoolboy
champion again

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 59**

League leaders Brora put 11 goals past Fort William

Fort William	0
Brora Rangers	11
Highland League	

The chasm between the top and the bottom of the Highland League was there for all to see last Wednesday

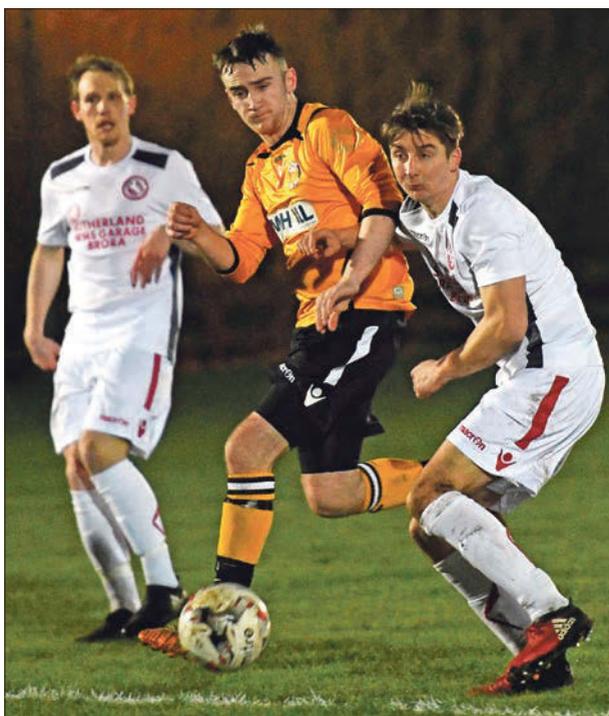


night (February 27) as league leaders Brora Rangers comfortably swept aside Fort William at Claggan Park, scoring 11 goals in the process.

At a floodlit Claggan Park, Fort William got off to the worst start imaginable, conceding two goals in the first four minutes. However, the Fort managed to steady the ship and were able to contain Brora for most of the remainder of the half. Considering the financial gulf between these two teams, the Fort were providing more of a match for Brora than the visitors had hoped.

A sucker punch came on the stroke of half-time as, with the last kick of the ball, Colin Williamson put the ball in.

That late first-half goal seemed to knock the stuffing out of the home side as Brora



Left, 18-year-old Liam Gilchrist, who joined the first team from the ranks of U-17 players, takes the ball from Brora goalscorer Colin Williamson, and, right, Jordan Morrison, who was one of the Fort's standout performers last Wednesday, shields the ball from Brora's Steven MacKay.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson

ran away with the tie in the second half.

Two quick-fire brace goals after the break set the tone, and before the Fort had a chance to regroup they were seven goals down by the 67th minute. Four late goals rounded the scoring off for Brora who made the trip home north content with the three points and a boosted goal difference.

Fort manager Russell

MacMorran said: 'With Brora, you're looking at a top quality side; they're top of the Highland League for a reason. The lads got caught with two early goals. Maybe with the whole occasion and thinking about opposition they got caught cold. But for the remaining 40 minutes of the half they battled well and made it difficult for Brora.'

MacMorran felt that the third goal, from the last kick of the first half, made it hard for his team, saying: 'There's a big difference between going in at half-time 2-0 rather than 3-0 down to Brora.'

Fort William, however, remain on -7 points in the league and have not been able to get back into positive figures following that points deduction earlier in the season for fielding an ineligible player.

Rain wreaks havoc as Fort miss out on first win of the season

Fort William	A
Wick Academy	A
Highland League	

The Lochaber weather denied Fort William a chance to secure their first win of the season after a huge downpour caused their match against Wick Academy on Saturday to be abandoned before half-time with the home side 1-0 up.

This was particularly galling for a Fort team that has picked up just two draws in

26 games this season. Referee Billy Baxter decided to call an end to proceedings in the 38th minute due to the amount of standing water on the Claggan Park surface, which was beginning to endanger players. The decision was finally taken after Fort William goalkeeper Finlay Burstow went down injured and required treatment after getting mud in his eyes when diving at the feet of a Wick forward.

The Fort took the lead just before the half-hour mark



Fort's Ronan McBride does his best to keep possession in difficult conditions.

Photograph: Abridgeside Photography

when Josh Knowles out jumped the Academy's keeper Sean McCarthy to meet a corner and nod the ball into the net from close distance. This was just reward for the Fort who enjoyed good spells of pressure and came close to scoring earlier in the game when Sean Grant's free kick needed a flying save from McCarthy to keep it out.

Fort manager Russell MacMorran was disappointed to have the match called off with his team in the lead but felt the correct decision had

been made by the referee. He said: 'To be fair to the referee, he made the right decision because it was starting to have an impact on the game and safety of the players.'

'I'm disappointed for the boys more than anything,' MacMorran continued.

'At that point of the game they were clearly on top, no disrespect to Wick, but the goal made the difference. The team worked so hard and to come away from it without anything is hard.'

'But we've taken a lot of con-

fidence to take into the next match. Teams are beginning to realise that Claggan Park is becoming a slightly harder place to come now and it's not just going to be a foregone conclusion.'

The Fort are in league action again this Saturday as they take on Forres Mechanics at Claggan Park.



BED MONTH SALE

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